



OCT. 2023
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



PICTURES FROM SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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Our Staff

Meg Peery McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Jarrett McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Ryan Byrnes, Director of Operations

Johnny Clay, Sexton

Erin Collier, Dir. of Communications & Stewardship

Peter Costa, Financial Manager

Dennis Dallke, Operations Assistant

Bob Dunham, Pastor Emeritus

Joey Fala, Director of Music Ministry

Berry French, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

Hadley Kifner, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture

Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries

Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

Sara Richard, Office Administrator

Tristan Wall, Director of Youth Ministry

Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant

"Woven Together" Banner



Many thanks to Carolyn Schwarz and Michael Peel for the creation of this beautiful banner and stands for the 2023 Congregational Retreat. Printed on the various pieces of fabric are words and attributes that help weave us together as a faith community.

The banner now hangs in Vance Barron Hall. Be sure to stop by sometime and check it out!

Pastor's Message



Meg Peery McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

In the Fall of 2014, UPC hired Nancy Myer, a Christian Educator from Michigan who was working in Indianapolis. Four years later in the Fall of 2018, Nancy Myer felt a call to ordained ministry and began her work on a Master of Divinity Degree (while continuing to work full time). This fall, on her ninth anniversary as our Staff Associate for Children's Ministry, UPC has called her to serve as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry.

Nancy has partnered with the Holy Spirit through the Presbyterian process of ordination. In addition to obtaining her degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, completing internships, and a unit of hospital chaplaincy, she has gone through a multi-year journey with New Hope Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry where she has been psychologically assessed, shepherded, and examined. When our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, after a full and open search, named Nancy as their candidate, the Presbytery's Commission of Ministry also examined her and will present her on the floor of New Hope's next Presbytery meeting in Goldsboro, NC on October 28. Whew! This represents the end of what has been a 5-year journey for Nancy.

On Sunday, November 12, at 11:00 am* the Presbytery of New Hope will host a Worship Service of Ordination and Installation in our sanctuary, where Nancy will take her ordination vows, and where we will lay hands on her in blessing as she continues—in a new fashion—to serve among us. The Ordination Commission is made up of several familiar faces including Elizabeth Michael Ross (preaching), Bob Dunham, and Anna Pinckney Straight. A Second Sunday Lunch will follow the service. It is sure to be a day of joy!

Nancy's role and responsibilities with us will expand and deepen. She will grace our pulpit more often, she will preside at the Table, and she will baptize disciples of all ages. In addition to her role of supervising our Preschool Director, Ellen Parker, Nancy will also supervise our Director of Youth Ministry, Tristan Wall.

If you've spent any time with Nancy, then you know her to be conscientious, compassionate, and creative. You've witnessed her to be organized and practically-omniscient when it comes to details. And goodness, does she love children and those who make baptismal promises to them (that's you, church!). One of the things that is true about Nancy is that she is always and ever striving toward the dream God has for us all—on earth as it is in heaven. And while Nancy will be one to remind us that part of our work is rest and play, she is also one who will not stop inching toward that dream in all that she says and does. There is a relentlessness about her that makes UPC more faithful.

Join me, friends, in giving God thanks for this new chapter!

Alleluia!

Meg



*There will also be an 8:30 am worship service that day, with Jarrett preaching.

From the 2023 Congregational Retreat





Special thanks to our 2023 Retreat Planning Team (pictured left) for putting together a wonderful retreat experience!

The retreat also included 3(!) baptisms, all using Montreat creek water. What a joy to celebrate with Guenther, Russell, and Hudson, and their families!



Program Year Kick-Off

On our Kick-Off Sunday (Sept. 17), we gathered together to pack 16,200 meals in an hour (!) with Rise Against Hunger. Many thanks to all who were part of this intergenerational service opportunity (for your help, and for willingly wearing hairnets)!



Sunday School returned on Sept. 24! Classes for children, youth, and adults resumed, and it was a strong start to a new year of learning and growing together.



