

**PITTSBORO UNITED METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS**  
**Brown's Chapel & Pleasant Hill United Methodist Churches**  
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God is my witness . . . *Psalm 118:18 (Amplified Bible 18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, But He has not given me over to death.*



This Lenten season was different for me. I can't explain it except to say that God in His love spanked me a lot. Like a good parent He showed me things about myself that was uncomfortable for me to look at. At the time it hurt my feelings, but upon reflection I now see it as an act of love. Like a good parent He took away my television privileges; that is to say He guarded and convicted me of what I allowed into my eyes and into my heart. He scolded me when I didn't treat my brothers and sisters in a way that reflected his character "No Child of mine acts that way" He would tell me in my spirit. When I was idle, He said "Here I got something for you to do, so you don't waste your time." And we would run errands together. At first, it seemed like one more chore. However, as we did it together it turned into a joy. As a result, I relinquished more and more of my time to Him. When I was down, or scared, He would call out to me and say "Let's talk" And I would at first but then I would mostly Listen. The things He told me in the secret places gave me courage, joy and peace. As a result, I would look to tell him more and more of how I felt throughout the day.

This deepening of our relationship was very challenging, because every child of God often feels he or she knows everything, seen everything, and been through everything before. We get into a rut, leaving God out of our decision making, turning the relationship into a ritual, a religion. But God knows our hearts, and instead of letting our ways lead us to a spiritual death, He Chasten's us. Chasten means He corrects us, disciplines us, the way a good parent disciplines their children. Because We are His Children. Hebrews 12:6 states that "God Chasten's whom he loves." And reserves this discipline for those He considers His Children. The result being that "it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12: 10

So, don't grieve when the Lord is putting you through your paces this Lenten season. Easter is not about eggs, or bunnies its about the lamb of God trying to help you to conform to His likeness. -Blessings.

## **April Liturgists**

### **PH**

Bill Negron, April 5

Lisa Baaske, April 12

Aaron Fogle, April 19

Jen Negron, April 26

### **BC**

Allen Gubert, April 5

Lynn Frost, April 12

Bill Negron, April 19

Ruby Parks/Jen Negron, April 26

## **Chatham County UMC Lenten Services: Apr. 1 at PUMC**

The final Chatham County UMC Lenten service will be led by Pastor Bill. This service will be in the Pittsboro UMC Sanctuary on Wednesday, 4/1 at 11:00 with a soup lunch to follow.

## **Maundy Thursday Service: Apr. 2 at Pleasant Hill**

The Pittsboro Circuit will be hosting the *Maundy Thursday* Service @ Pleasant Hill UMC on April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 pm along with Cedar Grove and Mount Pleasant UMC. Guest Speaker Amanda Dixson

## **Good Friday Service: Apr. 3 at PUMC**

Pittsboro UMC will be hosting the *Good Friday Service* April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm along with the Pittsboro Circuit. The service will be a joint effort with all churches.

## **Easter Sunday: Apr. 5**

Resurrection Sunday will be here! Please bring beautiful flowers to decorate the ugly cross that will be in front of the church as you come into the sanctuary. We can turn that old cross in to a testament to how Christ living in us can turn our ugliness in to a thing of beauty. Look in your yard to bring flowers or greenery.

## **BC First Thursday**

Brown's Chapel will not have First Thursday in April due to the overlap with the Maundy Thursday service.

## **BC BBQ Pork and Chicken: Apr. 11**

The date for the BBQ has been set for Saturday, Apr. 11 since our normal day (first Saturday in April) falls on Easter weekend. Barbecue pork and chicken plates and barbecue pork by the container will be available. Plates will contain the chosen BBQ, baked beans, slaw, hushpuppies and dessert and will be sold for \$12/plate or \$10 per container. Sign-up sheets for work detail are available. *The church family are asked to bring desserts which are cakes or pies, easy to slice and serve, and not require refrigeration or bowls. Approximately 525 slices of dessert (at least 30 cakes or 2 pies for each cake) are needed to serve the plates. Beverages are needed for those who will*

## **CORA Easter Food Drive: Mar. 29 – Apr. 26**

As we enter the spring season, a time of renewal and hope, let's join CORA in their Easter Food Drive called **Blessings of Three Meals a Day!** Storage bins will be placed in the Sanctuary Sound Room and the Fellowship Building starting the 5th Sunday in March (March 31) and we will continue collections through the month of April. Items needed are canned chicken, cereal, oatmeal, syrup, pasta sauce, soup, dry beans, canned fruit, masa, and cooking oil.

## **BC Men's Club**

The Men's Club breakfast will be Sunday, Apr. 12 at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Matt, David, Mike and John look forward to sharing fellowship and good food!

Next month, the Men will host the annual Mother's Day Breakfast.

### **BC Missions Committee feeding Silk Hope**

#### **Ruritans**

The Missions Committee will be feeding the Silk Hope Ruritans on Monday, April 13. A sign-up sheet to help provide food will be in the foyer. Please sign up if you can, and all volunteers who can help serve that night are also appreciated. We deliver food to the Silk Hope Ruritan building around 6:00 and their meeting and dinner start at 7pm.

### **BC United Women in Faith meal**

The United Women in Faith will be going out to eat at Davidson's in Sanford on Thursday, Apr. 30 at 6:30 pm. Susan Laudate and Linda Foushee from the District UWIF have been invited. Jen and Marcia invite all women from the church to come share fellowship and good food! Please let Marcia know by Sunday, Apr. 26 if you will be coming so space can be reserved.

### **Kaleidoscope 2026: Middle School Retreat**

Kaleidoscope, a weekend retreat for middle school students focused on faith, worship and service, is scheduled for April 17-19 at Camp Don Lee. If your child is interested, they will need to be registered by Apr. 5. We will help provide more details on how to register if needed. Registration is paid for by the church!

### **Breakaway 2026: You've Got a Friend - Youth**

#### **Event**

Breakaway is a week long summer event for junior and senior high school students at Louisburg College June 22 – 26. If your child is wanting to go to Breakaway, please let Sherri know ASAP (hopefully not too late) with the child's birthday and your email so she can get everyone registered. Registration is paid for by the church!

### **BC Wellness Committee**

The Wellness Committee will have their next quarterly meeting on Sunday 4/12 at 9am in the upstairs first classroom.

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).

### **BC Baby Coming!**

There will be a "Sprinkle" Baby Shower for Baby Girl Robison on Sunday April 19th at Noon (immediately after worship service) in the BC Fellowship Hall. This will be a more casual drop in/ snack and greet. Please gift diapers and wipes (unscented of any brand/size). There will be a sign up sheet on the fellowship hall bulletin board if you can help supply snacks. If you need assistance signing up, Christie Morgan can sign it for you just let her know 919-444-1360. Let's help Lauren, Chance, Russell & Raine stock their supply and celebrate a new little blessing arriving in May!

## **2026 Carolina Cross Connection Missions Trip to Blowing Rock -- New proposed date of September 17 - 20**

Anyone interested in a week-end of construction, service and fellowship with a missions team from church? We're talking to Carolina Cross Connection about having another missions 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 have changed the date and are now proposing to go the weekend of September 17-20.** By changing the date, we should be able to stay and have meals at the Blowing Rock Conference Center.

Please let Marcia know if you're interested at [thekings2971@gmail.com](mailto:thekings2971@gmail.com) or 919-704-6450. There will also be a sign up sheet at church.

## **Care For Kids from Brown's Chapel**

At Brown's Chapel one of the ways we live out love for our neighbors is through our partnership with the *Care for Kids* ministry. And already in the first two months of 2026, that love is making a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

During **January and February**, Care for Kids helped **17 children and their families**, providing more than **\$3,000 in direct support**. These funds went toward essential items and urgent needs—everything from **warm clothing during the cold winter months to foldable floor mattresses, comforters, and sheets** for siblings trying to rest while one of them bravely fights blood cancer.

