

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

December 24th, 2025 at 6pm (Onsite & Online)
Umstead Park United Church of Christ



GATHERING

Welcome

Rev. Tyler Ung

Prelude

David Wilson

Lighting the Candle*

Tim Champion & Dan Harrell

One: In a fearful world, where do you see the presence of God?

Many: We see God's fingerprints all around us. We see God in the beauty of the stars. We see God in the love of this community. We see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, God is here. God is all around us. On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, God's love is all around us.

Many: Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)*

**God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,
we long to catch a glimpse of your Spirit.
We cup our ears to hear the sound of the angel chorus.
We turn our eyes toward the sky to see if we can find your star.
We lean forward in our seat to see if we can feel your presence in our midst.
We long to catch a glimpse of your Spirit, O God.
So on this quiet night,
 on this holy night,
 on this *joyful* night,
 reveal yourself to us once more.
Speak to us through the music and the children.
Speak to us through starlight and candlelight.
Speak to us through these ancient words once again.
We long to catch a glimpse of you.
Amen.**



"Good, New"

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

A Sanctified Art LLC
sanctifiedart.org

Tim Champion, Congregation

***Carol**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(adapted by Mark Belletini)

UPUCC Congregation

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
 Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.

O come, you Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might.
 O come, and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last shall cease.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.

O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your presence here.
 And dawn in every broken soul as vision that can see the whole.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.

O come, you Wisdom from on high, from depths that hide within a sigh,
 to temper knowledge with our care, to render every act a prayer.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.

Meditation

Rev. Tyler Ung

***Carol**

“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old” (v. 1, 4)

Congregation

1. Isaiah the prophet has written of old
 how God’s new creation shall come.
 Instead of the thorn tree the fir tree shall grow;
 the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb,
 the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

4. God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
 that no one shall hurt or destroy,
 That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
 and your people shall go forth in joy, in joy,
 your people shall go forth in joy.

The Annunciation to Mary

Luke 1:26–38

Carol Fouts

Mary and Elizabeth

Luke 1:39–56

Gwen Vass

In Bethlehem

Luke 2:1–5

Gwen Reagan

Choir Anthem (Offertory)

“Peace, Peace”

UPUCC Choir

Text and Music by Rick & Sylvia Powell

Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all.
 This is the time for joy. This is the time for love.
 Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Silent Night, Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

The Angels Rejoice

Luke 2:6-14

Robin Davis

***Carol**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Congregation

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

***Carol**

“The First Nowell”

Congregation

The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.

The Shepherds Come to the Manger

Luke 2:15-20

Don Harpster

***Carol**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Congregation

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed Christ Jesus' birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us a baby that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Christmas Prayer

Rev. Paula Womack

The Lighting of Candles

Congregation

*Prior to the candle lighting the congregation
will be invited to stand and encircle the worship space*

***Carol**

“Silent Night”

UPUCC Congregation

Silent night, holy night! All is calm. All is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ Beloved is born, Christ Beloved is born."

Silent Night, Holy Night! Child of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Love, at thy birth, Jesus, Love, at thy birth.

***Carol**

“Joy to the World!”

Congregation

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world, with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove,
The glories of God’s righteousness, and wonders of great love,
and wonders of great love, and wonders, and wonders of great love.

***Benediction**

Rev. Tyler Ung

Postlude

David Wilson

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

Church Staff

Lindsay Cooper, she/her
Nursery Director

Rev. Tyler Ung, they/them
Senior Pastor

Gwen Vass, she/her
Financial Administrator

Cody Walter Welch, he/him/they/them
Teaching Intern

David Wilson, he/him
Director of Music

Rev. Paula Womack, she/her
Associate Pastor

A special “Thank You” to this week’s volunteers!

Peter van Dorsten (he/him), AV Team

Nevin Fouts, AV Team

Alice Jermyn (she/her), Usher

Tim Champion, Lay Leader

Dan Harrell, Lay Leader

Carol Fouts, Lay Leader

Gwen Reagan (she/her), Lay Leader

Gwen Vass (she/her), Lay Leader

Robin Davis, Lay Leader

Don Harpster, Lay Leader



We at
Umstead Park
United Church of Christ
welcome and affirm all
as we journey to seek
the divine, to embody loving
community, and to strive for
justice as a progressive
community of
faith.

Giving

Scan the QR code to make a one-time
or recurring donation!

Visiting?

You are invited to fill out the online visitor
form so that we can get to know you!

Realm

Access your
Realm account

Artist Statement

“Good, New”

Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell



We often link fear and anxiety to bad news. But what about the moments when the news is good—almost too good to believe? The dream job offer arrives. The long-hoped-for pregnancy test is finally positive. The illness goes into sudden remission.

Euphoria, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they're often followed by a quiet dread. *What now? What could this mean?*

In Luke's Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart?

The word “new” is nestled in “good news”—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings.

UPUCC Updates

Christmas Breakfast and Worship | December 28

A gentle service for sharing breakfast and singing hymns, pajamas are warmly welcome. You can join us in making breakfast at 10:00am! A sign-up to bring breakfast items was included in today's Sunday email, and may be found on the “News” page of the website.

Giving Opportunities: Staff Love Offering, Offering for Siembra NC, and Pledge Campaign

Our dedicated UPUCC staff enrich our community through meaningful worship, beautiful music, and loving care. A simple way to say thank you is by contributing to the Staff Love Offering. Visit upucc.org/giving, or drop a check in the offering basket with the memo “Staff Love Offering” to help us show our heartfelt appreciation!

General offerings from tonight's service will be donated to Siembra NC to support their important work in advocating for and protecting the Latine community in North Carolina.

Additionally, please consider making a pledge of any amount to help us fund our Ministry Plan for this year. ~\$40,000 is still needed to cover our budgetary needs. The QR code to the right will take you to the pledge form.



Painting Preparation | Saturday, December 27th at 8:30am

You are invited to come help this Saturday morning as a small group helps to prepare the hallway walls for fresh paint! Contact Gina Sanders with questions (monetflwrs@yahoo.com).

JTP Clean-Up Volunteers Requested | Saturday, January 24th at 9:30am

Justice Theater Project is planning to do a clean up of the area behind the worship space that serves as storage for JTP's props, tools, costumes, etc. The clean-up starts at 9:30a.m. They would appreciate having some hands on deck while they get the back organized before their next play. For more information, email Brooklyn Miller at brooklyn@thejusticetheaterproject.org.

Square Dancing | January 31st at 2-4pm

Fellowship is happy to announce that Square Dancing is coming again—save the date! More details to come including a sign-up sheet so we know how many are coming. It will be lots of fun. The event is free but donations will be accepted to help offset the cost of the Caller.

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper | February 17th

Save the date for a Mardi Gras Pancake supper! Fellowship will host and more details to come later. If you are interested in volunteering to organize a talent show to accompany the supper (separate from Fellowship Lead Team) please contact Carole Holt at cholt@triad.rr.com.

We're Hiring!

Explore two part-time opportunities—Youth Director and Teaching Intern—in our vibrant, progressive faith community. We are thrilled to have Cody Walter Welch on staff as one teaching intern, and are looking to add to our team!

Ongoing Needs - Food Donations

Food donations are needed—and so are volunteers to deliver them! Bring meal-focused items on Sundays and let Jane Weidig know at womweid@gmail.com if you can help.

Advent Resources | Season of Advent

On Dec. 1st we sent out a number of resources for you to use this Advent. Among them are Advent Devotionals that follow our series, "What Do You Fear?" We are also including the pertinent devotional in each week's email.

Learn more at upucc.org/news!