



JAN. 2022
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



CURRENT PLANS FOR JANUARY 2022

Worship, children and
youth activities | p. 3

PICTURES FROM ADVENT 2021

Lessons and Carols,
Caroling, and more! | p. 7

AN UPDATE FROM THE MUSIC DEPT.

Joey's hopes and plans for
2022 and beyond | p. 11

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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
Berry French, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry
Hadley Kifner, Parish Associate
Erin Collier, Director of Communications and Stewardship
Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS
Sara Richard, Administrative Assistant
Peter Costa, Financial Manager
Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant
Dennis Dallke, Property Manager
Johnny Clay, Sexton

Save the Date!



**Vacation
Bible School
2022**

June 27-30

**Camp New
Hope**

Find us online!



upcch.org



facebook.com/upcch



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



vimeo.com/upcch

Cover Photo: Our youth helped tell the Christmas Story at the 4:00 Family Service on Christmas Eve

Pastor's Message



Meg Peery McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

Dearest Friends,

Happy New Year.

This past Sunday, our HVAC was confused. It wasn't broken, apparently, but it also wasn't working.

The sanctuary was hot (which I realize is already an odd statement to make in January).

Our necessary masks and the added layer of the robe made it, hmmm, uncomfortable.

I was offering a pastoral prayer for the new year which concluded with the words Jesus taught us: the Lord's Prayer.

They are some of the most familiar words of his that we know.

Halfway through, I was distracted by the heat, and twisted the words up.

I don't exactly know what I said, but I got Jesus' words all mixed up.

It was not an intentional attempt to warp the message.

Most of the mix up could be explained by the circumstances around me and by a lack of focus.

I wonder if that's the case in other moments too.

When does the church mix up Jesus' words? When do we accidentally get them wrong?

And what might be the circumstances that would tempt us to twist holy words around?

Beginning January 9, UPC will begin a new sermon series entitled *Things Jesus Never Said*.

We'll examine a number of sayings that we attribute to Jesus, but aren't found anywhere in scripture.

We'll tune our focus to the text to listen more attentively to the Word.

The schedule for this series is:

January 9 - Follow Your Heart

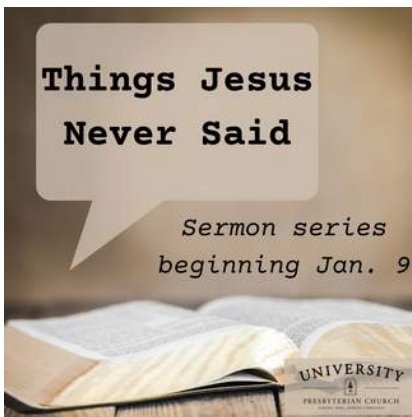
January 16 - Hate the Sin, Love the Sinner

January 23 - God Helps Those who Help Themselves

January 30 - Money is the Root of All Evil

February 6 - God Doesn't Give You More than You Can Handle

February 13 - You Get What You Deserve



As with all of worship, this isn't about orthodoxy, but exploration;

not about exactness, but an openness to life and life abundant.

Faith is not about getting everything right, it is about following the One who is Love.

And worship is about taking some sacred space to put away distraction and listen to what Jesus actually says to us in our own circumstances today.

Join us in this new year for worship in person or online.

Peace

Meg



P.S. Desmond the Dog says hi.

January 2022 at a Glance

NOTE: All 2022 plans are subject to change based upon current COVID data. Changes to plans will be communicated via social media, emails, and the website (upcch.org/together).

About our worship schedule (a change from previous communications): In response to the current COVID trends, we will continue to have only one worship service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary until we hit our COVID capacity benchmark (40%), when we will then move to two services. Livestream of our 11:00 service will continue.

Sunday, January 9

- New sermon series begins: "Things Jesus Never Said" (p. 2)
- Officer Ordination & Installation
- Reception for Jeanette Schmidt following worship (p. 9)

Tuesday, January 11

- Taizé Worship at 7 pm (p. 4)
- Racial Equity Workshop begins (p. 5)

Sunday, January 23

- Congregational meeting at 12 pm (p. 4)
- Sunday School (adult options on p. 5), choirs, and youth group resume.
 - Children's and youth Sunday School classes will meet indoors (a change from the fall), with masks required, and will not offer snacks.
 - Children's and youth choirs will meet indoors, masks required.
 - Youth group will eat outdoors and have their program indoors, masks required.

Wednesday, January 26

- Grief Group begins (p. 6)

Sunday, January 30

- Installation service for Rev. Berry French at 2:30 pm (p. 4)

Taizé Worship - Jan. 11, 7 pm

Lasting about 30 mins, a Taizé service includes chant-like simple songs sung repeatedly, surrounded by brief periods of silence, Scripture, and prayer. We invite you to come as you are and invite anyone else who may desire a simple evening of singing, praying, and sacred reflection in the Sanctuary.



Congregational Meeting - Jan. 23, 12 pm

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 23, after the 11:00 am worship service to receive the 2021 Annual Report to the Congregation, to hear a report on the State of the Church, and to act on proposed changes in the installed pastors' terms of call. The Annual Report will be distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

Included in this presentation will be the 2022 Budget. If you have not yet pledged for 2022, please do so as soon as possible so our Administration Committee will have the best information possible for their work.



Installation of Berry French - Jan. 30

At a called congregational meeting on August 29, the congregation of UPC elected Rev. Berry French as Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry. The final step in this call process is a service of installation that is organized and conducted by the Presbytery.

Join us at 2:30 pm on Sunday, January 30 in the Sanctuary as Berry is officially installed as our Associate Pastor and we affirm and celebrate his ministry with us.

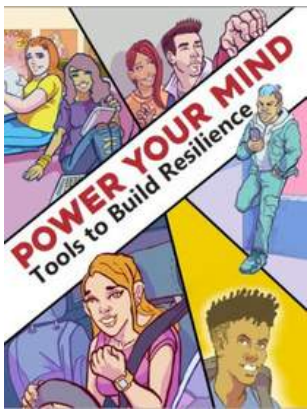


Adult Education Options in 2022

Presby 101

Sunday, Jan. 23 at 9:45 am

Are you new to UPC, new to the Presbyterian denomination, or just curious to know more about what it means to be part of the PC(USA)? In 2022, we'll be offering periodic stand-alone classes about what it means to be Presbyterian! Join us for our first session on January 23 at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall, when we'll talk about scripture and how we interpret it. The Presbyterian Church (USA) offers helpful tools for how to interpret scripture. This class would be a great gathering for anyone new to our church and anyone who has ever been in or overheard an argument about "what the Bible says."



Power Your Mind Class

Sundays at 9:45 am, beginning Jan. 23

Growing up can be tough, and the added stress of COVID-19 has created high levels of anxiety, depression, and anger among youth. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and anyone who cares about children and youth are invited to come learn healthy and effective coping techniques using the workbook "Power Your Mind." The 8-week class will offer specific tools and skills for managing emotions, controlling impulses and handling situations as they arise. We'll begin on Sunday, January 23 at 9:45 am. Leaders are Mellicent Blythe, Ashley Wilson, Patrick Kavanaugh, Kim McNeill, and Nancy Myer.

Sign ups are requested so we can ensure we have enough workbooks:

upcch.org/power-your-mind

Racial Equity Workshop

Tuesday evenings, beginning Jan. 11

You are invited to join the Racial Equity Team for a workshop series consisting of six 2-hour sessions (Jan. 11 and 18, Feb. 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. Due to the development and progress of the sessions over time, attendance at all six sessions is required. Participants will have reading and reflection exercises between sessions as part of the course. Sign up at

tinyurl.com/RETworkshop2022



Crossroads Class

Crossroads Class will continue their study this spring, doing an overview of books of the Bible and using videos from the Bible Project. This group will meet on Sundays at 9:30 am via Zoom on Jan. 9 and 16, then resume in person at 9:45 on Jan. 23.

Opportunities to Connect at UPC in 2022

Presbyterian Women

All women of the church are welcome to attend monthly PW circles:

Circle 2: Mon., Jan. 3 at 9:45 am by Zoom. *Contact:* Rachel Harshaw (919 928-4514 or rachel@jehars.com)

Circle 3: Tues., Jan. 11 at 10:00 am by Zoom. *Contact:* Mary Ann Klompmaker (919 270-0657 or maryann6543@gmail.com)

Circle 4: Tues., Jan. 4 at 11:00 am by Zoom. *Contact:* Susie Smith (757 274-2551 or snyncks@gmail.com)

Circle 5: Wed., Jan. 5 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. *Contact:* Mary Ellen Olson (919 302-1426 or maryeolson27@gmail.com)

Woman to Woman

Thursdays at 11:30 am via Zoom

UPC's "Woman to Woman" is a wonderful, low-key community of women of faith, who enjoy discussing life, the world around us, and how our faith affects and is affected by all we encounter in life. Topics vary from week to week. Currently, we are gathering via Zoom on Thursdays from 11:30-1. All women of the church are invited to join the conversation. We will reconvene on January 6, 2022. If you are interested, please contact admin@upcch.org.

