



MAY 2022
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



OUR MAY SERMON SERIES

Exploring Faith & the
Arts | p. 3

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK PICNIC

Join us on May 22 for food
and fellowship! | p. 4

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

Ryan Byrnes, Director of
Operations | p. 6

In this Edition...

Nancy's Summer Plans.....	2
About Our May Sermon Series.....	3
Coming Events @ UPC.....	4
Summer Worship Schedule.....	5
Community Opportunities.....	5
Meet our Director of Operations.....	6
Spring Endowment Report.....	6
Youth Trips are Back!.....	7
Celebrating the Women's Retreat.....	8
2022 Congregational Retreat.....	9
Meet our New Members.....	10
Presbyterian Women Respond to Ukraine..	11

A Note from Jeanette Schmidt

I am beyond grateful for the generosity of and support from the congregation. I have enjoyed some time of rest, self improvement, and working on my next adventure. I am excited for several potential opportunities on the horizon and am hopeful to have a new job soon. I will always treasure my years at UPC and the wonderful people I met along the way.



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, Dir. of Communications & Stewardship
Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS
Sara Richard, Office Administrator
Peter Costa, Financial Manager
Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant
Dennis Dallke, Property Manager
Johnny Clay, Sexton

Find us online!



upcch.org



facebook.com/upcch



@upc_chapelhill



vimeo.com/upcch

Cover Photo: Checking out what's inside the eggs after the UPC Easter Egg Hunt on April 17. Our families enjoyed the return of this tradition! (Photo credit: Patrick Kavanaugh)



Dear friends,

Many of you have been asking where I am in my seminary process. Seems like it is time for an update! I recently finished the spring semester of my fourth year, having taken a course in Presbyterian polity and a lectionary course that focused on questions of goodness and violence. I plan to graduate in June 2023, with ordination soon to follow! I only have three "regular" courses remaining plus a summer internship called Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

Here is a note about CPE from the UNC Hospitals website:

"Pastoral Care and the CPE Program are well integrated into the life and mission of UNC Hospitals. CPE students are valued members of the health care team, and participate in patient care, family meetings and ethics consults. CPE students work alongside staff chaplains within a large pastoral care department, with opportunities for multidisciplinary learning throughout our hospitals. CPE provides students with the opportunity to integrate their personal history and their theological heritage into an authentic pastoral identity. Students work with their supervisor to craft individual learning goals in this adult education format."

I will be doing CPE this summer from May 23 - August 7. What this means is that, for the most part, I will be away from my children's ministry duties at UPC. Things that need to be done will still happen, and Vacation Bible School is in good hands!

My CPE placement is at the Hillsborough campus of UNC Hospitals, and the CPE program there is somewhat of a hybrid between pastoral care in the hospital and pastoral care in a community setting. My community setting will be UPC! This means that while I will not be doing much children's ministry over the summer, I will be doing some pastoral care with this congregation. My hope is that it will help me get to know some of you better and will deepen my pastoral identity in this family of faith.

The exact number of hours I will be in each place is not yet clear, but just know that if you see me around the church halls during the week this summer, I will likely be working in a capacity outside of what I have been doing for the past 7+ years. Not to fear - I am definitely planning to return to children's ministry full-time in August. I am looking forward to growth this summer, both as a person and as a pastor, and I trust that this process will be good for both me and the Church. I welcome your prayers as I enter into a realm that will be new for me - full-time pastoral care - and I look forward to updating you along the way and once I have completed this CPE unit.

Grace and peace,

Nancy



What to Expect in May

May Sermon Series: Faith & the Arts

What does it mean to be made in the image of the creator? the great gardener? Could it mean that we, too, are those who are divinely imbued with creativity and the ability to cultivate beauty? How have the arts connected you to the holy? Or grounded you as a child of God? These are questions we'll be considering in our May Sermon Series: **Faith & The Arts**. We'll be moseying into the mystery of God through different mediums—film, story, visual arts.



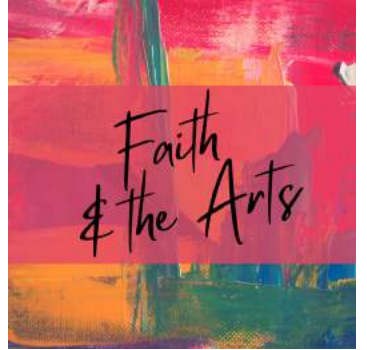
May 15: Faith & Film



May 22: Paint & Pain



May 29: Literature & Life (we will move to our summer worship schedule on this day)



We'd love your participation in this conversation!

