

CALL *and* RESPONSE

VOLUME 1.6, OCTOBER 2018

BELOVED CONGREGATION,

When I first visited United Church of Chapel Hill, in the spring of 2001, I was searching for a place to worship. My family and I had just moved from Charlottesville to Carrboro, and while Steve began his new job, I began a new role, too: caring for our two young children. Although I had served as the Associate Pastor of a Presbyterian church for seven years, I did not seek a new pastoral position when we arrived here: I traded my clerical attire for t-shirts, jeans and sneakers so I could be a full-time mom. Thus it was in the role of looking for a new church for my family that I entered the doors of UCCH. We had been looking for a while, and I went home after the service and told Steve, “I think I found it!” We came back together the next week, and before long we joined the church, and not long after that we enrolled Henry and Anna in United Church Preschool. I wept on Easter Sunday as we sang, “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”; the mystery of God’s life-giving promise felt deeply and newly true.



SUSAN STEINBERG

One of God’s surprises leads to another. A year after finding UCCH, I also found in your midst the beginning of a new kind of pastoral call. As a Presbyterian minister, I had not planned on joining the staff of a UCC congregation; neither had I envisioned ministering among children. But, as I keep learning, my plans often make God laugh. I pulled my clergy robe back out and began what turned into a life-changing, career-altering journey of ministry with children. Children’s enthusiasm, bravery, questions, intelligence, sensitivity and compassion transformed me to the core; they still do. Serving alongside treasured colleagues and congregational leaders who supported this ministry gave me room to flourish and stretch as a pastor and a woman of faith in ways I could hardly have expected or even prayed for.

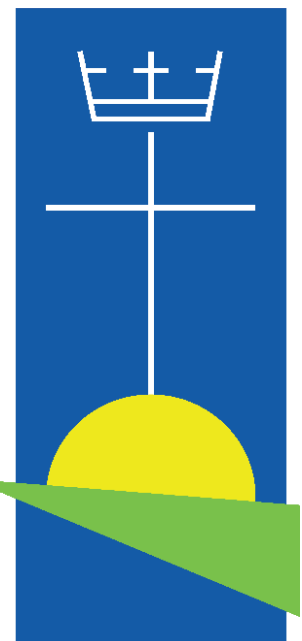
Over the sixteen years since the start of my formalized place in the pastoral leadership journey of UCCH there have been many other transformations. The congregation grew; our building expanded; my role shifted. My first office is now the inspiring Director of Children’s Ministries Anitra Grove’s office. My second office became part of what is now our outstanding church library. I now do my work in what was Rev. Jill Edens’ office. What a sacred privilege it has been to work with these and so many other past and present pastors and ministry leaders, and to participate in and witness many formative transitions in the life of our community!

I rejoice with all my heart that God led us in such remarkable ways to this new season of ministry—and called Rev. Cameron Barr to be our Senior Pastor. I marvel daily at Cameron’s pastoral imagination, courage, faith and creative leadership. Together with the boundless gifts of our pastoral and staff team, our congregational leaders, the quiet service of so many of you, and the grace of Jesus Christ, I fully believe that the future, near and far, is full of hope and promise.

BELOVED CONGREGATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

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BELOVED CONGREGATION CONTINUED...

In the midst of the Spirit's activity through such external changes, I have tried to discern the Spirit's activity in my internal life and call as well. With confidence in God's faithfulness—faithfulness I have learned again and again to trust over the years of my ministry at UCCH—I hear God summoning me to enter a new season, too. After much prayer, conversation and reflection, I have decided that the time has come for me to conclude my ministry as Associate Pastor of United Church of Chapel Hill. There is no perfect time for such an ending, but I have prayed that there would come a time for a good ending. That time has emerged as the beginning of a new liturgical year, when we begin again a season of waiting with hope: the first Sunday of Advent, December 2.

Please know how dearly I wish I could have shared this discernment with each of you personally. I love our congregation and care deeply for each of you. I leave as a friend, and as someone you will see again in the pew and around town. I am not going far, just in a different direction in ministry. I look forward to sharing more with you in the weeks ahead.

At the end of my ordination service, in 1993, a church leader included in her charge to me this wisdom: "Know that you will be ministered to by the people you pastor, and accept their ministry with grace." How little I knew then about the truth of these words! With gratitude for the ways you have ministered to me, for the ministry we have shared and for a future so clearly held in the hands of the living Christ, may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you all.