In other situations, support looked different but was just as vital:

- **Two nights in a hotel** for a family whose home flooded
- **A month of rent** to help a family avoid eviction while they worked toward stability

These moments remind us that sometimes a little help at just the right time can make all the difference.

## **Expanding the Mission**

In 2026, Care for Kids made an exciting decision to **expand its mission**. While the ministry has long supported students who qualify under the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act** (students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity), the program will now also serve **“in-need” children across Chatham County**.

To do this well, Care for Kids met with **Chatham County school social workers** to better understand the needs they encounter every day. Along with responding to specific requests for individual students, the ministry will now also help **stock small school supply closets** managed by social workers—so essential items are readily available when a child needs them.

The social workers have already shared a **wish list** of items they regularly need, and in the coming months we're excited to **invite our partner churches to help meet those needs together**.

None of this work happens alone.

To everyone who supported Care for Kids throughout **2025**—through **quarters for laundromats, socks and underwear drives, clothing donations, supplies, and prayers**—thank you. Your generosity is helping ensure that local children have the care, dignity, and support they deserve. And as 2026 continues, we look forward to the ways our community can keep showing up for the kids and families of Chatham County—together.

To give, make your check out to: Brown's Chapel and write “Care for Kids” in the memo line.

## **BC Free Yard Sale: Jun 13**

Are items accumulating around your house after the gifts and holidays? The UWIF will be hosting another Free Yard Sale on June 13! Kitchen appliances and dishes, tools for inside and out, old electronics or items that just did not work for you. No Clothes, No Food, No Paint or Chemicals. Please save giveaway items for the yard sale.

## **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.

## **Care and Share Ministry at Seaforth (from Sherri):**

1. The Seaforth ECS Students will be maintaining a Care and Share Ministry for the teachers and staff. If you would like to contribute items to the ministry, items may be placed in the Fellowship Hall. The students will stock and maintain the storage area as part of their vocational training and experience. This project will be an opportunity for the ECS students to build independence, gain responsibility and compassion through service. We Accept Donations Of:

2. Non-Perishable Food Items

- Canned goods
- Pasta, rice, boxed meals
- Snacks, Juice
- Cereal, Crackers, Bread

Hygiene & Personal Care Items

- Soap, shampoo, deodorant
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry detergent

## **PH Easter Sunday Breakfast and Scavenger Hunt April 5th**

Join us at Pleasant Hill on Easter Sunday for breakfast at 8 am hosted by the Men's Fellowship group. Following our meal together we will have a Easter Scavenger Hunt for all ages! Bring your best detective skills - - there may be prizes!

## **PH Easter Sunday Service April 5th**

Flowers represent when Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane. They also represent rebirth, new beginnings and the resurrection of Jesus Christ! On Easter Sunday bring fresh cut flowers from your garden or store bought flowers to place on our newly constructed cross (thank you Joe Paulus!)

## **PH Clean Start, Fresh Hearts: Monthly Mission Collection**

For the month of April, we are collecting personal hygiene items to be shared with different agencies in Chatham County. Suggestions of items are deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, body wash, and wipes. Items may be left on the front pew. All donations are appreciated!

## **PH Prayer Group**

Take a break in the middle of your week and join us for a meaningful Wednesday evening prayer group. It's a simple but powerful time to gather, reflect on a short devotion, and lift up our prayers together. Whether you come with a heavy heart, a grateful spirit, or just need a moment of peace, you'll find encouragement and connection here. Everyone is welcome—come as you are and be refreshed. The group meets every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Admin meeting room.

## **PH Worship Flowers**

Just a friendly reminder to sign up if you'd like to provide flowers for an upcoming Sunday worship service! It's a simple and beautiful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or contribute to our time of worship. Your participation helps make the sanctuary even more welcoming. Thank you for considering this meaningful way to serve! The sign up sheet is in the vestibule.

## **PH Free Yard Sale: April 25, 9:00 am**

We are excited to once again host a Free Yard Sale for our community! This special event is all about sharing, giving, and blessing others—everything will be completely free! During the Lenten season, we have been collecting 40 items in 40 days to donate to the free yard sale. If you'd like to contribute, we gladly welcome donations of clean, usable items - such as books, kitchen and other household items, tools, electronics, etc. No clothing please.

Items may be dropped off in the church basement beginning Sunday, April 19th. We ask that all items be dropped off by 6:30pm on Friday, April 24th to allow time to organize for the sale. It's a wonderful opportunity to extend kindness, meet practical needs, and reflect God's love in a tangible way.

Spread the word, invite others, and plan to come browse or simply enjoy a time of connection and fellowship with neighbors and friends.

## **PH Literature**

There is extra adult Sunday School curriculum available for the taking on the table in the the vestibule.

## **PH Prayer Pals**

One of the greatest gifts we can offer our children is the assurance that they are loved and lifted up in prayer. That's why we want to continue the Prayer Pal Ministry we began several years ago. Through this ministry, each child is paired with a caring adult

who commits to praying for them every day. This simple yet powerful act creates a spiritual bond that nurtures faith, encouragement, and a deep sense of belonging. Our children are reminded that they are never alone—someone is consistently bringing their joys, challenges, and growth before God. Whether it's praying for a school test, friendships, family needs, or spiritual growth, these daily prayers help plant seeds of faith that can flourish for a lifetime.

We need both children and adults to sign up! Forms will be available in the vestibule on April 5th and need to be returned to Robin Peace by April 19th. If you currently have a Prayer Pal, please "reveal" yourself with a card or note letting the child know what a joy it has been to pray for them for the past year. Please see Robin if you have any questions.

## **People News**

\*Thank you to all who came to Harry's 30th Birthday celebration! Harry enjoyed all the cards, notes, well wishes, food, and fellowship! It was a blessing that so many were able to attend...and also for those who were there in spirit! Again, we cannot thank you enough for all you have always done and continue to do, as a church family, for our beloved Harry.

Love,  
The Mitchums

\*Madilyn Brown received an exemplary award in the State Science Fair for her project called Nature's Best Blush. Congratulations Madilyn!

\*Helen Lemons was at Chatham Hospital after a UTI developed into sepsis but has now been moved to Laurels.

\*Pat Glosson has moved to Cambridge Hills. Please be in prayer for Johnny and Pat as they adjust to this transition.

\*Roger Kidd is now home after surgery and rehab at Wake Med.

\*Kim Straughn has been at UNC hospital and is hoping to be moved to a rehab facility soon.

\*PH had a successful church clean up day on March 21st. Bushes were trimmed, gutters cleaned, wood removed, light fixtures repaired, flower beds weeded, and new flowers planted! The church grounds look ready for the spring season! A big THANKS to the following helpers: Pastor Bill, Aaron, Julie, Betsy, Ivey, Maxie, Joe, Laura, Clara, Gracie, Daniel, Aubrey, James, Scott, Cameron, Caleb, and Donna

\*Pastor Bill joined the Northwood Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) group on March 25th for fellowship, devotion, prayer, and an egg hunt! It was a good time had by all. A special thanks to Julie Fogle for the work she does with this high school group.

### **Spectrum Internet at Brown's Chapel!**

Spectrum has hooked up the new router and extenders and we now have a much faster fiber Internet connection. If you were attached to the original Brightspeed or want to add this connection, you will have to add the network CHURCH with password JesusSaves. Thank you to Matt to help facilitate this change! If you work with the sound room, a second network is available to support church communications for uploads, downloads, etc. If you have access to a Spectrum line away from church, you may see a third network.

### **CHMeetings Software to support church finance reporting**

Brown's Chapel has purchased a church fund accounting software from CHMeetings to better manage church accounts, expenses, and budgets in one place. We began using this software January 1,

2026 and now have the capability to easily track and report fund balances, tithes/offerings, church expenses, and budget variances.

This software also provides online access for church members to track their monetary giving throughout the year and to update their member profile as needed. An additional online feature for members is a Master Calendar that is being used as a placeholder for church events with designated times and building room locations. This will not replace Kay Straughn's email with detailed information about these upcoming events.

For online access to your monetary contributions, your member profile, and the Master Calendar, follow the below steps:

1. Send an email to Elise McMillan at [elisejcmillan@gmail.com](mailto:elisejcmillan@gmail.com) requesting access to the software. Your email address will be used as your ID.
2. Once Elise sets you up in the software, you will receive an email from CHMeetings with your initial password that must be changed at login to gain access to the software.
3. Brown's Chapel UMC software can be accessed by:
  - a. Using a computer at [chmeetings.com](http://chmeetings.com)
  - b. Using a mobile device through the free app CHMeetings
4. If you have any issues or concerns gaining access, please contact Elise.

We are excited about these new financial functionalities that will provide us enhanced oversight of your church funds.

### **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously - Miracle Sunday Initiative**

Dear Fairway District Pastors,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Together with United Methodists from around the world, your congregation is invited to participate in the **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously – Miracle Sunday Initiative**, a global effort that will extend the vision of The United Methodist Church and help raise up **500 new pastors** across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. A special worship series and small group guide have been prepared for your congregation's use.

### The Purpose of the Series

We are asking each church to set aside **April 12 – May 17, 2026**, for this special six-week worship and study series. This initiative comes at a critical time in the life of the church, uniting **30,000 congregations worldwide** who will be praying the same prayers, studying the same scriptures, engaging in small group learning, and joining in a shared mission to strengthen theological education across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

Through this effort, we seek to address a long-standing disparity: **71% of U.S. clergy hold a master's degree**, compared to only **5% outside the U.S.** While the General Conference allocates more than **\$50 million** for 13 U.S. seminaries, only \$5 million is provided for more than 20 seminaries in other regions of the world. This initiative is an opportunity for us to help close that gap and support the development of strong, well-prepared leaders across our global connection.

### Why Your Congregation Matters

Every congregation - large or small, rural, suburban or urban - has a vital part to play. When we unite our prayers, our generosity, and our hearts, God works miracles. Your congregation's participation will not only bless those far beyond your local community—it will also deepen your own sense of mission, purpose, and connection with the world-wide body of Christ.

On behalf of the Council of Bishops and the North Carolina Conference Cabinet, we are asking each church to:

1. **Set aside the designated Miracle Sunday date** for worship and celebration – May 17 (the series is from April 12-May 17)

2. **Use the Congregation Resources Manual** to prepare leaders and plan for the series

3. **Pray boldly** for God's work through your congregation

4. **Invite every person** to participate in this life-changing moment

Together, we can make a difference.

Download a step-by-step manual for your congregation at: [www.endowftecc.org/congregation-resources-manual](http://www.endowftecc.org/congregation-resources-manual)

This guide will support your leaders and entire congregation in planning, prayer, and celebration as we journey toward Miracle Sunday together. **As a North Carolina Conference adaption to recruiting a separate local church coordinator, we are asking pastors to identify a laity leader to partner with the pastor in the education and promotion of the initiative.** This lay leader may be your Lay Member to Annual Conference, church council chair, lay leader, or mission enthusiast. We recommend it be someone known across the congregation. **As soon as this person is identified (hopefully no later than March 15) please send her/his/their name and email address to us.**

### An Invitation to Hope

Friends, God has entrusted us with an opportunity that is both holy and historic. When we Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously, we open ourselves to the abundant grace of God, grace that surprises us, stretches us, and renews us.

May this initiative be a moment when we step forward in faith, together, trusting that God will multiply what we offer for the transformation of lives and for the strengthening of Christ's church around the world.

Thank you for your faithful leadership, your joyful service, and your generous spirit in this important ministry.

In Christ,

Rev. Seyun Hwang ([seyun.hwang@nccumc.org](mailto:seyun.hwang@nccumc.org))

Rev. Carl Frazier ([cfrazier@nccumc.org](mailto:cfrazier@nccumc.org))

Fairway District Coordinators



29 Irma Whipps PH  
29 Kara Condrey BC