



The Chimes

December 2019: Web Edition

This week someone came into my office with some really good suggestions about how to lead in this place. I am always glad to hear such (and, in fact, encourage you to reach out with hopes and dreams that you have for this church!). The things this person suggested were all really worthwhile. I wanted to act immediately. And I also know that part of my role right now is to listen and learn and watch and see. Every week is a new week of tension between action and listening, of seeing around the bend good, hard work that is to be done. Someone said to me last week, “Adulthood is saying, ‘After this week, it will slow down’ over and over, until you die.” That’s a pretty dire message—and of course, it was said in jest—but it did make me yearn for some peace and quiet.

And there are moments during this season where we feel it, do we not? Maybe not in the hustle and bustle of the shopping, cooking, in-laws, or children bouncing off the walls. But rather, early in the morning when the sun isn’t up and you have your coffee and turn on the lights of the tree. Or that moment on Christmas Eve when we’ve sung the final words to *Silent Night*; the candles are aglow, and the pastor hasn’t opened her mouth yet. And it really does feel like all is calm, all is bright.

Peace and quiet. I did a little research on that phrase to which I’ve been clinging, and I learned that it was in a letter to Jonathan Swift in 1730 that the word peace first was connected to quiet. It’s the freedom from any external disturbance, as the Oxford English Dictionary puts it. In a few weeks, we will light the Advent candle of peace, but the truth is, it is so loud out there.

Gun fire in schools. Impeachment Trials. Arguing about climate change and everything else under the hot sun. Work calling to us around every bend. It is so loud out there. Nobody is free from external disturbance.

Every year, John the Baptist shows up in Advent, standing between us and that beautiful moment of *Silent Night*. He’s the forerunner to Jesus, the one who prepares the way. And when Luke introduces him, he does it this way: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor, and Herod was ruler, and his brother Philip ruler, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were priests, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Some scholars say that the point of all this introduction is that the Word of God comes not to the big names, but to the no-name John in the wilderness. We shouldn’t be surprised by that; after all, God shows up in a backyard shed, born to an unwed teenager mother in the middle of nowhere. But if I understand it, I think all this introduction is to show how loud it was back then, too.

The word of God came in the fifteenth year of a reign that wasn’t God’s, in the year of these particular fellows setting the agendas and making the rules; in the time of crippling taxes and massive discriminations. Tiberius and Herod and Philip were known for corruption and brutality. And in the midst of all of that: word of peace, the word of God, promise of new life still came.

God didn’t wait until all was well, until the people had sunk into the couch and breathed in the quiet and opened our arms for God’s coming. God’s word of peace, God’s promise of life, came in the chaos of the real world.

So, this Advent, amid all the good work there is to do, amid the loudness of the word, I will remember with you that God’s peace does not require quiet. It will come no matter what.

Meg Peery McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

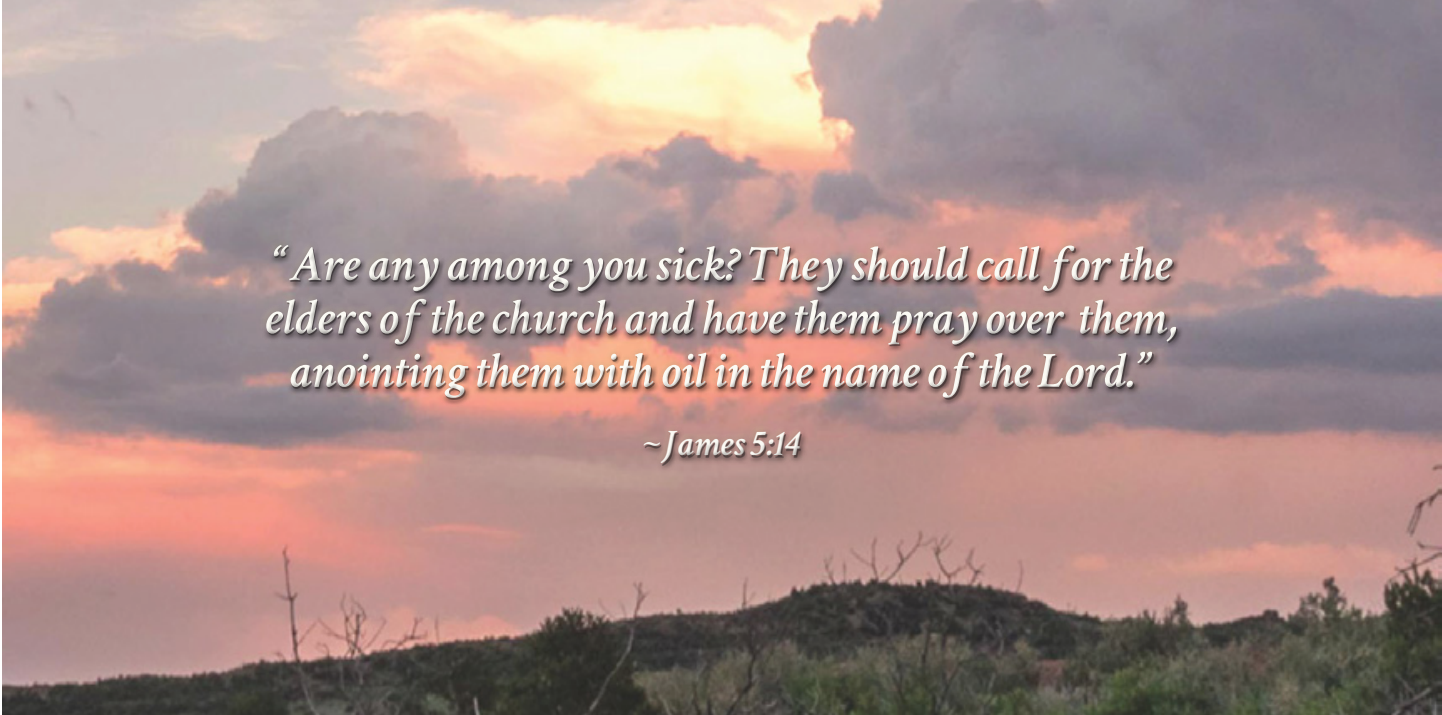
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Our Church Family

Local hospitals and clinics do not provide notifications or lists that would inform the church and its staff if you are hospitalized, receiving treatment or undergoing surgery. The UPC congregation and its pastors take seriously the call to pray and be present with those who are in need, so we encourage you, a friend or a family member to let us know if you have scheduled surgery or have been admitted to the hospital. During the week, please call the church office at (919) 929-2102. After normal office hours, call the church office and dial extension 133 for the pastor on call.



“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.”

~James 5:14

Publications

UPC members are welcome to submit content for Sunday's bulletin announcements or for *The Chimes*, UPC's monthly newsletter.

Please submit content to our Communications Manager, Jennifer Johnson, at communications@upcch.org. The content deadline for the bulletin announcements is each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., and the deadline for *The Chimes* is always the 15th of the previous month at noon.

The content deadline for the January edition of *The Chimes* is December 15, at noon.

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Stewardship R.O.I.

Lessons & Carols

When Jim and Laura Baxley and their children, an infant and a toddler at the time, were church-shopping in 2004, they happened to come to UPC on the third Sunday in December, which happened to be the traditional Advent service of Lessons and Carols.

Jim had grown up in a church with music leadership that included a similar worship service every year, and as the music and liturgy unfolded and enveloped the family, he knew he had found his new church home. He and Laura not only joined the church, but Jim joined the choir and has been performing in the special Advent service ever since.

“Music for me is a way to worship that is different than other ways: prayer, sermon and liturgy,” he said. “Music lets me express and give glory in a way that’s personal but also shared.”

The Lessons and Carols service, held during both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services on the third Sunday in Advent at UPC, tells the Christmas story through Scripture, which doesn’t vary much from year to year, and music, which does, given the many wonderful Advent carols by different composers and in different arrangements. The Word and music are intertwined; the carols illustrating and amplifying the Advent message of hope, peace, joy and love.



The service of Lessons and Carols has become so much a part of the Baxley family Christmas that this year, after the family had booked — and paid for — a winter vacation, then realized it meant being away during the third Sunday in Advent, Jim went to no small amount of effort and expense to rebook the trip so they would be at UPC for Lessons and Carols. Christmas is not complete without it.

All choirs participate, from the youngest, Children’s Choir, to the adult Chancel Choir. The special music gives church members of all ages the opportunity to work together as a team, learning and rehearsing the music and perfecting their performance.

“If the music program didn’t exist, it would be a loss not just for worship but for those participating in it,” Jim said.

Your pledge to UPC makes it possible for our church to produce this important ministry.

Music director Tom Brown selects the carols each year based in part on the voices and instrumentalists available. Often the service will include a trumpeter, harpist and violinist. And, of course, the choirs.

Pledges fund the music budget, which covers sheet music, organ maintenance and “keeping Tom, who is part of the magic,” Jim said. “Tom is a world-class musician, a talent who can write, conduct and arrange music, and play the organ and piano, and do it all.

“As a member of UPC, I’m happy to support all this with my pledge.”

