

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19th, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

GATHERING

Welcome and Time of Greeting

Rev. Tyler Ung

Invocation

Bob Martin

Meditation

Cody Walter Welch

*When have you felt close to the Divine, like feeling small but in a safe way?
Where is the holy ground in your story?*

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

"Morning Has Broken"
(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

Genesis 28:10-19a, *The Inclusive Bible*
(see insert)

Bob Martin

Sermon

Rev. Tyler Ung

*Responsive Hymn

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"
(see insert)

Congregation

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Rev. Tyler Ung



*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.*

* Please rise in body or in spirit.



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

"Nearer, My God, to You"
(see insert)

Congregation

Announcements

*Affirmation of Community

Bob Martin

- 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:

Don Alderman, AV Team

Peter van Dorsten (he/him), AV Team

Rebecca van Dorsten (she/her), Coffee Set Up

Lee Harrison (he/him), Assistant Treasurer

Dan Harrell, Auditor

Ashley Montague (she/her), Greeter

Bob Martin (he/him), Lay Leader/Usher



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

"Morning Has Broken"

Congregation



1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird is

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first

3. Mine is the sun - light, mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing, praise for the

dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet

one light E - den saw play. Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ry



morn - ing, praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word.

gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.

morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day.

Reading of Scripture

Genesis 28:10-19a, The Inclusive Bible

Bob Martin

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he passed the night there. He took a rock and used it for a headrest and lay down to sleep there. ¹² During the night he had a dream: there was a ladder, standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and messengers of God were going up and coming down the ladder. ¹³ God was there, standing over him, saying, "I am God, the God of Sarah and Abraham, and the God of Rebecca and Isaac. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the specks of dust on the ground; you will spread to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south, and all the tribes of the earth will bless themselves by you and your descendants. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you. I will keep you safe wherever you go, and bring you back to this land; I will not desert you before I have done all that I have promised you."

¹⁶ Then Jacob woke and said, "Truly, God is in this place, and I never knew it!" ¹⁷ He was filled with trembling and said, "How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!" ¹⁸ Jacob rose early the next morning, and took the stone he had used as a headrest and set it up as a monument, and anointed it with oil. ¹⁹ Jacob named the place Bethel—"House of God"

*Responsive Hymn

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

Congregation



We are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, we are climb - ing, Ja - cob's

Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er, ev - ery round goes high - er,

