



NOV. 2021
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



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All are invited to celebrate the Ordination and Installation of our own Margo Richardson to The Ministry Of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, November 7th at 3:00pm at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, with a reception to follow on the front lawn. The service can also be viewed live online on the Selwyn Facebook Page: facebook.com/SAPCPCUSA

Notes of encouragement to Margo as she begins her ordained ministry may be sent to her attention at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2929 Selwyn Ave, Charlotte, NC 28209.

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

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

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Cover Photo: Dancing at our Dedication Sunday Polka Party on Oct. 24



On my phone, there is a text thread among clergy friends where the common questions are: How's hybrid church going? Are you anxious about stewardship this year? Y'all okay out there? Here at UPC, there are questions too: When will it ever be "post" COVID and what will that look like for us? What happens when it gets too cold for children's outdoor Sunday school?

The way I see it, the church should always be asking questions.

What is our call right now?

What broken-hearted-ness needs binding?

What prophetic word needs to be spoken?

How are we being an exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world?

Outside my office is the Memorial Garden. In these COVID times, there isn't a day that passes without the garden being filled: with preschoolers learning, middle schoolers having Sunday school, saints gathering to commit their loved ones into God's eternal arms, PCM students eating meals, disciples quietly sharing their stories or sorrows.

This evening as I write, there is a cross on a table, surrounded by candles. When the light fades, the candles will dance with flame. A small crowd will gather to sing some repetitive songs.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are Holy.

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation. In God, I trust. In God, I trust.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

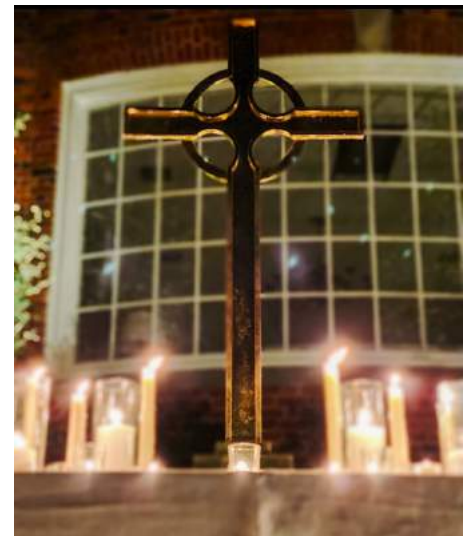
There will be prayers, and scripture.

It is a new offering of UPC to the community.

New in that Joey and Hadley just launched it—this simple Taize service; but it's also old seeming to me. It's what the church has always done:

we light a candle against the darkness;

we sing the promises of God until we can trust our lives to them.



We may not have all the answers to all the questions, but in the midst of the questions, **we will be the church.** We will gather. We will share good news. We will sing. We will shine light into the dark. We will hold fast to what is good. And we will do that with whoever shows up—young, old, sinner, saint, all. And we'll do it over and over again.

(ctd. on page 3)

Pastor's Message (ctd.)

It reminded me of a poem by Naomi Shihab Nye (selections here).

The river is famous to the fish.

The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek.

*The bent photograph is famous to the one who carries it
and not at all famous to the one who is pictured.*

*I want to be famous to shuffling men
who smile while crossing streets,
sticky children in grocery lines,
famous as the one who smiled back.*

*I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous,
or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular,
but because it never forgot what it could do.*

May we never forget what we can do, church.

Onward,

Meg

*"We may not have all
the answers to all the
questions, but in the
midst of the questions,
we will be the church."*



Thank you to all who attended our Taize worship service! We hope to offer more of this style of worship in the future - watch the bulletin and UPC emails for updates!

Photos: Maisy Kavanaugh

Welcome, New Members!



Mark Bibbs
(Caroline, Lily Francis)
Reaffirmation of faith



Laura & Reg Morgan
(Henry, Jack, Max)
Reaffirmation of faith



Betsy Reid
*Transfer of membership from
New Providence Presbyterian
Church in Raphine, VA*



Milton Reid
*Transfer of membership from
New Providence Presbyterian
Church in Raphine, VA*



Christy Samford
Reaffirmation of faith



April & David Smithwick
(Davidson, Craven)
*Transfer of membership from
First Presbyterian Church in
Charlotte, NC*



Brittany Young
*Transfer of membership from
Fairfield Presbyterian Church in
Mechanicsville, VA*

Dan Tunstall
Reaffirmation of faith

New members are welcomed to UPC on a periodic basis. To learn more about membership at UPC and how to become a part of our faith community, contact Meg Perry McLaughlin (meg@upcch.org).

