

**UNITED CHURCH** *of* CHAPEL HILL  
**FESTIVAL WORSHIP**



**MARCH 8, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

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## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Doris Akers, arr. John F. Ingram

## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into God's presence,  
you who imagine and you who seek,  
you who disrupt and you who repair.

**By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God's abundance,  
you of great faith,  
and you who grasp at crumbs;  
you who resist, and you who persist.

**In Christ, we gather and are transformed.**

Come into God's presence,  
singing for joy and for justice;  
bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

## INTROIT

*Bright Morning Stars*

Traditional Appalachian American Spiritual,  
arr. The Commas

**Compassionate God, you listen to the cries of all your children and are quick to respond with mercy. As Jesus' heart was opened by the pleading of a neighbor in need, open our hearts to the sighs and longings of our world. Teach us to be courageous in faith, speaking up for justice and persisting in hope that makes all things new. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### \*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.*

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

As we walk through the wild wilderness of Lent, we imagine a world where all creation is at peace. We imagine a world without war, where creation flourishes and children are safe. Let these dreams of peace begin here as we share the peace of Christ with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE 23**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*The following scripture translations are from A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church (Years A and C) by Wilda C. Gafney.*

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left the place [where he had been teaching] and went back to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that area came out and shouted, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is badly demon-possessed." But Jesus did not answer her a word. Then his disciples came and implored him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." Now Jesus answered, "I was not sent to any except the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Jesus, saying, "Lord, help me." Then Jesus said, "It is not good to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she said, "Yes, Lord, yet the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their lord's table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed that moment.

Numbers 27:1-11

[After the division of the land] the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Now Zelophehad was the child of Hopher descended from Gilead descended from Machir descended from Manasseh—of the Manassite clans—descended from Joseph. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They [the sisters] stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and the whole congregation of women, children, and men at the entrance of the tent of meeting and they said: "Our father died in the wilderness, yet he was not among the assembly of those who assembled themselves together against the MAJESTY OF THE HEAVENS in the company of Korah; for his own sin he died, and he had no sons. Why should the name of our father be withdrawn from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers."

Now Moses brought their case forward before the JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH. And the JUDGE OF ALL FLESH spoke to Moses, saying: Since the daughters of Zelophehad are correct in their word, you shall indeed give them a hereditary possession among their father's brothers and pass the possession of their father to them. To the women and men of Israel you shall speak, saying, "When a man dies and has no son, then you all shall pass his possession on to his daughter. If he has no daughter, then you shall all give his possession to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you all shall give his possession to his father's brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you all shall give his possession to his nearest relative of his clan and he shall possess it. It shall be for the women and men of Israel a statute and ordinance just as the JUST GOD commanded Moses."

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

*Praise God All Ye Little Children*



Praise God! Praise God, all you lit-tle chil-dren. God is love, God is love.



Praise God! Praise God, all you lit-tle chil-dren. God is love, God is love.

### SERMON

*Persisting in Peacemaking*

Rev. Cameron Barr

### CALL TO SHARING

### ANTHEM

*Wayfaring Stranger*

arr. The Commas

### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



Christ, all peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spi - rit



ev - er - more; praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore.

### \*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.

**We joyfully give our thanks and praise.**

## 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

*O Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)*

attr. To Nicolaus Decius,  
fugue setting by Johann Pachelbel

### 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 547

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

### \*BENEDICTION

### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*What Wondrous Love is This*

Appalachian Folk Hymn

### GRATITUDE CORNER

I am so grateful for the dedicated volunteers of our soundboard and streaming team. To Bill Siddall, Ron Johnson, Peter Schay, Toby McCoy, Bob Sielken, Brian Moore, and Sonic AL for your service for our sanctuary services, and to John Martin Florez running sound in the La Mesa services - thank you! I am grateful for your service every week! Thank you! —Kaselehliia Sielken

**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 [mme@unitedchurch.org](mailto:mme@unitedchurch.org).



# Pillars of Promise *Capital Campaign* *Giving Update*

**Pledges (as of 3/3/26): \$1,726,938**

**Gifts received (as of 3/3/26): \$1,051,692 (61% of pledged amount)**

*Thank you!*

The earlier gifts are received for the capital campaign, the less UCCH has to rely on external sources of funding like loans. If you are able, please complete your pledge as soon as possible. If you have not yet made a pledge or gift to the capital campaign and would like to, please contact Church Administrator Kati Ruark ([kruark@unitedchurch.org](mailto:kruark@unitedchurch.org)).

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL LENT & EASTER 2026

### Morning Prayer Series

**7:30am on Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1**

15-25 minute bilingual Lenten prayer gatherings with optional oil anointing. (In the Family Parlor - Sanctuary entrance will open at 7:15)

### A Contemplative Path Through Lent

A weekly Sunday email will offer a spiritual practice, with scripture, reflection, and a blessing to guide your week.

