



# The Reconciler

## A Journal. November, 2022

### From the Pastor's Desk

This past Sunday was a wonderful day of worship, celebration, remembrance, vision, and commitment. Thank you to those of you who have already made your pledge for the aspirational visions the Holy Spirit has given us for 2023. If you have not pledged yet, please do so this week.

As we begin November, we are looking forward to several upcoming events of interest. This Sunday, November 6, we will be hearing from a group of women who went to the US/Mexico Border in the past few months. They will be sharing their experiences of the realities there for migrants attempting to enter the country, and our Peacemaking Offering for 2022 will be collected with a portion going to the ministry there.

The following week, November 13, worship will focus on honoring indigenous peoples and the land. On November 20, Karen Miller will be preaching and after the service will be the hanging of the greens as Advent begins on November 27! Can you believe we are already there? Meanwhile, Wednesday night dinners will continue with a number of interesting classes and opportunities for the formation of the whole person of faith. The Reproductive Justice group will be hosting book discussions for the next two weeks (Nov 6 & 13) during second hour on *Trust Women* by Rebecca Todd Peters, who teaches at Elon University and who will be preaching at The Rec on December 11. Additionally, the landscaping at the front of the building will be happening in the next couple of weeks with stumps being removed and new native, food-bearing plants replacing them. As Carolyn Ikenberry said on Sunday, in time, we will be amazed and pleased with the transformation!

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### And More!



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**Facebook:** facebook.com/ChurchRec

So many good things are happening as we continue to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit of Christ. In the coming year, more of our attention will begin to focus on those outside of The Rec. The Session has identified the LGBTQ+ community and non-traditional families as well as our immediate neighborhood and the aging as target audiences for whom The Rec has an unfair advantage to serve. Additionally, we will be looking at the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 program to provide a way to focus the kind of work we do with these groups. The Session is committed to getting focused and being focused. I want to ask you to continue to hold your Elders, Deacons, Staff, and the various committees and teams in your prayers as we build new momentum toward all that Christ is calling us to be.

Yours faithfully,  
Rev. Allen C. Brimer



### REC AUTHORS DISCUSS WRITING NOVEMBER 5 at 2 PM

Did you know that there are at least eight authors who attend the Rec? They've written (and are still writing) on all sorts of topics, from Celtic spiritual traditions to human anatomy labs. Come to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 5, at 2 PM to hear authors from the Rec reflect a little on their own work and welcome questions from the audience about writing. Refreshments will be available as well as an opportunity to purchase autographed books.

- Bill Andrews



### ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

**9:30 AM on Sunday mornings**

**November** – Adult Education will meet on Sunday, November 27 in the Fellowship Hall and be available by ZOOM in a combined context at 9:30 AM on Sunday morning. 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.

#### ZECHARIAH'S *BENEDICTUS*

--based on Luke 1, NRSV

An angel appears from  
incense clouds at the high altar!  
Zechariah hears his name and then  
a stunning answer to his prayer:

“Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son;  
you are to name him John. Many will  
rejoice at his birth. He comes to  
prepare the way of the Lord.”

Though a faithful priest,  
Zechariah blurts doubt:  
“My wife and I are old.  
How will I know that this is so?”

“I am Gabriel, sent by God,  
but because of your disbelief,  
you will be mute until  
these things occur.”

Wordless — who would not be? —  
he learns it's all true. Elizabeth  
grows round with joy. They offer  
sanctuary to her pregnant cousin.

Mary's babe brings Holy Spirit's  
blessing; the beauty of her song lifts  
Zechariah's soul, inspires prophecy.  
At John's birth, his speech returns:

*By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break  
upon us, to give light to those who  
sit in darkness and in death's shadow,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Nancy Corson Carter – Poem published in the  
Fall 2022 edition of *The Shalem Society Newsletter*

# NOVEMBER

## THE REC KIDS & YOUTH



Bring money as we will walk to lunch and get donations organized for PORCH after worship and wrap up around 1:30 pm.



