



Pullen News

OCTOBER 2, 2020

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

It's Time

*Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”
— Mother Theresa*

March 8, 2020 was the last time we gathered as a community for in-person worship in Pullen’s sanctuary. The time since then has been opportunity after opportunity for adjustment as we have had to learn and live into a new way of not only worshipping together but being “the church” together. These “opportunities” have come for staff and laity alike. While I am more used to it now, those beginning days of preaching to empty pews was a challenge. No after worship hugs proved to be an even bigger challenge. I have missed and still miss hearing your voices – singing and praying and greeting one another. I know from your emails and texts and calls that you, too, are missing worshipping with one another. While we are all grateful for virtual worship, it’s not the same as sitting beside another body in shared space to sing and pray and worship. These months of physical distancing have shown us the importance of the relational aspect of our faith – that part of our faith that, at ordinary and extraordinary times, invites us to hold and encourage each other in communal space.

Since March 8, we have learned that our connection to one another transcends physical space, especially as it relates to our faith. Of course, we already knew this. The connection we feel to our sisters and brothers in the Republic of Georgia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Coventry, Zimbabwe; and our Pullen friends who have moved to the West and East, North and South is strongly felt across oceans and miles of highway. As people of faith – bound together by the common good to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly – there is a spiritual connection that knows no boundaries.

AND, as human and spiritual beings we are created to live in physical proximity to one another. Our social, mental and spiritual well-being needs physical proximity. The human need to look another person in the eyes face-to-face is real. The human desire for another person to wrap their arms around us in comfort when we grieve is real. The human longing to have others celebrate with us when we proclaim our love and commitment to another is real. And, the human hope to sit with others in the same space to worship is real.

We live in two worlds: a world in which our connections to one another transcends physical space; and a world in which we are connected to one another by being in physical proximity. As human and spiritual beings, we need both of these worlds. And so...

Beginning October 18, we are inviting Pullenites to sign up for in-person worship. Each Sunday, beginning October 18, we will have up to 25 people in the sanctuary for worship (this will include those leading worship). The sign-up will begin at noon on Wednesday, October 7. [To sign up click on this link.](#) Each Sunday is listed by date. The first 20 people to sign up for each Sunday will receive a confirmation. Please only sign up for one Sunday so as to give as many people an opportunity to participate. If you are unable to attend on the Sunday you sign up for please let Kiara Ruth (kruth@pullen.org) know so we can offer your spot to another person. There will be protocols to follow when you arrive at the church on Sunday morning. Ushers will be in the parking lot to give you instructions as to how to enter the building. There will also be an usher inside to seat you. Masks will be required as well as maintaining physical distancing. We will need your careful attention to following all the protocols.

For our mental and spiritual well-being *it's time* for us to begin coming back together for worship. Twenty-five people may not seem like a lot but this I am betting on: to sit in a space and worship with 24 other people will in some way be both transcending and transforming. And furthermore, the spirit of those sitting together on any given Sunday will move beyond the walls and stained glass to enliven, enrich and encourage our scattered worshipping community. *Let us begin.*

- Nancy

October News Inside:



- Music Update, Halloween CARNival page 2
- Joys & Concerns, Children’s Sabbath page 3
- Earth Ministry October Update page 4
- Youth News, Fall Youth Retreat page 5
- Hope Center, AMOS Celebration page 6
- The Table in October page 7
- Let’s Get Connected with Realm! page 8



Music Ministry Notes

During this continued time of physical separation, we are grateful to the children, youth and adults who sing and play instruments for our services of worship. Their songs and hymns, anthems and orchestral music lift our spirits and minister to our community and beyond. Some of their recorded music has also been used by several other churches and conferences in the United States and Canada.

