

PITTSBORO UNITED METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS
Brown's Chapel & Pleasant Hill United Methodist Churches
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Bill Negron, Pastor

wnegron@nccumc.org

910-547-1879



GOD IS MY WITNESS . . . This February marks the one-year anniversary of when I as your pastor assumed the responsibility of the Newsletter for the very first time, As I was contemplating what I should write for this upcoming 2026 issue I saw what I wrote last year. I thought it has aged very well, and that it may be even more relevant today than it was in 2025. So, in honor of “Groundhog Day.” Here is what I wrote, may it continue to challenge you as it does me.

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

1 John 4:20 NIV

Even though Valentines Day is not necessarily a part of our UMC liturgical calendar, I would argue that God (Who is love) can help us to be more equipped in the areas of “Agape love” better than any box of chocolates or flowers. In fact, on Valentine’s Day we decidedly give gifts to people whom we deem deserving, or worthy of our love and affection. But God’s love is grander, wider, and deeper than such superficialities.

God loves even those who are undeserving. (Which is all of us) I know this because God loves me. What’s more, God’s love challenges us to love those around us, our neighbors, our brothers and sisters, even our enemies. Agape love; unconditional love, is impossible to do in our own strength, but God’s love is so strong that it transforms us, and gives us the means to will and do, what agape love requires.

Scripture authoritatively tells us that in order to love the invisible God, we must love the people that we see every day all around us. Especially the unseen. We do so by meeting needs of our neighbors, feeding those who are hungry, those who are naked, those who are sick, and those who are in prison. It doesn’t matter if they are hungry for food or affection, whether they are exposed to the harshness of life, or cold weather, or if they are physically, mentally, or spiritually ill. Nor does it matter if they are incarcerated by fear, insecurity, or prison bars made of human hands. We are to address the needs of those who are overlooked because God did not overlook us in our own time of trouble.

The Lord takes personally, our deliberate ignorance of the plight of His people, to do so makes us liars, and our affection for God non-existent. Remember Jesus states that what we do unto the least of these we do to Him. How we treat others can be the difference between being a goat or a sheep. Society has co-opted the word “goat” to mean “greatest of all time”, but Jesus tells us that to be the greatest, we must be the servant of all. Happy Valentines

PH Admin. MTG Feb. 8th



The admin board of Pleasant Hill UMC Chaired by Pastor Bill will meet on Sunday February 8th at 2pm Please have your

committee reports ready as we have much business to conduct. We will also take a moment to honor our former admin Chair BJ Copeland.

A Super Sponsor Chatham County Schools



Help support Chatham Charter School reading program by earning points toward awesome prizes and Chatham

Charter School earns much needed funds. Our very own Clara and Grace Paulus Our



asking you to sponsor their reading programs in the following ways. A gift

card 100% of gift cards go directly to their teacher. A gift of reading card to purchase books for students to read. Shop for great items like Magazines, Books,



Toys, Gifts and more! Every purchase helps me earn points on the Prize Meter. Shop with your favorite retailers and help my school earn a small percentage of your purchase. Here is the link. *ReadingForEducation.com*, Remember everything helps.

PH Come and See Brunch

The 'Come and See' Brunch will take place as soon as weather and time permit. Announcements will be made during worship. The brunch will be hosted at the house of Scott and Donna Stevenson, who

have graciously opened their homes for this gathering.

PH 40 Days of Item Give aways



As part of our Lenten tradition, Pleasant Hill UMC is inviting both Churches to participate in our annual 40 days of items Giving. For forty days we are asking both congregations to give away any item in your garage or attack as a donation for PH free yard sale that will take place in the spring. One person's donation is another's treasure. Just ask this sweet little girl who found a roller suitcase to haul all her treasures in.



Fuel for the Faithful During the month of February, our mission collection is snacks for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) group at Northwood High School. FCA is a non-denominational Christian organization of staff and students (not just athletes) that focuses on equipping, empowering, and encouraging young people to make a difference for Christ. Specific snacks that the high schoolers enjoy are Pop Tarts, Quaker Chewy Bars, powdered donuts, bottles of water, and Capri Sun juice pouches. All snacks are appreciated!

<u>Pleasant</u>	<u>Hill</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
February	8 th		Lisa Baaske
February	15 th		Aaron Fogle
February	22 nd		Caleb Stevenson

Browns Chapel February Liturgist

February 8th Jennifer Negron
February 15th Kimmel McDiarmid
February 22nd Ruby Parks

BC Missions Committee: February 8th

There will be a Missions Committee meeting on Feb. 8th after church in the Fellowship Hall. We have participated in several mission projects over the recent years. If you would like to help or have new ideas, you are invited to attend!

