

GATHERING

Welcome and Time of Greeting

Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation

Gwen Reagan

Meditation

“And of course I am afraid, because the transformation of silence into language and action is an act of self-revelation, and that always seems fraught with danger...And where the words of women are crying to be heard, we must each of us recognize our responsibility to seek those words out, to read them and share them and examine them in their pertinence to our lives. That we not hide behind the mockeries of separations that have been imposed upon us and which so often we accept as our own...And all the other endless ways in which we rob ourselves of ourselves and each other.” –Audre Lord, *The Transformation of Silence Into Language and Action*

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

*Gathering Hymn

“Summoned by the God Who Made Us”

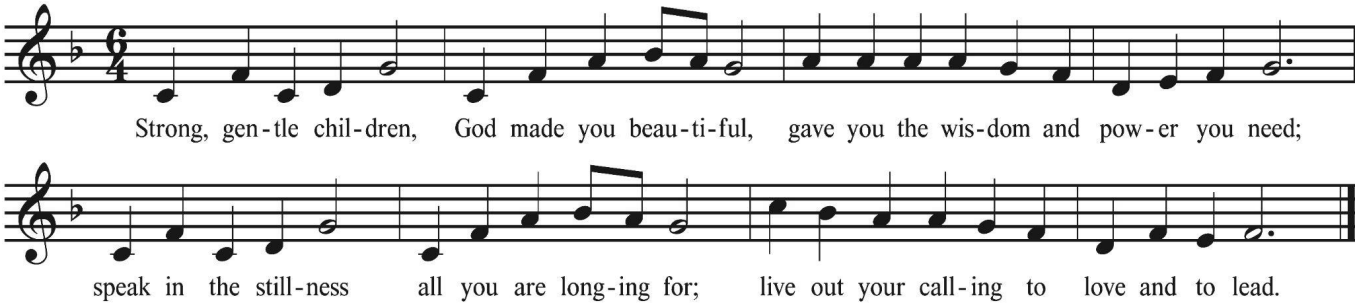
Congregation

(see insert)

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Erinn Long



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

Exodus 1:6-2:10, *The Inclusive Bible*

Gwen Reagan

(see insert)

Sermon

“Women of the Resistance”

Rev. Paula Womack

*Responsive Hymn

“There Is a Line of Women”

Congregation

(see insert)

* Please rise in body or in spirit.



*You are invited to share your joys and concerns. People onsite can raise a hand and a microphone will be brought to them. People online can type their requests in the chat. We ask that you share carefully, knowing that we do not know what traumas people carry with them into this gathering and striving to not trigger or harm our neighbors. After each person shares, we will respond with: **"This is our prayer."** To submit prayer requests for the weekly email, visit tinyurl.com/upuccprayers, or scan the QR code.*

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 here to make an online contribution.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"
(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. Paula Womack

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

Christy Tucker (she/her), Counter

Gwen Reagan (she/her), Lay Leader

Erinn Long, Lay Leader

Dan Holt, Usher

Carole Holt, Usher

Seth Kandl, Online Greeter

 Visiting?

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

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!

Supplemental Hymns and Texts

*Gathering Hymn

"Summoned by the God Who Made Us"

Congregation



1. Sum - moned

by

the

God who made

us

rich in

our

di - ver - si - ty,

2. Ra - diant

ri - sen

from the

wa - ter,

robed in

ho - li - ness and

light,

3. Trust

the

good - ness

of cre - a - tion;

trust the

Spir - it

strong with - in.

4. Bring

the

hopes

of

ev - ery

na - tion;

bring the

art

of

ev - ery

race.

5. Draw

to - geth - er

at one

ta - ble

all the

hu - man

fam - i - ly;



gath - ered

in

the

name of

Je - sus,

rich - er

still

in

u - ni - ty:

ev - ery

per - son

in

God's

im - age,

ev - ery

per - son,

God's

de - light.

Dare to

dream

the

vi - sion

prom - ised

sprung from

seed

of

what has

been.

Weave a

song

of

peace and

jus - tice;

let it

sound

through

time and

space.

shape a

cir - cle

ev - er

wid - er

and a

peo - ple

ev - er

free.

Refrain



Let us

bring

the

gifts that

dif - fer

and,

in

splen - did,

var - ied

ways,



sing a

new

church

in - to

be - ing,

one in

faith

and

love

and

praise.

