

# umstead park

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHRIST

*a thoughtful and progressive community of faith*

September 2017

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

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

## UPUCC September Newsletter Highlights!

*In addition to the regular, important activities at UPUCC detailed in this edition, don't miss these highlights:*

- ◊ Celebrating the recent Vacation Church School, page four.
- ◊ September 30 Fall Clean-Up Day- see page seven.
- ◊ November 4 LGBTQ Information Fair, page six.
- ◊ September 24 "Harvest Celebration" from the Worship and Music Committee, page seven.
- ◊ September 24 Congregational Meeting (and Potluck)
- ◊ Update from 'Sanctuary' Task Force. **Details below, but first here's a link to an important survey to help assess the size of our volunteer pool for this potential effort. Please fill one out by September 17.** <https://goo.gl/forms/sG9FjttJCCqMHWgp1>

## Offering Sanctuary – An Update

At our July Congregational Meeting an official Task Force was named to explore the possibility of offering Sanctuary for persons in danger of being quickly deported before having the opportunity of due process under the law. The Task Force (see below for names and contact info.) is working diligently to collect as much information as possible in order to further discuss this matter at the next scheduled Congregational Meeting, September 24 following worship. (We hope to decide at that time whether to press ahead and offer space for a person or family in need or, instead, explore other avenues of support.)

*Here are highlights (as of Wed. Aug. 23) to update you on the progress of the Task Force:*

- A survey to assess the size of our volunteer pool has been developed and is now being widely distributed to the Congregation, Friends, and other like-minded communities of faith in the area.
- Coordinators have been established for several specific areas:

- Advocacy**-Sarah Sydney (This focuses first on advocacy for the potential family. We will also explore *legislative* advocacy and ways we can influence wider systems.)
- Facilities**- Anthony Neff (all things from physical arrangements to furniture collection)
- Volunteer Assessment**- Renate and Erin Andrews, Gary Sanders
- Legal Issues**- Bridget Blinn-Spears

**Space**- Much thoughtful consideration has gone into exactly what space might be offered. The consensus of the Task Force, in consultation with the church staff and the Coordinating Council, is to convert the large Lower Elementary classroom into two 12X12 spaces for our potential guests. In turn, one end of the library will be converted into a children's classroom.

### Field Trips:

An on-site visit to Congregational UCC in Greensboro (who for the past 6 weeks has been offering sanctuary to a woman and her children) is scheduled for Sun. afternoon, Aug. 27.

**'Sanctuary Matters' Workshop** – An EXCELLENT "Reflection and Training for Congregations in discernment about offering sanctuary to immigrants facing deportation" – will be offered on two days in September. We will have people at both and we invite all interested UPUCC persons to attend. Links to advanced registration on page two.

(continued on next page...)

FAITH IN ACTION

## continued from front page ...

### Registration for 'Sanctuary Matters' Workshops (same offering two separate times):

Saturday Sept. 16 – 9am – 12:30pm United Church of Chapel Hill

<https://unitedchurch.org/sanctuary-matters/>

Sunday, September 17, 2-5 p.m. Community UCC in Raleigh

<http://cuccinfo.blogspot.com/2017/07/invite-friends-to-sanctuary-workshop-at.html>

### Further Covenant Partner 'Sanctuary' Concerns / Questions

A suggestion box is now placed at the back of our worship space. In addition, any of the Task Force members are eager to hear questions/suggestions or concerns. You may contact them directly (below) or make your comment anonymously using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/qih8gbSJtpPYxDpo1>.

Reed Altman	<a href="mailto:reedaltman@gmail.com">reedaltman@gmail.com</a>	
Erin Andrews	<a href="mailto:erina8805@gmail.com">erina8805@gmail.com</a>	
Renate Andrews	<a href="mailto:rma8805@gmail.com">rma8805@gmail.com</a>	919-539-0335
Bridget Blinn-Spears	<a href="mailto:babspears@gmail.com">babspears@gmail.com</a>	
Anya Frazer	<a href="mailto:frazerkid1@gmail.com">frazerkid1@gmail.com</a>	
Richard Frazer	<a href="mailto:rifraz@gmail.com">rifraz@gmail.com</a>	919-818-8894
Doug Long	<a href="mailto:doug@upucc.org">doug@upucc.org</a>	919-345-3323
Anthony Neff	<a href="mailto:anthonyneff@anthonyneff.com">anthonyneff@anthonyneff.com</a>	919-306-6195
Gary Sanders	<a href="mailto:sandersgarya@gmail.com">sandersgarya@gmail.com</a>	919-673-4050
Sarah Sydney	<a href="mailto:sarah62278@hotmail.com">sarah62278@hotmail.com</a>	919-672-6171

