



EASTERTIDE 2024
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT UPC

Join us for worship during this
important week | p. 5-6

2024 CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

Sept. 6-8 - Registration is now
open! | p. 15

SUMMER SABBATICAL PREVIEW

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The next edition of *The Chimes* will be published on May 7. Submission deadline is April 23.
Contact: Erin Collier (communications@upcch.org)

Star Word Reflection

It has been about 10 weeks since Epiphany, when we received our star words during worship. By now, you have likely noticed how your star word shows up in your daily life: you may have incorporated your star word into your prayer life easily, or you may still be discovering its significance and what wisdom it offers. As you continue discerning the sacred meaning of your star word, consider these reflection questions:

Does your star word feel like a challenge to take on something new? Or a reminder to embrace or return to something familiar? Is it inspiring you to take risks? Or give yourself some grace and rest from something for a bit? Has its meaning changed at all since we have entered a new liturgical season? How does your star word speak to you as we walk closer to the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection?

And a prayer, as you continue to carry this star around in the pocket of your life:

Dear God, thank you for speaking to us in our everyday lives. Help us take the wisdom that comes from our star words and shine a bright light on them. Help us to share that wisdom with others, in the name of your bright love. Amen.

Pastor's Message



Jarrett McLaughlin
Co-Pastor

Ellen, Andrew, Jessica, Joe, Becca, Chris, Shannon, Pen, MaryAnn, Michael, Elizabeth, Dan, Heather, and then the name many of you will be familiar with, Anna (Pinckney Straight).

These are the names of some of our dearest colleagues in the Presbyterian Church. In 2008, thanks to a grant from the Endowment of Village Presbyterian Church, this collection of clergy gathered in Kansas City for the inaugural meeting of what would in time come to be named "the Well." We have met every year since – barring one compliments of COVID – to draw from the living waters of Scripture together and to share in sacred friendship.

The more clinical description of this group would be that we each bring exegetical papers on preaching texts for the coming year, so that at the end of the week we walk away with a treasure-trove of scholarship, much of it informing what you hear from the pulpit week to week. While it is true that the papers provide the bones of this group, it does not even come close to describing the Well's heart.

The heart of the group is sitting on a porch in Austin underneath a spray of jasmine (with a garbage truck picking the unfortunately late hour to empty the dumpster down below) as one friend relayed what it was like to rush his 9-month-old son in for emergency heart transplant surgery; or holding space with a parent who tearfully described sitting in a Target parking lot and weeping for a severely depressed and suicidal 12-year-old daughter; or gathering around a single computer screen to zoom with one of our own who had a terrible reaction to anesthesia during a routine surgery and finds herself disabled in ways neither she nor we could have imagined. Those are just a few of the tender and sacred moments I recall – not to mention the evenings spent singing karaoke duets or having spontaneous dance parties and laughing until it hurts. All of this I file under the art of holy friendship. Our annual gatherings convene the second week after Easter, and it is something that we hold sacred in the rhythm of our year. I am convinced that groups like these are crucial to sustain every pastor in the odd and wondrous calling that is pastoral ministry.

Because it is an odd and wondrous calling, the truth is that we also accompany one another through the very far-ranging and absolutely mundane matters that professional ministry presents you with on the regular. Planning a memorial service with an extremely conflicted family? Somebody in the group has been there and has some pointers. Never led a capital campaign? Plenty of others have and are eager to share the learnings of both their successes and failures. The boilers went out and you've got Advent-crowds coming to worship in less than three days? Somebody has been there before. Jan Edmiston, child of UPC and now Presbytery Executive in Charlotte recently wrote a blog post (achurchforstarvingartists.blog/which-job) about the number of competencies required to be clergy. Groups like these help you hone the ones that are less a part of your wheelhouse.



Continued on p. 3

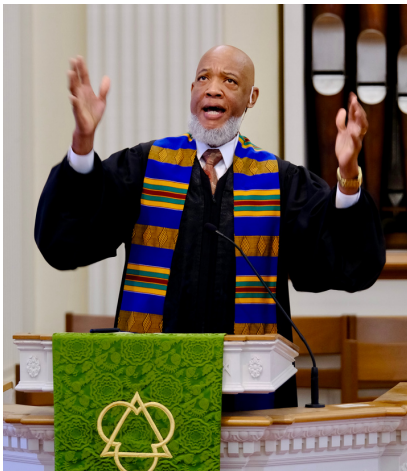
Pastor's Message (ctd.)

