

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts/Open Minds/Wide Open Doors

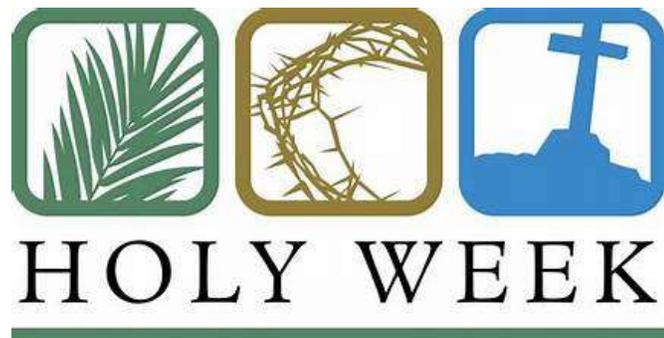
"KOFFEE CORNER" WOMEN'S GROUP

Plank Chapel UMC is birthing the "Koffee Korner"-- a Fresh Expressions women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is [March 6th @ 10:00am](#). For more information, please contact Jan Hicks @ [919-525-4778](tel:919-525-4778).



"STRONGER TOGETHER" EXERCISE CLASS

A new Exercise Class named "Stronger Together" will begin [March 4th](#) & 7th @ [6:00pm](#). We will meet twice a week. For more information, please contact Debra Newman @ [252-915-7005](tel:252-915-7005).



HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024

[Sunday, March 24th- 11:00am](#)

Palm Sunday, Luncheon Fellowship & Easter Egg Hunt

[Wednesday, March 27th-7:00pm](#)

Online Prayer Meeting

[Thursday, March 28th-6:00pm-Maundy Thursday Handwashing & Love Feast in the Fellowship Hall](#)

[Friday, March 29th-6:00pm](#)

Good Friday Service Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

[Sunday, March 31st-6:30am](#)

Easter Sunrise Service followed by Pancake Breakfast Fellowship & Flowering of the Cross

[Sunday, March 31 - 11:00am Easter Sunday](#)

[Worship](#)

Celebration w/ Holy Communion, Reception of New Members & Holy Baptism



Pastor's Note (March 2024)

“Are we there yet?” I hear whining and complaining from my impatient kids every time we are on a road trip for too long. We are still in the season of Lent and with Holy Week quickly coming in the next few weeks. Easter Sunday is on the horizon, and it is easy at this point to look at our spiritual journey ahead and ask, “Are we there yet?”

It is tempting to rush from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little attention given to the significance of the suffering Christ throughout Holy Week—the seriousness of betrayal, passion, suffering and death of Jesus on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

We do not want to see Jesus being betrayed, arrested and beaten up. We do not want to see Jesus bloodied on a cross. We don't like the sound of the whips, the shame, the blood, the tears, and the agony of Good Friday. It disturbs our modern sensibilities and makes our old nature squirm. We would rather hear stories of glory and triumph, not humiliation and defeat.

Rather than wondering if we are there yet, we should spend this week paying attention to the road that is preparing us for Holy Week. As followers of Christ, the crucifixion of Jesus is the very core of what we believe. It is the climax of Jesus' mission and purpose to humanity. At the cross, Jesus conquered sin, death and even the devil. And so, we do not avoid Holy Week and the cross, but at the same time, we do not shrink the entire Christian faith into Good Friday. Instead, we understand everything in life through the lens of what Jesus did for us at the cross. In other words, we cannot fully understand Easter without Good Friday, just as we cannot fully understand new life and resurrection without first knowing suffering and death.

Therefore, instead of rushing to the Easter celebration that lies ahead, I encourage everyone not to miss any Sunday this Lent. And to continue journeying together from Lent to Holy Week leading up to the glorious Easter Sunday.

Sunday, March 24th- 9:30am Palm Sunday Service, Bethel UMC

11:00am Palm Sunday Service w/ Luncheon Fellowship & Easter Egg Hunt, Plank Chapel UMC

Wednesday, March 27th-7:00pm Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting

Thursday, March 28th-6:00pm-Maundy Thursday Handwashing Service & Love Feast, Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 29th-6:00pm-Good Friday Service Tenebrae Service, Plank Chapel UMC

Sunday, March 31st-6:30am Easter Sunrise Service followed by Pancake Breakfast Fellowship & Flowering of the Cross, Plank Chapel UMC

9:30am Easter Sunday Worship Celebration w/ Holy Communion, Bethel UMC

11:00am Easter Sunday Worship Celebration w/ Holy Communion, Reception of New Members & Holy Baptism, Plank Chapel UMC

Indeed, Jesus' crucifixion and death are not the end of the story. Easter is coming! The end of the story is Christ's victory over death, evil, hatred and prejudice. But first, we have to journey through the rest of the Holy Week to see the bigger picture of God's plan for all of us!



