

AUGUST 2021
EDITION



The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



SECOND SUNDAY SNACKS

A COVID-friendly twist on
our potluck tradition | p. 3

PCM RESIDENT PROGRAM

Meet our first campus
ministry resident | p. 4

SMALL GROUPS RETURNING

Sign ups are now open for
fall groups! | p. 6

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Find us online!

-  upcch.org (now new and improved!)
-  facebook.com/upcch
-  [@upc_chapelhill](https://instagram.com/upc_chapelhill)
-  vimeo.com/upcch

Our Staff

- Meg Peery McLaughlin**, Co-Pastor
- Jarrett McLaughlin**, Co-Pastor
- Kim McNeill**, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries
- Nancy Myer**, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries
- Joey Fala**, Director of Music Ministry
- Kathleen Jasinkas**, Director of Youth and Children's Choirs
- Berry French**, Temporary Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry
- Hadley Kifner**, Temporary Parish Associate
- Erin Collier**, Director of Communications and Development
- Ellen Parker**, Director, UPPS
- Jeanette Schmidt**, Office Manager
- Melani Willhite**, Financial Assistant
- Dennis Dallke**, Property Manager
- Rob Kurtz**, Sexton

Our Regathering Timeline



"Come, Let's Be Foolish"



Jarrett McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

"Dad, can you do Legos with me?" My daughter's voice called out to me with these words when I first settled down to write my article for the Chimes. Keep in mind that, when I was a child, "Doing Legos" involved a random assortment of colorful bricks that you could build into an even bigger brick before tossing it back in the box and breaking it apart – fifteen minutes tops. Now "Doing Legos" involves complex designs executed with the help of encyclopedic manuals walking you through all 526 painstaking steps to create – in this instance – a model of the "baby Yoda" character from the Mandalorian. (This was a gift from one of our neighbors and it is the gift that keeps on giving).

There was a voice inside me that initially said "Come on! I was just about to be productive!" This time, however, I stuffed that voice down, took a seat at the dining room table and began constructing the hem of Grogu's robe. Through the eyes of productivity, it was a complete waste of time. Through the eyes of love, it was without a doubt the best thing I could do with that half hour (even if I was about to break the whole thing apart after flubbing Step 87 for the fourth time).

By the time you read this article we will have already had our first in-person worship service. The question that's been tugging at the corners of my mind – and that of most any other pastor or church leader coming out of COVID – is this: "Will people come back?"

Sixteen months is a long time to get out of the habit. That time you once spent coming to worship on Sunday morning may have turned in to a long walk with your dog, an unbroken hour of chores or errands to set you up for the week, or perhaps a date with your favorite newspaper and a sesame seed bagel with cream cheese. I'm a minister, and even I've scarcely been to a live worship service apart from Christmas and Easter. All to say, Sunday morning was replaced with other activities that were some mixture of useful and enjoyable.

Worship is, by design, the opposite of useful. Author Marva Dawn calls worship a "royal waste of time." The word royal reminds us that the object of our worship is God, not us. It's not uncommon to hear somebody say, "I just didn't get much out of worship today." Dawn would say sentences like these betray an inversion of what worship is meant to be and a more appropriate question to ask ourselves is, "what did I offer to God in worship today?" Worship is a waste of time because it has no earthly utility whatsoever. In the eyes of the world it is absolutely counter-productive. In the eyes of God it is an act of pure devotion; the foolish expenditure of time we reserve for the ones we love most. Worship is about as useful - and as joy-filled - as doing Legos.

I will be bold enough to ask you – in your own time – to begin that hard work of coming back; of getting back into the habit of worshipping in person. I can think of numerous reasons you may not yet feel comfortable coming back yet, and for that reason we invested in live-streaming technology to enable the worship of God's people, but I would encourage you to not let "doing something more useful" be one of those reasons keeping you from joining us on Sunday mornings.

There's a line in the film *The Cider House Rules* that I will often quote to Meg. It's a throw-away line from Michael Kaine's Dr. Larch as he dances with one of the nurses at the orphanage where he serves as chief Physician, the Victrola spinning a 78 in the background. Four simple words that sound so excellent in his British accent: "Come, let's be foolish."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett", written in a cursive style.

