

FALL 2024
EDITION



The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



REFLECTIONS FROM SABBATICAL

Meg shares some highlights and
pictures | p. 3-4

RACIAL EQUITY FILM SERIES

Oct. 1 Viewing of *All In: The
Fight for Democracy* | p. 9

NEX-TREX CHALLENGE BEGINS SEPT. 22

Bring in soft film plastics &
packaging for recycling | p. 16

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- Ryan Byrnes**, Director of Operations
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- Erin Collier**, Dir. of Communications & Stewardship
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- Hadley Kifner**, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Nurture
- Nancy Myer**, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
- Ellen Parker**, Director, UPPS
- Sara Richard**, Office Administrator
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- Melani Willhite**, Financial Assistant

The next edition of *The Chimes* will be published on Oct. 15. Submission deadline is Oct. 1.
Contact: Erin Collier (communications@upcch.org)

Bob Dunham to preach Sept. 8



On Sunday, September 8 (the weekend of the Congregational Retreat), we are delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr. Bob Dunham as our guest preacher.

In August, Bob marked 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.

2024-2025 Program Year Kick-Off

The 2024-2025 Program Year begins in September! Our regular schedule will return over a period of two weeks:

September 15: Kick-Off Sunday

Sunday Morning:

9:00 am - Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event

As we kick off the program year on Sunday, Sept 15, join your UPC family for a meal packing event to help tackle world hunger. Together, we'll pack 20,000 meals. Rise Against Hunger combines an assembly line meal packing process with an educational experience not only to make a huge impact worldwide, but to help us all understand how serving our neighbors is a meaningful experience. This is a truly intergenerational event, enabling people of all ages to serve. Registration is required to participate; visit upcch.org/rise to register. Registration is limited to 190 participants.

11:00 am - Worship (with Godly Play resuming)

Sunday Evening: *(more details available on p. 7-8)*

4:00-4:25 pm - Alleluia Choir (Pre-K-5th grade)

4:30-5:10 pm - Choristers (3rd grade and older)

5:15-6:00 pm - Youth Choir (6th-12th grade)

6:00-7:45 pm - Youth Group



Please note the new times for choirs this fall!



September 22: Return of Full Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday Morning:

8:30 am - Worship

9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages

See p. 8 for children's & youth classes; p. 9 for adult classes

11:00 am - Worship

Sunday Evening:

Same as Sept. 15



Sabbatical Thank You from Meg

Part of the joy of sabbatical was having more time to read. Katie Sanford lent me a book of essays by Brian Doyle (*One Long River of Song*) and I slowly doled the pages out across the summer as one would with pieces of dark chocolate. Early on in that collection, Doyle describes a gardening encounter with a shrew, where he says he “paid attention with every shard and iota of my being. Maybe we couldn’t survive if we were like that all the time, but when it happens we see that which none of us can find words for. Sometimes we are starving to see every bit of what is right in front of us.”

These past three months I have been able to pay attention with every shard and iota.

And in front of me, thanks be to God, have been my family and God’s grace on dazzling display in creation.

I got to be a mom and partner in ways that I cannot when I am full time pastor and was able to immerse myself in the wild without needing a tether. Wow. I am deeply grateful.

As I was preparing to return, I knew I’d like to have some of my reflections find their way into the pulpit. Thus my first three sermons back are *Marking Time* (Psalm 90); *Balancing Work* (Luke 10); and *Tending Relationships* (Song of Songs 2).

I’m including some annotated photographs and have a gazillion more if you’d like me to bore you!

Travel highlights included a two-week family adventure to Costa Rica and unexpectedly (frankly because of the Love Gift), Jarrett and I were able to celebrate our 20th anniversary in Alaska, a place he has always wanted to visit. Novel highlights included *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* (McBride) and *The Heart* (de Kerangal). 309 Rossburn Way highlights included a clean garage and decluttered closets (activities that help me declutter my mind as well). Desmond the dog had no highlights; he’s the only one who thought this was a bad idea (lack of routine and his people being away so much was no bueno).

