



SUMMER 2023
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



WHAT TO EXPECT THIS SUMMER

Sermon series, school supply
drive, and more | p. 3-4

WHY ATTEND THE RETREAT?

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UPDATES FROM PCM

Meet PCM's new intern and
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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

Save the Dates for:

Thomas Brown Recital Series - Sat., Aug. 26 at 4 pm

Program Year Kick-Off & Rise Against Hunger - Sun., Sept. 17

Advent Craft Festival - Sun., Dec. 3 at 9:45 am

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

Lessons and Carols - Sun., Dec. 10

Women's Retreat - Fri., Feb. 16- Sun., Feb. 18

*We'll share more details as these events get closer,
but mark your calendars now!*





There is always a gap between the time these newsletter articles are written and the time when you will be reading them. Here are a few things that will be different by the time this appears in your inbox.

- We will have transitioned from our regular two-service schedule to the summer, single-service schedule with worship at 10:00 am and Punch on the Porch afterward.
- We will hopefully be very close to announcing our next Director of Youth Ministry. The search team has interviewed some excellent candidates, and we look forward to bringing a name before you in the very near future.
- We will have also held a congregational meeting to elect that same team as an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to conduct a search for an associate pastor for family ministry, with Nancy Myer applying as a strong internal candidate.
- Outside the life of UPC, a variety of other milestones will be in the rearview: end-of-school-year ceremonies, all manner of recitals and concerts, not to mention the fact that swimming pools will have opened to much acclaim, in my household at least.

In short, it will be summer.

Here are a few things that I am looking forward to this summer:

- Going to Montreat Youth Conference with our High School students. I have been trying to do this since we arrived nearly four years ago but, between COVID and other complications, it just has not happened yet...until now! I love witnessing the growth that can happen for our young people when they "retreat" from their routines and dial into a deeper spiritual well.
- ALL THREE of my daughters attending Music & Worship Conference (but it's not just about having a quiet house for six gloriously-consecutive days, though that's not too bad, either). Mostly I am thrilled for my children to have the experience of connecting with their peers, with caring adults in the church family, and discovering the joy of making music together.
- Story-telling once more at Vacation Bible School at Camp New Hope. It is always a delight to find creative ways to bring Scripture to life for our younger disciples and to share in laughter and play.
- Massanetta Middle School Conference: While I am not attending personally to give my first-born space to have church experiences without her father present, it is one of my favorite places and experiences and most certainly a powerful part of my call to ministry. I am eager for our middle school students to have that experience themselves.
- Finally, I am excited about our summer sermon series – the first called "Read It Again" and the second called "Then Sings My Soul..." You can read more about those on the next page.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett".

What to Expect this Summer

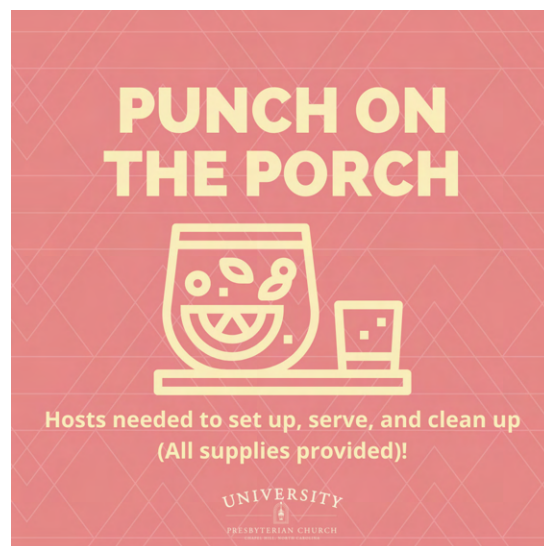
Summer Schedule has begun!

10:00 am: Worship (in-person and livestream)

11:00 am: Punch on the Porch (see announcement below)

Sign up to host 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.



Summer Sermon Series



June & July: Read it Again

What is it that a child says after being read a favorite book? "Read It Again."

That's what we're doing in June and July with some favorite childhood stories: David & Goliath, Samson & Delilah, Noah's Ark, Joshua & the Walls of Jericho. Let's see what these old favorites have to say to us today.



August: Then Sings My Soul...

Who has a favorite hymn? It's time to cast your vote because for four weeks in August we'll preach a sermon centered around the top four hymns crowd-sourced from the congregation. We're accepting nominations through 8 am on June 5, and then we'll put the top 32 into a bracket, with weekly voting rounds until we reach a "final four" to use for the series. The voting schedule will be:

- Round of 32: June 8-14
- Sweet 16: June 15-21
- Elite 8: June 22-28
- Final 4 announced on June 29

Visit upcch.org/hymns to submit your nominees and vote each week.

School Supply Drive (July 9)

Chapel of the Cross is coordinating a community school supply drive for the Refugee Support Center, and we want to help! We'll share the needed supply list in mid-June; all supplies must be new and unused.