Concerns & Celebrations

We grieve with: *Sandy Alexander*, upon the death of his mother; *the family of Don Boulton*; *Jean Carpenter*, upon the death of Henry Carpenter (Service Aug. 14 at 1pm); *Pat Goluiewski*, upon the death of her brother-in-law; *Sid Hunter*, upon the death of his mother; *Giny Wood*, upon the death of Bill Wood (Service Aug. 3 at 2 pm);

We pray for: *Chuck Adams*, recovering from surgery; *Janet Anderson*, preparing to move (local); *Genevieve Embree*, recovering after surgery; *Mary Lynne Hutchins*, recovering from surgery; *Judie Waters*, awaiting surgery

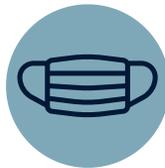
We celebrate with: *Sid and Kelly Hunter*, upon the birth of their twin grandsons

Phase 2 of Regathering: People in the Pews

On August 1, we entered Phase 2 of our regathering timeline. In-person worship will take place each Sunday at 10 am, with a livestream option (with online bulletin) on upcch.org/live.

The TIP team put together a video to help us all know what to expect when we attend worship in person; visit upcch.org/together to watch the video.

While on the UPC campus, we invite you to...



MASK UP

Why? Because we care for our unvaccinated neighbors and children.

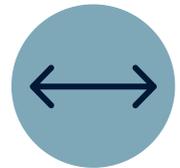
Forgot yours? We have extra!



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

We'll be singing. If you'd rather not, the balcony is reserved for you.

The nursery is open, and **children with their whispers and wiggles are most welcome in worship.**



DETERMINE YOUR DISTANCE

The **front left section** is marked with prescribed distancing, if that is your preference.

Otherwise, please sit where you feel most comfortable, and **enter/exit at your own pace.**

Second Sunday Snacks to Begin in September

A congregational potluck of snacks and appetizers will be held one Sunday a month in September, October and November, weather dependent. It will typically fall on the 2nd Sunday of the month, taking the place of our traditional 2nd Sunday lunch. (Because of our congregational retreat at New Hope Camp on September 12, the 2nd Sunday Snacks will be one week later on September 19.) The dates for this fall are:

- Sept. 19
- Oct. 10
- Nov. 14

The church will provide a staple snack and beverages. Church members are asked to bring snacks or appetizers that can be eaten without a fork — enough to serve 10-12 people -- and dropped off in the UPC kitchen prior to 11:00 worship. New members, students, and visitors are invited to attend without contribution. The snacks are served on the front lawn immediately following the 11:00 a.m worship service.

Join us!



Kim Rubish to serve as first PCM Resident

For all of 2021, Berry and the PCM Board have been hard at work creating a **Pastoral Resident for Campus Ministry program**. As one of the flagship programs in the denomination, PCM will now become a training ground for future campus ministers. Similar to the medical residency model, PCM will hire and train a recent seminary graduate for two years in a structured learning and working environment, under the supervision of the Campus Minister.



In June, the PCM Board approved an annual budget that includes half of the expense for a full-time Pastoral Resident Position with PC(USA) benefits. The PCM Board also committed to raising the money to pay for this position. There is no additional cost to UPC. Cary Presbyterian Church is partnering with PCM to split the cost and receive half the hours of this pastoral resident.

We are very excited to announce this Pilot Pastoral Resident Program and also announce that a joint committee of the PCM Board and Cary Presbyterian Church Session has hired **Kim Rubish to serve as our Pilot Pastoral Resident**. This means Kim will be working with increased responsibilities at PCM from mid-August until summer 2023.

If the pilot program goes well, PCM will hire a pastoral resident every other year to amplify our ministry with college students while also gaining experience and cultivating the gifts necessary for healthy campus ministry.

The new Pastoral Resident position is in addition to PCM's seminary intern (at 15 hours a week). Second year Duke Divinity student Alli Buikma will be our seminary intern starting mid-August. PCM students and the PCM Board remain deeply grateful for UPC's generous and steadfast support of Campus Ministry, and we are excited to share this news with you! Thanks be to God!

