

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

FESTIVAL WORSHIP



SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.
Peace Sunday

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *“Et in terra pax” (And on earth peace) from Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Selections from the Beatitudes of Jesus, Matthew 5

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, **for they will be comforted.**

‘Blessed are the meek, **for they will inherit the earth.**

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, **for they will be filled.**

‘Blessed are the merciful, **for they will receive mercy.**

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, **for they will see God.**

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, **for they will be called children of God.**

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Most Gracious and Ever-living God, you call forth peace in our world as you have wrought life out of death. In Christ Jesus you have arisen, that we may walk in hope where we are tempted to despair. Shine your beatific light upon us, Merciful God, that we may trust the possibilities of resurrection wherever we are in conflict. We pray for peace in our hearts, within our families, among our communities, and between nations. We especially pray for peace within our church, that the community of Christ may, even faintly, project your desire for peace upon our world. Strengthen us in our prayers for peace, and humble us to forge peace between the different elements of your creation. By the power of the Holy Spirit. 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 43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(see insert)

BEECHER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Where Children Belong



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-come as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.



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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 15:1-17

NRSVUE

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Isaiah 5:1-7

NRSVUE

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

SERMON

Rev. Cameron Barr

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Maurice Durufle

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christ amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.
We are gathered as one in Christ's love.
Let us rejoice and be glad in Him.
Let us fear and love the living God.
And from our hearts, let us love one another sincerely. Amen.

*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 HYMN

Come O Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON, arr. The Commas

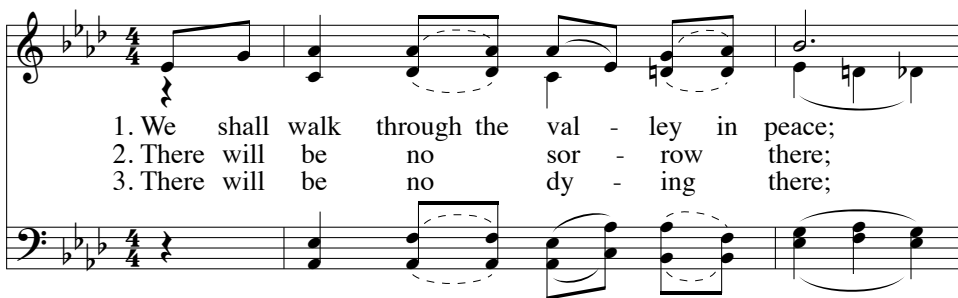
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

We will sing verses 1-3 with accompaniment, then repeat verse 1 a capella.



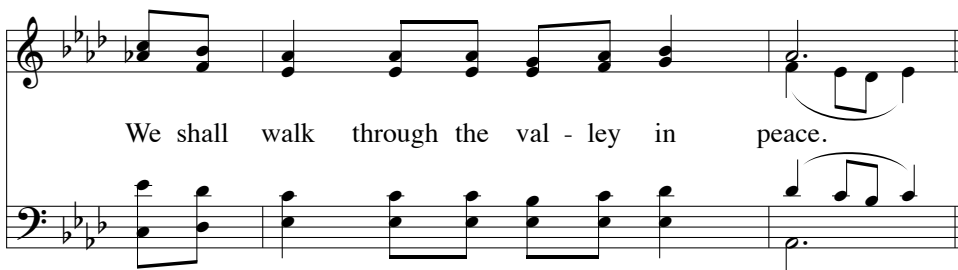
1. We shall walk through the val - ley in peace;
2. There will be no sor - row there;
3. There will be no dy - ing there;



We shall walk through the val - ley in peace;
There will be no sor - row there.
There will be no dy - ing there.



If Je - sus Him - self shall be our Lead - er,



We shall walk through the val - ley in peace.

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Peace Medley

arr. Julie Mitchell



UNITED CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL



Alternative Gift Market

NOVEMBER 21 & 22, 2026



unitedchurch.org/market

GRATITUDE CORNER

With heartfelt gratitude, we recognize our wonderful Visual Arts Committee—especially Diane Whitney—for the beautiful altar arrangements and creative seasonal decorations throughout our narthex and sanctuary. Diane generously shares her love and knowledge of all things botanical. Her dedication is especially evident at Christmas, when she coordinates the selection and decorating of the trees—and tackles the often-overlooked work of taking them down. Diane, you truly make our church shine. Thank you! —The Board of Deacons

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 share your thoughts in our weekly worship bulletins and newsletters. Send your submission to mmee@unitedchurch.org.

WELCOME!

If you are new to United Church, we are so glad you are here. Please stop by the Welcome Table to fill out a contact card and take a gift bag with more information about our congregation. We also invite you to introduce yourself to a pastor and join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments following worship.

CHURCH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

UCCH has a response plan in place for health/safety emergencies or other unexpected situations. If you would like more details please contact a Deacon or Pastor.

