

CALL *and* RESPONSE

VOLUME 1.9, JANUARY 2019

ANOTHER STORY...

Jackson built a high chair for our goddaughter, Olive, who was born in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. Her parents, who were married three years ago in a backyard wedding, are old friends through the Iowa firm that Jackson once worked for. When we learned that we'd be leaving Iowa for North Carolina, Josh and Anna dropped everything and volunteered to help us make the move. That's the kind of people they are—and the kind of friendship we have.

So the day after Christmas we loaded Jackson's latest creation into the car and drove to the Midwest. The long drive made the epiphany of Christ feel a bit more real and mundane to me. What's so special about wise guys coming from the East? Newborn children are magnets for special gifts. Clothes. Toys. Household goods. Josh and Anna said that people they hadn't seen in months had dropped by to bring small items that might help the new parents. But I think the gifts are just an excuse to "come to Bethlehem and see." New life naturally summons us and captivates us. We're drawn by God's power to create and remake. When we got here we didn't really do much. We held the baby, sometimes even while she cried. But we didn't change her diaper. (According to scripture, the Magi weren't very helpful either, at least once they arrived at the manger.) We ate and drank, and spent many quiet moments just gazing at the new thing that God has made. Gazing in awe and wonder as if on a star.

Olive is as sure a sign as any that God is being faithful to us. She is a new revelation of God's grace. Who could stand to miss that? We came to watch and behold. But like most people with good manners, we were too self-conscious to come empty handed.



Reverend Cameron Barr



REV. CAMERON BARR

TABLE *of* CONTENTS

"MAKING CONNECTIONS"	2
LIGHT UP YOUR WINTER.....	3
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	4
PHOTO OF THE MONTH/LETTER.....	5
ADULT EDUCATION & SMALL GROUPS.....	6
CALENDAR.....	7



“MAKING CONNECTIONS”

By **RINNIE** ORR, DIRECTOR OF HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES

The Christmas Season is past - our celebrations of winter solstice and worship of Christ's birth have come and gone. And now...it's January - which for me is the beginning of the “bleak midwinter.” The holidays are over, night comes early and it's cold outside. Perhaps like me, January is a month where you feel equally pulled towards hibernation, rest and retreat at home...and at the same time, you long for fellowship and connection with others. If so, we hope you will find some incentives this month to venture forth from your cozy home and find nourishment and connection through some of these activities:



FRIDAY NITE SOCIAL CLUB

UCCH Movie Night “Won't You Be My Neighbor”

Friday, January 11 (6 pm)

Please join us for movie night! The movie “Won't You Be My Neighbor” examines the life and legacy of Fred Rogers, the beloved host of the popular children's TV show “Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.” We'll have some light food and popcorn. Bring a treat to share. After the movie, we'll have time for reflection and discussion.

4th ANNUAL GREAT CHILI COOK-OFF

Wednesday, January 16 (5:45 pm)

Wanna light a fire in your belly? Our annual Chili Cook-Off will kick off our Light Up Your Winter dinner and program series. You are invited to submit a chili for the cookoff. This year, we are calling for chilis in the following categories:

- Vegetarian
- Meat
- Green or White chilis

Prizes will be awarded for all three chili categories!



NEIGHBORHOOD CLUSTERS “Small Ministries Dinner & Fellowship Groups”

We are delighted that at this writing, up to 70 individuals and households are wanting to be a part of small group ministry clusters throughout Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Durham, Hillsborough and Burlington. We'll soon be contacting all that have signed up with information about your neighborhood clusters. This is an exciting step toward developing new connections and creating new friendships within your church family.

For more information on small group ministries at United Church, and to **REGISTER** your “best” chili for the cookoff, please contact me by email at rorr@unitedchurch.org, or stop by the UCCH Welcome Table on Sundays at 10 am in the church Narthex.

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 8

SWING DANCE AND CHOCOLATES

Live music provided by The Ambassadors

Swing Band; Larry Triplett, director

A toe-tapping time for the whole family!

