

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4th, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



umstead park
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

GATHERING

Welcome and a Time of Greeting

Rev. Tyler Ung

Invocation

From: *A Table of Grace: World Communion Sunday Resources*
by the Global Ministries of the UCC

Alice Jermyn

Meditation

"What Comes Next" by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer
(see insert)

Alice Jermyn

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.**

One: We come together as travelers on a journey, each bringing our unique histories, traditions, and stories of faith, and we prayerfully establish this covenant, seeking:

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

-from the UPUCC Covenant

*Gathering Hymn

#7, "All People That On Earth Do Dwell"

Congregation

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Rev. Tyler Ung



* Please rise in body or in spirit.

"Because the loaf of bread is one, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf."

Sermon

Rev. Tyler Ung

*You are invited to read the **bolded** words that are specific to your bulletin.
You will hear others who also have those words speaking with you.*

On our path to a closer communion with God, we will:

- **Look to the historical Jesus and the present Christ;**
- **Search the scriptures with open-minded thoughtfulness; taking the Bible seriously while knowing it cannot always be taken literally;**
- **Seek, in our quest for truth, the presence of the divine: in worship and prayer; in all of creation; in every person, sacred in worth; and in faiths and traditions other than our own; while always appreciating with awe the mysteries inherent in life.**

In our efforts to walk more intimately in community, we will:

- Welcome fully persons of every race, religious background, age, ability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and economic condition, who each reflect the image of God;
- Establish a safe haven, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds are healed, differences are celebrated and inclusivity is intentional;
- Invite all to participate in the choices which shape us, sharing decisions equally and responsibly, and, in so doing, reclaim the constructive use of power;
- Embrace our common life, overflowing with compassion and liberal in love;
- Call forth and nurture our individual and collective creative gifts;
- Delight in humor and, through joyous celebration, savor the goodness of life.

With our steps toward a mutual relationship with the wider world, we will:

- Share freely of our wealth and resources;
- Recognize our identity as global citizens, intimately tied to and partnered with all of God's children in every land;
- Demonstrate our concern for neighbor through service and prophetic voice;
- Claim our inescapable connection with the sacred earth and all of creation;
- Live justice as the social expression of love, and peace as the present manifestation of the world to come.

*Reaffirming Our Covenant

Congregation

In our faithful sojourning
We do not walk alone. God is present with us.
We have not yet arrived. God continues to beckon.
We seek no destination. The sacred journey is our home.

*Responsive Hymn

#332, "As We Gather At Your Table"

Congregation

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Dan Harrell

*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

Dan Harrell



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.

COMMUNION

Rev. Tyler Ung

Remembering and 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.

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.

Those onsite are invited to come forward at this time. The bread may be dipped into the cup and then eaten. The cup contains juice. The center station contains gluten free bread. Those online can prepare their elements and receive words of blessing from the online server.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

#347, "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Congregation

Announcements

*Affirmation of Community

Alice Jermyn

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

Covenant Partners are invited to remain after the service for a brief congregational vote, and for Community Hour (see announcements for details).

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 Minister

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
Dan Harrell, Asst. Treasurer/Greeter
Tim Champion, Auditor
Bob Martin (he/him), Usher
Frank McKay (he/him), Online Greeter
Bob Martin (he/him), Usher



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!

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.

Supplemental Hymns and Texts

Meditation

"What Comes Next" by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Alice Jermyn

There was time when
there were no eyes on earth,
says the cosmologist, who adds
that then, as a collective,
we created a new way
to perceive what is here.
With cones and rods, irises and lenses,
a new organ of perception
eventually appeared,
something we now take for granted.
Tonight, I gathered in a small room
filled with glorious, basic humans.
We sang about unity, we sang
about wonder, we sang about
community and the beauty
of the world. And I felt something
something of survival in it.
I don't know how it works,
this communal making
of a new organ, but I do know
that when we sing together,
it's as if we've put on sacred glasses,
lenses that help us see love,
that help us be so much more aware
of the goodness all around us, inside us.
Though I can't fathom this new organ,
what it might help us perceive,
I imagine it might have something
to do with connection, and I submit
myself to its inevitable invitation
to show up in a new way,
to deepen our capacity for communion.

Announcements

Congregational Votes | After Worship

Immediately following worship, we will hold a brief congregational vote to approve:

1) Guiding values to use as we work with a designer to complete our Aesthetics TF work. 2) Laura Carter-Scheid to fill the role of Moderator Elect on CLC 3) Gwen Reagan to fill the CLC vacancy as Member at Large. You may find the guiding values by scanning the QR code included here.



Community Hour | After Worship

There are three opportunities for Community Hour today: 1) Enjoy some bread from World Communion Sunday with some spreads; 2) Learn how to play *Nertz!* with David W; 3) Attend lunch with our neighbors from Healing Transitions

Every Sunday after worship, we have the chance to deepen our connections through Community Hour. Do you want to craft with other creatives? Share about your travel experiences? Learn about important topics? Eat lunch with friends from the church? All these and more are possible! Write your ideas on the Community Hour whiteboard “menu” and invite others to join you each and every Sunday following worship. There may be more than one offering on a given Sunday, other than those with congregational meetings that need full participation.

Upcoming Community Hour Opportunities:

- **October 11** - Covenant Leadership Circle Meeting
- **October 18** – Book Discussion with Tyler: *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional* by theologian Hanna Reichel.
- **October 25th** – Potluck and Congregational Meeting
- **November 1** - [Your idea goes here!]
- **November 8** - [Your idea goes here!]
- **November 15** - Make some cards with the Creativity Group!
- **November 22** - [Your idea goes here!]
- **November 29** - [Your idea goes here!]
- **December 6** - Craft Workshop!

Digital Privacy and Surveillance Clinic | October 10 at 1pm-4pm

Come join Triangle Common Good for a unique opportunity: we will be partnering with the local DEF CON chapter to host a digital privacy and anti-surveillance clinic at Umstead Park UCC!



Two volunteers from the local DEF CON 919 chapter, Joe and Rohan, will be presenting on how to better protect one’s digital privacy, reduce one’s data exposure to third-party collectors, and utilize open-source tools and platforms as alternatives to profit-oriented platforms. This will be a very hands-on clinic! Recommended you bring devices you use (e.g. phones or laptops), but a device is not required. Scan the QR code to learn more and to RSVP for the event!

Souls to the Polls | October 15-18

UPUCC is making big plans to help people vote their values as part of a national campaign of 1000 marches to the polls on the first day of voting. We are helping folks at Healing Transitions with registration, education, and transportation. We plan very visible caravans to the polls on the first day of early voting, and the following Saturday and Sunday. Let the PACE team know if you want to participate. Signups for drivers and riders will be set up shortly. We will target both Durham and Wake Counties. Mark your calendars! Make a plan to vote! Take people with you!

Here's the schedule:

- **Oct. 15th:** First Day of Early Voting in NC: Gather at the church at 4PM, decorate the cars, proceed to the polls. Polls close at 7:30PM (Ice Cream after?)
- **Oct. 17th:** Gather at the church at 10am, decorate the cars, proceed to the polls. Polls close at 3PM (Ice Cream after?)
- **Oct. 18th:** Gather at the church after worship (there will be pizza!), decorate the cars, proceed to the polls. Polls close at 6PM.

A Music and Mental Health Mini-Retreat | Oct. 24



All are welcome to join for 'A Song in My Heart: A Music and Mental Health Mini-Retreat' on October 24 from 9:00am-12:00pm. This mini-retreat is hosted by our friends at Good Shepherd UCC and facilitated by Lois Deloatch. For more information or to register, scan the QR code.

Next PeerSpace Rental | October 24th

Please be advised that our space will be rented for an event on the above date. If you are able to help prepare the worship space on the Sunday prior that would be much appreciated!

Holiday Cards Available for Order from Creativity Group | Order by Nov. 22

This Holiday Season, consider sending one of our beautiful handmade Christmas cards. Our cards are uniquely designed to help you share your holiday wishes. With a variety of designs, personalize the inside message with one of ours or with your own. Start a new tradition and send a little piece of holiday wonder to everyone on your list. Specifics are on the order form, accessible via the QR code. Orders must be placed by Sunday Nov, 22. The Creativity Group appreciates your support!



Craft Workshop | December 6

Attention crafters, from beginners to skilled! Your Fellowship Lead Team will host a craft workshop during Community Hour after church on December 6. We will provide instruction, supplies, and refreshments. Currently there are four crafts to share. If you have a craft you would like to teach us, please contact Roberta Ouellette!

Rev. Doug Long Honored

Rev. Doug Long, UPUCC founding pastor, received the Carolyn and Cy King Peace and Justice award at Community UCC on Sunday, Sept. 20. The award is issued annually to those who have significantly contributed to a more fair and just world. Doug looked well and was able to address those gathered, despite some verbal limitations caused by his recent stroke. Read more at <https://communityucc.org/king-award/>

Interested in Serving Communion?

Have you ever served communion? Would you like to? Would you like to again? Here at UPUCC communion is usually served the first Sunday of each month. All information you need is provided prior to Communion Sunday, and we review everything with you on Sunday morning. So, if you have never served before and would like to, or if you would like to serve again sometime, please let Jane W. know!

AV Team Volunteers Needed

Have you ever found yourself worshipping online? Was it valuable to you? Is being able to worship online a valuable service for our community? Do you value hearing great speaker audio and piano sound during the worship service? Have you ever used computer software, such as PowerPoint that required active monitoring and changes? If you answered, Yes to some of these questions, the AV Team needs you! While AV work may sound highly technical, it is not as complex (or frightening!) as some might think. Responsibilities are currently split between audio and video jobs. Audio monitors sound levels monitors onsite and online, making active adjustments. Video typically works with 2-3 software applications to do things such as aim the camera and transition between a service Welcome screen, onsite camera feed, and Celebration of Gifts screen, frequently with just the click of a button. Training is required. Perfection is not. With experience will come greater ability. But, experience can only come if you join us. So join us!! Reach out to Peter v.D. or Scott A. if you're interested!

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

Marching for the Environment: *Keep on a-Walkin'* is a new book available through the United Church of Christ's publishing house, Pilgrim Press. It is the true story of 10-year-old Kimberly Burwell who joined her mother at protests against toxic dumping in their NC community in 1982. Kimberly's voice was carried nationwide after a reporter's interview with her aired on the CBS evening news with Dan Rather. The protests in Warren County, NC, were early efforts of the environmental justice movement, following 4 years of illegal dumping by a manufacturing company and the subsequent decision by NC to bury the carcinogenic waste in Warren County. The nonviolent marches drew multiracial and intergenerational participation. Scan the QR code to read more and find the free resources for educators.



Sunday Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider joining us to provide an extravagant Sunday Welcome to all-volunteer below to be a Greeter, Usher, or Barista (Coffee Set Up and Clean Up). Scan the QR code to access the Sign-Up Genius.



Lay Leading in Worship

 We want our worship to offer a rich diversity of leadership, as well as help connect our congregants to the spiritual themes that resonate with them. If you are interested in being in our pool of lay leaders, please provide your contact via the QR code here! We will make sure that the people in the Lay Leader interest pool are regularly helping to lead worship. Thank you for helping to keep our church a community-led congregation!

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.



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)

Receive Email Updates!

Each week we send out an e-mail full of updates about upcoming events, Sunday services, as well as joys and concerns of our church family. If you would like to receive these emails, scan the QR code here and submit your email address!



Upcoming PeerSpace Rentals

October 24th, 31st | November 20th, 21st | December 5th, 30th, 31st | January 1st (2027) | May 29th (2027) | July 3rd, 31st (2027) | August 1st (2027)

Covenant Leadership Circle

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				
	August	2026 YTD	2026 Budget	Difference / Remaining
General Offerings	\$38,996	\$189,105	\$304,882	-\$115,777
Total Income	\$38,252	\$209,073	\$331,466	-\$122,393
Total Expenses	\$29,469	\$225,967	\$386,585	-\$160,618
Net Income	\$8,783	-\$16,894	-\$55,119	-\$38,735
*As a reminder, the 2026 Operating Budget projects a net income deficit of \$55,000 which will be offset by the Operating Fund Reserve				
**General Offerings for August include \$20,000 from a \$30,000 anonymous pledge. The remainint \$10,000 will accrue over the next 4 months				

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 11th at 12:00pm in the UPUCC Library & Online. All are welcome!

CLC Update: Building Community, Planning for the Future, and Getting Involved

There is a lot happening at UPUCC right now! The CLC spent its most recent meeting looking at our finances, planning for the coming year, supporting community-building efforts, and thinking about how we can invite more people into the work and life of the church. One of the biggest themes running through the conversation was simple: we have resources, energy, and ideas — and we want more people to help put them to work.

Looking Ahead to 2027

The CLC is beginning work on the 2027 Ministry Plan and Spending Framework. A Ministry Plan Task Force has been formed with Laura, Paula, Tyler, Gia, David W., and others working together to develop the plan. The goal is to think about the big picture first: What are the ministries and priorities that will shape our next year together? The spending framework will then follow from those priorities. This work will also connect directly with the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, so you can expect to hear more about how our shared financial resources support the ministry we do together.

