



FEB. 2023
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE HOLY LAND

Mark your calendars now for
2024! | p. 2

GIVING THANKS FOR KIM MCNEILL

Honoring her 15 years of
ministry at UPC | p. 3

MONTREAT COLLEGE CONFERENCE

A reflection from PCM about
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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

Bob Dunham, Pastor Emeritus

Joey Fala, Director of Music Ministry

Berry French, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

Hadley Kifner, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture

Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries

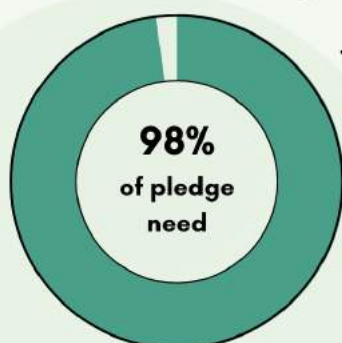
Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries

Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

Sara Richard, Office Administrator

Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant

2023 Pledge Update



Total Amount Pledged as of 1/25:
\$1,908,993

Number of Pledges:
352

Average Amount Pledged:
\$5,423

Thank you, UPC!

Because of your generosity, we have reached 98% of our 2023 pledge need and were able to pass a balanced budget **All of this was possible because of you!**

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We look forward to what is to come in 2023!

2024 Holy Land Trip



Meg Peery McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

In the Spring of 2024 (April 30-May 11), UPC plans to take a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land.

When Jarrett and I first arrived, we oft heard tell of trips that UPC saints took with Bob Patton. Traveling to explore God's creation and immersing ourselves in diverse cultures is a privilege that can deepen our faith and doing that together with church friends provides life-giving connection within the family of faith.

Nancy Myer, as you know, has been working towards her Masters of Divinity at Union Presbyterian Seminary. I have delighted in hearing her talk about classes with Dr. Carson Brisson. Having also attended Union, Carson taught me Hebrew and was a professor who had a profound effect on my theological education. He is the kind of professor that helps you fall in love with words and stories and the good news we know in Jesus Christ. I don't know who said it first, but we wondered out loud, *wouldn't it be amazing if Carson would take a group to the Holy Land?* Well, we asked, Dr. Brisson said yes, so here we go!

Jarrett and I traveled to the Holy Land in 2011 (some pictures included below). I will tell you that I may not have had a transcendent experience while standing on the "exact spot" where Jesus was born, or the "very rock" on which he was crucified. But I *will* tell you that it was a holy gift to spend time intentionally studying the Jesus story in that particular land. Our shared faith is an incarnational one. We profess that God took on human flesh, was born in a specific patch of land, walked on Palestinian dirt, taught his disciples on a certain sea, and that somewhere in a Jerusalem garden greeted the world with resurrection love. That is a love that has something to say to us today, and to the complex conflict that the land and its diverse peoples there live and breathe.

The Adult Education committee recognizes that such a trip is not financially or physically possible for all, and yet feels like this is an appropriate addition to our offerings. If you are interested in learning more about this pilgrimage, please visit upcch.org/holy-land to indicate your interest (no commitment needed yet!). UPC does hope to engage in some pre-trip study that would be open and (hopefully) spiritually enriching to all.

Peace be with you,

Meg



Celebrating Kim McNeill

Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries, shared the following letter with UPC on Jan. 8:

UPC has been my church home since I was a wide-eyed first year student at UNC in 1999. You welcomed me then and, over 23 years later, still haven't stopped helping shape my faith. I'm so grateful for this congregation and for the ways that you live out your faith and teach it to our young people. Those are just a few of the many reasons why it saddens me to say that I am resigning from my position as Staff Associate for Youth Ministries.

This fall, I was diagnosed with Mold Toxicity. You may have never heard of it - many have not. It happens when a body (like mine) has certain genetic mutations that impede the clearing of mold or other toxins once exposed. It comes with a laundry list of chronic symptoms. After seeing specialists and my general doctor for many years to report these odd symptoms with seemingly no solution, I'm grateful to have finally found a medical team who could identify and treat this strange illness and connect the dots of my growing symptoms. However, the relief of finding answers was quickly overshadowed by the grief of realizing that I must quit this job I love in order to give my body a rest and a chance to focus on healing. I hope to hug as many of you as possible before my treatment begins.

Leaving UPC is by far the most heartbreaking aspect of this diagnosis. All of you and all of our exceptional staff are so special to me, and I can't imagine what life will look like without you in it each week. I'm so very grateful for the ways you challenged me, cared for me, and let me be a pastor to you. It has been a deep honor to walk alongside you both in times of great joy and in times of deep grief. Thank you for letting me in your life and for the privilege of serving you.