Men's Breakfast

First and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 am via Zoom

The UPC Men's Group meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 am from September to June. We currently meet on Zoom but hope to get back to having our breakfasts together at the church. Each session, a member of our group presents a topic of his choice. The topics vary considerably – upcoming topics include climate change, the composition of the Old and New Testament, custody mediation, and an analysis of the 23rd Psalm. We have found that our interactive discussion has promoted fellowship and is a good way to get to know other men in our congregation. We urge any interested man to join us by contacting Dan Redwine (danredwine@gmail.com); he will add you to the list serve so that you can receive the Zoom link.

Grief Group

Wednesdays at 4 pm (Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, March 2) at UPC

Author Sue Monk Kidd said that "There is no pain on earth that does not crave a benevolent witness." Join pastors Meg and Hadley as we hold one another's journeys of grief up to God's Light. A 6-week grief group will begin Jan. 26, hosted at UPC at 4 pm. The group will be part peer support, part grief education, and all spiritual sustenance. We will use the book *Understanding Your Grief* by Alan D. Wolfelt. Email hadley@upcch.org to sign up. 12 spot limit.

Advent and Christmas 2021

Thank you to Brian Vandersea, Eric Munson, Kim McNeill, Patrick Kavanaugh, and Julia Buckner for taking photos at UPC during Advent!





Staff News

At the beginning of December, Jeanette Schmidt, our Office Manager, shared this letter with UPC:

Wonderful People of UPC,

After 14 years, first as Church Secretary and the last 10 years as Office Manager, I have decided to leave UPC. This was not an easy decision, but I have felt the call to follow a different path. My last day in the office will be December 30. I have had much joy over the years working with many dear people and I will treasure those memories for life. I do not yet know what the future holds for me, but I'm trusting that God has it figured out and will fill me in soon.

I know there has been a lot of staff transition these past few years. While I regret adding to this challenge, I am excited to see where God will lead me next and what he has in store for UPC.

Sending you all much joy, peace, love, and hope in this Advent season.

*Gratefully,
Jeanette*



Jeanette has been the glue through so much transition in these past years: a steady and wise presence for all things UPC. We will miss her greatly, and we give thanks to God for her long season with us and her many gifts. On January 9, Jeanette will be with us in worship so we can celebrate with her in person. We'll have a reception for her in Vance Barron Hall following worship, and you're welcome to bring a card then!

In this time of transition, Lee White will be filling in as office manager on an interim, as-needed basis, and has recused himself from the Personnel Committee in order to do so. You can contact Lee at officemanager@upcch.org.

Office Volunteers Needed!

As we prepare to open the church office five days a week (tentatively scheduled for February), we are in need of additional volunteers to serve. Openings are two Friday mornings from 9:00-12:15 and some Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons from 12:30-4:00. Responsibilities include welcoming visitors to the church office, answering the phone, and simple clerical tasks. Parking is available outside the Campus Ministry entrance. If you're available to volunteer, or if you'd like to volunteer in the office as a substitute, please contact Shelley Adams at shelleyhadams@gmail.com or (919) 942-2525.



2022 Trip Registrations



WASHINGTON SEMINAR CENTER
SOCIAL JUSTICE • PEACE MAKING • INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Middle School Spring Break Service Trip

March 27-30, 2022

Registration Deadline: Jan. 15

Location: Washington, DC

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

Cost: \$225

upcch.org/spring-break



High School Sabbath Retreat

April 8-10, 2022

Registration Deadline: Feb. 20

Location: Ocean Isle Beach, NC

For: High School Youth (9th-12th grade)

Cost: \$250

upcch.org/spring-sabbath



Montreat Youth Conference

June 12-18, 2022

Registration Deadline: Feb. 15

Location: Montreat, NC

For: Rising 9th grade-graduated 12th grade

Cost: \$425

upcch.org/myc



Montreat Music & Worship

June 18-25, 2022

Registration Deadline: Feb. 15

Location: Montreat, NC

For: Rising 4th grade-graduated 12th graders
(and adults!)

