



JULY 2022
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



A STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

and an opportunity for
you to respond | p. 2

PICTURES OF SUMMER FUN AT UPC

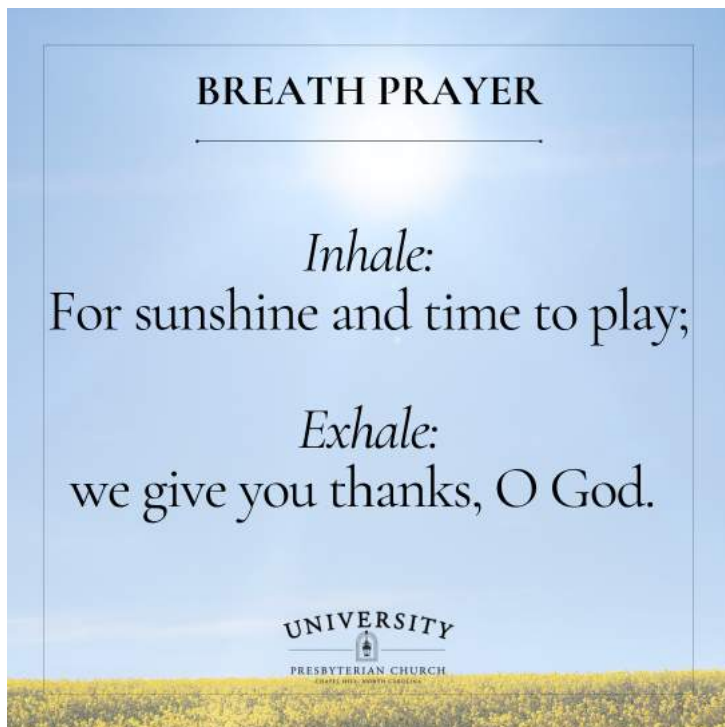
Youth and children at
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YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS

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Cover Photo: Montreat Worship & Music Campers at the top of Lookout Mountain at Montreat, NC

A Stewardship Update



Erin Collier

Director of Communications & Stewardship

The past two years taught us two things:

The church is more than the building. We found creative and innovative ways
to worship,
to connect,
to care for others,
all while outside these four walls.



And,

our building is a gift. After so much time apart, we no longer take for granted
smiles and hugs that greet you at the entrances,
the sound of *voices singing as one* in the sanctuary,
a warm and dry place for our children and youth to gather,
safe spaces for staff and teams and committees to *meet and dream and plan together*.

From the return of the full programming schedule to Easter indoors to the youth musical and more, it has been a joy to see these ministries come back to life within these four walls...walls that are showing their age. Because our building serves as the launching pad for all of our mission and ministry at UPC, we want to practice good stewardship of this gift.

In January, we passed a deficit budget, knowing that we had some unavoidable building expenses happening this year. One expense is happening right now: the waterproofing project under the youth center. Inflation and the addition of a roof repair have added to that budget gap, bringing it to approximately \$100K. We do have reserves to draw on, but that is not a pattern that we want to live into every year. More major repairs are coming; thus our Administration Committee has been diligently working on short term and long term plans to help fund these projects without impacting our annual budget.

Why are we telling you this?

First, transparency and communication are essential for a healthy community.

And second, we want you to have the opportunity to invest in the ministry of this vibrant place.

UPC is known for its generosity, and uses each gift entrusted to us for the glory of God. Every pledge for 2022 was humbly received and will be wisely used in this community. Thank you for your support of UPC. If you did not pledge for 2022, or if you would like to give above and beyond what you have already pledged, this is your invitation to do so now.

Peace be with you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erin'.

Summer Fun at UPC: Montreat Conferences



Summer Fun at UPC: VBS



Building Project Updates



As we seek to practice good stewardship of our building that serves as the launching pad for our mission and ministry, there are several projects that we've taken on this summer to help take care of our facilities:

Waterproofing Project

This is our most visible project! Work is now underway to remedy our water issue under the youth center. Phase 1 is on the Robertson Lane side of the building; when they are finished, they will begin work in the Memorial Garden, hoping to conclude the work before the fall.

