2021 Annual Report to the Congregation



University Presbyterian Church Chapel Hill, NC

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From the Co-Pastors

As we closed the book on 2021, we couldn't help but feel a little like Ron Weasley at the end of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* when he says, "Do you think we'll ever just have a quiet year at Hogwarts?" Once Christmas is in the rearview mirror the mind cannot help but turn to the next high holy day, Easter, and we were a bit dumbstruck when we were asked a question about "how Easter usually happens at UPC." We had to say, "You know, I'm not sure. We have been here for over two years but we've never experienced a 'normal' Easter here."



What we're learning to trust, however, is that God never promises us 'normal,' but the Church can always choose to remain faithful.

There is very little in the following pages that will look 'normal' to those familiar with a typical year in the life of University Presbyterian Church. You'll find pictures of worship services outdoors, Sunday school gathered in the front yard, choirs rehearsing in parking garages, and so.many.masks. It looks nothing like UPC 2019, and yet we can take pride in the fact that when everything around us was anything but normal, UPC remained faithful still.

So take a look at an anything-but-ordinary year in the life of UPC. I hope that, like us, you'll see the extraordinarily faithful love of God in every word and image.

Revs. Jarrett and Meg Peery McLaughlin

2021 By the Numbers



27 new members (includes 5 confirmands)



6 baptisms



18 deaths



Total Active Membership as of 12/31/21: 1232

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Worship & Music

At the start of 2021, weekly worship was held virtually (livestreamed), with Holy Week, Easter, drivethrough communion, etc. outdoors. We returned to the sanctuary in late summer with adaptations: masks, distancing, outdoor communion, no-touch offering.







Augmented "special service" offerings: Tenebrae, All Saints' Compline, Longest Night

A new monthly **contemplative Taize service**. Candlelight. Scripture. Chanting. Held in the Memorial Garden during the warmer months, in chancel during the winter.



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Chancel Choir resumed, rehearsals held distanced in the sanctuary with pieces recorded for virtual worship. In August, choir returned to the chancel for in-person services. Four new Choral Scholars were welcomed in the fall—these UNC music students sing regularly with the ensemble, learning about sacred music in a church setting.









Children's/Youth Choirs resumed late fall with outdoor rehearsals in garden. Highlights included a Halloween Spooktacular, Caroling at Carol Woods/Homebound members' houses, Christmas Party, and singing for Lessons and Carols.





Children's Ministry

Children's ministry shifted to the great outdoors! Together we had parking lot gatherings, outdoor movie nights, and Sunday School on the lawn in the fall.



Vacation Bible School returned to New Hope Camp and Conference Center, and we learned how we can be heroes with God's help.



Kirk Club met multiple times in the spring on the church parking lot and transitioned to the front lawn for regular gatherings in the fall. Climbing the magnolia tree continues to be a favorite activity!



A pandemic shift of moving the Advent Craft Festival outdoors turned out to be a much-loved change!



Youth Ministry





We've moved from Zoom to the parking lot to the front lawn to **indoor masked youth events**.



We sent 3 vaccinated youth to **Montreat Youth Conference** for a week of fellowship and faith formation before the Delta variant began its spread.



Our new **Youth Engagement Council** leadership team was formed and is making a difference in our youth programming and attendance.



PYC donated over 560 pounds of **food to TABLE** this summer and packed over 300 bags for TABLE's Thanksgiving disbursement.



We're planning for **the return of youth retreats and trips in 2022!** We can't wait to travel together again.

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Presbyterian Campus Ministry

In 2021, PCM...



Ate together in the Fellowship Hall and outdoors in the garden during the Fall!

Held **online programs** in the Spring with two outdoor day retreats, and **masked inperson programs** in the Fall with a Jordan Lake day retreat!



Welcomed lots of **new students** safely into our PCM space!

Bonded through events such as weekly meals and programs, pumpkin carving, pretzel making with our expert intern Alli, service events, day retreats, and painting!

Welcomed **Kim Rubish** as our first ever pastoral resident and **Alli Buikema** as our seminary intern!









