

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

October 2018

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

www.upucc.org

OPPORTUNITIES for FLORENCE RELIEF- Getting Our Hands Dirty

You've asked what is the best way to help... and what are we going to do? Read on-

At one point, Florence was predicted to come directly to and squarely over the Triangle. We prepared ourselves and eventually breathed a sigh of relief as the storm turned to the south. While we feel fortunate escaping with minor and short-lived inconveniences, just a short drive away the winds and mostly water inundated thousands. Roads were impassable for so long, we are still learning the scope of the destruction. (Indeed, some roadways are still unusable. According to the Charlotte Observer 656 N.C. roadways were still damaged and closed in late September.)

What our neighbors face is not a weekend clean-up. For hundreds, the real option is nothing short of relocation. For most, though, months and months of rebuilding fill their future. The hard and sweaty work of disposing wet furniture, tearing out soggy sheet rock, and thoroughly treating the framing of the houses before the sheetrock can be rehung lies ahead.

I was talking with Mac Legerton about this. Mac is an ordained UCC minister who has spent all of his adult life and career in Robeson County. Think Lumberton. (In case you aren't aware, Robeson is a large, rural county located about a two hours' drive south of Raleigh along I-95. It is one of the most ethnically diverse rural counties in the U.S. and is "the home of the Lumbee, the largest Native American tribe east of the Mississippi River.") Robeson County is roughly 1/3 white, 1/3 black, and 1/3 Lumbee Indian. It also has a poverty rate of 24% and illiteracy rate of 38%, indicators of low economic and social well-being that have persisted for generations.

Mix all that with the floods of Florence, while still recovering from the earlier floods of Hurricane Matthew... and you cannot be surprised to sense despair heaped upon despair. Yet Robeson County is where the Rev. Mac Legerton, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Community Action, has hung his hat for decades.

"In Matthew," Mac explained, "some folks received a lot of volunteer help and others received almost none... with Florence, we don't need a lot of churches to come and adopt a house," he continued. *"We need a lot of churches to come down and adopt a street!"*

Next week, a carload of UPUCers will scout out some potential projects with Mac. We will bring our report to the after-church-forum on October 14th. Best of all, Mac Legerton will lead that forum. Here's your chance to hear first-hand... and then, sometime following, get your hands dirty.

In the meantime, we are gathering and raising funds for specific supplies as Mac is using his community action space to hold mold education, prevention, and reduction workshops. After training, folks with flooded homes will be given supplies that include: professional strength mildew remover, pump sprayers, moisture testing meters, disposable masks, thick rubber gloves, disposable coveralls with hoods ... and goggles.

On our 'scouting trip' next Wednesday we will take a trunk load of these supplies while we actively seek monetary donations from you and other congregations to buy more for Mac's good work and future trips from the Triangle. (For your consideration- After training on mold and mildew remediation, Mac provides each family with about \$100 worth of supplies in addition to equipment they can temporarily check out. Want to cover the cost of a family or two? Checks can be made out to UPUC with "Florence" in the memo line.)

Stay tuned... and be sure to come to the October 14th After-Church Forum!



FAITH IN ACTION



“Congregational Pride”

‘Pride’ was this past weekend and I’ve never been prouder, but it had nothing to with a parade. (We were well represented at the Durham happening, thanks to the consistent and faithful work of our Faith in Action Committee and the volunteers they gathered.) No, my personal pride this weekend was sourced during and after our Congregational Meeting on Sunday. You see, we tackled the normal challenging issues around raising money to keep our good work going ...and in addition to the annual pledge campaign, Mark Stevens (talk about consistent and faithful!) led us further into a conversation about a Capital Campaign. (Yes, it’s getting closer to the time we will launch into some long-needed and long-desired larger projects that will assist in even *more* good work... a roof-maybe solar- , HVAC replacement, a multi-purpose garden, some extra meeting rooms for youth and choir and community gatherings, an all gender bathroom... we may even pay down part of our mortgage to free up more of the annual giving for important faith in action initiatives! You’ll hear more about these things in the coming months.)

But not even those discussions were what made me most proud.

What made me most proud was the final conversation we jointly tackled at the meeting.

