

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL
FESTIVAL WORSHIP



MAY 3, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Dona Nobis Pacem

arr. Julie Mitchell

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

“Adagio” from *Sonata No. 1 in g minor*

J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved of God, think of us in this way:

As servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries.

WELCOME

PRAYER FOR SMALL RANDOM ACTS OF PEACEMAKING

Prince of Peace, reveal yourself to us today. We need peace in our lives, our homes, our families, our church, and our whole world. Help us to slow down and seek out the peace you provide, so we may become peacemakers for ourselves and others.

In a world where violence seems to rule,
may we commit to small random acts of peace making.

Where people are oppressed because they look, act, speak, think or love differently,
we will affirm their freedom.

Where people are exploited because they lack the strength or resources to refuse,
we will seek to create alternatives.

Where people are controlled through threat and fear,
we will offer safety and hope.

Where people believe their violence and power
give them the right and ability to act as they please,
we will call them to account.

Wherever violence is done to another, through physical force, manipulation of truth, or the subtle workings of power,
we will opt out, speak out, and stand out in opposition,
through small, random acts of peace making.

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

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 571

O God of Love, O God of Peace

HESPERUS


INVITATION TO HABITAT BUILD

Doug Call

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12

Pew Bible page 785

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

arr. The Commas

Program note: This beloved hymn represents the spiritual grounding of peacemaking. Today's reading of the Beatitudes tells us that God's blessing rests on those who embody mercy, humility and peace. As we realize we are called to be peacemakers, we recognize the critical truth that our closeness with God shapes our vision of the world and empowers us to serve our community with courage and compassion.

RECOGNITION OF PEACEMAKING SCHOLARS

Peacemaking Scholarship Committee

CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

May I Suggest

Susan Werner, arr. The Commas

Program note: On this Sunday where we acknowledge youth committed to service and justice, this anthem highlights the possibilities before them as they step into lives shaped by service, faith and courage. It names the hopes and prayers of those who have nurtured them, the urgency of time, and the call to live into their dreams as a part of God's ongoing work in our world.

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ all crea-tures here be-low;

O, praise God! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spi - rit, Com - for - ter;

One, God, Tri - une whom we a - dore, O, praise God! O, praise God!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our 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.

INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

For Everyone Born

arr. Julie Mitchell

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.

PROCESSION TO THE PEACEMAKING GARDEN - HYMN 575

O for a World

AZMON

DEDICATION OF THE PEACEMAKING GARDEN

The Consent

Howard Nemerov

Late in November, on a single night
Not even near to freezing, the ginkgo trees
That stand along the walk drop all their leaves
In one consent, and neither to rain nor to wind
But as though to time alone: the golden and green
Leaves litter the lawn today, that yesterday
Had spread aloft their fluttering fans of light.

What signal from the stars? What senses took it in?
What in those wooden motives so decided
To strike their leaves, to down their leaves,
Rebellion or surrender? and if this
Can happen thus, what race shall be exempt?
What use to learn the lessons taught by time,
If a star at any time may tell us: *Now*.



BENEDICTION

Reprise of *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

STAFF-CONGREGATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE – DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that May 5 will be the third anniversary of Caleb's employment here at UCCH? And he's been with us for four years when you include his internship. Even though that's a pretty short time, it is now hard to imagine United Church without Caleb. His ministry to La Mesa, his contributions to our shared life, and his involvement in the community beyond the church have become woven into the fabric of who we are as a church. Even more deeply, Caleb's genuineness and clarity in sharing his faith, his openness to and acceptance of others' experience, and his willingness to be vulnerable and to bear witness to others' vulnerability are now woven into the fabric of who we are as individuals and as a community. Caleb is a genuinely authentic and present person, which is a form of ministry in itself. And we haven't even mentioned his dance moves and terrific smile!

Please join the Staff-Congregation Relations Committee in celebrating Caleb's anniversary and his presence with us! He is a blessing to us all.



Pillars of Promise *Capital Campaign Giving Update*

Pledges (as of 3/20/26): \$1,726,938

Gifts received (as of 5/1/26): \$1,310,393 (75.8% 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).

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.

CLEARING OUT LOST & FOUND TODAY

Lost items which have accumulated in the kitchen will be placed in the pass-through between the kitchen and Fellowship Hall after worship today (water bottles, containers, lids, linens, etc). If any of these items belong to you, please take them home. All unclaimed items will be removed.

