



The Chimes

January 2020: Web Edition

I'm just going to come right out and say it – I don't like winter. I enjoy a little bit of chill in the air through Christmas but once January 2 hits, I'm pretty much over winter. The problem is that it has a way of dragging on for another three months. There's plenty of time yet for the now-paper-thin skin on my knuckles to crack open from the cold. There's plenty of time for the random nose bleeds. Don't even get me started about the suppressed immunity, the spread of germs and the increased paranoia we all feel around something as simple as passing the peace in worship. I'm reminded of an old commercial on Saturday Night Live for a medicine called Hibernol that allows you to hibernate all the way through the winter, missing the entire cold and flu season. Sometimes it is tempting to sleep all the way until springtime.

And yet I would miss so much (and not just the high holy days of basketball season, though that is nothing to shake a stick at). Here are some of the things I eagerly anticipate in the coming months.

By the time you read this I will already have spent time with our PCM students at the Montreat College Conference that takes place every year in January. I co-directed this conference last year and I am always energized to spend time with students who are serious about exploring how the Gospel might shape the future that is forming before them.

On January 12, UPC is taking part in an interfaith sing-a-long at Local 506. The local Chapel Hill clergy group cooked this up as a way to bring diverse people together around the gift of music. It's at Local 506 at 4:00 pm.

Speaking of music, I am also looking forward to watching our youth present their Musical Showcase. I understand that this is a different format than previous years, but all the same I enjoy hearing young people sing, knowing that we sing our way to faith long before we think our way into believing. They will be presenting songs from Children of Eden, immersing us in the story of creation and reminding us all of the simple truth that we are each fashioned in the image of God.

Recently, the same clergy group that organized the interfaith sing-a-long met with Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Superintendent of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools. We had an intriguing conversation about the achievement gap in our schools and how the faith community might partner with local schools to help address that reality that I know is important to many of you in the congregation. I look forward to continuing that conversation in 2020.

I also met with the Earth Care Team recently and learned about a wonderful series of classes they are hosting in January, including presentations about Church-wide composting campaigns with "The Trashy Women" of Binkley Baptist Church, Environmental and Climate Justice for the Poor and Marginalized with William Barber III and a session about the PCUSA's endorsement of carbon pricing with Bill Bray, a Presbyterian Elder and retired Exxon Executive.

I am energized by the intergenerational interest in UPC's witness on behalf of ecological justice and hope you will consider tuning in to their work in 2020.

With all of this going on, it will be spring flowers and on into endless summer days before I know it. Winter will never be my favorite season, but I am grateful for this church community that pursues the Gospel no matter the season. I am grateful to be in ministry among you.

