

*(An Introduction to this newsletter from Doug)*

### **A Timely Message from Our President**

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer is General Minister and President of The United Church of Christ. On Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, President Dorhauer stepped into the enormous void of political leadership our country presently faces with a message bringing both clarity and vision to congregations like ours. Our mission, if I may summarize Rev. Dorhauer, is to join the Spirit of God...

“...seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community.”

(For Dr. Dorhauer’s full letter, see page three.)

In this newsletter, you will find voices highlighted from our wider community and examples of those among our own fellowship committed exactly to that task... partnering with any and all who work toward the unending task of unifying all.

This is the work of God among us, and we add our voices in full affirmation.

### **Wider Community Voices Among Us**

Sister Mary Margaret Weber with us in Worship and Forum - February 10  
A Sister of the Holy Cross (an international congregation with sisters ministering in 8 countries on 4 continents), Sister Mary Margaret Weber has been in Raleigh since 1998.

She came then to co-found ‘A Place for Women to Gather,’ a spirituality center for women. For the past 20 years at this Center, women have explored their relationship with the Divine, as women. For many, explains Sister Mary Margaret, it is the first time they have considered the Divine Feminine as one of the images available to them when praying and their relationship to Her.



On February 10 the good Sister will preach here at UPUCC on "The Mystery of God Through the Eyes of the Feminine." In the forum that follows, she will lead a discussion on the Divine Feminine as well.

We trust that Sister Mary Margaret’s presence and the conversation generated will lead to further sessions related to the full inclusion of women in our social and religious structures.

#### ***See inside this newsletter for more Voices from Our Wider Community on:***

- JTP’s production of *Men on Boats*, page eight.
- An Invitation from Jihad Shawwa for a showing of “The Sultan and the Saint,” page eight.
- A forum with Patrick O’Neill, a local peace activist, whose non-violent action will most likely lead to a prison sentence, page six.
- An invitation from Raleigh PACT (Police Accountability Community Task Force) to join them at the February Raleigh City Council Meeting, page eight.
- HKonJ. See page six.
- " Food and Our Faith," Sat., February 23, Melfield UCC, Haw River, NC. See page eight.

### The Sacred Task of Raising Our Voices

There is an antidote, a super power, if you will, that addresses the voices of division drowning our country.

Have you looked at the UPUCC Covenant lately?

When visitors to UPUCC ask me what our goals are I often give an answer along these lines:

We want to further live into our Covenant ([link here](#)).

That may sound vague but, in truth, 20 years ago when a group of us crafted that statement and then invited each other to sign-on, we did so knowing that this covenant would not be something we fully accomplished, but instead would be something strived for... a goal *always* worked toward.

“...With inarticulate words and unfinished lives,  
we yearn to further embody this holy love,  
shaping the future as partners with God...”

Then, I explain to the inquiring person their potential role (and our *present* role) as partners... I tell them we each have a voice, and our task is to live out the Covenant and proclaim it as best we are able, calling each other to the tasks that the divine spirit in us gives us clarity to see.

(Speaking of clarity... a *recent* visitor explained a website drew them here. I was expecting them to say progressivechurches.org, a site we engineered more than a dozen years ago to help people find us and other progressive communities in the area. No, they indicated it was a website called churchclarity.org.

Apparently the ‘church clarity’ folk were tired of places that proclaimed they were open to all but ‘preached’ a specifically exclusionary version of the message of Jesus. In particular, two issues are scored on the site ... relationship to the LGBTQ community and the place of women in the leadership of the church. You will be glad to learn that UPUCC scores as ‘clearly affirming’ in both categories!)

But back to the Covenant and our voices...

Our voice/your voice matters... especially in our cacophonous world full of divisive shouting.

I’m reminding us all of our task “to shape the future as partners with God.”

Taken seriously (taken joyfully?!) could anything be more exciting?

In fact, I dare you to take the Covenant seriously, to meditate upon it and allow yourself to bring voice and action to your thoughts.

Why would I dare you? ...because I love you... and living out this Covenant will bring us all life!