Second Sunday Snacks - Nov. 14



Join us for a congregational potluck of snacks and appetizers on November 14 (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 Vance Barron 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.

Presbyterians, Pledges, and...Polka?

October 24 was Dedication Sunday, and the congregation was invited to bring forward their pledge cards for 2022. At the conclusion of the service, we moved outside into the beautiful fall weather for a polka party led by The Little German Band! Great fun was had by all!

As part of this year's pledge campaign, we are asking you to consider the question, "Why is UPC important to me?" Here are just a few of your responses:



"UPC, in all of its activities, cements the fact that God loves us and we belong to God."

"UPC is my "family" in my faith journey. When I walk into the sanctuary or even on a retreat, it's always a homecoming."

"I love this faith community - the way people are supported by one another and loved through all the ups and downs. Both inside and outside the church walls, the people here are earnestly seeking to live out and respond to God's call."



**"UPC is people:
People who want to come together
for church, for classes, for meals (when we can feel
comfortable about COVID).
People ready to hug, ready to laugh, ready to serve
the community as soon as a need is made known."**

As of November 1, we have received 225 pledges totaling \$1,230,675.

Haven't pledged yet? It's not too late! Our 2022 goal is \$1.8 million.

University Presbyterian Church is at last fully staffed and poised to participate with you in amazing ministry in 2022. We need every gift and every pledge to help us achieve our budgetary goal.

To learn more and to pledge, visit upcch.org/stewardship.



**"Because at UPC we all feel welcome and drawn in.
Because UPC embraces our family and gives us
community. Because UPC strengthens our faith."**

"It's a comforting place in a crazy, chaotic world!"

**"I am thankful for the UPC pastors and
members for their past and continued support
during my journey of grief, and also for the
lovely Memorial Garden that is available to our
members."**



**"UPC is family.
It's faith.
It's grounding.
UPC helps me remember what's important -
it's centering."**

Preparing for Advent

Advent Craft Festival - Nov. 21

Join us on the UPC front lawn on Sunday, November 21, at 9:45 am for the annual Advent Craft Festival! There will be crafts for children (and children at heart) to make in preparation for Advent. We will have plenty of greenery, candles, and supplies for you to make an Advent wreath to use at home. Children are encouraged to "dress down" or wear an old t-shirt or smock that can get messy. If you would like to volunteer, please visit tinyurl.com/ACF-volunteers. Contact Nancy Myer (nancy@upcch.org) or Amelia Howard (ahoward5710@gmail.com) if you have questions.



Alternative Gift Market



Are you feeling a little overwhelmed by the prospect of shopping for Christmas this year? Not sure what to get that friend or family member who has everything? Let us help! At the UPC Alternative Gift Market, you can make donations in honor of your loved ones that will help support our partners around the world who are working to serve and support those in need - no gift wrap required. The online market will open in mid-November (upcch.org/agm), and we will also have a physical table at the Advent Craft Festival.

Gifts of Beauty and Bounty

It is the UPC tradition during Advent to honor and remember the people in our lives through Christmas Gifts of Beauty and Bounty. Your gift can be used to purchase a poinsettia which will be placed in the chancel, or as a contribution to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services to support our neighbors in need. (You can also choose to do both with your gift!) The names of those honored and remembered with these gifts will be in the Sunday Worship Bulletin on December 12.

Visit upcch.org/christmas-beauty-bounty to fill out our online form or to download one. Printed forms will also be available in the narthex. All forms must be received by Dec. 6.



Celebrating Advent and Christmas at UPC

We are excited to be worshipping together in person for this Advent season! Mark your calendars now for our plans for Advent and Christmas. *(Like most things this year, these plans may be subject to change.)*

First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 28)

(No Sunday School)

11:00 am - Worship

Second Sunday of Advent (Dec. 5)

8:30 am - Worship

9:45 am - Stories and Songs; Sunday School for adults

Stories and Songs is a new intergenerational offering for Advent that includes reading Christmas books, singing carols, and hearing Christmas stories from church members. All are welcome!