Staff Updates

Rob Kurtz Retiring After 20 Years

Since 2000, Rob Kurtz has served as the UPC Sexton in the ministry of details and logistics, faithfully making sure our building (and during the past year, our parking lot) is clean and ready for whatever the church and preschool need! After over 20 years at UPC, Rob has announced his plan to retire on August 10 to start a new adventure in Florida. We will miss his kind and helpful spirit, and we want to celebrate his ministry here and bless him as he enters this new chapter.



We will be collecting love gifts for Rob - to give, please write "Kurtz Love Gifts" in the memo of your check, or choose "Kurtz Love Gifts" in the fund option online.



Thank you, Katharine Yager!

After 7 years as the Financial Controller at UPC, Katharine Yager has moved on to a new opportunity. We are grateful for the excellence and integrity she brought to her work with University Presbyterian Church, the preschool, the endowment, and PCM, and wish her well in her new endeavors.

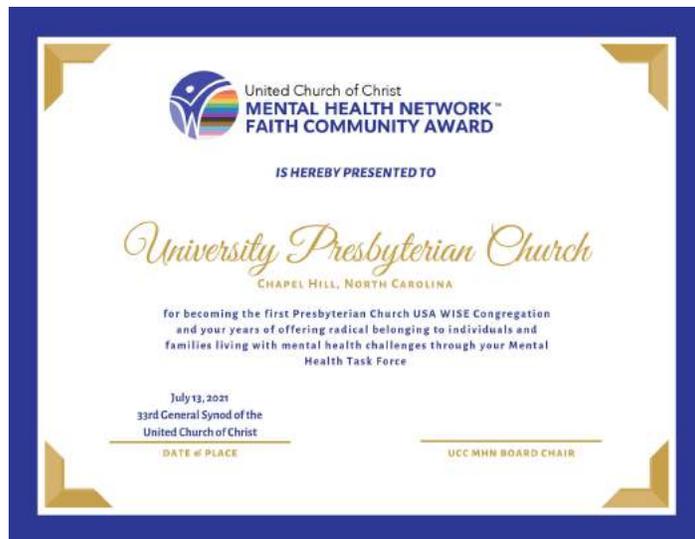
While we work to find a new Controller, Katharine will continue to assist in a limited capacity. Melani Willhite has also graciously agreed to take on some extra hours to help us through this interim period. You can continue to reach the finance office at finance@upcch.org.

UPC Receives Mental Health Network Award

Our church's Mental Health Task Force was started approximately 15 years ago by Dot Cansler. Since then, it has continued the work of raising awareness of mental health issues and reducing stigma. In 2020, we officially became certified as a WISE (welcoming, inclusive, supportive and engaged) Congregation by the Board of the UCC Mental Health Network - the first PC(USA) congregation to do so.

Every two years, the Mental Health Network celebrates individuals, organizations, and faith communities offering innovative ministry and advocacy with families of all abilities, and in 2021, the MHN Board unanimously selected University Presbyterian Church as one of its 2021 Mental Health Network Faith Community Award Winners, honoring the years our Mental Health Task force has shared Christ's love through the ministry of support, radical belonging, and advocacy with individuals and families living with mental health challenges and substance use disorders.

Thank you to our Mental Health Task Force for the important work they have done and continue to do! If you would like to learn more about this Task Force or join in their work, please contact co-chairs Jay and Elinor Williams.



Local Outreach Opportunities

The Compass Center for Women & Families

The Compass Center is a local organization that aims to support our community members facing difficult situations, guiding individuals and their families toward safety, self-sufficiency and empowerment. The important work of this organization can't happen without the work of many, many volunteers. The Compass Center is currently seeking volunteers in preparation for their Fall 2021 training. Volunteer needs include:

- Domestic Violence Hotline Advocates
- Community Educators (CEs)
- Spanish Interpreter/Translators
- Information & Referral Volunteers
- Support Group Facilitators
- Career Counseling
- Financial Counseling
- and many more!

To learn more and to apply to be a volunteer, visit compassctr.org/volunteer.

Join the Local Outreach Email List!

