



APRIL 2022
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION

Remembering together on
April 10 | p. 2

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT UPC

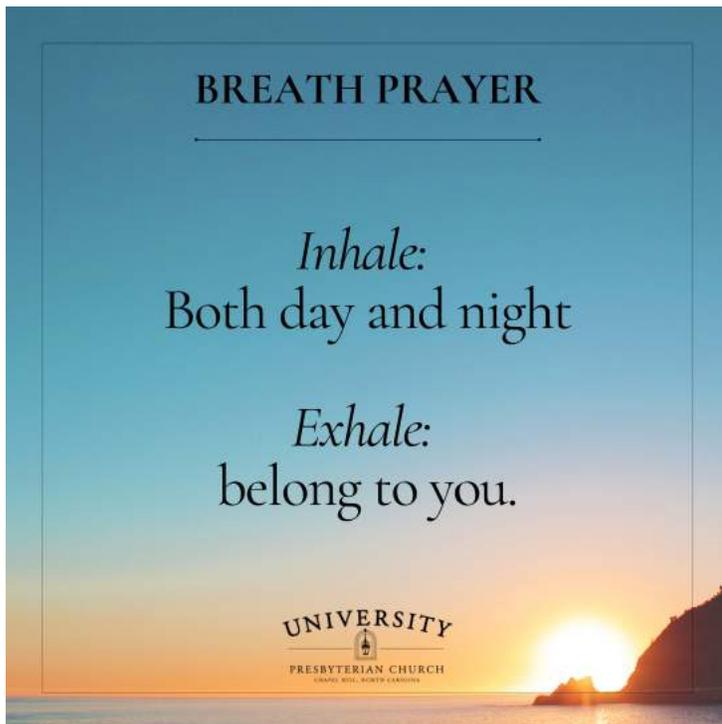
Worship, brunch, and an
egg hunt | p. 3-4

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT 2022

Sept. 9-11 - Don't forget to
register! | p. 7-8

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Cover Photo: Berry French offers ashes to college students in the UPC parking lot at our drive-thru imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday.

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**, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture
- Erin Collier**, Director of Communications and Stewardship
- Ellen Parker**, Director, UPPS
- Sara Richard**, Office Administrator
- Peter Costa**, Financial Manager
- Melani Willhite**, Financial Assistant
- Dennis Dallke**, Property Manager
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"We would sit down in the front – a black man and a white man would sit in the front, or two white men would sit in the back, or two black men in the front...the bus driver would tell us 'you couldn't do this,' and then we would say as politely as we could 'We are going off a Supreme Court decision...and you can be as prejudiced as you want but you cannot enforce an illegal prejudice on us'....and we would insist upon sitting where we were sitting and the only way we would move is if we were placed under arrest."

This is an excerpt from an oral history by Igal Roodenko. Everything about this sounds as if it comes from the 1961 Freedom Rides that erupted in Alabama. This first-person account, however, comes from Chapel Hill, in the year 1947 when an inter-racial group participated in what was called The Journey of Reconciliation.

Much like the Freedom Rides that would follow over a decade later, this group also sought to challenge whether busing companies would continue to enforce Jim Crow segregation laws in spite of the 1946 Supreme Court decision that ruled it illegal for interstate travel. The journey began in Washington DC, continued through Richmond, and then passed into North Carolina where the riders encountered their first violent reaction right here in Chapel Hill.

This month marks the 75th anniversary of this little-known piece of local history. In addition to the brave individuals who put their bodies on the line, another figure at the heart of this story is Charlie Jones, former pastor here at University Presbyterian Church (then called The Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill). Rev. Jones welcomed the riders to our church for Sunday morning worship and, when things turned violent at the bus station, he welcomed them into his home for protection and secured them safe passage on to Greensboro where they continued their journey unharmed.

In partnership with the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition and a number of other local organizations, we have an opportunity to remember this story together. In addition to our own worship on Palm Sunday, there will also be a community walk that same Sunday, April 10, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. This will be an opportunity to visit the sites where this seldom told story unfolded and to reflect on the twin legacies of deep prejudice and an even deeper faithfulness that animate this incredible tale of courageous witness.

