

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts / Open Minds / Wide Open Doors



Pastor's Note

This month of March, we are continuing the season of Lent that began on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a journey of self-reflection, of spiritual examination and re-committing our lives to Jesus Christ. We are invited to focus away from our self-centered appetites and ambitions to the contemplation of our limits, mortality and need of God. Lent offers a “reality check” and to remember Christ’s suffering and death on the cross, and to celebrate His resurrection on Easter morning.

I’m also excited to share with y’all two things that will happen in March. First, our dear friends Rev. Denny & Surjanty Nainggolan of Indonesia are coming to Kittrell, North Carolina from March 13th-17th. Rev. Denny is an ordained clergy of the Methodist Church in Indonesia. He graduated Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Ministry from Trinity Theological School in Singapore and is currently pursuing Doctor of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Pastor Denny is the Lead Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church in Jakarta, Regional Secretary of the World Methodist Evangelism and Regional Leader of the World Fellowship of Methodist & Uniting Church Men (WesleyMen). Pastor Denny and Surjanty are blessed with two teenage children-- Sharon and Lemuel. And both of them are faithful Methodist leaders with strong passion for evangelism, discipleship and global mission.

The second thing that I want to share is the “Building Bridges Project.” The main goals of the project:

- Build on the work of the Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission (Vance, Granville & Franklin) by creating spaces for building bridges across divides within our congregations and broader communities;
- Catalyze and empower the pastors, laity and congregations of the Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission in building bridges and social healing;
- Strengthen relationships with pastors and lay leadership of the Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission and who are invested in holding space for Courageous Conversations;

A group of pastors and lay leadership from Plank Chapel UMC, Creedmoor UMC, Ebenezer UMC & Wesley Chapel UMC met together from September to November 2025 and led by the leadership of the Church Transformation Ministries of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. We journeyed together through the CCOM process that “focuses on intentional partnerships for the mission of Christ – to testify about the good news of God’s grace, develop disciples, and serve people in a specific area. United by a shared vision for outreach to the community, everyone benefits through opportunities to grow in love of God and neighbor.”

Last November 2025, after much prayerful discernment and holy conferencing, we collectively forged the Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission Covenant Agreement. The initial goal was to collaborate and partner together to be an even stronger witness to our communities with a plan to focus our ministry efforts with the senior citizens in our churches and communities. The initial vision for the mission is to reach out to seniors and make them feel valued as we make connections with them and between them.

Several church leaders of the CCOM attended the Music Jam at Creedmoor UMC in December 2025 and Senior Circle at Plank Chapel UMC in January 2026. The next step will be the Building Bridges Event that will take place at Creedmoor UMC on Saturday, March 28th from 10:00am-1:00pm. We will be blessed by the leadership of Revs. Gloria Winston and Donna Banks who will share their expertise on bridge-building, creating communities of belonging and social healing. The church leadership of Bethel UMC and Plank Chapel UMC are highly encouraged to attend this event.

Let me close this note with a prayer blessing from the Disciples of Welcome: May the God who breaks down dividing walls go before you. As it is written, ‘Christ is our peace... who has made us one and has broken down the wall of hostility between us’. May you walk into your community with courage, trusting that every conversation can be a doorway to healing, every table a place of welcome, every story a bridge toward deeper understanding. May the Spirit grant you wisdom of peacemakers, for ‘the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace’. May your hands be steady, your heart be open and your imagination be bold. And as you build, may you discover that God is already building with you— strengthening your steps, widening your vision, and guiding you toward the beloved community. Go forth in hope, go forth in courage, go forth as bridge builder in the Name of the One who reconciles all things. Amen.







Journey Children and Youth Enjoy Hands-On Faith Experiences at February Gathering

On Sunday, February 22, the children and youth of Journey gathered in Plank Chapel's Fellowship Hall for an afternoon filled with interactive learning, creative projects, and fellowship.

After an opening prayer led by leadership team member Wayne Young, participants split into age-appropriate groups.

