



GATHERING

Welcome and A Time of Greeting Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation Gina Sanders

Meditation

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

—Arundhati Roy



Prelude

David Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Gina Sanders

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

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
(see insert)

Choir

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Christy Tucker

Musical notation for a hymn in 4/4 time, G major. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half), D4 (half). Below the notes is the lyrics: "God wel-comes all, strang-ers and friends; God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends."

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10, *The Inclusive Bible*
(see insert)

Gina Sanders

Sermon

"Dreaming of a Day When All Is Well"

Rev. Paula Womack

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***Responsive Hymn**

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

Congregation



Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to see all
Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find bread and
Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for - lorn, find



peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of
chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of
wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a wea - ry world: the pro - mised green of

Refrain:



jus - tice comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and
plen - ty comes.
E - den comes.



moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing! We shall go forth with joy, — and be led



forth in peace, — as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Paula Womack

(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

Rev. Paula Womack



*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.*

Litany of Thanks

Congregation

One: For the gifts of those who walk this path alongside us,

Many: We give thanks.

One: For the way in which these offerings will become our presence with others,

Many: We give thanks.

One: For the gifts of this community bound and working together,

Many: We give thanks.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

#576, "For the Healing of the Nations"

Congregation

Announcements

*Affirmation of Community

Gina Sanders

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. Paula Womack

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
Rebecca van Dorsten (she/her), Coffee Set-Up
Lee Harrison (he/him), Assistant Treasurer
Mike Boston (he/him), Auditor/Usher
Nicki Norris (she/her), Greeter
Gina Sanders (she/her), Lay Leader
Kathy Austin (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

Anthem

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Arr. Tom Fettke

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there is doubt true faith in You

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, Spirit grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
It is in giving of ourselves that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10, *The Inclusive Bible*

Gina Sanders

¹ Let the desert and the wilderness exult! Let the Arabah rejoice and bloom like the crocus! ² Let it blossom profusely, let it rejoice and sing for joy! The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of God, the splendor of our God. ³ Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees. ⁴ Say to all those of faint heart: “Take courage! Do not be afraid! Look, God is coming, vindication is coming, the recompense of God— God is coming to save you!” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unsealed. ⁶ Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy. Waters will break forth in the wilderness, and there will be streams in the desert. ⁷ The scorched earth will become a lake; the parched land, springs of water. The lairs where jackals used to dwell will become thickets of reed and papyrus. ⁸ And through it will run a highway, a road called the Sacred Path. The unclean may not travel by it, but it will be for God’s people alone; and no traveler—not even fools—will go astray. ⁹ No lions will be there, nor will any fierce beast roam about it, but the redeemed will walk there— ¹⁰ for those whom God has ransomed will return. They will enter Zion shouting for joy, with everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them, and sorrow and lament will flee away.


Announcements

Meal Train for Sebastian Altman Castile | May 16, 19, or 21

Sebastian will be having surgery today and says that meals would help him a lot as he heals. Sign up via the QR code to drop off a home-cooked meal on May 16, 19 or 21 or send a gift card! Thanks for your care for Sebastian!



Aesthetics Listening Sessions | May 19th and 31st


 As we move forward with decorating our newly refreshed space, we believe that form should follow function. To help guide our work, we are beginning by listening to the community to create a list of values that we want to be reflected in the way our space looks and feels. We will have two more listening sessions: May 19th, 6pm (online only), and May 31, 11:45am (onsite/online). Please share during the listening sessions, or via the survey accessible through the QR code to help contribute to the larger story of who we are and what we value! Please note: at this time, we are not considering specific design elements or ideas. We want to start with our values and build up the art from that groundwork.

NW Raleigh Board Games MeetUp | May 21st at 6:30pm

In keeping with our Ministry Plan of "Connecting with Courage and Care," we are starting a monthly game night for the community via MeetUp.com. We plan to open the event to those in our surrounding neighborhoods and the Triangle in general. As a way to ensure that we have enough folks to play games, we are seeking your input first to try to find convenient days and times. Scan the QR code to join the online MeetUp group. You can RSVP via that website, or email David Wilson directly (david@upucc.org).



Service Sunday | May 24th

 We are holding a Service Sunday on May 24 to celebrate Pentecost! There will be several opportunities available to choose from. To help us make sure we have enough supplies and to coordinate logistics, please scan the QR code and let us know which service project you are most interested in doing.

Offering Counters Needed

Volunteers are needed to count the offering after Sunday worship services. The time requirement is 15-20 minutes immediately following the worship service once every 4 weeks. Training and documentation will be provided. Reach out to Vickie Teal, UPUCC Treasurer at treasurer@upucc.org for more information.

A Story of Hope from Impact Global Health Alliance (IGHA)

We believe that every life is sacred, yet many around the world still face life-threatening risks during childbirth due to a lack of resources. Through our partner, Impact Global Health Alliance (formerly Curamericas), families like María's in rural Guatemala now have access to safe, respectful care close to home. We invite you to read her story today via the QR code and see how our collective support is changing lives and bringing hope to underserved communities.



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!

Guns to Gardens | June 13th

Safe Gun Disposal Event from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Disarming Hearts: A Vigil of Remembrance at 4:00 p.m.

(Both events will take place at Umstead Park UCC, 8208 Brownleigh Dr, Raleigh, NC.)

Give: Financial contributions are welcome, and may be donated via the QR code following this announcement. (Select 'Guns to Gardens' from the fund dropdown menu and write 'Guns to Gardens' in the memo line)

The Event: Umstead Park UCC is partnering with RAWTools South and other local communities of faith to offer a Guns to Gardens Safe Disposal Event on June 13, 2026. The event provides a safe way for people to dispose of unwanted firearms. Participation is voluntary, free, anonymous, and open to all gun owners. Firearms are collected, and, on the spot, chopped up to be turned into garden tools, garden art, and jewelry.

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.

Surrender a Firearm: Gun owners interested in disposing of their guns should arrive at the event any time on June 13 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. with their unloaded firearms stored in the trunks or backs of their vehicles. A volunteer will meet each car at the entrance to the event and participants will stay in their cars while guns are dismantled by trained safety specialists. While supplies last, gift cards of up to \$200 will be offered as a "thank you" to those who dispose of their guns at the event.

Why This Is Important: With over 400,000 million guns in American homes, many of these are unwanted for a number of reasons. For instance, there may be vulnerable children or adults in the home, owners have inherited the guns but aren't comfortable with them, or someone has already been harmed by the gun. As faith communities, we can help dispose of these guns and make a difference in preventing more unnecessary gun violence or even death.

Volunteer: Volunteer to help make a difference! We need a wide variety of volunteers. Review volunteer positions and sign up now! You may access the volunteer sign up via the QR code following this announcement.

Attend the Closing Vigil: Join us for Disarming Hearts: A Vigil of Remembrance at 4:00 p.m. on June 13. This service of prayers, songs and readings, is for survivors of gun violence and all who care about gun violence prevention. The vigil will include a forge where those who choose may hammer dismantled gun parts to help turn them into garden tools, making an instrument that could do harm into a tool that can sustain life.

Thank You to Our Partners: Beth Meyer Synagogue, Windborne United Methodist Church, Church of the Nativity, Community United Church of Christ, Pullen Memorial Baptist Mission and Outreach Council, The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh.

Stories of Interest: Take a moment to listen, watch and learn more via the QR codes following this announcement! RAWtools South (the group partnering with us on the Guns to Gardens Safe Disposal Event and Disarming Hearts: A Vigil of Remembrance) recently was featured on NPR's All Things Considered. Guns to Gardens also is the subject of a recent 12-minute documentary film made by a UNC film student which offers an interesting college student perspective on the work.

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



Donate



Volunteer



RAWtools
South on
NPR



Guns to
Gardens
Documentary

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: 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 17th 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.

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

Did you know the United Church of Christ has a Justice & Peace Action Network? On behalf of the UCC, the JPAN offers that “Our commitment to justice will continue no matter who is in the White House, Congress or the Supreme Court.” Want to join this justice movement? Sign up for the Justice & Peace Action Network to receive weekly opportunities to take action!



Hiring Youth Director and Teaching Interns

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.



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!

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