11:00 am - Worship

Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 12)

8:30 am - Lessons and Carols

9:45 am - Stories and Songs; Sunday School for adults

11:00 am - Lessons and Carols

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 19)

8:30 am - Worship

9:45 am - Stories and Songs; Sunday School for adults

11:00 am - Worship

Longest Night (Dec. 21)

7:30 pm - Taize service

While things may be merry and bright for some during the holiday season, others may feel sadness and pain. For some, this time of year can be the loneliest of all times. The Longest Night is a service to acknowledge such feelings. Gather with us for words of comfort, prayers for hope, candles, gentle music, and silence.

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)

4:00 pm - Family Christmas Eve service

7:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve service (music from the youth choir)

9:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve service (music from the Chancel Choir)

First Sunday of Christmas (Dec. 26)

11:00 am - Worship (a Christmas hymn sing!)

Racial Equity Workshop: A Reflection & an Invitation



Karen Vandersea
Racial Equity Team Member

When I first heard the news of George Floyd's senseless murder in 2020, something in me said, "How does this keep happening?"

Knowing many similar events had been in our headlines in recent years, I realized racism will not get better without effort. I began to understand just how far our country needs to go to confront the tragic consequences of racism and work toward positive change. So I started listening to the stories of others. I read a few books. I spent time focusing on my own heart and my own actions and asking myself what else I could do. I took a course online and continued learning from books and podcasts. And I joined UPC's Racial Equity Team!

Maybe you've been thinking about these issues, too. Perhaps you've wanted to do more or learn more, but haven't found a path to do so. If that sounds familiar, you are invited to join the Racial Equity Team for a workshop series consisting of six two-hour sessions in January, February, and March (January 11 and 18, February 1 and 15, March 1 and 15).

The sessions will be led by Bryana Clover and Claire Cox-Woodlief of 1619 Consulting, who will accompany us on our journey toward a deeper understanding of racial inequities and how we might take steps to address them. The workshops, held via Zoom, are open to all who wish to embark on this journey within a caring church community. Participants will have reading and reflection exercises between sessions as part of the course.

We hope to accommodate all who are interested, but spots are limited.

To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/RETworkshop2022

Contact Jarrett McLaughlin (jarrett@upcch.org) for questions.

To learn more about Bryana and 1619 Consulting here, visit 1619consulting.com/about.



From the Mental Health Task Force

Growing Thru Grief Group - Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00 pm

Growing Thru Grief is a free grief support program sponsored by a coalition of religious and civic organizations. The group meets on Tuesday afternoons year-round, currently on Zoom only. Meetings begin with a brief presentation about a part of the grief process and then the group splits into small groups for conversation and sharing. Upcoming topics include humor, hope, and surviving the holidays. To register, email admin@growingthrugrief.org by 8 am on the Monday before the meeting.

To learn more: growingthrugrief.org

Presbyterian Women Updates

Monthly Gathering Schedule

All women of the church are welcome to attend monthly Presbyterian Women Circles:

Circle 2: Mon., Nov. 1 at 9:45 a.m. by Zoom *Contact:* Rachel Harshaw (919 928-4514; rachel@jehars.com)

Circle 3: Tues., Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. by Zoom. *Contact:* Mary Ann Klompmaker (919 270-0657; maryann6543@gmail.com)

Circle 4: Tues., Nov. 2 at 11 a.m. by Zoom. *Contact:* Susie Smith (757 274-2551; snyricks@gmail.com)

Circle 5: Wed., Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. by Zoom. *Contact:* Mary Ellen Olson (919 302-1426; maryeolson27@gmail.com)

Diaper Collection

The Presbyterian Women (PW) are again sponsoring a diaper drive to benefit the Refugee Support Center (RSC) here in Chapel Hill. More than 10,000 diapers have been donated to the Center from UPC since we began this project three years ago.

Please consider supporting this service project again this year during the Advent Season. Write your check to UPC with "RSC diaper drive" in the memo line, and then either mail it to UPC (PO Box 509, Chapel Hill, NC 27514), or place it in the offering boxes at church during Sunday worship.

In January, PW will purchase and deliver diapers to the Refugee Support Center using your monetary donations.

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

Our Daily Bread

Devotional

Copies of Our Daily Bread are available in the parlor and in the church office. Large print copies are also available. If you are interested in these personal and family devotions, please help yourselves. If you know a homebound member or someone who does not feel comfortable worshipping in person, please don't hesitate to pick up a copy for them also. These booklets are made available to the church through donations by UPC-PW.