- **Join us for a UPC MOVIE NIGHT.** On Friday, May 13 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall, we'll watch Disney's *Encanto* together. Email Sara Richard (admin@upcch.org) if you'd like to be in the count for pizza that night. Bring a camping chair or sleeping bag for the floor if you don't like folding chairs.
- And **if you have connections to Allan Gurganus**, let Pastor Meg know, because we'd love to host him for a conversation about his Short Story "It Had Wings" during the Sunday School Hour.



Taizé Worship

Tues., May 10, 8:00 pm in the Memorial Garden

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.

Please note the time change and location change! To attend, enter via the portico door to the left of the sanctuary and follow the signs to the garden. For safety, no other doors will be open, and this door will be locked at 8:05.



Coming Events at UPC



Church-Wide Potluck Picnic

Sun., May 22 at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for a church-wide potluck picnic, including live bluegrass music by Charles Pettee and "Slippery Hill," on May 22 following the 11:00 service in the Fellowship Hall. Beverages, fried chicken, and ice cream will be provided; please bring a dish to share (salads, casseroles, sides). Seating will also be available in the garden for those who prefer to eat outdoors.

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 potluck. 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."

We also need some volunteers to help with this event! Are you able to help set up the day before? Can you help serve or clean up after the picnic? Visit upcch.org/picnic to access the sign up page and volunteer today!

Youth Musical

Wed., May 25 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

The youth musical is back! Join us on May 25 as our students present "Moses: Prince of Egypt," telling the story of Moses through drama and song. All are welcome; no tickets required!



Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Sat., May 28 from 8:00 am-4:00 pm in Hillsborough

Habitat for Humanity is building a multi-home site on Odie Street in Hillsborough, and UPC plans to help on May 28. You can sign up for a morning or afternoon shift (or both!) on that day; each shift has 10 spots. Sign up by visiting vhub.at/hammersandhearts and selecting your preferred time slot on May 28. Questions? Contact Jarrett McLaughlin (jarrett@upcch.org).

Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 29



Beginning on May 29, we will move to our summer worship schedule!

10:00 am - Worship in the sanctuary (available via livestream)
Nursery care will be available for infants-3 year olds

11:00 am - (beginning June 5) Punch on the Porch

Volunteers are needed to help staff Punch on the Porch! Sign up to host this wonderful fellowship opportunity after worship on the portico during the summer months. All supplies are provided; simply add your smile and hospitality! This is a great way to get to know our members during the summer. Visit upcch.org/summer-worship to sign up.

Vacation Bible School 2022

You can still join us for Vacation Bible School!

It's not too late to join us June 27-30, 2022, at New Hope Camp and Conference Center for Vacation Bible School! We will gather each morning and end our time together at noon. 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. Visit upcch.org/vbs to register today - registration closes on May 15!

VBS Volunteers Needed

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



Community Opportunities

Journey of Reconciliation: A Long Road to Justice

Fri., May 20 at 2:00 pm at the Hillsborough Courthouse

This FREE, dynamic event will include a keynote addresses, artistic representations, and music to remember and retell the story of the Journey of Reconciliation. To learn more, visit humanities.unc.edu/reconciliation75.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk

Sat., May 21, 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Dorothea Dix Park

Each year NAMI NC sponsors a walk to raise funds toward making mental health services available for all. You can participate by walking with and/or donating to the Faith Connections on Mental Illness Team; visit tinyurl.com/NAMIWalk2022 to sign up and/or give. Contact Jay Williams for more information (jaycwilliams1288@gmail.com).

Meet Ryan Byrnes, Director of Operations

We are delighted to introduce our new Director of Operations, Ryan Byrnes! Ryan will begin his work with us on May 4, 2022. We asked Ryan to write an introductory message to UPC; here is what he shared:

"I was born and raised in the St. Louis, Missouri area. Upon graduating from high school I moved to the mountains of Prescott, Arizona to live and work full time at a Christian youth camp and conference and retreat center. In summer of 2004 I met and quickly became best friends with the woman that would be my future wife, Stephanie, while she worked one summer at camp doing an internship. In 2005 I moved back to St. Louis to get my Bachelor's Degree in History. Stephanie and I married in the Fall of 2007. In 2008 I went to work in the Operations Department of a Convention Center where I worked until moving to Durham in 2016. While in Durham I have been the Director of Operations at the Durham Convention Center.



Stephanie and I have four kids: Stella (2010), Lydia (2013), Levi (2015) and Theo (2020).