# FALL

## Youth Calendar Updates:

- 10/30 from 3-6 pm - Youth help with Trunk-or-Treat at NHPC.
- 11/6 after worship - YOUTH 2023 MISSION TRIP PRESENTATIONS! You will not want to miss this as we look through some options for our summer trip and make our decision.





This Session page is in the development stage...  
going forward we'll be adding a short article  
each month from one of our elders... stay tuned!

Link to Video Summary of last meeting: [Click Here](#)

Link to last set of approved minutes, August 23, 2022:  
[Click Here](#)

### **2022 SESSION and DEACONS**

#### **Session:**

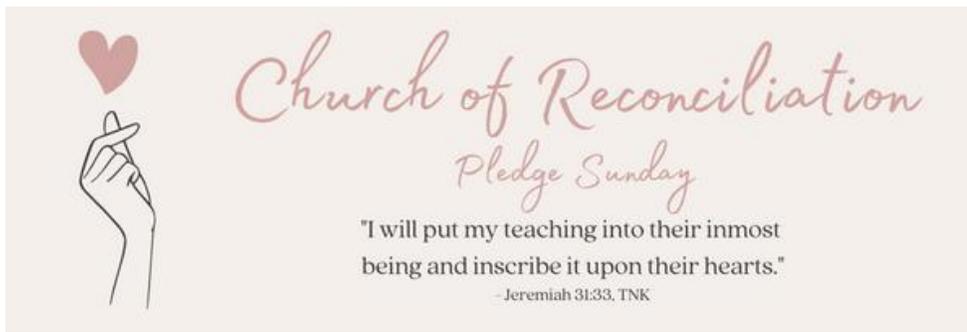
Charron Andrews, Babbie Cameron,  
Craig Carlson, Kurt Elia, Alex Hawkins,  
Carolyn Ikenberry, Jeep Morrison,  
Kate Scott, Beth Welton

**Clerk of Session:** Sandra Burt

#### **Deacons:**

Bill Andrews, Cindy Covington, Mary Anne  
Dooley, Catrina Elia, Helen Maxwell, Patricia  
Sawin, Ann Stuart, Kate Scott (Session Liaison)

- **NEXT MEETING:** November 22 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



**2023 Stewardship  
Letter (Click Here)**

## **The Rec Is Going Solar! Solar Project Update**

Sunshine now streams through the windows of the church kitchen. Soon those who are working there will look out upon new native plants. This spring, perhaps they may also spot a woodpecker drilling into one the 30 foot tall “stumps” left for that very purpose. It is all part of the project to reduce the carbon footprint of the Rec and increase the native vegetation on the church property for improved wildlife habitat.

In mid-November Eagle Solar and Light will begin installing solar panels on the roof of the fellowship hall, church house and preschool buildings as shown in the two aerial renditions. Construction will take approximately a week followed by inspections and commissioning of the system. Final completion will be in early December when the system will be turned on. At that point approximately one third of the electricity used at the Rec will be self-generated zero-carbon power.

The solar array will be leased which enables the Rec to reduce carbon emissions *and* avoid the \$100,000 cost to install the system. Since the electricity generated is fueled by free sunshine, the reduction in the church’s electricity bill will cover the cost of the lease. The leasing arrangement also avoids tasking the hard-working members of the Land and Structures committee with the maintenance and annual cleaning of the system.

### **Where can I get more information?**

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact Jeep Morrison or another member of the Rec’s solar team (John Hartwell, Kurt Elia, Chris Lutes, Carolyn Ikenberry, Alex Hawkins, Susan Attermeier), or check out the full presentation on our Google Drive by clicking here: [Earth Care On Rec Campus](#)



## PROTECT/SUPPORT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN NC

With restrictions, a pregnant person in North Carolina still has the right to choose abortion up to 20 weeks gestation, but we are only one election away (3 seats in the NC House and 2 seats in the NC Senate) from losing this right. The right to reproductive choice and health is an issue of gender, human rights, economic justice, racial justice, religious freedom, and dignity.

