

CHAPEL CHATTER

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



Pastor's Note

“What if...?” What a haunting, yet profound question. We’ve found ourselves in situations where we have felt helpless to determine our next step if the unknown were to happen. The phrase “What if...?” can strike fear in all of our hearts and minds as we consider all the things that could go wrong in our world. What if I got a medical report back that wasn’t good? What if I lost my job? What if my married life didn’t work? What if someone I love died? What if...What if...What if.... We could go on for hours listing all the possible “what ifs” you or I could face. Just thinking about all the “what if’s” can cause panic and anxiety when we think about future plans.

The “what ifs” are often negative, right? They are usually full of fear and worrisome imaginations. And when we focus on all those “what ifs,” when we allow our minds to go to those negative thoughts, it just discourages us and frankly, makes us miserable. Fear can also give us lots of stress that can affect our mental and physical well-being. And so, let me ask you: How much time do you spend in the “what ifs”... in fear and worry, thinking about what could or might happen?

But what if the “what if” question wasn’t as much about fear, but about God’s possibilities? What if we choose the way of Jesus? From the words of Rev. Jolley Gosnold, “in our world today, we have become so hungry for certainties and answers, we have become detached from the imaginative leaps required to live in the fullness of a life of faith—a life that relies on living in and from that which seems invisible, inaudible and untouchable. And still believing, still choosing the way and the truth and the life of Jesus.

The Bible invites us to look at our lives and ask that same question. What if...? What if I seek God first? What if I embrace the uncertain? What if I have faith that could move mountains? What if I live in abundance rather than scarcity? What if God graciously gave me all things? What if I trust God to do far more with what I have than what I could possibly imagine or do on my own?

I want to encourage you to deal with the “what if” of your life from God’s perspective. It could become a turning point in your spiritual journey, as you learn to trust in the Lordship of Jesus Christ as we face the uncertainties of life. Pastor Edgar will start a new six-week sermon series, WHAT IF...? beginning October 18th until November 22nd at Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC. Please don't miss any Sunday as we come together (both in-person and online) and learn from God’s Word about His promises, as well as imagining what God would do through us if we really trust God with what God has blessed us with. Bring your family and friends! Join us as we dive into these “What If” questions and discover God’s possibilities of living a life transformed by faith.

Finally, we ask “What if..?” and after that, we then act! We do! We respond and do something from that truth— that truth revealed to us by God’s Word. After the spirit of curiosity, after the act of imagination and posture of wonder and a leap of faith, comes a response. What if nothing, neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor dept, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord? What then? What does that change for us? How would we live our lives differently? What would we wake up in the morning and do? How would we treat others? What difference could we make in our world today? How then could we help to usher in God’s Kingdom?



Heritage District

North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Conference-wide Updates



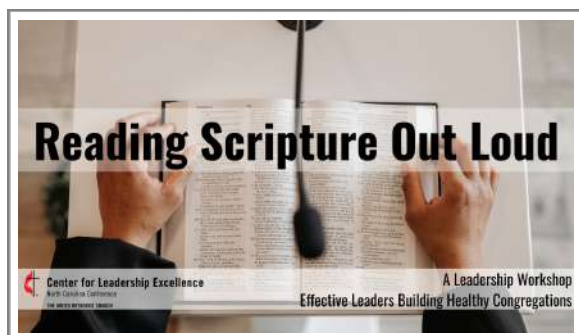
Would you be willing to do an energy audit for the Conference?

It's super quick and easy — all you need are your utility bills (or your treasurer or whoever handles them). The NC Conference Creation Care Team wants to collect as many energy audits as possible so we can know approximately the Conference's carbon footprint. We are committed as a conference to going 50% carbon-neutral by 2030 and net-zero by 2050, but we really need folks to complete these surveys to know where we stand. Will you please be one of them?

