



September 27, 2026 ♦ 10:30 a.m. ♦ Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to University United Methodist Church

*At **University UMC**, our mission is to live into radical kinship through loving God, serving others and building Christian community. We pray all will find encouragement and spiritual nourishment here as we praise God together this morning.*



*Living into Radical Kinship through Loving God, Serving Others and
Building Christian Community*

150 East Franklin Street • Chapel Hill, NC 27514
www.universityumc.church
919-929-7191

GATHERING

Words of Welcome

Please sign our pew pad or [online attendance pad](#) and visit the [announcements page](#) for more information about upcoming events! If you are unfamiliar with accessing our announcements online, please call the church office to get connected.

Prelude

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

Traditional
arr. by Andrew Berinson

*Call to Worship

Responsively

God’s grace is not measured by what we have earned.

God’s love is freely given to every child.

God frees us from comparison, resentment, and pride.

We come to receive grace and rejoice when others receive it too.

The feast of God’s mercy has been prepared for us all.

We open our hearts and enter the joy of God.

*Hymn 139

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

**All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigning
bears thee on eagle’s wings, e’er in his keeping maintaining.**

God’s care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.

Hast thou not known his sustaining?

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.**

**Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o’er thee.**

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

**Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.**

*Opening Prayer

In Unison

**Merciful God, sometimes we measure our lives against others’ lives
and imagine that your love must be earned. Free us from resentment,
comparison, and the need to prove ourselves worthy. Teach us to receive
your grace as a gift and to rejoice when that same grace embraces others.
Draw us from the doorway of judgment into the joy of your abundant
mercy. Amen.**

Anthem

“Gloria Patri”
Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

PROCLAMATION

*Prayer for Illumination

In Unison

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 15:25–30

(NT, p. 1272)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Elder Brother”

The Rev. Justin Coleman

RESPONSE

*Hymn 402

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

*Affirmation of Faith

In Unison

We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Responsively

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray . . .

The congregation responds to each petition, “Hear our prayer.”

The Lord’s Prayer

In Unison

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Generosity Moment

Responsively

God is Good. **All the time.**

And all the time. **God is Good.**

Presentation of Our Gifts and God's Tithes: *You may designate your offering via mobile phone by texting "UniversityUMC" to 833-245-5259 and choosing the General Fund or specific missions, or through UniversityUMC.church.*

Offertory

"The Road Home"

Chancel Choir

Traditional

arr. by Stephen Paulus

***Doxology**, Hymnal, p. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you wish to become a follower of Jesus Christ or a member of University United Methodist Church, or would like for someone to pray with you, we invite you to come forward during the closing hymn and meet the clergy in front of the chancel rail.

***Hymn 408**

"The Gift of Love"

**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.**

***Benediction**

Postlude Meditation on "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

arr. by Andrew Berinson

How to Participate:

We are all held by this liturgy, together as one community.

*You may speak the words in **bold**, if speaking is available to you.*

You may sing the words of the hymns, if singing is available to you.

When you see an asterisk (), you may stand, if standing is available to you.*

Wide Circle Worship



An interactive, inclusive and welcoming
liturgical worship experience for all ages.

UUMC TALENT SHOW

Hosted by the Youth Choir

YEARS PAST HAVE FEATURED PERFORMANCES BY:

- Justin Coleman doing Johnny Cash
- Patricia Johnson as Ms. Hannigan
- John Westbrook doing Hamilton
- Youth Choir member performances
- Jokes, and more!

Contact Ti Berinson to sign up.

**SUNDAY,
OCT 25
4:30 PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME
TO PERFORM!**

Come perform or enjoy the show.

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
THE YOUTH CHOIR.**

**TRUNK OR TREAT
AT 3:00 PM**



Clergy & Ministers

Ministers.....	All the People of University United Methodist Church
Senior Pastor	The Reverend Justin Coleman
Executive Pastor.....	The Reverend Jamison Doebling
Pastor of Outreach	The Reverend Asya Coles
Pastor to Kindred Church.....	The Reverend Daniel Childs
Pastor to Senior Adults	The Reverend Denise C. Waters
Pastor to Youth.....	The Reverend Charlie Baber
Director of the Ministry of Music	Ti Berinson
Director of Children and Family Ministries	Rebecca Dyck
Organist and Pianist.....	Andrew Berinson
UNC Wesley Campus Minister	The Reverend Ryan Spurrier
Duke Divinity School Intern	Daniel Phebus
Lector	Jim Manor
Generosity Moment.....	Bus Drivers

Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Caroline Martens' birthday by Chris Martens.

Visit universityumc.church for more information about upcoming events!

Stay Connected