The Pullen Chancel Choir (adults) and Orchestra (youth/adults) currently meet online every other week for connection, music-making and to prepare recordings for worship. The Chancel Choir meets the first and Third Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00PM and the Pullen Orchestra on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 4:00-5:00PM. As always, you are invited to participate with these groups as they meet via Zoom. Interested persons should contact Larry Schultz for link information. *-Larry Schultz*

HALLOWEEN DRIVE THRU CARNIVAL!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 at 4:00 PM
PULLEN PARKING LOT (ENTRANCE COX BUILDING LOT)

Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday, October 31st from 4:00-5:00pm for a drive through CARNIVAL at Pullen! Designed for socially distant fun, just drive thru for treats, games, prizes and much more! Dress up your car and your family!

Admission is free, but if you'd like to bring treats (peanut butter and canned food) for URBAN MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY or donations for HOUSE ALL (see below).

To volunteer for set up and other "safe" logistics, please contact cook@pullen.org. *-Tommy Cook*



Action Plans to help Children this Month at Pullen

URBAN MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY or HOUSE ALL

This month, you will have the opportunity to make a difference to some of Raleigh's children by giving **peanut butter** and **canned food** (including meat) for the **Urban Ministries-Food Pantry**, which feeds up to 100 families daily. You can also **contribute financially** to **House All**, a collaboration between Pullen and First Baptist Church of Raleigh (Salisbury St.) that assists in rent and utility bills for people facing eviction. We will have a donation box at the Halloween CARNIVAL. Tommy Cook will also collect donations after Children's Sabbath, October 11 from 1:30-2:30 by the back door. For other donations please reach out to Brian Crisp and he will be happy to make arrangements! bcrisp@pullen.org



Staying Connected

The Pullen staff is working hard to provide meaningful ways for you to connect with the church during this unusual time. The Pullen website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages are updated weekly with photos, links, and event information. There is page on the Pullen Website to help you stay connected. Visit it for links to our weekly emails, livestream videos, and Zoom meeting info.

<https://pullen.org/updates/>

We are happy to provide assistance if you need help with the website or emails. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for you to find the services online and get news updates from the church. If you would like to get in touch, email news@pullen.org or call the church and leave a voice mail (919-828-0897). Please reach out if you have questions or suggestions or if you'd like to chat.

-Dana Deaton (Communications Specialist)

We grieve with:

- ☞ We mourn the loss of Patty Watson, a devoted member of this church and supporter of its mission for 60 years, who passed away on September 7. We give thanks for her witness and work, and continue to pray for her husband Norman and their children, Melvin and Maria.
- ☞ Jimmy Nolan and his family are in our prayers. Jimmy is the cousin of Trish Ajamie, who has been attending Pullen with her family for over a year. Jimmy's wife Taran and 3 of their children were in a bad car accident on September 10, where their youngest daughter, Micki, died. Taran remains hospitalized along with their son Jimmy. We pray for healing and peace, and for Trish as she supports them.

We celebrate with:

- ☞ We celebrate with Jan and Bill Crouch as they welcome a new granddaughter into the world. Dylan Louise Fairchild was born on Saturday, September 5.
- ☞ We celebrate with Allie McKinney in her recent engagement to Jack Pruden on September 5.

Children's SABBATH

October 11



Reimagining Our Future: Justice and Joy for All Children

Join us for worship on October 11 as Pullen, along with other places of worship across the country in conjunction with the Children's Defense Fund, focuses our prayers, worship and action on learning more about the urgent problems facing our nation's children.

This (virtual) worship will be an adult AND child friendly service celebrating our own children as we give a call to love and protect children, respond with outreach and advocacy, and—most importantly—inspiring new, year-round action to improve the lives of children.

-Tommy Cook

Pullen 101 Online

Would you be interested in joining a virtual Pullen 101 class? 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 setting 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 on the following dates: October 18, October 25, November 1, November 8, November 15, November 22, and December 6.

Please register by October 14.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwkd-6uqD0sGda5PxOPcaHUfXG4vQYygZIJ>

BRING YOUR CREATURES, GREAT AND SMALL, TO THE
BLESSING OF THE CREATURES
Sunday, October 18, 3pm at Pullen



Drive by the church to receive a blessing and see a few familiar faces from a safe distance. While we have our pets in mind, we'll be blessing all the animals, even the ones that walk upright on two legs. So if you can't coax your cat into the car, or you're not a pet parent, you can still come by and receive a blessing!