Rise, — shine, — give God glo - ry, rise, — shine, — give God

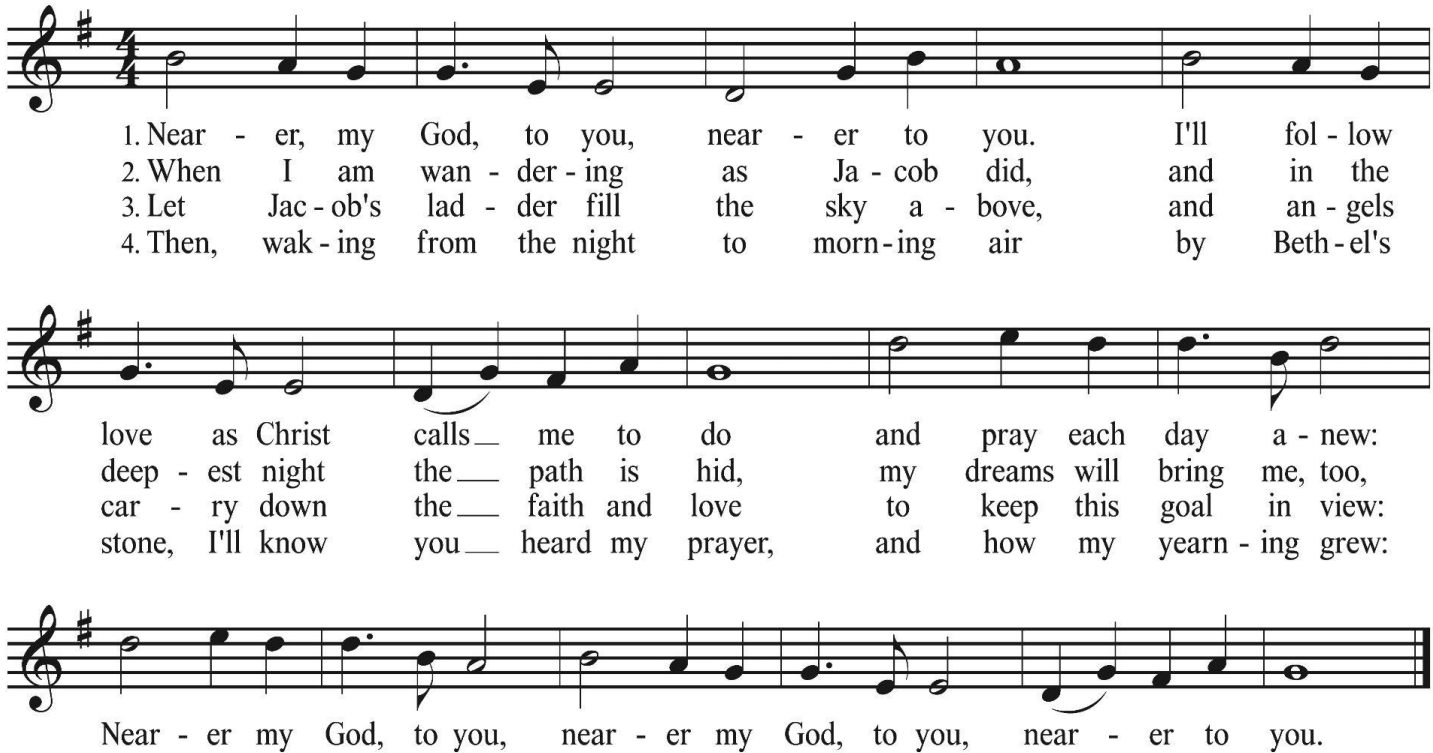


lad - der, we are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, neigh-bors, fam-ily, all! _____

high - er, ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er, neigh-bors, fam-ily, all! _____

glo - ry, rise, — shine, — give God glo - ry, neigh-bors, fam-ily, all! _____

* Please rise in body or in spirit.



1. Near - er, my God, to you, near - er to you. I'll fol - low
2. When I am wan - der - ing as Ja - cob did, and in the
3. Let Jac - ob's lad - der fill the sky a - bove, and an - gels
4. Then, wak - ing from the night to morn - ing air by Beth - el's

love as Christ calls me to do and pray each day a - new:
deep - est night the path is hid, my dreams will bring me, too,
car - ry down the faith and love to keep this goal in view:
stone, I'll know you heard my prayer, and how my yearn - ing grew:

Near - er my God, to you, near - er my God, to you, near - er to you.

Announcements

Northwest Raleigh Board Game Meetup | June 25th at 6:30pm



In keeping with our Ministry Plan of "Connecting with Courage and Care," we are hosting a monthly game night that is open to those in our surrounding neighborhoods and the Triangle in general. To RSVP, scan the QR code to join the MeetUp group or by email David Wilson.

Learn about Cash Bail Reform with Peter van Dorsten | July 27 at 10am

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!

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Welcome Ellen Fiedler to the UPUCC Staff!

We are pleased to welcome Ellen Fiedler (she/her) to the UPUCC staff! She is our new Youth Director, and has already been busy planning opportunities for the youth to gather and share in community! Ellen is a lifelong North Carolinian with a passion for creating spaces where people feel welcomed, valued, and empowered. She earned her BA in Human Service Studies from Elon University and her MSW with a concentration in Community, Management, and Policy Practice from UNC-Chapel Hill. Ellen’s interest in religious programming began during her first year at Elon when she started working at the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life. Her experience engaging with students and staff of diverse religious, spiritual, and secular identities sparked a passion for meaningful interfaith engagement.



In addition to her work at UPUCC, Ellen is a health educator and works with youth to design and implement public health projects in their communities. Through this work, she has developed a deep appreciation for the creativity, insight, and leadership that young people bring to the table when they are given the opportunity to do so. She strongly believes that helping youth discover their capacity to lead and create positive change is one of the most meaningful things adults can do.

