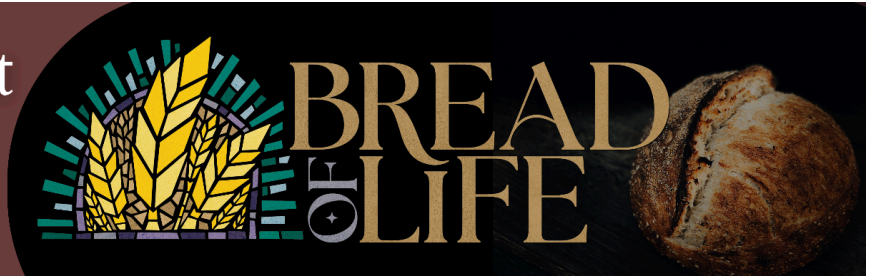


4th Sunday of Lent

"Bread for Sharing"

March 15th, 2026 at 10:30am (onsite/online)
Umstead Park United Church of Christ



GATHERING

Welcome and A Time of Greeting

Rev. Tyler Ung

Invocation

Kathy Austin

Meditation

"My piece of bread only belongs to me when I know that everyone else has a share, and that no one starves while I eat."

-Leo Tolstoy

Prelude

David Wilson

*Call to Worship

Cody Walter Welch

One: Beckoned to this place of belonging, we, of Umstead Park United Church of Christ, with body, mind, and spirit, gather to worship, serve, and proclaim God, unknowable mystery whose center is love, and Jesus the Christ, who makes this loving mystery known.

Many: **With inarticulate words and unfinished lives, we yearn to further embody this holy love, shaping the future as partners with God, who dances and weeps with us along the way.**

-from the UPUCC Covenant

Choir Anthem

"Renew Us"
(see insert)

UPUCC Choir

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Erinn Long



We're search-ing for our dai - ly bread, for what we need to - day.



We'll find it as we wel - come all in fol - low - ing Christ's way.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Consider

Next time you sit down for a meal, **consider** who is around your table and who isn't.

Who is being left out at the lunch tables, in the break room, and during the ice cream run after service?

To better understand God's ways, *reflect on how you might invite those you've noticed are left out to join you*, so they can experience the love and acceptance of God's open table!

LENT FOUR: BREAD FOR SHARING

Reading of Scripture Luke 14:7-14, from *The Inclusive Bible* Kathy Austin
(see insert)

Sermon "Bread for Sharing" Rev. Tyler Ung

***Responsive Hymn** "Draw the Circle Wide" Congregation
(see insert)

Prayers of the People Dan Harrell



You are invited to share names or brief joys and concerns. To submit written prayer requests for the weekly email, visit tinyurl.com/upuccprayers, or scan the QR code to the left.

Celebration of Gifts (Offertory) Dan Harrell



In addition to placing gifts into the offering basket, you may also visit upucc.org/giving or scan the QR code to the left to make an online contribution.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "For Everyone Born" Congregation
(see insert)

Announcements

You are invited to peruse the announcements included in the later pages of this bulletin.

***Affirmation of Community** Kathy Austin

One: We believe that all people are God's people, that every child is holy, that every person is a part of the sacred family.

Many: **We believe that God's love embraces all, and that to exclude any person would be contrary to the message of Jesus.**

One: We proclaim that this community of faith, Umstead Park UCC, will strive to be as open as the radical realm of God, and as liberating as the love of Christ.

Many: **And so we journey into our hopeful future with joy, pledging to offer each other welcome, compassion and care. May God grant us wisdom, grace, and guidance in our life together.**

***Benediction** Rev. Tyler Ung

Postlude David Wilson

Supplemental Texts and Hymns

Choir Anthem

“Renew Us”

Words by Herb Frombach

Music by David Lantz III

O God, grant me new vision to see Your kin-dom, new vision in this year.
O God, grant me a new heart, a new heart to feel Your love, a new heart in this year.
Christ, You are among us, Your light begins to shine, calling us to Your kindness;
Renew us in this time.
O God, grant me new strength to share Your word, new strength in this year.
O God, grant me new wisdom to do Your work, God, new wisdom in this year.

