

SUMMER 2025
EDITION



The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



BELOVED COMMUNITY PILGRIMAGE

An opportunity to learn about
Civil Rights history | p. 2

MEET OUR SUMMER INTERN, AP LANCASTER

She'll help with children and
youth this summer | p. 6

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We're moving forward with a
campaign this fall | p. 12

In this Edition...

Pastor's Message.....	2
Pictures from Holy Week & Easter.....	3-4
Summer Sundays at UPC.....	5
Meet our Summer Intern, AP.....	6
Where is UPC this summer?.....	6
Upcoming Recitals at UPC.....	7
Racial Equity Learning Opportunity: June 18.....	8
Consider Becoming a Stephen Minister.....	8
Pilgrimage to Iona (May 2026).....	9
Mission Trip to Lesotho (January 2026).....	9
Pictures from the HS Sabbath Retreat.....	10
Meet Some of Our New Members.....	11
Capital Campaign Update.....	12
PCM Graduation Reflections.....	13
Updates from UPPS.....	14
Spring Endowment Report.....	15
Session Report.....	15

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

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The next edition of *The Chimes* will be published on Aug. 26. Submission deadline is Aug. 12.
Contact: Erin Collier
(communications@upcch.org)

Nancy is back from sabbatical!



Nancy is back after three months of rest and renewal, just in time for summer fun. Look for more about her adventures in a future edition of the Chimes!



I've been thinking about the difference between the following two statements:

1. "I'm going on a trip."
2. "I'm going on a pilgrimage."

From the outside, they sure look similar. Transportation is involved – planes, trains, and automobiles. You're liable to tour significant sites wherever it is that you're going. You have to eat, so of course, there's a sampling of local cuisine because food is an important part of any culture. They may look the same, but a tourist and a pilgrim are quite different.

A tourist travels for personal enjoyment. A pilgrim travels for transformation.

Hear me, there is not one thing wrong with traveling for pleasure. We are called to glorify God and enjoy him forever, and often that joy is found in exploring God's creation. We are also called to deepen our discipleship, to grow in faith, and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. A pilgrimage is one way to achieve this, as an interior journey happens alongside exterior travel.

In the fall of 2025, UPC's Racial Equity Team invites you to go on a pilgrimage through the American South. UPC member Linda Kopel has been hard at work organizing this pilgrimage with Binkley Baptist Church and the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition (OCCRC). The itinerary includes landmark sites of the Civil Rights movement as well as other locations significant to the black experience in the United States.

As I write this article, it is the fifth anniversary since George Floyd died under the knee of a law enforcement officer; five years since the slogan "I Can't Breathe" was emblazoned across countless protest signs, communicating something of what it means to be black in this country. These past years have felt like quite a pendulum swing when I consider the topic of race in America: initial reckonings with a racist past, followed by significant retreat as federal policy punishes organizations for maintaining diversity programs.

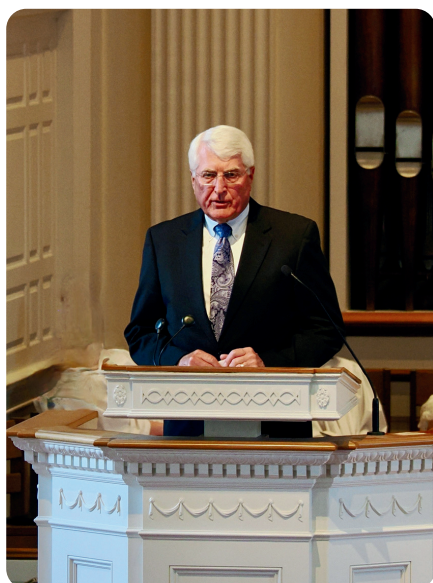
It has also been five years since the Session of UPC commissioned a racial equity team to help the congregation consider race in America through the lens of our faith. I give thanks for each person, past and present, who has served on that team and for the opportunities they have provided for us to be thoughtful about our identity as Christians. Through countless classes, forums, book studies, and documentary viewings, we have discussed everything from voting rights to reparations, environmental justice for the Rogers Road community, and stories of local lynchings.

Thanks in large part to the work of the Racial Equity Team, when I consider the past five years, I feel as if I have grown as an individual and I pray that is so. With humility I confess that there are miles to go before I sleep. I also feel as if UPC has changed as well – and we, also, have miles still to go.

I humbly invite you to consider this "Beloved Community" pilgrimage as another opportunity for God to continue the good work begun in us. If you would like more information about the Pilgrimage you can read about it at cfsnc.org/BCJ25. If you would like to ask any questions please feel free to contact Linda Kopel (ljkopel1@gmail.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pictures from Holy Week & Easter





Summer Sundays at UPC



Summer Schedule

Our Summer Sunday schedule is:

- 10:00 am - Worship in the sanctuary (available via livestream)
 - Nursery care will be available for infants-4 year olds
- 11:00 am - Punch on the Porch
 - Visit upcch.org/volunteer to sign up to help



Summer Liturgists

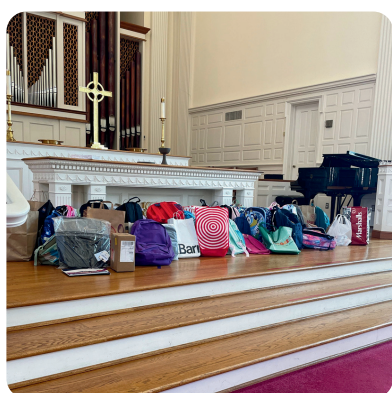
Liturgy means “the work of the people.” We are leaning into the fullness of that definition this summer with the inclusion of lay liturgists (church members leading worship). If you would be interested in serving as a liturgist this summer, please email Meg (meg@upcch.org)

We don't worship alone, but as a collective, and the work is not only for those in robes to do on behalf of the congregation, but something we all do together. Thank you for helping us embody what we believe to be true.



Summer Choir (June 8 & July 13)

On June 8 and July 13, we will gather for a Summer Choir—an intergenerational ensemble open to all, regardless of musical background or experience. Rehearsal will take place at 9:00 am in the Priscilla D. Bevin Memorial Choir Suite, followed by singing in the 10:00 am worship service. No auditions, no robes, no pressure—just fun, meaningful music and a chance to sing alongside folks of all ages. Come give it a try! Contact Dallin (dallin@upcch.org) if you have any questions.



School Supply Drive (collection date: July 13)

Help us collect school supplies for the Refugee Support Center! 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 13, and we'll then transport them to the community drive. 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.

Meet our Summer CYM Intern, AP Lancaster

This summer, we are excited to have Anna Page (AP) Lancaster joining us as an intern for children's and youth ministries. AP started her work with us on May 20 and will be with us through July 29, during our busiest summer months. She'll be assisting with all things children and youth this summer: leading recreation at VBS, attending all our summer trips, and facilitating youth and children's gatherings throughout the summer. She will be in the office throughout the summer (except when on trips), so please feel free to stop by and say hello!

From AP: "Hi! My name is Anna Page (most people call me AP!) and I am so excited to be this summer's Children & Youth Ministry Intern! A Maryland native, I am a rising senior at UNC with a major in Human Development and Family Science. I have been a Youth Advisor for the past two years and am thrilled to carry on this experience into a summer role. I found UPC through the Presbyterian Campus Ministry during my freshman year. I was on PCM's Leadership Team this past school year as a Kitchen Coordinator and am so excited to be next year's Moderator! This summer, I am most excited to go to Massanetta for the first time and make lasting memories!"



A special word of gratitude to the UPC Endowment for funding this position. We are blessed to be able to offer this internship and church leadership training experience to such a gifted young leader at UPC this summer.

Where 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 16-19 at New Hope Presbyterian Church

Montreat Worship & Music Conference (children & youth):

June 22-28 in Montreat, NC

Appalachia Service Project (older youth & adults):

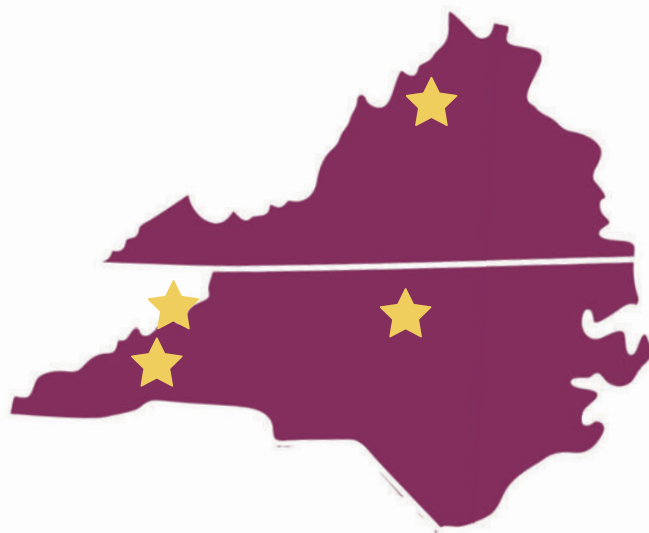
July 6-12 in Carter County, TN

Massanetta Middle School Conference (middle school youth):

July 10-13 in Harrisonburg, VA

Montreat Youth Conference (high school youth):

July 20-26 in Montreat, NC



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 a special edition of *The Chimes* later this summer!

Upcoming Recitals

the THOMAS BROWN RECITAL SERIES

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liam Drake

concert pianist



SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025
3:00 PM

Free and open to the public.

Saturday, June 7, 3:00 pm -
Tom Brown Recital Series
Presents: Liam Drake, pianist

Join UPC senior Liam Drake for his last recital as a high schooler, featuring composers' most emotional farewells to the piano literature: Schubert's aching Fantasia for four hands, Brahms' tranquil lullabies, Beethoven's profound final sonata, and more.



In Concert!
Summer 2025



Friday, June 13, 7:00 pm -
IMPACT Youth Choir

IMPACT Youth Choir from Burke Presbyterian Church present a choral concert as part of their summer tour. Burke Presbyterian is in Northern Virginia and is the congregation that Meg and Jarrett served before being called to UPC.

Racial Equity Learning Opportunity: June 18

American Coup: Wilmington 1898 – Film and Discussion

Wednesday, June 18 (6:00 – 8:30 pm)

Location: Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room B

Registration Required:

chapelhillpl.librarycalendar.com/event/american-coup-wilmington-1898

In honor of Juneteenth, join us at Chapel Hill Public Library for a free screening of *American Coup: Wilmington 1898*. The film shares the story of the deadly race massacre and carefully orchestrated insurrection in North Carolina's largest city, Wilmington, in 1898. This event is part of a statewide effort to share the story of the massacre, its place in US history, and its lasting impact.



Cori Greer-Banks, Director of UNC's Carolina K-12 program will lead a panel discussion after the film screening. Panelists are:

- Dr. Antwain Hunter, Assistant Professor of History, UNC
- Professor Irving Joyner, Charles Hamilton Houston Endowed Chair and Professor of Law, NCCU
- Historian LaRae Umfleet, author of *A Day of Blood: the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot*

This program is brought to you by the library's Community History program, Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition, and Carolina K-12, in partnership with PBS North Carolina and Working Films. The movie is available to stream online at PBS NC (pbsnc.org/watch/american-coup-wilmington-1898/).

Consider Becoming a Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministry is an important way we as a congregation carry out our mission to share God's love with those undergoing difficult or painful times. UPC currently needs additional Stephen Ministers; we will be participating in a new training beginning in August.

This next training begins on August 28 and will continue on Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:00 until January 22, 2026, with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas. As a Stephen Minister you will be well trained and supported to provide a high level of emotional and spiritual care to people experiencing a wide range of life difficulties.

What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, explore feelings, pray, share Christ's love, attend to the caregiving process and leave the results to God, and, very importantly, they do all this confidentially. Stephen Ministers extend a listening ear and care to people who are: grieving, in a crisis, dying, hospitalized, divorcing, experiencing losses or difficulties with family relationships, and numerous other life issues.

Serving as a Stephen Minister is an enjoyable, transformative experience. If you have a caring nature and genuinely enjoy helping others, you should consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

Contact Hadley Kifner (hadley@upcch.org, 919.929.2102 x 113) to learn more and/or to fill out an application. This may well be one of the best life decisions you make.



Pilgrimage to Iona (May 2026)

UPC is planning its first international sacred trip in several years, and we invite you to discern whether to join us. With the guidance of Eric Doss from Progressive Pilgrimage, we have crafted an eleven-day trip that focuses on the exploration of the history of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland and an introduction to Celtic Spirituality. Highlights of the pilgrimage include time in Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, and Stirling; a journey to the Isle of Iona with its evocative abbey; and day trips to key sites related to the life and ministry of John Knox in St. Andrews and Edinburgh. The dates for this trip are May 12-22, 2026.

Registration is currently open to UPC members only and will open to non-members on Aug. 1. For details and to access the registration link, visit upcch.org/iona.

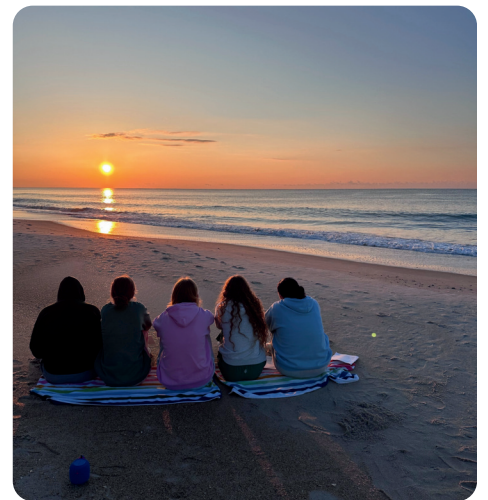


Mission Trip to Lesotho (January 2026)

Do you like international travel? Are you interested in seeing some of the outreach work that UPC supports globally up close? If you answered yes to these questions, please consider joining a mission trip to visit the Ministry of Hope home for children in Lesotho, Africa in January 2026. Founder Nancy Dimmock will lead a small group to visit the children and work around the home doing maintenance/upgrade projects. The trip is approximately a week long and does involve some manual labor, but you will also spend a lot of time playing and interacting with the 27 wonderful children aged from infancy through high school. If you are interested and would like more information, contact Lauren Mann at laurenmann@nc.rr.com.



Pictures from the HS Sabbath Retreat



Meet Some of Our New Members!



**Eric Arehart & Lisa Zweede
(Lexi Zweede-Arehart)**

Eric and Lisa are physicians. The family enjoys walks with their new puppy, dinners together, movies together, trips to visit family, and bike riding.



Zach Bradshaw

Zach is a Customer Success Manager and is married to UPC member Katie Edmiston. In their free time they like to play ultimate frisbee, travel and, attend any live sports.



**Josh & Courtney Evron
(Harris, Holden)**

Josh and Courtney moved to Chapel Hill 6 years ago and work in healthcare. The family enjoys spending time together, staying active, and being outside as much as possible.



Claire Gibbon

A Clemson native and graduate, Claire is a pediatric oncology nurse who likes to hike and play tennis and pickle-ball. She also likes reading, traveling, and hanging out with friends and family.



**Chris & Jen Handy
(Lucy, Eliza)**

Chris is an Economics professor at UNC, and Jen does antipoverty nonprofit work. He enjoys running and playing tennis, and she enjoys reading.



**Travis & Jennifer Puff
(Irelynn, Livie, Tessa)**

Travis and Jennifer met in Raleigh and raised their 4 girls in Cary, NC. Jennifer works as an oncology nurse and Travis works in technology sales.



Confirmation Class of 2025

On May 4, UPC joyfully welcomed 15 confirmands into full membership!

Capital Campaign Update

On April 10, representatives from the Campaign Readiness Committee presented their recommendation to the Session. They reported strong and thoughtful input from the congregation throughout the study, with more than 290 members attending a listening session and 41% of all households completing a survey.

Based on this feedback, the Committee recommended moving forward with a campaign focused on the most critical priorities identified: the HVAC system, projects focused on inclusion, sanctuary updates that align with the first two priorities, and a locally focused tithe. After thoughtful discussion and deliberation, your Session approved moving forward with a campaign. As part of the proposal, they also approved to continue partnering with our consultants, Mendi and Shannon from Armstrong McGuire.

To read a summary of the feasibility study findings, visit upcch.org/capital-campaign.

We have formed a Campaign Cabinet and are refining the scope of the campaign to align with the most critical priorities identified in the study, and we look forward to sharing more as the work unfolds.

The anticipated timeline is:

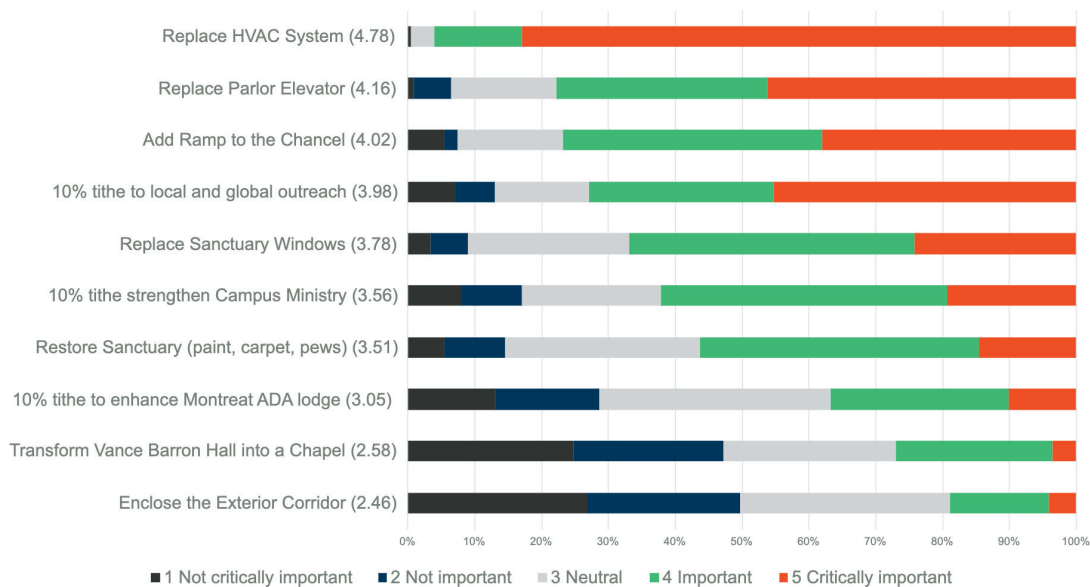
- Quiet Phase: Invite early commitments from church leaders and families who have indicated a willingness to consider an early investment (summer 2025)
- Determine final goal number based upon quiet phase response.
- Public Phase: Launch a comprehensive 3-year capital campaign in fall 2025 alongside the annual Stewardship Campaign.

We are grateful to everyone who provided feedback during this process. Your honesty and thoughtfulness helped us discern a clear and achievable path forward.

Campaign Cabinet:

Debbie Bevin
John Blythe
Allison Chambers
Megan Crunkleton
Jim Evans
Jay Klompmaker
Anna Rose Medley
Jonathan Robinson
Meg Robinson
Kelly Ross
Bill Whisenant
John Wilson
Ashley Wilson
Ken Younts

THE PRIORITIES *(ranked according to congregational feedback)*





Hello, University Pres!

It's the end of another academic year, and PCM has officially sent the class of 2025 into the world with a heartfelt blessing as they graduate, not only from college into the post-grad world, but from campus ministry into new ways of being the Church. As you are one of those "new ways of being the Church," consider this a letter of recommendation for those who are newly-entrusted to your care.

I wish you could meet each of the students who just graduated from PCM. To a person, they are intelligent, kind, and honorable. They see the world as it is with compassion, the world as it could be with hope, and the gap between the two with clarity and incredible courage. They have overcome daunting obstacles and profound grief, and it has only redoubled their pursuit of community and connection. I am certain that they will continue to be sowers of goodness, even as what they have planted at PCM blooms and brings forth fruit.

The grief I feel at saying goodbye to these extraordinary young saints is softened somewhat by knowing that there are good people—people like you—who will welcome and guide them as they continue to work out what it means to be a person following Christ's call in this hurting, messy, unbearably beautiful world. I hope that you will offer them your wisdom and patience. I hope that you will receive their passion and hope. I hope that you will both be blessed with connection and love born of God's grace.

That, beloved friends, is the labor that I commend to you.