Want to learn more about our Sunday School options? Visit:

upcch.org/childrens-sunday-school

upcch.org/pyc/sunday-school

upcch.org/adult-education

Sundays in October

Second Sunday Lunch (Oct. 8)

Second Sunday Lunch returns on Sunday, Oct. 8, at noon! For those who are new to Second Sunday Lunch (or just need a refresher on the details):

- The church will provide a main dish and beverages. Those who attend are asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert for approximately 12 people. Please be generous!
- Drop off your food in the Fellowship Hall prior to 11:00 am worship.
- Please remember to label your dishes and serving spoons with your name if you'd like to have them back, and pick them up at the end of lunch.
- If your contribution contains allergens or is suitable for those with special dietary needs, please add labels such as "gluten free," "contains peanuts/tree nuts," or "vegetarian."
- Are you a student, or visitor? No need to bring anything — just join us for the food and fellowship!

October Sermon Series

In the Presbyterian tradition, everything begins with grace - freely given by God to all; no strings attached. EVERYthing we do is a response to that gift. We do not earn God's favor, but we can say "thank you." Join us for a three week series in the month of October called "A Life That Says Thank You."

October 8 - Gratitude Changes Us

October 15 - Service Changes Us

October 22 - Belonging Changes Us (Dedication Sunday)

Children's Sabbath & Dedication Sunday (Oct. 22)

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 22 as our children lead us in worship! At both services, our children will lead us through liturgy, scripture, prayers, and song.

This will also be our Stewardship Dedication Sunday, when all will be invited to bring forward 2024 pledge cards. Check your mailbox in the next few weeks for your Stewardship packet!



Observing All Saints' Day (Oct. 29 & Nov. 1)

On Sunday, October 29, we will observe All Saints' Day in worship. As part of the service, we will read aloud the names of the UPC saints who have entered the church triumphant in the past year. You will be invited to speak aloud names of other saints in your own life as well.

On Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30pm, we will gather for a special service: All Saints' Compline. Compline is evening prayer. We will be accompanied by song and light in this contemplative worship offering.



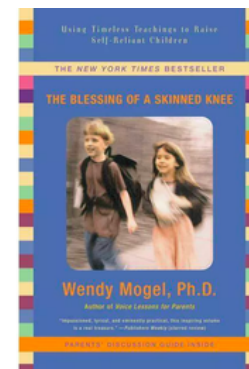
Sunday Morning Classes for Adults (9:45 am)

Session 1 (through Oct. 22)

Dunham Hall Class: The Blessing of a Skinned Knee

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 of common parenting concerns.



Vance Barron Hall Class: Sermon on the Mount

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.



Session 2 (beginning Oct. 29)

Dunham Hall Class: The Ties that Bind: Handing on the Faith from Generation to Generation

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

Vance Barron Hall Class: Global Outreach focus

Join us for five weeks of learning from and about some of our Global Outreach partners. Watch future publications for the full list of speakers and topics!

Taizé Opportunities

Taizé Worship (Oct. 10, 7:30 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. This service will take place in the UPC Sanctuary.



Taizé Advent Retreat (Dec. 6-8)

Begin the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ with quiet reflection and sacred music in a natural setting. This retreat invites you to breathe with God.

St. Francis Springs is an interfaith retreat center located in Stoneville, NC (approximately 1.5 hours from Chapel Hill). It is a 25,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility situated on 140 acres of a beautiful, peaceful wooded property with the sacred aim to offer an intentional, natural environment for prayer, reflection, and meditation for all.

This retreat costs \$250 and includes:

- lodging at the retreat center for two nights (Dec. 6 and Dec. 7)
- all meals while there
- admission ticket to the afternoon Taizé program (Dec. 6, 3-5pm)
- access to the retreat grounds (meditation room, library, indoor chapel, outdoor chapel, labyrinth, walking trail in woods, Stations of the Cross, and Celestial Waterfall Gardens)
- two group spiritual direction activities

Visit upcch.org/taize-retreat to register. Space is limited, so please be sure to register early, if you are interested in joining. Registration closes on Nov 1.

Contact Hadley Kifner with any questions: hadley@upcch.org



Liam Drake

concert pianist

Young artist Liam Drake makes his solo debut in a recital featuring the world premier of a commissioned piece by Rhyuhn Green, “The Realm of Possibility,” along with other works by Bach, Beethoven, Martin and Mozart. A rising star, Drake has won awards from the North Carolina Chamber Music Institute, NC Federation of Music Clubs, and Raleigh Music Club and in 2023 was a semifinalist with his chamber ensemble, Emerald Trio, at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.



Rhyuhn Green

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

University Presbyterian Church
209 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill

UNIVERSITY



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY
OCTOBER **28**
4PM

For Children & Youth

All Treats, No Tricks! (Oct. 29)

Join us for a Halloween Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 29 at noon!

All Children (pre-K - 5th grade) and their parents are invited to a special Halloween celebration. We'll start with pizza and then you'll have time to change into your costume. We'll move throughout the church building playing Halloween-themed carnival-style games (prizes will be things other than candy!). Then we'll gather in the sanctuary for a Halloween story and a spooky organ concert from Joey! You'll be on your way no later than 1:45 pm. Youth of the church will help lead games, hand out prizes, and enjoy the celebration alongside everyone as well.

Let us know if you plan to come or if you can help with some simple volunteer tasks by signing up at upcch.org/halloween.



High School Service Retreat (Nov. 3-5)

High School youth are invited to join together for a local Harvest of Hope Gleaning Retreat through the Society of St. Andrew at New Hope Camp & Conference Center. Participants glean and distribute produce remaining in fields after harvest each morning and learn about the realities of hunger each evening. There will be time for us to connect as a group together, as well as grow with and participate with other church groups traveling from out of town to attend this retreat. We will depart around 5:00 pm on Friday, Nov. 3 and return around 10:30 am on Sunday, Nov. 5.

Please register by Oct. 10 in order for our information to be turned into the Society of St. Andrews organizers in a timely manner. We hope you will join us for this weekend getaway of learning, growth, and connection with each other! Visit upcch.org/fall-service-trip to learn more and sign up. Contact Tristan (tristan@upcch.org) with any questions.



 **Society of St. Andrew**
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY
EndHunger.org

UPC RACIAL EQUITY FALL FILM SERIES FEATURING:

LOWNDES COUNTY AND THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER



Thursday, October 26
5:30-8:30 pm
University Presbyterian
Church (209 E Franklin St.)

Join us for a chili dinner, film
viewing, and discussion led by Val
Hanson of the Dispute Settlement
Center

Visit upcch.org/RET for details
and to RSVP.

About the film:

The passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 represented not the culmination of the Civil Rights Movement, but the beginning of a new, crucial chapter. Nowhere was this next battle better epitomized than in Lowndes County, Alabama, a rural, impoverished town with a vicious history of racist terrorism. In a town that was eighty percent Black but had zero Black voters, laws were just paper without power. This isn't a story of hope but of action. Through first-person accounts and searing archival footage, **LOWNDES COUNTY AND THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER** tells the story of the local movement and young Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organizers who fought not just for voting rights, but for Black Power in Lowndes County.

UNIVERSITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

Meet Our New Members



Paige & Janice Anderson (Logan)

Janice, Paige, and Logan reside in Durham. Janice is a professor in the School of Education at UNC and a preachers kid; Paige works in Graduate admissions at Duke's Pratt School of Engineering; their son Logan is in 7th grade. The Andersons spend ample time at the soccer fields supporting Logan as a goal keeper and enjoy following UNC sports, especially women's basketball, soccer and field hockey.



Susan Barron

Susan lives in Greensboro, retired from pharmaceutical research and social work. Susan grew up at UPC (daughter of Dottie & Vance Barron), moved to the mountains, and is now returning Home - where she feels she belongs.



Nancy & William Baum

Nancy and Bill recently moved here from Charlotte, where they were members of Providence Presbyterian Church, to be close to their daughter and grandchildren. Bill is a retired financial executive, and Nancy is a retired church office administrator.



Zach & Hayes Boylston (Charlie and Lucie)

Hayes and Zach live in Durham and have been in the Triangle area since 2015. Hayes works at UNC in Undergraduate Admissions and Zach works in product development at a software company. They have two little humans, Charlie (4 years old) and Lucie (11 months) who keep them busy -- and running on a lot of coffee.



