



SEPT. 2023
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?"

A reflection in the wake of
violence on campus | p. 2

WHAT TO EXPECT THIS FALL

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SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Work days, food drive, and
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Our Staff

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Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

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Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant



UPPS students created this banner
in support of UNC students.

Pastor's Message



Jarrett McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

Written on Tuesday, August 29, one day after the shooting and lockdown on the UNC campus

I knew it was nothing but Tuesday morning clickbait from the New York Times. Still, I couldn't resist the subject line: "There's A Question Mark in Space?" Apparently, the James Webb Space Telescope captured an infrared image of space dust in a distant galaxy that happened to curl in the shape of a question mark. I wholeheartedly trust such scientific explanations of this phenomenon. Yet, after the events on campus this past Monday – not to mention a culture of violence fueled by an addiction to firearms - it would not surprise me if God was trying to send us a message: "What are you doing down there?"

Technically, nothing about what happened in our community can be categorized as a "mass shooting," and the news coverage will treat it as such and move on quickly. But I have been mindful of how this experience will linger for our community. We have grown accustomed to - even if not comfortable with - such stories. When you're told to barricade yourself in a room, no matter the ultimate scope of the tragedy, it still feels incredibly terrifying. So yes, it is not difficult for me to imagine God asking "What are you doing down there?"

I know that there is so much more that could be done and should be done on the level of policy. As a church, because Jesus is Lord of all aspects of our common life, I will gladly engage that conversation with you, but right now I'd like to share a few glimpses of what UPC was doing down here when people were scared and unsure where to go or how to be.

As law enforcement gave the all-clear and began evacuating buildings, a number of PCM students texted our campus minister, Berry French, asking if they could come to the church. We had been on lock-down ourselves but the swift response was "come on over." About 15-20 students did so and the new PCM resident Paul Burgess met them with fresh baked cookies and a soft place to land and process.

Hadley Kifner was writing a prayer to be sent out to the congregation while also fielding phone calls and sending text messages to our friends who work on campus.

In addition to organizing our communications, Erin Collier and Ryan Byrnes were making a sign to post out on Franklin Street inviting folks into the quiet of our sanctuary for prayer while our first-day-on-the-job youth minister, Tristan Wall, was making a playlist of Taizé chants to play over the sound system. Nancy Myer and Tristan then helped set out candles for an impromptu service of prayer and lament.

Even as I write this, PCM students are gathering in the student center where Michael Peel and Carolyn Schwarz have prepared a home-cooked meal for them so they can be together.

One parent of a college student wrote this today: *Yesterday was a scary and sad day for everyone connected to UNC. You were a light for my daughter and her family (2+ hours away). You all opened your hearts and homes and offered food and support. She felt loved in a scary time! What simple but beautiful words "we are here."*

I know that whatever question marks may appear in the distant heavens are purely coincidental; the product of space dust and gasses forming new stars in galaxies far, far away. But suppose it was God posing us the question...I feel like we were being faithful in the way we knew how and we will wake up and do it again tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Happening in Worship in September

Sept. 10: Guest Preacher - Rev. Kim Rubish



Rev. Kim Rubish was born and raised in Chapel Hill, and began attending UPC as a teenager. She graduated from Duke Divinity and UNC School of Social Work in 2021, and spent two years serving as a pastoral resident with Cary Presbyterian Church and UNC Presbyterian Campus Ministry. Currently, you can find Kim spending her days (and nights) at UNC Medical Center, where she is serving as a chaplain resident. Kim loves hiking, playing ultimate frisbee, and attempting the daily NYT crosswords, and she's thrilled to be back at UPC for a Sunday!

Sept. 17: Two-Service Schedule Resumes

Beginning Sept. 17, here's what to expect on Sunday mornings:

8:30 am - Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 am - Sunday School hour (*Rise Against Hunger on Sept. 17; classes resume Sept. 24*)

11:00 am - Worship (Sanctuary and livestream; Godly Play resumes)

A note about Rise Against Hunger on Sept. 17:

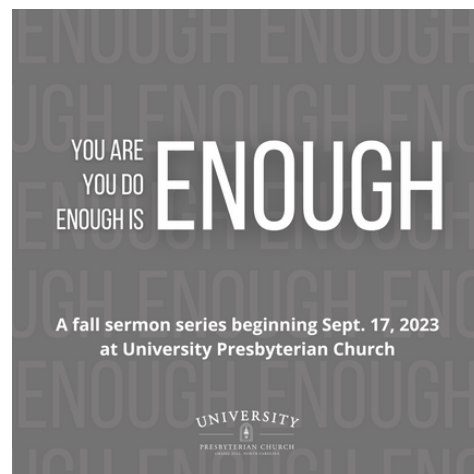
Registration for this event is full; due to space limitations, we are unable to accommodate walk-ins.

Please email Nancy Myer (nancy@upcch.org) to be added to the wait list.

September Sermon Series

For many of us, the new year isn't only tied to the first of January, but also the start of school. As yellow buses roll down the road and Franklin Street comes alive with activity after a sleepy summer, we set intentions about who we are going to be as Fall comes around. *I will become an avid reader. I will learn my multiplication tables. I will get back to church. I will get involved in the betterment of our community.* Or perhaps as the cocoon of summer is left behind, we start to dread the routine ahead. As we head back to the grind, we wonder: *Does any of this even matter? Do I matter when you compare me to everyone else? How will I keep up?* How about we begin this new season grounded in faith? Join us for a September Sermon Series: ENOUGH.

- Sept. 17: You Are Enough - an exploration of baptism
- Sept. 24: You Do Enough - an exploration of vocation
- Oct. 1: Enough is Enough - an exploration of mission



Program Year Registration

If your child or youth (birth-12th grade) will be participating in UPC activities this program year - including nursery care, Sunday School, Godly Play, choirs, youth group, trips, etc. - please help us make sure we have your updated information on file! Visit upcch.org/registration for instructions for how to update your child's information in Realm. Don't have a Realm account, or don't know how to log in? Email Sara Richard (admin@upcch.org).

Sunday Opportunities for Children & Youth

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School at 9:45 am (resuming Sept. 24)

Children's Classes:

Nursery care - Rooms 130/134
3 & 4-year-olds - Room 128
K-1st grade - Room 119
2nd grade - 122
3rd grade - 221
4th grade - 218
5th grade - 214

Youth Classes:

6th-7th grade - Youth Room 106
Confirmation (8th grade) - Youth Center
High School - Children's Ministry Leadership**

***High schoolers are invited to serve as a helper for children's Sunday school - email Nancy Myer (nancy@upcch.org) to request an assignment. High Schoolers are also invited to attend adult Sunday school offerings.*

Sunday Afternoons & Evenings (resuming Sept. 17)



Alleluia Choir (Pre-K-5th grade): Sundays, 4:30-5:00 pm

The Alleluia Choir is a place for young children to sing the faith while learning music fundamentals. This choir sings twice a semester in worship and serves as a preparatory ensemble for the UPC Chorister Program. 3rd - 5th graders who are looking for an opportunity to sing with fewer commitments are welcome to continue singing and to serve as leaders in the Alleluia Choir. *Supervised care after rehearsal will not be offered this year. Parents are welcome to supervise their own children on the playground.*



UPC Choristers (3rd grade and older): Sundays, 4:30-5:15 pm

The Chorister Program is for young musicians who are interested in expanding their musicianship and leading worship on a regular basis. Choristers commit to attending regular rehearsals and singing in worship twice a month. To see if the Chorister Program may be a good fit, please contact Joey.



Youth Choir (6th-12th grade): Sundays, 5:15-6:00 pm

The Youth Choir offers a place for fellowship and faith formation through music-making and prepares anthems to offer in worship alongside the Chancel Choir. Youth Choir members can also sing with the Chancel Choir and attend rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm.



Youth Group (6th-12th grade): Sundays, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Youth Group, also known as Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC for short!) is a safe space for all 6th through 12th grade youth to come and explore their faith, where God is calling them, and to witness the spirit at work in our midst. Through recreation, reflection, and service, we look forward to experiencing God's presence in our midst. All youth are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings this year from 6-7:30!

