

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21st, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

GATHERING

Welcome and Time of Greeting

Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation

Gwen Vass

Meditation

"Because in trying to articulate what, perhaps, joy is, it has occurred to me that among other things—the trees and the mushrooms have shown me this—joy is the mostly invisible, the underground union between us, you and me, which is, among other things, the great fact of our life and the lives of everyone and thing we love going away. If we sink a spoon into that fact, into the duff between us, we will find it teeming. It will look like all the books ever written. It will look like all the nerves in a body. We might call it sorrow, but we might call it a union, one that, once we notice it, once we bring it into the light, might become flower and food. Might be joy." -Ross Gay, *The Book of Delights*

Prelude

David Wilson

*Call to Worship

Gwen Vass

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

#30, "Colorful Creator"

Congregation

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Christy Tucker



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.

Reading of Scripture Proverbs 2:2-5, *The Inclusive Bible* Gwen Vass
(see insert)

Sermon "Questions" Rev. Jane Weidig

***Responsive Hymn** "Ask the Complicated Questions" Congregation
(see insert)

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.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "Seek Ye First" Congregation
(see insert)

Announcements

***Affirmation of Community** Gwen Vass

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. Jane Weidig

Postlude David Wilson

Supplemental Hymns and Texts

Reading of Scripture

Proverbs 2:2-5, *The Inclusive Bible*

Gwen Vass

² Incline your ear to Wisdom, and take her truth into your heart. ³ For if you yearn for insight and cry out for understanding, ⁴ If you search for it as you would for silver, and dig for it as you would for buried treasure, ⁵ you will understand what [awe] of God is, and discover how to truly know God.

*Responsive Hymn

"Ask the Complicated Questions"

Congregation



1. Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions; do not fear to be found out,
2. Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers; fol - low where the Spir - it blows,
3. Knock on doors of new i - deas, — test as - sump - tions long grown stale,
4. For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er truth both sim - ple and pro - found:



for our God makes strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
test com - pet - ing truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
for Christ calls from shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
in the knock - ing, ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

*Sending Hymn

"Seek Ye First"

Congregation



1. Seek ye — first the — kin - dom of God and God's righ - teous - ness, —
2. Ask, and — it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and ye shall find, —



and all these things shall be add - ed un-to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un-to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

About Our Guest Preacher

Rev. Jane Weidig (she/her) has been a part of UPUCC since the beginning. She helped write the Covenant, served on early administrative councils, and chaired numerous committees over the years. Jane grew up in Connecticut, went to Franklin and Marshall College for a degree in Anthropology while focusing on Archaeology, received her M.Div degree from Andover Newton Theological School, and worked in the National Offices of the UCC in Cleveland, OH. During college and seminary Jane went to the Holy Land twice (and worked once on an archaeological excavation), Greece, and Kenya. Since settling here in NC with Paula Womack and getting married, she has become an avid Carolina Hurricanes fan and together they have traveled to Italy, the Caribbean, and all across this country. This fall they will be cruising to Hawaii, the 50th state to complete going to all 50 states.

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.”