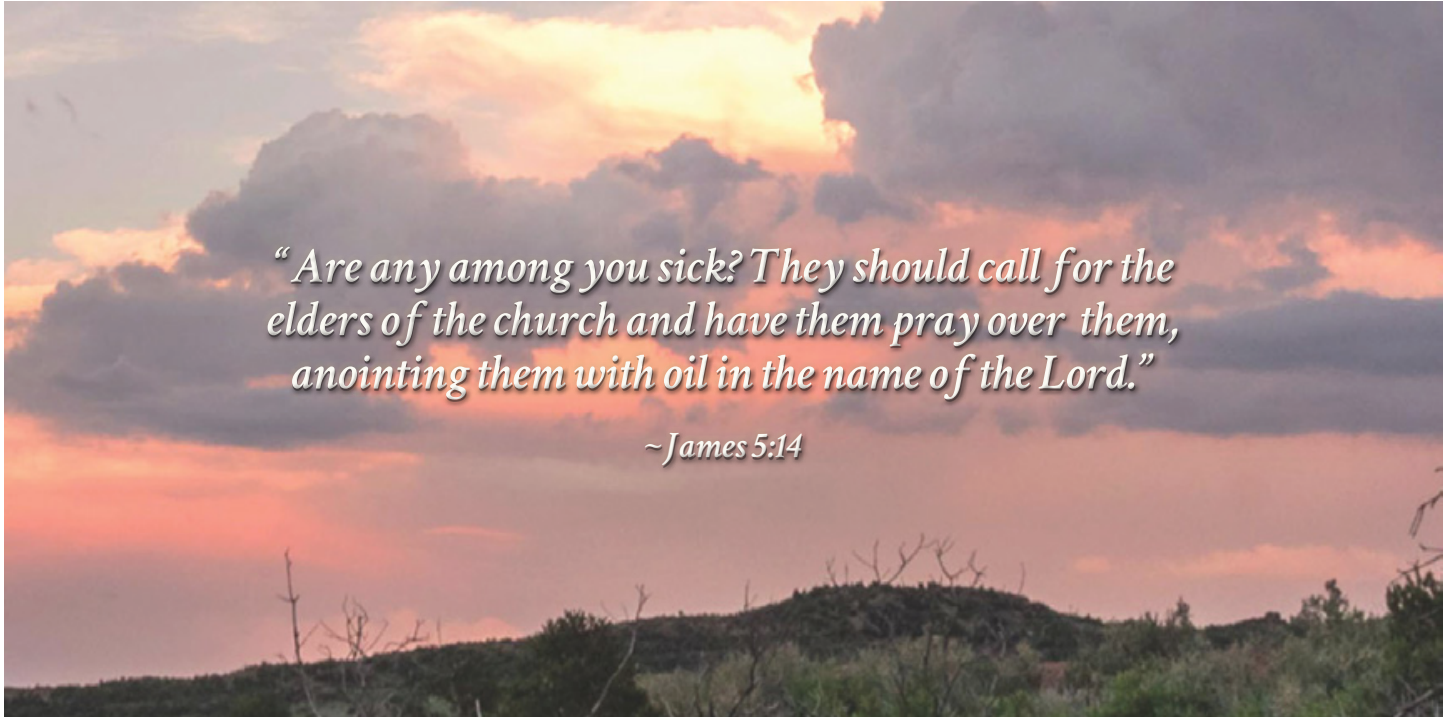
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Jarrett McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

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 February edition of *The Chimes* is January 15, at noon.

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Stewardship R.O.I. Men's Breakfast Group

Judging from the program topics presented at UPC's Men's Breakfast Group over the past few years, you'd be hard-pressed to find a common theme or define a "type" drawn to the early-morning gathering.

Jack Benjamin, who coordinates the group, reeled off some of the presentations in recent months: Works of art that moved us; recognizing and overcoming burnout; the developmental stages of retirement; the opioid epidemic; water; and the Bible. One man shared his experience of visiting Masada, the site of King Herod's palace and the first Jewish-Roman war in the first century. Another man talked about overcoming his addiction years ago. Once the topic was a Thomas Merton book. Another time it was Frederick Buechner's concept of sacred journey. At one breakfast, a photographer talked about experiencing God's grace through art. In January, a presenter will talk about ethics in finance.

"Each of us chooses something we really care about," Jack said. "We've gotten to know one another. That's the reason we all keep coming back, regardless of the topic."

The men gather at 7 a.m. in the Terrace Room at the church on the first and third Mondays of the month, from mid-September through mid-June. John Rogers cooks breakfast, often assisted by John Falletta, Jim Snapper, Ben Urick, and others. The first half hour is devoted to sharing the meal; the presentation and discussion last another half hour. The gathering ends at 8 a.m. sharp.

"The parking police begin ticketing after 8 o'clock," Jack said, "so everyone is anxious to go. Program's over; see you next time."

Your pledge to UPC makes it possible for our church to provide this important ministry. The men donate \$5 each to help defray the costs of breakfast, and the Adult Education budget ensures that all expenses are covered.

A couple dozen men come to the breakfasts routinely. Nate Haines first checked out the group when he and his family were new to the church and he hadn't yet met many people. Getting to know the other men in the breakfast group made him feel better connected to people in the Sunday morning worship services.

"There's a small contingent of us without gray hair at the breakfast," Nate said. "I enjoy connecting with them and with the men who aren't in my age range. It's a healthy reminder that life moves on and that most of the hardships of professional life quickly fade."

John Rogers contributes thoughtful leadership in nudging participants to present their topics in some relationship to faith. "The ensuing discussions have been fascinating," said Jack.