Do you ever find out about a volunteer opportunity and think, "I wish I had known about that sooner!" So do we! We partner with several local organizations that regularly put out requests for volunteers, and to help, we've put together an email list where we can quickly pass on those requests to those willing and able to serve. These opportunities might include serving food, delivering a meal to a homebound individual, building a house, mentoring a child, and more. If you would be interested in receiving periodic requests for volunteers in your inbox, visit upcch.org/local-outreach and sign up for the email list.



Congregational Retreat: Sept. 12, 2021

Guided by the Spirit



After a brief hiatus, the Congregational Retreat is back (in a slightly modified format)! Join us for a FREE day retreat on September 12 at New Hope Camp & Conference Center in Chapel Hill. This year's theme is "Guided by the Spirit."

Still on the fence about signing up? Here are the top 5 reasons to attend the 2021 Retreat:

#5 - You don't have to travel far this year.

#4 - Everyone's favorite part - chatter groups! (Small conversational groups that build connections throughout the retreat)

#3 - This year's one-day (and FREE) format is a great opportunity to "try out" the retreat if you've never attended before.

#2 - It's a way to spend precious time TOGETHER - which we missed so much last year!

#1 - It just won't be the same without YOU there!

For details and to register, visit upcch.org/retreat.

Fall 2021 Small Groups (Sign Up Today!)

In discussions with members of our congregation about what was meaningful during the past year, one answer has consistently risen to the top: small groups. We started this ministry in the fall of 2020 as a way to stay connected during a time when we were physically separate, and over 400 joined a small group for conversations, fellowship, and learning together. While in-person activities will be resuming this fall, we're thrilled to share that our small group ministry will continue as well! Sign-ups will be open Aug. 1-Sept. 12, and the new year will begin on Oct. 3.

Small Groups FAQ:

What are small groups? Groups of approximately 12-15 people who gather on a weekly or bi-weekly basis for conversation and fellowship. Conversations are structured around that week's sermon (or, new this fall, a book).

When do they meet? Different groups meet at different times - Sunday afternoons, Sunday evenings, or weeknights.

Who needs to sign up? Anyone who is new to small groups at UPC, or would like to join a new group, or needs a new group time/mode of meeting.

What if I want to continue with my current group? You don't need to sign up - just let your group leader know you'll be returning.



Small Group 19 reunited at the Pentecost Picnic

Visit upcch.org/smallgroups for more information and to sign up today!

Realm Database Switch: An Update



UPC has made the switch to Realm and the staff is working hard to get it ready for our members. This database change primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in UPC and allow for greater connections and communication among church members.

The next step? Watch your inbox this month...invitations to join Realm are coming soon! In the meantime, you may receive a few emails concerning an update in your privacy settings or being opted-in to our UPC directory. Please be assured that only your name, address, phone, and email will be visible to other UPC members and staff. You will also have the opportunity to change your privacy settings once you've created an account.

What remains the same (but with an updated look)?

- Giving, setting up recurring gifts, and making a pledge online as well as viewing your pledge, giving record, and printing your statement.
- Updating your address, email, phone number and other profile fields (i.e. allergies, etc.)
- Registering for events/trips.

What is new to UPC?

- Groups!
- Serving Opportunities. We are working on setting this up for future use.
- The Realm Connect App...this will replace the old ChurchLife app.

Even if you had an Access ACS login account before, you will still need to establish a new login in Realm - invitation links to join will be sent out later this month.

More information will be on our website at upcch.org/realm in the coming weeks.

Facing Racism

An Adult Education
Virtual Summer Series

Presented by the UPC Racial Equity Team
and the Adult Education Committee

Part 3: Where do we go from here?

August 15, 1pm

Our final class session will center around next steps. Now that we've looked at the theological, scriptural, and contextual basis for our conversations about racial equity, what do we do? Mark your calendars now; a sign-up link will be available in the weekly email.

*Session takes place via Zoom.
Registration required to receive the Zoom link.*



GIVE LIGHT

Adding solar-powered lights to UPC
in honor of John Wilson



Giving Goal: \$30,000

Visit upcch.org/give-light



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

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