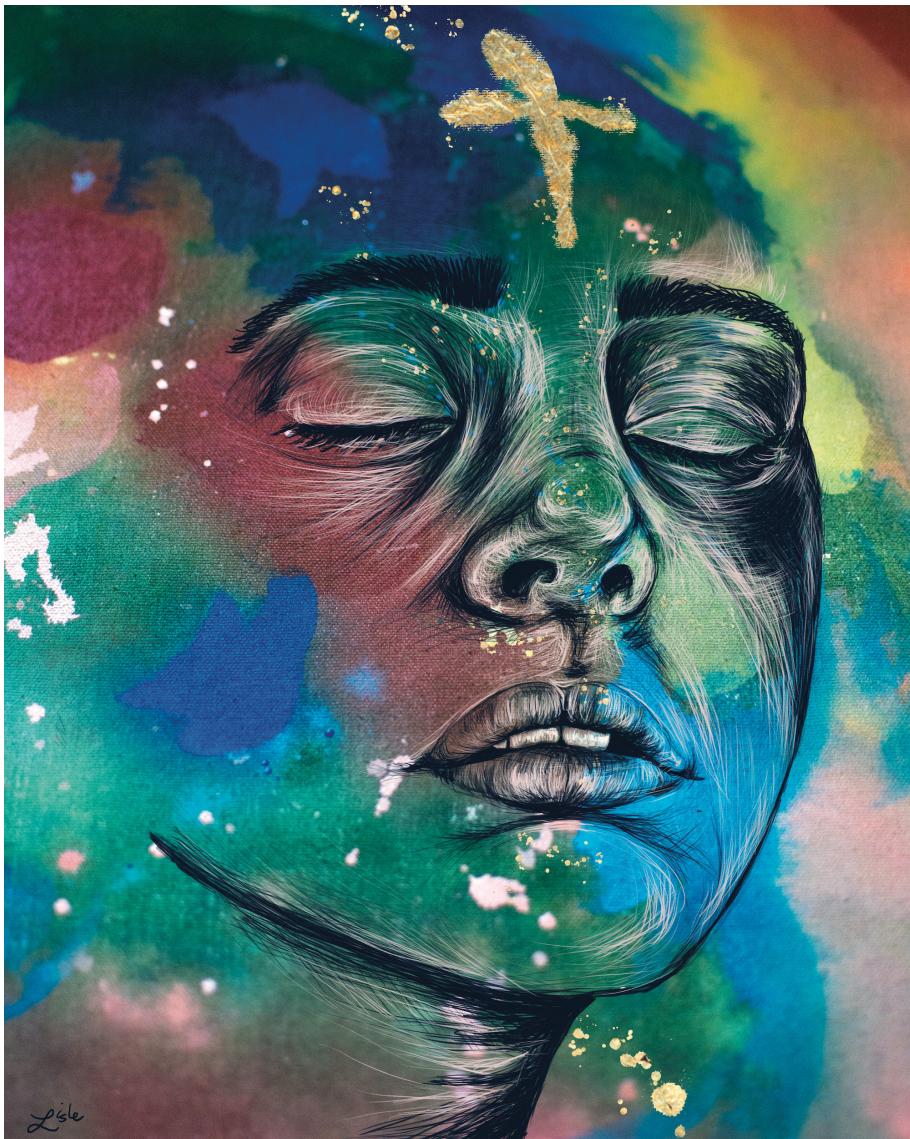


UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL
FESTIVAL WORSHIP



FEBRUARY 15, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

*Please stand, as able, when indicated by asterisk. **Bold text indicates congregational response.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude on Irish

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

Be Thou My Vision

Brook Boddie

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Gospel is the story of the Word made Flesh.

**In this story, God joined creation in a body,
the body of Jesus,
who lived and died as humans do.**

The Gospel is the story of a God who gets us. In becoming human, God experienced all that is part of this world.