LIGHT UP YOUR WINTER

PROGRAM SERIES

JANUARY 16, 23, 30, and FEBRUARY 6

Fundraiser Dinners start at 5:45 pm, and programs start at 6:30 pm. Nurturing both fellowship and faith, Light Up Your Winter includes breaking bread together at dinners that support aspects of our church's ministry, followed by study and conversation on a variety of topics. Please join us! Registration required. Forms are in Sunday bulletins. You can register for a class by emailing Rinnie Orr, Director of Hospitality Ministries, rorr@unitedchurch.org.

Sacred Space Art Studio

Painting with artist Claudia Galvez. We'll spend the first 3 weeks recreating this beautiful painting by Claudia Galvez. On the 4th week of the series, we'll have a speed painting class led by Rinnie Orr. Please sign up for all 4 classes. Limited to 10 people, and a charge of \$30 per person for supplies and artist stipend.



Sacred Space Art Studio - Children's Classes

Sacred Space arts will also offer 4 Wednesday night art classes especially for children! We will do a pottery project the first week then make a winter painting and sew a pillow

Book Discussion of "Reconstructing the Gospel" led by Bill Murray: This class is a prelude to having the book author, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove come to UCCH for 5 sessions in March. He will assist our church to grow in the directions described in his book. Get more out of these five sessions by discussing his book now. Our facilitator, Bill Murray, has known and admired Jonathan for many years. Books are on sale through the church office. Open to all!

The Gospel as Story Telling led by Mike Shannon: Storytelling creates community. Persons who tell each other stories become friends. Good stories get retold because there is something about a good story that virtually compels retelling it. Every human community has its stories, but the stories of the Bible have a special distinctive meaning. When our stories are connected with the stories of God, there is revelation. By telling these stories, God and Christ not only become present and speak to us, but they become present and speak to others. Limited to 12 people. Please pre-register.

Peacemaking Close to Home led by Jack Denniston and members of the UCCH Peacemaking Scholarship Committee: Topics: how UCCH is recognizing and encouraging young peacemakers through the Chapel Hill Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship initiative, national initiatives currently working successfully on a critical and timely aspect of peacemaking – depolarization, and strategies and skills for having productive conversations across the political divide. Members of the Better Angels organization will be on hand for these discussions. These discussions are open to all.

A Special Note from Ian McPherson

You may have noticed that my look for worship has been a bit more formal lately! I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Cameron and the Church Council, which recently presented me with a clerical robe in recognition of my upcoming ordination on January 13th. I will be ordained in New York City but will return to Chapel Hill with a stole added to the ensemble! I am so grateful to have been called to ministry here, and I cannot wait to celebrate this milestone with you when I return.

UNITED CHURCH of CHAPEL HILL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL LISTENING SESSION

Sunday, January 13 (12:00 pm - 2:00 pm)

A light lunch will be served, thanks to folks participating in the Sacred Conversations on Race (SCOR) class. The meeting will include an update on the current status of the 2019 budget process, solicit input to help the Council finalize the budget in the coming weeks, and provide time for you to share your hopes and concerns. We recognize that not all of you will be able to attend Sunday's meeting. To facilitate communication, notes from the Listening Session will be sent to members of the congregation.

We invite you to share your thoughts about the future of UCCH by answering the questions included below. You may respond by sending an email to this address: Churchcouncil@unitedchurch.org or fill out a paper handout which is available in the Narthex on Sunday. These responses will be used to inform the Council planning retreat on January 26. To ensure that your thoughts can be incorporated, please respond no later than Sunday, January 20.

1. Within the context of our two aspirational goals (a more connected community, and racial justice, inclusion, and diversity) my hope for UCCH is...
2. My concern and/or lingering question is...
3. How it is best to communicate with me...
4. How I currently get my UCCH information...
5. How can UCCH strengthen our communication (Pastors, Council, and Boards with the Congregation and the Congregation with the Pastors, Council, and Boards)?

