

### Office Hours: UCCH Pastoral Staff

**Susan Steinberg** - Acting Head of Staff & Associate Pastor for Faith Formation - [ssteinberg@unitedchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:khenderson@unitedchurch.org)  
Tuesdays (9 am to 3 pm); Sunday mornings

**Anitra Grove** - Director Children's Ministry,  
[agrove@unitedchurch.org](mailto:agrove@unitedchurch.org)  
Tuesdays (9:30 am to 11:30 pm); Sunday mornings

### Office Hours: UCCH Office Staff

**Rinnie Orr** - Office & Communications Manager  
[office@unitedchurch.org](mailto:office@unitedchurch.org), **Direct Line: 919-338-7922**  
Mon-Thurs (9 am to 5 pm); Fri (9 am to 3 pm)  
**Out of Office - January 20-31**

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

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

# February

## 4-10

### Sunday, February 4

8:45 & 11 am Worship - Sanctuary  
9 am Children's Choir - Music Room  
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*  
*20s & 30s Young Adults - Room 229*

For children:

*Pre-K- Room 124*  
*Kindergarten-Room 123,*  
*1st-2nd Grade -Room 119*  
*3rd Grade- Room 122*  
*4th-5th grade -Room 111*

For youth:

*Confirmation Class - Room 161*  
*Middle School - Youth Lounge*  
*Sr High - Room 163*

12:10 pm Youth Choir lunch - Music Room  
12:15 pm Mental Health Support Group - Room 256  
12:30 pm Youth Choir - Music Room  
1:45 pm Voice for Life - Music Room

### Monday, February 5

12 pm Monday Noon Book - Library  
6 pm Bronze Voices - Music Room  
7 pm UVOP Rehearsal - Fisher Memorial Church  
7:15 pm Chancel Bells - Music Room  
7:15 pm Women's Group - Library

### Wednesday, February 7

7 am Bible Study - Library  
5:45 pm "Light Up Your Winter" Dinner  
6:30 pm "Light Up Your Winter" Programs  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Music Room

### Thursday, February 8

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

### Friday, February 9

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

### Saturday, February 10

7:30 pm Valentines Dance & Chocolates -  
Fellowship Hall



## This Week - February 4, 2018

## GOD IS STILL SPEAKING,

### Today at United Church

#### "Creation Sunday"

Reverend David Mateo is preaching today at both the 8:45 am and 11 am services.

#### Adult Forum: Global Trends - Demographic & Environmental: What Does God Require of Us in the Anthropocene? (10 am, Fellowship Hall)

Scientists tell us that we are entering a new period in Earth's history. Human civilization has developed over the last 10,000 years in a benign climatic period known as the Holocene epoch. Now we are entering the Anthropocene epoch of uncertain climatic and other dimensions. What does this mean for the church? *Herman Greene*, a member of our church and President of the Center for Ecozoic Studies, will present on global demographic and environmental trends and on what God requires of us in the Anthropocene.

#### Sacred Conversation on Race (10 am, Room 235)

The SCOR Group invites anyone who wishes to join us as we discuss next steps with prison ministry. We will review what is needed with current prison ministry volunteers and reflect upon actions that we may take to further deepen our Racial Truth Justice and Reconciliation Covenant.

#### Youth Groups (11 am, Youth Lounge)

Brunch and Brainstorm! Youth will gather downstairs in the Youth Lounge for food and group activities as we kick off our creative preparation for Youth Church on April 15th. Activity group choices include art, music, drama, dance, poetry, prayers, sermon writing and more. The Youth Board will provide bagels, cream cheese and juice.

#### La Mesa (11:15 am, Assembly Hall)

La Mesa is a bilingual worship service (in Spanish and English), led by *Micah Royal*. Please join us.

### Children's Musical Rehearsals begin today!

The Children's Choir begins rehearsals for this year's musical this morning at 9 am in the Music Room. All children from K through 5th grade are invited to join the cast! Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9 am, and the shows are May 5 and 6. It will be directed by Chip Baker and Jenny Anderson.

The theme of this year's musical, "In The Image," is creation and the environment: we are created in the image of God the Creator, and therefore we are creators ourselves. It's a great script full of fun songs and dances, and even includes a parade!

Here's to creating a beautiful learning experience for the children of UCCH! We do hope your child will be a part of it!

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### Now seeking: Stories of Transformation

Lent is a time of preparation and reflection as we anticipate the coming of Easter. To help us do this, we invite members to share their personal stories of transformation on the Sunday's of Lent.

- Lent 1 Feb. 18
- Lent 2 Feb. 25
- Lent 3 Mar. 4
- Lent 4 Mar. 11
- Lent 5 March 18



These are stories when God has been present in your life, times when faith has come alive, an action that was taken because of a conviction, a moment when you realized you were not the same. Your story need be no more than three minutes. Once again, thank you for your willingness to share a story from your life. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Monday Noon Book Club  
(Mondays 12 pm, Library)**

The Monday Noon Book Club will begin a discussion of John Dominic Crossan's *How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian* on Monday, tomorrow Feb. 5. Crossan is a professor emeritus at DePaul University and known best for his book *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography, a study of the historical Jesus*. Asked to speak on this book, he discovered in question and answer sessions with parishioners many questions about faith, practice, and Biblical descriptions of violence visited by God or with God's approval upon seemingly innocent people. While some locate these passages in the Old Testament, the New Testament's description of Jesus returning in Revelation 14:19-20 is also a Jesus violently slaying those who have not followed God faithfully. The back of the paperback notes that Crossan helps us negotiate these conflicting views of God and Jesus as loving, explaining how Christians can "discern and decipher which passages to trust and follow."

**15th annual Valentine's Dance & Chocolates!  
Saturday, February 10  
(7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall)**

Bring your favorite dance partner and join us in dancing to the music of our own *Ambassadors Big Band*. The evening will feature the UCCH famous all-you-can-eat chocolate smorgasbord and fair trade coffees and teas.



This event is for couples and singles, dancers and toe-tappers, and those who just love great live music! Be sure to get your tickets (\$15 per person) in advance - available through our website, under Event Payment at [www.unitedchurch.org](http://www.unitedchurch.org), from the church office.

**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY**  
See the table in the Narthex.

**LIGHT UP YOUR WINTER  
January February 7  
Concludes this Wednesday  
with a fundraiser dinner for the  
September Mission Trip**

**Dinner at 5:45 pm  
Programs at  
6:30 pm**

*Suggested Dinner donations: \$7 per person,  
\$3 per child, \$20 per family.*

**Programs:  
God, Suffering, Evil and  
Hope: God's Action in the  
World, led by Rev. David  
Mateo and Herman Greene.**

**"When I Was Ill, You Visited Me . . ." Led  
by Aly Breisch**

**Varieties of Contemplative Prayer, Led by  
Rev. Susan Steinberg & Nancy Jones**

**United Church of Christ History and Theology  
with Dr. Rollin Russell**

**Art Classes—Painting a winter forest picture  
w/ Cely Chicurel.**

A suggested donation for materials is \$10 per class. There is a children's class, and they will have their own projects (suggested \$5 per class) led weekly by *Dianne Whitney*.



**United Church Small Groups and Volunteer Opportunities**

**MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP**

Mondays at 7:15 pm in the Library  
The next book for Women's Group discussion will be *The Song and The Silence* by Yvette Johnson, starting with Part 1 and Part 2, on February 5.

**QUILTS OF LOVE**

(1st Thursdays of the month, Art Studio)  
If you are interested in joining our group or have fabrics or crafting supplies you would like to donate, please contact *Denise Laux* at 919/903-9256.

**YOGA**

(Fridays at 9:15 am in the Assembly Hall)  
For more information, contact *Kathy Shea* at [tkmjshea@mindspring.com](mailto:tkmjshea@mindspring.com).

**MEDITATION GROUP**

(Fridays at 11 am in the Library)  
For more information, contact *Louise Pagano* at [lpagano48@gmail.com](mailto:lpagano48@gmail.com).

**20'S/30'S GROUP AT UNITED CHURCH**

For more information, contact *Cassie Miller* by email: [cassandra.leigh.miller@gmail.com](mailto:cassandra.leigh.miller@gmail.com); or phone: 641-512-1299.

Rev. Barber is reinvigorating Martin Luther King's Poor People's Campaign nationwide. It is starting up for Orange County, NC on Monday, Feb. 26th, at 6-8 in our Chapel Hill Public Library. Please join us and bring your friends.

**For more information,  
contact Co-Chairs *Bill Murray*,  
[billmurray2929@gmail.com](mailto:billmurray2929@gmail.com),  
919-918-3389, or *Jennifer Rioux* at  
[orangencppc@gmail.com](mailto:orangencppc@gmail.com).**

**OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRIES**

This year, United Church is celebrating 25 years of being Open & Affirming. In celebration, our ONA group will be hosting many activities through out the year, showcasing our LGBTQIA+ ministries. For more information, contact

- *Micah Royal*, [micahbroyal@yahoo.com](mailto:micahbroyal@yahoo.com)
- *Maddie Allsup*, [mgallsup@gmail.com](mailto:mgallsup@gmail.com)

**PRISON MINISTRY**

Wanting to learn more about UCCH Prison Ministries, please contact

- *Janet Flowers* [Janet\\_Flowers@unc.edu](mailto:Janet_Flowers@unc.edu)
- *Gates Vrooman* [gatesvrooman@gmail.com](mailto:gatesvrooman@gmail.com)

**EARTH MINISTRIES**

If you are interested in learning more, please contact *David Mateo*, [dmateo@unitedchurch.org](mailto:dmateo@unitedchurch.org) or Alan Reed at [alanreed@nc.rr.com](mailto:alanreed@nc.rr.com).

**SANCTUARY CHURCH MOVEMENT**

If you are interested in learning more, please contact *David Mateo*, [dmateo@unitedchurch.org](mailto:dmateo@unitedchurch.org).

**How to help our NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

**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.



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.

**Wednesday, February 7 we discuss:**

**Feb. 11 Transfiguration Sunday**

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

*On a high mountain, the glory of God present in Jesus is revealed to Peter, James and John.*

**Wednesday, February 14 we discuss:**

**Feb. 18 1st Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

*After 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus comes with the good news of God's kingdom.*



**Now registering:  
Bread for the World  
NC Annual Convention  
Saturday, April 7  
(8:30 am - 3:30 pm)**

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church,  
403 E. Main St., Durham, NC**

Spiritual Politics: Resisting the Impending Hunger Crisis. Keynote Speaker: Michael A. Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services at the North Carolina Dept. of Health; and Human Services and former Director of Durham County Department of Social Services.

**To register:  
<https://spiritualpolitics.eventbrite.com>**

**For more info:  
[breadfortheworldurham@gmail.com](mailto:breadfortheworldurham@gmail.com)**

**This Week's  
Library Column**

For perspectives on creation care, check out the following:

- Bouma-Prediger, S. What's wrong with the world? The groaning of creation. In *For the Beauty of the Earth: A Christian Vision for Creation Care*, p23-55. 261.84 Bou F
- Moo, J.A., & White, R.S. Bringing New Testament hope down to earth. In *Let Creation Rejoice: Biblical Hope and Ecological Crisis*, p97-114. 261.84 Moo L
- Deming, J. From southern fried guilt to spiritual responsibility. In *Love God, Heal Earth*, p41-49. 261.84 Bin L
- Bass, D.B. Natural habitat: Dirt, water, sky. In *Grounded: Finding God in the World, a Spiritual Revolution*, p27-126. 231 Bas G
- Brueggemann, W. The loss and recovery of creation in Old Testament theology. In *The Book that Breathes New Life: Scriptural Authority and Biblical Theology*, p83-96. 220.1 Bru B

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

- McKenna, M. From synagogue to house. In *On Your Mark: Reading Mark in the Shadow of the Cross*, p32-39. 226.7 McK O
- Myers, C. Wholeness and the symbolic order: Jesus as healer. In *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*, p143-146. 226.7 Mye B
- Remen, R.N. The gift of healing. In *Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories that Heal*, p63-65. 610 Rem K

These materials and other items related to this week's lessons and Martin Luther King, Jr. are available on top of the shelves in the middle of the library. A volunteer, *Linda DeJongh*, will be available in the library, 10-11 am, to assist you in finding these materials or other items of interest to you. At other times, please serve yourself.

**Sunday, February 11**



**"Choir Sunday for the Feast of Transfiguration."**

Reverend Susan Steinberg will preach at the 8:45 & 11 am services. The final Sunday before we enter the season of Lent is Transfiguration Sunday. We hear again the story of the mountaintop experience, when Jesus's robes were transformed to a radiant white in the presence of Peter, James and John. The Transfiguration is a major milestone in the gospel narrative of the life of Jesus, revealing to the three beloved disciples a first glimpse of the divinity of Christ.

Our Chancel and Youth choirs will combine to present anthems of three distinct styles and epochs that celebrate the holiness of this day - a work of the Baroque era by Handel, a 19th century Victorian poem set in grand English cathedral style by Charles Wood, and a gospel anthem arranged by the contemporary African-American composer and conductor Rollo Dilworth. Join us for worship in either service for Choir Sunday as we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration!

**Adult Forum: The Theology and Practices of Lent presented by Rev. Jeanne Allen (10 am, Fellowship Hall)**

*Shrove Tuesday. Ash Wednesday. Fasting, Sin, Repentance, Prayer.* This Sunday will include a brief history of the theology behind and origin of our Christian observance of Lent. Many of us grew up either observing Lent in some way or being aware of ways in which other Christian denominations practiced it. After a very brief history, we will have a chance to share in small groups and share with the entire group some meaningful ways we might observe this season as we approach a time of remembering the death and resurrection of our Lord and approach the new beginnings for our church with Reverend Cameron Barr.



**Youth Groups (11 am, Youth Lounge)**

Join us in the youth wing for the first creative session of our Activity Group series. Youth will work together in small groups to create art, music, drama, dance, poetry, prayers, sermons and more! (Note: if you'd like to join the art group, please plan to attend at least two of the three sessions: Feb. 11, Feb. 25 and March 4).

**La Mesa Worship (11:15 am, Assembly Hall)**

La Mesa is a bilingual worship service of United Church to enhance the diversity, spirituality and faith of people in a radically, welcoming, and inclusive space where the table of the Lord becomes the sacred meeting space. Led weekly by Reverend David Mateo.

**Taizé Worship 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. Please join us.



## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Summary of Meeting on Jan. 23, 2017

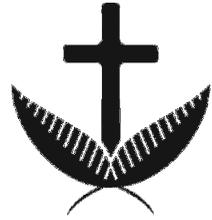
- *Ingrid Schmidt* will replace *Tim Copland* as one of the three At-Large Council Members.
- Financial Update Treasurer, *Derek Harrison*, gave an update on the 2017 budget. Due to several last-minute gifts, our financial situation is much improved. The Trustees will send out a note with more information. Pledging for 2018 is \$58K short of the planned budget.

### Board updates:

- Deacons: The La Mesa Committee will meet with the Deacons on Sunday to discuss future plans.
- Trustees: They are solidifying the Edens Seminary Scholarship guidelines. There are new thermostats installed.
- Youth Ministries: Plans are being made to search for a new director when *Katherine Henderson* leaves the position in May.
- Children's Ministry: Two committee members resigned, so they are looking for replacements.
- Justice Outreach & Service: Are looking into fundraisers for Habitat for Humanity. Two UCCH families are in the process of getting a home through Habitat. The board is discussing Sanctuary Church issues.
- Membership Engagement & Stewardship: The Council bulletin board has been effective in increasing communication with the congregation. There have been refinements in the service of new members, interested persons, and orientation in order to make them more meaningful.
- Fellowship Board: Not enough people sign up for coffee hour.
- Adult Education: The Prison Ministry sessions went well. There are many interesting sessions planned.

Nancy Siebens, Clerk

## Ash Wednesday "Empty Bowls & Worship" February 14



**On Ash Wednesday, February 14, join us at 5:45 pm for Soup and the Empty Bowl Project. 100% of proceeds will go to the IFC for hunger relief**

We will have delicious homemade soups, and a simple salad. Buy a bowl of soup - take home a homemade bowl! We have over 100 bowls for sale to raise money for the Interfaith Council. One handmade bowl and the dinner will sell for \$20. Two bowls for \$30. Please join us!

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service (7 pm)

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation for the joy of Easter. On Ash Wednesday, human mortality is underscored (literally). During the Ash Wednesday service there is the opportunity for ashes to be placed on our foreheads as a reminder of our mortality, our flesh. . . *you are dust and to dust you shall return* . . . ~Genesis 3:19. But it also points to the one who created us, and thus the service becomes a pronouncement of hope and grace.

*Reverend Susan Steinberg* will be preaching. Chancel Choir will sing.

## Sunday, February 18 - The First Sunday of Lent

### Worship at 8:45 and 11 am

This first Sunday of Lent *Rev. Nick Carter* will be preaching on "*Citizens in the Household of God.*" Using texts from Genesis and Ephesians, he will explore the meaning of the central faith concept of covenant and inclusion in God's promises. Music: United Voices of Praise (8:45), Chancel Choir (11:00) and Bronze Voices Handbells.

### Children's Church (10 am, Sanctuary)

Our 1st and 2nd graders are leading the service! It is sure to be an inspiring message and a great opportunity to witness our children putting faith into action!

### Adult Forum: Sabbath Practice with Dana Trent, author of *For Sabbath's Sake*, and *The Interfaith Memoir, Saffron Crosses* (10 am, Fellowship Hall)

*Rev. J. Dana Trent* is an award-winning author, speaker, minister, and teacher. She is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and adjunct faculty member at Wake Technical Community College, where she teaches World Religions and Critical Thinking.

Her work has appeared on Time.com, The Christian Century, The Huffington Post, Patheos, and Sojourners. Her second book, *For Sabbath's Sake: Embracing Your Need for Rest, Worship, and Community*, was released October 1, 2017, by Upper Room Books. Her debut book, *Saffron Cross: The Unlikely Story of How a Christian Minister Married a Hindu Monk* (Fresh Air Books, 2013) chronicles her interfaith marriage to Fred. She loves naps with cats, vegetarian food, and teaches weight-lifting for the YMCA.

### Sacred Conversation on Race (10 am, Room 235)

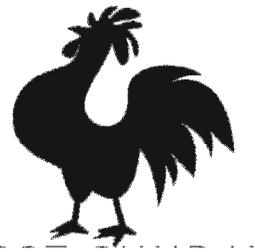
Join us in reading and discussing *Rev. Barber's* latest book, *The Third Reconstruction*. It is an easy read, much of it autobiographical. The book is for sale for \$7 on our book table at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

Our church has attended many of *Rev. Barber's* events, such as the Moral Mondays. He has come to our church twice to speak. He preaches Judeo-Christian values that we enthusiastically support as part of our church's social justice work.

*Bill Murray*, with others from SCOR, will lead a discussion of the book on Feb. 18, 25, and March 4. Bring your questions and curiosity. We shall discuss at least the following questions: *How do you react to Rev. Barber's stories about his life? What are his views on racism? Why does he do social justice work? How will his new Poor People's Campaign fight for justice? Bonus item - What is the brand new Orange County Poor People's Campaign doing? How can you help?*

### La Mesa Worship (11:15 am, Assembly Hall)

La Mesa is a bilingual worship service of United Church to enhance the diversity, spirituality and faith of people in a radically, welcoming, and inclusive space where the table of the Lord becomes the sacred meeting space. Led weekly by *Reverend David Mateo*.



*The First Sunday of Lent*

### UCCH Singers at Playmakers

Playmakers Repertory Theater is using volunteer singers from area choirs to provide the on-stage gospel choir for their show, "The Christians," which is playing through February. Singers from United Voices of Praise, the Chamber Singers and the Chancel Choir will be appearing at their shows on Feb 22 (7:30 pm), 23 (7:30 pm) and 24 (2 pm). We would love to see our fan club from UCCH in the audience for our shows! More information and tickets from <http://www.playmakersrep.org/show/the-christians/>.