**The hunger and the fullness,
the heartache and the joy,
the spirit and the flesh.**

The Gospel is the story that transforms us,
where we are changed from glory into glory
and renewed in the image of God.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Let's tell this story again & again!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 522

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

*COLLECT IN ESPAÑOL

Dios misericordioso, que nos llamas a amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos, nos has bendecido con muchas lenguas para alabar tu santo nombre. Oramos por la unidad de la Iglesia, por todos los que celebran su culto en inglés o en español, y por los inmigrantes que viven de la fe en un país desconocido. Por Cristo Jesús, que hace un hogar para todos tus hijos. Amén.

Merciful God, who calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, you have blessed us with many tongues to praise your holy name. We pray for the unity of the church, for all who worship in English or Spanish, and for immigrants who live by faith in an unfamiliar country. Through Christ Jesus, who makes a home for all your children. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 2

Pew Bible page 424

Matthew 17:1-9

adapted from the NRSVue

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. and he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus,

“Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will set up three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said,

“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying,

“Get up and do not be afraid.”

And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself, alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them,

“Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Transfiguration- *This Little Light of Mine*

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Where Children Belong

RITCHIE



This, this is where children be-long, wel-comed as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.



Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children be-long.

SERMON

Jesus and the Storytellers

Jackson Ringley

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the story of Jesus Christ, the love of God made flesh and bone.

In this story, God's love defeats all tools of death and despair.

How does God's love shape our story?

God's love writes us a new story,

where we can find belovedness in every nook and cranny of creation

This new story transfigures and transforms us.

That's what Love does. It changes us. How does Love remake our story?

Love pulls us away from the seduction of despair

by directing our lives to the work of healing.

God's love wipes every tear from our eyes

and makes our broken hearts whole.

God's love saves us from all that drains life.

That's what God does. That's what God has always done.

God still speaks to us with the same love that greeted

prophets and apostles, sinners and saints.

God enters our story with the same love that raised Christ from the grave,

 proving once and for all that *nothing* the Empire does can separate us

 from the Love of God in Christ Jesus.

Where is God's love speaking in our story? What could God be saying to us here and now?

Blessed are you who still sing Love's song in the sea of

racism, sexism, classism, and ableism.

Blessed are you who proclaim Love must win in the midst of

ageism, xenophobia, queerphobia, and transphobia.

Blessed are you like Peter, James, and John – feeling

terrified by Christ's story.

Blessed are you who gently say, "Get up. Do not be afraid."

Blessed are you seeking refuge on the mountaintop.

Blessed are you who labor in the streets.

Blessed are you who put your body on the line for Love.

Blessed are you writing the stories of resistance.

Blessed are you who are new to such stories,

 and blessed are you who let Love reauthor your story.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the greatest Storyteller, we say all this.

Amen.

from "write it down: the storyteller's catechism" by the pansy theology project, forthcoming

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

C.S. Lang

Antiphon: Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Verse 1: The heavens are not too high, God's praise may thither fly; the earth is not too low, God's praises there may go.

Verse 2: The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out; but above all the heart must bear the longest part.

Program note: Musical settings of the poem by 16th century English poet George Herbert are numerous, and include several hymn settings. The poet emphasizes the universal scope of praise, extending to heaven and earth in the first verse, and to the whole church and the individual heart in the second, suggesting worship is at once cosmic and deeply personal. C.S. Lang's setting, in 2-part canon, repeats the short antiphon before and after each verse. Lang employs word-painting to express the poetic contrasts: the higher-pitched, expansive setting of the first phrases of each verse ("heaven" and "church," respectively) contrasting the quiet, intimate setting of the 2nd phrases ("earth" and "heart").

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You may be seated. Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We offer a gluten-free option in the basket with purple linens and serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like a pastor to bring the elements to you. Communion cups may be left in the openings on the back of the pews.

COMMUNION MUSIC 349

I Come With Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN OF BLESSING 473

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

DEO GRACIAS

Program note: This improvisation of a popular Transfiguration tune is inspired by a majestic arrangement by Virgil Fox.

