



DEC. 2022
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



ALL THINGS ADVENT AT UPC

Opportunities to worship,
fellowship, and more! | p. 4-7

PICTURES FROM THE ADVENT CRAFT FESTIVAL

It was a wonderful morning of
fun and creativity! | p. 8

PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY FALL UPDATE

Hear what our college students
have been up to | p. 10

In this Edition...

Pastor's Message.....	2
Family Meeting, Part 2.....	3
Stewardship 2023 Update.....	3
Advent Opportunities to Worship.....	4
Advent Opportunities to Fellowship.....	5
Advent Opportunities to Learn.....	6
Can You Guess the Staff's Favorite Carols?.....	6
Advent Opportunities to Give.....	7
Pictures from the Advent Craft Festival.....	8
Recent PYC Events.....	9
PCM Fall Update.....	10
Presbyterian Women December Meetings.....	11
Session Update.....	11

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Our Staff

Meg Peery McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Jarrett McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Ryan Byrnes, Director of Operations

Johnny Clay, Sexton

Erin Collier, Dir. of Communications & Stewardship

Peter Costa, Financial Manager

Dennis Dallke, Operations Assistant

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Joey Fala, Director of Music Ministry

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Hadley Kifner, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture

Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries

Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries

Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

Sara Richard, Office Administrator

Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant

UPPS Registration for 2023-2024 opens in January!



University Presbyterian Preschool (UPPS) is a part-time, play-based early childhood education program that meets during the school year. Classes available include Twos, Threes, Fours, and a Transitional Fives class; children must reach the appropriate age by September 1. UPPS will begin enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year in January and we would love to have your children at our school! Please contact director Ellen Parker at preschool@upcch.org or 919-929-8658 for more information and for an application.

Cover Photo: Glitter ornament fun at the Advent Craft Festival (Nov. 20, 2022)

Pastor's Message



Meg Peery McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

As WASP-y as it may be, on my bucket list is to be at King's College Cambridge Chapel on Christmas Eve to hear the boys choir lead Lessons and Carols. Being a pastor who has a job on that particular night means that once I'm able to do this, I'll be too old to camp out for a seat (though now I think they do a lottery). So, when Caroline was singing the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City" on repeat on the way home from Choristers practice, of course my heart was swelling. My feelings didn't surprise me. How could I not be grateful for that little voice in the backseat, for this church for teaching children to sing their faith? Yes, thanks be to God. What did surprise me was Zanna's comment when we were pulling into the neighborhood after the 32nd rendition. Zanna said, "Mother Mary should really be the Savior, because without her Christmas wouldn't exist."

I was intentionally silent in the wake of her statement. I just kept driving through the dark as Caroline started the 33rd round of the song.

Part of me wanted to jump in and say that surely God would have figured out another plan had Mary said no. Surely Jesus is the only Savior we know.

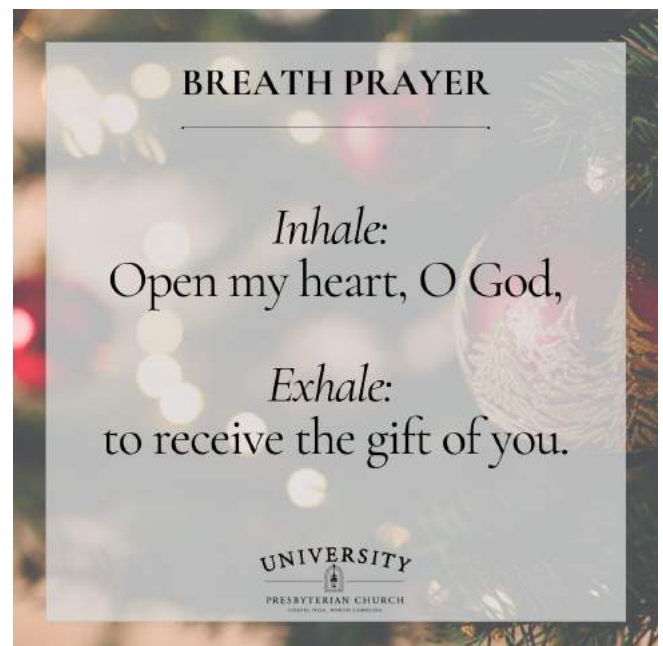
I thought about teaching her about the word *theotokos* (God-bearer), and then wondered if her comment had something to do with the books that now sit on her bedside table at night. A couple of weeks back UPC hosted an outstanding educator to lead us in a workshop on Faith and Sexuality and she recommended some age-appropriate books. So Zanna has been reading about eggs and fallopian tubes and asking a lot of questions. On Advent 4, we'll use one of my favorite declarations of faith, in which we'll affirm that "Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child."

