

SUMMER 2024
EDITION



The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



SUMMER 2024 AT UPC

Our plans during our Co-Pastors' sabbaticals | p. 7-8

2024 CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

Sept. 6-8 - Don't forget to register! | p. 11-12

PCM'S TRIP TO COSTA RICA

A reflection on their experience | p. 18

In this Edition...

Pastor’s Message..... 2

Easter & Eastertide Pictures.....3-4

Sundays in May..... 5

Sign up for Punch on the Porch..... 6

Card for our High School Graduates..... 6

Summer Sabbatical Plans.....7-8

Organ Recital by Joey Fala..... 9

Where in the World is UPC this summer?..... 9

Vacation Bible School 2024.....10

Third Grade Bible Presentations.....10

Congregational Retreat 2024.....11-12

Pictures from the Presbyterian Women’s Luncheon...13

GRANDfriends at UPPS.....13

High School Sabbath Retreat.....14

Meet Our New Members.....15-16

Stephen Ministry: Love Embodied.....17

Star Word Reflection.....17

PCM’s Trip to Costa Rica.....18

Endowment & Session Reports.....19

Find us online!

 upcch.org

 facebook.com/upcch

 vimeo.com/upcch

 [@upc_chapelhill](https://instagram.com/upc_chapelhill)

The next edition of *The Chimes* will be published on July 9. Submission deadline is June 21.
Contact: Erin Collier (communications@upcch.org)

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**, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Nurture
- Nancy Myer**, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
- Ellen Parker**, Director, UPPS
- Sara Richard**, Office Administrator
- Tristan Wall**, Director of Youth Ministry
- Melani Willhite**, Financial Assistant



**Congrats to the
PCM Class of 2024!**



Several of you have asked what I am doing on sabbatical. After each response I feel as though I wished I'd said more, or articulated differently. I've told you that our family will be taking a two-week trip to Costa Rica, that Jarrett and I hope to get some time while the girls are at Montreat Music & Worship, that I have a clergy women's retreat set up with a beloved mentor.

After each interaction, I've walked away wishing I had reiterated my gratitude:

- For inheriting (from whatever wise Session voted it in) such an amazingly generous sabbatical policy, not just for the heads of staff, but for the entire program staff. Wow!
- For serving a church that we do not wish to escape from in any way! You all are healthy and vibrant and loving; and the truth is that we will miss you when we are away.
- For having a staff team that is so very capable and at the ready to cover our absence.
- For the very humbling surprise of the love gift.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I also leave these conversations a little baffled. It's only a few weeks away for me, and yet, when I'm confronted with that timeline, I feel ill-prepared. As I write this, the new clergy cohort that UPC launched is meeting down the hall in Vance Barron Hall, the Vision Team that has been working on some dreams for UPC's future are prepping to present to Session, and the search committee for our next Director of Music* is readying for rounds of in person and zoom interviews. There is so much ministry happening that I can scarcely see past it.

And yet, God builds into the very act of creation the practice of sabbath--sabbath for rest, sabbath for remembering who God is and who we are in relation to God. So, here goes! I confess I'm a bit curiously anxious about what it will feel like to not have the weight of responsibility on my shoulders. But I am trusting that the time will be just what it needs to be. If the chief end of humankind is to glorify God and enjoy God forever, then get ready, sabbatical—I'm ready!

Peace be with you,

Meg

***Director of Music Search - Here's a brief update about where we are!**

UPC has received 28 applications for our Director of Music Position.

We are asking things like: *How would you articulate the role of music in worship? and your role in the room? When a children's or youth choir involves some kids who are enthusiastic about music, and some who are reluctant - whose parents may have dropped them off - how do you create a cohesive singing group? At UPC we believe that music and the act of making music are first and foremost acts of Christian worship and formation. Can you talk about your personal faith journey?*

The hope is to identify our candidate before Pentecost (May 19), but we'll see where the Spirit leads. Meg is prepared to interrupt her sabbatical for interviews and negotiations.

Director of Music Search Committee:

Eric Munson (chair)
Jamie Bryan
Liam Drake
Philip Hughes
Carolyn Karpinos
Nick Nguyen
Katie Sanford

Easter 2024 at UPC



Eastertide Worship

Youth Sunday: On April 14, our youth led all aspects of worship, including sermons from two of our seniors.



