

UNITED CHRISTIAN PARISH
APRIL 2024

ParishLife



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ParishLife

A monthly publication of the United
Christian Parish.

parishlife1@ucpreston.org

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ON THE COVER

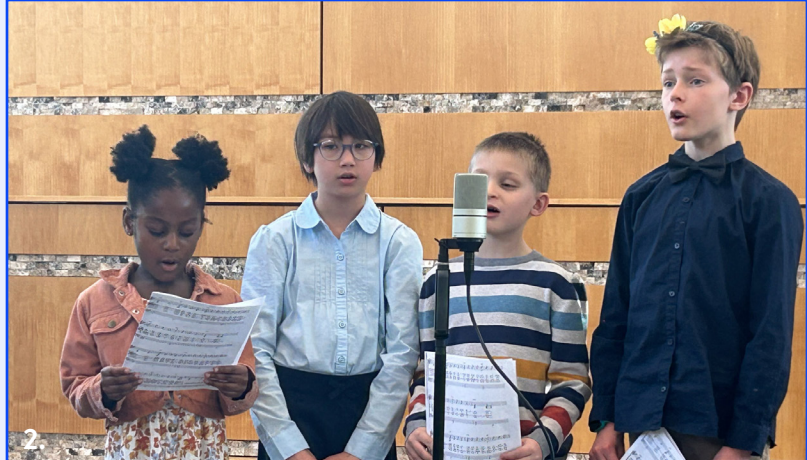
Paula Steinmann with her daughter and granddaughter
at the Easter Festival on March 30.

photo: Megan Rohrer

The Gospel Choir sings on Easter morning.

photo: Laurie Callahan





HOLY WEEK

United Christian Parish

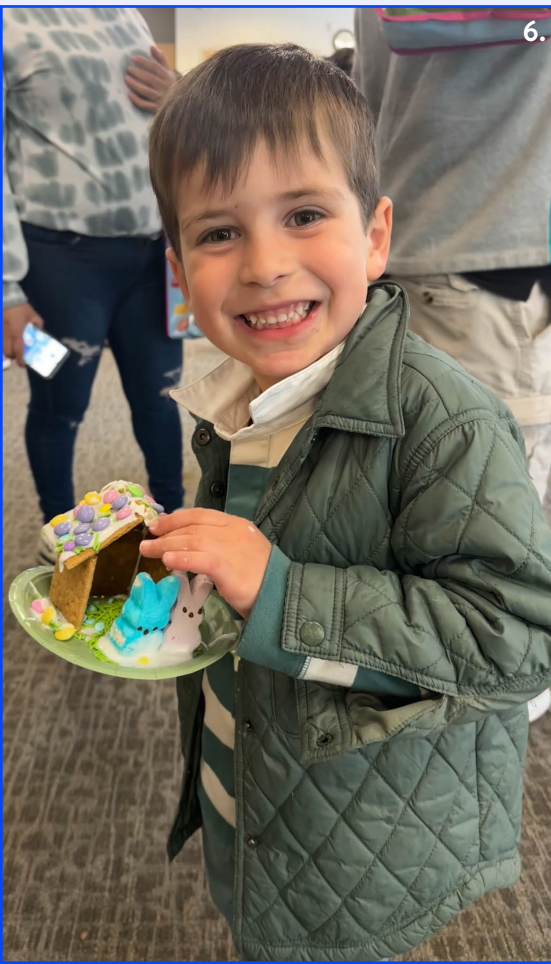


1. Adult choir on Palm Sunday.
2. Children's choir on Palm Sunday.
3. Palm Sunday procession.
4. Pastor Beth preaches on Palm Sunday.
5. Maundy Thursday worship.
6. Holy Week prayer stations.
7. Good Friday worship.



EASTER WEEKEND

United Christian Parish



1. Pastor Beth preaches on Easter.
2. Crafts at the Easter Festival on March 30.
3. Easter children's time.
4. Genesis Choir carries the "Alleluias" on Easter morning.
5. Communion during the Easter service.
6. Boy enjoys Easter treats.
7. Easter Festival fun.
8. Liturgist Mary Jackson lights the Christ candle Easter morning.
9. Boy finds egg at the Easter Festival.

Elder Jean Banks distributes communion to Caelan on Easter.

photo: Laurie Callahan



Favorite Thing: The People

by Rune
Confirmed Youth Group Member

What is my favorite thing about United Christian Parish?