United Church is in the midst of an exciting period of growth and change. This meeting and the survey questions are just part of many steps already taken and to be taken to involve members of the congregation in learning about what is ahead and guiding what is to come.

OCCRC INAUGURAL RECEPTION

Tuesday, January 8 (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm)

Pastor Cameron is a member of the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition, which has organized to establish a memorial in our community for people killed by acts of racial terror. The coalition invites interested community members to learn more about how we are working with Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative to erect this memorial in Orange County. This reception on January 8 kicks off a year of events planned to educate our neighbors about racial violence and build community interest in the memorial.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

JANUARY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 6

Holiday Schedule
(No Programs)

JANUARY 13

10am Sunday School Kick-Off
11am Youth Group Kick-Off
No Confirmation

JANUARY 20

Winter Youth Retreat
10am Sunday School
11am Youth Group
No Confirmation

JANUARY 27

10am Sunday School
11am Youth Group
5pm Confirmation Kick-Off

PHOTO of THE MONTH



CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH ST. NICK

St. Nick reading "B is for Bethlehem" by Isabel Wilner to the children in the Sanctuary.

Beloved members, colleagues and friends of UCH,

Speechless. Spiritually full. Profoundly grateful. Utterly transformed.

These are just a few of the words that come to mind when I remember the blessing of your departing gifts. I could go on and on! "Thank you" feels like a vastly inadequate phrase to express the depth of my gratitude for the ways you surrounded me with love, hope and joy throughout my last Sunday among you—and over the course of the weeks leading up to that Sunday. I cherish each and every gift, and each and every one of you. I pray you believe in my love for you, and receive it, as deeply as I am still in the process of believing and receiving such offerings of love from you.

It is not an exaggeration to say that if December 2 had been my last day on earth, I would have entered eternity in complete peace. In fact, the children and youth, and the whole congregation, gave me a new vision of eternal life; when it is my time, I will rest assured that in the realm beyond death we are welcomed and held by a sea of courageous and loving faces, hands and voices. Someone said that my experience of worship, the reception and the blessing at the end must have been a bit like going to my own memorial service; I had that very same thought.

I don't mean this is any kind of morbid way, but simply that as a pastor you learn in very real ways that every day is a gift because any day could be your last. I was privileged to spread the ashes of dearly departed loved ones up until the afternoon of my last full day at the church. There is no missing the truth that life is fleeting and precious. It would be a gift beyond measure if I could meet our Creator on a note of celebration, surrounded by those I hold dear, as I did on December 2. Not that I am eager for that day! Far from it. I greet each new day renewed by the love of Christ you showed me, inspired to listen for, and when the time comes, respond to, God's invitation. I never knew with such clarity that endings can lead to grace-filled beginning.

This is one of the most of enduring departing gifts you gave me: abiding faith and hope in the Spirit's powerful presence, guidance, compassion and joy through endings and beginnings, for me, for you, for all God's people. As scripture testifies, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come. Thank you for witnessing to such a promise in a way I will forever remember. As we continue living into our new paths, the benediction from the I Thessalonians passage we heard on December 2 describes my parting prayer: "May God make you increase and abound in love for one another, just as I abound in love for you."

In Christ's love,

Susan Steinberg

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

ADULT EDUCATION & SMALL GROUPS

JANUARY ADULT FORUMS

January 13: Scripture and Life Discussions (Group Discussion of Lectionary Readings and Current Issues)

January 20: Seth Kotch: *"A Red Record"*, Investigating Lynchings in North and South Carolina

January 27: Scripture and Life Discussions (Group Discussion of Lectionary Readings and Current Issues)

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE (SCOR)

Sunday, January 13 and 27 at 10 am (Room 161) SCOR offers Christ-centered conversations about the impact of racism on all areas of American life. SCOR will join the adult forum on January 20.

FAITH AND FAMILY CLASS

Sundays, at 10 am in the Family Parlor
(Will resume on January 13)

This conversation-centered group is open to parents of children of all ages. The primary intent is to support one another through one of life's most challenging and fulfilling journeys of faith: parenthood.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLASS

Sundays, at 10 am in the Conference Room
(Will resume on January 13)

The small-group class offers in-depth reflection on spiritual classics and contemporary volumes on contemplation.

SPANISH CONVERSATIONS

Sundays at 10 am (Room 235) &
Mondays at 6pm (Youth Lounge)

Informal Spanish and English conversations to build community and language skills.

NOON BOOK GROUP

Mondays at 12pm in the library. The new book for discussion is called *"Life Together"* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. A few remaining copies are available for sale in office. Bring a snack lunch and join us.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Mondays at 7:15pm in the Library. The women's group will be discussing a new book, *"The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria"* by Alia Malek, during January. It chronicles the political shifts in Syria by focusing on the people who lived in Malek's family home in Damascus. All women of the church are invited to participate at any time.

January 7: Prologue and Chapters 1-2, pages ix-62

January 14: Chapters 3-5, pages 63-110

January 21: Chapters 6-8, pages 113-163

January 28: Chapters 9-13, pages 167-235

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 7am in the Library. You are invited to join with the pastors for one hour to listen for God's Word in the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday in the Church Library. Coffee and/or hot water for tea is available but the conversation will wake you up and the fellowship will sustain for the day!

YOGA

Fridays at 9:15 am in the Assembly Hall. Kathy Shea, instructor. All are welcome. Free of charge!

MEDITATION

Fridays at 11 am in the Library. All are welcome to communally spend time in silent meditation and prayer.

QUILTS OF LOVE

First Thursday of every month at 11 am in the Library. They provide handmade lap quilts for residents of the SECU Family House.

ADVOCACY LETTER WRITING

Second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. All are welcome to join for a monthly meeting to write letters and advocate for change.

THIS MONTH *at* UNITED CHURCH

JANUARY CALENDAR

SATURDAY JANUARY 5

3 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY JANUARY 6

*9:30 am Festival Worship
10 am Spanish Conversation
11 am La Mesa Worship

TUESDAY JANUARY 8

6 pm OCRCC Reception

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9

6:30 pm Advocacy Letter Writing

FRIDAY JANUARY 11

6:30 pm Friday Nite Social Club
“Won’t You Be My Neighbor”

SUNDAY JANUARY 13

8:45 am Festival Worship
9:05 am Children’s Choir
10 am Adult Programs
10 am Sunday School
10 am Spanish Conversation
11 am La Mesa Worship
11 am Worship & the Word
11 am Youth Group
12:30 pm Youth Choir
2 pm Ambassadors Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16

5:45 pm Light Up Your Winter
Dinner & Programs

SUNDAY JANUARY 20

8:45 am Festival Worship
9:05 am Children’s Choir
10 am Adult Programs
10 am Sunday School
10 am Spanish Conversation
11 am La Mesa Worship
11 am Worship & the Word
11 am Youth Group
12:30 pm Youth Choir

MONDAY JANUARY 21

Church office closed in honor of
Martin Luther King Jr

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23

5:45 pm Light Up Your Winter
Dinner & Programs

SUNDAY JANUARY 27

8:45 am Festival Worship
9:05 am Children’s Choir
10 am Adult Programs
10 am Sunday School
10 am Spanish Conversation
11 am La Mesa Worship
11 am Worship & the Word
11 am Youth Group
12:30 pm Youth Choir
2 pm Ambassadors Rehearsal
5 pm Confirmation Class

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30

5:45 pm Light Up Your Winter
Dinner & Programs

*Please note service times

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

WORSHIP HOURS
Festival Worship 8:45am
Worship & the Word 11am
*La Mesa Worship 11am
*en español e ingles

SERVICE

919-942-3540



CONTACT

UNITEDCHURCHOFCHAPELHILL/

FACEBOOK

WWW.UNITEDCHURCH.ORG

WEBSITE

ONLINE

STAY CONNECTED



UNITED CHURCH
of CHAPEL HILL

1321 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514

A PLACE *of* BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN