

The Reconciler

OCTOBER 2025

From The Pastor's Desk



Pastor Allen Brimer

In September, I attended a three-part webinar called: HOLY SHIFT! YOUNG PARENTS ARE RETHINKING EVERYTHING, SO SHOULD WE. It is the result of a collaboration between the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The webinar is based on research conducted by TryTank Research Institute. Their findings are in a report called: "Young Adult Parents: What Happens to Faith When 'Nones' Have Kids." The term 'Nones' refers to a generation of young adults who check "NONE" for religious affiliation on census data. [I have provided a copy of the report here.](#) You can see the conclusion of their research and the summary, implications for churches, and recommendations for church actions beginning at page 27. However, I would still encourage you to spend time with the data itself. It really pays to know this population and to understand how its values and priorities are similar to and yet very different than our own.

The findings are both pretty remarkable and confirm much of what we are experiencing. You may have noticed there are not a lot of folks under forty in our congregation. This report can help explain the how and the why that is happening. Currently, I have the Session reading the report and watching the three session recordings from the webinar, which have excellent content in them. If you are really curious, [you can watch the webinar sessions here.](#)

In the coming couple of months, the Session is really going to be working hard on a vision for the future of our church. This will be a key data point for that work. I want to invite you to digest some of this information and formulate some of your own insights, ideas, and recommendations for the Session to consider. This is the way we discern God's future for our church! Be a part of it!

From The Pastor's Desk

Finally, I will say that the 'under forties' population is not where all of the future is. For the next twenty years, there will be more people in Orange County over sixty years old than under twenty-five years old. So part of our work as a congregation is to also keep a clear eye on those of the sixty-plus generation who are coming to Chapel Hill and are looking for a church home that provides love, support, beloved community, and spiritual depth with progressive social values. That is who we are!!

So stay tuned for the upcoming shifts and the vision that the Spirit is giving to the Session. Who knows? The Spirit may give you some of that vision too! Please share it with your elders and with me!!



Session Minutes & Motions

Please find the minutes from the **August 2025 Session** meeting [here](#).

Session will hold the next meeting on October 4th after World Communion service at Covenant Presbyterian.



A Note from the Spiritual Formation Group (formerly Adult Education) ***from Bron Skinner and Nancy Corson Carter***

Our group offers an invitation to individuals who understand that being a “beloved community” is an ongoing journey requiring unceasing commitment and energy. We have chosen a name change to better reflect our goal of helping create our beloved community by offering opportunities to our congregation to find spiritual growth and understanding as a body of believers, intent on manifesting Christ’s teachings in a troubled world.

We are living in a time of great upheaval. The truth is that the changes are so dramatic and disorienting that our hope for realizing beloved community can seem further away than ever. As a spiritual community we need to come together to create our own opportunities for finding hope that a brighter future is possible. We are reminded of Congressman John Lewis when asked how he endured saying, “You imagine a world you want to inhabit. You imagine the beloved community that you want to create and be part of, and you live as if that is the reality. And you just have to walk into making it more visible and more true for everyone else.”

We maintain that each of us, with our own unique gifts and shortcomings, exists in this world unconditionally, saved and loved through God’s Grace. We hope to offer opportunities in our programming that encourage participants to awaken to their wholeness and to walk confidently in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit abides, and communes with us every minute of every day. With God’s help we will seek to provide inspiration for how we can live our lives with the constant intent of fully appreciating God’s gifts of Creation, Redemption, and an abiding Presence in our lives.

Hospitality, Study, Outreach: To accomplish our goals, we will continue the Wednesday Night suppers and programs. They will vary in nature. Already we have had a congregant share her life story about her spiritual journey. We also conducted a Taizé patterned worship service with prayer, song, and scripture. In the future, we plan to invite guests and members of our congregation who will provide openings for us to know, feel, understand, apply, and practice ways to listen deeply for God’s guidance in our lives.

We invite you to offer ideas, join our planning meetings, and, certainly, to make the Wednesday night times of fellowship into an opportunity to solidify your sense of connection with the Rec community.

“...there’s nothing new under the sun, but there are new suns. We’re in a time of new suns. We have no idea what we could be, but everything that we have been is falling apart. So, it’s time to change. And we can be mindful about that. That’s exciting.” (attributed to Octavia Butler)

Puppet Show Fun!

From Charron Andrews and MCY



On September 21st, 7 kids and 4 adults from Elliott Woods and Church of Reconciliation went to see the spectacular Paperhand puppet show at the Forest Theater on UNC's campus.

Pearl Highducheck arranged for each of us to make and take a brown bag of snacks and drinks before we boarded a Chapel Hill bus to UNC. This was a first Chapel Hill town bus ride for many of the adults and kids. Practicing perfect bus etiquette, we made it to the show on time and were able to get all 11 of us seated in one spot.

We clapped and cheered and oooed and ahhed over the spectacular puppets, which none of the kids had ever seen before.

Now seasoned bus travelers, we hopped on the east bound return bus, discussed our favorite parts of the show and arrived back at the Elliott Woods apartments before six o'clock.

It was a delightful afternoon. THANKS TO THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE.

A Moment Of Grace

From Earth Care Committee



Nancy Corson Carter and Stella Waugh were sitting by the Rec garden, discussing discouraging news from the world and feeling quite distressed.

Suddenly Nancy spotted a caterpillar on the milkweed, and we determined it was a monarch butterfly caterpillar in all its glory!

Spirits lifted and others came by and admired it. There is surely a lesson here: even in moments of despair, God's creation is always close by - we must only look. See what you can spot this month!

Durham PRIDE 2025

This note from Carolyn Ikenberry was included in the Book of Concerns and Celebrations on 09/28

In the midst of unrelenting assaults, it was breathtaking to witness the courage and fearlessness of the LGBTQI community and allies as they came together yesterday in the PRIDE parade. I was especially heartened to see so many faith groups represented and proud to walk with the Church Of Reconciliation. Hundreds marched and cheered and showed joy and exuberance as we celebrated the right of every person to live openly and without fear. In the midst of so much bad news, it was a day that lifted my spirits and showed that love and hope and courage live on.



Happy Birthday George Chall!



We are celebrating one of our fellow travelers, George Chall (husband of Victoria), who is turning 103 on October 3rd!!!

George has had an extraordinary life, including a career in Washington, DC working with Presidents of the United States, being a leading advocate for the preservation of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Hudson River Park in Manhattan, and being one of the last living survivors of the Normandy Beach invasion.

You can send notes of celebration to George through Victoria's email, serenearts@msn.com

Coming up in October

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



Friday Oct. 3rd

10 am-2 pm

Fellowship Hall

make an appointment at redcrossblood.org, use code
“Reconciliation”

Sat. Oct 18th

9am-12 pm

Chapel

RSVP with Rev. Allen

LITURGY WRITING WORKSHOP



Sat. Oct 25th

10:30 am-12:30pm

Lory Brockenbrough's home

RSVP with Barbie Wilson or

Stella Waugh

THE REC

WOMEN & FRIENDS

GROUP



FALL GATHERING OF THE FLOCK

Pie with the Pastor

Sat Oct 4th

1-5

Rec Kitchen

RSVP with Rev. Allen



Potluck at Mary Anne and Jeep's Home

Sat Oct 4th

6-9 pm

RSVP with Jeep



Dinner with the Amy's

Sat Oct 4th

6-8pm

RSVP with Amy Odom and Amy Jeroloman



Dinner with the Chambers

Sat Oct 11

6:30 pm

RSVP with Cheryl



Volunteer at the Farm

Sun Oct 12th

3-5

RSVP with Matt Gundlach



Contact Us!

CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA
110 NORTH ELLIOTT ROAD
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514



(919) 929-2127

ALLEN@CHURCHREC.ORG (PASTOR)
CHURCHREC@CHURCHREC.ORG (OFFICE)

[WEBSITE](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)

[CALENDAR](#)