



SEPT. 2021
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



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Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for the Refugee Support Center! Supplies were brought to the Table during our first worship service back in the Sanctuary on Aug. 1. Thanks to the area churches, the Center reached their goal of outfitting 300 students with supplies. To learn more about the Refugee Support center, visit refugeesupportcenter.org

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 Jasinskis, Director of Youth and Children's Choirs

Berry French, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

Hadley Kifner, Temporary Parish Associate

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Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

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Find us online!



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Cover Photo: The Kitchen Coordinators prepare a meal for the Presbyterian Campus Ministry. PCM programming resumed in August, with appropriate COVID precautions in place.

Pastor's Message



Meg Peery McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

Dear UPC Saints,

This week, in preparation for UPC's Zoom staff meeting, I looked up the daily lectionary. Often, the Psalm reading can serve as a meaningful morning prayer. (I recommend it if you've never tried such.) Well, the Psalm for this Tuesday was Psalm 15, and for whatever reason, my internet browser pulled up the NIV version, though I prefer the NRSV. Psalm 15 begins with a question: "Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?" Then the Psalmist goes on to say "the one who does what is righteous, who speaks truth from the heart, who does no wrong to a neighbor." Yes, okay, of course this is the company God wants to keep. Me, too!

But then, I got to the part where the Psalmist says the one who will never be shaken is "the one who does not change their mind." And that's when I wanted to cry.

Because Delta.

Because we do feel shaken.

Because just this week we have changed the plan (again):

- Children's Fall Sunday School was going to be inside in classes, now it's outside with stations.
- We'd hoped to go "back to two services" on 9/19, but now need to wait to see how school goes, and will shift to an 11am service on 10/3 and see if we need to add an 8:30am service or not.
- Fall Youth Trips are on hold.
- We had a whole "Comeback from COVID" sermon series planned, which now just feels foolish.

I know we are not alone. Your own businesses, organizations, schools, and families are all in the same boat as we change course to keep each other safe. Even if we're tired of it, it's part of how we live out our Christian ethic to love God and neighbor.

So, I went back to that Psalm, hopeful that all this flexibility would *somehow, someway* still have a place. Please, let this not be in vain, I prayed.

And here's the thing. If we read the NRSV of the same text, we'll find that the one who is not shaken, the one who dwells with God, is the one who stands by their oath even to their hurt." Even to their hurt. So maybe our frustrated tears are actually holy.

If I understand it, those who seek God's company are those who figure out ways to stand by their promises, their word, in all circumstances, even when those circumstances change and they have to alter their plans to make it all work.

UPC, you have said your central act as God's people is worship. So, we'll continue to do that—online and in the sanctuary at whatever time is best (though that time may change—pay attention!).

UPC, you have made baptismal promises to children. So, we'll continue to adapt to new ways of teaching them that they belong to God.

UPC, you have made it abundantly clear that your neighbors matter. So, we'll continue to meet new friends in small groups and reach out in service to this community and globe through your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

We'll be changing our minds and changing our plans and changing our patterns, *even to our hurt*, in order that we can steadfastly be who God has called us to be.

Onward, friends.

Peace, *Meg*

Fall 2021 - An Update

In response to the Delta variant and current COVID trends, we are continuing to re-evaluate and adjust our plans for the fall. We are not rewinding our timeline, but we are shifting and hitting pause on a few things. There are some details we are still figuring out as we watch the trends and discern together what is best, particularly for the most vulnerable among us. Here is what we know so far:



Worship

We will continue to worship! At this point, our plan is to continue with one service at 10 am through the end of September. We will not have communion in September (to allow us to keep our masks on during worship). We will reassess this plan after September 19.

Schedule note: on Sunday, September 12, we will be at New Hope Camp & Conference Center for the congregational retreat and will worship together there. We will prerecord a worship service and post it online that morning for those who prefer a virtual option.



Children's & Youth Ministries & Music

For now, we are planning to begin youth group and children's, junior, and youth choirs outdoors with masks on Sunday, Sept 19. We expect to begin Sunday School and Confirmation on Sunday, October 3. We are listening to input from parents and watching data on the Delta variant to determine how best to provide safe and engaging faith formation for our young people this fall. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead. Please keep an eye on emails from UPC for the most up-to-date information.



Punch on the Porch

Our time of outdoor gathering with light refreshments after worship will continue through the end of September. Second Sunday Snacks has been postponed until October 10.



Coffee Talk with the Pastors

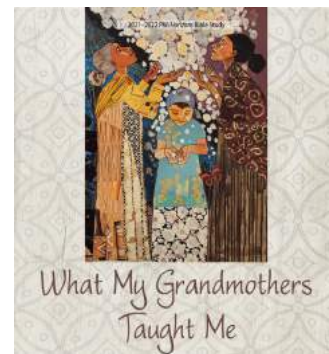
Previously advertised as Comeback Coffees, we will offer intentional time on September 19 and 26 for those who wish to catch up with one another and process what the past 18+ months has looked like for each of us. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

All plans are subject to change based upon how the pandemic trends. Please continue to watch your weekly emails for the latest changes and updates. Thank you for your grace and understanding as we navigate this ever-changing pandemic!

Opportunities to Learn & Connect this Fall

Presbyterian Women

Are you interested in getting to know other University Presbyterian women who meet for fellowship and study? We will be using the Presbyterian Women Study Guide titled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus." There are monthly morning and evening circle gatherings. For more information please contact Jean Lusted (jdlusted@gmail.com or 919-294-6317).



Men's Breakfast - Back to Zoom this Fall

As you know the Delta variant of COVID has interfered with a lot of plans over the last few months; we am afraid that now includes the plans made by our Men's Group. Based on input from a number of guys in our group, we have reluctantly decided that, in September, we will return to Zoom. We had hoped to return to the Terrace Room at the church, have breakfast, and actually get to see each other in person. We still hope to meet this way; each month we will bring this up as a topic for discussion.

The good news is that we have a full program planned for the Men's Group this year. We meet the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 am and usually end our meeting around 8:30 am. Last year about 20-25 men attended our Zoom meetings. After sharing concerns about friends, family and church members, we make announcements and then proceed to the scheduled talk by one of our group. We

welcome any man that would like to join us!! Should you be interested in joining us, please email Dan Redwine (danredwine@gmail.com) who will then add your name to our list serve so that you will get the Zoom link a few days before each meeting.

Our first meeting will be September 13 (the first Monday of September is Labor Day) and the second meeting will be September 20. On September 13, Jack Benjamin will talk about the topics we covered last year in the group, and then hear briefly from speakers who have agreed to present this upcoming year. On September 20, John Brantley will present his topic entitled: Amazing Grace. We hope that all interested men will feel free to join us.

Small Groups - Sign Up by Sept. 12

Small groups will return this fall! If you (1) are new to small groups or (2) would like to change to a new group/mode of meeting, please sign up by September 12. If you are continuing with your current group, just let your group leader know.

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



Welcome (officially), Berry French!



At a called congregational meeting on August 29, the congregation of UPC elected Rev. Berry French as Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry. Berry joined us in August 2020 in a temporary capacity, and we are excited about what is to come!

From Berry: "UPC, I am thrilled to be joining this incredibly gifted staff and healthy congregation as we seek to follow Jesus and serve God together...PCM is a vibrant ministry that God has used to deepen the faith of literally thousands of college students through the decades, and I am humbled to stand in line with the campus ministers who have led this innovative ministry."

Meet our Choral Scholars



Joey Fala
Director of Music

In August, the music ministry at UPC inaugurated a new Choral Scholars Program as we welcomed three new UNC students to our chancel choir. For those unfamiliar with the term "choral scholar," think along the lines of a college student sacred music intern who serves as a section leader in the choir. This is no new invention on our part--the concept of having choral scholars to help lead worship has its origins in the collegiate chapels of England, and the tradition has since been adopted by churches across America. While choral scholars are traditionally voice majors, they may or may not have experience singing in a church setting. In addition to contributing their vocal leadership to our choir, they also have the opportunity to explore repertoire from the sacred canon in a liturgical context while growing other aspects of their musicianship. For their commitment to the church, a modest stipend is awarded to each choral scholar for their continued musical education. My hope is that this is the start of a more robust collaborative partnership between our church and the musical talent and energy in our university community. If you would like to learn more about how you can support the choral scholar program, or be a part of the choir, I would love to talk with you! You can find me at the organ after worship, or send an email at fala@upcch.org.



Nuria Shin (soprano) is a junior double majoring in Voice Performance and Advertising/PR at UNC-Chapel Hill on scholarship. She is currently studying with Dr. Marc Callahan, Assistant Professor and Opera Director at UNC-CH. Her passion for creative storytelling has led her to combine her love of music with her interest in marketing. Before coming to UPC, Nuria was the Choral Scholar at the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church. This fall, she'll be singing the role of Ottavia in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with the UNC Opera.



Carrina Macaluso (mezzo-soprano) is a classically trained mezzo-soprano currently studying under Dr. LaToya Lain at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Carrina has been involved in community choirs, church choirs, and school choirs for the past eleven years. In addition to singing in choir, Carrina enjoys acting, and participating in musical theater and opera workshop at UNC. Carrina is thrilled to be a part of the UPC Choral Scholars program, and she is looking forward to making music in person again.



Carson Gartner (tenor) is a junior at UNC Chapel Hill studying music, linguistics, and philosophy. His focus is on classical vocal performance, and he is active in UNC opera along with an on campus a cappella group, the UNC Achordants. He is excited to work as a choral scholar this year and share lots of beautiful music with the congregation!

Thank You, UPC!



Nancy Myer
Staff Associate for Children's Ministries

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the gift of a sabbatical this summer! I am coming back to you refreshed and rejuvenated and ready for the next chapter of ministry with you. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to see many beautiful places over the course of six weeks, spending time in Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, on the beach at Emerald Isle, NC, and everywhere in between! I traveled over 6,000 miles this summer and experienced God in new ways through creation. I have always held sabbath as a priority in my life, but now I have an even greater appreciation for it. God commanded us to take sabbath for a reason... it truly restores us. I strongly encourage you to carve out sabbath time - without excuses - each and every week, or perhaps even each and every day. Take the time to rest in God, and you will be changed as a result.



Several of you have also asked me for a seminary update. In addition to hitting the ground running with children's ministry at UPC (whatever shape that may take in the midst of a continued global pandemic and now the ever-rising Delta variant), this fall I will begin my fourth year at the Charlotte campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary. I am hoping to graduate in April 2023, as I have six classes remaining plus CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education). I'll do CPE next summer (2022), which will be 11 weeks primarily away from UPC, in a nearby hospital. I do feel like I'm beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel! I continue to be thankful for your support and encouragement as I navigate this journey.

Grace and peace, Nancy

First Steps in Music



Kathleen Jasinkas
Director of Youth & Children's Choirs

This August, I traveled to Slippery Rock, PA to become certified in John Fierabend's First Steps In Music program. This curriculum primarily targets our youngest singers, from birth to about 1st grade, focusing on the importance of communal singing and the development of tuneful, beatful (yup, that's a word!), and artful little ones. We used some of the sacred music from this collection at VBS this year, and I was so excited to see the kids light up working on it.

First Steps has been around since the late '90s. It has always intrigued me as an educator, but the thing that drew me to it particularly at this time was how they have reacted to the movement to remove racist music from the elementary classroom. You might be surprised to know how many songs that were familiar to us as children carry a racist message, sometimes below the surface, and often right on their face. When this came to light several years ago, many educators chose to bury their heads in the sand - "Good music is good music! These songs have been around forever!" - they cried.

First Steps went the opposite direction. They hired a team of educators of color, and replaced objectionable songs in the curriculum with repertoire that is equally intriguing and educational without promoting systemic racism. They were up front in confronting their ignorance, and the new curriculum features a beautiful sample of age-appropriate music from a wide variety of cultures as a result.

As we head into the 2021 Program year, I am excited to share this work with our little ones, including students at UPPS and members of the Children's Choir. As it becomes safe to do so, I also hope to develop a program for families to explore music making with children that are too young to take part in our traditional choirs. Thank you, UPC, for your support in this work - we can do better, together!

Realm Database Switch: An Update



All UPC Active Members should have received an email invitation similar to the one pictured here.

Don't wait, create your account today!



We have switched over our entire database to a new system called Realm. 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.

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.

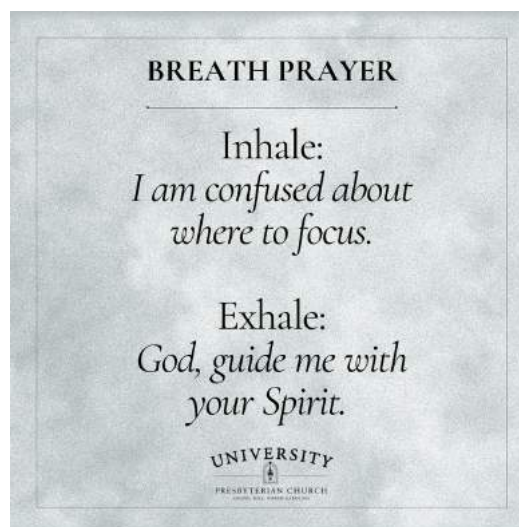
Visit upcch.org/realm for more information.
Didn't receive an invitation? Email upcch@upcch.org.

Concerns & Celebrations

We grieve with: *Anne Bryan*, on the death of her mother; *Emily Davisson*, on the death of her housemate; *Libby Fosso*, on the death of her mother; *Pat Golubiewski*, on the death of her brother in law; *Kay Leaman*, on the death of her sister; *Keith Minton*, on the death of his mother; *Lindsay and Brian Thorp*, on the death of their infant daughter

We celebrate with: *Mildred Little*, on her 105th birthday; *Kelly Ross*, on her retirement

We pray for: *Dianne Frazier*, in hospice care; *Will French*, hospitalized; *Terry Hammersley*, recovering from surgery; *June Kendall*, hospitalized; *Winnie Morgan*, undergoing treatment; *Jim Shultz*, new medical diagnosis; *Heath Tuttle*, undergoing treatment; *Judie Waters*, recovering from surgery



There is a lot clamoring for our attention these days, and it can be overwhelming! If you feel like you could use a confidential friend to listen and walk beside you through these overwhelming days, contact Hadley (hadley@upcch.org) and ask about the Stephen Ministry program.



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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