Seventy-five years is a long enough time to forget – to forget that this town did harbor outright hatred; to forget that the Church, then as now, always has an opportunity to do the right thing; to stand by the dispossessed of every time and place.

Telling our history rightly is an important step we each can take along the journey of reconciliation that continues today. I hope you will join us to learn more.

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



Members of the Journey of Reconciliation in 1947. Left to right: Worth Randle, Wallace Nelson, Ernest Bromley, James Peck, Igal Roodenko, Bayard Rustin, James Felmet, George Houser and Andrew Johnson.

Holy Week at UPC

Maundy Thursday - April 14, 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday is the day during Holy Week that commemorates Jesus' last meal with his disciples, when he washed their feet and gave them the commandment (mandate, where we get the word Maundy) to love one another. Join us in the Sanctuary for a contemplative service, including Holy Communion, to reflect on how Jesus proclaimed the gospel through service and love.

Communion will be offered via intinction (dipping pieces of bread into a common cup of juice); prepackaged elements will be available for those who prefer that method of receiving communion.



Good Friday - April 15, 7:30 pm

On the Friday of Holy Week, we will worship together in a Service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is the Latin word meaning darkness. Sometimes we learn things in the dark, in the shadows, that we could have never learned or appreciated in the bright light of day. On Good Friday, we will read the story of Jesus' passion (his suffering and death) and extinguish lights until we leave the sanctuary in complete darkness, awaiting the glorious light of Easter morning. I suppose you could understand Good Friday as good because of what we know will happen three days later, but since nothing good happened on that sorrowful day, it's also understandable to see how the etymology of the day comes from calling the day "God's Friday" or "Sacred/Holy Friday"—that even on the darkness, hardest day, that day still belongs to God.

Join us in person or via livestream on that day.



Current COVID Precautions

UPC is **remaining masked during worship services** until the Sunday after Easter (April 24). We are **"masks optional" for all other activities** at the church, with the exception of the nursery/preschool-K classes. We are relying on everyone's good judgment and consideration of each other's needs to decide within each particular group if you are comfortable being unmasked. We will resume **communion via intinction on April 3**; prepackaged elements will be available for those who prefer that method.

WELCOME TO UPC!
We're so glad you're here!

Our current COVID precautions are:

MASK UP IN WORSHIP
Why? To help protect our unvaccinated neighbors and young children worshipping with us.
Forgot yours? We have extra!
We will move to mask optional in worship on April 24.

MASK OPTIONAL IN (MOST) OTHER PLACES
Masks are not required in Sunday School classes for vaccinated age groups, meetings, and the office.
Masks ARE still required for teachers and students ages 2-11 in the nursery and preschool K classes.
If you feel more comfortable in a mask, please continue to wear it!

Thank you for abiding by our protocols!

UNIVERSITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter at UPC - Sunday, April 17

Easter Sunday Worship - 8:30 & 11:00 am

We'll worship together at 8:30 and 11:00 am on Easter Sunday. Both services will be in the Sanctuary; only the 11:00 service will be livestreamed. Instead of Sunday School on that day, we will have a potluck brunch.

Potluck Easter Brunch - 9:45 am

Join us for a potluck Easter Brunch at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall! Beverages will be provided; please bring a breakfast dish to share (quiche, muffins, fruit, etc.). Savory breakfast dishes are greatly appreciated. Please remember to label your dishes and serving spoons with your name if you'd like to have them back, and pick them up following the brunch. If your contribution contains allergens or is suitable for those with special dietary needs, please add labels such as "gluten free," "contains peanuts/tree nuts," or "vegetarian."

Seating will also be available in the garden for those who prefer to eat outdoors. All are welcome!



Egg Hunt - 10:15 am

All children are invited to join us on the front lawn at 10:15 am for an Easter Egg hunt. Don't forget to bring a basket to collect your eggs!