Roof Repair

Recent leaks in the sanctuary led us to discover that we had some damaged roof tiles. 300 slate tiles were replaced in late June.

Solar Panels

Remember the Give Light campaign? We have now installed the solar panels on the roof of the Dunham building! The panels have been inspected and have been online and bringing in power since June 23. (Phase 2 of the project, the installation of the parking lot lights, has been delayed until after our waterproofing project is complete.)

PCM Room Refresh

With the addition of a PCM pastoral resident, we realized that consistent office space is needed for both the resident and the PCM intern. The campus ministry office is being reconfigured into an office space for them, and the PCM lounge will be rearranged into a study space and a hangout space. Both rooms have also received a fresh coat of paint.



Playground Refresh

We are grateful to Ken Morgan for his diligent work power washing and re-staining the playground structures. It was a big job, and the results are amazing!

Opportunities this summer to...

GIVE

School Supply Drive for the Refugee Support Center

Chapel of the Cross is coordinating a community school supply drive for the Refugee Support Center, and we want to help. The goal is to provide supplies for 370 Pre-K through Grade 12 students for the 2022-2023 year. All donations must be new and unused. Visit upcch.org/school-supplies for more details and the link to an Amazon wish list. Shopping locally is always encouraged - the wish list serves as a great reference point for in-person shopping.

We'll bring these items forward in worship on July 24. If you will not be in worship that day, you can bring your donated items to the church office prior to that date. (Please note: we are only collecting physical items, not monetary donations.)



LEARN

Studying and Praying the Gospel of John

July 17, 24, 31, and August 7 at 8:45 am, in Dunham Hall

Reading and studying Scripture deepens our understanding of the story of God's people. Using Scripture to pray provides us with images and words to communicate with and grow closer to God. This series will focus on studying and praying the Gospel of John.

This class will be led by Rick and Sally Osmer. Sally Osmer is a Stephen Minister in our church. She has degrees in clinical social work and ministry. For 25 years, she was the director of two nonprofits in Trenton and Princeton, NJ. Rick Osmer taught practical theology at Princeton Theological Seminary for 30 years in the areas of Christian education, spirituality, and evangelism. He is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rick and Sally met while students at UNC.



SERVE

Host 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.



Meet our New Members!



Andy Ackerman

Andy is a third year graduate student at UNC, studying statistics. He enjoys all mountain sports and activities - hiking, climbing, and snowboarding.



Ryan Beale & Laura Folk

Ryan and Laura are UNC graduates who began worshipping here while in school. They are newly engaged and excited to put down roots in the UPC community.



Shannon Clarke

Shannon is a research project manager at Duke who loves to learn from and care for others. She is married with two active boys and is looking forward to connecting with UPC.



Dan & Molly Hurd (Sam, Ben)

Dan leads the Army ROTC program at UNC, and Molly works in communications. They love to spend time together as a family outdoors and cheering on the boys in youth sports.



Stephen Kinder

Colonel Retired Stephen Kinder proudly served in the US Army for 32 years. After retirement from the Army, he started a second career as a Defense Contractor, deploying alongside US, Allied, and Host Nation military and security forces. Stephen is married to Gail Norwood Kinder; they have 4 children and 8 grandchildren.



Will & Emily Perreault (Arden, William, Jude)

Will serves as the President of the Community Impact Investment Corporation and Chief of Staff at Self-Help Credit Union, a social justice non-profit in Durham. Emily writes art history content for kids and previously worked as an art museum educator. Their whole family is excited to be part of UPC!

Racial Equity Workshop

Takeaways

43 participants
6 sessions (2 hours each)
over 12 weeks

1619 Consulting's Bry Clover and Claire Cox-Woodlief led the group in conversations about race, myths of race and whiteness, race and Christianity, the psychology of racism, privilege, implicit bias, white fragility, microaggressions, and intersectionality. The goal was absorption and integration of information for reflection and transformation. The following is a sampling of participants' reflections.

"Bryana and Claire provided really powerful and thought-provoking information, conversation and reflection during the workshop series... I've loved the comprehensive, step by step approach and am very excited to have continued help in figuring out our next steps."

