

# umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

*a thoughtful and progressive community of faith*

April 2023

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

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

## A Visual Collage from our Strategic Visioning Weekend (March 18, 19)

(The Strategic Visioning Task Force is now compiling a report of your comprehensive ideas and opinions, hopefully to be presented to the Coordinating Council ahead of their April meeting!!)



## Some April Highlights inside this Newsletter-

- Tyler Ung to preach, Palm Sunday, April 2nd
- Easter Sunday, April 9, Children's Egg Hunt (p.5) and Adult Fellowship follows Worship
- April 16 Forum- following worship by Steve Case on one of his most recent books, "F\*\*k Death- Hardcore Grief Recovery: An Honest Guide to Getting Through Grief without the Condolences, Sympathy, and Other BS " See p. 3.
- April 23 Earth Day Clean UP(UCC)! See p. 6.
- Also, Joanne Kennedy Frazer's New Book (Seasonings) presented at UPUCC. See p. 7.
- April 30th Potluck and Spring Congregational Meeting follows worship
- And a job posting from our Personnel Committee that will undoubtedly shape the life of our community. See p. 4



### Music History

I never took a course in Music History, but I've lived through a quarter century of music here at UPUCC. Music has always been important among us. Truth be told, we've always been pretty good at it! (...if I may say so myself!) From the Congolese Choir that jump started us at our opening worship to the quickly emerging excellent choir of our own folk ...we've had children's choirs along the way and even a sizeable youth choir at one juncture that took their show on the road. (Just this past week I heard the youth choir was accompanied by Donnie and Marie! ...ask Sheila.)

Though I can't summarize our entire music history here, I do want to emphasize a part of it that is pertinent to our present ...and future, as it *plays* out. It has much to do with the instruments we have used and those who have *accompanied* us along the way.

There have been multiple accompanists at UPUCC... too many to name all. Among them, 4 very gifted musicians have covered about 80% of our 24 years: Sheila Alderman (mostly as an unpaid volunteer), John Neves, Wayne Thompson, and David Wilson. As the rest of this column will explain, they've 'made do' with a spectrum of instruments along the way.

Last week, working through some of the history of our community, I came across this reflection I wrote in January 2000 when we still met at Durant Road Middle School.

"We had been, every Sunday morning, rolling a battered, always out of tune piano with a missing wheel, from inside one of the adjacent band rooms into the auditorium. Some of the teachers at the school had indicated we were, in our hour of worship, abusing this instrument which was otherwise lovingly cared for 5 days a week, 6 hours a day by several hundred 11 to 14 year olds. (*Yes, I'm being a bit sarcastic here.*) On Sunday morning, January 16th, another relatively young UCC congregation, Hillsborough UCC, presented us with a check for \$2000 specifically so we could buy a keyboard to enhance the music among us."

What made that moment truly holy was that I knew Hillsborough had no financial surplus. This was an unsolicited gift of pure love. (The takeaway: By undeserved acts of generosity and care, we have been thoroughly supported throughout our life as a congregation.)

Fast-forward ahead 12 years to late 2012. There's a longer story here but Wayne Thompson and Ed Carpp (Ed was then chair of our Worship and Music Committee and an accompanist extraordinaire himself) were searching high and low for a permanent piano for our ever-evolving music. We knew we were in trouble, good trouble, when Ed located an exceptional Steinway in Florida. He and Wayne drove down to test it out and came back elated. A Steinway! (Our taste had evolved quite a bit since the three-wheeled upright at the middle school!) Of course, there was the ever-present question... how could we afford it? In stepped Steve Zetts and the wider family of John Wilder who purchased the Steinway in loving memory of John. (Earlier that year, John had succumbed to an aggressive cancer.)



Fast-forward 10 more years. Even a Steinway needs work every 50 years or so. As *our* Steinway is almost 100 years old, it's due ...and both fortunately and unfortunately, the funds are available from the bequest Wayne Thompson left us. (Wayne died, also from an aggressive cancer, in Aug. 2019.)

At our March Coordinating Council meeting, a motion was made, discussed and approved to start the piano rebuild this summer. The eventual work will stabilize this grand instrument for decades to come. The further story is that the gifts of John's and Wayne's legacies will continue to resound among us.

...and we give thanks to God.

Doug



**Dedication plate on  
our UPUCC Steinway**

# adult education

**April Forums** in person or online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83482803068?pwd=TFF2eXdCd2JQdGdNOHdMOGFtTmdKUT09>

**-April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 am– An Inconvenient Gospel: The Life & Theology of Clarence Jordan** You might be familiar with Clarence Jordan through his impact on the development of Habitat for Humanity. Maybe you’ve heard of him through Harry Chapin’s musical based on his work, or through reading or hearing of portions of his Cotton Patch Gospel – referenced by Doug throughout the years during worship. Join us as we watch a short video on the life of this American farmer, New Testament scholar, and author. In addition to discussing his work, we’ll consider what it means to re-tell the story of Jesus in meaningful ways, and the challenges of being a progressive Christian in the American South.

**-April 9<sup>th</sup> – NO FORUM (Easter)**



**-April 16<sup>th</sup> – Forum takes place *AFTER* worship.** Join us for this special after worship forum with new Covenant Partner Steve Case, who will be giving a presentation about his book, *“F\*\*\*k Death- Hardcore Grief Recovery: An Honest Guide to Getting Through Grief without the Condolences, Sympathy, and Other BS.”* Steve has been invited to speak about this book with a group of psychologists and scholars at Tulane University as part of their “Grand Rounds” lecture series, and will be providing us with a sneak preview of this presentation. Steve’s book is an honest, unflinching

look at grief –often using strong language to guide the reader through the five traditional stages of grief. It is a grief book that “tells you it’s ok to not be ok and will never say ‘it all happens for a reason.’” Steve will share his experiences dealing with grief as a youth pastor, what led him to write the book, and walk us through some journaling exercises. *Please note – the book and presentation will contain adult language* when discussing grief.

Learn more about Steve’s book at Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/Hardcore-Grief-Recovery-Condolences-Sympathy/dp/1728231671/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=26AB21X5ZCRSU&keywords=fk+death+steve+case&qid=1678638969&srefix=%2Caps%2C80&sr=8\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/Hardcore-Grief-Recovery-Condolences-Sympathy/dp/1728231671/ref=sr_1_1?crid=26AB21X5ZCRSU&keywords=fk+death+steve+case&qid=1678638969&srefix=%2Caps%2C80&sr=8_1)

**-April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am - UPUCC and the Environment** Creation care is an integral part of our Covenant. On this Earth Day weekend, we want to take the time to review the various ways that UPUCC is working on environmental justice and creation care issues. Our actions have an impact! Join us to hear about this impact, and feel free to share any actions you are taking individually, as well. (After worship Earth Day Event! See page 6.)

**-April 30<sup>th</sup> – NO FORUM (Congregational Meeting)**



## **Monday Night Lenten Book Study Continues Through April 17th at 7 pm online**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87434088472?pwd=OTNfNkhpWTlBdmRxL1o0TVUvK0FuZz09>

We will continue our online study focusing on the Amy-Jill Levine book, *Witness at the Cross*, Mondays at 7 pm online.

Published in December 2021, this book is widely available. However, it’s not necessary to purchase and read the book to participate in the study. The text we’ll be discussing will also include some gospel accounts (see below). After reviewing and discussing the relevant chapter each week, we watch a 15-minute video from the author providing additional background for further discussion. Please join us as we wrestle with what it means to be “witnesses at the cross.”

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Beloved Disciple (Chapter 4),** with scenes from John 13:21-26, 33-35, John 19:25-27, and John 21:20-24

**April 10<sup>th</sup> – The Women (Chapter 5),** with scenes from Luke 8:1-3 and 23:27-31

**April 17<sup>th</sup> – Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus (Chapter 6),** with scenes from Mark 15:42-46; John 19:38-42



## adult education continued ...

### Saturday Meditation Group

...meets most 1st Saturdays of the month online at 10 am.

Contact Joanne Kennedy Frazer [jkennedyfrazer@aol.com](mailto:jkennedyfrazer@aol.com) if you would like to be part of this experience.

### Tuesday Book Group

...meets every other Tuesday online (Next meeting- April 11 at 6 pm). Contact Kathy Dobbs

[kdcorgi56@gmail.com](mailto:kdcorgi56@gmail.com)

## personnel - position opening

### *Applications being accepted for* **UPUCC Office & Communications Administrator**

Umstead Park UCC is presently searching for an energetic, motivated, and organized individual to serve as our Office and Communications Administrator on a part-time basis. Primary job responsibilities include general office duties, publishing weekly church-wide email, monthly newsletter, and calendar, serving as primary liaison with other building owners and tenants, coordination with volunteers, church committees and staff, monitoring and updating the church's website and social media accounts, assuring consistent and coordinated messaging across all communication platforms, coordinate campaigns that attract people to worship and events.

A bachelor's degree or similar combination of education and experience are preferred as well as skills in marketing and communications. Application deadline: Open until position is filled.

Please contact Gail Holden, Chair Personnel Committee, if you have any questions or are interested in the position. Gail's contact information is: [gailwholden@gmail.com](mailto:gailwholden@gmail.com) email 919-618-4058 mobile

*Click here for complete [position](#) description.*

*-Call forth and nurture our individual and collective creative gifts;  
-Delight in humor and, through joyous celebration, savor the  
goodness of life.*

## youth

We have some great things in store this month!

Easter Sunday has an opportunity for the youth to help with the Children's Egg Hunt after the service, and then we'll throw a little Easter party of our own.

If you are interested in watching the Justice Theater Project's April show, "Tiny Beautiful Things," please let me know! We have reserved tickets for the 3 pm showing on April 16.

We will join in with the church's Earth Day projects on April 23, with details to come! I'm really excited for the chance to help give back to our natural home together.

And finally, there may be an opportunity to have some fun with our UCC friends from Community, Elon, and Pilgrim - keep your eyes peeled!

In peace,  
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## Upcoming YOUTH EVENTS

2 April	Youth Group @ UPUCC
9 April	Easter Party @ UPUCC
16 April	"Tiny Beautiful Things" @ Theater Raleigh Studio
23 April	Earth Day Cleanup
30 April	Youth Group @ UPUCC



## children



**CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

APRIL 2	Palm Procession during Children's Welcome	
APRIL 9	Easter Egg Hunt after Sunday worship	
APRIL 23	Earth Day Activity - wear something that can get dirty!	

### April Activities for Children & Families

We have some fun things in store! Join us Sunday (4/2) for the procession of palms, Easter Sunday (4/9) for an Easter Egg Hunt following the worship service- and be sure to wear some work/play clothes on Earth Sunday (4/23) for an outdoor activity!

As our attendance continues to grow, we are looking for more volunteers to help with Children's Church. If you are interested in teaching, we would love to have you! If that sounds like it might be too much or too intimidating, we also need assistants! Your presence and help would be a gift to our children and families.

Tyler ([tyler@upucc.org](mailto:tyler@upucc.org))

# faith in action



**Sunday Apr. 23**  
**after worship!**

## UPUCC Brownleigh Clean-up & Garden Work Day-April 23 Earth Day Weekend

To celebrate Earth Day Weekend and show our commitment to creation care, we will have a Brownleigh Clean-up and Garden Work Day following worship on Apr. 23. Bring a sack lunch and join crews that will pick up trash along Brownleigh Drive, as well as perform needed tasks in the UPUCC garden. Join us for a time of fun and faith in action! Look for sign-up sheets in the atrium prior to worship, or email Renate Andrews ([rma8805@gmail.com](mailto:rma8805@gmail.com)) or Anthony Neff ([anthonerd@gmail.com](mailto:anthonerd@gmail.com)) with questions or to volunteer.

## Bring Your Compostables to Church!

Faith in Action continues to offer a church composting ministry with [Compost Now](#). In addition to compostable waste generated at the church, we encourage members to “bring your compostable waste to church” and add it to the bins. Our monthly Impact Reports show how we’re helping the environment. Questions? See: [What is Compostable?](#) [What’s Safe to Compost?](#)



**Why are we doing this?** Composting reduces materials going into landfills, reduces greenhouse gases (especially methane), replaces energy intensive fertilizers and pesticides, and increases soil’s carbon storing ability. By using an industrial composter we will be able to compost all foods and several hard-to-compost materials, such as meat/bones/fish, paper food packaging, and pizza boxes.

**What happens next?** Compost Now donates compost to local garden partners in the Triangle, including the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC, Interfaith Food Shuttle, Raleigh City Farm, Urban Ministries of Wake County, and several schools in Durham, Orange and Wake counties.

**What’s the catch?** Compost Now is a service, so there is an associated cost of \$130/month. If you’d like to help offset the cost, please consider making a donation either on-line <https://www.upucc.org/getting-involved/giving> or in the offering basket (check made out to UPUCC, memo line ‘compost now’).



## Creativity Group

Thank you for your continued support of our card ministry. Because of your generosity along with The Justice Theater Project performance attendees, we have received over \$500 since our January report. Those funds will be put to good use as we continue our donations to the UPUCC Operating Fund and to the UCC Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund. Please check out our table and continue to patronize it. We even have a couple of card bunny baskets! *It is getting to be time for those Easter cards!*

Michele Van Note [mdv31616@gmail.com](mailto:mdv31616@gmail.com) Linda Hébert [lnhebert1@gmail.com](mailto:lnhebert1@gmail.com)

Gail Holden [gailwholden@gmail.com](mailto:gailwholden@gmail.com) Alice Jermyn [adjermyn@rocketmail.com](mailto:adjermyn@rocketmail.com)

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

## new book of poetry by joanne kennedy frazer



Covenant Partner Joanne Kennedy Frazer will introduce her newest poetry book, *Seasonings*, in the UPUCC worship space on **Sunday, April 23 at 3 pm**. One third of any sales will be donated to UPUCC for our eco-justice/climate change ministry. All are welcome!

Of her book, one reviewer wrote: "Joanne Kennedy Frazer's poems season the reader like pepper seasons scrambled eggs. She, a keen observer of nature and culture, offers a feast for the senses, including the conscience. Her poetry is motivated by human compassion, humane compassion. Each poem allows the reader to discover his or her truths. When the light in Joanne's poetry shines on you, breathe it in, absorb it." -Jo Barbara Taylor, author of *High Ground* and *How to Come and Go*.

## the justice theater project

### Two JTP Upcoming Shows at Offsite Locations

...but not to be missed! Complete details at

<http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/2223-season-rising-like-a-phoenix>



#### Tiny, Beautiful Things

**April 13-23** Writer Cheryl Strayed becomes an accidental online dating columnist who draws from her own life to help thousands of readers navigate life, love, grief, and forgiveness. TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS is about reaching when you're stuck, recovering when you're broken, and finding the courage to ask the questions that are hardest to answer or have no answers to.

Contains strong language and adult content. Limited seating.

Venue: Theatre Raleigh Studio. 3027 Barrow Drive, Raleigh 27617

#### The Dead Man

**May 17-21** World War 1. A Jewish community gathers in the rubble of their destroyed synagogue to debate how to begin to rebuild their lives. THE DEAD MAN is a timeless story of heartbreak and strength, and its relevance to today's global moment is striking. "The play focuses on a traumatized community trying to move forward," said O'Brien. "Together, they chip through the darkness by not shying away from their collective horror."

Ages: 16+

Venue: Raleigh-Cary Jewish Community Center 12804 Norwood Rd, Raleigh, NC 27613

Sholem Asch's  
*The Dead Man*  
Translated By Caraid O'Brien



STAGED READINGS: May 17, 18 And 21, 2023

**JTP returns to UPUCC for the June 9-25 performances of the musical *Urinetown*.**



# upucc april calendar

Sat.	April 1	10 am	Meditation Group online. Contact Joanne Kennedy Frazer <a href="mailto:jkennedyfrazer@aol.com">jkennedyfrazer@aol.com</a>
Sun.	April 2	9 am	Forum: An Inconvenient Gospel. See page 3.
		10:30 am	Palm Sunday & Communion: Tyler Ung preaching.
		Following worship	Newcomers & Inquirers Session in the atrium conference room.
		12 pm	Advocacy Task Force in the library.
		12 pm	Youth Group. See page 5.
		1 pm	Faith In Action Committee online
Mon.	April 3	7 pm	Lenten Book Study. See page 3.
Tues.	April 4	9:30 am	Creativity Group in the library.
		6:15 pm	Membership & Publicity Committee online.
		7 pm	Peer Support Group. Contact Nevin Fouts <a href="mailto:nevinworld@gmail.com">nevinworld@gmail.com</a>
Wed.	April 5	7 pm	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	April 6	6 pm	Game Night in the library.
Sun.	April 9	10:30 am	<b>Easter Worship: "Jesus: 2023," Children's Egg Hunt and Adult Fellowship follow in the garden.</b>
		12 pm	Youth Easter Party. See page 5.
Mon.	April 10	7 pm	Lenten Book Study. See page 3.
Tues.	April 11	6 pm	Book Group online. Contact Kathy Dobbs <a href="mailto:kdcorgi56@gmail.com">kdcorgi56@gmail.com</a>
Wed.	April 12	7 pm	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	April 15	6 pm	Game Night in the library. Contact Scott Pope <a href="mailto:scottpope11@gmail.com">scottpope11@gmail.com</a>
Sun.	April 16	10:30 am	<b>Worship: "If the Future is God's"</b>
		Following worship	<b>Forum: Steve Case's Book Presentation in the library. See page 3.</b>
		12:30 pm	Adult Ed Committee online.
		3 pm	<b>Youth attend JTP "Tiny Beautiful Things"</b>
Mon.	April 17	7 pm	Lenten Book Study. See page 3.
Tues.	April 18	9:30 am	Creativity Group in the library.
Wed.	April 19	5:30 pm	Fellowship Committee at Gizmo.
		7 pm	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	April 20	6 pm	Coordinating Council: Incoming Council meets with Outgoing Council online.
Sat.	April 22	9 am	CSA Delivery in the UPUCC parking lot.
Sun.	April 23	9 am	Forum: UPUCC and the Environment. See page 3.
		10:30 am	<b>Worship: "Our Inescapable Connection," Earth Day Clean UP(UCC) follows! See page 6.</b>
		12 pm	Cash Bail Reform Discussion Group
		12 pm	Youth Earth Day Cleanup. See page 5.
		3 pm	Joanne Kennedy Frazer New Book in the worship space. See page 7.
Tues.	April 25	6 pm	Book Group online. Contact Kathy Dobbs <a href="mailto:kdcorgi56@gmail.com">kdcorgi56@gmail.com</a>
Wed.	April 26	7 pm	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	April 29	9 am	CSA Delivery in the UPUCC parking lot.
Sun.	April 30	10:30 am	<b>Worship: "This Place of Belonging"</b>
		Following worship	UPUCC Congregational Meeting & Potluck in the worship space.
		12 pm	Youth Group. See page 5.