



The Chimes- **November 2020**



**MESSAGE
FROM
PASTOR
MEG**



**MEET OUR
NEW MEMBERS**



**New Member
Spotlight**



MEMBER STORIES:

CAROLYN KARPINOS



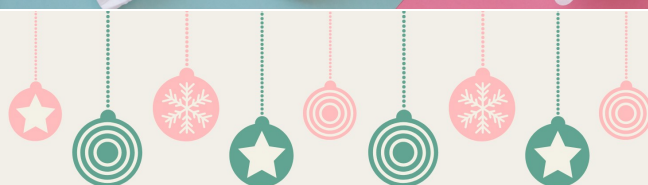


The background of the top section is a collage of white disposable diapers scattered on a light blue and pink background. A semi-transparent white box is centered over the collage.

Diaper Drive

benefitting the
**Refugee Support Center
(RSC)**

Sponsored by the UPC
Presbyterian Women



ADVENT CRAFT FESTIVAL AND ADVENT WREATHS TO GO





Message from Meg



<https://sway.office.com/VvxmFCoTS3hd1waF#content=GXodt13HkoivKe>

Meet Our New Members





*1 - John and Myra McVicker:
Neighborhood 1*



*2 - Naomi Sherry (Matt):
Neighborhood 2*



*3 - Melzer "Pat" Morgan Jr (Molly):
Neighborhood 10*



*4 - Neilson and Mary Brown:
Neighborhood 11*



6 - Laney Owings: Neighborhood 13



*5 - John and Whitney Martin (Hogan
& Jones): Neighborhood 11*



*7 - Anna-Jamieson Beck:
Neighborhood 14*



8 - Brian Sugg: Neighborhood 14

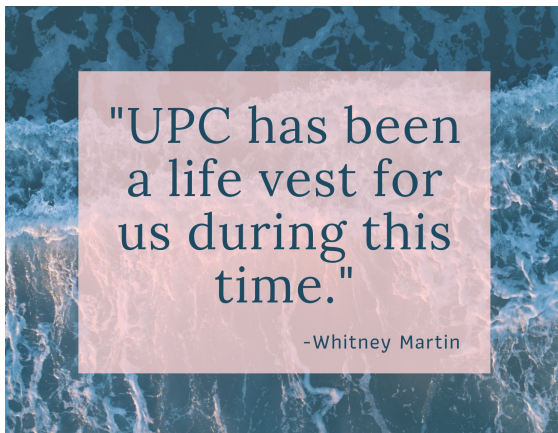


10 - Pam Ryan: Neighborhood 23



9 - Jane Calloway: Neighborhood 20

New Member Interview: Whitney Martin



Interview with new member, *Whitney Martin*, and UPC Communication Intern, **Ginny Horne**.

Please introduce yourself and your family.

My name is Whitney and my husband is John Martin, and we have two sons, Hogan who is nine, and Jones who is six.

Where are you from?

John and I grew up in Charlotte and we actually knew Meg and her family when we lived in Charlotte. John and I both went to Chapel Hill and continued that friendship through college. And then he and I just got back to the area after living in Colorado for most of our marriage.

And how long have you lived in the area? Did you just move back this year?

No, actually, I think we're coming up on two years now.

What brought you back to Chapel Hill?

To be closer to family, at the core. And our friends, but also opportunities to have jobs in this area.

Why did you decide to join UPC, and during a pandemic no less?

Truly, it's because of the pandemic. We were really looking for the right community for us, the right church. We knew several members at UPC, like Hadley and Drew Kifner, we went to college with both of them and became close friends. And, you know, it's just the right mix of people. Of course, Meg and Jarrett coming back to lead the church was exciting for us, too.

And as we became more involved in the church, the pandemic happened and our involvement actually increased. So we were participating, you know, watching Sunday worship, our kids were sending videos to participate in Sunday worship, we joined a small group. It really has been, I think, a life vest, during this time. The church has provided us with some grounding, belonging, and a better opportunity to study scripture. And that relationship with Jesus and God has just really been profound right now. Having a community come around that has just affirmed it all for us during this time has been great.

