

Trinity Sunday

May 31st, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



GATHERING

Welcome

Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation

Gwen Reagan

Meditation

“Circling around’ is all we can do. Our speaking of God is a search for similes, analogies, and metaphors. All theological language is an approximation, offered tentatively in holy awe. That’s the best human language can achieve. We can say, ‘It’s like—it’s similar to...,’ but we can never say, ‘It is...’ because we are in the realm of beyond, of transcendence, of mystery. And we must—absolutely must—maintain a fundamental humility before the Great Mystery. If we do not, religion always worships itself and its formulations and never God.”

-Richard Rohr

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

“Draw the Circle Wide”
(see insert)

Choir

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Rev. Tyler Ung



Strong, gen-tle chil-dren, God made you beau-ti-ful, gave you the wis-dom and pow-er you need;



speak in the still-ness all you are long-ing for; live out your call-ing to love and to lead.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Supplemental Hymns and Texts

Anthem

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Choir

Draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone,
we’ll stand side by side.
Draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide,
draw it wider still.
Let this be our song;
no one stands alone.
Standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

Reading of Scripture

2 Corinthians 13:11–14, *The Inclusive Bible*

Gwen Reagan

¹¹ And now, sisters and brothers, I must say goodbye. Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the holy ones send greetings to you.

¹⁴ The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ and the love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

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

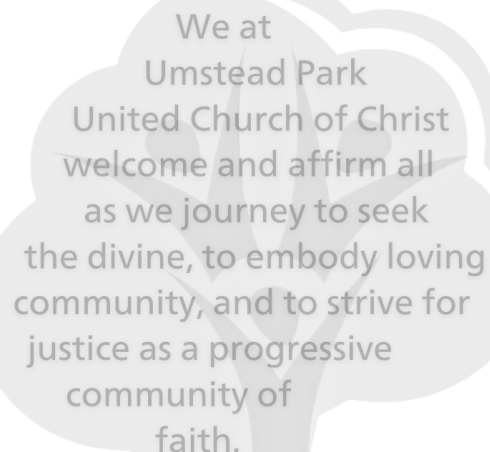
Cody Walter Welch, he/him/they/them
Teaching Intern

David Wilson, he/him
Director of Music

Rev. Paula Womack, she/her
Associate Pastor

A special “thank you” to this week’s volunteers:

Don Alderman, AV Team
Scott Andrews (he/him), AV Team
Amy Lewis (she/her), Coffee Set-Up
Ashley Montague (she/her), Greeter
Gwen Reagan (she/her), Lay Leader
Alice Jermyn (she/her), Usher
Michele Van Note, 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

Announcements

Aesthetics Listening Sessions | After Worship

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 one more listening session after worship today at 11:45am onsite, or online via the same worship zoom link. Please share during the listening session, or via the survey accessible through the QR code on the left 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



Celebrate at FarmFest | June 6th from 12-4pm

Need a break from all your worries? Come out to the farm with all our neighbors and friends from the participating CSA churches and farms. It's a great outing for the family and an annual ritual of fellowship. There will be a Blessing of the Land (bring your soil!), planting (we suggest hats and gloves), a farm tour, and a Potluck Lunch (bring a dish to share)! The Farm is located at 5240 NC HWY 39N, Henderson, NC 27537.

Guns to Gardens | June 13th (more information below)

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 from 11:00am-2:00pm, followed by a Vigil of Remembrance at 4:00pm. 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. For more detailed information on Guns to Gardens, including needed volunteers, see the detailed "Guns to Gardens" section below.

Out! Raleigh Volunteer Sign-Up | June 27th

Out! Raleigh Pride is perhaps the most important event we participate in to show our allyship with LGBTQIA+ folks, and to spread the word about our Open and Affirming congregation. Help us "walk the walk" by signing up to volunteer on June 27th via the QR code included here!



Mutual Care Network Up and Running

The UPUCC Mutual Care Network was designed to build a culture of helping one another, to foster genuine connections, and to ensure that no one feels alone. There are 2 parts:

(1) 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 desire to assist with a particular request

(2) Providing a way for covenant partners to easily request care help when they need it. We've identified individuals who are willing to provide care in areas such as running errands, tech help, pet care and so on. Please let us know what you are needing and we will do our best to pair you up with someone ASAP.



Join the Mutual Care Network by scanning the QR code included here.

The Mutual Care Task Force, care@upucc.org

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 via email to Vickie Teal, the 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 | More Information

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.)

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. If you signed up to bring food, please scan the last QR code following included with this announcement to specify what you will bring.



Donate



Volunteer



RAWtools
South on
NPR



Guns to
Gardens
Documentary



Signed up to
bring food?
Scan this!

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.

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 included with 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.

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			
	April	Year-To-Date	2026
General Offerings	\$23,280	\$87,701	\$304,882
Total Income	\$26,293	\$96,534	\$331,466
Total Expenses	\$25,853	\$108,939	\$386,585
Net Income	+440	-\$12,405	-\$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, June 14th at 12:00pm in the UPUCC Library. All are welcome!

The May CLC meeting was filled with thoughtful conversation, practical planning, and a continued focus on how UPUCC can grow as an inclusive, connected, and community-centered church.

The meeting opened with approval of last month's minutes and a review of the church's financial picture. While the year-to-date net income currently reflects a deficit, leaders noted that giving remains steady overall and discussed proactive steps to responsibly manage resources moving forward. The conversation reflected both realism and hopefulness about the church's future.

One of the largest discussions of the evening centered on publicity, communication, and connection. The CLC spent significant time exploring how UPUCC can more clearly communicate who we are — a progressive, LGBTQ-affirming, welcoming community that offers a different kind of church experience. Leaders talked about the importance of helping visitors move quickly from simply attending to truly belonging and participating.

The group emphasized that many people are actively searching for a spiritual or community home that aligns with their values, even if they do not consider themselves traditionally "church people." The goal is not simply visibility, but authentic invitation: helping people understand that UPUCC is a place where questions are welcome, community matters deeply, and people can show up fully as themselves.

To support this work, Gia will begin forming a task force focused on communications and direction-setting, while additional conversations next month will focus on technology, online engagement, and creating stronger cohesion across platforms and ministries. The church is also exploring ways to strengthen its online presence and search visibility so more people in the broader community can discover UPUCC.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

The CLC also discussed a request from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church to help support a family relocating from Gaza. After thoughtful conversation about balancing compassion, mission priorities, and financial stewardship, the group voted to contribute \$500 and invite other churches to partner in the effort. Leaders also agreed on the importance of developing a clearer process for future requests of this kind.

Excitement continues to build around the upcoming Guns to Gardens event on June 13. Organizers shared encouraging updates about publicity, fundraising, volunteer support, and collaboration with other churches and advocacy groups. More than \$5,000 has already been raised beyond the original startup funding, and awareness throughout the community continues to grow. The event is shaping up to be both a meaningful witness and a strong example of partnership across congregations and organizations.

The Mutual Aid Task Force also shared exciting progress. The ministry now has a dedicated church email and 17 volunteers signed up to help support members in practical ways. A new “Help Needed” form is ready to launch, making it easier to connect people who need assistance with those ready to help.

Several upcoming opportunities for community engagement were highlighted, including Pentecost Sunday service projects on May 24, VBS in mid-June, the Guns to Gardens safe disposal and vigil, and participation in Out Raleigh and the Pride Band concert later in the month.

Throughout the meeting, one theme remained clear: UPUCC is continuing to build a church rooted in welcome, action, care, and shared participation. The work ahead is not just for church leadership alone — it is something the whole community is invited to shape together. Whether through volunteering, joining conversations, inviting others in, or simply showing up and participating, there is space for everyone to be part of what UPUCC is becoming.

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

Tell Congress: Support Maternal Health. The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate of any high-income nation. But 80 percent of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable—we just need Congress to invest in maternal health. The Momnibus Act would make moms eligible for food assistance, study the causes of the crisis to inform solutions, fund organizations that work to address maternal mortality, protect moms and babies from climate-related dangers and risks, invest in housing, nutrition, and transportation for moms—and more. The UCC Justice & Peace Action Network urges everyone to contact Congress to pass the Momnibus Act. Scan the QR code to learn more about the Momnibus Act.



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!

Facebook: [UmsteadParkUCC](#) | Instagram: [UmsteadParkUCC](#) | BlueSky: [upucc.bsky.social](#)