### Lenten Organ Meditation - Thursday, March 5

**12:30pm** A time of silent meditation or prayer with traditional Lenten organ music played by Julie Mitchell. A freewill offering will support our music ministry. (Sanctuary | 35-40 minutes)

### Third Sunday in Lent - March 8

**10:30am** Festival & La Mesa Worship

### Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 15

**8:45am** Gospel Worship with UVoP (Sanctuary) | **10:30am** Festival & La Mesa Worship

### Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 22

**10:30am** Festival & La Mesa Worship | **1:30pm** CROP Hunger Walk

### Palm Sunday - March 29

**10:30am** Joint, bilingual Service of Palms (Sanctuary). *Gather on the lawn at 10:15 for the palm procession.*

### Maundy Thursday - April 2

**7pm** Bilingual service of prayer, music, & Communion in memory of the Last Supper of Jesus (Narthex)

### Good Friday - April 3

**5pm** Bilingual Stations of the Cross featuring music, art, & storytelling (Start in the Sanctuary)

**7pm** *Tenebrae* service in the tradition of Taizé (Sanctuary)

### Holy Saturday - April 4

**7pm** Spanish language service to keep vigil with the tomb of Jesus (On the lawn)

### Easter Sunday - April 5

**7am** Sunrise Service (Sanctuary portico) | **10:30am** Festival & La Mesa Worship

## 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.

## WILMINGTON'S LIE BOOK DISCUSSIONS & AUTHOR VISIT: MEETING TODAY

The Racial Justice Ministries Committee is hosting discussions about David Zucchino's Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy*. Discussions will be **March 1 and 8**, culminating in a presentation and in-person conversation with the author on **March 15**. All sessions are **in the Fellowship Hall, right after worship**. Check the UCCH Enews for more details.

## GOSPEL WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Join us in the Sanctuary next **Sunday, March 15, at 8:45 a.m.** for Gospel Worship with United Voices of Praise Gospel Choir.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S COMMUNITY FORUM: IVRF

*Sunday, March 15 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall*

Our church is a member of the Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Freedom, a coalition of faith communities who advocate for quality reproductive health care accessible to all North Carolinians. IVRF members support this quality reproductive healthcare, not in spite of religious values, but because of them. We will welcome Rev. Alison Eskildsen as a guest speaker who will share with us about the work and mission of IVRF.

## PRAY WITHOUT PREACHING: PRAYER AS A PRACTICE FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

United Church of Chapel Hill will host two days of reflection and conversation on prayer practices, **March 18 and 19** with Rev. Dr. Mary Luti. Learn more & register here: <https://bit.ly/prayer26>

## UCCH STREAM CLEANUP TEAM

Please sign up if you would like to join the UCCH Stream Team on our very first creek monitoring investigation, to be held on the spring equinox on **Friday, March 20, 9-11 a.m.** All ages are welcome, as long as you can appreciate a little mud and some uneven terrain! Children should bring an adult. Please dress for the weather, including waders, boots, or shoes you don't mind getting wet. If you can't make it this time, no worries! We will go out to monitor the creek once each quarter on rotating days/times. For questions or more info, please contact [karen.setty@gmail.com](mailto:karen.setty@gmail.com). Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/ucchstreamteam>

## JOIN THE UCCH CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM!

Walk with us on **Sunday, March 22** to benefit IFC and Church World Service hunger relief efforts! Stop by our table in Fellowship Hall today for information, donations, and t-shirts. The need has never been greater for those facing insecurity in our community and around the world. Register/donate on our team page: <https://bit.ly/ucchcrop26>

There will be a Noisy Offering in support of the CROP Walk during Festival Worship next Sunday, March 15. Bring some coins to drop in the offering receptacle and help make a noisy impact!

## UCCH YOGA: MARCH CLASSES

Join Melanie Joiner for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Fridays, March 13 and 27 at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Hall**. Questions? Please contact Melanie at [melanie.spence@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.spence@gmail.com).

## SEEKING PEACEMAKING SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Peacemaking Scholarship Committee is seeking new members to join them in supporting young people in our community who are working for peace. Awarding scholarship money to deserving high school students on their way to college is what we do. Be uplifted by reading and judging the submissions of our peacemaking youth. Our most active time is during the spring, but in the fall we also sponsor a fundraising concert and a booth at the Alternative Gift Market. Contact Sherry Siddall ([sherrysiddall@gmail.com](mailto:sherrysiddall@gmail.com)) for more information; please contact her **by March 13** to participate in the 2026 review of scholarship applications.

## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

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

- ★ *Growing Starts at UCP* Fundraiser: order plants by 3/16
- ★ Saturday Field Trip to the Pauli Murray Center- 5/2
- ★ Livestream & Soundboard volunteers needed!

## FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Winner, L.F. What makes you clean? In "The Voice of Matthew," p81-84. 226.7 Win V
- ★ Budde, M.E. The hidden virtue of perseverance. In "How We Learn to Be Brave," p159-179. 248.4 Bud H
- ★ Armas, K. Protesta and persistence. In "Abuelita Faith: What Women on the Margins Teach Us about Wisdom, Persistence, and Strength," p116-129. 248.8 Arm A
- ★ Gafney, W.C. Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah: The daughters of Zelophehad. In "Womanist Midrash," p156-164. 221.6 Gaf W

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

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

## SERVICE NOTES

**MUSIC:** Barbara Wildemuth, piano; Julie Mitchell, organ; The Commas

**DEACON:** Peter Schay

**GREETERS:** Gaylen Brubaker, George Collins

**READER:** Jeanne Allen

**LIVESTREAM:** Brian Moore

**SOUNDBOARD:** Ron Johnson

**COVER ART:** *Even the Dogs* by Cara B. Hochhalter, 2019. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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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 rellenarla y depositarla en el plato de las ofrendas.*

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



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