Cost: \$450

upcch.org/mym



Massanetta Middle School Conference

July 13-16, 2022

Registration Deadline: Feb. 20

Location: Harrisonburg, VA

For: Completed 6th-8th grade

Cost: \$450

upcch.org/massanetta



Appalachia Service Project

July 17-23, 2022

Trip is full; email Kim to join the waitlist

Location: rural Appalachia

For: Completed 8th grade-adults

Cost: \$425

upcch.org/asp



2022 is a year of possibilities, and what an exciting time it is to dream big. When I arrived in 2020 as your temporary music minister, there were already plans for a larger discussion about the direction of music at UPC in preparation for seeking out candidates for the permanent post. COVID hit and while a formal “music study” was postponed, a silver lining of this interim period was being able to meet you through porch visits and one-on-one opportunities to make music for recorded worship. These personal meetings helped give me a greater context for all who are involved in and touched by the music ministries of our church. Nine months ago, the music search committee was interested in and supportive of the vision I shared with them to create a more unified music ministry, intergenerationally oriented and engaging our university community. I am grateful and honored to have had their confidence and your support in being offered the opportunity to lead this program, now in a more full capacity.

As your Director of Music, I am excited to take on leadership of ensembles of all ages. Building strong involvement in our ministry stems from the understanding that music is a vital part of this church's lifeblood which is manifested in three main ways:

- Music glorifies and reveals the beauty of God--this is one of the foundations of our weekly worship.
- The music program should nourish the mind and heart through music education, character development and faith formation rooted in the gospel.
- Opportunities to make music should create community and mentorship, through intergenerational engagement wherever possible.

Choir is not only about singing--it is worship skills, Christian education, fellowship, leadership, and teamwork. It is a holistic approach to faith formation.

As our children and youth learn about the role worship plays in the life of the church, it is just as important to do as it is to learn. Our junior and youth choirs will assume full responsibility for being leaders in worship as they sing monthly in services, often with the adult choirs as one unified ensemble. Additionally, I encourage all young instrumentalists to share their gifts in worship. Worship is about what we all bring to the table, regardless of age or proficiency level. This is the backbone of our program.

Starting in the new year **our church will become an affiliate of the Royal School of Church Music**, an international ecumenical organization providing music and faith education to singers of all ages, rooted in the great heritage of sacred choral music. Through the RSCM, we will also administer a graded choir program--participating choristers will learn the basics of reading music, liturgical proficiency and vocal leadership. Special medals and colored ribbons are awarded to choristers passing designated milestone achievements in their musical growth. In providing opportunities of engagement for all musicians, younger singers who love to sing and are seeking a more immersive and worship-integrated choir experience may join this UPC Chorister program. Choristers committing to an additional weekday rehearsal and more regular singing in worship will be eligible for beginning piano instruction provided by the Director of Music. Developing keyboard skills or proficiency playing other musical instruments will pay dividends in teaching our young singers to sight sing.



Intentional opportunities for mentorship will become an increasingly integral part of our young musicians' choir experience. Mentor/mentee pairs from the children's and junior choirs will sing side-by-side in rehearsals and when our young ones are called to offer their gifts in worship. Additionally, you may have noticed the presence of four choral scholars in the Chancel Choir. These UNC music students who sing as "choral interns" in our adult ensemble are the beginnings of a more robust partnership with our university community. In the coming year, we will look forward to bringing onboard two college interns (including one from PCM), as well as a residential organ scholar who will participate in the life of our children's and youth music programs. In addition to sharing their artistry and passion for music, these college students will bring another layer of mentorship to our middle and high school youth.

To build upon what has been a foundational part of UPC's ministries to the youth of our congregation and community, we will welcome **the return of a youth musical** for the 2022 year. This endeavor is consuming but in the best way possible, bringing together our entire church as it draws on the many gifts of parents and other adults in the congregation. The result is a bonding opportunity not only for our middle and high school players, but intergenerationally, between youth and their elders. In the summer, we will have the opportunity to bring a highlight from our musical to Montreat Music and Worship. This year, for the first time, we will be inviting members of our adult choirs to participate in the conference. They will be housed separately, but will be present for joint activities.

In the spring, we will be working toward two special projects. The first will be **a spring concert** bringing together all of our choirs to present a "Celebration of Music at UPC." The second, which will be fleshed out in the months ahead, comes in the form of an invitation to **sing for a service at Duke University Chapel** in collaboration with our Episcopal friends across the street at Chapel of the Cross--this is a great honor to sing in a spectacular historic space for a broadcasted service.

