



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

January news & updates

Upcoming Events

See what's happening this [month](#).

Finance Report:

Total Contributions:

\$ 1,172,218

Total Expenses:

\$ 1,122,197

Difference:

\$ 50,021

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate the following joys...

Beth and Jack Barnwell who are overjoyed to welcome their granddaughter, Frances Clara Cranch, into the world and their family. Frances was born Thursday, December 16, to Leigh and Will Cranch in New York.

We hold in prayer:

Brooks Wicker in the loss of her aunt Athlene Walker on December 2.

Tony and Elena who have been in New Jersey this week. Their very close friends' son, Connor, died suddenly at the age of 30. These friends have been like family to Elena and Tony. We hold them all

The Seekers of Wisdom

Episcopal priest and wisdom teacher, Cynthia Bourgeault recently posted this message to her students. She writes:

Hold fast the hope, friends. Despite everything being broadcast to us announcing a season of grim death and impending planetary lockdown, I simply cannot bring myself to believe that this is the case. Somehow – (why do I intuit this so stubbornly?) – a corner has been quietly turned, and this omicron wave is not what we are making it out to be, not the consummation of the reign of terror but the beginning of the healing. I do not know how, but I sense so strongly “yes.” It was the unexpected but pervasive presence of Mary at [a recent] retreat that more than anything else delivered this assurance to my heart, together with its quietly shimmering emotional touchstones: gentleness, tenderness, beauty. Drink deeply of this draught, friends, and remain steady in your post. Let us bear this gift of the Magi – the seekers of Wisdom – to our terrified planet in this, the dark night of our collective human spirit. Our cry has been heard.

Since reading her post, I have held on to her words as words of hope. I don't know if she is right or wrong. That doesn't seem to me to be the point. What I hear in this wisdom teacher's writing is that we are a people who are called to hold out hope in the darkest of times. Not a fake or false hope, but a kind of hope that rises out of the darkest times. A hope that relies on us to “remain steady in our post.” Her affirmation that our cries have been heard echo the voices of our spiritual ancestors: *“In my distress, I called upon the Lord; to my God, I cried for help. God heard my voice, and my cry reached God's ears.”* (Psalm 18:6) And she reminds us that our willingness to hear a “yes” today is rooted in the courage of Mary's “yes” to the angel who announced the news that she would bear/birth hope and love into the world.

The wisdom I hear is not a dismissal of the reality that people are sick with COVID or a variant of COVID, but rather I hear that the naming of our hope, our yes, and

in prayer.

As we name our concerns, we hold in our prayers Kyle and Natalie Hampton in the death of Kyle's mother who died from COVID on December 16 at the age of 92.

Brian Crisp in the death of his cousin Maggie Presson.

Rita Rakestraw in the death of her friend, Julie Hernandez, who died on December 15 from COVID.

our willingness to cry out on behalf of humanity is what ultimately leads to our healing. And that these are the gifts that we can bring to the world today to make sure that Love is still being born.

This message resonates with me as I think about our church heading into a new year. It will be *our hope* for a more justice-loving world, *our courageous "yes"* to be midwives, and *our cries* for a hurting humanity and planet that will birth Love – the Christ child – into our world today. This is what it means to engage the work of Christmas not just on one day of the year but on every day of the year. So, as the New Year begins, let us be a Christmas people – the seekers of wisdom – every day of the year remaining at our post to be hope, to say "yes" and to cry out for the healing of our world.

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Warmly,
Nancy E. Petty, pastor

Church wide

January at The Table

We truly have a buffet at The Table to kick off the new year! Be sure to follow the link to register. This registration was not actually working in previous communications, so if you tried unsuccessfully to register in the last couple of weeks, please give it one more try! When you register, you will be able to attend any of the meetings in January.

Register in advance for this meeting:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdu2rrD0pG9H7S0C5is-INB7g8T9-PDsi>

January 5 - Card-making

Let's get crafty! We'll engage our artistic side in a greeting card-making activity led by Gail Chesson. Cards are a great way to encourage, celebrate and express support for people in your life. Create some special pieces that you can pull out for just the right occasion. We have basic kits available in the Parlor, so don't forget to grab yours this Sunday or call the office to arrange a time for pick up during the week. In the meantime, you can collect items you may have at home like photos, scrap paper, stickers or old greeting cards you want to repurpose.

January 12 – To Heal the Wounded Soul

What exactly is Chalice doing? Learn more about Duke's Clergy Health Initiative, how they are addressing clergy burnout, and the specific project that Chalice is working on to reach clergy who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color. We'll also talk a bit about the historical significance of this project as a way of addressing the racist history of the Christian church in US.

January 19 – The Political Impact of Christian Zionism

Allison J. Tanner will share about Christian Zionism, the political and theological ideology that uses Christian texts to support the modern nation-state of Israel. We'll learn about how Christian Zionists are wielding their power in Washington, as well as what we can do to support the plight of the Palestinian people. Allison is a pastor, educator and organizer working for justice and healing in her community. She currently serves as the Pastor of Public Witness at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist

Church, in Oakland, California and is a part of the Alliance of Baptists' Justice in Palestine and Israel community.

January 26 – More on Christian Zionism

We'll continue the conversation about Christian Zionism by hearing Palestinian and Jewish voices working for justice peace in Palestine and Israel.

Celebrating New Members: Marcia Matthews and Lori Gibson

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences. My name is Marcia and grew up in Orange, CA and moved to Texas where I met Lori. We moved to NC in 2000 where I began my career working for TSA. I retired early in 2018 and I began my new "fun" career as an elementary school crossing guard and a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

My name is Lori and I grew up in Valley Mills, TX. I started my career at UNC Hospital in 2000 as a Radiology Clinical Engineer and I now work for GE Healthcare as a Field Service Engineer and I love my job.



We have been together for 30 years and we have a son named Taylor, two Yorkies named Molly and Joey and a fat cat named Cal. Our hobbies are walking the greenways and working in our yard.

Why did you choose Pullen? We both grew up Southern Baptist and had gone to a few Baptist churches in the area but never felt welcomed. At Pullen, everyone is welcome and we felt very welcomed the first time we visited.

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? We love volunteering and giving back to our community and we believe in Pullen's vision. We believe that being part of a unified church will allow us to grow more and enjoy the type of community God designed us to be a part of.



Want to Learn More About Pullen?

Are you thinking about joining Pullen, or just want to learn more? Pullen 101 is a unique opportunity to hear from Pullen staff and members about our history, values and the ways we put our faith into action. The intimate 7-week class gives you an opportunity to ask questions and get to know other people at the church. Pullen 101 is for those who are new to the community, thinking about joining or just want to get a better sense of who we are. Pullen 101 will be held on Zoom on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am, January 16 -



Pullen Mission Women Meeting

January 4 from 10:00-11:30 am on Zoom

Emmaus House was created in 1986 by three Pullen members after two men froze to death on the streets of Raleigh. Co-founder Paul Carr will talk to Pullen Mission Women about the early days of the program and its expansion to the current five houses. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 4, at 10:00 am on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Email Pat Long at plong8@nc.rr.com for the Zoom information.

February 27. Please register by January 9. You may register on **Realm** if you have an account, or simply email me at covery@pullen.org.
-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor



Pullen Women's Group

January 1 12-2:00 pm at Deborah's

Please join us for the next Pullen Women's Group. We get together to visit with each other and catch up, with no special agenda. Newcomers are welcome. Our next get-together will be a Soup Potluck at Deborah Brogden's house (5604 Partridge La., Raleigh) on Saturday, Jan 1 from Noon -2:00 pm. Please RSVP by calling or texting Deborah at 919-389-8995. Happy New Year!
-Rita Rakestraw



Discoverers Sunday Group

First and Third Tuesdays at 7:30 pm on Zoom

All are invited to join the Discoverers Sunday Group on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month from 7:30 – 8:30 PM via zoom. Discoverers is a small group of Pullenites who meet to build community and think theologically together. Members take turns leading the sessions by choosing a topic that is on their minds and will allow for thoughtful discussion with others. We really enjoy this time together and welcome others to join us. Contact Cathy Tamsberg a ctamsberg@nc.rr.com for more information and the zoom link, which is also available in Realm.
-Cathy Tamsberg



EVERY
NOTE
counts



Please Make YOUR Note Count in Pledging Our Budget

Here we are, zooming into a new year! Maybe both literally and figuratively, as the pandemic and, hence, Zoom is still part of our daily lives. That's the hard news. The good news is that Pullen is still here and going strong!

Our staff and members have worked tirelessly through 2021 to uphold our mission by maintaining ties with community organizations at home and abroad, staying connected with our youth and children, broadcasting services right into our homes, offering safe in-person gatherings when possible, and maintaining and improving our beautiful buildings and grounds.

The Finance Committee, with its stewardship responsibilities, would like to say THANK YOU to all Pullenites who supported the 2021 budget with your pledges and weekly or monthly offerings. Your generosity to those who are less fortunate is much appreciated. Every time we have asked you to step up, you have – and we are grateful.

Now we are focused on the 2022 budget. We enter the new year with a recommended budget of \$1,225,402, which allows us to carry out our mission of justice love and peace, fighting inequality and injustice, standing with those whose voices get lost. If you have already made your pledge to support the 2022 budget, we sincerely thank you. If you have not yet pledged, we ask that you please do so, at whatever level you are able.

The Finance Committee will need to make decisions in the coming weeks about whether we think this budget can be supported or whether we think it needs to be cut. We hope we won't have to propose cuts to the congregation. Please sign in to Realm now and make your pledge, or send a pledge card to the church office. Call us at 919.828.0897 if you need some assistance. Thank you for making Pullen Memorial Baptist Church a beacon of hope, light, and strength to so many people around the world.
-Kim Gazella

[Pledge Now](#)

Pullen Kids:

Sunday's beginning January 9

9:30 -10:40 am

Children K-5 will meet for Sunday Group and free play. The Sunday Group will be a hybrid of in-person and children joining in on Zoom. Preschool will be available during this time as well. Parents who bring children can hang out together in the church parlor.

Schedule

9:30 am- Check-In

9:40 am - Story Time (Sunday Group) IN-PERSON & on ZOOM - Room 122

Childcare provided for Preschoolers

10:10-10:30 am - Free Play Outside if weather permitting (dress for the weather!)

10:40 am - Parents pick up in Finlator Hall

ALSO At Church on SUNDAYS...

If you would like to join us at worship, we would ask that ALL families sign in either at the main entrance (by Finlator) or in the sanctuary foyer in front of the parlor. View the self-check-in questions that you will be asked to respond to when you check-in.

Preschool Care is available upon request. Children's Worship will be available for Kindergarten-2nd Grades. All those who wish to attend Children's Worship will sit with families in the sanctuary. They will gather with the adult guide at the front of the sanctuary at the noted time in the Bulletin then exit together. Children can be picked up in room 122. For older children, look for activity kits in the foyers of the sanctuary before worship.

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

Focus on Pullen's Kids

Pullen is a church that welcomes everyone, and Children's Worship is an important element integrating our children into worship at Pullen. Children's Worship at Pullen is based on a philosophy

and structure of worship that is sometimes called "Godly Play" and was popularized in the book entitled *Young Children and Worship* by Jerome Berryman and Sonja Stewart. This book is available in the church library and describes in detail this experiential worship style for young children. The approach of Children's Worship is designed to

- allow children to engage in Bible stories and consider their possible meanings;
- nurture the behaviors, disciplines, skills, and orders of simple worship services, and to
- be developmentally appropriate allowing for physical and creative reactions to each story.

Each Sunday, all kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders begin their worship experience in the sanctuary with you where they can practice the skills they are nurturing in Children's Worship. A short time into the congregational worship service, the congregation sings a blessing to the children as they "follow the light" out of the sanctuary. They then follow the Worship Greeter and the light to Room 112 where their worship is held.

All kindergarten, first, and second-grade students are invited to participate in Children's Worship, AND we need others to help to make this experience possible. Right now, we are in need of Worship Leaders. We have a cloud of greats whom you can call upon to learn of the joys they've experienced over the years leading in Children's Worship (Serena Buckner, Grace Evans, Vanessa Jeter, and Libby Stephens just to name a few). Right now, we are looking for NEW leaders to be trained to facilitate in our Children's Worship. Parents, as well as other volunteers, are needed to serve each Sunday as Children's Worship Greeters.

Please contact Tommy Cook at tcook@pullen.org if you are interested, or able to be a Children's Worship Leader or Greeter!

Our goal for Children's Worship is to help children develop a sense of God and of worship as an important part of their lives. We believe this has long-term implications as children seek meaning and order in their lives.

Sincerely,

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

Youth Ministry

Wednesday Night Live

2022 brings one more change to the Wednesday night schedule. We will now have programming from 6-8 pm in the youth space so that we have more time to do all the things we want to do. Masks are still required except when eating. Bring your dinner or eat what we have. Please [RSVP on Realm](#) each week so we can accurately plan food and programming.

January

- 5 - Intentions and Pizza
- 12 - What is the Bible? and Jersey Mikes
- 19 - MLK and Tacos
- 26 - Complexities of Alcohol and wing night. (veggie option available)

February

- 2 - Drugs and Pizza
- 9 - Women of the Bible: Sarah and Jersey Mikes
- 16 - Love? and pasta
- 23 - No Youth Group

BYC is Back! Hopefully...

After two years of not gathering at Laurel Ridge for summer camp, the planning team is diligently working to make BYC 2022 happen in person at Laurel Ridge. We fully understand that there are a number of things that could prevent us from gathering BUT we are believing that we can. So mark your calendars for July 3-8, 2022, and start practicing for the variety show!

Hikes Resuming in February



Dust off those hiking shoes because our monthly hikes at local parks will resume in February with a longer hike in the Uwharrie Mountains this spring.

Camping Trip

Pullen Outdoor Weekend is an annual camping event over Memorial Day Weekend that's planned by some wonderful Pullen families. While it is a church-wide event, it's a great weekend for youth to hang out together. For more information, contact Kevin Neiley at kneiley1@gmail.com.

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and Their Families

Around the Community

Reforming the Monetary Bail Bond Process in North Carolina

This is the first in a series of public discussions on how to reform the monetary bail bond process in North Carolina.

Community United Church of Christ and Umstead Park United Church of Christ are honored to host Dr. Samantha Zottola to discuss her research and conclusions regarding Pretrial Assessment Tools. Her presentation will include:

- An overview of monetary bail bonding nationally
- Discussion of the pretrial decision-making processes
- Review of pretrial assessment instruments
- Summary of research on pretrial assessment instruments

The use of monetary Bail Bonding for pretrial defendant release is one of the most unjust and racially discriminatory aspects of the criminal justice system.

Seventy percent or more of local jail populations are people held in pretrial detention. Most are charged with nonviolent crimes, and most are held because they do not have the funds to pay their bail. This pretrial jail time can last for weeks or months and cause severe financial, family and emotional hardship. Consequently, there is widespread agreement that bail reform is needed; however, what this entails is highly contested.

One important aspect of bail reform focuses on the decision-making process by which bail amounts are set. Bail is often set during one to five minute hearings, and as a result, bail decisions are often subjective and influenced by stereotypes or other mental shortcuts. Incorporating assessment instruments into this process, the topic of Dr. Zottola's talk, can help provide needed structure, transparency, and accountability to pretrial decisions.

It is our hope that you will leave with a better understanding of the pretrial assessment process and why we are committed to reform and replacement of the monetary bail bonding system.

□

When: January 9, 2022 at 2 PM

Where: Umstead Park UCC, 8208 Brownleigh Dr, Raleigh, NC 27617

Proof of vaccination and a face mask are required for attending

You can also attend by Zoom: Register here for the talk, and we will send you the Zoom link in January.

-Gary Smith, Community UCC

[Register Now](#)

National Day of Racial Healing

Launched on Jan. 17, 2017, National Day of Racial Healing is an opportunity to bring ALL people together in their common humanity and inspire collective action to create a more just and equitable world. The National Day of Racial Healing is rooted in truth-telling, offering people, organizations, and communities a day set aside for racial healing, bringing people together to take collective action for a more just and equitable world.

A National Event will be live-streamed at 3:00 pm through Social Media. Local events are planned locally by individuals and groups to highlight their accomplishments toward racial justice and to initiate

activities for the coming year. Resources posted on the National Day of Racial Healing webpage include action kits for communities, schools, libraries, businesses, communities of faith and philanthropies. For these and other resources, visit the link below.

-Ouida Watson

[Learn More](#)

Hope Center Update

Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful and rejuvenating holiday season. Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards for our teens and young adults.

New Operations Manager

We're thrilled to announce that we've hired a new full-time Operations Manager, Melissa Gregory. Melissa starts work with us on January 3rd. She'll be your point of contact when you need to stop by or have a general question about our work. Her email is mgregory@hopecenteratpullen.org.



Holidays at The Hope Center

We had the best time celebrating the holidays. Our Transition Program participants stopped in for a Hot Cocoa party before Christmas, complete with peppermint spoons and a dessert charcuterie board. The celebrations continued when our Teen Programs staff went on the road to deliver specially-designed holiday goodie bags and presents to teens participating in our programs. There's nothing quite like these joy-filled moments! Thank you for making them possible.

Annual Appeal Update

Thank you to everyone who has given during our Annual Appeal! We're again blown away by the generosity of this congregation. We can't wait to update you with the total raised once we have that information!

-Erin Wltcher