



# The Congregation at Duke University Chapel

## Fellowship . Education . Mission

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

11.19.2020

From the  
Senior Pastor



2020



Merchandizers are now selling items such as t-shirts and coffee mugs ranking the year 2020 as “one star”, meaning “would not recommend.” As we enter a holiday season that will be unlike others we have known, we are likely to grieve the absence of celebrations and concerts, family and friends. We have already lamented losses such as

these during the last months, yet we know the holiday season often intensifies our sense of grief.

The challenges and pain due to the pandemic are real, and yet I encourage us to join the Psalmist in boldly declaring: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24) Let’s us not wish away the precious gift of each day God gives us, but instead find and recite and recall all the good that we can. Write a gratitude list. Call someone to say “thank you.” Find joy in simplicity. Relish time with children. Savor God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. Rejoice in the day that God has made.

The pandemic has changed our lives in many ways, but it has not changed God’s gifts of grace and mercy, nor has it withdrawn our ability to be grateful. Rejoicing in each day may not come as easily as in other seasons of our lives, yet by the grace of God, I believe rejoicing is possible even now.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Carol

2020



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### This Sunday November 22

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. Watch for a new video to be shared this week! If you are not receiving emails with this information, please contact [Phyllis Snyder](#).
- **GODLY PLAY:** Children ages 4-5<sup>th</sup> graders can find a new video, and re-watch previous videos, on the [Congregation’s YouTube channel](#).
- **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY:** For students in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, [Youth Bible Study Zoom link is here](#).
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** A 10-week study on Ecclesiastes, [Bible Study Zoom Link is](#)

- **ADULT FORUM:** Carol Gregg, Sr. Pastor, the Congregation at Duke University Chapel, will lead a discussion on "More Than One Way to Pray". [Adult Forum Zoom link is here.](#)

### **UNIVERSITY WORSHIP 11:00 a.m. Online Christ the King Sunday**

Preacher: The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon, Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel

[Worship Online Here](#)

[Lectionary Readings](#)

All are welcome

### **MEETING AFTER WORSHIP**

- The Christian Education Committee will meet at **1:00 p.m.** All those interested in planning educational events are welcome to attend. [Education Zoom Link is here.](#)

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## **FELLOWSHIP**

### **VIRTUAL THANKSGIVING THIS SUNDAY**

Thanksgiving. It's a time to gather with family and friends. A time to be grateful for the Lord's bounty and for all of the blessings in our lives. We also know that even in the best of times, holidays can be hard with the added pressure to put on a happy face even when we are sad. Welcome to 2020's Pandemic Thanksgiving! Many of us will be spending this holiday without the comfort of family and the love of friends. This year, it is more important than ever to gather virtually as a church



family to promote a sense of belonging and togetherness. To this end, please join us for a **Virtual Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 22 at 5:00 p.m.** [Zoom Link is here.](#)

The Fellowship Committee has created a "Thanksgiving Recipe Share" where we can share our favorite Thanksgiving recipes, personal notes and family photos with one another. [Here is the Recipe Share link.](#) Include YOUR family's favorite Thanksgiving recipe by emailing: [erkenly@gmail.com](mailto:erkenly@gmail.com) Please add any personal notes about this dish, a photo of the dish, if you have one and a family photo or two.

### Thanksgiving Celebration Agenda:

- 5:00 p.m. - Welcome
- Reading of: "The Night Before Thanksgiving" by the DeAlmeida family.
- Discussion of recipes, traditions and group chat.
- Song
- A Thanksgiving prayer, by Regina Ford

### **NEW MEMBERS**

The Congregation is pleased to welcome the following individuals as new members of the Congregation: Steve Dirksen, Lauren Gabbert, Dillon Gabbert, Kathryn Lester-Bacon, Henry Perry, Anthony Peters, Ashley Peters, Ina McCoy, and Kellie Sims. The Congregation offers new member classes each fall and spring. For more information about joining the Congregation, please contact [Carol Gregg.](#)



### **SAVE THE DATE – CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP**

This Christmas, many of us will be spending this holiday without the comfort of family and the love of friends. This year, it is more important than ever to gather virtually as a Church family to promote a sense of belonging and togetherness. To this end, the Fellowship Committee would like to invite you to a special Virtual Christmas Gathering on December 13 at 5:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar. Additional details will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEER**

Help the Congregation stay connected! Several volunteers are needed to post events and pictures on the Congregation's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) accounts. This valuable service will help members stay in touch with each other as well as provide information to the public. Previous experience with social media is not required. Please contact the [Congregation](#) for more information or to volunteer.

