LENT 2024 EDITION



The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



GUEST PREACHER, REV. PAUL ROBERTS

Join us on Feb. 11 for worship and Second Sunday Lunch | p. 4

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING LENT

Worship, Sunday School, and more | p. 5-7

AN UPDATE FROM OUR CAMPUS MINISTRY

Offering a safe space for students to explore faith | p. 13

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Our Staff

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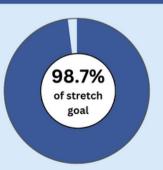
Tristan Wall, Director of Youth Ministry

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The next edition of *The Chimes* will be published on March 19, 2024. Submission deadline is March 4. Contact: Erin Collier (communications@upcch.org)

2024 PLEDGE UPDATE





Total Amount Pledged (as of Feb. 5): \$2,023,804

Number of Pledges: 376

Average Amount Pledged: \$5,382

ORIGINAL GOAL: \$1.98M | STRETCH GOAL: \$2.05M

A big thank you to all who pledged their financial support for 2024!

Haven't pledged yet? It's not too late! Visit upcch.org/stewardship to learn how to pledge.

Questions about pledging or fulfilling your pledge? Email Peter Costa (finance@upcch.org).

Pastor's Message



Last month, the Session approved a budget of \$2.4 million. The largest "pieces of the pie" of that budget are personnel, property, and outreach. Of course, it is hard to divide the pie perfectly because so much of our staff time is missional and our building is both our home base and our launching pad for living out our faith with our neighbors. I want to explain one particular part of our outreach budget. The strict outreach budget is \$340,000, which is split between PCM, Global Outreach partners (like our mission co-workers), and Local Outreach partners (like IFC and Habitat). These are the parts of the outreach budget that are most well-known. There is another large part of the outreach budget which supports the church beyond our own walls. That's what I'd like to interpret.

In case a church polity reminder is helpful: UPC is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). You can liken the Session of a local church to the City Council, the Presbytery to State Government, and the General Assembly to the Feds.

UPC's outreach budget includes a Per Capita Assessment, which means that UPC calculates \$12 per active member of the congregation and sends that to the General Assembly. This year, that is \$14,400. This money supports things like our denomination's response to disasters around the world, curriculum for teaching the faith, advocacy work on the Hill, evangelism, and leadership development.

A much larger amount (\$121,300), called Unified Mission Giving, stays at the Presbytery level. The PC(USA) has 166 different presbyteries. UPC is part of the New Hope Presbytery, which is made up of 111 churches. Of those 111 churches in New Hope Presbytery, 57% have less than 100 members, and 42% have less than 50 members. 25 of the churches in our Presbytery, so almost a fourth of them, have no pastoral leadership.

Much of our Unified Mission Giving goes to support congregations as they re-envision ways to share the gospel. It equips them to expand how they can steward their gifts—their building, land, and talents—to serve their communities in new ways. If a smaller church has an idea for a mission but does not have the resources to "get it off the ground," they can apply for grants to help them follow where Jesus leads. One example is the support of a Spanish-speaking church called Iglesia Emmanuel, which is in the North Gate neighborhood of Durham. Their food pantry serves 600 families a week. Unified Mission Giving also supports new church developments in our area, such as the Farm Church, which worships in a garden and leverages the resources of the farm to address food insecurity. Lastly, the Unified Mission Giving supports Campus Ministries across the state. We are unique here at UPC, where we are able to support UNC students with a full-time paid pastor and a physical place to call their own. This is not true at NCCU, ECU, and Duke, so our generosity enables outreach to students on those campuses.

This is an area of our budget that is quite significant, and yet is often quietly tucked in without much "fanfare." But we are part of a much larger whole, and our stewardship connects us to vital ministry far beyond Franklin Street. That, friends, is worth celebrating. UPC makes a difference in so many ways. Thanks be to God.



Ordination & Installation of Officers







We give thanks for the new class of Deacons and Elders that were ordained and installed on January 14, 2023:

Elders:

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

Deacons:

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

* denotes those who will be ordained on March 10 at 8:30 am

Coming on Sunday, February 11



Guest Preacher Rev. Paul Roberts

We are delighted to welcome the Reverend Paul Timothy Roberts, Sr., to the UPC pulpit on Sunday, Feb. 11. A graduate of Princeton University (BA in Architecture and African American Studies) and the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta (M.Div. with a concentration in New Testament studies), Rev. Roberts worked in both the business sector and as a pastor before becoming the President of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta in 2010. Under the leadership of Rev. Roberts, JCSTS has redefined itself—and is helping redefine theological education and expanding social justice understanding in the process.

