



The Chimes

February 2020: Web Edition

State of the Church – January 26, 2020

The following information was shared at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2020. The “State of the Church” conversation began with a review of some metrics, knowing that numbers matter when it comes to the health of a congregation.

Current Membership: 1257

Worship Attendance: 8:30 Average = 129
11:00 Average = 256 (way more rounded figures)
10:00 Single Summer Service Average = 343

Average of 385 but of course it spikes on certain Sundays – Christmas Eve was the first time we experienced what it means to completely FILL this sanctuary.

Giving: Looking back at 2019, we ended the year roughly \$18,000 in the black – which is wonderful as the budget projected a \$35,000 deficit to be drawn from our reserves. Because of your generosity - we were able to add to our Reserves. Our total operating budget for 2020 is just south of 2 million dollars. At this juncture – our pledged income is roughly at \$1.63 million and the Session approved a budget with the assumption that we would receive 1.65 million pledged when it’s all said and done. The remainder of the budget is filled out by a very educated guess concerning non-pledged income.

At their January meeting, the Session approved a budget that includes a \$50,000 deficit, but felt confident doing so given that we ended the year with a surplus. We also recognized that this budgeting process is a full month earlier and so our final Stewardship picture will likely shift. The Session approved this budget with the understanding that we would revisit it in April and see if it still seems sensible at that time. This budget includes a 3% adjustment for staff salaries and maintains our Outreach budget at the same level as 2019 but it also maintains the 10% reduction in program from last year.

More than Numbers

If we only measure our effectiveness through members, dollars and worship headcounts we’re really only getting half the story. The other half of the story is impact. What happens to a person when she participates in the life of this Church? What difference does it make it in his life?

The annual report which can be found online will tell you an awful lot about WHAT we did – what programs we continued or initiated, how our staff spent their time – but what is more difficult to measure is the WHY? What happened because we deployed those resources, did those programs, invested our time? That measurement is a bit less scientific but it comes through story-telling and testimony. So let me tell you a few stories that help me get my arms around UPC’s “Why.”

*This past Fall I was speaking with a child of the Church who had just come from the Congregational retreat where he had an opportunity to make a gift for somebody else. It would not have surprised me if that gift were for one of his parents, but when I asked who it’s for he said “This? This is for my Sunday School teacher from last year.” Inter-generational relationships – that is a holy impact.

*Just last week at the bus stop, a neighbor of mine said “So I was talking with Greg at work the other day. Apparently you all had a Sunday School class about composting...”

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State of the Church, cont.

the brother went on about how excited he was to compost for....20 minutes!” Being so excited about something from Sunday that you cannot help but share it on Monday with a colleague at work – that is a holy impact.

*The Monday morning Men’s breakfast has offered numerous examples where men – who are not always known for displays of vulnerability – have gotten to that space of sharing what is going on in their lives. In a culture of deep loneliness - to create space for that kind of sharing is a holy impact.

*I attended an Alumni event for PCM students –past and present – and it was amazing to 1) see so many come back and 2) listen to them discuss with one another what it’s like to discover who you are but to do so from the firm foundation they received in campus ministry. That is a holy impact.

*I have it on good authority that a group of our ushers gathered together for Thanksgiving this year – when the necessary functions of the Church like ushering become opportunities to foster connection and caring that is a holy impact and one that can inspire us to imagine how that could become true for any one of our functional groups.

*Finally I want to take a moment to acknowledge all of the loss in the congregation in the past three months. So many of you have expressed concern for the pastoral staff here and that does feel like love and care, but I also want to acknowledge that it’s not just difficult for us as we plan memorial services but it’s an emotional blow for the whole community.

There have been so many moments when I have watched this congregation offer deep care and hospitality in the midst of even deeper sorrow and that is a holy impact as well.

Every week at staff meeting we take time to ask ourselves – what are those “Kingdom moments?” That’s what we call them – the moments when we’re doing the things that a Church does – but suddenly the Kingdom of God pokes through and we can point to it and say “There – right there – that’s WHY we’re doing all of this?” Because that is at least half the story of how UPC is doing, if not more.

Taking that time during staff meeting is our way of training ourselves to be on the lookout for the Kingdom, but in some ways you can consider this your invitation to participate. Should you ever bear witness to a Kingdom Moment – I hope you’ll tell one of us so we can record it in our list.

Often time, people will ask us “So what’s your vision for UPC.” It begins with this: church doesn’t exist for itself. If WHAT we do does not impact the community, then we are off course. Considering our **WHY** can change how we spend our time, change how we run our meetings. It can change our publications. It can change our budgets.

