



GATHERING

Welcome and A Time of Greeting

Rev. Tyler Ung

Invocation

Dan Harrell

Meditation

Be the church. Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

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

Anthem

"I Dream of a Church"
(see insert)

UPUCC Choir

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

Matthew 25:35-40, from *The Inclusive Bible*
(see insert)

Dan Harrell

Sermon

"Be the Church"

Rev. Tyler Ung

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***Responsive Hymn** #539, "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"
(verses 1-4) Congregation

Prayers of the People Rev. Tyler Ung

(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** #495, "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" Congregation

Announcements

***Affirmation of Community** Dan Harrell

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

Anthem

“I Dream of a Church”

UPUCC Choir
Words and Music by Mark A. Miller

I dream of a church where everyone is welcome,
I dream of a place we all can call home.
I dream of a world where justice is flowing
With hope and peace growing, where God’s will is done.

Make it so, make it so!
We pray for that day, make it so.
We dream of a world where Love reigns among us
And your will is done, O God, make it so!
O God, fill our hearts to reach out in welcome.
O, make us to see your vision once more.
Let’s dream of a world where our hands are your hands.
We offer ourselves; O God, make it so.

Make it so, make it so!
We pray for that day, make it so.
We dream of a world where Love reigns among us
And your will is done, O God, make it so!

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 25:35-40, from *The Inclusive Bible*

Dan Harrell

³⁵ ‘For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; ³⁶ naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ Then these just ones will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.’

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
Amy Lewis (she/her), Coffee Set-Up
Mike Boston (he/him), Assistant Treasurer
Lee Harrison (he/him), Auditor
Ashley Montague (she/her), Greeter
Dan Harrell, Lay Leader
Michele Van Note, Usher
Alice Jermyn (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

Coming Up Soon

Potluck & Congregational Meeting | Today after Worship

We will gather onsite and online after worship on Sunday, April 26th for a potluck and congregational meeting. Bring your appetite for food and church business!

NC Association of Educators host National Day of Action | May 1

Join thousands of NC educators downtown Raleigh on Fri, 5/1 to tell the NC legislators to put Kids Over Corporations! North Carolina is dead last—50th out of 50—in school funding. That is unacceptable!

Blessing of the Land | May 2nd from 12-4pm

Celebrate farmers who grow our food! Bring a cup of soil from your garden; Pastor Athena will bless the soil, and the property of all farmers in attendance. If you would like to help out Brenda by planting and working in her budding Meditation Garden, please bring hats and gloves. You can just relax if you so desire. Enjoy a meal together. Bring a side dish to share if you so desire. Location: JBQ Farm, 5240 NC 39 Hwy North, Henderson, NC 27537

How to Stay Regulated in a Dysregulated World | May 5th

When the world feels chaotic and overwhelming, regulation becomes resistance and preservation becomes power. Join the North Carolina Council of Churches' Partners in Health and Wholeness initiative for a free webinar on Tuesday, May 5, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., featuring Dr. Sherronda Banks for an honest conversation about what it means to protect your peace in a dysregulated world.

Drawing from her Radical Preservation™ framework and more than two decades of culturally responsive clinical work, Dr. Banks, who is a therapist, speaker, and founder of Intentional Steps Counseling Services, will offer a bold and innovative approach to sustainable well-being, one that centers rest, boundaries, identity and intentional self-care. Scan the QR code for more information.



Guns to Gardens | June 13th

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 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.

"Thriving in Ministry" Film with Pastor Paula

After worship on 4/19, those who were present watched the film produced for the Duke Divinity School “Thriving In Ministry” program that focuses on Pastor Paula’s ministry journey. The five and one-half minute film, shot at UPUCC in December and January, features cameo appearances by several UPUCC folks and reminds us of the power of our community in making space to embrace and affirm people fully. Scan the QR code to watch.



Spare Boxes Needed

Do you have any small to medium-sized cardboard boxes that would be appropriate for packing up books (ideally with handles)? If so, you may leave them in the library as we prepare to pack up the remaining books to donate to Campbell Divinity School.

Help Plan Our First Halloween Masquerade!



On Friday October 30th, we are inviting community LGBT youth and ally youth to our church for a Halloween Masquerade. We want this to be a safe, fun, and welcoming event that welcomes individuals throughout the Triangle, and shows the community what we value as a church. We invite all interested, youth and adults, to join the Masquerade planning task force so that the event reflects an array of skills and viewpoints in the creation of an event that we hope will become annual. Scan the QR code to help plan!

Mutual Care Network Starting Up

The UPUCC 2026 Ministry Plan calls for building a culture of helping one another, fostering genuine connections, and ensuring that no one feels alone. In support of this aim, the Covenant Leadership Circle has created a task force (TF) that is charged with outlining a structure for UPUCC to implement a mutual care network. Our first step is identifying volunteers who are willing to help out when covenant partners have needs. We want to emphasize that signing up and letting us know how you can help, DOES NOT mean that you must respond to every request, but rather helps us know who might have the needed skills and/or inclination to assist with a particular request. We recognize that each of us has unique skills and different gifts to offer. The TF has come up with a list of things that folks might need and we invite you to add your name to any area you might be willing to assist with. If you think of something we’ve missed, please add it to the “other” category or send us an email. Thank you for helping us get this valuable resource up and running. Scan the QR code to access the form to sign up! —The UPUCC Mutual Care Task Force (care@upucc.org)



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 (Proposed):

Moderator: Gia Hafler

Moderator-Elect: Hope Kiser

Treasurer: Vickie Teal

Secretary: Sarah Bellak

Facilities Lead: Gary Sanders

At-Large: Elliot Acosta

At-Large: Laura Carter-Scheid

At-Large: David Frink

At-Large: Bob Martin

Financial Results			
	March	Year-To-Date	2026
General Offerings	\$28,787	\$64,421	\$304,882
Total Income	\$31,254	\$70,241	\$331,466
Total Expenses	\$30,006	\$83,086	\$386,585
Net Income	+1,247	-\$12,845	-\$55,119
From Reserves*		\$12,845	\$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, May 17thth at 12:00pm in the UPUCC Library. All are welcome!

The Covenant Leadership Circle (CLC) continues to be energized by the many ways our community is growing, connecting, and living out our values—both within our congregation and across the wider Triangle.

This month, the CLC took several steps to support that shared work. Funding was approved for our presence at Out! Raleigh, along with resources for new community-building tools, updated signage, and additional tables to better host gatherings in our space. Each of these decisions reflects a commitment to hospitality, visibility, and connection.

Building Community & Deepening Connections

Multiple teams are actively shaping how we care for one another and engage beyond our walls. New tools are being developed to help people find pathways into groups and activities, while efforts in community connection and mutual care continue to grow. A new congregational care system—including a dedicated email and sign-up form—will soon make it easier to both offer and receive support.

Our Family, Youth & Children team is reimagining opportunities for middle school-aged youth and their caregivers, with creative programming focused on transformation—beginning with the upcoming Guns to Gardens initiative. This powerful project, in partnership with other faith communities, will need around 50 volunteers and continued fundraising support to bring it to life.

Looking Ahead: Events & Engagement

There are many meaningful ways to get involved in the coming weeks—keep an eye on your Friday email! In addition, planning is underway for a Halloween Masquerade designed especially for LGBTQ youth and allies—an exciting opportunity to create a safe, joyful, and affirming space. Volunteers are warmly invited to help shape this event.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

A Snapshot of Our Finances & Facilities

Financially, we remain stable, with strong participation in giving and rental activity on track with last year. Ongoing building improvements—including new locks, upcoming renovations, and accessibility updates—are helping ensure our space continues to serve both our congregation and the broader community well.

Join the Work

The heart of the CLC's work is shared leadership. Whether you're interested in event planning, community care, youth programming, justice work, or simply exploring where you might connect, there is a place for you. Many of our current efforts began with a simple "yes" from someone like you.

If you'd like to learn more or get involved, we'd love to help you find your way in.


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


 Join the United Church of Christ as we kick off 250 days of Kindness! The UCC is proud to join the US of Kindness (USK) initiative in the 250 Acts of Kindness Call to Action for 2026. As we approach America's 250th anniversary, we invite congregations and individuals to join in elevating the kindness already happening and inspiring even more across our communities. All of our acts of kindness matter. One act of kindness can change a life; 250 million acts of kindness shared could change a nation. Scan the QR code to learn more.

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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