Reading of Scripture

Luke 14:7-14, from *The Inclusive Bible*

Kathy Austin

⁷ Jesus went on to address a parable to the guests, noticing how they were trying to get a place of honor at the table.

⁸ “When you’re invited to a wedding party, don’t sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished has been invited. ⁹ Otherwise the hosts might come and say to you, ‘Make room for this person,’ and you would have to proceed shamefacedly to the lowest place. ¹⁰ What you should do is go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your hosts approach you they’ll say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’ This will win you the esteem of the other guests. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² Then Jesus said to the host, “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. ¹³ No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. ¹⁴ You should be pleased that they can’t repay you, for you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

*Responsive Hymn

“Draw the Circle Wide”

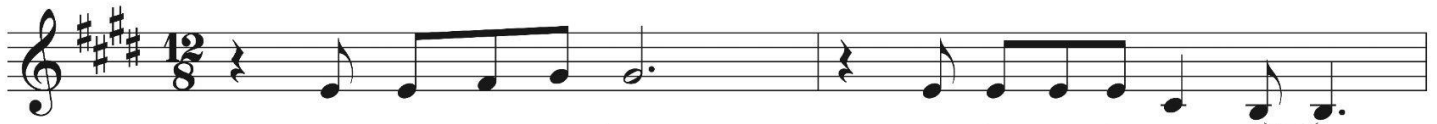
Congregation

Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by side. — Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wi-der still. Let this be our song; no one stands a-lone. Stan-ding side by side, draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide.

***Sending Hymn**

"For Everyone Born"

Words adapted by Avery Arden



1. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, ___
2. For wo - man and man, a place at the ta - ble, ___
3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, ___
4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, ___



for ev - ery - one born, ___ clean wa - ter and bread, ___
and all those be - tween, ___ be - yond, and be - sides; ___
a voice to be heard, ___ a part in the song, ___
a chance to re - pent, ___ re - form, and re - build, ___



a shel - ter, a space, ___ a safe place for grow - ing, ___
ex - pand - ing our world, ___ dis - man - tl - ing pow - er, ___
the hands of a child ___ in hands that are wrin - kled, ___
pro - tect - ing the wronged, ___ with - out shame or pres - sure, ___



for ev - ery - one born, ___ a star o - ver - head,
each val - ued for what ___ their voice ___ can pro - vide.
for young and for old, ___ the right to be - long.
for just and un - just, ___ God's vi - sion ful - filled.

Refrain



and God ___ will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice ___



and joy, ___ com - pas - sion and peace:



yes, God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, ___ jus - tice and joy!

Lent at UPUCC

For this season of Lent, we will explore a new series called, “Bread of Life.” This series invites us on a Lenten journey to discover abundance in the ordinary—where grace is shared, hearts are filled, and love is never in short supply. Come hungry, leave nourished. You are invited to distribute the Lenten flyer to those in your community, which is available at the back of the worship space, and at the QR code.



As a part of our journey through Lent this year, there are Lenten Spirals available on the table in the worship space for families to use throughout the season. Pick up a Lenten Spiral on Sunday! Each day offers a simple activity for your family to complete together. Some activities are inwardly focused and some are outwardly focused, and they mark the transformative journey of Lent. Display the spiral in a spot at home where you and your family can see it each day. We hope this resource provides a simple yet meaningful way to connect during Lent.

Maundy Thursday Service | April 2nd at 6pm

You are invited to join us for a Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd. If you would like to help prepare food that will be eaten as part of the service, you can join Tyler in the kitchen at 5pm. The service itself will begin at 6pm!

Bring Flowers on Easter | April 5th

On Easter Sunday you're invited to bring flowers of all kinds and colors to brighten our worship space (or Zoom screen) as we turn our chairs to face the garden. Some flowers will be on the deck and others will be inside around the communion table and pulpit.

Coming Up Soon

Nertz Meet-Up Group | March 16th at 6:30pm

David Wilson has started a Raleigh Nertz Meet-Up group, which will meet this month on Monday, March 16th at 6:30pm! If interested, RSVP to the Meetup group at www.meetup.com/raleigh-nertz-meetup, scan the QR code, or contact David directly in person or via email (david@upucc.org).



Triangle Pride Band Concert | March 21st

The Triangle Pride Band spring concert of “Symphonic Favorites” will be on March 21 at 7 PM at Garner Magnet High School. This program features music by acclaimed composers such as Eric Whitacre, Leonard Bernstein, and Percy Grainger that have shaped the concert band tradition over the last century. If you'd like free admission to the concert, contact Christy Tucker for details on volunteering as an usher or other role to support the band. Scan the QR code to the left, or visit <https://givebutter.com/SymphonicFavorites> to purchase tickets.



Spring CSA Sign Up–Saturday Deliveries at Church | March 22nd

Each growing season UPUCC participates in the Farmers of Color CSA to help live out our covenant. Buying fresh organic produce from local farmers is good for the planet. Buying from our partners, John and Brenda Bryant and Carolyn Cheek, sustains our relationship with the wider world and helps redress the longstanding injustices done to Black farmers. A half share for eight weeks of veggies will be \$150, starting April 11th. Please sign up on the UPUCC website under “Giving” by March 22nd (select “CSA 1/2 Share” from the dropdown menu)! Reach out to Peter van Dorsten at pvandorsten@protonmail.com with any questions.



No Kings Day | March 28th from 1-3pm

On March 28th, UPUCC is headed to the Capitol in downtown Raleigh. Make your voice heard with a protest poster. Or wear a frog suit! Sign up at the PACE table - early if you can drive. Reach out to the UPUCC PACE group with questions (upuccpace@gmail.com).

Free Books Available from UPUCC Library | Through March 29th

Any of the books on the library shelves are free to anyone who spies something they like. After March 29th, remaining titles will be donated to Campbell Divinity School.

Cat Foster Family Needed | Beginning in April

There is a need beginning in April for a foster family to care for a cat that belongs to a Covenant Partner. If you have a space in your home and your heart to house a beloved feline for a while, please contact Pastor Paula (paula@upucc.org) and she will connect you with this family so that you can learn more. We appreciate your assistance with this need as we offer care to one another.

What is Guns to Gardens? | June 13th - Save the Date

UPUCC is partnering with RAWTools South to offer a Guns to Gardens safe surrender event on June 13, 2026. Guns to Gardens is a movement and gun safe surrender program where unwanted firearms are collected, dismantled and then transformed into garden tools or other artistic creations, often in partnership with local faith communities.

This initiative aims to reduce gun violence by providing a constructive way to dispose of unwanted firearms while promoting peace and sustainability. Trained volunteers, often blacksmiths, transform the metal into various garden tools, such as shovels, trowels, or mattocks and sometimes into artistic pieces.

The process of turning weapons into tools is deeply symbolic, representing a shift from violence to growth, from destruction to creation and from harm to healing. The program draws inspiration from the biblical passage Isaiah 2:4, which speaks of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, signifying a transformation from warfare to agriculture.

The UPUCC Guns to Gardens task force will be reaching out to the UPUCC community for support in the weeks and months to come. Please watch for more information and consider working with us in this important initiative.



Scan the QR code on the left to see news coverage of a recent Guns to Gardens effort in Asheville. Scan the QR code on the right to donate to the Guns to Gardens Task Force (select "Guns to Gardens" from the dropdown menu).



Task Force members: Kathy Austin, Debbie Beroth, Laura Carter-Scheid, Ada McKerrill, Mary Pat Peters, Paula Womack.

Covenant Leadership Circle

The purpose of this section is to update you on the work of the Covenant Leadership Circle (CLC). We hope that this enables you to have a more thorough understanding of what happens behind the scenes at UPUCC, and to discover opportunities to join us in actualizing new ideas!

CLC Members:

Moderator: Alice Jermyn

Moderator-Elect: Gia Hafler

Treasurer: Vickie Teal

Secretary: Renate Houts

Facilities Lead: Gary Sanders

At-Large: David Frink

At-Large: Bob Martin

At-Large: Mary Nations

At-Large: Rebecca van Dorsten

Financial Results			
	February	Year-To-Date	Budget
General Offerings	\$18,093	\$35,632	\$304,882
Total Income	\$19,128	\$38,987	\$331,466
Total Expenses	\$26,985	\$53,080	\$386,585
Net Income	-\$7,856	-\$14,092	-\$55,119
From Reserves*		\$14,092	\$55,119
*As a reminder, the 2026 Operating Budget projects a net income deficit of \$55,000 which will be offset by the Operating Fund Reserve			

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 12thth at 12:00pm in the UPUCC Library. All are welcome!

1. Summary of March Meeting

Building Updates & Accessibility

Several improvements to our building are underway. The new classroom expansion is finished and painted, and we are exploring adding an expandable screen so the room can be used for both church programming and rentals. Doors have been rekeyed and an electronic lock installed to improve access and security.

We are also exploring ways to make the building more accessible for all, including possible automatic door openers and improvements to restrooms. The library space may also be refreshed and repurposed as a conference room for meetings and rentals, after the congregation has a chance to claim any books they would like.

Council also approved the purchase of a 10-foot outdoor flag to help make the church more visible on Glenwood Avenue.

Community Partnerships & Outreach

Our congregation continues to partner with others in meaningful ways. Planning is underway for the Guns-to-Gardens, in collaboration with six other faith communities across different traditions. An organizing meeting is scheduled for April 12, and volunteers from the congregation will be invited to help.

Council also discussed our ongoing involvement with PACE, voter education efforts, and outreach partnerships such as Healing Transitions.

Events & Community Engagement

Preparations are underway for upcoming community events including "Out! Raleigh." Publicity efforts will include signage, printed materials, and outreach to nearby neighborhoods.

A new idea is also taking shape for youth engagement: a Halloween Masquerade for middle-school and early high-school students planned for late October. The event, championed by Erinn Long, would be organized in partnership with local community groups and provide a fun, welcoming space for teens.

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars for the Congregational Meeting and Potluck on April 26, where members will hear ministry and financial updates and vote on new CLC members. The next CLC meeting will take place on Sunday, April 12th at 12pm.

2. **A Mindset of Abundance:** As we navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and a pastoral transition soon after, we focused on sustainability as a church, and erred on the side of caution with regard to how we spend our money. Now, with a newly settled pastor, refinanced mortgage, and a revitalized governing body we are in a position of relative abundance. Therefore, we invite you to come to us with your ideas!

- How do you imagine us living into our Ministry Plan of "Connecting with Courage and Care?"
- Is there an event or activity that would be life-giving to you and our community?
- Do you have thoughts on how to bring more people through our doors?

We have funding available to help you realize the dreams you have for our community. Reach out to Alice Jermyn (adjermyn@gmail.com) or Gia Hafler (gia@giabrelle.com) with your ideas and questions!

3. The **Social and Civic Action Task force** has completed its work and identified two areas of focus to help us live into our 2026 ministry plan. As a result, there are two new task forces forming:

- **Inform/Protect/Get out the Vote (GOTV) Task Force** - to help inform people inside and outside of the congregation, to increase the number of non-voters participating in the 2026 election, to protect access to voting
- **Family, Youth, and Children Task Force** - charged with strengthening connections with families beyond the congregation, communicating that the church is a place where families are welcomed and supported in all circumstances and configurations, and helping ensure that families, youth, and children experience a clear and consistent sense of welcome and belonging when they enter the church community.

If you are interested in participating in a task force, or just want to learn more, please reach out to:

- David Frink (david@dfrink.com) for Inform/Protect/Get out the Vote Task Force
- Amy Walter (amyrwalter@hotmail.com) for Family, Youth, and Children Task Force

4. **2026-2027 Covenant Leadership Circle:** We have a new slate of members for the next CLC, which will begin later this Spring, following approval at the Congregational Meeting. Thank you to the following individuals for their commitment to helping the church continue its work behind the scenes!

