MAY 2023 EDITION



The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM

<u>UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL</u>



WHAT TO EXPECT THIS MONTH

Music, summer worship schedule, and more! | p. 5-6

EARTH CARE ACTION STEPS

Ways you can help take care of God's creation| p. 11

NEWS FROM HEARTS WITH HAITI

One of our UPC Global Outreach partners| p. 13

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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

Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries

Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

Sara Richard, Office Administrator

Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant

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@upc_chapelhill



vimeo.com/upcch



We're looking for a part-time operations specialist to assist the Director of Operations in maintaining the safety, cleanliness, functionality, and operational integrity of University Presbyterian Church. This position will average 16-24 hours a week, assisting with tasks such as cleaning, yard work, set up/breakdown, and more. Visit upcch.org/jobs to learn more.

Pastor's Message



Yesterday I was able to sit in the pew with my children during worship. Per usual, it elicited deep gratitude for parents who worship amidst distraction and for the pew mates who live out the congregational vows we make at baptism to welcome little children in all their fullness. (Thank you.)

As I was getting lost in the exquisite rendition of *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* – with that oboe and violin! – Zanna was sitting on my lap. At some point, I noticed that Zanna's head was craning abnormally backward, owl-like, and she was squinting her eyes in a mix between dagger eyes (I've seen those before from her) and mischievous delight. I could not for the life of me figure out what was going on. I whispered gently in her newly pierced ear, "What are you doing?" "I'm looking for Deb," she said.

Turns out that this has been happening every week. Whenever Deb Jones ushers, during the offering, she'll see Zanna's little head pop up and they make eyes at each other until one of them cracks a big grin.

The kingdom of God is like. . . .

Church, we are best when we notice each other.

University Presbyterian Church is a large church. There are 8,813 PC(USA) churches. Only 2% of them are our size or larger (source: **tinyurl.com/PCUSA-church-size**), so how do we maintain connection in a rare sea of Presbyterians? I want to invite you into one way we do that here.

Our church database, Realm, is one of our vital ministry tools. Whenever there is a new baby born, or a church member in need of meals after surgery or treatment, an email is sent out inviting folks to volunteer to show up with something to eat. Whenever there has been a death, an email is sent out inviting folks to serve as ushers, or punch servers at the reception, or makers of small sandwiches with the crusts cut off. Whenever there is someone in need of a ride to the doctor, or to worship, or to a special church function, there is an email sent out inviting folks to be in touch with them about picking them up.

If you'd like to be added to any of the Realm Groups, please fill out this simple form (tinyurl.com/UPC-care), or just email Meg (meg@upcch.org). Yes, there may be some very practical ways that this will enable you to be the church. Chicken noodle soup, a ride to the doctor, and brownies at a gathering of grieving friends are all tangible ways we are the body of Christ. But I suppose what I also want to say is the soup and sugar are also just stand-ins for noticing. Because what we do when we hand someone a bulletin at the door when they come in for a friend's memorial and what we do when we drop off rotisserie chicken and green beans on someone's door steps is we catch their eye---we make one another feel seen, noticed, cherished, loved.

And that, I believe, makes God break into a grin.

Peace, y'all. Thank you for being the church.

919-929-2101).

PS - If you have not logged into your Realm account, be in touch with our Admin, Sara Richard. (admin@upcch.org or

Easter 2023 at UPC



























Celebrating the Ordination of Kim Rubish

On April 16, University Presbyterian welcomed pastors, elders, friends, and loved ones from UPC and around the triangle to the sanctuary to worship God and celebrate the ordination of our very own Kim Rubish as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). Mark Bozymski and Claire Curran also hosted a beautiful reception afterward, where all were welcome for fellowship, cake, and joy! Kim began attending UPC in adolescence, and has been working with PCM for five years.

Words from Kim:

"I could never say enough how grateful I am for the support, encouragement, and steadfast love I have received from UPC since I showed up as a confused, doubtful 12-year old. I have been mentored, challenged, and cared for within this congregation in ways I never imagined possible, and have been given a model of discipleship and love at UPC that I aim to shape my ministry around. Thank you so, so much to all who were able to attend the service, and to all who have been a part of my journey up until this point, whether you could be there or not! And a particular word of gratitude for Mark and Claire, both of whom have been constant voices of wisdom and encouragement in my ministry, for organizing such a spectacular reception.