The UPC 2020 Stewardship Committee: Kelli and Scott Smith, John and Leigh Anderson, Perry Aycock, Richard Duncan, Daphne Little, Nancy Oates, Naomi Sherry, Jenni Soccorso, Brian Vandersea, Bill Whisenant, and Ashley Wilson

Sunday, December 22, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

The story of the fall from grace in the Garden of Eden, visions of Old Testament prophets, the announcement of the Incarnation by the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, and the birth of Jesus will be interspersed with Christmas hymns and carols including music by Thomas Brown, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Rutter, William Mathias, Charles Villiers Stanford, Dan Edwards, and Robert Lau.

Instrumentalists will include Paul Neebe, trumpet; Sofia Gaumàn, recorder; Anita-Burroughs-Price, harp; and Tom Warburton, organ. We join churches around the world in offering this beloved service of scripture and music to celebrate Christ's birth.



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be received Sunday, December 22. The offering will bring good news of great joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. This special offering provides the opportunity for future leaders of the church, from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, to pursue and fulfill their dreams through Presbyterian-related education. The offering also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.



Christmas Brunch

Save the date for UPC's annual Christmas Congregational Brunch! This year, the brunch will be held on Sunday, December 22, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Congregational Life Committee and Deacons will co-host this potluck fellowship brunch. Beverages will be provided, and we ask that members of the congregation bring a breakfast dish to share (quiche, muffins, casseroles, fruit, etc.). Please remember to label your dishes with ingredients as a kindness to those with food allergies and mark serving dishes and spoons with your name so you may identify them to take home. Be sure to pick up anything you brought with you following the brunch. Join us for the fellowship and food in between services.

Please note the Christmas Brunch will take the place of our Second Sunday Lunch in December and is held on the same morning as our Service of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve Worship Services Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. – Children's Service: UPC invites children, youth, parents, grandparents and all others to a special Christmas Eve worship service that will lift our spirit in the lively ringing of bells. This is a special worship experience intended especially for children and their families, giving us the opportunity to watch the nativity story unfold before our very eyes. The Junior and Children's Choirs will lead the music in this worship service.

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service: The pews will be full for this traditional and festive service. The Youth Choir leads music; the sacred story is proclaimed, and candlelight floods the Sanctuary as the congregation sings carols together.

11:00 p.m. – Candlelight and Communion: This service is more intimate and contemplative. The Chancel Choir offers music; the sacred story is once again proclaimed, and the congregation gathers for communion by intinction before dismissing around midnight into the first few minutes of Christmas Day.



Christmas Eve Offering

The Christmas Eve Offering will be received during each service. The monies received from this special offering will be divided between the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund.



All are welcome at PYC!



Sunday School • Youth Group • Confirmation • Small Groups • Trips



All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to attend Presbyterian Youth Connection activities during Advent. This faith community for middle and high school students provides a place for young people to connect to God, one another, and faithful adults as we all move along the path of our faith journey. Bring \$5 for dinner and join in the fun and faithful relationships that can be found at PYC! Contact Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministry, at kim@upcch.org with any questions.

December Calendar

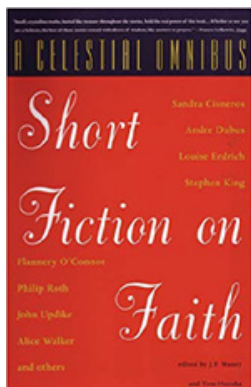
- December 1:** Thanksgiving Weekend No Sunday night activities.
- December 8:** Christmas Caroling with Youth Choir 5-8:00pm.
Meet at UPC to start. Pick up at the Vandersea home.
- December 15:** Small Groups –
Check your email for small group meeting time and location.
- December 22:** Lessons and Carols at 8:30am and 11:00am worship.
Christmas Brunch between services. **No evening activities**
- December 29:** Merry Christmas! **No evening activities**

We'll start meeting again on January 12 with Youth Group at 6:00pm.

For more information about PYC and other youth programs, please contact Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, at (919) 929-2102 or kim@upcch.org or visit www.upcch.org/pyc. Text the message @upcp to the number 81010 to join our text reminders.

Adult Education Classes

Term 2: Through December 15



Faith and the Arts: A Celestial Omnibus: Short Fiction on Faith: Come enjoy the engaging discussions of this book. Luminous fiction on themes of faith and meaning from favorite writers, including Flannery O'Connor and Vladimir Nabokov. As we did last year, we're reading one story per week. You may purchase a copy of the book for \$5 (please contact Kate Fiedler at

kate@upcch.org).

Facilitators: Nancy Benjamin and Don Kennedy

Location: Terrace Room



Connections: Understanding Faith Traditions: This class will continue to provide introduction to different faith traditions. We'll learn about the people, places, practices, and philosophies shaping today's faith communities. Some religions might be familiar

and some unknown. Come to learn more about our neighbors of other faiths and traditions. On December 8, the Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin will share her reflections on the state of the church. Your curiosity and insights are welcome.

Facilitators: Brad Geerdes and Vince Tollers

Location: Vance Barron Hall



Living Out Our Faith: Crossroads Class: All are welcome to join the conversation about living out our faith while balancing busy lives, based on the book, *Counterfeit Gods*. Come and

share your stories and insights, and the fellowship!

Facilitators: Laura and Robert Owen

Location: Dunham Hall

Adult education classes meet on Sundays during the program year (September - May) from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Information on the current term, including classes, facilitators, and locations, can be found on the UPC website at upcch.org/adult-education.

For questions about adult education classes and adult programs at UPC, please contact Kate Fiedler, Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries, at (919) 929-2102 or kate@upcch.org.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT UPC!

Coming in 2020

On January 12, we will welcome Linda Bourne and Karin Mills from Binkley Baptist Church for an engaging presentation about their work with Binkley's Earth Ministries Green Team. Karin and Linda are affectionately known as "The Trashy Ladies," and they have spearheaded the waste diversion plan to recycle and compost everything possible at Binkley. "The Trashy Ladies" will kick-off a class about our own Earth Care team and growing initiatives to be stewards of the planet at UPC.

Another class will begin gathering in the new year to discuss N.T. Wright's book, *Evil and the Justice of God*. All are welcome to join these classes.


A Service of *Light* *The Longest Night* in the *Midst* of *Darkness*

Sunday, December 22
at 5:30pm




While the holiday season is often characterized by joyful anticipation and celebration, for some it also serves as a reminder of loss and loneliness. This service welcomes worship in the midst of mourning and offers hope in the midst of sorrow. Consider joining us for a special service of worship, “The Longest Night,” on Sunday, December 22, at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service will be a quiet, meditative observance of Advent offering prayer, reading of scripture, music, lighting of candles, and intentional silence.

If this holiday season finds you mourning the loss of a loved one, coping with periods of darkness, seeking quiet contemplative space, or longing to be of support for those in need of healing, there is a place for you here. For more information, please contact Meg Peery McLaughlin, at meg@upcch.org or (919) 929-2102.



UPC PYPs 2019-2020			
Dec. 14th	Chapel Hill Christmas Parade	UPC Front Lawn	9:30 AM
Jan. 5th	Thank You Note Writing	Dunham Hall	3:45 – 5:00 PM
Jan. 26th	Kids Pop-Up Exercise Class	Dunham Hall	3:00 – 3:45 PM
Jan. 26th	PYP Squeaks Music Event	Fellowship Hall	3:45 – 4:30 PM
Feb. 8th	Bowling	Mardi Gras Bowling	3:00 – 5:00 PM
Mar. 7th	Movie Night	TBA	5:30 – 7:30 PM
Late Mar.	PYP Squeaks Farm Visit	TBA	TBA
Apr. 12th	Easter Egg Hunt	UPC Front Lawn	10:15 AM
Apr. 19th	Pot Luck & Game Night	Fellowship Hall	5:00 – 6:30 PM
May	Service Event	TBA	TBA



Parents of Young Presbyterians (PYPs) is a group for parents of children who are infants through fifth graders. PYPs sponsors a variety of events throughout the year; some are family-oriented and some are intended specifically for parents. Plan to join us for these PYPs events! If you have questions about PYPs, please contact Nancy Myer at nancy@upcch.org or (919) 929-2102.

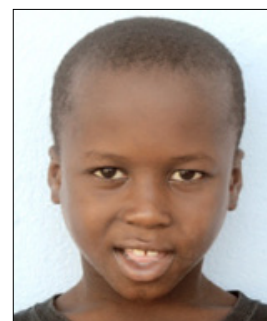
Sunday School Offering



The Children's and Youth Sunday School offering this year is again being donated to sponsor two residents at Wings of Hope in Haiti. Their names are Sarafina (left) and Ti Laza (right).

Wings of Hope provides a safe, happy, loving, caring, and hopeful family environment for over 30 children and young adults with physical and mental challenges. We hope to raise \$720 by the end of the program year to pay for our sponsorship for these two residents.

Visit heartswithhaiti.org/wings-of-hope to learn more about Wings of Hope.



Presbyterian Women Service Project Diaper Collection for Refugee Support Center (RSC)

The Presbyterian Women (PW) will collect diapers for the Refugee Support Center (RSC) beginning Sunday, November 24 through Sunday, December 29. Refugee families do not have access to other diaper distribution services, only the RSC service, so local groups are helping meet this need in our community.

