

Office Hours: UCCH Pastoral Staff

Susan Steinberg
Acting Head of Staff & Associate Pastor for
Faith Formation - ssteinberg@unitedchurch.org
Direct Line: 919-338-7919
Tues-Fri (9 am to 5 pm); Sunday mornings

David Mateo
Associate Pastor of Outreach & Language Ministries
dmateo@unitedchurch.org - **Direct Line: 919-338-7912**
Mon- Thurs (8:30 am to 1:30 pm); Sunday mornings

Nick Carter
Pastor of Worship and Stewardship
ncarter@unitedchurch.org - **Direct Line: 919-338-7917**
Tues (9 am to 5 pm); Fri (9 am to 5 pm);
Sunday mornings

Alyson "Aly" Breisch
Director of Congregational Care
abreisch@unitedchurch.org **Direct Line: 919-338-7913**
Tuesdays (9 am to 1 pm); Sunday mornings

Office Hours: UCCH Program Staff

Jennifer "Jenny" Anderson
Director of Music Ministry - janderson@unitedchurch.org
Direct Line: 919-338-7918
Mon & Wed (1:30 to 9:30 pm);
Tues-Thurs (10 am to 6 pm), Sundays

Katherine Henderson
Youth Director
khenderson@unitedchurch.org
Tuesdays (9 am to 3 pm); Sunday mornings

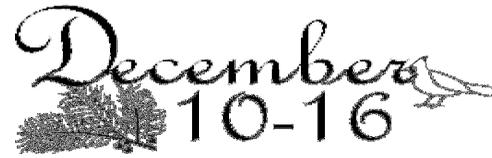
Anitra Grove
Director for Children's Ministry
agrove@unitedchurch.org
Tuesdays (8:30 am to 2:30 pm); Sunday mornings

Office Hours: UCCH Office Staff

Rinnie Orr
Office & Communications Manager
office@unitedchurch.org, **Direct Line: 919-338-7922**
Mon-Thurs (9 am to 5 pm); Fri (9 am to 3 pm)

Claudia Galvez
Administrative Assistant
cgalvez@unitedchurch.org, **Direct Line 919-338-7915**
Mon-Fri (10 am to 2 pm)

Duane Gilbert
Business Manager
dgilbert@unitedchurch.org, **Direct Line: 919-338-7920**
Mon-Fri (1 to 5 pm)



Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 & 11 am Worship - Sanctuary
9 am Children's Choir - Music Room
9 am Bd of Youth/Young Adults - Youth Lounge
10 am Sunday School for all ages

For adults:

Adult Forum - Fellowship Hall
Sacred Conversation on Race - Room 235
Spiritual Growth - Conference Room
Faith and Family - Family Parlor

For youth:

Senior High - Room 163
Middle School - Youth Room
Confirmation Class - Room 161

For children:

Pre-K- Room 124
Kindergarten-Room 123,
1st-2nd Grade -Room 119
3rd Grade- Room 122
4th-5th grade -Room 111
10 am ONA Meeting - Room 229
11:15 am La Mesa - Assembly Hall
12:15 pm Youth Choir - Music Room
1:30 pm Voice for Life - Music Room
7 pm Taize Worship Service - Sanctuary

Monday, December 11

12 pm Monday Noon Book Group - Library
6 pm Bronze Voices - Music Room
6:30 pm Women's Christmas Party - Langelier
7 pm Earth Ministries - Room 229

Wednesday, December 13

7 am Bible Study - Library
5:30 pm Church Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Music Room

Thursday, December 14

5 pm UCCH serves dinner at IFC Community
Kitchen
7:30 pm Chamber Singers - Music Room

Friday, December 15

9:15 am Yoga - Fellowship Hall
11 am Meditation Group - Library

Saturday, December 16

3 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
3:45 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
4 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary



United Church of Chapel Hill
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

This Week - December 10, 2017 GOD IS STILL SPEAKING,



**Today is the Second
Sunday of Advent**

Morning Worship 8:45 & 11 am

Reverend Nick Carter preaching. Music: Youth
Choir, Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells. Lighting
the Advent candle.
La Mesa 11:15 am— Reverend David Mateo preach-
ing.

Adult Forum: Mental Health Discussion

(10 am, Fellowship Hall)
The holiday season is a time full of joy, cheer, par-
ties, and family gatherings. However, for some peo-
ple, this season and events in today's world may
evoke stress, anxiety, and depression.

Join us in a conversation that will highlight
United Church's newly formed mental health sup-
port group, UCC's Mental Health Network's WISE
Congregation initiative (Welcoming, Inclusive, Sup-
portive, and Engaged for Mental Health), Mental
Health First Aid, and mental health resources.