While my role at PCM wraps up at the beginning of June, I will not be going far! I am starting a hospital chaplaincy residency program at UNC Medical Center in July, right up the road. If



you ever need a listening ear or an advocate at UNCMC, I'll be there full-time for the next year. Though I, of course, hope to not ever see any of you there! I also hope to continue worshipping at UPC, so I can't wait to continue to grow in fellowship and relationship. Thanks be to God for UPC, for you, and for the love of community and Christ."





Sundays in May

May 7: Songs of Resurrection (11:00 am)

Christmas Lessons and Carols is a beloved tradition at UPC. This year, the music ministry will introduce a new special music Sunday. On May 7, all four of our choral ensembles will come together to tell the story of Resurrection and God's love for the world through word and song. This festival service will be at 11 am worship only; 8:30 worship will continue as usual.



May 21: Summer Worship Schedule Begins

Beginning on May 21, we will move to our summer schedule! We will have one service at 10:00 am, which will also be livestreamed. Sunday School and Godly Play will not meet during the summer. Also happening on this Sunday...



Bible Presentations

Traditionally, we present Bibles to our 3rd graders each year; due to COVID, that tradition was paused. We will bring back this tradition on May 21 and present Bibles to our current 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders (catching up from the past few years).



Congregational Meeting

There will be a called congregational meeting after worship on Sun., May 21 for the purpose of electing Lauren Mann as Elder (fulfilling an unexpired term) and to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. A report with the nominees will be distributed via email on May 18 and available that Sunday.



Potluck Picnic

After worship and the congregational meeting, join us for a potluck picnic! Beverages and a main dish will be provided; please make or buy a dish to share (salads, casseroles, sides, desserts). We depend on your joyful and generous contribution, and your presence is appreciated regardless of contribution.

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 potluck. 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."

We'll need some help on the day of the picnic; visit upcch.org/volunteer to sign up!

Coming in June: Punch on the Porch!

During the summer, we offer simple refreshments on the portico after worship each week. Volunteers are needed to help staff this time of fellowship. All supplies are provided; simply add your smile and hospitality! This is a great way to get to know our members during the summer. Visit **upcch.org/volunteer** to sign up.

Adult Education in May

Dunham Hall Class (Bible Study/Spiritual Formation)

May 7 & 14: The Ten Best Ways: A Study of the Ten Commandments

Together, we'll consider two commandments each week.

Sunday School will not meet for the summer (after May 14).



Thomas Brown Recital Series (May 6, 4 pm)

Pianist Kirsten Homdrom will present a program entitled "There is Peace Even in the Storm," featuring works by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Germaine Tailleferre, Takashi Yoshimatsu and W. A. Mozart.

Equally at home in the world of sacred music, Homdrom is committed to sharing the gift of music with others through education and worship. She served as Trinity Scholar at Christ Church Episcopal in Hudson, Ohio, Director of Music at Venice Presbyterian Church in Ross, Ohio, and currently serves as Associate Director of Music at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Homdrom holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance, Magna Cum Laude, from Baldwin-Wallace University Conservatory of Music, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Primary teachers include pianists Eugene and Elisabeth Pridonoff, Robert Mayerovitch, Sungeun Kim, and Carla McElhaney; and organists Michael Unger, Roberta Gary, and Margaret Scharf.

This concert is free and open to the public.



UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Young Artists in Concert (May 27, 4 pm)



UPC welcomes students in concert from MYCO, a pre-college program focused on chamber music and chamber orchestra performance under the mentorship of distinguished professionals from UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke, UNC-Greensboro, East Carolina University and beyond. To learn more about this group, visit **mycomusic.org**.