Easter Hymn Festival: Worship on April 28 was full of joyous and beautiful music. Special thanks to guest director, Eric Wall!



Sundays in May

Summer Schedule begins May 12

Beginning on May 12, we will move to our summer worship schedule!

10:00 am - Worship in the sanctuary (available via livestream)

Nursery care will be available for infants-4 year olds

11:00 am - (beginning June 2) Punch on the Porch

See the next page for details about how to sign up to help!



Global Outreach Guest Speaker (May 19, 9:00 am)

The Global Outreach Committee is delighted to host Mamonyane Mohalo and Sally Harwood from the Ministry of Hope (MOH) Lesotho at UPC on Sunday, May 19 at 9:00 am in Dunham Hall. Mamonyane is the Executive Director living in Lesotho and Sally is the President of the Board of Directors here in the US. They will give a brief history of the organization and an update on the current work being done at this wonderful home for children whose families are unable to care for them. UPC has been a mission partner with Ministry of Hope Lesotho for many years. Please come hear from them about the wonderful work being done in Africa with the help of UPC. They will also discuss a 2025 mission trip to Lesotho open to UPC members.



Pentecost Potluck & Celebration of Joey Fala's Ministry (May 19, 11:00 am)

After worship on May 19, we will take some time to celebrate Joey's ministry at UPC and express our gratitude for all he has done here as he prepares to move to Nashville this summer. Following that celebration, we'll have a potluck meal!

A main dish (BBQ) and cake/ice cream will be provided; please make or buy a dish to share (salads, casseroles, sides). We depend on your joyful and generous contribution, and your presence is appreciated, regardless. 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 potluck. 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."

We'll need some help with this event; visit upcch.org/volunteer to sign up.



Sign up for Punch on the Porch

During the summer, we offer simple refreshments on the portico after worship each week. Volunteers are needed to help staff this time of fellowship. All supplies are provided; simply add your smile and hospitality! This is a great way to get to know our members during the summer. Visit upcch.org/volunteer to sign up.



Cards for our High School Graduates

We invite the congregation to join us in a joyful celebration to shower our twelfth grade youth with prayers & love as they approach graduation and the end of their high school experience. You're invited to send a card or note to the class of 2024, then drop it in the mail **ON June 8**. The cards will all arrive at once and lovingly bombard our seniors during the week of graduation!

To access the mailing list, please email admin@upcch.org.



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 during the academic year. 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.

Summer Sabbatical Plans

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!

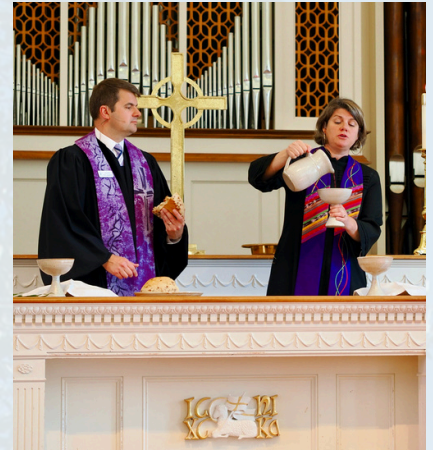
This summer, Meg and Jarrett will be taking staggered sabbaticals, allowing each of them to have some independent sabbatical time and some combined sabbatical time.

Meg's sabbatical: May 20-Aug. 11

Jarrett's sabbatical: June 14-Sept. 5

Overlapping weeks: June 14-Aug. 11

(overlapping Sundays are June 16 through Aug. 11).



What are appropriate sabbatical boundaries?

During their respective sabbaticals, Meg and Jarrett will be unplugging from UPC life. Sabbatical is meant to allow rest and restoration, and completely stepping away from church life for that period is an important part of that process.

Sabbatical Boundary FAQ:

Will Meg and Jarrett attend worship or church events?

No, Meg and Jarrett (and their family) will not be in worship during their sabbatical times.

What about funerals?

Meg and Jarrett will not come back from sabbatical to lead any funerals. We are fortunate to have three gifted Associate Pastors (Hadley, Nancy, and Berry) who are equipped to walk alongside grieving families and plan and lead funerals.

Can I call/email them?