"The topics are fairly personal, and people talk about different meaningful parts of their lives," he said. "It's always interactive, and there's always lots of laughter."

"We're getting to be really good friends."



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



All are welcome at PYC!



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

Calling all Middle and High Schoolers!

Make a resolution to join in all the fun of Presbyterian Youth Connection in January! This community is here to love and support you as you grow in faith. Contact Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, at kim@upcch.org if you'd like more information about events and programs for 6th-12th graders.



January Calendar

January 5: No evening activities/

January 12: Spiritual Practices for the New Year: Meet in the Fellowship Hall 6:00-7:30 p.m. Deadline to register for the High School Sabbath Retreat on April 12-14 (\$210 total).



January 19: Art! We'll take our new look at our faith through the lens of art. Come create something fun. Middle and High School meet separately in the Youth Center and Youth Room, 6:00 p.m.

January 26: Small Groups! Check your email for a message from your leaders about meeting time and location.

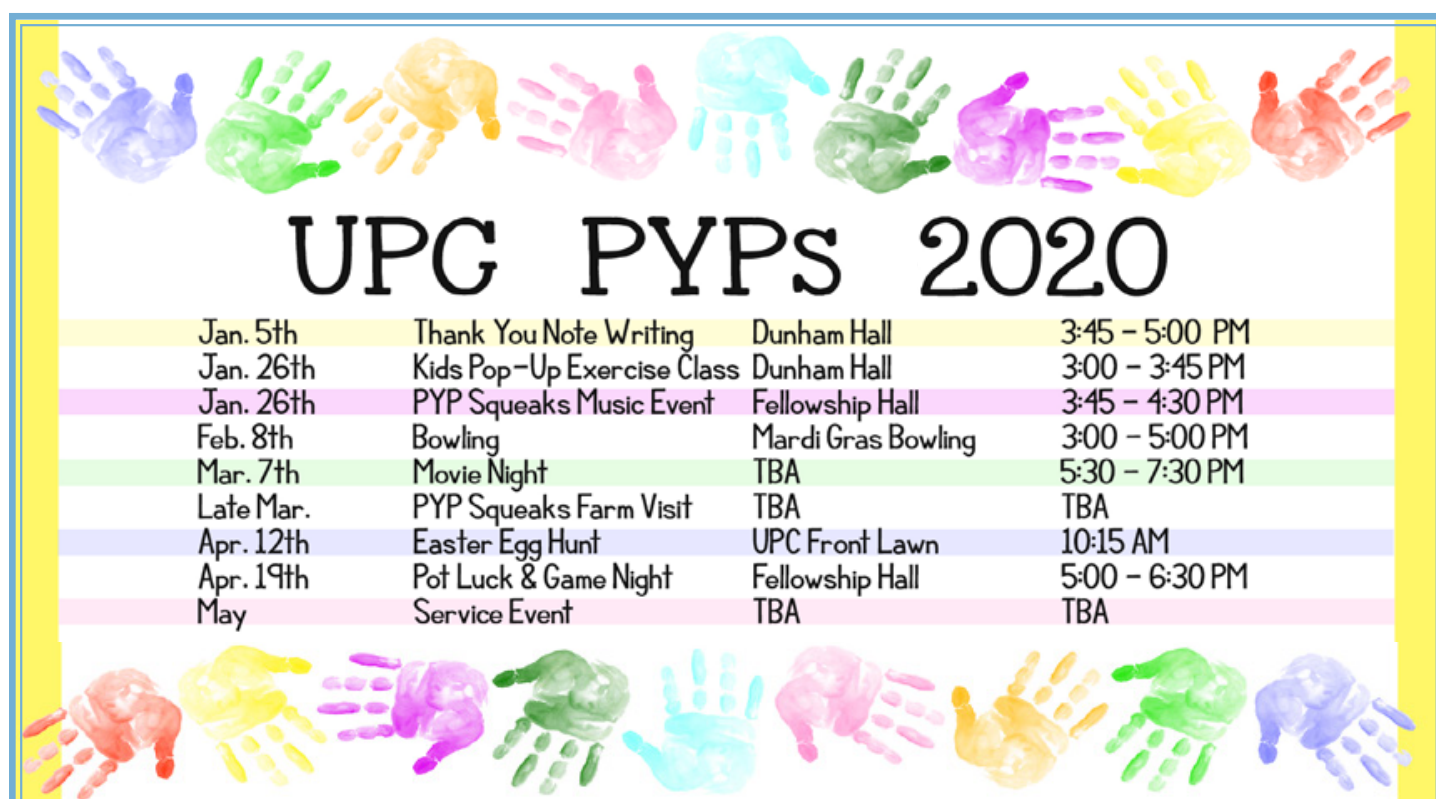
For more information about PYC and other youth programs, please contact Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, at (919) 929-2102 or kim@upcch.org or visit www.upcch.org/pyc. Text the message @upcp to the number 81010 to join our text reminders.

