

## WHAT'S INSIDE

[Watch Welcome Back Video!](#)



umstead park  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST  
*a thoughtful and progressive community of faith*



**EVERY FRIDAY: Weekly Update**

with weekend information, Sunday links & bulletin, link to the previous newsletter, and reminders for the next week.

**FIRST WEEK (of the month) Monthly Newsletter**

with calendar, sign-ups, and detailed information about upcoming programs and events.

Also watch Facebook and Instagram!

### Pastoral Letter by Rev. Paula Womack

UPUCC Family,

I want to express to you all how grateful I am for the trust you have placed in me to become your very first Minister with Online Community! It has been exciting to begin this work, and I look forward to what we may be able to create together. I have been convinced for a while now that our church and other churches need recognition that online community in church is here to stay, and need to find ways to deepen online connections. Online church isn't something we did to get through the pandemic, and now we can go back to the way church always was before. Online church is a real part of our now, and a real part of our future. Churches that recognize that and work to connect with and care for their online community will thrive in meaningful ways.

Some describe ministry with online community as "public square ministry," and note that if Jesus were alive today, Jesus would be doing this ministry, since a big part of Jesus' ministry back in the day was simply being with people where they were. And where people are these days—increasingly—is online.

Paraphrasing Rev. Jim Keat, a respected digital minister from Riverside Church in NYC, when it comes to church: "Online is not the opposite of real. Online is the opposite of onsite. They both are real." I understand this ministry as working to deepen connections within the community of those who worship online, as well as to deepen connections between those who worship online and those who worship onsite. And, it is important to note: We do not have two communities in our church. We are one community with some of us worshipping online and some onsite. We are church together, and every part of us is as important and valued as the rest of us.

I have begun to work with the church staff and others in the congregation who have been doing for a while now some of the work of welcoming and caring for the online community. I have much to learn from them and their experience. I also bring ideas on how to enhance the experience of church for those who worship online, and how to build some bridges between those onsite and those online. I will be soliciting ideas from the online community specifically about what would be helpful as you worship and participate in the life of our church in other ways, and I welcome ideas from everyone. You can contact me at [my church email address here](#) anytime

I am so glad we can do this work together!

Peace,  
Pastor Paula



- 1 Pastoral Letter  
Fall Publication Schedule
- 2 September 1-14
  - Worship
  - AV Team Meeting
  - Newcomers and Inquirers Session
  - Youth Group
  - Staff Meeting
  - Building Use Task Force
  - Youth Committee online
  - Worship Planning
  - Choir Rehearsal
  - Creativity Group
  - Game Night
  - FIA Committee
  - Stewardship & Finance Committee
  - Personnel Committee
  - Advocacy Taskforce
  - LGBTQIA+ Advocacy (FIA)
  - First Feasters
  - Building & Grounds Committee
  - Membership & Publicity Committee
  - Fellowship Committee Meeting
  - LGBTQIA+ Advocacy (FIA)
  - UPUCC Meditation Group
- Welcome Back Sunday
- Fellowship
  - Coffee Sign-Ups
- Membership & Publicity
  - Sunday Morning Volunteers
- 3 September 15-30
  - Adult Education Forum
  - Worship
  - Get Out The Vote in 2024
  - Worship & Music Meeting
  - Youth Group
  - Adult Ed Committee
  - Staff Meeting - online
  - Building Use Task Force
  - Yard Sale Preparation
  - Creativity Group
  - Choir Rehearsal
  - Coordinating Council
  - Game Day
- Yard Sale
- Adult Forums
- 4 Creativity Group
- Faith In Action
- Looking Towards Fall
  - Share Biblical text/scripture passages
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- UCC Connections
- Transition Team





[Side Dish Sign Up](#)



### FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee will sponsor 4th Sunday Coffee Hours with a change of name to "Snack Sundays". This will provide a light snack as well as coffee and is to encourage folks to stay a few extra minutes to socialize!

We would love to provide this every week, but we need your help!

What is needed?