Lora Young led the younger children in a thoughtful lesson titled "How Big Is God's Love?" She used everyday objects—an hourglass timer, measuring cup, and tape measure—to illustrate how we measure things in daily life, then posed the question: "How do we measure God's love?" She explained that God's love is so immense it cannot be quantified. Each child received the three measuring tools to take home and was measured on the Journey height board to track their growth over time.

Next, Nancy Gustafson introduced the children to five "superheroes" of the Bible. Kids received superhero capes featuring biblical figures and painted small galvanized pails to use as planters.

For the youth, new leadership team member Shakita Huerta facilitated an engaging session on influence. She began with a modern example: how Crocs shoes regained popularity through online influencers. She tied this to Isaiah 64:8—"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."

"Clay doesn't choose its own shape," Shakita noted. "It's formed by what presses against it. God shapes us, but the influences around us play a role too."

In paired activities, youth identified personal influences, shared them with the group, and discussed common interests. She concluded: "What shapes you is what you carry every day—and eventually, that's what you pour out to others."

Each youth chose one meaningful takeaway to bring home:

- A smooth stone → God shapes us
- A tea light candle → We carry light
- A seed packet → Influence grows
- A wooden cross → Christ-centered influence

Three visiting youth from Creedmoor United Methodist Church joined the group. Everyone reconvened in the Fellowship Hall to paint their pails, then enjoyed a delicious meal of pizza, veggies, fruit, and an ice cream sundae bar.

During the meal, Nancy Gustafson shared a devotional, followed by Ron Gustafson, who previewed upcoming spring and summer field trip options.

Scott Ritchey manages monthly attendance registration and group finances.

The next monthly meeting of Journey will be 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, March 22.

Anyone wishing to contribute food and (or) juice and bottled water for Journey may contact Lora Young at 336-504-7247. There is also a signup in Fellowship Hall.

Journey is a safe and caring space where children and youth (5 to 18) can encounter the love of Christ Jesus through "becoming, belonging and believing."

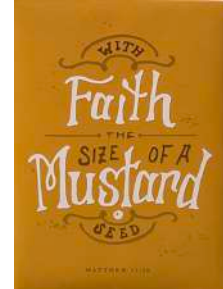
For more information, contact Ron Gustafson at 203-641-2889 or visit the Journey website at plankchapel.org.



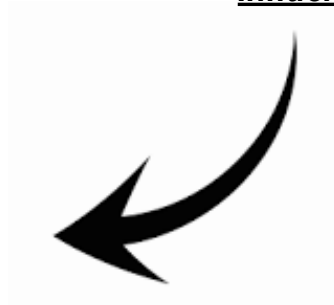
We carry light



God shapes us



Influence



Christ-centered influence





In 2024, Plank Chapel UMC was selected for the Connect Church offered by the NC Rural Center and funded by the Duke Endowment. The ten-month process aimed to help churches renew their faithful witness and connect with opportunities to improve the health and prosperities of their communities. Plank Chapel UMC received monthly coaching, leadership training on understanding community and church assets, networking with other churches and a missional engagement project grant with a total value of \$35,000 (including \$10,000 grant from the Duke Endowment).

Plank Chapel UMC formed a Connect Church Cohort made up of diverse lay leadership who are passionate in leading missional engagement and committed to be part of the journey. For ten months, the Connect Church Cohort were engaged in bi-monthly meetings, leadership workshops, community surveys and coaching w/ Coach John Parker. At the end of the process, each church is required to submit a Connect Church Action Plan (missional engagement project) to be funded by the Duke Endowment.

Briefly describe your Connect Church project and what has happened with your project since you were awarded a grant:

The Connect Church project of Plank Chapel UMC is “The Community” with two major components —“The Gathering” and “Journey”. Based on the Connect Church process, we have discovered the importance of recovering the meaning and purpose of “ekklesia” (body of Christ) in the community —practicing intentional cultivation of relationships and discipleship formation that is inclusive, accessible, holistic and transformative. The community around Plank Chapel UMC has always seen the church as the hub or center of the community. However, church membership and the community are becoming elderly and experiencing loneliness, social isolation, lack of belonging in the community and disconnection from the church and community life, and sharing the Gospel for those who are disengaged in the life of the church. We also learned that there is a lack of a learning environment and safe space to develop the holistic well-being of children and youth (social, emotional, physical and spiritual) in the community. The Connect Church project through “The Gathering” and “Journey” are addressing these community challenges by overcoming the socio-economic, cultural and social barriers and creating a place to belong, believe and become.