Abortion bans are  
against my religion



SACReD  
Spiritual Alliance of Communities  
for Reproductive Dignity

sacreddignity.org

### PC (U.S.A.) AFFIRMATIONS:

**1970 GA statement:** *“Women should have full freedom of personal choice concerning the completion or termination of their pregnancies.”*

**1972 Language** regarding "personal choice" and "responsible decision" regarding abortion began to appear in church documents.

**1983 GA adopted language** affirming abortion as a "stewardship responsibility." (3)

**1988 GA** Stated Clerk James Andrews filed an amicus brief with the US Supreme Court in support of “abortion rights.”

**1992 GA statement:** *“Problem pregnancies are the result of, and influenced by, so many complicated and insolvable circumstances that we have neither the wisdom nor the authority to address or decide each situation.”*

It considers moral judgments to be a matter of each woman's individual interpretation of what is right or wrong in her particular crisis situation, and *“...acknowledges circumstances in a sinful world that may make abortion the least objectionable of difficult options.”*

Further, current policy states that *“...no law or administrative decision should limit access to abortion; limit information and counseling concerning abortions; or limit or prohibit public funding for necessary abortions for the socially and economically disadvantaged.”*

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

The members of the Church of Reconciliation can join others from all over North Carolina and the rest of the United States who are working and organizing to maintain the right to reproductive choice. Here are some simple action items to take to keep the right to reproductive choice in North Carolina:

- Contact Governor Cooper to thank him for issuing the Executive Order to better protect pregnant people and abortion clinics and urge him to continue the fight and use the power of his office to protect and expand abortion access in North Carolina. You can call his office at 919-814-2000 or email him at [governor.nc.gov](mailto:governor.nc.gov).
- Call or email your member of the North Carolina General assembly and tell them you are a constituent who urges them to support, protect and defend access to abortion in North Carolina. Find your NC House Representative and NC Senate Senator at <https://ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators>. It is important you ask your friends and family throughout the state to do the same.
- Donate! Donate especially to an intersection of organizations doing the work in North Carolina such as: Planned Parenthood Action Fund <https://www.plannedparenthood.org> (pick NC South Atlantic); <https://www.prochoicenc.org> (focusing on elections, education, supporting independent clinics); Carolina Abortion Fund (helps clinics and patients financially) <https://www.carolinaabortionfund.org>.
- Meal Train to providers at Planned Parenthood who are intaking people from neighboring states.
  - Chapel Hill: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/e88gn2>
  - Durham: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/111o6w>
- Volunteer with Triangle Access Coalition to be an escort at Abortion clinics.
- Write a “Letter to the Editor” to your local newspaper in support of Reproductive rights. Especially reproductive rights as a Christian right.
- Meet with your legislators and candidates. Make sure they know reproductive choice is a Christian value. Ask them to speak out.
- Volunteer for organizations such as <https://www.youcanvote.org> , <https://www.democracync.org> , to promote voter registration.
- Make sure you are registered to vote. <https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering> . To maintain reproductive rights in NC we need to sustain veto power and prevent a supermajority in the legislature.
- Join upcoming pro-choice rallies and events.
- Talk to young people. Empower them to organize.

- Beth Welton and Jo Anne Peterson on behalf of the Human Rights and Reproductive Justice Group

## Cookies and Carols

On Sunday December 4, Mary Anne Dooley and Jeep Morrison invite you to an evening of Christmas cheer with the annual Cookies and Carols. After good conversation, punch and cookies Brassissimo! will provide the music this year. Continuing last year's Covid adaptation, the festivities will be under a tent in the backyard. And as always at the end of the evening you will be on your way with good cheer in your heart, and way too many cookies in your belly. If you have a favorite batch of holiday cookies to share, please feel free to bring them.



### Cookies and Carols:

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Sunday December 4, 2022

Jeep Morrison & Mary Anne Dooley, 810 Greenwood Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

# Rumi By Candlelight

Romancing the divine through music & poetry of ecstasy & lament



Nov 10

Church of Reconciliation  
Chapel Hill, NC

All shows - Doors at 7  
/ Show at 7:30

Nov 11

Church of the Covenant  
Greensboro, NC

Nov 12

Unity Center of Peace  
Chapel Hill, NC



Tickets & Info: scan QR or  
RumiByCandlelight.com

## SIGN-UP FOR 30 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS TO BE PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

Deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 20

Cost is \$10.00 for each Plant – and they will be placed in the church by Saturday, December 2 - you may take your plant home following the Love Feast or leave for planting on Rec grounds.

Please circle Honor or Memory and clearly fill in your names for reprinting in the bulletin.

Please make your check payable to the Church of Reconciliation and note "Holiday Plant" on the check. You may drop payment in the offering basket, place it in the envelope in the narthex or mail it to the church office.

**(choose one)**

Name(s) Given By

Please circle Honor or Memory and Add Name(s) for bulletin

Poinsettia or  
Rosemary Plant

1.

Honor/Memory of

2.

Honor/Memory of

## NOVEMBER 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

6<sup>th</sup> Craig Carlson  
13<sup>th</sup> Babbie Cameron  
20<sup>th</sup> Beth Welton  
27<sup>th</sup> Alex Hawkins

### LITURGIST

6<sup>th</sup> Gene Johnson  
13<sup>th</sup> Nancy Corson Carter  
20<sup>th</sup> David Robinson  
27<sup>th</sup> TBD

### CAREGIVERS

6<sup>th</sup> Bill and Charron Andrews  
13<sup>th</sup> Lisa Anthony, Colleen Boatright  
20<sup>th</sup> Hope Shand, Margaret Barrett  
27<sup>th</sup> Marty Propst, Sarah Stitsinger

### MUSICIANS

6<sup>th</sup> Dale Herman  
13<sup>th</sup> Akiko Haywood  
20<sup>th</sup> Dan Mason  
27<sup>th</sup> Dale Herman

### FLOWERS

6<sup>th</sup> Sharon Mujica  
13<sup>th</sup> Kristin Bowers  
20<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Chambers  
27<sup>th</sup> Poinsettia/Rosemary

### OFFERING COUNTERS

13<sup>th</sup> Sandra Burt, Jeannie Goguen  
27<sup>th</sup> Alex Hawkins, Sandra Burt

### LOCK-UP

6<sup>th</sup> Bill Andrews  
13<sup>th</sup> Chris Lutes  
20<sup>th</sup> Charron Andrews  
27<sup>th</sup> Alex Hawkins

### GREETERS

6<sup>th</sup> Gene Johnson, Sharon Mujica  
13<sup>th</sup> Patricia Sawin, Kristin Bowers  
20<sup>th</sup> Jeff and Cheryl Chambers  
27<sup>th</sup> Helen Maxwell, TBD

### CHANCEL SET-UP

6<sup>th</sup> Meri-Li Douglas  
13<sup>th</sup> Howard Carter  
20<sup>th</sup> Sandra Burt  
27<sup>th</sup> Courtney Chávez

### REC TECH TEAM

6<sup>th</sup> Jess Bowers, Allison Scott  
13<sup>th</sup> Anne Lutes, Alex Gordon  
20<sup>th</sup> Jess Bowers, Allison Scott  
27<sup>th</sup> Michael Jokich



**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](mailto: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](mailto:karen@churchrec.org); 309-369-8368)

#### **JoAnn's Office Hours:**

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

### Sunday Worship Service

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

# November, 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 2px solid cyan; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">                     Join us on Sunday mornings for                      Worship at 11:00 AM!                      Join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom!                 </div>		<b>1</b> Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH) Mid-Week Email Blast 12:00 Noon Outreach 6:30 (Zoom) Personnel 6:45 (Zoom)	<b>2</b> Dinner at the Rec 6:00 PM (FH) Sunday Email Deadline is 9 AM on Wednesday	<b>3</b> Solar & Landscaping 5:30 PM (Zoom) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 10px; width: 80%;">                         Karen away 11/1-3                     </div>	<b>4</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">                         Allen away                          11/1-4                     </div>	<b>5</b> Rec Authors Discuss Writing and a time for Q & A 2:00 PM (FH)
<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Donuts & Devotions (YR) 11:00 AM Sunday Worship 12:30 PM Human Rights Book Discussion "Trust Women" (PHC)	<b>7</b> Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH) Deadline for Mid-Week Announcements 9 AM	<b>8</b> Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH) Mid-Week Email 12 PM RPC 4 PM (Zoom) RecTech 7:00 PM	<b>9</b> Stephen Ministry 4:30 PM (PHL) Dinner at the Rec 6:00 PM (FH) Sunday Email Deadline is 9 AM on Wednesday	<b>10</b> Deacons 6:30 PM (Zoom) Rumi by Candlelight 7:30 PM (Sanctuary)	<b>11</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">                         JoAnn away                          11/11                     </div>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Donuts & Devotions (YR) 11:00 AM Sunday Worship 12:30 PM Human Rights Book Discussion "Trust Women" (PHC)	<b>14</b> Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH) Deadline for Mid-Week Announcements 9 AM	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Mid-Week Email 12 PM JPC 7:00 PM (Zoom) Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH)	<b>16</b> Dinner at the Rec 6:00 PM (FH) Sunday Email Deadline is 9 AM on Wednesday	<b>17</b> L & S 6:30 PM (FH & Zoom) Solar & Landscaping 5:30 PM (Zoom) Earthcare 7:00 PM (Zoom)	<b>18</b> Rec Craft Circle 1:00 PM (Zoom) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 10px; width: 80%;">                         Allen away 11/14-18                     </div>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:00 AM Donuts & Devotions (YR) 11:00 AM Sunday Worship 12:15 Greening of the Sanctuary - Join us!	<b>21</b> Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH) Deadline for Mid-Week Announcements 9 AM	<b>22</b> Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH) Session 6:30 (Zoom) Mid-Week Email Blast 12:00 Noon	<b>23</b> Dinner at the Rec TBD Sunday Email Deadline is 9 AM on Wednesday	<b>24</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">                         Happy Thanksgiving!                          Office Closed                     </div>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Advent I</b> <b>27</b> 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School - (FH or Zoom) 10:00 AM Donuts & Devotions (YR) 11:00 AM Sunday Worship	<b>28</b> Learning Bridges 6:00 PM (FH) Deadline for Mid-Week Announcements 9 AM	<b>29</b> Mid-Week Email Blast 12:00 Noon	<b>30</b> Dinner at the Rec 6:00 PM (FH) Sunday Email Deadline is 9 AM on Wednesday	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">                         MEETING LOCATIONS --                          SN: Sanctuary                          FH: Fellowship Hall                          PHL: Parish House Library                          PHC: Parish House Chapel                          EB: Education Building                          YR: Youth Room (Ext. EB)                     </div>	<div style="border: 2px solid cyan; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 150px;">  </div>	

**NOTE: The deadline for getting articles or calendar events in to the church office for the December *Reconciler* will be Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

September 2022 revenue = \$33,787

September 2022 expenses = \$31,027

January – September 2022 revenue = \$289,581

January – September 2022 expenses = \$268,499



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>.

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

Web Page: [www.churchrec.org](http://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](http://www.churchrec.org)      FaceBook: [facebook.com/ChurchRec](https://facebook.com/ChurchRec)**

**Phone: (919) 929-2127**

**Staff E-mails: [allen@churchrec.org](mailto:allen@churchrec.org) (Pastor Allen)**

**[karen@churchrec.org](mailto:karen@churchrec.org) (Karen); [churchrec@churchrec.org](mailto:churchrec@churchrec.org) (JoAnn)**