"I loved taking this journey with so many others from my congregation, while being challenged."

"I appreciated the different types of resources (articles, videos, etc.) that looked at these issues from many angles (societal, religious, structural, personal, historical, etc.). I liked the blend of heavy truth with hope and self-care. I appreciated the reminders of meeting norms at the start of each session. I particularly enjoyed the breakout rooms where we could speak freely about each topic of discussion."

"ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED
THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT
LESSONS AND THE
OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MY OWN
RESEARCH OUTSIDE OF CLASS
TIME."

"Although I put a ton of effort into the homework, class time and discussions, I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and a much deeper understanding of the issues."

"The follow up emails/workshop handouts are really wonderful to be able to go back and review what we covered. It's hard to remember all of the details and having the summary is very helpful."

"I still have a long way to go on this journey, but I feel better equipped, focused and motivated than I did before participating in this workshop."

"Bryana and Claire were so encouraging! They made it instantly ok and safe for people to ask questions. Not sure how they did that so quickly and over zoom but it was amazing to see folks open up so early on in the process. I loved that it went deeper into some issues I had read a lot about and encouraged us to put this into practice. It was not just a head exercise but also a heart one too."

Supporting Recent Graduates through YAV

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is a two year service program for young people ages 19-30 to serve all across the US and the world to explore what it means to be in Christian community with one another. YAVs work with local agencies to address poverty and reconciliation alongside peers and mentors while exploring and developing their own faith. Two recent UNC PCM graduates, Peter Compton and Leah Brooks, are currently serving through this program, and both PCM and UPC have provided financial support to them. In addition, we have designated a portion of what we collected for this year's PCUSA Pentecost offering to Peter and Leah.

Keep reading to hear from Peter and Leah about their experiences:



Peter Compton
PCM Class of 2021,
serving in
Albuquerque, New
Mexico

Caring for Refugees in New Mexico

As a post-grad who grilled through four years of pre-med requirements, I felt that, at least for the time being, I needed a change of direction. That was when I started considering a year of service and applied to be a YAV. I was placed in Albuquerque and soloed the 1,700 mile drive to New Mexico, where I was assigned to work with Lutheran Family Services, a refugee resettlement center that has for the past decade been the first point of contact for people arriving from across the globe to Albuquerque. I could never have arrived at a more interesting time, as last fall marked the arrival of the first refugees fleeing the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. I have since engaged with dozens of newly arrived Afghans that have put names to faces of crises I used to see only on CNN. For the first few months I worked the front desk, as vans upon vans arrived of people needing to be triaged to different resources. I was humbled to be part of the effort and learned new definitions of migration and relocation, heard stories of what it felt like to lose one's home.

Despite the initial shock of landing in a new place and working in a completely foreign field from what I studied, I soon realized that YAV was giving me the perfect chance to pivot into something new. With mentorship from my site coordinator and supervisor, I transitioned into the interim Economic Programs Coordinator, a job which I will soon apply to work full time. It is my job to assist our clients with car, home, and business purchases using a matched savings grant that gives the extra funds needed by people starting their lives over, a responsibility that I could never have imagined this time last year.

On top of my work, the YAV program here in Albuquerque has given me the opportunity, resources, and funding to explore a region of the country I previously knew nothing about — whether it's the breathtaking natural beauty that I had no idea existed (Cibola National Forest, Shiprock, Bisti Badlands, Ghost Ranch, Rio Grande Gorge, Sangre de Cristo Mountains), or visiting and speaking with deeply rooted indigenous cultures who have existed here since time immemorial. There is also a fantastic network of churches here in the Santa Fe Presbytery with people who have given me invaluable advice as I explore what I want to do beyond college.





