

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27th, 2025 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



GATHERING

Welcome and a Time of Greeting

Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation

Gwen Reagan

Meditation

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.

From "Sometimes"

by Mary Oliver

"Arisen"

by Hannah Garrity

A Sanctified Art LLC

sanctified art.org

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. Let us worship God with our whole lives.**



***Statement of Intention**

Rev. Paula Womack

One: In this place of belonging, we wonder whose stories we overlook, miss altogether, or take for granted.

Many: **In scripture and in community, may we tend to the stories around us.**

One: May belonging be nurtured by intention.

Anthem

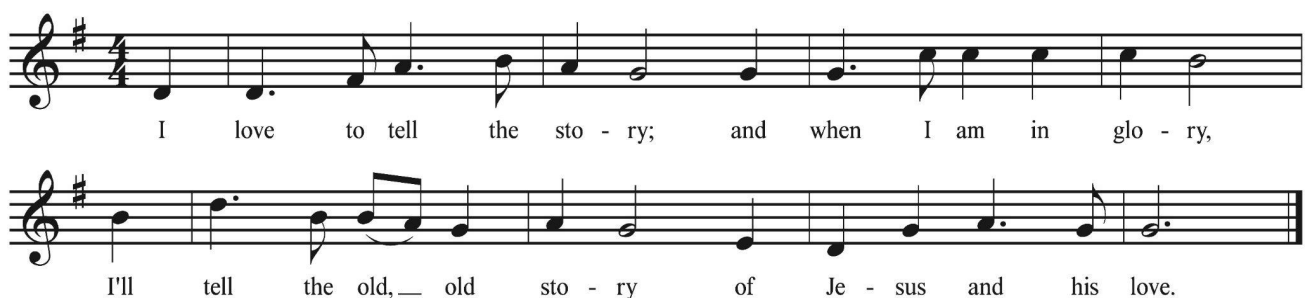
"A Safe Place to Land"
(see insert)

Scott Andrews

HEARING AND RESPONDING

A Time with Children

Rev. Tyler Ung



Reading of Scripture

Mark 16:1-11, *The Inclusive Bible*
(see insert)

Gwen Reagan

Sermon "What If" Rev. Tyler Ung

***Responsive Hymn** #238, "Now the Green Blade Rises" Congregation

Prayers of the People Rev. Tyler Ung



You are invited to share names or brief joys and concerns. To submit written prayer requests for the weekly email, visit tinyurl.com/upuccprayers, or scan the QR code to the left.

Celebration of Gifts (Offertory) Rev. Tyler Ung

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** Come and Find the Quiet Center
(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. Tyler Ung

Postlude David Wilson



Visiting?

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



Realm

Access or create your Realm account



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.

Church Staff

Nursery Director
Lindsay Cooper (she/her)

Senior Pastor
Rev. Tyler Ung (they/them)

Financial Administrator
Gwen Vass (she/her)

Director of Music
David Wilson (he/him)

Associate Pastor
rev. Paula Womack (she/her)

A special Thank You to this week’s volunteers!

Don Alderman	AV Team
Scott Andrews (he/him)	AV Team
Dan Harrell	Assistant Treasurer
Tim Champion	Auditor
Gwen Reagan (she/her)	Lay Leader
Bob Martin (he/him)	Usher

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Supplemental Texts and Hymns

Anthem

"A Safe Place to Land"

Scott Andrews

Words and Music by Sara Bareilles and Lori McKenna

When holding your breath is safer than breathing,
when letting go is braver than keeping,
when innocent words turn to lies,
and you can't hide by closing your eyes,
when the pain is all that they offer
like the kiss from the lips of a monster,
you know the famine so well, but never met the feast,
when home is the belly of a beast

The ocean is wild and over your head
and the boat beneath you is sinking.
Don't need room for your bags,
hope is all that you have.
So say the Lord's Prayer twice,
hold your babies tight.
Surely someone will reach out a hand
and show you a safe place to land.

Oh, imagine yourself in a building,
up in flames, being told to stand still.
The window's wide open, this leap is on faith.
You don't know who will catch you,
but maybe somebody will.

Be the hand of a hopeful stranger,
little scared, but you're strong enough.
Be the light in the dark of this danger,
till the sun comes up.

Reading of Scripture

Mark 16:1-11, *The Inclusive Bible*

Gwen Reagan

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought perfumed oils so that they could anoint Jesus. ²Very early, just after sunrise on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

³They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked, they found that the huge stone had been rolled back.

⁵On entering the tomb, they saw a young person sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. They were very frightened, ⁶but the youth reassured them: "Do not be afraid! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the One who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷Now go and tell the disciples and Peter, 'Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him just as he told you.'"

⁸They made their way out and fled from the tomb bewildered and trembling; but they said nothing to anyone, because they were so afraid.

The gospel ends here. Two different endings were added by later writers.

⁹Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week, appearing first to Mary of Magdala, out of whom the savior had cast seven devils. ¹⁰She went and reported it to Jesus' companions, who were grieving and weeping. ¹¹But when they heard that Jesus was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.



1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
3. In the spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,



find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:



clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,



all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
raising courage when we're sinking, finding scope for faith begun.
in the Spirit's lively scheming, there is always room to spare!

Artist Statement

"Arise"

Hannah Garrity



Seeing is believing. Believing without seeing is a truly human failing that God asks us to overcome. It is the failing of the followers of Jesus who come to realize that Jesus, whom they betrayed days earlier, is, in fact, who he says he is. He is, in fact, who they have always believed he was.

Why are we so cynical? Is our cynicism an effort to check our sources? None of us want to be taken in by a ruse, so I understand the viewpoint of a doubting Thomas. I understand why the followers disbelieved Mary. I would have wanted proof as well, especially if I was ashamed of my behavior, as they surely were. But why did she believe?

In this image, Mary Magdalene appears surprised. She also seems wiser and more aware in this moment as she looks toward Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified two days prior. How had he rolled away the stone? This was truly a miracle! In this moment, Mary knows. Jesus must have looked like himself. She never wonders if she is dreaming. She never questions whom she saw, though everyone she tells does not believe her.

Perhaps she simply knows deep down what is right. She has nothing to hide, she has confessed her sins. She can see clearly.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.