Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25th, 2026 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)

umstead park
UNITED CHURCH *of* CHRIST

GATHERING

Welcome and a Time of Greeting — Rev. Tyler Ung

Invocation — Arin Gaither

Meditation

"The only clear line I draw these days is this: when my religion tries to come between me and my neighbor, I will choose my neighbor… Jesus never commanded me to love my religion." — Barbara Brown Taylor, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*

Prelude — David Wilson

***Call to Worship**

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.

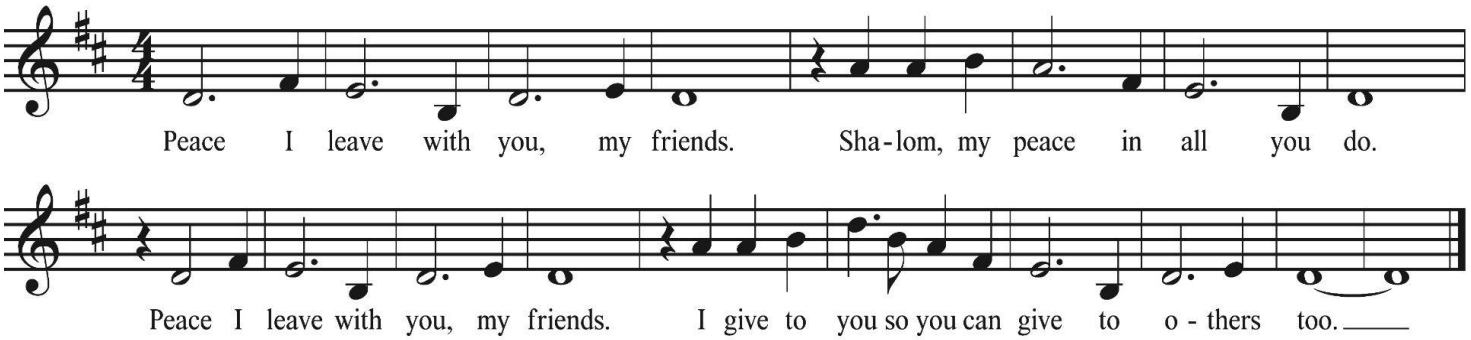
Many: With inarticulate words and unfinished lives, we yearn to further embody this holy love, shaping the future as partners with God, who dances and weeps with us along the way.

-from the UPUCC Covenant

Anthem — "Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkos" (We are walking in the light of God) — UPUCC Choir

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children — Rev. Tyler Ung



Reading of Scripture — Leviticus 19:1–2; 15–18, *The Inclusive Bible* — Arin Gaither

(see next page)

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

[1] God told Moses [2] to tell the entire Israelite community these things:
Be holy, for I, your God, am holy.

[15] Do not be corrupt in administering justice. Do not show partiality to the poor or give honor to the great. Judge your neighbor with fairness. [16] Do not go about slandering others.
Do not profit by the blood of your neighbor. I am God. [17] Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor.
If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid storing up ill feelings. [18]
Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am God.

Sermon Rev. Tyler Ung

***Responsive Hymn** #539, "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant" Congregation

Prayers of the People Sharing of Joys and Concerns Rev. Paula Womack

*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** #388, "Help Us Accept Each Other" Congregation

Announcements

***Affirmation of Community** Arin Gaither

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

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Announcements

Potluck & Congregational Meeting | After Worship

We will gather during Community Hour on Sunday, October 25th for a potluck and congregational meeting. You're invited to bring a dish to share, as well as your appetite for food and church business! We will discuss a proposed Ministry Plan, the Stewardship Campaign for 2026, and more!

Upcoming Community Hour Opportunities (Scan the QR code to add yours!)

- **November 1**: Pop-Up Choir; Sharing Stories of those we Remember
- **November 8**: CLC Meeting; Creating with Katelyn S. (all hobbies welcome!)
- **November 15:** Learn to create handmade greeting cards with UPUCC's Creativity Group.
- **November 22**: **Your idea goes here!**
- **November 29**: **Your idea goes here!**
- **December 6:** Fall Crafts Workshop - Learn or share a craft!; Learn about Hanukkah!

NW Raleigh Board Games MeetUp | Tomorrow, Oct. 26th 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.

Halloween Masquerade | October 30th

Come be YOU and join the fun with other LGBTQIA+ Youth and Allies at our Youth Halloween Masquerade on October 30th, 6-9pm. DJ and Dancing, food, crafting, costume contest, mask contest, and more...Open to all youth 6th to 10th grades. Registration $5. Scan the QR code to buy your ticket(s)!

Pauli Murray Pilgrimage | October 31st

Join Tyler for the Pauli Murray Pilgrimage on October 31st from 10am-11:30am. Each year, the Pauli Murray Center's Pilgrimage invites participants to explore Durham sites connected to the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray. This year, we're making the experience fully accessible by bringing the pilgrimage indoors—no 4-mile walk required! Participants will journey through the Lyon Park Community Center auditorium, where sites significant to Pauli Murray will be represented. At each stop, you'll learn about its connection to Pauli and Durham history, then have opportunities for reflection, conversation, and fellowship. You can participate at your own pace and choose from prayers, meditations, or conversation prompts. Stops represented include St. Titus Episcopal Church, Standford L. Warren Library, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, and Hillside High School. A map of the physical sites will also be provided for anyone who would like to visit them independently after the event. Everyone is welcome: You don't need to be Christian, Episcopalian, religious, or already familiar with Pauli Murray to participate. Scan the QR code to get your FREE tickets!

Next PeerSpace Rental | October 31st

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!

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* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Help Host Healing Transitions | November 1st

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!

Gather Your Buttons | November 1st

You are invited to take part in our annual Button Memorial by bringing a button to honor a loved one who has died in the past year. If you are worshiping online, you can email Tyler with your loved one's name, and they will include them in the remembrance on your behalf.

Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal | November 1st during Community Hour

For Community Hour you are invited to join the Pop-Up Choir to learn a group song that we will sing in worship on Nov. 15. This is a great opportunity if you love to sing, but may not be able to join our choir that rehearses weekly! This is a change from the date that was previously communicated!

Crafting with Katelyn S. | November 8th during Community Hour

Bring your creative hobbies & enjoy them with our community! Some ideas include knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, embroidery, quilting, coloring, scrapbooking or any creative hobby that brings you joy. Knitting & crocheting supplies will be available for anyone who wants to learn!

Make Cards with Creativity Group | Nov. 15 during Community Hour

Learn how to make homemade greeting cards with members of our Creativity Group during Community Hour!

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

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 6th

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 O.

Upcoming PeerSpace Rentals

October 31st | November 20th, 21st | December 5th, 12th, 19th, 20th, 30th, 31st | January 1st, 16th (2027) | May 14th, 22nd (2027) | July 10th, 31st (2027) | August 1st (2027)

Sunday Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider joining us to provide an extravagant Sunday Welcome to all by volunteering to be a Greeter or Usher, to set-up/clean-up coffee, or help our AV Team (training required). Scan the QR code to access the Sign-Up Genius.

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* Please rise in body or in spirit.

AV Team Volunteers Needed

Have you ever found yourself worshiping 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!

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.

UCC Connections

Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table. As we move toward Thanksgiving, "Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table," a webinar on November 2 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern, explores how our eating connects us to our deepest faith commitments: nurturing our bodies, attending to people who are hungry, caring for the earth and building community. Congregations across the country that have engaged with the Just Eating? curriculum have put their faith into action by starting community gardens, addressing hunger in their communities and developing healthier relationships with food. Rev. Dr. Kirsten Peachey, a co-developer of the curriculum, will share insights into this free online resource and examples of how congregations have used it to inspire meaningful action. Available in English and Spanish, the curriculum includes adaptations for Latino and African American audiences and resources designed for both adults and middle school students. 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.

Follow Us on Social Media!

Facebook: UmsteadParkUCC | Instagram: UmsteadParkUCC | BlueSky: upucc.bsky.social

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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.

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're 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 lead worship. Thanks for helping keep our church a community-led congregation!

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!

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!



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!

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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:
Peter van Dorsten (he/him), AV Team
Don Alderman, AV Team
Amy Lewis (she/her), Coffee Set Up
Mike Boston (he/him), Asst. Treasurer
Nina Nalle Robinson (she/her), Greeter
Kailina Grace (she/her), Greeter
Dan Harrell, 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!

