

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

August 2017

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

www.upucc.org

July Congregational Meeting includes Sanctuary Considerations

In an unusually full agenda for a mid-summer meeting, 100 or more UPUCC Covenant Partners agreed to form three specific Task Forces to handle additional research and proposals.

Task Force 1- Explore the scope and timing of a ***Capital Campaign*** to fund major upcoming building expenses (roof and HVAC replacement) as well as consider a host of possible 'dreams and desires' of the Congregation. This task force will be appointed by the Coordinating Council and rely heavily on persons representing the Stewardship & Finance and Building & Grounds Committees.

Task Force 2- Plan ***'Listening Sessions'*** for the *potential landscaping* of our outdoor areas. This effort was a long held dream of Doug Jones... and Doug left a monetary gift to get it started. Mary Pat Peters, a landscape designer, has agreed to head up this work. Other Task Force members are Peg Arcari, Marcia Welsh, Sandy Ceppos, and Betsy Thigpen. Details of the listening sessions yet TBD.

Task Force 3- For several weeks informal conversation among UPUCC folk have centered on the ***possibility of offering sanctuary*** for a family in danger of deportation. A three-page FAQ was prepared and sent to the Congregation in advance of the July 30 meeting. It probably wouldn't surprise you that scores of further thoughtful questions were asked there. The take away was the naming of a third task force composed of Anya and Richard Frazer, Renate and Erin Andrews, Sarah Sydney, Gary Sanders, Anthony Neff, Reed Altman, Bridget Spears. Doug Long agreed to staff this group as well. They are charged to figure out as many logistics as possible and bring a proposal back to the Congregation as soon as their work is completed. (If you have not seen the FAQ on offering sanctuary at UPUCC, you can find it [here](#). (under the password-protected Covenant Partner page)

ME LLAMO JUANA (*My name is Juana*) -by Joanne Kennedy Frazer

Despues mi esposo (*After my husband*)
was murdered by a gang
I fled Guatemala
to the US

Tengo dos hijas (*I have two daughters*)
the trip was tough
we did not know
if we would make it

Fifteen years I am here
I have married
tengo dos mas ninos, (*I have two more children*)
los hijos (*my sons*)

I work
I pay taxes
but I will not
receive social security
I am active
in my community
and in my church
yo soy la ministra de laico (*I am the lay minister*)

In 2011
Immigracion said (*Immigration said*)
they were deporting me
but I got a stay

I check in
with Immigracion (*Immigration*)
every year to renew
my petition

this time
they denied my stay
and will deport me
very soon

I am to be separated
from mi esposo (*my husband*)
who will not be safe
in Guatemala.

Pero mis hijos! Dios mio! (*But my children! My God!*)
How can I leave them?
Or risking their future
take them with me?

FAITH IN ACTION

Speaking the Truth, but Carefully Enough to be Heard!

As I wrote this, ministers who spoke truthfully on political matters were much in the local news the past week or so. Two particular examples come to mind, both offering cautionary tales:



The first was William Barber. No stranger to speaking truth to power, Bishop Barber's words hit the media fan when he declared, as reported, that ministers who pray for Trump border on heresy. Of course what Barber was referring to was a widely circulated photo of a group of conservative ministers in the Oval office laying hands on the president in what looked like a blessing. Barber objected, explaining "We cannot simply p-r-a-y pray over people while they p-r-e-y on the poor and vulnerable among us."

The subtleties of Barber's message got lost in the frenzy of accusations that followed. (Personally, I think whether we should pray for Donald Trump depends entirely on the content of our prayer. I certainly pray to God *about* him.)

As a response to the response about what he said, Barber penned an eloquent open letter to the clergy in the Oval Office. In case you missed it, you can find it here:

<https://thinkprogress.org/an-open-letter-to-clergy-who-prayed-with-trump-7876ee87dbc2>

The other example was a matter of saying the truth, but using a tone and verbiage that drew attention to the tone and verbiage, undermining the truth of the content! (I have, more than once, been accused of the same foible. Perhaps we all have.)

This was a valid argument made by a local minister who claimed that John McCain's brain cancer offers a window into the need and importance of health care for all. Here's a quote from the N&O explaining:

[John] "Pavlovitz, who heads up the teen ministry for North Raleigh Community Church Downtown, wrote on his blog last week that using McCain's diagnosis to talk about the fact that not all Americans have equal access to health care 'isn't disrespectful, it isn't in poor taste, and it isn't political opportunism – it's the godd--- point. The personal hell that John McCain and his loved ones are walking through right now is the point of it all.'"

Suddenly the debate shifted away from health care for all to- Is it appropriate for a minister to say 'goddamn'? The strong language weakened the truth telling.

Several years ago, Anthony Campolo famously began a series of sermons with these lines:

"I have three things I'd like to say today. First, while you were sleeping last night, 30,000 kids died of starvation or diseases related to malnutrition. Second, most of you don't give a shit. What's worse is that you're more upset with the fact that I said shit than the fact that 30,000 kids died last night."

Again, the truth was spoken, but the language completely shifted the conversation. In fact, Campolo was so *right* in his point, all the ensuing conversation *was* about his language. (Shortly after Campolo first said the above, Jeremiah Wright quoted him in a sermon. The next Sunday Wright started his remarks this way, "OK. Who told my mother?!")

So what's MY point?

Well, Barber and Pavlovitz offer a cautionary tale for us all:

Speaking the truth is a wonderful thing.

It may actually be *heard*, however, if we speak it in careful love.

See you Sunday,

Doug

youth & children



Upcoming Youth Events

August 11-13 - **Youth Assist with Children's Church Camp**

(please register on link [HERE.](#))

August 25-26 - **Middle School Lock-In at UPUCC!** *(Watch for an Evite!)*

8 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday

September 9-10 - **Youth Camping at Bear Island, NC**

9 a.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Sunday

Email Anne anne@upucc.org for more details!

UPUCC Building Bridges Weekend

Children's Church Camp - August 11-13, 2017



Greetings UPUCC Parents, Kids and Friends!

Friday Night Dinner & Movie FOR ALL 5:30-8:30 p.m. Gathering Activities and Family Dinner (provided!) followed by a movie on our worship space theater screen. ***Please indicate attendance [HERE.](#)***

Saturday for Kids 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Children and leaders will explore the theme through music and movement, arts and crafts, food and games. Groups will move through these activities before and after lunch followed by outdoor playtime. ***Please indicate attendance [HERE.](#)***

Sunday Morning Worship: We will meet in worship (10:30 a.m.) and adjourn to prepare for sharing with the congregation later in the Worship Service.

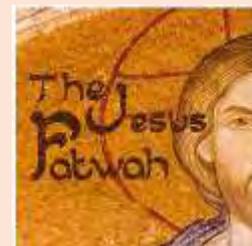
Please indicate food donations for Saturday lunch [HERE.](#)

Questions? Contact peg@upucc.org

Additionally on August 13, **Fellowship Committee** hosts a **Picnic** from 12-3 p.m. at Baileywick Road Park. (Details on page five.)

adult education

August Forums *The first three forums during August focus on Islam. (Taken from Living the Questions series) "Much of what passes as information about Islam is weed-like disinformation rooted in stereotype and watered by fear. In The Jesus Fatwah, Islamic and Christian scholars offer reliable information about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we all can be about building relationships across the lines of faith."*



9:30 a.m. August 6 **The Jesus Fatwah: Islam 101.** Video and discussion hosted by Gina Kentopp.

Noon August 13 **The Jesus Fatwah: Misconceptions about Islam.** Video and discussion hosted by Tricia Andrews.

9:30 a.m. August 20 **The Jesus Fatwah: Islam in America.** Video and discussion hosted by Gail Holden.

9:30 a.m. August 27 **Wake County Smart Start.** Phyllis Barbour, Director of Community Relations speaking about the program and how we can get involved. Michelle Ellis will be hosting.

Save the Date! Saturday, November 4 LBGTQ Information Workshop

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hosted by the Adult Education Committee, this event is open to all in the community. Childcare is available for this event.

faith in action

Urban Ministries

Urban Ministries Food Pantry never has too much food. Their shelves need constant donations to help them have enough food to feed the multitudes that come to their facility for assistance. A container for donations is located at the back of the worship space. Hungry people are fed because of your generosity. Suggested items:

Sauces and spreads- spaghetti, sloppy joe, peanut butter, jams & jellies

Dry goods- brown rice, pasta, cereal, cereal bars, oatmeal packs, grits packs, powdered milk, dried beans, mac and cheese

Canned goods- beans, vegetables, fruit, apple sauce, tuna or chicken (in water), soups

100% Juice (fruit or vegetable) in large or individual sizes

Preferred: low sugar, low fat, low sodium, whole grains



Tentative Date Set for NC Pride: Saturday September 30. More details to come.

Thank you for Contributing to the School Kits Collection!

If there are promised items or money still to come, please bring them by **next Sunday, August 6**, for the children to pack up and ship. For monetary donations, feel free to use the special green offering envelopes on the table at the back of the worship space near the collection box. Thank you!

building & grounds

Updates from B&G...

We have several projects underway and are hoping all will have been completed by the time, or shortly after, you read this:

Repair two toilets in women's restroom.

Parking lot repairs took longer than expected, but should be completed by 8/2.

Worship Space carpet is being cleaned on 8/1.

-Sarah Hogan, Chair

membership & publicity

Next Newcomers & Inquirers Session

...will be held Sunday, August 6, following worship. Membership & Publicity Committee hosts these gatherings in the church library. There is a short presentation of the history of the UCC as well as information about Umstead Park United Church of Christ.

fellowship

August Fellowship Events - Movies and More!

Friday, August 4

Movie & Picnic - "Lion," meet at the NC Museum of Art at 8 p.m. to picnic prior to the 9 p.m. movie.

Saturday, August 5

Movie & Picnic - "Hidden Figures," meet at NC Museum of Art at 8 p.m. to picnic prior to the 9 p.m. movie.

Saturday, August 12- 9 a.m.

Walking Group meets at Shelley Lake.

Sunday, August 13- Noon-3 p.m.

Potluck Picnic: Fellowship games and activities at [Baileywick Park](#).

Saturday, August 26- 9 a.m.

Biking Group meets at Anderson Point Park.

Questions? Email Michael Lester at mychaelee@gmail.com

upucc august volunteers

August 6

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Communion Prep: Gwen Vass
Coffee Set-Up: Julie & Miles Schumacher
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Bonnie Shook-Sa & Gustavo Sa
Sound System: Scott Andrews
Auditor: Tim Champion
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell
Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Tracy Denson,
Melissa and Ethan Russell,
Mark and Melanie Stevens

August 13

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey
Coffee Set-Up: Matt & Rebecca Andrews
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Joanne Kennedy Frazer & Ted Frazer
Sound System: Andy Orr
Auditor: Gwen Vass
Assistant Treasurer: Lee Harrison
Clean-Team: Dawn McCarthy, Chris Wilms, Marcia Welsh,
Mary Pat Peters

August 20

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Coffee Set-Up: Roberta Ouellette
Greeters: Marianne Drexler
Ushers: Carol Banaitis & Sarah Hogan
Sound System: Dan Harrell
Auditor: Martha Eller
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Ousley
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris Ousley,
Ada & Colin McKerrell

August 27

Altar Prep: Michael Lester
Coffee Set-Up: Elaina & Robert Richardson
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Nik & Megan Everett
Sound System: Peter van Dorsten
Auditor: Frank McKay
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell
Clean-Team: Nevin & Carol Fouts, Scott Pope,
Doug Long & Janice Odom

upucc august calendar

Tues.	Aug. 1	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group in the library. Carpet cleaning in the worship space.
Wed.	Aug. 2	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Fri.	Aug. 4	8:00 p.m. Picnic & Movie at NCMA. See page five.
Sat.	Aug. 5	8:00 p.m. Picnic & Movie at NCMA. See page five.
Sun.	Aug. 6	9:30 a.m. Forum: The Jesus Fatwah. See page four. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion: "Saved?" Michael Lester preaching. Following worship Newcomers Gathering in the library. See page five. 12:00 p.m. UPUCC Advocacy Group meets in the EC Conference Room 12:00 p.m. Wild Goose Group meets in the library.
Wed.	Aug. 9	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Fri.	Aug. 11	5:30 p.m. Building Bridges Children's Church Camp. See page three.
Sat.	Aug. 12	9:00 a.m. Walking Group meets at Shelley Lake. See page five. 10:00 a.m. Building Bridges Children's Church Camp. See page three.
Sun.	Aug. 13	9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time. Childcare provided in the nursery. 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Committee meets in Classroom C. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "Building Bridges," Doug Long preaching. Children's Church Camp Closing. Following worship Forum: The Jesus Fatwah. See page four. 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Potluck Picnic at Baileywick Park. See page five.
Mon.	Aug. 14	6:30 p.m. Evening Creativity Group meets in the library.
Tues.	Aug. 15	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library. 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets in the library.
Wed.	Aug. 16	3:00 p.m. Creativity Group to Healing Transitions. See page seven. 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Aug. 17	Midnight UPUCC September newsletter deadline.
Sat.	Aug. 19	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space. 10:00 a.m. Meditation Group meets in the library.
Sun.	Aug. 20	9:30 a.m. Forum: The Jesus Fatwah. See page four. 10:30 a.m. Worship: Reflections on Wild Goose. See page seven. Following worship Worship & Music Committee meets in the library.
Wed.	Aug. 23	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	Aug. 26	9:00 a.m. Biking Group meets at Anderson Point Park. See page five.
Sun.	Aug. 27	9:30 a.m. Forum: Wake County Smart Start. See page four. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "Loosing' and Binding," Doug Long preaching.
Mon.	Aug. 28	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman reedaltman@gmail.com for details.
Wed.	Aug. 30	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.