PITTSBORO UNITED METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS
Brown's Chapel & Pleasant Hill United Methodist Churches
PH-P. O. Box 1322 Pittsboro NC 27312
BC-P.O. Box 1543
Volume XXIII **September 2026**
Bill Negron, Pastor **wnegron@nccumc.org** **910-547-1879**

GOD IS MY WITTNESS ***25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—Matthew 20:25-27***

Once again, it is time to select and reaffirm church leadership for the Pittsboro Circuit. When I first arrived as your pastor two years ago, the task of ordering the leadership of the church as prescribed by the discipline, was a challenging undertaking, as we were all getting to know each other better, and trust on both sides needed development. Today, I have come to rely heavily and, place a lot of confidence in our leadership. I find no need in Micro-managing the talented people we have. That being said, I do have a degree of intentionality when it comes to disciplining others in the church. That is, I do believe in leading by example, and my continued quest of humble servitude. I choose every day to submit myself willingly to the Lord, and to His churches. I do this is in honor of my Jesus who didn't exploit the fact that He is the King of Glory, but abdicated His heavenly position to take the role of a bond servant, out of obedience to the Father, even to the point of death on a cross. Jesus; who when he walked on this earth warned us against self-granulizing like the religious pharisees, but encouraged His own disciples to be the least, and servant of all.

I have seen that spirit in those who have proven to be our best servants. Men and women who work quietly behind the scenes, humbly, never drawing attention to themselves, wanting to improve the church experience and worship for others.

This year we have people stepping into new positions, others moving on to different roles, and still others consistently using their gifts to grow the church. We must now encourage our younger disciples, to consider using their talents as future leaders of the church. In those new roles they should also be encouraged to find their own path. To learn from, but not necessarily duplicate old successes. For example, if you are replacing someone from the choir and

they sang Tenor, and you sing Base, then be the best Base you can be, don't try to be the tenor who left.

As good as Rev. Ray Gooch was, in his time here in the circuit, I will never duplicate his success in the same way. But I can use the gifts God gave me to give him glory and win souls to Christ. I encourage you to do the same. And when the church taps you for new leadership, please prayerfully consider how you can be part of a tradition and legacy of servitude in the Spirit of Christ who gave His life for the benefit of the world.

PH Liturgist

Bill Negron 9/06

Aaron Fogle 9/13

Lisa Baaske 9/20

Jen Negron 9/27

BC Liturgist

Allen Gubert 9/06

Lynn Frost 9/13

Bill Negron 9/20

Ruby Parks/ Mason Lutterloh 9/27

BC First Thursday
The First Thursday for September will be Sept. 3 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish (if you can) and come join us for food, fun and fellowship! Our program will be a presentation on Church security by Tim Clapp, a retired state trooper and present security for SBI.

On Oct 1, we will finish the Bereavement series with the third presentation on Bereavement (Celebration of Life) by Pastor Ray Gooch.

BC Men's Club
The Men's Club breakfast will be Sunday, Aug. 9 at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Jim Dillon, Keith and John look forward to sharing fellowship and good food!

BC Yoga



September will be continuing yoga with "The Presence of the Lord" program. The sessions will run through Oct. 19 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Shown below is the schedule for these classes. *(Only use the September schedule if that fits better)*

Sept 7	Yin yoga	Oct 5	Slow flow yoga
Sept 14	Slow flow yoga	Oct 12	Slow flow yoga
Sept 21	Slow flow yoga	Oct 19	Restorative yoga
Sept 28	Yin yoga		

BC Bible Study
Everyone is invited to the Bible Study meetings on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Bible Study group is now studying the 1 and 2 Timothy.

BC Choir Practice
Come have a joyful noise evening and join the choir for practice on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. All are invited.

BC Sunday School classes
Summer vacations are over and we are getting back to class in church too.

The Ruth Thomas Class is meeting every Sunday. The Fellowship Class **will not** meet on the 1st Sunday in September (Labor Day weekend) but will resume weekly classes every Sunday at 10:00 am beginning September 13th.
The Sonbeams (younger children, Sonbeams for Son of God) and Young Adults will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. The Youth will restart on Sept 27 with Michelle as the leader.

BC Road Cleanup
Our next road cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12 at 8:00 am. Many hands will help to make light work. We will meet at the shed.

BC Eat the Rainbow luncheon and Vaccine Clinic
Vaccine clinic and Eat the Rainbow luncheon- Please join together after worship on Sunday Sept. 27 to get prepared for the upcoming cold and flu season with seasonal vaccines. We will have a potluck lunch so bring your favorite fruit or veggie inspired dish to share regardless of whether you will be getting your vaccine or not, the fellowship is always welcome!
Vaccines available:
Flu shots available for age 3 and older
Covid vaccines - available for adults 65 and older or adult ages 18-64 with certain health conditions that put them at higher risk. These conditions include (but aren't limited to):
Obesity
Asthma
Diabetes
Smoking (current or former)
Pregnancy
Depression
Physical inactivity
And many more
Additional vaccines may be available upon request. Notify Lynn at 984-364-9192 by Friday**,** 9/25, if there is a special request.

BC Administrative Council
The Administrative Council will meet on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Committees are asked to meet ahead of time and send reports to Monica at **mcraigpbo@outlook.com**.

BC United Women in Faith
We have delivered school supplies to all teachers who requested items, and schools across the county. We have had some wonderful feedback and thank-you notes.
Our next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall with a

catered meal. We will discuss our Christmas gifts to the Methodist Home for Children and Care For Kids. We will also be planning our meals for the Silk Hope Ruritans on Nov. 9 and Jan. 11 and rescheduling our After-Christmas celebration. We invite all women to come and participate in this time of sharing.

From the Youth Director
BC Parent Resources for Faith Conversations
Youth Director Michelle has begun creating resources to help spark faith conversations at home. Each week, she posts a new video to our Facebook page and YouTube channel providing suggested activities or discussion topics for families. She has also created monthly conversation cards with daily questions to help prompt conversations in the car or around the dinner table. The cards for September are available at the church outside both entrances to the sanctuary.

BC Changes to Youth Worship Activities
During September, Youth Director Michelle Rash will be introducing new activities and resources to help children engage with and participate in worship. Beginning Sunday, Sept. 6, elementary-aged children can visit a new station in the Family Worship Room to create their own worship bags. Children can choose from a variety of quiet activities, including coloring pages, fidget toys, pipe cleaners and word puzzles. The bags will also include a simple activity encouraging children to listen for and write down a few things they hear during the sermon. Children who complete the activity can share what they heard and receive a small reward. Once the worship bags are in place, Michelle will begin transforming the Family Worship Room into a Prayground, a space where our youngest children can participate in quiet, worshipful activities while remaining connected to the service. The goal is to have the transition to a Prayground complete in late September or early October.
Both of these changes are designed to help children experience worship in ways that are meaningful and age-appropriate while reinforcing that children are an important part of our worshiping community.

BC Bible Sunday
On Sunday, Sept. 20, Brown's Chapel will present Bibles to current 3rd graders and any youth in the church who has not already received a Bible from the church. Michelle will be in

contact with parents to help determine who should receive a Bible.

Pilgrimage
Pilgrimage, the NC Conference's annual fall youth retreat, will be held at the Rocky Mount Event Center the weekend of Nov. 13-15. The theme this year is Serve Joyfully. This event is open to youth in 6th grade through 12th grade. Please let Michelle Rash know if your youth is interested in going. The church will cover the cost for all youth who attend.

BC Third Tuesday Prayer Service
Please come and join us for our Tuesday Night Prayer service on Tuesday, Sept. 15th at 6:30 pm. with Guest Preacher and vocalist, the Reverand Iris Jordan. Please enjoy a spirit filled evening of Worship and the word followed by a healing service. Let us call on the Lord together.

For October 20th our Tuesday Night Prayer meeting will have guest UMC Pastor Krysha Jannis and Broadway UMC Broadway UMC youth Worship team. Let us gather together as Pastor Krysha brings God's word followed by a healing service.

Fairway District Charge Conference Host
Brown's Chapel has been asked to be a host for the Charge Conference with Pleasant Hill this year on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2:00 pm. The Charge Conference will begin with a time of worship and then transition into the Charge Conference business.

In preparation for the Charge Conference, we will be presenting the list of officers and committees for 2027. Committee heads are asked to ask the people on their committees if they wish to stay on the committee and, if they are at the end of their term, are they willing to continue for the next three years? This goes for all committees but the top five that are needed are Trustees, Finance, PPR, Nominations and Admin Council Chair and Secretary. Please send these responses to Pastor Bill at wnegron@nccumc.org.