Lillie Chilton & Reed Frellick

Reed and Lillie are recent UNC graduates and PCM alumni! Now living in Cary, they are starting their careers in data science and engineering, and are excited to be officially joining UPC after 4 years of calling this congregation home.



Emily Espenshade (Caroline)

Emily is a life-long Presbyterian who moved from Raleigh to Chapel Hill one year ago with her 8 year old daughter, Caroline. She enjoys the music and children's programs at UPC and looks forward to getting more involved.



Selwin Gray

Selwin was born in South Africa and has been involved in church from a young age. He and his wife, Anileen, recently moved to Chapel Hill to be closer to family.



Paige Hlad

Paige moved to the Chapel Hill area in mid-June where she started her job at the university as the Coordinator for Residential Leadership. She is joined in Chapel Hill by her sister Claire, her two cats Fran and Daphne, and has a frequent guest by her side, her fiancé Shane Thomson.



Mary Ann & David Kimball

Mary Ann and David grew up in the United Church of Christ, where David's father was a minister. Mary Ann is retired from social work (UNC Medical School and private practice), and David is retired from Central Carolina Bank and Sun Trust.



Sarah & Niegel Sullivan

Niegel and Sarah Sullivan are joining the church from University United Methodist Church. They live in Pittsboro where Niegel's family has lived for multiple generations.



Tracy Watson (Hannah Wang)

Tracy is a lifelong Presbyterian who attended UPC as a Graduate student at UNC from 2001-2003. She and her daughter, Hannah, have moved back to Chapel Hill and are happy to be able to commit to worshipping at UPC long term now.



This could be you!

Interested in joining UPC? Our next new member lunch will be on Sunday, November 19 at 12:00 pm. Contact Meg Peery McLaughlin (meg@upcch.org) to learn more.



What a joy to be here, University Pres!

For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, I'm PCM's new "pastoral resident." What does that mean? Really two things: first, that I've just graduated from seminary and am taking my first steps working out how to live out the call God has placed on my life, and second, that I have the privilege of serving the ministries of both PCM and Cary Presbyterian Church.

As I write this, I'm on PCM's annual beach retreat, sitting on a porch overlooking the ocean with a few students. Some are doing schoolwork (or pretending to), some are talking and gently laughing or reading, some are finishing their last bites of lunch. We can see a number of students on the beach, as well – floating in the ocean, lying on the beach, or tossing a frisbee. It's a beautiful example of the work I see PCM doing all the time: giving students an opportunity to interrupt the normal frantic rhythm of life and flourish together in the space intentionally created for them to build their own community.

I've seen this in the intention with which our student leadership team imagined together during a dedicated retreat before the start of the semester. I've seen this in the opening events of the school year, in the celebrations of reuniting friends after a summer apart and the hospitality extended to the tentative, unfamiliar faces that came through the door. I've seen it in the Thursday night programs (dreamt up and executed by students) that have invited the PCM body to engage life, both individually and collectively, as beloved children of God. I've seen it in the ministry of free food (an essential offering of any college ministry) made possible by our student kitchen coordinators and volunteers from the body. I've seen it in the thoughtfulness and authenticity with which graduating students came to a small group dedicated to working out our vocation together. I've certainly seen it in the response of support and care to the two lockdowns the UNC community has already endured in the first month of the academic year.

In these moments, and in many more, the students I'm blessed to work with have risen to embody what the Church could be. What the Church should be. As someone who God has called to a life of work in that Church, there is no greater, holier gift than being here. Thank you for being a part of it.