Reading of Scripture

Exodus 1:6-2:10, The Inclusive Bible

Gwen Reagan

⁶ Then Joseph and his brothers died, and, one by one, all the members of that generation passed away; ⁷ but the children of Israel were fruitful, and they became a veritable swarm—their numbers increased so much that they filled the land and became powerful. ⁸ A new Pharaoh—one who did not know Joseph—came to power in Egypt. ⁹ Pharaoh said to the Egyptians, “Look at how powerful the Israelites have become, and how they outnumber us! ¹⁰ We need to deal shrewdly with their increase, against a time of war when they might turn against us and join our enemy, and so escape out of the country.” ¹¹ So they oppressed the Israelites with overseers who put them to forced labor; and with them they built the storage cities of Pitom and Ra’amses. ¹² Yet the more the Israelites were oppressed, the more they multiplied and burst forth, until the Egyptians dreaded the Israelites. ¹³ So they made the Israelites utterly subservient with hard labor, brick-and-mortar work, and every kind of field work. ¹⁴ The Egyptians were merciless in subjugating them with crushing labor. ¹⁵ Pharaoh spoke to the midwives of the Hebrews—one was Shiphrah, and the other Puah—¹⁶ and said, “When you assist the Hebrew women in childbirth, examine them on the birthing-stool. If the baby is a boy, kill it. If it is a girl, let it live.” ¹⁷ But the midwives were God-fearing women, and they ignored the Pharaoh’s instructions, and let the male babies live. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned the midwives and asked why they let the male babies live. ¹⁹ The midwives responded, “These Hebrew women are different from Egyptian women; they are more robust, and deliver even before the midwife arrives.” ²⁰ God rewarded the midwives, and the people increased in numbers and in power. ²¹ And since the midwives were God-fearing, God gave them families of their own. ²² The Pharaoh then commanded all those in Egypt, “Let every boy that is born to the Hebrews be thrown into the Nile, but let every girl live.” ^{2:1} There was a man from the house of Levi who had married a Levite woman, ² and she conceived and gave birth to a boy. And she saw that the baby was good, so she hid it for three months. ³ When she could hide the baby no longer she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and pitch, and put the child in it, and placed the basket among the reeds by the banks of the Nile. ⁴ The baby’s sister watched from a distance to learn what would happen. ⁵ Pharaoh’s daughter came down to the Nile to bathe, while her attendants walked along the river bank. She noticed the basket among the reeds, and sent her attendant to fetch it. ⁶ Opening it, she saw the baby—and how it wept! She was moved to pity and said, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children!” ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Do you want me to go and find a nurse for you among the Hebrews to suckle the child for you?” ⁸ “Yes, go,” she answered. So the sister went off and brought the baby’s own mother. ⁹ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child with you and suckle it for me, and I myself will pay you.” The woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ After the child was weaned, she brought it to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted it as her own. She called him Moses—“He Who Pulls Out”—for she said, “I pulled him out of the water.”

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***Responsive Hymn**

"There Is a Line of Women"

Congregation



1. There is a line of wo - men ex - tend - ing back to Eve
 2. So sing a song of Sa - rah— to laugh - ter she gave birth;
 3. There is a line of wo - men who took on power - ful men,
 4. So sing a song of Shiph - rah with Pu - ah close at hand:
 5. There is a line of wom - en who stood by Je - sus' side,
 6. So sing a song of An - na who saw Christ's in - fant face;



whose role in shap - ing hist - ory God on - ly could con - ceive;
 and sing a song of Ta - mar who stood for wo - men's worth;
 de - fy - ing laws and scru - ples to let life live a - gain;
 en - gaged to kill male chil - dren, they foiled the king's com - mand;
 who housed him while he mini - stered and held him when he died;
 and sing a song of Mar - tha who gave him food and space;



and though through end - less a - ges their wit - ness was re - pressed,
 and sing a song of Han - nah who bar - gained with her Lord;—
 and though, de - spite their tri - umph, their sto - ries stayed un - told,—
 and sing a song of Ra - hab who shel - tered spies and lied;—
 and though they claimed he'd ris - en, their news was deemed sus - pect—
 and sing of all the Ma - rys who heed - ed his re - quests—



God val - ued and in - spired them through whom the world was blessed.
 and sing a song of Ma - ry who bore and bred God's word.
 God kept their num - ber grow - ing, cre - a - tive, strong, and bold.
 and sing a song of Es - ther pre - vent - ing gen - o - cide.
 till Je - sus stood a - mong them, his wom - an - ly e - lect.
 and now at heav - en's ban - quet are Je - sus' fond - est guests.

***Sending Hymn**

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

Congregation



1. Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2. Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way,
 3. Di - vine E - ter - nal Lov - er, you meet us on — the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 whose hope burns through the ter - rors, whose love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound.
 But wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 To - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Announcements

Covenant Leadership Circle Meeting | After Worship

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



Learn about Cash Bail Reform with UPUCC's Peter van Dorsten | July 27

Join UPUCC's own Peter van Dorsten on Monday, July 27 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (82 Kimberly Dr, Durham) for a seminar on Cash Bail and the NC Judicial System. The presentation is a partnership between NC Interfaith Cash Bail Reform, St. Stephen's and the North Carolina Council of Churches, which writes, "There is a dividing line in America that less than 40% of the population see. It oppresses those of low wealth and it is hiding in plain sight. Join us for a session to learn about the injustices that the for-profit Cash Bail system in NC perpetuates for poor people. As new government policies put further burdens on people of low wealth, it is important to understand the mechanisms of oppression, what can be done in response, and to work together on a plan of action." Peter works with NC Interfaith Cash Bail Reform to enlist the support of religious and civic minded groups from across the state to advocate for replacing for profit cash bail with fair, just, safe, effective and less costly alternatives to pretrial detention. Scan the QR code to register.



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



Doubling Down: United Church of Christ General Minister and President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson's recent blog post, "Doubling Down," addresses politics, church politics and justice for women. She challenges us to seek equity and access for women both beyond and within the UCC. Scan the QR code to read more.

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!



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

Follow Us on Social Media!

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

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

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.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.