As you turn to this task, know that for every graduating student that has blessed this ministry with their gifts, there is—God willing—a high school senior preparing to step onto UNC's campus for the first time as a student. They are full of enthusiasm, ready to learn, brimming with questions, and unafraid to run full-tilt at the complications of a life of faith. In PCM, they will find a place of belonging and guidance as they plumb the depths of their own belief and grow towards who God created them to be...something PCM can do because of the support, nurture, and love of partners in ministry like yourselves, and like those who have recently graduated. And in four years, I trust that those new students will be ready to graduate themselves, having been prepared by this community and in turn contributing to the preparation of those who come after them.

And so the Spirit's good work continues, rolling on as surely as the waves of the sea.

Thanks be to God!



News from UPPS

Teaching Changes at UPPS

The end of a school year at UPPS is always bittersweet: we celebrate the year of growth and love with our students, but we are sad to have to say goodbye. This year we have several UPPS teachers who are retiring, moving, or taking a teaching pause. We will miss Ms. Lisa, Ms. April, Ms. Katie Weber, and Ms. Myra. UPC member Myra McVicker joined the UPPS teaching staff in 2011 and has been a well-loved teacher and co-worker to so many. She also has served several years on the UPPS Committee as the Teacher Representative. As always, we have some amazing teachers ready to join the teaching staff for next year: UPC member Hanna Porter (Fours Class), PCM Board Member Sarah Thomson (Transitional Fives Class), and Taylor Redd (Three's Bees Class). Please join us in wishing our departing teachers best wishes and welcoming in our new teachers!



GrandFriends

This Spring UPPS wrapped up another session of GrandFriends, which saw senior members and friends of UPC volunteering over 6 weeks to eat lunch with students from our Transitional Fives class. This is such a valuable experience for our children, who get to practice social skills while also enjoying undivided adult attention. We are grateful to all of the GrandFriend volunteers and to UPPS Committee member Winnie Morgan who organized the experience! We will bring back GrandFriends next spring so please prayerfully consider joining us and look for announcements in 2026 about signing up.



Endowment Report

In Spring 2025, the Endowment Committee endorsed and the UPC Session approved the following disbursements from the Endowment:

- \$20,000 for a Youth Center renovation to help purchase furniture and other essential resources to enhance the youth center's capacity to support fellowship, worship, and education for our growing youth ministry program
- \$2,250 to purchase an AED and first aid kit for the PCM wing (when the main office is closed/locked, those in the PCM wing are unable to access any of the AED or first aid materials in other areas of the church)
- \$4,860 to fund a summer intern for our children's and youth ministries (see p. 6 to meet our summer intern!)
- \$10,000 for the IFC HomeStart Shelter to repair or update the 5 bathrooms in the 3 units of the HomeStart shelter, which houses women and children
- \$15,000 for Ministry of Hope – Lesotho to build a new shower facility
- \$10,000 for Haiti Outreach Ministries to help with the construction of a new multi-purpose building, which will serve as a cafeteria, chapel, and meeting space for the Barye Fe Secondary School expansion

In addition, there are disbursements for two previous long-term commitments: \$5,000 to Massanetta Springs and \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity for the Weaver Grove development.

The Endowment Committee also decided to “roll over” the following amounts:

- \$12,085 undesignated endowment funds from 2024 into 2025, added to the remaining allocation for the fall
- \$6,000 for the 2024 allocation for a PCM Spring Break Trip (cancelled), also added to the fall allocation
- \$6,000 for the 2025 Elder Retreat (cancelled due to winter weather), allocated for the 2026 Elder Retreat

The remaining funds for Fall 2025 (including the amounts rolled over) are \$23,820.

Session Report

In April and May, the UPC Session

- Met with Armstrong-McGuire consultants and approved proceeding with work on a Capital Campaign
- Welcomed 15 confirmands and 9 new members into membership
- Discussed the national deportations and UNC student visa revocations and the best way for the church to respond to live into our values
- Heard a report from the Earth Care Team on their work and discussed how the church could expand its role in environmental action
- Heard an update on PCM and its continued work with students and mentoring and training future campus ministers
- Heard a report from the 124th Gathering of New Hope Presbytery
- Approved the spring endowment disbursements (details above)
- Approved the Trip/Retreat Behavioral Covenant



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



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