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Covenant Leadership Circle

CLC Members:
Moderator: Gia Hafler
Moderator-Elect: Laura Carter-Scheid
Treasurer: Vickie Teal
Secretary: Sarah Bellak
Facilities Lead: Gary Sanders
At-Large: Elliot Acosta
At-Large: Gwen Reagan
At-Large: David Frink
At-Large: Bob Martin

Financial Results				
	September	2026 YTD	2026 Budget	Difference / Remaining
General Offerings	$23,339	$212,444	$304,882	-$92,438
Total Income	$25,427	$233,941	$331,466	-$97,525
Total Expenses	$30,208	$256,176	$386,585	$130,409
Net Income	-$4,781	-$22,236	-$55,119	-$32,684

*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!

Our community continues to build momentum through ministry planning, outreach, fellowship, and opportunities to serve. At our recent meeting, the CLC discussed financial planning for 2027, community visibility, upcoming youth and family events, and ways to strengthen our shared ministry.

Looking Ahead to 2027
Planning is underway for our 2027 Ministry Plan and Spending Plan. This work will include both continuing ministries and new opportunities, with input from Home Groups helping shape the direction of our shared work. The congregation will have an opportunity to engage with these plans at the October 25 Congregational Meeting, where the proposed 2027 Spending Plan will be presented.

Sharing Who We Are
The CLC approved moving forward with the remainder of a publicity consulting contract to help strengthen our presence on social media and communicate the kind of welcoming community we strive to be. Recent posts highlighted several important observances, and the group affirmed the value of this outreach.

Youth, Families, and Community Events
There are several exciting opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate in the weeks ahead!
October 25: Congregational Meeting, including the presentation of the proposed 2027 Spending Plan.
October 30: Masquerade Ball! Preparations are well underway, and volunteers are needed to help with setup, chaperoning, and cleanup. Please help spread the word to families and friends.
November 1: Button Memorial Service.

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Financial Stewardship
The CLC reviewed the year-to-date financial picture and discussed the Thompson Fund, which is now held at Southern Bank. Twenty percent of rental income is returned to the fund. As we look toward 2027, thoughtful financial stewardship remains an important part of sustaining our ministries and supporting the work we do together.

Growing in Community
Community Hour continues after Sunday worship, and recent postcard-writing activities have been well received. It is encouraging to see so many meaningful offerings taking shape across our community. Thank you to everyone who contributes time, energy, generosity, and care. Whether you volunteer at an event, participate in a Home Group, support our ministries, or simply invite someone new to join us, you help make this community what it is.

New Task Forces Starting Up
We are forming 2 Task Forces – one to help identify our publicity & communications strategy, and one to propose a cohesive technology platform.

<u>The Publicity and Communications Task Force</u>
The CLC recognizes that our path to growth is through communicating our core values across various platforms with invitations for people to join our efforts. A communications audit was recently completed by an independent consultant that looked at our existing communications practice and provided very tangible examples where we are executing well and areas for improvement.

In addition, these messages need to be tied into our publicity strategy. There are three areas for consideration: 1) Communications needed to function on a weekly basis (bulletins, Friday email, etc.); 2) Developing consistent messaging across social media platforms.; 3) Our priorities for publicity.

We are looking for 3 to 4 people, although more are welcome, for a 6-week period beginning in late October/early November and ending in mid-December. If you would like to participate, please reach out to Gia H., Laura C-S. or Tyler Ung.

<u>The Technology Strategy for Connection and Growth Task Force</u>
The CLC recognizes that our existing technology platforms are not effectively connected, leading to additional time and effort to update across systems. In addition, it makes it more difficult for Covenant Partners to interact with various aspects of the church (Contributions, Zoom links, announcements, prayer requests, etc.) and there is no connection between our on-site and on-line communities.

The task force is asked to review software options and evaluate their appropriateness and cost for adoption at UPUCC, with a goal of eliminating extra steps while providing greater Covenant Partner connection. In addition, the task force will look at the skills needed to perform day to day tasks and identify any unique skills needed. We are looking for 2 people, although more are welcome, to join a core team for a 6-week period beginning in late Oct./early Nov. and ending mid-December. If you'd like to participate, reach out to Gia H., Laura C-S., or Tyler Ung.

Next CLC Meeting: Sunday, November 8th, 2026 at 12:00pm

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