

September-October, 2022 Newsletter

Parkwood United Methodist Church *A Beacon of God's Love to All People*

An Announcement and Invitation: "Faithful and Inclusive" Study on Sundays @ 9:45 AM & 2:00 PM

After discussion with our Administrative Board, we unanimously decided, agreed, and trust that this congregation can engage in difficult conversations, such as human sexuality, the Church, what the Bible says, and how we are to interpret it or read it today. We believe this congregation can be faithful, take the Bible seriously, and welcome to all people who want to be a part of this conversation, no matter where they may stand. Regarding Scripture, the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline says 1) it contains all things necessary to salvation, 2) nothing beyond Scripture as it pertains to salvation is required of any person, and 3) we recognize the 66 books of the Bible. We also have our doctrines or articles of religion, which are generally summed up in the ecumenical creeds: Apostles and Nicene Creeds. However, there's nothing in our doctrine that tells us how to read and interpret Scripture. In other words, the UMC allows room for differences. One of the reasons the UMC allows space for differences of opinion in interpreting and understanding Scripture is because we believe in welcoming all people to the table.

Starting **Sunday, September 11 @ either 9:45 AM (Sunday School) or 2:00-3:30 PM** (you choose which time works best for you!) we will meet in the Fellowship Hall (both times) to begin a 6-week study called "**Faithful and Inclusive.**" There are six video sessions, the study is written and led by Rob Fuquay, a UMC pastor in Indiana, and in this study, we will both look at what Scripture says, look at the context these Scriptures were written in, and we will hear testimonies from folks who identify as LGBTQIA and listen to their experiences. The video will offer times for us to pause for conversation. Please know, as your pastor, I feel compelled and convicted to love you right where you are, wherever you may stand. If you feel uncomfortable joining in this study, please know I am always open and available to meet with you individually.

In these sessions, I want us to bring an attitude and atmosphere of openness, love, and acceptance, wherever you may stand. Ultimately, our task as Christians is to love where we are and love people where they are. This study is truly meant to provide an open and hospitable space for all of us who want to have these difficult conversations honestly in love and not run away from them or pretend like they're not happening, anyway. Wherever you are on this or your views on Scripture, it is imperative that all voices must be respected. Also, it's important to be mindful that when we're talking about this, for folks who identify as LGBTQIA, this is not an issue. This is their life. They are not issues, they are people, and this is who they are. For parents who have children who identify as LGBTQIA, these are their children. So, it's very important for us to be mindful of that as we're sharing.

I believe this congregation is ready, mature enough, loving enough, and hospitable enough to have difficult conversations like this, and still love each other--perhaps have even deeper love, care, and friendship, if we do this well. I believe this congregation knows how to and will talk truthfully in love. This is an opportunity for us to not run away from this, but talk about it together in a safe space, and in order for that, we need to have grace for one another. After all, that's what Christ has done for us--so, how could we be any different?

—Pastor Adam

“THE CHOSEN” TV SERIES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday Mornings @ 9:45-10:30 AM in Room 1, starting Sunday, September 4

Download the App, “the Chosen” (free) and purchase a book (\$17) today

Marie Porter and Rebecca Turner will be leading a Sunday School class on the TV series, “the Chosen,” which has received much acclaim in the last year and has drawn the attention of churches and good ratings of mainstream media. It is series about the life of Jesus and his disciples. This will be an interactive Bible study, and it is expected that participants will have watched an episode of the Chosen and have a paperback study guide (available for purchase from Marie Porter for \$17). The App, the Chosen by Angel Studios, is free to download on your electronic device. There are eight lessons and corresponding filmed episodes to this study. Each episode is 30 to 40 minutes. We will only have 45 minutes class time so I would recommend viewing the filmed episodes at home so we can spend class time reviewing scriptures and discussion. There are lots of questions for discussion with each lesson.



Marilyn Hackney has also offered to host people over to her house one day per week on Wednesday afternoon. Please reach out to Marie Porter (mfporter40@gmail.com) for books, and reach out to Marilyn Hackney (mlh0326@aol.com) about joining with a small group to watch the episodes each week.

Marie and Rebecca look forward to restarting the Jacob Sunday School class and what promises to be a fruitful discussion!

CHOIR starts back on Wednesday, September 7 @ 6:00-7:00 PM!

“Faithful and Inclusive” Study

Sundays @ 9:45-10:30 AM & 2:00-3:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall, starting Sunday, September 11 and will last for six weeks.

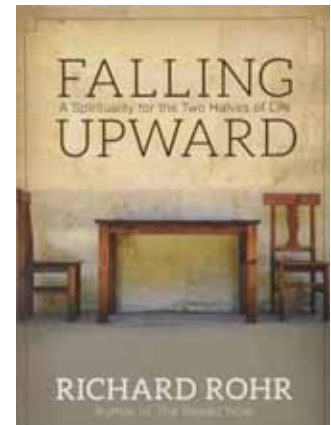
This 6-week, 6-session video study is written and developed by Rev. Rob Fuquay, UMC pastor in Indiana, for congregations to honestly wrestle with Scripture while taking it seriously, hear testimonies from LGBTQIA folks, and then have honest discussion in love and in small groups about 1) what’s causing so much controversy in the UMC? 2) How are we as Christians to understand Scriptures in the OT and NT about homosexual behavior, understand the contexts they were written in, while hearing testimonies from Christians who identify as LGBTQIA? And 3) what is the way forward from here? May the Holy Spirit lead us and help us to wrestle faithfully with holy matters, like Jacob who wrestled with a divine being (man? Angel? God?) in the dark night of the wilderness only to come up with a blessing when the night was through. May we wrestle faithfully, and may we speak the truth in love.

