

What does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8



Join us at The Table this fall!

We're excited to welcome you to **The Table** on Wednesdays beginning this fall! This new name for our Wednesday evening gathering reflects its character and purpose.

There is a tangible vibrancy around this time that we share around the table. That's what makes this mid-week gathering one of my favorite Pullen activities. At the table we get to share stories, concerns, joys and jokes--the kind of thing we don't always have time for on a Sunday morning. And, of course, we also get to share a meal! This fall features a brand new menu from our new chef, Julie Gilbert, who brings a passion for building community through fresh, locally sourced, healthy food.

The Table is about connecting with each other around food and conversation, and in a world that is so busy--so heavily scheduled--we need to take more time to simply be, and to be with one another. You'll see more intentionality around this when we launch in September. Some evenings will feature programming that is celebratory and communal, like our Luau on September 18 or the drum circle planned for Oct. 2. When possible these activities will take place on the evenings we normally celebrate birthdays. We'll also be serving up opportunities for small group conversation and intergenerational engagement through game nights. And, not to worry, all the staples like the Advent Candlelight service and the Lovefeast are still on the menu!

Taking time to build community means that we won't have a speaker every week. Instead we'll focus on a speaker series for the fall, winter and spring. In these 3-4 week series, we're focused on bringing engaging speakers to raise topics that are relevant to how we engage the world as people of faith, because **The Table** is also a place where we talk about what's going on in our world and make decisions about how we will engage it. I'm excited about the time we will get to spend together this year! I look forward to seeing you at **The Table**!

-Chalice Overy

Summer Wednesday Series Wraps Up

We hope you will join us this Wednesday for our final summer program. Dinner begins at 5:15 and the adult program begins at 6:30pm.

◆ August 14 - Reimagining Iran

Earlier this year, James Crook spent 10 days in Iran, a trip that he is now told would be impossible given the state of relations between the Iranian and U.S. governments. In all his travels, he never encountered people more welcoming, accommodating, and joyful for his presence than the Iranians he met. From poor shepherds to shop keepers, from young people to the very old, from businessmen to a Grand Ayatollah, there was not one unsmiling face. The hospitality of that ancient culture still has him stunned. James will share pictures and stories from his trip.



Sunday in the Park is September 8

It's that time again; time for Sunday in the Park! This **outdoor service** gives us an opportunity to worship in a different way, enjoy the outdoors and some great food. Sunday in the Park is **September 8 at 11am**. Once again we'll gather for worship on the lawn of the **Gregg Museum**, and share a **potluck meal** afterward. So bring your blankets or chairs, a dish to share, and maybe a friend or two! See you on September 8!

-Chalice Overy

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We Grieve With:

- ☞ Jan Hibbetts in the death of her sister, Sandy Whitaker, who died of breast cancer in Chattanooga, TN.
- ☞ John and Cathy Corbin in the death of their nephew, Ryan Atkinson, who died in an accident at work in New Jersey.

We celebrate with:

- ☞ Jim and Susan Pike who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28.
- ☞ Warren and Gail Chesson who welcomed their 4th grandchild, Levi Raymond Chesson, on July 19.

LGBTQ Second Sunday Lunch

Please join us immediately following worship on August 11 for LGBTQ Second Sunday Lunch at El Cerro Restaurant at 2217 Avent Ferry Road. Parking is plentiful and I hope to see you there!

- Randall Brady

Work Group to End Homelessness



Since March, several Pullen people have been meeting around the issues that affect people experiencing homelessness in our community. Initially, our aim was to support the work of the Interfaith Network of Care for People Experiencing Homelessness.

After the success of the March event, we have broadened our work to the following:

- 1) *Work toward advocacy around issues of homelessness that affect people and our city.*
- 2) *Communicate with the greater Pullen community about these issues.*
- 3) *Continue to support the Interfaith Network.*

We are meeting monthly on the second Tuesday and welcome people from Pullen or friends of Pullen to join us. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, September 10** at 6:30 in Room 203.

If you would like more information feel free to contact me at 2katiehurley@gmail.com or 919-622-4245.

- Katie Hurley

Conversation About Spiritual Life at Pullen, October 13

As many Pullenites know, for a number of years the Spiritual Life Group has provided leadership in the area of spirituality at Pullen. In addition to meeting periodically for prayer and personal sharing, over the last 20+ years the SLG has offered Advent and Lenten Quiet Days, spiritual life retreats, Enneagram training/retreats, Taize retreats, Group Spiritual Direction, prayer vigils and labyrinth walks. The membership in the group has changed over time, and we are now at a point of needing to consider the future of the group and what might be helpful for Pullenites in the area of spiritual life and practice going forward.

This is an invitation to join us for an after-worship conversation about spiritual life at Pullen on Sunday, October 13, in room 203 behind the sanctuary. We'll begin as soon as we can after worship ends and provide a light lunch. All interested persons are welcome to join us and bring your thoughts and your sense of what might be helpful for the Pullen family in these challenging times in which we live. How can those who have a special interest in spiritual life support the efforts of ourselves and other Pullenites to live more contemplatively as we work to bring more justice to our world? We are an active church. So in addition to (or in place of) what we are currently offering, are there new, creative ways we can we give attention to "being" as we also focus on the "doing" to which we're called?

This is not a gathering, where if you show up, you'll be assigned some new thing to do. It's an attempt to draw from our collective wisdom, experiences and needs to see if there is a "new thing" we are being drawn to in these days - or not. We are grateful for all that Pullenites are already doing to enhance our spiritual life and look forward to this conversation in October. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, either of us will be happy to answer questions about this discussion.

Reach Suzanne at suzannehayes1@icloud.com or Cathy at ctamsberg@nc.rr.com.

-Suzanne Hayes and Cathy Tamsberg

Church Financials — as of 7/31/19

Gifts to Date:	\$	676,271.40
Expenses to Date:	\$	672,402.04
Difference:	\$	3,869.36

Round Table Ministry

Can You Help Us?

About every 8 weeks or so, a group of dedicated volunteers packs **1000 to 1200 lunches** for the **Round Table Ministry**. We have recently been able to get a large amount of cereal bars and juice pouches from the food bank, but need **900+ Vienna Sausage packages** and **1900+ 6-pack (or 2850+ 4-pack) crackers** for our next packing. If you can help us, please place your donations in the **blue wagon** outside the church office or drop them off with the back door volunteers on Sunday mornings. Our Round Table Ministry guests really appreciate these bag lunches and the group of volunteers thank you for your generosity! ~Nancy Bradley



Welcome New Members

Lana Mae Walshaw

Hi! I am Lana Mae Walshaw. I was born in Lewis-town, PA and now reside in Sanford, NC. I am a LPN in a long term care facility and am semi-retired! I was looking for an accepting church, as I am transgender, and found Pullen on the internet. I have attended off and on for several months though I sometimes have to work Sundays. I enjoy traveling, word search puzzles, and video games (presently "Skyrim"). I almost went into the ministry at age 18 but joined the Air Force instead! I like to sit in the Pullen sanctuary and just feel God being present!



Summer Book Club final meeting– August 13

The final summer book club meeting will take place on August 13, and we hope that you can join us as we discuss Katey Zeh's *Women Rise Up*. A review of Katey's book is below. Discussion will take place in the chapel beginning at 7:00pm. Invite your friends to join us and come out and read! Contact Brian Crisp for more info.

-Adult Education Committee

Reverend Katey Zeh is both passionate and sincere when discussing women in the Bible. She stresses, "I yearn for stories of resilience, of women overcoming systems of oppression who found ways to survive and even thrive despite the constant threats to their bodies, their humanity, and their livelihood." In the realm of biblical scholarship that too often simplifies and silences the complexities of characters found within the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, female protagonists receive basic treatments that strip characters of their agency and nullify the spectrum found within the human experience. Zeh's *Women Rise Up* parallels her spoken passion as she places ten stories of biblical women in dialogue with contemporary social concerns affecting women throughout the globe. Her treatment of these stories provides ample material of resistance and strength centered on the lives of biblical and contemporary women.

The absence of these stories from Zeh's childhood may have allowed to her to approach the biblical narrative with a fresh perspective. She refuses both the tendency to apologize for the plight of Israelite women and the inclination to blindly herald any biblical character. Instead, she reinforces a trait found within solid biblical scholarship that emphasizes people are complicated. Women are no exception. Zeh utilizes this perspective as she organizes the stories from Hagar to Ruth and Mary, Jesus's mother, to Mary the Magdalene into the actions needed by women in the ancient and contemporary worlds: Endure, Remember, Resist, Challenge, Shift, Sustain, Challenge, Heal, Advocate, and Proclaim. It is in this milieu that Zeh can highlight the bravery of these female characters while ignoring neither their inequitable circumstances nor their questionable behaviors. The stories become more fertile when Zeh places them in dialogue with contemporary global issues facing women. Immigration, human trafficking, racial prejudices, and economic accessibility sharpen the relevance of these ancient stories as Zeh provides readings that are clear while honoring the complexities of life in the margins.

Zeh's voice is compelling because she combines familiar church language, her own personal perspective, and the thoughts of women of color from around the globe. Doing so encourages the reader to participate in the stories and to understand the true biblical witness occurs when we place these narratives in conversation with our own lives and the lives of each other. From here, readers should want to examine these stories with the best thoughts about gender identity and sexual orientation, abilities studies, womanist thought, Mujerista theology, and myriad ideas from the Global South.

Women Rise Up finds its strength in Zeh's scholarship and creativity as it welcomes readers into the complex world of biblical women. From the reading, we can take the questions posed by Zeh and enhance them with the questions and stories of our own lives. At Pullen, we have born witness to Zeh's gifted teaching and facilitating during our education hour. Her book lends itself to personal inquiry, small group study, and larger series around biblical education. Regardless of the venue, Zeh buttresses one of the central points of the sacred stories: how we will read stories of ancient people, in this case women, and be transformed as a people and as a society? *Women Rise Up* successfully contemplates that question while providing the space for the birthing of its answers.

Children and Youth Opportunities



Attention parents of 3rd - 5th graders! Pullen and Watt St. Baptist in Durham will be joining forces to begin a Fall Children's Retreat on October 25-27. This camp will be planned by Esther Parker (Children's Minister at Watts St.) and me and is intended to be a yearly children's camp for welcoming churches. We have signed up at Camp Chestnut Ridge in Efland, NC. The cost will be somewhere around \$130 per camper, but, as always, we will have scholarships available because we want ALL of our children to take part.

At this camp, there will, of course, be fun activities for the children (zip line, hay ride, s'mores and ropes courses are some of the options). In addition, we will come together as a group for kid friendly music and centering as a faith community. We will rely on approved adult volunteers to enjoy this camp with the children as well as to keep our children safe.

In order for us to send an estimated number, I need an idea of WHO IS INTERESTED! COULD YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THIS IS AN EVENT YOUR CHILD OR YOU, AS A CHAPERONE, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING? PLEASE RESPOND BY AUGUST 14 to me at tcook@pullen.org.

-Tommy Cook



PYM Fall Kickoff Night!
Sunday, August 25
7:00-9:00pm, Finlator Hall

Calling all Pullen Youth, rising 6-12th grades!

Join us for a night of desserts, games, introductions, and details about our fall and winter plans. - Bryan Lee

Upcoming Pullen Children's events:

- ♦ **Wednesday, August 14 -**
5:30 PM - Dinner
6:00 PM - Crazy Craft Night for K-5th Grade
Nursery Care for preschoolers
- ♦ **Saturday, August 24 - Kid's Day at NC Food Bank** (2-4 PM) for children ages 5 and up...
- ♦ **Sunday, August 25 - Back to School Party for K-5th Grade** (After Worship till 2 PM)
Will include lunch, games and crafts
- ♦ **Sunday, September 8 - Sunday in the Park** (11AM @ Gregg Museum)
- ♦ **Wednesday, September 11 -**
Wednesday Night Programs resume
- ♦ **Sunday, September 15 -**
Sunday Groups resume @ 9:30 AM
New Acolyte Training after worship
(for rising 3rd graders and older children who have not gone through training)

See Tommy Cook or email tcook@pullen.org if you have any questions about Pullen's Children and Family Ministry Programs.

Book Drive- Still taking donations through August

Gratitude for books delivered!

As of July 9, just over 400 books donated at Pullen had been delivered to the new Southeast Raleigh Elementary School, a building whose bright colors and bold designs offer an uplifting atmosphere. The folks at the school were most appreciative of your donations. Meanwhile, donations continue to pour in. We now have over 651 books!

Many thanks to all who have given books or funds. We will continue to accept donations until the end of August. To donate funds, make your check payable to Pullen and put "book drive" on the memo line. Your contributions will help children ages 3 through 9 acquire reading skills they will need for the rest of their lives. These will be books they can have for their very own.

-Pat Long



Pullen Elders Fall Outing—October 3:



Fall Outing to Scotland Neck Bird Sanctuary

A fall outing for Pullen elders to Sylvan Heights Bird Park (<https://shwpark.com/>) in Scotland Neck is planned for Thursday Oct. 3. We will leave at 8:30 am and return to Pullen by 4:30 pm. The following information is provided by the Park. "While your park admission ticket gives you access to all exhibits at Sylvan Heights Bird Park, we know some visitors want a more in-depth experience. We offer the option of guided tours for guests who would like additional information about the park's birds, exhibits and history. Additionally, we offer guided golf cart tours for guests who would prefer to ride in comfort through the park's aviaries." Advance reservations required.

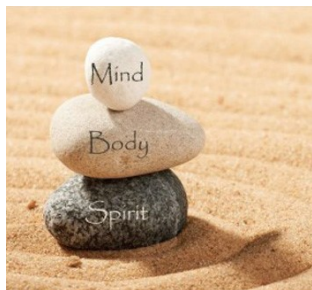
Transportation to the Park from Pullen will be provided. The trip will include a meal at On the Square in Tarrboro. The cost of the trip will be \$20. We will cover the cost of the golf cart tour for those with accessibility challenges. The cost of lunch is not included. Complete this [form](#) or call the office to **register by August 26**. If you have questions or need assistance covering the cost of the trip, please contact me at covey@pullen.org.

-Chalice Overy

Meditation

We invite you to join us for meditation in the chapel on select Sunday afternoons! On each of the following dates, the group will meet at 2:00 pm.

- August 18
- September 15
- October 6
- November 3
- November 17
- December 1
- December 15



We look forward to meeting you in contemplative space during these Sundays.

-Karla Oakley and Ann Eller

Pick up your directory!



Pictorial Directories are Here

If you had your picture made for the directory, you may pick up your copy in the church office during the week.

Please pick up your copy by the end of August!

-Pat Hielscher

City Council

Local elections this fall:

All eight seats on the Raleigh City Council, including the mayor's spot, are up for grabs this October. The mayor and two at-large seats are elected by everyone within the city, while district candidates can only be voted on by people who live in the district. The terms are for two-years.



Raleigh's municipal election is Oct. 8, 2019, and [early voting](#) starts on Sept. 18.

There will be a City Council **candidates' forum on Sept. 10** from 7 - 9pm at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh at 3313 Wade Ave. This forum is for Districts A - E.

You may also want to attend the next Raleigh City Council meeting on **August 20 at 1:00** in Council Chambers at 222 W. Hargett St. There is a parking deck adjacent to the municipal building.

-Brian Crisp



Make Music and Friends this Fall!

Through communal music-making, Pullen's Music Ministry Groups offer an invitation to form lasting friendships while resonating that which is meaningful in our lives. All are warmly invited to join us this Fall!

- ✦ **Chancel Choir (Adults)** – Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 PM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins Wednesday, September 4, with an Ingathering Rehearsal at 6:30PM.
- ✦ **Pullen Orchestra (Youth & Adults)** – Sundays, 8:45-9:45 AM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins Saturday September 7 with a rehearsal for Sunday in the Park at 10:00AM.
- ✦ **Music Discovery (K-Grade 2)** – Wednesdays, 6:30-7:00 PM, Room 122. Begins Wednesday, September 11.
- ✦ **Children's Choir (Grades 3-5)** – Wednesdays in September-March, 6:00-6:30 PM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins Wednesday, September 11.
- ✦ **Youth Choir (Grades 6-12)** – Sundays in January-May, 1:15-2:00PM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins January 6, 2019.



Note above that Children's Choir, Music Discovery, and Chancel Choir will meet at slightly later times than previous years to assist participation and coordinate with other church group schedules.

In addition to Pullen's vocal and instrumental groups, the Spirit Movers is a group for youth and adults that engages participants in the expressive arts of movement, dance and story. Contact Ginny Going for information on this group (colleagues.interplay@gmail.com or 919-821-3723).

For additional information on Pullen's Music Ministry go to www.pullen.org/music or contact me at lschultz@pullen.org

-Larry Schultz

CCN Pilgrimage

Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN): Autumn 2019 Pilgrimage

The CCN reconciliation team in Coventry, England, has opened registration for the 2019 autumn CCN pilgrimage, which will take place at Coventry Cathedral, Oct 30–Nov 1. Typically about 25–30 people from across the network attend these twice-yearly pilgrimages, which are similar to the international gatherings that several Pullenites attended in 2012 and 2018, but on a much smaller scale. Pullen is not planning an organized group trip this time, but some potential travelers might be attracted to the fewer numbers and the options for individual engagement.

"We encourage all partners and those interested in joining the Community of the Cross of Nails to come to Coventry at least once, if they can, and share in the very special and powerful message that simply coming here and being immersed in its story conveys. Twice a year, in spring and autumn, we hold a pilgrimage specifically for this purpose. It's an occasion for partners, current and aspiring, to come together at Coventry Cathedral for prayer and contemplation, to meet others in the network, to share their stories and experiences, and to learn from and be involved in the work of the Cathedral's global reconciliation ministry. All partners and those wishing to join are very warmly welcomed."

Website: <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/pilgrimage/>. Registration form: <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/2019-october-ccn-pilgrimage-registration/>.

More information: Erin Newton

Justice— Love Foundation

Save
THE
Date

JUSTICE-LOVE FOUNDATION LAUNCH EVENT:
A Conversation with Activists & Philanthropists

September 12, 2019 | 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Raleigh Little Theater

JUSTICE-LOVE
FOUNDATION

The Justice Love Foundation is looking forward to their upcoming launch event, A Conversation with Activists and Philanthropists. Look for further updates soon!

Campaign Non-Violence Sponsors Event August 24



Saturday Night Rally, Dinner and a Movie for Racial and Criminal Justice Reform on Jones St.

Pullen's Peace and Justice Committee supports Campaign Nonviolence N.C.'s invitation to Raleigh to come together to face our country's original sin of racism. During pre- and post-Civil War eras, patrols of KKK members intimidated, terrorized, incarcerated and lynched black people with impunity. Then, as now, unpunished acts of racial violence and intimidation continue to perpetuate the violence of racism.

On August 24th at 5pm on Raleigh's Bi-Centennial Mall, Dr. Kimberly Muktarian, DC lobbyist, President of Save Our Sons of Raleigh and participant in a state-to-state anti-lynching initiative will lead a rally for "Racial Equity and Criminal Justice Reform on Jones St." At 6pm we'll march across the lawn of the State Capitol to First Baptist Church Family Life Center, 101 S Wilmington Street for dinner and discussion of the film "Wilmington on Fire." Dr. Kimberly will lead the discussion as she helps us consider what could have been, and still can be, for black and white America when enough of us come together to challenge the intent at all levels to use and abuse people of color through the rule of white supremacy power.

For QUESTIONS and to make RESERVATIONS, please CALL or TEXT "JUSTICE" to 919-559-5549, and leave first name(s) with CNV event coordinator, Barbara Smalley-McMahan. Love Offerings are accepted to offset costs and no one will be turned away at the door.

-Barbara Smalley-McMahan

August Update from The Hope Center at Pullen



It's been a busy July at The Hope Center. In years past, we have taken the summer off from Wednesday Life Skills group to plan for the fall. This summer has been different as our young adults decided to come to the office each Wednesday. Some arrive as the program starts, but others come early and almost everyone stays late. They hang around for all different reasons, to get advice from their Transition Specialists, to hang out with the friends they made, to talk with our Housing Navigator about finding affordable housing options in Raleigh and to prepare resumes on the computer. It's a time we love here at The Hope Center because of the community it builds and the fun it is to be with these dynamic young people. They stay for a nutritious lunch and programs designed to help them navigate adulthood.

This summer, they've listened to a Ted Talk from Stacey Abrams and created vision boards, movement workshops for stress relief and a cooking class by one of our Hope Center participants. O shared her passion for cooking and all things culinary with attendees. It was such a huge hit. Her food was delicious and her passion was inspiring.

We could not host these groups without your help. The space and materials you donate make all of these incredible moments possible, from hearty meals to a grill that allows a budding chef to share her skills. One of our favorite moments from this summer was watching 3 young women stay behind after group one week to do the puzzles and play the games that you had donated. They stayed for hours, laughing and chatting. Thank you for making these moments possible.

Weekly life skills group is how our clients are building relationships and trust with us and one another. We would love for you to be a part of the magic in the fall by donating a nutritious meal for us to serve. Sign up here if you are interested: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0849aeaf2da7f85-lunch>

- Erin Witcher





Immigrant Detention Protest

On July 27, 48 Pullenfolk were joined by another 15 friends from as far away as Maryland to protest the de-tention of immigrants at the Immigration Centers of America Detention Center in Farmville, Virginia.

(Photos by James Crook)

