

5th Sunday of Lent

"Bread for Community"

March 22nd, 2026 at 10:30am (onsite/online)

Umstead Park United Church of Christ



GATHERING

Welcome and A Time of Greeting

Rev. Paula Womack

Hymn: "God Made from One Blood" (*see insert*)

Invocation

Gwen Reagan

Meditation

"Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made, like bread, remade all the time, made new."

-Ursula K. LeGuin

Prelude

David Wilson

*Call to Worship

Rev. Paula Womack

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

"Christ In Me Arise"
(*see insert*)

UPUCC Choir
Rev. Tyler Ung, Guitar

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Rev. Tyler Ung



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

Welcome

Your invitation this week is to surprise someone with **welcome!**

List up to five people you could show unexpected generosity to, and pick one for this week. It likely won't be someone up in a tree, but maybe it is someone who, like Zacchaeus, has to escape others' judgments. *Then, plot your surprise like a secret agent.* Pick out a greeting card that makes you laugh and leave it for them to find, call an elderly friend out of the blue and spend time listening, or wake up before the rest of your family and make them breakfast.

Good luck!

LENT FIVE: BREAD FOR COMMUNITY

Reading of Scripture Luke 19:1–10, from *The Inclusive Bible*
(see insert) Gwen Reagan

Sermon “Bread for Community” Rev. Tyler Ung

***Responsive Hymn** “Nothing More”
(see insert) Congregation

Prayers of the People Rev. Tyler Ung



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) Rev. Tyler Ung



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”
(see insert) Congregation

Announcements

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

***Affirmation of Community** Gwen Reagan

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

Hymn

"God Made from One Blood"

Congregation



1. God made from one blood all the fam - 'lies of earth,
2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
3. Now give to each fam - 'ly in con - flict and storm
4. Then wid - en that wis - dom and grace to in - clude



the cir - cles of nur - ture that raised us from birth,
for all of the fam - 'lies we've known through the years,
a sense of your wis - dom and grace that trans - form
the peo - ple and view - points our fam - 'lies ex - clude,



com - pan - ions who join us to walk through each stage
the in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend,
sharp an - ger to in - sight which strength - ens the heart
till peace in each home bears and nur - tures the bud



of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
of par - ents and part - ners and chil - dren and friends.
and makes clear the place where re - build - ing can start.
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

Choir Anthem

"Christ in Me Arise"

Words/Music by Trevor Thomson

Christ in me, arise and dispel all the darkness
Christ in me, arise with resilience and with strength
Christ in me, pour out Your blessing and healing
Christ in me, arise, and I shall love like You

Be now my vision open these eyes
Showing me all that I must see
Onward to the kin-dom, You are the way
Arise in me, and I shall love like You

Be now my footsteps leading the way
Taking me where I must go
Onward to the kin-dom, You are the way
Arise in me, and I shall love like You

You know my heart and You know my ways
You who formed me in my mother's womb
I live and move in You, my whole being thrives in You.

¹ Entering Jericho, Jesus passed through the city. ² There was a wealthy person there named Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector. ³ Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, but he couldn't do so because of the crowd, since he was short.

⁴ In order to see Jesus, Zacchaeus ran on ahead, then climbed a sycamore tree that was along the route. ⁵ When Jesus came to the spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry up and come on down. I'm going to stay at your house today."

⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and welcomed Jesus with delight.

⁷ When everyone saw this, they began to grumble, "Jesus has gone to a sinner's house as a guest."

⁸ Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to Jesus, "Here and now I give half my belongings to poor people. If I've defrauded anyone in the least, I'll pay them back fourfold."

⁹ Jesus said to the tax collector, "Today salvation has come to this house, for this is what it means to be a descendant of Sarah and Abraham. ¹⁰ The Promised One has come to search out and save what was lost."

***Responsive Hymn**

"Nothing More"

by The Alternate Routes

Chorus

We are Love. ____ We are One. ____ We are how we treat each o-ther when the day is done.

We are Peace. ____ We are War. ____ We are how we treat each o-ther and no-thing more.

1. To be humble, to be kind.
 It is the giving of the peace in your mind.
 To a stranger, to a friend
 To give in such a way that has no end. *[Chorus]*

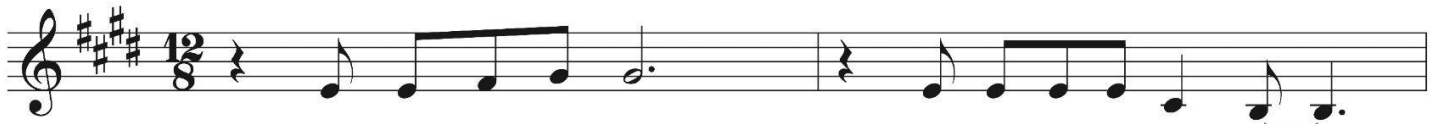
2. To be bold, to be brave.
 It is the thinking that the heart can still be saved
 And the darkness can come quick
 The dangers in the anger and the hanging on to it. *[Chorus]*

3. Tell me what it is that you see
 A world that's filled with endless possibilities?
 Heroes don't look like they used to
 They look like you do. *[Chorus]*

***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, ___



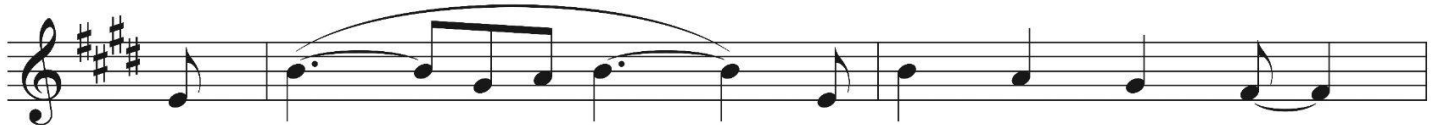
a shel - ter, a space, ___ a safe place for grow - ing, ___
ex - pand - ing our world, ___ dis - man - tl - ing pow - er, ___
the hands of a child ___ in hands that are wrin - kled, ___
pro - tect - ing the wronged, ___ with - out shame or pres - sure, ___



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.



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 onsite. 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

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.



Healing Transitions & UPUCC head to NO KINGS DAY | March 28th from 1-3pm

Healing Transitions and UPUCC will meet at NOON in the UPUCC Library to craft colorful messages on cardboard before heading downtown. We need drivers! Sign up at the PACE table or email UPUCCPACE@gmail.com. Carpool leaves at 12:30 sharp to park and walk to the Capitol by 1PM. Return to UPUCC (or directly to Healing Transitions) no later than 3 PM.

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 McKerrell, 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 12th 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@giabelle.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 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. Ai-jen Poo is a national leader in the fight for domestic workers' rights and a more just care economy. Her work uplifts immigrant women and essential workers whose labor often goes unseen. Witness means recognizing who sustains our communities and working to ensure their dignity and protection. 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:

Nevin Fouts, AV Team
Peter van Dorsten (he/him), AV Team
Lee Harrison (he/him), Assistant Treasurer
Gwen Reagan (she/her), Lay Leader
Debbie Beroth, Usher
Laura Carter-Scheid (she/her), Usher
Amy Lewis (she/her), Coffee Set-Up
Hope Kiser (she/her), 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