Recent Happenings at UPC







Several of our families enjoyed fellowship (and ice cream!) together at Broken Spoke Farm



Stephen Ministry training



UPC staff enjoying lunch at the Henderson St. picnic tables



Hosting guests from the Medical Benevolence Foundation, one of our global partners



Celebrating 50+ years of UPPS



The formation of the Sacristy Squad, who will help our Worship & Music Committee ensure that the worship elements are ready each week



Kids' shift at TABLE

Sabbath Retreat Reflections



Some of our high school students spent an unplugged weekend at the beach for a Sabbath retreat! Here's what they had to say about the experience:

"The beach retreat gave us the opportunity to unwind from the stress in our lives and strengthen our connections with not only our peers but also God. It also was so much fun from the chicken fights in the ocean to the mini golfing. The beach retreat is a great way for us to practice Sabbath and relaxation in our lives which opens us up to see and hear God in all places."

-Charlotte Bevin and Sarah Bozymski

Good News Corner

At UPC, we maintain a prayer list to share concerns and hold one another in prayer. It's also important to celebrate with one another! While we often share news of births, marriages, and anniversaries, there's always more to celebrate. We're starting a "good news corner" in the Chimes, to highlight and celebrate some of the good things happening in our church members' lives.

Bob Greenwood will be awarded the 2023 Roger and Mary Brumback Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award at the Child Neurology Society meeting in Vancouver in October. This award is presented to CNS Members in recognition of a life-long commitment to child neurology, patient care, and humanism in medicine.

Lizzie Lange recently published a new children's book, entitled *The Love Box*.

Nancy Myer was awarded the Richard N. Boyce award for Congregational Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte.

Amy Wilson was recently highlighted by UNC for her ongoing work studying the intersection of mental illness and the criminal legal system. You can read the article (written by fellow UPC member Nancy Oates!) here:

ssw.unc.edu/2023/02/amy-blank-wilson-a-fighter-for-the-forgotten

Do you have good news to share? Email communications@upcch.org so UPC can celebrate with you!

Last Chance to Register for VBS!



June 26-29 New Hope Camp

For children age 4 (as of 9/1/2023) through rising 5th graders (in fall 2023)

upcch.org/vbs

Registration closes on May 15!

Home Communion (June 4)

On Sunday, June 4, UPC Elders and Deacons will be visiting members of the church at home to share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together. If you or someone you know would like to be visited on that day to receive communion, please contact Meg Peery McLaughlin (meg@upcch.org).

Frequently Asked Questions:

Must I be "homebound" to receive extended communion?

No. We recognize that many are able to attend Sunday morning services, but there are times and situations when that can be a challenge.

What if I haven't attended church recently?

No explanation regarding your recent attendance is necessary. We would like to offer this ministry to anyone who wishes to receive the sacrament even if you have not attended church in months or years.

What if I live in a retirement community, assisted living or long-term care facility?

We are happy to make a visit to your facility or community.

What should I do to prepare for a visit?

Beyond preparing your heart for our visit, absolutely nothing is necessary. In other words, please do not feel the need to clean or prepare.

What can I expect during our visit, and how long will it last?

A pair of deacons/elders will visit, and visits range in time. But you can expect 20 minutes to one hour on average.

What if a caregiver or family member lives with me?

They are certainly invited to receive the sacrament, as well, and we hope they will join us!

Congregational Retreat

Make plans now to join us Sept. 8-10 in Montreat, NC, for a weekend away for all ages and stages of life!

Here's some of what you can expect at the retreat:



Saturday Workshop Options

Pottery: Whether you are a beginner or have frequently worked with clay, you can create a wonderful keepsake of the weekend working with clay.

Nature Walk/Photo Shoot: Take an easy walk along the Montreat Gate path and explore nature. We'll take pictures of anything we find interesting along the way.

Guided Meditation: Be guided in a quiet meditation weaving together your own imagination and a scripture passage.

Prayer Path: The Prayer Path at Montreat is a walking pilgrimage with seven stations and a small labyrinth.

Enlivened Worship: Come learn and practice singing techniques, sing some beloved hymns together, and rehearse a song to lead in closing worship.

Fused Glass: Make either an ornament or a sun catcher.

Scavenger Hunt: Have fun with your church family while testing your knowledge of key places around the heart of Montreat!

Weaving of Our Community: An interactive, hands-on workshop where we will weave together a variety of materials to create a visual representation of community.

Ultimate Frisbee: Come learn the basic rules of Ultimate Frisbee, participate in a few drills to work on skills, and then scrimmage with friends.

Sharing Our Stories of Montreat: Learn about the history of Montreat and share stories about your own experiences.

