

CHAPEL CHATTER

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and Impact the Community Through Faith and Action



Pastor's Note

Pentecost is always a great celebration for the Church! Each year on Pentecost, we hear the story of the birth of the Church told in Acts 2— when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like the rush of a violent wind, with tongues as of fire dancing on their heads; people from all nations hearing the apostles speaking in their own language, and more than three thousand responded by being baptized into Christ.

However, before Pentecost, there is simply a room full of people waiting. They are not confident. They are not bold. They are not ready to change the world. They are doing the one thing Jesus asked of them: “Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” They wait because they know they cannot face the world in their own strength. And perhaps that is where many of us find ourselves today. Waiting. Unsure. Aware of our limitations. Aware of the fragility of the world around us. Aware that we cannot navigate life by sheer willpower. Pentecost begins exactly there — not with heroes, but with ordinary people who know their needs.

And then in Acts 2, when the day of Pentecost had come, a wild, untamable wind and fire that sweeps through the lives of Jesus' followers, transforming the disciples from confusion and uncertainty into boldness and belonging, and empowering them for God's mission. Pentecost bursts into the story of God like a firework. It is one of the most dramatic, exhilarating moments in all of Scripture. Look at the disruption the Holy Spirit causes on Pentecost! A sound like a mighty rushing wind roaring through the house. Flames of fire dancing above the heads of ordinary people. When the Holy Spirit comes, it's not gentle. It's not a whisper, rather it's very loud! It's a force that fills the whole house. It's fire that rests on each person. It's God's way of saying: "You are not alone. You are not powerless. You are not abandoned. My life is in you." Wind and fire are not safe! They transform! They unsettle! They disrupt! They change things! And that is what the Holy Spirit does!

On Pentecost, people from every nation hear the gospel in their own tongue. Suddenly every language becomes a medium for declaring the mighty works of God. This is not just about speaking in tongues, but about creating a community of radical belonging. God's story becomes accessible to everyone. God's dream is for every person to hear and understand the good news in their own language, culture, and experience. It is God saying: "My message is for everyone, and my Church will speak in ways the world can understand." Today, the Spirit still gives us a language for an anxious world: a language of peace when the world is full of conflict... a language of compassion when society feels divided... a language of hope when people feel overwhelmed... a language of truth when misinformation spreads fear... a language of grace when judgement comes too easily. Pentecost is not just about speaking; it is about being understood. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to speak God's love into the real fears of real people. That's what the Holy Spirit does!

And then, a frightened group of disciples suddenly stepping out with courage, clarity, and joy. This is the moment the Church is born — not quietly, not politely, but with power, color, noise, and holy disruption. Pentecost is God saying to the world: "Now watch what happens when my Holy Spirit is set loose among my people." The Holy Spirit's arrival in Acts 2 is not a gentle breeze but a hurricane, a wildfire that refuses to be contained. In that upper room, the Spirit's power is not just about miraculous speech, but about radical inclusion: every person hears the good news in their own language, signaling that God's salvation is for everyone to belong, just as they are. This is not a polite, gentle or predictable; it is a call to embrace the chaos of transformation and to trust that God is doing something new, even when it feels unsettling. The Holy Spirit's arrival is a reminder that God often moves in ways that unsettle our comfort, pushing us into new territory where growth and change are possible. When life feels chaotic, it may be the Spirit stirring us toward something new.

"STRONGER TOGETHER" EXERCISE CLASS

"Stronger Together" Exercise Class is not having sessions in the last couple of weeks. According to Debra Newman, the "Stronger Together" will try to resume back this month of June. For more information, please contact Debra @ 252-915-7005.

PLANK CHAPEL UMC CHOIR

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.

NEW BOOK CLUB

Plank Chapel UMC is birthing a New Book Club. We meet every third Sunday of the month. Our next meeting will be on June 21st, 4:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying together the "Twelve Extraordinary Women" by Rev. John MacArthur. All who are interested are welcome to join.

