

# umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

*a thoughtful and progressive community of faith*

November 2020

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

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

FAITH IN ACTION

## ***Upcoming Fellowship Events!***

*The outdoor events below are based on our community taking care with each other to follow the guidelines set by our Covid Response Task Force including wearing masks, social distancing, and using hand sanitizer.*

### ***November 7 - 2 pm***

Here's a chance to get out and see each other in real life for some social contact and fellowship in beautiful Umstead Park. All are welcome and we will meet in the parking lot shown in the link below. Just follow the main entrance from US 70, go past the visitor center and follow the road to the parking lot at the end. Meet at 2:00 and we'll walk and talk in a safe and socially distant outdoor environment so please bring your mask! And don't worry, if you don't feel up to a strenuous hike - this isn't an athletic challenge! In fact, there are plenty of picnic tables for anyone who'd rather sit and talk while others walk and talk. No need to RSVP, just show up before 2:15 (or you might have to catch up). If you have any questions you can text or email David Brainard at 919.638.0378, [d.e.brainard@gmail.com](mailto:d.e.brainard@gmail.com)

### ***November 21 - 7-9 pm UPUCC Parking Lot Fire Pits with Smores***

Fellowship Committee brings fire pits, everyone brings their own chairs and smores fixings. Socially distanced seating, visiting across fires, which are spread apart in the parking lot in the early evening. (Canceled in the event of inclement weather)

### ***November 27 - Post-Thanksgiving Brown Bag Leftovers & Corn Hole (UPUCC Parking Lot)***

Everyone brings their own chairs and leftovers. Socially distanced, masks except while eating. If there's a chance of drizzle/light rain, encourage people to bring tailgate tents and bundle up. No rain date.

### **Also included in this newsletter:**

- . *Doug on "Loving Our Neighbors" page 2*
- . *Beth Mastick shares "There Will Be Joy" page 3*
- . *Children and Youth page 4-5*
- . *Our Giving and Adult Education page 6*
- . *Faith In Action- Heifer Project & Christmas Giving Tree page 7-8*

### Loving Our Neighbors (even when it gets hard!)

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

You know who said that, right?!

The question we have to ask ourselves today is “Can we love our neighbor and NOT be political?”



Oh, my. Oh, my.

The first church I pastored was in Alamance County. I lived there for several years and I have many friends (and former neighbors) from that time. I have many other connections who live there still. Our UCC Southern Conference headquarters are located there. [At one time, because it is also where Elon University is located (Elon is affiliated with the UCC) there were once over two dozen UCC churches in Alamance County. There still a dozen or more listed on the UCC rolls.]

With all those personal connections, I was appalled (as I’m sure you were, as well) by the actions in Alamance County last Saturday when a peaceful march to the polls was met with pepper spray by local law enforcement. Some clergy friends of mine were there, texting me and others in real time, giving a “blow by blow” of the events. It was almost unbelievable, and the puny excuses given by the Alamance Sheriff’s office do not hold up. You do not pepper spray crowds for a questionable P.A. system.

So, Tuesday, Election Day, I joined other clergy and supporters at the Graham polling site (Graham is the county seat of Alamance and the site of the pepper spraying event). We simply wanted people to feel safe as they came to vote ...and get this, there were **International** Election observers also there to document what might happen. (Imagine, representatives from Germany, traveling to North Carolina to document whether democracy was truly free! I thought of the many pieces I have read through the years of Jimmy Carter’s work in countries around the world to do the same... document free and fair elections.)

I can tell you there were no egregious incidences in Graham on election day... but I can also attest to you that the turn-out was very light. Would you, especially if you were an African-American, venture out to vote knowing that crowds of primarily black persons, children included, were pepper-sprayed by the police simply for marching to the polls a few days earlier?

I’m writing this a day later, the day after election day. And I am still waiting for the results, wondering, a lump in my throat and nausea in the pit of my stomach. While we were assured by many that we would not know the result of the elections perhaps for days following the voting, pre-election polls also assured us that the American public had had enough of the current Washington administration. As I write, those pre-election polls seem more like 2016 redux. There may yet be a change in President, but even so the message is clear...America is even more deeply divided than most of us feared. 2016 was not an anomaly. I am left, as you, wondering what lies ahead.

Here is my quick take-away:

No matter what the outcome of this election, as citizens, and especially as people of faith, we simply **must** figure out how to reach across the divide to persons who, for whatever reason or reasons, see the world differently. As much as we might have hoped and wished and believed that others would come to their senses (which is to say, *our* way of thinking) that clearly has not turned out to be the case. Even given all the reasons we can enumerate that this presidential election should *not* have been close, it IS!

*-continued on page three...*

*-continued from page two...*

We can fault the media (both network and social) or we can address the hard and slogging work of media reform.

