



The Congregation at Duke University Chapel

Fellowship . Mission . Education

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

09-17-2020

Author Frederick Buechner wrote “Go where your best prayers take you.” This is an intriguing thought as we know our own prayers are quite varied, often differing in content and substance from day to day. Further, prayers that have been recited for generations can take on new, even surprising, meaning depending on the context in which they are said. How do we determine what makes a prayer a “best” one?

From the
Senior Pastor



Recently, I was reminded of John Wesley’s covenant prayer. Imagine offering this prayer while enduring a pandemic or while confronting racial injustice or while living near a wildfire. Does this 18th century prayer speak to our modern contexts?

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



A classic prayer such as this has a way of transcending time to speak into a variety of circumstances, including our modern ones. It is another way of saying “thy will be done.” Just as there is a place for timeless prayers, we are also bold to pray for specific needs. The Congregation has recently begun a short weekly prayer service to pray specifically for racial justice on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. General and explicit prayers, written and extemporaneous prayers, long and short prayers are all part of our tradition.

There are all kinds of “best” prayers.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Carol

This Sunday September 20

Sunday morning classes will meet virtually from **9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**

- **WEE PRAISE:** Children ages 0-3 along with parents or caregivers may utilize the online videos previously shared via email. If you are not receiving emails with this information, please contact [Phyllis Snyder](#).
- **GODLY PLAY:** Children ages 4-5th graders can find a new video, and re-watch previous videos, on the [Congregation’s YouTube channel](#).
- **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY:** For students in 6th – 12th grade, [Youth Bible Study Zoom link is here](#).
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** A 10-week study on Ecclesiastes, [Bible Study Zoom link is here](#).
- **ADULT FORUM:** Jillian Marcantonio, Ph.D. Student in Early Christianity, Graduate

Program in Religion, Duke University, will present "Refreshing Fire: The Mother of God in Romanos the Melodist." [Adult Forum Zoom link is here.](#)

UNIVERSITY WORSHIP 11:00 a.m. Online

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery, Dean of Duke University Chapel

Worship Online Here

Lectionary Readings

All are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE INVITATION

If joy and laughter are contagious, it's one affliction we are happy to spread among our congregation.

Did you know that we have not been able to see one another for 26 weeks? We miss you! Although we have been hosting zoom games each month, some of you have shared that playing games is "not your thing". As such, we have come up with some really amusing "fill-in-the-blank" activities that attendees have really enjoyed. Examples:

1. I think Dean Powery is in a bad mood today. Instead of telling us to share a sign of peace, he told us to _____. (Answers from our last gathering: Leave. Sit down and be silent. Poke one another.)
2. Poppy and Genevieve said, "Mommy, I think something is wrong with Ms. Phyllis. Today in Godly Play, she taught us to _____. (Some answers from our last gathering: Drive. Dance. Light a match.)

As you can see, there is no strategy required and no wrong answers. Just an opportunity to laugh, chat and spend time together. Involvement is not required, please feel free to join as an observer.

Our next two fellowship events are scheduled for:

- **Sunday, September 20, 1:00 p.m.** [Zoom Link](#)
- **Sunday, October 18, 1:00 p.m.** [Zoom Link](#)

EXPLORING GRIEF

A six-week program exploring the journey of grief is being offered by William Holloman, manager at Duke HomeCare and Hospice. Sessions are as follows:

October 6 – Dimensions of Grief—What is Normal?

October 13 – Experiencing the Pain of Loss?

October 20 – Difficult Emotions

October 27– Remembering

November 3 – Important Events

November 10 – Reinvesting in the Future

Growing through Grief offers year-round support to people who have lost a loved one.

Meetings are held each **Tuesday** from **4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, with a presentation followed by small group discussion. To register to attend and receive the Zoom link, please send a request to admin@growingthrugrief.org. Everyone must register every week by **8:00 a.m.** on **Mondays** for **Tuesday's** session. Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who participated in the Congregation's 35th Anniversary celebration held on September 13. Stories from our history, infused with love for God and each other, filled the program. A special thanks goes to the planning committee of Kate DeAlmeida, Jim and Ellie Ferguson, Lois Oliver, Brady Surlles, Ben Wechsler and Lucy Worth.

