

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

September 2018

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

www.upucc.org

Some Special Fall Events to put on your radar

(watch for details in upcoming publications):

September 23- **Pride Interfaith Worship** (A first for the Triangle. At Pullen Memorial. 'Works of Heart' follows at CAM. See a few details on page two.)

October 14- **Kyle Kentopp** preaching (His girlfriend, Sparrow Gates, will lead the Forum. Both are Divinity students at Yale.)

November 4- **John Pavlovitz** to preach and hold after-church forum (Don't know who John is? Google him!)

November 10- **LGBTQ Workshop Day** (An extravaganza of offerings for the LGBTQ community and allies.)



Here are some photos from Vacation Church Camp.



FAITH IN ACTION



“God Bless Gay”

I didn't mean to go to church. It was completely unintentional but, there I was, tears rolling down my cheeks from a heart deeply touched... and I hadn't left home. This is how it unfolded:

It was mid-week, a Tuesday, I think... Janice was serving as the overnight host for Eliseo and I was home alone. I decided to wind down the evening with a little TV... but what to watch? There is so much useless and shallow programming offered as bait

on commercial TV that 'surfing' the channels has become an increasingly frustrating exercise. I know I sound like a geezer, but the three channels we could get when I was a kid seemed to have far more interesting and engaging possibilities than the scores of channels available now. What to watch, indeed.

My current remedy for the predicament is to file away 'watch suggestions' from newspapers, friends and radio. That's how I came to choose the new season of "Queer Eye" that Tuesday evening. I had never even seen the *old* season or, come to find out, any of the older *series*. I had heard about it, though... and when the New York Times reviewer suggested the new season of "Queer Eye" as 'must see'... I figured I'd give it a chance. ...and then and there is when I went unintentionally to church... sitting on the couch ...at home.

Actually, I didn't know the premise of the show. I only knew the title. Watching the introduction, as soon as I realized it belonged to the 'reality TV genre' I instinctively reached for the remote (I'm not a big fan) but for some reason I hung in there a minute or two. Man, am I glad I did. Not to spoil the episode if you haven't seen it, but in the 1st installment of Season 2 entitled "God Bless Gay," the cast makes their way to Gay, Georgia. (The town, Gay, population \pm 100, sits 60 miles south of Atlanta.)

The trip down to Gay offered my first surprise. In the car, the 5-fellow cast begins a candid, humorous(!), honest, and what would evolve as moving and thoughtful exploration of the LGBTQ community's experience of Church ...few holds barred.

Included in the broad range of themes touched on: rejection, forgiveness, acceptance, embrace, racism, bridge-building, interfaith affirmation, goodness, grace, confession, anger, resentment, and deep, persistent, unconditional love... all in the context of community family and, most of all, Church. That is a LOT! By the time the episode ended, I was a puddle of tears.

I wondered how a show so moving and meaningful had been produced and was now available and I hadn't even heard about it. That's when I discovered it was first broadcast early this summer. So now my advice to all is this: In the midst of a news cycle that can thoroughly take you down, *if you want to soar one evening*, I thoroughly encourage you to stream "God Bless, Gay."

It is Church at its best.

(...but don't forget to come Sundays, too.) See you then,



P.S. Here's a heads up on a late breaking new opportunity: Spearheaded by the LGBTQ community at St. Francis, a number of area churches are planning a special "Pride Week Interfaith Service" prior to Pride activities in the Triangle area this year. The Interfaith service, featuring the area Gay's Men's Chorus, will be at held at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church on Sunday, September 23 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Organizers are hoping to make the special service an annual event. (An added bonus is the 'Works of Heart' fundraiser by AAS-C. It follows the September 23 service beginning at 6 p.m. at CAM in downtown Raleigh.)

youth & children

September Youth Schedule

September 2—Labor Day Weekend (no youth events)

September 9—**Move Up Sunday** (10:30a), **Youth Group Kickoff** (All Youth), 11:30a-1:30p

Parents, please join us for lunch and a brief info meeting following worship!

September 15-16—**Youth Beach Trip!** 9a Sat—noon Sun

All youth invited! We'll catch a ferry out to the South Core Banks for a one-night beach camping trip! Youth will leave Saturday morning, returning Sunday after worship. Cost: \$30

September 23—**Middle School Youth Group**, 11:30a-1:30p

September 30:

- ⇒ **Youth lead Fifth Sunday Special Children's Church**
- ⇒ **Congregational Meeting & Potluck**
- ⇒ **High School Youth Group 1-2p**

September Children's Church Move Up Activities

Move Up Sunday- Next Sunday, Children's Committee offers two opportunities to parents, teachers and other interested adults to learn more about our program- both before and after worship in the YC Classroom. Also, Children and Youth will be recognized during worship as they move up to their new groupings! If you have yet to register your child (ages infant through grade five) please do so [here](#). Questions? Contact peg@upucc.org

September 9

9:30 a.m. Orientation

10:30 a.m. Move Up in Worship

11:45 a.m. Orientation

*Childcare provided for
Orientation Sessions.*



faith in action

from the Advocacy Task Force - Gun Vigilance

As parents, when our children go for play dates (or "hang out" if they are teenagers!), we might remember to ask the hosting parents about pets and/or peanuts in the home if our kids are allergic, or if they have an unattended pool in the backyard. As the parent of a driving teenager, I check in with parents to make sure chaperones will be present in the home, find out who else will be there, and to make sure alcohol and drugs will not be used. *I now know to ask if there are unsecured weapons in the home.* Many unintentional shootings happen in the homes of the child's relatives and friends.

Here are some tips for addressing this awkward and perhaps difficult subject:

- ◊ Make it part of a general safety discussion. It's not about the gun. It's about whether it's secured. "May I ask, if you have guns in your home, are they locked and inaccessible to the kids?"
- ◊ Don't wait to be asked. Volunteer information about your own home. "We have a pool with a gate, a cat, two dogs, and no guns in our home." or "We have a hunting rifle, but always keep it locked and unloaded in a safe."
- ◊ If you don't want to talk face-to-face, have the conversation via email or text.

Never make assumptions when a child's safety is at risk. Ask even those who you might not think have firearms. You are setting an example and making this conversation part of the norm.

*-Submitted by Meredith Pope
-information from www.BeSmartforKids.org*

from the Creativity Group

We continue to have fifty to fifty-five ladies join us at Healing Transitions during our hour visit there each month. In August, everyone enjoyed having Meredith Pope and her dog Mabel join us. Our next visit there will be September 19. We welcome other church family to go with us.

We will again have our greeting card table set up in the atrium on September 9 and 16. Check out our unique, hand crafted cards for all occasions. We offer them for donation. Donations will continue to go toward helping support Eliseo and family.

On those September dates we will also be displaying our designs for bulk Christmas card orders for 2018.

Ordering early will be a great help- *and* it will make us feel very good if you admire our efforts!

Our cards will be on available September 9 and 16. Our designs for bulk Christmas cards will be on display as well!

-Demonstrate our concern for neighbor through service and prophetic voice;

-Claim our inescapable connection with the sacred earth and all of creation;

-Live justice as the social expression of love, and

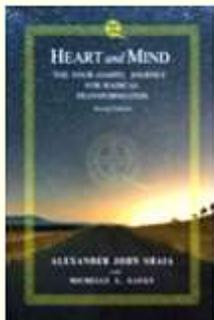
peace as the present manifestation of the world to come.

-from the UPUCC Covenant

adult education

September Forums

September 2 - No forum held - Labor Day weekend.



September 9 - following worship and September 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for a two part forum for a look at Alexander Shaia's book, *Heart and Mind: The Four Gospel Journey for Radical Transformation*. In this fresh lens, Shaia presents each gospel's account-Matthew, Mark, Luke and John- as more than a telling of Jesus' life and words. Each is the story of a practice in response to a core life question: For the Gospel of Matthew: How do we face change? Mark: How do we move through trials and suffering? John: How do we receive joy and know union? Luke: How do we mature in service? Come and hear how Shaia believes that studying the four gospels with these questions in mind and in sequence of their fourth century reading cycle is one of the world's great maps of the universal journey-one of growth, transformation and love. You are welcome to get the book ahead of time, but it is absolutely not required to take part in the forum.

September 23 - 9:30 a.m. Covenant Partner, Eliseo Jimenez, shares his personal Faith Journey.

September 30 - No Forum held - Congregational Meeting and Potluck will be held following worship.

Coming in November

Mark your calendars! 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.

Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Opening
- Two-45 minute morning workshops
- Lunch
- Two-45 minute afternoon workshops

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>



-Gina Kentopp, Organizer

fellowship

BYOD!

Inspired by fellow UPUCC members, the Fellowship Committee would like to encourage folks to bring their own reusable plates/cups/bowls for use at our upcoming (September 30) and future Congregational Potlucks. Some members have been bringing their own "potluck ready" bags that they stock with clean plates and cups to be ready to eat whenever and wherever. *What a great way to save money and reduce trash!*

Worried you'll forget your plate? No problem. The committee purchased a stack of reusable plates that will be on hand at each meal. Forks, napkins, and cups are always provided. But feel free to include those in your potluck bag, too!



our wider community



Upcoming JTP Events

- Thursday, September 27- 7:00 p.m. **Season Theme Kick-Off.** *Panel and Community Discussion. Meredith College, Jones Hall Studio Theater. Led by JTP resident dramaturg Sara Thompson, with a scene from "A Doll's House" as well as a scene from Meredith College's production of "Ms. Courageous". **FREE***
- Saturday, October 6, 11:00 a.m. **Book Discussion.** Quail Ridge Music and Books. *Brotopia*, by Emily Chang. **FREE**