One of the most delightful parts of the sabbatical was returning. Perhaps that sounds odd, but some clergy, when gifted with discernment time, hear the voice of God calling them to something different. I feel so grateful that I felt a strong tug to return to you people. This work is challenging—especially in this tense season—but I cannot imagine myself any place else. I interpret that as a confirmation of a calling. Thanks be to God.

You all know as well as do our congregational leadership (elders and deacons) and your remaining staff did an exceptional job. I cannot overstate this. Berry, Hadley, and Nancy took on significantly more pastoral leadership and the entire staff stepped up in competent and confident ways. Bravo and thank you.

Dear saints of UPC, you honor the spiritual practice of sabbath by your commitment to this long standing sabbatical policy. I sincerely believe it builds the strength of this congregation, and it surely was a gift to me.

Thank you.

Meg



Monteverde Cloud Forest



One-on-one trips with each girl



Skagway, Alaska



Camping in Montreat for the 4th of July



Sloth (laying on his back, looking at you over his chin)



Red-eyed tree frog



Clergy women's retreat with mentor

Pictures from July & August Trips

Pictured on these pages:

- Massanetta Middle School Conference
- Montreat Youth Conference
- Appalachia Service Project



A big thank you to all of our volunteers and chaperones who made our summer trips and activities possible!





Opportunities for Children & Youth

Resuming Sept. 15: Godly Play (during 11 am worship)



During the Program Year (Sept-May), we offer Godly Play for 4 year olds (by 9/1/24)-Kindergarteners in our 11:00 am service. Godly Play provides worship education and faith formation through storytelling, wondering, and creative play. Following the Time with Children, the Godly Play Doorkeeper will lead participating children through the door nearest the pulpit to the Godly Play room. Parents can pick up their children at the conclusion of worship.

? Questions about Godly Play? Contact Nancy Myer (nancy@upcch.org).

Resuming Sept. 15: Children's & Youth Choirs

The program year kicks off on Sept. 15! We'll share more details in the weeks to come, but here's a preview of what to expect for children's and youth choirs. *(Please note the new schedules for each choir.)*



Alleluia Choir (Pre-K-5th grade): Sundays, 4:00-4:25 pm

The Alleluia Choir is a place for young children to sing the faith while learning music fundamentals. This choir sings twice a semester in worship and serves as a preparatory ensemble for the UPC Chorister Program. 3rd - 5th graders who are looking for an opportunity to sing with fewer commitments are welcome to continue singing and to serve as leaders in the Alleluia Choir.



UPC Choristers (3rd grade and older): Sundays, 4:30-5:10 pm

The Chorister Program is for young musicians who are interested in expanding their musicianship and leading worship on a regular basis. Choristers commit to attending regular rehearsals and singing in worship once or twice a month. To see if the Chorister Program may be a good fit, please contact Dallin (dallin@upcch.org).



Youth Choir (6th-12th grade): Sundays, 5:15-6:00 pm

The Youth Choir offers a place for fellowship and faith formation through music-making and prepares anthems to offer in worship alongside the Chancel Choir. Youth Choir members can also sing with the Chancel Choir and attend rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm.

? Questions about choirs? Contact Dallin Baldwin (dallin@upcch.org).

Resuming Sept. 15: Youth Group (Sundays, 6:00-7:45 pm)



Youth Group, also known as Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC for short!) is a safe space for all 6th through 12th grade youth to come and explore their faith, where God is calling them, and to witness the spirit at work in our midst. Through recreation, reflection, and service, we look forward to experiencing God's presence in our midst. All youth are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings this year from 6-7:45 pm (*please note that the end time has changed this year*).



Questions about Youth Group? Contact Tristan Wall (tristan@upcch.org).

Resuming Sept. 22: Sunday School (9:45 am)



Children's Classes:

Nursery care - Rooms 130/134
3 & 4-year-olds - Room 128
K-1st grade - Room 119
2nd grade - 122
3rd-4th grade - 221
5th grade - 214

Youth Classes:

6th-7th grade - Youth Room 106
Confirmation (8th grade) - Youth Center
High School - PCM Lounge



Questions about Sunday School? Contact Nancy Myer (nancy@upcch.org) or Tristan Wall (tristan@upcch.org).

Program Year Registration

If your child or youth (birth-12th grade) will be participating in UPC activities this program year - including nursery care, Sunday School, Godly Play, choirs, youth group, trips, etc. - please help us make sure we have your updated information on file! Visit upcch.org/registration for instructions for how to update your child's information in Realm. Don't have a Realm account, or don't know how to log in? Email Sara Richard (admin@upcch.org).

High School Service Retreat (Nov. 1-3)

All high school youth (9th-12th grade) are invited to join us for a service retreat in Charleston, SC! We will travel for a weekend of service through Charleston Youth Mission. Visit upcch.org/fall-service-trip to sign up and reserve your spot.



Opportunities to Learn

Adult Classes on Sunday Mornings (beginning Sept. 22)

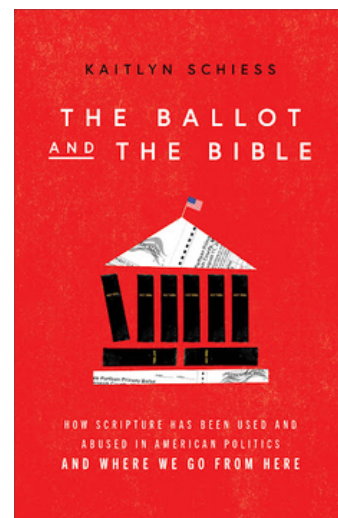
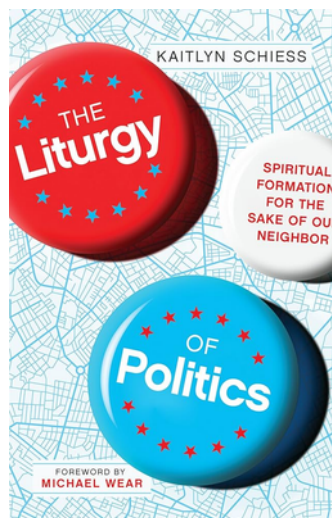
Earth Care Emphasis + A Global Outreach Interlude (Sept. 22 – Oct. 13, in Dunham Hall)

- **Sept. 22 – Earth Care: Recycling 101:** Confused about what you can put into the recycling bin? Frustrated with all the plastic in your life? Come learn the latest from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and Orange County Solid Waste Management, and then hear about UPC's NexTrex Plastic Recycling Challenge.
- **Sept. 29 – Global Outreach Guest Speaker, Dr. Elmarie E-Robinson Parker:** Dr. Elmarie E-Robinson Parker, our missionary partner serving in the Middle East, will be visiting our church and giving a presentation on the work being done in that area. This is a rare opportunity to meet Dr Robinson-Parker in person and hear about the work being done in a very difficult environment.
- **Oct. 6 – Earth Care: Good News, Planet Earth!** Worried about climate change and what humans have done to God's creation? Come learn about amazing developments happening worldwide and discuss actionable items we can take to fight climate change and live more sustainably.
- **Oct. 13 – Earth Care Legislative Update:** Curious about what the North Carolina legislature is doing about climate change? Come hear Mary Maclean Asbill, director of the North Carolina offices of the Southern Environmental Law Center, tell us what is on the horizon for the upcoming legislative session and what we can do to help protect God's creation.



False Gospels: How our Politics Can Lead Us to Miss the True Gospel of Christ (Sept. 22-Oct. 13, in Vance Barron Hall)

This class will offer an exploration and continued discussion of the false gospels described by Katelyn Schiess, drawing from her books *The Liturgy of Politics- Spiritual Formation for the Sake of our Neighbor* (2020) and *The Ballot and the Bible-How Scripture has been used and abused in American politics* (2023). No prior reading necessary. Facilitated by Kyle Beardsley and Cindy Murashima