I share all of this with you now – yes, to give thanks for this church that has long encouraged its pastors to cultivate these kinds of friendships and support groups (Bob Dunham was a part of the Moveable Feast, the group we patterned our own after, for much of the time he served as pastor here at UPC). The main reason I share this with you, though, is because I want you to know that UPC will be hosting and hopefully kickstarting a brand new clergy support group in the coming weeks. Thanks to a generous grant from our own Endowment and the many people who have made living gifts to that Endowment or remembered the church in their will, we will welcome a group of ten young clergy to Chapel Hill in the hopes that they, too, will begin to forge the kinds of relationships that sustain pastors in their ministry within the church of Jesus Christ in this day and age. Consider it an investment in the health of the PC(USA) as we encourage the health of a new generation of clergy.

So come April 21 - when they roll into Chapel Hill - I hope you will join me in praying for Linda, Owen, Rebecca, Andrew, Anna, Alex, Meg, Miriam, Daniel and Lauren. For a week, they'll be making 209 E. Franklin Street their home: singing morning hymns in our choir loft, connecting to our wifi, and taking afternoon breaks under the magnolia. In all of that, may the Word of God jump off the page and settle in their bones, may the churches they serve be strengthened, and may the bonds of friendship start to take root. May it be so.



Rev. Paul Roberts' Visit to UPC



On Feb. 11, Rev. Paul Roberts served as our guest preacher in both services and guest teacher for the last session of our Racial Equity Class. Missed that Sunday, or want to listen again? Recordings of both his sermon and his class session can be found on the UPC Podcast: rss.com/podcasts/upcch

Photo credit: Eric Munson

Pictures from the 2024 Women's Retreat

30 UPC women enjoyed a weekend together at Ocean Isle Beach for the annual Women's Retreat! The weekend was full of laughter, tears, food, conversations, walks, beautiful weather, and connections.



Holy Week 2024



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 a meditation from Nancy Myer, handwashing, and 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. Meg Peery McLaughlin will offer the meditation.

Celebrating Easter at UPC (March 31)

Easter Sunday Worship - 8:30 & 11:00 am

We'll worship together at 8:30 and 11:00 am on Easter Sunday. Both services will be in the Sanctuary; only the 11:00 service will be livestreamed. Instead of Sunday School on that day, we will have a potluck brunch.

Potluck Easter Brunch - 9:45 am

Join us for a potluck Easter Brunch at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall! Beverages will be provided; please bring a breakfast dish to share (quiche, muffins, fruit, etc.). Savory breakfast dishes are greatly appreciated. Please remember to label your dishes and serving spoons with your name if you'd like to have them back, and pick them up following the brunch. 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."

Egg Hunt - 10:15 am

Children (walkers-3rd grade) are invited to join us at 10:15 am for an Easter Egg hunt. Don't forget to bring a basket to collect your eggs!



Flowering the Cross

Our cross will already have flowers on it and be outside all morning (great for your Easter Sunday family photos). If you'd like to bring more flowers from home to add to it, please do! We will not have extra flowers available.

Easter Offering

It is our tradition for Easter to collect an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports several PCUSA initiatives to help our neighbors in need. To give, visit upcch.org/give and select "One Great Hour of Sharing," or write a check to UPC with "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line.

Easter Gifts of Beauty and Bounty

Purchase a lily or give to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service in honor or memory of your loved ones! Visit upcch.org/lilies to learn more, or pick up a paper form in the narthex. The deadline to give is Friday, March 22. The names of those honored and remembered will be in the Easter bulletin on March 31.



Eastertide Worship

*There's a lot happening in worship during Eastertide (the 50 day season after Easter)!
Here's what to expect in April and early May:*

Sunday, April 7: Stephen Ministry Commissioning

At the 11:00 worship service on April 7, we will commission our four newest Stephen Ministers (Scott Culley, Gordon Merklein, Mary Ellen Olson, and Alan Swendiman). Upon their commissioning, they will join the rest of the Stephen Ministers in their ministry of one-to-one Christian support to those in need of a listening ear, non-judgmental presence, or encouraging word. We will also commission Nape Baker as a supervision co-leader, as he has recently completed the Stephen Ministry Bridge Leader training. To learn more about this ministry, visit upcch.org/stephen-ministry.