The Gathering

Plank Chapel UMC launched "The Gathering" in December 2024 and since then, we have been coming together every first Saturday of the month except the summer months of July & August 2025. “The Gathering” has Fresh Expression core values that includes communal prayer, music, sharing God's Word, fellowship meal, conversations and building relationships. Every time we gather, there is always an intentional effort to provide space where everyone belongs and experience God’s radical hospitality and extravagant generosity. “The Gathering” is being led by laypeople of the church who plan, organize and coordinate the monthly gathering.

Journey

Plank Chapel UMC launched "Journey" in May 2024 with the main goal of creating a learning environment and safe place where children and youth ages 5-18 have a sense of belonging, learn about one another and have fun with exposure to the Word of God. Every month, the team offers intentionality in inviting diverse children and youth from the community, developing and implementing innovative and creative "Journey" learning opportunities and investing in building long-term relationships with children, youth and parents. Not knowing what to expect with the "Journey", the program is exceeding expectations given the fact that we are in a rural context. Fall Hayride even had 31 youngsters and a strong adult support team on hand. Other monthly meetings average 15-20 children and youth participating and soared to 48 as the program progressed. Children are now attending church and participating in the Journey programs. Largest attendance at Sunday worship service is when "Journey" children and youth are presenting programs as part of the service. Also, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Plank Chapel UMC has become more diverse and more multi-racial through the "Journey" program.

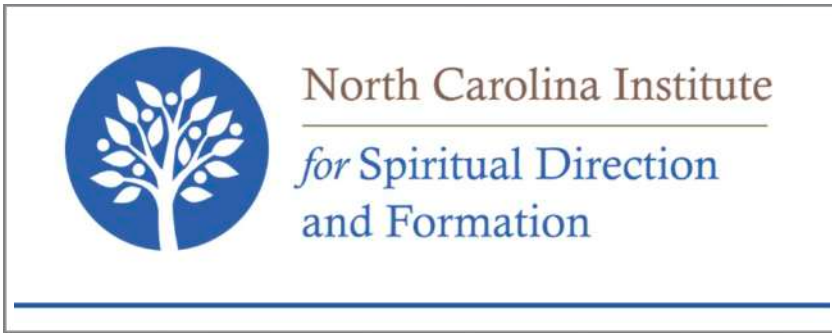
How many people from your church have volunteered with your Connect Church project? 40

What unexpected obstacles did you face?

"The Gathering" initially faced the challenge of recruiting lay leadership who will plan and implement (including preparing the program and fellowship meal) the gathering. However, overtime, God keeps sending us faithful and dedicated lay people who are willing to invest their time, funding, resources and abilities in fulfilling the mission and goals of "The Gathering". On the other hand, several months of planning before "Journey" was officially launched in May 2024, we encountered the challenge of commitment, embracing change and pivoting to something new and innovative. By the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the "Journey" was launched and the program grew from there.

What are your new dreams for this community engagement project?

God is doing amazing new things at Plank Chapel UMC through the Connect Church project. We envision to continue growing and expanding the gains and efforts of both "The Gathering" and "Journey". The project is catalyzing and revitalizing Plank Chapel UMC-- becoming more engaged in disciple-making, leader-forming and community-transformation. We envision connecting the Connect Church project with a new missional outreach project called "Project Be A Blessing" that provides direct assistance and advocacy for foster children in Vance County. We will also strengthen and expand the church's on-going partnership with Kittrell Fire Department, Community Watch, area churches and Vance-Granville Community College. We are already sharing the success story of Plank Chapel UMC among various churches in the Heritage District. We envision linking the Connect Church project with the Cooperative Communities on Mission and the broader Fresh Expression movement in the North Carolina Conference.