Personally, it's the people. There is a wide range of folks at this church: queers, allies, older, younger, etc. Whatever your identities are, whatever your beliefs/opinions/etc. are, they will welcome them.

This leads me to my second point. I love the people for their open-mindedness and kindheartedness. I went to a church before this one that wasn't as accepting and understanding as this one. Now I can embrace my differences and as they say every Sunday morning, "We are welcome, open, and affirming." They aren't lying, I've never felt so at home as I do here.

The more I'm here, the more I'm proud to be a part of this community.

Editor's Note: This submission is the eighth in a series of expressions by parish members of what UCP means to them. What is your favorite thing about United Christian Parish? Send your thoughts for next month's issue to parishlife1@ucpreston.org by April 15.

Rune (pictured right) helps lead the children's egg hunt at the Easter Festival on March 30.



We Celebrate Earth Day



Beth Hetzler
Environmental
Justice Team

With warm weather and flowers blooming, spring is in the air! In April, we renew our commitment to care for God’s amazing creation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For three Sundays in April, the Adult Sunday School’s Living Your Faith class will focus on Earthcare-related topics, with three outside speakers:

- April 7: Eric Goplerud of Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- April 14: Helene Shore of 350 Fairfax
- April 21: Virginia Delegate Karen Keys-Gamarra

Attend a Living Your Faith class at 11:15 AM in room 113 or on [Zoom](#).

EARTH DAY WORSHIP

April 21 is our Earth Day worship service, when we will celebrate the glories of God’s handiwork and focus on how we can fulfill our role to sustain and protect “the beauty of the earth... the glory of the skies.” Please think about how you might take action to reduce single-use plastics. Maybe to **Reduce** (shampoo bars rather than plastic bottles of liquid), **Refuse** (“no straw please”), **Reuse** (a refillable water bottle), **Rethink** (how might I change my habits?), and **Recycle**. You are invited to post a sticky note of your ideas and intent on our “climate footprint” in the narthex (area outside the sanctuary).



1. Eric Goplerud. 2. Helene Shore.
3. Delegate Karen Keys-Gamarra.

As one idea, we have bought a bulk order of reusable mesh produce bags and will provide them in the narthex, at cost (\$1 for a set of three). They are a great step forward—and they eliminate the need for those pesky flimsy plastic bags the grocery stores provide.



At the end of the Earth Day service, Pastor Beth will lead us outside to give a blessing for the pollinator garden, one of our ongoing methods to care for God’s plants and animals. We look forward to seeing you for these events!

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

Last month, UCP was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Hunger Program for the 7th year in a row! This achievement is due to the many ways that UCP lives its commitment to care for God’s earth and its Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Special thanks to United Christian Parish member Jim Vollmer for writing the submittal.



Walt Owensby and Ken Plum were among the United Christian Parish members joining the protest at the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax, VA on March 14 to oppose the organization's role in influencing legislators not to enact gun control laws. The monthly protests have been held since the massacre of 20 children and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT on December 14, 2012. Several UCP members were among the original organizers. While the protests may not get the attention of the NRA, they get plenty of notice from passing motorists, many of whom show support with waves and car horns.



Missions Ministry Corner

Joellyn Kinzer
Missions Ministry

As the Missions Ministry began 2024 we discussed the new guidelines the UCP Board established for the Missions Ministry budget. The goals of the Missions Ministry are as follows:

The overarching goal for UCP’s missions work is to help meet the needs of “God’s most vulnerable people.” Major focus areas for UCP Missions programs are reducing hunger, providing clean water, sheltering the homeless, providing clothing, supporting health and medical needs, supporting education and learning programs for children and youth, facilitating employment for low income people and responding to ad hoc temporary requests/needs in crisis situations.

There was a consensus to continue with the percentage allocations of funding, with 30% going to local organizations, 30% to national organizations, 30% going to international organizations and 10% supporting the discretionary fund. Pastor Beth noted that these allocations are a guideline, not a rigid limitation. One hundred percent of these funds are sourced from congregational giving.

Missions giving can be guided by emerging needs during the year. The 2024 budget of \$50,000 is divided as follows:

- National/Local (60%)= \$30,000
- International (30%)= \$15,000
- Discretionary (10%)= \$5,000

Missions Ministry members established a 2024 plan for monthly allocations and agreed to the following goal: domestic \$3,000 and international \$1,500 (the monthly division is based on 10 meetings over the calendar year). Upon motion made and approved, the following funding expenditures were approved for February:

Domestic

- The Health Wagon—\$1,000
- Grace Inside—\$1,000
- Capital Area Food Bank—\$1,000

International

- Living Waters for the World—\$1,500



Living Waters for the World works with mission partners so that international communities have sustainable access to pure water.

