



MARCH 2023
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



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Holy Land Trip

April 30-May 11, 2024

Visit upcch.org/holy-land for details.

What Happens Next?



Jarrett McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

As I write this in mid-February, my ears are still echoing with the songs from the youth production of Godspell – “All Good Gifts” has been stuck in my head for days. It has also been just over a week since we celebrated Kim McNeill and her fifteen years serving as our Staff Associate for Youth Ministry. What a wonderful gift to honor the impact of her ministry among us. I am incredibly grateful for each and every person who made that day possible. I imagine that many among us may be wondering, “What happens next?”

First, let’s talk short-term coverage. Mary Bozyski and Naomi Sherry are both Elders on Session who serve on the Youth Committee. They are stepping up to provide coverage for Sunday School and Sunday evening youth group. Chelsey Wommack is one of our Confirmation teachers and she has agreed to organize the confirmands for their examination and confirmation later this Spring. Our Youth Engagement Council – made up of student leaders - continues to generate ideas and energy for Sunday evening activities. Summer trips have coverage with me taking the group to Montreat Youth Conference, Nancy Myer and Jon Leggette taking the group to Massanetta Middle School Conference, and Sharon Edmiston and Betsy Edwards taking the lead on Appalachia Service Project. This list would not be complete without our amazing youth advisors, cooking crews, and Sunday school teachers. In the short term, we have a solid plan to ensure that ministry with our young people will remain healthy and vital.

What about future staff leadership? We actually have an interesting opportunity before us at this moment that will require some background. Nancy Myer, our staff associate for Children’s Ministry, has been working towards her seminary degree for the past five years, and she is approaching graduation. Nancy has also passed all of the Presbyterian Ordination exams and will be meeting later this month with the Committee on Preparation for ministry to be certified ready to receive a call. After much conversation and discernment, Nancy has come to the conclusion that she would like to remain here at UPC as an associate pastor.

Because Presbyterians are nothing if not process-oriented, this is a bit more complicated than flipping a switch and changing the nameplate on her office to read Rev. Nancy Myer. We will need to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to develop an appropriate job description for this role and conduct an open search, of course with Nancy as a strong internal candidate. It would be reasonable for such a position to include some additional responsibilities in preaching, worship, sacraments, and pastoral care in addition to the normal functions of Children’s Ministry. It would be unreasonable to shift all of youth ministry into this job so we will need to conduct a search for a youth ministry staff person.

The plan is to call a single search committee to conduct both searches. Obviously, the youth ministry position is urgent and so this team will first focus on identifying our next youth staff. On the heels of that, however, this same group will be elected by the congregation as an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and engage with Presbytery to identify an associate pastor candidate, again with Nancy applying as a strong internal candidate.

UPC’s Nominating Committee has already identified a well-rounded team of seven adults and one youth member to serve on this dual-search team. The team includes youth member Caroline Vandersea, Kelli Smith, Mark Bozyski, Anna Rose Medley, Will Perreault, Sharon Edmiston, Amelia Howard, and Patrick Kavanaugh. This team will begin meeting imminently to develop a job description and begin the process of identifying our next youth minister. It is our intention that this position would be a non-ordained individual.

(ctd., next page)

So, What Happens Next? (ctd.)

Knowing that UPC, and especially our youth, will be in a season of uncertainty in these coming months, I did want to fill you in about the process. In the meantime, I ask for your patience and for your prayers for this team as they do this work on behalf of the church. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I would be happy to discuss this in more detail.

UPC is known in the denomination as a church that celebrates and cares for its staff and so I have every confidence that we will have some wonderful candidates for this youth ministry position. All the same, if you know of somebody that has gifts for youth ministry and may be interested in this position, I ask you to please be in touch with me to share names.

In the meantime, we will continue to celebrate “All Good Gifts” that come from heaven above, including this amazing Church and congregation.

