

# umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

*a thoughtful and progressive community of faith*

November 2018

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

[www.upucc.org](http://www.upucc.org)

FAITH IN ACTION

November: What a Month!

*(...and then come the holidays!!)*

***By no means are these all the November UPUCC offerings this month, but knowing your life is busy, here's a chance to see the exceptional highlights. (Don't tell Doug we did not include any of his sermons!)***

## **Oct. 31 - Stewardship Opportunity**

OK, the 31<sup>st</sup> is still October... but this is the deadline for entering your pledge (and name) into the "Be the Church Coffee Mug" Drawing. (See page five) Do the Stewardship and Finance Committee a favor and get your pledge of support for next year's budget in on time. ....and Thank You!!

## **Nov. 4 - John Pavlovitz is here.** (see page five) John Pavlovitz is a pretty big deal for a lot of folks....

And he's right here in our back yard. John says things not often heard in most churches. He publicly cusses more than most ministers but a lot less privately, says Doug, than almost any minister Doug knows.

Check out his blog: "Stuff That Needs to be Said" And be prepared to meet some new folks that day. Some of John's fans should be in attendance.

(Please note: November 4 at 2 a.m. we fall back to Eastern Standard Time!)

**Nov. 6 Election Day** - Do your part... Vote!... and work towards getting other people of goodwill, who like you are sane, and justice-minded, and caring and compassionate and concerned about the plight of others to the polls as well!

**Nov. 10 LGBTQ Workshop** - This is truly a phenomenal offering for the community. If you think it's just for LGBTQ people, think again. We need allies there as well. No matter who you are, you will not be disappointed. Sign up here so we can count you for lunch. More details page six.

**Nov. 11 All Saints Button Memorial** - Our annual tradition. We've delayed it a week to have time to bring more focus in worship. We will provide an opportunity for you to remember loved ones or other special persons who have died. Buttons (like those worn on clothes) are brought during worship to be added to our Button Memorial Banner. The buttons may have been worn by your loved one, or may represent them in some special manner. We will have a small supply of buttons on hand in case you forget to bring one.

**Nov. 12 Community Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck** - UPUCC will joins with St. Francis of Assisi and Cary First Christian as part of our involvement with the larger Wake County community under the auspices of the Industrial Areas Foundation. Potluck dinner 7pm. Advance signup was required but if you haven't signed up and still want to get in on the action, contact Peter van Dorsten at [pv2049@gmail.com](mailto:pv2049@gmail.com).

**Nov. 15-18 I Am My Own Wife** - A one actor show by JTP performed here at UPUCC. What more important time to hear a transgender story than the present moment... when some want to legislate the transgender community out of existence!! (Impossible, you say?! They made sea-rise illegal, too!) See page six.

**Eliseo's Thanksgiving Schedule**- Want to join Eliseo, his family and others? Come on over!

\* Thursday, Nov. 22- Thanksgiving Day Big holiday meal. 11:30 - 3 p.m. Sign-up [here](#).

\* Friday, Nov. 23 5:30 – 9ish Left overs and movie night. Sign-up [here](#).

\* Saturday, Nov. 24 5:30 - 9ish Pizza and game night. Sign-up [here](#).

**Nov. 25** - after worship. Follow up conversation with Farm Worker leaders on boycott campaign strategies.

### "When Will They Ever Learn..."

I'll start with a personal anecdote, but I'm getting to something far more important here.

It's funny how memory works, but a relatively insignificant event from about 25 years ago popped clearly into my head just yesterday. I hadn't really thought of it in the intervening years but, there it was, clear as day: I was playing tennis with some of the older men in the church I pastored. (You didn't know I played tennis? Well, I wasn't really much of a tennis player but they were 40 years older, long-retired faculty from Oberlin College, and not serious players themselves. In those circumstances, I barely managed to hold my own.)

It was a beautiful, warm day, so I shed my shirt to revel in the sunshine. One of my parishioners, an acclaimed sociologist dressed in full whites of long sleeves, long pants and a tennis cap, shook his head, looked me in the eye and said- "When you're my age, you'll wish you had thought twice about exposing your skin to so much sun."



Today, I'm probably 15 years shy of the age that fellow was then, and yet, I now have some pretty convincing proof he was right. My photo to the left was taken after the recent removal of a basal cell growth caused by over exposure to the sun.

While our culture markets that tanned skin is beautiful, we know that too much sun is seriously harmful. How is it that we can individually and collectively ignore and disregard clear signs of warning?

In the scope of larger issues, my basal cell growth is but an inconvenience. On a much more serious note, Mac Legerton, UCC minister and community organizer in Robeson County, makes the analogy between the current fossil fuel industry and the tobacco industry 50 years ago. In the 1960's the tobacco industry was aware of the long term effects of nicotine, but callously and selfishly marketed smoking as macho 'Marlboro Man' behavior for men and a cool and confident look for women. (Remember 'Virginia Slims?' "You've come a long way, Baby..." *Now you can confidently smoke yourself to death... just like men!*)

The tobacco industry blatantly chose profits over morality. (I ran across a quote from Shirley Chisholm recently: "When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses.") Today, everyone who is honest admits the tobacco industry was "Liar, liar, pants on fire."

Now hear this- Says Mac: *"Today, we have a more harmful product that is being manufactured and marketed on a national and global scale in a similar, competitive manner as tobacco was ... This product is also being marketed by some of the same firms formerly hired to advertise tobacco products. This product is hydraulically fractured, carbon-based, methane gas, commonly – and deceitfully - called 'natural' gas."*

Mac's passion calling attention to the current sins of the fossil fuel industry is personal. In brief, the currently proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline desecrates his County, global warming traced to carbon emissions exacerbates the storms his community has recently experienced (There have been two 500 year floods within the past 24 months?), and the world his grandchildren will inherit promises to be vastly compromised. (The photo to the right is me holding my own grandson. What is the environmental state of the world I leave him? Are you aware of "Juliana v. United States of America"? The lawsuit asserts that the government violated youths' rights by allowing activities that harmed the climate. If human caused global warming is true, the lawsuit should be a slam dunk.)

What does all this mean for us? We can turn away from warnings such as Mac's ... for a while.

Eventually though, I'm convinced we will look back and admit we were as foolish as a shirtless 30ish-year-old playing tennis in the full sun. When will we ever learn? ...and act?

Unquestionably, we will be addressing the ramifications of climate change for the rest of our lives. Hurricanes Matthew and Florence and Michael were not flukes. We must prepare ourselves for the long-haul. A beginning place is to replace politicians who idiotically legislate sea rise as illegal with more honest legislators. As stated by the UCC Justice and Peace Network- *For the Love of God, Vote! ...and for the love of God's creation and future generations as well.*



*Doug*

News of the slaying of eleven congregants at The Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh horrified us just as this edition of our newsletter was being published. On Sunday, evening, several UPUCC Covenant Partners joined the wider community at Temple Beth Meyer in Raleigh for an Interfaith Vigil in solidarity with our Jewish sisters and brothers. We are grief-racked for the families of the victims, and pledge to offer our full support to address the senseless, violent bigotry overtaking our American culture. With irresponsible voices spewing this hate from low and high places, we have much work to do.

## youth

### Youth November Schedule

**Sunday, November 4** - *Youth participate in after-church Forum*

**John Pavlovitz- Q&A, Book Signing**

**Saturday, November 10 - 9a-2p** *Youth ages 13 and up participate.*

**LGBTQ Workshop Day**

**Sunday, November 18 - 11:30a- 1:30p** - *Middle School Youth Group meets.*

**November 25-** no youth activities- Thanksgiving Break



*Photos from Youth Group Trip to TreeRunners last month.*

## children

### Children Team Up with Faith In Action

During November, UPUCC children will play an active role in the annual fundraising efforts for Heifer International. They will spruce up the animal banks and staff the tables for those who would like to donate and 'vote' for their favorite animals.

On November 18, Children's Committee will sponsor a Bake Sale for Heifer, which the children and youth will host. During worship, children will provide announcements about this effort.

As we continue to offer children opportunities to assist in worship, they will serve communion and lead as liturgists as well as ushering, greeting and serving coffee and snacks.



# faith in action

## Information About NC Election Day 2018

Please note that early voting (aka one-stop voting) in NC ends at 1:00 PM on November 3, 2018.

You can find a list of all early voting sites in your county here: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/ossite/>

Election day is November 6, 2018.

You can find your election day polling place here: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/PPLkup/>

There are six proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot this year. **Voters will be asked to vote 'FOR' or 'AGAINST' each amendment.** If approved, these amendments would permanently change the N.C. Constitution. According to Democracy NC: "These proposed constitutional amendments range from unnecessary to dangerous, with little known about the details, the costs, and how many North Carolinians will be discriminated against in the process."