MISSION

PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Please join us in purposeful prayers for racial reconciliation in our community, nation and

world: **Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** via Zoom. [The prayer Zoom link is here.](#) The Congregation is hosting a brief weekly prayer service focused on racial justice each Saturday. The service includes short readings, unison prayers, and the option of prayer from the participants. You are welcome to "come-as-you-are" on Saturday mornings (pajamas and coffee are welcomed). If you like, you may join as an observer or "silent participant" by leaving your camera and microphone turned off. For more information, contact [Nathaniel Metz](#).

SEEDS HARVEST DINNER

Tickets are now on sale for the Annual SEEDS Harvest dinner which will be held virtually on **Saturday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.** The event will include a virtual dinner complete with online presentation and a curated, seasonal dinner box available for pick up as well as a silent auction. [Tickets are available online.](#)



This event supports [SEEDS](#), one of the mission agencies supported by the Congregation. SEEDS is a two-acre urban garden and kitchen classroom in the heart of Durham that develops the capacity of young people to respect life, the earth, and each other through growing, cooking, and sharing food.



URBAN MINISTRIES
OF DURHAM

UMD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

[Urban Ministries of Durham](#), which shelters and feeds our neighbors, has been working to protect its clients and volunteers from illness. Since early July, all of their tests for COVID-19 have been negative. Urban Ministries now needs volunteers to assist in their café and with food distribution. A [new UMD sign-up sheet](#) makes volunteering easier and since only three volunteers are needed at a time, this may be a good project for couples or friends.

DCIA HYGIENE AND CLEANING SUPPLIES DRIVE

Local food pantries have struggled to supply Durhamites with hygiene and cleaning supplies that have become hard to find during the pandemic. Durham Congregations In Action (DCIA) is conducting a hygiene drive through September to help our partner food pantries. The following items are needed:



- CDC-approved Disinfectant Wipes or Sprays (Lysol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Clorox)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Bleach
- Empty Spray Bottles
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Soap, Hand and Body
- Shampoo

Donations can be dropped off at any of these partner congregations or to area food pantries:

- Cole Mill Rd. Church of Christ, 1617 Cole Mill Road, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Antioch Baptist Church, 1415 Holloway St, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Road, T-F, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- First Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Main Street, Mondays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 1615 E. NC 54 Hwy., M, W, F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC, 2700 Angier Avenue, M-F, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

EDUCATION

ECCLESIASTES STUDY

Starting this **Sunday, September 20 at 9:45 a.m.** Nathaniel Metz, the Congregation's Duke Divinity School intern for this year, will lead a Bible study on Ecclesiastes. All are welcome to explore this book of wisdom. The [Zoom link for Adult Bible Study is here.](#)



BOOK GROUP READINGS

The *Interior Castle*, a spiritual classic, is the focus of the current book group. The reading schedule is as follows:

September 23	Sixth Dwelling	p. 155-255
September 30	Seventh Dwelling, Epilogue	p. 259-299

The book groups will meet on **Wednesdays** at **10:00 a.m.** and **7:00 p.m.** by Zoom. No reservations are necessary.

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Zoom Link

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Zoom Link

ADULT FORUM – UPCOMING TOPICS

With a variety of guest speakers, the Adult Forum offers presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics. The thought-provoking topics include Biblical studies, current social issues and the work of mission agencies. [Adult Forum Zoom link is here.](#)



September 27 – The Rev. Dr. Will Willimon, Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School, Thinking About White Racism Like Christians.”

October 4 – Dr. Steve Winters, Congregation member, "God's Healing Grace at PCEA Chogoria Mission Hospital, Kenya"

October 11 – Vinna Chintaram, UNC Chapel Hill Department of Religious Studies graduate student, “Why / How / When / Where / What We and They Pray”

October 18 – Joseph Kovas, Duke Divinity student, “Icons in Church History”

October 25 – Terry Yuschok, Congregation member, “The Lord's Prayer: Now and For Ever”

GRAD STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual discussion of the book of Ezekiel on **Mondays September 28, October 12 and October 26 at 6:30 p.m.** All questions and perspectives are welcome. [This is the Youth Adult Bible Study Zoom link.](#) Please contact [Matt Wright](#) for additional information.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

All those considering membership in the Congregation at Duke Chapel are invited to participate in the fall new member class beginning **Sunday, October 18 at 9:45 a.m.** This four-week class provides an exploration of the Apostles’ Creed as well as an introduction to the Congregation. For more information, please contact Carol Gregg. [The Zoom link for the New Member Class is here.](#)

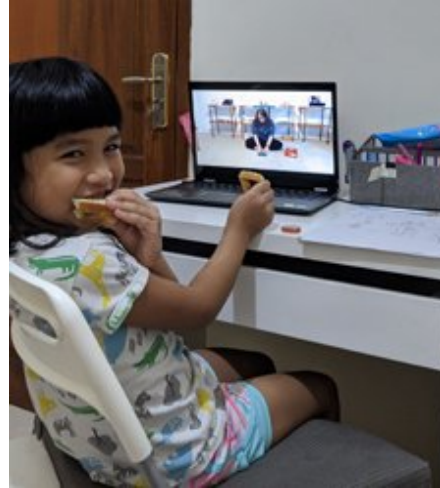
DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

There is still space available in the Life Together small group. These groups seek to help participants grow in our connection with God and each other. All groups will meet virtually until further notice. [Please sign up here for Life Together Groups.](#) For more information, please contact [Michael Larbi.](#)

CHILDREN



Drawing a candle for Wee Praise class.



Godly Play is international! Watching from Indonesia.

GOOD TO KNOW

OUTDOOR COMMUNION

Outdoor communion is offered on the first and third Sunday evenings of the month. Upcoming services are **September 20, October 4, and October 18 at 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** at the labyrinth located on the property of Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Rd, Durham. All CDC and city safety precautions will be observed including masking, social distancing, and hand sanitation. Masks will be available for those who need them. Group size will be limited to 10 people; [please sign up here](#) to indicate your plans to attend.

MEET A CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBER

Administration Council Representative: Ben Wechsler

I joined the Congregation at Duke University Chapel in May of 2019. I arrived in Durham three years ago when I moved from my lifelong home of Chicago, Illinois. When I first attended a service at Duke University Chapel, I heard the organ and choir and my heart immediately steered me to being part of this Congregation.



All of my life, from the age of 16, I performed as pipe organist and choir director of 17 congregations and two synagogues. Simultaneously I have a career in the business world in technology sales, web development, teaching, training, project management, and business leadership coaching and consulting. In my own advisory work, I encourage my clients to “Think Higher” turning ceilings into staircases.

As a member of the Congregation, I am thrilled to be part of the weekly celebration of worship.

FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT CRAIG DeALMEIDA

Each month, I will use this space to highlight one aspect of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. Text from the plan itself explains the importance of doing this:

“The strategic plan is intended to be a ‘road map’ as the Congregation continues its life and work in this unique place. The Congregation is encouraged to listen to each other and the Holy Spirit present in our midst that we might discern which new things God intends and equips us to do. We are encouraged to hold the ideals and goals of the plan close to our hearts so as to live and work together creatively, collaboratively, and faithfully.

“The Word of God in Proverbs 29:18 warns, ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish.’ As a congregation committed to the transforming love of God as revealed through Jesus Christ, we must continually challenge ourselves to be present and engaged with each other, our neighbors at Duke and in Durham, and, ultimately, God.”

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Congregation Council met September 10 at 7pm via Zoom. Committee reports were submitted prior to the meeting and items of note were reviewed in the meeting.

The Council discussed and approved a farewell gift for a long-term nursery caregiver. Missions and Outreach reported allocating the last of the special COVID-related giving.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee recommended acceptance of a proposal from Supporting Strategies to increase their fees. The initial contract called for a 90-day review of the number of hours they devote to the Chapel and the fee charged. It was generally agreed that they had mistakenly underbid initially and that the hours they are putting in were what we all should have expected. Council agreed and approved the increased fees, noting that we are satisfied with their work.

Council also approved the transfer of membership of three members who had moved away.

The treasurer noted a drop of 17% in August giving, with expenses also down 8%. Council agreed that one month is not a trend, but we will continue to watch carefully.

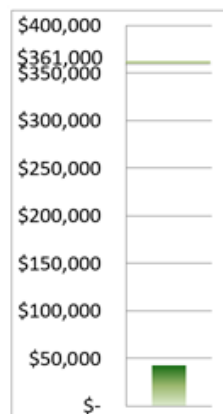
The president reviewed a portion of the 2020-2025 strategic plan and we agreed we will continue to keep this document before us, not on a shelf.

Council reviewed and approved a white paper on racial justice that describes the approach our 3-committee racial justice task force is taking.

Council held a discussion on what, if anything, it makes sense to do, especially with regard to volunteer efforts and gathering for worship in other spaces. While State law allows us to move forward a bit in these areas, Duke University has stricter rules. We agreed that we should follow Duke's policies.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

<i>July 2020-June 2021 fiscal year</i>	<i>Actual to August 31</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>
Contributions	\$43,061	\$361,000
Other Income	\$381	\$0
Restricted Assets Released	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$54,987	\$360,919
Difference	-\$11,545	\$81



COMING IN OCTOBER

October Birthdays

- 1 Eric Hansen
- 2 Eryn Dennehy; Carol Gregg
- 3 Patrick Dennehy

4 Francis Donaie; Steve Grosso
5 Deb Hackney
6 Mimi Haase
7 Luca Grosso
8 Iona Oliver; Xiao Recio-Blanco; Carolyn Sangokoya; Tok Siu
9 Leroy McRae; Connie Warren
10 Clifford Best; Elaine DeAlmeida; Jan Radabaugh; Laura Solie
11 Emily Alexander; Gay Elliott; Allison Hall; Audra Mullis; Farrel Potts
13 Linda Alexander; Richard Di Giulio; Mary Sandor; Ronan Takacs
14 Marion Eck
15 Mike Smith
16 William Hix; Rick King
17 Sydnor Patrick
18 Linda Gauger; Carol Matteson; Sampras Takacs
19 Carmelo Gullotto; Donald Silver; Beth Sturkey
21 Brad Haithcock
22 Gabe George; Mary Jane Nye
23 Ann King; Ella Jean Shore
24 Ward Nye; Ginnie Ruckert
26 Tom Link; Cammey Manning; Israel McDaniel; Phillip Smith; Lee Tyrey
28 Jane Hix; Robert Sills
30 Jim Kelly
31 Frank Coble; Alexander Gallo

October Communion at the Forest at Duke retirement Community – CANCELED

October Worship Services at Duke Chapel – ONLINE

Worship Services will continue to be broadcast live on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. From the Duke Chapel website: [Tune in live to Sunday morning services on the Duke Chapel YouTube Channel](#), channel 12 of the Duke Hospital TV System, channel 110 of the Duke Campus Vision TV system, and WDNC Radio (620 AM). Listen to rebroadcasts of services on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on WPTF Radio (680 AM), as well as on The People's Channel on Spectrum Cable in Durham and Chapel Hill.

Preaching Schedule

October 4 – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel and The Rev. Bruce Puckett, Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel

October 11 – The Rev. Bruce Puckett, Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel

October 18 – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

October 25 – The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg, Senior Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel

CONGREGATION JOYS AND CONCERNS

- *Leroy McRae*: Leroy is recovering from abdominal surgery.
- *Ginnie Ruckert*: Ginnie is at Hillcrest Convalescent Center.

PRAYER REQUESTS: To request confidential prayer from members of the Prayer Ministry, please send your confidential request to the [Prayer Ministry](#) .

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: All e-News articles and announcements are to be submitted to the following e-mail address: congregation@duke.edu by 5:00 p.m. each Monday.

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT: Please send corrected email addresses or requests to be unsubscribed to congregation@duke.edu .

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Visit our Website](#) | [Visit our Calendar](#) | [Online Giving](#)

[Email](#) | Phone: 919-684-3917 | Mailing address: Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974



*The Congregation at Duke University Chapel
Staff*



The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg
Senior Pastor



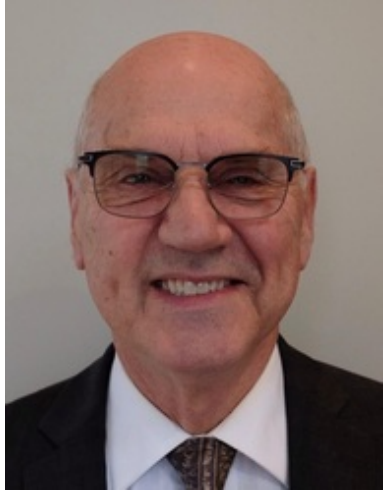
Phyllis Snyder
Children's Pastor and Office
Administrator



Kirsten Ford
Communications Assistant



Matt Wright
Pastoral Assistant



The Rev. Ken Moland
Pastoral Assistant



Nathaniel Metz
Divinity School Intern



Michael Larbi
Pastoral Assistant