Adult Education

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The **Crossroads Class** continued meeting all year, studying and reflecting on individual Books of the Old Testament using videos from The Bible Project. In 2022 the class will move to New Testament Books. Led by Robert and Laura Owen, Julie Kim and Reid Chisholm, and Ed and Nancy Preston, this class has adapted from in person to online and back during the course of the pandemic, building a close intergenerational community.





In the spring, members of the AEC helped provide personal notes and Easter lilies to all of the **small group leaders.**



After a meet and great to kick off our fall programming, the much loved **Faith and the Arts series** began again in person. Led by Nancy Benjamin and Don Kennedy, the series focused on the short story collection *Eyes to See* (2008), with each week's discussion facilitated by different class members.

WAST!

University Presbyterian Preschool







UPPS stayed **open!**We stayed **healthy!**And last year, we stayed **outside!**







This year, we're **back in the classrooms**, but keeping our healthy habits, learning lots, and having fun while we're doing it!



Congregational Life

Pentecost Picnic at Camp New Hope- Fun, fellowship, food, music, and ice cream!



Punch on the Porch- cookies and punch served after the Sunday service





Second Sunday Snacks- A new modified outdoor version of our Second Sunday Lunches





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Small Groups

In 2021, we continued our small group ministry with **21 small groups**, meeting either via Zoom or in-person outside. These small groups served as a vital connection to our church community as worship continued virtually.





11 vibrant small groups continued in the Fall, a lesser number due to the resumption of Sunday School and other programming.





"I've been able to form new friendships with church members that I definitely would not have met simply by attending worship or Sunday School."

"Our small group comprises a beautiful diversity in participants' life stages, and our collective understanding of the weekly teaching has grown richly..."

"Small Group helped to keep church alive for us during a time when we could not meet in the sanctuary, and it helped to turn what were once acquaintance relationships into lasting friendships."

"...instead of unraveling, I think we were weaving things together... all our various faith experiences in the past woven together with shared experiences of hearing UPC sermons and discussing the scripture."

Presbyterian Women





Four Circles met throughout the year, mostly by Zoom (with a few socially-distanced backyard gatherings included).

The PW Coordinating Team continued their work both virtually and in person. The Team updated the bylaws and explored mail distribution of *Our Daily Bread Devotionals*.





UPW sponsored the Diaper Drive to benefit the Refugee Support Center. With Vicki Lotz's leadership, the Drive raised \$1874.50 in 2020. That money was used to purchase diapers and deliver a \$1000 check in January 2021.

Benevolences were given to Children's Home Alliance, Church Women United, UPPS, Camp New Hope, UNC PCM, Our Daily Bread Devotionals, Presbytery of New Hope, UPC Staff, and the UPC Maintenance Reserve Fund.

New Hope Presbytery had its Fall Gathering by Zoom.

Church Women United led locally by Susie Smith, our Community Outreach Chair, met by Zoom with the topic of Human Rights Celebration. Susie has also worked with CWU on food collection and distribution projects



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Deacons

Due to the continued restrictions placed on in-person gatherings, the Board of Deacons focused on alternative ways to continue its ministry of care and compassion for our congregation.

Chief among these efforts was an increased focus on consistent communication and engagement with our geographically determined neighborhoods.

These efforts involved more frequent communication via letters, phone calls, Zoom meetings, etc. to ensure we were able to support the needs of our members.







To help equip Deacons with how to discuss the many struggles people have faced during COVID, we participated in instructional sessions and discussions around Grief, the state of things in NC with COVID, and how to Lead in a Liminal Space.

The Deacons were able to return to some of their normal means of care and support for our community late in 2021 by supporting the memorial receptions that have been held, as well as the return to in-person services at Carol Woods and Carolina Meadows.