There will be an important opportunity for the congregation to participate on Sunday, October 25, when we will consider the proposed Ministry Plan and 2027 Spending Plan at our Fall Congregational Meeting and Potluck. We will also share a State of the Congregation update, including work around rentals, outreach, the Masquerade, equity training, and more. We'll also take some time to look back at what we've accomplished this year — including Guns to Gardens and Out! Raleigh — and consider how those experiences can help shape the year ahead.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Our Finances: Resources and Responsibility

The CLC reviewed our year-to-date financial picture and approved the budget. Overall, we are tracking better against the budget than expected, which is encouraging. At the same time, there are some important things to keep an eye on. We currently have more than \$13,000 in unallocated funds from the \$30,000 budget. Unspent funds do not automatically carry over into the next year's budget; they go into our reserves. That raises an important question for all of us: What could we accomplish together if more people got involved in helping identify and carry out the ministries our congregation wants to support?

There is also a significant change coming to our mortgage. For the past two years, we have been making interest-only payments, but that arrangement ends in April 2027. Beginning in May, our mortgage payments will increase significantly, making thoughtful stewardship and financial planning especially important.

A New Opportunity to Support Children in Foster Care

Emily proposed a new community service project supporting the Children's Home Society, an organization working with children in foster care. The idea is to hold a donation drive in spring or summer 2027 for items such as luggage, hygiene supplies, books, diapers, and other necessities. Emily is willing to lead the initiative, and the CLC approved \$500 in seed funding to help get it started.

There are still details to work out, including storage, whether the drive will be primarily internal or open to the wider community, and how youth might participate in deciding how funds are used. We may also have an opportunity to partner with other churches and organizations in our network. Want to help? Keep an eye out for more information as this project develops — or reach out if you would like to be part of the planning team.

Racial Equity Training Coming to UPUCC

The CLC also approved \$8,500 to bring Organize Against Racism to UPUCC for a full two-day racial equity training. The training would accommodate up to 45 participants, with approximately 20–25 seats being filled by UPUCC and the remaining seats filled by the organization leading the training. The training will likely take place on a Friday and Saturday, with the possibility of scheduling it as early as late October or sometime in the coming year. The exact date is flexible and will depend on the organization's availability.

The training cost does not include food. A nominal registration fee — with the possibility of waivers — could potentially help cover catering and childcare. The CLC also discussed whether a book study or other introductory opportunity could happen beforehand to help people become familiar with some of the topics the training will address. This is an exciting opportunity not only for our own congregation but for the wider community. More details will be shared once a date is established.

A Few Other Things Happening Around the Church

- **Masquerade Dance:** The CLC approved \$1,500 for the Masquerade Dance Task Force to cover the DJ and photo booth. Tyler will also reach out to offer additional support. If you have been thinking about helping with the Masquerade, this is a great time to jump in.
- **Garden:** The CLC approved the purchase of a new garden pump. Funding will come first from the remaining Garden Fund, with any additional cost covered through general maintenance funds. The Garden Fund has received approximately \$350 in recent directed donations.
- **PACE:** Peter has been doing significant organizing and education work at Healing Transitions. More updates about PACE and related work will continue to come through the church.
- **Community Hour:** Community Hour continues following its kickoff last week. The early conversations have had good energy, and there is an opportunity to keep building connection by sharing experiences, ideas, and stories with one another.
- **Get Out the Vote:** Upcoming activities include postcard writing and other opportunities to participate in civic engagement.
- **CLC Membership:** The congregation will vote after worship on Sunday, October 4, 2026, on accepting the new member-at-large and Moderator-elect to the CLC.

A Conversation About Bathroom Signage

The CLC also approved changes to the bathroom signage. The current male- and female-identified signs will be removed, and new signage will return to Male and Female designations. An informational poster will explain the history behind the signage and the church's evolving understanding and stance. The poster will be placed in the church-area hallway rather than the atrium. The CLC also discussed the possibility of a removable or more concise sign for the atrium on Sundays. The goal is to make sure the church's history and welcoming commitments are communicated clearly while preserving the important language developed for the informational poster.

How Can You Get Involved?

If there is one thing we'd love you to take away from this update, it's this: there are lots of ways to participate, and you don't have to join the CLC to make a difference. The CLC is working on big-picture planning, but the ministry of UPUCC happens because people throughout the congregation offer their time, creativity, energy, resources, and ideas. You could: help with the Masquerade, join the Ministry Plan conversation, help organize the Children's Home Society donation drive, participate in racial equity training, tend the garden, join Community Hour, come to an event, invite a friend, or start a conversation about something you'd love to see happen at UPUCC. If you've been wondering where you fit in, this is a great time to ask. Talk with a CLC member, a ministry leader, or someone else already involved. There is room for new ideas, new energy, and new people.

Next CLC Meeting: Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 12:00pm

Everyone is encouraged to stay connected, ask questions, share ideas, and find a way to be part of the life of our church.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.