



The Reconciler

A Journal. June, 2023

From Karen's Desk,

As I sit at my desk typing this, the excitement and anxiety of a summer of trips with the youth is ramping up. Montreat Youth Conference is easy. They do the programming, entertain the youth, provide them with the tools to help them draw deeper to God. This year I will not be a small group leader for the conference so I can focus more time being present with our group from The Rec and those joining us from New Hope Presbyterian.

The mission trip is different. I am also going to re-brand this trip from "mission trip" to "service learning trip". Please hold me accountable! The more I have been reading on how these trips can be misinterpreted, the more I am focused on changing how we think about them. I try to find opportunities for our youth to take a trip, to serve, to connect, to grow in their faith...all the things, without feeling like we are saving someone. It is equally important that our youth learn about the people and community they are serving as the work itself.

I am reading this incredible book called "This Here Flesh" by Cole Arthur Riley. It is just stunning and I encourage you to read it and will gladly lend my copy once complete. She has a section in a chapter entitled "Dignity" that hit me like a gut punch. She talks about how in her early twenties she would go eat lunch with the homeless. She felt as if by eating with them and listening to them she was restoring them. She was under the impression she was giving them dignity by doing this.

She says, "Our societies and communities have a way of grinding up and serving out dignity in portions based on our own human ideals and idols. In the history of the white Western world, you can trace a perversion of dignity in the name of

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And More!



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Presbyterian Church, USA**

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usefulness. You are no longer the image of God, you are currency.”

She goes on to say that we cannot help but entertain our concept of dignity with how much a person can do. We withhold social status and capital from them and neglect to acknowledge that theirs is a liberation we can learn from. We assign a lesser social value to them.

The last thing I ever want is to teach young people that by helping those in need makes you better than them, and sometimes these trips do just that. Helping someone is a high and something youth do not often get to experience due to their age and resources.

This is not to say that we should not help, but be sure to spend time questioning why we are there. What are the systemic issues here? Are we a band-aid? How can we be part of a long-term solution? Also leaving space to process our emotions and the emotions of the people we are serving. Just remembering that it is not about us. Sure, serving feels good. It always feels good to do something for others and that is something we should never stop doing, but we also need perspective. We are being God’s hands and feet, but those we are serving are also God’s hands and feet.

Cole Arthur Riley says in the end of this section of her book: “Our dignity may involve our doing, but it is foremost in our very being - our tears and emotions, our bodies lying in the grass, our scabs healing. I try to remember that Eve and Adam bore the image of God before they did anything at all. This is very mysterious to me, and must be protected.” This will be on my mind constantly as we learn about the community we are serving in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains this summer. We must protect the dignity of others.

As always, we appreciate your support financially (and you can always give via our website or in the church office...and we are grateful) to provide these opportunities at a lower cost for our families. We also covet your prayers. I hope that you hold us in prayer the last week of June when we head out on our Service Learning Trip that we keep this in mind as we serve and learn.

We Are All One With God,
Karen Miller



ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

9:30 AM on Sunday mornings

June 4, 11, 25 – Adult Education will meet occasionally during the summer on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM. Pastor Allen will use the scripture passage being used in worship that day as a springboard for deeper study, dialog, and personal reflection. The reflections will lead into small group conversations with a particular theme or question that keeps our attention. (No class on June 18.)

Sunday Worship Service

If you missed a worship service
or want to see something again,
visit our YouTube channel, [click here](#).



2023 SESSION and DEACONS

Session:

Diana Barefoot, Kristin Bowers,
Babbie Cameron, Kurt Elia, Alex Hawkins,
Carolyn Ikenberry, Kate Scott, Beth Welton,
Allen Wilcox

Clerk of Session: Sandra Burt

Deacons:

Cindy Covington, Mary Anne Dooley,
Helen Maxwell, John Rupp, Patricia Sawin,
Ann Stuart (Kristin Bowers, Session Liaison)

CAREGIVERS NEEDED

What are our moral and spiritual responsibilities for each other? I just heard a podcast of the U.S. Surgeon General discussing that very question. And that brings us to the caregiving program of our church. We are a church family, and we take care of each other. We see the caregivers as part of the "glue" that keeps us connected with one another. Recently we have lost several caregivers due to their other responsibilities, which is leaving us short. If we had enough caregivers, one would not have to be "on duty" more than 3 times a year. So.....we **NEED MORE CAREGIVERS!** It is not a time-consuming responsibility, but it makes all the difference to the church members who are sent notes, brought a meal, or receive even a phone call.

We can provide a short orientation to the role, and you can talk with some of the current caregivers. Please contact Robbie or Lisa if you'd like to volunteer to be one of the special people in the church who count as "caregivers"--or if you just have questions and would like to talk about the role. Thank you!!

Lisa Anthony and Robbie Blue, Co-Coordiators
Lisaserene@outlook.com 919-402-1814 (L home)
rblue313@gmail.com 919-244-7411 (R mobile)



CAN YOU HELP OUT WITH WORSHIP PREPARATION?

We are looking for 3 volunteers to help us set up for our services. Our Worship Prep volunteers prepare the chancel and sanctuary space before and after the service each Sunday. We try to have a two-month rotation so that each person serves just 6 times a year. If you are interested or just want to know more, please contact Sue Gilbertson or Courtney Chávez. Thanks!

Wear Orange on Gun Violence Awareness Day Sunday, June 4

(by Jane Hare for RPC)

National Gun Violence Awareness Day falls on June 4 this year, and with it, comes the Wear Orange campaign, which aims to raise recognition for the movement that was sparked by the 2013 death of a teenager, Hadiya Pendleton, who was mistakenly shot by gang members in a Chicago park. Her childhood friends began to wear orange, her favorite color, as a tribute and to commemorate her life.

Members of the local community held candlelight vigils and food drives, and wore orange. This color is also what hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.

The color orange was chosen to signal that wearers do not want to be the next victim of gun violence, and to symbolize the value of human life.

Pray and Act! The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship joins many other organizations and denominations across the nation in commemorating this day. As we work to reduce gun violence, take a few minutes to write or call your legislators, both State and National, and let them know that gun violence must stop! The statistics are mindboggling! We can all do something!

Learn more at:

presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence

Rev. Deanna Hollas, Gun Violence
Prevention Coordinator -

deanna@presbypeacefellowship.org

#WearOrange
#ProtectOurKids
#EndGunViolence

The Rec Has Gone Solar! Solar Project Update

When the sun shines the Rec is making energy.

The portal showing production from the Rec's solar arrays is now live so you can see the electricity the church is generating, reducing the amount purchased from Duke Energy.

Over the course of the year the combined systems will generate about 1/3 of the electricity used by the church buildings; more in the summer and less in the winter. In the summer when the sun is higher in the sky for a longer portion of the day, generation may at times exceed use in which case the energy is exported to the grid. The Church then receives a credit for that energy which is applied to our account when energy use exceeds generation.

- Jeep Morrison

Link to Sanctuary
Production

[Click Here](#)

Link to Preschool
Building Production

[Click Here](#)

- **NEXT SESSION MEETING:**
Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 PM on Zoom
- Meetings are open to the congregation - you can attend with voice, but no vote
- Email Sandra Burt for Zoom link, upon request

PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Church of the Rec,

Presbyterian Campus Ministry of Chapel Hill is so grateful for your partnership in our shared ministry to Carolina students. For 70 years now, PCM has been nurturing the faith of Carolina students and welcoming students to expand and deepen their faith during their time at Carolina. For decades now, Church of the Reconciliation has been a covenant partner of PCM with a permeant member on our Board of Directors and annual financial support. Sharon Mujica is your current Board member, following Erik Johnson. PCM is thrilled to have Albert Carlson with us these days! THANK YOU for your continued support. We invite you to continue to pray for our students and our shared ministry.

Rev. Berry French

Executive Director and Campus Minister for PCM of Chapel Hill - uncpcm.org

To learn more about PCM, please see their spring [newsletter](#) linked.

From Albert Carlson - a Church of Rec member:

Being a member of PCM was one of the best parts of my first year at Carolina. Going to the PCM program every Thursday night has been a great way for me to meet new people and make new friends, as well as a great opportunity to have a free meal. The discussions we have during the programs are very thought provoking, and it's nice to hear new perspectives on issues presented by fellow students. With PCM I went on trips to the beach and Montreat College Conference which were very fun, and there was also a Spring Break trip to New Mexico and a spring trip to the mountains which I wasn't able to go on but heard was a great experience as well.

One of my favorite aspects of PCM is the partner church visits we do. About once every six weeks we go to a different church in the area and worship and lead liturgy while they welcome us into their church. These are a great opportunity to meet other Presbyterians in the area, as well as to experience new kinds of worship services that can be different from the ones we are predominantly used to. Last month I was able to go with PCM to the church that I spent all of my life attending, the Church of Reconciliation. It was great to go back to the church I grew up in with my college friends and see so many familiar faces. PCM is a true community, and I am very glad to be a part of it.

Albert Carlson

WONDERING ABOUT THE NEW
IFC Commons in Carrboro??

WE ARE OFTEN ASKED...



- ? *Where does food in the Market come from?*
- ? *How do we prepare meals?*
- ? *What hidden gems are inside the new building?*

Answers to these questions and more - plus coffee and a view of Carrboro from our terrace if you sign up for a:

BEHIND THE SCENES

Tour @ IFC Commons

Tuesdays at 9am
May 23 - June 26
Sign up at bit.ly/IFCtours

There's room for 10 people per tour.

SIGN UP

- 🌐 bit.ly/IFCtours
- 📞 919-929-6380 x2031, Jennifer Gill
- 📍 110 W. Main Street @ IFC Commons



You can scan this with your phone camera to sign-up.