Thoughts on Becoming a Stephen Minister

by Terry Hammersley

My spiritual journey at UPC has taken me into the Sunday School classroom, the choir loft, Montreat Music Camp, Local Outreach and Congregational Life committees, and even to Haiti. At one point, I was a full-time working mother of two, a wife, and a community volunteer. There weren't enough hours in the day, but I found myself wanting something just for me, something deep and fulfilling. That's when I decided to train as a Stephen Minister. It's a ministry that is equal parts spiritual and psychological: grounded in Biblical teachings and recognizing the need to understand human psychology. Stephen ministers serve our congregation as adjuncts to the clergy, to care for members one on one when life throws difficult times their way. The quality of this confidential care lies in the training, which covers everything from listening skills, to recognizing when a person is depressed, assertiveness skills, end-of-life issues, and everything in between. The most important element throughout is that Stephen Ministers are not fixers or advice givers, they are trained listeners providing Christian care. I consider this training to be nothing less than life changing, teaching me skills that have enhanced relationships in all aspects of my life. And after you complete your training, you will be in a supervision group that supports you along with regular continuing education, as you walk alongside someone who needs you.

If you are interested in enhancing your spiritual journey through service, no matter how busy you may be, consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Contact Hadley Kifner (919.929.2102 or hadley@upcch.org) to learn more.



What does it look like to become a Stephen Minister?

Training: All Stephen Ministers receive 50 initial hours of training on relevant topics such as confidentiality, the art of listening, maintaining boundaries, grief, mental health, navigating the cancer journey, assertive communication, and utilizing community resources. This training is in-person, led by local experts, with trainees from UPC, Chapel in the Pines, Orange United Methodist Church, and other Triangle congregations, coming together for an ecumenical, educational experience.

Ongoing Continuing Education: Once trained, Stephen Ministers have monthly meetings with support, conversation, and ongoing education.

Serving: In addition to offering care to others, Stephen Ministers have the opportunity to help lead worship services such as All-Saints Compline, Longest Night, and Maundy Thursday.

Composting at UPC

Tips from the Earth Care Team

Thanks to all who are composting at UPC or elsewhere! UPC just set another record for amount of compost collected -- and diverted from the landfill!

A few tips/reminders for both new and experienced composters:

The six smaller CompostNow carts are mainly for heavier compost, like food. The two big carts are for lighter compostables (paper towels/cups/plates, pizza boxes, etc.). Don't spend too much time sorting, though pizza boxes definitely go into big carts.

Please lock the smaller (mostly food) carts after adding your compostables to keep out critters. Thanks for checking/locking any unlocked small carts while you're at it!

Paper and cardboard with food or grease are composted, not recycled. This includes paper napkins, 100% paper plates, fast food paper bags/wrappers, and greasy/cheesy pizza boxes. Clean paper, like worship bulletins, is recycled.

Not compostable or recyclable:

- plastic garbage bags (though green "certified compostable" bags are compostable)
- most fast food cups (lined with plastic)
- most frozen food boxes (yep, lined with plastic)
- red Solo cups (but easy to find "certified compostable" plastic cups online!)
- cleaning or baby wipes

Visit upcch.org/EarthCare for more info, or email any (seriously...any!) composting questions to TheDirt@compostnow.org



UPPS joins in the composting fun!

UPPS kicked off our 52nd school year in September, continuing our goal to provide a nurturing, play-based, inspiring environment for preschool-aged children to learn and practice social skills, self-help skills, fine and gross motor skills, pre-literacy skills and more. And this year we are adding a new component to our curriculum: Eco-Literacy! Piggybacking off of the great work started by the UPC Earth Care Committee, we will now have dedicated time each month for UPPS Earth Care. In September, our Earth Care focus was on COMPOSTING since that is something that we do at the preschool on a daily basis. Our children ages 2-5 learned WHY we compost and HOW we compost, and we even have our own experiment on display where we can watch the process unfold before our eyes. We are looking forward to helping teach and enforce habits to not only care for ourselves and each other, but also to care for the Earth!



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. All women are welcome!

If you're interested in connecting with a circle, please contact Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org or 919-929-2102).