In the end the State of the Church hinges on how the Kingdom of God is breaking through in our midst. I for one am grateful to have many moments where I can see it with great clarity – where I can point and say “Look – there it is – the Kingdom of God in our midst.” May it be so for you and all of us together.



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.

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R.O.I.* – Kirk Club

*Return on Your Investment



Welcome to the fastest hour of your life, Nancy Myer says as introduction to Kirk Club, the program that helps fourth- and fifth-graders transition to Presbyterian Youth Connection, the youth group for middle- and high-schoolers.

About five years ago, Nancy, UPC's Staff Associate for Children's Ministries, and Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, came up with the idea, in the context of their expertise in Christian education, for facilitating the independence that those end-of-elementary-school students would soon need to master as they enter middle school.

"Elementary school kids do PYPs [Parents of Young Presbyterians], which are fellowship events," Nancy said. "PYC, at least on some days, is more thought-provoking, with discussions and wrestling with deeper questions."

Elementary school students are always with their parents when they're at church, but at Kirk Club, their parents aren't even in the building. Nancy and Kim meet students at the drop-off on Robertson Lane during a 15-minute window after school two Wednesdays per month. Day McLaughlin welcomes students inside the Youth Center with fruit, water, and two cookies each. "That's enough sugar to get going," she said.

Day retired from a career teaching fourth- and fifth-graders in public schools. "I have a lot of fun with these kids," she said.

While students – about a dozen this year – wait for everyone to arrive, they have total free time to hang out, talk, play foosball, and draw on the boards. Then they play some sort of interactive game related to the topic of that day's lesson, followed by a fun video to set the stage for discussion.

Kirk Club uses a curriculum called *Connect* that relates the Old Testament stories with New Testament scriptures. Participants are given a *Connect Bible* and encouraged to write in it, circle words, and complete activities in it throughout the year.

The students break up into groups and read aloud from their Bibles. Then the leaders pose thought-provoking questions: "Not just, 'Who got on the ark?' but 'How do you think that felt?'" Day said.

The hour ends with a hands-on activity and closes with a prayer.

"The program sparks students to think about how faith plays a part in everyday life," Nancy said.

"So many times when we're having a discussion, kids surprise us by saying something super-profound or thoughtful," she said. "They sometimes come up with things we, as adults, haven't thought about."

Kirk Clubbers tend to be more plugged into PYC once they reach middle school.

Day noted, "It's not a huge group, but it's an important one to keep going. It's Bible-related and interpersonal-related. Children practice respecting others' opinions and sharing different thoughts. They learn someone can disagree with you, and it doesn't mean they don't like you."

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

"Kirk Club costs small dollars," Nancy said, "but reaps huge benefits."

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



The Souper Bowl of Caring began over 25 years ago with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.” On Sunday, February 2, Kirk Club youth will take part in this national effort to love our neighbors. They will hold soup pots at the sanctuary doors following both worship services to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting.

In 2019, groups participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring generated over \$9.7 million in cash and food items. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters and will instead be donated locally to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service and TABLE. Please drop your dollar in the soup pot as you leave worship on Super Bowl Sunday.

Montreat Worship & Music

June 21-27, 2020

Registration is 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.



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



All are welcome at PYC!



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



All 6th-12th Graders are encouraged to attend PYC on Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:30 p.m. This group shares a meal together (bring \$5), enjoys fun and games, and spends some time each week in conversation about topics that help us along our faith journey. For more information about youth group or Christian education and formation for 6th-12th graders, contact Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, at kim@upcch.org.

February Calendar

February 2: Youth Choir Showcase Weekend – No PYC

February 9: Youth Group: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Middle School: Dinner on Franklin, bring money!. High School: Youth Sunday Planning. Enter in the Youth Center and pick-up in the UPC parking lot. Deadline for ASP balance (\$285) and forms. *Deadline for Montreat Youth Conference Balance (\$205)*

February 16: Youth Group: 6:00-7:30 p.m., “Faith and Sexuality” – separate middle and high school groups. Enter in the Youth Center; pick-up in the UPC parking lot; bring \$5 for dinner!

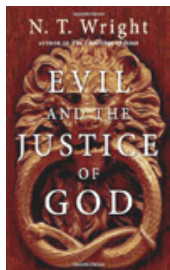
February 23: Small Groups – Check your email for small group meeting time and location.

Wednesday, February 26: Ash Wednesday Service at UPC at 7:30 p.m.