Brunswick Stew and Chicken Sale
The Brunswick Stew is set for Saturday, Nov. 7 and preparatory work is in process. The signup to cook chickens has been filled, the chickens are in the freezer for cooking and we thank all who have committed to help cook. The beef is almost complete. There is a sheet on the freezer to sign as you take or return chickens or beef to cook. Signs and flyers are being prepared as advertisement! More

information about work needs will be distributed beginning in September. We look forward to good weather and a successful stew and chicken sale!

Care For Kids

Care for Kids is expanding their mission of assisting homeless and home insecure children in Chatham County and takes over when other assistance has been exhausted or works in conjunction with other nonprofits in our area. Continuing funds will be needed to maintain the support being sought after by an increasing number of children in the county. Please consider making a one time or regular donations to Care for Kids. Checks can be made to Brown's Chapel UMC, with Care for Kids in the memo line.

BC Methodist Alignment Committee (MAC) meeting: Sept 8

The United Methodist Alignment Committee of Brown's Chapel will hold its third quarter meeting on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 pm (in the church fellowship hall or other designated area in the church building). All are welcome to attend. Light finger foods will be available.

BC Jamie's Vision Cookbooks

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 Jamie's Vision Raffle for Children in Need

Tickets are going fast! We only had 500, for a chance for $5000. The money goes to children in need here in Chatham county. Let me know if you want any, please contact Sherri Stubbs at 919-444-3050.
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0fbb4e7923&attid=0.1.1&permmsgid=msg-

BC August Happenings:

It was a wonderful Homecoming on August 2nd. Music was provided by Ashley and Maddie Guy from Pastor Bill's previous church in Shallotte. During the memorial roll call, Lisa Mann and Jean Stubbs remembered the following people: Evelyn May and Marianne Margaret Strunk. A presentation for Special Service was made to Mike Smith. After the sermon by Pastor Bill, Ashley Guy, fellowship and a wonderful meal was enjoyed by all!

The Annual Progressive Dinner was held on Aug. 22 with 27 people attending as they enjoyed food and fellowship with Gail, Megan and Mitch and Bud and Kathy.

Blessing of the Backpacks was held in church August 23 with Youth Director Michelle giving each kid a tag to put on their book bag saying it had been blessed by BC.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Back to School Splash Bash! We had 19 families and 33 children join us to celebrate the end of summer and start of another school year!

PH Culture of Generosity-Missions

The title surely sounds like a big deal…. And it is a big deal made of lots of smaller actions by a small membership church to make a difference in a number of ways.

First of all we have fulfilled our apportionment giving as assigned by the North Carolina Methodist Conference. Next step after that we have now successfully donated to mission advances supported by the United Methodist Rainbow Covenant program by giving to programs which are outside our community area with national and international initiatives. We are more than our local community. Our support went to Methodist Home for Children, Methodist Retirement Homes, Person in Mission/program in Armenia, an initiative in Robeson County, ZOE children's program in Zimbabwe, and finally an area of U.S. Disaster and Recovery to help in times of natural disasters. Additionally, through your generosity we have directly given to two missionary families, one in Greece, and one in Israel. Our generosity reaches beyond our backyard. Our giving is not great big financial numbers, but smaller amounts lumped together to add to the bigger picture.

Our generosity at the local level shows in many ways. Our support in services, physical gifts, and other ways is evidenced in local non-profits such as Second Bloom, PTA Thrift Stores, Habitat for Humanity, CORA food gifts and children's books, Care for Kids and not to forget "HOW ABOUT ALL THEM SWEET TATERS".

Love in action, y'all.

PH In Memory of Tony Keck

Memorial gifts given to Pleasant Hill in memory of Tony Keck's life were partially used by replacing two offering plates and a candlelighter. These items seemed so appropriate in remembering Tony at our church. You could count on Tony's enthusiasm when he showed up always wanting to help, pass out bulletins, light the candles, or take up the offering. His presence is greatly missed.

PH Come to the Table! A New Monthly Tradition!

We're excited to begin a new tradition at our church—a **monthly brunch following worship on the 3rd Sunday**

of each month! Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of good food, fellowship, laughter, and getting to know one another better.

We had great success with our first brunch in August! We had plenty of tasty food, talked with folks we haven't connected with in a while, had great history lessons on Chatham County, and learned new things about each other!

Bring a favorite dish or something to share, and come ready to enjoy some time together around the table. Whether you're a longtime member or new to our church family, **there's always a place for you at the table!** We look forward to making this a special monthly tradition for our church family.

