

OCT. 2021
EDITION



The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Classes available for all
ages | p. 3

DEDICATION SUNDAY POLKA PARTY

Save the date for a day of
worship and fun! | p. 4

OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Meet Sara, Johnny, and
Peter | p. 5

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Thanks to the almost 150 gifts toward the Give Light Campaign, we are thrilled to announce that we have reached our goal! Work on installing the lights and solar panels will hopefully begin this fall (pending labor and supply availability). As progress is made, we will keep you updated. Thank you again for your generous expressions of gratitude.

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 Jasinskas, Director of Youth and Children's Choirs

Berry French, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

Hadley Kifner, Temporary Parish Associate

Erin Collier, Director of Communications and Stewardship

Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

Jeanette Schmidt, Office Manager

Sara Richard, Administrative Assistant

Peter Costa, Financial Manager

Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant

Dennis Dallke, Property Manager

Johnny Clay, Sexton

Find us online!

 upcch.org

 facebook.com/upcch

 [@upc_chapelhill](https://instagram.com/upc_chapelhill)

 vimeo.com/upcch

Cover Photo: Participants at the 2021 Congregational Retreat at New Hope Camp & Conference Center.



My first memory of the word “Stewardship” comes from high school. Scott, our Sunday School teacher, was also chair of the stewardship campaign that year. Recognizing that he had an exceptionally talented group of students at his disposal, Scott asked us to do a skit in worship.

Seinfeld was all the rage back then, so the skit consisted of Scott getting up to do a normal stewardship announcement and then various teenagers planted around the congregation would interrupt him. My part was to stand up and say in my best Jerry Seinfeld impersonation, “Stewardship? It’s not *Stew*, there are no *words*, we’re definitely not on a *ship*. What’s the Deal With THAT?”

I can assure you that at the age of 16 my comic timing was no better than it is now. By the end of the skit, however, Scott had established the basics of stewardship – that everything we have comes from God and that we are called to give a portion back in support of God’s ongoing work in the world.

In some ways, it’s not surprising that I could drive a car before I could define the word stewardship. It’s not exactly a word one hears every day. Some might even say it’s a pretty “church-y” word. I know that my parents financially supported the churches we belonged to, but stewardship and generosity was not something we talked about. Though I absolutely adored my church family, when I got my first job it never occurred to me to tithe to the church that had given me so much. All of this is to say that stewards are cultivated; generosity is learned through consistent practice.

Many of you know that this past year we invited Erin Collier to join our staff. When she was first hired, her title was Director of Communications and Development. Some wise and faithful folks approached us to voice their discomfort with that title. In retrospect, I absolutely agree. In the world of fundraising, it’s the development office that sends you the postcards and the annual appeal letter. Their job is to court your financial support for this cause or that institution for one more year.

Here at UPC we might send out postcards and appeal letters as well, but ultimately we are the Church. We don’t court gifts. We cultivate givers. Our call is to invite disciples of Christ into a lifestyle of radical gratitude. Our call is to inspire generosity as a spiritual discipline that deepens your connection to God and to the community in which you live. Our call is to develop stewards. Therefore, the placard outside Erin’s office will soon read “Director of Communications and Stewardship.” I hope that you will get a chance to meet her so you can discuss why this church matters to you.

I know that the season has begun when all of the fundraising appeals will be arriving in your inbox and your mailbox. Trust me, ours will be there too, and I sincerely hope you will consider pledging this year. It would be disingenuous if I said I didn’t hold this hope for the sake of this church and its budget, but I also hope that you will pledge for your own sake as well, as a spiritual exercise that will prepare you for a deeper trust in God, who is and will continue be our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett".

Sunday School Resumes Oct. 3!

Children & Youth

Children's Classes

Children age 3 (by 9/1/2021) through 5th grade will gather on the UPC front lawn with our masks on from 9:45-10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Feel free to dress down - children will likely be sitting on tarps, blankets, etc. If it rains and we need to cancel, we will send out an email and put a message on social media by 8:00 am that morning.

