

## LA MESA Y CAFE

One of our church's historical highlights has been our committed and active presence within the community. For years, our church has brought the message of justice to the most vulnerable groups, especially the Latinx community in the area.

La Mesa Y Café is a multicultural and bilingual worship service conceived to bring the message of hope and justice to individuals and families that consider themselves spiritual but not religious, to anybody interested in being part of a fresh bilingual and multicultural experience, and to those whose understanding of the Gospel and faith relates to the basic principles of Liberation Theology.

Each section of the service represents the different voices that honor the diversity of our congregation through music, Bible readings, the message, communion, and the remembrance of the Lord's Prayer.

The service is directed by Rev. David Mateo, and coordinated by a group of volunteers who contribute their service, resources, and talents. The music is offered by the La Mesa band and special performances by members of our congregation. As a new feature, virtual tools will be implemented to encourage interactive participation in real time, and for having a participatory dialogue with our congregation.

2020-2021 Folleto del programa: [bit.ly/2020ucchprograma](https://bit.ly/2020ucchprograma)



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## MUSIC PROGRAMS

*"Music is pleasing not only because of the sound but because of the silence that is in it....If we have no silence, God is not heard in our music."* Thomas Merton, American theologian

The last few months have given us perhaps more opportunity for silence than we might have chosen! Yet despite, or, as Merton suggests, because of that silence, we are finding new ways to hear the voice of God in the music of our church.

Our various music groups continue to offer praise to God in our online services of worship. This fall we will make recordings of individual singers and instrumentalists, virtual choirs, and small distanced-and-masked outdoor groups. We encourage the whole church to add your voices to our offerings of music from your living rooms as you participate in the worship of the church.

The following groups are making plans to rehearse together virtually or in socially distanced small groups on a reduced and revised schedule:

- Adult Choir (including Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers, and other adults near or far)
- Junior and Youth Choirs (second through 12th grade)
- Grace Notes Choir (4-year-olds through 1st grade)
- United Voices of Praise (open to all ages)
- La Mesa Band (open to all ages)
- Small instrumental groups

All of these groups are delighted to welcome new members and participants. Although this may seem a strange time to join, there is never a wrong time to offer your time and talent to God and to become connected with others through music! Please let me know if you wish to receive details about the programs of any of these groups.

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**UNITED CHURCH of**  
**CHAPEL HILL**  
A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

**2020 FALL PROGRAMS**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry is deeply committed to being a place of belonging for all God's children. The most important faith formation a child receives is in the home, therefore we will provide the tools needed for families to worship together.

We will use resources from Illustrated Ministry because we value their commitment to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. This fall, we will explore the Beatitudes together leading up to the Advent season.

We are committed to ensuring that our connections with children are developmentally appropriate and safe by following our Safe Conduct Policy and providing many points of connection that do not require screen time.

This year, Children's Ministry will connect through:

- Prayer
- Opportunities to pick up monthly Worship Packs, which include ways to create a worship space at home for the whole family. The packs will include developmentally appropriate Bibles, bulletins and/or coloring pages, and basic art supplies. Outside pickups are scheduled for Friday, 9/11, 10/23, and 11/20 from 3:30-4:30. Details will be included in the weekly Children's Ministry email.
- Sunday morning emails that will include a video of Bible stories, songs, resources, and opportunities to put faith in action.
- Monthly Children's Moments during worship that will include videos, pictures, and messages about the ways we are connecting with one another.
- Points of connection through Prayer Pals, postcards, and letters from our congregation.
- Being here for your questions, celebrations, lamenting, and all of the other emotions that are so present for many of us in these uncertain times. We are in this together!

**CONTACT:** Anitra Grove, Director for Children's Ministries  
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## YOUTH MINISTRY

Whether online or in person, our mission remains the same:

*"The Youth Ministry of UCCH celebrates youth, connects them to God, one another, and the community, and empowers them as leaders who act for equity and justice."*

In the spirit of communal connection and celebration, this semester's offerings will focus on the power of Storytelling: My Story, Our Story, and God's Story.

Throughout the fall, youth ministries will have three monthly virtual offerings held on Zoom from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.:

- Middle School Gatherings: 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13\*
- High School Gatherings: 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 12/13\*
- The Hub: a chance for Middle and High Schoolers to connect with community leaders and talk about the civic issues that matter most to them. 9/27, 10/25, 11/22, 12/20  
\*Joint MS/HS gathering

The Story of Who We Are (and Who We Could Be): We will start the program year with a multigenerational All Church Read. We are inviting our youngest leaders to participate in this important conversation about the role of racism and antiracism in our faith and in our nation. In fact, the text is famed YA author Jason Reynolds's adaptation of Ibram Kendi's work: "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You."

If you would like to participate and need assistance purchasing the book, please reach out to Pastor Ian. There are scholarship resources available.

For more information on these offerings, or for the full calendar of special events, please reach out to Pastor Ian.

**CONTACT:** Rev. Ian McPherson, Associate Pastor  
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## ADULT PROGRAMS

Adults' faith is never static. Just as with children and youth, our faith fluctuates and changes as long as we live; through Christ, it is always being made new. At times the Spirit draws us to involvement in social justice issues, and at times to quieter practices of prayer or joyful expressions of art. Honest and responsible discipleship requires regular attentiveness to the ever-changing condition of our minds, bodies, and souls, and attentiveness, too, to the leadings of the Spirit as we seek to connect more deeply with the mystery of Christ's love in our lives.

*"The life of Christian faith is dynamic and moving, led and shaped by the Spirit."* Craig Dykstra

Informed by the core convictions of our denomination and our particular congregation, our programs provide opportunities for everything from growth in biblical literacy and spiritual practice to inspiration for Christ-centered engagement in the issues of our day. There is no right way for everyone. Let the Spirit lead you to the places that make your heart burn.

The following groups meet regularly and welcome newcomers. Details for joining and contact information are in the weekly eNews.

- Spiritual Growth - Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
- Faith and Family - Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
- Monday Noon Book Group - Mondays at 11:30 a.m.
- Women's Group - Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
- Bible Study with Pastor Cameron - Tues. at 2:00 p.m.
- Sacred Conversations on Race - Tues. at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study - Wed. at 8:00 a.m.
- Long-term Caregiver Support Group - Wed., 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays Together - Wed. at 7:00 p.m.
- Yoga - Fridays at 9:00 a.m.
- Black Lives Matter Vigil - Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

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