1. Please see the sign-up genius to volunteer. All instructions are on it.
2. Coffee Supplies are provided. You may, but are not required to, provide a snack.
3. You are always welcome to make a donation to the coffee supplies!

If you notice anything missing or needed in the kitchen please contact [Roberta Ouellette](#) or [Carole Holt](#)



### MEMBERSHIP & PUBLICITY

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
Please visit the [SignUpGenius](#) and consider when you can help out. Thanks for considering!

[Sign-Up Genius](#)



Thank you to Gwen Reagan for the pictures

## September 1-7

- 1
  - Worship onsite and online - 10:30 am
  - AV Team Meeting - 11:30 am
  - Newcomers and Inquirers Session 11:30 am
  - Youth Group - Youth Room - 11:45 am - Outdoors
- 2
  - Staff Meeting - online - 2 pm
  - Building Use Task Force Meeting - 6 pm
  - Youth Committee online - 6:30 pm
- 3
  - Yard Sale Preparation - 9:00 am
  - Worship Planning 12:00 pm
- 4
  - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- 5
  - Creativity Group - 9:30 am
  - Game Night - High Park Bar and Grill - 6 pm
  - FIA Committee online 7-8 pm

## September 8-14

- 8
  - Stewardship & Finance Committee - 9:15 am
  - Worship in-person and online - 10:30 am
    - Welcome Back Sunday
  - Welcome Back - Fall Gathering
  - Personnel Committee - 11:30 am
  - Youth Group - Youth Room - 11:45 am
  - Advocacy Taskforce - 12:00 pm
- 9
  - First Feasters - Library - 11:00 am
  - Staff Meeting - online - 2 pm
  - Building & Grounds Committee - 6 pm
- 10
  - Yard Sale Preparation - 9:00 am
  - Membership & Publicity Committee Meeting Online - 6:30 pm
- 11
  - Fellowship Committee Meeting - 5:30 pm - Gizmo Brew Works
  - Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm
- 12
  - Durham Bulls game. 15 seats reserved. Cost is \$17.50 including taxes. Deadline for the block is Sept 9th at 11:59pm. [Purchase tickets here](#). Questions? Contact [David Redd](#)
  - LGBTQIA+ Advocacy (FIA) - 6:30 pm
- 14
  - UPUCC Meditation Group - 10 am - meets via zoom on September 14 at 10am. Contact [Joanne](#) for more information.
  - Yard Sale Drop Off - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm



# CHURCH "yard" SALE

SEPTEMBER 21

RAIN OR SHINE!



**HOURS**  
8 am - noon

**LOCATION**  
8208 Brownleigh Dr,  
Raleigh, NC 27617

Keep those donations coming!  
Saturday Donation days: Sept. 7th and 14th.  
Sign up to help move furniture on Friday, September 20th.

[help move furniture](#)

After the yard sale join the caravan to take leftovers to the Durham Rescue Mission.  
Contact Mike for additional drop off times

## ADULT FORUMS

[Join Forum Here](#)

**September 15th** - no forum, but please stay after worship to join us in a letter writing campaign related to the upcoming election.

**September 22nd** - Issues, Values & the Ballot  
What are some constructive ways we can talk to our friends and neighbors about the issues that are important to use in the upcoming election? Join us as we discuss ways to focus on the values behind the issues when we talk about the election.

**September 29th** - No forum, please join us at the Durham Pride festival!

## LOOKING AHEAD

**October 6th** - UCC Connections - During the Connections stage of our Transition process, we will provide opportunities to learn and think about how we would like to be in relationship with the wider UCC. Plan to join us at 9:00 a.m. - onsite or online - for a conversation about the local church and the national setting with Rev. Elizabeth Dilley (she/her), Minister and Team Leader - Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization. We will learn about engaging with the national church on issues that are important to our congregation, and about updates to the Manual on Local Church.



Thank you to Gwen Reagan for the pictures

## September 15-21

- 15** • Worship onsite and online - 10:30 am
- Want to help Get Out The Vote in 2024? - Thanks to the 26 people who helped write 250 letters on Aug. 4, bringing our grand total to 400! Let's keep the momentum going. Writing letters to voters is a powerful way to boost turnout. If you want to help unlikely voters become more likely to vote, JOIN US! [Learn more and sign up here!](#)
- Worship & Music Meeting - 11:30 am
- Youth Group - 11:45 am
- Adult Ed Committee - 12:30 pm

- 16** • Staff Meeting - online - 2 pm
- Building Use Task Force - 6:30 pm

- 17** • Yard Sale Preparation - 9:00 am
- Creativity Group - 9:30 am

- 18** • Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm

- 19** • Yard Sale Preparation - 9:00 am
- Coordinating Council - 6:30 pm

- 20** • Yard Sale Set-Up - 8:00 am

- 21** • Yard Sale - 8:00 am
- Game Day - 3:30 pm

## September 22-30

- 22** • Adult Education Forum - 9:00 am - onsite and online - Issues, Values & the Ballot
- Worship & Music Meeting - 11:30 am
- Youth Group - 11:45 am
- Cash Bail Reform Interest Group - 12 pm

- 23** • Staff Meeting - online - 2 pm

- 25** • Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm

- 28** • The Blessing of the Land celebration with our CSA Farmers will be on Sept. 28th. Come and see the farm and join in community with all the farmers and churches supporting Community Supported Agriculture.

- 29** • Intergenerational Worship - 9am
- Durham Pride Parade - 11am
- Worship & Music Meeting - 11:30 am
- Youth Group - 11:45 am



- 30** • Staff Meeting - online - 2 pm



### CREATIVITY GROUP



As always, we deeply appreciate your continued support for our card ministry. We are thrilled that due to your donations, we were able to donate \$1300 to the Emergency HVAC Fund.

Our card table will be taking its traditional break during July and August. If you do need a card during the summer, please feel free to contact one of us and we will be happy to supply you with an appropriate hand crafted card.

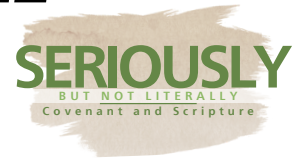
- [Alice Jermyn](#)
- [Gail Holden](#)
- [Joyce Hall](#)
- [Linda Hebert](#)
- [Marcia Welsh](#)
- [Michele Van Note](#)



## LOOKING TOWARDS FALL SHARE WITH US

We are preparing worship planning for the season in between the end of the summer and Advent! The staff team coalesced around a new idea at our planning retreat - and we would like to invite you into our planning! Our covenant says that we take scripture seriously but not literally. How might we explore them in worship together?

And so we ask you - what are some Bible Stories that prick your curiosity?



[Share Here](#)

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

We have two opportunities for those who might be interested.

### DO YOU LIKE BREAD?

#### DIFFERENT KINDS OF BREAD? DO YOU LIKE TO BAKE? (DO YOU SUPPORT A LOCAL BAKERY?)

The first Sunday of October, this year on Oct 6, is **World Communion Sunday**, a time to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. For our service that morning we would like the communion table covered with lots of various loaves of bread: rye, pumpernickel, ciabatta, French, naan, challah, Italian, or some other kind. Please be thinking and plan to bring a loaf to our communion service in October. Please sign up below..

[Sign Up Here](#)

## COMMUNION HELP

In addition to making sure there is bread for communion (thank you Gwen Reagan for baking our bread each month!), there are many things that need to be done in preparation for each service:

- Arrange for 3-4 servers
- Confirm Gwen is baking
- Confirm there is juice; buy if needed
- Make sure the ceremonial loaf and chalice are on the usher's table
- Confirm w/Tyler re: children to bring in elements
- Prepare elements on table
- Review locations & language with the servers before worship
- Clean up after the service.

Is there an aspect (or aspects) of communion preparation that you would like to assist with? If you have an interest in helping, or if you have questions, please be in touch with Jane Weidig

## CHOIR RESUMES!

The UPUCC choir has resumed weekly Wednesday rehearsals and will be singing in worship approximately twice per month. My hope is that this modified schedule will allow for a bit more balance as our singers navigate participating in the choir with all of the other rich opportunities our church has to offer on Sunday mornings! You are more than welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 7pm in the worship space if you'd like to give it a try!