2026 Carolina Cross Connection Missions

Trip to Blowing Rock: Anyone interested in a week-end of construction, service and fellowship with a mission's team from church? We're talking to Carolina Cross Connection about having another mission's trip to Blowing Rock – very similar to what we did last year when we had 12 people go and completed 2 ramps for people in need. We are planning to go the weekend of Apr. 23-26. We may need to rent a house or hotel rooms because right now the Blowing Rock Conference Center rooms are booked, but that was also the case last year and they opened up a couple of weeks before we went. Please let Marcia know if you're interested. There will also be a sign-up sheet at church.

Prayer Pals for the Next Year:

The Prayer Pal program is a program where each child is assigned a secret prayer pal who prays for them throughout the year. At the end of the cycle, we have a prayer pal luncheon to reveal who has been praying for each child through the year, where folks can share the stories about how it was to pray for their prayer pal through the year. Attached to this newsletter e-mail

are blank adult and child Prayer Pal forms for the year 2026 to 2027. If you have a child you would like to have assigned a prayer pal, or if you want to volunteer as an adult prayer pal for this cycle, please take a few moments to fill them out now and return them to Kimmel McDiarmid via e-mail at kimmelmcd@gmail.com or print them and leave them in the front pew on the choir side at Brown's Chapel. We would like to have these back by the second Sunday in February (Feb. 8) so that we can get new prayer pals assigned as we prepare for the Prayer Pal reveal luncheon.



New Beginnings through Yoga:

Yoga will be continuing this year with the Embracing the Light 12-week yoga sessions and chair yoga on Monday, Feb. 9 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to join the fun and make good on a New Years resolution.

BC First Thursday: Feb. 5 6:30

The next First Thursday will be Feb. 5 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm. There will be a presentation on CORA by Rebecca Hankins. Bring a dish (if you can) and come join us for food, fun and fellowship!



BC Men's Club: Feb. 8

The Men's Club breakfast will be Sunday, Feb. 8 at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Charles, Charlie, Mike and John look forward to sharing fellowship and good food! JP Chalmers is also being invited as a special guest.

BC Administrative Council:

There will be a meeting of the Administrative Council to kick off 2026 plans on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 3:00 pm. Committee chairs should have reports to Monica at mcraigpbo@outlook.com the week before.

BC Finance Committee

The Finance committee has also been rescheduled to Monday, Feb. 9 at 6:30pm in the “Counting Room” next to the sanctuary.



Polar Bear Plunge:

Feb 16th Sherri and Savanna will once again be doing the Polar Bear Plunge to support Special Olympics on Feb. 19.

If you would like to donate to this endeavor, donations may be made by Feb. 16 at Sherri’s link: Sherri Stubbs's fundraising page for Special Olympics North Carolina or Savanna’s link: Savanna Stubbs's fundraising page for Special Olympics North Carolina

BC Trustee Chair Matt McDairmid:

During these cold days, please set the church thermostat back to 55 degrees F when you leave the church or Fellowship Hall. If the thermostat runs at warmer temps, it is possible that the oil will run out and the water will freeze. So, once again, please set the thermostat to 55. There is a chance it does not save the setting the first time you set, so please double-check.



United Women in Faith: Feb. 22

The Women’s Group (UWIF) will be meeting after church on Sunday, Feb. 22 in the Fellowship Hall. More information will be provided as plans become firm. We invite all women to come join in the fellowship and faith sharing.

2026 Devotion Books



If you are still looking for a book for 2026, Jen and others have found some books and they are available in the sound room.



Be the Match

Donations for HOSA

(from Sherri): Please help us save lives with your donations.

<https://fundraise.nmdp.org/participants/Sherr-i-Stubbs-2025-1>

BC Brunswick Stew:

Great weather for stew! There were approximately 170 quarts of stew left in the freezer in the Fellowship Hall that will be useful in the cold weather or for gifts. If you would like to buy stew for yourself, others or Food Banks (CORA, Feed-Well Fridges, or others), you may get the stew and leave the money in the designated area of the Fellowship Hall freezer.

CORA’s address in Pittsboro is 40 Camp and their hours are Mon-Thurs from 10 – 2 if you would like to take there or it can be coordinated thru Marcia.

Feed-Well Fridges has 6 locations across the county with the closest ones being in front of CORA in Pittsboro and Cedar Grove. This should be coordinated thru Marcia at 919-704-6450.

Jamie's Vision Cookbooks (from Sherri):
Need an idea for a present? A cookbook from Jamie's vision would make a great gift and are still available. Cookbooks are for sale for \$20. Contact Sherri.