Flowering the Cross

Last year's flower cross was so lovely that we decided to do it again! This year, the cross will already have flowers on it and be outside all morning (great for your Easter Sunday family photos). If you'd like to bring more flowers from home to add to it, please do! We will not have extra flowers available.

Easter Offering

It is our tradition for Easter to collect an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports several PCUSA initiatives to help our neighbors in need. This year, our offering will be fully designated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and their Ukrainian relief fund. To give, visit upcch.org/give and select "One Great Hour of Sharing," or write a check to UPC with "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line.

Easter Gifts of Beauty and Bounty

Purchase a lily or give to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service in honor or memory of your loved ones! Visit upcch.org/easter-beauty-bounty to learn more, or pick up a paper form in the narthex. The deadline to give is Friday, April 8. The names of those honored and remembered will be in the Easter bulletin on April 17.

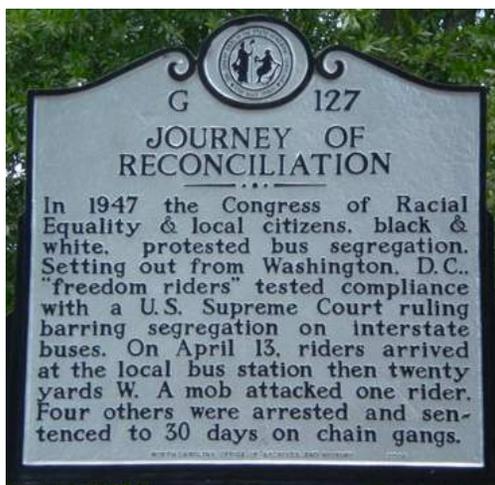
Spiritual Formation Opportunities in April

Ongoing Adult Classes - Sundays at 9:45 am

Crossroads Class (Room 218): Crossroads is a multi-generational group coming together to reflect on scripture; currently, they are studying an overview of books of the Bible using videos from *The Bible Project*.

Exploring Spiritual Practices: A Journey Through Lent (Terrace Room): You are invited to a Sunday School class facilitated by Hadley Kifner during Lent that will explore different spiritual practices. Practices will include contemplative prayer; the Daily Examen, *Lectio Divina*, Creation Reflection, and Silence + Solitude. *This class will conclude on April 10.*

Note: There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 17.



Journey of Reconciliation - Sun., April 10, 2:00 pm

Join us on the afternoon of April 10 for a community walk as we remember the 75th Anniversary of the Journey of Reconciliation. (For more about this history, see Jarrett's article on page 2).

This guided walking tour will take us past several key locations in this important but often overlooked piece of local history. If you plan to join the tour, meet in the UPC parking lot at 1:45 pm, and we'll walk to the starting point together. Don't forget to wear your walking shoes!

Presby 101 - Sun., April 24, 9:45 am

Ever wonder why we do what we do in worship and in what order? Curious about the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion—and why Presbyterians only have two sacraments? You're invited to join us on April 24 in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:45 to 10:45 am) for our second episode on what it means to be a Presbyterian. Meg Peery McLaughlin will be teaching the class on Reformed Worship and Sacraments. Presbyterians claim that worship is the central act of the people of God. We'll walk through a "typical UPC Sunday morning" and see what it has to teach us about God. This is a great class for newcomers and old-timers alike.



Presbyterian Women Groups

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

Circle 2: Mon., April 4 at 9:45 am by Zoom *Contact:* Rachel Harshaw (919 928-4514 or rachel@jehars.com)

Circle 3: Tues., April 5 at 10:00 am by Zoom *Contact:* Mary Ann Klomp maker (919 270-0657 or maryann6543@gmail.com)

Circle 4: Tues., April 5 at 11:00 am by Zoom *Contact:* Susie Smith (757 274-2551 or snyricks@gmail.com)

Circle 5: Wed., April 6 at 7:00 pm; location TBA *Contact:* Mary Ellen Olson (919 302-1426 or maryeolson27@gmail.com)



In the 1940s, Albert Einstein coined the term holy curiosity, explaining it as “a spirit of humility, an open-minded search for truth, and a transcendental wonder.” [1] I heard this term in seminary for the first time decades ago and it became an inspiration for the kind of divinity student I aimed to be. As a hospital chaplain, I tried to listen to patient stories and physician experiences with the same kind of approach, hoping to assess spiritual needs with questions that were probing but not prying. (Just this week did I learn that it was Einstein, a theoretical physicist, and not a theologian, who came up with this term.) Now, thinking about holy curiosity in the context of spiritual practices within a faith community, I am experiencing it as a guiding principle yet again, and observing it in you.