In addition to preaching at both services, Rev. Roberts will also lead the final week of our Racial Equity class, discussing how our Christian faith can inform our efforts to make amends for past wrongs of racial discrimination.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring began over 30 years ago with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." On Sunday, February 11, Kirk Club youth will take part in this national effort to love our neighbors. They will hold soup pots at the sanctuary doors following worship to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. An online giving option will also be available.

Since 1990, over \$193 million in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities. 100% of the money we collect at UPC will go to TABLE.





Second Sunday Lunch

Following the 11 am service on Feb. 11, join us for a potluck fellowship lunch in the Fellowship Hall! Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert for approximately 12 people. Please be generous! 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, visitor, or living with a disability? No need to bring anything — just join us for the food and fellowship!

Lent 2024 at UPC

"What is Lent?"

Lent is a 40-day season of spiritual discipline and preparation that starts annually with Ash Wednesday—which falls this year on February 14— and anticipates the death and resurrection of Christ at Easter (this year, March 31). During this time, individuals will often fast from something or take on a new discipline as part of their preparation, all with the ultimate goal of deepening their relationship with God.

"What can I fast from?"

When we think of fasting, food is typically the first thing that comes to mind, and some choose to fast from a certain food. However, there are also media fasts (social media, television, and/or video games), spending fasts (eating out, new clothing purchases, miscellaneous shopping), and personal fasts (complaining, gossip, busyness). As you fast, you are encouraged to take the time and/or money typically devoted to that thing and use it in connection with and service to God.

"What are some examples of disciplines I can take on?"

There are many spiritual disciplines you can add to your Lenten observance: prayer, meditation, reading the Bible, service, connection with others. We'll also be doing a sermon series to introduce some lesser-observed disciplines!

"But when I count the days on the calendar, there are more than 40!"

Sundays are seen as "little Easters," and thus they are not counted in the liturgical 40 days. Some choose to make Sundays a rest day from their Lenten fasts; others choose to include those days.





Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14)

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 14 this year. During worship on this day, ashes are used to mark a cross on the forehead or hand of each worshiper as a reminder of our humanity and mortality. We will offer the imposition of ashes in two ways that day:

- Drive-thru/walk-up imposition of ashes from 12:30-1:30 pm (please enter via Franklin St.)
- Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm All are welcome to join us for Ash Wednesday worship.

Sundays During Lent



PCM Sunday (Feb. 18)

Join us for worship on Feb. 18 as our Presbyterian Campus Ministry leads worship! Our students will lead in all aspects of both worship services, centered around the Beatitudes, with three student preachers. In addition, the 11:00 service will include the baptism of three PCM students. Please come support and encourage these students as they lead us!

Lenten Sermon Series (Feb. 25-March 24)

What does it mean to you when you wear a cross necklace, or see the cross at the top of our steeple, or on the communion table? How do you make sense of the statement: Jesus died on the cross to save me. What does the cross mean to us as people of faith?

The Lent, UPC will be engaging in Cross Talk--both in worship during a sermon series and in Sunday school. Each week we will be examining a different theory of atonement. Atonement is a fancy church word for what it is to literally be "at-one" with God. When we make atonement for something, we are doing something to repair a broken relationship. The church has different interpretations about how what happens on the cross connects us back with God.



- Feb 25: Moral Influence
- March 3: Ransom
- March 10: Vicarious Satisfaction
- March 17: Solidarity with the Oppressed
- March 24: Christus Victor/Palm Sunday



Vegetarian Second Sunday Lunch (March 10)

Join us for a potluck vegetarian fellowship lunch! The church will provide the main dish (vegetarian lasagna, with a pasta bar for the kids) and beverages. Please bring a **vegetarian** side dish, salad, or dessert for approximately 12 people. What makes a dish vegetarian? There are several levels of vegetarianism, but to keep it simple, here's what we recommend:

- no meat (beef, pork, poultry, seafood, etc.)
- no chicken or beef broth
- no gelatin

As always, if your contribution contains allergens or is suitable for those with special dietary needs, please add labels such as "gluten-free," "contains peanuts/tree nuts," or "vegan."

Adult Classes during Lent (Feb. 18-March 24)

Dunham Hall Class: Faith in Plain Sight: A Lenten Journey of Storytelling

Join us in Lent as we hear the stories of fellow church members as they are articulate where their faith and life have been woven together. Everyday saints will be gently interviewed, exploring different threads each week, such as: work, health, family, current issues, community engagement. This is a perfect class to bring a friend or neighbor to. No preparation or knowledge needed, simply a listening ear and open heart.

- Feb. 18: Anne Scaff
- Feb. 25: Carolyn Karpinos
- March 3: Sandy Alexander
- March 10: Bob Slater
- March 17: Molly Morgan
- March 24: Palm Sunday Pastor Panel (Berry French, Jarrett McLaughlin, Erin Collier, Meg Peery McLaughlin, Hadley Kifner)



Vance Barron Hall Class: Cross Talk: The Atonement in Scripture and Life

Join this Lenten study of Good Friday and Easter led by Rick Osmer. We will explore the saving significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. The theme of reconciliation will be prominent. This will be a discussion-oriented class that explores theology and scripture in relation to everyday life.