Experiencing God: A Spiritual Formation Summit

All are invited to attend NCISDF's Spiritual Formation Summit at White Plains United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 14th, 2026. This event will bring together clergy, staff, and laity from all denominations for a day of worship, fellowship, learning through experiential workshops. Participants will experience the Spirit in ways they can bring back to their congregation and put into action in their own Spiritual Formation programs. Participants will choose three workshops but will receive resource materials for all eight.

Space is limited to 175 participants.

Workshops and Leaders:

Lectio Divina – Amanda Rigby

Praying/Reading Scripture with the Senses – Joyce Day

Chanting as Prayer – Melissa Auten

Walking with Intention Stephanie Downey

Breath as a Spiritual Practice – Mary Kay Glazer

Intro to SoulCollage® - Becky Hambrick

Poetry as a Spiritual Practice – Meg McBride

Find the workshops descriptions and register here: <https://ncisdf.org/events-and-studies/>

When: March 14, 2026, 12:30pm – 5pm

Where: White Plains United Methodist Church, [313 SE Maynard Rd, Cary, NC 27511](#)

Cost:

- Free for leaders from United Methodist Congregations thanks to a grant from the Intentional Growth Center.
- For all others: \$50/person or \$250 for a team of 5 or more.

Register now at <https://ncisdf.org/events-and-studies/>

Book Club

We've now set a regular schedule for the book club: we'll meet on the **third Sunday of each month at 4:15 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Our next meeting is coming up soon —**Sunday, March 15, at 4:15 PM.**

Thank you!

Susan



KOFFEE KORNER

"Koffee Korner"-- a women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month. Our next gathering will be on March 4th, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Nancy Gustafson @ 203-232-1145.

STRONGER TOGETHER" **EXERCISE CLASS**

"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.



REV. DENNY & SURJANTY NAINGGOLAN

Rev. Denny & Surjanty Nainggolan of Indonesia are coming to Kittrell, North Carolina from March 13th-17th. Rev. Denny is an ordained clergy of the Methodist Church in Indonesia. He graduated Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Ministry from Trinity Theological School in Singapore and is currently pursuing Doctor of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Pastor Denny is the Lead Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church in Jakarta, Regional Secretary of the World Methodist Evangelism and Regional Leader of the World Fellowship of Methodist & Uniting Church Men (WesleyMen). He and Surjanty are blessed with two teenage children-- Sharon and Lemuel. And both of them are faithful Methodist leaders who have a strong passion for evangelism, discipleship and global mission.

PLANK CHAPEL UMC
CHOIR

The Choir is getting ready for Lenten season! Choir Practice is every Wednesday, 7:00pm. 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.

PROJECT BE A BLESSING

"Project Be A Blessing" assembled and distributed 21 duffle bags from Plank Chapel UMC & Union Chapel UMC during Thanksgiving week in 2025. This project is a new outreach ministry of Plank Chapel UMC with the main goal of being the hands and feet of Christ to foster children in the community and church members who are in nursing homes and homebound. Currently, there are more than 10,000 children and teenagers in the foster care system in North Carolina. To support this ministry, please make your check payable to Plank Chapel UMC and note: "Project Be A Blessing". For more info, please contact our Lay Leader, Peggy Hernandez at (252) 204-3045.

Holy Week & Easter 2026

- Palm Sunday Service, 9:30am @ Bethel UMC, 11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC, March 29, 2026
- Easter Luncheon Fellowship right after the 11:00am Palm Sunday Service @ Plank Chapel UMC, March 29, 2026
- Community Easter Egg Hunt, 3:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC, March 29, 2026
- Mandy Thursday Service & Love Feast, 6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 2, 2026
- Good Friday Service Tenebrae Service, 6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 3, 2026
- Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am or before sunrise @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 5, 2026
- Pancake Breakfast Fellowship & Flowering of the Cross @ Plank Chapel UMC, right after the Easter Sunrise Service, April 5, 2026
- Easter Sunday Worship Celebration & Holy Communion, 9:30am @ Bethel UMC, 11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 5, 2026
- Kittrell Tent Revival, 6:30pm-8:30pm nightly @ Kittrell Community Center, May 4-6, 2026
- National Day of Prayer, 6:30pm-8:30pm @ Kittrell Community Center, May 7, 2026

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will surround the altar this Easter. You may place a lily in memory or in honor of a loved one. Each plant costs \$14, and a list of memorials/honoraria will be in the vestibule on Easter Sunday. After worship service on Easter, you may take your plant home with you. Please turn the Easter Lilies form to one of the United Women in Faith by March 22nd.