With deep love, Kim

JOIN US FOR A
**Reception in
Honor of**
Kim McNeill



Sunday, Feb. 5
12:00 pm
UPC Fellowship Hall

Join us as we share our gratitude with Kim for 15 years of amazing ministry and bless her as she concludes her tenure at UPC.

A basket to collect cards will be available.

UNIVERSITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 W. 10TH ST. CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514

UPC is a more faith-filled community because of Kim's ministry with and among us these past fifteen years. For that reason, we will honor and celebrate her contributions to this family of faith and the generations of young people whose faith has been enriched because of her ministry. Please join us for a reception on Feb. 5 at 12:00 pm in her honor.

We encourage you to keep Kim in prayer during this season of treatment that will be measured in months if not years. As with any departure, there will be some boundaries that are important to maintain as UPC pivots into a new season of youth ministry under new leadership. We have plans for programming leadership for the immediate future, and the Nominating Committee will be working to put together a team to search for a new staff associate.

Sundays in February

Souper Bowl of Caring (Feb. 12)

The Souper Bowl of Caring began over 30 years ago with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." On Sunday, February 12, Kirk Club youth will take part in this national effort to love our neighbors. They will hold soup pots at the sanctuary doors following worship to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In the last three years alone, groups participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring generated over \$25 million in cash and food items. 100% of the money we collect at UPC will go to TABLE. Please drop your donation in the soup pot on Sunday, February 12, or donate online at upcch.org/give (select "Souper Bowl of Caring" as the fund option.)



Second Sunday Lunch (Feb. 12)

Join us for a potluck fellowship lunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Feb. 12! A reminder of the details:

- The church will provide a main dish and beverages. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert for approximately 12 people. Please be generous!
- Drop off your food in the Fellowship Hall prior to 11:00 am worship.
- Please remember to label your dishes and serving spoons with your name if you'd like to have them back, and pick them up at the end of lunch.
- 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!

Taizé Worship (Feb. 14, 7:00 pm)

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 in the Sanctuary.



PCM Sunday (Feb. 19)

Join us for worship on Feb. 19 as our Presbyterian Campus Ministry leads worship! Our students will lead in all aspects of the service - music, reading, prayers, and preaching.

Adult Ed. Opportunities in February

Classes meet at 9:45 am on Sundays

Dunham Hall Class

The Journey of Epiphany (Feb. 5)

taught by Rick and Sally Osmer

The Church Season of Epiphany leads us quickly from Jesus's birth with the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) to his early ministry. Join us as we conclude this series with a discussion of the Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11).

"Ask, And It Will Be Given to You." ~ Matthew 7:7 (Feb. 12, 19)

taught by Kristin Ransford Hiemstra

When we pray, we talk to God. However, sometimes we forget to listen for God's response which can come in the form of intuition, visions, inspirations or a whole myriad of things. God is a very creative communicator. In this gathering, we will set an intention for 2023 and partner with God to bring it to fruition. Time will be spent learning different ways to receive Divine guidance.

Faith in Plain Sight -- A Lenten Journey of Storytelling (beginning Feb. 26)

Join us in Lent as we hear the stories of fellow church members as they are articulate where their faith and life have been woven together. Everyday saints will be gently interviewed, exploring different threads each week, such as: work, health, family, current issues, community engagement. This is a perfect class to bring a friend or neighbor to. No preparation or knowledge needed, simply a listening ear and open heart.

Vance Barron Hall Class

Affordable Housing in Chapel Hill (Feb. 5, 12, 19)

It's no secret that one of the greatest challenges in Chapel Hill is affordable housing. What happens to the shape of our community as more and more people are priced out of the market? Join us for a three-week exploration of housing and homelessness in our community with speakers from the community offering insight and vision for some exciting projects on the horizon.

February 5 - Jennifer Player from Habitat for Humanity will present on the ambitious Weavers Grover project that will bring 100 Habitat homes to Chapel Hill across the next five years.

February 12 - Sarah Viñas is Chapel Hill's Affordable Housing and Community Connections Director. She will offer an overview of housing in our community and point to some opportunities for adding more affordable options in the future.

February 19 - We will consider the issue of housing from a theological and biblical standpoint, asking the question "Why is affordable housing the Church's concern?"

Presby 101 (Feb. 26; rescheduled)

Are you new to UPC, new to the Presbyterian denomination, or just curious to know more about what it means to be part of the PC(USA)? Throughout the year, we offer periodic stand-alone classes about what it means to be Presbyterian! Join us on Feb. 26 in the Fellowship Hall. The topic this time will be Scripture. The Presbyterian Church (USA) offers helpful tools for how to interpret scripture. This class would be a great gathering for anyone new to our church and anyone who has ever been in or overheard an argument about "what the Bible says."