What we do know about these amendments is that they:

- give the legislature unprecedented control over our elections and courts;
- let legislators handpick judges who would rubber stamp their agenda;
- allow lawmakers to discriminate against voters based on race for political gain; and
- give permanent tax breaks to the rich and corporate interests at the expense of working families. (Source: Democracy NC)



## Heifer is Here!

Faith in Action is again suggesting November be a month of thanksGIVING when we are sponsoring a collection for Heifer International! Everyone can take care of Christmas gifts and give meaningfully by contributing toward an end to world hunger, preservation of the environment, or education for a child, to name just a few things. The children of the church will again offer the animal piggy banks. Please save your change to vote for your favorite animal and contribute to Heifer.

On the first three Sundays in November (4, 11, & 18) FIA will have a table in the atrium before and after worship. On display will be information regarding what Heifer does and the many regions of the world in which Heifer operates. Most importantly, you will be able to help in their work by purchasing shares of different animals or a whole animal, or something as diverse as a share of Women's Empowerment, a biogas stove, a share of a Knitter's Basket, or tree seedlings. Shares start at \$10 for some animals and there are many gifts that are under \$100.

Also, the Children's Committee will hold a Bake Sale for Heifer on Sunday, November 18. Donations can also be made through the link [here](#).



## Creativity Group November

We are busy making cards and filling orders. As of mid-October, we have taken orders for over 400 cards. We appreciate each order, no matter how big or small. We will have our table out three Sundays in November (4, 11, and 25). Beginning November 25, one-of-a-kind Christmas cards will be available.

Thank you for your donations for cards. In early October, we were able to give \$130 to help Eliseo and his family.

Our next visit to Healing Transitions will be November 14, gathering at the church at 2:30 and being with our friends from 3–4 p.m. We would be happy to have others join us! -Submitted by Marcia Welsh

## stewardship & finance

### **All are welcome to a Visioning Walkabout- November 11, following worship**

At our September Congregational Meeting, we had a presentation that looked at some of our visioning projects that could be funded by a capital campaign. We have to do some building maintenance, including HVAC and roof repairs. Also, on the list are some long delayed projects that could greatly enhance the building and grounds we already have. To name three:

-Perhaps the garden space and plan (see link [here](#)) is fairly well-laid out for many of you... but how much of this plan are we ready to tackle in the near future? What part of the plan might be accomplished via sweat equity?

-Within our UPUCC walls, did you know we have almost as much square footage in a 'storage space' as large as our present worship space? Imagine the programs and ministries we could expand if this space was adequately heated, cooled and 'fit-up!' (Have you ever seen this space and offered your opinions or questions?)

-And what about an all-gender bathroom, a family bathroom... or both? How do we best provide for the needs of all persons?

These are just some of the issues we will address in a feet-on-the-ground, plain and simple Walk Around Forum that follows worship on November 11.

Be informed. Be inquisitive. Join us!

(Note: The Coordinating Council is in the process of forming task forces around each of the above potential Capital Campaign projects (garden, backspace, bathrooms, as well as solar/HVAC/roof, and finances). The task forces will explore the scope, feasibility and costs in each area.

If you have interest in one of these tasks, reach out to Doug Long ([doug@upucc.org](mailto:doug@upucc.org)) or Mark Stevens ([markstevensrtp@gmail.com](mailto:markstevensrtp@gmail.com)).

## adult education

### **John Pavlovitz at UPUCC November 4**

John Pavlovitz is a pastor and blogger from Wake Forest but in the past two years his blog, 'Stuff That Needs To Be Said', has reached a diverse audience of millions of people throughout the world, with an average monthly readership of over a million people. John is a regular contributor to Huffington Post, Relevant Magazine, Scary Mommy, ChurchLeaders.com, and The Good Men Project. His book "A Bigger Table", released in October of 2017, was a call to the church to include everyone and to treat everyone with the radical love of Jesus. His new book, "Hope and other Superpowers: A life-affirming, love-defending, butt-kicking, world saving manifesto" will be released on Tuesday, November 6th.



But get this... we will have a chance to buy it sooner.

On Sunday, Nov. 4, John will preach at UPUCC and offer an after church talk-back/Q and A/Book signing.

**His sermon title? "Blessed are the Damn-Givers."**

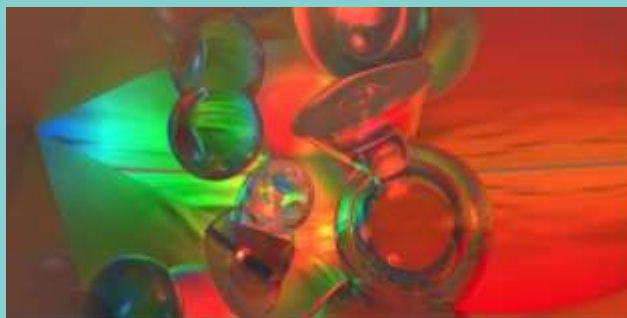
This from John: *These are difficult days for compassionate people. The world has never been more in need of human beings willing to be wounded on behalf of others, people who will step toward the hurt and endeavor to be agents of healing and justice—but being such people is costly.*

Join author and pastor John Pavlovitz, for an honest conversation about the collateral damage of caring deeply in a world where cruelty is trending, and how to keep our hearts soft during hard times.

## adult education continued

### Saturday, November 10

The Adult Ed Committee of UPUCC is hosting its second annual LGBTQ Workshop Day on **Saturday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m.** This day is a time of education and support, not only for our congregation but for the wider community. This year we will enjoy lunch provided by donations from Haas Tharrington, P.A. and Carolina Conceptions! We are asking for many members of the congregation to participate in this special day and be able to have a time of fellowship with those who are visiting UPUCC for the first time. Choose to attend four 45-minute workshops- two before and two after the catered lunch.



We have a fabulous list of presenters again this year-double the amount of last year! IF YOU CAN ASSIST, with the logistics such as set up, clean up, providing items, etc. please sign up [HERE](#). This event was so meaningful to attendees and participants last year, and we hope that this year's event will be just as impactful. Register now to come out and be a part of this beautiful day at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/umstead-park-ucc-lgbtq-informational-workshop-day-tickets-49211055592> This event is free, but registration is required to enable an accurate count for lunch. -Gina Kentopp, Organizer

**November 11-** (9:30 forum will not be held). **Visioning Walkabout** follows worship. See page five.

**November 18 - 9:30 a.m. "Election Processing and What's Next?"** UPUCC Advocacy Task Force presenting in the library.

**November 25 - 9:30 a.m. Get Acquainted Hour:** Come for fellowship and food before worship in the atrium! Feel free to bring a snack to share, but most importantly is your presence!!

## our wider community



*A Staged Reading by Doug Wright  
directed by Jackson Cooper,  
featuring Brian Westbrook  
**November 15-18**  
**UPUCC Worship Space**  
**All seats \$15.***

*Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, was elegant and eccentric 65-year-old German transvestite [sic], who tells the story of hiding from the Nazis in plain sight as a woman. Wright uses more than 30 characters—all played by one actor—to piece together Charlotte's controversial life. Charlotte's story is one that will educate audiences not only for its moving narrative, but for its timeliness of advocating for one's own identity when a government tries so hard to suppress it.*



***Black Nativity by Langston Hughes***  
*Directed by JaMeeka Holloway-Burrell with music directed by Ray Watkins*  
**Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 15, 2 p.m.**  
*Limited seating- All seats \$21. at UPUCC only.  
Four additional performances follow at NCSU.*

**For more details:** [thejusticetheaterproject.org](http://thejusticetheaterproject.org)

**For tickets:** [thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com](mailto:thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com)



## all in the family



### New Baby

*Samantha and John Casey announce the newest member of their family.*



***Stacy, daughter, and Nelson Erb***



***Beth Planiczki,  
Amanda Randolph & son***

Beth Planiczki said, "I started coming to UPUCC because it's LGBTQ friendly and only five minutes from the house (I live by Brier Creek). I'm a pharmacy manager for Walgreens, originally from Pittsburgh, PA." Beth said she enjoys hiking, yardwork, and sports.

Amanda Randolph shares, "I was drawn to the church for the inclusiveness and importance of community. I wanted a church where LGBT was accepted and involved." Amanda has previous law enforcement background, and became a 911 dispatcher after her son was born.

Amanda's interests include sports (Red Sox, Green Bay Packers, Duke). She likes to cook, go hiking, play disc golf and loves 80's music and movies.