Circle # 1: Wed., Oct. 4 at 10:00 am at the home of Myrah Scott

Circle # 2: Mon., Oct. 9 at 10:00 am in the Game Room at Carolina Meadows

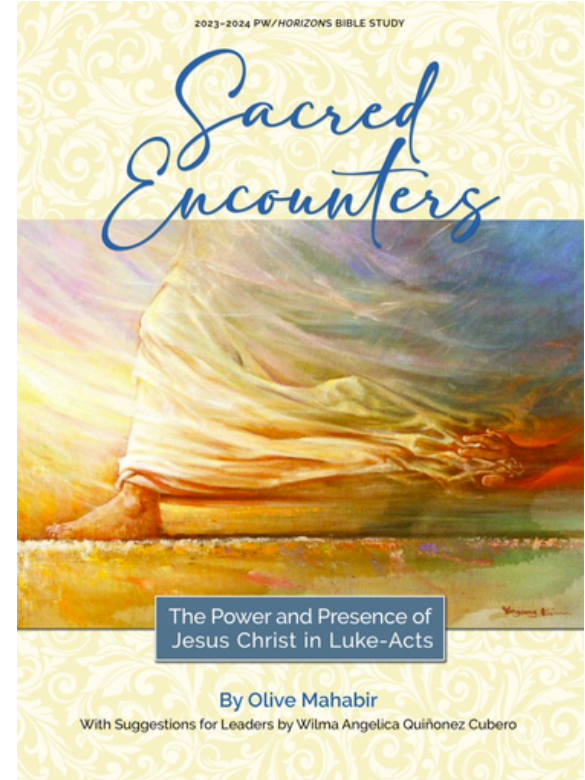
Circle # 3: Tues., Oct. 10 at 10:30 am at the home of Marian Johnson

Circle # 4: Tues., Oct. 3 at 3:15 pm at Chapel in the Pines or by Zoom

Circle # 5: Wed., Oct. 4 at 7:00 pm at the home of Mary Ellen Olson

Circle # 6: Thurs., Oct. 19 at 10:00 am in the Heron Room at Carol Woods

Circle # 7: Mon., Oct. 16 at 7:00 pm in Dunham Hall



Tea & Books (Nov. 3)

The UPC Deacons would like to invite all senior adults to Tea & Books on November 3, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at UPC. Come and enjoy an afternoon of books, discussion, refreshments and fellowship. Bring one or more of your favorite books to discuss and possibly lend to others. We will also have a table for you to donate a few books for others to take and keep.

Please RSVP by October 31 (919-929-2102 or admin@upcch.org).

Need transportation? Please let us know and we'll help!



Session Report

At their September 2023 meeting, the UPC Session:

- Heard a report from the APNC and approved the calling of a Congregational Meeting on October 1, 2023 for the purpose of approving terms of call for Nancy Myer in the position of Associate Pastor for Family Ministry at University Presbyterian Church.
- Approved the slate of Sunday School teachers, Godly Play teachers, and youth advisors for the year.
- Welcomed Tristan Wall as the new Director of Youth Ministry
- Heard a report from the Stewardship Committee on the upcoming Stewardship Drive
- Received the Treasurer's Report and heard updates on the Tax Credit funds and Insurance Coverage policy
- Approved the hiring of a liturgical visioning architect to bring forth a plan for improving of our worship spaces
- Approved the Gift Acceptance Policy
- Elected Mary Bozyski and Naomi Sherry as Commissioners to the 120th Gathering of New Hope Presbytery on October 28

Save the Date for...

2023 dates:

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

Advent Lessons & Carols - Sunday, Dec. 10 at 8:30 & 11:00 am (with brunch in between!)

Longest Night Service - Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule (Sunday, Dec. 24):

- Advent 4 worship service - 10:00 am (*please note the different time/one service!*)
- Family Christmas Eve service - 5:00 pm
- Candlelight Christmas Eve service - 8:00 pm

1 worship service on New Year's Eve - Sunday, Dec. 31 at 10:00 am

2024 dates:

2024 Grief Group begins - Wednesday, Jan. 4

Officer Ordination & Installation - Sunday, Jan. 7

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, Feb. 14; drive-thru ashes mid-day, 7:30 pm worship

Women's Retreat - Feb 23-25 (*please note the date change!*)

Vacation Bible School - June 17-20

Montreat Worship & Music - June 23-29

Massanetta Middle School Conference - July 11-14

Montreat Youth Conference - July 21-27



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



209 East Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 929-2102
upcch.org