

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

October 2017
 8208 Brownleigh Drive
 Raleigh, NC 27617
www.upucc.org

October 1 Forum Speaker - DACA in Person!



America Moreno Jimenez, a teacher for Wake County schools (Sanderson) and DACA recipient, will speak and answer questions about her experience as a 'Dreamer.' America earned her BA in Psychology ('14) and her MAT in ESL from Meredith College ('15). She has been teaching in Wake County Public Schools for 1.5 years. Prior to becoming a teacher she was a ¡Graduate! Coach as part of the NCSHP's (North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals) mission to promote access to higher education for Hispanic students.

LGBTQ Information Day Workshops Saturday, November 4

- ◇ *Parent Perspective -Parents of LGBTQ children give their perspectives on the journey*
- ◇ *Expanding of the Family - A lesbian couple share their experience of how they went about expanding their family.*
- ◇ *Gender Therapist -Kimball Sargent –Therapist specializing in Transgender Issues*
- ◇ *Gender Reassignment Surgery-Dr. Keelee MacPhee offers a workshop on GRS.*
- ◇ *Equality Now-who they are and what they do along with educational pamphlets for attendees.*
- ◇ *LGBT Center of Raleigh –Shares the activities and resources offered at the Center.*
- ◇ *Coming out later in life-A gay man shares his personal story of coming out later in life.*
- ◇ *Sierra Luz-Yoga Instructor who will lead meditations on self love and acceptance*
- ◇ *UNC Rope Team-latest treatment, prevention and research on HIV.*
- ◇ *Mandy Mizell Norris-UCC Pastor speaks about her personal experience of coming out and on Queer Theology*
- ◇ *Legal Issues-Jen Tharrington, Attorney at Law, discusses legal issues that can affect the LGBTQ community such as adoption, marriage, name changes and divorce.*
- ◇ *Hormone Therapy-Dr. Julia Warren-Endocrinologist, speaking on hormone therapy*



Attendees will be able to choose four different workshops to attend. Brochures will be available in the lobby from the presenters. Space is limited. Childcare is available with advanced reservation.

Please RSVP to Gina Kentopp at gkentopp@hotmail.com
 (You can also contact Gina if you want more information.)

Sanctuary- What's Next?



If you were not at this past Sunday's Congregational Meeting, perhaps you've heard we entertained a lengthy discussion, and then voted overwhelmingly to offer sanctuary to a person and/or family in danger of deportation. (The vote, originally announced at 92% in favor, was recalculated and actually came in a little above 94%!)

I am proud for many reasons- among them for the manner in which the discussion took place. Legitimate questions were raised and researched opinions given. We bucked the growing 'us vs. them, good vs. evil, partisan to the core' culture that surrounds us. No put-downs or confrontations were heard. There was no bullying!! Honest opinions were expressed and then the ballots cast.

I am proud foremost because I truly believe we have collectively stepped further into our UPUCC Covenant. Still, there are more steps to take and much work to be done.

So what's next?

A few knowns:

- Our Sanctuary Task Force will mobilize and train the many who have volunteered to assist (*See page 10 of this newsletter for training schedule*), network with organizations (formal and informal) to locate a person or family whose needs match our criteria, and coordinate with the communities of faith who have pledged to partner with us.
- Our Building and Grounds Committee will undertake the adjustments needed to convert our present youth room into sleeping and living space. (The room has approximately 475 square feet, so it's tight but 'doable.')
- The exact configuration of this space will depend on the person or family that emerges. The B&G folk will also move one of the doors already in the kitchen to the wall connecting the kitchen to the 'back space.' (This doorway has been discussed for years, for all manner of better traffic flow in the future.)
- Anthony Neff is coordinating/collecting furniture, etc. ... but again, until we know more about the specific person or family and their preferences, we cannot move too quickly in these matters.

And some likely probabilities-

- There will be media coverage. In keeping with the philosophy of 'public' sanctuary, a Press Conference will announce the person/family's arrival at the appropriate time. Law Enforcement and Immigration Officials will be invited as well as representatives from communities of faith who are partnering with us. Only time will tell whether other media coverage occurs, but it seems likely.
- You will also, most probably, be engaging in all manner of conversations regarding offering sanctuary with each other, your neighbors, wider family, your colleagues at work and more. For that reason, I offer a succinct summary from part of my meditation this past Sunday. You might want to have this and other facts in the back of your mind as you enter into these conversations:

see next page for A Sanctuary Summary for Your Conversations...

from doug continued...

A Sanctuary Summary for Your Conversations

The Situation

According to The Pew Research Center:

- There are presently 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S.
- 8 million are in our workforce, making up more than a quarter of our agricultural labor, 15% of all construction. [We employ them. We enjoy a life and system *dependent* on their labor.]
- 2/3rds of the adults among these undocumented ones, have been here for more than 10 years.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

Because of present immigration law, the great majority of this workforce have *no legal path* toward documentation.

If you've lived someplace for decades, and worked in construction or as a house cleaner, chances are good that over those years you've established a family, too. It is these men and women, who have been here for years and established families, that are now suddenly being deported ... with no time allowed to receive due process.



From our September 24 Congregational Meeting

Our Response

Because Immigration and Customs

Enforcement has established a policy designating churches as 'sensitive locations' and therefore does not enter them (short of a National threat or imminent danger) we have the ability to offer a person or family in danger of deportation safe refuge - sanctuary. During that time, their lawyers follow due process so a stay of **deportation might be won** and their advocates lobby legislators to pass law that actually make sense... law that reflects the economic and social reality that we have lived in all our lives.

(If you are interested in a bit longer rationale, you may find my full remarks from this past Sunday [here](#).)

Lastly, and importantly, this is both new and old territory for us as a community of faith. In the name of the God of All, we are not strangers to challenging unjust law. Therefore, we clearly proclaim that offering sanctuary is not political posturing on our part. Offering sanctuary is a deeply spiritual matter connected to the core of our community. Standing as allies with the marginalized is in the bones of our being and deeply embedded in the DNA of our faith.

So... we're off!

'This we know: We do not walk alone... The sacred journey is our home.'

Doug

youth & children

Safe Church Policy Review

makeup session for UPUCC adults working with children and youth.

Sunday, October 15 11:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

All Nursery, Children's Church and Youth volunteers are asked to attend an annual orientation and safe church policy review.

Please let Peg know if you have any questions. peg@upucc.org

Childcare provided during these sessions.

In accordance with the Safe Church Policy adopted by the UPUCC Congregation, a background check is required for persons who work with our children and youth. Thank you to all who are assisting with our programs!

October Youth Schedule

October 1

11:30 am - 1:30 pm at UPUCC

October 8

11:30 am - 1:30 pm at UPUCC

October 15

9:30 am-1:30 pm

Youth to the NC State Fair

October 22

11:30 am - 1:30 pm at UPUCC

October 29

9 am-7 pm

Carowinds Trip

Questions? Email Anne anne@upucc.org



October 22 Crossover Event

On Sunday, October 22, the Upper Elementary Class is invited to stay after church for Youth Group, as we create our animals for Faith In Action's annual Heifer International Fund Raiser in November.

October 29 Fifth Sunday Event

On Sunday, October 29, students in Children's Church will celebrate All Saints Day by decorating the animals created by youth and the UE class the previous Sunday, with the younger children working on crafts of their own.



stewardship & finance

2018 UPUCC Pledge Campaign

Fall is in the air, and with it, the 2018 UPUCC Pledge Campaign is underway. Throughout the month of October, we will have members of the congregation sharing reflections on what UPUCC means to them during worship. We hope you will be moved by these heart felt statements of faith and will want to participate in the pledge campaign. Pledging is critically important to the financial health of the church. Our pledges determine our budget for the year. We can't plan to spend it if we don't think we will earn it. Our plan for 2018 is about a 5% total increase over 2017, so rather than a pledge total of about \$282,000, we hope to reach closer to \$296,000 this year. This will enable us to:

- Provide some of our staff with a small raise
- Provide committees, such as Youth and Worship & Music, with a bit more money
- Double our Faith In Action Outreach Spending

The pledge campaign runs through the end of October. No pledge is too small, and we appreciate every amount. It is important that sustainers (people who pledge by automatic draft) also email acknowledgement of their pledges to help us understand that those generous donations will continue. As a bonus this year, everyone who gets their pledge in by October 31 will be entered in a drawing for one of three UPUCC coffee mugs!

Sincerely,
Mark Stevens, S&F Chair

adult education

October Forums

October 1 9:30 a.m. Forum

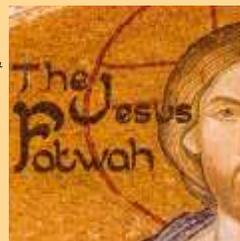
America Moreno Jimenez, a teacher for Wake County schools (Sanderson) and DACA recipient, will speak and answer questions about her experience as a 'Dreamer.'

October 8 After Worship Forum

Peggy Rafferty from the Coalition for Peace with Justice will be speaking about Israeli/Palestinian issues.

October 15 9:30 a.m. Forum

The Jesus Fatwah Part 3 rescheduled from August. *(Taken from Living the Questions series)* "Much of what passes as information about Islam is weed-like disinformation rooted in stereotype and watered by fear. In *The Jesus Fatwah*, Islamic and Christian scholars offer reliable information about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we all can be about building relationships across the lines of faith." Tricia Andrews hosts the discussion.



October 22 9:30 a.m. Forum "Moving Forward with Hope: Love and Justice for Every Child." In recognition of the 26th National Observance of Children's Sabbaths, Covenant Partner Karen Ponder will be speaking about children's issues in North Carolina.

October 29 9:30 a.m. Forum The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

David VandeVusse leads the discussion. It's rumored there will be Halloween candy available!

Neighbors in Need Special Offering



Neighbors in Need (NIN) www.ucc.org/nin is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

- Two-thirds of the 2017 offering will be used to support service projects addressing Clean Water initiatives funded by the UCC's Justice & Witness Ministries office.
- One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM).

The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM.

Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church.

UCC congregations throughout the nation have a special collection to support this mission on World Communion Sunday (October 1, 2017), and UPUCC will again participate in this initiative. Contribution envelopes will be available in the worship space beginning September 24, 2017.



Heifer International

FIA will again be asking that you consider November to be a month of thanksGIVING. Listen for announcements in October on ways you can contribute by being part of our Heifer fundraising, to begin November 5.

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

all in the family

New Covenant Partner

Stan Yancey shares he has lived in Raleigh for 31 years and that he was drawn to UPUCC because he has known Doug Long and Janice Odom since seminary. Stan's vocation is a chaplain supervisor. He and his wife, Elaine Rohlik, have a Jack Russell terrier named Maggie. Living on the Neuse River, they enjoy nature and spend time bicycling and kayaking.



Stan Yancey

UPUCC Garden Task Force Survey

The Garden Task Force met to discuss plans for designing our outdoor space at UPUCC. The spaces being considered include what is currently referred to as the 'loading dock area' (outside the worship space large windows) as well as much of the wooded area across the parking lot.

We know that many of you have wishes for the kinds of areas that should be included in the overall design, and we would like to hear from as many of you as possible. Based on your feedback, we'll organize a few listening sessions in order to have further discussions about the needs and desires of various groups.

The link to the survey for Covenant Partners and Friends input can be found [here](#).

Members of the task force include: Mary Pat Peters, Marcia Welsh, Sandy Ceppos, Chris Ousley, Betsy Thigpen, Peg Arcari

Creativity Group

Our cards will be available again on October 15 and October 22. We have hand crafted cards for all occasions. Bulk Christmas cards are available for order. All donations for this season will go to the United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund.

fellowship

Hillsborough River Walk

Join in for a fellowship event, following worship on Sunday, October 22, traveling to Hillsborough, NC to stroll along the river walk (<https://www.visitnc.com/listing/hillsborough-riverwalk>) followed by a visit to Mystery Brewing Company.

Questions? Contact Michael Lester at mychaelee@gmail.com

upucc october volunteers

October 1

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Communion Prep: Chris Ousley
Coffee Set-Up: Elaina & Robert Richardson25
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Gail & Jeff Holden
Sound System: Tim Champion
Auditor: Betty Gatano
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Ousley
Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Tracy Denson,
Mark & Melanie Stevens

October 8

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey
Coffee Set-Up: Roberta Ouellette
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Joanne Kennedy Frazer & Ted Frazer
Sound System: Don Alderman
Auditor: Tim Champion
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell
Clean-Team: Chris Wilms, Dawn McCarthy, Marcia
Welsh, Mary Pat Peters

October 15

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Coffee Set-Up: Matt & Rebecca Andrews
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Leslie & Mike Heavey
Sound System: Chris Abram
Auditor: Gwen Vass
Assistant Treasurer: Lee Harrison
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris
Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrell

October 22

Altar Prep: Michael Lester
Coffee Set-Up: Leslie Heavey
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Nick & Gina Kentopp
Sound System: Nevin Fouts
Auditor: Martha Eller
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell
Clean-Team: Carol & Nevin Fouts, Scott Pope,
Doug Long & Janice Odom

October 29

Altar Prep: Michael Lester
Coffee Set-Up: Rebecca van Dorsten
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Sally Bean & Todd Smith
Sound System: Dan Harrell
Auditor: Frank McKay
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Ousley
Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Tracy
Denson, Mark & Melanie
Stevens

upucc october calendar

| | | |
|--------|---------|---|
| Sun. | Oct. 1 | 9:30 a.m. Forum: America Moreno Jimenez. See page five. |
| | | 9:30 a.m. Training for Sanctuary 'Hosts.' See page 10. |
| | | 10:30 a.m. World Communion Sunday: "The Borders of Our Faith," Doug Long preaching. |
| | | Following worship Youth meet. |
| | | Following worship Newcomers & Inquirers Session in the library. |
| | | Following worship Training for Sanctuary 'Hosts.' See page 10. |
| | | 11.:30 a.m. UPUCC Advocacy Group meets in the worship space. |
| | | 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary Task Force meets in the EC Conference Room. |
| Tues. | Oct. 3 | 9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library. |
| Wed. | Oct. 4 | 6:00 p.m. Training for Sanctuary 'Hosts.' See page 10. |
| | | 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space. |
| Sun. | Oct. 8 | 9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time |
| | | 10:30 a.m. Worship: "A Soldier's Play- The Cavernous Complications of Race in America," Doug Long preaching. |
| | | Following worship Forum: Coalition for Peace with Justice. See page five. |
| | | Following worship Youth meet. |
| Mon. | Oct. 9 | 6:30 p.m. Evening Creativity Group meets in the library. |
| Wed. | Oct. 11 | 3:00 p.m. Creativity Group to Healing Transitions. |
| | | 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space. |
| Friday | Oct. 13 | 8:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play Opening Night in the worship space. |
| Sat. | Oct. 14 | 9:30 am-12:30 p.m. UPUCC Choir special rehearsal time in the worship space. |
| | | 9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the LE Classroom. |
| | | 10:00 a.m. Meditation Group meets in the library. |
| | | 8:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play in the worship space. |
| Sun. | Oct.15 | 9:30 a.m. Forum: The Jesus Fatwah, Part 3. See page five. |
| | | 9:30 a.m. Youth to the NC State Fair. |
| | | 10:30 a.m. Worship: "Hope: Celebrating the Future in the Present," Doug Long preaching. |
| | | Following worship Safe Church Policy Review in the UE Classroom. See page four. |
| | | 12:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee meets in the library. |
| | | 3:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play in the worship space. |
| Tues. | Oct. 17 | 9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library. |
| | | 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets in the library. |
| Wed. | Oct. 18 | 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space. |
| Thurs. | Oct. 19 | Midnight UPUCC November Newsletter deadline. |
| Fri. | Oct. 20 | 8:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play in the worship space. |
| Sat. | Oct. 21 | 8:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play in the worship space. |

Calendar continued on page 12.

Establish a safe haven, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds are healed, differences are celebrated and inclusivity is intentional;

upucc october calendar continued...

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| Sun. | Oct. 22 | 9:30 a.m. Forum: Covenant Partner Karen Ponder. See page five. 10:30 a.m. Worship: Children's Sabbath 2017- "Moving Forward with Hope: Love and Justice for Every Child," Doug Long preaching. Following worship Youth meet. 3:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play in the worship space. |
| Wed. | Oct. 25 | 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space. |
| Fri.-Sun | Oct. 27-29 | 5:00 p.m.-11 a.m. UPUCC Women's Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference Center |
| Fri. | Oct. 27 | 8:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play in the worship space. |
| Sat. | Oct. 28 | 8:00 p.m. JTP A Soldier's Play in the worship space. |
| Sun. | Oct. 29 | 9:00 a.m. Youth depart for Carowinds. 9:30 a.m. Forum: David VandeVusse on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. See page five. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "A Bulwark Never-Failing" (500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation), Doug Long preaching. Fifth Sunday Special for Children- See page four. |
| Mon. | Oct. 30 | 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman reedaltman@gmail.com for details. |

Training for Sanctuary 'Hosts'

All persons who volunteered to serve as 'hosts' for our sanctuary effort are urged to attend an upcoming session (an hour or less!) for training and procedures. Background check forms will also be distributed for those who do not already have one in the UPUCC files.

All trainings held in the glass-fronted conference rooms in the main atrium hallway. You need only attend ONE training.

Four Training Dates and Times Offered

- This coming Saturday, September 30th 1:00 pm
- This coming Sunday, October 1 9:30 am
- This coming Sunday, October 1 11:30 am
- Next Wednesday, October 4th 6:00 pm

Please use sign up on the Sign-up Genius on this link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4cabac2ca64-upucc>

Let Bridget Blinn-Spears know (babspears@gmail.com 919-744-8877) if you have questions.

Tickets available now via

thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com

Nine performances in the UPUCC worship space during October. Find complete information:

<http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/a-soldiers-play/>