I'm looking forward to dreaming big with this family of faith as we move into this new year. If you are interested in getting involved--ALL are invited--or have any questions about the transitions in our music department, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally. Please send me an email at fala@upcch.org. As I write this Chimes article the day after our Lessons and Carols services, I am reflecting on the joy and honor it is to be at a place that values, supports and celebrates the role of music in our church's ministry. Wishing you a merry last few days of Christmas and a joyous Epiphany.

In Peace,
Joey Fala

UPC Afghan Family Housing Needed

In the coming months UPC will sponsor a family from Afghanistan moving to the Chapel Hill community. One of our first tasks in supporting this family is to secure housing for them. We do not know the size of the family yet. Finding affordable housing in our affluent community is not an easy assignment. We could use your help. Do you have a house or apartment that you would make available for a refugee family? Or know of one? Thanks for your help!

Please contact Beth Auman Visser (aumanvisser@gmail.com) or Molly Morgan (mollymorgan72040@gmail.com) to share your ideas.



PCM Photos from Fall 2021

The Presbyterian Campus Ministry students have been so excited to resume in-person gatherings this fall! Here's a snapshot of what they've been up to the past few months:



Creating new art for Terrace room based on Genesis 1 & 2 Creation stories.



PCM Alumni and upperclass students gathered in their old PCM space on Homecoming weekend. Among the alumni present were PC(USA) ordained clergy, a law school student, a PC(USA) church worker, and a PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer in NYC.



Pretzel making with PCM Seminary Intern Alli Buikema.