Sunday Opportunities for Adults (9:45 am)

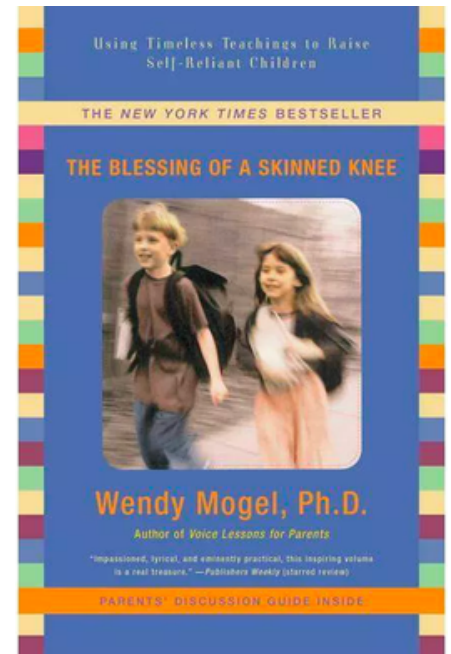
Dunham Hall Class: The Blessing of a Skinned Knee (Sept. 24-Oct. 22)

Clinical psychologist and Jewish educator, Wendy Mogel uses the Torah and other Jewish texts to offer insights and practical advice for parents and caregivers to help raise self-reliant children. *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* is a useful guide to develop realistic expectations for each child while also teaching Jewish and Christian values.

Organized into nine “blessings” this Sunday School class will offer opportunities for discussion and exploration into common parenting concerns.

Books will be available, though no reading is necessary to attend! Come join the discussion on:

- Your Unique and Ordinary Child
- Respecting parents
- Overprotection
- Blessings of longing and gratitude
- Work and chores
- Food
- Self-Control
- Time and being present in the moment
- Faith



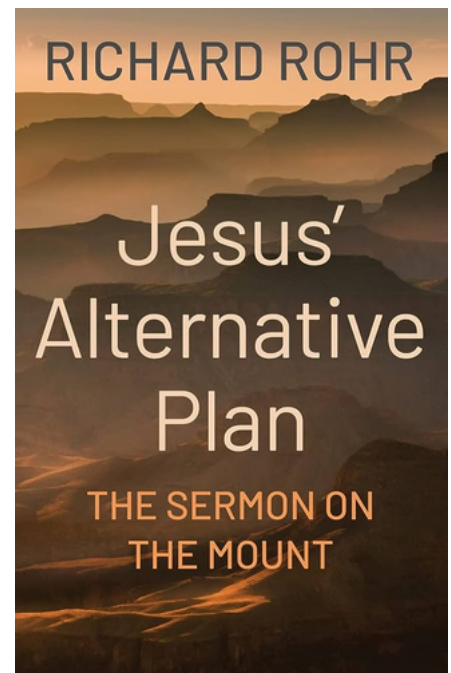
Vance Barron Hall Class: Sermon on the Mount (Sept. 24-Oct. 22)

Join us for a 5-week study and discussion on the Sermon on the Mount -- one of the most inspirational passages in the whole Bible, but also one of the most misunderstood. We will primarily be using Franciscan priest Richard Rohr's book entitled, *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount*, as our guide. We will also be incorporating other resources from Dallas Willard, Tim Keller, The Bible Project and the popular series on the life of Jesus, The Chosen.

When Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God, he was talking about an utterly different way of relating to human society as we know it. He lays out a blueprint for this new life in his best-known teaching, the Sermon on the Mount. From the Beatitudes onward, the Sermon on the Mount overturns conventional wisdom and traditional power structures, offering a plan for an alternative way of being.

Acclaimed spiritual leader and Franciscan priest Richard Rohr explores the implications of this vision in *Jesus' Alternative Plan*. In this book, Rohr goes through the teachings of the sermon, explaining the historical and cultural context of each verse and offering guidance for what it means for Christians today. The result is a clear, yet challenging look at the alternative plan laid out by Jesus for all to see.

This will be an inspirational journey for Christians desiring a transformative understanding of Jesus' teachings and seeking the true heart of their faith.



More Group Opportunities

Men's Breakfast

Our Men's Breakfast offers a time of fellowship and conversation on the first and third Mondays of the month. This gathering is a great opportunity to get to know other men in our congregation and learn together. Each session consists of breakfast (typically a fruit bowl and some sort of casserole), followed by a presentation and discussion – the topics vary, but are always interesting!

This group will kick-off on Monday, Sept. 11 in the Terrace Room with an introduction to the programs this year and opportunity to socialize. If you are interested in joining this group, email Dan Redwine (danredwine@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.



Presbyterian Women

Are you interested in getting to know other Presbyterian women who meet for fellowship and study? We will be using the Presbyterian Women study guide titled "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts". There are monthly morning and evening gatherings starting in September. All women are welcome!