PH The Beauty of Altar Flowers

Did you know the general tradition of placing fresh flowers on the altar or chancel in Methodist and other Christian churches roots back to ancient and medieval Christian practices of using living plants and natural beauty to give glory to God, symbolize new life and the resurrection, and engage the senses in worship? Early Methodism under John Wesley was initially plain and austere regarding ornate decorations. However, as Methodist architecture and worship traditions evolved in the 19th and 20th centuries, we embraced alter flowers as living symbols of creation and resurrection in our churches on Sunday mornings.

Help us keep our altar beautiful by signing up to provide altar flowers! Flowers can be given in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or other meaningful milestone. And they do not have to come from a florist! Take a walk outside and see what beautiful things are in your yard or woods.

This is a wonderful way to recognize someone special while adding beauty to our worship service. Consider choosing a Sunday and help brighten our sanctuary!

PH One Church Model Information Session

Our church is exploring the **One Church Model**, and we invite everyone to come and learn more about it. This information session will be on **Sunday, September 13 at 3pm**. It will be a time to hear more about the model, ask questions, and better understand what it could mean for our church.

Everyone's participation is important as we prayerfully consider the decisions that are best for our church family. Please plan to attend, come with an open heart and mind, and most importantly, be in prayer for God's guidance and wisdom as we discern the path forward together.

PH Seniors Supporting Seniors!

Our high school athletes had some extra fans in the stands the first week of school! A wonderful group of "senior" ladies attended a volleyball game at Jordan Matthews High School to support Maxie and Ivey Mitchell (senior/team captain!) and then made their way to Northwood High School to watch Caleb Stevenson (senior) play soccer. The youth were very appreciative and loved the support. The "senior" fans reported it was a fun time for them as well!

PH Welcoming Group

Our Administrative Council recently approved a plan for a new three-person Welcoming Group to redesign our church spaces. This project does not involve construction; instead, we are reimagining our current layout using as many items already in our church, and proposing a budget for any necessary new items.

The approved plan includes creating an inviting Narthex and side entrance, improving signage, establishing a meditation/counseling/visitation room, dedicating an area for our church history, creating a contemporary Christian youth/ teen music room, organizing storage, setting up classroom/project space, and displaying thoughtful artwork (hopefully by our church members).

Our Welcoming Group—consisting of Jen, Shelby, and Lisa —will first tackle the Narthex, signage, and side entrance, with the goal of completing these areas by the end of the year. We may reach out for volunteers to help move around a few items as we work toward this goal.

In the meantime, we welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to drop a note in the suggestion box located on the table in the vestibule. We will sincerely consider all feedback based on our available resources. If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to Lisa Baaske, 919-612-7256 text/cell phone.

PH Neighbor to Neighbor

Please note the change in our Neighbor to Neighbor event to October 16-17. Our projects for this event will be helping Charles and Renalda Clark with yard work and visiting the residents at Cambridge Hills. Amanda Clark and Valerie Broadway will bring service dogs along for the visit! The Rev. Iris Jordan will be a special guest speaker. The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. Please be in prayer for how you can support this outreach.

People News

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family of Jean Condrey, mother of Kevin Condrey, who passed away unexpectedly on August 12 in

Concord, NC. Her memorial service was held August 15.

We pray for Robin Brady as she recuperates from her hip surgery on August 13.

Our thoughts and prayers are with William Negron Sr as he continues radiation and immunotherapy and health and living transitions.

River Barber is back home in Phoenix after going to a specialty hospital in Cincinnati with Stacie. He made amazing progress there! He can now hear with a hearing device, see much better than originally thought and off the oxygen tubes. He will have other tests and possible procedures as he is older.

Ivey Mitchell has been cleared to drive and get rid of the brace following surgery for a torn ACL.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe Paulus who has not been feeling well. Praying that whatever is the cause can be discerned, and Joe will be on the road to feeling better soon.

BC Stay Connected: Our Sunday 11am services are on Facebook and YouTube.
Facebook: ***www.facebook.com/Brown's-Chapel-United-Methodist*** **(1) Facebook**
Website: **Browns Chapel United Methodist Church**.
Youtube channel: **Browns Chapel UMC Pittsboro NC - YouTube**
Content in our previous channel @BrownChapel-b8t can be viewed under Subscriptions in our current channel.