Faith & the Arts Class

The Faith & the Arts Class is reading stories from *Eyes to See* this fall, and it's not too late to join! Here's the schedule of the upcoming stories the group will be discussing:

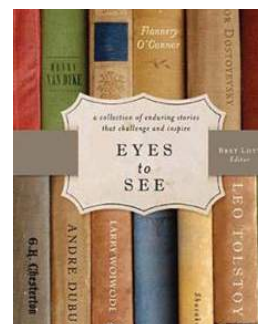
Nov. 7: "A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor

Nov. 14: "What Men Live By" by Leo Tolstoy

Dec. 5: "The Christmas Wife" by Hellen Norris

Dec. 12: "The Story of the Other Wise Men" by Henry Van Dyke

Faith & the Arts meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Terrace Room.



Youth trips are back in 2022!

Spend time with your UPC family as we learn and serve together! Mark your calendar now:

Middle School DC Spring Break Service Trip, March 27-30, 2022

Registration Deadline: Dec. 25

For: Middle School Youth (6th-8th grade)

Cost: \$225



WASHINGTON SEMINAR CENTER
SOCIAL JUSTICE • PEACE MAKING • INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Spend part of your spring break serving others! We'll head to Washington DC, where we will volunteer in soup kitchens and shelters. We'll get to know those living with homelessness and learn their stories as we serve them. Our group will learn more about the root causes of poverty and we will begin to understand how we can make a difference back home. This eye-opening trip will leave impressions that last a lifetime and will open our eyes to the struggles of others in ways that lead us to more actively loving our neighbors. We'll stay at the Washington Seminar Center, ride the metro to our service sites, eat meals together, and have time in the evening to process what we learned each day. Register at: upcch.org/spring-break.

Montreat Youth Conference, June 12-18, 2022

Registration Deadline: Dec. 1

For: High School Youth (rising 9th-completed 12th)

Cost: \$425 (\$100 due Dec. 1; \$325 due April 1)

Montreat Youth Conference is a week of fellowship, fun, and faith formation. We'll be in the mountains living together in a house, and our days will be filled with keynote, energizers, singing, small groups, recreation, and worship. We'll enjoy meals with our UPC family and even go on a float trip on the French Broad one afternoon. This week will leave youth with new perspectives on faith, new friends from around the country, and will create bonds with your church family that will last. Register at: upcch.org/myc.



Montreat Worship and Music, June 18-25, 2022

Registration: opens Dec. 5; closes Feb. 15

For: Rising 4th grade-graduating seniors + Adult Chancel Choir members

Cost: \$450 (includes all activities + room and board)

Montreat Worship and Music offers an opportunity for all who love to make music (especially in the mountains!) to come together for a week of music, art, fellowship, and more. Curious about what the week entails? Visit presbysmusic.org/wmc to learn more!



Massanetta Middle School Conference, July 12-15

Registration Deadline: TBA (registration opens in January)

For: students who have completed 6th-8th grade

Cost: \$450

Massanetta's Middle School Conference transforms the faith journey of hundreds of middle schoolers from all around the country every summer. Every aspect of this conference is crafted with middle schoolers in mind. Conference activities like keynote, recreation, encounter groups, and workshops are centered on the theme of the summer. It will be one of the best things your youth does all year! Look for registration information in January but mark your calendars for July 12-15 now!



Appalachia Service Project, July 17-23, 2022, \$425

Registration Deadline: NOW!

For: completed 8th grade and up (adults, too!)

Cost: \$425 (\$50 due with registration; \$375 due April 10)

Appalachia Service Project endeavors to make homes warmer, safer, and drier in rural Appalachia. No construction experience is needed - just a heart for serving others and a desire to learn. We are divided into work crews of 7 people and travel in vans to our ASP center. We'll make our home for the week on air mattresses in gyms, schools, or community centers. Each day, each work crew will head out for their home where they will serve for the week. You'll do home repair but more importantly, you'll get to know the homeowners, their stories, and make a real connection as you share God's love. All adults are welcome and encouraged to attend to make this trip work for our young people. Register at: upcch.org/asp.