Save the date for October 18 at 3 pm!

-Chalice Overy

Church Financials

As of September 30, 2020

Gifts to Date:	\$ 871,378.75
Expenses to Date:	\$ 796,114.97
Difference:	\$ 75,263.78



A Tale of Environmental Injustice in NC

There is no question about it, NC has a sordid history when it comes to issues of environmental justice. I am not an expert on this subject, but I do remember news reports about the Chapel Hill landfill and Warren County PCB landfill. I also remember controversy about Wake County landfills near Holly Springs. So, I started to research these stories and was disheartened by what I found. Here are just a few of the many stories.

The voices of people of color have been repeatedly ignored in the decision-making process that determines where to build dumps, hazardous waste sites, CAFOs, (confined animal feeding operations), coal ash pits, and more recently, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). Sometimes minority voices are overruled, in other cases, agencies and corporations fail to communicate development plans with minority communities until late in the planning process, if at all. Moving forward, minority communities must be included in these planning processes. They deserve a seat at the planning table. (1, 2, 10)

In 1972, the historically black Rogers-Eubanks community reluctantly agreed to sell 80 acres of land to Chapel Hill for use as a landfill. In return for doing this, they were to receive municipal services such as sidewalks, water and sewer connections, a community center, and a recreation area that was to be created when the landfill was full. Four decades later many of these promises were unfulfilled despite an unrelenting legal fight by the community. By this time, the community was plagued by contaminated water and air. Finally, in 2014 Orange County built the community center and began efforts to extend water and sewer lines to Rogers-Eubanks. (2)

In the early 1980s, seventy miles away, the predominantly black and impoverished community of Afton in Warren County, (a landing place for slaves during Reconstruction), found itself selected as the site for a hazardous waste landfill where highly toxic and carcinogenic PCB contaminated soil would be buried. In 1982, local protesters were joined by organizers from the NAACP, the United Church of Christ (UCC), and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The American Environmental Justice Movement was born. But Afton had to prove discrimination, not just claim it. In 1987, the UCC issued the report "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States". It showed race was more strongly correlated with the placement of hazardous waste facilities than any other factor. Minority communities across the nation began to band together to fight this discrimination. (2, 3)

The predominantly black neighborhoods of Holly Springs, in Wake County, are surrounded by 10 county landfills. While Holly Springs makes up 1% of land area in Wake County, 13% of the county's landfills have been placed there. Ninety percent of these are located within predominantly Black communities. Why is that so? (10)

The Wilmington/New Hanover County region has numerous examples of environmental injustice in its history as well. The largely black Flemington community battled well water contamination from a nearby, leaking coal ash pit. Groundwater was laced with arsenic, boron, and cobalt. In 2013, Duke Energy was fined a mere \$7 million, plus \$3 million to install water lines to the community. None of that money went to residents who were exposed to these toxins. Navassa, another poor and predominantly black community nearby is surrounded by more brownfield and federal Superfund sites than any other municipality in the state. This includes the former Kerr-McGee Superfund site which was once a creosote wood treatment facility where creosote was stored in unlined pits. (4, 11)

What do CAFOs (large hog and chicken farms) and coal ash waste have in common? Both are disproportionately located near low-income communities of color who suffer impaired health as a result of long term exposure to contaminated air and water. Both involve hazardous waste stored in open pits that contaminates groundwater and rivers and streams during heavy rains. Both industries have powerful political connections in NC. These connections have ensured for decades that environmental regulations favored their corporate profits. Recently, when the hog industry was challenged with 26 nuisance suits, the NC General Assembly protected the hog industry by capping punitive damages for the residents impacted by these farms. (5)



The Lumbee Tribe of Robeson County and other poor rural communities in Eastern NC, recently celebrated a victory over the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, (ACP), a project that was promoted by Duke and Dominion Energy. The Lumbees were not informed of plans for the pipeline until very late in the planning process. Fortunately, strong public outcry from local communities

and environmental groups delayed the pipeline, driving up costs and leading to a decision to halt further development. (7)

Currently, a new battle of environmental injustice rages in Robeson County where Active Energy Renewable Power is seeking permits to operate a commercially untested wood pellet technology called CoalSwitch. Traditional wood pellet factories emit tons of hazardous waste and greenhouse gases annually. Air emissions from the CoalSwitch manufacturing process are unknown. Yet Active Energy claims (without any evidence to support the claim), that its emissions in Robeson County will be insignificant and they should be exempted from an air permit. The surrounding predominantly Native American community of 8,000 has already been besieged by contamination and natural disasters. They suffer high rates of heart and lung disease. They are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as well. Deforestation associated with logging and CO2 emissions from burning the pellets will all contribute to increased global warming. (8)

There are glimmers of hope. The cancelled ACP pipeline is one of them. In 2019, NCDEQ ordered Duke Energy to excavate all coal ash impoundments and dispose of this waste in lined pits. The same year, the NCDEQ created the Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board to protect and give a voice to people living in underrepresented communities across the state. These communities are predominantly poor and black. The board will use a new mapping tool that will help local planners better select the suitability of proposed industrial sites (4). These are all encouraging signs.



NC must do more to reverse the years of systemic environmental injustice they have inflicted on communities of color. As Christians and citizens, most of whom have lived lives benefited by white privilege, it is our responsibility to express concern and advocate for change. It is time for us to support bold action to prevent these practices in the future.

You can begin to learn more about environmental injustice in NC by checking out the articles listed here:

Resources Used: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LMADDM8nN2y2PT5SOpnAXP6Z73qEerh33-LmMSN7oTU/edit?usp=sharing>

- Gail Powell, Earth Ministry



Pullen Youth News

The youth group is doing a combination of in person, physically distanced and virtual events this fall with the hopes to meet everyone's needs and comfort level.

October PYM Schedule:

- ◆ **7th** - Zoom - 6:00-7:30 We join the adult program to hear from some Raleigh Charter students who are working to bring a lynching memorial to the triangle! Register [HERE](#)
- ◆ **14th** - Zoom - 7-8 pm - Game Night!
- ◆ **21st** - Outdoor Movie Night at Pullen - 6-8 - Remember the Titans
- ◆ **28th**- Zoom - Check-in, All Hallows' Eve discussion

November 6-8, 2020 Fall Youth Retreat!

We can not possibly miss our Fall Retreat, it will just look a bit different this year and you get to sleep in your own bed!!! So that everyone can be, we will have a variety of online and in-person events throughout the weekend, right here in Raleigh.



For more information about Youth programs at Pullen, please contact Bryan Lee– blee@pullen.org



Children's Zoom on Sundays

If your child is not burned out from online learning, we'd love to connect with them every Sunday morning! Our **Sunday Morning Zoom Groups** will focus on "peace" through the narratives found in the Christian and Hebrew Scriptures.

Our children will not only enjoy connecting with friends, but work through these stories of "peace" through interactive activities.

Contact tcook@pullen.org for more info.

- **Kindergarten—Second Grades meets at 9:30– 10:00AM**
- **Third-Fifth Grades meets at 10:15-10:45 AM**



Hope Center Updates – October 2020

Happy fall, everyone! Virtual school is back in full swing. We're helping our teens living in foster care adapt and thrive. All summer, we mailed and delivered goodie bags and packages to our teens to combat the isolation that so many are experiencing in this time. This fall, as a supplement to our regular programming, we will be delivering books and hosting groups designed to help our teens discover and use their unique gifts. These Empowerment Groups will be guided by our Director of Teen Programs, Delana Epps-Avery.



With the additional challenges brought on by on-line learning, our teens need tutors more than ever. Our plan for the fall is to begin offering a hybrid tutoring program where students will alternate between socially distant in-person sessions with tutors and virtual sessions. Students who are not yet comfortable with in-person meetings will be offered the option to continue all virtual sessions. **We're holding a tutor training on October 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** The training will be held virtually. If you're interested in learning more about being a tutor, RSVP for the training to Joseph McNeill at jmcneill@hopecenteratpullen.org.