As Missions made a significant donation (\$1,500) to Living Waters for the World, hearing it’s story might be of interest to UCP members:

As a mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Living Waters for the World (LWW) trains volunteers to establish and lead water mission teams that partner with communities to implement and operate sustainable water purification systems and health education programs. LWW Networks come alongside water teams and partners throughout every phase of a water project. They provide essential support for sustainable water systems that produce clean water for a generation.¹

On their website,¹ LWW states its core values:

- *Relationship Oriented—we work in relationship with water teams, international partners and the communities they serve*
- *International Partner Focused—our international partners’ interests and objectives are primary*
- *Empowerment Oriented—the process of training and sustaining our partners is designed to establish independence*
- *Volunteer Led—LWW’s ministry depends upon the leadership and investment of tens of thousands of volunteers*
- *Mission Focused—LWW exists to provide clean, safe water to those in the world who desperately need it and to support the volunteers with whom we have relationships*
- *Network Focused—our International Networks ensure sustainability by providing on-the-ground*

support for water teams and partner communities alike

Rev. Todd Jenkins, a water team leader with Living Waters for the World wrote the poem, “The Ballad of LWW,” to remind Christians of what our mission is and how we can achieve it.

The Ballad of LWW²

*I used to think that mission
was giving people stuff
'cause they could not afford it
and we had more'n enough.
You fly down to a country —
a different kind of neighborhood —
give 'em a few leftovers,
declare you've done great good.*

*With Living Waters for the World,
I've come to understand,
mission's not a handout,
no matter how much you can.*

*It's about the connections,
and people that we meet;
'cause we are all God's children
each with our own clay feet.*

*Play me a song,
mission love, mission love.
Show me the partners
I should be thinking of.
I'll listen with my heart
so I can comprehend
the strength of our connections
that make family and kin.*

*Play me a song,
mission love, mission love.
Show me the partners
I should be thinking of.
I feel that you are here
to teach us of your grace,
so we can share your blessings
in this very time and place.*

¹ About. Living Waters for the World. Retrieved March 19, 2024, from <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/about>

² Jenkins, T. (2022). *The Ballad of LWW*. Living Waters for the World. <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/single-post/the-ballad-of-lww>

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR RWANDA



Kathy Kelley
Missions Ministry

Joyfully, UCP has a mission team departing May 31 to visit our partners in Rwanda. It will be an exciting time for our four representatives: Debby Bailey, Anika Howard, Amy and Emily Millar. They will stay with Arlene Brown, founder of Hope Made Real. Team members will spend the first week working with the school, Urukundo, and the children and teachers. The school uses English so this will greatly facilitate interactions. There are more than 800 children in this program, from preschool to grade 6.

The Missions Ministry plans to provide school supplies to our partners to be carried by our travelers. They will each have a suitcase dedicated to this plan and we are hoping to have lots of donations from our congregation to fill them to the top!

The list of requested items from Arlene follows. I should note that when we collected items last fall, we asked Arlene whether it would be better to buy these things in Rwanda. She said then that they are not available there—that even pencils are hard to find and are expensive. We did very well last fall and look forward to a good response again. The list:

- Play-Doh
- washable markers
- white chalk
- blackboard erasers
- yardsticks
- L-Square rulers
- white string
- four kickballs
- Scotch tape
- small rubber balls
- pencils

We will begin collecting in mid-April via a box in the narthex. We will update what is needed in the Weekly Connection. The collection will complete in mid-May so the team has time to organize their packing. If you have any questions, please contact me at katkell400@comcast.net or a Missions Ministry member. Any of the members of the team going to Rwanda would also be delighted to speak with you.

The Power of Love



Chuck Gritton
Lay Co-
Moderator,
Board

Did you know that your heart radiates magnetic energy 3-4 feet away? Did you further realize that your body subconsciously picks up and aligns to that energy?

I stumbled across this amazing research recently [1, 2] and two experiments stood out. Figure 1 shows the results of one experiment where a boy and a dog lower each other's heart rhythms and stress levels just by being in the same room together—with no physical contact!

Figure 2 shows the second experiment where two people synchronize their heart rhythms (and lower stress levels) just sharing loving thoughts of each other—all while being 4 feet apart!

This research brought to mind another scientific study—this one in the field of education.

In a 2014 study [3, 4], high school teachers graded their students as usual but on half of the papers, the researchers added this single sentence at the bottom: “I am giving you this feedback because I believe in you.” Students who received this message, particularly students of color, improved their scores significantly even a year later!

Clearly, love has more power and effect than we are generally aware of. Jesus exhorts us to love one another, just as he loves us (John 13:34) and to remember that Christ loves us all and is in all of us (Matthew 25:31-46). When we act on that truth, we normalize respect for each other and witness that all are equal before God and loved by God.

When someone feels beaten down, showing them love and respect can boost their self-esteem. It helps them see their worth through God's eyes. As in both the educational and heart studies cited above, this kind of support can be transformative.

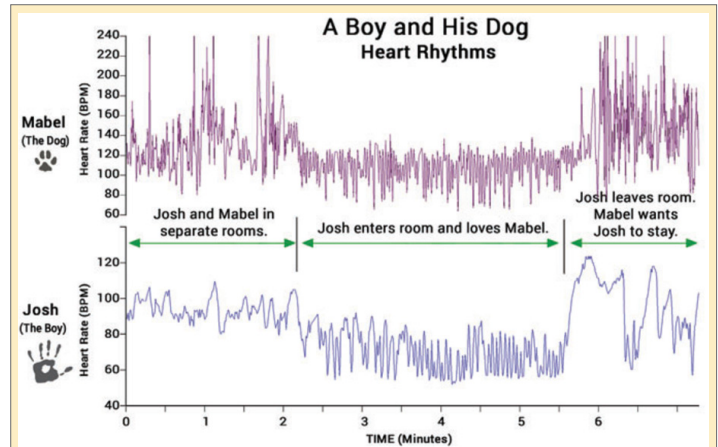


Figure 1: Boy and His Dog Calm Each Other—NO PHYSICAL CONTACT (Science of the Heart, Vol. 2, p.44)

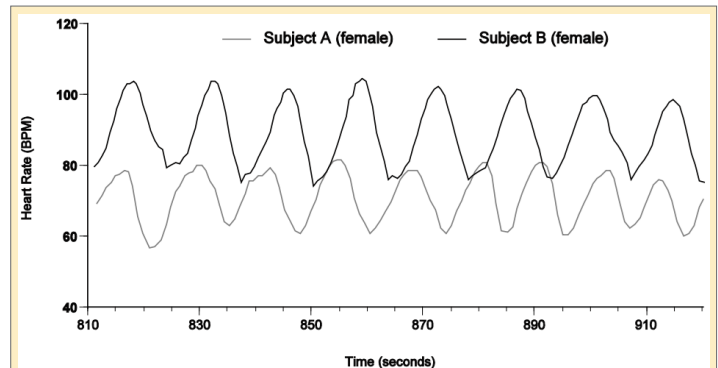


Figure 2: Heart Rhythm Alignment when 4 Feet Apart (Science of the Heart, vol. 2, p. 42)

Now imagine a church filled with this kind of non-judgmental love. A place where we see Christ in everyone and remember we're all equal in God's eyes. Visitors wouldn't just hear about God's love; they would literally feel it. As Jesus said, His followers would be known by their love (John 13:35).

Prayer: *God, help us see the Christ in others so that we can better love others the way you do. Amen.*

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8871721>
2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/293944391_Science_of_the_Heart_Volume_2_Exploring_the_Role_of_the_Heart_in_Human_Performance_An_Overview_of_Research_Conducted_by_the_HeartMath_Institute
3. Cohen, G. L., & Garcia, J. (2014). Educational Theory, Practice, and Policy and the Wisdom of Social Psychology. *Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 1(1), 13-20. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23727322145515594>
4. <https://www.youcubed.org/evidence/believe-students-better>

Congregational Meeting is April 28

Let's join together on Sunday, April 28, 11 AM, for a congregational meeting. Members vote on the slate of leadership candidates (listed below) and will vote to approve being a United Methodist Church (UMC) bridge church. A UMC bridge church provides support for UMC members whose churches are leaving the UMC. Plans for building spiritual connections will also be discussed. Join in the sanctuary or on [Zoom](#). Sunday School meets at 11:30 AM.

