



NOV. 2023  
EDITION

# The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM  
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



## ORDINATION OF NANCY MYER ON NOV. 12

Join us as Nancy is ordained and  
installed! | p. 3

## SEASONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Beauty & Bounty, Alternative  
Gifts, & more | p. 9

## SPRING & SUMMER TRIP INFORMATION

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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

**Bob Dunham**, Pastor Emeritus

**Joey Fala**, Director of Music Ministry

**Berry French**, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

**Hadley Kifner**, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture

**Nancy Myer**, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries

**Ellen Parker**, Director, UPPS

**Sara Richard**, Office Administrator

**Tristan Wall**, Director of Youth Ministry

**Melani Willhite**, Financial Assistant

### 2024 PLEDGE UPDATE



**Total Amount Pledged  
(as of Oct. 30):  
\$1,548,846**

**Number of Pledges:  
257**

**Average Amount Pledged:  
\$6,027**

Thank you to everyone who has pledged for 2024 thus far! We're grateful for your promise of financial support in the coming year.

It's not too late to pledge! Pledging a gift for 2024 both provides you an opportunity to intentionally consider how you may give and helps us plan for our budget in the coming year. Visit [upcch.org/stewardship](https://upcch.org/stewardship) to learn more and pledge.



There's a quote from "Mister" Fred Rogers that seems to pop up more and more in recent years: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

It saddens me to see how often *scary things in the news* lead people to re-post this quote from the Presbyterian Church's most famous pastor. The news out of Israel and Gaza is but the most recent example that peace is ever-elusive and security is never guaranteed. By grace and the Spirit's grit, the world is full of helpers, and I want to invite you to meet some of them.

The Global Outreach committee is hosting a number of these *helpers* for a Sunday morning class so you can meet them and learn a bit more about how they are contributing to the healing of the world. By the time you read this, our first presenter will have already come – Dr. Karla Koll teaches at the **Latin American Biblical University in Sao Jose, Costa Rica** where she offers instruction to pastors and missionaries who are dispersed all across Central America, encouraging them to be thoughtful in their approach to mission and to seek solutions to community problems from within the communities they serve.

On November 5, Kathy Walmer will join us from **Family Health Ministries** and speak about the important work of bringing health and prenatal care as well as birthing services to women and children in rural Haiti. The next Sunday, we will hear from another partner, Pastor Leon D'Orleans of **Haiti Outreach Ministries**, who provides much-needed education, healthcare, and spiritual worship to the more urban corners of Haiti where much of the gang violence has taken place in recent months. On November 19, we have one more partner working within Haiti; Emily Everett from **Hearts with Haiti** will share about their work supporting Wings of Hope, a home for children and adults who experience a disability of some kind, among a variety of other services. Finally, on November 26, Sally Harwood will introduce us to the work of supporting orphaned children at the **Ministry of Hope in Lesotho**.

If bad news is most often what we hear from the world, I do invite you to tune in for some good news and learn more about the good work that is happening in some extremely troubled corners of the world, work that UPC has supported for many years, or decades in some cases.

Afterwards, the Global Outreach committee invites you to respond by taking part in the annual **Alternative Gift Market** (AGM). The AGM allows you to honor a family member or a friend with a gift, but a gift that directly contributes to the important work that these helpers are doing across the world. While there is not a precise line from each of these presenters to the ministries highlighted in the AGM, the hope is that hearing from these helpers will inspire you to be generous.

"Look for the helpers," Fred Rogers said. Far be it from me to edit the words of my childhood-television icon, but implicit to the spirit of Fred Rogers as well as the spirit of God is an invitation to not only look for the helpers but to become one yourself. May God find us ready to respond with all that we have and all that we are.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

# November 12 is going to be a big day!

You're invited to a...

## Worship Service of Ordination & Installation for Nancy Myer *Sunday, November 12 at 11:00 am in the UPC Sanctuary*

At a called congregational meeting on October 1, the congregation of UPC called Nancy Myer as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. On Sunday, November 12, at 11:00 am the Presbytery of New Hope will host a Worship Service of Ordination and Installation in our sanctuary, where Nancy will take her ordination vows, and where we will lay hands on her in blessing as she continues—in a new fashion—to serve among us.

The Ordination Commission is made up of several familiar faces including Elizabeth Michael Ross (preaching), Bob Dunham, and Anna Pinckney Straight.

8:30 worship (Jarrett will preach) and Sunday School will take place as usual that day. In addition, join us for Second Sunday Lunch after 11:00 worship (details below).



## Second Sunday Lunch (12:00 pm)

Join us after 11:00 worship on Nov. 12 for a potluck lunch! For those who are new to Second Sunday Lunch (or just need a refresher on the details):

- The church will provide a main dish and beverages. Those who attend are asked to make or buy 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 student, or visitor? No need to bring anything — just join us for the food and fellowship!