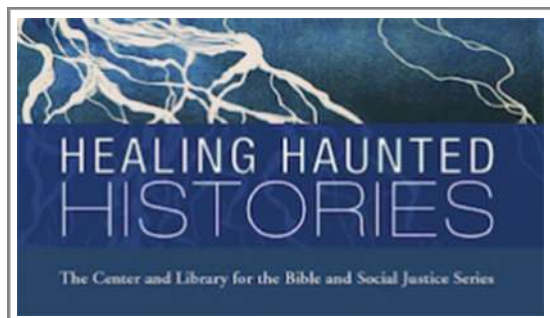


The fall 2026 lay servant ministry courses are now open. The following courses are available.

- Basic: Virtually for 6 weeks
- Leading Worship: In Person
- Called to Preach: Virtually for 2 weeks
- Leading Worship: In Person



The Center for Leadership Excellence presents an online workshop on December 8, designed for both experienced and inexperienced participants. The attendees will learn how to develop the craft of reading scripture aloud through participation in fun reading exercises, rewriting for the ear, and embracing Scripture as a performative text.



Healing Haunted Histories is more than a book study. It is an invitation into a journey of faith, discovery, truth-telling, repair, and transforming - a journey toward the Beloved Community Jesus calls us to embody. It is a journey into your own family story. This virtual course begins on October 2 and ends on November 7.



This October 30, all-day virtual experience is designed especially for those who are beginning to explore a call to ministry and are ready to take the next step toward becoming a Certified Candidate in The UMC.



This October 22 virtual workshop, beginning at 10 am, explores how scripture models leadership transitions within community—then and now. We'll look at how pastors and Nominations Committees can guide churches through leadership change, honoring long-time leaders while making room for new ones to grow into their gifts



Plank Chapel UMC will launch a Combined Worship Service every third Sunday of the month beginning October 18th at 11:00am. The main goals are to foster greater unity in the body of Christ, strengthen our communal worship experience and reach out to new and diverse people in the community.

This initiative will go through a three-month trial period. The Worship Team will meet again to evaluate its progress. The Combined Worship Service will offer some modification to the 11am Sunday Worship Service such as incorporating contemporary music and an informal preaching format that may include questions and answers. There will be no changes in the "Awakenings". They are encouraged to attend and participate in the Combined Worship Services when they are not meeting during the third Sunday of the month.



Keeping the Doors Open

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The UMC Solar and Battery Pilot Program is designed to help UMC churches serving vulnerable communities procure and install solar and/or batteries, empowering them to build resilience, reduce emissions and energy costs, and ultimately keep the doors of their critical community service ministries open. Interested churches that meet the eligibility criteria must complete an application by November 1, 2026.

LIGHT THE NIGHT

Come join the "Light the Night" on Friday, October 30th, 4:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC Cemetery. We will remember the saints of the church by placing candles (battery-operated) on the graves. On Sunday, November 1st, we will observe the All Saints Sunday at Plank Chapel UMC.



Journey is excited to share a special fundraising opportunity to support our Youth who will be attending Pilgrimage 2026 this November 13th-15th in Rocky Mount, NC!

Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser is currently ongoing until October 3rd. During this time, you can support our Journey Youth by purchasing delicious Double Good popcorn and sharing our fundraiser with your family and friends. To get more details and to order, please go to the link: <https://popup.doublegood.com/s/ck9y30i1>

Our fundraising goal is to raise \$500–\$1,000 or more to help offset the cost of sending our Youth to this wonderful event. Fifty percent of the proceeds from every purchase will go directly back to our Journey Youth Group. Every purchase, share, and word of encouragement helps us get closer to our goal and gives our Youth the opportunity to participate in this meaningful experience.

Thank you so much for supporting and investing in our young people. We truly appreciate our church family and community for helping make opportunities like this possible!

Warmly,

Journey Team & Youth



Pilgrimage 2026 is coming!

Plank Chapel UMC is sending again Youth and Adult Mentors to Pilgrimage 2026 on November 13th-15th @ Rocky Mount Event Center. We need your prayers and generous support!