Youth Classes

Middle School (6th and 7th grade) will meet outdoors in the Memorial Garden. Enter from the youth room (136) and grab a blue chair on your way out.

8th and 9th grade confirmation will meet in the lower level of Dunham Hall.

10th-12th grade will meet in the youth center.

Snacks will not be provided during Sunday school at this time so be sure to plan accordingly. Masks are required.

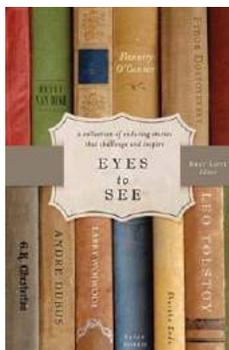
Adult Classes

Sunday School Adult Classes begin on October 3 at 10:00am with a Meet and Greet on the patio behind Dunham Hall on Rosemary Street. Come for coffee and pastries and a chance to learn about Sunday morning classes. Beginning the following Sunday, classes will meet at 9:45.



Crossroads Class

Crossroads has been meeting all year and will continue this fall, doing an overview of books of the Bible using videos from *The Bible Project*. This class will meet in the PCM lounge.



Faith & the Arts Class

Faith & the Arts will begin October 10 in the Terrace Room, reading and discussing stories from *Eyes to See*, edited by Bret Lott. If you have a copy of the hard-cover version of this book (Volume 1) that you would be willing to donate, please let us know. It has been reprinted in the last couple of years in a soft cover edition that we are ordering for all those who need one. We hope to have them by October 3.

Small groups will also be resuming on October 3. If you are expecting to participate in a small group this fall and have not yet heard from a leader, please email admin@upcch.org.

Second Sunday Snacks - Oct. 10



Join us for a congregational potluck of snacks and appetizers on October 10 (weather dependent)! 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 Dunham Hall prior to 11:00 worship. Provided items must be ready to eat and not require any cooking or heating.

New members, students, and visitors are invited to attend without contribution. The snacks are served on the front lawn immediately following the 11:00 am worship service.

Pledge Dedication Sunday - Oct. 24

In October, we will send out materials about our 2022 Stewardship Campaign, inviting you to consider how you can financially support UPC in the coming year. Please save the date for our Pledge Dedication Sunday on October 24, where all will be invited to bring forward pledge cards at the end of the service.

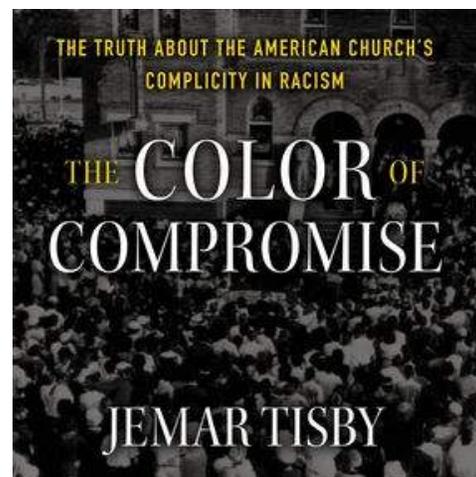
After worship, join us on the front lawn for a polka party! (Yes, we said polka!) The Little German Band - including our own Ben Urick - will lead us in music and dancing, and food will be provided. We are looking forward to this joyful day!



Racial Equity Book Group & Workshops

UPC's Racial Equity Team (RET) has been working hard to learn about, and seek ways to improve upon, racial inequities in our community and society. Over the summer, the RET hosted "Facing Racism," consisting of three virtual Sunday School sessions. This fall, the RET is offering a book series. We'll read *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby. The group will discuss the book during three Zoom sessions, on the 2nd Tuesday of October, November, and December. Sign up now at tinyurl.com/RETbookgroup.