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 3: Through February 23



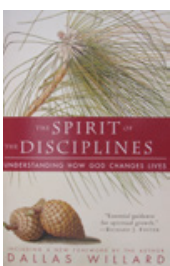
Bible Study: *Evil and the Justice of God*: Join the conversation about this book by N.T. Wright, one of the world's leading Biblical scholars. Discussions will wrestle with such questions as: Can we possibly envision a world in which we are delivered from evil? How might we work toward such a future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

These are the powerful and pressing themes that N. T. Wright addresses in this book. 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 the short stories in this book. Luminous fiction on themes of faith and meaning from favorite writers. As we did in the fall, we're reading one story per week. You may purchase a copy of the book for \$5 (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, the discussions are based on the book *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. Come and share your stories and insights, and enjoy the fellowship. Facilitators: John and Trina Rogers; Juli Kim and Reid Chisholm. 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.

Sneak Peek for March

UPC's Mental Health Task Force will host a six-part series on "The Effects of Gun Violence" from March 1-April 5, 2020. Each session will take place from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Vance Barron Hall. Topics for each week include:

- March 1:** Overview - featuring Jeffrey Swanson, Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University, whose work focuses on the epidemiology of violence and serious mental illness.
- March 8:** The community response - featuring a panel of speakers on law enforcement, medical, and grassroots efforts to respond to gun violence.
- March 15:** The impact on schools - featuring a panel of speakers sharing perspectives on school shootings from students, families, and administrators.
- March 22:** The public policy response - featuring an update on potential legislative responses to gun violence.
- March 29:** The Christian Response - featuring UPC Pastors Meg Peery McLaughlin and Jarrett McLaughlin.
- April 5:** Our Response - discussion and commitments for our personal and communal responses to this issue.

Faith Connections on Mental Illness Conference: March 13

"And so the voices on the margins get heard and the circle of compassion widens. Souls feeling their worth, refusing to forget that we belong to each other," says Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, Los Angeles, CA, in his book *Tattoos on the Heart*. Fr. Boyle and two homeboys will be sharing how they engage in healing conflicts and instilling hope of a fulfilling life at the *Faith Connections on Mental Illness Hope & Healing Conference 2020: Faithfully Practicing Community Inclusion* on Friday, March 13 at the McKimmon Conference Center in Raleigh, NC. Speakers from the Durham Nativity School, Rebound, Recovery Communities of NC, and Reintegration Support Network will present how engagement and support creates a healthier community. For registration and more information, visit faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org/annual-conference.html.

“Living Into Our Earth Care Pledge”

Continuing Sundays through February 23

Vance Barron Hall, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

As part of UPC's certification as an “Earth Care Congregation” in 2019, our session affirmed PC(USA)'s Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into our ministry, mission, and operations. Among other things, we pledged that:



“In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted.”

“Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people.... We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.”

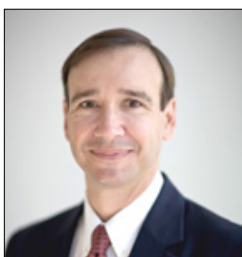
“Living into our Earth Care Pledge” explores how we as individuals and a congregation can live into our pledge.



Sunday, February 2: *PC(USA)'s Endorsement of Carbon Pricing; Bill Bray, PC(USA) Elder and Citizens' Climate Lobby Member:* Bill Bray is a Presbyterian elder who, after 33 years with Exxon, led the successful recent effort to have the PC(USA) General Assembly endorse “Carbon Fee and Dividend,” a climate policy solution PC(USA) described as “a just and effective way to avert the worst of climate chaos, rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and transition to a clean energy future.” Bill founded and leads the Presbyterian Action Team of Citizens' Climate Lobby, a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organization that advocates for bipartisan climate change solutions in the U.S. Congress, including the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763). See energyinnovationact.org and votervoicenet.org/PCUSA/home.



Sunday, February 9: *Standing Up for Land and Water Conservation; Jay Leutze, author of Stand Up That Mountain:* Raised in Chapel Hill and trained as an attorney, Jay Leutze is a leading voice for state and federal conservation funding for investment in public lands. His book *Stand Up that Mountain* is the compelling, true story of a North Carolina outdoorsman who teams up with his Appalachian neighbors to save a treasured landscape from being destroyed. It won multiple awards, including The Reed Environmental Writing Award from the Southern Environmental Law Center, and was named the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Nonfiction Book of the Year. Jay is a trustee for the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and a national spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition. See appalachiantrail.org/myatstory/standing-tall and lwcfcoalition.com.



Sunday, February 16: *North Carolina Climate Stories; John Wilson:* Documentary filmmaker John Wilson will screen and discuss selected short videos from his current project, the North Carolina Climate Stories series, produced in association with the UNC Institute for the Environment. John has written, directed and produced multiple documentaries for NC Public Television, including the Emmy Award-winning *Dr. Frank: The Life and Times of Frank Porter Graham* and Emmy-nominated *Senator No: Jesse Helms*. He is vice-chairman of the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund board of trustees, appointed by Governor Roy Cooper, and previously served on the boards of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, NC Botanical Garden Foundation, and Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, as well as the President's Council of the Southern Environmental Law Center. See climatestoriesnc.org/documentaries.



Sunday, February 23: *PC(USA) Climate Care Challenge; The UPC Earth Care Team:* As people of faith, we believe that God created this world, called it good, and told humans to care for it. We are blessed to have this sacred task. We have the knowledge, skills, and resources to reduce our energy consumption and switch to alternative energy sources that are less harmful to the environment. Prompt action and leadership can keep global climate change from causing its worst impacts. PC(USA)'s Climate Care Challenge is a two-part commitment that first asks participants to make a personal step to help decrease the impacts of climate change and then asks for an outward step that engages the participant's community. See pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge.

For more information about UPC's Earth Care program, please visit upcch.org/earthcare.

Vacation Bible School 2020



Mark your calendar and plan to join us for Vacation Bible School 2020! This year, VBS will be held June 29 - July 2 from 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. each day and is held at New Hope Camp and Conference Center. Cost is \$55 per child. There are full and partial scholarships available. Registration opens February 16, 2020.

The theme will be Great Big Beautiful World. Come spend time with your friends in a traditional outdoor camp setting as together we discover more about God's love for all of creation and are challenged to care for God's world in tangible ways.

This year, you will once again be able to register your child and provide payment online. Look for the link to the online registration page this month in the bulletin announcements and *Weekly E-News*. To sign up for *E-News*, click the *Weekly E-News* icon from the bottom of the UPC Website (www.upcch.org). If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy Myer at nancy@upcch.org.

UPC PYPs 2019-2020

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.

Kirk Club for 4th and 5th Graders

Kirk Club continues this month. All 4th and 5th graders are welcome to attend **on the 1st and 3rd 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, 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 January meeting:

The session welcomed the Elder class of 2022 and reviewed their committee assignments: Mellicent Blythe, Adult Education; Katherine Bouldin and Ken Krzyzewski, Administration; Jeff Howard, Property; Alison Kavanaugh, Local Outreach; Vicki Lotz, UPPS; Laura Piver, Membership and Memorial Garden; Virginia Pridgen, Stewardship; Lee White, Personnel.

The session received detailed and thoughtful reports from both the Stewardship and Administration Committees regarding funding outlooks for UPC in 2020. Based on the pledges received during the stewardship campaign, and a budget presentation from the Administration Committee, the session was able to approve the 2020 budget, which will be brought to the congregation for approval at its January 26 meeting following the 11:00 a.m. service.

The session closed its meeting with prayer and song in celebration of the life of currently serving elder Don Hunter, Elder Class of 2020.

Presbyterian Women Diaper Drive

Thank you to each and every one who contributed to the diaper drive to support the Refugee Support Center (RSC) in Carrboro! We collected over 4,800 diapers and \$500! The final breakdown included:

Size 1: 231 (120 requested)	Size 4: 300 (240 requested)
Size 2: 143 (120 requested)	Size 5: 1,078 (540 requested)
Size 3: 1,101 (300 requested)	Size 6: 2,030 (1,680 requested)

Swim diapers, overnight diapers, and diapers for newborns were also donated. Many thanks for your abundant generosity! The families served by RSC in our community will be grateful.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry PCM in Montreat!



Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM) offers programming for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students and welcomes new participants at any time. The programming is supported by the outreach of University Presbyterian Church. For more information visit the website at www.uncpcm.com or contact John Rogers at jrogers@upcch.org.

Save the Date

PATH OF PEACE 2020 Congregational Retreat

**September 11-13, 2020
Montreat, NC**

Registration opens on Leap Day!

**Learn more and register:
upcch.org/retreat**

Don't miss out on the fun, fellowship, and faith formation for all ages!



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: February 2020

Help the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee seeks your input for nominations of church members to serve in the office of Elder and Deacon for the Class of 2023. You can find information on each office, what is required of each individual, and what is needed collectively in the class, both online and in the Narthex.

Nominations will be accepted by the committee through Sunday, February 9. You can nominate a church member by filling out the form in the Narthex or filling out the form online at www.upcch.org/nominating. Contact Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, at kim@upcch.org with any questions.

Second Sunday Lunch

All are invited to join the gathering on Sunday, February 9, in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 am service. The Outreach Committee will 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!