Leah Brooks
PCM Class of 2021,
serving in New York
City

Working for Justice at the United Nations

In New York, I have the privilege to work at the Presbyterian Ministry's Office at the United Nations (PMUN) located on the stunning east side of Manhattan. While my job has been primarily remote, we have gotten to go into the PMUN office several times, which sits directly across from the 193 flags of the United Nations Member States. I wear many hats as a YAV of the office: I sit on the Committee on Migration, plan worship services, run social media accounts, and am creating a Vacation Bible School curriculum that intertwines faith with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. I also participated in several UN forums both virtually and in-person, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the International Migration Review Forum, and the Conference of Parties 26. I have absolutely loved getting to learn so much about the United Nations and the important work it does, as well as the dedication of the PMUN staff to the issues facing all people across the globe.

One of my favorite parts of being a YAV at PMUN is the people I have met and work with. PMUN's office is combined with the Office of the Public Witness (OPW) in Washington, D.C., under one advocacy director, Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins. The staff at PMUN and OPW are some of the kindest and most dedicated people I know to the causes PC(USA) focuses on. I have also met some incredible ecumenical partners who do prayerful work at the UN. Making connections, worshipping with, and learning about the work and ministries of faith-based offices at the UN has opened my eyes to all the great work being done for those in need.

After graduation, I knew I wanted to do a year of service and dip my toes into the world of non-profit work. However, when I chose NYC for my YAV placement, I had no idea the experiences or culture shock I would be in for. New York is a challenging, ever-changing, diverse, and beautiful city that has provided me with a year I will never forget. I am so thankful to have had tons of support both financially and prayerfully from so many wonderful people, including UPC and PCM! So HUGE thanks to y'all!



While my original plan after serving as a YAV was to return to graduate school, I have decided to continue my passion for service in the non-profit sector at the conclusion of my YAV year. YAV has opened my eyes to a world where justice is at the forefront, where 193 nations big and small can come together to fight for human rights, and where I am constantly reminded of God's grace, no matter how unjust, difficult, and sad the world can be.

Faith & the Climate Crisis

Join Presbyterian Climate Advocates for a free, four-part course by Zoom on consecutive Sundays, July 10-31, from 4:00-5:15 pm. Classes include videos, reflection, discussion and enrichment to move from despair to engaged, hopeful, effective action. Learn more and register at presbyclimateadvocates.org.

Class size is limited, so be sure to sign up early!

Faith and the Climate Crisis



Where in the World is UPC This Summer?

We've enjoyed our summer travels so far (pictures on p. 3-4), and still have more trips to go! Here's where our UPC family will be this month:

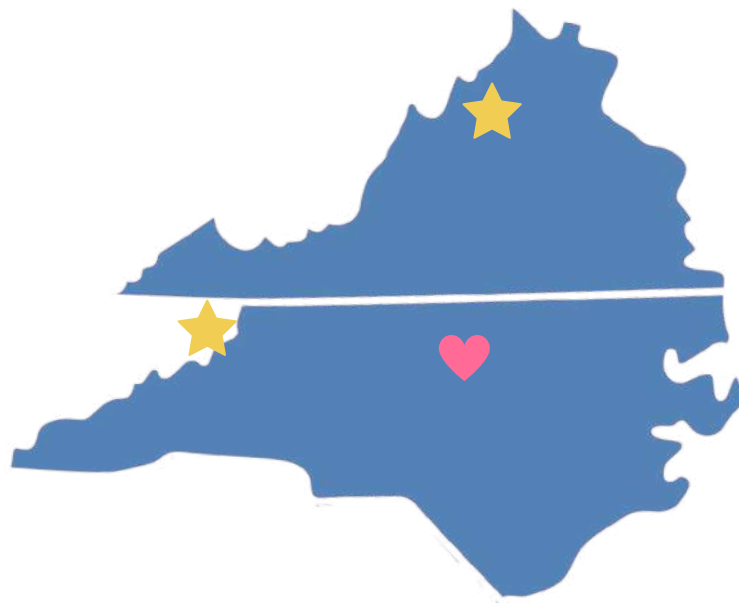
Massanetta Middle School Conference (middle school youth)

July 12-15 in Harrisonburg, VA

Appalachia Service Project (older youth & adults)

July 17-23 in Carter County, TN

Please pray for all of our participants in these trips and activities, as well as for the leaders and chaperones. We look forward to sharing stories and pictures in future editions of *The Chimes*!



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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