Pentecost is not the end of the story; it is the beginning. The Spirit does not come so the disciples can stay in the upper room. The Holy Spirit comes so they can go into the world. And the same is true for us. The Holy Spirit sends us into workplaces that feel pressured, into neighborhood and communities that feel fractured, into conversations that feel difficult, into situations that feel uncertain. But we go with God's presence within us. The world may feel unsafe, but we are Spirit-filled people. We carry God's peace. We carry God's courage. We carry God's hope. Pentecost tells us that God does not wait for the world to become safe. God fills us with the Holy Spirit so we can live faithfully in the world as it is.

God often moves most powerfully in the midst of our confusion and unknowns, inviting us to embrace transformation rather than fear it. Therefore, this Pentecost season, we are called to be bold, to speak the language of radical love, and to show up for one another again and again. The Holy Spirit is not finished with you and me yet! Pentecost is an ongoing invitation to trust, to risk, and to be transformed. As we continue to gather, serve, and love, we participate in God's dream of a community where all are welcomed, embraced and where healing and transformation are possible.

Let us pray...Empowering Holy Spirit, when we settle into our accustomed, comfortable routines as individuals and as a church, disrupt us and raise us from the dead. When we become too cozy with our friends and neighbors who look and think much like us, disrupt us and bring us new friends and neighbors who gather with us around the Lord's table as brothers and sisters in Christ. When we think we know exactly what the Bible says on some issue, secure in our knowledge that we know what you would say to us, disrupt us with fresh insight and new revelation that pushes us out of our self-securities. When we become fully at ease with our relationship with God, when we think that we have arrived in our Christian pilgrimage, disrupt us by leading us into new territory, restoring again the adventure of discipleship. This we are bold to pray in the Name of the Father, the Son, and today, especially in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PROJECT BE A BLESSING

"Project Be A Blessing" 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 Peggy Hernandez (Lay Leader) @ (252) 204-3045.

OUTWARD WITNESS TEAM

Last May 2026, the Outward Witness Team of Plank Chapel UMC gave donations to the Community Partners of Hope and Miracle Sunday Initiative. Also, the Outward Witness Team in partnership with area churches coordinated the Kittrell Revival Mission Project on May 16th at Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. Together, we packed sixty mission boxes for distribution to those in need and vulnerable people in the community.



GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

Plank Chapel UMC celebrated the Class 2026 Graduates and we give thanks to God for His faithfulness in their lives. ***Congratulations to David Wayne Tart (Louisburg Magnet High School), Alaina Kemp (Freedom Christian Academy), Alexis Kemp (UNC Wilmington) & Avery Kemp (UNC Chapel Hill)***. As y'all step into new seasons, we are honored to recognize your hard work, dedication, and achievements. (Jeremiah 29:11)



CHANGE BUCKET

Change Bucket for June 2026 has been designated for Ellyn Dubberly (#3021818). Ellyn is a GBGM missionary assigned to work with the Evangelical Methodist Church of El Salvador in the Ahuachapan area of the country. She works to connect local social service support systems with the ministry of the church so that women and children in particular can live and learn in a thriving environment.

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 June 7th, 14th & 28th.

**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 June 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th.

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

Prayer Requests

Bessie Newman, Tim Smith, Fawn Westmoreland, Kerry Alexander, Debbie Fleming, James Satterwhite, Diane Del Conte, Karin & David Driver, Jay Fuller, Susie Beal, Marvin Daniel, Donna McDaniel, Arvelle Abbott, Mike Smith, Martha Rowland, Jeanette Weaver, Richard Roberts, Karen Lee Driver, Edward Woodlief, Bryant Bobbitt, Kittrell community, our nation, peace in the Middle East and the world. Shut-Ins: Sammy Burgess, Frances Beckham, Tim Smith, John Rogers, Martha Rowland, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee & Frances Roberts. (For prayer requests, please call 919-418-0682 or email Pastor Edgar @ edejesus@nccumc.org.)

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.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

We are grateful to the United Methodist Men for hosting the Pancake Breakfast Fellowship on Easter Sunday. This month's United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Sunday, June 21st, 8:00am-9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The 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. This month's meeting of the United Women in Faith will be held on Sunday, June 21st, 3:00am.



North Carolina Annual Conference 2026

The North Carolina Annual Conference 2026 is coming this June 2026 in Greenville, NC. Pastor Edgar, Kristina De Jesus, Nancy Gustafson and Peggy Hernandez will attend as clergy and lay delegates. We'll celebrate God's work among us and make Spirit-led decisions that shape the mission and future of the church as United Methodists gather to worship, connect, and engage in holy conferencing. Please join us in lifting up this gathering in your prayers.

**June 18-20, 2026 -
Greenville Convention Center Greenville ,NC**

Opportunity for children and youth at Plank Chapel United Methodist Church:
Become an Acolyte
for 11 a.m. worship service
Acolyte training prepares children and youth to assist in worship by lighting and extinguishing the altar candles. This sacred duty symbolizes bringing the "Light of Christ" into the service and carrying it out into the world.

Training to begin this month
Contact Pastor Edgar to join other children and youth already registered to become Acolytes

919-418-0682
edejesus@nccumc.org

The background of the text is a photograph of several lit candles, with the flames glowing against a dark background.

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 a wonderful luncheon fellowship @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. This month's Senior Circle will be held on Wednesday, June 17th, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

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 pastors and leaders of the Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission gathered together on May 30th at Plank Chapel UMC for the "Building Bridges Event 2026" in partnership with Faith Matters Network.

We are grateful for everyone who attended and are committing to be bridge-builders in the community. Special appreciation to Rev. Donna Banks and Rev. Sung Min Moy for their Spirit-filled and transformative leadership.

The project aims to create a space for building bridges across divides, catalyzing pastors and lay leadership, forming communities of belonging and social healing, and leveraging the power of storytelling as a tool for change in our churches and local communities.





Memorial Day Weekend Remembrance

Journey children and youth placed American flags in the church lawn along Bobbitt Road in honor of all who served and are serving in the nation's armed services. In addition, Journey erected a Memorial Day banner in the cemetery adjacent to and facing the highway in remembrance to service and family members who have passed.





PLANK CHAPEL UMC MISSION STATEMENT & CORE VALUES

In June 2025, after many months of prayerful discernment, holy conferencing and three church-wide sessions of “Conversation & Visioning” led by the District Superintendent, we presented the Plank Chapel UMC’s new Mission Statement & Core Values. Heritage District Superintendent Rev. Dr. David Joyner offered these wonderful words: “This is great news and I celebrate this news with you. You all are doing great work for the kingdom!”

Our Mission Statement & Core Values are concise and powerful declarations that outline God’s vision, mission and identity of a church. They encapsulate the church’s belief, commitment and purpose, serving as a roadmap for how to engage in mission and ministry to the community and the world. The Mission Statement answers the question: “What is God calling us to do?” While the Core Values is about who we are, how we engage in ministry and what we want to be about in the future.

MISSION STATEMENT

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ and impact the community through faith in action.”

CORE VALUES

Worship - We are a Christian community rooted in Scripture and centered in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Hospitality - We welcome all people and invite them into authentic loving relationships.

Discipleship – We cultivate and grow in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ reflecting His teachings and values.

Generosity - We live out our faith in action through mission and witness. We value the importance of participation through our time, talents, giving and service, and welcome others to participate alongside us.

This Pentecost season, I challenge everyone not just to memorize our mission statement and core values, but to take every word in our hearts and in our minds. Let them serve as a compass or a roadmap—unifying each member and worshipper of Plank Chapel UMC around a common goal and fostering a sense of purpose and direction. May we be filled by the Pentecost Spirit and our lives set ablaze. May we reignite a renewed passion for worship, hospitality, discipleship and generosity, and may we pursue our mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ and impact the community through faith in action.”

CONVERSATION W/ THE DUKE ENDOWMENT CONSULTANTS

Last week, some key leaders of the Journey Team met w/ Up North Impact Team-- Athan Lindsay, Salin Geevarghese and Michael Allio. They are consultants of the Duke Endowment Rural Church program to help their staff devise a strategy for helping reimagine how they may support UMC churches.

The team has spent the past year having conversations across both conferences. They are now in the process of narrowing their focus to spend time in the Beacon and Heritage districts to develop a cohort of churches that are working collaboratively within their district making an impact in their communities.

The conversation centered on knowing more about what Plank Chapel UMC has done with "Journey" and other UMC churches that we have been collaborating with to create a viable and vibrant youth ministry. The Duke Endowment wants to do more than just showcase powerful narratives of Methodists in action. They also want to partner with local churches to become more effective in telling their stories of impact; create learning clusters for other United Methodist churches led by their peers, and make a case that small rural churches are indeed healthy and worthy of greater attention. And they want to learn more about Plank Chapel UMC's acts of resilience and innovation to fill the gaps to support its youth ministry and work with families through "Journey."

The Duke Endowment consultants are affirming and celebrating God's mighty work at Plank Chapel UMC through "Journey." We all learned that rural United Methodist churches are alive with acts of resilience, hope and activating their faith and Methodist values.





Kittrell Revival Mission Project

We are deeply grateful for everyone who prayed and generously supported the "Kittrell Revival Mission Project" last May 16th with participating area churches (Kittrell Baptist Church, Revive Church of God, Plank Chapel UMC, Kittrell Missionary Baptist Church & Union Chapel Church).

Together, we had a Spirit-filled worship and wonderful breakfast fellowship. We wrapped up the morning packing 60 mission boxes for distribution to those in need and vulnerable people in the community. Special **appreciation** to the Outward Witness Team of Plank Chapel UMC for leading this project. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!



Journey Children and Youth Celebrate America 250 and Stock Blessing Box

Journey children and youth gathered on May 31, 2026, to celebrate America's 250th anniversary while supporting the church's Blessing Box ministry.

Attendees were welcomed into a festive red, white, and blue fellowship hall filled with patriotic decorations and activities. Journey leadership team member Wayne Young opened the event with prayer, after which the children and youth divided into creative projects honoring the nation's milestone.

Younger children worked on a large tabletop coloring project featuring themes from American history. Meanwhile, the youth—later joined by the children—painted four beautiful wooden barn quilts under the church pavilion. Designed and led by Shakita Huerta and Nancy Gustafson, the quilts featured a cross, American flag, stars, and a 1776 theme. The finished pieces were created for outdoor display.

As the children painted, team leader Ron Gustafson shared inspiring quotes from America's founders highlighting their Christian faith and the principles of the Constitution.

The group also enjoyed outdoor games including four square, basketball, and wiffle ball. Following a blessing by Wayne Young, a delicious dinner was served featuring hamburger and ham & cheese sliders, macaroni and cheese, a fresh veggie tray, chocolate cake (provided by Joyce Edwards), and red, white, and blue dessert bars (provided by Pat Edwards).

Later in the evening, team leader Lora Young highlighted the church's Blessing Box, located beside the parking lot. The box provides free nonperishable food, books, and other essential items to those in need. Children and youth, along with leaders, brought donations and placed them on a table. After dinner, the kids selected items, attached messages of hope and praise, and then walked together to stock the Blessing Box shelves.

Team leader Scott Ritchey offered sign-up opportunities for the November Pilgrimage in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and for youth interested in serving as acolytes during Plank Chapel's 11 a.m. worship service. Several children signed up for both.

There will be no June Journey meeting. The next gathering is scheduled for Sunday, July 26, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Local children and youth ages 5–18 are always welcome. There is no cost to participate, but registration is required. Those interested in donating nonperishable food, juice, or bottled water may contact Lora Young at 336-504-7247.

Journey provides a safe, caring environment where children and youth experience the love of Christ through becoming, belonging, and believing. Activities include storytelling, devotionals, games, music, and fellowship.

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





Heritage District

North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Conference-wide Updates



GROWING in GRACE
ACCESSIBLE WORSHIP FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Growing in Grace Symposium

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

Our first-ever Growing in Grace Symposium is designed for people passionate about creating a safe space for children of all abilities to grow spiritually. Register for this September 22-24, 2026 event now.

[Register Now →](#)



TRAIN
100

UMVIM Train 100

UM VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

A new initiative is underway as UMVIM celebrates its 50th year in ministry. Train 100 is a program that offers incentives to new mission team leaders under 35.

[Learn More →](#)

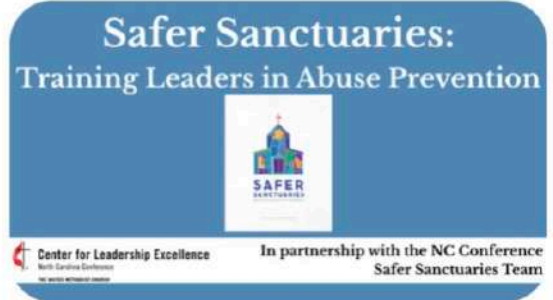


Summer Schedule of Courses Announced

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

NC Lay Servant Ministries has announced the online and in-person courses for June, July & August 2026.

[Register Now →](#)



Safer Sanctuaries Training

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

This free in-person July 11 training will help church leaders create, revise, or train others in keeping all safe in ministry. Lunch is optional and available.

[Register Now →](#)



It's Hard to Love Your Neighbors if You Don't Know Them!

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

How does your congregation know or serve your neighbors? **MissionInsite** is a program funded with NC church apportionments and is a powerful demographic information system. Learn how to access this program, get to know your neighbors, and turn insight into action.

[Register Now →](#)



NextGen Faith Cohort

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

This 2026-2027 cohort will begin soon. In these virtual sessions, paid staff and lay volunteers learn to set goals, share ideas, understand learning styles, and offer mutual support to grow our children's ministries in the church and the community. We hope you will join us.

[Register Now →](#)



MAY 2026 SENIOR CIRCLE

The Senior Circle met on Wednesday, May 20th at Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. It was an amazing Spirit-filled and life-giving with the music group who changed their name from "Gospelaries" to "Soldiers of the Cross" and raised money in their honor for Jon Furlow, a baby who has been in the hospital since he was born except for a few weeks. Pastor Edgar did a great devotion about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. The Senior Circle gathering concluded with a prayer and delicious lunch fellowship.



Plank Chapel UMC 2026

June Birthdays

Carlton Brown – June 1
Rebecca Jones – June 1
Pat Edwards – June 3
Abner Cobb – June 9
Kim Oettinger – June 12
Bruce Newman – June 16
Darrel Johnson – June 24
Carol Abbott – June 26
Mac Wilson – June 30



June Anniversaries

Ben & Jackie Brown – June 13
Frank & Stacey Winn – June 17
Bryant & Janet Bobbitt – June 18



Plank Chapel Online Calendar

Today < > June 2026 Month						
SUN 31	MON Jun 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
Journey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Awakenings 10am Sunday School 2 more 	Gathering Pastor Edgar's Day Off Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Stronger Together 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Coffee Corner 7pm Prayer Group Zoo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Stronger Together 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm The Gathering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Awakenings 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 	Pastor Edgar's Day Off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Stronger Together 	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"> 6pm Stronger Together 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Awakenings 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 	Pastor Edgar's Day Off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Stronger Together 	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"> 6pm Stronger Together 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am UMM Breakfast Fellowship 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 2 more 	Pastor Edgar's Day Off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Stronger Together 	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"> 6pm Stronger Together 		
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