Meg and Jarrett's auto-response on their email and phone will say that they are away and that they will not go back through three months of emails or voicemails. If you send them something that you want them to see, send it again upon their return.

What if I see them at the pool/grocery store/some other place?

It's okay to say hi and talk about family/school/life! Please don't pretend you don't see them.

What does this mean for UPC?

We will continue to worship, fellowship, serve, and be the church together! Duties will be divided among the associate pastors:

- Hadley Kifner: pastoral care
- Nancy Myer: administration and personnel
- Berry French: worship

Hadley, Nancy, and Berry will also preach this summer, in addition to several guest preachers (details on the next page)

Community assistance on Tuesdays will be paused while Jarrett is on Sabbatical.

Summer Preaching Schedule

We're grateful for all who will be filling the pulpit this summer while Meg and Jarrett are on their sabbaticals, including three guest preachers!

Full Schedule:

May 12: Meg Peery McLaughlin

May 19: Meg Peery McLaughlin

May 26: Jarrett McLaughlin

June 2: Jarrett McLaughlin

June 9: Jarrett McLaughlin

June 16: Hadley Kifner

June 23: Berry French

June 30: Bob Dunham

July 7: Jan Edmiston

July 14: Nancy Myer

July 21: Hadley Kifner

July 28: Berry French

Aug. 4: Amantha Barbee

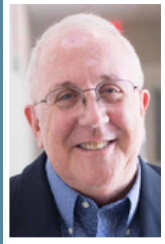
Aug. 11: Nancy Myer

Aug. 18: Meg Peery McLaughlin

Aug. 25: Meg Peery McLaughlin

Sept. 1: Meg Peery McLaughlin

Sept. 8: Bob Dunham



Rev. Dr. Bob Dunham (June 30 & Sept. 8):

In August, Bob will mark 50 years of ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church. He served as pastor of University Presbyterian Church from 1991 to 2017 and is now Pastor Emeritus. A native Floridian, Bob has also served congregations in Auburn, AL; Covington, GA; Charleston, SC; and New York City. He and his wife, Marla, live in Chapel Hill. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.



Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston (July 7):

Jan grew up in UPC, and after graduating from UNC, she attended Andover Newton Theological School in Boston and then Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. Jan served congregations in NY and VA for 27 years before serving as Associate Executive Presbyter in Chicago Presbytery and then General Presbyter in Charlotte Presbytery where she currently serves. Jan was Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the PCUSA with the Rev. Denise Anderson. Her family includes her husband, Rev. Fred Lyon, their four young adult children, and Mike, Sharon, Carson and Katie Edmiston of UPC.



Rev. Dr. Amantha Barbee (Aug. 4):

Amantha holds a BA from UNC-Charlotte, an MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary, and a D.Min. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. She was a program director in a women's homeless center before pastoring three different churches, and is the recent past chairperson of the General Assembly Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. She has extensive training in anti-racism and anti-bias models for people of faith and corporate America and is a trained personal coach. She has also led peaceful and challenging protests, and her work has been recognized nationally.

How can we be supportive?

Pray...

Pray for Meg and Jarrett as they prepare for this time away, and for them as they are away. Pray for their rest and rejuvenation.

Pray for UPC as we prepare for and enter this time while they are away.

Pray for Hadley, Nancy, and Berry as they take on some additional responsibilities.

Be Present...

At UPC this summer, we will continue to be the church together! Please continue to support the work of UPC through your presence in worship (we have a GREAT lineup of preachers!), as well as the many opportunities available throughout the summer.

Organ Recital by Joey Fala

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.



Where in the world is UPC this summer?

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

Vacation Bible School (children): June 17-20 at New Hope Presbyterian Church

Montreat Worship & Music Conference (children & youth): June 23-29 in Montreat, NC

Massanetta Middle School Conference (middle school youth): July 11-14 in Harrisonburg, VA

Montreat Youth Conference (high school youth): July 21-27 in Montreat, NC

Appalachia Service Project (older youth & adults): Aug. 4-10 in Jonesville, VA

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



Vacation Bible School 2024

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! *Deadline is May 15.*

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.



Third Grade Bible Presentations



On April 21, we presented Bibles to our third graders. Together, we all read aloud from Isaiah 43: "I have called you by name; you are mine."