Journey Youth are initiating some fundraisers including a Popcorn Fundraiser to raise money to send our Youth to Pilgrimage 2026. Contact Ron, Nancy or Shakita if you need help ordering. Donations accepted. Please mail your check to the church and mark: Pilgrimage 2026.

For over 30 years, Pilgrimage has been creating a space for thousands of United Methodist Youth (6th – 12th grades) and their Mentors. 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 Jesus Christ.

For more information about Pilgrimage 2026, please check the link: <https://nccpilgrimage.org/>.

KOFFEE KORNER

"Koffee Korner" Women's Group meets every first Wednesday of the month. Our next gathering will be on October 7th, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Nancy Gustafson @ [\(203\) 232-1145](tel:2032321145).

STRONGER TOGETHER EXERCISE CLASS

"Stronger Together" Exercise Class starting up this fall season. Come out and join us every Monday & Thursday nights 6:00pm-7:00pm. We offer cardio drumming along with Pilates and light aerobics.

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

We give thanks to God for the return of the Acolyte Ministry on our Sunday Worship Services. Our new Acolytes who completed the training from Pastor Edgar and were commissioned on August 16th are Alex Huerta, Jathan Huerta and Neymar Gordon. Please contact Pastor Edgar if you know any other young people interested in serving as Acolyte.

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.



Third Annual
Trunk Or Treat
4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 25
Plank Chapel United Methodist Church
3047 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell
FREE Event
Children & Teens May Participate
*** Candy Trail * Music**
*** Games * Prizes ***
Free Hot Dogs, Beverages For All
(Free hot dogs, beverages while supplies last)
Kids May Wear Their Costumes!
Presented by Journey
 Journey is a safe and caring space where children and youth can encounter the love of Christ Jesus through "becoming, belonging and believing."

CAKES NEEDED FOR THE **UMM ANNUAL BBQ**

A sign-up sheet has been placed in the Church's vestibule for anyone who would like to provide a cake(s) for the UMM Annual BBQ on Nov. 6, 2026. 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, Nov. 5 between 4pm-7pm. Slice size is important, so if you are unsure, bring the cakes uncut.

Thanks for your support!





Journey Celebrates Opposite Day, Preps for Fall Events and Pilgrimage

Children and youth enjoyed spirited “Opposite Day” activities at Journey’s September meeting. Attendees wore their shirts inside out and wrote their names backward on nametags.

Leadership team member Shakita Huerta opened the gathering with prayer. Youngsters then received cards featuring colorful photos on the front and Bible verses on the back, which they read aloud.

The group later divided for outdoor activities. Children played a lively game of kickball led by team leaders Lora and Wayne Young and Ron Gustafson. Teens created upside-down paintings under Shakita Huerta’s guidance in the church pavilion.

Wayne Young offered the blessing before an “Opposite Day” dinner of pancakes, waffles, bacon, and fresh fruit prepared by Lora Young. During the meal, Nancy Gustafson shared a devotional on “swimming against the worldly current.” Scott Ritchey handled registration.

Trunk or Treat

Journey will host its Third Annual Community Trunk or Treat from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 25, on the lawn adjacent to the church parking lot and in the open-air pavilion.

Those wishing to decorate a vehicle may sign up in the church foyer. Cars should be in place by 3:45 p.m.; participants are asked to bring enough candy for 30–50 children. Games and prizes will be available for children and youth, along with free hot dogs and beverages for everyone. There is no fee to participate.

Hayride and More

Lora and Wayne Young will again host a Journey hayride at their home on Saturday, November 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. The evening includes a weenie roast, sing-along, and games. Pre-registration is required—call Lora Young at 336-504-7247.

Supporting Pilgrimage

Journey held two fundraisers to help send youth to Pilgrimage in Rocky Mount in November: a silent auction of two barn quilts created by Journey and a popcorn sale running from late September into early October. Additional individual contributions from church members also helped offset costs.