Yours in faith and love,



Rev. Susan Steinberg
Associate Pastor

The Senior Pastor Transition Committee and Church Council of United Church of Chapel Hill invite you to a celebration of our ministry and the installation of

The Reverend Cameron Scott Barr

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018
3 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
1321 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514

THE REVEREND DR. DAVID R. RUHE PREACHING
SENIOR MINISTER, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, DES MOINES, IA (1994-2014)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

OCTOBER SCHEDULE



Anitra Grove,
Director of Children's Ministries
agrove@unitedchurch.org

Sunday, October 7

10 am-Sunday School
11 am- Family Cookout

Sunday, October 14

10 am-Sunday School
11 am- Board of Children's Ministries

Friday, October 19- Sunday, October 21

All-Church Retreat

Sunday, October 21

10am-Sunday School

Sunday, October 28

10am -Sunday School
(Children's Church)
5pm- Pumpkin Party





MARK YOUR CALENDARS: MINISTRY ARCHITECTS IS COMING!

By Ian McPherson

In a dialogue with Habakkuk, who lamented the injustice he saw in the world, God instructs the prophet to “write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.” (2:2) God answers Habakkuk’s (rather justified) anxiety and impatience by inviting him into a season of imagination and creative expression. But this wasn’t busy work. In this act Habakkuk and God become co-creators, envisioning together a more just world. There is an implicit message in this request too—that God will show up faithfully even in our human labors. One might interpret this scripture as a divine endorsement of strategic planning!

In all seriousness, I have found much comfort in this passage lately. Periods of transition stir excitement and anxiety within us, and as we look for assurances of God’s faithfulness, we need look no further than this verse in Habakkuk. As we envision the future of United Church, and continue our process of strategic planning, may we remember that God has promised to show up. Let’s write our vision and make it plain for all to see, remembering God is faithful. A more just world is coming, so let’s get to work!

To assist us in this process, we have partnered with Ministry Architects (learn more at www.ministryarchitects.com). As their name suggests, they are experts in assessing the structures of our ministry programs and developing plans for their long-term sustainability. Our year-long relationship with them begins with “Listening Sessions” on November 2-3, which give you the opportunity to share your hopes and dreams for faith formation at United Church. There will be 10 sessions of 5-8 participants each, but who are we hoping will be part of this process? The short answer is you! We need youth, parents of youth and children, young adults, Sunday School teachers, volunteers, and other adults (of all ages) who are invested in our ministries of faith formation.

I have created a Google Doc where you can sign up for one of the 10 one-hour Listening Sessions on Friday, November 2 (between 12pm and 9pm) or Saturday, November 3 (between 8:30am and 2:30pm). To sign up for one of these Listening Sessions or for more information about our strategic planning process with Ministry Architects, please reach out to me at imcpherson@unitedchurch.org. “Let’s start writing the vision!”

REVEREND JONATHAN WILSON-HARTGROVE TO PREACH AND LEAD SUNDAY ADULT FORUM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Poor People’s Campaign steering committee member, will discuss the Poor People’s Campaign to get out the vote and its long term vision to shift the moral narrative in America.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

OCTOBER SCHEDULE



Ian McPherson, Minister for
Youth and Young Adult
Initiatives
imcpherson@unitedchurch.org

Friday, October 5

6pm Youth Lock-In

Sunday, October 7

10am Sunday School
11am Family Cook-out
5pm Confirmation

Sunday, October 14

10am Sunday School
10am BYYAM Meeting
11am No youth group
5pm Confirmation

Friday, October 19- Sunday, October 21

All Church Retreat

Sunday, October 21

10am Sunday School
11am Youth group

Sunday, October 28

10am Sunday School
11am Youth group
4pm Confirmation
5pm Pumpkin Party

“WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY”

FALL RETREAT IN THE MOUNTAINS OF BLOWING ROCK

October 19, 20, & 21

By Rinnie Orr

If you've been wondering about the Fall Retreat and why you/your family should join us, we've answered a couple questions for you:

Why should I/we go to the retreat?

The Blowing Rock Conference Center is located in the beautiful mountain setting. Come join us to experience the pure joy of the beautiful fall colors, and the joy of making new church friends in this intimate setting of fun and fellowship.

What happens at the retreat?

Check in time is Friday afternoon, and we meet up on Friday night (October 19) to eat dinner at the retreat center cafeteria, and come together afterwards for icebreakers and informal social time.

On Saturday (October 20) before breakfast, you have the option of joining retreat leaders David Mateo and Ian McPherson for bible study and prayer, or Rinnie Orr for simple sun salutations and meditation.

After breakfast, we come together as a group from 9 am to 12 pm to explore this year's theme “What Brings You Joy”. This is an intergenerational time, and we will have a fun station of activities for the children joining us this year.

Using the book *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu as our discussion point, our Associate Pastor David Mateo, Youth and Young Adult Minister Ian McPherson and Director of Hospitality Ministries Rinnie Orr ask participants to bring their “joy” with them to the mountains. We will gather and share what brings us joy. Copies of the book will be given to all retreat participants.

Our session ends at 12 pm, and Saturday afternoon is a great time for exploring the mountains on your own or with others from the retreat. You may choose to drive along the parkway, find a trail to hike, or head to downtown Blowing Rock to check out galleries and enjoy the mountain town.

Saturday night after dinner, we get together for informal social time: board games, bonfire and s'mores, hangout and conversation.

On Sunday (October 21) you again have the option of bible study and meditation. After breakfast we have free time to pack, until 10 am when we have worship together. After worship is a light lunch and we head home.

Retreat registration forms are available on the table under the solar panel display. If you have any questions, contact Rinnie Orr, rorr@unitedchurch.org, for more info. Our retreat deadline is extended to October 5. If you decide to join us after the 5th, you will need to make arrangements directly with the Blowing Rock Conference Center at www.brccenter.org or 828-295-7813.

“MUSIC NEWS”

By Jenny Anderson

I love the energy that I experience in our choral program at the beginning of each new program year, and this year has had a special buzz! I have had the joy of being present for at least part of the first rehearsals of all five of our choirs. There is nothing like reuniting with old friends and welcoming new ones, and then raising your voices together in song! (And if you don't know that joy, I highly recommend trying it!)

I am happy to report that our choral program is very healthy this year. We have had significant increases in membership in Youth and Chancel Choirs. In fact, the Youth Choir has so many new members that we now have the wonderful problem of needing to order new robes and extra copies of our music! A problem any choir director would welcome!

The three adult choirs did a fruit-basket turnover of rehearsal evenings this Fall. It's always a scary prospect to make changes to long-established tradition, but early indications are good that these changes are going to work well. If you're in the building on Mondays you're likely to be serenaded by United Voices of Praise or one of our handbell groups. On Wednesdays you'll hear the Chamber Singers and on Thursdays the Chancel Choir. Sundays continue to be filled with the voices of the youngest musicians, with Children's Choir in the morning and Youth Choir early afternoon.

The handbell program, under director David Murphy, has also welcomed some very accomplished new members, so that we now have just enough ringers to fully staff the two choirs. There is always room for one more - we'd love to hear from you!

It's never too late to be welcomed into our church music family! Contact me for details - janderson@unitedchurch.org.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

& PEACEMAKING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The United Church of Chapel Hill will host its Alternative Gift Market on NEW DAYS and NEW TIMES the weekend before Thanksgiving. This year the market kicks off with the Peacemaking Scholarship Fund Concert.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 (5 PM - 8 PM)

“Food, Festival, Peacemaking Scholarship Fund Concert (7:30 pm), and shopping for a Cause!”

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 (9AM-3 PM)

“More shopping for a cause”

This two-day, annual event supports initiatives of Church World Service and the InterFaith Council. Its focus this year is on spreading the Love Of Children across the globe by focusing on building School Safe Zones in Kenya. With your help, we will support School Safe Zones through a variety of new gifts: teacher training, clean water, infrastructure improvements, and sanitation.

Give GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE and express the three great loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation and Love of Children.

More than 35 organizations and missions are participating in this year's Alternative Gift Market. We will be selling a variety of things including pottery, rugs, art, greeting cards, jewelry, and more.

HOLIDAY SHOP WITH PURPOSE AND SPREAD OUR LOVE OF CHILDREN. GIVE GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE.

SUPPORT YOUTH CHOIR: DONATE USED JEWELRY!

The Youth Choir will once again run the ever-popular booth “Jenny's Jewels” at the Alternative Gift Market. They are ready to accept your donations of gently used jewelry to stock their shelves! The Youth Choir will clean and repair the jewelry and make sure it finds a loving home with someone who will enjoy it anew! The choir accepts any jewelry from fashion to fine; all fine jewelry will be appraised and offered at a very fair price.

Money raised through “Jenny's Jewels” funds need-based scholarships for members to be able to access two enriching and life-changing out of town music festivals that the Youth Choir participates in each year, The Festival by the Sea, and Montreat Music and Worship Conference. The choir is committed to ensuring every member can afford to make these trips. They thank you for your generous support!

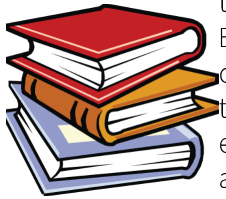


PHOTO of THE MONTH

United Church Treasurer Derek Harrison helped organize the Miracle Relief Collaboration League which provides assistance to Hurricane Florence victims.

PRISON MINISTRY

On Friday, October 26 the Prison Ministry will hold Parent Day at the Peace Center. During the month of October we ask for book donations for the children. Target Books: Ages 2-15, any topic but not religious, gently used or new.



Books with or about diversity would be especially welcome. We will have boxes outside of the church office. Contact Janet Flowers (Janet_Flowers@unc.edu) for information about any aspect of prison ministry.

SUNDAY ADULT PROGRAMS

Adult Forums with Voting Rights United, 10am, Assembly Hall:

Oct. 7: Tye Hunter, UCCH member and retired lawyer, will discuss NC legislative threats to the judiciary

Oct. 14: Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove will discuss the Poor People's Campaign to get out the vote and its long term vision to shift the moral narrative in America.

Oct. 28: Panel on Pilgrimage to Montgomery. We will hear reflections on those who participated on the pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Spiritual Growth 10am, Conference Room

Reading *On The Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old*, by Parker Palmer

Sacred Conversations on Race 10am, Room 161

Faith and Family 10am, Family Parlor

Welcome to parents raising children of any age, this group meets to support each other as we find our way in nurturing our children's spiritual growth while trying to grow/figure out/hold onto our own faith journey, too.

SALSA & SALSA DANCING "FRIDAY NITE SOCIAL CLUB"

Friday, October 12
7 pm, Fellowship Hall



Our first social club will be "Salsa & Salsa Dancing". Friends, grab your favorite dance partner (or come solo). Bring your favorite salsa, a bag of chips, or your favorite snack to share. We'll have music and learn to dance the salsa. If you already know how to salsa, this is a great time to come and show us your moves. Fun for

all ages - bring your families and join the fun.

WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER

These programs run for 2 more weeks: Oct.3 & Oct.10
Fundraiser Dinner starts at 5:45 pm
Programs start at 6:30 pm

***Words for and from Our Times: Poetry of Injustice, Healing, and Hope** - Room 235

***Separation of Church and State** - Assembly Hall

***Sacred Conversations to End Racism** - Room 161

***Sojourning the Path of Grief** - Library.

***Quilting** - Sacred space studio

***Pottery** - Sacred space studio

CALENDAR

THIS MONTH *at* UNITED CHURCH

WEDNESDAY OCT 3

5:45PM Fundraiser dinner by the Choirs
6:30PM Wednesday Together Programs

SUNDAY OCT 7

8:45 AM Festival Worship
9:05AM Children's Choir
10AM Sunday School for all ages
10AM Adult Programs
11AM La Mesa Worship
11AM Worship & the Word
11AM Youth Group
12PM Youth Choir Lunch, Rehearsal, and VfL
5PM Confirmation Class

WEDNESDAY OCT 10

5:45PM Fundraiser dinner by UCP
6:30PM Wednesday Together Programs

FRIDAY OCT 12

7PM Friday Night Social Club "Salsa & Salsa dancing night"

SUNDAY OCT 14

8:45 AM Festival Worship
9:05AM Children's Choir
10AM Sunday School for all ages
10AM Adult Programs
11AM La Mesa Worship
11AM Worship & the Word
12PM Youth Choir Lunch, Rehearsal, and VfL
5PM Confirmation Class

FRIDAY OCT 19- OCT 21

Fall Retreat to Blowing Rock

- **SUNDAY** OCT 21

- 8:45 AM Festival Worship
- 8:45 AM Festival Worship
- 9:05AM Children's Choir
- 10AM Sunday School for all ages
- 11AM La Mesa Worship
- 11AM Worship & the Word
- 11AM Youth Group
- 12PM Youth Choir Lunch, Rehearsal, and VfL
- 5PM Confirmation Class

- **SUNDAY** OCT 28

- 8:45 AM Festival Worship
- 8:45 AM Festival Worship
- 9:05AM Children's Choir
- 10AM Sunday School for all ages
- 11AM La Mesa Worship
- 11AM Worship & the Word
- 11AM Youth Group
- 12PM Youth Choir Lunch, Rehearsal, and VfL
- 4PM Confirmation Class
- 5PM Pumpkin Party

**YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT
OF OUR SHARED MINISTRY
MAKES IT POSSIBLE.**

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

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1321 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd
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