Our names are Abner Bryant Cobb III And Pamela, Faith Cobb. We have been married for 19 years. We have one son he is 14 years old his name is Abner Bryant Cobb IV. A.k.a., Bo. Pamela is a deli employee at Food Lion in Franklinton North Carolina. Bryant is a supervisor at Buffaloe Milling in Kittrell North Carolina.

When we were younger things happen in life that caused us to step away from church over the years. God has shown us he will help you get through anything. When Bryant father passed away in September, he asked the good Lord for help getting his family through this hard time. Good Lord sent Pastor Edgar through his grandmother, Roxie Kearney To help with their hard time.

We have come along way and are looking forward to continuing our journey in faith and getting to know Jesus better with the guidance of pastor, Edgar and the leader ship at Plank Chapel.

Some of Pam's hobbies are cooking, swimming, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. Some of Bryant's Are being a volunteer firefighter, EMR on Kittrell Volunteer fire department, woodworking cooking and helping others

REI racialequityinstitute

REI's two-day Phase 1 training is designed to develop the capacity of participants to better understand racism in its institutional and structural forms. Moving away from a focus on personal bigotry and bias, this workshop presents a historical, cultural, and structural analysis of racism. With shared language and a clearer understanding of how institutions and systems are producing unjust and inequitable outcomes, participants should leave the training better equipped to begin to work for change.

Recently, Benson Memorial UMC received a [Peace with Justice grant](#) from the NC Conference Board of Church and Society to hold a Racial Equity Institute (REI) training. The grant helped to reduce the cost of the training from \$375 to \$85 per person.

The training will be held [March 21-22, 2024](#), in Benson Memorial UMC's Fellowship Hall. Sponsored by Raleigh Organizing Against Racism, the workshop moves away from a focus on personal bigotry and bias to a historical, cultural, and structural analysis of racism.

Click the link below to learn more and to register.

[https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/
register/eventReg?
oeidk=a07ek8cgqand330230a&oseq=&c=&c
h=](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ek8cgqand330230a&oseq=&c=&c_h=)

CHANGE BUCKET

The March Change Bucket is ACTS or Area Christians Together in Service based in Henderson. The goal of ACTS is to provide a warm meal to those who may otherwise go without.

ACTS also offers a food donation program to help with soup kitchen warehouse and to help with other community food supplies. ACTS serves meals every weekday [from Monday-Friday](#).

Soup Kitchen Hours: [Monday through Friday](#), 11:00am-12noon;

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday & [Thursday, 8:30am-9:30am](#);

Address: [210 South William Street, Henderson, NC 27536](#).



PLANK CHAPEL UMC CHOIR

Plank Chapel UMC Choir is back again! Praise the Lord! The Choir Practice is held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, [3:00pm](#). Here are the practice dates: [March 13th](#), [March 27th](#), [April 10th](#), [April 24th](#), [May 8th](#), [May 22nd](#), [June 12th](#), [June 26th](#).



AWAKENINGS

Renew, fresh and revive your spirit as we worship our Awesome God at "Awakenings" every [Sunday 8:00am](#) (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! Here are the following Awakenings worship dates for the month of March 2024-- [March 3rd](#), [March 10th](#) & [March 24th](#).



A Lenten Prayer

The road You've walked,
That path's right here.
No matter how hard I tried,
I can't follow that path...
Even though I sweat, it's still difficult.
I try to sigh, but it's still far away.
Your loving arms are truly wide,
Even after covering all the world, still plenty of
space left.
Even if I open my heart wide to embrace,
The gate's still narrow and pushes others out.
As I look at the sky, open my chest,
Like an endless horizon, yet it's incomparably
small.
You accept and bind me up all broken pieces,
The grace of healing is truly sweet.
Because the cruciform love is touching
You fill my garden, my soul, and trembling heart.
I embrace that sacrificial love with tears,
but still a long way to go, I run to You only.
You say again that I'm fine just the way I am.
So I run into Your arms like a child,
seeking mystical union within You,
This is my Lenten prayer.
"...just as a hen gathers her chicks under her
wings." (Luke13:34)



2024 CONNECT CHURCH

The Connect Church Cohort met last February 15th attended by Larraine Abbott, Mike Raney, Jan Hicks, Debra Newman, Frank Winn, Wayne & Laura Young, Peggy Hernandez, Susan & Martha Sears, Greg Hunt, Scotty Ritchey & Sylvia Cates.

We prayed and talked about our shared life together. While Pastor Edgar shared about the "Fresh Expressions"-- a new renewal movement happening in The United Methodist Church and across the world. Abner & Pam Cobb also came and shared inspiring and life-giving testimonies.

The 2024 Connect Church is a 10-month process with a goal of revitalizing and growing the church in making discipleship of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Sponsored by the NC Rural Center & Duke Endowment, the process will invest in providing practical leadership skills set for both Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC. The process will grow and strengthen existing or ongoing ministries as well as see what opportunities emerge. We will also process together with other churches for networking, collaboration & partnership. And both churches will receive a grant of up to \$10K each to expand existing or launch new missional engagement projects.

The Connect Church Cohort will meet w/ Coach John Parker [on March 5th, 6pm](#) @ Plank Chapel UMC and [March 18th, 6pm](#) @ Bethel UMC. Please review the first two chapters for our March sessions. They build on each other and are the foundation for our start.

Please keep the cohort, Pastor Edgar and the entire process of the 2024 Connect Church in your prayers.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

All men are invited to our monthly United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship every third Sunday of the month [from 8:00am until 9:00am](#). Our next breakfast fellowship is [March 17th](#).



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. Our next regular meeting of the United Women in Faith will be [on Sunday, March 17th, 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. We will meet again [on Wednesday, March 20th, 10:00am](#) and every third Wednesday of the month. Bring your family and friends!

BLESSING BOX MINISTRY

In 2022, 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 birthed the Blessing Box Ministry and encouraged church members as well as the community to help keep the box stocked with non-perishable food items for those in need. We give thanks to God for your generous gifts and support for this outreach ministry.



Many NC Conference church leaders recently attended the first Fresh Expressions United Methodist National Gathering in Charlotte, NC. Fresh Expressions is an ecumenical movement that helps churches reach new disciples for Christ.

“Fresh expressions are about getting creative in your church’s reach. A group starts when a Christian sees those already in his or her circles with a spiritual lens. It’s asking the simple question, ‘How can I help my friends connect with God?’ Fresh expressions form where mutual interests meet hearts open to opportunities to connect on faith matters.”

Fresh Expressions United Methodist: A Distinctly Wesleyan Spirit-Led Movement of New Christian Communities that Serve the Present Age. John Wesley famously exclaimed, “The world is my parish.” But have we, the people called Methodists, made the parish our world? This book is a practical guide to help United Methodists put the “go” back in our mission statement through cultivating Fresh Expressions of Church.

Fresh Expressions Books

The NC Conference Media Center has several books on the Fresh Expressions movement that are available to borrow. These are all published by United Methodist publishers. Additional titles can be purchased directly from the Fresh Expressions [online store](#).

Prayer Requests

Patricia Rogers, Freddie Oettinger, David Lee, Thomas Beckham, Dennis Wilson, Tim Smith, Jeanette Weaver, Angie Rowland, Jan Hicks, Mary Holmes, Corbitt Cash, Debbie Sherrin & Tonja Tooley. Shut-Ins: Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young & Frances Roberts. (For prayer request, 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 7:00-7:30pm](#). This month of March, we will meet [on March 6th](#), 13th, 20th & 27th. Please see the Zoom link below.

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

Topic: Prayer Group Zoom Meeting (Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC)

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/98771477114?pwd=TVRTVHcwWWU0UytHOGhTYXFhZmxhdz09>

Meeting ID: [987 7147 7114](#)

Passcode: [288519](#)

One tap mobile

[+16465588656](tel:+16465588656).,[98771477114#](tel:+16465588656) US (New York)

[+16469313860](tel:+16469313860).,[98771477114#](tel:+16469313860) US



Help North Carolina Welcome The World

What is General Conference?

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The conference meets to consider revisions to church law and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for churchwide agencies and programs.

Delegates are United Methodists from around the world elected by their annual, missionary, or provisional conference. The total number of delegates at General Conference ranges between 600 and 1,000 people.

The body of General Conference consists of an equal number of lay and clergy delegates. Lay members of annual conferences elect the lay delegates, and clergy members elect clergy delegates.

United Methodists from all over the world are traveling to attend General Conference in Charlotte, NC from April 23-May 3, 2024. Psalm 46:10 sets the theme for this important gathering: "...and know that I am God." In all we do, God guides our every decision. The gathering is expected to attract about 5,500-7,500 people.

You are invited to serve as part of our Welcome Team during General Conference and offer gracious hospitality to our guests.

We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and create a holy space where spirits can be nurtured. This will foster a welcoming environment and support delegates as they come together in worship, discernment, and holy conferencing on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Serving at General Conference, you will have the opportunity to participate in the connectional nature of the church, to meet new people, and to live into your commitment to support The UMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

What a wonderful way to extend the love of Christ to all! Come extend God's hospitality to those from around the world gathering for the General Conference. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.



Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.
Western NC Conference (Charlotte Area)



Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton
NC Conference (Raleigh Area)

Welcome Team Opportunities



AIRPORT

Welcome guests,
Direct them to baggage claim
and transportation



HOTELS

Welcome guests,
Greet and answer questions



CONVENTION CENTER

Welcome guests,
Greet and answer questions



REGISTRATION

Greet and check-in attendees,
Requires attention to detail and
comfort with technology

APPLY ONLINE TODAY

WelcomeToGC.org

About Charlotte

“The Commission selected Charlotte as the site that best met our varied needs. We believe that delegates and attendees will be pleased with all the city has to offer,” said Kim Simpson, Chair of the Commission on the General Conference.

The Commission also considered Charlotte’s suitability and capacity of available meeting facilities, the proximity of hotel rooms, accessibility, amenities, and the convenience of travel.

Serving at General Conference

As part of the Welcome Team at General Conference, you will have a tremendous opportunity to see the United Methodist connection up close and provide hospitality to friends in Christ from around the world!

- Apply online to serve: **WelcomeToGC.org**.
- Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to serve.
- After your application is processed, you will receive an invitation email with a link to select your available serving dates and times.
- Opportunities will be set up in 4-hour shifts.
- Help needed starting April 18.



- Welcome Team members will wear red aprons to help be easily-identifiable while serving.
- You are responsible for hotel and meal costs associated with your stay.



Located 7 miles from the Charlotte International Airport, the Convention Center is accessible from I-85, I-77, and U.S. Highway 74. The city has a 19.3-mile light rail system known as the LYNX Blue Line connecting the southern and northern parts of Charlotte.

The 600,000-square-foot facility recently completed an expansion project to add meeting space and an exterior over-street pedestrian walkway that connects to several

stores, hotels, and the LYNX Blue Line Stonewall Station.

Within walking distance are approximately 200 restaurants and numerous art, history, and science museums, galleries, and theaters.

Charlotte also has a network of greenways, parks, and other outdoor spaces and hosts sporting events including NFL football, NBA basketball, hockey, baseball, NASCAR, soccer, and more.

Valentines Spaghetti Dinner



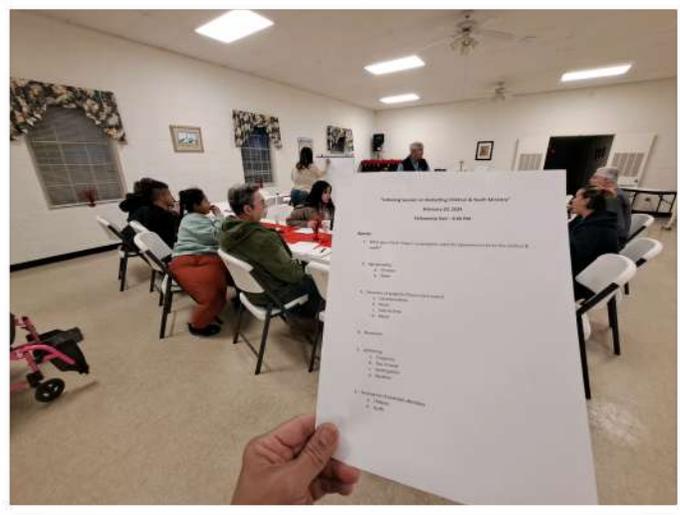
The logo for "Senior Circle" features the words "SENIOR" in a simple, uppercase, sans-serif font and "Circle" in a larger, elegant, cursive script font. Both are centered within a hand-drawn blue circle.

RESTARTING CHILDREN

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING:

Good morning! Praising God and thanking y'all for the wonderful listening session last night. Regarding choosing "catchy name" for our children & youth ministry, the word "Journey" keeps coming into my mind. Our life is a journey. Following Jesus is a journey. It is a journey of "belonging", "becoming" & "believing".

At Journey, we welcome all children & youth and meet them at their journey. We offer them a safe place to belong and discover their God's given purpose. And we come alongside their journey in knowing Jesus and making Him known.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 8am - Awakenings @ 10am - Sunday School @ 11am - Worship @	26	27	28 3pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Prayer Group Zoom	29	1	2
3 8am - Awakenings @ 10am - Sunday School @ 11am - Worship @	4	5 6pm - Cohort Meeting @	6 7pm - Prayer Group Zoom	7	8	9
10 8am - Awakenings @ 10am - Sunday School @ 11am - Worship @	11	12	13 3pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Prayer Group Zoom	14	15	16
17 8am - UMM Breakfast 10am - Sunday School @ 11am - Worship @ 3pm - UWF @ Parlor	18 6pm - Cohort Meeting @	19	20 10am - Senior Circle @ 7pm - Prayer Group Zoom	21	22	23 9am - Free Market
24 8am - Awakenings @ 10am - Sunday School @ 11am - Worship @	25	26	27 3pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Prayer Group Zoom	28 Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday Service TBD	30
31 Easter Sunrise Service, 10am - Sunday School @ 11am - Worship @	1	2	3 7pm - Prayer Group Zoom	4	5	6