In response to the conference checklist for a more inviting website for new comers, Bud has added an **I'M NEW** page on our website. You may check it out at **https://brownschapelumc.org/about/im-new**

BC Connecting with Others Online
The number of people we have been able to reach online are:

Date	YouTube Live	You Tube	Total
Aug. 2	8	15	23
Aug. 9	NA	24	24
Aug.	18	8	26
Aug.	14	3	17

On Facebook, Bud reports that our Facebook access was up 176%!

BC Finance Summary

July 2026 Year-to-Date Totals
General Budget for 2026 $160,256.00
Total Year-to-Date Needed 7/31/26: 93,482.67
Total Year-to-Date Given 7/31/26: 95,977
Total Year-to-Date Expenses 7/31/26: 125,423
Reasons:

December 2025 salaries were paid in January 2026.
Apportionments for year were paid in full.
Insurance increased due to policy coverage.

Brown's Chapel QR code

BIRTHDAY LIST FOR SEPTEMBER

2	Caleb Stevenson	(PH)
8	Teresa Farrell	(BC)
9	Greg King	(BC)
10	Paul Mitchum	(BC)
10	Lynn Frost	(BC)
11	Marcia King	(BC)
11	Robert Straughn	(BC)
13	Alex Monteiro	(BC)
14	Kate Hickling	(BC)
17	Helen Lemons	(BC)
17	Keith Martin	(BC)
17	Ann Weaver	(BC)
17	Tanner Griffin	(BC)
20	Alex McLaurin	(PH)
21	Clay Martin	(BC)
22	Joel Peace	(PH)
24	Kim Straughn	(PH)
25	Savanna Stubbs	(BC)
28	Kimmel McDiarmid	(BC)
28	Donna Cheek	(BC)

28 Nathan Mitchum (BC)
28 Aaron Fogle (PH)
29 Don Pettit (PH)
30 Lynda Smith (BC)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

1 BC: Bible study, 10:00 am
2 PH: Prayer service 6:30pm
2 BC: Choir Practice 7:30 pm
3 BC: First Thursday, 6:30 pm
6 PH: Men's Breakfast 8am
6 PH: Worship, 9:30
6 BC: Sunday School: 10:00 am Ruth Thomas class
6 BC: Worship, 11:00 am
7 BC: Yoga, 7:00 pm
8 BC: Bible study, 10:00 am
9 PH: Prayer service 6:30pm
9 BC: Choir Practice 7:30 pm
12 BC: Road Cleanup, 8:00 a.m.
13 BC: Men's Club Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
13 PH: Worship, 9:30
13 BC: Sunday School: 10:00 am, All Classes but Youth
13 BC: Worship, 11:00
13 PH: One Church Model Info Session, 3pm
14 BC: Yoga, 7:00 pm
15 BC: Bible study, 10:00 am
15 BC: Third Tuesday Evening Prayer Service 6:30 pm
16 PH: Prayer service 6:30pm
16 BC: Choir Practice 7:30 pm
20 PH: Worship, 9:30, 3rd Sunday Brunch to follow
20 BC: Sunday School: 10:00 am, Ruth Thomas and Fellowship Classes
20 BC: Worship, 11:00, Bible Sunday
21 BC: Yoga, 7:00 pm
22 BC: Bible study, 10:00 am

23 PH: Prayer service 6:30pm
23 BC: Choir Practice 7:30 pm
25 Submissions for Oct Newsletter
27 PH: Worship, 9:30
27 BC: Sunday School: 10:00am, All Classes
27 BC: Worship, 11:00
27 BC: Eat the Rainbow and Vaccine Clinic, after worship
27 BC: Administrative Council, 3:00 pm
28 BC: Yoga, 7:00 pm
29 BC: Bible study 10am
30 PH: Prayer service 6:30pm
30 BC: Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Oct. 1 BC: First Thursday, 6:30 pm
Oct. 16-17 PH: Neighbor to Neighbor Event
Oct. 25 Charge Conference at BC
Oct. 31 BC: Pittsboro Street Fair
Nov. 7 BC: Brunswick Stew and Chicken Sale – Save the Date
Nov. 9 BC: UWiF to serve Silk Hope Ruritans



Back to School Splash Bash!



Back to School Splash Bash!



Jean, Barbara, and Brenda supporting our athletes at NHS



Guest Speaker, Rev. Iris Jordan



BC Homecoming



Progressive Dinner