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.).



To learn more and register, visit upcch.org/retreat

Space is filling up - register by June 4 to guarantee housing!

From the Earth Care Team

Earth Care Sunday School Series Offers Climate Crisis Action Steps

"How do we begin to pull our weight in the group project that is Creation Care?"

– Jarrett McLaughlin, April 16 Earth Week sermon

"Living Into Our Earth Care Pledge," a six-part Sunday School series presented by UPC's Earth Care Team, offered a variety of ideas and resources for taking action now to help tackle the climate crisis and care for God's Creation. Below are some of the top action steps discussed in the series, which are accessible along with videos of each of the six classes at upcch.org/EarthCare

- Prayerfully consider the 2006 PC(USA) policy that "strongly urges all Presbyterians to make a bold witness by aspiring to live carbon neutral lives." PC(USA)'s "Guide to Going Carbon Neutral" for families and churches is at presbyterianmission.org/guide-going-carbon-neutral
- Consider the Interfaith Power & Light "Zero Carbon Pledge" on behalf of your household and/or congregation to cut emissions by 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2040. A national leader engaging faith communities in environmental and climate action, Interfaith Power & Light has resources to help you every step of the way, from measuring your current carbon footprint, to identifying ways to reduce, to going solar. For more information, visit interfaithpowerandlight.org/take-the-100-pledge
- Eat a more sustainable (and healthier!) diet that reduces or eliminates meat; includes more fruit, vegetables and grains; is locally sourced as much as possible; and includes less processed food. Buy foods grown by "regenerative agriculture" found not only in stores, but also through local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) like the Spring Forest farm that will use UPC as a weekly pickup site.
- Waste less food and compost food that cannot be eaten. Please do not throw food waste into the trash, where it's taken to a landfill and decomposes releasing methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times worse for the environment than CO2.
- **Use your voice and vote** to let your local, state and federal elected officials know that you care about climate change, environmental justice, clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and land and water conservation. Sign up for action alerts from environmental nonprofits you trust and take action when they encourage you to contact government officials on issues that matter to you.
- **Join one or more land trusts that work in places you love** protecting forests and grasslands that pull carbon from the air, providing refuge for plants and animals by conserving climate-resilient lands, and saving land that buffers people from natural disasters.
- Prayerfully consider the 2018 PC(USA) policy that "renew[s] our denomination's call to promote
 environmental justice and oppose environmental injustice in all its forms." For more information, visit
 presbyterianmission.org/environmental-racism-justice

"So let's get clear about the goal. The goal isn't to single-handedly save the planet. Our goal is far more modest than that. Let's just try – to the best of our ability – to do our part in this group project. Let's remember that we have siblings in Christ on an island that is six feet above sea level in the Pacific Ocean and let's pull our weight."

- Jarrett McLaughlin, April 16 sermon

UPC Recertified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation



UPC was recently recertified by PC(USA) for the fifth consecutive year as an official "Earth Care Congregation." As part of UPC's initial application in 2019, our Session affirmed PC(USA)'s "Earth Care Pledge" to integrate environmental practices and thinking into our ministry, mission and operations. Churches must be PC(USA) recertified as Earth Care Congregations at the beginning of each year based on new Earth Care actions in worship, education, outreach and facilities in the prior year. For more information, visit

upcch.org/EarthCare.

CSA Opportunity

The Earth Care Team is partnering with The Garden at Spring Forest to bring farm fresh produce to your home that was grown using regenerative farming techniques that are crucial for the health of our topsoil. Spring Forest is the home and farm of the Community at Spring Forest, a United Methodist new monastic, missional faith community. Their ministries focus on regenerative farming and supporting refugee resettlement.

UPC will be a CSA pick-up location this year on Tuesday afternoons! If you're interested in subscribing (begins May 16), visit **springforest.org/csa** to learn more and sign up.



From Hearts with Haiti, UPC Global Partner

The Board and staff of Hearts with Haiti want to express our deepest gratitude for the years of dedication and support from the Global Outreach Committee and the members of University Presbyterian Church. Your unwavering commitment to improving lives in Haiti has made an immeasurable impact on the communities we serve through the St. Joseph Family.