It has been brought to my attention that there are some items missing from the storage room. If you have borrowed them or carried them home to clean, they need to be returned.

***Star of David (Christmas ornament)
2 white tablecloths
1 floral tablecloth
1 large white teddy bear and a few other items***

CHANGE BUCKET

Change Bucket for March 2026 has been designated for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (NC Conference Advance Specials #S-00025). Provides food to persons in 34 NC counties through community-based, emergency feeding programs such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, elderly nutrition programs and after-school programs. Please see weblink: foodbankcenc.org.

AWAKENINGS

Renew, refresh 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 March 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th.

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 or (252) 492-0624.

Peace Conference 2026**March 13 @ 7:00 am – March 15 @ 10:00 am**

Join us March 13-15, 2026 at beautiful Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center for the Peace Conference at Lake Junaluska. We will gather as clergy and laity of all ages to fellowship, dialogue and learn with renowned peacebuilders. Through three days of worship, plenaries, workshops, hands-on shalom experiences, film screenings, and fellowship, we will share strategies and hopes of how we, as people of faith, can build bridges of peace across political, theological, and social divides.

Through this year's theme *Disarming Hatred*, we will explore how to recognize and confront systems that perpetuate hatred and division and how to build practices that unite and strengthen our collective work across differences.



We will learn from front-line peace practitioners how to put peace into action through hands-on workshop leaders who will teach us about skills, practices, and organizing that can heal and restore our communities.

Reserve your place today and invite friends and colleagues to join you. ALL are welcome!

Scholarships for youth and young adults are also available as we invest to build new leaders in peace building for generations to come.

Register Now

\$150

SENIOR CIRCLE FEBRUARY 18, 2025



The Senior Circle met February 18, 2026. After Faye Woodlief welcomed everyone and guests shared community concerns and blessings, Pastor Edgar spoke about this particular Wednesday being Ash Wednesday. He explained that Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday revolves around two major themes, man's sinfulness and man's mortality. But we rejoice as we remember the power of God, the resurrection of Christ, the hope of redemption, the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.

Following the devotion DonRose McGhee introduced the guest speaker, Ms. Jean Bell, who has worked at the Henderson YMCA for 25 years as a yoga instructor and Diabetes Prevention Counselor. Jean spoke of the value of exercise as it contributes to a healthy life style. She demonstrated many yoga exercises focusing on chair yoga especially designed for seniors and distributed illustrated instructions for 14 particular yoga exercises. All were invited to participate.



Happy Birthday!

We were happy to celebrate some January and February birthdays. Pictured left to right are Sally Coghill, Ann Pernell, and Gayle Stanton. We missed John Rogers who is not pictured.



After all that exercising, we were ready for the blessing and a delicious lunch.



Thank You

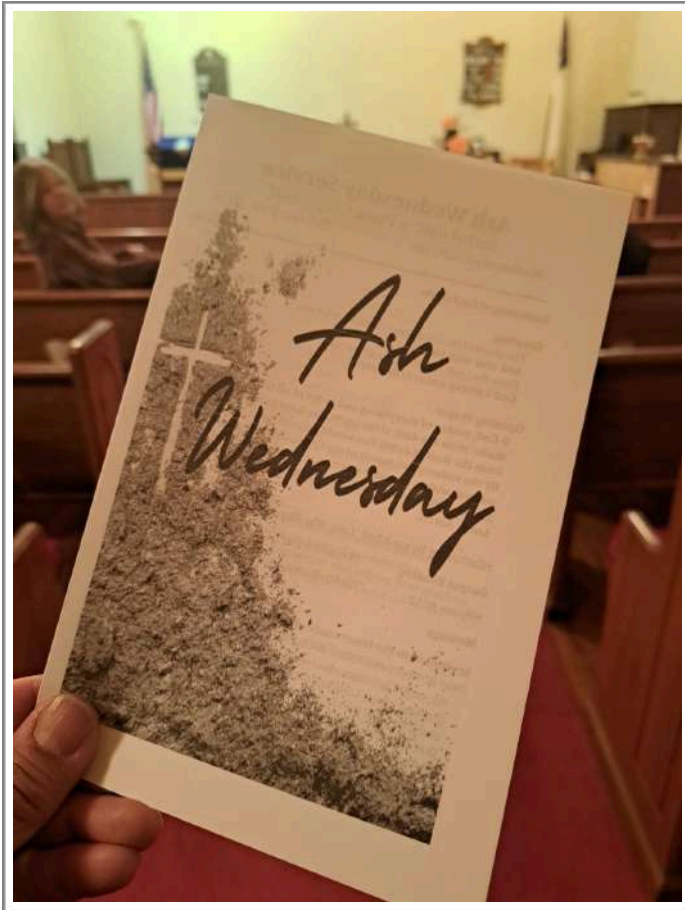
Thank you to Pastor Edgar who treated us to a beautiful classical piano concert as we finished eating. Also before everyone left, he gave those of us who wanted to participate in the traditional Ash Wednesday custom the opportunity to receive ashes, a Christian custom since the 10th century. Pictured are Roxie Kearney and Sally Coghill.



**With much love and wishes for many Lenten blessings,
Your Friends at Senior Circle**

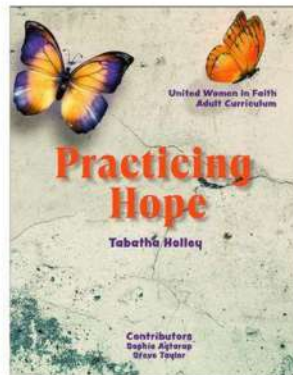








**HERITAGE DISTRICT
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
INVITES YOU
TO THE 2026 MISSION STUDY**



Saturday, March 14, 2026

Study from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with Fellowship and Check-in at 9:30

(There is no cost for the study and lunch is provided; however, you may make a donation)

First United Methodist Church Henderson

114 Church St. Henderson, North Carolina 27536

We are pleased to announce our Mission Study leader will be Brittany Long. Through God's grace, Brittany is a 2024 Graduate from Duke Divinity School with a Masters of Divinity and Certificates in Theology, Medicine and Culture and Black Church Studies. Currently, she is a candidate for ordination serving at St Peter's UMC under the care of Pastor Grace McGee. Hope in God's promises has sustained Brittany's joy through war, grief, cancer and the ups and downs of daily living. To Brittany, her life is proof that He who has begun a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ and that God can do above all we ask or think.



Heritage District

North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Around the District

Remember to share your church events with us so we can publish them in the weekly newsletter. We will keep events in for 2-3 weeks.

District Youth Ministry Coordinator

The district is seeking to identify a person who may be called to serve in a youth ministry leadership role for this season as the District Youth Coordinator. Rather than issuing a broad call for volunteers, we are hoping pastors and district leaders will help us prayerfully identify someone already connected to youth ministry and trusted within the district.

This role would support connection and communication among youth leaders in the district and help strengthen communication related to Conference Youth Ministry events, such as Pilgrimage, as well as the wider mission and ministry of the District and the NCCUMC.

The commitment for this role would include regular communication with other youth leaders, helping to convene at least one youth leaders gathering each year, attending two CCYM (Conference Council on Youth Ministry) meetings in Garner, and sharing information about Conference Youth Ministry events with local youth leaders.

If you have someone in mind or would like to have a conversation about who might be a good fit, please reach out. We are grateful for your help in discerning and inviting the right person into this important work.



Center for Leadership Excellence

North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Edgar,

Join us this May in Garner, NC, for a Day of Learning with Margaret Brunson...
Transformative Impact Planning™ for Churches.