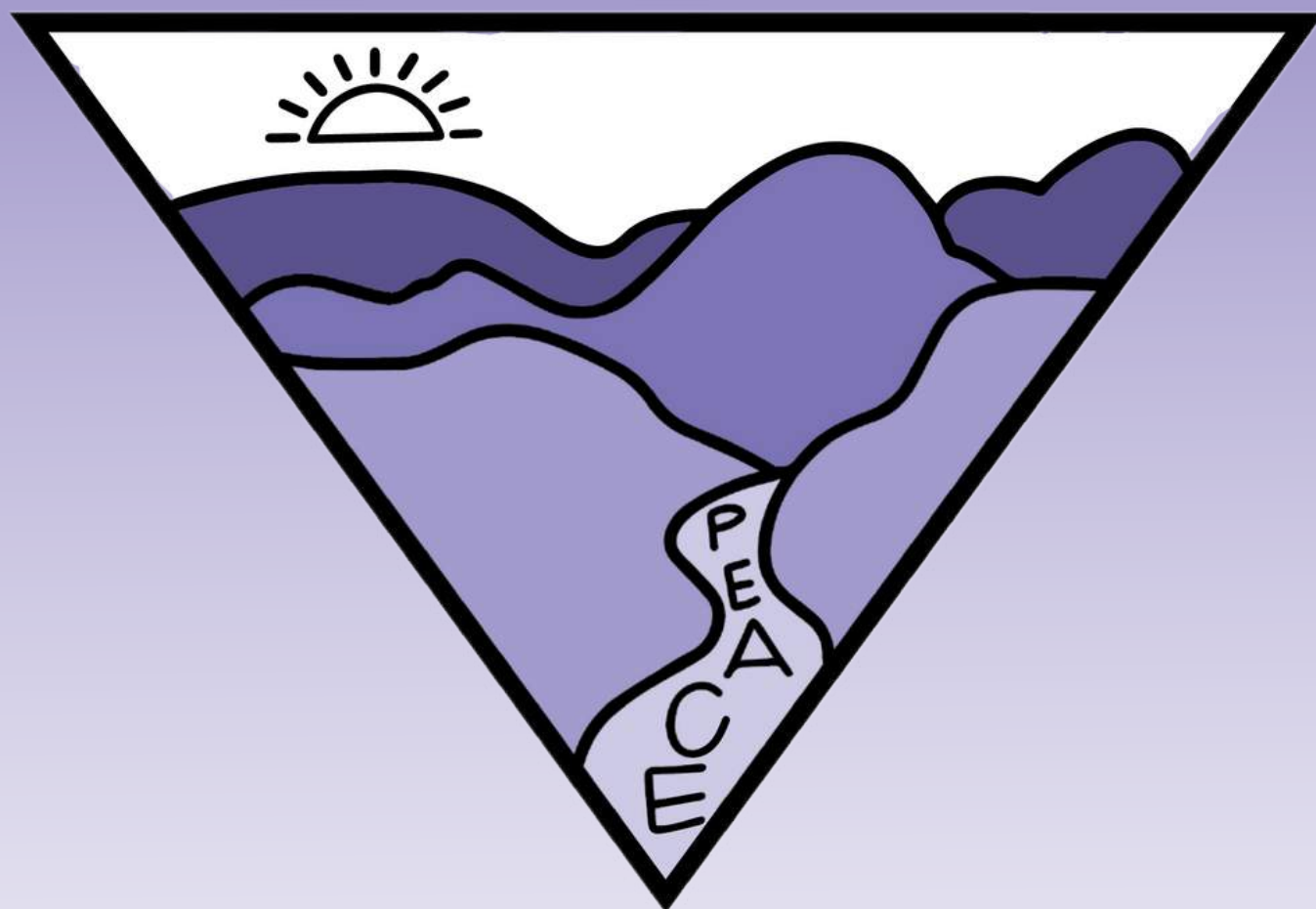


PCM celebrated Thanksgiving with PCM Board members. (Pictured here: the PCM Junior Class)

Save the Date for...

PATH PEACE

University Presbyterian Church
2022 Congregational Retreat



September 9-11, 2022
Montreat, NC

Registration opens March 1!

Nominating Committee

In the fall of 2022, the congregation of University Presbyterian Church will vote on a slate of new church officers to serve our church.

The slate for **Elders** will consist of 8 adults, each nominated for a three-year term; and one youth nominated for a one-year term. These elders will guide the church and serve as spiritual leaders.

The congregation will also elect a new **Board of Deacons**, 9 adults and 1 youth, devoted to a ministry of care and compassion. The congregation is divided into 27 geographically determined neighborhoods, each served by a specific deacon. Deacons elected this year will also serve a 3 year term, with the youth deacon serving a one year term.

The 2022 Nominating Committee is seeking your input in its discernment process. The committee will consider prayerfully all candidates submitted by the congregation. Submissions will be received until February 6th, 2022. To learn more and submit nominations, visit upcch.org/nominating

Your 2022 Nominating Committee is: Brian Curran, Laura Horrigan, Sandy Grubbs, Lisa Lord, Chelsey Wommack, Donna Van Engen, Lee Scott, Erin Kent, Patty Baum Haydon, and staff liaisons, Kim McNeill and Jarrett McLaughlin



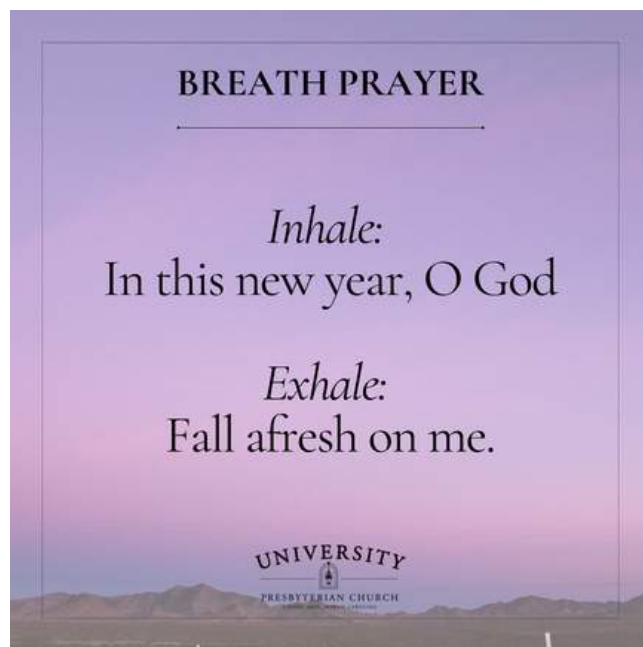
Concerns & Celebrations

We grieve with:

LeeAnn Buck, Deby Dihoff, Libby Fosso,
Kristin Hiemstra

We pray for:

Martha Aldridge, Elinor Basnight, Jake Bryan,
Eleanor Carroll, John Duncan, Landon Fox,
Jan Grosser, Karen Hayner, Courtney Leggette,
Heath Tuttle, Keith Minton, Spencer Reeves,
Connor Smith, Alan Swendiman



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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