Spiritual Growth Group Opportunities

Presbyterian Women

PW Circles gather monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Contact Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org) to connect with a circle. All women are welcome!

Men's Breakfast

Our Men's Breakfast offers a time of fellowship and conversation on first and third Monday mornings.
Email Dan Redwine
(danredwine@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Young Adults

Young adults gather for Bible study every other Wednesday evening. Contact Berry French (berry@upcch.org) to learn more

Small Groups

Small groups gather on a weekly or bi-weekly basis for conversation structured around that week's sermon. Email Meg Peery McLaughlin (meg@upcch.org) to join a small group.

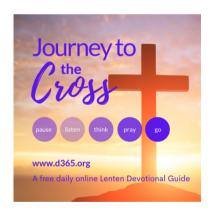
Easter Gifts of Beauty & Bounty

It is the UPC tradition at Easter to honor and remember the people in our lives through Easter Gifts of Beauty and Bounty. Your gift can be used to purchase a lily which will be placed in the chancel, or as a contribution to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services to support our neighbors in need. (You can also choose to do both with your gift!) The names of those honored and remembered with these gifts will be in the Easter Sunday Worship Bulletin on March 31.

The giving form will open on Feb. 14. You can give online at upcch.org/lilies, or paper forms will be available in the narthex. The deadline to give is Friday, March 22



Lenten Devotional Resources



Journey to the Cross

A daily online devotional offered by d365.org, an ecumenical devotional for students and adults. You can also download the app!



Tread Lightly for Lent

A daily reflection/action calendar centered around earth care - to download, visit:

presbyterianmission.org/resource/ tread-lightly-for-lent/



Wandering Heart

A printed devotional following Simon Peter's journey with Jesus, including weekly reflections with art, hymns, poetry, commentary, and journaling prompts. Printed copies will be available at church.

Holy Week & Easter Preview



Palm Sunday (March 24, 8:30 & 11:00 am)

On Palm Sunday, we remember the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as the crowd waved palm branches and cried out "Hosanna!" In worship on this day, you'll have the opportunity to wave your own palm branch.



Maundy Thursday (March 28, 7:30 pm)

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



Good Friday (March 29, 7:30 pm)

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



Easter Sunday (March 31)

8:30 am: Worship

9:45 am: Potluck Easter Brunch 10:15 am: Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am: Worship

Thank You, UPC...

...for giving to the Alternative Gift Market

Thank you for your generous support of the 2023 Alternative Gift Market. Thanks to you, we raised over \$11,000 for projects with our partners around the world. The projects you helped fund this year are:

- Wings of Hope, Home for Developmentally Challenged Children (Haiti)
- Family Health Ministries, Women and Children's Clinic (Haiti)
- Haiti Reforestation Partnership
- Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery (Lesotho)
- Lifesavers Fund, Medical Benevolence Fund (Malawi)
- Latin Patriarchate School (Palestine)
- Refugee Assistance (Syria and Lebanon)

The Global Outreach Committee has been working collaboratively with these organizations for many years as well as other mission partners around the world. If you would like to be involved, please contact Lauren Mann at laurenmann16@gmail.com.





...and for giving to the Presbyterian Women Diaper Drive

Thank you to all who contributed to the PW Diaper Drive! We collected over \$2,900, allowing us to purchase the requested diapers and send a check for donations in excess of that amount.

From the Refugee Support Center:

"Once again you have risen to the occasion to meet the needs of the refugees in our community. Thank you. The diaper collection drive you held netted almost 5,000 diapers and will cover our needs for February, including distributing to families on our wait list. Additionally, your financial contribution will help us purchase diapers for the leaner months coming up. Families from Afghanistan, Burma, Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Syria are the current recipients of your generosity and always express gratitude to the group making the diapers possible. Thank you for caring about refugees and converting that care into action."

Meet Our New Members



Becky & Dennis Dallke

Becky is a retired elementary school teacher, planning to retire (again!) in June. Dennis served as our Facilities Manager for 30 years and still helps out on a part-time basis. They both know that UPC is where they belong.



Fenton & Jane Erwin

Fenton is in the process of retiring from his law practice in Charlotte. Jane is a homemaker and retired hospital chaplain. Jane and Fenton have 5 grown children, including F.T. (also joining, not pictured), who moved here with them.



Kathy Joyner

Kathy is an almost lifelong Tar Heel, back in Chapel Hill after a hiatus. Retired from technology marketing, she enjoys watching all sports and playing both golf and pickleball.