Racial Equity



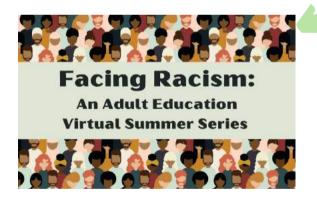
In 2021, the Session approved a **mission statement** for the Racial Equity Team:

As members of University Presbyterian Church, we trust the word of God will guide us as we grow in relationships with one another and our neighbors. We acknowledge that as siblings in Christ, we have different histories, experiences, and perspectives that inform our views on race and racism. Our diverse experiences will fuel our work together as we seek to understand, identify, and resist racism. As such, we strive to:

- Trust our sacred obligation to work toward and sustain racial, cultural, and social justice for all of God's creation.
- Continue to choose welcome, foster inclusion, and challenge inequality in all of its manifestations.
- Galvanize the church to act on issues of racism, violence, and poverty as prophetic witnesses to Christ's transforming justice.



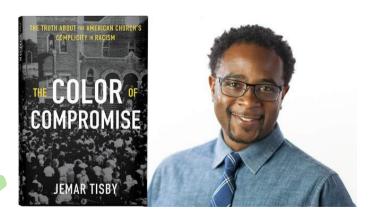
The RET also:



Offered a Facing Racism **Summer Series**

Oversaw a **Session study** of the PCUSA's Facing Racism document

Led a **Fall Book Study** of Jemar Tisby's *The Color* of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism





Identified **1619 Consulting** to partner with for consultation and training

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Earth Care

In 2021, the Earth Care Team:

Spearheaded **recertification** of UPC as a PC(USA) "Earth Care Congregation"

Continued UPC's **commercial composting program**, which has diverted over 27,000 pounds of waste from landfills since February 2020, avoiding the CO2 equivalent of driving 80,000 miles.

Installed in highly visible areas multiple **triple-stream (recycling, compost, landfill) waste receptacles** funded by UPC's Endowment Committee.

Helped lead an "Interfaith Prayer March for Climate Justice" on Frankin St. and rang UPC's steeple bell for 30 minutes prior to the U.N. "COP26" Climate Conference in Glasgow in October.





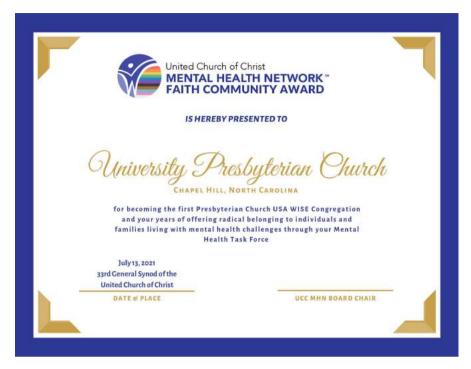


Led and/or participated in multiple online events sponsored by **Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation**, which UPC helped found in 2019 . See facebook.com/OrangeChathamICC

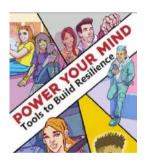


Mental Health Task Force





UPC became a **WISE Covenant congregation**, pledging to include those with mental illness in all aspect of congregational life, and was one of two congregations (and the only Presbyterian congregation) in the nation honored for our work. The Task Force also:



...planned an upcoming adult education class for parents and others interested in youth to use the **"Power the Mind"** program to teach skills for coping with stress and anxiety;



...developed a **"Slack"**website to provide a space
for online conversations
about mental health issues:



...and worked with pastoral staff to provide a **grief group**, **a Longest Night service**, **and a grief resources list** for the website

UPC also participated with other congregations in **Faith Connections on Mental Illness and NAMI**.





Stephen Ministry



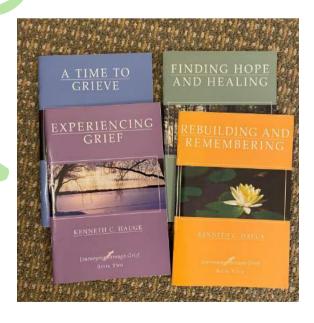
In the midst of ongoing pandemic, we continued to provide **compassionate**, **confidential**, **and ongoing companionship and support** to care receivers through in-person visits, emails, handwritten letters, Zoom calls.

Hosted the All Saints' Day Compline service



Co-hosted the annual **Longest Night** service with the UPC Mental Health Task Force





Reenergized for 2022 by meeting with other local Stephen Ministry leaders and planning continuing education opportunities to begin during the season of Lent

Local Outreach

Church members participated in teams at two **Habitat for Humanity Build Days** at the Weavers Grove
Project, which will provide over 100 affordable housing units to be built right here in Chapel Hill/Carrboro.









The Scholastic Support Centers continued throughout the Spring semester of 2021, providing a stable environment for virtual learners to gather and have access to the proper assistance they need to succeed during the COVID pandemic. One parent stated "The Scholastic Support Center at the YMCA has been a miracle for us. It has given our daughter the help she's needed for school, allowing my husband and I to work, and provided a sense of community that has been missing with online school."

Local Outreach continues to address needs in our community through our partnerships with agencies such as the Interfaith Council, TABLE, and others. Multiple **Local Outreach Impact Teams are working to study the issues of Hunger and Homelessness** in our area so that we can best align our mission investments with the needs of the community and the energies of the congregation. As we move into 2022, we look forward to reorganizing our Local Outreach budget and providing active opportunities for the congregation to get engaged in local mission opportunities.

Global Outreach

In 2021, Global Outreach continued to connect with and support our global partners, including:



Malawi Medical Benevolence Foundation:

Lifesavers Clinics dramatically improved neonatal, maternal health; \$10,000 Endowment proposal awarded



Thailand Christian Communication Institute:

expanded technology to tell Bible by drama/music



Haiti

Haiti Reforestation Partnership:

earthquake relief; new science/conservation training for teens

Wings of Hope: in care for children/young adults, new security/COVID precautions

Haiti Outreach Ministries (Leon Dorleans):

new vocational campus, schools (1800 students), clinics, churches, all significant in Haiti's challenges



Committee Members: Sandy Alexander, Jack Benjamin, Frances Hess, Carolyn Karpinos, Kay Leaman, Sam Leaman, Lauren Mann, Jarrett McLaughlin, Mark Peifer, Lee Scott.

ADMINIS

Personnel

In 2021, UPC welcomed the following staff members:



Johnny Clay Sexton



Erin Collier Director of Communications & Stewardship



Peter Costa Financial Manager



Joey Fala

Director of Music
(moved from temporary to permanent)



Berry French
Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry
(moved from temporary to permanent)



Hadley Kifner Parish Associate



Sara Richard *Administrative Assistant*

We also said goodbye to and gave thanks for these staff as they concluded their tenure with UPC:

Melanie Chanko, Administrative Assistant
Vanessa Hawkins, Temporary Parish Associate
Kathleen Jasinskas, Director of Children's & Youth Choirs
Rob Kurtz, Sexton
Jeanette Schmidt, Office Manager
Katharine Yager, Controller

Nominating

The Nominating Committee identified a wonderful slate of Officers to begin serving as Elders and Deacons in 2022. Please hold these faithful servants in prayer as they step into leadership in the coming weeks and months.



Elders, Class of 2024

Mary Bozymski Carolyn Karpinos Jay Klompmaker Adam Lovelady Bella Moshier Michael Olson Sarah Owen Aaron Shah Brian Vandersea

Deacons, Class of 2024

Ed Billings **Brent Chambers** David Lane Ward Mann Susan Michaelson Colleen Minton Madeline Mitchell Carolyn Schwarz James Smith Judie Waters





























New Nominating Committee Members

Brian Curran Sandy Grubbs Laura Horrigan Lisa Lord

Property

HVAC

Maintaining and operating the HVAC is among the most time-consuming and budget-consuming activities for management of UPC's property. During COVID shutdown, relative humidity in the sanctuary rose to levels that were thought be a significant contributor to growth of mold. A temporary fix was put in place until humidity levels can be observed following return to inperson worship. Several other repairs were made, and a failure of the cooling system during the unusually warm Christmas season was still under investigation at year's end.



Moisture Control in the Youth Center

A project to correct the continuing problem of moisture on the walls and under the floor of the Youth Center and adjacent classrooms was addressed with development of a plan and contract for waterproofing. Estimated cost is \$150,000. Initiation of construction on the project was deferred to May 2022.

Repair and Painting of the Columns

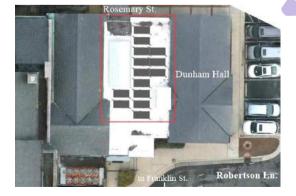
Extensive rot was found in two of the four columns in front of the church.