—Pastor Adam

“FALLING UPWARD” A BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR ADAM

FRIDAYS @ NOON, STARTING SEPTEMBER 9

Pastor Adam will be leading a book study during September on the book, "Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life." The book is about how our spirituality in the second half of life is often different than in the first half of life, when we're largely occupied with trying to gain things: career, family, job, reputation, etc. In the second half, we learn there is a deeper spirituality of growing closer to God through "letting go" and through our failings/fallings. We will meet in the fellowship hall on four sessions, one Friday per week starting on Friday, September 9 @ noon. If you would like to participate, please purchase your book and join us! You are also invited to bring your lunch with you.



New Service! Communion and Prayer Service Every Wednesday in the PUMC sanctuary, starting Sept. 7 @ NOON

Friends, starting Wednesday, September 7, I am inviting you to a new opportunity to gather together for a 30-minute prayer and Holy Communion service, starting @ noon. Since we are learning to live with COVID, we have moved our Zoom Morning Prayer service to Wednesdays @ noon, and each week we will have an opportunity to receive Holy Communion and be in prayer with one another. Join us!

Parkwood UMC **OCTOBERFEST** **Saturday, October 22 4:00-7:00 PM**

In collaboration with the Knights of Columbus at Holy Infant Catholic Church, the Durham Senior Center, and the United Methodist Men at PUMC, Oktoberfest will be a time of eating hot dogs, bratwursts, sides, listening to live music by the "Gray Rock Transit" band, hearing a presentation from the Durham Senior Center on programs, services and opportunities that they offer, and fellowshiping together. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 22 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Everyone in the Parkwood neighborhood, surrounding religious organizations and churches—everyone—is invited to come!

Connecting with Parkwood Elementary—How to Volunteer:

- First, you need to fill out the volunteer form @ dpsnc.net
- Mentor, tutor, or read with a child
- Sit with a child at lunch and be a companion
- Volunteer in the library
- Do a school supplies drive at the beginning and middle of the year
- “Cooking with grandma”—come and teach kids how to bake
- Chaperone on field trips
- Proctors during Testing
- If you have an account with **Harris Teeter**, connect your account with Parkwood Elementary’s School Code: **2084**. When you buy groceries, the school will receive a donation
- Join Parkwood Elementary PTA or Durham PTA
- Teachers and staff very much appreciate baked goods/food offered as a gift in the staff lounge
- If you have questions or other ideas, email Pastor Adam at adam.benson@nccumc.org or Shanaye at Shanaye_Ellison@dpsnc.net

Worship Volunteers September-October:

	ALTAR GUILD	COMMUNION SETUP	WORSHIP GREETERS	READERS	USHERS	COUNTERS	OFFICE	Food/Hospitality
9/4	Linnie Skidmore	Pam Skidmore	Jimmy and Florine Layman	Rebecca Turner	Ann Farmer	Rebecca and Ann	Jan Schwarze	Betsy Newlin
9/11	Pam Skidmore	n/a	Dianne Mitchell	Herb Schwarze	Linnie and Pam	Ann and Rosemary	Arlene McCloskey	Marilyn Hackney
9/18	Marilyn Hackney	n/a	Marilyn Hackney	Linnie Skidmore	Eddie Hanson	Rosemary and Eddie	Rosemary Marlowe	Brenda Stephans
9/25	Dena Roberts	n/a	Rebecca Turner	Jan Schwarze	David Thompson	Eddie and Andrew	Marie Porter	Pam Skidmore
10/2	Peggy Minor	Pam Skidmore	Rebecca Turner	Autumn Boyer	Brenda and Frank	Andrew and Rachel	Marie Porter	Jan Schwarze
10/9	Jan Schwarze	n/a	Charlotte David Thompson	Rosemary Marlowe	Ann Farmer	Rachel and Pam	Marilyn Hackney	Mike Billau
10/16	Dianne Mitchell	n/a	Jimmy and Florine Layman	Rebecca Turner	Linnie and Pam	Pam and Jimmy	Jan Schwarze	Linda Shannahan
10/23	Pat Nestler	n/a	Dianne Mitchell	Herb Schwarze	Eddie Hanson	Jimmy and Mike	Arlene McCloskey	Andrew Boyer
10/30	Florine Layman	n/a	Marilyn Hackney	Linnie Skidmore	David Thompson	Mike and Rebecca	Rosemary Marlowe	5th Sunday potluck

September-October Birthdays: Jan Schwarze (9/10), Cassandra Randall (9/18), Arabella Wilson (9/22), Bev Whitmore (9/27), Rick Clanton (10/6), Katie Benson (10/7), Janie Henderson (10/15) Meghan Benson (10/17), Mike Marlowe (10/17), Frank Stephans (10/18), Betsy Newlin (10/21), Ann Farmer (10/24), Mike Billau (10/29), Desiree Davis-Omburo (10/30)

Anniversaries: Jan and Herb Schwarze (9/9)

Parkwood United Methodist Church

5123 Revere Rd.

Durham, NC 27713

Office phone: 919-544-1078, Pastor’s E-mail: adam.benson@nccumc.org