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

Climate Hope Affiliates National Webinar July 18 at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in witnessing Climate Hope Affiliates in action while also learning about the current legislative struggles in Congress over climate and clean air policies, join the next Climate Hope Affiliates national webinar on Saturday, July 18 at 1:00 pm ET. The guest speaker will be Grace Weatherall, who serves Senator Sheldon Whitehouse as Climate and Clean Air Counsel for the Environment and Public Works Committee. Weatherall previously served as Attorney Advisor for the U.S. EPA Office of General Counsel's Air and Radiation Law Office. Climate Hope Affiliates is a joint initiative of the United Church of Christ and Creation Justice Ministries, which represents 36 denominations. Climate Hope Affiliates are dedicated to advancing and protecting federal legislation through the development of ongoing relationships with members of Congress, local media and the broader community. Scan the QR code to register.



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!



* Please rise in body or in spirit.

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

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: Open Seat
- 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				
	June	YTD	2026	Difference / Remaining
General Offerings	\$21,828	\$129,160	\$304,882	-\$175,722
Total Income	\$22,723	\$144,220	\$331,466	-\$187,246
Total Expenses	\$33,494	\$169,890	\$386,585	-\$220,696
Net Income	-\$10,771	-\$25,669	-\$55,119	\$29,450
*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, August 9th at 12:00pm in the UPUCC Library. All are welcome!

Our church's leadership met this month to review our ministry priorities, celebrate progress, and make several decisions that will help strengthen our ministry in the months ahead.

Financial Update

The financial outlook remains encouraging. Year-to-date giving is tracking close to expectations, and expenses continue to come in slightly under budget. Any monthly surplus helps strengthen our financial reserves. In addition, the June financial report reflects the first time our ministry plan has been directly aligned with our budget, making it easier to see how our financial resources support our shared mission. At this time, approximately \$17,471 remains available to be allocated toward ministry priorities.

Looking Ahead: Communications and Technology

A significant portion of the meeting focused on how we can better communicate our mission, both within the congregation and throughout the wider community.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

It became clear that our current staffing capacity is not enough to support the vision we have for our website, digital communications, technology infrastructure, and online engagement. Much of this work continues to rely on volunteers, and several important needs have grown beyond what is sustainable.

To move this work forward thoughtfully, two new task forces will be formed:

- **Communications**, which will focus on messaging, publicity, community engagement, and helping people connect with our church.
- **Technology**, which will evaluate our digital platforms, technology infrastructure, website needs, technical support, and whether our current systems are the best fit for the future.

These groups will help shape recommendations for staffing, technology, and long-term strategy. Volunteers will be invited through the Friday email, and we encourage anyone with interest or experience in these areas to consider participating.

Racial Equity Workshop

The group also voted to continue exploring the possibility of hosting a racial equity workshop in partnership with Organize Against Racism (OAR). Tyler will gather additional information about costs and logistics before a final decision is made.

The hope is to offer this workshop not only to our congregation but also to educators, neighboring faith communities, and others in the wider Raleigh area. This opportunity aligns closely with our ministry priorities and offers another meaningful way for our church to serve the broader community.

Website Support

To ensure our website continues to function well while longer-term technology plans are being developed, approval was given for a month-to-month website support package. This temporary approach provides stability while the new technology task force evaluates future needs. Anyone who is able to help Christy move website content is encouraged to reach out.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

An initial budget of \$1,500 was approved to support volunteer appreciation efforts in 2026. This year's Volunteer Appreciation event continues to take shape, and we're grateful for everyone who gives their time, talents, and energy to the life of our church.

Ministry Updates

Several ministry teams shared updates:

- Our Out! Raleigh and Guns to Gardens teams reported strong community engagement, with more detailed reflections scheduled for next month's meeting.
- The Family, Youth, and Children team continues developing ministry opportunities for young adolescents and their caregivers. They also hope to bring in a guest speaker in the future to address topics affecting today's youth.

Looking Ahead

Be sure to mark your calendars for several upcoming opportunities to gather together:

- **August:** Home Group Networking
- **August 30:** Fellowship Cookout
- **September 13:** Kick-Off Sunday, centered around the theme, *"What do we still need to do in 2026?"*

As always, thank you for your continued support, prayers, and participation as we continue discerning how God is calling our congregation to serve both one another and our wider community.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.