Youth Musical - Godspell (Feb. 11)

****Please note the schedule change to only one date - Sat., Feb. 11****

On February 11, the UPC Youth Choir will tell the parables of Jesus in a high-energy musical based upon the gospel of Matthew. The 1971 show combined Episcopal priest John-Michael Tebelak's original script with a playful yet powerful score by Stephen Schwartz, including favorites such as "Day by Day," "Save the People" and "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord." This year's production is directed by our Youth Choir seniors: Sarah Bozyski, Zane Buckner, Ward Mann, Bella Moshier, and Rachel Vandersea. Doors to the sanctuary open at 7 pm, showtime is at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public. No tickets required. The show will be neither livestreamed nor recorded due to copyright policy.



Observing Lent at UPC

Lent is a 40-day season of spiritual discipline and preparation that starts annually with Ash Wednesday and anticipates the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ at Easter (this year, April 9).

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22)

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 22 this year. During worship on this day, ashes are used to mark a cross on the forehead or hand of each worshiper as a reminder of our humanity and mortality. We will offer the imposition of ashes in two ways that day:

- Drive-thru/walk-up imposition of ashes from 12:30-1:30 pm (please enter via Franklin St.)
- Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm (with organ meditation music from Caroline Polito beginning at 7:00 pm)

All are welcome to join us for Ash Wednesday worship.



Lenten Sermon Series (beginning Feb. 26)

"Lord, teach us to pray." In the 11th chapter of Luke, one of the disciples asks Jesus this question and we have been trying to learn how to pray ever since. What is prayer? Is there a right and wrong way to do it? What happens to God through our prayer and what happens to us when we pray? In the season of Lent this year we will take a tour through some of the prayers found in Scripture and hopefully answer these questions along the way.

From the Global Outreach Committee

Thank you, members of University Presbyterian Church, for your generosity in supporting the Alternative Gift Market. We raised \$15,000 for projects with our partners around the world. The projects you helped fund this year are:

- Family Health Ministries, Women and Children's Clinic (Haiti)
- Wings of Hope, Home for Challenged Children (Haiti)
- Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery (Lesotho)
- Refugee Assistance (Syria and Lebanon)
- Haiti Reforestation Partnership, Economic Development
- Haiti Outreach Ministries, Schools, Clinics and Churches
- Latin Patriarchate School (Palestine)
- Natemwa Learning Center and Village (Zambia)

The Global Outreach Committee has been working collaboratively for many years with these special groups and other partners around the world. If you would like to be involved, please contact Sam and Kay Leaman, Co-Chairs at leaman@aol.com



High School Sunday School is Back!



Calling all high schoolers - Sunday School returns on Feb. 19! We'll meet each Sunday at 9:45 am in the PCM Lounge. On our first Sunday together, we'll walk over to Sutton's for breakfast. We'll see you there!

Opportunities for Children & Families

Pancake Breakfast (Feb. 11)

Join us Saturday, February 11, for a PYPs Pancake Breakfast! Roll the whole family out of bed and head over to church for a delicious breakfast and wonderful fellowship. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m. Please enter through the Henderson Street door. Please RSVP at upcch.org/pyps no later than Thursday, February 9.



Serving at TABLE (Feb. 27)

Sign up to volunteer at TABLE in Carrboro on Monday, Feb. 27 from 3:45-5:00 pm. This is a kids' shift, which means parents and kids can sign up together. Possible tasks are things like helping sort through and shelf donations, checking expiration dates for any foods that have expired, preparing produce to go into bags, etc. Space is limited, so sign up as soon as you know you are available. Can't make it on that day? We'll be serving once a month - visit upcch.org/children to view the full schedule and to sign up for the February shift or one on a future date!



VBS Save the Date

Plan to join us June 26-29, 2023, 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 9/1/2023) through rising 5th graders (in fall 2023) are welcome to join us. All children must be potty-trained. Registration will open on February 15 for members of UPC and New Hope Presbyterian Church, as well as UPPS families.



Montreat College Conference Reflections

At long last, after three full years away, PCM had the unmatched joy of once again entering the hallowed halls of Anderson Auditorium for Montreat College Conference. A few of our students had had the chance to go as first-year students, but the majority of our group of 27 (and 3 staff) got their first-ever MCC experience. We worshiped together, celebrated communion among 500+ college students, learned new songs, hiked, and played endless games of checkers. MCC has been a stronghold of the PCM program for years and years. If you've been to Montreat, or have a "thin space" that means a lot to you, I imagine you know that getting to re-enter that space after so much time away was, in a word, holy.

We arrived in Montreat to mild temperatures, moving into long nights, rainy days, and abounding laughter, bags of popcorn, and taco shells. Our group split up among three houses within walking distance, all gathering in one kitchen to share meals together. Montreat takes all of the best parts of PCM programs: shared meals, music, and content, and lets us sink into a rhythm of engaging in those as our rule of life for the week.

