



GATHERING

Welcome and A Time of Greeting

Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation

Gwen Reagan

Meditation

"In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world...

And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun."

- Thomas Merton

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

***Gathering Hymn**

"Come On, Children, to the Gospel Feast"
(see insert)

Congregation

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Rev. Tyler Ung

God wel-comes all, strang-ers and friends; God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.

Reading of Scripture

Romans 10:11-13, from *The Inclusive Bible*

Gwen Reagan

¹¹ Scripture says, "No one who believes in God will be put to shame." ¹² Here there is no difference between Jew and Greek; all have the same Creator, rich in mercy toward those who call: ¹³ "Everyone who calls on the name of the Most High will be saved."

Sermon

Rev. Tyler Ung

***Doxology**

(see insert)

Congregation

(Unison):

**“We shake with joy, we shake with grief
What a time they have, these two
housed as they are in the same body.”**

-Mary Oliver



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**

#427, “God Made From One Blood”

Congregation

Announcements

***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

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
- Amy Lewis (she/her), Coffee Set-Up
- Lee Harrison (he/him), Assistant Treasurer
- Mike Boston (he/him), Auditor
- Nina Nalle Robinson (she/her), Greeter
- Kaillina Grace (she/her), Greeter
- Gwen Reagan (she/her), Lay Leader
- Laura Carter-Scheid (she/her), Usher

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

Supplemental Texts and Hymns

*Gathering Hymn

"Come On, Children, to the Gospel Feast"

Congregation

Leader: Come on, chil - dren, to the gos-pel feast. All: Gath-er round, gath-er round!

Leader: All are wel - come to the gos-pel feast. All: Gath-er round, gath-er round!

This is where we sing and pray, read God's word on this glad day.

Leader: Come on, chil - dren, to the gos-pel feast. All: Gath-er round, gath-er round!

Reading of Scripture

Romans 10:11-13, from *The Inclusive Bible*

Gwen Reagan

¹¹ Scripture says, "No one who believes in God will be put to shame." ¹² Here there is no difference between Jew and Greek; all have the same Creator, rich in mercy toward those who call: ¹³ "Everyone who calls on the name of the Most High will be saved."

*Doxology

Congregation

For death-de-fy-ing hope, we praise; for love that con-quers all, we raise a - le - lu - ias! A - le - lu - ia! For jus-tice here on earth we sing and right-eous-ness as if a stream. A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! A - men.

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, scan the QR code, or contact David directly in person or via email (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) by April 17. Let's honor their memory and gifts.

Neighborhood Clean-Up | April 25th

Help us celebrate Earth Day Saturday 4/25 at 9:30 am as we again partner with our friends at Healing Transitions to pick up trash on Brownleigh and Glen Royal. We'll pick up trash for about an hour then gather in the kitchen for ice cream and fellowship. We will provide the supplies, just bring yourselves and your water bottle. While we had been doing 3 cleanups per year for the past two years, we've decided to do just 1 annual clean up in April in honor of Earth Day. So come out on 4/25 or you'll miss out on the fun until 2027! Reach out to Ashley Montague for more information!

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 disposal 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 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 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!

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

The theme for the United Church of Christ's fourth annual Earth Summit is "A Future with Hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). The webinar will take place on April 25 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. To ground and inspire us as people of faith in difficult times, the keynote lecture will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Samuel, a renowned advocate and organizer for justice who serves as the pastor of Victory for the World Church in Decatur, Georgia. The summit will also feature a panel discussion titled "Power to the People: Energy Justice for an Equitable Future." Scan the QR code to register!



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!



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