About the Day

Many churches do not engage in traditional long-term planning because the cost of professional consulting is often prohibitive and the necessary skillsets aren't always available in-house. This interactive Day of Learning with Dr. Margaret A. Brunson of Illuminated Leadership Solutions is designed to teach you the "how" of strategic planning work in your congregational context. The Transformative Impact Planning™ approach integrates internal transformation with sustainable systemic change and growth. This session will equip you with the tools to facilitate your church's Transformative Impact Plan™. This approach ensures that you have the expertise needed to develop a clear three-year roadmap without the burden of expensive consulting fees.

We invite you to consider trading facilitation after being equipped at this Day of Learning. Partner with a nearby church leader or colleague to lead each other's strategic planning. You will be able to focus on your congregation's needs and fully participate in your church's planning process.

Partner up and invite a colleague to join you for this Day of Learning!

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
9:30am–3pm ET

St. Andrews UMC (Garner)

Key Takeaways

By participating in this workshop, you will:

- Learn and grow the skills required to lead your congregation's strategic planning process.
- Gain an understanding of the Transformative Impact Planning™ approach to internal transformation as the foundation for sustainable church impact & growth.
- Connect and share insights with a cohort of peer leaders focused on intentional impact.

Who Should Attend?

- Anyone seeking to learn new strategic frameworks to guide groups.
- Church leaders (clergy and laity) interested in learning & using organizational design... particularly for congregations that may not have engaged in strategic planning recently.
- Council chairs, lay leaders, clergy, and others who lead strategic planning processes in a church or ministry.

About the Presenter

Dr. Margaret A. Brunson is a leader and luminary who considers brunch a verb, wellness a priority, dance floors sacred, and music one of life's greatest treasures. After a successful leadership career in healthcare and the nonprofit & public sector, she founded Illumined Leadership Solutions, a consulting and coaching firm that leads people to and through transformation.

As a thought leader, scholar, + practitioner, Dr. Margaret's passion guides leaders, executives, entrepreneurs, organizations, and businesses to and through transformative leadership practices and solutions that will lead to holistic success.

Dr. Margaret earned a BA in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Master of Public Administration from North Carolina Central University, and a Ph.D. in leadership studies from North Carolina A&T State University.



Dear Pastors of the Heritage District,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Together with United Methodists from around the world, your congregation is invited to participate in the **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously – Miracle Sunday Initiative**, a global initiative that will extend the vision of The United Methodist Church and help raise up to 500 new pastors across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

We are inviting each congregation to set aside April 12 - May 17, 2026 for this special six-week worship and study series. This initiative comes at a critical time in the life of the church, uniting 30,000 congregations worldwide who will be praying the same prayers, studying the same scriptures, engaging in small group learning, and joining in a shared mission to strengthen theological education across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

Through this effort, we seek to address a long-standing disparity. 71% of U.S. clergy hold a master’s degree, compared to only 5% outside the U.S. While the General Conference allocates more than \$50 million for 13 U.S. seminaries, only \$5 million is provided for more than 20 seminaries in other regions of the world. This global initiative is an opportunity for us to help close that gap and support the development of strong, well-prepared leaders across our global connection.

Every congregation, large or small, rural, suburban or urban, has a vital part to play. When we unite our prayers, our generosity, and our hearts, God works miracles. Your congregation’s participation will not only bless those far beyond your local community, it will also deepen your own sense of mission, purpose, and connection with the world-wide body of Christ.

We are inviting each congregation to:

1. Set aside the designated Miracle Sunday date for worship and celebration – May 17 (the series is from April 12-May 17).
2. Pastors are to recruit a laity leader to partner alongside in the education and promotion of the initiative. The laity leader could be the Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Church Council Chair, Missions/Outreach Coordinator, or someone who can help tell the story.
3. As soon as the person is identified, the Pastor is to reply to the District Co-Coordinator with name and email address. The identified laity leader subsequently should receive all information regarding Miracle Sunday Initiative. If there is not a laity identified, we will voluntarily include the Lay Member to AC to receive the email and subsequent mailings.
4. Please use the Congregation Resources Manual to prepare leaders and plan for the series. Download a step-by-step manual for your congregation at: www.endowftecc.org/congregation-resources-manual This guide will support your leaders and entire congregation in planning, prayer, and celebration as we journey toward Miracle Sunday together.
5. Pray boldly for God’s work through your congregation.
6. And invite every person to participate in this life-changing moment.