Life in Haiti today is exceedingly difficult. Since the 2010 earthquake that killed an estimated 250,000, the country has endured a series of natural and man-made disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the assassination of the President in 2021. Insecurity, rampant inflation, and disease are part of everyday life. Gangs have taken over and are terrorizing its citizens. The country has spiraled into chaos. Because there are many awful humanitarian crises taking place around the world, news about Haiti has taken a back seat.

Members of the St. Joseph Family continue to navigate these extraordinary times with grace and ingenuity. Wings of Hope and Lekòl Sen Trinite remain open. People are safe. Classes continue. Therapy sessions go on. Beds are warm. Bellies are full. Hearts with Haiti remains committed to their success.

We celebrate the many years of partnership with University Presbyterian Church. Your willingness to share your resources, expertise and compassion has helped us to expand our reach, increase our impact, and create lasting change.

Your contributions will never be forgotten, and we hope that you will continue to support our mission so that no one in our care in Haiti is left behind or forgotten.











Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women are gathering in May for the last time until September. All women are welcome!

Circle # 1: Wednesday, May 3 at 10:00 am at the home of Vicki Lotz. *Contact:* Diane Rizzo (rizzod1970@gmail.com or 919 357-6128)

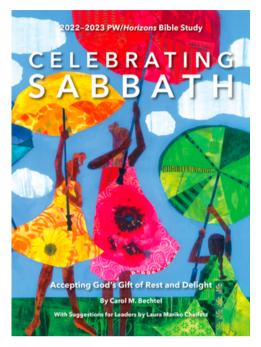
Circle # 2: Monday, May 8 at 10:00 am at the home of Betty Hutton. *Contact:* Shelley Adams (shelleyhadams@gmail.com or 919 942-2525)

Circle # 3: Tuesday, May 2 at 11:00 am at the home of Mary Ann Klompmaker. *Contact:* Mary Ann Klompmaker (maryann6543@gmail.com or 919 270-0657)

Circle # 4: Tuesday, May 2 at 3:15 pm by Zoom. *Contact:* Susie Smith (snyncks@gmail.com or 757 274-2551)

Circle # 5: Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 pm at the home of Kathy Culley. *Contact:* Mary Ellen Olson (maryeolson27@gmail.com or 919 302-1426)

Circle # 6: Thursday, May 18 at 10:00 am in the Heron Room at Carol Woods. *Contact:* Helen Brantley (hbrantle@gmail.com or 919 918-3692)



Endowment Report

The UPC Endowment Committee recommended seven spring grants which the UPC Session approved at its April meeting. The grants are as follows:

- **TABLE:** \$10,000 to help support their initiatives
- Massanetta Springs: \$10,000 of a \$35,000 commitment over the next 4 years to help build a new hotel on their property
- **Habitat for Humanity:** \$10,000 of a \$30,000 commitment over the next 3 years to help fund a Community Center in Weaver's Grove
- Freedom House: \$5,000 to help repair their parking lot
- **Presbyterian Church in Aleppo, Syria:** \$10,000 to repair earthquake damage to their building. The church serves as a teaching center, gathering center, and a place of safety for those that visit there.
- **Ministry of Hope Lesotho, Africa:** \$3,000 to help with needs such as furniture, repairs, home improvements, electrical work, and a storage facility with cement floor
- Formation of a New Clergy Cohort Group: \$10,000 to help pay for an organizational meeting of 14 young ministers to create a cohort similar to the groups from which both Bob Dunham and Meg & Jarrett have benefited

Total amount available this year: \$80,000 Actual amount gifted so far: \$56,000

Session Update

In April, the UPC Session:

- Approved eleven baptisms
- Examined and welcomed thirteen confirmands
- Heard from the Endowment Committee and approved the spring disbursements
- Approved a Congregational Meeting to be held May 21, 2023 for the purpose of electing Lauren Mann as Elder (in Carolyn Karpinos' vacated spot) and to elect the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry Nominating Committee
- Approved the collection of Love Gifts for the graduating choral scholars and free-will offerings at special recitals
- Received the Treasurer's Report
- Approved amendments to the Financial Guidelines to clarify procedures for undesignated bequests





2024 Holy Land Trip





