



MID-SUMMER
2024 EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



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Our Staff

Meg Peery McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Jarrett McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Dallin Baldwin, Director of Music

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

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

The next edition of *The Chimes* will be published on Aug. 27. Submission deadline is Aug. 13.
Contact: Erin Collier (communications@upcch.org)

Summer Sabbatical Reminders

Who do I call?

While Meg and Jarrett are gone this summer, duties have been divided between our associate pastors:

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

For any emergency pastoral care concerns, please use the on-call line (919.929.2102 x 133). Calling this number will connect you with a member of our pastoral staff who can respond in a timely manner to your urgent concerns.

When are Meg and Jarrett back?

Meg will return on August 12; Jarrett will return on September 6.

For more details, including the preaching schedule, visit upcch.org/sabbatical.

Meet our New Director of Music!

Thanks to the diligent work of our Music Director Search Committee, we joyfully announced in May that we have a new Director of Music! Dr. Dallin Baldwin (pronounced like "Allen" but with a "D") will join us on July 10, and his first Sunday at the organ bench will be July 14. In his own words:

Dear Members of University Presbyterian Church,

I am writing to you with great joy and anticipation as I look forward to beginning my journey as the Director of Music here at University Presbyterian Church. It is with immense gratitude and humility that I step into this role, and I am eager to embark on this path alongside each and every one of you.

Allow me to introduce myself. For the past year, I have had the privilege of serving as the Assistant Director of Choirs at Virginia Tech. In May of this year, I graduated with my Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Choral Conducting from the University of Notre Dame. On a personal note, I have been blessed with a loving and supportive partner, my wife Carlee. We have been married for nearly nine years and have two golden doodles, Gilmore and Norman. They bring us immense joy and laughter each day.

Throughout this entire process, I have felt the unmistakable presence of God guiding me, leading me to this very congregation. It is with a deep sense of conviction and faith that I have accepted this position, knowing that it is a calling I am meant to fulfill. As I step into the role of Director of Music, my heart is filled with excitement and anticipation for the journey ahead. I am committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive music ministry that uplifts and inspires our congregation, drawing us closer to God through the power of music and community.

I am genuinely looking forward to getting to know each of you and to joining together in worship and fellowship. Please know that my door is always open, and I welcome your thoughts, ideas, and feedback as we embark on this journey together.

With warmest regards,

Dallin Baldwin



Dallin will hold open office hours for people to stop by and say hello. Feel free to stop by his office during any of these times:

- Tues., July 16, 12-2 pm
- Thurs., July 18, 12-2 pm
- Tues., July 23, 12-2 pm
- Thurs., July 25, 12-2 pm

Dallin's Education:

- Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting, *University of Notre Dame*, May 2024
- Master of Music in Choral Conducting, *Brigham Young University*, April 2020
- Bachelor of Music in Performance – Organ Emphasis, *Brigham Young University*, April 2018

Dallin's Experience:

- Organist, *St. Michael Lutheran Church (Blacksburg, VA)*
- Visiting Faculty - Assistant Director of Choirs, *Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, VA)*
- Adjunct Faculty, *Indiana University - South Bend (South Bend, IN)*
- Organist and Choir Director, *Grace United Methodist Church (South Bend, IN)*
- Organist and Choir Director, *St. Mary's Episcopal Church (Provo, UT)*
- Organ Scholar, *Cathedral of the Madeleine (Salt Lake City, UT)*

Vacation Bible School 2024



Montreat Worship & Music 2024



Sundays this Summer

School Supply Drive for the Refugee Support Center (July 14)

Chapel of the Cross is coordinating a community school supply drive for the Refugee Support Center. The majority of refugees served through RSC are from Burma but also from DR Congo, Rwanda, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. The supply drive will be serving 350 Pre-K through Grade 12 students with the help of local congregations and community groups. At UPC, we invite you to bring your donations forward in worship on July 14, and we'll then transport them across the street. Only new, unused supplies will be accepted, and we are only collecting physical items, not monetary donations. For the supply list and more details, visit upcch.org/school-supplies.



Guest Preacher, 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.