Thanks be to God that Zanna can note the stunning significance that Jesus was born of woman as is every child. I am glad that part of my daughter's faith is a holy appreciation of what happened in the very intimate places of a young woman's body long ago and that part of her faith is an acknowledgement of a woman's "YES" to God's work of salvation.

I suppose what I'd like to say to you, church, is a word of deep and abiding gratitude for being a church that nurtures such a faith, and allows us all to sing it. Indeed, gratitude as well as a word of encouragement for this particular part of the body of Christ to continue to say YES to where God is working salvation all around and through us.

Merry Christmas from the McLaughlins,

Meg



Family Meeting, Part 2

When our second boiler died, I called a “family meeting” in worship. I told visitors to listen in as I explained that we were pricing new boilers while at the same time running our annual stewardship campaign. Great timing! (I think even the back row could feel me roll my eyes). Two new boilers cost around \$130K. I invited the UPC family to make a special gift to help. A number of you did, and **we are so grateful**. That same week, the UPC Endowment met to consider the grant applications for their Fall disbursement. (The UPC Endowment keeps the principal in place, and allocates 5% of the average interest across 5 years primarily to a variety of outreach projects). The Endowment Committee generously decided to give the full Fall disbursement (\$53K) to offset the cost of one boiler. Additionally, they asked the Session to take a special vote to take the Endowment's allocated portion of a bequest (\$52K) to enable the Church to purchase a second boiler per the recommendation of our HVAC consultants.

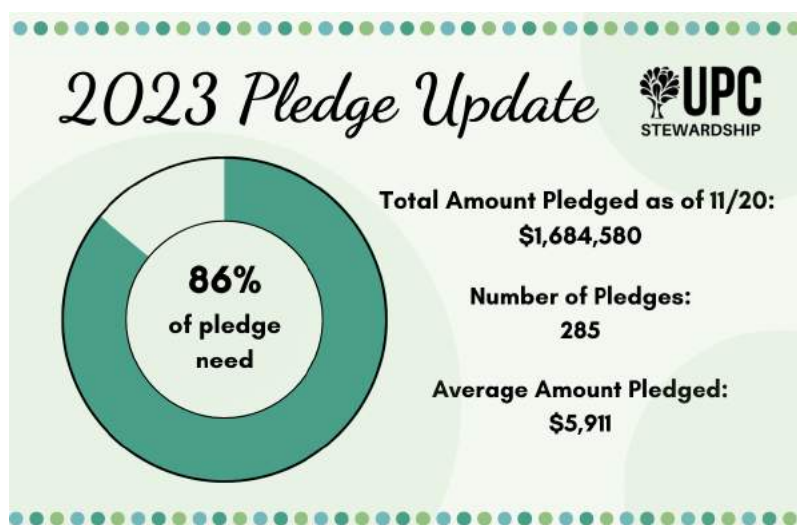
We communicated this good news to the congregation the next week, and perhaps it seemed like the conversation was over. But as with any functioning family, communication has to keep on happening!

So here is where we are: while the boilers are covered, this year has been daunting with other property repairs that are less obvious on a Sunday morning (roof repair and waterproofing). Additionally, non-pledged giving, which is the hardest thing to guess and generally comes in during the month of December, is at least \$50K off. Let me say that pledges are steady! And our 2023 Stewardship campaign is off to a great start. All signs point toward fiscal health.

So, as I bring this Family Meeting Part 2, I will loop back to the essential message of the first one. **Heat is coming:** it is literally on a truck from California and we're ready to install it as soon as it arrives! **And your gifts are needed.** Consider helping UPC end this year in the black!

Meg

Stewardship 2023 Update



For our 2023 Stewardship Campaign, we made a big ask...and we are so grateful for how you have responded thus far! Thank you to everyone who has pledged their financial support for 2023

Our total need is \$1.95 million, and it's not too late to pledge! Pledging before the end of the calendar year will help us as we plan and prepare the budget for next year. If you haven't yet pledged, please prayerfully consider how you can support UPC in 2023. You can pledge online (upcch.org/stewardship) or pick up a pledge card in the narthex.