Meditate on the Covenant, and then answer these questions:

What is the divine spirit stirring within your spirit?

What do you/will you give voice to?

I heard several of you in the last couple of weeks, quite naturally and unsolicited, speak exactly in this way. I’ll even offer examples ([link to the following writings on our website Sermons & More, under the “Additional Info” here:](#))

-Marcia and Gary Welsh spoke eloquently in an Adult Forum of their journey with an East German exchange student beginning in the early 1990’s. Part of the journey explains how our Church Covenant help bring an unexpected depth to that relationship.

-A. Frazer moved us all in worship with her reflection on MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

-continued on page three...



## from doug continued...

...continued from page two

-Peter van Dorsten wrote a number of haikus (and offered a challenge) while hosting one night for Eliseo(!)

A sampling:

My sanctuary,  
haven from the laws of man,  
worship with me here

I would also add one more recent voice, Mark Steven's at the Congregational Meeting last Sunday. Mark, chair of our Stewardship and Finance Committee, was honest, positive, troubled, and fully transparent as he presented a budget that projected a 20K shortfall.

"I am confident," posited this faithful, fiscal conservative, "that we will figure this out."

So am I, Mark... because we believe that we are 'beckoned to this place of belonging'... and the world sorely needs our voice. (For more good words from Mark, see page four.)

What do *you* have to say?

*Doug*

P.S. ... and a special shout out to Renate Andrews for her pictorial review of 2018, presented in the Congregational Meeting.

## A Pastoral Letter from the Rev. John C. Dorhauer - January 25, 2019

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united –in purpose, in mission, in vision – is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like 'terrorist' that attach too easily to Muslims, overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ's call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God's service,  
The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

# from stewardship & finance

## ***An Important Challenge!***

Hi UPUCCers!

We will keep this brief, as you have heard a lot from S&F this month about money (sorry!).

We finished out 2018 right where we thought we would be on donations. Expenses, mainly due to things we didn't quite budget right or due to maintenance, were over budget by \$9,000. We ended the year with a great December due to some Covenant Partners who dug deep and helped us have total inflows over \$45,000 for the month!

Going into 2019, the congregation approved a challenging budget for the year. We need to bring in about \$20,000 more than we are projecting based on our pledge campaign. Can we do it? Youbetcha! The money is here in our congregation. You can peanut butter spread it across all pledgers and think of it as a 6% increase. Or as Mark (yes, it was I) made the challenge to the congregation on Sunday, if we had just a handful of contributors rethink their giving to thoughtfully reflect the value that they find in our community, we can close the gap and rise up to reach higher to eventually provide better compensation for our staff and give beyond our church with FIA in the future. With 10 contributors now giving over \$5,000, another 10 contributors giving between \$4,000 and \$5,000 and 85 contributors at \$2,000 or below, the opportunity for a handful of people to make a substantial difference in our budget is tremendous. It is a difficult message to deliver, and everyone is welcome regardless of financial means, but the money to take UPUCC to a great place is in our midst. Don't underestimate the impact that your gift can have on our mission.

*-Mark Stevens, on behalf of Stewardship & Finance*

## **Giving Statements Sent**

UPUCC 2018 Giving Statements have been distributed via emails on file.

- The sending address on the Giving Statement email will be  
Umstead Park United Church of Christ / [notifications@onrealm.org](mailto:notifications@onrealm.org).
- Please check spam filters and junk mail folders, which sometimes captures these statements.
- If we do *not* have an email address for you, or if you have requested a printed statement, those will be placed in your hanging folder.
- *Any Giving Statement not received by January 31, or anyone preferring their statement be mailed, please contact Vickie Teal at [vickie@upucc.org](mailto:vickie@upucc.org).*

***-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.***

# youth

## February Youth Schedule

**February 3** - 1-3 p.m. *(or meet at church at 12:30 p.m.)*  
**Jellybeans Super Skate Center in Cary**

**February 10** - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**Youth Group** meets in the Dungeon

**February 17** - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**Service Project**

**February 24** - 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
**Movie** in the Dungeon

## Retreat!

Ten UPUCC youth braved the cold and wind to attend the Southern/Southeastern Conference UCC Winter Youth Retreat in Blowing Rock! While there, we heard from speaker Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, thought about "acting justly," went snow tubing, and played lots of games. Thanks to Mary Nations for accompanying us on this adventure!  
*(photos here and on page nine)*



# children

## February- Children and Families

Families are invited to support Faith In Action's February offering of love by bringing soup or stew (canned or dried) for donation to Urban Ministries Food Pantry on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3. *(FYI, non-perishable food items are collected in the worship space year-round for Urban Ministries.)*

AmazonSmile is one way to support UPUCC- as each purchase made at amazon will garner a percentage for UPUCC. Please consider using the link below for all your amazon purchases:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2202519>

*The link offers complete instructions.*

### **Save the Date!**

Plans are underway for Children's Church Camp to be held May 31-June 1 (the weekend *after* Memorial Day weekend). Hope you can join us!



Many thanks to Sarah Sydney for coordinating the birthday party for the Jimenez children on January 20.

*(More photos on page nine)*

## February Forums -childcare provided for all forums

February 3- 9:30 a.m. Bob Phillips of Common Cause

Gerrymandering is a root cause for the imbalance between total votes cast per party and the number of seats each party wins. Bob Phillips of Common Cause will be our guest to discuss getting a Redistricting Bill introduced that calls for an independent commission rather than the political parties to determine the voting districts. Come hear his interesting and informative presentation about this very important issue! (Additional information can be found on page seven under the Advocacy section.)

February 10- following worship Sister Mary Margaret Weber. See page one for details.

February 17- 9:30 a.m. Faith Journey- Take a stroll down memory lane with Betsy Thigpen and Peggy Lee asking the question: *Is That All There Is?* Based on information from the writings and teaching of several 20th and 21st century authors and theologians, the modern Christian church may actually have overlooked something of critical importance called *The Wisdom Way of Knowing* or the *Wisdom Tradition*. Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, James Finley, Thomas Keating, Mike Morrell and many others comment that the *wisdom tradition* goes back hundreds of years and that Jesus, himself, was a wisdom teacher. Rohr says, “For the most part, it simply hasn’t been taught since the Reformation, leaving us with a huge deficit in our understanding of the Divine.” Rohr, Bourgeault, and Finley are addressing the Divine through The Living School for Action and Contemplation. This forum will offer a brief overview of these recent teachings.

February 24- 9:30 a.m. Patrick O’Neill

On August 6, 1945 an atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan killing 150,000 people.

Today, the U.S. Navy has 14 ‘First Strike’ Trident submarines, each with a potential bombing capacity equal to more than 4,800 ‘Hiroshimas.’

Last year, on April 4th, 2018 (the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.), seven Catholic peace activists entered Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in St. Mary’s, Georgia to declare this nuclear capability as “the greatest threat to all of God’s creation.” The activists used crime scene tape, hammers and hung banners reading: “The ultimate logic of racism is genocide - Dr. Martin Luther King,” “The ultimate logic of Trident is omnicide” and “Nuclear weapons: illegal / immoral.”

They also brought an indictment charging the U.S. government for crimes against peace.

Local Catholic Worker Patrick O’Neill was among the seven protesters. He currently waits sentencing for charges leveled against him for this action.

Patrick will lead our Adult Forum February 24.

To read his fascinating and transparent testimony in Federal Court, and for more information on Patrick and his co-defendants, see <https://www.kingsbayplowshares7.org/>

***Recognize our identity as global citizens, intimately tied to and  
partnered with all of God's children in every land;***

## faith in action

### 'Souper' Bowl Sunday Love Offering February 3

All are invited to bring soup or stew (canned or dried) for donation to Urban Ministries Food Pantry on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3.

### HKonJ Set for Saturday, February 9

(Historic Thousands on Jones Street)

The Moral March on Raleigh is part of a love and justice movement working on an intersectional agenda to support public education, economic sustainability, workers' rights and livable wages, health care for all, Medicaid expansion, environmental justice, equal protection under the law without regard to race, immigration status, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation, voting rights for all, and criminal justice. The movement is made up of more than 125 North Carolina NAACP branches, youth councils, and college chapters from across the state and members of over 200 other social justice organizations.

Join us for the pre-march rally and people's assembly at 9 a.m. near the corner of Wilmington and South Streets near Shaw University.

March begins at 10 a.m.



### *...from UPUCC Advocacy Group* **You Can Make a Difference!**

Gerrymandering is a root cause for the imbalance between total votes cast per party and the number of seats each party wins. The negative effects are felt at both the State and National levels and they are far reaching – influencing immigration, taxation, healthcare and other policies that are enacted and judges that are appointed.

Bob Phillips, Executive Director of Common Cause, has been working on this issue since the mid 80's (when the current North Carolina Republican leaders were demanding Redistricting Reform!). Starting this month, when the North Carolina General Assembly convenes, Bob and Common Cause will be working on getting a Redistricting Bill introduced that calls for an independent commission rather the political parties to determine the voting districts.

We have an important role to play.

*First*, we need to be well informed. Therefore, please come to the Adult Forum February 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the library for a presentation by Bob Phillips. He will explain about Common Cause efforts and our individual personal efforts. For example, how to effectively communicate with our legislators. (Childcare provided in the nursery.)

*Second*, we need to communicate our "instructions" to our NC legislators. A major opportunity for this is the Common Cause Lobby Day March 22<sup>nd</sup> when you can join many hundreds of others personally calling on their legislators in their offices. If you can't be there in person, the Advocacy Task Force will be presenting opportunities for you to do a written or recorded message we'll deliver for you on Lobby Day.

Remember the pride you felt when you voted? That good feeling will be multiplied many times when you get involved and do something to directly influence your legislator!

## our wider community



*MEN on Boats* is based on the book *The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons*, by John Wesley Powell. A brave cast of gender explorers portrays Powell, a stately one-armed army major, and his crew's 1869 expedition through perilous waters to create the first official map of the region. The play is set against a natural history museum display under construction, performed by the women working "behind the scenes" (so to speak) to tell their own version of the Powell story. The journey on the boats will be captured via a very structured choreography, using the characters' verbal strategies of mapping an ever-changing waterscape and working as a team to save supplies, boats, and themselves. -from [thejusticetheaterproject.org](http://thejusticetheaterproject.org)

All performances at UPUCC. Tickets available via: [thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com](mailto:thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com) or 919-264-7089. Identify as UPUCC.

Please note: Childcare is offered for the Sunday, February 17 matinee (3:30 p.m.). Children must be potty trained, and parents must make a reservation in advance. While the adults are enjoying the show, the children will have age-appropriate activities that mirror the topic being presented on stage. Parents provide their cell phone number for our child care experts in order to contact them if need be. The wonderful nonprofit that JTP hires to do this service is called SeedArtShare. They are staffed by theater professionals who also work professionally with children.

**Police Accountability Issues to be addressed Tuesday, February 5** Barbara Smalley-McMahan urges all who are concerned for racial justice to join her and other Raleigh PACT (Police Accountability Community Taskforce) members and advocates at the Raleigh City Council Meeting on Tuesday night February 5, at 7:00 p.m. at 222 W Hargett St. Raleigh PACT, organizational partners and community members will urge Raleigh City Council Members to endorse PACT's proposal for a community oversight board with investigatory, disciplinary, and subpoena powers.

### **"The Sultan and the Saint"- Sunday, February 10.**

Doors open at 3pm (showing at 3:15). Witherspoon Theater, NCSU (2810 Cates Ave.)

Our good friend, Jihad Shawwa, has extended a personal invitation to join him (and the wider Muslim community in conjunction with St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church) at a premiere of the Emmy nominated movie: "The Sultan and the Saint" (You will find a YouTube trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OOLOD8tO8U> )

This historically based cinematic production is an inspiring example of Interfaith work during the time of the Crusades, when St. Francis of Assisi reached across enemy lines to form a lasting friendship with the Sultan of Egypt.

Though admission is free, there is suggested donation of \$5. Please note: you must register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sultan-and-the-saint-raleigh-premiere-tickets-54883264321>

### **Food and Our Faith- Saturday, February 23, 9:30-Noon** Melfield UCC (2145 Melfield Drive, Haw River, NC)

The Rev. Richard Joyner only ever wanted to escape from the land- the farms of Pitt County where his family toiled as sharecroppers, and endured repeated racial and economic injustice. But as he watched his 300-member community of Contoe suffering from high mortality and school dropout rates, and the same racial and economic injustices that still haunted him, Joyner turned to a solution that seemed unthinkable: a return to the land that he had come to hate. The results -nothing short of miraculous.

On Sat., Feb. 23, from 9:30 till noon, we invite you to share in Rev. Richard Joyner's story of redemption, courage, and community at Melfield UCC in Haw River (just this side of Burlington). His presentation will be followed by a panel discussion among food, health and environmental advocates. And then comes the feast! You are invited to bring your family's favorite heirloom recipes to share; and if you aren't able to bring food, there will be plenty on hand to feed everyone, at no cost. This event is free, but you must register. Click [here](#) to RSVP. For more information on Rev. Joyner, click [here](#). For more information on this event in general, contact Karen Richardson Dunn, PHW Regional Coordinator, at [karen@ncchurches.org](mailto:karen@ncchurches.org).

## fellowship

*Looking ahead to*

### **Fat Tuesday Celebration Tuesday, March 5**

*Look for details in future announcements.*



## membership & publicity

*Looking ahead to*

### **Get-Acquainted Potluck - March 16**

UPUCC newcomers, new members and their children are invited to the second annual Get-Acquainted Potluck on Saturday, March 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Join us for food, fellowship, *green* beer (if you're so inclined) and answers to your questions about UPUCC and our church community. Children are welcome and child care and fun activities will be provided. Questions? Contact Gary Sanders [sandersgarya@gmail.com](mailto:sandersgarya@gmail.com)

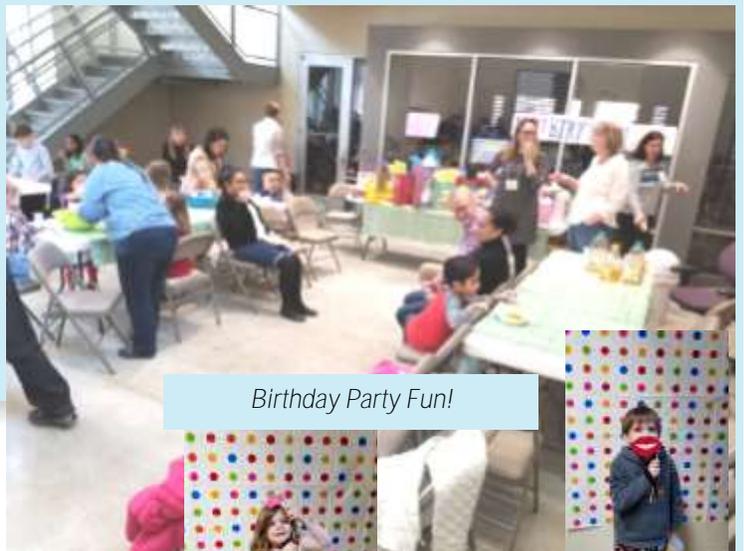
## youth



*Youth in retreat at Blowing Rock, NC*



## children



*Birthday Party Fun!*



# sunday volunteers

## February 3

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith

Communion Prep: Trish Breen

Coffee Set-Up: **TBD**

Greeters: Jeri & Bill Radke

Ushers: Jeff & Gail Holden

Sound System: Nevin Fouts

Auditor: Tim Champion

Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell

Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Linda Hébert,  
Jessica & Shawn Holmes, Mark &  
Melanie Stevens.

## February 10

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey

Coffee Set-Up: Elaina & Robert Richardson

Greeters: **TBD**

Ushers: Sally Bean & Todd Smith

Sound System: **TBD**

Auditor: Chris Ousley

Assistant Treasurer: Sue Hathaway

Clean-Team: Mary Pat Peters, Eliseo  
Jimenez, Vickie Teal, Elaina &  
Robert Richardson

***We love our volunteers!***  
***Care to help? Link [HERE>](#)***

## February 17

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith

Coffee Set-Up: Lori Del Negro & Roger Sommer

Greeters: **TBD**

Ushers: Jamye & Chris Abram

Sound System: Chris Abram

Auditor: Chris Ousley

Assistant Treasurer:

Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell,  
Chris Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrill

## February 24

Altar Prep: Michael Lester

Coffee Set-Up: **TBD**

Greeters: **TBD**

Ushers: **TBD**

Sound System: Peter van Dorsten

Auditor: Tim Champion

Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell

Clean-Team: Carol & Nevin Fouts, Scott Pope,  
Doug Long & Janice Odom

# upucc committee information

*At UPUCC, most of our volunteer efforts are channeled through our committees. The UPUCC Nominating Committee invites Covenant Partners to consider serving on one of the following committees:*

**Adult Education:** coordinates Sunday forums, book studies, evening discussion groups, and other activities that enhance educational opportunities for our adult members. In conjunction with the Fellowship Committee and other groups, they sponsor film outings and retreats, and publicize opportunities offered in the wider community.

**Building & Grounds:** plans for maintenance and use of our building, grounds and furnishings. Possible projects include an outdoor playground, garden, and gathering space considerations.

**Children's Committee:** organizes educational and social opportunities for infants through fifth graders. Working closely with the **Children's Director**, this committee assists with the **Children's Church** program, teacher training and scheduling of teachers and nursery volunteers. Special events for children also fall under this committee.

**Congregational Care:** offers congregational care and spiritual support by focusing on individual needs and caring for personal relationships. They prepare the weekly e-prayer list, send birthday cards and notes of encouragement to members and friends, coordinate meals for those with special circumstances, coordinate the church's **Care Teams** and provide assistance and compassion in a variety of ways.

**Faith in Action:** encourages members to be actively involved in social justice issues. Through the leadership of this committee, UPUCC supports national and international organizations like Heifer International, UCC special offerings, and also commits support to local initiatives such as Oxford House and Urban Ministries. UPUCC Advocacy Task Force, Creativity Group, and Sanctuary Task Force are part of our Faith in Action.

**Fellowship:** provides opportunities for UPUCCers to know each other better through special events such as Feast of Friends, barbecue luncheons, Fat Tuesday and Christmas Caroling, (just to name a few!) Besides coordinating Sunday morning coffee and goodies, this committee also plans various meals on a regular basis.

**Membership & Publicity:** publicizes the UPUCC community through print and internet advertising, website, promotional items, brochures and other media. They provide welcome packets and help new Covenant Partners make connections with each other. They are responsible for the Sunday morning welcome table setup, name badges and recruiting greeters and provide the monthly Newcomers & Inquirers sessions.

**Stewardship & Finance:** is responsible for the supervision of the finances of the church. As part of this, the committee plans and implements the annual pledge campaign and works with other committees in the Church to formulate a proposed annual budget. Those recommendations are then presented to the Coordinating Council and Congregation. They also manage many other financial-related tasks including: insurance programs, weekly contribution deposits, financial reports, and analyzing contribution data.

**Worship & Music:** is in charge of the music program of the church including supporting the choir director and pianist, selection, acquisition and maintenance of musical instruments and materials. They are responsible for volunteers for communion preparation, ushering and sound system set up. They also coordinate with the pastor in planning worship services.

**Youth:** works with the Youth Director to provide middle and high school students the opportunity to establish and nurture a relationship with God, themselves and with their community. Special ministries throughout the year are designed to be fun and promote spiritual growth. Retreats, summer camp outs, lock-ins, local service projects, mission trips, special fellowships, fund raisers and worship are all part of the mix. Youth Committee also assists with selection of curricula, coordinating programs, identifying program leaders and leader training.

**Personnel:** responsible for personnel policies, including salary recommendations and benefits. This committee maintains written job descriptions for all paid positions. It also provides both accountability and support to paid staff by working with staff to create goals for the year. The committee screens applicants for employment with the church.

**Nominating Committee (Year-Round):** to be in charge of preparing a slate of candidates for all outgoing officers and committee chairs, as well as populating committees throughout the year.

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*Officers and committees are elected at our Spring Congregational Meeting at the end of April, and terms begin in May. Many committees meet the second Sunday of each month. For further information, please contact Moderator-Elect, Bridget Blinn-Spears at [babspears@gmail.com](mailto:babspears@gmail.com)*

# upucc february calendar

Sat.	Feb. 2	9:30 a.m.	Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
Sun.	Feb. 3	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Guest Speaker, Bob Phillips of Common Cause. See pages six and seven.
		10:30 a.m.	<b>Worship &amp; Communion:</b> "Throwing Jesus Over the Cliff," Doug Long preaching. Souper Bowl Sunday.
		Following worship	Newcomers & Inquirers Session in the library.
			UPUCC Advocacy Task Force in the large atrium conference room.
		12:30 p.m.	Youth depart for Jelly Beans Super Skate Center in Cary (or meet us there at 1 p.m.)
Tues.	Feb. 5	9:30 a.m.	Creativity Group in the library.
Wed.	Feb. 6	2:30 p.m.	Creativity Group departs for Healing Transitions.
		6:15 p.m.	Music Literacy Group in the library.
		7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Fri.	Feb. 8	7:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Sat.	Feb. 9	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Group in the library
			HKonJ- Downtown Raleigh. See page seven.
		7:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Sun.	Feb. 10	9:30 a.m.	Committee Meeting Time. Childcare provided in the nursery.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "The Mystery of God Through the Eyes of the Feminine," Sr. Mary Margaret Weber preaching.
		Following worship	Forum: Sister Mary Margaret Weber leads a discussion on the Divine Feminine. See page one.
			Youth meet in the Dungeon for Nerts! with David Wilson.
		3:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Wed.	Feb. 13	6:15 p.m.	Music Literacy Group in the library.
		7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Fri.	Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Sat.	Feb. 16	9:30 a.m.	Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
		7:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Sun.	Feb. 17	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Faith Journey with Betsy Thigpen and Peggy Lee. See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	<b>Worship:</b> "Clarity... About Kevin," (Doug promised a Part 2 to his Epiphany sermon. This is it!)
		Following worship	Youth meet.
		12:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee in the library.
		3:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space. Childcare provided for this performance- details page eight.
Tues.	Feb. 19	9:30 a.m.	Creativity Group in the library.
Wed.	Feb. 20	6:15 p.m.	Music Literacy Group in the library.
		7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Feb. 21	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council meets in the library.
		Midnight	March Newsletter deadline.
Fri.	Feb. 22	7:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Sat.	Feb. 23	7:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Sun.	Feb. 24	9:30 a.m.	<b>Forum: Guest Speaker Patrick O'Neill.</b> See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	<b>Worship:</b> "Swords into Plowshares," Doug Long preaching.
		Following worship	Youth: Movie and discussion.
		3:30 p.m.	JTP Men on Boats in the worship space.
Mon.	Feb. 25	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Men's Group. Contact <a href="mailto:reedaltman@gmail.com">reedaltman@gmail.com</a> for details.
Wed.	Feb. 27	6:15 p.m.	Music Literacy Group in the library.
		7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the worship space.

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*Is there anyone who would like to be receiving UPUCC weekly emails who is not currently receiving them?*

*If so, please be in touch and we will attempt to remedy the situation!*

[peg@upucc.org](mailto:peg@upucc.org)