You're invited to bring your donations forward in worship on July 9. If you will not be in worship that day, you can drop off your donated items at Chapel of the Cross at their drive-thru collection on July 22.

(Please note: we are only collecting physical items, not monetary donations.)

Watch your emails and upcch.org/school-supplies for updates and the supply list!



Chancel Choir Retreat (July 15)

On July 15, the Chancel Choir will be holding a retreat at UPC from 10am-4pm. The choir will begin work on repertoire for the coming year and enjoy fellowship together. Clinician Beth Linnartz, professor in the music department at Duke University, will lead a workshop on vocal production. Lunch is provided. All are welcome! If you are interested in getting involved in UPC's music ministry, this is a great opportunity to meet others and experience singing with the choir. Please contact Joey Fala (fala@upcch.org) for questions or to RSVP.



Where in the world is UPC this summer?

UPC will be on the road this summer, with VBS, trips, and more! Curious about where everyone will be? Here's the quick run-down:

Montreat Youth Conference (high school youth): June 11-17 in Montreat, NC

Montreat Music & Worship (children & youth): June 18-24 in Montreat, NC

Vacation Bible School (children): June 26-29 at New Hope Camp & Conference Center

Massanetta Middle School Conference (middle school youth): July 13-16 in Harrisonburg, VA

Appalachia Service Project (older youth & adults): July 16-22 in rural Appalachia



Please pray for all of our participants in these trips and activities, as well as for the leaders and chaperones. We look forward to sharing stories and pictures in future editions of *The Chimes*!

Recent Happenings at UPC





On May 21, we presented Bibles to our 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders, reinstating a tradition that was paused during COVID. What a joy to give Bibles to so many children!

Celebrating Recent Baptisms



Presbyterian Women Luncheon



Meet our New Members



Nape & Charla Baker

Nape served as director of Department of Pastoral Care at UNC Hospitals for 25 years; Charla came to Chapel Hill in 2014, marrying Nape and retiring from manager of Department of Pastoral Care at Rex Hospital. Together they have 3 daughters, 2 sons-in-law, 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild. Both are ordained Baptist ministers, joining as Affiliates.



Cyndi Christopher

Cyndi grew up in Eastern NC, the youngest of 5, in the last run of Baby Boomers, and learned about hard work working in the tobacco fields in the summer. She is single with no kids, retired, enjoys gardening, and her passions are her faith, mission work, and cats.



Graham Ford & Anne Wagoner-Ford (Nate, Norah)

Graham and Anne, both graduates of Duke Divinity School, recently moved back to North Carolina from the high desert of New Mexico. They both work as mental health providers at the Durham VA and are thrilled to be joining UPC. They join along with their children, Nate (age 9) and Norah (age 6), who were baptized in the Episcopal tradition but are Presbyterian at heart.



Jake & Cathy Keller (Abraham, Ada)

Jake and Cathy Keller moved to the area in May 2020 from Washington, DC, where they were members of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. They have two children, Abraham (3) and Ada (1), and feel very blessed to have found a great community in UPC!



Becca Turner

Becca is a UNC student studying Chemistry and Environmental Health Sciences at the Gillings School of Public Health. She grew up in Avon, Indiana near Indianapolis and moved to Durham with her family shortly before she began attending UNC, and she started attending UPC after joining PCM in her freshman year.



2023 Confirmands

On April 30, we welcomed our 2023 confirmands into the membership of UPC. We're proud of these students and grateful for the leaders who walked alongside them in the confirmation process. (Note: not all confirmands are pictured here)

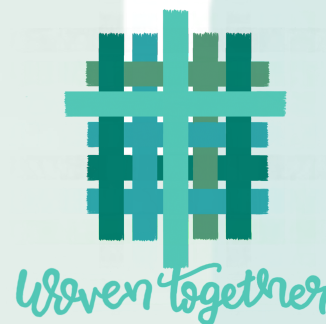
Why attend the Congregational Retreat?

At the UPC retreat, you'll have:

Time away from the hustle and bustle of life

Time in the mountains at beautiful Montreat

Time with your UPC family, strengthening old friendships and building new ones



What can I expect at the retreat?

Keynote addresses from Rodger Nishioka



Workshops including pottery, music, prayer, and more



Small group conversations with chatter groups



Free time to hike, explore Black Mountain, or even take a nap



Campfire and barn dancing



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

**To learn more and register, visit upcch.org/retreat
Space is filling up - register ASAP to guarantee housing!**

A Resident's Reflection

Residency Reflection from Kim Rubish:

Friends at UPC, I will never be able to say enough how this residency has blessed me, and my gratitude for the support of the congregation is endless. This is, as much as I hate to say it, my goodbye as PCM's Pastoral Resident. And as much as I will miss the bustling, energetic feeling of PCM, this program has also prepared me so, so well to move up and on, to keep growing in my ministry in a new environment.