CANDIDATES

PARISH BOARD

Jacob Cudjoe (2027)
Judy Pew (2027)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Trisha Aguirre (2027)

COMMONWEALTH TRUSTEE

Steve Webb (2027)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COUNCIL

Jean Banks (2027)
Jann Tiller (2027)

FINANCE COUNCIL

Dan Venese (2027)

HUMAN & ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES COUNCIL

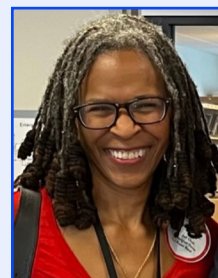
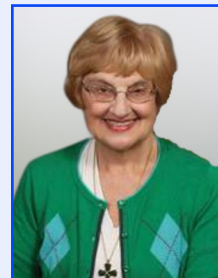
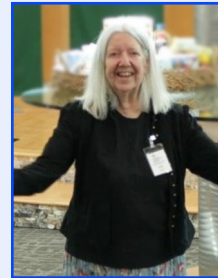
Alison Rivard (2027)
Claudia Stallings (2027)

LAY LEADERSHIP NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Menda Ahart (2026)
Cheryl Fields (2026)
Marilyn Silvey (2026)

PRESCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Amy Millar (2026)
Paula Steinmann (2026)



L-R: Jacob Cudjoe, Judy Pew, Trisha Aguirre, Steve Webb, Jean Banks, Jann Tiller, Dan Venese, Alison Rivard, Claudia Stallings, Menda Ahart, Cheryl Fields, Marilyn Silvey, Amy Millar, Paula Steinmann



PHOTO RECAP:

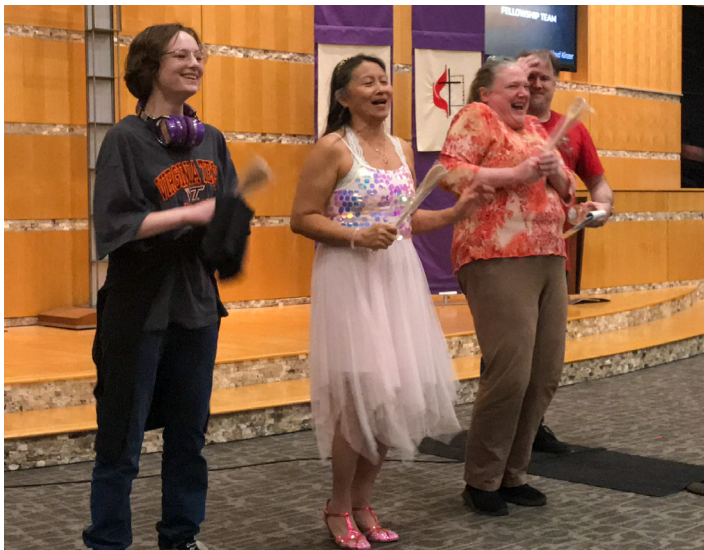
CHILI COOKOFF, DESSERT BAKEOFF & TALENT SHOW

On March 3, United Christian Parish hosted a chili cookoff, dessert bakeoff and talent show. As usual, our attendees had a difficult time choosing their favorite chili and desserts from UCP's wonderful members and friends who entered their amazing recipes into our contest. All entries were delicious and unique! The winners and some of the winning recipes are listed on page 16.

Following the chili cookoff and dessert bakeoff, attendees enjoyed a variety of talents in the sanctuary. Witness Ministry Chair Glenn Surabian shared the MC spotlight for the talent show. The talent show was a true work of art. A magician, vocal artists, comedians, dancers, pianists, a speed mather, UCP's bell choir and the Fellowship Team actors—participants of all ages—performed a total of 18 acts.

The evening raised \$817, which was split between Herndon-Reston Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help (FISH) and the Pastor's Crisis Fund. Both FISH and the Pastor's Crisis Fund support life change within our community by assisting residents facing short-term crisis.





Chili cookoff winners pictured left to right: Jack Aguirre, YuYu Hwang, and Melinda Babione.

Congratulations to the Chili Cookoff & Dessert Bakeoff Winners!

CHILI WINNERS

1. Melinda Babione*
2. YuYu Hwang
3. Jack Aguirre*

DESSERT WINNERS

1. Rosemary Welch*
2. Kasia Kryca
3. Kathy Wicks

*recipe below

Melinda's Calico Chili

Fry until crisp:

- 1 lb. bacon

Remove the bacon and drain. Pour off most of the bacon fat.

In same pan, brown:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 c. onion chopped

Add and mix together:

- ½ c. catsup
- ¾ c. brown sugar
- ½ c. white sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 ½ tsp. prepared yellow mustard
- 1 T. vinegar

Add and mix:

- 1 (15 oz.) can pork and beans
- 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans, drained
- 1 (15 oz.) can butter bean limas, drained
- 1 (15 oz.) can cut green beans, drained
- 1 (15 oz.) can chick peas (garbanzos), drained
- 1 (15 oz.) can diced tomatoes
- crumbled bacon

Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees until thick. Any mixture of beans can be used as long as there is 1 can pork and beans. A can of cut yellow beans can be used for color.

Jack's Chicken Chili

Ingredients

- 1 lb boneless, skinless chicken
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cans Rotel (1 mild, 1 original, or adjust to taste)
- 1 can black beans, rinsed
- 1 can cannellini beans, rinsed
- 1 can pinto beans, rinsed
- 1 small can shoepeg corn
- 1 can chicken broth
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- ½ tsp oregano
- ½ tsp parsley (can use cilantro instead)
- ½ tsp sugar
- ½ tsp cornstarch

Procedure

Place chicken in bottom of crock pot. Add remaining ingredients. Cook on Low for 6 to 8 hours or on High for 3 to 4 hours. After cooking, remove chicken from crock pot, shred, and return to pot. Serve. Tastes even better when topped with sour cream and shredded cheese! Makes approximately 3 quarts.

Rosemary's Sweet Potato Goat Cheese Delight

Ingredients

- 5-7 large sweet potatoes peeled and cubed (or if smooth thin-skinned sweet potatoes, don't peel them)
- small-medium size white onion diced
- medium size package of goat cheese
- medium rare size package of mixed color quinoa
- season with salt, a little pepper, rosemary & thyme
- top with roasted pecans

Directions

Stir cubed sweet potatoes, onion, salt, pepper, rosemary & thyme in a little hot olive oil till potatoes are almost done. Cook quinoa in vegetable broth according to instructions on package (don't overcook). Mix quinoa together gently but thoroughly with sweet potato in either pan. Stir in goat cheese and let steam together to infuse flavors. Sprinkle top with toasted pecans just before serving. For anyone allergic to nuts, pecans can go into a bowl on the table with a serving spoon and used by who would like them on/in the sweet potato goat cheese dish.

March Parish Board Report



Pastor Beth

Ministerial Co-Moderator, Board

- This month the Board approved the slate from the Lay Leadership Nominating Committee (LLNC) to be voted upon at the Congregational Meeting on April 28.
- The Board approved the motion from the Human and Administrative Resources Council (HARC) to formally hire Kevin Fletcher as the Building Use Coordinator now that he has completed the three-month period laid out in his Temporary Short-term Employment Agreement.
- Approved a motion for the Missions Ministry to collect items for our mission in Kigali, Rwanda, that will be transported by the United Christian Parish team who are going there at the end of May.
- The Board discussed our ongoing goal of building spiritual connections and will draft an initial program to bring to the ministries and the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on April 28.

Women in the Spirit (WITS) Book Club List

WITS welcomes women at their monthly gatherings on [Zoom](#) at 7 PM. Contact Karen Skatoff, kskatoff@hotmail.com, for more information.

APRIL 25

Daughters of Yalta
by Catherine Grace Katz

MAY 23

The Lions of Fifth Avenue
by Fiona Davis

JUNE 27

David and Goliath
by Malcolm Gladwell

JULY 25

The Water Dancer
by Ta-nehisi Coates

AUGUST 22

Tom Lake
by Ann Patchett

SEPTEMBER 26

Demon Copperhead
by Barbara Kingsolver

OCTOBER 24

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store
by James McBride

NOVEMBER

Rogue Justice
by Stacey Abrams



Get to Know Your Office Staff

by Heidi Kharbanda
Parish Administrator

Ever wondered who to ask about reserving a room in the building for a meeting or event? How to take a name off the prayer list? How to get reimbursed for purchases you made for the church? How to get an announcement in the Weekly Connection?

We have an extremely talented and well-educated office staff who serve the parish! Read on to learn about their roles and main responsibilities.

KEVIN FLETCHER

Building Use Coordinator
events@ucpreston.org

- church calendar
- all building use, including rentals
- Zoom meeting links
- calendar for narthex & room signs



MICAELA HANNEY

Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@ucpreston.org

- reimbursement checks
- contribution statements
- paying the church's bills
- staff payroll



KATE HOING

Communications Director
kate@ucpreston.org

- *Parish Life* editor
- livestreaming, worship bulletin & slides
- website, social media & advertising
- Weekly Connection & brochures
- video & podcast



HEIDI KHARBANDA

Administrator &
Membership Secretary
heidi@ucpreston.org

- prayer list
- church database & Engage directory
- LMNOP (leadership manual)
- membership reports & transfer letters
- miscellaneous administrative tasks



HELPFUL HINTS

- Office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 AM-2 PM.
- The best way to reach our staff is via email.
- All staff members work from home at least one day a week.
- All ministries, councils, teams, and some staff members have boxes in the office lobby (near the windows by the food collection tables). If your ministry receives mail, that's where the staff will put it.



Building Use:

- If you want to plan an event or meeting, fill out an Event Form before you advertise the event. Then Kevin can tell you if the rooms and/or Zoom are available at that time: ucpreston.org/forms
- Scheduling a building or equipment repair? Fill out the shorter Building & Grounds form to schedule use of the space during the repair time: ucpreston.org/forms
- Help save UCP money by letting Kevin know if you decide not to use a room so HVAC isn't run during your meeting time.

Checks:

- If you drop off a check outside of office hours, do not put it in Micaela's box. Slide it under the door of the main office (106).

More information about our staff members is found on the church website: ucpreston.org/staff.

Prayer List

SYMPATHY TO:

Sympathy to Joan Denchfield and family on the death of her husband, UCP member Roger Denchfield, on March 3.

Dorice Crosby
Pauline Fields

(Cheryl Fields' cousin & mother)

Eleanor Dickey

Joyce Duke

Rev. Elethia

Gail & Jeff Flood

D. Clark Gehring
(Rob Gehring's brother)

Patty Gehring

Lisa, Jamie, Dreama Kauffman
(Yvonne Kauffman's daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter)

Conrad Kilinski
(Jane & Ken Plum's grandson)

Rev. Lloyd Kinzer

Lari Lopp

Joe McGregor
(Karen Young's father)

Fe' Moore
(John Moore's sister-in-law)

Elsa Nygard

Adrian & Barbara Pelzner

Ed Pelzner
(Adrian & Barbara Pelzner's son)

Rev. Larry Pullen

Rev. Melinda Reed

Cynthia Rodriguez

Rev. Suzanne Rudiselle

Kathy Schauer-Schmidt

Cheryl Smith
(Jeff Smith's wife)

Mary Steinmann
(Rich Steinmann's mother)

Craig Stevens
(Al Stevens' son)

Joyce Hill Stoner
(Roxane Hughes' sister)

Joe Waugh
Patrick Waugh
(Debra Bailey's brothers)

Sarah Webb
(Steve Webb's daughter-in-law)

Eloise Williams

SUBMITTED THIS MONTH:

Sofia Alexiou
(mother of Kevin Fletcher's partner)

David Krafchick
(brother-in-law of Meg Moore's sister)

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Alicia, Ann, Mary
(Patty Gehring's friends)

Henry and Sarah Andersen

George Bell
Fred Ray
(Richard & Eloise Williams' brother-in-law and their cousin's husband)

Sue Beffel & family

Diane Brady & Mike Daks
(Kathy Schauer-Schmidt & Lee Schmidt's friends)

Sharon Castelda

Rev. Ken Collins

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST:

ucpreston.org/prayer

REMOVE A PRAYER REQUEST:

heidi@ucpreston.org

SUNDAYS
AT UNITED CHRISTIAN PARISH

10 AM
Worship

10:20 AM
Godly Play

11 AM
Fellowship
(onsite & online)

11:15 AM
Sunday School

4 PM
Youth Group



WEEKEND CELEBRATION
INSTALLATION OF THE REV.
DR. MARCUS LEATHERS

April 19 & 20

You are invited to the Christian Church Capital Area (Disciples of Christ) celebration and installation of former UCP Pastor and current Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers. The weekend begins on Friday, April 19, 2-4 PM, with fellowship at First Christian Church of Falls Church (6165 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22044). The installation service is Saturday, April 20, 1-4 PM, at First Christian Church Hagerstown (1345 Potomac Ave, Hagerstown, MD 21742). RSVP today: cccadisciples.org.



CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday, April 13, 9 AM-12 PM
Help with projects around the building. Many hands make the work go much faster (it's more fun too!). There will be jobs for all ages and abilities. Contact Rich Steinmann, richardsteinmann@verizon.net, with any questions.



WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

Saturday, May 4

Thousands of people around the world will participate in the 16th annual World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience. Participants "Walk as One at 1" by walking a labyrinth at 1 PM in their local time to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe. You are invited to join others at the United Christian Parish Labyrinth to contribute to the energy of peace being sent around the world. More details to follow in the May *Parish Life* and in the Weekly Connection.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 8-12

At United Christian Parish Vacation Bible School (VBS) kids will be invited to be menders in God's world. As they make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest, they'll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life. VBS is from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM everyday for children age 4-rising fifth grade.

REGISTER TODAY:

ucpreston.org/vbs

Serve at VBS

Everyone is invited to support VBS in a variety of ways. Visit ucpreston.org/vbs to learn more.



FLOWERS

Contribute flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Cost is \$40. Sign up for a Sunday: ucpreston.org/flowers.

SAMARITAN OF THE MONTH

Have a need for transportation, prayer or assistance? Contact the April Samaritan of the Month, Nancy Crawford: nancy.crawford70@comcast.net, or 703-481-3735.



JOYFUL DINERS

Sundays, 6 PM

Joyful Diners meet weekly on Sundays at restaurants around the Reston area. It is a space for you to meet, connect and share a meal with others:

first & third Sunday of the month: Silver Diner (11951 Killingsworth Ave, Reston)

second & fifth Sunday of the month: Santini's (11804 Baron Cameron Ave, Reston)

fourth Sunday of the month: Lucia's (2531 John Milton Dr, Herndon)

Contact Jim Vollmer, jamesvollmerjv@gmail.com, with any questions.

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INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Fridays, 10 AM, [Zoom](#)

Share prayer concerns and pray for others through intercessory prayer. Drop in on any Friday.



ENROLL FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR AT UCP PRESCHOOL

Give your child a Christian foundation for lifelong learning at United Christian Parish Preschool. UCP Preschool provides exceptional education in a safe and Christian atmosphere for children ages 2-Pre-K. Enroll today or schedule a tour with Preschool Director Ginger O'Rourke:

ucppreschool.org.



TRAVEL MINISTRY TRIP

September 9-13

Join United Christian Parish members and friends on a trip to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. Trip highlights include:

- Zion Union Heritage Museum
- JFK Museum
- Ferry to Martha's Vineyard
- Eastham Windmill

You will travel on a motorcoach. Eight meals, four breakfasts and four dinners, are included. Cost: \$699 for double occupancy. Add \$135 for single occupancy. \$75 is due upon signing by no later than May 5. Balance is due July 2. Submit checks payable to Diamond Tours to Jean Banks or the church office. Contact Jean for more information: jeanbanks@verizon.net, or 703-629-8581.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Wednesday, April 24, 11:15 AM

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings will be at United Christian Parish on Wednesday, April 24, to provide cardiovascular and stroke disease risk screenings. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-844-591-7160 or go to lisa.social/HC or text the word circle to 216-279-1607. Pre-registration is required.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, April 20,

9:30 AM-3:30 PM

Women in the Spirit (WITS) will be hosting a one day retreat at United Christian Parish on Saturday, April 20, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM in room 107. Since the fall retreat was a coffee theme, this one day spring retreat will have a tea theme! Check the Weekly Connection for registration details. Want to be part of the planning team? Contact Nancy Vollmer: nanwvollmer@gmail.com.

PARISH LIFE PHOTO CONTRIBUTORS

Special thanks to this month's photo contributors: Ama, Laurie Callahan, Megan Rohrer, and Paula Steinmann.

UNITED CHRISTIAN PARISH

The United Christian Parish is an open and affirming church united in ministry: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Presbyterian (USA), United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.

CLERGY

REV. ELISABETH WILLIAMS PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION
REV. LLOYD KINZER PARISH ASSOCIATE
REV. SUZANNE RUDISELLE PASTOR EMERITA

STAFF

KEVIN FLETCHER BUILDING USE COORDINATOR
MICAELA HANNEY BOOKKEEPER
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