Advent Opportunities to Worship



A Service of Lessons & Carols

Sun., Dec. 11, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Lessons and Carols is a beloved UPC tradition and a highlight of our worship year for many! This choral service will feature musical offerings by all four of our choirs—the Alleluia Choir, Choristers, Youth Choir, and Chancel Choirs will come together to tell the story of God’s love for humanity, from Adam’s fall through the birth of Jesus.

Longest Night Service

Tues., Dec. 20 at 7:30 pm

While things may be merry and bright for some during the holiday season, others may feel sadness and pain. For some, this time of year can be the loneliest of all times. The Longest Night is a service to acknowledge such feelings. Gather with us for words of comfort, prayers for hope, candles, gentle music, and silence.



Christmas Eve Worship

Sat., Dec. 24

We offer three worship opportunities on Christmas Eve – join us for one or all of these services!

- 4:00 pm - Family Service
- 7:00 pm - Candlelight Service
- 9:00 pm - Candlelight Communion Service

About our Christmas Eve Offering (collected at all 3 services)

Every penny of our Christmas Eve Offering goes to support a couple of projects. Half will go to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund which enables UPC to offer assistance with bills for those in need of episodic help. The other half will go to a campaign in our Presbytery kick-started by First Presbyterian of Durham to relieve medical debt throughout the state of North Carolina. In Partnership with RIP Medical Debt, for every dollar given, \$100 of medical debt is erased. This partnership emerged out of First Durham’s racial equity team who led the Church through a number of workshops and book studies but wished to do something to make a difference. Learning that medical debt is a primary driver of poverty (and emotional stress) among communities of color, they are inviting all churches in the Presbytery to join them in a campaign to eliminate as much debt as possible, particularly within the eight counties in our state experiencing the most medical debt among minority communities. We hoped to offer some Sunday morning education about RIP Medical Debt in December ahead of the offering but stay tuned to learn more about this in January. If you’d like to learn more please visit RIP Medical Debt at ripmedicaldebt.org.

Advent Opportunities to Fellowship

PYPs Movie Night

Fri., Dec. 2, 6:30 pm

Calling all families with children (birth-5th grade)! Join us on Friday evening, December 2, at 6:30 pm in the UPC parking lot for a holiday movie! Wear your pajamas if you want, bundle up, and bring a chair and a blanket. We'll provide the hot cocoa and snacks!



Advent Brunch

Sun., Dec. 11, 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall

Advent Brunch is back! Join us for a potluck brunch on Lessons & Carols Sunday (in lieu of Sunday School). 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."

Are you a new member, student, or visitor? No need to bring anything — just join us for the food and fellowship!



Tea & Stories

Fri., Dec. 16, 2:00-4:00 pm

All UPC senior adults are invited to a festive time of fellowship & sharing stories hosted by the UPC Deacons! Refreshments will be served, and transportation is available upon request. RSVP to 919-929-2102 or admin@upcch.org by Dec. 6.



Advent Opportunities to Learn

Adult Education Classes (9:45 am on Sundays)

Stillwaters: Spiritual Formation Experience (Vance Barron Hall)

On Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, Meg Peery McLaughlin will lead a conversation that continues our sermon series, "O, Sing a Song of Bethlehem," that focuses on the theological significance of some of the songs we sing during this season.

Crossroads: Bible Study Discussion (Dunham Hall)

On Dec. 4, Crossroads will conclude their study of Philippians, led by Rick and Sally Osmer. Dec. 18 is TBA.

***Please note that there will be no Sunday School on Dec. 11 (Advent Brunch),
Dec. 25 (Christmas Day), or Jan. 1 (New Year's Day).***

In honor of our Advent Sermon Series, "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem," can you match the UPC Staff member with their favorite Christmas carol?



Nancy Myer



Meg Peery McLaughlin



Kim McNeill



Sara Richard



Joey Fala



Berry French



Ellen Parker



Jarrett McLaughlin



Erin Collier



Hadley Kifner



Ryan Byrnes

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
(best arrangement is by Hugo Distler)

"What Child is This"

"Where Shepherds Lately Kneled"
(Carl Shalk's version)

"Love Has Come"

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

"Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"
(the version we sing at Lessons and Carols!)