Aside from just enjoying each other's company and building relationships, Montreat also offered a wealth of programming. From keynote speakers Dr. Peter Enns and Rev. Dr. Lakisha Lockhart to preacher Rev. Phanta Lansden to the abundant outpouring of wonderful workshop leaders, our students were surrounded by challenging questions, significant reflections on faith, and given the opportunity to think about God in new ways, with new perspectives and ideas. Each day, we were able to engage with new topics in our own group, with facilitators, and with other students—in pews, across dinner tables, and on the paths of the Montreat wilderness. We are grateful that the energy of Montreat has helped us burst into a new semester with renewed energy, innovative ideas, and new ways to be the Church for college students.



Presbyterian Women

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

Circle # 1: Wed., Feb. 1 at 10:00 am at the home of Myrah Scott.

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

Circle # 2: Mon., Feb. 13 at 10:00 am in the Game Room at Carolina Meadows.

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

Circle # 3: Tues., Feb. 7 at 10:00 am at the home of Marian Johnson.

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

Circle # 4: Thurs., Feb. 2 at 3:15 pm in Chapel in the Pines or by Zoom.

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

Circle # 5: Wed., Feb. 1 at 7:00 pm at the home of Jean Lusted.

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

Circle # 6: Thurs., Feb. 16 at 10:00 am in the Heron Room at Carol Woods.

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

Thank you for your generous support of the Presbyterian Women's diaper project supporting the Refugee Support Center. In January, 3600 diapers were delivered to the Center, along with a donation of \$700. Thank you to Peter Costa, UPC, financial manager, for his kind assistance.



2023 Congregational Retreat

Sept 8-10 in Montreat, NC

Registration opens March 1!



Submit Nominations for Deacons & Elders

The congregation is invited to nominate members of UPC for the office of Elder and Deacon for the Nominating Committee to consider as they prepare a slate for the next three-year term (2024-2026). You can submit names online (upcch.org/nominating) or contact any member of the committee: Brian Curran, Laura Horrigan, Sandy Grubbs, Lisa Lord, Emily Damone, Annette Munson, Bill Whisenant, Nancy Oates, Patty Baum Haydon, and staff liaison Jarrett McLaughlin.

Nominating FAQ:

Who may be suggested as a candidate?

All members are eligible for nomination.

Who may recommend a candidate?

Any member of UPC may recommend candidates.

Do I need permission from the candidate before I submit his or her name?

No, the Nominating Committee will verify candidates' willingness to serve before they are nominated. (You need prior permission only if you choose to make a nomination from the floor during a congregational meeting.)

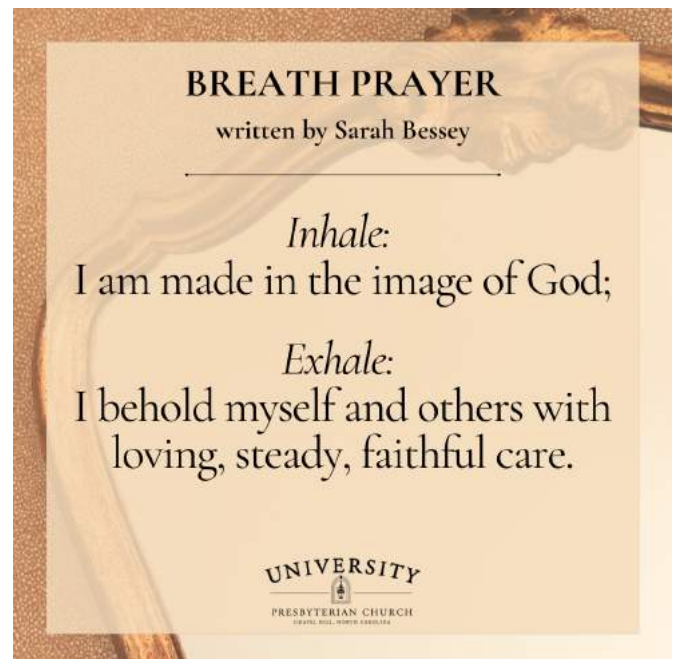
May I submit my own name?

Yes.

Session Update

In January, the UPC Session:

- Welcomed the new class of Elders
- Received a report from the Stewardship Committee of having reached 98% of the goal
- Heard from the Property Committee that one boiler has been installed, the second boiler is on site with installation in the next week, and the light pole for the solar lights in the parking lot has been delivered
- Received the Treasurer's Report of an outstanding December to end the year \$23k in the black instead of the \$85k budgeted loss thanks the generosity of the congregation
- Approved the 2023 balanced budget and the use of \$45k in reserves to cover the cost of the 2nd boiler
- Approved the pursuit of a tax credit due to pandemic losses
- Approved the collection of a Love Gift for Kim McNeill



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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