These past few weeks, a handful of us has been exploring a variety of spiritual practices together during the Sunday School hour. We meet in the Terrace Room with lit candles and cups of coffee scattered among us. We come tired and expectant, curious and ready to try something new. So far, we have explored the Daily Examen, Centering Prayer, and Lectio Divina. Ahead of us, we have Reflection in Creation, Silence and Solitude, and Confession. We are journeying toward Easter together through Lent, exploring ways to be faithful together in quiet ways along the way.

What has struck me as beautiful and surprising so far during these classes is the collective willingness to learn something new. Some friends show up to class a bit uncertain about why 21st century Presbyterians in Chapel Hill, NC might dedicate time to practicing approaches to prayer that are rooted in ancient monastic traditions, yet willing to engage and open to the experience. Other friends have arrived intentionally seeking a time of quiet, stillness, and deep connection, aware that your spirit is in need of some kind of attention, nurture, or engagement. In all, there is a holy curiosity.

I have observed among us, not just during this Sunday School class but also in Bible studies, Women's Circle meetings, committee Zooms, and conversations about prayer, a desire to dig deeper, a bravery to name where God has felt distant, a yearning to use the vocabulary of our shared faith to claim goodness and hope about the future. Perhaps like the original disciples, we answer Jesus' invitation by showing up with our best intentions to be faithful – and with us we bring our questions and insecurities, hoping for direction, encouragement, clarity, and gentle nurture.

The simple act of showing up to wonder, learn, and pray together matters. It says something about the Spirit at work among us, our desire for connection, our recognition of a quest for wisdom, and a thirst for God's unfathomable love to quench the deepest parts of our selves.

Let us press on toward Easter, together, with holy curiosity...

[1] Albert Einstein, Statement to William Miller, as quoted in LIFE magazine (2 May 1955).



Register for the Women's Retreat (April 9)

All UPC women are invited to our 2022 women's retreat - and friends, neighbors, and colleagues are welcome, too! We'll gather from 1-6 pm at UPC on Saturday, April 9 for large group listening, small groups for discussion, and creative and contemplative activity offerings. The retreat will end with a worship service and dinner. Visit upcch.org/womens-retreat for more details and to register today!

PATH OF PEACE

University Presbyterian Church
2022 Congregational Retreat



A weekend away for all ages and stages of life!



Sept. 9-11 in Montreat, NC

To learn more and register, visit upcch.org/retreat

Register by June 4 to guarantee housing!

Why do UPC members love the retreat?



My family and I have attended every UPC retreat since its inception. Of course, Montreat is an amazing place to be but to be there with our church community is all the more meaningful. **What keeps us coming back is the diversity of workshops** which have varied year to year and is always a highlight of Saturday activities. My two favorite things about the weekend in Montreat is the **small groups and the "Prayer Partner."** The small groups have allowed me to really get to know so many people in our UPC community and to hear their perspectives on the world around us, their spiritual journey and amazing experiences.

Assigning a prayer person is an especially unique way to meet someone in the church and offer prayer and spiritual comfort; moving from a friendly acquaintance to a friend. We all are encouraged to introduce ourselves to let that person know simply, that they are being prayed for. However, my experience has been much richer than that. I have had some of the most intimate talks with my prayer partner because after we meet and I am comfortable, I feel safe to share my struggles, my celebrations, concerns, and to meet them where they're at on their spiritual journey. They in turn, listen and share some of the same realities and in doing so, **we can love and encourage each other, offer advice, comfort and understanding knowing that God is among us and moves through us.**

I look forward to the retreat every year and more so, post COVID, this year to once again, try new activities, meet amazing people and to feel the Holy Spirit among us.