Circle 1: Wednesday, September 6 at 10:00 am at Vicki Lotz's home

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

Circle 2: Monday, September 11 at 10:00 am in the Game Room at Carolina Meadows (residence not required)

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

Circle 3: Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00 am at the home of Marian Johnson

Contact: Betty Bouldin (bettybouldin@gmail.com or 919-602-1392)

Circle 4: Tuesday, September 5 at 3:15 pm at Chapel in the Pines or by Zoom

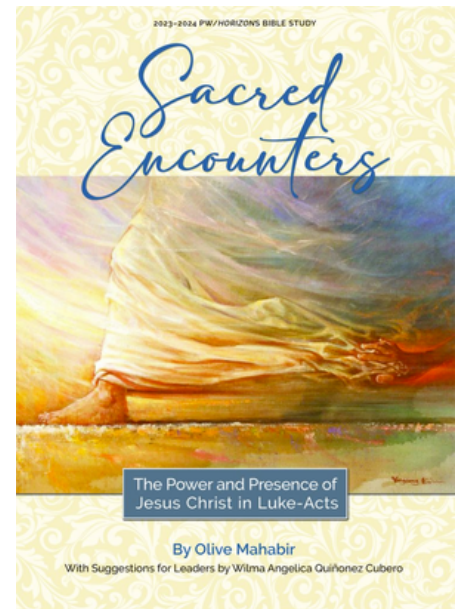
Contact: Susie Smith (snyricks@gmail.com or 757-274-2551)

Circle 5: Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 pm at Jean Lusted's home

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

Circle 6: Thursday, September 21 at 10:00 am in the Heron Room at Carol Woods (residence not required)

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



Small Groups

During the Pandemic, UPC started a robust small group ministry, which provided opportunities for holy friendships and deepened discipleship. The small group content is based on the scripture and message shared in worship. If you are interested in joining a small group or creating one with the coaching of our Adult Spiritual Growth team, email Meg (meg@upcch.org).

Opportunities to Serve Our Neighbors

Spring Forest Work Day (Sept. 23)

Join us for a work day at The Garden at Spring Forest in Hillsborough (1907 New Sharon Church Road)! 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.

Work starts at 9:30 am. All ages are welcome; no childcare is provided. Please bring water, a hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, and a bagged lunch for a picnic after we work!

Visit upcch.org/spring-forest to sign up.



Cooking for IFC (Oct. 19)

Through the Outreach Committee, UPC supports the Inter-Faith Council (IFC) Community Kitchen, providing meals for the homeless. On Thursday, October 19, we will provide dinner for 80 people: chili, cornbread, salad and fixings, fruit, desserts, and beverages. Would you be willing to help provide food for this meal? Options include:

- cooking a pot of chili (could be cooked in advance and frozen!)
- baking cornbread
- baking cookies or brownies
- fixing a salad
- buying fruit
- buying a gallon or two of milk



Visit upcch.org/volunteer and click the "Cook for IFC" button to learn more and sign up to provide part of this meal. Questions? Contact Melinda Evans (melinda.evans@gmail.com).



TABLE Food Drive (Oct. 1)

As part of our offering on World Communion Sunday, you're invited to bring non-perishable food items for TABLE to use in their weekly food distribution. Please only purchase items from the list below, and keep the sodium/sugar content in mind:

- Whole grain breakfast/granola bars with protein (note sugar)
- Instant oatmeal packets, left in original box (plain is a great option)
- Cans of tuna or chicken
- 1 lb. bags of long grain or brown rice
- 1 lb. bags of beans (black, pinto, chickpeas, and lentils)
- 1 lb. boxes/bags of whole grain spaghetti noodles
- Cans of spaghetti sauce (15 oz. or smaller; no glass please!)
- Individually packaged raisins, nuts, or trail mix (see sugar guidelines)
- 100% juice - multi-pack juice box size (note sugar)
- Shelf-stable, milk (regular milk, lactose free, almond milk all great options)
- Peanut butter (plastic 14 oz. or smaller jar)
- Non-perishable fruit/applesauce cups or cans, in water not in syrup, no added sugar
- Squeezable pouches (such as GoGo Squeez) of fruits, veggies, & shelf-stable yogurt
- 12 or 16 oz plastic bottles of olive oil



Nutrition Guidelines for TABLE Food Donations (per serving):

7g or less of added sugar
600mg or less of sodium
4g or less of saturated fat

Gleaning Day (Oct. 4)

Join us on Wednesday, Oct. 4 (it's a day off for Chapel Hill/Carrboro Schools!) for a gleaning day with the Society of St. Andrew. We'll meet at a sweet potato field (likely in Johnston County) to glean sweet potatoes left in the field, which will then be distributed to local hunger organizations. This event is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to serve together. More details and a sign-up will be available soon.