Temporary supports were required during the repairs to maintain the structural integrity of the columns.





ADMINISTRA



First Phase of the Solar-Powered Lighting Plan

A scope of work approved and a contract was signed for the first phase of the solar-powered lighting plan. It includes a 14-panel system with an expected output of about 9,500 kilowatt hours a year, providing lighting for the parking lot with an excess to displace other electricity consumption in the building.

Repair and Painting of Steeple

The final task of the steeple repair and paint project was completed with pressure washing areas of the slate roof and brick on which paint had been splattered.

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Endowment

The Endowment Committee approved the following requests in 2021:



Spring 2021 Grants

- \$10,000 to TABLE for their capital campaign
- \$4,000 to St. Joseph Family (SJF) in Jacmel, Haiti to upgrade their security wall
- **\$5,000 to PCM of North Carolina**, a new statewide initiative headed up by John Rogers
- \$6,500 for a variety of projects for the Narthex including an upgrade of the UPC name tag system
- **\$1,500 to UPPS** for 10 units of HEPA filtration for both classrooms and bathrooms
- \$15,000 to the Service Learning Center for the Spring Semester (as schools returned in-person mid-semester, this amount was not needed by the SLC and was returned to the Endowment Fund)





Fall 2021 Grants

- \$5,895 to Freedom House to upgrade a bathroom to a laundry room
- \$10,000 to Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) to expand their
 Lifesavers concept within church owned clinics in Malawi and into Kenya
- **\$9,000 to PCM** to support funding for a Pastoral Resident in Campus Ministry. Kim Rubish has been hired as the Pilot Pastoral Resident to launch this two year residency program and will split time between Cary Presbyterian and PCM.
- \$8,000 to upgrade the UPC church resident apartment
- \$4,475 to improve airflow and ventilation in UPC classrooms and large gathering spaces via HEPA air filtration systems, easy install window screens, and air exhaust fans





Stewardship

We celebrated our Dedication Sunday with a **Polka Party** on the front lawn!





As part of the pledge process, we asked the question, **"Why is UPC important to you?"**Here are some of the responses:

"UPC is important to me because of the many ways it has encouraged and strengthened my faith. I am grateful for its excellent ministers, staff, and educational leaders. I am grateful for its many programs (both educational and spiritual for both adults and children). I am grateful for its caring outreach to those in need within our church, our community, and in the world at large. I am grateful for the great difference it has made in my life to be a part of such a vibrant, inclusive, and caring church family. It is a joy to be a member of this church!"

"UPC is a home away from home for us and for our kids, where we're reminded of what is important. All of the activities help us all ground our lives in our faith so we can make better decisions and try to be a little more like Jesus. We love Sunday School (adult and children), kids' choirs, Sunday service, VBS, UPPS, connection, community, opportunities to serve, and all the ways UPC fills us up."

2022 Pledges as of January 18, 2022

Total amount pledged: \$1,702,358

Number of Pledges: 343 Average Amount Pledged: \$4,963 "As a relatively new member, I appreciate the warm welcome we have received at UPC. UPC is important to me to help me be and become a faithful disciple of Jesus, to keep me in touch with others on this faith journey and to put our faith in action together to help others as we are called."

SRATION

Administration

Considering the absence of in-person worship gatherings for seven months of 2021, in accordance with pandemic safety regulations, UPC's financial status has remained remarkably stable. The majority of expenses met projected budgetary expectations, and income was increased by bequests of \$21K and the growth in the church's investments of \$25K. Understandably, in such challenging circumstances, pledge, non-pledge and open-plate offering receipts were lower than anticipated, and a few necessary property repairs exceeded budgetary expectations.

Unaudited total revenues were \$1.939M (3.8% below budget), and expenses were \$2.012M (0.2% below budget), resulting in an expected net loss of \$73,847 for the year. Despite this annual shortfall, the overall General Reserve fund maintains a strong balance of \$396,643 at year end. The Administration Committee concludes that UPC is moving forward into 2022 on a sound financial foundation.