YOUTH CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 9 from 10am-12pm

Let us clean that persisting pollen off your car before Mother's Day! The car wash will take place in the United Church parking lot. All proceeds support the 2026 youth mission trip. Pricing is pay-what-you-can.

UCCH YOGA: MAY CLASSES

Join Melanie Joiner for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Fridays at 9am in the Assembly Hall: May 8, 15, and 29.** Questions? Contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com.

BUILD DAY WITH HABITAT ORANGE COUNTY

Saturday, May 9, from 1-4pm

United Church has scheduled a "build afternoon" with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County at the Weavers Grove jobsite on Sunset Road just off Weaver Dairy Road (behind East Chapel Hill High School). This activity will continue United Church's strong history of supporting Habitat Orange County's 40 year work to provide affordable housing for Orange County residents. All over the age of 15 are welcome to help. Learn more & sign up: <https://vhub.at/ucch>

UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUM

Sunday, May 10 | 9:15am | Fellowship Hall

Join us next Sunday for "How Faith Practices Can Lead Us to Hope in These Times of Chaos." With the help of several members of our UCCH family, we will discover some old and new practices that help us embody hope, and not fear, in the time in which we live.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION

Calling all High School Seniors: Graduation Sunday will take place on June 7 in Festival Worship. Please **complete this form by May 20** to be honored during the service: <<https://bit.ly/ucseniors26>>. Questions? Reach out to Jackson at JRingley@unitedchurch.org

WE ARE HIRING!

UCCH is seeking to hire for two part-time positions: **Junior Choir Director & Children's Musical Director.** Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis and the positions will remain open until filled. For detailed information see <https://unitedchurch.org/careers>. Cover letter and resume and/or questions about either position may be sent to childrensmusic@unitedchurch.org. Please spread the word!

UCCH TIME & TALENT SURVEY

We have so many gifts represented in our congregation, and we would love to hear about them! Please use the attached form to tell us about your special skills. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Andrea Tanner (acarsonatanner@gmail.com) and Erin Day (erinkday25@gmail.com)



VBS 2026: SUPERHEROES OF FAITH

Monday, June 29 - Thursday, July 2 | 8:30am - 12:30pm

Join us for Vacation Bible School 2026! Have fun, meet new friends, and connect with your inner superhero. VBS is for children between 2 years old and 5th grade (6th grade and up are invited to be helpers). Everyone is welcome - all faith groups, our neighbors, and church community. **Register by June 14.** Registration link: <https://bit.ly/vbs2026ucch>

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

Our email newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) & Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at unitedchurch.org.

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Gushee, D.P. The beatitudes [and] Making peace. In "The Moral Teachings of Jesus," p45-49, 55-59. 248.4 Gus M
- ★ Grimes, N. Habitation. In "Glory in the Margins: Sunday Poems," p19. 811 Gri G
- ★ Thomas, D. The blessing and the bite. In "Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories," p120-124. 232.9 Tho I
- ★ Moore, O. Kingdom strong: We will be peacemakers, not peacekeepers. In "Shalom Sistas: Living Wholeheartedly in a Brokenhearted World," p207-218. 248.4 Moo S
- ★ Wallis, J. The peacemaker question. In "Christ in Crisis: Why We Need To Reclaim Jesus," p189-209. 261.7 Wal C
- ★ Zedek, M. Bridge builder versus rabble rouser. In "Micro Practices for Justice Ministry," p107-110. 253 Sam M

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

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Julie Mitchell, organ; Baxter Henderson, violin; The Commas

DEACON: Jean Anne Barnes

READER: Nan de Andrade

LIVESTREAM: Monty Bryant

SOUNDBOARD: Sonic AL

COFFEE HOST: Erica Tillman

COVER ART: Ginkgo biloba illustration from Larousse du XXème siècle 1932 encyclopedia.

COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: *Praise Him All Ye Little Children*, Words & Music ©2019 the Lorenz Publishing Company. "The Consent," Howard Nemerov, *Collected Poems of Howard Nemerov* (1977), <<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/53817/the-consent>>.

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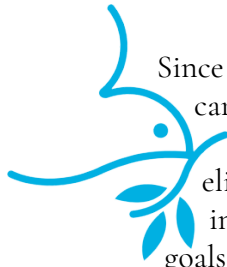
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A PLACE *of* BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

About the Chapel Hill – Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship



Since 2009, 46 scholarships have been awarded to high school seniors who aspire to a career in peacemaking. Any high school senior who intends to go to college and lives, goes to school, or is active in a faith community in Chapel Hill or Carrboro is eligible to apply for a Peacemaking Scholarship. Applicants demonstrate their involvement in peacemaking by describing how their activities, studies, and career goals relate to one or more of these six peace-related focus topics:

- *Non-Violent Conflict Resolution* (e.g., by making lethal force truly a means of last resort, stopping the arms race and arms trading, converting to peace-time economy).
- *Global Community* (e.g., by sharing global resources, respecting cultural diversity).
- *Social Justice* (e.g., by promoting human rights, ending discrimination and prejudice, fostering equal access to economic opportunity).
- *Ecology* (e.g., by living more simply, improving air and water quality, working for conservation of resources, respecting wilderness and wildlife, seeking environmentally desirable waste management).
- *Population* (e.g., by respecting human life and diversity while finding ways to manage growth so the human population reaches a sustainable level).
- *Depolarization* (e.g., by building bridges across political divides, calming partisan rhetoric, better understanding and appreciating our similarities and our differences, embracing things that bring us together rather than keep us apart).

The scholarship committee looks for applicants who show the most promise to have careers that involve being active peacemakers. Applicants are judged on the basis of their written discussions of how their activities, studies, and career goals relate to one or more of the peace-related focus topics, and a letter of recommendation.

Scholarship funds are provided through freewill donations and fundraisers such as the annual Peacemaking Concert. You can give to the scholarship fund

- online - onrealm.org/ucch/give/peacemaking, or scan the code:
- through Venmo - @UCCHNC; note “Peacemaking;”
- by check payable to United Church of Chapel Hill (“Peacemaking” in memo); or
- by placing your cash donation in an offering envelope and noting “Peacemaking Scholarship.”



Members of the committee participate in the selection of recipients and fundraising activities, as well the Celebration of Ministries and observance of the International Day of Peace at United Church of Chapel Hill. If you are interested in joining the committee or assisting with a particular part of their work, please contact Sherry Siddall (sherrysiddall@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support, and congratulations to this year’s recipients!

2026 Peacemaking Scholarship Recipients



Aniya Campbell attends Chapel Hill High School, where she serves as president of their Teen Democrats chapter. She is also the president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council. Last October, she organized and hosted a student forum at CHHS with their congressional representative, creating a space where students with a wide range of political beliefs could ask questions and engage respectfully with elected officials. Through experiences like the NC House and Governor's Page Programs and the NC Youth Legislative Assembly, she has participated in civic and educational programs that have strengthened her understanding of public policy and advocacy.

Aniya's commitment to service extends beyond politics. She has volunteered several hours each week at the Orange County Animal Shelter and helped raise money for local survivors of domestic violence. Aniya participated in academic programs such as NC Governor's School, where she studied civil liberties and global conflict resolution and presented a capstone project exploring the growing political polarization in America and how to prevent tensions from escalating.

Aniya will attend Spelman College this fall and hopes to pursue a career in politics and public policy where she can help shape a more equitable and inclusive system.



Zoe Zhang attends Chapel Hill High School and has a passion for restorative justice, peer mediation, and community equity. Zoe founded the CHHS Peer Mediation Program, which provides a safe space for students to learn to resolve issues through conversation rather than punishment. The program works to depolarize the school environment by increasing dialogue and understanding among peers. At the Orange County Teen Court, she represents first-time juvenile defendants, advocating for fair sentencing.

At school, she also leads the FreePeriod club, overseeing the distribution of menstrual hygiene products in school bathrooms and establishing a partnership with the Diaper Bank of North Carolina. She has also been a member of the CHHS Mock Trial Team for four years, and has participated in Model UN, NC Governor's School, and the Page Programs of the North Carolina Senate, House, and Governor.

Zoe captains her school's varsity tennis team and is an accomplished flutist. In the fall, she will attend Yale University with the goal of pursuing a career in human rights law.

New Members

During our joint worship service last Sunday, April 26, the following people joined the Covenant of Membership at United Church of Chapel Hill. Please extend a warm welcome to them and their families as they continue to connect with the life of the church.

Monty Bryant (he/him) - Monty has lived in Chapel Hill for 30 years. He retired from Sharp Electronics in 2017. He enjoys walks with his Cirneco dog, golf, woodworking, and volunteering at the UNC Hillsborough Hospital. He really enjoys the worship services and community forums at United Church. He assists with the streaming service and looks forward to becoming involved in more church activities. He is married to Jane Clarke, who is singing in the choir and ringing handbells.

Ruth Edens (she/her) (*Associate Member*) - Originally from Chapel Hill, Ruth moved back in 2024 with her family after living in the Boston area for 17 years. Ruth is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and currently serves as the Director of Philanthropy for the Southern New England Conference, UCC. She is married to David Zimmer, a special education administrator and enthusiastic trail runner. They are the proud parents of Danny, sixth grade, and Helen, second grade. Ruth is grateful to be home and to have the opportunity to raise her children in the church that formed her faith.

Nanette de Andrade (she/her) (*Associate Member*) (she/her) - Nan (husband, Bob) has been a regular at UCCH since her retirement from ministry as an ordained minister (music, worship, education) in the United Methodist Church. Nan's back is recognizable to all, as she directed our Chancel Bells from 2019-2025. You probably also know she loves playing her harp, which she took up in retirement. A member of the Spiritual Growth Sunday School class, Nan hopes to increase her support of Adult Faith Formation. Nan says she is grateful for the many spiritual heroes she has come to know at UCCH and she is excited to sing, "I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!"

Lee Hethcox (she/her) - Lee moved during the pandemic to NC to be closer to her daughter Esther, who is a pastor in Durham. She ran a small poultry farm, homesteaded, and raised three home-born daughters, while her husband Larry was often away in Army and government service. She grew up overseas on military bases, so having a settled place and farming was a dream come true! She spent a lot of my time producing and putting up food for the family. Now they just have ten chickens and a small garden at their house in Hillsborough. In general, Lee is not a fan of retirement, and tries to stay busy!

continued on back

Kerri Patrick (she/her) & Mat Despard - Kerri Patrick 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 two adult daughters- Rachel, who lives in Brooklyn, NY, and Jean (pronounced zh-ahn not gene), who lives at home. At United Church, Kerri is involved with Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Mat is involved with Justice United and the Men's Group.

Rosendo Peña & Ana Carolina Sequera (Robert Peña) - Rosendo and Anacaro were born in Venezuela and moved to Chapel Hill in 2013; Robert was born in Durham. They are a family of musicians, and love making music in various forms. Rosendo founded the non-profit organization "El Sistema North Carolina," where their mission is to transform lives through music. Anacaro owns Any Art Music Academy, where she teaches music to young children. Robert is in the sixth grade and is also involved in music. They are grateful for the warm welcome they have received as members of UCCH, and look forward to helping you if you ever need them! *Translated from Spanish.*

Jackson Ringley (they/he) - Jackson is an educator and writer who joined the United Church staff as Minister to Youth & Families in 2025. Jackson is originally from Fort Mill, South Carolina, and holds a B.A. in Global Studies & English from the University of South Carolina and an M.Div. from Yale University. As a youth worker, Jackson has served in parish and non-profit settings to develop creative educational programming geared toward justice and joy. When not working, you can find Jackson enjoying the theatre, buried in a (local) bookstore, or convincing friends to tag along for a day trip. Jackson loves a good TV sitcom and an even better cup of coffee, especially with a "Sammy Rae & the Friends" song playing in the background. Jackson lives in Carrboro with their two cats, Pico de Gato and Pierre.

Rodrigo Tossi (he/him) - Rodrigo, Paz Cook (she), and their children, Franco (he) and Amanda (she), are from Chile and arrived in Chapel Hill four and a half years ago for Paz's PhD in Epidemiology at UNC. Rodrigo is a psychologist with experience in community work and mental health, and he created the radio conversation program "Vientos del Sur" at the Carrboro community radio station four years ago. He participates in health, arts, and cultural initiatives. Rodrigo joined UCCH eight months ago as part of a personal journey, and his family accompanies him to church on special occasions. The entire family is very socially active and participates in community initiatives for the benefit of the community and for people who need help and support. *Translated from Spanish.*

If you are interested in learning more about membership at UCCH, please contact one of the pastors. You are also invited to join the upcoming "UCCH 101" sessions (Sundays, June 21, July 19, and August 16 at 9:15am in the library) as we enjoy breakfast together and explore spirituality, our church community, and the UCC denomination through conversation and time for questions.

RSVP HERE:

