

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

June 2018
8208 Brownleigh Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617
www.upucc.org

FAITH IN ACTION

The Coming of Summer at UPUCC

Sunday, June 3 following worship~

All Church Picnic & Carnival

UPUCC Worship Space & Grounds

As we envision the future development of our beautiful church grounds, we celebrate with food, corn hole, games, face painting, a bounce house and more!

Bring a lawn chair or watch from the windows in the comfort of the worship space.

In the event of rain, we will set up indoors.

Hot dogs, veggie burgers, buns, chips & drinks provided

Your Sides, Desserts and Special Hot Dog Toppings Welcome!

Also, Fellowship Committee is encouraging us to bring our own table service, if possible, to limit waste. Table service will be available.

(The 'Sticky Notes' led to:) **A Vision of Love and Community**

At our Congregational Meeting April 29th, we spent time as a community trying to envision our future. Using themes developed from prior Congregational input (on what makes UPUCC special), the Visioning exercise focused on soliciting ideas relating to those themes (Those themes, by the way, also created the word cloud image to the right. Quite *lovely!*).

The raw data compiled from our Congregational exercise can be found [here](#).

We gathered ideas for each category and then asked the congregation to vote on the most important/ impactful ideas. Both the ideas and the "votes" each idea received will be used to indicate topics that warrant additional investigation and discussion.

Our next step is to review this information with the Coordinating Council and determine which committees might be best suited to analyze the ideas. Following this, we intend to report back to the Congregation with an update outlining a vision for the community based on the feedback.

If you have any questions about this information, or would like to provide any additional feedback, please feel free to contact Anthony Neff at anthonyneff@anthonyneff.com.



And speaking of 'A Vision of Love...' (from page one)

I did not get up early last Saturday morning to watch the royal wedding. If it had happened at a more convenient hour (our time), I definitely still would not have watched.

I'm not a fan of royalty. (Janice is miffed that I won't even watch 'The Crown' with her.) I own this as a personal issue, but I simply have a deep distaste for the idea that some persons are inherently better than others, or that there is an acceptable echelon of blue blood. (I suspect this is rooted in my blue collar upbringing, but enough psychoanalyzing...)

No, I didn't watch the royal wedding and tried to tune out the incessant news coverage leading up to it. It felt like trying to escape the last presidential campaign (which of course was often very un-presidential, a sign of things to come, but then, I digress... again.).

Nope. No tea and crumpets for me when the royals walked down the aisle... so imagine how odd it is that I've now gone back to the recordings of the hoopla-ed wedding to see what I missed!!

Why? Was it because I heard that Serena, Amal and Oprah were there (People famous enough that first names identify them.)? Did I want to find out what a fascinator was?

No, I looked up the YouTube postings because what I learned that I missed was a minister who realized he had the opportunity to deliver a message while the whole world was watching and listening *...and he did not squander that opportunity.*

I've always been a Michael Curry fan, but now I am closer to a disciple. I had a couple of opportunities to hear him when he was here in NC and it was clear that he was a gifted and impassioned communicator. In my opinion he 'toned down' that passion significantly when he spoke at St. George's Chapel. I can only imagine the Queen's response had he really 'let go.'

Regardless, Bishop Curry did not hold back on his message. He held up a mirror to an audience dripping with the privilege of high society with the whole world listening and asked "What if we ruled by the power of love?"

What if...?

What if we made love central in all our societies... in all our decisions... in all our circles of power?

Bishop Curry and several other well-known US clergy are now explaining that the power of such love is not always submissive. Perhaps you've seen the 'Reclaiming Jesus' movement? Here is just a portion of their statement. (For the full declaration, see reclaimingjesus.org).

We are living through perilous and polarizing times as a nation, with a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches. We believe the soul of the nation and the integrity of faith are now at stake.

I. WE BELIEVE each human being is made in God's image and likeness ... Racial bigotry is a brutal denial of the image of God ...

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the resurgence of white nationalism and racism in our nation...

II. WE BELIEVE we are one body. In Christ, there is to be no oppression based on race, gender, identity, or class.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT misogyny, the mistreatment, violent abuse, sexual harassment, and assault of women that has been further revealed in our culture and politics, including our churches, and the oppression of any other child of God...

III. WE BELIEVE how we treat the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner is how we treat Christ himself.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the language and policies of political leaders who would debase and abandon the most vulnerable children of God. We strongly deplore the growing attacks on immigrants and refugees ... We won't accept the neglect of the well-being of low-income families and children, and we will resist repeated attempts to deny health care to those who most need it.

continued on page three...



more from doug

...continued from page two...

IV. WE BELIEVE that truth is morally central to our personal and public lives.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the practice and pattern of lying that is invading our political and civil life.

V. WE BELIEVE that Christ's way of leadership is servanthood, not domination.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT any moves toward autocratic political leadership and authoritarian rule.

VI. WE BELIEVE Jesus when he tells us to go into all nations...

THEREFORE, WE REJECT "America first" as a theological heresy for followers of Christ.

...Jesus summarizes the Greatest Commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, and your mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these commandments hang all the law and the prophets." As to loving our neighbors, we would add "no exceptions."

Well, Bishop Curry! It seems you're stirring things up on BOTH sides of the Atlantic!

Stirring with you,



adult education

June Forums

⇒ June 3 - 9:30 a.m.

"Bad Girls of the Bible" - Michelle Ellis presents a discussion of various women in the Bible.

⇒ June 10 - Following worship

Bob Phillips from NC Common Cause will speak on the progress of redistricting reform (Gerrymandering). **More details about Bob's presentation can be found on page four.**

⇒ June 17 No forum is scheduled for Father's Day.

⇒ June 24 - 9:30 a.m.

Doug Kemp from Church in the Woods will be speaking about ... Church in the Woods.

Women and Community

At the last women's retreat, more than half the women said that they wanted to feel a greater sense of community with other women. To that end, a group of us started planning and facilitating activities (usually monthly) to bring women together to spend time with each other, get to know each other better, and have fun or learn something, etc.

All women are invited to these activities. *You do not have to join anything or make any kind of commitment--just come!*

Connect, enjoy... Our June 9, 10:30 a.m. activity is a visit to [Raulston Arboretum](https://www.raulstonarboretum.com/) followed by Mediterranean food at Neomonde (<https://www.neomonde.com/neomonde-mediterranean-restaurant-raleigh/>). For more information about this event, contact Gail Holden (gailwholden@gmail.com).

Of course, if you are interested in doing more, we welcome suggestions for activities and people who are willing to co-host an activity. You would also be welcome to come to our planning meetings with your ideas and enthusiasm. For more information, including a list of future activities, contact Eleanor Smith (eleanorsmithmls@gmail.com).

membership & publicity

Newcomers & Inquirers Session

Held most first Sundays of each month, Membership & Publicity Committee hosts these gatherings in the church library after worship. There is a short presentation of the history of the UCC as well as information about Umstead Park United Church of Christ. (Next session is July 1.)

children & youth



2017 Building Bridges

Summer Plans

Sunday June 3: Recognition of Nursery & Children's Church volunteers will held during worship. All-Church Picnic & Carnival will follow. (details on page one). This summer, the elementary-age children will meet together while the young children continue to meet in their classroom.

August 10-12 Building Bridges II Children's Church Camp. This year's camp includes drumming, yoga, crafts, live animals, and a mission project with Faith In Action to benefit the people of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Youth and adults will continue to play a major role. Please save the dates for this special weekend! Contact Peg peg@upucc.org for further details.

Youth Summer Calendar

June 3

Youth help with games at All Church Picnic & Carnival

June 10-16

Youth at John's River Valley Camp

July 12-14

Youth backpacking trip & Wild Goose Festival

Aug 10-12

Youth help with Children's Camp

Aug 24-25

Youth end-of-summer Lock In



Youth Ministry's Silent Auction Results

Thanks to the many generous donors and the enthusiastic support

of the congregation, Youth Ministry's Silent Auction Fundraiser raised over \$1,800 for our youth! We are incredibly grateful for your contributions and investment in our youth. With your support, we will be able to improve our "Dungeon" space, subsidize our summer service trip, and fund more opportunities for fellowship and growth this fall.

Thank you!



Photos from Youth Sunday May 6

sunday service calendar

June 3

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Communion Prep: Lori Del Negro
Coffee Set-Up: Lori Del Negro & Roger Sommer
Greeters: Learla & Robert Stefanics
Ushers: Sarah Hogan & Carol Banaitis
Sound System: **TBD**
Auditor: Susan Hathaway
Assistant Treasurer: Martha Eller
Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Chris Ousley,
Mark and Melanie Stevens, Linda Hébert

June 10

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey
Coffee Set-Up: Elaina & Robert Richardson
Greeters: Marianne Drexler, Colin McKerrell
Ushers: Jayme & Chris Abram
Sound System: Chris Abram
Auditor: **TBD**
Assistant Treasurer: **TBD**
Clean-Team: Dawn McCarthy, Marcia Welsh, Mary
Pat Peters, Eliseo Jimenez

June 17

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Coffee Set-Up: Julie & Miles Schumacher
Greeters: Learla & Robert Stefanics
Ushers: **TBD**
Sound System: **TBD**
Auditor: Julie Schumacher
Assistant Treasurer: Lee Harrison
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell,
Chris Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrell

June 24

Altar Prep: Michael Lester
Coffee Set-Up: **TBD**
Greeters: Gina & Nick Kentopp
Ushers: **TBD**
Sound System: Peter van Dorsten
Auditor: **TBD**
Assistant Treasurer: **TBD**
Clean-Team: Nevin & Carol Fouts,
Scott Pope, Janice Odom &
Doug Long

all in the family

New Baby



*Proud Parents
Nadia and Tracy Denson*

New Covenant Partners

I was initially drawn to UPUCC by the invitation of a friend but came back because of the people and the message of the church. Although attending off and on for several years, I decided to make a firm commitment now for many reasons including the growing concern about what is happening in the U.S. and in our world. I also wanted my children to be part of a positive community where they can participate in making a difference and learn, what I believe to be, the true teachings of Christ.

Watching my children grow into the amazing, beautiful people they are and continue to become is by far my favorite hobby. Aside from this, I love getting lost in the woods on a good hike and have a fascination with waterfalls.

I am a wife and proud mom of two boys. I am currently working as an oncology social worker and have worked in the profession in various settings for over 20 years. -Tara Kenyon



Tara Kenyon



Neil Hall

I grew up attending a Congregational Church, where my father was the minister. I did not attend church during my adult life until recently. When I decided to try church again, I initially went to a Unitarian Universalist congregation. I liked it, but it wanted more in music and a service more consistent with what I grew up with. I searched for Congregational churches and chose this UCC congregation as appearing closest to what I wanted in a

church. I felt immediately comfortable at UPUCC and greatly enjoyed the choir, which I joined immediately. I am a retired medical doctor. Initially I practiced family medicine for 13 years in my home town, a tiny village between Ithaca and Binghamton, NY. Then I took a fellowship in geriatric medicine and subsequently practiced and taught medical students, resident physicians and geriatric psychiatry fellows. I also served as medical director of a multi-level geriatric facility. I moved to NC to direct the geriatrics fellowship at MAHEC in Asheville. Subsequently I switched to hospice and palliative medicine, practicing in Greensboro and Raleigh. I ended my career with five years practice in a geriatric psychiatry ward, providing medical care to the patients.

I have three grown children: Nathan, a computer security specialist working at Harvard, married with a three year old daughter; Janelle, a CPA working at McGladry in Raleigh, who lives in Morrisville, NC; and Nicholas, a philosophy PhD candidate at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N Y.

I have particular interests in music (voice and recorder), gardening, canoeing/kayaking, with lesser activity in photography. I enjoy cooking and watching movies, particularly foreign films and classics.

I have a dog, a standard poodle, recently acquired. -Neil Hall

in our wider community



Registration fills up quickly—apply today



Youth Summer Theater Camps

Rising 2nd to rising 9th grade campers.
\$240 Full day/per week

Weeks of July 9, 16, 23—North Raleigh, Leesville Road

Weeks of July 30, August 6—Emily K Center, Durham



Taught by some of the best theater professionals in the Triangle.

www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org 919-264-7089

*The Justice Theater Project
presents*

Oliver!

in the UPUCC worship space
June 8-24

Ticket information:

919-264-7089 or email

thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com

*Also, summer camps have space available!
(at left)*

*-Live justice as the social
expression of love, and
peace as the present manifestation
of the world to come.*

upucc june calendar

Sun.	June 3	9:30 a.m. Forum: "Bad Women of the Bible." See page three. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion: "Oliver 2018," Doug Long preaching. Following worship All Church Picnic at UPUCC. See page one. 12:00 p.m. UPUCC Advocacy Group meets in the conference room.
Tues.	June 5	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Thurs.	June 7	6:30 p.m. Enneagram Journey in the library.
Fri.	June 8	7:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Sat.	June 9	10:30 a.m. Women's Group to Raulston Arboretum. See page three 7:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Sun.	June 10	TBD Youth depart for Johns River Work Camp. 9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "Summer: The Gift of Rebooting," Doug Long preaching. Following worship Forum: Bob Phillips on Gerrymandering. See page five. 3:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Mon.	June 11	6:30 p.m. Evening Creativity Group meets in the library. 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets in the large atrium conference room.
Wed.	June 13	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	June 14	6:30 p.m. Enneagram Journey in the library.
Fri.	June 15	7:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Sat.	June 16	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space. 10:00 a.m. Meditation Group meets in the library. 5:30 p.m. JTP Send a Kid to Camp Fundraiser in the atrium. 7:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Sun.	June 17	10:30 a.m. Worship: "If I Have Been the Source of Pain, O God," Doug Long preaching. 3:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Tues.	June 19	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	June 20	3:00 p.m. Creativity Group to Healing Transitions.
Thurs.	June 21	6:30 p.m. Enneagram Journey in the library. 7:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Fri.	June 22	7:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Sat.	June 23	2:00 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space. 7:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Performance in the worship space.
Sun.	June 24	9:30 a.m. Forum: Church in the Woods. See page three. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "A Letter to Martin," Doug Long preaching. 3:30 p.m. JTP Oliver Closing Performance in the worship space.
Mon.	June 25	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman for details reedaltman@gmail.com
Thurs.	June 28	6:30 p.m. Enneagram Journey in the library.
Sun.	July 1	10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion: Jane Weidig preaching. Jubilation Chorus provides music.