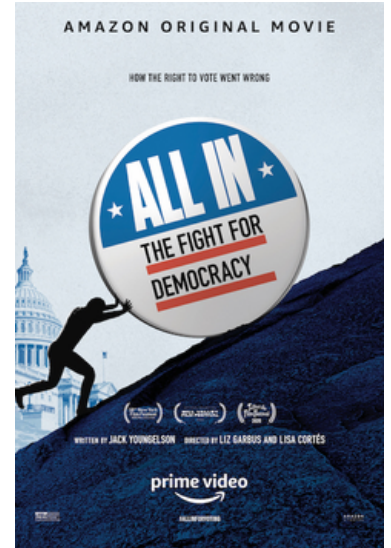
Racial Equity Documentary (Oct. 1, 6:00 pm)

UPC's Racial Equity Team (RET) will offer another Fall Film Series this year in October and November. Our first event will be held at UPC on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 6:00 pm in Dunham Hall. The evening will consist of dinner, highlights from a documentary followed by comments from a guest speaker.

The first film in the series is *All In: The Fight For Democracy*, a documentary about voter suppression in the modern era. Following the showing, Irving Joyner, a law professor at NC Central University will share his insights about these issues in our state. He will speak directly to the impact in NC of the 2013 Supreme Court decision, *Shelby County(AL) v. Holder*.

The event is free and all are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to arrive between 5:45 and 6:00 pm.

Stay tuned for details about our November film and event, as well as information from the RET about voting rights and responsibilities.



An Important Word from Meg

Adapted from the Call to Offering on August 18, 2024

In August, the Racial Equity Team co-sponsored a screening of a film about Christian Nationalism. A beloved UPC member was angered at language used on the film's website which failed to make a vital distinction: not all Republicans are Christian Nationalists who seek to undermine democracy and distort the gospel. That singular conversation led to a bigger one with the Racial Equity Team and then larger congregation about UPC's ongoing commitment to being nonpartisan.

Part of why I missed UPC this summer is because of this.

But Meg, you say, you came back into a conversation that sounds intense and difficult. You're right. That is true.

And what is also true is that:

- Members here are paying attention—even when on vacation! They care deeply. At UPC, there is transparency in our decisions and openness to feedback.
- This congregation is brave enough to talk about hard things that impact our national life—and that is part of our call as disciples. We seek to follow Jesus in all aspects of our lives—socially, financially, politically, personally, spiritually. I do think a careful examination of Christian Nationalism is important.
- UPC is a place not only where all are welcome, but where we acknowledge our need for one another—including our differences. The body of Christ is beautiful in its *diversity*, not its conformity. We don't exist to tell you how to vote or to think; instead, our purpose is to gather around the Word of God and struggle to live the gospel out together— here and now as best we know how.

We do not always get it right, and when we get it wrong, we confess and seek each other's forgiveness, and God's.

I am grateful for this place, for these conversations, and for the grace upon which we stand.

Opportunities to Connect

Vegetarian Second Sunday Lunch (Oct. 13 at 12:00 pm)

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 13, for a potluck fellowship lunch hosted by UPC's Earth Care Team featuring **vegetarian** foods. Here's the plan:

- 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. Please be generous!
- Drop off your food in the Fellowship Hall kitchen prior to 11:00 am worship.
- Please remember to label your dishes and serving spoons with your name if you'd like them back, and pick them up at the end of lunch.
- If your contribution contains allergens or is suitable for those with special dietary needs, please add labels such as "gluten-free," "contains peanuts/tree nuts," or "vegan."
- Are you a student, visitor, or living with a disability? No need to bring anything — just join us for the food and fellowship!



Men's Breakfast (1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 am)

Our Men's Breakfast offers a time of fellowship and conversation on the first and third Mondays of the month. This gathering is a great opportunity to get to know other men in our congregation and learn together. Each session consists of breakfast (typically a fruit bowl and some sort of casserole), followed by a presentation and discussion – the topics vary, but are always interesting!

This group will kick off on Monday, September 16 at 7:00 am in the Terrace Room with an introduction to the programs this year and opportunity to socialize. If you are interested in joining this group, email Dan Redwine (danredwine@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.