Anyone wishing to contribute food, juice, or bottled water for Journey may contact Lora Young at 336-504-7247 or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

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

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



Mobile Food Pantry

Plank Chapel UMC joined last September 15th with the launching of the Mobile Food Pantry in partnership w/ Sowing Seeds and Kittrell Fire Department to address food insecurity in the Kittrell community. We need 3-4 volunteers to help distribute food every third Tuesday of the month from 2:00pm-4:00pm @ Kittrell Fire Department.

Our next food distribution will be on October 20th. To sign-up, please contact Lora Young or Peggy Hernandez of the Outward Witness Team. Be the hands and feet of Christ!





GUEST PREACHER ON OCTOBER 11TH

Pastor Edgar will be at Bethel UMC on October 11th to lead Bethel UMC's Annual Homecoming Sunday. Garry Dickerson will be the Guest Preacher during the 11am Sunday Worship Service at Plank Chapel UMC

2026 CHARGE CONFERENCE

2026 Charge Conference will be held on November 1st, 5:00pm at Plank Chapel UMC. In preparation, the Finance Team will meet on October 6th, 6:00pm to be followed by a Church Council Meeting. All leaders are requested to attend.

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 Sunday, October 18th, 4:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join.



IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please take an important survey about our church health. All laity serving in leadership positions (Church Council, Leadership Team, Pastor-Parish Relations Team, Board of Trustees, Finance Team & other committees) at local churches are being invited by the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church.

For more details about the survey, please go to the link: <https://nccumc.org/cc2026/>.

The goal of these surveys is to have a report for each local church that summarizes the survey responses, which church leaders can use to understand their health and identify ways to grow to more effective and fruitful ministry. This also helps the NC Conference understand more about the health of all churches and ways to support them better.

You have two options for the survey based on the amount of time you have available. Please choose either the Full Survey or the Basic Survey.

- **Full survey option** — Takes about 40-50 minutes, or
- **Basic survey option** — Takes about 30 minutes and is divided into two groups. Please choose the survey for the group based on your birth month.
 - **Basic option — Group A:** Choose this one if your birth month is January to June.
 - **Basic option — Group B:** Choose this one if your birth month is July to December.

3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

Plank Chapel UMC is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Community Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25th from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Children & teens may participate. We'll have Candy Trail, Music, Games & Prizes, Free Hotdogs & Beverages. Kids may wear their costumes. Please sign-up to reserve your vehicle space by contacting Ron or Nancy Gustafson.

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](tel:2522043045).

It is recommended to complete this survey in one sitting. However, if you need to pause and come back to the survey, do not close the survey window; as long as the window is open you can return to it. If you close the survey window, your responses will be lost, and you will need to start again.

Please complete your survey soon. The survey will close on October 18th (two weeks before the 2026 Charge Conference).

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](tel:2524920624).

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Annual BBQ Sale will be on Friday, November 6th. Please mark your calendar ahead. Also, the UMM Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Sunday, October 18th, 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, October 18th, 3:00am.

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, October 21st, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

CHANGE BUCKET

Change Bucket for October 2026 has been designated for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) International Disaster Response & Recovery (#982450). The people of Nepal are facing a devastating humanitarian crisis after catastrophic floods and flash flooding claimed hundreds of lives, left people missing, and displaced thousands from their homes. When natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the US, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. In the short term, UMCOR steps in to ease human suffering just like the humanitarian crisis in Nepal. In the long term, UMCOR cooperates with local partners to help them develop their own response mechanisms. Please see the link: <https://gbhem-umc.my.site.com/hemgm/s/donate-to-campaign...>

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 October 4th, 11th and 25th.

Prayer Requests

Bessie Newman, Tim Smith, Fawn Westmoreland, Kerry Alexander, Debbie Fleming, James Satterwhite, Karin & David Driver, Susie Beal, Marvin Daniel, Donna McDaniel, Arvelle Abbott, Mike Smith, Martha Rowland, Jeanette Weaver, Karen Lee Driver, Bryant Bobbitt, Wayne Stegall, Dave Driver, Jimmy Bizzell, Roxie Kearney, Henry Finch, Scott and Andrea Whitlow, Robin Bumpass, Edna Thomas, Family of Marlene Edwards, Family of Rufus Linwood House, Kittrell community, our nation, peace in the Middle East and the world. Shut-Ins: Sammy Burgess, Frances Beckham, Tim Smith, 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.)