What are you looking forward to most about your membership with UPC?

I think the opportunity to learn from others to inspire our faith more and also be generous with our time, talent, and financial support.

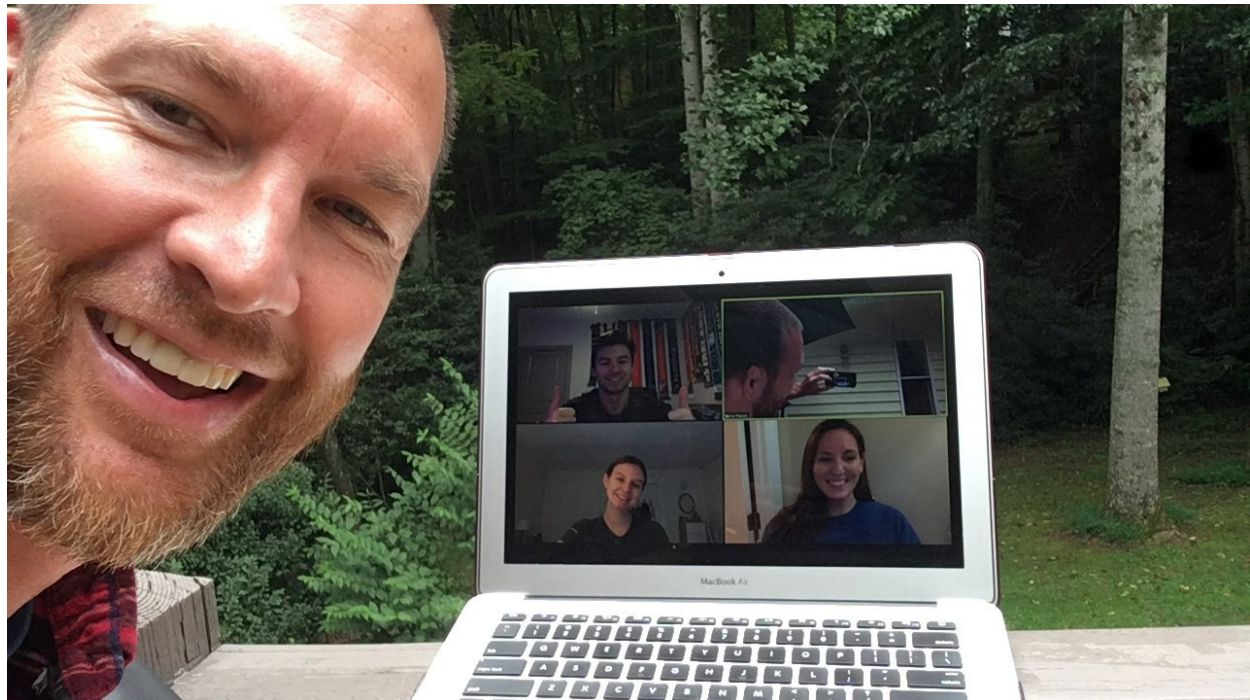
Do you have anything else you'd like to share with the UPC Community?

I think one thing stands out.

We were able to participate in one second Sunday lunch right before the pandemic. And we have never felt so welcome. That was an incredible experience for me and my husband and our children. Having the opportunity to sit down at a table with, you know, a variety of individuals, a variety of generations, and share a meal was really meaningful. And all the intention behind that, you know, the tablecloth, the delicious food, and just the fellowship that we experienced in that hour was truly special and unique. I think after that experience, we knew that this is a special place and we really started to think about joining.

I think UPC offers that and I guess I would just like to echo back to the church community that they are doing it well because it's brought us into the fold. I'd like to congratulate them and thank them for offering that to our family. Nancy Myer as well has been a huge piece to that. Her leadership and her kind and gentle navigation through it all has just been really helpful.