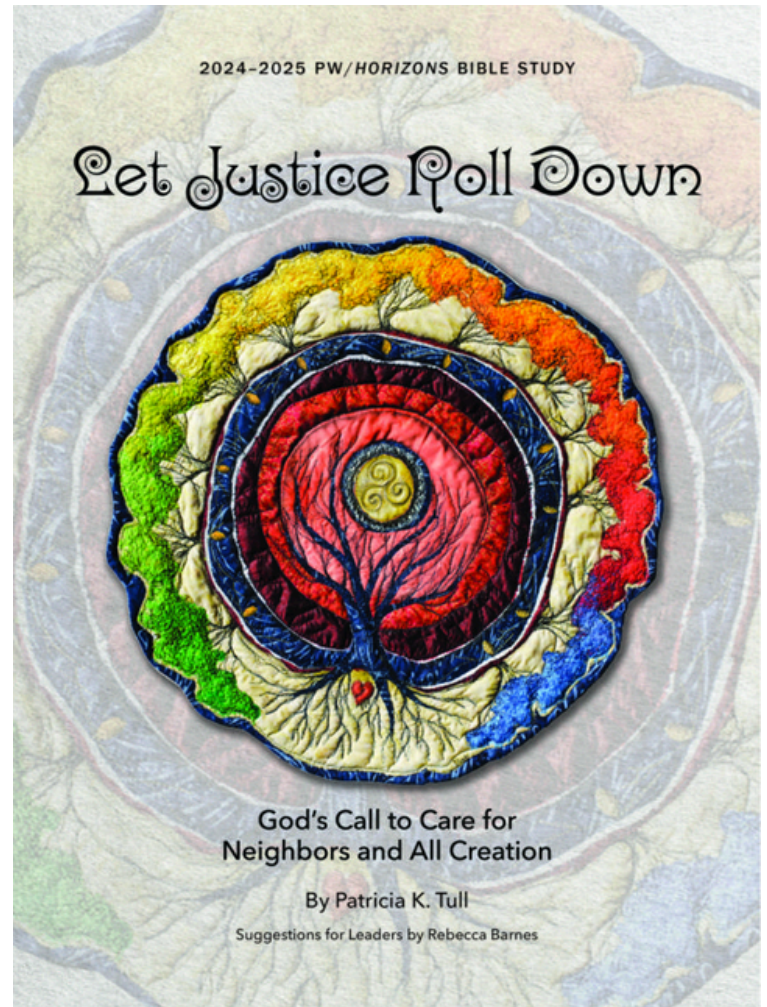
Presbyterian Women's Circles

Presbyterian Women gather in "circles" for a monthly Bible study during the program year (September-May). All women are invited to join! If you're interested in connecting with a PW circle, please contact Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org or 919-929-2102).

- Circle 1: Led by Diane Rizzo and Vicki Lotz, first Wednesdays at 10:00 am in members' homes
- Circle 2: Led by Shelley Adams, second Mondays at 10:00 am in the Game Room at Carolina Meadows
- Circle 3: Led by Catherine DeMaere, first Tuesdays at 10:30 am in members' homes
- Circle 4: Led by Susie Smith and Rachel Harshaw, first Tuesdays at 3:15 pm at Chapel in the Pines/by Zoom
- Circle 5: Led by Mary Ellen Olson and Betsy Edwards, first Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in members' homes
- Circle 6: Led by Helen Brantley, third Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Heron Room at Carol Woods
- Circle 7: Led by Melanie Wills, third Mondays at 7:00 pm in Vance Barron Hall
- Circle 8: Led by Lizzie Lange, once a month on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in Vance Barron Hall

This year's PW Bible Study: *Let Justice Roll Down* by Patricia K. Tull

According to Scripture, the earth and its members belong to God. We are called to care for creation not only because God loves it, but also because a healthy creation supports human well-being. We are called to care for neighbors and creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. This PW/*Horizons* Bible study is an invitation to explore and to act, with all our hearts, in responding to an issue that impacts all life on God's earth. Readers will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. Further, readers will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in large and small ways.