Session Report

At their August meeting, the UPC Session:

- met Paul Burgess, the new PCM Pastoral Resident
- heard a report from Nancy Oates on the 119th Gathering of New Hope Presbytery in July
- received the Treasurer's Report and a report on the Tax Credit submission
- approved the use of the GiveButter platform to receive parking donations
- endorsed TABLE for a New Hope Presbytery Hunger Grant

Congregational Meeting Report

At a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 27, the congregation received the Nominating Report and approved the following slate of nominees for Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members:

Elders, Class of 2026:

Martha Aldridge
Jessica Beardsley
Scott Culley
Liam Drake (youth elder)
Beth Keith
Brian Meacham
Colin Minton (youth elder)
Sally Osmer**
Donna Van Engen
Helen Warner

Deacon, Class of 2026:

Vicky Burriss
Beth Furr
Lauren Garber
Nancy Jennings
Lew Lampiris
Jon Leggette
Janet McDowell
Donald McMillan
Marianne Ratcliffe

Nominating Committee:

Greg Crawford
Caroline Jones
Steve Kennedy
Elizabeth Moshier

***Note: Sally Osmer is ordained in the Methodist Church and therefore has her membership in that denomination rather than at UPC. She will join as an Advisor to the Session with voice but not vote. The Nominating Committee felt that her gifts would make a valuable asset to the health of the Church.*

Congratulations, TABLE!

Local Outreach partner TABLE recently announced that they have met their capital campaign goal, allowing them to move into their new (bigger!) space debt-free. This new location includes a larger warehouse space, walk-in refrigeration, loading dock, meeting space, commercial grade kitchen, and increased volunteer capacity, allowing them to continue serving their current 850 kids and feeding up to 150 more local kids on the waitlist.

The UPC Endowment contributed to this campaign on behalf of the church. We're grateful for this resource that allows us to support our neighbors near and far!

To learn more about TABLE, visit tablenc.org.



Building Project Updates

The summer schedule at UPC often provides a great window of time to complete projects around the building. Here are a few things that happened this summer:



Roof Repair: The two flat roofs alongside the sanctuary were replaced in June, and the drainage was improved in order to prevent future leaks. This project was funded by the maintenance fund in our budget.



New Wall in the Garden: In July, a granite wall was installed under the parlor window in the Memorial Garden, providing additional space to engrave names of those whose ashes are interred there. Later this fall, lighting will be replaced and new plants will be placed. This project was funded by an anonymous donor.



New HVAC controls: Beginning in August (and ongoing for the next few weeks), we are replacing the HVAC controls. Our new boilers required that we update our control system, which will ultimately help our system be more efficient, helping us save both energy and money. This project was funded by the maintenance fund in our budget.

Coming this fall: We will be restriping the parking lot to make the lines more visible. We'll be sure to communicate any short-term impact this may have on parking!

Our church home serves as the launching pad for all of our mission and ministry at UPC. It is a gift...and we are taking care of that gift through necessary maintenance and repairs. Your generous gifts to the general fund help sustain our work as a church and also help us maintain this place where we worship and learn and fellowship and serve together. Thank you!

Opportunities to Serve

Join the Usher Team

Are you interested in serving as a welcoming presence on Sunday mornings? Join our usher team! Ushers serve on a rotating basis based upon individual availability. This is a very easy way to get involved and serve if you are a new member or have been coming to UPC for many years. To sign up, visit upcch.org/volunteer.

Questions about ushering? Contact Brian Curran (brianjpcurran@gmail.com) or Mike Olson (mikeoinnc@gmail.com).



Train to Become a Stephen Minister

We are adding to the legacy of UPC's Stephen Ministry program and a new training cohort begins in October!

Stephen Ministry training resources are known for their excellence, practicality, psychological integrity, and theological depth. In-person and led by various experts in the congregation and community, training sessions last for 2.5 hours each and cover topics such as caring ministry, assertive relating, spiritual gifts discovery, grief support, spiritual growth, and more. Congregations and other organizations use these resources to strengthen and expand ministry. Individuals use them to improve their ability to relate to and care for others, grow in faith, and journey through life crises.

Contact Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org, 919.929.2102x113) if you are interested or would like to know more.



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

UNIVERSITY

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