When I am not at work I am most likely to be playing with my kids, reading, teaching myself something new, or daydreaming about the places I hope to travel one day.

I am extremely excited for the opportunity to work at such a beautiful church and I look forward to getting to know everyone."

Spring Endowment Report

The UPC Endowment Committee has five spring projects that the UPC Session approved at its April meeting. These projects are as follows:

- **\$1,078 to the UPC Youth Ministry** for COVID Rapid Tests for 2022 Youth Travel (Montreat Youth Conference, Montreat Worship & Music Conference, and Appalachia Service Project).
- **\$5000 to PCM of NC**, the final year of a three-year commitment.
- **\$1000 to Faith Connections for Mental Health** for Keynote Speaker & Travel Expenses for the 2023 NAMI Conference.
- **\$8000 to Haiti Outreach Ministry and Leon Dorleans** for continuation of Espwa campus construction for classrooms for Bible study and vocational training in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- **\$10,000 to PCM of UNC** for the second year commitment to help fund a Pilot Pastoral Resident.

We are grateful to the Endowment Committee for their thoughtfulness and intentionality in the consideration and recommendation process!

Youth Trips are Back!

It's been a joy for our PYC students to resume traveling! Here's what they've been up to recently:

During Spring Break, some of our middle school students traveled to Charlotte, NC to participate in a weekend of serving with CROSS missions.



In mid-April, our high school students went on a beach retreat - a weekend of fellowship, rest, worship, and no cell phones!



Celebrating the Women's Retreat

On Saturday, April 9, nearly 75 women gathered in the church fellowship hall for opening music and worship, and then continued on together for the rest of the afternoon for a time of connection, conversation, and creativity - all in the name of shared faith. The theme of the retreat was "Breath for the Bone Tired," and it marked the first time that the women of UPC have gathered together like this since 2018. In years past, this retreat has been an annual event. With staff transitions and pandemic restrictions, this tradition had been put on hold, yet interest and engagement was strong. After 2 years of not gathering, this afternoon of spiritual nurture and social connection was welcomed. Laura Owen, Beth Auman Visser, Vicki Lotz, April Smithwick, Amy McEntee, Anne Craighill Collins, and Hadley Kifner served as the planning committee, and Carolyn Karpinos shared her gifts of music on the piano. Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin was the keynote speaker and offered two large group sessions, exploring the text from Ezekiel 37 when God says to the tired and weary, "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live." In addition to the keynote sessions, there was time for small group conversation, crafting, praying, flower arranging, walking in the arboretum, and, finally, sharing a catered meal together.



Based on comments from participants, this UPC tradition is back again and here to stay!

"Meg's keynote was wonderful - welcoming everyone and getting us off to a friendly, laughing start to a low-key afternoon...the addition of poetry into the Scripture discussions gave us all **a chance to think about life in a different way.**"

"It was not easy to get away from family and chores on a Saturday, yet I am so glad I did. My favorite part was **connecting with other women** - of all ages - in the small groups."

"I made a bookmark with colorful beads that I can use as I read, and I made a prayer bracelet, too. I liked that there were **creative activities.**"

"We all just wanted to be together - the retreat offered us that and I am grateful."

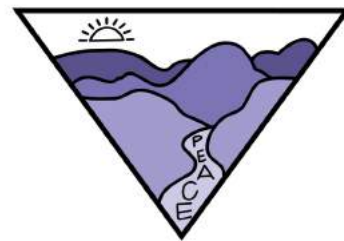
"Including a meal in the retreat itself gave us all more **time to breathe and relax, to go home feeling rested** - it was a lovely way to end our time together."



2022 Congregational Retreat

***Make plans now to join us Sept. 9-11 in Montreat, NC,
for a weekend away for all ages and stages of life!***

Here's some of what you can expect at the retreat:



Saturday Workshop Options

Pottery: Whether you are a beginner or have frequently worked with clay, you can create a wonderful keepsake of the weekend working with clay.

Peaceful Walk in the Woods: Take a moderate hike and find peace in nature as you are guided along paths around some of Montreat's favorite spots.

Meditative Movement: This session will invite you to move your body in ways that help you de-stress and relax.

Prayer Path: The Prayer Path at Montreat is a walking pilgrimage with seven stations and a small labyrinth.

Tie Dye: Bring a white t-shirt or bring a pre-washed white tee and get ready to twist and tie, rubber band and dye.

Fused Glass: Make either an ornament or a sun catcher.

