

# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5th, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



## GATHERING

**Welcome and Time of Greeting**

Rev. Tyler Ung

**Invocation**

Gia Hafler

**Meditation**

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." -Maya Angelou

**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**

#594, "How Beautiful Our Spacious Skies"

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**Reading of Scripture**

Matthew 18:21-35, *The Inclusive Bible*  
(see insert)

Gia Hafler

**Sermon**

Rev. Tyler Ung

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

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.*

## COMMUNION

Rev. Paula Womack

### Remembering and 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.*

### \*Communion Hymn

"Come to the Table of Grace"

David Wilson, Congregation



1. Come	to the	ta - ble	of	grace.	_____	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	grace.	_____
2. Come	to the	ta - ble	of	peace.	_____	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	peace.	_____
3. Come	to the	ta - ble	of	love.	_____	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	love.	_____
4. Come	to the	ta - ble	of	hope.	_____	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	hope.	_____
5. Come	to the	ta - ble	of	joy.	_____	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	joy.	_____



This is God's	ta - ble;	it's	not	yours	or	mine.	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	grace.	_____
This is God's	ta - ble;	it's	not	yours	or	mine.	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	peace.	_____
This is God's	ta - ble;	it's	not	yours	or	mine.	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	love.	_____
This is God's	ta - ble;	it's	not	yours	or	mine.	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	hope.	_____
This is God's	ta - ble;	it's	not	yours	or	mine.	Come	to the	ta - ble	of	joy.	_____

### 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.

### SENDING INTO THE WORLD

#### Reading an Excerpt of the UPUCC Covenant

Congregation

One: In our faithful sojourning we do not walk alone. God is present with us. We have not yet arrived. God continues to beckon.

One: Beckoned to this place of belonging, we, of Umstead Park United Church of Christ...come together as travelers on a journey, each bringing our unique histories, traditions, and stories of faith, and we prayerfully establish the covenant, seeking...

**Many: A closer communion with God,  
A more intimate community with one another, and  
A committed, mutual relationship with the wider world.**

## Welcoming a New Member

One: Melissa, as you join this community as an official covenant partner, do you promise to uphold this covenant?

Melissa: I do.

One: And do you, church family, promise to welcome and care for Melissa, covenanting with her for the journey ahead?

**Many: We do!**

One: Let all the people say...

**Many: Amen!**



*Melissa and Daniel moved to Raleigh in 2023 and love it here. They like being outside, reading, helping others, and hanging with family and friends. They love this church and are really excited to be official members!*

## \*Sending Hymn

#591, "This Is My Song"

Congregation

## Announcements and Moderator Moment

### \*Affirmation of Community

Gia Hafler

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:

Reed Altman, AV Team  
Peter van Dorsten (he/him), AV Team  
Nina Nalle Robinson (she/her), Greeter  
Kailina Grace (she/her), Greeter  
Gia Hafler (she/her), Lay Leader  
Jonathan McLean (he/him), Usher  
Bob Martin (he/him), 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.



### 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!

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

# Supplemental Hymns and Texts

## Reading of Scripture

Matthew 18:21–35, The Inclusive Bible

Gia Hafler

<sup>21</sup> Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> “No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup> And here’s why.

“The kin-dom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. <sup>24</sup> When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!’ <sup>27</sup> Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

<sup>28</sup> “Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe me!’

<sup>29</sup> “The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!’ <sup>30</sup> But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

<sup>31</sup> “When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. <sup>32</sup> The ruler sent for the official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’ <sup>34</sup> Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full.

<sup>35</sup> “God in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

## Announcements

### After Worship - Newcomers and Inquirers Sessions

Gary Sanders will host a Newcomers and Inquirers Session after the service today for interested persons both onsite and online. Join in for a chance to learn more about Umstead Park United Church of Christ (UPUCC), the UCC denomination and about being a Covenant Partner at UPUCC is all about!

### Covenant Leadership Circle Meeting | July 12th after Worship

You are invited to attend the Covenant Leadership Circle (CLC) for their monthly meeting after church onsite in the library or online via Zoom. You may bring a bag lunch, or partake in some of the snacks we often have on hand. All are welcome.

### 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



As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, we stand at a critical evolutionary crossroads. The promise of American pluralism has never been a static artifact of the past, it is a living, breathing covenant that each generation must expand, deepen, and renew. This interfaith webinar invites us to move beyond mere religious tolerance and provide tools to engage in deep, active pluralism. We acknowledge that our nation's founding ideals were marred by systemic exclusion, colonization and slavery and yet we also honor the fierce legacy of prophetic resistance that has continuously pushed us toward true liberation.

Join on Monday, July 6, at 3:30 p.m. ET in a United Church of Christ "Nurture the Soul" webinar also supported by several other faith traditions to explore how our diverse spiritual communities can unite to dismantle modern Religious Nationalism and commemorate 250 years of multi-faith resilience—the true fabric of American Pluralism. We will learn from ecumenical and interfaith leaders through stories, ritual sharing and the creation of a dreaming space for the next 250-years where every community flourishes under a shared canopy of equal dignity and collective liberation.

## 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

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