Questions? See Lisa Anthony, our
Church of Rec liaison to IFC.

JUNE RESPONSIBILITY SCHEDULE:

Worship at 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings in Sanctuary and via Zoom

If you have a conflict with this schedule – please call others on the list and make a swap. Then inform the church office of these changes at 919-929-2127 or churchrec@churchrec.org. THANKS!

ELDER-ON-CALL

4th Kristin Bowers
11th Beth Welton
18th Alex Hawkins
25th Kate Scott

LITURGISTS

4th TBD
11th Patricia Sawin
18th Lory Brockenbrough
25th Mary Charles Blakebrough

CAREGIVERS

4th Diana Barefoot and
Geoffrey Manley
11th Marty Propst, Colleen Boatright
18th Margaret Barrett,
Carolyn Ikenberry
25th Jo Anne Peterson,
Helen Maxwell

MUSICIANS

4th Jeanetta Powell
11th Dale Herman
18th Akiko Haywood
25th Jeanetta Powell

FLOWERS

4th Chris Lutes
11th Mary Anne Dooley
18th Helen Maxwell
25th Colleen Boatright

OFFERING COUNTERS

11th David Robinson, Sue Regier
25th Jim Spaeth, Alex Hawkins

LOCK-UP

4th Gene Johnson
11th Jeep Morrison &
Mary Anne Dooley
18th Alex & Ann Gordon
25th Charron Andrews

GREETERS

4th Ed Caldwell, Cindy Covington
11th Robbie Blue, Mary Anne Dooley
18th Helen Maxwell, Pat Adams
25th Colleen & Janessia Boatright

CHANCEL SET-UP

4th Gene Johnson
11th Sharon Mujica
18th Alex Gordon
25th Courtney Chávez

REC TECH TEAM

4th Anne Lutes, Eli Brimer
11th Allison Scott, Gene Johnson
18th Jess Bowers, Alex Gordon
25th Michael Jokich, Courtney Chávez



**Drop by the office or contact staff by email
or phone. See our schedule below:**

Allen's Rec Office Hours:

Mon-Thur, 9 AM – 12 Noon, and by appointment
(allen@churchrec.org ; 919-929-2127; 919-972-9506)

Karen's Office Hours:

Rec Office: Tues/Wed/Thurs 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(karen@churchrec.org; 309-369-8368)

JoAnn's Office Hours:

Rec Office: Mon - Fri, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
(churchrec@churchrec.org; 919-929-2127)

June, 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	Join us on Sunday mornings for Worship at 11:00 AM! Join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom!			1	2	3
Wear Orange to Church for Gun Violence Awareness 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (FH) 11:00 AM Sunday Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (FH) 11:00 AM Sunday Worship 12:15 PM Native Plant Garden Dedication	11	12	13	14	15	16
11:00 AM Sunday Worship – Karen Miller preaching <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Allen away June 18-23</div>	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (FH) 11:00 AM Sunday Worship 1:00 PM Garden Crew Party (PHC)	25	26	27	28	29	30
MEETING LOCATIONS -- SN: Sanctuary FH: Fellowship Hall PHL: Parish House Library PHC: Parish House Chapel EB: Education Building YR: Youth Room (Ext. EB)						

NOTE: The deadline for getting articles or calendar events in to the church office for the July *Reconciler* will be Thursday, June 15th. You may leave a message or email at your convenience! (churchrec@churchrec.org)

LET'S DO THE NUMBERS..."

Each month, Session will report key financial data about our church's budget.

April 2023 revenue = \$70,109

April 2023 expenses = \$30,155

January – April 2023 revenue = \$152,494

January – April 2023 expenses = \$123,420



If you have questions, please be in touch with Kurt Elia, Session Liaison to Finance Committee, or Finance Committee Chair Jim Spaeth.



ON-LINE GIVING AT THE REC



You can now give securely online to the Church of Reconciliation via the Tithe.ly app (or scan the QR code). Simply navigate to <https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app> on your smartphone to download the app. We also have a button on the church's website, as well. Once you download the app, simply search for "Church of Reconciliation PCUSA." Note you can currently direct your gift either to "General Offering and Pledges" or to "Blue Jar Mission." The app collects a small fee from the church from each transaction so please also note you have the option of covering the fee, which will increase your donation by approximately 3%. You can watch a short information video on Tithe.ly at this website: <https://vimeo.com/195985593>.

Church of Reconciliation
 110 North Elliott Road
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 (919) 929-2127

Web Page: www.churchrec.org

Please join us on Sunday mornings for

Worship in the Sanctuary or on Zoom Live Stream at 11:00 AM!

Website: www.churchrec.org FaceBook: facebook.com/ChurchRec

Phone: (919) 929-2127

Staff E-mails: allen@churchrec.org (Pastor Allen)

karen@churchrec.org (Karen); churchrec@churchrec.org (JoAnn)