

# CALL *and* RESPONSE

APRIL 2020

## HOSANNA! HOSANNA!

### Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

It breaks my heart that we will not be able to worship together on Palm Sunday, through Holy Week, and on Easter. Pastor Ian has been saying that we are scattered physically but connected spiritually. I have sensed that myself in the past week.

And it's little wonder why. That is the very function of the Holy Spirit. The spirit's power is about "binding," "holding," and "mending." This is not the first time a Christian community has remained connected at its heart and soul if not through its body. The Holy Spirit always holds us in covenant with people of faith "of all ages, tongues, and races" across vast differences and time and space, with people who know God differently in other traditions, and even with the living and the dead in the great Communion of Saints.

So can the church survive if we do not worship in person? Of course it can. It has before! Paul was imprisoned. The early church was driven from public worship into separate homes. Enslaved people praised God in coded language and secret locations. The Church of Jesus Christ has survived more than a few plagues, pandemics, and famines. The Holy Spirit has held us together before, through even greater crises and equipped with less marvelous technology.

The history of the Christian faith teaches us that the church's identity is perhaps even more important during those times when it's not able to worship normally. This is another of those moments when we remember that the church is not a building, but God's people. Now is the time for more church, not less. So we continue to worship in creative ways online. We take up faith practices in our homes. We make lots of phone calls to check in on each other. We show up with a casserole or a loaf of bread. We give special attention in our prayers and in our daily works to those who are most vulnerable among us.

So, this year on Palm Sunday, through Holy Week, and in the Season of Easter – we won't "go" to church but we surely will "be" the church. The Holy Spirit is moving among us.

Thanks be to God!



**REVEREND CAMERON BARR,**  
SENIOR PASTOR



PASTOR CAMERON BARR

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# APRIL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

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

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## HELP END HUNGER with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk

Our “Alternative” CROP Hunger Walk is still on! The need for your support of local IFC and Church World Service hunger relief efforts has never been greater than right now, and the Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk fundraiser is taking place in an alternative format any day of your choice until April 20, 2020. With many of us already walking safely in our neighborhoods and on trails, please consider dedicating this activity to raising funds for this year’s walk.

Please share photos or a video of your walk on the CROP Hunger Walk Facebook page. Visit [CROP Hunger Walk](#) and search for the United Church team to register for your alternative walk or to simply make a donation. You can also mail a donation to Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk, 110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 72510. Please join us -- the community needs our support now more than ever.

United Church of Chapel Hill is again a sponsor of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk, which seeks to end hunger in our community one step at a time. Proceeds from t-shirt sales and donations benefit the Inter-Faith Council on Social Services (IFC) and Church World Service hunger relief efforts, both locally and abroad. The IFC, for example, serves 150 meals per day and sends home 13,000 bags of groceries each year through its Community Kitchen and Food Pantry programs. Many of the recipients work as teachers, construction workers, etc.



**PHOTO** of  
THE MONTH

# THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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We are grateful for our loving and supportive UCCH family and friends. We give thanks for all of you and the many ways you're reaching in and reaching out to share God's love and grace.

*A special note of thanks goes out to:*

Everyone who provided generous support to our food support plan for local schools.

All those who made phone calls to our congregation.

Andy Short and Andrea Vizoso, who helped organize the initial phone call check-ins.

Vicki Gardner and Patricia Saylor, who organized regular check-ins.

Members of the Board of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, particularly the Co-Chairs Millie Brobston and Megan Hughes, who made phone calls to all active families in the youth ministry.

Grant Berry and Bill Siddall, for their technical assistance as we adjusted to online worship.

Talented musicians, including Michelle Romero, Kathy Vandenberg, Craig Smith, Milo Fryling, and Cameron Aiken, who have worked to record pieces to enhance our at-home worship for the past few weeks.

All those who have risen to the challenge of connecting their Faith Formation groups via Zoom and other means while we are gathering virtually.

All those who have volunteered to provide meals to Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

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## **PLEASE CONTINUE GIVING TO UNITED CHURCH**

We would be grateful for your continued financial stewardship of the church's mission. It will help us meet our financial commitments to all staff and provide ongoing worship and ministry together. Gifts may be made on [the church website](#). You do not have to create an account to make a gift, but may do so by choosing to create a password. You can also contact our Business Manager, [Duane Gilbert](#), to set up a bank autodraft.

## **N95 MASKS & PPE NEEDED FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

There is a shortage of masks, PPE, and supplies needed to protect healthcare workers. Many who work on home projects or in construction may have these on hand. If you have N95 masks or know people in construction who do, please consider donating them to UNC Health. They are accepting donated supplies at various locations. [Read more about their needs](#).

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## 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>

## UCCH COVID-19 STORY PROJECT

Rinnie Orr is collecting and compiling our stories, thoughts, hopes, fears, prayers, and experiences during this time of isolation and social distancing. She plans to compile these and present this project back to the church as part of our shared history.

Please complete [this form](#) if you would like to share something with Rinnie.

# VIRTUAL GATHERINGS IN APRIL

## **MONDAYS**

12pm Monday Noon Book Group, Contact: Nancy Duffner  
2pm Bible Study via Zoom with Pastor Cameron  
7:30pm Women's Group, Contact: Cindy Johnson

## **WEDNESDAYS**

8am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Contact: Barbara Wildemuth  
5pm Evening Prayer via Facebook Live with Pastor Cameron  
5pm Grace Notes and Junior Choir, Contact: Jenny Anderson

## **THURSDAYS**

7pm Chancel Choir, Contact: Jenny Anderson  
7pm United Voices of Praise, Contact: Rachael Clemens

## **FRIDAYS**

4pm Community Groups Chit Chat, Contact: Rinnie Orr

## **SUNDAYS**

12:30pm Youth Choir Chat, Contact: Jenny Anderson  
5pm Youth Check-In Meeting, Contact: Ian McPherson

## **PASTORS' ONLINE OFFICE HOURS**

Cameron Barr: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm, <https://zoom.us/j/5869352494>  
David Mateo, Ian McPherson, and Mary Elizabeth Hanchey: By appointment

# WORSHIP WITH US IN APRIL

## Lenten Worship: Healing

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

Our fifth and final Lenten Worship Service, led by Rev. Ian McPherson, will be posted on the [UCCH YouTube Channel](#) and the [UCCH Facebook page](#).

## Worship of the Living God

SUNDAYS

9:30 am Live Event on the [UCCH Facebook page](#)

We hope you are able to join us for Sunday's "live" services online. The services are streamed on Facebook and please comment to let everyone know your thoughts in real time. We plan to continue using this format while we're worshipping in our own spaces.

You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to worship with us. Our Facebook page is public, so if you have internet access, you can watch the video. If you don't have a Facebook account and are asked to create one when you click the link above, feel free to decline-- you'll still be able to access our page and the worship service!

Did you miss the service at 9:30am? All our services are available on our Facebook page and on our YouTube Channel.



**UNITED CHURCH**  
*of* CHAPEL HILL

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**STAY CONNECTED**

**ONLINE**

**WEBSITE:** [WWW.UNITEDCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.UNITEDCHURCH.ORG)

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



**919-942-3540**

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