



Pastor's Note

After months of prayerful discernment, holy conferencing and three church-wide sessions of “Conversation & Visioning” led by the District Superintendent, I’m excited to share with y’all Plank Chapel UMC’s new Mission Statement & Core Values. Praise the Lord!

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.

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!" Therefore, on June 8th Pentecost Sunday, we will present our new Mission Statement & Core Values for God's glory and to the congregation for prayer and dedication. This is very timely and significant because Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit took over and hundreds of people encountered God.

Pentecost is described in Acts 2 like this: followers of Jesus were gathered in the place they were staying, a home, suddenly, “a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house.” The sound was so loud it caught the attention of many others in Jerusalem, and in a short time a crowd had gathered around this dwelling, where the believers, now filled with the Holy Spirit, were speaking in other languages. But the Holy Spirit wasn’t only with those who were speaking, it was also with those who were hearing, for they all understood what was being said! Even though there was quite a diverse gathering of folks in this place, each heard the Word in their own language. Their lives were set ablaze...on fire for God! And their lives were changed forever because they received the power of the Holy Spirit!

In this Pentecost season, I challenge everyone not just to memorize our mission statement and core values, but 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.”

Let us pray: *Holy Spirit, set us ablaze with consuming passion and love. Holy Spirit, overtake all we are. We believe in who You are and know You are good. We need You to come and fill us, Jesus. Have Your way in our hearts and in our lives. Remove anything within us that is not of You. Refine us, purify us. Our hearts yearn for only You. In Your presence we are satisfied. We receive Your love. May Your love overflow out of us and Your light shines into the darkness. We offer this prayer in the Name of Jesus, Amen.*

The Gathering - May 3, 2025





The Gathering

featuring

Chef Netta Edwards

Mom, Nutritionist & Food Maverick
Spring Forest in Hillsborough



Saturday, 4:00pm-6:00pm
June 7, 2025
Plank Chapel United Methodist Church
3047 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544

SENIOR CIRCLE MAY 2025

The seniors had a lot to celebrate in May as we honored people with special birthdays, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and a special guest visitor. After Reverend Edgar gave a devotion on the meaning of Christian love the program began with two birthday parties.



Sue Beal turned 93 in May. We learned she is a Lego Master who can create flowers and greenhouses from Legos. She also plays several musical instruments and is an avid gardener.



Sue and Wanda were good sports as we played This Is Your Life and they helped us learn more about them as they answered questions ranging from birth to present day.



Wanda Perkinson turned 90 in May. We learned she enjoyed square dancing and her first car was a green convertible. Her favorite job was working in the Vance County school system.



After the birthday party we played a Mother's Day guessing game called Women in the Bible. Many were mothers of famous biblical characters while others were used by God to mother God's church and His children in the faith.



It was a special treat to meet Lyn Gaid, Reverend Edgar's mother in law, our surprise guest.



Sally Coghill's beautiful decorations brought to mind those who gave their lives for our country so we could gather together freely. We remember their sacrifice with gratitude.

With Love,
Your Friends at Senior Circle

Happy Birthday
Happy Mother's Day
Happy Memorial Day



Journey celebrates one-year anniversary **with fieldtrip to Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

Plank Chapel's Journey youth outreach program celebrated its one-year anniversary with a May 24 fieldtrip to Myrtle Beach, S.C. Pastor Edgar DeJesus offered a prayer before the group departed the church at 7:45 a.m.

Six youngsters, along with the leadership team, drove to the seaside resort area with the first stop being Ripley's Aquarium at the Broadway At The Beach complex. Everyone enjoyed the vast variety of marine life exhibits before the group was offered an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the aquarium's operations.

The kids were also treated to a stingray feeding encounter. As the stingrays swam by, they gently snatched small fish from the youngsters hands.

Before departure, the group's host presented each of the kids with a plush toy.

Journey arrived at Family Kingdom amusement park in South Myrtle Beach as the attraction was opening at 3 p.m. The park presented handmade tie-dye shirts to the youth and then everyone in the group enjoyed the amusement rides for several hours. Pizza and soft drinks were provided for dinner. While some in the group took in one final amusement ride, others went to the beach and walked in the ankle-deep surf of the Atlantic Ocean. That was a special treat for a couple of the children as they saw the ocean for the first time. *All of the attraction tickets were courtesy of anonymous donors.*

Journey provided fresh fruit and other breakfast foods as well as snacks for the fieldtrip. Shakita Huerta packed sandwiches and other items for lunch.