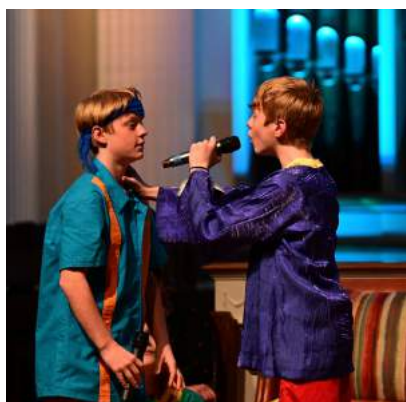


Global Outreach: Responding to Turkey

The earthquakes in Turkey are just the latest natural disaster to bring devastation into the lives of so many. It's easy to feel powerless when these things happen half a world away, but did you know UPC is in fact able to respond to these kinds of tragedies? Thanks to our Global Outreach Committee, UPC maintains relationships with global partners all over the globe. In the aftermath of this earthquake, we were able to be in communication with Dr. Nuha Tomeh who serves as the regional director for Presbyterian Mission in the Middle East. With his knowledge of on-the-ground partners, we were able to more adequately focus an initial gift for emergency relief in the form of food, water, clothes, and blankets. We will continue to be in touch with Dr. Tomeh to consider ways that we might contribute to re-building projects. This is all made possible by your generous support. You are bringing relief and hope to those devastated people half a world away. If you would like to learn more about our Global Outreach team please contact Jarrett McLaughlin (jarrett@upcch.org).



Pictures from the Youth Musical



Special thanks to Brian Vandersea for taking these photos!

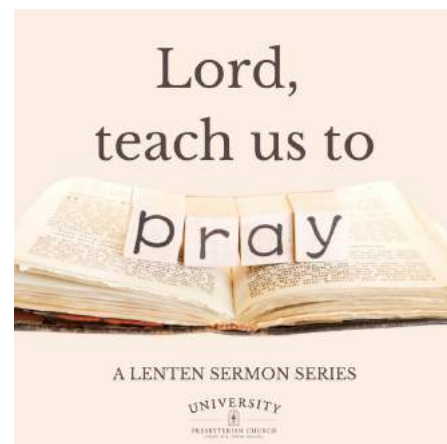
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Worship Opportunities in March

Lenten Sermon Series

"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.

For more about Lent and our Lenten resources (including devotionals), visit upcch.org/lent.



Stephen Ministry Commissioning (March 12)

At the 11:00 worship service on March 12, we will commission our two newest Stephen Ministers: Dana Greenwood and Milton Reid. Upon their commissioning, they will join the rest of the Stephen Ministers in their ministry of one-to-one Christian support to those in need of a listening ear, non-judgmental presence, or encouraging word. To learn more about this ministry, visit upcch.org/stephen-ministry.

Taizé Worship (March 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.



Youth Sunday (March 19)

Join us for worship on March 19 as our youth lead in all aspects of the service! These students will read, pray, sing, and preach in both services. Please come support and encourage our youth!

Adult Ed. Opportunities in March

Classes meet at 9:45 am on Sundays

Dunham Hall Class (*Bible Study/Spiritual Formation*)

Faith in Plain Sight — A Lenten

Journey of Storytelling

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 which to bring a friend or neighbor. No preparation or knowledge needed, simply a listening ear and open heart.

- March 5: Ed & Nancy Preston
- March 12: Gail Norwood Kinder
- March 19: Lisa Lord
- March 26: Kris Parks
- April 2: Wood Burns



Vance Barron Hall Class (*Topical Studies/Learning*)

Living Into our Earth Care Pledge

“Living Into Our Earth Care Pledge” is a six-part Sunday School series presented by UPC’s Earth Care Team. Each class will explore different aspects of Creation care and the climate crisis, including ways that we as both individuals and a congregation can most effectively and joyfully continue living into our Earth Care Pledge.

Class schedule:

- March 5: Living Out Our Faith: Earth Care
- March 12: Sustainable Diet and Regenerative Agriculture (*The Earth Care Team will also help host the March 12 Second Sunday Lunch, which will feature vegetarian foods!*)
- March 19: North Carolina Earth Care Issues and Advocacy
- March 26: Clean, Sustainable Energy
- April 2: Environmental Justice
- *No Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9*
- April 16: Hope, Resources and Preparation for Earth Day (Saturday, April 22)

To learn more about our Earth Care program, visit upcch.org/EarthCare.



Opportunities to Connect in March

Earth Care Vegetarian Second Sunday Lunch (March 12)

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 12, for a potluck fellowship lunch hosted by UPC's Earth Care Team featuring **vegetarian** foods. Here's the plan:

- The church will provide the main dish (vegetarian lasagna, with a pasta bar for the kids) and beverages.
- Please bring a **vegetarian** side dish, salad, or dessert for approximately 12 people. Please be generous!
- Drop off your food in the Fellowship Hall kitchen prior to 11:00 am worship.
- Please remember to label your dishes and serving spoons with your name if you'd like 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 "vegan."
- Please share recipes for any vegetarian dishes you love by emailing them to AshleyLeflerWilson@gmail.com so the Earth Care Team can share them at upcch.org/EarthCare.
- Are you a new member, student, or visitor? No need to bring anything — just join us for the food and fellowship!



Presbyterian Women

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

Circle # 1: Wednesday, March 1 at 10:00 am at the home of Shipley Jenkins.

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

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

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

Circle # 3: Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 am at the home of Gwen Lamb.

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

Circle # 4: Tuesday, March 7 at 3:15 pm by Zoom.

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

Circle # 5: Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 pm at the home of Claire Curran.

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

Circle # 6: Thursday, March 16 at 10:00 am in the Heron Room at Carol Woods

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

Church Women United World Day of Prayer

All women are invited to attend the Church Women United World Day of Prayer gathering on Saturday, March 11 at 10:00 am at Chapel in the Pines. The focus country is Taiwan. Guest speaker is Shihhan who grew up in Taiwan.

Holy Week & Easter at UPC



Maundy Thursday (April 6, 7:30 pm)

Maundy Thursday is the day during Holy Week that commemorates Jesus' last meal with his disciples, when he washed their feet and gave them the commandment (mandate, where we get the word Maundy) to love one another. Join us in the Sanctuary for a contemplative service, including Holy Communion, to reflect on how Jesus proclaimed the gospel through service and love.



Good Friday (April 7, 7:30 pm)

On the Friday of Holy Week, we will worship together in a Service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is the Latin word meaning darkness. Sometimes we learn things in the dark, in the shadows, that we could have never learned or appreciated in the bright light of day. On Good Friday, we will read the story of Jesus' passion (his suffering and death) and extinguish lights until we leave the sanctuary in complete darkness, awaiting the glorious light of Easter morning.



Easter Sunday (April 9)

8:30 am: Worship

9:45 am: Potluck Easter Brunch

10:15 am: Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am: Worship

Easter Gifts of Beauty and Bounty

It is the UPC tradition at Easter to honor and remember the people in our lives through Easter Gifts of Beauty and Bounty. Your gift can be used to purchase a lily 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 Easter Sunday Worship Bulletin on April 9.

You can give online at upcch.org/easter-beauty-bounty, or paper forms are available in the narthex. The deadline to give is Friday, March 31.



LET ME LISTEN

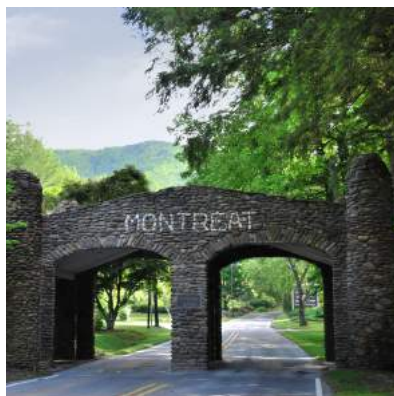
STALEY HIGH SCHOOL CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR 2023



Sunday, March 19 at 7:00 pm
University Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

UPC welcomes the acclaimed Stanley High School Choir from Kansas City to Chapel Hill as a part of its Civil Rights Tour. In the midst of the 2020 Civil Rights Uprising, friends of the choir, Tony Silvestri and Dan Forest, wrote a piece entitled "Let Me Listen," demonstrating a dedication to walking alongside people whose experiences have been different from our own, hearing and believing their stories. Free and open to the public.

Register for the 2023 Congregational Retreat!



September 8-10 in Montreat, NC

Are you ready to rest, relax, and retreat from your busy lives? Join your church family for a weekend in beautiful Montreat as we experience scripture, keynote speakers, workshops, pottery, hiking, and much more!

Don't miss this opportunity to live in community with UPC as we explore the theme Woven Together. To read more about our schedule and workshop options and register, go to upcch.org/retreat. Registration opens March 1!

Retreat FAQ

Q: Is this retreat for families only?

A: No! UPC members of all ages and stages of life attend the congregational retreat. This event is a chance for all in our church to spend time in community together. We have options that everyone can enjoy no matter your age, and we've found that unique bonds are created across many generations during this weekend.

Q: How are the accommodations?

A: We sleep in the Assembly Inn hotel, which was recently renovated. It's a beautiful stone building at Montreat Conference Center, where they cater to all ages and have all the creature comforts we're used to having.

Q: How's the food?

A: Montreat's Galax Dining Room offers a variety of options at meals, and there's always a bountiful salad bar. If you have concerns about allergies, please note it in your registration, and we'll make sure you have specific allergen information.

Q: I'm not sure we can afford to attend. Is there financial assistance?

A: We have a retreat scholarship fund to help with costs. We will work with you to determine how we can best meet your family's needs when covering lodging and retreat costs; there's no special formula. A scholarship application form is available on the retreat website (upcch.org/retreat), or you may email a church staff member. We will communicate with each family on an individual, confidential basis.

About our Keynote Speaker, Rodger Nishioka



The Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka believes that because God created us all for relationship, discovering how to follow Jesus Christ happens best in community. He currently serves as Co-Pastor at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Springs, KS. Born in Honolulu and raised in Seattle at the Japanese Presbyterian Church, he has also taught at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta as the Benton Family Professor of Christian Education and was director of youth and young adult ministries for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rodger is a graduate of Seattle Pacific University (BA), McCormick Theological Seminary (MATs), and Georgia State University (PhD.). The son of a minister, he is evidence that you can be a pastor's kid and still love Jesus and the church.

Visiting Ministry of Hope in Lesotho

By Lauren Mann, Global Outreach Committee Member

A couple of weeks ago, I had the great pleasure of joining a multi-church team of volunteers visiting the Ministry of Hope (MoH) in Maseru, Lesotho. The Ministry of Hope is a home for children who have no family or a family that can't care for them at present. The home feeds, clothes, and nurtures these children while also sending them to local schools so that they don't fall behind in their education. The home was started in 2008 by Lesotho missionary Nancy Dimmock and local nurse Mamonyane as a reaction to the AIDS crisis in Africa and the staggering number of children who were left parentless by the epidemic. While AIDS is no longer the main reason, MoH welcomes kids in all situations of need. At present, MoH has 26 children in their care ranging in age from 6 months to 18 years old.

Lesotho is a land-locked country in southern Africa surrounded entirely by the country of South Africa. It is one of three existing monarchies on the African continent and encompasses a land mass equal to the size of the state of Maryland. Most of the population of over 2 million live in rural areas and subsist on farming. The gap between rich and poor in Lesotho is extremely wide, leaving a good portion of the country impoverished.



MoH is supported both by local Maseru businesses as well as by churches and other organizations globally. UPC has been a supporter of MoH for many years now. It is one of the main organizations on the Alternative Gift Market run by the Global Outreach committee. Donations to MoH from UPC have supported both capital projects and the operating budget of the home. MoH employs caregivers, tutors, and a preschool teacher to care for the needs of the children. The Maseru community also supports MoH through food donations from local grocery stores.



Mamonyane runs MoH onsite on a daily basis. Her love and care of the children is obvious when you look at all the smiling faces and the respect that they show her as well as the other caregivers on staff. Our team of volunteers got to see that love and care firsthand during our week onsite. Our team refreshed the play equipment, hung curtains, set up a new computer, completed some in-house repairs, and spent lots of time playing with the children.

I felt truly blessed to be able to spend time in the presence of such love and devotion to these children. I urge UPC to keep supporting this important and life-giving work.



Manna (Young Adult) Retreat Reflections



By Matt Cooper, UPC Young Adult

On a chilly weekend in late January, three UPC young adults—Brittany Young, Alli Buikema, and myself—made our way up to Montreat for the first ever Manna Retreat for Presbyterian young adults. People from all over the country came to experience the community at this retreat and learn about living their faith during times of busyness. Some had been to Montreat their whole lives; some, like me, were experiencing it for only the first or second time. But all of us came together to learn from Peter's encounters with Jesus on what it looks like to live a life of faith in this world.

Personally, my favorite part of the retreat was the hour of silent reflection with which we were tasked. I don't often get time to sit in silence in my daily life, and getting to walk up and down the creeks of Montreat silently reflecting on my life was a huge gift. But there really was something for everyone at that retreat—big group talks, small group hangs, and a trivia game in which one of our UPC young adults, Brittany, won! I loved getting to know young adults from all around the country and hearing about ways in which they practice their faith. It definitely inspired me to build more reflection time into my daily life and schedule, which I consider a victory for this retreat. I can't wait to go back next year and learn more.



UPC has an active, vibrant young adult group, and we'd love to welcome any young adult (loosely defined as 22 to 35-ish) who is interested in community, thoughtful discussion, and/or even just someone to sit with at 11:00 am worship on Sunday mornings. Our young adult ministry is a group of single folks, married folks, and engaged folks navigating life in the Chapel Hill area as graduate students, young professionals, and folks navigating big life transitions.

There is always a young adult group who welcomes others to sit together at 11:00 am Sunday worship on the pulpit side about 7 rows from the back. About twice a month they eat lunch together - at the UPC Second Sunday lunch and at a restaurant on Franklin Street following worship many 4th Sundays. Young adults also gather every other Wednesday for a Bible study discussion in the PCM space (enter at 110 Henderson Street door) at 7:30 pm, led by 3rd year Duke Divinity school student Matt Cooper. And there is often a monthly social gathering.

On Sunday, March 5, young adults are gathering in the PCM kitchen around noon (following 11:00 am worship) to make and eat home-made pretzels with Alli Buikema (who worked for a year at a Pretzel company in Michigan)! Young Adults connected to UPC or friends of folks connected to UPC are invited.

Please reach out to berry@upcch.org, naomimaxa@gmail.com, or matt.cooper@duke.edu if you'd like hear more - or just join us Sunday morning.

A JOY-ful Time on the Women's Retreat

By Hadley Kifner, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture

At the end of February, twenty-three women from the congregation traveled to Ocean Isle Beach for the annual retreat. With the theme, Journey to Joy, the women shared 2 days and 2 nights attempting to define joy within the context of our Christian faith. Together, we explored what joy is and what it isn't, why it matters, what God has to do with it, how we struggle to trust its staying power, and how it is hard to experience it in the face of our messy lives and the brokenness of the world. The aim was not to come up with answers – but to ask questions, to notice, to wonder - and to have some joyful, good times all the while! During the retreat, women ranging in age from 38 to 86, shared meals, games, fellowship, small group conversations, personal reflection, and large group sessions. In addition to faith formation, prayer, singing, and communion, there was also time for walks on the beach, porpoise sightings, jewelry making, psalm writing, lectio divina, competitive card games, and holy happy hours with many shared stories and much laughter. Saturday night was a low country boil with hushpuppies, slaw, and key lime pie. Everyone had a fun time peeling shrimp at the table together, talking and laughing. The weekend ended with worship and communion on Sunday morning with the intercoastal waterway as our backdrop. Together, we learned that joy is a gift of the spirit, it is meant to be shared, it sustains us in our suffering, and it is our theological task and part of the church's mission to cultivate joy in the world. Thanks be to God for the gifts and graces of this weekend away! And may the journey to joy ever continue...



Vacation Bible School 2023

June 26-29, 2023

8:55 am-noon

New Hope Camp and Conference Center

Plan to join us June 26-29, 2023, at New Hope Camp and Conference Center for Vacation Bible School! We will gather each morning (8:55 am-noon) to learn together about God's great, big, beautiful world and how we can help care for it.

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 is now open for members of UPC and New Hope Presbyterian Church, as well as UPPS families; visit upcch.org/vbs to register today!



We also need volunteers for the week!

Both youth (rising 6th-12th grade)
and adults are invited to volunteer.

Visit upcch.org/vbs-volunteers to sign up!

Souper Bowl of Caring Report



Thank you to everyone who gave to our Souper Bowl of Caring emphasis! We're thrilled to share that we collected **over \$2,100**, 100% of which will go to TABLE to support their mission of delivering healthy food and nutrition education to kids in Orange County, NC.



Recent Happenings at UPC



Adult Ed. Series about Affordable Housing in Chapel Hill



Fellowship at the PYPs Pancake Breakfast



Children's spiritual formation in Godly Play



PCM Students led in all aspects of worship on PCM Sunday (Feb. 19)

Session Update

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

- Approved a baptism
- Approved UPPS use of online giving through Realm for the 50 plus Years Anniversary Fundraiser this spring
- Heard from the Property Committee on the repair needs for the flat side roofs over the sanctuary
- Received the Treasurer's Report
- Were updated on the interim and future planning for Youth Ministry leadership



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

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