Opportunities to Worship

Fall Sermon Series: Grounded

This fall we will be bombarded with bids for votes, allegiance, money, time, and anxious reactions. UPC's sanctuary windows are clear-paned-glass to remind us that we are part of the community around us, but we know that the church does not provide blinders from the world and its chaos. But church does give a story to gather around: the story of God's love made known in Jesus Christ. Amid the conflicting narratives on the news, UPC will seek to hold fast to the truest truth we know—our baptismal identity—we belong to God. In worship this fall we'll explore what it means to be grounded in that truth.

Rather than being swept up into anxiety or sunk low into despair, we will stay grounded in our faith in the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

Together, as a witness to a fractured world, let us stand with our feet firmly rooted in the good news of the gospel.

September 15: Holy Ground (Exodus 3: 1-14)

September 22: Ground Rules (Romans 12: 9-18)

September 29: You're Grounded (Acts 5: 1-16)

October 6: Holding your Ground (2 Kings: 5: 1-19)

October 13: Rooted and Grounded (Ephesians 3: 14-21)

October 20: Borrowed Ground (Deuteronomy 6: 4-12)

October 27: God's Playground (Zechariah 8: 1-8)

Taizé Worship resumes on September 17

Lasting about 30 mins, a Taizé service includes chant-like simple songs sung repeatedly, surrounded by brief periods of silence, Scripture, and prayer. We invite you to come as you are and invite anyone else who may desire a simple evening of singing, praying, and sacred reflection.

We will gather on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm for our monthly Taizé services, in either the Memorial Garden or the Sanctuary (we will communicate the location in advance of each date). Mark your calendars now for these Taizé dates:

- September 17
- October 15
- November 19
- *no Taizé in December*
- January 21
- February 18
- March 18
- *no Taizé in April*
- May 20



Opportunities to Serve

Cook for the Inter-Faith Council (Oct. 17)

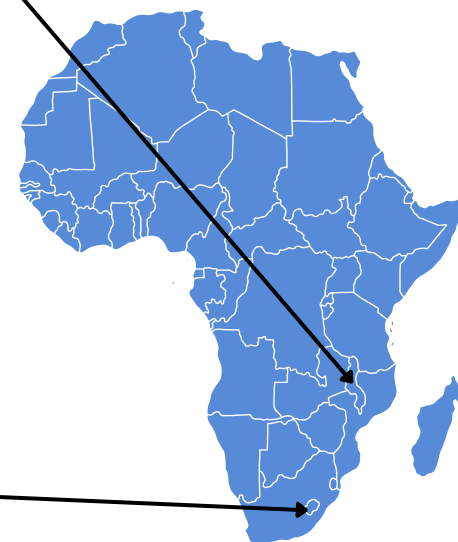
Through the Outreach Committee, UPC supports the Inter-Faith Council (IFC) Community Kitchen, providing meals for the homeless. On Thursday, October 17, we will provide dinner for 80 people: chili, cornbread, salad and fixings, fruit, desserts, and beverages. Would you be willing to help provide food for this meal? You could cook a batch of chili, bake some cornbread or dessert items, fix a salad, or buy some fruit or beverages.

Visit upcch.org/volunteer and click the "Cook for IFC" button to learn more and sign up to provide one or more items for this meal. Questions? Contact Melinda Evans (melinda.evans@gmail.com).



International Trips with Global Outreach

The Medical Benevolence Foundation is offering an opportunity to travel to **Malawi** for a vision trip **October 4 – October 13, 2024!** During this trip, you'll meet the people and see the places that are vital components of MBF's burgeoning country wide medical network in Malawi. We'll interact with Church leadership, hospital administrators, spiritual ministry leads, doctors, nurses, patients, families, mother and babies, students and many, many more. The network of Church-owned hospitals, clinics, and nursing schools that we will visit is proving to be a successful demonstration project that will form the basis of MBF partner networks in other African countries in future years. We'll see how it all works and learn about the life-saving impact that coordinated healthcare networks provide in low- and middle-income countries of the developing world. Estimated Cost Per Person: \$2,200 airfare + \$1,600 in-country expenses. If you are interested in this trip, please contact Lauren Mann at laurenmann@nc.rr.com for information on how to sign up.