Tuesday, April 9: Taizé Service of Healing & Wholeness

Healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus. The church has been called to continue this ministry as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people. Through services for wholeness and healing, the church enacts in worship its ministry as a healing community. (Book of Order, Directory for Worship, W-3.5401)

Christian healing is about wholeness. Sickness and health are not limited to our physical selves: we can seek healing in body, mind, and spirit; and we can yearn for wholeness in our lives, our relationships with others, our world, and all of creation. Join us for a special service of healing and wholeness on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. This service will be in the Taizé tradition with candles, prayers in both silence and song, and scripture readings. A blessing will be offered at the end of the service, and an option to be anointed with oil will also be offered. All are invited to attend.



Sunday, April 14: Youth Sunday

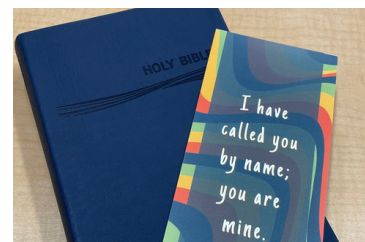
Youth Sunday is a special Sunday where youth plan, write liturgy, and lead worship during the 8:30 and 11:00 am services. The morning will be filled with youth leadership and voices, with 12th grade youth lending their voice from the pulpit as well. We hope to have as many people present as possible to support the youth of UPC and to watch their gifts shine!



Sunday, April 21: Earth Care & 3rd Grade Bibles

Worship this day will include an emphasis on Earth Care (it's the day before Earth Day!), as well as the presentation of Bibles to our 3rd graders at the 11:00 service.

See p. 10 for information about an Environmental Justice walk that afternoon!



Sunday, April 28: Easter Hymn Festival

After our successful Sounds of Resurrection choral service last spring, our choirs will once again come together to present a special Easter-themed musical offering at the 11:00 am service on Sunday, April 28. This year, we welcome guest director Eric Wall who will work with our choirs and help to lead a hymn festival. Eric is a celebrated church musician currently serving as dean of the chapel at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He is also the summer musician at Montreat and a former president of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians - and also happens to be Tristan's dad!



Sunday, May 5: Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is always a special day in the life of the church when we welcome a new class of Confirmands who have spent a year unpacking and learning about their faith and the smaller and larger structures of the church. We expect to welcome 14 youth into the church as full members during 11:00 worship on May 5.

This day will also be the last week of Sunday School for the program year; classes will resume in September.



Sunday, May 12: Summer Schedule Begins

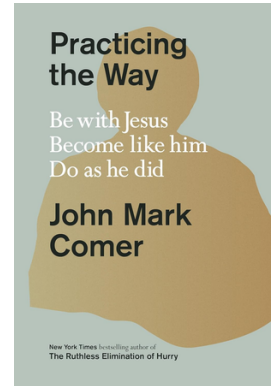
Beginning on May 12, we will move to our summer schedule! We will have one service at 10:00 am, which will also be livestreamed. Sunday School and Godly Play will not meet during the summer.



Eastertide Classes (April 7-May 5)

Vance Barron Hall Class: Practicing the Way

Join us in a study and discussion led by Ed and Nancy Preston and Robert Owen of John Mark Comer's latest book *Practicing the Way*. Many of you may know Comer from his New York Times bestseller *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* which offered a compelling, emotional and spiritual case against hurry and in favor of a slower, simpler way of life. In *Practicing the Way*, Comer argues that we are constantly being formed by the world around us – instead of being formed by Christ. Comer offers three goals for us in becoming apprentices to Christ: 1) Be with Jesus, 2) Be like him, and 3) Do as he did. We will discuss the various practices that Comer believes are necessary to not just be a “Christian”, but to be a true disciple or apprentice to Christ. Copies of the book will be available before the class starts.



Dunham Hall Class: Wonderfully Made

Our Christian identity tells us that we are children of God, created on purpose, and blessed as good. To live fully into that identity, we are called to practice being good stewards of our minds, bodies, and spirits, and to share that health and wholeness with the world. Toward this end, the Mental Health Task Force has curated a 5-week education block representing a wide variety of topics, each relating to an issue that causes anxiety, confusion, isolation, grief, shame, or fear. Local experts with professional insight will guide us through each 1-hour long session, including time for questions and resource recommendations. The aim of each and all of these sessions is for us to face dynamic, difficult subject matter with each other, our shared faith, honesty, and hope in the good news of the Gospel. Spread the word, invite a neighbor or friend, and plan to come to one, some, or all of the sessions!