University Presbyterian Church

			2021
	2022 Budget	2021 Budget	Actual
p -	виаget	buaget	(Unaudited)
Revenues			
Operating Fund Receipts			
401105 - Pledges and Commitments	1,700,000	1,640,000	1,583,905
401106 - Pledges - Contra Revenue	(34,000)	(32,800)	2
401110 - Non Pledge Contributions	300,000	384,000	337,422
401115 - Open Plate Offering	5,000	15,000	2,774
401120 - Pledges Paid - Last Year		1070	2,920
401125 - Rec'd from UPPS	6,000	3,000	3,000
401130 - Rec'd for Weddings	00 <u>4</u> 0	120	300
401135 - Rec'd for Other Bldg Use	180		500
401170 - Reserve Utilization	173,000	2	120
Total Operating Fund Receipts	2,150,000	2,009,200	1,930,821
Ministry Program Receipts	75,750	6,900	7,904
Total Revenues	2,225,750	2,016,100	1,938,725
Expenses			
Personnel	1,411,564	1,378,549	1,355,270
Administration	402,991	232,056	263,916
Outreach	324,549	321,513	315,413
Worship	4,240	2,820	5,410
Chancel Choir	13,500	13,500	15,155
Children's Choir	28,260	4,500	4,456
Children's Ministry	18,750	10,671	9,907
Youth Ministry	44,150	21,250	15,624
Adult Christian Education	15,000	14,000	10,962
Deacons	3,500	2,366	3,210
Congregational Life	41,275	11,875	13,203
Membership & Assimilation	3,000	3,000	47
Total Expenses	2,310,779	2,016,100	2,012,572
Net Total	(85,029)	(¥	(73,847)

We give thanks for all of our leaders who helped guide and care for UPC in 2021:

Staff

PROGRAM

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
Kathleen Jasinskas, Director of Children's &
Youth Choirs (Jan-Dec)
Berry French, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry
Vanessa Hawkins, Parish Associate (Jan-April)
Hadley Kifner, Parish Associate (June-present)
Erin Collier, Director of Communications &
Stewardship (Feb-present)

ADMINISTRATION

Kathy Clemmons, *Treasurer (Volunteer)* Bill Whisenant, *Assistant Treasurer (Volunteer)* Nan Van Der Puy, *Assistant Treasurer (Volunteer)*

Jeanette Schmidt, Office Manager (Jan-Dec)
Lee White, Interim Office Manager (Dec-present)
Melanie Chanko, Administrative Assistant (Jan-June)
Sara Richard, Administrative Assistant (Sept-present)
Katharine Yager, Controller (Jan-July)
Peter Costa, Finance Manager (Sept-present)
Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant
Dennis Dallke, Property Manager
Rob Kurtz, Sexton (Jan-Aug)
Ken Krzyzewski, Interim Sexton (Aug-Sept)
Johnny Clay, Sexton (Sept-present)
Ellen Parker, UPPS Director

Session

Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Zane Buckner (Youth Elder)	Mellicent Blythe
Woody Burns	Katherine Bouldin
Claire Curran	Jeff Howard
Frances Hess	Alison Kavanaugh
Susan Jackson	Ken Krzyzewski
David Moreau	Vicki Lotz
Joan Page	Laura Piver
Walter Plunkett	Lee White
Tom Warburton	

Class of 2023

Sandy Alexander
Patty Baum Haydon
Amy McEntee
Anna Rose Medley
Scott Singleton
Bob Slater
Scott Smith
Hannah Starr

Clerk of Session:

Betsy Edwards

Deacons

Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Nancy Avery	Lee Ann Buck
Kara Aycock	Mickey Herrin
Shipley Jenkins	Chuck Osborne
Ella Kavanaugh (Youth Deacon)	Ken Pearce
Dallas Pridgen	Bill Sanford
Jim Schultz	Katherine Savage
Jan Simmons	Jim Snapper
Ken Younts	Kristen Stewart
	Tracy Woody

Class of 2023

Jesse Basnight, Jr.
Abbie DeVries
Fred Hill
Gwendolyn Lamb
Doug Lawson
Day McLaughlin
Samantha Schilling
Craig Shreve
Robin Thomas



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA