

CALL *and* RESPONSE

VOLUME 2.4, FEBRUARY 2020

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CHURCH

We experience United Church at its best in the mid-winter bustle of ministry. This year we observed the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend with a guest preacher. Speaking from his experience as an African American man, Rev. Carl Kenney said, “there has never been a day in my life when I haven’t been fighting.” Privilege, he said, is having the option not to fight for your survival. In this way, Rev. Kenney admonished us to be resilient both in loving one another and in working for justice.

These two things are true at the same time: that we suffer from injustices that prevail among us and that we belong to a God who calls us to care for one another in a loving church. So we are called to persevere not in one struggle or the other—but both. To love the world enough to commit ourselves to redemptive work in the long haul. And to trust God enough to accept the care of the community we are given. Kenney’s proclamation of the gospel honored Dr. King, whose legacy many from United Church also honored on Monday in an interfaith service at First Baptist Church.

On the same day, we began organizing ourselves for our annual gift to Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. Matt Bridges, Habitat’s director of faith outreach, was here to thank our church for our support of the Building Hope partnership. Our goal for the partnership this year is \$10,000. We show our faithfulness to God particularly through our work together on initiatives that build up our community. We are—at the same time—building up the family of God and extending God’s justice into the world. What a great example of the resilience in the struggle that we see in the life of Jesus, and surely in the sacrificial life of Dr. King.

It’s not one or the other. We have to be a loving family, which demands our patience and our grace with each other. And we have to be for justice in the world, which summons our courage and resilience. That’s what it means to be church.

With love from United Church,



REVEREND CAMERON BARR,
SENIOR PASTOR



PASTOR CAMERON BARR

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FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

To believe is to care. To care is to do.

BUILD with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County Building Hope Partnership: Register to **build on SATURDAY** FEBRUARY 8 (10am-3pm) at <https://orangehabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/buildinghope/>. As part of the Building Hope Partnership, UCCH has committed to raise a minimum of \$10,000 this year toward the approximately \$82,000 it costs Habitat for Humanity to build a home in the Senior Living complex at Crescent Magnolia in Hillsborough. Please note "Habitat" in the memo line of your check made to United Church.

ASSEMBLE & MARCH at HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street): On **SATURDAY** FEBRUARY 8, join UCCH, 125 NC NAACP branches, youth councils, and college chapters, and over 200 other social justice organizations as we march in support of voting and women's rights, LGBTQ and immigration justice, criminal justice reform, education, healthcare, and economic stability. Meet at UCCH to carpool: **8am** for those who will march; **9am** for those who will attend the rally only. Questions? Contact Mary Jenne (919-967-9092/ English, some Spanish); Shirley Geissinger (919-370-0186/ English); or Christina Chauvenet (571-447-8950/ English & Spanish).

REGISTER VOTERS with "Our Faith Our Vote": Sign up to help on Sundays to ensure UCCH members and visitors are registered and understand how/when they can vote. Contact Andrea Vizoso (avizoso@mindspring.com).

LEARN at the "What's On Your Ballot?" Training: Join Activate! IFC and Democracy NC on **THURSDAY** FEBRUARY 20 (7pm; **Assembly Hall**) to learn (and share) the latest voting rules and how to use the important local, state, and federal offices on your 2020 ballot to motivate others to vote — all the way down the ballot. During this **FREE** hour-long training, plus Q&A, you'll get: a model for sharing "What's On the Ballot" with your networks, including an overview of 2020 races (and why you should care), including helpful handouts (available in color and B&W), a presentation guide and slides, and more; the latest election rules for 2020 (and how to talk about it); how to get involved with the 2020 elections (Early Voting advocacy, Election Protection, and more!) Register at <https://democracync.org/events/2-20-2020-whats-on-the-ballot-chapel-hill/>.

FEED at IFC: Help feed folks at the IFC shelters. Casseroles are always needed and UCCH helps **serve dinner on the the 2nd and 3rd Thursday and lunch on the 4th Thursday** of each month. Casserole pans and recipes are available on the table outside the Family Parlor and can be placed in the designated freezer in the kitchen. For more information, contact Rinnie Orr (rorr@unitedchurch.org).



PHOTOS of THE MONTH



On Sunday, January 26, the children discovered what happens to "ordinary" water when you add love, light, and energy! It was magical! We were exploring the story of the Disciples and how they went from ordinary to extraordinary people by following Jesus and sharing love and light with everyone!

UCCH CHILDREN BEGIN "VOICE FOR LIFE" TRAINING

By **JENNY ANDERSON**, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Our choir program for children received a major facelift this year. We split what had been one large group into two choirs, the Grace Notes for pre-schoolers through 1st graders and the Junior Choir for 2nd through 6th graders. We moved the rehearsal time to Wednesday nights, and we began implementing a comprehensive music training program for all our singers!

Our belief at United Church is that all choristers should receive comprehensive music and liturgy training as part of their participation in choir. To this end we extended the Voice for Life curriculum, which has been in place for our Youth Choir members for a number of years, to include all children from first grade up. With the help of many high school and adult volunteers, each child now has a mentor, and these mentor-mentee pairs meet weekly for 30 minutes before choir rehearsal. I get to peek in as these sessions are in progress, and witness not only great teaching but also strong cross-generational connections being forged!



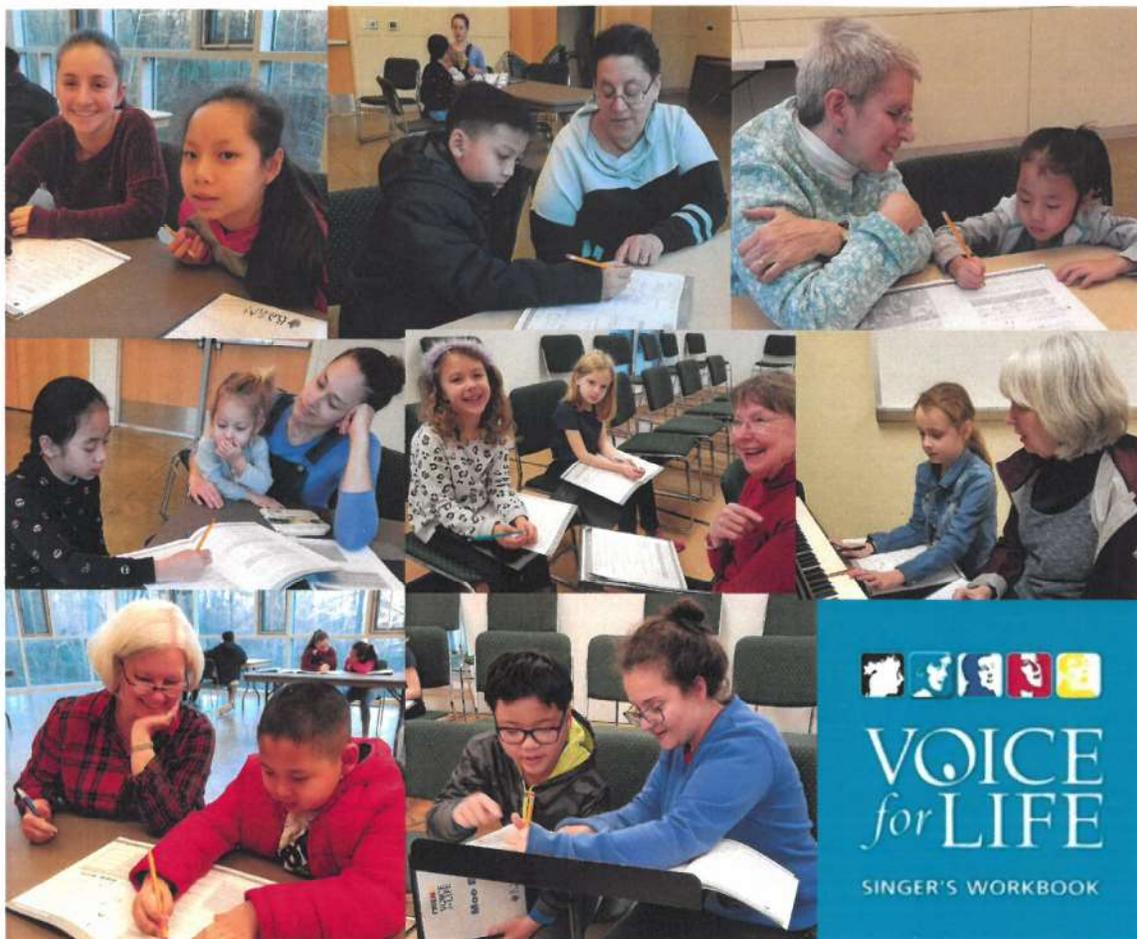
The RSCM Medallion bears the image of St. Nicholas, the gift-giver.

Voice for Life is a curriculum of the Royal School of Church Music, of which United Church is an affiliate member. It provides a framework for teaching vocal skills, music theory, ear training and sightreading, hymnody and liturgy - in other words, everything needed to equip our choristers to be musicians and leaders in church music now and throughout their lives. Achievement of curriculum standards is marked by ribbons of various colors, on which hangs the RSCM medallion - the karate belts of the singing world! I hope you have had a chance to commend the

many Youth Choir members who have met the standards for the light blue, dark blue and red levels, and wear ribbons in these colors over their robes. Soon you will see white ribbons, marking achievement of standards of the preparatory level, around the necks of our Junior Choristers! Watch for it!

A huge thank you to our many volunteers who invest so much in the future of our children! Enjoy this photo-collage of our choristers hard at learning!

The children's choirs meet for rehearsal and dinner on Wednesday evenings. Contact Jenny (janderson@unitedchurch.org) for more information!



THANK YOU!

To the "Light Up Your Winter" class leaders, including: Rinnie Orr, Claudia Galvez, Cely Chicurel, Jack Denniston, Alan Reed, and Herman Greene-- and to Jeff Hall, chair of the Board of Adult Education, for pulling together four weeks of great learning and fellowship!

To members of the Colombia and Germany trips groups, the ONA Committee, and the Fellowship Board for providing delicious Wednesday night dinners throughout January, and all those who came out to support these important parts of UCCH's mission!

To those who helped United Church host "Project Connect" on January 30, including Laura Bautista Carbajal, Gaylen Brubaker, Barbara Wildemuth, Susan Wilson, Barbara Page, Rex Mercer, Kathy Pause, Marty Nour, Cindy Johnson, Sarah Vinas, Denise Laux, and Tommie Howard. The event, sponsored by the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness, brought over 300 guests to our campus for the one-day, one-stop event connecting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness with a broad range of services.

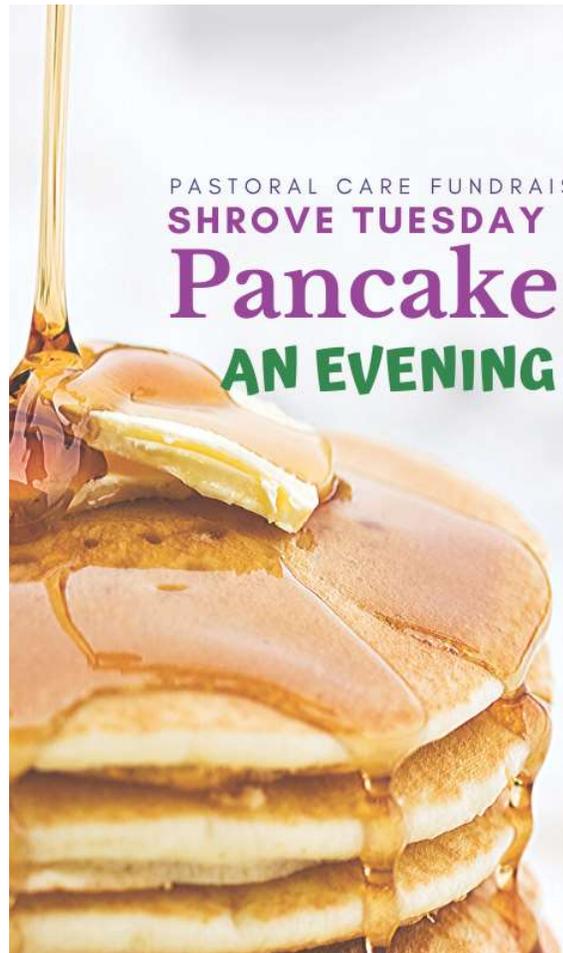
To all those who enhance Sunday worship by serving as liturgists, ushers, coffee hosts, and by donating altar flowers. Contact Debi Carter for more information on leading worship as a liturgist and Rinnie Orr to help in the other ways!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



PASTORAL CARE FUNDRAISER
SHROVE TUESDAY
Pancake Supper
AN EVENING OF FRIVOLITY

February 25, 2020
5:45 in the evening
UNITED CHURCH



We met to share wisdom!

We gathered to make connections

COMING SOON: CARE TEAM ORGANIZING

CARE-GIVING AT UCCH

Soon we will organize care teams!

WATCH THE E-NEWS FOR MORE INFO!

Add a subheading

WHERE 2 OR 3 ARE GATHERED

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

As part of our church's mission to build and strengthen community at United Church, we offer a monthly opportunity for community group connection among UCCH members, and encourage the development of communal spiritual practices that will nourish us in faith.



It is with great delight we announce that our Community Group Ministry program is celebrating its one-year anniversary this month! A year ago we launched our pilot program, a three-month experiment, with 8 groups and 15 Team Leaders.

With great curiosity and experimentation, we came together, formed groups and began meeting in each other's homes. We asked Team Leaders to commit to three meetups during those three months. At the end of the time period, we gathered again to see what we learned as ministry leaders from that experiment.



As a result of our work and experimentation last spring, in September 2019, we launched 15 groups with 27 Team Leaders. Community Groups meet monthly in the homes of church members for fellowship, study, prayer, conversation, fun, service projects, and more. Deeper friendships and community are being created throughout our church community.



For more information on Community Group Ministries, contact Rinnie (rorr@unitedchurch.org or 919-357-2759 (text/call)).

If you are interested in learning more, you may want to start with these six reasons to get involved:

#6 It's fun! Cookouts, board games, dessert, hula hoops, meatball subs, service projects, children's activities, meetups, and more! A community group is the place for laughter and fun!

#5 You will be part of a growing ministry of United Church, focused on deeper friendships and connections. In the past year, we have developed 15 Community Groups. We have 27 Team Leaders, and about 140-160 Participants involved in the groups.

#4 Pastoral Care. A community group is a great place to share our cares and concerns. We lift each other up and pray for one another in times of need and care.

#3 Your faith will grow. Community Groups provide conversation, prayer, and devotionals to help nurture your faith at United Church.

#2 You will make deeper friendships and connections within the church. With intention and planning, your Team Leaders provide space for fellowship, conversation and service.

#1 It strengthens the church. As we grow in spirituality and faith as individuals and in our groups, our growth affects and strengthens our entire church.

FEBRUARY GATHERINGS

WEEKLY GATHERINGS AT UNITED CHURCH

MONDAYS

- 12pm Monday Noon Book Group (Library)
- 6:30pm Spanish/English Conversation (Room 163)
- 7:15pm Women's Group (Library)

In February, the Women's Group will read *Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World* by Serene Jones. She is currently the President and Johnston Family Professor of Religion at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Contact Cindy Johnson (clj5823@yahoo.com) for more information or to be added to the email list.

WEDNESDAYS

- 7am Bible Study (Library)

FRIDAYS

- 9:15am Yoga (Assembly Hall)
- 11am Meditation (Library)

SUNDAYS

- 10am Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 12pm Coffee & Conversation (Family Parlor)

FAITH FORMATION AT UNITED CHURCH

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5

"Light Up Your Winter!"

Join us for the the final week of our 2020 series. **Dinner at 5:45pm** supports the Sanctuary Committee. **Classes begin at 6:30pm.**

Sacred Conversations on Race (SCOR) will join the **Adult Forum (Sundays at 10am; Assembly Hall)** during the month of February. Adult Forum topics planned include:

FEBRUARY 2: Affordable housing initiatives (with Orange County Justice United)

FEBRUARY 9: History of La Mesa

FEBRUARY 16: Immigration justice (with Apoyo)

FEBRUARY 23: Orange County Bail/Bond Justice Project update



United Church
**SPRING
Young in Spirit
WISDOM
LUNCHES**
For senior adults
11:30 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday January 21
Friday February 14
Thursday April 23
Wednesday June 3

Save the Date! More details to follow!



**LONG-TERM
CAREGIVER
SUPPORT
GROUP**

United Church of Chapel Hill
WEDNESDAYS
JANUARY 8, FEBRUARY 5, MARCH 4, APRIL 1
10:30-noon in ROOM 229

SAVE THE DATE!

Gospel Drag Brunch
SATURDAY APRIL 4

Back by popular demand: a family-friendly drag brunch at UCCH! Proceeds benefit the solidarity trip to Colombia.

Vacation Bible School
MONDAY JULY 20- **FRIDAY** JULY 24

Children will explore, celebrate, and care for God's good creation!

**GREAT
BIG
beautiful
WORLD**

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2

12:15pm Board of Children's Ministries
12:30pm La Mesa Committee
5pm Confirmation Class

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3

6:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee
7:30pm Earth Ministries Committee

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5

10:30am Long-term Caregiver Support Group
5:45pm Fellowship Fundraiser Dinner
6:30pm "Light Up Your Winter"

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6

9am Quilts of Love

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7

7pm Germany Trip Group

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8

HKonJ- *more information on pg. 2*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9

10am Children's Church- *more information on pg. 8*
10am ONA LGBTQIA+ Ministry
11am Sunday School teacher meeting
5pm "The Hub"
7pm Taize Worship- *more information on pg. 8*

MONDAY FEBRUARY 10

6pm Personnel Committee

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12

6:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee
7pm Racial Justice Ministries Committee

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13

7pm Board of Adult Education
7pm United Voices of Praise

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14

11:30am Wisdom Lunch Bunch
6pm Valentine's Swing Dance

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

10am Voice for Life

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16

12 pm Church Potluck
5 pm Confirmation Class

MONDAY FEBRUARY 17

5pm Sanctuary Committee
7pm Board of Justice, Outreach, and Service

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18

6pm Board of Deacons
7pm Board of Trustees

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23

12:30pm Community Group Team Leader potluck
2pm Germany Trip Group
5 pm Confirmation Class

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25

5:45pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
7pm Church Council

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26

ASH WEDNESDAY
6pm Empty Bowls- *more information coming soon!*
7pm Ash Wednesday Worship- *more information on pg 8.*

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29

9am Youth Leader Retreat

Email Kati (kruark@unitedchurch.org) to make sure your event is on the calendar and space has been reserved for your group's meeting or activity!

WORSHIP WITH US IN FEBRUARY

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Festival Worship

8:45am
Sanctuary

La Mesa Worship

11am
Fellowship Hall
(en español e ingles)

Worship & The Word

11am
Sanctuary

Children's Church SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9

All are welcome at this joy-filled worship service led by our 2nd and 3rd graders! Join us at **10am** in the **Sanctuary**.

Taizé Service SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9

Taizé is a style of Christian worship that originated in Taizé, France 75 years ago. It is woven with Christian song and chants, interspersed with prayerful silence, scripture reading, more song, more prayer, and more silence. Join us at **7pm** in the **Sanctuary** on the second Sunday of each month.

Ash Wednesday WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26

Our Lenten journey will commence with evening worship, including prayers of confession, the imposition of Ashes, and reflections on keeping a holy Lent. Join us at **7pm** in **Sanctuary**, following the Empty Bowls supper.

DID YOU KNOW?

UCCH sends out emails with prayer concerns and celebrations AND Pastoral Care Announcements.

prayers
of the
community

JOIN US!

Please click on the link below to be added to the list!

<https://lp.constantcontact.com/su/AoasBYA/care>

STAY CONNECTED

ONLINE

WEBSITE

WWW.UNITEDCHURCH.ORG

FACEBOOK

[/UNITEDCHURCHOFCHAPELHILL](https://www.facebook.com/UNITEDCHURCHOFCHAPELHILL)

CONTACT



919-942-3540

kruark@unitedchurch.org
Kati Ruark, Church Administrator



UNITED CHURCH
of CHAPEL HILL

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A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN