

# Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28th, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



umstead park  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

## GATHERING

**Welcome and Time of Greeting**

Rev. Tyler Ung

**Invocation**

*(adapted from www.enfleshed.com)*

Gwen Reagan

**Meditation**

Video: "I stopped waiting for awe to find me"

andrea gibson

**Prelude**

David Wilson

**\*Pride Blessing**

Rev. Paula Womack

One: Beloveds of God, as we celebrate Pride month together

**Many: We come as we are, grateful to be gathered in love.**

One: We bless the courage of those who have walked difficult roads to live authentically.

**Many: We honor the stories, resilience and gifts of LGBTQIA+ people.**

One: We bless every person who is discovering who they are.

**Many: May they know they are wonderfully made and deeply loved.**

One: We celebrate the beauty and diversity of all of God's people.

**Many: May everyone know they are worthy, beloved and enough.**

One: We give thanks for those whose work for equality has brought us here.

**Many: And we commit ourselves to the ongoing work of justice, welcome and love.**

One: Beloveds of God, receive this blessing:

**Many: We are loved. We are affirmed. We belong.**

**All: We are held in God's extravagant embrace. Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

"Sing a New World Into Being"  
*(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**

Isaiah 43:16–19, *The Inclusive Bible*  
*(see insert)*

Gwen Reagan

**Sermon**

"Look for the New Thing"

Rev. Tyler Ung

**\*Responsive Hymn**

#575, "O, For a World"

Congregation

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Tyler Ung

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](https://tinyurl.com/upuccprayers), or scan the QR code to the left.*

## Celebration of Gifts

Rev. Tyler Ung



*In addition to placing gifts into the offering basket, you may also visit [upucc.org/giving](https://upucc.org/giving) or scan the QR code to the left to make an online contribution.*

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD

### Blessing for Service Learning

Rev. Tyler Ung

One: As you go, far from home and from the familiar—

**Many: May you find the care that you need.**

One: As you work with and serve the people who welcome you in—

**Many: May you embody the service and love that Jesus taught.**

One: And as you return from this chance to serve and learn—

**Many: May your view of the world be a little wider, your view of yourself be a little deeper, and your view of Love be a little stronger. Amen.**

### \*Sending Hymn

“For Everyone Born” (*see insert*)

Congregation

## Announcements

### \*Affirmation of Community

Gwen Reagan

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

umstead park  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

### Church Staff

Lindsay Cooper, she/her  
Nursery Director

Ellen Fiedler, she/her  
Youth 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  
Amy Lewis (she/her), Coffee/Usher  
Debbie Elliott (she/her), Usher  
Mike Boston (he/him), Counter  
Ashley Montague (she/her), Greeter  
Gwen Reagan (she/her), Lay Leader

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.



### Visiting?

You are invited to fill out the online visitor form so that we can get to know you!



### Giving

Scan the QR code to make a one-time or recurring donation!

# Supplemental Hymns and Texts

## Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 43:16–19, *The Inclusive Bible*

Gwen Reagan

<sup>16</sup> Thus says YHWH,  
who made a road through the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who led chariots and warriors to their doom,  
a mighty army fallen, never to rise again,  
snuffed out and extinguished like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> “Forget the events of the past,  
ignore the things of long ago!  
<sup>19</sup> Look, I am doing something new!  
Now it springs forth—can’t you see it?  
I’m making a road in the desert  
and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland.

## \*Responsive Hymn

“Sing a New World Into Being”

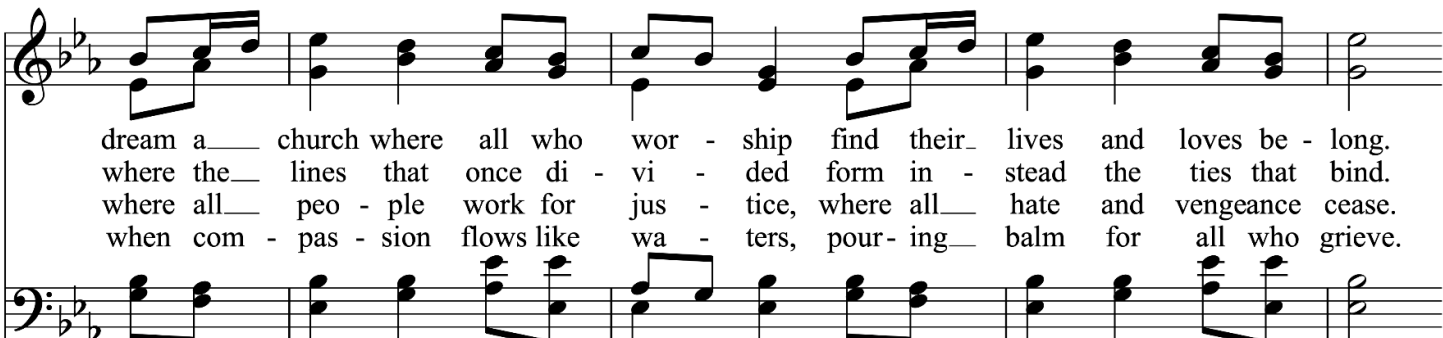
Congregation



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 year - 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;

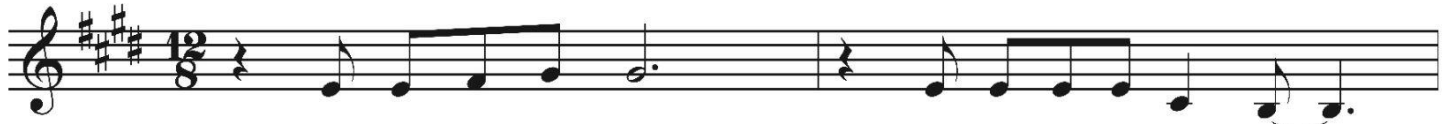


dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.  
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.  
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for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

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.



1. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_  
 2. For wo - man and man, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_  
 3. For gay, bi, and straight, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_  
 4. For bo - dies di - verse, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_



for ev - ery - one born, \_\_\_ clean wa - ter and bread, \_\_\_  
 and all those be - tween, \_\_\_ be - yond, and be - sides; \_\_\_  
 in - vit - ed to wed, \_\_\_ to bap - tize and preach, \_\_\_  
 all man - ner of speech \_\_\_ and move - ment and minds; \_\_\_



a shel - ter, a space, \_\_\_ a safe place for grow - ing, \_\_\_  
 ex - pand - ing our world, \_\_\_ dis - man - tl - ing pow - er, \_\_\_  
 a rain - bow of race \_\_\_ and gen - der and co - lor, \_\_\_  
 en - a - bled to lead \_\_\_ and teach us new lan - guage,



for ev - ery - one born, \_\_\_ a star o - ver - head,  
 each val - ued for what \_\_\_ their voice \_\_\_ can pro - vide.  
 for queer, trans, and ace, \_\_\_ God's jus - tice in reach.  
 for bo - dies di - verse, \_\_\_ a church \_\_\_ re - de - signed.



and God \_\_\_ will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice \_\_\_



and joy, \_\_\_\_\_ com - pas - sion and peace:



yes, God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, \_\_\_ jus - tice and joy!

## 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."

## Announcements

### Out! Raleigh Pride a Success!

David W. wishes to extend his immense gratitude to all of the folks involved in helping plan and execute the logistics of Out! Raleigh Pride. It was a tremendous success, and he could not have pulled it off without all of that essential support!

### Cook Out - Save the Date! | August 30th

Your Fellowship Lead Team is cooking up some end of summer fun – literally! On Sunday, August 30th following service, your Fellowship Lead Team is hosting an end of summer cookout. We will provide burgers and dogs – and vegetarian options of each – which will be cooked on UPUCC's very own grill. Any volunteer griller masters are more than welcome!! Be on the lookout for the signup genius for sides and desserts. If you have any safe yard games you would like to bring, we would welcome that! There might even be prizes! So, be sure to save the date, August 30th for fun and fellowship!

### 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!




### Hiring Teaching Intern



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.

## UCC Connections

 You're invited to join Rev. Dr. Bentley deBardelaben-Phillips, United Church of Christ Minister and Team Lead for Education for Faithful Action Ministries, for a powerful and affirming Pride Worship Service. The sermon title is "Whoever Welcomes You Welcomes Me" (Matthew 10:40-42; Genesis 22:1-14). This spirited service from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET on Sunday, June 28, also will feature inspiring music. All are welcome! Scan the QR code for Information on how to register for the livestream link and reminders.

## 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](mailto: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!



## 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](mailto:care@upucc.org)

## Follow Us on Social Media!

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

# 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				
	May	YTD	2026	Difference / Remaining
General Offerings	\$19,631	\$107,332	\$304,882	-\$197,550
Total Income	\$24,875	\$121,559	\$331,466	-\$209,907
Total Expenses	\$29,756	\$138,395	\$386,585	-\$248,183
Net Income	-\$4,881	-\$16,843	-\$55,119	\$38,276
*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, July 12th at 12:00pm in the UPUCC Library. All are welcome!

From investing in technology to gathering congregational wisdom through Home Groups, the Covenant Leadership Circle spent June focused on strengthening connections and preparing for the future. Just as importantly, many of these efforts will depend on the gifts, ideas, and participation of our wider church community.

The group approved the May financial report, noting that June rental income is projected to exceed budget expectations.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on how technology can better support ministry and community connection. Discussion included improvements to online worship, audiovisual equipment, website communications, online security, and ways to better connect online and in-person participants. To help move this work forward, a Technology Taskforce consisting of Gary, Tyler, and Paula was formed. The group also approved up to \$2,500 for the purchase and installation of a new camera to improve worship streaming. As this work continues, members are encouraged to share ideas and expertise that could help shape our technology strategy.

One of the most exciting initiatives on the horizon is the launch of August Home Groups. Small groups of covenant partners and regular visitors will gather to reflect on three questions: What keeps you up at night? What gives you hope? And what would make you most proud of our church? The insights gathered will help guide ministry planning for 2027. Watch for opportunities to participate and help ensure your voice is part of the conversation.

The Children & Youth discussion focused on creating more meaningful ways for young people—especially middle school students—to participate in worship. Ideas included youth leadership opportunities, dedicated spaces within the sanctuary, and inviting young people to help design environments that support their engagement. This work will continue over the summer, and input from families and youth will be an important part of the process.

The Covenant Leadership Circle also reflected on the success of the recent Guns to Gardens event, which drew strong participation from local faith communities. Lessons learned from this year's event may help shape future regional efforts.

Preparations are underway for Out! Raleigh, with volunteer opportunities nearly filled, updated promotional materials in development, and additional funding approved to support the event. PACE also shared encouraging updates, including national recognition of the Raleigh Bridge Brigade, completion of a postcard advocacy campaign, and preparations for upcoming voter engagement efforts.

Finally, the group approved a new staff leave policy that provides additional flexibility for carrying over or borrowing up to one week of paid time off.

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\* Please rise in body or in spirit.