Scholarship money is available for all UPC summer trips and events. Please fill out a request form (tinyurl.com/UPCtripsscholarship) if financial assistance would enable your youth to participate. Responses are kept confidential amongst the UPC pastoral and financial staff.

Note: Full COVID vaccination is a requirement for all trip participants.



Hi everybody! My name is Garrett Hubbard, but everybody at PCM calls me G-Hub, and I'm a senior at PCM. After a hiatus of over 500 days, seeing PCM return to in-person Thursday night programs has been overwhelmingly joyful. PCM went above and beyond to ensure that meaningful programming happened in a virtual setting, but nothing can really compare to the bustling in the kitchen as the kitchen coordinators put the finishing touches on dinner, or the joy on everyone's face when music team plays the opening chords to Prince of Peace, or the ability to simply turn and talk to your neighbor during program. I've lost count of how many times Berry has caught my eye at the end of a Thursday night and said, "We're back, baby!!"

But what I've enjoyed the most is re-experiencing all the little day-to-day things about PCM that I had gone so long without. I walk into 110 Henderson almost every weekday morning and see if any new scores have been added to the tiki-toss leaderboard. I get to see so many friendly faces, both PCMs and UPC staff, when I'm hanging out between my classes. The fridge is full of leftovers, the couch room is quiet and comfortable, people are studying in the L-team office, and everything is as it should be.



I think I had an unspoken fear that more than a year away from the PCM space would damage, or at least change, the familiar and welcoming culture of PCM. Our first couple of months back have been nothing but reassuring. The faces are different than they were 500 days ago, but the love for one another is still there and still feels just as warm and wonderful as it did when I showed up to my first program. That brings me a lot of comfort and joy for the future of PCM.



Fall Family Fun at UPC



Reflecting on Grief



Hadley Kifner
Parish Associate

On the first day of November every year, we name the saints aloud. Not Augustine or Anselm, Therese or Francis. We call them, one by one, as Jim and Mildred, Eleanor and Henry, and others. The sanctuary glows with candlelit gratitude, and silent tears slip down our cheeks. All Saints' Day is a time when our faith holds our grief. While the death of a loved one could be called "Capital G" Grief, there are "little g" griefs, too: the loss of normalcy, routine, or function; loss of identity, relationship, or purpose; loss of community, connection, fellowship. Reflecting on the last year, can you relate to any of these losses?

Just as none of us is immune to the experience of death, there is no vaccination for the kinds of grief that a pandemic brings; there is no mask to protect our spirits from malaise. In *Praying Our Goodbyes*, Joyce Rupp writes about existential ache – “a loneliness that permeates the spirit, a kind of unnamed pain inside, deep within, that feels like restlessness or a persistent longing.” Our emotional reaction when we ache this way shows up as anxiety, anger, resignation, or cynicism. Rupp explains that existential ache happens not because of any one specific tragic event or singular explicit loss – it happens because we are human.

Because we are human, our hearts break and our spirits stumble sometimes. Because we are beloved children of God, we trust that, miraculously, we shall not be overcome by sorrow and that our faith gives us a sustaining hope.

Inhale: God of all sorrow and all hope; *Exhale:* Abide with me in my spirit.

Concerns & Celebrations

We grieve with:

- Gwen Waddell Schultz, *upon Jim's death*
- Daphne and Crowell Little, *upon the death of Crowell's mom, Mildred*
- Ellen Parker, *upon the death of her dad, Ed*
- Bob Johnson, *upon the death of his relative, Kailyn*
- Alison Bevin Young, *upon the death of her father in law, Jimmy*
- Jay Smith, *upon the death of his mother, Lillian*
- the families of Frank Durham, Margaret Evans, and Trish Love

We celebrate with:

- Nate and Melissa Haines, *welcomed William "Liam" Addison Haines*
- Kelli and Scott Smith, *welcomed granddaughter Avery Grace Stapp*
- Suzanne and Jeff Davis, *welcomed granddaughter Lillian Elizabeth Baker*

We pray for:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| • Reid Chisholm | • Day McLaughlin | • Carolyn Schwarz |
| • Jan Grosser | • Linda Plunkett | • Ray Simmons |
| • Peggy & Tom Hollingsworth | • Dan Redwine | |

Dear fellow UPC parishioners:

Your cards, your prayers, and your anecdotes have helped me during this very difficult time. I very much appreciate all of your efforts! I have been blessed by all of you.

-Day McLaughlin



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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