It was getting late, some folks had already left and everyone’s tolerance clock was ticking loudly. (Tolerance clock? The how-much-longer-can-I sit-here-on-a beautiful-Sunday-afternoon clock.)

...and this conversation about farmworkers and how to best help them was turning into a messy, unwieldy discussion in which we clearly did not all agree with each other.

This is what made me proud?!

Yes! ... Because even though there was clearly dissension in our ranks, everyone was respectful of each other... and each voice sought justice for all... and mothers argued for their children, employers argued for their employees, and everyone spoke FOR the farmworkers.

But this is what made me most proud still... the next day, one of the key participants who could have easily walked out in anger at the meeting summarized it succinctly in an email:

“Passionate people in our church. Conversation without conflict is like being in one big family. It happens sometimes when you least expect it. That’s why it’s priceless.”

...and it all makes me feel like a very proud papa.

What a great Sunday!

More from Doug...

-**Eliseo’s 1 year anniversary with us is Oct. 9...** This is not a celebration and yet, we are so very thankful for his gifts to us. Some who have served on the Sanctuary Task Force will gather with him for an intimate potluck that evening. If there are ways you’d like to reach out to Eliseo to let him know of your thanks for his presence among us, feel encouraged to do so!

-Community Organizing at Its Best

A large community organizing effort has been emerging for almost a year in Wake County. The hope is to build

more from doug

...continued from page two

relationships and a huge network that will come together as leverage to advance common concerns. I believe this will happen as the meeting I attended in early September drew 175 persons from across Wake County. We are coming a little late to this table, but not too late to jump into the good work spearheaded largely by leaders from traditionally disenfranchised communities.

As a next step, congregations were randomly grouped together to build personal relationships with each other.

Happily, our partners to 'better meet' are two congregations we already have connections with- St. Francis of Assisi and Cary First Christian. (We share The Justice Theater with St. Francis and Cary First's heritage is the UCCI!)

Listen out for details of how we will bring 'some of us' together to better know 'some of them.' (This is just a 'heads up' but a planning meeting is scheduled for later this week, so you'll be hearing something soon!)

Sunday, October 14...

In response to earlier publications, many of you were looking forward to Kyle Kentopp preaching on October 14th.

Unfortunately, Kyle's academic schedule has created a crunch that prohibits his ability to be with us that day. Fortunately, Jane Weidig will fill that slot. Yea, Jane!

As detailed on page one, Mac Legerton will also be with us.

A Second Guatemala Trip is in the Works. Are You Interested in Going?

Two years ago a group of UPUCers teamed up with Curamericas for a life shaping excursion to rural Guatemala. "In Guatemala, Curamericas works to reduce the rates of infant, child, and maternal mortality. With funding from USAID, Ronald McDonald House Charities, the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation and many others, Curamericas has established a network of thousands of local Community Health Workers and volunteers that reach a population of over 180,000 impoverished Mayans with vital health services and education." (-from www.curamericas.org)

A new trip is being organized for 2019. If you're interested, join the group discussion on Sunday, October 7th following worship. (Contact Paul Foglia for further information phf@nc.rr.com.)

I would be remiss not to also mention the many words of support our community offered to women this past Sunday and especially women reeling from the recent insensitive, horrible, painful Supreme Court hearings. I cannot imagine the flood of feelings that survivors of assault and sexual violence are navigating in the wake of this debacle.

Let us hear again the invocation Anne Maust prayed:

Holy God, for many of us, this has been a hard week.

*It is demoralizing to feel unseen, to silently wrestle with our own histories of violence,
to witness again the price too often paid for challenging the status quo.*

We need your healing presence in this place and in our greater world, O God.

*Remind us again that we are held in your love, that we are stronger and braver than we think,
that the path of justice is always worth our walking.*

Be with us as we remember:

Blessed are we who desperately look to God, for ours is love that surpasses understanding

*Blessed are we who cry for our own pain and for the suffering we witness, for the Holy Spirit is promised us,
stirring in the spaces where words fall short*

Blessed are we who strive to live nonviolently, for in seeking the dignity of others, we find we belong to God and to each other

Blessed are we who ache for justice, for we will witness the subversive power of God on this earth

Blessed are we who are led by empathy, for our broken hearts will sow gentleness, kindness, and mercy.

Blessed are we who work for justice and suffer for it, for we make room for resurrection.

May it be so. Amen.

-Inspired by Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey's "Beatitude Blessing for All Justice Workers"

stewardship & finance

Now Is the Time for the pledge campaign.

October is here, and with it, our annual pledge campaign is under-way! The pledge campaign is the time when we look ahead to 2019. Our stewardship moments during worship in the month of October remind us of how much UPUCC means to us. Covenant Partners will share short messages about how UPUCC has affected their lives. When you are listening to these poignant reflections, also hear a little voice (your finance chair's voice) reminding you:



Ten "Be The Church" mugs will be raffled off to those who pledge and/or complete a time and talent sheet by October 31!

Now is the time to step up and pledge your support for the church for next year. Now is the time to volunteer to support our children's Sunday school ministry, our worship services, our sanctuary outreach. Now is the time to look at your financial resources and prayerfully consider what you can do to support the UPUCC family in the coming year. Can you give an additional 3%? Can you give an additional 5%? Can you give 10% more? Your commitments now will drive our budget decisions for 2019.

There are many ways to pledge.

We have pledge forms available in the sanctuary.

You can visit <http://upucc.org/donate> for options there, too.

There are also time and talent volunteer sheets, paper in the sanctuary and online at the donate site.

We would love to have 100% participation, sharing your gifts as you are able. As an incentive for your prompt participation, everyone who pledges and/or completes a time and talent sheet before the end of October will be entered in a raffle to win one of 10 mugs decorated with a wrap-around "BE THE CHURCH" motif. -Mark Stevens, Chair Stewardship & Finance

Familiar with Amazon Smile?

We are spreading the word! Thanks to the 'legwork' of Gary Welsh and Vickie Teal, we now have our own unique link enabling Amazon orders to provide .5% of purchases to be credited to UPUCC.

Instructions can be found at this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2202519>

With our steps toward a mutual relationship with the wider world, we will:

-Share freely of our wealth and resources;

-from the upucc covenant

youth



October Youth Schedule

October 7 - 11:30 am-1:30 pm
Middle School Youth Group

October 14 - 11:30 am-1:30 pm
High School Youth Group

October 21 - 11:30 am-3:30 pm
All Youth to TreeRunner Raleigh

Carpool from UPUCC. Cost-\$30. Bring a bag lunch, wear closed-toed shoes and long shorts/yoga pants

October 28 - 11:30 am-1:30 pm
Middle School Youth Group

children

Children's Church and more...

In addition to our regular programming, we will support the upcoming Faith In Action fundraising for Heifer International and continue to involve the children as participants in Communion Sunday and other worship services.

Many thanks to those adults (and Youth!) who have stepped up to lead our Children's Church classes!



Last month's Move Up Sunday

We believe that Church is a place that should be fun, because fun is good.

And finally, we believe that questions are good, and that church is a great place to ask them...

And we have lots of questions.

-from the UPUCC Children's Covenant

adult education

October Forums

...in the library. Childcare provided in the nursery.

October 7 - 9:30 a.m. Social Media and Religion. Discussion of various ways social media and religion work together or not. Tricia Andrews leading.

October 14 - following worship Florence Relief. Rev. Mac Legerton leads. See page one.

October 21 - 9:30 a.m. Jesus and the Buddha. Part III of the video series and discussion, led by Gail Holden.

October 28 - 9:30 a.m. **“From Silence to Social Justice,”** Betsy Thigpen and Nicki Norris will speak about a retreat they attended, “As God’s hands and feet in the world, it is important to prepare ourselves to fight for economic and social justice. Centering prayer plays a central role in this preparation.” Themes of the retreat include how prayer can be transformed into action and silence into a tool for social justice.

Coming in November

John Pavlovitz is Coming- Sunday, 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.

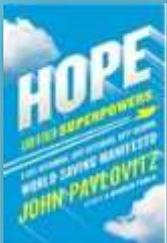


But get this... we will have a chance to buy it sooner.

On Sunday, November 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.

Wanna know more about John?

-Check out this piece by Yonat Shimron: <https://religionnews.com/2018/03/15/john-pavlovitz-digital-pastor-of-the-resistance-pitches-a-bigger-christian-tent/>

From recent ‘Stuff that needs to be said’

“No, Trump supporter, I’m not being divisive. I’m being a decent human being.”

“I’m an American who is lost in America right now—but I refuse to lose America.”

more ‘Coming in November’ on page seven...

adult education continued...

LGBTQ Informational Workshop Day - 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 donation from Hauss 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 a catered lunch. We have a fabulous list of presenters again this year-double the amount of last year! Watch for sign ups coming in the next few weeks in which you can assist by helping with the logistics such as set up, clean up, providing items, etc. 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



all in the family

New Covenant Partner

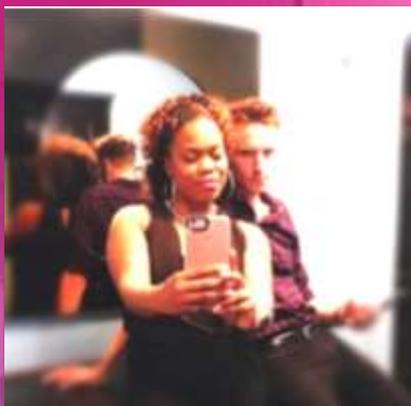
I've been hearing about UPUCC for a while now, but it took me a while to venture up from downtown Raleigh. Once I did, though, I was hooked. I'm blown away by how the members of this church strive to live out their faith in their own lives, within the fellowship of the church, and particularly in the broader community. And, as a music lover, I look forward to hearing the choir every week!

I work at the NC Rural Center, where I serve as the director of advocacy. I lead efforts to organize local champions in the state's 80 rural counties and work with them to effect policy change at the state and federal levels. Our current main focuses are on broadband internet, rural health, small business development, and disaster recovery.

Outside of work, I am active in the Longleaf Collective, a young professionals giving circle in the Triangle, serve on the Harvard Divinity School Alumni/ae Council, and just started a two-year stint as the chair of the Friends of Arts NC State Board. In my free time, I like to travel, go to the theatre, hike, play handbells, and read theology. (Yep. I'm a total dork.)



John Coggin



A Doll's House, Remodeled

A play by Henrik Ibsen

adapted by JaMeeka Holloway-Burrell, Aurelia Belfield, Katie Barrett

October 12-28

Umstead Park UCC

For best ticket price, contact:

thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com

faith in action

UCC Special Offering for October



Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministry. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund an array of initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, this national office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues and supports the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates). Current efforts include the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with tribes in the Dakotas, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches are supported by CAIM and CAIM is also a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the US.

Neighbors in Need helps make a just world for all possible and needs our support. Please give generously. Contributions can be made via the collection plate on October 7 (Envelopes are available in the back or the worship space-or designate on the memo line of a check) or online anytime at ucc.org/nin. Thank you.

faith in action continued ...

from the Creativity Group



Thank you for your continuing support of our card ministry. Our table will be in the atrium October 14 and October 21. We will have cards of all types. Our bulk holiday cards will be available for order. We appreciate early orders, as our supplies--- and our time---sometimes get limited. Donations continue to go to help support Eliseo and his family.

from the Advocacy Group, looking ahead

I Voted- Tuesday, November 6

To celebrate our faith in action, please bring your I VOTED stickers to church and place them on the I VOTED board! If you didn't get one or misplaced yours there will be stickers available.

Beginning September 30, the advocacy team will have the voting table out with registration, absentee ballot information and candidate information. If you have moved, please remember to stop by and fill out the registration to bring your information up to date.

Important dates:

October 12	Voter Registration deadline
October 30	Absentee ballot deadline
Oct 17-Nov 3	Early Voting
November 6	Election Day

This is an important election year. Up for election are all 120 seats in the NC House of Representatives and all 50 seats of the NC Senate, with almost all being contested. Also on the ballot are the amendments that the current legislators want, and various Court of Appeals and local elections. THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

Heifer is Coming!

We will again have opportunities to purchase unique gifts and/or vote on your favorite Heifer piggy bank in November. Our tables will be out the first three Sundays in November, so start saving those pennies—and dollar bills—and be thinking of all the good your gift can make happen when you purchase one of Heifer's special gifts.



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

sunday service calendar for october

OCT 7	Altar	Eleanor Smith
	Communion	Trish Breen
	Coffee	TBD
	Greeters	Sarah Hogan
	Usher	Martha Eller, H. Mastick
	Sound	TBD
	Auditor	TBD
	Assistant Treasurer	Martha Eller
	Clean Team	Edward McFarland, Jessica & Shawn Holmes, Mark & Melanie Stevens, Linda Hébert
OCT 14	Altar	Leslie Heavey
	Coffee	Elaina & Robert Richardson
	Greeters	TBD
	Ushers	Jamye & Chris Abram
	Sound	Peter van Dorsten
	Auditor	Chris Ousley
	Assistant Treasurer	TBD
	Clean Team	Marcia Welsh, Mary Pat Peters, Eliseo Jimenez, Elaina & Robert Richardson
OCT 21	Altar	Eleanor Smith
	Coffee	Lori Del Negro & Roger Sommer
	Greeters	TBD
	Ushers	Gina & Nick Kentopp
	Sound	TBD
	Auditor	Chris Ousley
	Assistant Treasurer	Dan Harrell
	Clean Team	Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris Ousley, Colin & Ada McKerrill
OCT 28	Altar	Michael Lester
	Coffee	TBD
	Greeters	Ashley and Vanessa Montague
	Ushers	Bill Coye, Alice Jermyn
	Sound	TBD
	Auditor	Sue Hathaway
	Assistant Treasurer	TBD
	Clean Team	Carol & Nevin Fouts, Vickie Teal, Doug Long & Janice Odom

*Care to Volunteer?
Fill a slot or two by
signing up [here](#).*

upucc october calendar

Tues.	Oct. 2	9:30 a.m.	Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	Oct. 3	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sun.	Oct. 7	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Social Media and Religion. See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship & Communion: "The World at Our Doorstep," Doug Long preaching.
		Following worship	Middle School Youth Group meets.
		Following worship	Newcomers & Inquirers Session in the library.
		Following worship	UPUCC Advocacy Group meets in the large atrium conference room.
		Following worship	LGBTQ Planning Group meets in the small atrium conference room.
		Following worship:	Curamericas Guatemala Trip Meeting. See page three.
Mon.	Oct. 8	6:30 p.m.	Evening Creativity Group meets in the library.
Tues.	Oct. 9	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Task Force meets in the library.
Wed.	Oct. 10	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Fri.	Oct. 12	7:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Opening Night in the worship space. See page seven.
Sat.	Oct. 13	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Group meets in the library.
		7:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Sun.	Oct. 14	9:30 a.m.	Committee Meeting Time.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "Being in Covenant," Jane Weidig preaching.
		Following worship	Forum: Mac Legerton. See page one.
		Following worship	High School Youth Group meets.
		3:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Tues.	Oct. 16	9:30 a.m.	Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	Oct. 17	2:30 p.m.	Creativity Group departs for Healing Transitions.
		7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Oct. 18	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council meets in the library. (November Newsletter deadline, as well!)
Fri.	Oct. 19	7:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Sat.	Oct. 20	9:30 a.m.	Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
		7:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Sun.	Oct. 21	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Jesus and the Buddha Part III. See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "Now Is the Time," Doug Long preaching.
		Following worship	All Youth meet. See page five.
		12:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee meets in the library.
		3:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Tues.	Oct. 23	9:30 a.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Wed.	Oct. 24	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Oct. 25	9:30 a.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Fri.	Oct. 26	7:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Sat.	Oct. 27	7:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Performance in the worship space.
Sun.	Oct. 28	9:30 a.m.	Forum: From Silence to Social Justice. See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "A Mighty Fortress- God's Truth Abideth Still," Doug Long preaching.
		Following worship	Middle School Youth Group meets.
		3:30 p.m.	JTP A Doll's House Closing Performance in the worship space.
Mon.	Oct. 29	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman reedaltman@gmail.com for details.
Wed.	Oct. 31	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.