-Aaron Cook



Joe and I were attenders but hadn't yet joined UPC when the very first retreat was announced. We were eager to sign up; **we wanted to get to know more UPC folks** and to get to know the folks we had met even better. It worked! We haven't missed a retreat since then (except for the pandemic hiatus, that all of us missed!). **We enjoy the easy pace**, the camaraderie, the "camp" atmosphere, the food (cooked by others!), being in the mountains, and still, getting better acquainted with fellow church members. I especially love the **chatter groups**; Joe says **Hadley's guided meditations** are special for him. And, of course, both of us enjoy the cook-outs! We're already packing our toothbrushes for the next trip to Montreat.

-Jo Ann Hundley



Retreat FAQ

Q: Is this retreat for families only?

A: No! UPC members of all ages and stages of life attend and enjoy the congregational retreat.

Q: How are the accommodations?

A: We sleep in the Assembly Inn hotel, a beautiful stone building with all the creature comforts we're used to.

Q: How's the food?

A: Montreat's Galax Dining Room offers a variety of options at meals and can accommodate food allergies.

Q: What about childcare?

A: Childcare for birth-preK is available during keynote addresses, workshops, chatter groups, the concert, and worship.

Q: Is there financial assistance?

A: We have a retreat scholarship fund. If cost is a barrier, we will confidentially work with you to determine how we can best meet your needs. Visit upcch.org/retreat for the request form, or you may email a church staff member.

Q: What COVID precautions will we follow?

A: UPC has been and continues to be careful when it comes to COVID. We will continue to pay attention to the current data and follow accordingly with our precautions, making official decisions as we get closer to the retreat dates.

Refugee Support - How You Can Help

In early 2022, UPC entered into a relationship with the Destageer family who evacuated Afghanistan in September with their then three children (a fourth child was born a few months later here in the USA). In late February, we helped them secure an apartment and have their own space after months of living with the father's brother. Since then, the core team has been quite busy helping to furnish the apartment, identify and enroll two of the children in preschool, develop a resume with the father, and begin the work of finding a job for him in the field of HVAC repair if possible.

Our relationship with the Destageer family is designed to be one that moves towards self-sufficiency over the course of the next few months. For now, funds designated by our Local and Global Outreach committees are being used to cover their rent for the first 3-4 months. In the spirit of the Presbyterian Women's continued concern about refugees, the UPC women's organization has also donated \$300 in grocery store gift cards.

Individuals or small groups in the congregation are invited to help support them in other ways. UPC has opened a fund in our online giving page so that individuals and small groups can contribute to help cover some daily expenses like groceries, formula, diapers, etc. At this time, we are not accepting physical donations. Our plan is to offer them \$300 a week for the next 12 weeks and then reassess when employment is secured and we can get a sense of their budget. Visit upcch.org/refugee-support to give online, or write a check to UPC with "Refugee Support" in the memo line.



UPC Certified as an Earth Care Congregation

For the fourth consecutive year, UPC has been recertified by PC(USA) as an Earth Care Congregation for its environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education, facilities and outreach. Earth Care Congregation certification recognizes churches that commit to God's charge to "till and keep" the garden. Started in 2010, this PC(USA) program strives to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, integrating earth care action into all aspects of church life.



"University Presbyterian Church is one of the 292 churches in our denomination that chose to dedicate itself to intentional care of God's earth this year," said Jessica Maudlin, PC(USA) Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns. "Its activities and commitment despite COVID limitations bring hope to its community and indeed to the world."

UPC is grateful to our Earth Care Team for its leadership and inspiration in caring for all of creation.

Since UPC began composting in February 2020...



29,750 lbs have been diverted from the landfill...



...2,975 lbs of compost have been created...



...with the equivalent environmental impact of not driving 86,844 miles!