Sacred Conversations on Race (10 am, Room 235)

SCOR will be joined by representatives from Youth
Ministries to celebrate the good things already hap-
pening and to brainstorm ways in which our Racial
Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Covenant can be
further integrated into work by and with our youth.
Everyone is welcome to join the conversation,
whether to learn, to contribute, or both. We'd love to
hear your ideas!

A similar brainstorming conversation will be held
with the Deacons/Music (Dec. 17) and other groups
in the new year. Please join us.

**Youth event: Annual Youth Christmas Party
& Brunch (11 am - 12 pm)**

Middle and high school youth will gather in the
Youth Wing downstairs for our annual Christmas
party.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to attend the Congregational
Meeting TODAY at 12:15 pm in the
Sanctuary.

Agenda items:

- Stewardship update
- 2018 UCCH Annual Budget

Please plan to join us as we plan our future
together.

Your moderators,

Alecia Brower and Gaylen Brubaker

Taizé Advent Service

(7 pm, Sanctuary)
Taizé is a style of Christian
worship that originated in
Taizé, France, some 75 years
ago. It is woven with
Christian song and chants,
interspersed with prayerful
silence, scripture reading,
more song, more prayer, and
more silence.



The effect is profound and takes one deeper, beyond
intellect, into the very heart of worship. Be prepared
to walk away from the experience refreshed,
renewed, and at peace. You will find that Taizé
worship will satisfy the longing of your heart to be
filled with God's presence.

DECEMBER 17
Third Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship

Reverend Susan Steinberg preaching. Music: Chamber Singers. Lighting the Advent candle. La Mesa 11:15 am— Reverend David Mateo preaching.

Cookies for the Community
(10 am, Fellowship Hall)

The Board of Children's Ministries invites all households to bring two dozen or more undecorated sugar cookies to church. We'll provide the icing and sprinkles. We'll share our finished creations with residents of Project Homestart, the IFC Community Kitchen, and Charles House.



Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols (4:30 pm)

Music: Children's, Youth and Chancel Choirs, and Bronze Voices Handbell Choir with flute, piano and organ. Traditional and new carols will highlight Christ's Peace coming into our world.

Hear the Christmas story told in word and song in this traditional worship service, first celebrated in Cornwall, England, on Christmas Eve in 1880, and later made famous through annual worldwide radio and television broadcasts from Kings College, Cambridge. The Christmas story unfolds through readings from Genesis, Isaiah, and the Gospels. After each reading, carols and hymns are sung that reflect the message of the reading. Candles symbolize the light of Christ.

UVoP Christmas Concert (6:30 pm)

Come to the Fisher Memorial United Holy Church and become a part of The Christmas Spirit, as the Fisher Memorial church choirs and the United Voices of Praise sing an evening of traditional and popular Christmas songs.

Fisher Memorial United Holy Church
420 E Piedmont Ave, Durham, NC 27707
is on the corner of Fayetteville and Piedmont in Durham.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21
Longest Night Worship Service (7 pm)



Aly Breisch and Susan Steinberg will preside. Music will feature UCCH soloists.

Long, dark winter nights, even during the Christmas season, can be overwhelming for those who are in mourning or in pain of any kind. For some, this time of year can be the loneliest of all times.

We invite those who long for community and quiet worship to join us for this service of gentle music, candle-lit prayer, scriptural reflection and the spiritual food of communion.

New Year's Eve Benefit Concert



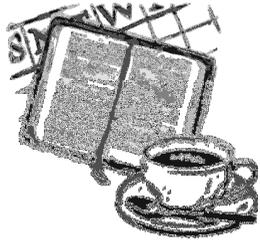
Spend New Year's Eve with the
Bradshaw Quartet & Friends

The Bradshaw Quartet was founded in 2003 to further extend the musical fellowship they enjoy as the United Voices of Praise Gospel Choir rhythm section. Charles Bradshaw (keyboards), Matthew Busch (tenor and soprano saxophone), Brad Kintner (upright and fretless bass), and Odessa Shaw (drums) each bring more than 20 years of musical experience and training from a broad range of musical styles.

The quartet brings this diverse knowledge, from swing dance to R+B top 40, from classical to funk to gospel, to form a jazz ensemble capable of looking beyond the standards for inspiration. The quartet will be showcasing selected jazz standards, new interpretations of R+B and pop classics, and original compositions.

Concert to Benefit the Interfaith Council
Start your evening with a concert extending a hand to those in need through the Interfaith Council.

7 pm at United Church of Chapel Hill



On Wednesday mornings from 7 to 8 am in the church library, join our Bible Study Group to read and reflect on Sunday's Bible texts.

To be discussed on Wed., December 13

Dec. 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28
John the Baptist describes his ministry as one of preparation for God's Messiah.

To be discussed on Wed., December 20

Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14
All prepare for the baby.



It's early, but we make the coffee.

(We can also make tea.)

Hope you'll join us!

From the UCCH Library

For additional perspectives on today's readings, check out the following:

- Trotter, F.T. Guess who's coming! In *God Is With Us*, p41-43. 263.1 Tro G
- Levine, A.-J. John the Baptist. In *Great Figures of the New Testament, Part 1*. (Great Courses.) 225.9 Lev G Part 1 CD
- Taylor, B.B. Saving space. In *Mixed Blessings*, p26-29. 252 Tay M
- Wells, S. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. In *Be Not Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith*, p49-54. 248.8 Wel B
- Bechtel, C.M. Comfort, comfort my people. In *Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah*, p9-16. 783.301 Bec H
- Stapert, C.R. Scene 1. In *Handel's Messiah: Comfort for God's People*, p89-92. 783.301 Sta H
- Marshall, E.O. Practicing imagination. In *Choosing Peace through Daily Practices*, p65-85. 248.4 Mar C
- Williams, R. The peace dividend. In *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief*, p81-103. 230 Wil T
- McKnight, S. Peace.Life. In *One.Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow*, p73-82. 248.4 McK O
- Newell, J.P. Rediscovering an older unity. In *A New Harmony: The Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Soul*, p132-149. 248 New N
- Gulley, P. Peace would be more important than power. In *If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus*, p139-155. 261.1 Gul I

A volunteer, Betsy Crittenden, will be available in the library, 10:00-11:00, to assist you in finding these materials or other items of interest to you. At other times, please serve yourself.

Time for Fellowship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

UCCH Women's Holiday Potluck (6:30 pm)



On Monday, December 11, at 6:30 pm, Pat Langelier has graciously agreed to host the women's Christmas party. The Christmas party is a fun annual time of fellowship for all women of UCCH (not just the Monday night group).

We will share a potluck dinner, then play "Yankee Swap" with the exchange of gifts. The gifts should cost no more than \$10 or so - people often bring something with a Christmas theme, but this is not required.

Please contact the church office for Pat's address.

Christmas Party With St. Nick & Musical Guests



Wednesday, December 13 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Heavy "hors d'oeuvres" served at 5:30 pm. Carol singing and Santa beginning at 6 pm.

Please bring desserts to share - preferably cookies and "finger friendly" desserts.

Music provided by UCCH Brass Ensemble, and special guests: Greg Milton (Duke Gospel Choir director) and our own Soteria Shepperson will perform on piano and vocals respectively.



And... we have a very special guest coming from far away.

"Ho Ho Ho"

DECEMBER 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship

NO 8:45 am service.

10 am Carol Sing & Las Posadas - Please join in as a singer or instrumentalist as our Christmas Orchestra leads us in a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols and songs in the Sanctuary. Instrumentalists are asked to bring their own stand. Music is provided!

“Las Posadas,” is a Mexican tradition that recalls the pilgrimage of Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay on Christmas Eve. In addition to music, the celebration includes traditional foods from Mexico and Central America. Everyone is invited and can add to the festivities by bringing a dessert, tamales or a hot drink to share.

11 am worship - Reverend Nick Carter preaching. Music: Soloists, Candace Marles and Benjamin Sallard, soprano and trombone

11:15 am La Mesa - Reverend David Mateo preaching.

Christmas Eve Worship

Children’s Service (4 pm) - This lively service includes carols, an interactive reading of the nativity story and communion. We'll provide nativity costumes for angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and the magi (wise boys and girls). If your child would enjoy being one of the animals at the manger, he or she may wear their own costume. Donkeys, sheep and cows or your child's animal of choice are welcome! Music provided by Children's Choir and Soloists.

Children are invited to bring an inexpensive baby gift for Jesus (bibs, spoons, lotions, diapers), which will be given to families of newborns in need. Following the service, we'll move to Fellowship Hall for a birthday party for Jesus. Cake and punch will be served.

Readers, ushers, communion servers, musicians, and volunteers to help with the birthday party are needed. For more information, contact Anitra Grove, agrove@unitedchurch.org.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7 pm) - Reverend Susan Steinberg preaching. Music: Chamber Singers

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (9 pm) - Reverend Susan Steinberg preaching. Music: Chancel Choir and Youth Choir



Connect at United Church Through Church Directories

2017 PHOTO DIRECTORY Now Available

This past August, United Church members and friends had their photos taken for our Church Photo Directory. If you/your family had your pictures taken, you should have received a hard copy of your directory. Thank you for participating.

If you haven't received a copy of your directory, please let the office know *ASAP*.

Directories are available - ONE per family please - from the church office.

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Also, to stay up-to-date and current, you can access our church's online directory at www.unitedchurch.org.

The online directory comes directly from our church database and is updated on a regular basis. You do need to create an account to use the directory.

If you don't have an account already, please read the steps below on how to access the church's online directory.

- Go to www.unitedchurch.org and click “Church Directory” at the very top of our websites’ homepage to go to the “Sign In” screen.
- Underneath the “Sign in” box it says “Need a login? Click here” You need to make an account to log in. Click on it to take you to the “Account Sign Up” box to register as a directory user.
- Type in your email address, your first name, your last name. Important note: this information has to match what we have in our church database.
- Hit the “Find Me” button.
- “Access ACS” (our on-line directory) will send you a temporary password.
- Immediately getting your temporary password you should then: Go back to the first “Sign In” screen, then type your email or username (first and last name, no spaces).
- Type the temporary password (or cut and paste it) into the first sign in screen.
- Once you are logged into the directory, you will be asked to create your own password for the directory.

Following these steps, you should be able to access the online directory. If you are having problems, please call the church office during office hours for assistance.

Office hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm
Fridays, 9 am to 3 pm

(919) 942-3540
office@unitedchurch.org



2018 FLOWER CALENDAR ONLY

8 MORE SUNDAYS TO FILL

Do any of these following dates have special meaning for you?

- May 20 & 27
- July 15, 22, & 29
- August 5 & 12
- November 18

A friend/family birthday? An anniversary? The passing of a friend or family member to honor.

If so, consider volunteering to provide the flowers for the church altar that enrich our Sunday worship. We have 23 Sundays in 2018 to fill with flowers for our altar.

Volunteers sign-up on the 2018 Flower Calendar, outside the church library. You will get a reminder closer to the date you choose, with options for providing flowers.

We Still Need:

Advent Wreath Candle-lighters for Christmas Eve services (11 am, 4 pm, and 9 pm).

Contact the office at office@unitedchurch.org if you & your family would like to participate as candle lighters.

Soloists (*singers and instrumentalists*)

Here are the services that need your music:

- Dec 21, 7 pm Longest Night Service
- Dec 24, 4 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service (child soloist)
- Dec 31, 11 am First Sunday after Christmas morning worship

Contact Jenny Anderson to offer your music. janderson@unitedchurch.org.

Sunday Morning & Event Parking At United Church

Reserve Closest Parking Spaces for Those Who Need Them!



Since we do not have additional parking spaces next to a sidewalk leading directly inside that qualify to be labelled as "*handicap parking*," we designated three bays of "*Priority Parking*" (the blue signs) across from the exterior doors of the church.

Please help us keep these close-in spaces identified as available for people who must park near an entrance.

Additional parking on Sunday mornings is available from Homestead Drive, next to IFC Community House.

Thank you!

The Journey of Faith 2018 Pledge Update

The United Church 2018 Stewardship Campaign is underway. The early returns are in and the news is good!

So far our business manager, Duane Gilbert, reports we have received 271 pledge commitments for next year.

Generally we expect about 360 pledging households (can be an individual, a couple or a family), so that means we are at about 81% of our goal.

Here's a quick snap-shot:

- Total dollars pledged so far: \$696,960
- % who have increased their pledges: 36%
- Number of pledges that are new this year: 23

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support for our church.

AGM Early Returns

Jenny's Jewels	\$3,576
Prison Ministry	\$5,400
Jammin' for Africa	\$1,300
Church World Service	\$7,602
UCC Identity	\$401
Fellowship Board	\$175
Youth-Poinsettias & Coffee Bar	\$1,758
Water.Org-Gabby Sielken	\$225
Childrens Ministries	\$278
Wag N Purr - Charlotte Crittenden	\$773
Peace Scholarship	\$1,103
Bronze Voices Bake Sale	\$404
Total:	\$22,995

SEASON OF GIVING

Many of us arrive at the end of the calendar year and realize we may have missed a few Sundays and haven't kept up with our pledge to the church. If you would like to know your balance, please contact our business manager, Duane Gilbert, who's in the office from 1 to 5 on weekday afternoons. He will be glad to confirm your balance for you.

Some people meet their pledge commitment by transferring shares of stock to United Church. The Church sells the stock immediately and proceeds are applied to your pledge balance. If you need instructions on how to do this, please contact Duane Gilbert or our Treasurer, Derek Harrison. It is helpful to contact Duane or Derek as well as your broker when transferring shares of stock, when making your transfer so we can be ready for your gift and designation.

At the end and beginning of the year, it is very important to let us know where your gifts should be applied. There are times when people are making a gift towards their pledge for the coming year or making a gift to catch up with a pledge for a past year. And in addition to the operating fund or general fund, there gifts for the capital fund and other projects through the church. You may combine payments in one check or make an online transaction through our website, but we need to know your wishes about how to earmark your donations. Just send us an email to explain.

All stock gifts wishing to be credited for 2017 must be transferred to the UCCH brokerage account on or before December 26, 2017.

Thank you for all the ways you are being generous with your time and your money this season.

Duane Gilbert, dgilbert@unitedchurch.org or 919-338-7920.

OUTREACH EVENTS & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

2017 NATIONWIDE VIGILS AND EVENTS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Thursday, December 14
(7 pm, United Church Sanctuary)

Come together to remember half a million Americans killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy.

Join North Carolinians Against Gun Violence for a vigil at United Church.

At hundreds of locations nationwide, we will give voice to all victims and survivors of gun violence and together help #EndGunViolence in America.

Please contact us at 919-403-7665 or ncgv@ncgv.org with any questions.



BEER AND HYMNS BENEFIT EVENTS TO SUPPORT THE INTERFAITH COUNCIL AND PAWS4VETS

*Sponsored by Chapel of the Cross, Holy Trinity,
United Church of Chapel Hill, and 519 Church*

Two dates and locations:

- **Sunday, December 10**
7:30 pm Linda's, Chapel Hill
- **Sunday, December 17**
7:30 pm Trali, Morrisville

How to help our NEIGHBORS IN NEED



BRING food & personal care items for the IFC Food Pantry offering on Sunday mornings.

BAKE casseroles to be served at Community Kitchen and Homstart. Please help us restock the freezer with casseroles for the IFC Community Kitchen. Grab a casserole dish on the table in the Narthex and fill it with yummy food for us to serve at IFC. Thank you!

BECOME a server. We serve:

- Dinner at IFC Community Kitchen the 2nd Thursday each month.
- Dinner at IFC's Homestart for Women and Children the 3rd Thursday each month (women servers only!)
- Lunch at IFC Community Kitchen the 4th Thursday each month.



To be on our meal-serving team for IFC Community Kitchen and Homestart, leave us your email address and let us know you want to receive our monthly email volunteer signup form.



Bronze Voices Concert, Young Adults, Preschool, and more...

BRONZE VOICES CONCERT Monday, December 18 (7 pm, The Forest at Duke Auditorium)

Bronze Voices Handbell Choir invites you to come to its concert performance at The Forest at Duke retirement community in Durham.



This concert is open to the public and will contain amazing arrangements of favorite Christmas carols. In addition to these glorious songs, the choir will demonstrate the intricate handbell ringing techniques which are used to create the unique sounds that handbells can make. There will be opportunities for questions and answers so you can find answers to burning questions YOU have had about this musical art. Please feel free to join us at this special event!

The address of The Forest at Duke is 2701 Pickett Road / Durham, NC 27705 and the phone number for the facility is 1-800-474-0258. See you there!

MONDAY EVENING WOMEN'S GROUP (7:15 pm, Library)

On Monday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 pm is the annual Christmas Potluck and Gift Exchange at the home of Pat Langelier. All women are welcome. *See page 3 for more information.*



EVENTS FOR 20'S/30'S GROUP AT UNITED CHURCH

Service Project

Join us this Tuesday, December 12, in the church kitchen at 6:30 pm. We are having a casserole making party for the IFC Community Kitchen! We will purchase all the ingredients, and all you need to do is show-up and help us prep.

Sundays in the New Year

We'll start-up our Sunday meetings in January, with the 1st and 3rd Sundays (January 7th and 21st).

For more information, contact Cassie by email: cassandra.leigh.miller@gmail.com; or phone: 641-512-1299.

UNITED CHURCH PRESCHOOL (UCP) NOW ENROLLING FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Yes, it's already time to think about the fabulous preschool that's right downstairs! UCCH members do get preference for enrollment, but only until February.

For more information visit our website www.unitedchurchpreschool.com and/or contact the Director, Mary Glish, at director@unitedchurchpreschool.com.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for your 2, 3 or 4 year old.

2018 UCCH CALENDAR AND COMMENTARY

Dave Otto's calendar this year features the church staff and includes a commentary with much fascinating information about each staff member. If you want a calendar, contact Dave at daveotto41@att.net. The cost is \$10.