GRATITUDE CORNER

I am thankful for all of the many people who work in quiet ways, behind the scenes, to make UCCH such a special place. There are people who cut the communion bread and prepare communion, people who move chairs and tables in the Fellowship Hall, people who take minutes at meetings and people who place those minutes in the archives, people who insure that we have a working projector and sound system in the Fellowship Hall, people who volunteer in the library, etc. This list is so much longer than space allows. Thank you to every single person who helps make this a better place by the quiet things you do that most of us never see. —Jan Thornton-Irvine

Submissions needed! If you can name something about our church community that makes you want to give thanks and sing in less than 200 words, we'd love to print it here. Send your submission to m mee@unitedchurch.org.

WELCOME!

If you are new to United Church, we are so glad you are here. Please complete a Welcome Card that can be found in the back of the pew, introduce yourself to a pastor after the service, and take a gift bag with more information about our congregation (available on the table outside the sanctuary). We invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments following worship today.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES & EMPTY BOWLS

Stop by the church lawn at 12:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, for one of our two brief bilingual services with the imposition of ashes. The Empty Bowls fundraiser for the IFC will also take place on Ash Wednesday. Handmade ceramic bowls will be sold after both services, and a soup supper will be served at 5:45 p.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR ADULTS

Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25 / 6 - 7 p.m. Led by Pastor Jackson Ringley, sponsored by the Board of Adult Education: "Confirmation (for Adults)" is an educational opportunity for adults to rediscover their faith during the Lenten season. We will explore the same major themes that our youth encounter in the Confirmation Class: including, scripture, history, theology, justice, and worship. Together, we will engage in a combination of lessons and exercises to examine our faith(s). Scan the QR code to learn more & sign up.



INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT AT NC DIAPER BANK

THIS Tuesday, February 17, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Our September service project was at capacity, so we're hosting another one! Sponsored by the Board of Justice, Outreach, and Service, this volunteer opportunity is appropriate for all ages and abilities. February 17 is a teacher workday for Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/United-ChurchChapelHill>

LIGHT UP YOUR WINTER: NEW SCHEDULE

Fridays, February 20 & 27 / starting @5:45 p.m.

Join us for our rescheduled Zitipalooza and Movie Night benefitting United Church Preschool on February 20, and our Chili Cook-Off and Game Night on February 27. Learn more in the Enews, and sign up for the cook-off here: <https://bit.ly/ucchili26>.

UCCH YOGA: FEBRUARY CLASSES

Join Melanie Joiner for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Fridays at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Hall: February 20 (chair yoga) & 27**. Questions? Please contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com.

2ND ANNUAL COUPLES RETREAT

Saturday, February 21 / 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Keynote speaker Karon Johnson, faculty member in the UNC School of Social Work and doctoral student at Vanderbilt's Divinity School, will kick off our day. Break-out sessions may include topics such as conflict resolution, communication styles, celebrating milestones, and more. There will be time for building connections and making new friends. All coupled pairs are welcome! Lunch and childcare will be provided. Learn more and sign up here: <https://bit.ly/couples26>

SOULS TO THE POLLS!

Early voting for the 2026 primary elections is underway. Join members of the UCCH community as we walk together **after worship on Sunday, February 22**, to the Orange County early voting site at the Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd. We will gather in front of the church and leave at noon (or you can meet us there). Only Orange County residents may vote at this location. Same-day voter registration is available during early voting. Learn more & view your sample ballot at vote411.org. Questions? Contact Sarah Ovaska at sarahdovaska@gmail.com

NEXT COMMUNITY FORUM

Sunday, February 22 / 9:15 a.m. / Fellowship Hall

Rev. Angie Wright will share excerpts of her book, *Loving My Enemies & Other Outlandish Pursuits*, a memoir of family, faith and power. She will guide us as we wrestle with the challenges of practicing love for our families, neighbors and adversaries in turbulent times.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

Our email newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) and Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at unitedchurch.org. Additional announcements include:

- ★ Town of Chapel Hill Peoples Academy (sign up by February 20)
- ★ *Wilmington's Lie* Book Discussions & Author Visit (3 meetings in March)

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Bauckham, R. The transfiguration. In "Who Is God?: Key Moments of Biblical Revelation," p99-103. 231 Bau W
- ★ Winner, L.F. Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. In "The Voice of Matthew," p91-95. 2267 Win V
- ★ Dear, J. Up the mountain with Jesus. In "Transfiguration: A Meditation on Transforming Ourselves and Our World," p35-68. 248.4 Dea T
- ★ Rohr, R. When you are transformed, others are transformed through you. In "What the Mystics Know," p111-132. 248.8 Roh W

These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. A volunteer, Rev. Jo Watson, will be in the library after the worship service, to assist you in finding library materials.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Nursery Sign-in: If your child will be going to the nursery after the Children's Moment, please scan the attached QR code to share care information with our nursery staff.



SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Julie Mitchell, organ; Nan de Andrade, harp;
Junior Choir, Barbara Wildemuth, piano

DEACON: Jean Anne Barnes

GREETERS: Patricia & Bob Schram

READER: Susan Denault

LIVESTREAM: Brian Moore

SOUNDBOARD: Peter Schay

COFFEE HOST: Board of Deacons

COVER ART: *Stardust* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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UNITED CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Cameron Barr

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Caleb Wolf

MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove

MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Jackson Ringley

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Reyna Alston

PROGRAM ORGANIST: Julie Mitchell

ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director), Jennifer Anderson (Junior Choir Director)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark

BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee

SEXTON: Bruce Thomas

KITCHEN STEWARDS: Hser Nay Htoo & Zoila Fonseca

NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Harper Gray, Kallista Mela, Mimi Reeves, Anna Grove, Jack Tanner, & Josh Hart

Bienvenido. Welcome. Visitors are invited to take a contact card from the Narthex or Sanctuary pew pockets to fill out and place in the offering plate. / Se invita a los visitantes a coger una tarjeta de contacto de los bolsillos de los bancos del Nártex o del Santuario para llenarla y depositarla en el plato de las ofrendas.

Or complete the form online:
O rellene el formulario en línea:



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PHONE
919-942-3540

A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Durante nuestro servicio de adoración conjunto del domingo pasado (8 de febrero de 2026), afirmamos a las siguientes personas como miembros oficiales de nuestra congregación. Gracias a todas y todos por su paciencia mientras afrontábamos cambios en las fechas de reuniones y de membresía debido a la nieve, el hielo y otros impactos.

Conoce a las nuevas personas miembros

Lizeth Calderon

Willem Calderon

Samuel Torres

Alirio Estevez (él) es de Colombia y emigró a los Estados Unidos en el año 2000 junto con su esposa, Mary Prada, y su hija Angie. Algunos años después, dos hermosos niños, Daniel y Andrés, se unieron a su familia. Alirio ha sido maestro en escuelas públicas en los Estados Unidos durante 26 años, y 34 años en total si se incluye su labor en Colombia. Está muy entusiasmado de formar parte de nuestra familia de iglesia. (*Esta entrada ha sido traducida del inglés*).

Kerri Patrick (ella) y Mat Despard viven en el condado de Orange, al sur de Carrboro, y anteriormente vivieron en Durham durante 15 años. Kerri es trabajadora social geriátrica y Mat trabaja en la UNC. Tienen dos hijas adultas: Rachel, que vive en Brooklyn, Nueva York, y Jean (se pronuncia “zh-ahn”, no “yin”), que vive en casa. Kerri participa en el programa Our Whole Lives (OWL) y Mat participa en Justice United y en el grupo de hombres de la iglesia unida. (*Esta entrada ha sido traducida del inglés*).

Corina Rojas (ella), Gabriela (ella), y Emmanuel (él): Somos una familia de 3 persona más 2 hijos y yo. Llegamos a este país hace apenas 1 año. Vivimos en North Carolina. Corina (Cori) es una persona que le gusta trabajar echar para adelante sacar su familia adelante. Gabriela (Gaby), mi hija tiene 8 años, la cual estudia segundo grado. Es una niña muy carismática, inteligente le encanta su jugar baloncesto y futbol. Es una niña encantadora. Emmanuel (Yiyi), mi hijo menor, está en kinder, él tiene seis años es un niño muy inteligente, es un niño le gusta mucho jugar es un niño con mucha energía y le gusta también el baloncesto y jugar fútbol. Mís hijos y yo nos gusta los servicios religiosos nos gustaría participar en la formación de fe en la actividades de compañerismo de la iglesia unida.

Somos **la familia Martin-Lizarazo**. **John Martin Florez**, nacido en Cartagena, ingeniero de sistemas especialista en telecomunicaciones y actualmente Safety en construcción en EE. UU., con el deseo de servir cuidando de los trabajadores en la construcción. Mi esposa, **Tania Lizarazo**, abogada y máster en riesgos laborales, cuenta con amplia experiencia en seguridad y salud en el trabajo. Nuestros hijos: **Juan Pablo (21)**, quien inició la construcción de su hogar en Colombia, y **Juan Camilo (12)**, atleta apasionado por el soccer y el kung fu. Creemos que al ayudar a otros crecemos juntos y buscamos servir con fe, alegría y compromiso a nuestra comunidad.

During our joint worship service last Sunday (February 8, 2026), we affirmed the following people as official members of our congregation. Thank you for bearing with us through changing meeting and membership dates due to snow, ice, and other impacts.

Meet Our New Members

Lizeth Calderon

Willem Calderon

Samuel Torres

Alirio Estevez (he/him) is from Colombia and immigrated to the United States in the year 2000 with his wife Mary Prada and their daughter Angie. Few years later, two beautiful boys, Daniel and Andres, joined their family. Alirio has been a public teacher in the United States for 26 years and 34 if we include Colombia. He's very excited to be part of our church family.

Kerri Patrick (she/her) and Mat Despard live in Orange County south of Carrboro and previously lived in Durham for 15 years. Kerri is a geriatric social worker and Mat works at UNC. They have 2 adult daughters, Rachel who lives in Brooklyn, NY and Jean (pronounced zh-ahn not gene) who lives at home. Kerri is involved with Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Mat is involved with Justice United and the Men's group at United Church.

Corina Rojas (she/her), Gabriela (she/her), & Emmanuel (he/him): We are a family of three—my two children and me. We arrived in this country just one year ago. We live in North Carolina. I, Corina (Cori), am a person who likes to work hard, move forward, and provide for my family. Gabriela (Gaby), my daughter, is 8 years old and is in second grade. She is a very charismatic and intelligent girl who loves playing basketball and soccer. She is a delightful child. Emmanuel (Yiyi), my youngest son, is in kindergarten. He is six years old, very intelligent, loves to play, has lots of energy, and also enjoys basketball and playing soccer. My children and I enjoy religious services and would like to participate in faith formation and fellowship activities at United Church. (*This entry was translated from Spanish*).

The Martin-Lizarazo family: **John Martin Florez**, born in Cartagena, is a systems engineer specializing in telecommunications and is currently working in construction safety in the United States, with a desire to serve by caring for workers in the construction industry. His wife, **Tania Lizarazo**, is a lawyer with a master's degree in occupational risk management and has extensive experience in workplace safety and health. Their children are **Juan Pablo** (21), who has begun building his own home in Colombia, and **Juan Camilo** (12), an athlete passionate about soccer and kung fu. Their family believes that by helping others we grow together, and they seek to serve the community with faith, joy, and commitment. (*This entry was translated from Spanish*).