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## **EDUCATION**

### **GRAD STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS**

University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual discussion of the prophets on **Mondays, November 23 and December 14 at 6:30 p.m.** All questions and perspectives are welcome. [This is the Young Adult Bible Study Zoom link](#). Please contact [Matt Wright](#) for additional information.

### **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](#).

**November 29** – Michael Larbi, Congregation Pastoral Assistant, "An Outsider's Reflections: Race, the Church, and Reconciliation in America"

**December 6** – Nathaniel Metz, Duke Divinity Student and Intern for the Congregation at Duke University Chapel, "Christ! The Terror from Beyond Space! Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Christ as a Stumbling Block"

**December 13** – Julie Leyva, PhD Student in Religion, Duke University, "God Said It Where? Tracing a Mystery Citation in Hebrews 13"

**December 20** – Christopher Redmon, PhD Student in Religion, Duke University - "Prophetic Flesh and the Christmas Story"

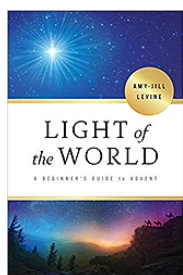
**December 27** – No class

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS – SIGN UP BY DECEMBER 1**

In the Spring semester of 2021, the Congregation at Duke Chapel will once again offer a Confirmation Class to students who are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above. Confirmation is a process through which Christians who have been baptized are welcomed into fellowship with a certain denomination or worshiping body, in this instance, the Congregation at Duke Chapel. Classes will run from **January 3, 2021 to May 23, 2021** -- at our usual Christian Education hour on **Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**

Information for Youth: Confirmation classes will include teaching, learning activities, one-on-one meetings with a mentor who will be assigned to you, and other methods of learning and growth as we together grow in our faith and learn the basics of Christian discipleship. Ultimately, Confirmation is something God does. The Holy Spirit seeks to bring us all together into the body of Christ we call the Church. Confirmation is your opportunity to make this faith your own -- to affirm the faith which your parents/sponsors affirmed for you at your baptism. This is a wonderful opportunity to say "Yes" in response to God who has already said "Yes" to you! On May 23, 2021—which is Pentecost Sunday—having completed the Confirmation Class, you will fully be a part of the life of the Church. What a great way to celebrate!

Please let [Matt Wright](#) know if you have questions, and let him know by **December 1** if you intend to join him on this journey!



### **ADVENT BOOK GROUP**

Two book groups will meet in December to read and discuss [Light of the World](#) by Amy-Jill Levine. [Dr. Levine](#) is a professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, with degrees from Duke. [Light of the World](#) explores the biblical texts surrounding the birth of Jesus. The book groups will meet on **Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.** by Zoom. Zoom links are here: [Morning Book Group](#), [Evening Book Group](#).

## RETREAT TO START THE NEW YEAR

All are invited to attend a virtual New Year's Retreat on **Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** on "Practicing Trust in Times of Transition," led by Christian writer and teacher Marilyn McEntyre (see bio below). The morning will consist of three 45-minute sessions focused on how to practice trust in times of transition. Each session will include a presentation by Marilyn, as well as the reading of a short poem or passage and a brief writing exercise to fuel further thought and conversation.



- Session 1 - The Trouble with Transitions
- Session 2 - Learning New Steps: Beginner's Mind, Believer's Heart
- Session 3 - Practicing Trust: Habits and Holding Patterns

This retreat is sponsored by the Monday Night Women's Group and the Education Committee of The Congregation at Duke Chapel. [Please register here for this retreat.](#)

Marilyn McEntyre's books and teaching focus on spirituality, reading, writing, and healing. Her recent books include *Speaking Peace in a Climate of Conflict*; *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies (new edition 2020)*; *When Poets Pray*; and *Make a List: How a Simple Practice can Change your Life and Open your Heart*. Two books that draw on her work as hospice volunteer are *A Faithful Farewell* and *A Long Letting Go*. She has taught college students, seminarians, medical students and adult learners for many years and leads retreats and writing workshops around the country. She loves to coach both experienced writers and anyone who wants to write just to see what happens.

## LIFE TOGETHER GROUPS

The Congregation's small group discipleship ministry has had a good start this fall. Nearly 30 people are meeting every two weeks in four groups to share their lives and prayers with one another. Watch for an opportunity to join a group starting in January.

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## MISSION

### FINAL SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER

The last Saturday morning prayer for racial reconciliation will be this **Saturday, November 21 at 9:00 a.m.** via Zoom. [The prayer Zoom link is here.](#) For more information, contact [Nathaniel Metz.](#)

### RURAL FAITH COMMUNITIES AND HUNGER

One of our members, Norm Wirzba, professor of Christian theology at Duke Divinity School, joined colleagues to discuss "The Role & Promise of Rural Faith Communities in Solving Hunger." [The conversation is available online.](#)

### HOLIDAY GIVING

Giving can extend beyond our families and friends. The Mission and Outreach committee will provide ways to share your Christmas joy with others.

- **Angel Tree** – The Mission and Outreach Committee have 25 names from Durham Social Services for this year's Share Your Christmas "Angel Tree". If you would like to help make someone's Christmas brighter, please contact either Judi Vos ([jbvos@msn.com](mailto:jbvos@msn.com)) or Jane Fellows ([janeafellows@msn.com](mailto:janeafellows@msn.com)). After selecting a name from the list, further information will be provided. The spending limit is \$65. Shopping this year can be as simple as a gift card purchase. Most requests can be purchased online. If you'd like to be an angel, please reach out to Judi or Jane anytime through **November 30.**



- **ZOE Empowers Gift Market** – Coming soon is an opportunity to purchase gifts, such as cooking pots or a sewing machine, for children in Zimbabwe as a way to honor a loved one.



zoeempowers



### TONIGHT: BUILDING A MOVEMENT

Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, and other faith groups come from long traditions of seeking justice through faith. In many contexts, such as the ancient Israelites under subjugation in Egypt or under Roman rule in the near East, the two could not be separated. Without faith-based activism, the right to vote, the abolition of slavery, and other rights would not exist in the U.S. "Signs of Hope: Building a Movement" will address the faith-based relational work, the need for and reasons behind faith-based organizing, and practical tips and training on building relationships, community, movements, and faith-based activism and advocacy. Bruce Puckett, Alicia Crosby, and Ricardo Guillen will lead the discussion. All are welcome, **Tonight, Thursday, November 19** from **5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.** [The Zoom link is here.](#)

### HOLIDAYS

The Congregation Staff will be observing the Thanksgiving holiday **on November 26 and 27**, the Christmas holiday on **December 24 and 25**, and the New Year's holiday on **December 31 and January 1**.

### FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT CRAIG DeALMEIDA

In our Strategic Plan, one of our essential commitments is our covenant relationship with Duke Chapel: "Our faithful service together will advance the mission of both the Chapel and the Congregation and will deepen our devotion to God." While our more visible traditions of supporting Chapel worship through ushers, altar guild members, offering counters, lectors, communion servers, docents, choir members, and nursery attendants are almost all on pause for the time being, less visible connections continue to permeate our faithful service together.

Our activities are interwoven in the Sunday worship guide, and our senior pastor is a core part of Chapel worship services including preparing, presiding, and preaching. Our education, fellowship, and mission committees have worked with Chapel ministers on a racial justice initiative. Our November Council members included Chapel staff for continued discussion of how we can best complement one another's work. Our prayer ministry lifts up those who approach the Chapel seeking prayer. And our members continue to attend worship virtually.

May God bless the unique relationship between Duke Chapel and the Congregation.

### NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

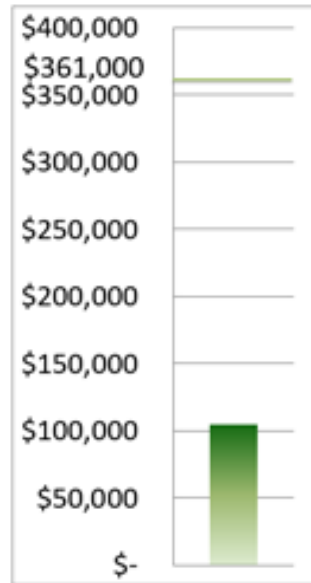
Council met November 12 via Zoom. We had invited Bruce Puckett and Amanda Hughes from Duke Chapel Staff to meet with us for a check-in on the alignment of both organizations' aims and goals, as well as any other topics related to the Chapel Worship (Support) section of our strategic plan. Amanda and Bruce showed two short videos made for the Chapel Advisory Board. One was on Student Engagement and the other is called Hope in Worship. It is remarkable how much Chapel worship has evolved from the early days of the pandemic to this fall. If you haven't tuned in lately, please do. The take-home message from our discussion is that as much as we miss the Chapel, the Congregation is sorely missed by Chapel staff. You will receive a letter from Dean Powery on this topic.

Reports from committees had been sent earlier and were approved. The treasurer's report notes that giving is "OK" and expenses are significantly under budget. Council approved the recommendations from Missions and Outreach to make annual grants to local mission partners. These checks will go out in a couple of weeks.

We approved updates to Policies and Procedures which completes the every-third-year review. We agreed to change our normal meeting date to the third Thursday of each month in order for the Stewardship and Finance Committee to have time to review monthly financial statements.

### NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

<i>July 2020-June 2021 fiscal year</i>	<b>Actual to October 31</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$104,662</b>	<b>\$361,000</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>\$592</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Restricted Assets Released</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$97,676</b>	<b>\$360,919</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$7,578</b>	<b>\$81</b>



## **COMING IN DECEMBER**

### **December Birthdays**

- 1** Mirene Kpa
- 5** Ginny Cole; Willie Mae Jones; Jeannie Norris
- 6** Rosemary Nye
- 7** Beth Owen
- 8** Kevin Moore; Chris O'Connor; Charlie Wolff
- 9** Andrew Teel
- 10** Dana Moller; Susan Willms
- 11** Amos Oliver
- 12** Maggie Coates; Cary Gravatt
- 13** Gloria Dockery; Kathi Peindl; Ann Sager
- 15** Kimberley Caulfeild
- 16** Parker Betts
- 17** Kat Fogartie; Jess Mullis; Alexander Young
- 18** Pam Marcom
- 19** Joe Coates
- 20** Caroline Craig; Julie Snyder; Steven Winters Jr.
- 22** Ellie Benac; Emsley Palmer
- 23** Alison George
- 24** Cade Benac
- 25** David Baker; Gus Grant
- 26** Ed Gerler; Hugh Knapp; Patsy Willimon
- 27** Lucy Worth
- 29** Drew Hains; Will Siburt; Kristen Swaringen
- 30** Lydia Califf; Maggie Chambers; Jane Fellows; Lillian Hansen
- 31** Kelsey Armstrong; Josie Lester-Bacon; Maureen Lewis; Lynn Yanyo

### **December 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

**December 6** – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

**December 13** – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

**December 20** – The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon, Director of Religious Life, Duke Chapel

**December 24** – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel (online at **4:00 p.m.**)

**December 27** – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

### Christmas Eve Services

Duke Chapel will offer four virtual Christmas Eve services on **Thursday, December 24** as follows:

- **2:00 p.m.** Children's Christmas Eve service from 2019 will be rebroadcast. This service features Christmas carols, the story of Jesus's birth, and participation by the Congregation's children.
- **4:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Worship for 2020. This service will include a sermon by Dean Powery and music from the Durham Children's Choir.
- **11:00 p.m.** Service of Lessons and Carols from 2019 will be rebroadcast. This service combines music and scripture to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- The Marvel of This Night – The special Christmas Eve service produced in 2019 will be available for viewing from Christmas Eve, December 24 through Epiphany, January 6.

Links for each of these services will be available on the [Duke Chapel website](#).

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### CONGREGATION JOYS AND CONCERNS

- *Tamela Davis* – Tamela is recuperating from a fractured nose and elbow caused by a fall.
- *Joan Fox* – Joan is recuperating from a fractured wrist and ankle caused by a fall.
- *Beth Sturkey* – Beth is recuperating from an emergency appendectomy.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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



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*The Congregation at Duke University Chapel*  
*Staff*



The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg  
Senior Pastor



Phyllis Snyder  
Children's Pastor and Office  
Administrator



Michael Larbi  
Pastoral Assistant



The Rev. Ken Moland  
Pastoral Assistant





Matt Wright  
Pastoral Assistant

Nathaniel Metz  
Duke Divinity School Intern