PYPs Thank You Note Writing Party



The Christmas season is behind us and the new year has arrived! During this time of year, we are given a wonderful opportunity to practice gratitude. Join us for a thank-you-note-writing party on Sunday, January 5, from 3:45-5:00 p.m. in Dunham Hall. Children AND parents should attend.

Please bring with you a list of the gifts received and from whom you received each gift. If you have special stationery that you would like to use, please feel free to bring it. We will provide plain paper, stickers, crayons, and markers, as well as age-appropriate instruction as to why and how to write thank you notes. We hope to see you there! If you have questions, please contact Nancy Myer at nancy@upcch.org or (919) 929- 2102.



UPC PYPs 2020			
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.

Choir News

Children of Eden Showcase



Escape the cold and join us for an evening of theatre. *Children of Eden* will be presented by the UPC Youth Choir on Friday, January 31, at the Carol Woods Assembly Hall and Saturday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the UPC Sanctuary.

No tickets are required, but donations will be collected at the Saturday performance for the Montreat Worship and Music Scholarship Fund. We appreciate your support!

Children's & Junior Choirs Musical Preview

Wondering what the Children's and Junior Choir musical will be this Spring?

Please join us for our big reveal on Sunday, February 2, from 4:15-5:15 p.m. in the Priscilla D. Bevin Memorial Choir Suite!



Montreat Worship & Music June 21-27

Registration is now open for the 2020 Montreat Worship and Music Conference in beautiful Montreat, NC.

Rising 4th graders through graduating seniors are invited to come spend the week relaxing and making music together!

Register by February 29 for an early-bird discount at upcch.org/montreat-music.

It's never too late in the year to join the choir! Children and Youth, grades K-12 are invited to join us for choir rehearsals on Sunday afternoons. You can catch up quickly, and we are happy to have new faces anytime!

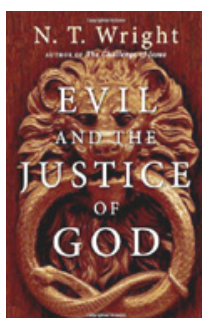
Please contact the Director of Children's and Youth Choirs, Kathleen (kathleen@upcch.org), for more information on choral activities.

Adult Education Classes

Term 3: January 12 – February 23

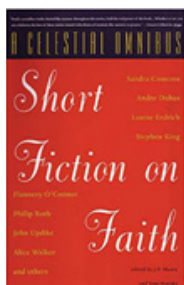
On January 12, we will welcome Linda Bourne and Karin Mills from Binkley Baptist Church for an engaging presentation about their work with Binkley's Earth Ministries Green Team. Karin and Linda are affectionately known as "The Trashy Ladies," and they have spearheaded the waste diversion plan to recycle 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.

Join the "Trashy Women" in Vance Barron Hall for this informative and engaging presentation!



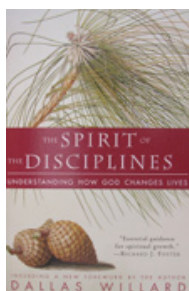
Bible Study: *Evil and the Justice of God*: Join the conversation about this book by N.T. Wright, one of the world's leading Biblical scholars. Discussions will wrestle with such questions as: Can we possibly envision a world in which we are delivered from evil? How might we work toward such a future through prayer and justice in the present? These are the powerful and pressing themes that N. T. Wright addresses in this book that is at once timely and timeless.