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 October 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th. 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

Senior Circle September 16, 2026

Pastor Edgar gave a devotion revolving around the twenty fifth anniversary of 911. He asked us to recall what we were doing when we first heard of the terror attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City that claimed almost 3,000 lives. That did not include the lives lost when a hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, or the death toll when the passengers of Flight 93 fought to deter the hijackers from hitting their targets in Washington before they crashed. As we recalled the details of that day, he encouraged us to always remember the courage and self sacrifice of the first responders and other individuals who risked their lives to help others. He closed the memorial devotion with prayer for those who died and were injured, for those who still grieve, for healing for our country and God's blessing on America.

Sanctuary, A Spiritual Refuge Within or a Place ?

Kristina De Jesus then spoke to us about The Global Young Peoples Convention which she attended this summer in Dublin, Ireland from July seventh to the eleventh. The purpose was to connect young people from around the world to discuss faith based Christian discipleship in the modern world and to prepare them as the future of the church. The core theme of the convention was SANCTUARY. Participants were invited to share what sanctuary meant to them. The discussion expanded to reframe the idea of sanctuary not just as a place or a building but as a calling to become a spiritual refuge for others by living out your faith and trusting God to be your sanctuary, as Kristina so beautifully said.



Although the meaning of sanctuary can be different for every person, Kristina introduced us to two sanctuaries where she has done Mission work. One was KKFI , the Kapatiran-Kaunalaran Foundation Incorporated, a non-profit, faith based social development organization in Manila that works with vulnerable and marginalized people of every age. It offers early childhood care, educational assistance, youth advocacies and a day center for seniors just to name a few services.

Another sanctuary she spoke to us about is The Macau Methodist Filipino Mission. She was deeply impressed by the outreach for displaced Filipino women who traveled to Macau from the Philippines looking for work. The church's ministry offers counseling services, visitation, hospitality and church services along with valued fellowship for women far from home in the midst of strangers.



A kahoia is a traditional ceremonial necklace or lei worn by the Tongan people during maor life events. It is also a symbol of friendship, first made and worn by the crafter and then given to the receiver. It is a very special gift. Thank you

Kristina and Pastor Edgar presented special, handmade leis called Kahoas to Don Rose McGhee and Pat Fuller in appreciation for their service to Senior Circle

It was a treat to see Grace Ellen Bonvik, Don Rose's sister who came all the way from Norway. She will be here for two weeks. We heard the summer in Norway was a lot cooler than here in North Carolina.



With Love and Prayers,
Your Friends at Senior Circle



Plank Chapel Online Calendar

Today < > October 2026 Month

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU Oct 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
8am Awakenings 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 2 more	Pastor Edgar's Day Off	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC		Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		4pm The Gathering
		6pm Finance Team Meet	7pm Prayer Group Zoom	6pm Stronger Together-		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8am Awakenings 10am Sunday School 11am Worship	Pastor Edgar's Day Off	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC		Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
	6pm Stronger Together-	6pm Church Council Mei	10am Coffee Corner 7pm Prayer Group Zoom	6pm Stronger Together-		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8am Awakenings 10am Sunday School 11am Worship	Pastor Edgar's Day Off	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC		Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
	6pm Stronger Together-		3pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Prayer Group Zoom	6pm Stronger Together-		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am UMM Breakfast Fell 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 2 more	Pastor Edgar's Day Off	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC		Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
	6pm Stronger Together-		10am Senior Circle 7pm Prayer Group Zoom	6pm Stronger Together-		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8am Awakenings 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 2 more	Pastor Edgar's Day Off	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC		Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
	6pm Stronger Together-		3pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Prayer Group Zoom	6pm Stronger Together-		

plankchapelumc@gmail.com
 Events shown in time zone: (GMT-04:00) Eastern Time - New York
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Google Calendar