April 7: Sexual Identity and Gender Language (Lew Lampiris)

April 14: Adverse Child Experiences (James Osborne, Alliance Health care)

April 21: Cognitive Aging (Dan Blazer, Duke Psychiatry and Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development)

April 28: Body Image and Eating Disorders (Jessica Beardsley, registered dietician, International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals)

May 5: Gun Violence (Eric Elbogen, Duke Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences)

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.

Presbyterian Women Lunch (April 21)

Save the Date! Sunday, April 21

All UPC women are invited to attend a Spring Luncheon after 11:00 worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Details to come!



Walk for Environmental Justice (April 21)

Join UPC's Earth Care Team and Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation for our "Walk for Environmental Justice" from 3:00-5:00 pm on Sunday, April 21, in recognition of Earth Day 2024 the following day. As we did in 2021, we'll gather in front of University United Methodist Church at 150 E. Franklin St. for inspirational music, speakers and information about becoming even better stewards of God's creation before walking a short loop around Franklin St. Bring signs advocating for earth care if possible!



Upcoming Recitals



Carrina Macaluso, senior recital

Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm

Carrina has been an integral part of UPC's music program since 2021, having served as our mezzo-soprano choral scholar and children's and youth music assistant. As partial fulfillment of her Bachelor of Music degree at UNC, Carrina will present a senior recital in the UPC sanctuary, featuring works by Mahler, Rossini, Pauline Viardot, and Connie Converse. After the program, a reception will be held in Vance Baron Hall for all to greet Carrina and celebrate how she has touched us through her music during her time with us.



Joey Fala, organ recital

Saturday, May 25, 4:00 pm

Director of Music Joey Fala will offer a UPC preview of the program he is presenting at the American Guild of Organists 2024 national convention in San Francisco. In addition to classics by Bach, Rheinberger and Howells, he will present new music by living composers including Dan Locklair, Chelsea Chen, Jack Langdon and William Bolcom.

The following letter was emailed to the congregation on Wednesday, March 13:

From Joey Fala, Director of Music

To My UPC Family,

Grace and peace to you. I pray for gentleness and empathy in my words, acknowledging the tenderness of transitions.

After prayerful conversation, Sarah and I have made the decision to relocate to Nashville, TN, following her parents who moved from Durham several years ago. Sarah is just completing the in-person coursework of her Duke Divinity doctoral degree, and we hope to be able to start a family of our own with grandparents nearby. This means that I will be saying goodbye.

It is hard to leave this wonderful vibrant community especially in a time of great energy and growth. A mentor once told me that it takes three years to build up a music program before the fruit is seen and I feel as though our music ministry is just reaching that point after the pandemic restart. I am proud of what we have accomplished and am excited for your future.

My four years here have been filled with beautiful relationships. I have served alongside a staff of friends who go about their work together with a wonderful holy playfulness. I have also been privileged to work with highly talented and committed musicians who joyfully give of themselves in creating beauty together to bring glory to God. And of course whenever I step foot on these grounds, I am surrounded by the warmth of this congregation that knows how to love and nurture its leaders well.

Professionally, this has been a time of great personal growth. I have learned so much at your encouragement to dream, build, try new things, make mistakes and try again. Perhaps you can remember a relationship early on in your career where you experienced a particularly profound season of confidence growth as the result of someone giving you their trust, affirming your calling and cheering you on—in short, *believing in you*. This is what UPC has been to me.

Out of gratitude and love for this congregation, I am committed to being involved as it is helpful in preparing the way for UPC's next musician with the hopes of maintaining the momentum we have created in our ministry. As I write this, my future plans are uncertain and while I trust in God's provision, I ask for your prayers in discernment. I hope that you will stay in touch after we have moved. UPC has been a great blessing to me and I will always hold you dear in my heart.

In appreciation and gratitude,
Joey Fala



Next Steps, from Meg Peery McLaughlin

Welp. Deep breaths.

I'm not going to lie to you, church, I'm sad.