"A Doll's House Remodeled"

*based on the play by
Henrik Ibsen
adapted by Jameeka Holloway-Burrell
Aurelia Belfield
Katie Barrett*

October 12-28
Umstead Park UCC

*Ticket information for all shows:
thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com*



November 15-18
Umstead Park UCC



December 14-15
Umstead Park UCC
December 16-18
NCSU Stewart Theater

sunday service calendar

September 2

Altar	Eleanor Smith
Communion	Renate Andrews
Coffee	Elaina & Robert Richardson
Greeters	The Stefanics Family
Usher	Laura Duval & Sue Hathaway
Sound	TBD
Auditor	Sue Hathaway
Assistant Treasurer	Dan Harrell
Clean Team	Edward McFarland, Tracy Denson, Mark & Melanie Stevens, Linda Hébert

Notice the **TBD's?
Have you some time
to give to UPUCC?
Link [here.](#)**

September 9

Altar	Laura Duval
Coffee	TBD
Greeters	TBD
Ushers	Jeff & Gail Holden
Sound	TBD
Auditor	Gwen Vass
Assistant Treasurer	Lee Harrison
Clean Team	Marcia Welsh, Mary Pat Peters, Eliseo Jimenez

September 16

Altar	Eleanor Smith
Coffee	TBD
Greeters	TBD
Ushers	TBD
Sound	TBD
Auditor	Betty Gatano, Leslie Heavey
Assistant Treasurer	TBD
Clean Team	Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris Ousley, Colin & Ada McKerrell

September 30

Altar	Leslie Heavey
Coffee	TBD
Greeters	TBD
Ushers	Leslie Langley & Melanie Halloran
Sound	Scott Andrews
Auditor	Chris Ousley
Assistant Treas-	Dan Harrell
Clean Team	Edward McFarland, Tracy Denson, Mark & Melanie Stevens, Linda Hébert

September 23

Altar	Michael Lester
Coffee	TBD
Greeters	Sally Bean & Todd Smith
Ushers	TBD
Sound	TBD
Auditor	Chris Ousley
Assistant Treasurer	TBD
Clean Team	Carol & Nevin Fouts, Scott Pope, Doug Long & Janice Odom

administrative notes...

Dear Covenant Partners,

I am eager to receive all contact information updates (and photos!) as we work to revise our password-protected Covenant Partner online Directory. Please send your updates to peg@upucc.org. Many thanks!

september calendar at upucc

Sun.	Sept. 2	10:30 a.m.	Worship & Communion: "Communion-ity," Doug Long preaching. Special music by Robert Richardson Following worship: Newcomers & Inquirers Session in the library. Following worship: LGBTQ Workshop Planning Group in the small atrium conference room.
Tues.	Sept. 4	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	Sept. 5	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	Sept. 8	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Group meets in the library.
Sun.	Sept. 9	9:30 a.m.	Parent/Teacher Orientation, Safe Church Policy Review. See page three.
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Meeting Time. Childcare provided.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "It Takes a Village Congregation," Doug Long preaching. Move-Up Sunday (& Choir returns!)
			Following worship: Parent/Teacher Orientation, Safe Church Policy Review See page
			Following worship: All Youth Group Kick Off.
			Following worship: After Church Forum: Heart & Mind. See page six.
Mon.	Sept. 10	6:30 p.m.	Evening Creativity Group meets in the library
Wed.	Sept. 12	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	Sept. 15	9:00 a.m.	Youth depart for Bear Island.
		9:30 a.m.	Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
Sun.	Sept. 16	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Heart & Mind. See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "Day of Atonement," Doug Long preaching.
		12:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee meets in the library.
		12:00 p.m.	Youth return from Bear Island.
Tues.	Sept. 18	9:30 a.m.	Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	Sept. 19	3:00 p.m.	Creativity Group leaves for Healing Transitions.
		7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Sept. 20	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council meets in the library.
		Midnight	UPUCC October Newsletter deadline.
Sun.	Sept. 23	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Covenant Partner, Eliseo Jimenez, shares his personal faith journey.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "Who Is the Greatest?" Doug Long preaching.
			Following worship: Middle School Youth Group meets.
		4:00 p.m.	Pride Interfaith Worship- Pullen. See page two.
Mon.	Sept. 24	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman for details.
Wed.	Sept. 26	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	Sept. 29		Pride- Durham
Sun.	Sept. 30	10:30 a.m.	Worship: "Awake, Awake to Love and Work," Doug Long preaching.
			Following worship: Congregational Meeting & Potluck. See page seven.
		1:00 p.m.	High School Youth Group meets.