GERMANY TRIP INTEREST MEETING TODAY

Anyone interested in our May 2027 trip to Germany is invited to an interest meeting **in the church library today after worship**. The trip's theme is *Finding Christian Community in a Secular World*. From May 19-29, 2027, we will visit the cities of Cologne (home to our sister congregation), Hamburg, Bremen, and Amsterdam.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUMS

Sundays at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

October 4 - Where did our endowment funds come from, and how can you help strengthen them for the future? UCCH Business Manager Duane Gilbert will give a brief history of our endowment, explain our current funds and investments, and share ways to contribute through IRA/QCD and stock gifts, as well as planned giving.

October 11 - No Community Forum

October 18 - Data Centers with Dr. Dan Vermeer

IFC PROJECT 5000

Stop by the narthex table this month and grab a shopping list of of most-needed items and a bag to fill! Each bag will provide emergency food for a family of four for two days. Return filled bags to the narthex by Oct. 11.

UCCH 101 FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Sunday, October 25 at 9:15am in the library

Sunday, November 22: Membership Day - meet at 9:30am in the library for celebration breakfast & preparing to join
Interested in joining United Church as a member, or just in learning more about this congregation or denomination? UCCH 101 is for you! Visit bit.ly/UCCH101 to RSVP and join us for any of the UCCH 101 meetings leading up to membership day on November 22. Over breakfast, we'll explore spirituality, our church community and denomination, with plenty of time for questions and conversation.

UCCH YOGA & PILATES CLASSES

Join us for yoga with Melanie Joiner and pilates-style classes led by Karen Setty! All levels welcome. **Fridays at 9am in the Assembly Hall:** Oct 2 - yoga; Oct 9 - Pilates; Oct 16 - chair yoga; Oct 23 - yoga. Questions? Contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com and Karen at karen.setty@gmail.com.

GLORIA OPEN REHEARSALS

Wednesdays from 7-8pm in the UCCH Music Room
Singers from UCCH and the wider community are invited to join weekly rehearsals of Vivaldi's Gloria in preparation for a joint concert by UCCH and University Presbyterian Church (**save the date: October 25, 4:00pm at UCCH**). It is not too late to join, and it's okay if participants are unable to make each rehearsal. Contact Reyna with questions (ralston@unitedchurch.org).

STATEWIDE NONPARTISAN SENATE CANDIDATE ASSEMBLY WITH JUSTICE UNITED

Sunday, October 18 | 4:30-6:30pm

Wake Chapel Church in Raleigh

Join Justice United and partner groups from across NC for a public, nonpartisan assembly with candidates for US Senate. The event will focus on our shared statewide priorities including affordable housing, healthcare, immigrant rights, public education, and workers' rights. Scan the QR code to RSVP.



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. Love one another. In "The Moral Teachings of Jesus," p169-172. 248.4 Gus M
- ★ Starbuck, M. School: Rule one is "Love the ones you're with." In "Small Things with Great Love: Adventures in Loving Your Neighbor," p102-109. 248.4 Sta S
- ★ King, M.L., Jr. Love in action. In "Strength to Love," p25-33. 252 Kin S
- ★ O'Day, G.R. Sacraments of friendship: Embodied love in the gospel of John. In "Faith + Feminism: Ecumenical Essays," p85-99. 230 Lip F
- ★ Henderson, A. Showing up: Friendship as a political act. In "Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times," p83-96. 241.4 Hen H

These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. A volunteer, Nancy Siebens, will be in the library immediately following today's service, to assist you in finding library materials.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Julie Mitchell, piano; Chancel Choir; The Commas; Terry Patrickis, flute

DEACON: Leigh Gosnell

GREETERS: Dianne Bertsch, Peter Barnes

READER: Susan Denault

ALTAR FLOWERS:

- Given by Kathy VandenBerg in celebration of Craig and Kathy's anniversary
- Given by Judy Konanc in honor of the International Day of Peace (September 21)

SOUNDBOARD: Ron Johnson

LIVESTREAM: Brian Moore

COFFEE HOST: Janet Flowers

COVER ART: *Dove of Peace* by Pablo Picasso, 1949.

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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

JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Brown

LA MESA CHOIR DIRECTOR: Adrián Salvador Valiente Tame

LA MESA ACCOMPANIST: Brendan Smith

ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise 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: Brody Tapper, Connor Gilmore, Elizabeth Hall, Ella Law, Jack Tanner, John Grove, Karleigh Purcell, Lauren Shultz, Luke Atkinson, Parker Shultz, Sylvia Sadgrove, Wylie Kenan

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:*



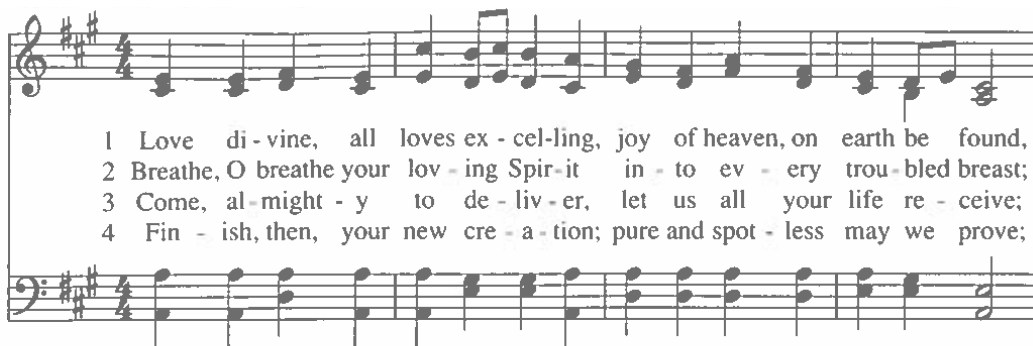
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Give online: onrealm.org/ucch/give/now | Venmo: @UCCHNC

WEBSITE
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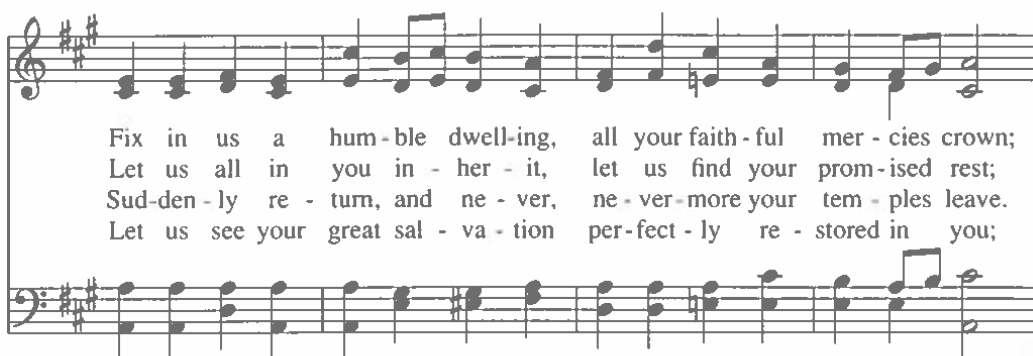
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE
[/unitedchurchofchapelhill](https://unitedchurchofchapelhill)

PHONE
919-942-3540

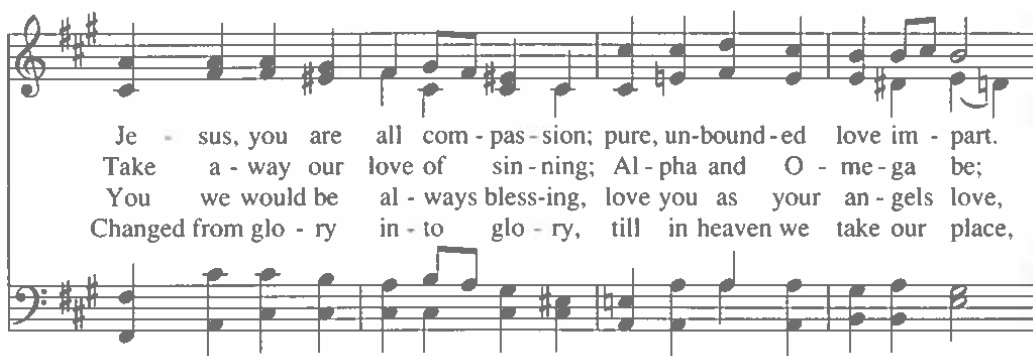
A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN



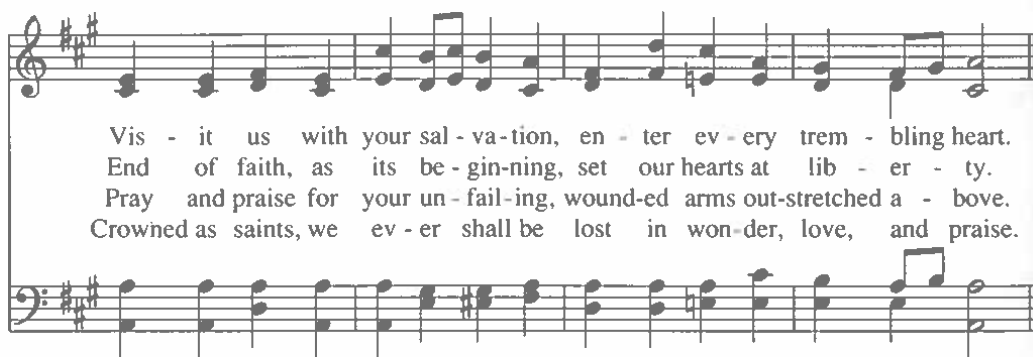
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

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!

unitedchurch.org/peacemaking/