And finally, we are partnering with 1619 Consulting, a group which will guide our church family over the next couple of years as we dig deeper into this important work. Led by Bryana Clover and based out of Apex, NC, 1619 Consulting will begin by offering personal assessments of church staff and other leaders. In winter of 2022, Bryana will moderate a workshop series where we will dive deep into the complex issues surrounding racism. The series will consist of six two-hour sessions, every other Tuesday evening, in January, February, and March. Registration for the workshop series will open in the coming weeks. To learn more about 1619 Consulting, visit 1619consulting.com/about.



We hope you will join us for these opportunities as UPC embarks on this important and compassionate work.

Meet our New Staff Members

September brought some new faces to the UPC team, and we are thrilled to have these three individuals join us. Be sure to introduce yourself the next time you're in the office!



Sara Richard, Administrative Assistant

Born in New Hampshire, Sara graduated from William and Mary in 2020 with a degree in Film and Media Studies, and was a member of the William and Mary Choir for all four years. Most recently, she was a member of the Johnson Service Corps, through which she served at a partnering non-profit organization and lived in an intentional community with three other people. Sara lives in Carrboro with a roommate and her cat named Gonzo.

Email: admin@upcch.org



Johnny Clay, Sexton

Born in Thailand, Johnny moved to the United States in 2007. He has worked both for University Methodist Church and UNC Dining Services before coming to join the UPC staff. In his free time, Johnny enjoys spending time with his family, especially his four children (2 girls, 2 boys).

Email: johnny@upcch.org



Peter Costa, Financial Manager

Peter is originally from Rhode Island, where he spent 22 years as the Finance Director at a Catholic School. Wanting to be close to their daughter, son-in-law, and new grandchild, he and his wife moved to Durham in 2019. They are thrilled to be close to family and to be living in a much warmer climate!

Email: finance@upcch.org

A Note from Berry



Berry French
*Associate Pastor for
Campus Ministries*

The French family is so very grateful for the outpouring of support, prayers, love, meals, cards, and understanding for needed space that UPC offered our family recently. In late August and early September, our 7-year-old son Will spent 2 weeks in UNC Medical Center (including 3 days in Peds ICU while sedated with a breathing tube after his third seizure). Will has La Crosse Encephalitis - a rare mosquito borne virus from a mosquito in Western NC, where our family lived prior to relocating to Carrboro in mid August. Thanks be to God, Will has been steadily improving after being discharged and attended half days of school in late September. We expect a full recovery within 6 months.

Will and our whole family are recovering and we are deeply grateful for the support of this church family, as well as the PCM community. Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to overwhelmed health care workers as well as hospital patients and others who yearn for even partial recovery.

2021 Congregational Retreat

It was a beautiful day at New Hope Camp & Conference Center as we gathered for the 2021 Congregational Retreat! Many thanks to all who participated and made this retreat possible.



Choirs and Youth Group are back!



Save the Date

Alternative Gift Market

Christmas is coming! Make plans to attend the virtual UPC Alternative Gift Market starting in November for all your shopping needs. We will have an online site again this year for easy shopping as well as a table at the Advent Craft Festival.



Advent Craft Festival

Sunday, Nov. 21
9:45–10:45 am

UPC Front Lawn
Masks required



Concerns & Celebrations

We grieve with:

- Jim Schreiber, *on the death of his sister*
- The Embree family, *on the death of Stephen's grandfather*
- The Family of Trish Love
- Lindsay and Brian Thorp, *on the death of their daughter, Larson*
- Anne Bryan, *on the death of her mother, Norma*

We celebrate with:

- Bayard and Anne Collins, *on the birth of their son, Preston*
- Janet McDowell, *on the birth of her grandson, Simon*

We pray for:

- Jim Schultz
- Dianne Frazier
- Tom Brown
- Nate Garber
- Bob Slater
- Day McLaughlin
- Pat Golubiewski
- Tom and Peggy Hollingsworth
- Will French
- Mildred Little
- Shelby MacMillan (*Nora Holley and Mike MacMillan's daughter*)

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale:
Ever-present Lord,

Exhale:
I seek you each day.

UNIVERSITY
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A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

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