Keith & Kacy McAdoo

Keith and Kacy live in the Pittsboro area. Keith works in the software industry, while Kacy serves as an Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in the UNC School of Nursing.



Sean & Mandy Murphy

Sean and Mandy have been in Chapel Hill for many years; Mandy is a grief counselor and Sean is a healthcare architect. They have 4 daughters who are ages 22 to 15.



Audra Nelson

Audra is a UNC student studying psychology and political science and a member of PCM. She plays volleyball for the UNC Club team and coaches at Chapel Hill Area Volleyball Club.



Paul & Kathy Singer

Kathy and Paul moved to Chapel Hill (again) in 2017 after 30 years in Connecticut. Paul is an ophthalmologist and Katherine worked in gerontology and non-profit development. They have 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren.



Satchel Walton

Satchel is a sophomore at UNC from Louisville, KY. His goals are to live an intellectually stimulated life, to surround himself with loving friends and family, and to be of use to his communities.

Interested in joining UPC?

Our next new member lunch will be Sunday, March 17 at 12:00 pm.

Want to learn more about membership? Contact Meg Peery McLaughlin (meg@upcch.org).

Star Word Reflections

What was your initial reaction when you read your star word?

Is it a word of encouragement?

Or challenge?

Invitation or confirmation?

Have you begun to notice how its meaning relates to your life?

Remember to invite God into your star word journey.

Dear God,

I am looking and listening.
I am paying attention and wondering.
Make your face to shine upon
me that I would feel your grace,
and be guided by your truth.
I offer this prayer with gratitude
for my star word this year,
and all that it might teach me.
Amen.



Stephen Ministry: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?"

One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the **After People**.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ...after the phone call you hoped you'd never get,
- ...after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ...**after** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ...after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.
- ...**after** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long **after** as needed. Contact Hadley Kifner (919.929.2102 or hadley@upcch,org) if you want to learn more.



PCM Update

Paul Burgess PCM Pastoral Resident

It's a season of endings and beginnings: it's the beginning of 2024 and a new semester at PCM and, at the same time, we're officially into spring semester, heading steadily towards graduation and the end of the academic year.

We were able to greet the New Year together at Montreat, as 34 PCM students attended College Conference. Between three laughter-filled houses, worship, sunrise hikes, viciously (and lovingly) competitive games, challenging keynote addresses, incredible food (shoutout to Margie Peeler!), and contradancing, our post-break reunion was a three-day whirlwind of laughter, tears, and everything in between.



The theme of new beginnings and endings continued as we reassembled back in Chapel Hill and settled into the familiar rhythm of Thursday night programs. In our first meeting, we created spiritual "vision boards," cobbling together images from magazines into a collage that represented our aspirations for our respective walks with God. The next week, we held "worship program"-- a night at PCM that is more easily recognized as related to a service found at UPC on a given Sunday. Our worship program centered us on engaging our PCM siblings who have long-since left UNC, as we took slips of paper that prayer requests have been written on over Thursday nights for the past decade and repurposed them for worship in the present moment. Through the prayers, mosaics, and ashes (see picture) that were subsequently created, past iterations of PCM were present with us in a real and holy way as we came before God together. The week after, we re-envisioned Christ's life through creative interpretive lenses that were closer to our own experiences. We heard the gospel narrative anew as we considered the story of Jesus as a young gay man in 70's New York, as a rabbit...even as a human gastrointestinal tract!

As you can likely tell, there's rarely a dull moment in the Presbyterian Campus Ministry sphere. We're excited to bring that energy to two traditions that are right around the corner: first, broomball. If you, like me, are unaware of what broomball is, I've been made to understand it's a rough approximation of hockey, but with fewer ice skates and even fewer rules. Those of us who survive will no doubt be happy to tell you about it two days later, when PCM leads Sunday worship at University Presbyterian Church! We're looking forward to broadening the community we enjoy on Thursday nights to include the church in its more traditional forms, to worshiping with the greater body of God's people.

Can't wait to see you then!





Recently at UPC



Kaitlyn Schiess offered us both encouragement and challenge as we consider how to engage politics through the lens of faith. Recording is available at **rss.com/podcasts/upcch**.



Our new **knitting group** kicked off! This group is for both new and experienced knitters to come together to learn and create. Interested in joining? Email Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org).





Our winter session of **Sunday School** offered opportunities to learn more about the Presbyterian Tradition and racial equity. These classes will conclude on Feb. 11.







Some of our youth spent a day off from school participating in a special **service project day**. They prepared soup to freeze and store for future Meal Trains.

Registrations Opening Soon...





Session Report

At their meeting in January, the UPC Session:

- Approved moving the UPC and UPPS monetary funds into secure, liquid, and interest earning accounts
- Approved the 2024 budget
- Welcomed 14 new members