The mission trip to visit the **Ministry of Hope home for children in Lesotho** is still open for registration. The two potential travel dates are **January 9-17 or January 16-25, 2025**. If you are interested in this trip, please contact Lauren Mann at laurenmann@nc.rr.com for further information.



Opportunities to Give

UPPS Scholarship Fund

University Presbyterian Preschool students and teachers were excited to return to school in September! This year UPPS is continuing our Earth Care curriculum to help build pro-environmental literacy and habits starting at a young age. And we are overjoyed to continue our GrandFriends program in the spring so we can build new inter-generational relationships between our students and members of our congregation.

In the past, the UPC congregation has been supportive in so many ways to the mission of the preschool. One way to continue this support is to link your Harris Teeter VIC card to University Presbyterian Preschool so that we can earn back a small portion of your Harris Teeter brand purchases. Another way to support the preschool is by donating to our Scholarship Fund. This year alone, we will be awarding over \$20K in Scholarships! This is great news as it means we have the opportunity to nurture a large number of children who otherwise would not have benefitted from a preschool education prior to entering Kindergarten, which research tells us will help boost their readiness and success in school. If you would like to support the UPPS Scholarship Fund, donations can be through the Give Online link on UPC's website, or checks made out to UPPS (memo: Scholarship Fund) can be mailed or dropped off on Sundays.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Relief Fund

On July 18, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church (Lucama, NC/Wilson County) had a fire. The church's steeple was struck by lightning, and the sanctuary was completely destroyed.

Spring Hill has set up an emergency relief fund. If you would like to contribute to this relief fund, you may do so by using the "Give online" button on the UPC website and choosing the "Spring Hill Presbyterian Church" dropdown. You may also write a check to UPC and put "Spring Hill" in the memo line. We hold the Spring Hill congregation in our prayers.



Earth Care NexTrex Challenge (beginning Sept. 22)

UPC will begin participating in the NexTrex® Plastic Film Recycling Challenge on September 22! Please start bringing your qualifying soft film plastics and packaging -- including plastic grocery/shopping bags, bread and cereal bags, bubble wrap, shipping envelopes, sandwich bags and other plastics -- and drop them into one of UPC's NexTrex collection bins. If we collect over 1,000 pounds of acceptable plastic in a 12-month period, UPC will win a Trex® composite bench made of recycled plastic!

See the list of acceptable plastics below. All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue. For more info, visit nextrex.com/view/recyclingchallenge.



Food Drive for TABLE (Oct. 6)

As part of our offering on World Communion Sunday, you're invited to bring non-perishable food items for TABLE to use in their weekly food distribution. Please only purchase items from the list below, and keep the sodium/sugar content in mind:

- Whole grain breakfast/granola bars with protein (*note sugar*)
- Instant oatmeal packets, left in original box (*plain is a great option*)
- Cans of tuna or chicken
- 1 lb. bags of long grain or brown rice
- 1 lb. bags of beans (*black, pinto, chickpeas, lentils*)
- 1 lb. boxes/bags of whole grain spaghetti noodles
- Cans of spaghetti sauce (*15 oz. or smaller; no glass please!*)
- Boxes of mac & cheese (*note sodium*)
- Individually packaged raisins, nuts, or trail mix (*note sugar*)
- 100% juice - multi-pack juice box size (*note sugar*)
- Shelf-stable milk (*32 oz or less*)
- Peanut butter (*plastic 14 oz. or smaller plastic jar*)
- Non-perishable fruit/applesauce cups or cans (*in water not in syrup, no added sugar*)
- Squeezable pouches (such as GoGo Squeez) of fruits and veggies

Nutrition Guidelines for TABLE

Food Donations (per serving):

- 7g or less of added sugar
- 600mg or less of sodium
- 4g or less of saturated fat



Meet our New PCM Fellow

My name is Jillian (or Jill) Marcantonio, and I am the new Fellow in Campus Ministry for PCM! As a Fellow, I will work with Berry and Paul to support the student leadership team and to care for the whole PCM community, and I will lead a weekly Bible study. College was a foundational time for me as a human being, person of faith, and member of the larger church; professors, pastors, mentors, and peers provided safe places for me to wrestle with questions of all kinds, and that was nothing short of God's grace. I am excited to take part in PCM's mission to offer that place of belonging to students as we learn together how much God loves us.