Why register for the Congregational Retreat?

***Make plans now to join us Sept. 6-8 in Montreat, NC,
for a weekend away for all ages and stages of life!***

PRESS PAUSE

At the UPC retreat, you'll have:

Time away from the hustle and bustle of life

Time in the mountains at beautiful Montreat

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

What can I expect at the retreat?

Keynote addresses as we learn
and laugh together



Workshops including pottery, games,
prayer, and more



Small group conversations
with chatter groups



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



Campfire and
barn dancing



Saturday Workshop Options

Pottery: Whether you are a beginner or have frequently worked with clay, you can create a wonderful keepsake of the weekend working with clay.

Gentle Peace Walk: Take an easy walk from the lake to the gate along Flat Creek.

Guided Meditation: You will be guided in a quiet meditation using your imagination and a scripture passage.

Labyrinth & Prayer Practices: Take time for quiet reflection and prayer through a variety of practices

Creek Exploration: Explore nature and wade in the creek (and maybe even try fishing!).

Pause and Paint: Create something beautiful with a canvas and paint.

Fused Glass: Make either an ornament or a sun catcher.

Scavenger Hunt: Have fun with your church family while testing your knowledge of key places around the heart of Montreat!

Yoga: Come “press pause” with your body! All levels welcome. Bring a yoga mat or towel.

Group Games & Team Building: Learn new games to play as a group, engage in team building, and just have plain old fun together!

Exploring the History of Montreat: Learn about the history of Montreat and share stories about your experiences there.

About our Keynote Speaker, Michelle Thomas-Bush

Rev. Michelle Thomas-Bush is Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Michelle brings a wealth of knowledge about mindfulness and mental health and is a well known leader and retreat speaker in the PC(USA).



To learn more and register, visit upcch.org/retreat
Space is filling up - register by June 4 to guarantee housing!

Presbyterian Women Host Spring Luncheon

On Sunday, April 21, nearly seventy women (from ages 25 to 85+) gathered in the fellowship hall in the name of shared faith to celebrate spring, enjoy fellowship over a meal, and learn about ways to connect with others for both personal faith growth and to serve others. Many of those present brought a nonperishable food item for donation to the Interfaith Community Kitchen. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team moderator Daphne Little welcomed all in prayer and then introduced the program speaker, Rev. Ginny Taylor-Troutman. Rev. Taylor-Troutman, currently serving Chapel in the Pines, led a brief Scripture-based meditation on the importance of living with wonder, loving our neighbors, and also allowing our neighbors to love us. She encouraged the women present to reflect on what it means to be a woman of God, a sister in Christ, an embodiment of love in the world. After the program and meal, Moderator Little explained a bit more about the purpose of Presbyterian Women, highlighting its mission and purpose: for women to gather and remember that they are forgiven by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The afternoon concluded with information about how to join a women's small group, or circle, and finally with prayer. All women of the church are invited to join a circle. If you are interested, whether you were at the luncheon or not, please contact Hadley Kifner at hadley@upcch.org.



GRANDfriends at UPPS

This spring, UPPS launched the GRANDfriend program, an opportunity for UPC members to visit and have lunch with a 5-year-old at UPPS. Lunch is provided, and a variety of activities are made available to help foster conversation and connection. Special thanks to Ellen Parker and Winnie Morgan for bringing this dream to life!



High School Youth Sabbath Retreat

A small group of six high school youth enjoyed a weekend trip to Surf City, NC to rest away from the pressures and business of our daily lives. We napped under the sun, played in the waves, cooked pizza together, and enjoyed lots of laughter and connectional time with one another. On Sunday morning we witnessed the sunrise at the beach as we remembered the importance of practicing Sabbath and resting in the comfort and peace God has given us.



Meet some of our new members



Adam Blackwell

Adam is from Colorado and moved to Chapel Hill in 2022 to be closer to his extended family in Burlington. He enjoys learning and reading about pretty much everything, and spends most of his time biking and skateboarding and making art and music.



Barrett Bolton

Barrett Bolton, from Lumber Bridge, NC, is a graduating senior at PCM. He has been attending UPC for past couple of years and has sung in the choir.