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"Once in Royal David's City"

"Away in a Manger"

Advent Opportunities to Give

Gifts of Beauty and Bounty

It is the UPC tradition during Advent to honor and remember the people in our lives through Christmas Gifts of Beauty and Bounty. Your gift can be used to purchase a poinsettia which will be placed in the chancel and/or as a contribution to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services to support our neighbors in need. The names of those honored and remembered with these gifts will be in the Sunday Worship Bulletin on December 18.

Visit upcch.org/poinsettias to fill out our online form or to download one. Printed forms will also be available in the narthex. All forms must be received by Dec. 12.



Alternative Gift Market

Are you feeling a little overwhelmed by the prospect of shopping for Christmas this year? Not sure what to get that friend or family member who has everything? Let us help! At the UPC Alternative Gift Market, you can make donations in honor of your loved ones that will help support our partners around the world who are working to serve and support those in need - no gift wrap required. The online market is now open (upcch.org/agm), and we will also have a physical table in the narthex.

Diaper Drive for the Refugee Support Center

Presbyterian Women (PW) requests your support for their annual fund drive to provide diapers for the Refugee Support Center (RSC). Last year, we donated more than 3500 diapers to the Center. As we begin our fifth year of this outreach ministry, we invite you to write your checks to University Presbyterian Church, noting PW Diaper Drive in the memo line. Checks can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to University Presbyterian Church, PO Box 509, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. We appreciate your continued support.



Christmas Joy Offering

This special offering of the PC(USA) provides the opportunity for future leaders of the church to pursue and fulfill their dreams through Presbyterian-related education. The offering also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We will collect this offering in mid-December.

Pictures from the Advent Craft Festival

The cold weather couldn't keep us from enjoying the Advent Craft Festival! We moved most of the activities inside, and great fun was had by all as we made wreaths, ornaments, and other crafts. Participants also packed bags of food for TABLE - a project which our youth finished that evening at youth group. Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this event possible, and everyone who participated!



Recent PYC Events

In mid-November, some of our confirmation students went on a weekend retreat in Montreat, NC. It was a fun (and cold!) weekend together in the mountains!



And on Nov. 20, the whole youth group helped pack the rest of the food bags for TABLE - a project that we started that morning at the Advent Craft Festival. A huge thank you to everyone who donated food and made this project possible!



Spring & Summer Trip Registrations close soon!

Have you signed up yet for these trips? Registration for the High School Sabbath Retreat, Massanetta Middle School Conference, and Montreat Worship & Music Conference close in January. Visit upcch.org/trips for more information and to register today! (Did you miss the deadline for Montreat Youth Conference and the Middle School Spring Break Service trip? Email Kim McNeill [kim@upcch.org] ASAP to see if there is still room!)



HS SABBATH RETREAT

For 9th-12th grade
an NC lake or beach (TBA)

April 14-16, \$300
Register by: Jan. 15



MASSANETTA MS CONFERENCE

For completed 6th-8th grade
Massanetta Springs, VA

July 11-14, \$450
Register by: Jan. 15



MONTREAT WORSHIP & MUSIC

For rising 4th-completed 12th
Montreat, NC

June 18-24, \$500
Register by: Jan. 15



The fall semester has flown by for PCM! It's hard to believe that, as I write this, our students are preparing to head home for Thanksgiving break and already have their eye on finals. We've finished up our last program of the semester, and we're wrapping up our Bible study and small groups.

This fall has seen endless incredible moments and projects, one being something you may have already seen strolling past the church: our pride picnic tables! Being a More Light (LGBTQ-affirming) campus ministry is incredibly important to our students, and the picnic table project let them live that out in a visible way. Lillie Chilton ('23) and Millie Pullman ('24) took the lead on the project, but all hands were on deck when it was time to paint. They're a perfect spot for a lunch or a moment of reflection, surrounded by the handprints of our students and the PYC youth! You're always welcome there (you just may end up listening in on Bible study!).

This fall also saw a transition we didn't know if we could ever expect: a move back to eating upstairs, in our own PCM space. When I started working for PCM in 2018, the space was an embodiment of PCM culture. Packing into the kitchen to all pray together before the meal, sitting with a big group and welcome each other in to full tables, and shifting just a few feet to the couches for program—this was all a practice that up until now, only myself and our current senior class had ever been a part of. At our yearly alumni event, we took a chance and tried it again, letting the PCM alumni show us all how it's done, and to give them the feeling of being back in the space again. The experience was beloved all around, and we have made the official change to have dinner in our space as long as it continues to feel safe and sustainable. This piece of PCM's culture has been reintroduced with joy, and you can hear it all around the church when the kitchen fills with laughter on a Thursday evening.