-Erin Witcher



Save your spot today at amoshealth.org/onward

Onward!

A Virtual Celebration of Faith, Hope, and Love

**Saturday, October 17th
4pm Eastern/1pm Pacific Time**



Honor the immense contributions of our Co-Founders, Drs. David and Laura Parajón, and celebrate how AMOS is continuing onward with faith, hope, and love!

AMOS Celebration– October 17

Join us on Saturday, October 17th, at 4PM Eastern Time for ["Onward! A Virtual Celebration of Faith, Hope, and Love"](#) (held via Zoom)!

- Honor AMOS Co-Founders Dr. David and Laura Parajón
- Welcome our new Executive Director Dr. Gabriella Woo
- Watch traditional Nicaraguan dances and sing songs of hope
- Hear stories of how leaders impacted by AMOS are continuing onward with faith, hope, and love!

To RSVP, [click this link](#). Upon registration, we will email you the Zoom meeting ID and password to use to enter the event on October 17th.

Join us on Wednesdays at The Table

This month at The Table we will explore justice issues in our state and nation--memorials, the environment and mass incarceration. As we near the election we'll talk civil discourse and social healing with *On Being* Executive Director, Lucas Johnson. [Register here](#) for our October gatherings. Please be sure to register by the Tuesday before the program you plan to attend. Once you register, that registration is valid for all programs in October.

-Chalice Overy



October 7-Silent No More

We'll hear from the The Freedom Struggle Committee, a group of student activists at Raleigh Charter High school calling for the creation of a public memorial for the victims of lynching in North Carolina.

October 14- Exploring Environmental Justice in NC

Did you know that the environmental justice movement began in Warren County, NC in response to sitting a hazardous waste landfill in the poor, rural, and primarily black community of Afton? Join us as we explore the history of environmental justice, where the environmental justice movement stands today, and ways in which you can get involved to help address the impacts to communities of color across North Carolina and in Raleigh. Amy Smith of the Conservation Trust for NC will facilitate this discussion with the following panelists:



• Amy Smith of the Conservation Trust for NC



• Naeema Muhammad, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network



• Lacey Frownfelter, Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)



• Sherri White-Williams, NC Conservation



October 21- Mass Incarceration & Excessive Punishment: The Civil Rights Issue of Our Time

What can individuals and communities do to challenge excessive punishment, support systemic reform, and advance justice? A conversation with [Tatiana Bertsch](#), Senior Attorney, Equal Justice Initiative.



October 28- Civil Conversations

Divides are widening as the election nears and tensions are stoked. But even within our congregation differences of opinion can cause division. How do we navigate difficult conversations and remain in community so that we can work together toward our common goals? Lucas Johnson, Executive Director, Civil Conversations and Social Healing with [On Being](#) will join us for this conversation.



Entering a New Realm at Pullen!

This month, we're launching a new tool to help us stay connected. Realm is a cloud based church management solution that makes it easier for our staff to connect with you and for you to connect with others in the Pullen community. With Realm you can share ideas with members of your council, committee or Sunday group in between meetings. Did you move or get rid of that landline? You can easily update your

information without having to call the church office. Not only that, you can give, register for events and send a message to that person named in the prayers on Sunday...all from the palm of your hand.

For our staff, Realm stores information about our community members in one place and allows us to access it in a way that's convenient. If Tommy needs to email all the 3rd grade parents to let them know about acolyte training, or Brian wants to reach out to potential volunteers for Round Table, they can do it in a few clicks. There's no need to manually search through multiple spreadsheets that constantly need to be updated.

Realm exponentially increases our ability to stay connected in a time when connection is vital. But in order to get the most out of this system, we need you to get connected!

On October 6, Pullen members and participants will receive an email invitation to Realm. Simply follow the link in that email to create an account!

-Chalice Overy

For more detailed instructions on connecting to Realm, please visit the Realm page on our website:

pullen.org/realm