Stories from the PCM Spring Break Trip

In March, I joined a group of ten PCMs, led by Berry and Kim, to spend spring break in the Black Mountain, NC area. Although most of us had no prior experience, we began the trip by backpacking in the holy land of Montreat. Growing closer in those Presbyterian woods came naturally as we hiked 4 miles through the beautiful scenery. The trip was free from most everyday distractions, and we were able to enjoy the peace of the wilderness. We were joined by two brave travelers at the much-needed warmth of our campfire, whose only information about us came from Berry: that we would soon be conducting a "sunset ritual" at the Walker's Knob overlook.

Although we gave Berry a hard time about his ominous exchange with the hikers, he wasn't wrong that we would have a type of religious experience at the overlook. Having set up camp just a short walk away, the view only intensified my very raw awareness that I was at the mercy of creation. Sitting on the cliff and taking in the vast sunset, tiny cars, and distant ridge lines, I turned to contemplation, and I imagine everyone else did too. This very intimate form of prayer is something that Alli, our seminary intern, introduced to us months ago, and one that has stuck for me. This practice has never felt as intimate as it did sitting deep in the woods with no worries other than taking all of the scenery in. After getting back to Chapel Hill, I am already planning out when I can rent more backpacking gear to head out again with everyone.



-Madelyn McLain, PCM Sophomore



This year's spring break was one of the most highly anticipated weeks I have had in a long time. I was thrilled to have an opportunity to get a break from the hustle and bustle of Carolina, along with the amazing chance to spend time with the PCM community. Our first night was filled with laughter, great food, and a wonderful opportunity to plan for the week. The next day, we jumped straight into adventure with a bouldering trip led by two PCM students. It was so cool to see them in their element, passionately teaching the rest of us about the technique, safety, and vocabulary of bouldering. We all had a thrilling time, and it was amazing to see people climbing to the top of rocks, overcoming the fears and challenges of climbing.

The next day, we attended a worship service at Haywood Street Congregation in Asheville, which is a largely homeless congregation. It was a transformative experience for many of us. Following worship, we had a great lunch in downtown Asheville and had time to explore some of the shops in the area. It was so fun to try on clothes at thrift stores together, explore a store with windchimes hanging everywhere, and laugh as we looked at funny sock designs.

On our last full day together, we explored some of the area around Warren Wilson College and played games while enjoying beautiful spring weather. We also had the opportunity to swim in the river near where we had been relaxing all day. Berry, Kim, and the rest of the group jumped into the freezing cold water, which was a good laugh when they felt how frigid the water was. I am extremely grateful for the time we spent together, the memories made, and the bonds formed during this trip, and I can't wait for the next one!

-Audra Nelson, PCM First-Year

Save the Dates in May & June

Home Communion

Sun., May 1

On Sunday, May 1, UPC Deacons will be visiting members of the church at home to share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together. If you or someone you know would like to be visited on that day to receive communion, please contact Meg Peery McLaughlin (meg@upcch.org or 919-929-2102).

Church-Wide Potluck Picnic

Sun., May 22, 12:00 pm

Mark your calendars now for an afternoon of fun and fellowship! We're making plans for a church-wide picnic after worship on May 22. Stay tuned for more details!



Moses, Prince of Egypt

Presented by the UPC Youth Choir

Wed., May 25, 7:30 pm

UPC Sanctuary



The youth musical is back! Join us as our youth choir tells the story of Moses, from his journey in the basket to the parting of the Red Sea, through music and drama.

NEW IN 2022: This event is free - no tickets necessary!

Vacation Bible School 2022

Plan to join us June 27-30, 2022, at New Hope Camp and Conference Center for Vacation Bible School! Children age 4 (as of 9/1/2022) through rising 5th graders (in fall 2022) are welcome to join us. All children must be potty-trained and able to wear a mask all day. A decision about whether masks will be required will be made closer to the date.

Registration is now open to all; visit upcch.org/vbs for details and to register today.



VBS Volunteers Needed: If you'd like to volunteer at VBS this summer, please visit upcch.org/vbs-volunteers. Youth (rising 6th grade and up) and adult volunteers are needed and welcome!



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

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