# sunday service volunteers

November 4

Altar Eleanor Smith  
Coffee Leslie & Beth Heavey  
Greeters Janice Odom  
Ushers Scott & Renate Andrews Family  
Sound Don Alderman  
Auditor Sue Hathaway  
Assistant Treasurer **TBD**  
Clean Team Edward McFarland, Linda Hébert, Mark & Melanie Stevens,  
Jessica & Shawn Holmes

November 11

Altar Leslie Heavey  
Coffee Elaina & Robert Richardson  
Greeters **TBD**  
Ushers Laura Duval & Sue Hathaway  
Sound Peter van Dorsten  
Auditor Chris Ousley  
Assistant Treasurer **TBD**  
Clean Team Marcia Welsh, Mary Pat Peters, Eliseo Jimenez, Elaina &  
Robert Richardson

November 18

Altar Eleanor Smith  
Coffee Lori Del Negro & Roger Sommer  
Greeters Nick & Gina Kentopp  
Ushers Bill Coye, Alice Jermyn  
Sound Bill Yoder  
Auditor Chris Ousley  
Assistant Treasurer Dan Harrell  
Clean Team Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris Ousley, Colin & Ada  
McKerrell

November 25

Altar Michael Lester  
Coffee **TBD**  
Greeters **TBD**  
Ushers Laura Duval & Sue Hathaway  
Sound **TBD**  
Auditor Sue Hathaway  
Assistant Treasurer Dan Harrell  
Clean Team Carol & Nevin Fouts, Vickie Teal, Doug Long & Janice Odom





# upucc november calendar

Sun.	Nov. 4	2:00 a.m. Fall Back to Eastern Standard Time. 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship: "Blessed are the Damn-Givers,"</b> John Pavlovitz preaching. Following worship Forum: John Pavlovitz. See page one and five. UPUCC Advocacy Group in the large atrium conference room.
Tues.	Nov. 6	General Election Day 9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	Nov. 7	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Fri.	Nov. 9	5:00-8:00 p.m. LGBTQ Workshop Set Up.
Sat.	Nov. 10	9:30 a.m. LGBTQ Information Workshop Day. See page six.
Sun.	Nov. 11	9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time. 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship: Button Memorial. "All Saints Means ALL,"</b> Doug Long preaching. Following worship Visioning Walkabout. See page five. 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Volunteer Appreciation Potluck in the worship space.
Mon.	Nov 12	6:30 p.m. Evening Creativity Group in the library. 7:00 p.m. Pre-Thanksgiving Community Potluck at St. Francis. See page one.
Wed.	Nov.14	2:30 p.m. Creativity Group departs for Healing Transitions. 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Nov 15	7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets in the library. 7:30 p.m. JTP presents <i>I Am My Own Wife</i> in the worship space. See page six. Midnight UPUCC December Newsletter deadline.
Fri.	Nov. 16	7:30 p.m. JTP presents <i>I Am My Own Wife</i> in the worship space. See page six.
Sat.	Nov. 17	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space. 10:00 a.m. Meditation Group meets in the library. 7:30 p.m. JTP presents <i>I Am My Own Wife</i> in the worship space. See page six.
Sun	Nov. 18	9:30 a.m. <b>Forum: Election Processing and What's Next.</b> See page six. 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship: "Waters of Life,"</b> Doug Long preaching. 11:30 a.m. Middle School Youth Group meets. 12:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee in the library. 3:30 p.m. JTP presents <i>I Am My Own Wife</i> in the worship space. See page six.
Tues.	Nov. 20	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group in the library.
Wed.	Nov. 21	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Nov. 22	11:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day with Eliseo, family and friends. See page one.
Fri.	Nov. 23	5:30 p.m. Leftovers & Movie Night. See page one.
Sat.	Nov. 24	5:30 p.m. Pizza & Game Night. See page one.
Sun.	Nov. 25	9:30 a.m. Forum: Get Acquainted Hour. See page six. 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship: "The Divine Circle,"</b> Doug Long preaching. Following worship Farm Workers Ministry Meeting in the library.
Mon.	Nov. 26	7:00 p.m. <b>UPUCC Men's Group.</b> Contact Reed Altman <a href="mailto:reedaltman@gmail.com">reedaltman@gmail.com</a> for details.
Wed.	Nov. 28	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.