We can hide behind free speech for all ...or we can address the differences between free speech and hate speech.

We can blame racism ...or we can work to change the systemic racism of our society.

We can blame those who did not vote, or we can resolve again and again to get the vote out!

**One thing we cannot do... We cannot give up.** We cannot enter into glib talk of moving to another country. We must roll up our spiritual and civic sleeves and persist, press on, persevere.

That is, if we are to love our neighbor.

Pressing on with you-



## **There Will Be Joy** (by Beth Mastick)

Joy is where we seek it,  
    in the moments between moments  
When fear's back is turned and hate is not  
looking  
In the absence of anger,  
in the presence of peace-  
    Joy is there

I don't know how many  
Moments between moments  
God has in store for us,  
But I do know that  
    if we aren't looking  
We will not find them  
We will not hear them  
    over the screams of injustice  
We will not hear them  
    in the collective cry for compassion  
We will not hear them  
    when the furies are loosed.

But afterward...afterword in the exhaustion,  
In the undeniable humanity of loss  
When there is agreement  
    that the world is less than it was when the  
lost were in it,  
When we see  
    that the scales can not be placed back on  
our eyes,  
When we agree  
    that there must and will be change,  
Right then, before the battle for how to  
change begins,  
There,  
    in that moment  
    between moments,  
There will be joy.

## youth

***Youth continue to meet virtually or in person on second and fourth Sundays.***

November 8 - 1 pm online

November 22 - 1 pm Youth Group Hike at Schenk Forest

## children

*Dear Parents,*

***We continue to welcome family participation in the life of UPUCC. Thanks to all who joined in last month's Trunk or Treat! (See photos on next page)***

### **November Opportunities:**

***Children's Church Gathering & Scavenger Hunt***- after worship November 8.

***Heifer Project:*** Please see page 6 and 7 for details on participation.

***Healing Transitions Toy Drive:*** This opportunity comes **earlier** this year to ensure gifts arrive in time for the holidays. Details on page 6.

### **December Opportunities:**

***Our Christmas Pageant:*** We will cast all parts (narrators, bell ringer, children willing to have speaking roles, animals, angels, shepherds, Wise Ones, Mary and Joseph) It would be helpful for children to make choice of role prior to pick up.\* The pageant will be compiled in a recording to be presented online Christmas Eve.

***\*Costume Pickup at UPUCC- masks required (same times as Heifer donation drop-offs)***  
Sunday, November 8 12:30-2 pm  
Sunday, November 15 12:30-2 pm

#### ***Adult assistance needed:***

***Parents to pick up costumes during times above. Alternate pickups can be arranged if necessary. Submitting photos and/or videos to Shawn Holmes by December 1. (Details on submission formats forthcoming)***

***Hope you can join in! Looking forward to the fun,***  
Peg

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



# children continued...

**Photos from last month's Trunk or Treat Event**  
*(most courtesy of Linda Skye Evans)*



## stewardship & finance

### UPUCC Pledge Update

Our pledge campaign officially ended November 1, but we're still short of our goal of \$309,000. So far, we have received 63 pledges for a total of \$219,224. We have several sustainers we haven't heard from yet. If you're already a sustainer and plan to continue at the same amount for next year, please submit a pledge to confirm that.

However, even if we count those sustainers, we still need a few more pledges or increases in existing pledges to meet our goal. Our proposed budget for 2021 is mostly flat, with virtually no increases in any categories. If we don't meet that goal, we'll have to make hard choices about cuts to committees.

Please submit [your pledge form here](#).



## adult education

### Reading Between the Lines - Monday 7 pm

... a progressive Bible Study and discussion group meeting Mondays from 7-8:30 pm. Anthony Neff facilitating [anthonerd@gmail.com](mailto:anthonerd@gmail.com)

### Book Group - Tuesday 6 pm

Contact Kathy Dobbs for details [kdobbs001@nc.rr.com](mailto:kdobbs001@nc.rr.com)

### November Forums Sunday 9 am

The study of the book, *Me and White Supremacy*, continues through early December.

### Brew Theology - 2nd & 4th Thursdays

...promotes healthy, meaningful, and eclectic conversations bringing all kinds of people to the table to talk about the things in life that really matter, find common good, and make a tangible difference in our community. Second and fourth Thursday, led by Brian Spears: [bmspears77@gmail.com](mailto:bmspears77@gmail.com).

**Heifer 2020**

*In this time of COVID 19 and virtual church, FIA is changing the way we support Heifer, but continuing our support for this worthwhile cause. There are several choices for participating. Choose which of these works best for you!*

- ⇒ **EMAIL and WEB DONATION** See page 8 of this newsletter for Donor Gift Choices.
  - \* Email Marcia Welsh [homeofwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:homeofwelsh@gmail.com) with the type and quantity of each purchase. (Example... I would like 1 share of a llama (\$20), etc... My total is \$50.)
  - \* Go to <https://www.upucc.org/getting-involved/giving> Click on MAKE A DONATION. There you will find a drop down for Heifer; donate online for the total of your purchase.
  
- ⇒ **IN PERSON DONATION** - at UPUCC November 8 or 15 - 12:30-2 pm Marcia Welsh will be waiting!
  - \* Bring completed form (pg. 8) with a check made out to UPUCC (*Heifer in the memo line*), drop off at UPUCC during designated times.
  - \* Since our animal banks are not accessible this time, please place your contribution in a sealed Ziploc bag with a note inside designating which animal should receive your vote/contribution.  
**VOTING CHOICES FOR ANIMAL BANKS** - Bee Hives, Chickens, Fish, Goat, Heifer, Llama, Pig, Rabbit, Sheep, Tree Seedlings, Women’s Empowerment
  
- ⇒ **MAIL IN OPTION** Print and complete the Heifer Donor Gift Sheet (pg. 8) . Mail the form and a check made out to UPUCC (‘Heifer’ in the memo line) to Vickie Teal, UPUCC, 8202 Brownleigh Drive, Raleigh NC, 27617. Mail in deadline—Nov. 15.
  
- ⇒ Easy Option: **UNDESIGNATED DONATION** Go to <https://www.upucc.org/getting-involved/giving>, Click on MAKE A DONATION. There you will find ‘Heifer’ in the drop down menu.

**Healing Transitions *Early* Christmas Toy Drive 2020**



*Since 2008, UPUCC has supported and worked with Healing Transitions, a shelter offering services to homeless, uninsured, and underserved women with substance use issues. Typically, we have a Christmas tree with tags in the atrium labeled by age and gender, giving residents of Healing Transitions the opportunity to choose from gifts for their children or grandchildren. These gifts are always deeply appreciated. Giving this year could not be simpler; and we hope that each of the 59 requests (27 boys, 32 girls, ages six months to eighteen years) will be filled quickly. To contribute this year:*

Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054aafa72aa6fb6-healing> and pick out your “tag.” You are welcome to pick more than one!

Go to <http://www.amazon.com> (preferably Amazon Smile with UPUCC as the designated charity). Choose an appropriate gift, with an approximate \$20 value. Check the “This is a gift” box when you select the gift.

At checkout, have the item shipped to: Terri Edwards, 1251 Goode Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

There will be a Gift Message option. In that box, put the information from the tag (e.g. Boy, age 4). In the “from” box, put UPUCC. Please do NOT have the gift wrapped! Pay as you typically do.

Thank you for your support. Please have all gifts selected and shipped by **November 27**.

# faith in action continued...

## Heifer Donor Gift Page (explanation on page 6)

| Gift                             | Price | Quantity | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|
|                                  |       |          |       |
| <b>Heifer</b>                    | \$500 |          |       |
| Share of a Heifer                | \$50  |          |       |
| <b>Water Buffalo</b>             | \$250 |          |       |
| Share of water buffalo           | \$25  |          |       |
| <b>Llama</b>                     | \$150 |          |       |
| Share of a Llama                 | \$20  |          |       |
| <b>Goat</b>                      | \$120 |          |       |
| Share of a Goat                  | \$10  |          |       |
| <b>Sheep</b>                     | \$120 |          |       |
| Share of a Sheep                 | \$10  |          |       |
| <b>Pig</b>                       | \$120 |          |       |
| Share of a Pig                   | \$10  |          |       |
| <b>Hive of Honeybees</b>         | \$30  |          |       |
| <b>Trio of Rabbits</b>           | \$60  |          |       |
| Share of Rabbits                 | \$10  |          |       |
| <b>Flock of Chickens</b>         | \$20  |          |       |
| <b>3 Schools of Fish</b>         | \$300 |          |       |
| Share of Fish                    | \$30  |          |       |
| <b>Ducks/Geese</b>               | \$20  |          |       |
| <b>Hope Basket</b>               | \$50  |          |       |
| <b>Tree Seedlings</b>            | \$60  |          |       |
| Share of Seedlings               | \$10  |          |       |
| <b>Biogas Stove</b>              | \$50  |          |       |
| <b>Irrigation Pumps</b>          | \$150 |          |       |
| <b>Knitter's Basket</b>          | \$480 |          |       |
| Share of Knitter's Bas.          | \$48  |          |       |
| <b>Send a Girl to School</b>     | \$275 |          |       |
| <b>Women's Empowerment Share</b> | \$100 |          |       |
|                                  |       |          |       |
| <b>Total Amount</b>              |       |          |       |