I grew up in a tight-knit family and church community in New Jersey, close to both the beach and New York City. As a child, God called me to ministry, but I imagined it primarily taking place in the classroom. I studied theology as an undergraduate in the Midwest before returning to Jersey to attend Princeton Theological Seminary. Seminary provided me with many teaching opportunities at church and affirmed my desire to bridge the gap between the academy and local congregations. Spurred by that call, I have spent the past six years studying theology at Duke and am currently finishing my dissertation on the Holy Spirit in ancient Christian hymns.

Durham has become my home. When not studying theology or teaching Duke students, I have spent these years investing in my church community at Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. There, I serve on the committee for ministry partnerships in Durham, lead a young adult small group, and mentor high school and college students. I have also begun the process of ordination through New Hope Presbytery, as my community and I discerned God calling me beyond the academy. Outside of church and school, I enjoy pursuing beauty of various kinds—in my friendships, in live music, in traveling, and in walks along the Eno River.

Thank you for your continued care and support for PCM! Your prayers and faithfulness to this ministry is vital. Even in these early days, I have seen how God is at work in this place, and I look forward to seeing what the Spirit will do in our midst.

For over 25 years, PCM has been a teaching ministry helping shape the future of PCUSA leadership by working with seminary interns as they get in-the-field experience and mentoring. In addition to the seminary intern program and position, in spring of 2021 PCM launched our pilot Pastoral Resident position: a 2 year, full-time position for a recent seminary graduate to work with PCM and with Cary Presbyterian Church (20 hours/week each). Rev Kim Rubish was our pilot resident, and the Rev. Paul Burgess is currently one year into that two-year position.

In addition to PCM's Pastoral Resident (and replacing the seminary intern position for now), PCM now has a 20-hour per week Fellow in Campus Ministry position for a second recent seminary graduate. Due to PCM significant growth both in terms of numbers (we had 85 student active in PCM last spring, and currently have more than 60 students already active this semester in the first week of class), and in terms of depth of programming (we've added retreats, additional small groups, and a weekly senior vocational small group), we recently hired Jillian as our Fellow in Campus Ministry. Though the campus minister's salary comes out of UPC's budget, both PCM's Resident and Fellow's salaries are paid for by PCM annual budget. Both Paul and Jill work 20 hours a week, year-round to support the ministry of PCM and care for the students who find a home here. In addition to caring for our college students well with trained clergy, PCM continues to invest in seminary graduates and mentor young clergy in the PCUSA.



Summer Sunday Selfies

Thank you to all of our guest preachers and liturgists who helped lead worship this summer!

Here are just a few of our "Summer Sunday Selfies" celebrating all who were part of worship during this sabbatical summer.



Area Mental Health Professionals

The Mental Health Task Force has updated and expanded a list of local psychotherapists for congregation members seeking a referral. The list includes the therapist's training, licensure, years of experience, specialty areas, insurance accepted, and if they are accepting new clients. Although the church cannot endorse therapists, all those listed are known and recommended by members of the Task Force and/or congregation. The list is now available upon request from Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org).



Congregational Meeting Report

At a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 25, the congregation received the Nominating Report and approved the following slate of nominees for Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members:

Elder, Class of 2025:

Matt Marvin

Elders, Class of 2027:

John Blythe

Catherine Duncan

Kristin Hiemstra

Carter Lovelady (youth elder)

Whitney Martin

Lawrence Sizemore II

John Wallace

Amy Wilson

Ken Younts

Deacons, Class of 2027:

Allie Broman-Fulks

Gary Crunkleton

Becky Dallke

Joe Deese

Katie Edmiston

Bob Greenwood

Frances Hess

Billy Parks

JoAnna Younts

Nominating Committee:

Mark Bozyski

Heather Hutchins

Vicki Lotz

Chuck Osborne



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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