Home Communion (Aug. 4)

On Sunday, August 4, UPC Elders and Deacons will be visiting members of the church at home to share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together. If you or someone you know would like to be visited on that day to receive communion, please contact Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org). To learn more about home communion, visit upcch.org/home-communion.



Called Congregational Meeting (Aug. 25)

There will be a called congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, Aug. 25 for the purpose of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee regarding the election of our officers. A report will be distributed via email prior to the meeting. This meeting will be in person, in the Sanctuary.

Summer Sunday School (Aug. 11-Sept. 1)

Sundays (Aug. 11-Sept. 1) at 8:45 am in Vance Barron Hall

Please join us for a new summer mini-series, Finding the Gospel in Music. This mini-series gives us a chance to gather together in the warmer months when there is no regular Sunday School offering. We will explore themes of spirituality and grace in the music of contemporary artists. UPC members will lead us in discussion focusing on specific lyrics and styles. All ages are welcome! Questions? Contact Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org).



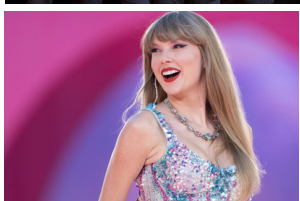
August 11:

Finding the Gospel in the Music of the Appalachian Mountains
led by Gary Crunkleton and Gordon Merklein



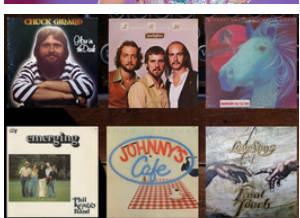
August 18:

Finding the Gospel in the Music of U2 + The Grateful Dead
led by Robert Owen



August 25:

Finding the Gospel in the Music of Taylor Swift
led by Beth Keith and Naomi Sherry



September 1:

Finding the Gospel in the Jesus Music of the 70's and 80's
led by Greg and Vicky Burriss

2025 Trip to Lesotho

In May, we welcomed Mamonyane Mohalo and Sally Harwood from the Ministry of Hope (MOH) Lesotho. We also shared plans for a trip to Lesotho in January 2025. If you are interested in going, please contact Lauren Mann at laurenmann@nc.rr.com for more information. She will be happy to answer any questions as well as provide available dates and some basic cost information for the trip. This trip is open to all members of our congregation.



Meet our New Members



Joe & Jane Bartel

Joe and Jane live in Apex, where they moved to be close to their younger daughter. They have a nonprofit which helps babies in Guatemala born with cleft lip and palate.



Ben King

Ben is a Master of Public Administration student at UNC, originally from Salisbury, NC, and is passionate about disability justice.



Keagan James

Keagan is a Master of Public Administration student at UNC and is originally from Kokomo, Indiana. He loves playing sports and reading.



Emily McNutt

Emily is a UNC dual degree student, studying public administration and social work. Originally from Arizona, she lived in California and Massachusetts before coming to UNC.



Clint & Emily Thomas (Blair)

Clint, Emily and Blair reside in Chapel Hill and are excited about meeting a new church family. They enjoy traveling, trying new restaurants and cheering on the TarHeels!



**Brooke & Nicolai Tvermoes
(Edward, Elizabeth)**

The Tvermoes family is excited to be part of the UPC family!



Steve & Debby Wade

Steve is a retired CPA who enjoys golf, leather working, bee keeping and hiking. Debby loves to play bridge, sewing, pottery, and barn quilt painting.



Interested in joining UPC?

Our next new member lunch will be Sunday, Sept. 22. Look for more details in upcoming publications!

Pictures from "Fala-Fest"



Dear UPC Family,

When I arrived at UPC I was told that this congregation knows how to love its staff well. I have known that to be true throughout my time here, and it has certainly been on full display in the beautiful send-off and generous love gift you have given me. Thank you.

Meg had told me that sometimes a drawn out "goodbye" is hard, but it has given me more than adequate time to tie up loose ends and tell many of you personally how much you have blessed me and my ministry here. I am grateful for the ways God has knit our lives together and also for the meaningful closure to this wonderful chapter.