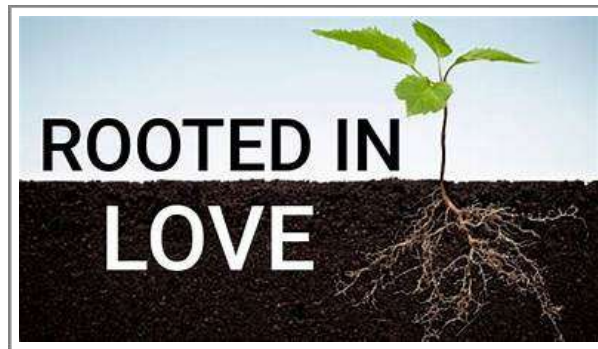
The next regular meeting of Journey will be at 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, June 22 at the church. Kids 5 to 18 years of age are eligible and encouraged to attend. There is no fee to participate.

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 the church's fellowship hall.

Journey is a safe and caring space where children and youth 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.





Rooted in Love” wrapped up its final session last May 3rd, attended by several churches in the Heritage District including Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC. Our team includes Debbie Englebright, Sylvia Cates & Pastor Edgar from Bethel UMC and Ron & Nancy Gustafson, Peggy Hernandez, Lori Litton, Joni Ayers & Pastor Edgar from Plank Chapel UMC.

Sponsored by NC Conference Center for Leadership Excellence & Duke Endowment, the “Rooted in Love” had four in-person gatherings which began in November 2024 and ended in May 2025. Each gathering brought several churches in one region together to build community across the United Methodist connection. We had worship and learning sessions for 4-5 hours long with fellowship meals included. The final session last May 3rd brought the churches back together to celebrate, share a meal, and reflect on the content and lessons learned.

The main goal of the training is to develop and equip our lay leadership with thorough hospitality resourcing and a step-by-step process to visit nearby churches to evaluate what others are doing. Seeing how others welcome can be eye-opening and ministry-changing. We learned the importance of building authentic relationships with people they are helping through mission and ministry – working with our neighbors in solidarity instead of seeing the needs as charity. We gained tools to build relationships with others in their community who are different than those we see sitting in the pews on Sunday. And by participating in “Rooted in Love”, we developed a better understanding of the value of building relationships with people outside of their current church community.

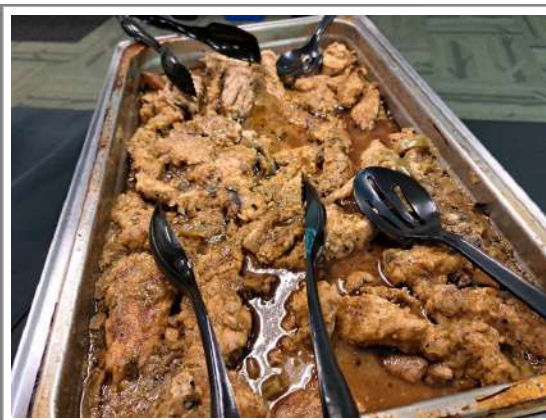
Through the generosity of the Duke Endowment, both Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC will each receive \$750 mini-grant to help implement the team’s “Rooted in Love” strategies for the next six months:

Bethel UMC

- 1) Renovation of the Old Church Building
- 2) The \$750 mini-grant will be utilized to install a new outdoor church signage
- 3) Grow the Dinner Church
- 4) Leadership Team will initiate a Visioning Process.

Plank Chapel UMC

1. Update, simplify and make accurate the current church's website. Add short videos of key church personnel, stating names, connection to the church and brief description of their passion in the church.
2. During Sunday Worship Service, The worship leader should do a brief introduction such as 'Good morning, I am _____, I will be your liturgist today.' This helps new people and online people.
3. Sunday Worship Service must start and end on time. Be considerate of newcomers. Avoid insider language and be aware that many guests will be uncomfortable such as passing of the peace.
4. Signage: Simple and consistent. Provide directions to bathrooms, fellowship hall, sanctuary, children's church & handicap entrance.
5. Set-up Welcome and Join Us 'banners' viewable from the road.
6. Welcome Table: Brochures, including layout of church, brief history, upcoming events and key personnel directory. Guest cards to be filled out for children, including who is responsible for them, any allergies, specific instructions. Dual custody families: person checking a child in must also check the child out. Need to explain to parents where children will be during children's church and who will be responsible for them. Separate guest cards for adults with basic information on them.
7. Guest Gift: Needs to benefit the guest. Suggestions: popcorn, water bottle, hot thermos, gift card to local establishment (partner with local businesses as sponsors).
8. Things we are doing correctly: We have a website, which most people will visit before deciding to come to the church. The map GPS coordinates are correct on our website. New welcoming programs: The Gathering and Journey. We do have members who are very good at welcoming guests.
9. The \$750 mini-grant will be utilized for welcome and directional signage; upgrade the bathrooms; create a church welcome folder; permanent wiring to the digital message boards.
10. Finally, when starting a new process, start with a dream or vision and then use existing resources/people in the church and community to accomplish the goal.



KOFFEE KORNER

"Koffee Korner"-- a women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month. We will meet on June 4th, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Nancy Gustafson @ [203-232-1145](tel: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](tel: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! We have Choir Practice every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm (June 11th & 25th).



North Carolina Annual Conference 2025
June 11-14, 2025
Greenville Convention Center, Greenville, NC

This June, 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. Nancy Gustafson, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference and Pastor Edgar will attend the NC Annual Conference this year representing Plank Chapel UMC.

AC Conference Link: <https://nccumc.org/ac2025/>

Speakers & Guests

Featured speakers and guests who will lead and inspire us through worship and plenary sessions as we grow in disciple making, leader forming, and peace building.

Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz

Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz, Executive Director of The Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry and an Ordained Elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, will speak during the Friday afternoon plenary session. Muñoz will also lead two [Learning Labs](#) on Wednesday.

Rev. Dr. Michael Adam Beck

Rev. Dr. Michael Adam Beck, pastor, author, and Executive Director of Fresh Expressions for The United Methodist Church, will speak during the Laity Executive session on Thursday morning. Beck will also lead two [Learning Labs](#) on Wednesday.

Rev. Bob Bergland

Rev. Bergland, retired pastor and Community Spiritual Director at Heart of Carolina Emmaus Community, will preach during the Memorial Service on Friday.

Bishop Gregory Palmer

Bishop Gregory Palmer, Council of Bishops Executive Secretary and retired Bishop of the Ohio West Area, will preach during the Ordering of Ministry Service on Saturday morning.

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

Along with presiding over the conference, Bishop Shelton will preach during Opening Worship on Thursday.

4th Saturday Free Market - May 24th, 2025



PRAYER REQUESTS

Tim Smith, Frances Beckham, Faye Moss, Ricky Satterwhite, Sammy Burgess, Bessie Newman, Fawn Westmoreland, Rose Marshall, Alston Monroe, Ronnie Currin, Jeanette Weaver, Debra Flemming, Kerry Alexander, Cecil Brown, Bryant Bobbitt, Freddie Oettinger, Donald Rose McGhee, Joni Ayers, Henry & Ann Finch, Bill Rohr, Family of Rachel Stone, Kittrell community, our nation and our world. Shut-Ins: John Rogers, Martha Rowland, Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee & Frances Roberts. (For prayer requests, please call [919-418-0682](tel: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 June 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 967 3107 2214
Passcode: 1RL4uP

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

On May 25th, we recognized and honored the Class 2025 during the 11:00am Sunday Worship Service. We celebrated with Cameron Michael Nugent who finished high school from Louisburg Magnet High School. He will pursue an Associates Degree in Emergency Medical Science (Paramedic) at Wake Tech Community College. We also recognized the graduation of RJ Whitbey, Tanner Finch and Brooks Newman. Congratulations to all the Graduating Class of 2025 and their families!



4TH SATURDAY FREE MARKET

We give thanks to God to everyone who generously donated items to the 4th Saturday Free Market last May 24th. Thank you to all servant volunteers who helped set-up and clean-up. Special appreciation to Sally Coghill, Beth Heaton, Karin Driver & Abner Cobb. Our next 4th Saturday Free Market will be on September 27th. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!

CHANGE BUCKET

The June-July 2025 Change Bucket has been designated for Rise Against Hunger-- an international hunger relief non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food and other aid to people in developing nations. It was founded as Stop Hunger Now in 1998 by Ray Buchanan and John Hewitt. Rise Against Hunger mobilizes more than 400,000 volunteers each year to package meals for people in need around the globe.

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 June 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th.

Happy Birthday!!

Carlton Brown - June 1st

Lizzie Driver - June 2nd

Pat Edward's - June 3rd

Johnny McGhee - June 9th

Kim Oettinger - June 12th

Bruce Newman - June 16th

Kim Merlin - June 20th

Sarah Cruz - June 21st

Mac Wilson - June 30th



Anniversaries

Johnny and Donald Rose McGhee - June 9th

Ben and Jackie Brown - June 13th

Freddie and Kim Oettinger - June 17th

Bryant and Janet Bobbitt - June 18th



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 give thanks to God for the United Methodist Men for sponsoring the May 18th Luncheon Fellowship honoring the Firefighters & Families of Kittrell Fire Department. The UMM Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Sunday, June 15th, 8:00am-9:00am. All men are invited!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith Sunday was held on April 27th celebrating its mission, ministry and leadership. WE are grateful for Darlene Ranes for her leadership and for sharing God's Word during the service. 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. Our next regular meeting will be on Sunday, June 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 next meeting is June 18th, 10:00am. 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.



SUN Jun 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
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