

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7th, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

GATHERING

Welcome and Time of Greeting

Rev. Tyler Ung

Invocation

Kathy Austin

Meditation

"come out, yes. and that isn't the end, it is a first time to practice becoming yourself.

come out within yourself by noticing what your heart moves towards and what makes your root pulse.

come out into your true voice, in a confession, to a beloved, who is surprised, or who is never surprised.

come out by letting your gaze linger, your smile hint, your questions press.

come out as a weirdo and be deliciously odd as you race away from constructs and deconstructs.

come out as one who doesn't know anymore what they were so sure about but is delighted by the mystery.

but don't stop there. don't stop now. keep changing. keep going. never aim for normal, aim for you, utterly and dreamily you."

-adrienne maree brown, "the coming out spell"

Prelude

David Wilson

*Call to Worship

Rev. Tyler Ung

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

"In the Midst of New Dimensions" (verses 1-3)
(see insert)

Congregation

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.

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 15:22-28, *The Inclusive Bible*
(see insert)

Kathy Austin

Sermon

Rev. Eddie Weathers

Conversation

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Paula Womack

One: This is my prayer.

Many: **This is our prayer.**



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.

COMMUNION

Rev. Tyler Ung

Remembering and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Prayer That Jesus Taught

words adapted by Mark Miller from "The Lord's Prayer"

Our God, in heaven, holy is your name.

Your reign come, your will done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and help us forgive, as we have been forgiven.

In the time of trial lead us into light,

for yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion Liturgy

One: As we share in the bread, may we remember and give thanks for the life that Jesus lived.

Many: **As we share in the cup, may we remember and give thanks for the lives that we are living.**

One: As we receive the fruits of Spirit, we celebrate the communion of all things. Creator, Christ, and Spirit dance as one. So may it always be. Come for all things are ready.

At this time, you are invited to come forward. The bread may be dipped into the cup and then eaten. The cup contains juice. The center station contains gluten free bread.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

"Sing a New World Into Being" (verses 1-3)
(see insert)

Congregation

Announcements

*Affirmation of Community

Kathy Austin

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. Eddie Weathers

Postlude

David Wilson

Supplemental Hymns and Texts

***Gathering Hymn**

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"
(verses 1-3)

Congregation



1. In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of chang - ing ways,
2. Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions and de - spair,
3. As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
4. We are ma - ny gen - ders gath - ered, all per - sua - sions, old and young,
5. Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan - der - ing their sep - arate ways?
Who will lift the ol - ive branch es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar,



We your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 15:22-28, *The Inclusive Bible*

Kathy Austin

²² It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that area came and cried out to Jesus, "Heir to the House of David, have pity on me! My daughter is horribly demonpossessed."

²³ Jesus gave her no word of response. The disciples came up and repeatedly said to him, "Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us."

²⁴ Finally Jesus turned to the woman and said, "My mission is only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel."

²⁵ She then prostrated herself before him with the plea, "Help me, Rabbi!"

²⁶ He answered, "But it isn't right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

²⁷ "True, Rabbi," she replied, "but even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table."

²⁸ Jesus then said in reply, "Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass." At that very moment her daughter was healed.

1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
 2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
 3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
 4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
 brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
 where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
 for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
 where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
 where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
 when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

About Our Guest Preacher

Rev. Eddie Weathers was born in Greensboro, NC and following one year at Shaw spent 6 years in the U.S. Navy. Later, he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Education from John Wesley College in High Point, NC (now Laurel University) and completed Lancaster Theological Seminary Pastor School. Rev. Weathers had long pastorates at Melfield UCC in Haw River, NC, and Mt. Zion UCC in Rockingham, NC. He also held a position as a Clinical Chaplain in the NC Department of Correction in Hoffman, NC. Rev. Weathers has been in ministry for 63 years, and is currently an associate at Union Chapel in Burlington. Though he retired as the Associate Conference Minister of the Eastern NC Association of the Southern Conference of the UCC, he has returned to be the temporary Conference Minister for the Southern Conference.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

About the Sculpture On the Communion Table

From Rev. Stan Wilson, RAWtools South, Asheville, NC:
Winds of Change (wood & steel)

“Whenever he feels a breeze or gust of wind my friend Dan says, ‘The Spirit is on the Move’ with a tone of admiration mixed with amazement. I love this practice and have claimed it for myself; it’s a great reminder to pause for a moment, squint and try to see where the Spirit is moving and what it might be asking of me. The Spirit is always on the move whether or not I’m paying attention. For those of us who believe in a dynamic and creative God, keeping a finger on the pulse of ‘Where is the Spirit moving now?’ is a large part of our practice.

“There is a growing movement to end gun violence in America and I believe Spirit is a part of that broadening effort. This little sculpture can remind us that Spirit is at work here and now, even indoors. Made from three different gun parts: an overturned rifle stock as the base, a cylinder from a revolver, and the lining of a barrel twisting up and out moving in multiple directions. The wispy part can turn in the revolver cylinder and point in different directions.

“Trinitarians might see these three interconnected, structurally dependent parts, as a reminder of the three persons of God whose relational dynamics create not just the wind but everything that is salvific all the way down to the very Ground of Being. If you look closely on the tip of the gun stock it is stamped 1944. I don’t know if it was used in WWII, but it could have been. Using a slice of this stock and turning it upside down is in the same Spirit of the Nonviolent Jesus overturning tables in the temple. It seeks to turn over and look with curiosity at what perversions of Love have become normal and accepted practices. We, the followers of Jesus, can sit with whom Jesus would ask us to kill? The Spirit is on the move.”

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

Guest Preacher

Rev. Eddie Weathers (he/him)

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

Nevin Fouts, AV Team

Bill Yoder (he/him), AV Team

Kathy Austin (she/her), Coffee Set Up/Lay Leader

Debbie Beroth (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

Guns to Gardens

Safe Gun Disposal Event on Saturday, June 13th 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 included with this announcement. If you signed up to bring food, please scan the last QR code 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.


Announcements

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!



Triangle Pride Band | June 27th at 7pm

 Tickets are now available for the 10th anniversary Triangle Pride Band concert on Saturday, June 27 (yes, the same day as Out Raleigh) at 7:00 PM. This is a joint concert with the Symphonic Band, Chorus, Jazz Band, and Marching Band at the Fletcher Opera stage in the Martin Marietta Center. Pick your seats from the three tiers available. Tickets are available online or in person at the box office. This should be a great concert with some fabulous performances to celebrate the LGBTQ+ music community. Scan the QR code to buy tickets today!

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.

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!



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.

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

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

“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

 Witness for Justice is a weekly United Church of Christ opinion column that identifies timely or urgent justice issues. It is a theologically based perspective founded on the UCC’s historic commitment to justice and peace. It is also intended to engage readers and encourage prophetic witness and action. Columns are posted to UCC.org, UCC News Digest, emailed out to subscribers (including newspapers who publish commentaries), shared via Justice and Witness Ministries and UCC social media. Scan the QR code to subscribe.

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