# Sunday Morning Classes for Adults (9:45 am)

## **Dunham Hall Class: *The Ties that Bind: Handing on the Faith from Generation to Generation* (Nov. 5 & 12)**

This is a workshop for parents and grandparents exploring evidence-based practices for transmitting the faith to children. Research continues to show that parents are the single most important influence on children's faith as they grow into young adulthood. Grandparents also play a more important role than ever. Come to this workshop led by Rick Osmer to learn and practice strategies parents and grandparents can use in their daily lives.

This class will be led by Richard Osmer, a retired professor from Princeton Theological Seminary who taught Christian formation and evangelism for thirty years. He is an ordained pastor of the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), a UNC alum, and part of our UPC family.



## **Vance Barron Hall Class: *Our Global Mission Partners* (Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26)**

Come meet our mission partners and hear about the life-saving work they are doing throughout the world.

- **Sunday, Nov 5 – Kathy Walmer, Family Health Ministries, Haiti**

Working with Haitian partners, FHM supports programs in maternal and child health, nutrition, education and church development in Haiti. They have built and helped staff clinics in Blanchard and Leogane, and support child nutrition and education efforts in the mountain community of Fondwa.

- **Sunday, Nov 12 – Pastor Leon D'Orleans, Haiti Outreach Ministries**

HOM works in some of the poorest communities in Haiti, Cite Soleil, Blanchard and Repatriote, as well as in the village of Ibo beach. In each community, they have built a church, schools, and a small clinic, the latter in partnership with Family Health Ministries.

- **Sunday, Nov 19 – Emily Everett, Hearts With Haiti**

Hearts with Haiti is a non-profit working in partnership with the St. Joseph Family of Haiti, creating a caring family for those facing the challenges of poverty and disability.

- **Sunday, Nov 26 – Sally Harwood, Ministry of Hope, Lesotho**

Ministry of Hope – Lesotho has emerged as a program designed to provide quality infant and child care for working and nursing mothers in Lesotho. The program directors there work to meet the basic needs of abandoned and vulnerable infants and young children.



**MINISTRY OF HOPE LESOTHO**



# Pictures from our Gleaning Day



Many thanks to our volunteers who came out to serve on this day off from school. Their gleaning efforts resulted in 57 pounds of fresh peppers delivered to TABLE to be distributed to families in our community.

Special thanks to Brian Vandersea for taking photos!



# From the Earth Care Team

Members of the UPC Earth Care Team dug hundreds of sweet potatoes at The Garden at Spring Forest on Saturday, September 30, 2023. It was hard, rewarding work enjoyed by grade-schoolers, PCM students, and older adults alike. The Garden uses regenerative agricultural practices which help combat climate change by removing carbon from the atmosphere and sequestering in the soil.

The Church at Spring Forest is a United Methodist faith community. Their ministries focus on regenerative farming, supporting refugee resettlement, contemplative and healing spirituality, and fostering the nutritional and spiritual well-being of their neighbors.

The Garden at Spring Forest grows organic produce for the church's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project which helps to fund their mission of providing healthy produce to several food banks and refugee resettlement centers. UPC is a distribution site for weekly CSA boxes. Several UPC families pick up a weekly box of locally grown, farm fresh vegetables. Learn more about The Garden at Spring Forest at [springforest.org/the-garden](https://springforest.org/the-garden)





# UPC RACIAL EQUITY FALL FILM SERIES

**FEATURING:**

## I'M SMART, TOO

INTEGRATED SCHOOLS

SEGREGATED STUDENTS



**Tuesday, November 14**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**  
**University Presbyterian**  
**Church**  
**(209 E Franklin St.)**

Join us for dinner, film viewing, and  
a panel discussion.

**Visit [upcch.org/RET](http://upcch.org/RET) for details  
and to RSVP.**

About the film:

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools gained notoriety in 2016 when news broke that the "achievement gap" between white and Black students was among the widest in the nation. In fact, the disenfranchisement of Black children has been occurring ever since schools were formally integrated. While the district has pursued some initiatives to address racial inequities, the stratified educational system still fails many students of color. *I'm Smart, Too* explores how the seeds of the disparities are cultivated in the early grades and the lasting impact of these experiences.

For more about the film, visit  
[imsmarttoo.org](http://imsmarttoo.org)

**UNIVERSITY**  
  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA



# Advent Craft Festival (Dec. 3)



Join us in the UPC Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 3, at 9:45 am for the annual Advent Craft Festival! There will be crafts for children (and children at heart) to make in preparation for Advent. We will have plenty of greenery, candles, and supplies for you to make an Advent wreath to use at home. Children are encouraged to "dress down" or wear an old t-shirt or smock that can get messy.