BC Thank you from Amber and Hazel:

A big thank you to everyone who donated to our Girl Scout donation drive in honor

of MLK Day. With your generous gifts, the girls put together over 50 hygiene care kits for our neighbors in need. The kits were given to the Cedar Grove UMC Front Porch Food Pantry where they will be distributed.

Thank you!

Amber and Hazel

Girl Scout Cookies:

If anyone would like to support Troop 1201 by buying Girl Scout cookies, you can purchase them online here:

<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/hazel962507> Or see Hazel after church!

Care For Kids from Brown's Chapel

Please consider helping to support 'Care For Kids' by making donations through the church, marking the envelope or your check "Care For Kids" in the memo line. We are thankful for your support as we move into new programs to help these youth.

BC Hadley Democratic Party annual precinct meeting: Feb. 21

The Democratic Party for Hadley voting precinct will have its annual precinct meeting in the Brown's Chapel Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 21, from 10 am to noon. All registered Democrats from Hadley precinct are invited to **attend**. For more **information, contact** ccdpc.org, or

Cynthia Crossen at crcrossen@gmail.com, 919-542-3827.

BC Methodist Alignment Committee

On January 13th, the United Methodist Alignment Committee (MAC) of Brown's Chapel held its first quarterly meeting of 2026. 1. The following mission statement was adopted:

The mission of the United Methodist Alignment Committee of Brown's Chapel is to remain grounded in Scripture and guided by traditional Wesleyan values while prayerfully and respectfully evaluating our congregation's relationship with the United Methodist Church. Our mission is to discern the spiritual, theological, and organizational alignment of our church with the evolving doctrines and policies of the UMC and bring concerns to our Administrative Council for informational and review purposes to continually evaluate our place within the UMC. We seek to foster transparent communication, represent our congregation's concerns to the NC Annual Conference, and explore pathways that honor our faith convictions, ensure congregational unity, and preserve our ability to serve Christ faithfully in our community and beyond.

2. Three delegates (within our committee) were confirmed to attend the UMC NC Annual Conference in June (in addition to our regular Lay Representative) as part of the Laity Equalization Plan of the UMC: Kimmel McDiarmid, Jeanette Mitchum, and JoAnn Ornat. There will be more information to come in March. Any questions, concerns, or suggestions can be directed to Jeanette Mitchum at jsmitchum24@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ginger McLaurin Cunningham
(PH)
1 Rick Parks (BC)
4 Christie Morgan (BC)
6 Holly Cline (PH)
6 Mitch Houk (BC)
7 Liz Maynor (BC)
8 Cassandra Berens (BC)
8 Richard Webster (PH)
8 Amber Yoder (BC)
10 Laura Paulus (PH)
13 Lori Bird (BC)
15 Jessica Parks (BC)
15 Coley Shachtman (BC)
16 Nancy Sullivan (PH)
19 Pastor Bill Negrón (BC, PH)
19 Philip Spangler (BC)

If you wish to add a name to the birthday list, please send your request via email to Kay Straughn BC kay.straughn@gmail.com or Laura Paulus PH lauraspaulus@gmail.com

Church Wellness:

Are there any wellness topics of interest or need for our congregation? If you have any specific ideas or needs, please let a member of our wellness team know: Lynn Frost, Jeanette Mitchum, Sherri Stubbs, Donna Cheek, and Christie Morgan. Anyone who would like to join our group is very welcome... perhaps you did not realize you have knowledge and skills to help in this way! As United Methodists, we are committed to creating abundant health - spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing for all. It is a way to promote congregational health to each of our journeys through the 5 Pillars of Wellness (Health/Physical Wellness, Financial Wellness, Emotional Wellness/Spiritual Wellness, and Social /Community Wellness).

Season of Lent 2026

Chatham County UMC Lenten Services

All @ Pittsboro UMC Sanctuary, Wednesdays 11am

Feb 25 - Lucas Nelson, Pittsboro UMC

Mar 4 - Kyle Burrows, First UMC, Siler City

Mar 11 - Patrick Jones, Ebenezer UMC

Mar 17 (TUE) - Amanda Dixon,
Mt Pleasant and Cedar Grove UMCs

Mar 25 - Brent Levy, The Local Church

Apr 1 - Bill Negrón, Browns Chapel and Pleasant Hill UMCs

To prepare our hearts for Lent we will be doing a combined Ash Wednesday Service in March with several other United Methodist Churches in our Area. So please save the date and time.



There will be a combined Ash Wednesday service hosted by the Pittsboro Circuit and Pittsboro UMC on 355 Chicken Bridge Road at 6:30pm. Start the Lenten season in worship with your UMC brothers and sisters. On February 18th 2026



The Pittsboro Circuit will be hosting the *Maundy Thursday* Service @ Pleasant Hill UMC on April 2nd @ 6:00pm along with Cedar Grove and Mount Pleasant UMC. Guest Speaker Amanda Dixon



Pittsboro UMC will be hosting the *Good Friday Service* April 3rd @7pm with along with the Pittsboro Circuit. The service will be a joint effort with all churches.

People News

□ On Jan 11, a baby shower was held for Sarah and Nathan Mitchum to celebrate and prepare for the upcoming birth of their precious little one. The following weekend, mother and baby decided they could not wait any longer to enjoy the gifts and Mary Ryan was born on Sunday, Jan. 18, weighing 5 lbs. 3 oz. Mary Ryan spent a week in NICU as a precautionary measure and was released from NICU and their family has now gone home with much help from the prayers sent for Sarah, baby and Nathan.

□ Sally Onisick has moved to a retirement village in Matthews near her son

□ Prayers of joy for Clay and Lindsey Martin at the birth of their granddaughter Millie Jo Martin. Millie is the granddaughter of Keith and Teresa Martin and joins sister Luna. Millie was born January 29 and weighs 7 lb. 1 oz.

□ Prayers for the family and friends of Sylvia Butler, sister-in-law of Donna Holt and aunt of Sybil, who passed away.

□ Prayers for the family, PH family and friends of B.J. Copeland who passed away this month and whose Celebration of Life service was last month.

□ On February 28th the Paulus Family will be celebrating their one-year anniversary of

their extended family of Gracie and Daniel Paulus.



Baby Announcements

- Nathan & Sarah Mitchum welcome Baby Mary Ryan Mitchum
- Lindsey Jo & Clay Martin welcome Baby Millie Jo Martin
- Devin & Kate Smith are expecting baby #4
- Lauren and Chance Robinson are expecting baby #3
- Robert and Caroline Straughn are expecting baby#1
- Deborah Mabrey: Welcomed grand baby Opal into the world



Pleasant Hill QR Code

If you wish to give to Browns Chapel UMC, please scan the QR Code



Browns Chapel QR Code

If you wish to give to Browns Chapel, please Scan the QR Code.

February Calendar

- 1 Both worship services cancelled due to weather
- 2 Lynn Frost Yoga Class cancelled due to weather
- 3 BC Bible Study 10 a.m.
- 4 Pleasant Hill Prayer service 6:30pm.
- 4 BC Choir Practice 7:30pm
- 5 First Thursday meal special guest speaker CORA
- 8 PH: Worship, 9:30; Sunday School, 10:45
- 8 BC UMM Breakfast 8:30 am JP Chalmers is also being invited as a special guest.
- 8 BC: Sunday School, 10:00 am; Worship, 11:00 am
- 8 PH Admin Council Mtg. 2 pm
- 9 BC Finance Committee Mtg. 6:30pm/space TBD
- 9 New Beginnings Through Yoga Lynn Frost 6:30pm/Fellowship Hall
- 10 Bible Study at Brown's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Pastor Bill Meeting with BOM at St. Lukes UMC 1:15pm
- 11 Pleasant Hill Prayer service 6:30pm
- 11 BC Choir Practice 7:30pm
- 14 Valentines Day
- 15 Pleasant Hill Worship, 9:30; Sunday School, 10:45
- 15 BC: Sunday School, 10:00am Worship, 11:00
- 15 BC There will be a meeting of the Administrative Council at 3:00 pm.
- 16 Polar Bear Plunge: to support Special Olympics for Sherri Stubbs at [Sherri Stubbs's fundraising page for Special Olympics North Carolina](#) or Savanna Stubbs's at [Savanna Stubbs's fundraising page for Special Olympics North Carolinas](#)
- 16 New Beginnings Yoga Lynn Frost 6:30pm
- 17 Bible Study at Brown's Chapel, 10: a.m.
- 18 Joint-ASH Wednesday Service Pittsboro Circuit and Pittsboro UMC
- 19 Special Olympics of North Carolina
- 21 Hadley Democratic Party annual precinct meeting: 10am-12 noon.
- 22 PH: Worship, 9:30; Sunday School, 10:45
- 22 BC UMWF 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. More information will be provide
- 22 BC: Sunday School, 10:00; Worship, 11:00
- 22 UMYF 5-6pm
- 23 New Beginnings Yoga Lynn Frost 6:30pm
- 24 BC Bible Study at Brown's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.

26 Pleasant Hill prayer 6:30 p.m.

26.BC Choir practice 7:30pm

27

28 Paulus Family Adoption Anniversary