Brett Bolton

Brett is a junior at UNC studying Economics and Public Policy. He is an active member in PCM and is the incoming Moderator for 2024-2025. In his free time, he enjoys playing pickleball and playing bass guitar.



Donald Dillport & Kathleen Wells

Donald and Kathleen recently moved to Chapel Hill from New York City. Donald (a retired lawyer) enjoys fly fishing and bird hunting, and Kathleen (retired from JP Morgan) loves renaissance art, ballet, and reading. They both love to travel, especially to Italy.



Lynn & Brad Fox

Lynn and Brad Fox moved to Chapel Hill with their daughters Elizabeth and Emily 20 years ago. Now empty nesters, Brad continues to serve as an associate dean in the engineering school at Duke and Lynn as an associate professor of speech pathology in the Craniofacial Center at UNC.



Ellen Ghodke

Ellen is a pediatrician practicing in Cary and she's originally from Southern Pines, NC. She is married to Ameer, who is completing his ear/nose/throat surgery residency at UNC Hospitals. Their daughter Lena is nine months old and enjoys bathtime and music (particularly Taylor Swift)!



Katie Leech & Matt Kretschmer

Katie and Matt moved to Chapel Hill in 2019 from Boston, MA and have two children- Caroline (4) who is in the 3s class at UPPS, and Nora (1). Katie is a professor at UNC in the School of Education and Matt is a data scientist. You may have seen them running around Chapel Hill as they trained for the Tarheel 10 Miler!



Lynn Russell

Lynn recently moved to Fearington from Charleston, SC. She has been a lifelong Presbyterian, and loves singing in the Chancel Choir.



Sandy Smith

Sandy moved to NC from CA to be closer to her mom, and spends several days each week with her. She has previously been a member of Laguna Presbyterian Church and Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church.



Leah Warnke & Juan Larralde

Leah was a member of PCM during her time at UNC and continues to find a home here as she works in Raleigh. Juan is currently stationed at Fort Liberty and has enjoyed coming to UPC for almost a year now.



Confirmation Class of 2024

On May 5, UPC joyfully welcomed 13 confirmands into full membership!

Stephen Ministry: Love Embodied

After a recent worship service, a congregant came up and said, "Stephen Ministry caregivers are love embodied." We pray that this statement is true, for this is what trained Stephen Ministers aim to be in the midst of our congregation and community.

Stephen Ministry-trained caregivers are matched with people in our church family who are in need of a spiritual companion, some encouragement, a non-judgemental presence. Individuals who feel overwhelmed by a family situation, or are facing a particularly challenging dynamic at work may benefit from receiving care from a Stephen Minister. Those who are sad or lonely, heartbroken or anxious, uncertain or afraid may also benefit.

During each visit, caregivers work hard to show up with a presence of grace and love. Intentional about their role in relation to the care receiver, they listen. They bear witness to. They abide with. With Jesus as the model, Stephen Ministers really do try to serve as love embodied.

On April 7, four trainees and one new supervisory leader were blessed and installed as the newest members of this congregational ministry. During that service, they promised to love, listen, and serve - and you promised to speak up when you needed to be loved, listened to, served compassionately. So, let us live into that covenant together.

If you or someone you know could use a listening ear and a gentle presence, someone with education in the spiritual framework behind supporting others, please be in touch. You can contact Judy Taft or Rev. Hadley Kifner.

Let us love one another...



Star Word Reflection

Many of us donned special sunglasses and glanced up at the sky in the early afternoon on April 8 to see the solar eclipse. During a solar eclipse, the moon passes in between the Earth and the Sun, blocking the sun's light for just a few moments. During these sacred, hauntingly beautiful silent seconds, the sky darkens as if it is nighttime. Stars and planets that usually go unseen because of the sun's brightness stand out - they glimmer, glisten, become noticeable to us in a small spark of time.

In the season of Eastertide now, months after Epiphany, I wonder if your star word is also becoming more noticeable in your daily life?

As we continue on in the liturgical year, I encourage you to explore the Bible with your star word in mind. *Do you find your word, or a synonym, in any passages? What biblical stories or characters remind you of your star word?* I also challenge you to use your star word in prayer. *How might you include your word when you talk with God, listen for God?*

As you continue to look for the small yet significant stars in your life, in a world whose most tiny miracles can easily be obscured by flashy news or hectic paces, may you be blessed. Amen.

PCM's trip to Costa Rica



Paul Burgess
PCM Pastoral Resident

For those of us who are a little more removed from our college days, we may have trouble remembering just how involved going to a university can be. Academics, jobs, living situation, meals, friend groups, hobbies, spiritual community— most realms of life pertain somehow to our role as a student. An academic institution (especially a bigger one like UNC) can become its own all-encompassing world. Given this, I hope you can appreciate what a treat it was to take a group of PCM students outside of the UNC bubble— not just outside of Chapel Hill, but outside of our country and culture entirely!

Early in the morning of March 8, nine students (accompanied by Berry and myself) piled into a church van and headed to Charlotte, where we caught a flight to San José, Costa Rica.

We spent the next week or so traveling this beautiful country, learning new things, trying new foods, having new experiences, and generally immersing ourselves in the exhilarating discomfort of international travel.

We were able to spend much of our time in various agro-eco tourism activities. We stayed at a number of fincas (small-time rural farms), learning how various native plants could be used for everything from building to food to soap to firestarters. Many of these fincas were owned by indigenous women, who work together in cooperatives that can sustain their communities in a self-sufficient way. We were welcomed under our hosts' roofs, around their tables, and into their culture. We learned how the pineapple industry (driven largely by US demand) is devastating the local environment and economy— and that this was only the tip of the iceberg in terms of how we are invisibly connected to our siblings the world over. We enjoyed the beauty of Costa Rica's natural resources, swimming in the ocean, oohing and aahing over a veritable ark of sloths, monkeys, frogs, spiders, and snakes.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of a dear friend who's already known to the UPC community: Karla Koll, who partners with UPC through the Presbyterian Mission Agency and has served in Latin America for decades of faithful service. Without Karla's relationships and leadership (not to mention Spanish skills), the trip would not have been nearly as thoughtful, fruitful, or ethically responsible— and parts of it simply wouldn't have happened at all. The setting and faculty of the Latin American Biblical University (the San José seminary where Karla works as a professor) were likewise invaluable in giving us the tools to productively frame and process the whirlwind of a week we shared.

This brings me to our additional mission partner: you. Through your direct support of PCM, through UPC's partnership with missionary workers like Karla, through the myriad ways you demonstrate what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, the life and mission of University Presbyterian Church was a large part of what made this trip possible. It is easy to affirm the connective nature of the global Church with such partners— thank you!



Endowment Report

The UPC Endowment Committee recommended three spring grants which the UPC Session approved at its April meeting. The grants are as follows:

- **Family Health Ministries:** up to \$10,000 toward construction of a new surgical suite in Haiti
- **Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus:** \$10,000 to help endow a new Vice President for Administration
- **UPC Elder Retreat:** \$6,000 to support a pilot one-day retreat in January 2025 at the Summit Center in Brown's Summit, NC. In future years, the intent is for this to be funded through the annual budget.

In addition, the Endowment Committee will disburse two additional grants based on multi-year commitments:

- **Massanetta Springs:** \$10,000 of a \$35,000 commitment over 4 years to help build a new hotel on their property (final payment in 2026)
- **Habitat for Humanity:** \$10,000 of a \$30,000 commitment over 3 years to help fund a Community Center in Weaver's Grove (final payment in 2025)

Actual amount gifted so far in 2024: \$46,000



In late April, UPC hosted a new clergy cohort, modeled after Meg and Jarrett's group, "The Well" (which was modeled after Bob Dunham's group, "The Moveable Feast"). The funding for their first meeting came from a 2023 Endowment Grant. Thank you, Endowment Committee, for investing in PC(USA) ministers!

Session Report

In March and April 2024, the UPC Session:

- Approved 2 baptisms
- Welcomed 11 new members
- Heard a report on the 121st gathering of New Hope Presbytery
- Approved the salary range for the Director of Music position
- Approved a Love Gift collection of Joey Fala
- Authorized the Vision Committee to begin a dialog with CT Wilson regarding proposed renovation projects
- Approved the recommendations of the Endowment committee (see details above)
- Approved Robert Owen as the Endowment Committee Chair



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

UNIVERSITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

209 East Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

(919) 929-2102

upcch.org