As our move draws nearer, anxiousness is turning to excitement, especially as I am happy to share that Sarah and I are eager to begin church life together at First Presbyterian in Nashville. I will serve as artist-in-residence and she will lead adult education offerings while finishing her dissertation. It will be a joy to serve together at the same church for the first time.

We are all anticipating Dallin's arrival in July and I look forward to helping him get settled in at UPC. Dallin is not only a superb musician but a warm, sincere, and gracious soul, and I find myself wishing that we could have gotten to be musical colleagues together. I am so happy for him and for you, and I pray for the Lord's continued blessings on the music ministry.

I would love to hear what you and your families are up to, or if you plan to come through Nashville sometime. My email is joeyfala@gmail.com. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and may God be with you until we meet again.

Peace,
Joey Fala



PW Profile: Marian Johnson

Presbyterian Women Circles are a significant part of the sisterhood of Christ within our congregation. UPC has eight Presbyterian Women's Circles. These Circles meet monthly during the program year, sharing time to nurture faith through fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. This time set apart strengthens the women in the Circles' commitment to God and encourages them to love and serve in a broken world. Some Circles have met for decades, others are still forming. Regardless of how long each Circle has been in formation, they are places of shared authenticity, laughter, sorrow, challenge, support, and wisdom.

Recently, PW Communications chair Judy Dorezas sat down with Marian Johnson, a beloved member of UPC since 1968 and a member of Circle #3 for many years. Here is what Marian shared about how being part of a PW Circle has impacted her spiritual life.

God has always been the common bond for Marian's most treasured relationships. She has a favorite verse from Scripture that guides her spiritual life and highlights the importance of sharing faith within a community: "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I will be with you" (Matthew 18:20).

At 97 years young, Marian remembers many people and events that have shaped her faith. On Sunday afternoons, her grandfather, Pop, would go to the prison to read the Bible to those incarcerated there. This act of service taught her about unconditional love, the power of forgiveness, and how hope can sustain people in the midst of despair.

When her children were young, Marian felt that women in the church needed a place to gather without other responsibilities. They needed to be able to take time away from family and gather with other Christian women to share concerns, nurture friendships, and support each other in collective spiritual growth. To help make these gatherings possible, Marian organized and paid someone to babysit all of the children while the women could leave their mothering-duties and assemble together.

To this day, once a month, a Presbyterian Women's Circle gathers in Marian's home. They share fellowship, Bible study, prayer, snacks, laughs, tears - and the blessing that when they gather, God's presence is among them.



Recent Building Updates

Recent work/improvements around the UPC grounds includes:

- Installation of parking lot lights (funded by the 2021 Give Light campaign)
- Replacement of the Terrace Room roof (planned work, funded from the general reserves)
- Repair of the slate around the building (planned work, funded from the general budget)

Thank you to the Property Committee for their work with these projects (and more!)



Star Word Reflection

With temperatures in the high 90s this week and with humidity at historical levels, it is hard to imagine the cold winter day when we received star words on Epiphany in January. We have now been journeying with our star words for seven months. We have entered a new season - one with sunscreen and sweat, strawberries and sunshine - and yet our star words remain the same. As you continue to learn from and grow into the meaning of your star word this summer, remember this poem, "The Summer Day" from poet Mary Oliver:

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?



Where in the World is UPC?

UPC is still on the move this summer! Here are the remaining trips:

**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*!



Session Report

In May and June, the UPC Session:

- Approved 1 wedding
- Welcomed 11 new members
- Heard proposals from the Visioning Committee, held discussions on the proposals, and approved the formation of a fundraising and property committee to move forward with discernment on the proposals
- Heard a report from the Personnel Committee on the hiring of Dallin Baldwin as the new Music Director
- Approved a Congregational Meeting on August 25, 2024 to hear from the Nominating Committee
- Approved the 2025 Communion Calendar
- Approved adoption of the revised Standard of Procedure
- Approved Nancy Oates and Helen Warner as commissioners to the 122nd Gathering of New Hope Presbytery
- Approved Kathy Clemmons as Treasurer for 2024
- Approved Betsy Edwards as Clerk of Session for 2024



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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