If you would like to volunteer, please visit [upcch.org/acf](http://upcch.org/acf). Contact Nancy Myer ([nancy@upcch.org](mailto:nancy@upcch.org)) or Jessica Beardsley if you have questions.

We will also have a table for the Alternative Gift Market at the festival - more about this opportunity to give on p. 9.

## Help Us Pack 300 Bags for TABLE!

We need your help gathering supplies for 300 food bags for TABLE to distribute as the holidays approach. TABLE provides hunger relief to children in our area. Their weekend backpack program keeps young people fed when they are not in school.

With your help, the Advent Craft Festival and Youth Group will combine to pack 300 bags - we only need the supplies.

Because the bags need to be uniform, we have a specific item list we must follow. Please sign up at [upcch.org/food-drive](http://upcch.org/food-drive) to donate supplies, and bring your donations to church on or before Nov. 27.

Contact Nancy Myer ([nancy@upcch.org](mailto:nancy@upcch.org)) or Tristan Wall ([tristan@upcch.org](mailto:tristan@upcch.org)) with any questions.



# 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, or as a contribution to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services to support our neighbors in need. (You can also choose to do both with your gift!) The names of those honored and remembered with these gifts will be in the Sunday Worship Bulletin on December 10.



Visit [upcch.org/poinsettias](https://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. 1.



## 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 will open soon ([upcch.org/agm](https://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 3,600 diapers to the Center. As we begin our sixth 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. If giving online, please select "PW Diaper Drive" as the fund.

We appreciate your continued support!





# Advent & Christmas Calendar At-A-Glance

**Make plans now to join us for the seasons of Advent & Christmas!**

**Visit our website for the full list of opportunities:**

[upcch.org/advent](http://upcch.org/advent)

## **Sun., Dec. 3 - First Sunday of Advent**

8:30 am - Worship

9:45 am - Advent Craft Festival

11:00 am - Worship

## **Wed., Dec. 6-Fri., Dec. 8 - Advent Taizé Retreat**

## **Sun., Dec. 10 - Second Sunday of Advent**

8:30 - Lessons & Carols Service

9:45 am - Advent Brunch

11:00 am - Lessons & Carols Service

## **Sun., Dec. 17 - Third Sunday of Advent**

8:30 - Worship

9:45 am - Faith & the Arts class, with separate activity time for children

11:00 am - Worship

## **Tues., Dec. 19 - Longest Night**

7:30 pm - Longest Night Service

## **Sun., Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve**

10:00 am - Worship (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

5:00 pm - Family Christmas Eve Service

8:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

## **Sun., Dec. 31 - First Sunday of Christmas**

10:00 am - Worship

# Meet Our New Members



**Thomas & Lauren Brown**

Originally from Chapel Hill & Wilson, Thomas and Lauren are expecting their first child this December.



**David McKenas**

Dave McKenas recently moved to Chapel Hill from Dallas TX. Born in Oneida NY he is a physician specialist in Aerospace Medicine and is also loves piano and singing



**Emily & Billy Parks (Inman, Will)**

Billy and Emily live in Hillsborough with their two boys, Inman (almost 9) and Will (7). Billy heads finance for Shibumi Shades, Emily teaches academic writing at Duke, Inman loves to read and watch Georgia football with his dad, and Will loves to create his own cake recipes and to learn about crocodilians (crocodiles, alligators, caymans, and gharials).



**Melanie Wills**

Melanie has spent most of her life in the Midwest and moved from Indiana in 2021 to join partner Lizzie and kids Harper and Hudson and now calls North Carolina home. She is the COO of Experiential Systems, a challenge course and aerial adventure builder and also serves locally on the Technical Rescue Team through South Orange County Rescue Squad.

## Interested in joining UPC?

Our next new member lunch will be Sunday, Nov. 19 at 12:00 pm.  
Want to learn more? Contact Meg Peery McLaughlin ([meg@upcch.org](mailto:meg@upcch.org)).



# Halloween Fun at UPC

Children, youth, and parents had a blast at our All Treats, No Tricks event, which included a fun organ concert by Mr. Joey!



# Spring & Summer Trips

**Trip registrations open on November 2! Here's where we're planning to go; mark your calendars now, and register ASAP to guarantee your spot!**



## **Spring Confirmation Retreat**

**Feb. 2-4, 2024 at Massanetta Springs, VA**

***For current confirmands (8th grade)***

Every church does confirmation a little bit differently, so this retreat is intentionally planned to gather confirmation students together in meaningful ways while giving space for home church groups to continue their own work. The program will include small groups made up of participants from different churches to discuss some of the similarities, differences, hopes, and dreams for our congregations. The schedule will include time for us to meet and work on our own lessons and curriculum, statements of faith, and whatever they need to get done for their own confirmation.

**Cost: \$225; registration deadline Dec. 1**



## **Spring High School Sabbath Retreat**

**April 19-21, 2024 at the beach (exact location TBD)**

***For current 9th-12th graders***

High school youth are invited to come together from a short weekend getaway to the beach for a time of rest and renewal together. While we will enjoy some very lite programming together, our focus will be on practicing Sabbath with one another during this weekend getaway. Cost and location to come later this winter.



## **Montreat Worship & Music Conference**

**June 23-29, 2024 at Montreat, NC**

***For completed 3rd graders-adults***

All congregation members (completed 3rd grade through adults), are welcome for this time of relaxation, music, and fellowship. Housing is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis, so early registration is recommended.

For Children (completed 3rd-5th), Middlers (completed 6th-8th), and Youth (completed 9th-12th), the cost of attendance includes all classes – art, handbells, drama, choir, etc. – plus housing and food. Scholarships are available. We need all hands on deck to make the magic happen, so please contact Nancy Myer (nancy@upcch.org) if you are interested in being a Chaperone or Cook. Housing and food is also included for these volunteers, and you will love spending a week in beautiful Montreat.

For adults who wish to attend and participate (open to all adults, not just the choir!), please contact Joey Fala (fala@upcch.org) for more information.

**Cost: \$525**





## **Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference**

**July 11-14, 2024 at Massanetta Springs, VA**

***For completed 6th-8th graders***

Massanetta's Middle School Conference (completed 6th – 8th grade) transforms the faith journey of hundreds of middle schoolers from all around the country every summer. Every aspect of this conference is crafted with middle schoolers in mind. Conference activities like keynote, recreation, encounter groups, and workshops are centered on the theme of the summer. It will be one of the best things your youth does all year! Children who have completed 5th grade are eligible to join as well, please reach out to Tristan if you have a current 5th grader who is interested in attending.

**Cost: \$450; registration deadline April 1, 2024**



## **Montreat Youth Conference**

**July 21-27, 2024 at Montreat, NC**

***For completed 8th-12th graders***

Montreat Youth Conference is designed for high school youth who desire to come together for fellowship, fun, and faith formation. We'll spend a week in the mountains living together in a house. Our days will be filled with keynote, energizers, singing, small groups, recreation, and worship. We'll enjoy meals with our UPC family and enjoy a day out on the town mid-way through the week! This week will leave you with new perspectives on faith, and will create bonds with your church family that will last for years.

**Cost: \$450; registration deadline April 1, 2024**



## **Appalachia Service Project**

**August 4-10, 2024 in rural Appalachia**

***For completed 8th grade-adults***

Appalachia Service Project endeavors to make homes warmer, safer, and drier in rural Appalachia. No construction experience is needed - just a heart for serving others and a desire to learn. We are divided into work crews of 7 people and travel in vans to our ASP center. We'll make our home for the week on air mattresses in gyms, schools, or community centers. Each day, each work crew will head out for their home where they will serve for the week. You'll do home repair but more importantly, you'll get to know the homeowners, their stories, and make a real connection as you share God's love.

Youth must have completed 8th grade to attend; all adults are welcome and encouraged to attend to make this trip work for our young people.

**Cost: \$475; registration deadline Jan. 15, 2024**

# Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women circles gather each month for Bible study and fellowship. All are welcome! If you're interested in connecting with a PW circle, please contact Hadley Kifner ([hadley@upcch.org](mailto:hadley@upcch.org) or 919-929-2102).

**Circle #1:** Wed., Nov. 1 at 10:00 am at the home of Janet Smith

**Circle #2:** Mon., Nov. 13 at 10:00 am in the game room at Carolina Meadows

**Circle #3:** Tues., Nov. 7 at 10:30 am at the home of Marian Johnson

**Circle #4:** Tues., Nov., 7 at 3:15 pm by Zoom/at Chapel in the Pines

**Circle #5:** Wed., Nov. 8 at 7:00 pm at the home of Betsy Edwards

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

**Circle #7:** Mon., Nov. 27 at 7:00 pm in Vance Barron Hall

**New circle forming! - Circle #8:** Tues., Nov. 14 at 7:00 pm at the UNC Farm Clubhouse



The Presbyterian Women recently funded the addition of parlor furniture to Vance Barron Hall, providing a quiet place for families to gather before memorial services, a comfortable place for wedding parties to get ready before wedding ceremonies, and for any group to meet as needed.

PW will host a reception and time of brief blessing of this space after the 11:00 service on Sunday, November 5. Light refreshments will be served. All are invited.

## Session Report

At their October 2023 meeting, the UPC Session:

- Approved two baptisms
- Heard a report from the Stewardship Committee on the ongoing Stewardship Drive
- Approved updated Financial Guidelines
- Approved the adoption and amendments of the Endowment Articles
- Received the Treasurer's Report and heard updates on the Tax Credit funds
- Approved the addition of a "Who We Are" link on the UPC website to better clarify our mission and values



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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