My children call him "Jo Jo Sock-Feet" and I will miss those very feet and hands that make our organ sing, as well as the heart with which he leads disciples old and young to give glory to God in worship. It is a rare thing to find both excellence at the bench and ease in collaborative leadership in one delightful 33-year-old human. Thanks be to God for the gift we have been given, at just the time that we needed it most. May Music City get ready for what is about to hit them. They have no idea.

If I have learned anything in these past 5 years, it is that University Presbyterian Church can do hard things. I know not a single one of us wants another transition. I also know that God is faithful and knows full well that without song our praise is hollow. We will find someone to usher us into God's presence in awe, in lament, in hope, in joy. We most certainly will.

Here is what we know right now:

- UPC will celebrate Joey's ministry with us formally on Pentecost, May 19. We will recognize Joey in worship and celebrate him at the Pentecost Potluck afterward. The Personnel Committee is recommending to the Session the collection of a love-gift in his honor.
- Joey will be with us until mid-June and will assist the search committee in their work. The job description is available at upcch.org/jobs, and we encourage you to share it!
- Meg and Jarrett will continue with their summer sabbatical plans but will be present for final interviews. The relationship between music director and pastors is an essential one.
- One of our previous choral scholars, Nuria Shin, has already been hired to lead music at VBS. Nancy and Tristan will be working on coverage for Montreat Music and Worship.

Finally, I invite you to pray for the palpable presence of God in this season of our church life. Pray for Joey and Sarah and their hopes for new life in Nashville. Pray for the search committee and whoever may be discerning a call to serve in this place. Pray for all who grieve this transition, who also trust that grief is always born of love.

In that love I join you fondly,

Meg Peery McLaughlin



Vacation Bible School 2024 (June 17-20)

Join us for Vacation Bible School 2024!

This year's theme is "Camp Firelight," and we'll be learning Bible stories about people who trusted God in the face of their fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Children age 4 (as of 9/1/2024) through rising 5th graders (in fall 2024) are welcome to join us. All children must be potty-trained. Registration is now open to the public. Visit upcch.org/vbs to learn more and register!

New this year: New Hope Camp & Conference Center has grown in their own camp attendance and is unable to host us any longer, so **VBS 2024 will be taking place at New Hope Presbyterian Church** (yes, the very same turn off NC-86 as New Hope Camp, so no changes to your daily VBS commute!). This new location will still allow us to enjoy plenty of outdoor space!

We also need volunteers to help make VBS happen! Visit upcch.org/vbs-volunteers to learn more and sign up. Youth are invited to help, too.



Souper Bowl of Caring - Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! Together, we raised **\$2,716.66** for TABLE, one of our local partners that works to provide food and nutrition education to children in Orange County.

Pictures from the TABLE Service Day

On March 5 (a teacher work day for Chapel Hill Schools), we had an intergenerational service day at TABLE! Many thanks to all who came to support this local partner in their brand new location.



Congregational Retreat 2024



September 6-8 in Montreat, NC

Are you ready to rest, relax, and retreat from your busy lives? Join your church family for a weekend in beautiful Montreat as we experience scripture, keynote speakers, workshops, pottery, hiking, and much more!

Don't miss this opportunity to live in community with UPC as we explore the theme *Press Pause*. To read more about our schedule and workshop options and register, go to upcch.org/retreat. Registration is now open!

Retreat FAQ

Q: Is this retreat for families only?

A: No! UPC members of all ages and stages of life attend the congregational retreat. This event is a chance for all in our church to spend time in community together. We have options that everyone can enjoy no matter their age, and we've found that unique bonds are created across many generations during this weekend.

Q: How are the accommodations?

A: We sleep in the Assembly Inn hotel. It's a beautiful stone building at Montreat Conference Center, where they cater to all ages and have all the creature comforts we're used to having.

Q: How's the food?

A: Montreat's Galax Dining Room offers a variety of options at meals, and there's always a bountiful salad bar. If you have concerns about allergies, please note it in your registration, and we'll make sure you have specific allergen information.

Q: I'm not sure we can afford to attend. Is there financial assistance?

A: We have a retreat scholarship fund to help with costs. We will work with you to determine how we can best meet your family's needs when covering lodging and retreat costs; there's no special formula. A scholarship application form is available on the retreat website (upcch.org/retreat), or you may email a church staff member. We will communicate with each family on an individual, confidential basis.



PCM Sunday pictures

On Feb. 18, our Presbyterian Campus Ministry students led worship! In addition to leading all parts of both services, three students were baptized at 11:00 (and greeted with high-fives and fist bumps from the children). After worship, students and their families enjoyed lunch together.