*(If you have not seen the FAQ on offering sanctuary at UPUC, you can find it [here](#) (under the password-protected Covenant Partner page).*

## from doug

### The Scourge of White Supremacy

The turmoil in Charlottesville and the aftermath following has led us all to a place not yet settled. (As if the world was not already careening dangerously, white supremacists are now crawling out from under their rocks in mass.)

A new meme circling the Internet certainly caught my eye.

**“Don’t wonder what you would have been doing during the Civil Rights Movement...  
You’re doing it right now.”**

But what to do exactly?

As part of the NC Council Peace Committee I am researching areas of ‘Nonviolent Direct Action’ and ‘Militant Nonviolence.’ And I am learning through multiple conversations and websites such as: [DCPeaceTeam.com](http://DCPeaceTeam.com) and [Congregatecville.com](http://Congregatecville.com).

I hope you’ll add your wisdom to the effort so that collectively we might discern a good, if not the best, path forward.

In the meantime, on Wednesday, August 16, a Community ‘Interfaith Candlelight Service in Solidarity with Charlottesville’ was held at Pullen Memorial here in Raleigh. Our Mayor, Nancy McFarlane, joined her voice with Jewish, Christian and Muslim clergy. I was invited to offer a Prayer of Confession and Healing. As it seems still timely, I offer it to you now.

(continued on next page)



# from doug continued...

## An Interfaith Confession and Prayer in the Wake of Charlottesville

### *Confession*

We gather tonight in the name of the God of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar - Author of Life, whose children are beautiful no matter the color of their skin or their place of origin.

We gather in the name of the God of Sojourner and Martin, who calls forth prophets in every age to speak truth in love to power.

The God of Justice calls us still.

... and so we make ourselves ready.

Our first task? Confession.

For none are pure... no, not one.

And we humbly confess:

-For times when we have been silent; hiding in comfort

-For inaction when our presence was needed.

-More so we acknowledge our complicity with our nation's structural support for racism (in our schools, our political system, *Dare we admit?* in our congregations);

-and we confess we point our fingers too much.

“THEY are the problem. If THEY could just be like us...

Thank God we are not like THEM.”

We smile ...while we hate them.

No, none of us are pure... not one.

(The above confession was adapted from liturgical writings found on UCC.org.)

### *Let us pray:*

We need you more than ever, God

For a broken world in need of love, we pray for healing.

We are *so* broken, *so* divided, even among ourselves, even *within* ourselves-

-From North Carolina to North Korea,

Teach us not to bully, but to speak and *listen* to the other with honesty, truth, and respect.

-From Jefferson to a so-called ‘preacher’ named Jeffers to Jeff Sessions,

Teach us humility, admitting that **We. Are. All.** mixed-bags, that there is some good, and clearly some need for great improvement in each of us. (Not that we forgive ourselves or each other *too* easily, but that we truly acknowledge our own imperfections.)

-From the White Man to the White House

Teach us to not White *Wash* our history, but learn from the lives already lost, and the blood already spilled.

No more bloodshed, no more pepper spray, no more looking **first** for a **fight**

Heal us, Great One, that we might seek always **first**, our brothers and sisters.

And Deliver us from Evil... and Alternative facts and the Alternative Right and if there is one, even the Alternative *Left* because if we do not find a way to come together, Great God, there will be **LITTLE** left ...but a wilderness of hatred.

So for the sake of your Creation as you intended it, for your kin-dom come on earth, cleanse us and make us more pure, Great Lover, in our love for others.

Amen and Amen.

We *will* overcome the scourge of white supremacy.

