



**Pastor's Note:**

The Bible frequently portrays the harvest season as a time of celebration and thanksgiving – a period when people gather the fruits of labor and visibly see God's abundant provision. The Psalmist beautifully describes this theme, expressing gratitude for God's blessings through the earth's bounty: "May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us." (Psalm 67:5-6) This passage reflects the deep connection between praising God and receiving the harvest. This verse points out that it's God who causes the land to yield its harvest, and in response, people should offer praise. The harvest is not just the result of human efforts. Instead, the harvest is a blessing from God, who makes it possible for people to work (by giving them life, strength, and talents) and to get good results from their work.

Therefore, Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC are jointly launching a six-week "Harvest" Stewardship Campaign beginning October 19th until November 23rd.

The “Harvest” celebrates the fact that God makes things grow. God gives His people the joy of spiritually growing in our prayer life, in our relationship with Jesus Christ and in our spiritual need to give generously. Apostle Paul says, “Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)

The “Harvest” will focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ and not donors. There will be no mailings nor a guest preacher. Instead, we will immerse ourselves with communal worship, personal devotion, studying the Bible, faith in action and other means of grace. We will also have a Commitment Sunday on November 23rd offering to God our commitment on tithing for the year 2026.

This “Harvest” teaches biblical generosity on the basis of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual growth experience rather than on the basis of the need of the church to maintain its operating budget. During the “Harvest”, we will reflect on the importance of giving as an act of resistance, the vital connections between giving and spiritual growth, giving as expression of obedience to God, and giving with a grateful heart.

Let me ask you, are you living in a scarcity mentality and survival mode with stress, anxiety and depression? Or, are you cultivating a culture of generosity and abundant living? In such a time as this, we need to be more generous than ever. It’s when we must recognize we need to be shaped much more than we need to give. Yet it is in the act of being generous that we will be shaped and changed forever. It’s when we must let go of any sense that our security is something we can manufacture. Instead, security must come from grounding ourselves in our faith and trust in God who is in control. That’s when our thinking and our living is changed forever!

Indeed, Henri Nouwen reminds us that “Every time I take a step in the direction of generosity, I know I am moving from fear to love.”

### **KOFFEE KORNER**

"Koffee Korner"-- a women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month. Our next gathering will be on November 5th, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Nancy Gustafson @ 203-232-1145.

### **"STRONGER TOGETHER" EXERCISE CLASS**

The "Stronger Together" Exercise Class meets every Monday & Thursday @ 6:00-7:00pm. Open to everyone. For more information, please contact Debra Newman @ 252-915-7005.

### **PLANK CHAPEL UMC CHOIR**

If you are musically inclined and willing to offer your gifts and talents, we would love to have you join the choir! Please contact Janet Bobbitt if you are interested.



Pilgrimage 2025 is coming!

Plank Chapel UMC is sending 8 Youth and 5 Adult Mentors to Pilgrimage 2025 on November 7th-9th @ Rocky Mount Event Center.

We need your generous support! The Pilgrimage Team is raising funds with a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, October 18th, 5:00pm-7:00pm Eat-In or Take Out. Donations accepted. Please mail your check to the church and mark: Pilgrimage 2025.

Pilgrimage has been creating a space for thousands of United Methodist youth (6th – 12th grades) and their mentors to gather for over 30 years. It is a life-changing weekend event filled with amazing artists, thought provoking speakers, and inspiring youth leadership – all bearing witness to the transforming love of Christ.

The Pilgrimage weekend is for students and adult student leaders looking for a weekend worship experience that calls everyone to a new or stronger faith in Jesus, challenging everyone to share God's love in word and action.

For more information about Pilgrimage 2025, please check the link: <https://nccpilgrimage.org/2025/>

**Pastor Edgar, Ron and Nancy Gustafson @ Heritage District Clergy Gathering**

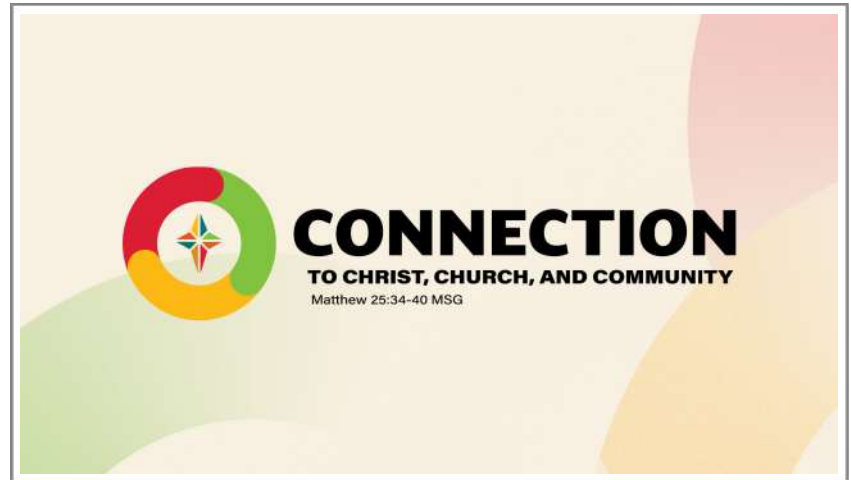


### **CHANGE BUCKET**

Change Bucket for October 2025 has been designated for NC Storms Emergency Response (#S-00176) Sometimes typical methods of disaster response financing for storm-related emergencies are inadequate. In these situations, conference appeals are issued for costs related to mitigating the disaster – direct support to affected families and costs in delivering assistance. This is the only situation in which the UMCOR can address the issues of church property in disasters. Contact – Ann Huffman  
Phone: (888) 440-9167  
Email: [disaster@nccumc.org](mailto:disaster@nccumc.org)

### **AWAKENINGS**

Renew, fresh and revive your spirit as we worship our Awesome God at "Awakenings" every Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am (except third Sunday of the month). "Awakenings" offers contemporary music, come-as-you-are setting, relevant Bible-based conversation and a good cup of coffee! The "Awakenings" will meet on October 5th, 12th & 26th.



I went to Wake Forest UMC on Sunday afternoon to attend a First Conversation w/ Area Pastors & Laity facilitated by leaders from NC Conference Church Transformation Ministries. There were representatives from Wake Forest UMC, Creedmoor UMC, Ebenezer UMC/Wesley UMC and Bethel UMC/Plank Chapel UMC. District Superintendent Rev. David Joyner was also there.

The main goal of the meeting is to prayerfully discern where God is already at work in our congregations through the power of the Holy Spirit, and how we might join the Holy Spirit in supporting and strengthening one another, and be in ministry together.

The meeting was inspiring, hopeful and Spirit-filled and. We shared the evidence of God's faithfulness and fruitfulness in our local congregations as well as the challenges we are facing right now. We also discussed what might be the "greatest need" in our communities right now that we can address as faith communities.

**GIVING FLOWERS IN  
HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF  
LOVED ONES**

You are invited to generously give flowers on Sunday Worship Services for God's glory and in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Please contact Judy Wilson @ [Judith9563@gmail.com](mailto:Judith9563@gmail.com) or (252) 492-0624.

**GUEST PREACHER ON  
OCTOBER 12TH**

Pastor Edgar will be leading Bethel UMC's Homecoming Sunday on October 12th. Garry Dickerson will be the Guest Preacher at Plank Chapel's 11:00am Sunday Worship Service.

**2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY  
TRUNK OR TREAT**

Plank Chapel UMC is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Community Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 26th from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Kids ages 15 and below may participate. Please sign-up to reserve your vehicle space by contacting Ron or Nancy Gustafson.

There were three emerging points raised.

First, there is a need to build stronger relationships and connections among neighboring United Methodist congregations. Many rural UM congregations felt isolated and fragmented because of the impact of disaffiliation. It was further affected by the broader realities of the country's division and polarization. We felt the importance of reclaiming the gift and strengths of our "connectional" movement. We felt the need to create spaces where authentic relationships may be built and forged.

Second, there is a need to strengthen and harness the gifts and graces of the laity. The health and vitality of a United Methodist congregation rest upon the strength and vitality of the laypeople.

Third, there is a need to bring together the gifts and graces of churches in the area to make a stronger and greater impact. However, we are still in the listening and discerning stage and have yet to figure out what this may look like.

Therefore, I would like to personally invite the lay leadership of Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC to the Second Conversation w/ Area Pastors & Laity on Monday, October 6th, 6:00pm at Wesley Chapel UMC.

Address ; 7626 Gordon Moore Road. Franklinton, NC

I hope and pray that this process will contribute to the continuing revitalization and growth of Christ's church!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar

**SENIOR CIRCLE**

Senior Circle is a wonderful way to meet new friends, build relationships and have fun among fellow Christians! We meet every third Wednesday of the month with a program and light lunch. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 15th, 10:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

**LIGHT THE NIGHT**

Come join the "Light the Night on Friday, October 31st, 4:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC Cemetery. We will remember the saints of the church by placing candles (battery-operated) on the graves and sharing stories with each other. On Sunday, November 2nd, 11:00am, we will have an All Saints Sunday Service at Plank Chapel UMC.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Sunday, October 19th, 8:00am-9:00am. All men are invited!

**2025 CHARGE CONFERENCE**

The 2025 Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025, 6:00pm at Trinity UMC located at [4272 US Highway 401 North](#), Louisburg, NC 27549. All officers and members of Plank Chapel UMC Church Council are requested to attend. The Charge Conference is open to everyone. Please plan to arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the meeting.

The Charge Conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the Church Council together with retired ordained ministers who elect to hold their membership in said Charge Conference and others as may be designated in the Book of Discipline. The Charge Conference is presided by the District Superintendent or Supervising Elder and meets at least once per year.

During the worship portion of the Charge Conference, we will share insights from the Healthy Congregations Report. This time will include time for reflection and sharing, guided by the following questions: 1. What do you notice from the report? 2. What word best describes your local church - Dying, Declining, Stable, Ready, Reviving, Thriving? 3. Consider one component of your church that is in need of renewal. 4. How, through bold acts of love, can your church improve in this area?



**Journey Children And Youth Have  
Active Meeting:  
Trunk Or Treat And Fall Hayride Are  
Planned**

Sixteen children and youth were on hand as Plank Chapel's Journey met at the church on Sunday, Sept. 28.

Leadership team member Wayne Young opened with a prayer and then a statement on how learning to grow closer to God is a lifelong process. The group then viewed a cartoon video, "The Adventures of Ben Born Again & Yellowdog," which focused on Jesus being the bridge to salvation.

The kids then broke out into groups for outdoor activities which included lawn games and team building for the children. The leadership's Judy DeJesus and Peggy Hernandez had a variety of interactive activities for the children. The youth rotated among three skill games: around the world basketball, corn hole and badminton, with the goal of encouraging each other as they played.

Beth Heaton and Daryl Spencer provided a meal of barbecued chicken, french fries, watermelon and ice cream with a blessing by Pastor Edgar DeJesus.

Nancy Gustafson offered a devotional during the meal and as the youngsters departed they were given youth Bibles, donated to Journey by Susan Sears. Journey leaders Lora Young and Ron Gustafson distributed the Bibles along with school supplies.

**Fall Events Slated**

The next meeting of Journey will be Sunday, Oct. 26, for the Second Annual Community Trunk or Treat in the church lawn. There will be a candy trail, games, craft table, music and prizes. Kids may wear their Halloween costumes for the 4 to 6 p.m. event. There is no fee to participate.

A fall hayride is slated for Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Young residence. Pre-registration is required for the hayride by contacting Lora Young at 336-504-7247.

Local and area children and youth, ages 5 to 18, are welcome to be part of Journey. There is no fee to participate, but registration is required when attending. Team leader Scott Ritchey coordinates the monthly registration.

Anyone wishing to contribute food and (or) juice and bottled water for Journey may contact Lora Young.

Journey is a safe and caring space where children and youth can encounter the love of Christ Jesus through "becoming, belonging and believing." Monthly activities include story-telling, devotionals, games, music and food.

For more information, contact Ron Gustafson at 203-641-2889 or click on the Journey link at plankchapel.org.

**Second Annual Community Event**  
**Trunk Or Treat**  
 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 26

3047 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell  
**FREE Event**

Ages 15 And Under May Participate

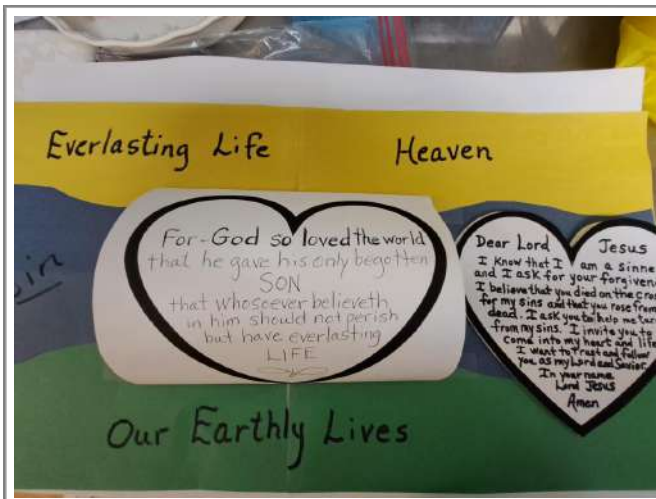
**\* Candy Trail \* Music**  
**\* Games \* Prizes \* Crafts Table**

*Kids May Wear Their Costumes!*

**Fall Hayride**  
 For JOURNEY children & youth  
 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22  
 Pre-Registration Required For This Event  
 RSVP By Nov. 17: Lora Young 336-504-7247

**\* Hayride \* Weenie Roast \* Sing Along \***

Journey is a safe and caring space where children and youth can encounter the love of Christ Jesus through "becoming, belonging and believing."





## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

United Women in Faith are composed of women who are "powerful, fearless force" driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. Our next regular meeting will be on Sunday, October 19th, 3:00pm. All women are invited!

## **PROJECT BE A BLESSING**

"Project Be A Blessing" is a new outreach ministry of Plank Chapel UMC with the main goal of the project is to be the hands and feet of Christ by distributing Thanksgiving gifts to nursing homes and homebound.

This project encourages individuals and groups to engage in acts of generosity and compassion, aiming to uplift those in need and create a ripple effect of positivity. Whether through volunteering time, sharing resources, or simply spreading joy, the project's goal is to remind people of the impact that small acts of kindness can have on both the giver and the recipient. By participating in "Project Be A Blessing", individuals not only contribute to the betterment of their communities, but also cultivate a sense of fulfillment and connection, reinforcing the idea that everyone has the power to make a meaningful difference. To donate items or volunteer, please contact Peggy Hernandez at (252) 204-3045.



## SEPTEMBER 2025 SENIOR CIRCLE



The Senior Circle met September 17, 2025. After Faye Woodlief welcomed everyone, Pastor Edgar shared an inspiring devotion based on Romans 12:9-21. In the light of Charlie Kirk's shooting and political violence in the country, Pastor Edgar stated that God is calling us to resist evil, overcome evil with good and offer genuine love even in the midst of disagreements and conflict. After the devotion, Pastor Edgar talked about his latest trip to Africa and Asia and presented an interesting video of the churches at worship and work.

Following Pastor Edgar's presentation, Alice Braswell shared a heartwarming story about growing up in the fifties to which everyone could relate. And she also read an inspirational story about how God's light can shine through our actions when serving in love and we sometimes aren't even aware of it, but others can see it and be encouraged.

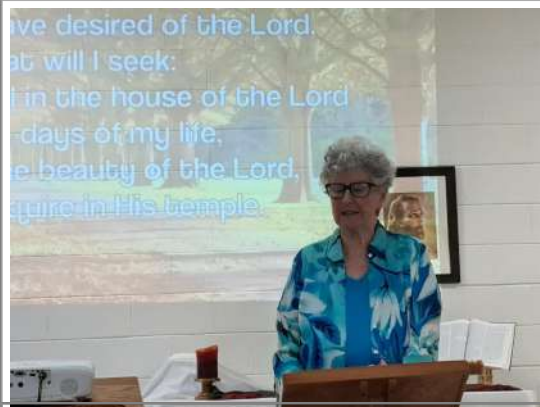


The program ended on a light note as Joyce Roberts read a series of church bloopers found on signs and in newsletters. Don Rose McGhee concluded with a few jokes from a book titled "CHRISTIANS HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR TOO".



To celebrate the beautiful season of fall, those attending were given word finds and a scrambled fall word game to challenge their knowledge of fall festivities and before we formed our circle with a blessing from Pastor Edgar, we took a few minutes to discuss possible circle topics and programs for the remainder of the year.

**With Love and Prayers,  
Your Senior Circle Friends**



## **CAKES NEEDED FOR ANNUAL BBQ EVENT**

A sign-up sheet has been placed in the church's vestibule for anyone who would like to provide a cake or cakes for the Annual BBQ Event on November 7, 2025. The cakes need to be pound cakes, plain or glazed, but not frosted. Individual slices need to be put in ziploc bags and brought to the Fellowship Hall in non-returnable containers on Thursday, November 6th between 4:00pm-7:00pm. Slice size is very important. And so, if you have any questions, please contact

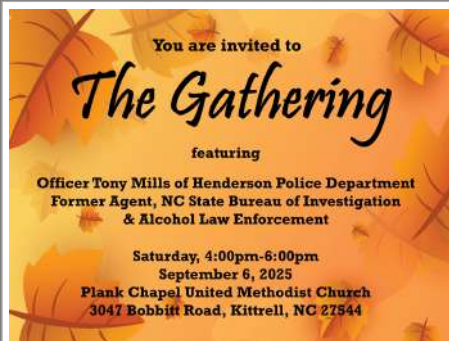
## **BLESSING BOX MINISTRY**

Plank Chapel UMC saw a great need in the community for those vulnerable to have access to the food they cannot always afford. And so, we launched the Blessing Box Ministry in 2022 and encouraged church members as well as the community to help keep the box stocked with non-perishable food items for those in need. Also, please check your bookshelves so that we can offer children and adult books as a lending library. We give thanks to God for your generous gifts and support for this outreach ministry.



The United Methodist Men of Plank Chapel UMC put their "faith into action" by building a rail for Richard & Sally Goghill. Thanks be to God!





### **Prayer Requests**

Tim Smith, Frances Beckham, Faye Moss, Ricky Satterwhite, Sammy Burgess, Bessie Newman, Fawn Westmoreland, Rose Marshall, Alston Monroe, Ronnie Currin, Jeanette Weaver, Kerry Alexander, Bryant Bobbitt, Freddie Oettinger, Donald Rose McGhee, Bill Rohr, Roxie Kearney, Debbie Fleming, Karin Driver, Bonnie Allgood, Allison Tackett, Penny Howard, Mallon Twisdale, Tilley Hughes, James Satterwhite, Lynn Gaid, Sally Coghill, Lucas Wilson, Diane Del Conte, Kittrell community, Southport community, family of Charlie Kirk and families of those who died due to political violence, our nation and the world. Shut-Ins: John Rogers, Martha Rowland, Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee & Frances Roberts. (For prayer request, please call 919-418-0682 or email Pastor Edgar @ [edejesus@nccumc.org](mailto:edejesus@nccumc.org).)

**WEDNESDAY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING**  
 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Prayer Warriors are invited to join the Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting every week from 7:00pm-7:30pm. We will meet on October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th.



Edgar Raymund A. DeJesus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96731072214?pwd=z6O3HHRhaCw13h03XmuULTm0Y9A4RJ.1>

Meeting ID: 967 3107 2214

Passcode: 1RL4uP