Summer Sabbatical Preview

Why Sabbatical?

This summer marks five years since we welcomed Meg and Jarrett to UPC. In some respects, their time with us has flown by, but when we look back at those five years, we are reminded that they were five very full years! Within six months of arriving at UPC, a global pandemic forced the McLaughlins to completely reimagine worship, fellowship, and outreach. Thanks to their creativity, determination, and leadership, UPC not only survived that difficult period but thrived. Over the past five years they have also challenged and inspired us from the pulpit, tended to our needs in joy and sorrow, welcomed scores of new members, provided opportunities for engagement with the world outside of our walls, expanded and mentored our staff, and cared for our beautiful but aging facilities.

This summer, our co-pastors will have the opportunity to take well-earned sabbaticals. UPC offers a sabbatical to full-time program staff after every five years of service. The purpose of the sabbatical is to provide time for extended study, renewal, and professional growth. Sabbaticals are good for our staff and they are good for the church! You will be hearing more from Meg and Jarrett about their staggered sabbaticals, including plans for covering their responsibilities while they are gone.

To recognize longevity, it has been this congregation's practice to collect monetary love gifts for staff ahead of their second sabbatical, after ten years of service. The Personnel Committee recommended to the Session that we make a one-time exception to that practice and allow the congregation to collect a love gift for the McLaughlins for this sabbatical, in gratitude for their extraordinary service to the church. Look for details on how to give in April.

Debbie Bevin, Chair, UPC Personnel Committee

When will Meg and Jarrett be on sabbatical?

Meg's sabbatical will be May 20-Aug. 12, and Jarrett's sabbatical will be June 14-Sept. 6. Both Co-Pastors will be away for 12 weeks, with 8 overlapping weeks (Sundays include June 16 through August 11).



What are their plans?

Meg will start her time away with a clergy women's retreat with a beloved therapist who does work in the enneagram and internal family systems. And Jarrett hopes to travel up the East Coast to connect with friends and hike.

The expected highlight of the summer will be a two-week trip to Costa Rica (where their daughters are hoping to see a sloth!). Meg and Jarrett have coordinated with Karla Koll, the PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker whom UPC has supported for years, to explore what global mission opportunities might be possible.

They also hope to read, reflect, and reconnect, but mostly practice holy rest and remembering.

What does this mean for UPC?

We will continue to worship, fellowship, serve, and be the church together! Duties for pastoral care, worship, and administration will be divided among the associate pastors. We will also be inviting some guest preachers to help fill the pulpit. Be sure to visit upcch.org/sabbatical, where we will continue to share plans and details as they are finalized.

Recently at UPC



Confirmation students attended a weekend retreat at Massanetta Springs.



Our **Lenten adult classes** offered opportunities to talk about theories of atonement (l) and to hear the faith stories of fellow UPC members (r).



We **ordained several new deacons and elders** on March 10 (those who were unable to attend the ordination service in January. *Photo credit: Eric Munson*

Opportunities to Serve

Join the Usher Team!

Are you interested in serving as a welcoming presence on Sunday mornings? UPC depends on you and other members to act as volunteer ushers. Do you want to make some new acquaintances, increase your family involvement in Sunday worship, or give publicity to a UPC special interest group in which you're involved? Please consider service as an usher. Questions? Contact Brian Curran (brianjpcurran@gmail.com) or Mike Olson (mikeoinnc@gmail.com) or speak to an usher on Sunday morning. To sign up, visit upcch.org/volunteer.



Become a Grand-Friend!

UPPS is implementing a pilot program called "Grand-Friends" this spring, beginning on April 11. It's a GRAND opportunity to visit and have lunch with a 5-year-old at UPPS. If interested, contact Winnie Morgan at w1932innie@iCloud.com or 919-218-8595



Session Report

In February 2024, the UPC Session:

- Approved five baptisms and accepted three individuals into membership
- Approved changes to the wedding policy allowing photographers access to the front of church prior to the beginning of the ceremony
- Approved the use of the church parking lot for Spring Forest Farm CSA box distribution from May through September
- Approved the Co-Pastors' sabbaticals and the collection of a Love gift
- Approved the addition of the day after Christmas as a holiday to the Personnel Manual
- Received the Treasurer's Report



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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