

umstead park  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST  
*a thoughtful and progressive community of faith*

August 2018  
8208 Brownleigh Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27617  
[www.upucc.org](http://www.upucc.org)



***For children, youth and young at heart!***

**UPUCC Building Bridges II Weekend - August 10-12**

The goal of the weekend is to encourage enthusiasm and hope as we explore a second part of the UCC 3 GREAT LOVES theme of loving ‘our neighbor as ourselves.’ In recognition of last year’s Hurricane Maria, we will learn a bit about our neighbors in Puerto Rico- their climate, their wildlife, their music, their food, and how we are connected to them.



Children’s Committee joins with Faith in Action to collect hygiene kits for Puerto Rico. Hygiene kit components listed [here](#).



Cost \$10 for Friday night dinner per person or \$25/family and one hygiene kit. Sign up information can be found on page three of this newsletter.



*-All photos are from last year’s camp.*

**UPUCC Feast of Friends Fall 2018**

*Do you want some good food, friends and fellowship?  
See page five for complete details!*

## ***Summer Reflections***

I love Mary Oliver, and I was living the life she dreams of last week-

The dream of my life  
Is to lie down by a slow river  
And stare at the light in the trees—  
To learn something by being nothing  
A little while  
but the rich  
Lens of attention.

— Mary Oliver, *Entering the Kingdom*



So I was living Mary Oliver's dream life out behind my house, on the banks of a piece of water named after those who had gone before me (The Neusioks), just letting my thoughts wander with the wind and "learn something by being nothing... but the rich lens of attention." I felt the earth on my back, heard the water ripple over a half submerged branch, and considered a quote from Pascal I recently encountered:

"When I consider the brief span of my life absorbed into the eternity which precedes and will succeed it—the small space I occupy and which I see swallowed up in the infinite immensity of spaces of which I know nothing and which know nothing of me, I take fright and am amazed to see myself here rather than there: there is no reason for me to be here rather than there, now rather than then. Who put me here? By whose command and act were this place and time allotted to me?"

— Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*

"By whose command and act were this place and time allotted to me?"  
...and what shall I do with this opportunity?

Sometime ago (years actually) I ran across a different reflection about a Unitarian Minister in Minnesota. I "Googled" her, Victoria Safford, and apparently she is still the pastor at White Bear Unitarian Universalist, on the far outskirts of Minneapolis. The reflection I remembered included this stop-you-in-your-tracks experience:

Reverend Safford took her baby to visit an elderly neighbor who was dying. It was the neighbor's birthday and a small group of friends were gathering around her bedside to have a piece of cake and a glass of sherry. When Victoria needed to cut the cake she laid her baby down on the bed, right up on the pillow — and there was a sudden hush in the room.

"It was a startling sight...Two people side by side...Neither one could walk, neither one could speak, not in language you could understand, both utterly dependent on the rest of us bustling around, masquerading as immortals."

"...masquerading as immortals."

We are such busy people, I considered by the slow river. We have so much to do. It is only occasionally that we stop to consider our mortality and that we will one day stop the doing altogether.

I don't mean to sound morbid. I merely invite us to pause and reflect more often on this wondrous gift of existence. What shall we do with this opportunity?

See you Sunday,

*P.S. This coming Sunday, August 5, I will greatly enjoy the opportunity of joining you to hear Lynn Coye preach. Lynn has recently graduated from One Spirit Interfaith Seminary in NYC.*

# youth & children



## Youth Schedule for August

**August 10-11**  
**Assist with Vacation Church Camp**

**August 24-25**  
**Lock In at UPUCC**



**Youth Back Pack & Wild Goose Trip photos.**



## A is for Awesome August!

Sunday, August 5 - Children and Youth will be participating in the worship and communion service, led by Lynn Coye.

Vacation Church Camp!

Friday, August 10 - Children, Youth, Parents and all interested Adults will share a meal catered by [Carroll's Kitchen](#) at 6 p.m. followed by [Drum for Change](#) group drumming and discussion. "Concepts like balance, celebration, connection to nature, gratitude, inclusion, positivity," and more will be part of our evening.

Sign up for children (which includes registration for Children's Church) can be found [here](#). Adults joining for Friday night meal, make your reservation at [peg@upucc.org](mailto:peg@upucc.org)

Saturday, August 11 - 9 am-noon Children, Youth and Adult Leaders will spend the morning in art, games, yoga and animals visiting from the science museum!

Sunday, August 12 - 10:30 a.m. We will share about our camp experience in worship and hold Children's Church as regularly scheduled.

Sunday, August 19 - **Children's Church** (teacher and assistant needed)

Saturday, August 25 - Classroom Cleaning Morning 9 am-noon. Teachers and parents welcome!

Sunday, August 26 (& September 2)- Children will remain in worship, giving our wonderful teachers a break as we plan for our Move Up Sunday on September 9.

## worship & music

### **"All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir!"**

Immediately following worship on August 19, all are invited to participate in a time of music, food, and fellowship with the UPUCC choir in the worship space, during which time childcare will be provided. We are seeking to expand our numbers in the choir, and this event is an opportunity for interested folks to come and get a taste of what it is like to be in the choir (and get a taste of some tacos!).

- ◊ We welcome all, regardless of talent or music reading abilities!
- ◊ In most cases people vastly underestimate their musical skills, but hear this: *Everyone has the ability and the right to make music, and to find fulfillment and joy in making music with others.*

We hope you will consider joining us on August 19- no commitment beyond attending required!

We will begin with eating and visiting with one another, and then we will get our feet wet with some approachable singing. (You will NOT have to sing alone!)

Hope to see you there!\*

If you have any questions, or would like to let us know you're coming, please e-mail David Wilson ([david@upucc.org](mailto:david@upucc.org)).

\* *In keeping with our church policy of inclusivity, buckets will be provided for those who feel they cannot carry a tune.*

## pastoral care → congregational care

### **Pastoral Care becomes Congregational Care**

We have a new name. The Pastoral Care team, which provides individual and emotional care to the congregation, decided that we needed to change our name in order to better reflect our mission. Many think because our committee name is "Pastoral Care," we provide only for our staff. We have always focused on the congregation, so we have officially changed our name to "Congregational Care."

Members of Congregational Care record the prayer requests and celebrations each Sunday during the worship service. These prayer requests and celebrations are published in the weekly and monthly newsletters. Based on needs lifted up during the worship service and more info from Doug, we try to determine if further assistance may be needed. If you or a loved one is ill or undergoing health issues, or a loved one has passed away, we can schedule UPUCC members to provide food or transportation for you.

You can contact any Congregational Care member and request help. We will be glad to assist you. You can also contact Doug Long or Peg Arcari, and they will make sure that we are aware of your needs. There are also Prayer Request forms available at the back of the sanctuary. You can fill out a form and someone from our group will contact you. Please let us know if you need assistance.

We are glad to provide help for our wonderful UPUCC family.

*Ada McKerrell*

*Bob Martin*

*Dan Harrell*

*Julie Heustis*

*Nevin Fouts*

# fellowship

## UPUCC Feast of Friends Fall 2018

Do you want some good food, friends and fellowship? Then this is the activity for you!

Feast of Friends groups 6 - 8 people together monthly for four months for meals in homes, restaurants or other establishments (breweries?) in order to get to know one another better.

[CLICK THIS LINK TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### Questions and Answers

#### 1. How do I sign up?

You may sign up as an individual or partner up with a friend / spouse / significant other, etc. Fill out the online registration form by clicking the link above, or complete the form at church and return it to the box at the back of the sanctuary by August 13th. Once groups are formed, a Group Coordinator will be selected for each group and will contact members to arrange the details for the first gathering. (If you can't click the link, here is the address - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PD95R8S>.)



#### 2. Who cooks the meals?

We want to focus on the “Friends” not the “Feast”. Unless your group chooses otherwise, potluck dinners are recommended to simplify meal planning and distribute costs. Some groups may also choose to visit restaurants or other venues.

#### 3. What if I don't have room to host a dinner or I really can't cook?

Our desire is for everyone to have the opportunity to spend time getting to know others. Your group may choose to repeat a host home or eat out. We want everyone to feel that they can participate.

#### 4. What about families with children?

There will be both “Adults Only” and “Adults and Children” groups.

#### 5. What if I can't come every month?

It is challenging to accommodate busy schedules these days. Groups will have the flexibility to meet according to what best suits most of the members and will understand when you can't make it.

#### 6. What happens after our last gathering?

After the last gathering, your group may wish to stay intact and continue to meet on your own. If there is enough popular demand, we will continue with the Feast of Friends with new groupings on an ongoing basis.

#### 7. Do I have to be a Covenant Partner to participate?

Nope!

Please contact Nicki Norris with any questions. [Nnorris649@gmail.com](mailto:Nnorris649@gmail.com)

ALSO- Inspired by fellow UPUCC members, the Fellowship Committee would like to encourage folks to bring their own reusable plates/cups/bowls for use at our congregational potlucks. Some members have been bringing their own "potluck ready" bags that they stock with clean plates and cups to be ready to eat whenever and wherever. What a great way to save money and reduce trash!

Worried you'll forget your plate? No problem. The committee purchased a stack of reusable plates that will be on hand at each meal. Forks, napkins, and cups are always provided. But feel free to include those in your potluck bag, too.

## faith in action

### Farm Labor Organizing Committee Boycott

UPUCC support of FLOC boycott aimed at Reynolds American: The Faith in Action Committee received a request in June that UPUCC support the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in its efforts to gain justice for tobacco farm workers by endorsing a boycott of the Reynolds American e-cigarette VUSE. Many of these workers suffer from exploitative and abusive conditions. As a result of poverty wages, many children have to pick tobacco to support their families, exposing them to toxic levels of nicotine and pesticides. Moreover, thousands of the workers experience work-related sickness and injuries, and many women farm workers face sexual harassment on the job. The boycott aims to get Reynolds American to sign an agreement with FLOC guaranteeing farm workers a voice in the workplace without fear of retaliation. Various faith communities in our region have officially endorsed this initiative as part of their commitment to social justice. Endorsing the boycott entails signing on officially as a congregation and sending a letter on behalf of the congregation to Reynolds, indicating the church's reasons for supporting the boycott.

We will be voting on whether to endorse the boycott as a church at our next congregational meeting. Tom Harris, a member of Pilgrim UCC and volunteer with Triangle Friends of Farmworkers, shared his perspective with us at a July 15 forum, answering the question about whether this would target corporate owned retail outlets only or go after Franchise owners. He told us only corporate owned stores such as Circle K or Kangaroo will be the targets of a boycott protest. If you have questions, concerns, or feedback, please contact Sarah Sydney ([sarah62278@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah62278@hotmail.com)) or Peter Van Dorsten ([pv2049@gmail.com](mailto:pv2049@gmail.com)).

To learn more about the FLOC's efforts and how you can get involved, please visit: <http://www.floc.com/wordpress/boycottvuse/>.

## adult education

### August Forums

*Forums are held in the church library. Childcare is provided in the nursery.*

August 5 – 9:30 a.m. The Big Bang Theory is the prevailing cosmological model of our universe and its origin. It has been the standard model for more than 50 years. David VandeVusse plans to outline some of this model, including how it developed within the field of astrophysics and then ask us to think about what this may say about the nature of God (if anything).

August 12 – following worship. Sermon Talk Back. How does our current Me Too movement inform our biblical reflections?

August 19 – 9:30 a.m. Buddhism 101 video with James Finley, a former Trappist Monk who studied under Thomas Merton and is currently on faculty at Richard Roth's Living School. Come and learn the basics of Buddhism and how Jesus and the Buddha had a very similar process of human transformation. Gina Kentopp facilitating.

August 26 – 9:30 a.m. Jesus and Buddha: Part Two. Come and learn about the four noble truths which are the distilled essence of Buddhist teaching. In this video, each truth is introduced and explored. Emphasis is given to the presence of these truths at the heart of Jesus' call to awaken God's presence in our lives.

Gina Kentopp facilitating.

## faith in action continued...

### **-from the Advocacy Task Force...**

*Update from Bob Phillips of Common Cause*

The Fair Maps Pledge Campaign will be launched in earnest post Labor Day.

Again it's about holding every legislative candidate accountable to supporting redistricting reform in the 2019 session.

Common Cause's Goal: to have this as a free standing website where voters can easily see where their candidates stand on the issue.

Also - lawmakers will return to Raleigh on November 27 for another legislative session so they can pass things with their super majorities before the new legislature is seated in January 2019.

If the voter ID constitutional amendment passes, the November session is where they will define what ID's are valid. It's not too early to get involved in November elections. This is the time to learn about candidates. The Board of Election web site is a good first to start.

*From Michelle Brainard (UPUCC Advocacy Task Force):*

One of the cornerstones of Trump's presidential campaign was racial animus. Who will ever forget the day that he announced his candidacy where he first proposed building a wall on the southern border to keep "rapists and criminals" from Mexico out? So, it's no surprise to see his administration's immigration policy unfold as it has. While no law has actually been changed, the Attorney General and the Department of Homeland Security are taking action in enforcement that makes seeking asylum very difficult, if not impossible for those coming to our southern border to seek refuge. One of the crueler practices meant to deter migration was separating children from their parents once they crossed the border. After it came to an end by Executive Order, on June 26, a Federal judge gave the Trump Administration thirty days to reunite the 2300 children that had already been separated with their parents. By most accounts, however, the children are being used as a means to bargain with the migrants and convince them to leave the country. The best interest of the children is still not being considered and reports of draft proposals indicate the administration will be bearing down on its attempt to keep asylum seekers out of the country altogether. Please call your elected representative to voice your outrage and demand bipartisan immigration reform.

News is happening so fast that between the time this is written and the time you read it there will be new concerns that have surfaced. Please remember to call legislators and voice your concerns.

Senator Richard Burr @ (800) 685-8916

Senator Thom Tillis @ (919) 856-4630

Miscellaneous Fact: There are as many as 40,000 undocumented/unauthorized Irish immigrants who seem to be of no interest or concern to Trump. His concern is limited to black and brown immigrants.

***-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;***

# sunday service calendar

## August 5

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith  
Communion Prep: Elaina & Robert Richardson  
Coffee Set-Up: Elaina & Robert Richardson  
Greeters: **TBD**  
Ushers: Scott & Renate Andrews  
Sound System: **TBD**  
Auditor: Sue Hathaway  
Assistant Treasurer: Martha Eller  
Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Linda Hébert,  
Robert & Elaina Richardson,  
Mark and Melanie Stevens

## August 12

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey  
Coffee Set-Up: **TBD**  
Greeters: **TBD**  
Ushers: **TBD**  
Sound System: **TBD**  
Auditor: Gwen Vass  
Assistant Treasurer: Lee Harrison  
Clean-Team: Marcia Welsh, Mary Pat Peters,  
Eliseo Jimenez

## August 19

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith  
Coffee Set-Up: Leslie and Beth Heavey  
Greeters: Marianne Drexler  
Ushers: **TBD**  
Sound System: Nevin Fouts  
Auditor: Chris Ousley  
Assistant Treasurer: Betty Gatano, Dan Harrell  
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris  
Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrell

## August 26

Altar Prep: Michael Lester  
Coffee Set-Up: **TBD**  
Greeters: **TBD**  
Ushers: **TBD**  
Sound System: **TBD**  
Auditor: Sue Hathaway  
Assistant Treasurer: Lee Harrison  
Clean-Team: Nevin & Carol Fouts, Scott Pope,  
Doug Long & Janice Odom



**We Love Our  
Volunteers!**

***It's so easy to sign up! [HERE.](#)***

Choose from the tasks listed on the Sign Up Genius, for dates convenient to your schedule. Volunteers receive a reminder a few days ahead. Complete instructions are listed for each task as well as ways to re-schedule when necessary. Volunteer once, occasionally or regularly! Thank you for your help!

## membership & publicity



Karl Fisher

### New Covenant Partner

*We welcome Karl Fisher, who became a Covenant Partner on July 29.*

## august calendar at upucc

Wed.	Aug. 1	2:30 p.m. Creativity Group departs for Healing Transitions.
Thurs.	Aug. 2	6:30 p.m. Enneagram Journey in the library.
Sun.	Aug. 5	9:30 a.m. Forum: Big Bang Theory. See page six. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion: Lynn Coye preaching. Special music by Robert Richardson. Following worship Newcomers & Inquirers gathering in the library. Following worship LGBTQ Planning Group meets in the small atrium conference room. 12:00 p.m. Advocacy Group meets in the large atrium conference room.
Tues.	Aug. 7	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Thurs.	Aug. 9	6:30 p.m. Enneagram Journey in the library.
Fri.	Aug. 10	6:00 p.m. <b>Children's Vacation Church Camp. Details pages one and three.</b>
Sat.	Aug. 11	9:00 a.m. <b>Children's Vacation Church Camp.</b>
Sun.	Aug. 12	9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time. 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship: "Esther: Best Supporting Actress?" Doug Long preaching. Special music by Neil Hall.</b> Following worship Forum: Sermon Talk Back in the library.
Mon.	Aug. 13	6:30 p.m. Evening Creativity Group meets in the library.
Thurs.	Aug. 16	7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets in the library. Midnight UPUCC September Newsletter deadline.
Sat.	Aug. 18	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
Sun.	Aug. 19	9:30 a.m. Forum: Jesus and Buddha: Paths to Awakening, Part I. See page six. 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship: "I Am the Living Bread: When Metaphors are Misunderstood," Doug Long preaching. Special music by Anthony Neff.</b> Following worship UPUCC Choir Recruitment Event. See page six.
Tues.	Aug. 21	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Fri.-Sat.	Aug. 24-25	7 p.m.-9 a.m. Youth Lock In at UPUCC.
Sun.	Aug. 26	9:30 a.m. Forum: Jesus and Buddha: Paths to Awakening, Part II. See page six, 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship: "Revisiting Bonhoeffer," Doug Long preaching. Special music by Anya Frazer.</b>
Mon.	Aug. 27	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Men's Group meets. Contact Reed Altman <a href="mailto:reedaltman@gmail.com">reedaltman@gmail.com</a> for details.
Wed.	Aug. 29	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.