By the time you read this, we'll have had our PCM Thanksgiving, complete with the ever-intense dessert competition, judged by a brave panel of PCM Board members, and the PCM space will be beginning to quiet down and thin out as students head home for winter break. We are, always, endlessly thankful for the ways the church allows us to provide a safe, welcoming home to all of our students. Look out for another update from us soon!

Did you know that PCM sends out a bi-annual alumni email with news and updates? Check out the latest edition at tinyurl.com/PCMFall2022

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women are gathering in December for their monthly meetings. All women are welcome!

Circle # 1: Wed., Dec. 7 at 10:00 am at the home of Nora Holley

Contact: Diane Rizzo (rizzod1970@gmail.com or 919 357-6128)

Circle # 2: Mon., Dec. 12 at 10:00 am in the Game Room at Carolina Meadows

Contact: Shelley Adams (shellehadams@gmail.com or 919 942-2525)

Circle # 3: Tues., Dec. 6 at 10:00 am at the home of Gail Norwood Kinder

Contact: Gail Norwood Kinder (gailnorwood@me.com or 919 259-5955)

Circle # 4: Tues., Dec. 6 at 3:15 pm at Chapel In The Pines or via Zoom (hybrid)

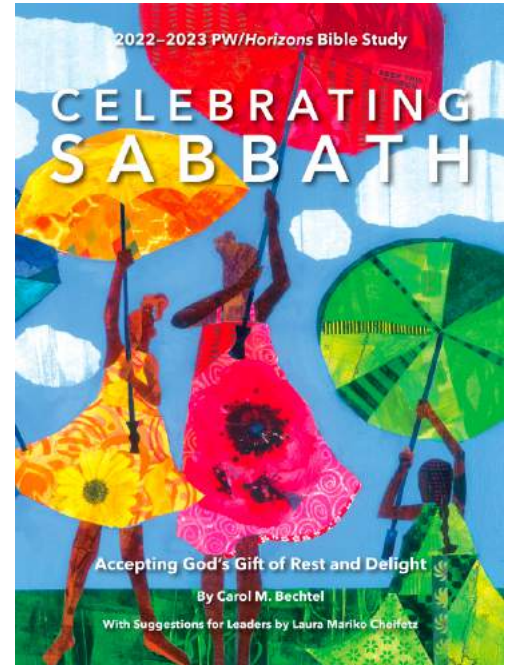
Contact: Susie Smith (snyyncks@gmail.com or 757-274-2551)

Circle # 5: Wed., Dec. 7 at 7:00 pm at the home of Betsy Edwards

Contact: Mary Ellen Olson (maryeolson27@gmail.com or 919 302-1426)

Circle # 6: Thurs., Dec. 15 at 10:00 in the Heron Room at Carol Woods

Contact: Helen Brantley (hbrantle@gmail.com or 919 918-3692)



Session Update

At their regularly scheduled meeting in November, the UPC Session:

- Approved two baptisms.
- Heard a report from Brian Vandersea on the 117th New Hope Presbytery Meeting.
- Received a report from the Stewardship Committee on the state of the pledge drive, with very positive preliminary results and an increase in the average pledge. The committee members will contact those who have pledged in the past but have not yet pledged for 2023 to help the church meet its final goal.
- Heard from the Property Committee on the purchase and installation of the new boilers, with expected installation completed by December 11.
- Heard that a new granite wall in the Memorial Garden will be installed under the bay window and the space replanted.
- Received the Treasurer's Report. Non-pledge revenue continues to trend lower than budgeted, but optimism remains for meeting the 2022 budget.

Carol Matching Game Answers (from p. 6):

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain" - Hadley Kifner

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" - Sara Richard

"What Child is This" - Erin Collier

"Where Shepherds Lately Kneel" - Meg Peery McLaughlin

"Love Has Come" - Jarrett McLaughlin

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - Berry French

"Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending" - Kim McNeill

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" - Ryan Byrnes

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" - Joey Fala

"Once in Royal David's City" - Ellen Parker

"Away in a Manger" - Nancy Myer



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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