Doug

# youth & children

## Youth Trip to Bear Island!

**September 9-10** The youth will kick off their fall schedule at 9 a.m. Saturday morning to camp out at the beach on Bear Island, NC! Bear Island is a primitive barrier island with stunning views and huge sand dunes (photo). The youth will take a ferry to the island from Hammocks Beach State Park in Swansboro, leaving civilization behind for a weekend of fellowship and communing with nature. Let Anne know ([anne@upucc.org](mailto:anne@upucc.org)) asap if you're planning to join in the fun!



**See page 10 for photos of recent youth and children's activities!**

## Orientation Meeting for Children's Church & Nursery Teachers & Assistants

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

**Please let Peg know which session you will attend.** [peg@upucc.org](mailto:peg@upucc.org)

**Sunday September 10** 9:30-10:15 a.m.

**Sunday, September 17** 11:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

### ***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.

## Move Up Sunday Sept. 17

Children & Youth will be recognized during worship as they move up to their new groupings! Registration forms for Children's Church are available on the Children's page on our website [www.upucc.org](http://www.upucc.org) or via email from [peg@upucc.org](mailto:peg@upucc.org)

## Building Bridges

Dear Friends,

Last month, we offered our first vacation Children's Church Camp in three years! We engaged in great fun including a movie shown on the Kristel Sweet Nations viewing screen in the worship space! We shared stories and music. We shared food lovingly prepared by Todd Smith and Rebecca van Dorsten and so many others.

We worked on crafts and paintings and played games with youth assisting. We practiced yoga!

Our service project included collecting and packing school

supplies in bags expertly assembled and sewn by members of the Creativity Group.

Fifty people were part of our camp, plus another two dozen or more people who donated school supplies and food.

A huge THANK YOU to you all! Let's do it again next summer!

Peg

## faith in action

### **NC Pride Festival** September 30, 2017

Due to a scheduling conflict that resulted in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual NC Pride Festival taking place on the same date as Yom Kippur, this year's festival has been changed to a night festival. On September 30, from 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., street festivals will take place in two locations – Harrington Street in Raleigh and Rigsbee Avenue in Durham. Check the festival website at [www.ncpride.org](http://www.ncpride.org) for a full schedule of events as details will be updated regularly in the coming month.

### **Neighbors in Need Special Offering**



Neighbors in Need (NIN) [www.ucc.org/nin](http://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).

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. Stay tuned for additional information about Neighbors in Need 2017 in the coming weeks.

## membership & publicity

### ***Next Newcomers & Inquirers Session***

...will be held Sunday, September 3, following worship. Membership & Publicity Committee hosts these gatherings in the church library. There is a short presentation of the history of the UCC as well as information about Umstead Park United Church of Christ.

# adult education

## September Forums

**September 3** - Forum will not be held Labor Day weekend.

**September 10** following worship:

“Getting Woke at Wild Goose,” Rev. Dr. William Barber. A video with opportunity for discussion around Rev. Dr. Barber’s rousing speech at Wild Goose 2017. Gina Kentopp hosts.

**September 17** - 9:30 a.m.

“The Nuts and Bolts of Attending Goose.” A discussion led by UPUCers who have attended Wild Goose over the years, offering information for those wanting to learn more.

**September 24** - Forum will not be held due to the **Congregational Meeting & Potluck** that follows worship.

## LGBTQ Informational Workshop Day

Hosted by the Adult Education Committee on **Saturday, November 4**. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. Sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. An assortment of workshops will be offered including (but not limited to):

- Parent Perspectives
- Expanding of the Family
- Legal Issues
- Gender Reassignment Surgery
- Personal Journey Stories
- Equality Now
- LGBT Center of Raleigh
- HIV Research
- Queer Theology



Invitations have been sent to Covenant Partners on Facebook. For more information, please contact Gina Kentopp at [gkentopp@hotmail.com](mailto:gkentopp@hotmail.com).

Due to possible limited seating, please respond to your FB invite or email. Childcare for children age five and under will be offered with advance registration. This event is free (including childcare) and open to the public. Please share with anyone you feel can benefit from this workshop. Contact Gina (or Tricia Andrews at [hockeygalnc@hotmail.com](mailto:hockeygalnc@hotmail.com) for more information.

## building & grounds

### Fall Cleaning & Repairs Day at UPUCC

**SAVE THE DATE** - As promised we will be doing a **Fall Cleaning and Repairs Day at UPUCC**. The date is **Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Plans include a **Todd BBQ Lunch** to follow! (Noon-1:00 p.m.). More details and sign up info will be out soon. Thanks!

## worship & music

### Summer Harvest Celebration -- September 24

Fall is a time of year when we harvest the fruits of our summer. Our personal summer harvest can be many things. All are invited to bring something to place on the altar during worship on **September 24**, an item that symbolizes how a summer has affected your life--a harvest of growth or change. For example:



actual harvests from gardens that you labored in-- tomatoes, flowers, etc.

a shell from the beach, a rock from the woods, or something created at camp or a workshop.

a letter or picture from time spent with someone special, or mementos of family togetherness.

a poem, paintbrush, or piece of music from creative activities...or something new learned, a book read.

a symbol of simply fun... We don't grow only from serious things.

experiences that impact us aren't always happy. I might bring a picture of my mother as losing her was my whole summer...

So, please reflect on your summer and what you have harvested from it. And bring something to place on the altar as part of our worship together (and take home afterward).

*(If you are interested in sharing a bit about your symbol and experiences please contact Doug Long by September 13.)*

*-Eleanor Smith*

## all in the family

### Creativity Group

We appreciate any donations of glue sticks, tubes of glitter glue, and handheld pencil sharpeners. Look for our donation box at the back of the worship space.

We have been busy creating unique Christmas cards. Our selection for ordering large amounts will be on display

Sundays, September 10 and 17. While we will have the cards on display on other Sundays, we urge you to order early. Due to limited supplies for some cards, they may not be available later on. Of course, we will also have one of a kind Christmas cards available later in the year. Our table also will continue to have a variety of hand crafted cards for many different occasions. Please stop by!

Tricia Andrews [hockeygalnc@hotmail.com](mailto:hockeygalnc@hotmail.com)

Linda Hébert [LNHebert1@gmail.com](mailto:LNHebert1@gmail.com)

Gail Holden [gholdennc.rr.com](mailto:gholdennc.rr.com)

Alice Jermyn [adjermyn@rocketmail.com](mailto:adjermyn@rocketmail.com)

Marcia Welsh [homeofwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:homeofwelsh@gmail.com)

# all in the family

## New Covenant Partners

Meredith Pope joined UPUCC because she was looking for a church, after the Presidential election, that matched her political sentiments, was inclusive, and focused on social justice issues. She is a counselor who does canine-assisted therapy. In graduate school, Meredith studied feminist theology. The mother of two children, a daughter in college and a son in high school, Meredith enjoys reading, independent movies, political groups and DOGS!



**Meredith Pope**



**Jennifer & Andrew Crisman-Kleczek**

Jennifer and Andrew Crisman-Kleczek were drawn to the United Church of Christ for different reasons. Jennifer, ever consistent, grew up in and attended Downer's Grove First Congregational United Church of Christ for her entire childhood, where her parents attend still. Andrew grew up in an itinerant and sometimes confusing household attending the church d'jour. Some weeks they were Episcopalians, other times, Baptists. They went to an Assembly of God church once. Eventually Andrew met and roomed with a seminarian who introduced him to the UCC.

Jennifer teaches high school math and especially enjoys statistics, though she refuses to do any for softball. She has a masters degree from NC State in Instructional Technology. Andrew works with people with autism and disabilities at a crisis center. He previously was part of a L'Arche community.

Jennifer and Andrew, despite having lived in different parts of the country for the last decade, still consider themselves cultural Big 10 Midwesterners. Though Andrew is definitely a Red Sox fan, as his living there correlated with their success. (Something Jennifer, as lifelong Cubs fan, makes fun of.)

## Garden Space Task Force

The Garden Task Force has met to discuss plans for designing our outdoor space at UPUCC. The spaces being considered are what is currently referred to as the "loading dock area" (outside the worship space large windows) as well as much of the wooded area between the church building and Glenwood Avenue. 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. Watch for an upcoming survey designed to receive your ideas.