Scavenger Hunt: Have fun with your church family while testing your knowledge of key places around the heart of Montreat!

Improv 101: We will explore the practice of improvisation through a series of games designed to tap into your imagination, spontaneity and creativity.

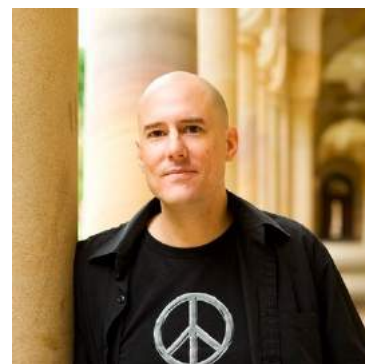
Ultimate Frisbee: Come learn the basic rules of Ultimate Frisbee, participate in a few drills to work on skills, and then scrimmage with friends.

Porch Stories: We're collecting Montreat stories....faith stories, funny stories, old stories, and new stories. You can be a storyteller or a story listener.

About our Keynote Speaker, David LaMotte

David LaMotte is an award-winning songwriter, speaker, author, and activist. He suspended his music career in 2008 to accept a Rotary World Peace Fellowship, earning a master's degree in International Studies, Peace, and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, and working in rural India. He has published several books and currently serves as the president of PEG Partners, the non-profit organization he co-founded to support schools and libraries in Guatemala.

David will share both a keynote address and a concert with us.



**To learn more and register, visit upcch.org/retreat
Space is filling up - register by June 4 to guarantee housing!**

Meet our New Members!



Bill & Marit Bobo

*Transfer of letter from
Eastminster Presbyterian
Church, Columbia, SC*



Scott & Kathy Culley

*Transfer of letter from
Salisbury Presbyterian
Church, Midlothian, VA*

Nancy & Rock Curlee

*Transfer of letter from First
Presbyterian Church of
Highlands, NC*

Scenes from Easter 2022



Presbyterian Women Responding to the Crisis in Ukraine

When we watch the news and hear the stories of all that is going on in Ukraine -- plus the refugees pouring into the neighboring countries -- our hearts are broken. We cry out to God, "What can we do? How can we help?" A few weeks ago the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women decided to act. We decided to send a donation -- \$300 out of our budget -- to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help those hurting from the Ukraine war.

The associate for Refugees and Asylum with PDA, Susan Krehbiel, spoke about the situation in Ukraine on an information video in March. She shared some scriptures from the Bible and said, "What if I were in the midst of a crisis. How would I hear these words?"

*"O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water." Psalm 63:1 NRSV*

We all know these words. These are the words of crying out to God. Maybe we have even prayed them at some low moment in our lives. These words are the prayer of anyone who is in crisis or struggling or in despair. No matter if they are in the streets of America with no food or having to leave behind home and maybe loved ones in Ukraine. Right now they might be the words of someone in Ukraine looking around seeing their county, their neighborhood, the house next door, in shambles. Atrocities happening. The sounds of sirens. These are the words of anyone whose life is crumbling and crashing. Desperate. Crying from the depth of one's soul. There is a thirst for God. A longing for God to come alongside. To be "with" them. Not to face the crisis alone.

Susan Krehbiel then shared on the video more hopeful words from the book of Isaiah:

"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come buy and eat! ... " Isaiah 55:1 NRSV

As God's people we are the ones who can be the instruments of God's peace, God's help to those who are in despair, the "thirsty" ones. The PW Coordinating Team responded on behalf of all UPC Presbyterian Women with the donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the Ukraine emergency. PDA is right now working with partners on the ground in Europe to bring what is needed to those leaving Ukraine, to bring help to those displaced, to bring help to those still in Ukraine. Bringing water, food, relief -- help, hope.

And we continue to pray. And we encourage others to pray -- to weave prayer into your daily life for the needs of all those who are crying out to God for help.

-Susie Smith - Community Outreach, Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

Presbyterian Women Meetings in May

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

Circle 2: Mon., May 2 at 10:00 am at the home of Betty Hutton *Contact:* Rachel Harshaw (919 928-4514 or rachel@jehars.com)

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

Circle 4: Tues., May 3 at 11:00 am by Zoom *Contact:* Susie Smith (757 274-2551 or snyncks@gmail.com)

Circle 5: Wed., May 4 at 7:00 pm by Zoom *Contact:* Mary Ellen Olson (919 302-1426 or maryeolson27@gmail.com)



A PC(USA.) Congregation



209 East Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

(919) 929-2102
upcch.org