You may not have seen me much during my two years as the resident, largely because my Sundays have been spent elsewhere; half of my role, half of my hours have been spent serving Cary Presbyterian Church, where you can find me on most given Sundays. Recently, when I preached my final sermon at CPC, someone snagged me after the service to comment on the confidence I've gained since this position began two years ago. I stepped through the doors shy, nervous, and extremely concerned about getting it all right, and I am wrapping up this role feeling confident, calm, and extremely sure I don't have it all right (and not too worried about it). Above and beyond all else, that is what this two years has offered me: a chance to dip my toe into a million different ministry pools, to gain competencies where I didn't even know I needed them, and to get really, really used to always having more to learn and further to grow. This residency was exactly what I needed as I came out of seminary, and the support of UPC has been so, so essential in allowing this to happen. I cannot wait to follow along (via email of course) as PCM and CPC continue to pour into recent seminary grads through this position.

The Pastoral Residency also confirmed for me what I, largely, already knew: much of my heart for ministry lies in pastoral care. The residency model allowed us to greatly expand pastoral care at PCM, which was both incredibly meaningful to me and, I believe, extremely important for students. This residency truly solidified my commitment to pastoral care, which led me to discerning what comes next: In early July, I will make my way up the road to begin a year-long residency program as a chaplain at UNC Medical Center. This will hone in on and deepen my skills for pastoral care, giving me a bit more specified training before I begin to seek a pastoral call a year from now!

All this being said, I wish PCM and UPC nothing but joy and delight as both spaces prepare to welcome a new pastoral resident (and a new fantastic intern!). PCM and UPC provide a warm, connective, exceptional learning environment, and I truly could not be happier to leave knowing that someone else will soon get to experience what a gift this residency program is. I look forward to sinking into the rest and renewal that will come from engaging in worship from the pews, and hope to see many of you soon!



Meet our new PCM staff!

In 2021, the PCM staffing model was expanded to include a two-year Pastoral Resident position in partnership with Cary Presbyterian Church, in addition to the long-standing Seminary Intern position. As PCM says goodbye to Kim Rubish as our Pilot Pastoral Resident, and Alli Buikema as our Seminary Intern, we prepare to welcome new PCM staff (introduced below).

PCM continues to be deeply grateful to UPC for their unwavering support of PCM as we nurture college students, seminary students, and now recent seminary graduates! PCM is a flagship campus ministry program in the PC(USA), and we are now a teaching ministry as we train future campus ministers with in-depth mentoring and hands-on experience.

PCM 2023-2025 Seminary Intern: Margie Peeler

Margie just completed her first-year student at Duke Divinity School where she is pursuing an MDiv with a concentration in "Faith, Food, and Environmental Justice." Prior to moving to Durham, Margie worked on a diversified vegetable and mushroom farm in Pennsylvania followed by a goat dairy in Montana (she will talk your ear off about goat obstetrics if you ask). She graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2021 with a degree in biosystems engineering and a minor in religious studies. While at UT, she was very involved at UKirk, the PC(USA) campus ministry, and worked as a hiking and mountain biking trip instructor for the university's outdoor program. Margie loves riding her bicycle around Durham and growing, cooking, and enjoying food with friends. She's very excited about working with and getting to know everyone at PCM soon!



PCM 2023-2025 Pastoral Resident: Paul Burgess

Paul is a recent graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA and has been hired as PCM's next Pastoral Resident from August 2023 through summer of 2025. Originally from California, he met his wife Maggie when both were at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, UT. At various points in his life, Paul has been a Boy Scout, a soccer referee, a junior high English teacher, a camp counselor, an expat, a Hispanic student leader, an actor, and (just recently) a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary.

As Kim Rubish completes her time as PCM's Pastoral Resident in June, Paul will step into the residency role in early August and, like Kim, split his time 50/50 between PCM and Cary Presbyterian Church. Paul will not be able to join us at UPC on Sunday mornings as he'll be leading worship at CPC on Sundays, but he'll be deeply engaged in the ministry of PCM on Thursday evenings and throughout the week.



Stephen Ministry

"Things will get better—just hang in there!"

You appreciate your friend's concern, but this statement is probably not that comforting or even helpful. Until things get better, you may benefit from some extra support.

Stephen Ministers are available to provide that extra caring and support by listening to the thoughts and concerns that are weighing you down. When times are tough, it seems like everyone has advice to give. But often it isn't advice you need or want—but rather a non-judgmental listening ear.

Stephen Ministers are trained lay Christians who provide care by listening instead of telling you what to do. Their help is completely confidential and cost free. If you, or someone you know, is stressed by life difficulties, contact Hadley Kifner at 919.929.2102 x 113 to explore the options of being matched with a Stephen Minister.



Session Update

In May 2023, the UPC Session:

- Met with and endorsed Matt Cooper as an Inquirer for Ministry and endorsed Scott Smith as his liaison
- Heard an update on PCM
- Received the Treasurer's Report
- Authorized the Administration Committee to execute the renewal of the church's and the preschool's property, general liability, and related insurance coverages
- Heard an update on the Visioning Team's work



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

UNIVERSITY

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