Friends, God has entrusted us with an opportunity that is both holy and historic. When we Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously, we open ourselves to the abundant grace of God, grace that surprises us, stretches us, and renews us. May this initiative be a moment when we step forward in faith, together, trusting that God will multiply what we offer for the transformation of lives and for the strengthening of Christ’s church around the world.

We are grateful for your faithful leadership, your joyful service, and your generous spirit! Together, we can make a difference!

In Christ,

Reverends Edgar DeJesus and Delores Langley
Heritage District Co-Coordinator
Miracle Sunday Initiative

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 book shelves 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.

Prayer Requests

Faye Moss, Bessie Newman, Fawn Westmoreland, Kerry Alexander, Debbie Fleming, James Satterwhite, Diane Del Conte, Karin & Dave Driver, Jay Fuller, Susie Beal, Angie Rowland, Marvin Daniel, Donna McDaniel, Henry Finch, Arvelle Abbott, Mike Smith, Joe Santamour, Martha Rowland, John Garcia, Jeanette Weaver, Family of Loreto Gaid, Family of Carol Sixberry, Family of Freddie Oettinger, Kittrell community, our nation, peace in the Middle East and the world. Shut-Ins: Sammy Burgess, Frances Beckham, Tim Smith, 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.)



WEDNESDAY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Warriors are invited to join the Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting every week from 7:00pm-7:30pm. We will meet on March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.

Please see the Zoom link below.

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

Plank Chapel UMC

2026

March Birthdays

Rick Edwards – March 1
 Kayla Heaton – March 2
 Frances Roberts – March 9
 Bo Cobb – March 11
 Austin Owen – March 12
 Richard Coghill – March 13
 Jimmy Bizzell – March 20
 Beth Jones – March 23
 Cameron Nugent – March 23
 Olivia Caviness – March 24
 Martha Sears – March 24
 Pat Fuller – March 26
 Stacey Winn – March 26
 CT Thompson – March 29

March Anniversaries

-
 David & Karin Driver – March 7
 Toleston & Judy Eaves – March 24
 Gene & Beverly Thompson – March 26
 Tomas & Peggy Hernandez – March 30

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 book shelves 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.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

A hearty breakfast, a good cup of coffee and a wonderful fellowship! United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Sunday, March 15th, 8:00am-9:00am. All men are invited!

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, March 15th , 3:00pm. All women are invited!

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 @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. Our Senior Circle Fellowship is March 18th, 10:00am. All are invited!

Plank Chapel Online Calendar

Today
< > March 2026
Month

| SUN Mar 1 | MON 2 | TUE 3 | WED 4 | THU 5 | FRI 6 | SAT 7 |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8am Awakenings ● 10am Sunday School ● 11am Worship | Pastor Edgar's Day Off | Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am Coffee Corner ● 7pm Prayer Group Zoo | Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8am Awakenings ● 10am Sunday School ● 11am Worship | Pastor Edgar's Day Off | Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3pm Choir Rehearsal ● 7pm Prayer Group Zoo | Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8am UMM Breakfast Fe ● 10am Sunday School ● 11am Worship 2 more | Pastor Edgar's Day Off | Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am Senior Circle ● 7pm Prayer Group Zoo | Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8am Awakenings ● 10am Sunday School ● 11am Worship ● 4pm Journey: Ages 5-1 | Pastor Edgar's Day Off | Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3pm Choir Rehearsal ● 7pm Prayer Group Zoo | Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8am Awakenings ● 10am Sunday School ● 11am Worship | Pastor Edgar's Day Off | Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am Coffee Corner ● 7pm Prayer Group Zoo | Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC | | |

plankchapelumc@gmail.com
 Events shown in time zone: (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time - New York
[Add to Google Calendar](#)