We invite our UPC congregation to help support this outreach ministry in two ways:

1. Place diapers you purchase in boxes in the Church Parlor or Church Office. Please note that only size 6 diapers are needed from the UPC congregation. (Women from Circles 1-5 will provide diapers in other sizes.)
2. You may write a check to UPC, designate in the memo line "Diaper project" or "diapers for RSC." Money collected will be used to buy diapers for the Center.

We need 1680 diapers in size 6. We will collect 3000 diapers, total, which will benefit 50 families. PW will deliver the diapers to RSC in January for February distribution. Thank you for supporting this project. Questions? Contact Vicki Lotz at vjlotz@live.unc.edu.

The volunteers at the Refugee Support Center facilitate the transition of local refugees to a new life in our community. Learn more at refugeesupportcenter.org.

UPC Endowment Disbursements

The Endowment Committee makes recommendations to the Session for the distribution of unrestricted endowment funds two times a year – in the spring and again in the fall. At its November meeting, the Session approved the Committee's recommendations to fund the following proposals:

1. \$5,000 toward the second of three \$10,000 annual commitments to IFC's capital campaign to build the IFC Food-First Building;
2. \$9,725 for equipment upgrading at the Dispute Settlement Center;
3. \$1,000 for the 50th anniversary capital campaign for Presbyterian Association of Musicians;
4. \$1,875 for a new laminating machine for University Presbyterian Preschool.

For additional information about the endowment, please contact the chairperson.

~James O. Smith, Chair, *Endowment Committee*

Choir News

Christmas Caroling December 8

The Children's and Junior Choirs are invited to join us at Carolina Meadows Retirement Community to spread some Christmas cheer on Sunday, December 8th. We'll gather at 3:15 to sing a few songs for the residents, and then head over to another room on the campus to have holiday treats and activities!



The Youth Choir and PYC will be spreading joy to homebound members of our congregation on Sunday, December 8th. We'll meet at UPC at 5:15, pass out songbooks and pile into a few vans to take our show on the road. A few additional drivers will likely be needed, but we can take up to 30 kids in the vans to simplify parking along the way. Last stop will be the Vandersea home for some celebration and fellowship.

Montreat Worship and Music Conference June 21-27, 2020

Music - Friends - Fellowship - Hiking - Exciting New Voices in Worship

There's lots to love about Montreat Worship and Music! Registration for this year's conference (June 21-27 - rising 4th to rising 12th grade) can now be found at upcch.org/montreat-music. If you have a 3rd grader, or another students who has not attend Montreat Worship and Music before, we'd love to see you at the new-parent meeting on Sunday, December 15th at 4:15pm in Dunham Hall. This is a very special time for our musical community, and we'd love to have you with us!



Save the date for our Youth Choir Showcase!



January 31st @ 7:30pm
Carol Woods Retirement Community

February 1st @ 7:30pm
UPC Sanctuary

Please contact the Director of Children's and Youth Choirs, Kathleen (kathleen@upcch.org), for more information on choral activities.

Kirk Club for 4th and 5th Graders

Kirk Club continues this month. All 4th and 5th graders are welcome to attend. **We meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 3:45-4:45 p.m. in the Youth Center (please note the time change).**

Our time together includes snack, fellowship, recreation, and a lesson tailored to the needs of this age group. These young people learn how to approach their faith in new ways as they engage in thought-provoking discussions, wrestle with deeper questions, and grow in community with one another.

This program prepares our 4th and 5th graders for the transition to middle school and PYC by encouraging regular participation in a faith community and helping them understand how faith plays a part in everyday life.

Go to upcch.org/register to register for Kirk Club. If you have questions, please contact Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, at kim@upcch.org or Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries, at nancy@upcch.org. Or you may call them at (919) 929-2102.



Session Digest

At its November meeting, the session received the Fall 2019 recommendation of the Endowment Committee. The committee received proposals for funding from the IFC's capital campaign to build the IFC Food-First Building, Dispute Settlement Center, Presbyterian Association of Musicians and University Presbyterian Preschool. All requests received some level of funding with the available funds of \$17,600. The committee noted that the recommendation is responsive to both the internal needs of UPC (11% of the allocation) and responds to the proposals in the faith community beyond UPC (89% of the allocation).

As a commissioner representative of the session at the October 26 Presbytery of New Hope meeting, Elder Dave Moreau reported that Co-Pastors Meg Peery McLaughlin and Jarrett McLaughlin were joyfully welcomed into the presbytery at this gathering in Smithfield, NC.

The Earth Care Team reported that after September Second Sunday Lunch, 82 pounds of trash was collected and sent to the landfill. In October, the Earth Care Team collected 56 pounds of compostable plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and food waste at Second Sunday Lunch, leaving only two pounds of lunch trash for the dumpster and landfill.

Meg also introduced a project for the purpose of inviting folks back to worship. The staff had already gone through the directory to mark people they have not seen in the months since Meg and Jarrett started. The list of will be shared with the Elders who can refine the list if they have seen folks on there attending worship. Then Elders would be asked to invite folks on the list to come back to worship and express why this new chapter in the life of UPC is vital and energizing.

The Star of Bethlehem

Here is a Bible trivia question for you: What book of the Bible has the account of the Bethlehem star? Luke, Acts, Isaiah, Matthew, John, Micah? No peeking or Googling! The answer is at the end of this article.

I was fascinated by a video entitled, The Star of Bethlehem, by Rick Larson. The whole scenario surrounding the Magi and the star is mind-boggling to say the least. In the interest of time and space, I can't elaborate on the video except to say that the knowledge I gained is simple: our God's universe has no walls and His miracles are performed to carry out His will. The star that led the Magi from the East, reappeared after their visit to King Herod. It then led them south to Bethlehem where they worshipped the child and brought gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. It is interesting to note that stars, i.e., planets, travel from east to west—not north to south. Also, as you walk under the heavens, the stars move. This one remained in place.

Where are you traveling this Christmas season? What kind of gifts are you expecting? Is your journey filled with expectancy? Are you heading in the direction of joy, peace and love? Are the gift boxes filled with happy memories? Who is coming to visit you?

This season can have many destinations. Some ending with a smiling face, some ending with a joyful reunion, some ending in the simple enjoyment of home and family and some beginning with a new awe of what this season is all about.

If your destination is not mentioned above, we can help you navigate in a different direction. Our Stephen Ministry gift boxes are never empty. They are filled with listening, prayer, joy, companionship, sharing scripture, confidentiality, just being there, and most importantly, the love of Christ.

Don't let the King Herods of this world blur your Bethlehem star. Look up and rejoice for unto us a child is born, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6)

We are waiting to share our gifts with you. Call Meg at the church office. May the light of the Christ Child fill your heart this Christmas Season, Your UPC Stephen Ministers

Written by Stephen Leader colleague, Patty Joyce, FL

(Answer: Matthew 2:1-12 – The only gospel that has the account of the Bethlehem Star.)

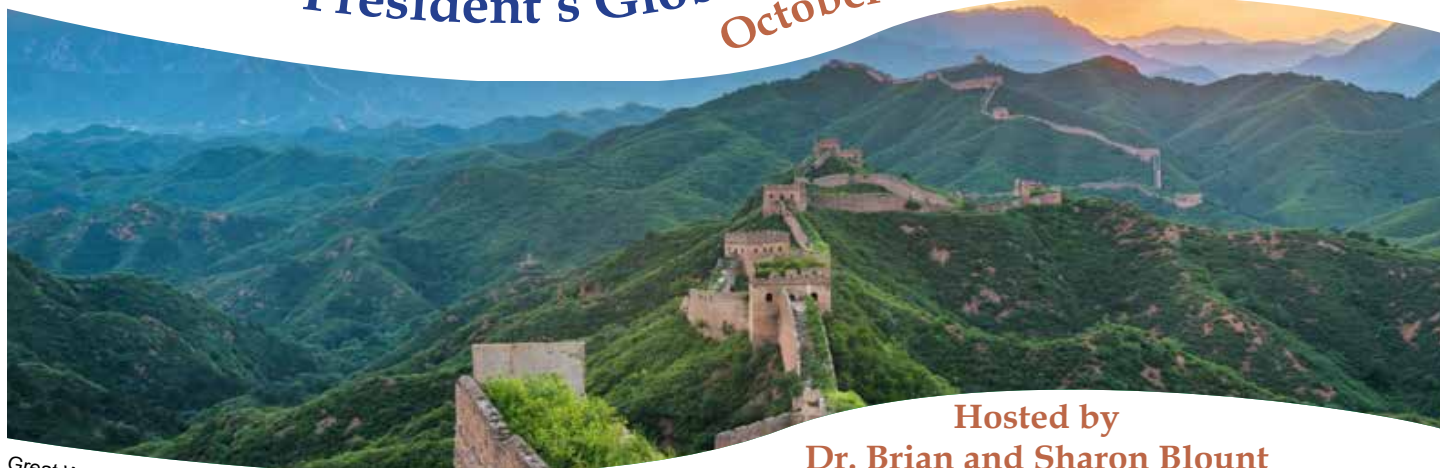
Have you recently yearned for someone just to listen? To hear your story? To hear your concerns of the approaching holidays? Stephen Ministers are available to listen a little louder, just to you. Please contact Meg Peery McLaughlin at meg@upcch.org or (919) 929-2102 or visit upcch.org/stephen-ministry to learn more.

UPC's Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for, and encourage you; pray with and for you; and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

*“Bear one another's burdens
and thus fulfill the law of Christ.”*

~ Galatians 6:2

Union Presbyterian Seminary President's Global Seminar China 2020 October 14 – 27, 2020



Great Wall

Hosted by
Dr. Brian and Sharon Blount
Dr. Lewis Galloway and Dr. Bunny Alexander

Inclusions & Highlights

Spiritual enrichment, fellowship and educational touring with a community under the leadership, teaching and hospitality of Dr. Brian and Sharon Blount, Dr. Lewis Galloway and Dr. Bunny Alexander.

*
Customized itinerary exploring the spiritual, historical and cultural dimensions of China.

*
International airfare from Atlanta including taxes and surcharges on Delta Air Lines. Three intra-country flights. All flights currently estimated.

*
Accommodations in moderate four-star hotels as listed in itinerary or similar. Cost based on sharing a room. Single room accommodations at hotels available at an additional cost of \$1,350.00.

*
Private, deluxe motorcoach throughout itinerary with handling of one piece of baggage in/out of hotels.

*
24 included meals with buffet breakfast daily, four lunches and eight dinners.

*
Group travel insurance from Cultural Insurance Services International including medical evacuation coverage.

Cost and Registration

Flights and airfare for these travel dates are not available until early December 2019. The estimated cost range is \$5,975 - \$6,275 based on a minimum group size of 22. A detailed brochure will be provided in December when flights are confirmed, at which time registration will open. Registration will require a \$600 deposit per person with full payment due July 31, 2020.

TO JOIN THE INTEREST GROUP, RECEIVE BROCHURE AND PROGRAM UPDATES, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](https://na.eventscloud.com/ehome/upsemglobalseminar)



About Your Program

For decades, UPSem has been a leader in providing transformative travel seminars for students, alumni, and seminary friends to Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe. It is your turn now. The President's Global Seminar was established to provide opportunities for seminary friends to expand cultural horizons through international encounters. We begin with an educational excursion to China. We will see the country, meet the people, engage in the history, and experience the intersection between the Church of Jesus Christ and the culture of contemporary China. Come journey with us. UPSem's international classroom has set aside a seat just for you.

About Your Hosts

Dr. Brian Blount is the president of Union Presbyterian Seminary (UPSem), with campuses in Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC. He is also Professor of New Testament Studies at UPSem. Along with his research, writing and teaching, he has authored six books, co-authored two, and edited multiple volumes focused on New Testament subjects. Prior to a career in theological education that has spanned almost 30 years, he was the pastor of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia.

Ms. Sharon Blount retired as a senior manager in the Internal Revenue Service after 31 years of federal service. A lifelong Presbyterian, Sharon has served as an elder at Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey and Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia. She spends time devoted to endeavors with Union Presbyterian Seminary, Second Presbyterian Church and The Presbyterian Outlook, where she serves as board chair.

Dr. Eleanor (Bunny) Alexander and Dr. Lewis Galloway met as students at Union Presbyterian Seminary and were married in 1975. As pastors they have served churches in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina and Indiana. Bunny established the Columbia Pastoral Counseling Center and continued her counseling ministry with CenterPoint Counseling Center in Indianapolis while Lewis served as Senior Pastor of Shandon Presbyterian Church and Second Presbyterian Church Indianapolis. Bunny currently is serving in a prison ministry, and Lewis serves on the boards of Davidson College and Montreat Conference Center. He is a former trustee of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

To join the interest group visit <https://na.eventscloud.com/ehome/upsemglobalseminar>

Programs of Special Interest to UPC

**This list represents people and projects with which this congregation has worked closely over many years.
November 24, 2019**