PCM Thank You Message



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Membership Spotlight: Carolyn Karpinos

Interview with member, Carolyn Karpinos, and UPC Communication Intern, Ginny Horne.

Please introduce yourself to those who might not know you.

My name is Carolyn Arnold Karpinos, and I've been a member at University Presbyterian Church since 2009 - eleven years now. I'm a member of small group number 12.

What made you interested in the small group program at UPC?

Jarrett's call to ask if I would be interested in helping Brian Curran, our leader, was no real surprise. I knew that during this pandemic Jarrett, Meg, Kim, Nancy, Joey, Kathleen, and Berry would be thinking of new and creative ways for UPC to gather. I think the overwhelming response that our congregation has given to this idea is just a real indication of how much we need each other right now - and how much we need to see each other's faces, be it on Zoom or in-person small group gatherings.

What has been your favorite part about the small group program?

Just getting to know people better. I certainly had met everyone in our group and, in fact, had served on several committees and even traveled to Haiti with some of our small group members. In the intimacy of the group, even on the internet, we have shared stories and thoughts and ideas - about the Biblical lexicon and also personal - that I would never have heard as I quickly greeted these friends on a Sunday morning at UPC with a smile and a "Hey - how are you this morning?"

What are you looking forward to most with your small group?

I hope and anticipate that these friendships will stretch long into the time after this pandemic is a memory.

What advice do you have for anyone participating in the small group program to help them get the most out of the experience?

Listen and talk and listen.

Any final thoughts you'd like to share about the program?

I'd like to share ten things I've learned from my UPC small group in just six weeks.

- 1. These pandemic days are hard and long much of the time, but companionship and care just once a week - even on Zoom - can help put the time in perspective and make the days a whole lot easier.*
- 2. Grief is a highly individual process but is more easily borne when we have others to share the burden, the story, and the journey with us, and it is more easily tolerated when we truly recognize the extraordinary power of love.*
- 3. Everyone in this world has an interesting story and some of those interesting backstories run way deeper than you might ever imagine.*
- 4. Yard work is often therapeutic and a meditation and joy for very special people.*
- 5. Many of us pray when we are outside - playing golf, taking daily walks with the dog, hammering boards, hiking beside an unimaginably beautiful lake, sharing football games with old and dear friends, singing with others and singing alone, walking with a friend who is walking beside you and yet remaining six feet away.*
- 6. Home is wherever our hearts gather.*

7. *Continuing to help our adult children, our former students, and our friends is both an obligation and a tremendous gift in this life.*
8. *On the whole, many of us are exceedingly blessed during these days.*
9. *Trust is not a given in this very polarized and divided world, but trusting in the God of all creation makes it possible to completely trust a group of people coming together in His name.*
10. *Taking risks can happen in a thousand different ways, not just at the end of a bungee cord.*



Our Church Family



We grieve with:

Nancy Myer, upon the death of her father Norm. Jim Herndon, upon the death of his father, Emmett.

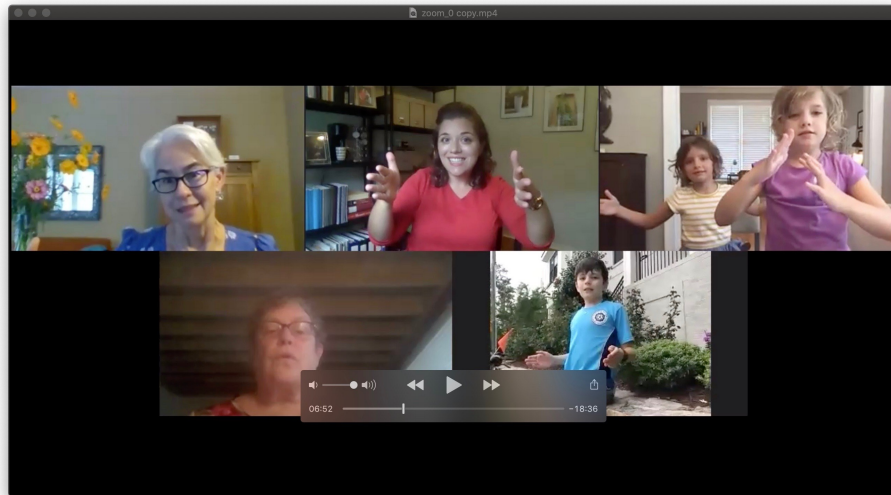
We pray with:

Joe Kirstein, as he undergoes a second cataract surgery. Bill Koehline, who is under hospice care. Mildred Little, who is under hospice care. Janet Smith's mother, Margaret Lackey, who is recovering from COVID-19.

We celebrate with:

Catherine McKenas, who is moving back to Chapel Hill with a new position at Duke. Alan and Patty Baum Haydon, who are expecting their first child. Please welcome baby Tucker Emery Dodds to the UPC family. Tucker, born October 5th, 2020, is the son of Jessie Van Der Puy Dodds and husband Will Dodds, grandson of long time members, Mark and Nan Van Der Puy.

Children's Music



"It was fun to see the energy and joy the children brought to the music party. They are so enthusiastic about sharing their love of music. I especially loved learning about their favorite musical instruments!"

~Robin Thomas, Chancel Choir

*We are grateful for new opportunities to make music together, whether it's through a mask in the parking lot, or a Zoom connection. **All children pre-K through grade 5 are welcome to join us for next month's Children's Music Party - Wednesday, November 11th at 4pm on Zoom.***

PYC Pumpkins





Our youth gathered for socially distanced pumpkin carving on Oct 25th. It's our first PYC in-person event of October, having been rained out earlier this month. How exciting it was to be together again in person! The group would have been happy doing about anything together, but there's something particularly sweet this year about carving a pumpkin. These teens have learned too early in life that so much of our world is out of their control. Just when they are supposed to gain a little control, a little ownership over their own lives, the pandemic has them reigned in, tightly bound to their parents' rules with the power of the government and science backing them up. Autonomy is hard to come by for teens these days and being crushed under so many rules beyond their control just doesn't work with their adolescent developmental stage.

But, in carving a pumpkin, they had total control! Smiley ones, scary ones, funny ones- there were no rules about the pumpkin's style, no limit to their creativity. They could give their all in the details or stick with triangle eyes and call it finished. While the rules of mask-wearing and distancing still loomed over their lives, our youth were able to claim a little moment of autonomy for themselves, all while in the shadow of a church that reminds them that they are loved for their individuality and yet, still made one in Christ.

Youth will meet in the parking lot again on Sunday, November 8th and 22nd at 4 p.m. as well as for a morning hike on November 1st and a family service project on Nov 21st. See the full schedule at www.upcch.org/pyc

Stephen Ministry



How will you be spending your “COVID Thanksgiving” this year? Will it be safe to join your family and friends for the holiday? Will we gather around a traditional meal of turkey, dressing, and all the fixins? We usually know these answers by now. But this year is so different. This may be your first year to celebrate Thanksgiving as a married couple or with your first child or grandchild. Or it may be a difficult season as you experience your first Thanksgiving without a special loved one. However you spend this Thanksgiving, it’s a gift to share it with someone else - someone you know, someone you love, someone who loves you. This year may be very different.

Thanksgiving is about spending time at a table. As Children of God, we should see each table as God’s Table. At God’s Table, we find acceptance and grace. At God’s Table, we create friendships and family wherein we share our joys and our sorrows. At God’s Table, we reach out to those around us in order to give support and get support. I hope you know there is always a place for all of us at God’s Table.

This Thanksgiving with so many uncertainties, ask yourself, “Where would I be and Who would I be today without the relationships I have around this table?” Then, give thanks to God who has given you these relationships that have created, shaped, and sustained your life. Know that our Stephen Ministers will join you at the table if you are struggling during these challenging times of “unknowns” or unhappy “knowns.”

As one at the table, I give thanks for [UPC’s Stephen Ministers](#) and for our UPC Family. Call Meg if you would like a Stephen Minister to share your concerns or your experiences during this emotion-filled season with so many uncertainties.

Diaper Collection for the Refugee Support Center



Again, this year, the Presbyterian Women (PW) are sponsoring a diaper drive to benefit the Refugee Support Center (RSC). More than 6,000 diapers have been donated to the Center from UPC. You and your family may have brought diapers to the church in support of this ministry during the Advent season in the last two years.

Because we are not meeting in person at the church, our diaper drive will look a lot different this year but we still need your support, more than ever.

Please consider supporting the diaper drive for the RSC by sending your check made out to UPC, with "RSC Diaper Drive" in the memo line, to the church. (Mail to UPC, PO Box 509, Chapel Hill, NC 27514) In January, we will purchase and deliver diapers to the RSC using your monetary donations.

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support. If you have questions, contact Vicki Lotz, vjlotz@live.unc.edu.

Advent Craft Festival and Advent Wreaths To Go



On Sunday, November 22, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., come to UPC to pick up five Advent crafts to go for kids (and even an adult option this year!). We will also be packing up Advent wreath materials (one wreath per family), and you can opt to choose your own greenery that afternoon or have us pack a bag for you. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Alternative Gift Market

Our sensitivity to the feelings of isolation around us has led many of us to increase our efforts to reassure others that they are in our thoughts and prayers. With phone calls, a “thinking of you” note, and, soon, a Christmas greeting we can remind others that we care. The Global Outreach Committee would like to suggest that a charitable donation in someone’s honor is an additional powerful way to show love and respect.

This year including a donation insert from the Alternative Gift Market in your messages is really easy and very convenient. You can begin ordering from AGM right **now** on our online site. Go to [our website](#) and read about the programs dear to the hearts of UPC members.

This opportunity to order will be available to you from now until December 15. If you have questions of any sort about the market please join us for a zoom meeting at 11:30 on Sunday, November 22. You will find a link to the meeting on the UPC website.

Brighten the day of friends, family, clients, and colleagues when you give a gift to the world in their honor.

Portia Christensen for the Global Outreach Committee



In Our Midst: The Spirit Among Us



"During these crazy times, I've resolved to answer honestly when someone asks me how I'm doing. It feels like too much effort to try to convince myself and another person that everything is okay when it's not. Last week, a peer asked me how I was and I answered honestly. I feel overwhelmed, I feel lost, I feel tired, and I'm struggling to remain positive. We were in a group setting and she said she'd follow up with me via email. The next day, I got an email inviting me to a socially-distant dinner on her back porch. We're not close, so I was a bit apprehensive, but I decided to take a chance and go. It was such a wonderful evening. We connected about life, work, and faith. We were both surprised to realize we had so much in common. Over the course of the dinner, we both shed tears in awe of how the Spirit had brought us together. I felt God at that table and I'm so glad He reached out through my new friend to check on me and remind me of His presence." -UPC Community Member

We want to hear from you! How have you felt God's presence recently? Where have you seen the Spirit in your life? No story is too short or too long. Submit your story [here](#) to share your experience with the larger UPC community as we reflect on the Spirit's presence In Our Midst.

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 Intern, Ginny Horne, at communications@upcch.org or through the google forms linked below. The content deadline for the bulletin announcements is each Wednesday at 2 p.m., and the deadline for The Chimes is always the 15th of the previous month at noon.

The content deadline for the December edition of The Chimes is Sunday, November 15, at noon.

Click [here](#) to submit content for the December Chimes.

Click [here](#) to submit content for the weekly announcements.
