

# Easter Sunday

"Bread for Feasting"

April 5th, 2026 at 10:30am (onsite/online)  
Umstead Park United Church of Christ



## GATHERING

**Welcome and A Time of Greeting**

Rev. Tyler Ung

**Invocation**

Alice Jermyn

**Meditation**

*"So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing..."*

*...Ask the questions that have no answers. Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias. Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest...*

*...Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction. Practice resurrection."*

- Wendell Berry, "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front"

**Prelude**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Brass Choir

Sarah Bellak, Christy Tucker, Peter van Dorsten

**Reading of Scripture**

John 20:11-18, from *The Inclusive Bible*  
(see insert)

Gia Hafler

**\*Call to Worship**

**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

**Anthem**

"Joyfully Sing"  
(see insert)

UPUCC Choir

## HEARING AND RESPONDING

**Time with Children**

Rev. Tyler Ung



\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

### Feast

A **feast** is served in many forms.

It could be a pizza celebration, a holy day, or a picnic of bread and fresh fish on the beach.

As you commemorate the risen Lord this week, *wonder about the varied ways you and your family could continue the feast* and answer Jesus' call to "feed my sheep."

How could you offer abundant advocacy or provide comfort that helps others recognize Jesus?

Decide on one way to practice feast.

EASTER: BREAD FOR FEASTING



# Supplemental Texts and Hymns

## Reading of Scripture

John 20:11-18, from *The Inclusive Bible*

Gia Hafler

<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, <sup>12</sup> and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus' body had lain.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Why are you weeping?"

She answered them, "Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don't know where they have put the body."

<sup>14</sup> No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?"

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, "Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!"—which means "Teacher."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. "I have seen the Teacher!" she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

## Anthem

"Joyfully Sing"

UPUCC Choir

Welcome, joyfully sing for all to hear,  
Sing out forevermore, rise up in song;  
Celebrate everyone join us from far and near,  
Sing out forevermore, rise up in song!

Gladly we sing today, good news we bring,  
gladly we sing today, hear voices ring!

Sing out with pleasure we raise a merry sound,  
Dance to the music when instruments play;  
Sing out with pleasure and gladness all around,  
Dance to the music we bring you today!

## Reading of Scripture

John 21:1-17, from *The Inclusive Bible*

Alice Jermyn

<sup>1</sup> Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place.

<sup>2</sup> Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas "the Twin," Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's children, and two other disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going out to fish."

"We'll join you," they replied, and went off to get into their boat.

All through the night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> He said to them, "Have you caught anything, friends?"

"Not a thing," they answered.

<sup>6</sup> "Cast your net off to the starboard side," Jesus suggested, "and you'll find something."

So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn't haul the net in. <sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, "It's the Teacher!"

Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak—he was naked—and jumped into the water.

<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land—no more than a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. <sup>10</sup> “Bring some of the fish you just caught,” Jesus told them. <sup>11</sup> Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish—one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn.

<sup>12</sup> “Come and eat your meal,” Jesus told them.

None of the disciples dared to ask, “Who are you?”—they knew it was the savior.

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

<sup>14</sup> This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, do you love me more than these?”

Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> A second time Jesus put the question, “Simon, do you love me?”

Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.”

Jesus replied, “Tend my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon, do you love me as a friend would?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, “Do you love me?” a third time. So he said, “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

**\*Sending Hymn**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Adapted by  
Pastor Katy Stenta



1. Je - sus Christ is Risen to - day, — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 3. But no one does God dis - clude — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, — Al - le - lu - ia.



Our a - maz - ing ho - ly day, — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly Kin, — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 for Christ's love was the pre - lude, — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Praise e - ter - nal as God's love, — Al - le - lu - ia.



Who did once u - pon the cross, Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Washed and served us till the end, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Can you feel God's love break through? Al - le - lu - ia;  
 Priase our God, ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia;



Teach and — Love and Heal our loss, — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Teach - er, — Sav - ior, and our Friend, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 It — in - cludes both me and you, — Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost, Al - le - lu - ia!

# Coming Up Soon

## Nertz Meet-Up Group | April 13th at 6:30pm

David Wilson has started a Raleigh Nertz Meet-Up group, which will meet this month on Monday, April 13th at 6:30pm! If interested, RSVP to the Meetup group at [www.meetup.com/raleigh-nertz-meetup](http://www.meetup.com/raleigh-nertz-meetup), scan the QR code, or contact David directly in person or via email ([david@upucc.org](mailto:david@upucc.org)).



## Remembrance of Our Animal Companions | Submit by April 17th

In our service on April 19, Earth Sunday in our "Roll Down Justice" series, we'll have a time of remembrance for our animal companions. We'd like to include as a part of the service photos of your beloved animals that have died. Please email photos to Pastor Paula ([paula@upucc.org](mailto:paula@upucc.org)) by April 17. Let's honor their memory and gifts.

## 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.

## 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

Scott Andrews (he/him), AV Team

Rebecca van Dorsten (she/her), Coffee Set-Up

Nina Nalle Robinson (she/her), Greeter

Kailina Grace (she/her), Greeter

Alice Jermyn (she/her), Lay Leader

Gia Hafler (she/her), Lay Leader

Bob Martin (he/him), Usher

Peter van Dorsten (he/him), Musician

Sarah Bellak, Musician

Christy Tucker (she/her), Musician

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

# 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<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in the UPUCC Library. All are welcome!

## • 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.

- **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 living into our Ministry Plan: “Connecting with Courage & 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!

- 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
- **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

- **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).

- **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

About one-third of the Bible is filled with poetry, beckoning souls to soar, sigh and sing. The ancient texts, particularly within the Old Testament, awaken emotions and set loose new ways of living in the world. "Poetry can deepen the connection with self, with others and with God," said Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President/CEO of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Thompson invites UCC congregations to engage with poetry during Sunday worship, in poetry groups or in online forums. The UCC national offices has launched a Facebook group called UCC Poetry Collective to facilitate the sharing of poetry. Those interested can request to



join the private space designed to honor and foster the vulnerability that delving the depths of poetry requires. "This is a space to share poems you have written or ones you have loved with others," she said. Scan the QR code to the left to read more and watch a video from Rev. Thompson.

## 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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/UmsteadParkUCC) | Instagram: [UmsteadParkUCC](https://www.instagram.com/UmsteadParkUCC) | BlueSky: [upucc.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/upucc.bsky.social)