## POP-UP CHOIR

On the 3rd Sunday of most months this year, you are invited to join David at 9:45am to learn a short song together that will be featured during worship! There is no need to practice the song beforehand, nor to have any choir experience. This is called a "Pop-Up Choir" and is a low-stakes opportunity for those who like to sing with others!



## FAITH IN ACTION

### FOCUS ON ADVOCACY

Our Advocacy group will be focusing all our efforts until the election on getting out the vote. This will include working directly with Healing Transitions and non-partisan advocacy organizations, like the Poor People's Campaign and Common Cause, to ensure that we put our faith into action that supports our values and increases turnout. If you'd like to start getting involved, please join us for our meetings after church on the second Sunday of each month. Contact Reed Altman to get a calendar invitation.

"Take Action! Great job! The Supreme Court is now under the national microscope! Update to our e-Lectinary: Mail in ballots go out September 6. Want to help protect election workers?"

[Find out more](#)

**Save the Date:**  
**Sept. 28th Blessing of the Land**





**You are invited to join us as we move towards an updated church directory.**

To get started with updating your information or creating your account click this button.



Then complete these steps:

1. Go to <https://onrealm.org/upucc>
2. Here, you'll see Sign In and Sign Up options, as well as Give Online. Those wishing to give online can do so with or without a Realm login. Those new to Realm should choose the Sign Up option, where they will input their email address, name, birthday, and preferred phone number.
3. Once you submit your information, you will receive an email verification that directs you to click the Verify link which opens the Create a Password page. Abi has to approve this so verification will not come immediately after submitting your information.
4. Once you enter a password, you can Create Account.
5. (Optional) You are encouraged to download the Realm [Connect mobile app](#) once you've created your account.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Abi Dodrill](#).

**PERSONNEL**

**Staff Hours**

If you would like to talk with/visit any of our UPUCC staff, the best days to do that are the following:

- Abi Dodrill - Wed, Thurs
- Mary Elizabeth Hanchey - Tues, Wed, Thurs
- Gwen Vass - Wednesday
- Tyler Ung - Tues, Thurs

Of course it is always a good idea to call ahead if you plan to come over to church to make sure staff are in the office and have availability to meet with you.

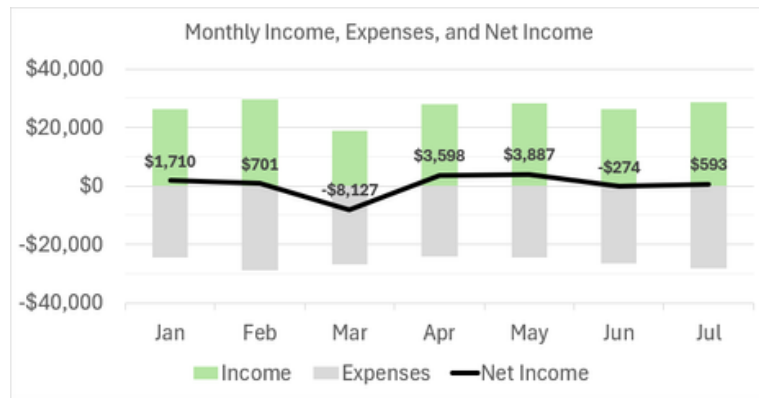


**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

We are on track to maintain a balanced budget so far this year. In fact, our net income year to date is \$2,087.

The additional one-time donations received covered the full cost of the HVAC expenses. Thank you to everyone who donated to help pay for those repairs, including the Creativity Group!

As you can see in this chart, our income and expenses are overall tracking fairly even with each other. March was an outlier due to both some higher expenses and the timing of some annual payments like taxes and software renewals.



**Staff Announcements**



**SHARE YOUR LOVE OF UPUCC ON GOOGLE.**

1. Write a Google review by searching for Umstead Park United Church of Christ on Google.com.
2. On the right of the results page, click the Google reviews button to see current reviews.
3. Click "write a review" and share the love!

**RESERVE SPACE AT UPUCC**

If you would like to reserve a room at the church there is a new email address set up exactly for that purpose! Simply email [scheduling@upucc.org](mailto:scheduling@upucc.org) and you will be notified if your requested space is available during that day and time.

You can also check the church website calendar to see if your time and day are available. The calendar has been moved to the [Members page](#). Simply use the password to access this Members page. Be in touch with the church office if you need the password!

**PIANO LESSONS**

If you have been wanting to learn to play the piano, David Wilson has space available for new students! David frequently hears people express regret around not having learned an instrument when they were younger, or because they stopped their lessons. He strongly believes that it is never too late to learn to play the piano, or to pick up where you left off! For more information visit [www.wilson.mymusicstaff.com](http://www.wilson.mymusicstaff.com)



### FEAST OF FRIENDS



Looking ahead to Fall it might be time to restart some Feast of Friends groups. We currently have 2 ongoing groups. If you are interested in restarting a group or joining a new group contact [Roberta Ouellette](#)

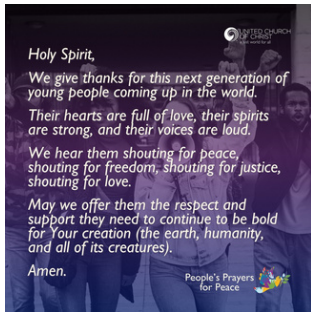
### BUILDING & GROUNDS



We have a Google Form to track maintenance requests. If you see something in the building that needs to be addressed, please submit it using the form below. We will contact you if we have any questions about your request.

[Maintenance Form](#)

### UCC CONNECTIONS



UCC LGBTQIA+ Justice

[Read Here](#)



Latest Episode: Economic Justice

[Listen Here](#)

Looking for ways to connect to the larger denomination? Check out these links!

[United Church of Christ](#)

[UCC Southern Conference](#)

[UCC News](#)



# Updates

### SEPTEMBER 8 GATHERING: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

We continue to provide opportunities for working out our leadership and governance, and dreaming about who we might be becoming. We have gathered feedback and ideas from the summer "field trips" **We have processed the data and will share insights at the Sept. 8th "Welcome Back Fall Gathering."** Please plan to discuss and weigh in on inspiring ideas for our future!

Rebecca and Roberta worked to make sense of the Field Trip Reflections. Please take a minute to view the Field Trip Summary

[Field Trip Reflections](#)

### THE LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

**THE LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE** Task force (related to the Transition process) has resumed work prepping the Local Church Profile - which will be important for our call process.

### CONNECTIONS

It's time to focus on meaningful connections to the national UCC, as well as with the Southern Conference and Eastern NC Association. Stay tuned for opportunities to learn. We are already including information labeled "UCC Connections" in these newsletters. Take a look each month!

### OCTOBER 6 FORUM WITH REV. ELIZABETH DILLEY, national office

Plan to join us at 9:00 a.m. - onsite or online - for a conversation about the local church and the national setting with Rev. Elizabeth Dilley (she/her), Minister and Team Leader - Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization. We will learn about engaging with the national church on issues that are important to our congregation, and about updates to the Manual on Local Church.

### LOOKING BACK

Remember that you can still review the work product inspired by our gathering about governance with Rev. Adam Gray (he/him).

- **COVENANT:** What would it look like if we used our covenant even more to activate our decisions and to resolve conflict? Have you read the covenant lately? Click below.
- **ADULT FORUM POWER POINT:** For a Power Point Slide Show prepared for the Adult Forum on June 23, and narrated by our moderator, Frank, and moderator elect, Alice, click below.
- **RECORDING:** For a recording of portions of our Conversation on Saturday, June 22, click below.

[Covenant](#)

[Power Point](#)

[Video](#)

### CONTACT US

We invite you to contact us at any time with your thoughts, questions and concerns—either in person with any of the members of the team or via email at [transition@upucc.org](mailto:transition@upucc.org).

UPUCC Transition Team

Frank McKay, Chair  
Alice Jermyn, Jonathan McLean, Anthony Neff,  
Roberta Ouellette, Rebecca van Dorsten, Paula Womack