Name of Shopper/Donor: _____ **(telephone:** _____ **)**

UPC Special Projects	Suggested gift levels (donations of any amount welcome)	\$ Amount
A. Family Health Ministries Blanchard Clinic Blanchard, Haiti	\$100/\$50/25 = Toward a new birthing center to provide basic and emergency health care for women	
B. Wings of Hope Home for Physically and Mentally Challenged Children - Jacmel, Haiti	\$15 = Medications for a child for a month \$25 = 3 nourishing meals for 35 children \$50 = Week salary for one caretaker \$100 = Toward purchase of a new wheelchair	
C. Well-Trained Teachers/UPC Mission Team- Haiti	<i>Workshops in 2020 conducted by UPC mission team</i> \$10 = Towards books and materials \$25 = Towards equipment, such as printers \$50 = Sponsor training of one teacher	
D. Friends of Orange County DSS- North Carolina	\$100/\$50/\$25/\$10 = Financial or material help for DSS clients in need	
E. Christian Communications Institute Evangelism - Chiang Mai, Thailand	<i>Shine the light and message of Christ in Thailand</i> \$20 = 1 CCI performer to a rural church \$300 = Transportation for a 15 member troupe	
F. Ministry of Hope Lesotho, Africa	\$50/\$25/\$10 = Food, clothing, education and love for abandoned children	
G. NASAD Natemwa Learning Center Kachale Village, Zambia	\$50/\$25/\$10 = Educational support for poor children in Zambia (tuition, uniforms, school supplies and books).	
H. Latin Patriarchate School- Zababdeh, Palestine	\$10 = One school book. \$35 = Three weeks' tuition and fees \$300 = One semester's education for a child	
	SUB-TOTAL FROM OTHER SIDE OF FORM	
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by check (made payable to UPC) in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.		

Deadline for order is December 15, 2019.



University Presbyterian Church
Post Office Box 509
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-929-2102 (phone) www.upcch.org



Gifts of Beauty & Bounty



Join us this year as we honor and remember the special people in our lives in one of two ways. You may give a poinsettia, which will be used to decorate the chancel during Christmas, or you may make a contribution to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services, which will be used to provide support to those in our community who are in need. You may choose to do both! The names of those we honor or remember will appear in the Sunday Worship Bulletin, December 22, 2019. If you would like the church to send a postcard notifying the person or family being honored, please check the box and clearly print the address of the honoree beside the name.

Please complete this form and return it no later than noon on Monday, December 16, 2019.

Your name(s): _____

Daytime telephone number: _____

Please order _____ poinsettias at \$12.50 each.

Please make check payable to University Presbyterian Church with "Poinsettias" in the memo.

Any amount received in excess of the cost of the poinsettias will be used by the Flower Committee occasionally throughout the year to provide arrangements in the Sanctuary.

In lieu of flowers, I wish to make a contribution to the Inter-Faith Council in the amount of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to University Presbyterian Church with "Inter-Faith Council" in the memo.

These gifts are given: (Please print clearly)

In honor of: _____

☐

Check here if you wish a postcard sent notifying the honoree of the gift.

Please include complete mailing address including zip code, and print clearly.

In memory of: _____

Check for \$_____ payable to "UPC" (with "Poinsettias" marked in the memo line) enclosed (\$12.50 per poinsettia).

Check for \$_____ payable to payable to "UPC" (with "Inter-Faith Council" marked in the memo line) enclosed.

Please return this form to:

University Presbyterian Church, Gifts of Beauty and Bounty, P.O. Box 509, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0509.

Deadline for orders: Noon on Monday, December 16, 2019.

This form is available online at www.upcch.org



All are welcome!

Newcomers, visitors, UNC faculty, students

University Presbyterian Church is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is a Stephen Ministry Congregation. On Sunday mornings, worship services are held at 8:30 and 11:00 and Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Children of all ages are welcomed and cherished by this congregation. Childcare for infants through kindergarteners is provided on Sunday mornings by our paid nursery staff and parent volunteers.

The Sanctuary is wheelchair accessible. Handicapped parking spaces are available, and a parking assistant will be available to help you out of your car. Assistive hearing devices and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available during worship. Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30. Call (919) 929-2102 for more information. Learn more about UPC's programs at upcch.org, facebook.com/upcch, and instagram.com/upc_ch, or call (919) 929-2102.

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The Chimes Newsletter: December 2019

Las Posadas Returns to UPC!

Mary and Joseph (figurines) will again be traveling to Bethlehem and could use a night's lodging in your home!

Las Posadas means "the inns" or "the lodgings" and symbolizes the Biblical journey of Mary and Joseph as they searched for shelter in Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus. Hosting Mary and Joseph encourages us to show hospitality and welcome those for whom there is no room.

This is a wonderful way to help children—and all of us—keep the focus of the season on whom and what Christmas celebrates. All ages are invited to participate.

Go to upcch.org/posadas to sign up to host Mary and Joseph. Please be sure to read the instructions on this page for signing up and for hosting. There are also some great hosting ideas!

In addition to the Mary and Joseph figurines, their box contains a candle, matches, a journal with instructions, and a copy of the book, *The Night of Las Posadas* by Tomie dePaola.

If you have questions about this year's *Las Posadas*, you may contact Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries, at (919) 929-2102 or nancy@upcch.org. Thank you!