Facilitators: Ed Preston and Robert Owen
Location: Stephen Ministry Room



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 in the fall, 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



Crossroads Class: All are welcome to join the conversation about living out our faith while balancing busy lives. This term, discussions will be inspired by *The Spirit of the Disciplines*.

Facilitators: John and Trina Rogers
Location: Dunham Hall

Living Out Our Faith: *Earth Care Team*: UPC was recognized as an Earth Care Congregation by the PC(USA) in March of 2019. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. Join the conversation about how we are called to care for, protect, and advocate for the earth.

Facilitators: Ashley and John Wilson
Location: Vance Barron Hall

January 12: Composting, Recycling and Caring for Creation - Karin Mills and Linda Bourne, aka the "Trashy Women"



January 19: Faithful Response to the Climate and Environmental Crises - Rev. Susannah Tuggle and Sarah Ogletree, NC Interfaith Power & Light

January 26: Environmental and Climate Justice for the Poor and Marginalized - William J. Barber III, N.C. Poor People's Campaign & The Climate Reality Project

February 2: PC(USA)'s Endorsement of Carbon Pricing - Bill Bray, PC(USA) Elder and Citizens' Climate Lobby Member

February 9: Standing Up for Land and Water Conservation - Jay Leutze, Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition and author of Stand Up That Mountain

February 16: North Carolina Climate Stories - John Wilson, documentary filmmaker and N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund trustee

February 23: PC(USA) Climate Care Challenge - UPC Earth Care Team

Upcoming Earth Care Events



United Church of Chapel Hill's 83kW Solar Project

Solar Energy for Houses of Worship

Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m.

**United Church of Christ
1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.**

Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation (OCICC), which UPC's Earth Care Team helped found, will host a special event, offering information



to faith communities considering the possibility of adding solar energy capacity to their buildings.

Congregations that have already added solar panels, including United Church of Christ (pictured above), will share information, experiences, results, and recommendations. Solar vendors will have information tables prior the event. For more information, see "Solar Resources" at upcch.org/stewardship/earth-care.

***Paris to Pittsburgh* Documentary Screening (FREE)**

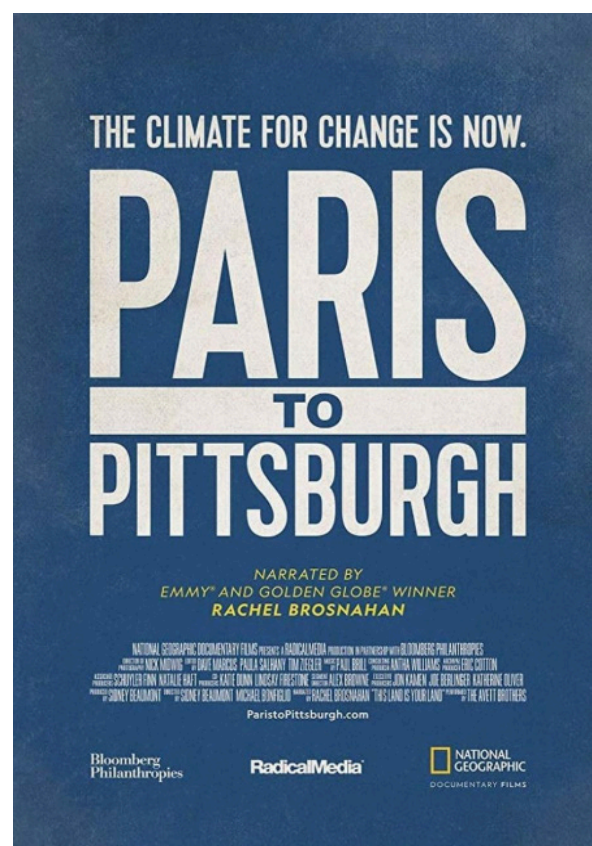
Thursday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m.

**Chapel of the Cross Parish Hall
304 E. Franklin Street**

The Creation Care Committee of Chapel of the Cross invites you to a free screening of National Geographic's *Paris to Pittsburgh* documentary (77 minutes). Hot apple cider and popcorn will be provided!

From coastal cities to America's heartland, *Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. And as the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren't waiting on Washington to act.

For more information and to watch the trailer, please visit paristopittsburgh.com.



Kirk Club for 4th and 5th Graders

Kirk Club continues this month. All 4th and 5th graders are welcome to attend. **In January, we'll meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 3:45-4:45 p.m. in the Youth Center.**

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.

If you have questions about Kirk Club, 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 December meeting:

The session met with the incoming elders and deacons of the class of 2022 for examination before they are ordained on Sunday, January 12, 2020. The new officers shared the stories of their faith journeys, their thoughts on how Jesus acts in their lives and their hopes for UPC in the future. The session welcomed all with joy and appreciation for their willingness to serve the church.

The administration committee presented a possible budget scenario based on pledges received thus far in the stewardship campaign and will present a more complete draft at the session's January meeting. The session hopes to receive all pledges by December 31 in order for the 2020 budget to be approved by the congregation in January.

Examination of new officers also means saying goodbye to the elder class of 2019 as they complete their three-year terms as elders. Meg and Jarrett reviewed the actions of the session over those three years, which began as Bob Dunham announced his retirement and came to an end shortly after the installation of our new ministers, in a beautiful letter of gratitude.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry

PCM: Certainly a place for food and fellowship, but all in the spirit of the one we welcome in the Nativity. Praise be to Him, for continuing to disciple these students at Carolina!



We Celebrate Our New Members

In December, University Presbyterian Church joyfully welcomed the following new members into the life of the church:

David and Gwenda Hanselman: David and Gwenda transfer their membership from Alpharetta Presbyterian Church. Their pastor at Alpharetta Presbyterian is a former campus minister at UPC, so their connections to UPC run deep. David and Gwenda moved from Canada to the states in 1990, and Gwenda enjoys acclimating to the culture in the South. They are excited about this new chapter in Durham and looking forward to welcoming a grandchild in February.



Janet McDowell: Janet transfers her membership from Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA. Janet lives in Hillsborough. She recently moved to the area to join her adult children, who both live in Durham. She is a retired professor of medical ethics, and she looks forward to becoming more involved in the ministries at UPC.



Brian and Sarah Meacham (Claire and Luke): The Meacham family transfers their membership from White Memorial Presbyterian Church of Raleigh. Brian and Sarah met at UNC, and they are glad to return to Chapel Hill. Claire is 10, and she likes to draw. Luke is 6, and he likes to play his Switch.



Max Poteat: Max is a senior in high school, and he joined by profession of faith. He's connected to UPC through several family relationships. Before joining, Max met with Kim McNeill and other members to explore his faith and connections with the community this church family offers.



We welcome new members to UPC every other month. New members will be received again in February.

To learn more about how to become a part of our faith community, please contact Kate Fiedler, Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries, at (919) 929-2102 or kate@upcch.org.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



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.

University Presbyterian Church
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Chapel Hill, NC

The Chimes Newsletter: January 2020

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Participant cost goes up \$25/person or \$50/couple on January 7.

February 7-9, 2020: Montreat Conference Center (Montreat, NC)

A retreat for becoming more connected, relaxed, and faithful parents

Register at montreat.org/events/parenting20

Registration Cost: \$325 double occupancy / \$245 single occupancy

Keynote Speaker: Laura Becker

This retreat is being developed by a youth and children's ministry cohort with Montreat Conference Center.



Second Sunday Lunch

The first Second Sunday Lunch of the new year will be Sunday, January 12, in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 a.m. service. The Endowment Committee, Youth Subcommittee, and Personnel Committee will co-host and provide a main dish and beverages. Those who attend are asked to bring a vegetable dish, a salad, or a dessert for approximately 12 people. Please be generous!



All new members, visitors, and students are welcome without contribution. If possible, we ask members to add a label to your dish specifying allergens to help show hospitality to those with food allergies and other dietary needs. Labels such as "gluten free," "contains peanuts/tree nuts," or "vegetarian" are helpful to ensure everyone can enjoy food and fellowship at church. All are welcome!