Gia Hafler, Moderator
Hope Kiser, Moderator-Elect
Sarah Bellak, Secretary
Gary Sanders, Facilities Lead

David Frink, At-Large Member
Bob Martin, At-Large Member
Laura Carter-Scheid, At-Large Member
Elliot Acosta, At-Large Member

5. **Personnel Help:** The CLC is looking for help in navigating certain facets of personnel logistics:

- *Human Resources* (hiring, performance management, employee relations, and other strategic aspects such as aligning our staff efforts with its overall goals and objectives and keeping policies aligned), and/or
- *Personnel work* (payroll, benefits, employee records, and other routine administrative tasks),

If you have any suggestions, please contact Mary Nations (mary.nations@gmail.com) or Alice Jermyn (adjermyn@gmail.com).

6. **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 26th:** Join us after worship for a potluck and Congregational meeting! In addition to food and fellowship, we will be discussing several aspects of church business:
- Security updates
 - Ministry Plan updates
 - Financial updates
 - Vote on new CLC Members

Ongoing Announcements

Help Host Healing Transitions on First Sundays

We host our friends from Healing Transitions on the first Sunday of every month. If you would like to help with food, drink, and fellowship, sign up via the link on the website, or at the QR code. Get to know our neighbors!



UCC Connections

March is Women's History Month and UCC's Women & Gender Justice Ministry is lifting up women who have shaped (or are currently shaping) our faith and history. Sojourner Truth was an abolitionist, women's rights advocate, and preacher who refused to separate faith from justice. Her bold question, "Ain't I a Woman?" still echoes today, challenging narrow definitions of dignity and worth. Her legacy reminds us that truth-telling rooted in faith can move history forward. Scan the QR Code to the left for more information about the UCC's Women & Gender Justice Ministry.



Hiring Youth Director and Teaching Interns

We are hiring for two part-time positions currently:

The Youth Director role designs and leads weekly opportunities for youth to gather, helps plan and implement programs, and collaborates with our established network of progressive youth ministries in the area. Read the Youth Director job posting for more information on the role and how to apply via the QR code.



The Teaching Intern role is a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on experience in curriculum development, classroom management, and faith-based teaching within a supportive and progressive community environment. This includes teaching Sunday School classes and preparing lessons and materials. Read the Teaching Intern job posting for more information on the role and how to apply via the QR code. We are thrilled to have Cody on staff as one teaching intern, and are looking to add to our team!



Want to Submit an Announcement?

To submit an announcement for publication on the website and the bulletin, simply scan this QR code and fill out the online form! To submit an announcement in time for the Friday email, the deadline is the preceding Tuesday by 11:59pm.



Submit Photos and Videos of UPUCC Happenings

Did you know that we have an online Google Photos album? It's chock-full of moments from UPUCC past and present, and you are invited to add your own! Simply scan the QR code, click the "Add Photos" button pictured here, and select which photos you would like to submit to the album. Alternatively, you may email photos or videos to umsteadparkucc@gmail.com!



Visiting With Us Today?

We're so glad that you spent your Sunday with us—we would love to get to know you better! You are invited to fill out the visitor form by scanning the QR code so that we can connect with you about our church and add you to our email list!



Follow Us on Social Media!

Facebook: [UmsteadParkUCC](#) | Instagram: [UmsteadParkUCC](#) | BlueSky: [upucc.bsky.social](#)

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:

Reed Altman, AV Team
Scott Andrews (he/him), AV Team
Dan Harrell, Assistant Treasurer/Usher
Tim Champion, Auditor
Nina Nalle Robinson (she/her), Greeter
Kailina Grace (she/her), Greeter
Kathy Austin (she/her), Lay Leader
Alice Jermy (she/her), Usher
Elliot Acosta (he/him), Online Greeter

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