Mary Pat Peters

Betsy Thigpen

Sandy Ceppos

Peg Arcari

Marcia Welsh

Chris Ousley

# upucc september volunteers

## September 3- Labor Day Weekend

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith  
Communion Prep: Betty Gatano  
Coffee Set-Up: Leslie Heavey  
Greeters: Nick & Gina Kentopp  
Ushers: Matt & Rebecca Andrews  
Sound System: Frank McKay  
Auditor: Tim Champion  
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell  
Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Tracy Denson, Melissa  
& Ethan Russell, Mark & Melanie Stevens

## September 10

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey  
Coffee Set-Up: Roberta Ouellette  
Greeters: Chris Ousley, Ada McKerrell  
Ushers: Scott & Renate Andrews  
Sound System: Scott Andrews  
Auditor: Gwen Vass  
Assistant Treasurer: Lee Harrison  
Clean-Team: Dawn McCarthy, Chris Wilms, Marcia Welsh,  
Mary Pat Peters

## September 17

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith  
Coffee Set-Up: Sarah Sydney & Jim Gattis  
Greeters: Marianne Drexler, Ada McKerrell  
Ushers: TJ & Justine Price-O'Neil  
Sound System: Nevin Fouts  
Auditor: Martha Eller  
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Ousley  
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris  
Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrell

## September 24-Congregational Meeting

Altar Prep: Michael Lester  
Coffee Set-Up: Rebecca van Dorsten  
Greeters: Jamye & Chris Abram  
Ushers: Bonnie Shook-Sa and Gustavo Sa  
Sound System: Chris Abram  
Auditor: Frank McKay  
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell  
Clean-Team: Carol & Nevin Fouts, Scott Pope,  
Doug Long & Janice Odom

# all in the family

## BUILDING BRIDGES CHILDREN'S CHURCH CAMP



**Youth (and young at heart!) living it up at Frankie's Fun Park.**

*Delight in humor and, through joyous celebration, savor the goodness of life.*

# our wider community

the  
justice theater  
project



## "A Soldier's Play" by Charles Fuller

October 13 - 29, 2017

Umstead Park United Church of Christ  
8208 Brownleigh Drive, Raleigh 27617

TICKETS on sale now. [CLICK HERE](#)

# upucc september calendar

Sun.	Sept. 3	10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion: "Laboring On (...in the era of Trump)," Doug Long preaching. 12:00 p.m. Newcomers & Inquirers Session in the library. 12:00 p.m. UPUCC Advocacy Group meets in the EC Conference Room.
Tues.	Sept. 5	9:30-11:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	Sept. 6	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	Sept. 9	9:00 a.m. Youth depart for Bear Island Camping Trip. See page four. 10:00 a.m. Meditation Group meets in the library.
Sun.	Sept 10	9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time. Childcare provided. 9:30 a.m. Children's Church Teacher Orientation & Safe Church Policy Review. See page four. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "I'm not arguing here, I'm just explaining why I'm right' (The Sacred Art of Listening)" Following worship Forum: "Getting Woke at Wild Goose." See page six. 2:00 p.m. Youth return from Bear Island Camping Trip.
Mon.	Sept. 11	6:30 p.m. Evening Creativity Group meets in the library
Wed.	Sept. 13	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	Sept. 16	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sanctuary Matters Workshop at United Church Chapel Hill. See page two. 9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
Sun.	Sept. 17	9:30 a.m. Forum: "The Nuts and Bolts of Attending Goose." See page six. 10:30 a.m. Worship: Christian Education (Move-Up Sunday) "When Does Our Theological Education End?" 12:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee meets in the library. 12:00 p.m. Children's Church Teacher Orientation & Safe Church Policy Review. See page four. 2:00-5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Matters Workshop at Community UCC Raleigh. See page two.
Tues.	Sept. 19	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library. 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets in the library.
Wed.	Sept. 20	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	Sept. 21	Midnight UPUCC October Newsletter deadline.
Sun.	Sept. 24	10:30 a.m. Worship: "Summer Harvest," Doug Long preaching. See page seven. Following worship Congregational Meeting and Potluck.
Mon.	Sept. 26	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman for details.
Wed.	Sept. 27	7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	Sept. 30	9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. UPUCC Cleaning Day. See page seven.