

MEMORIES

UCP HAS A HISTORY OF...

...BEING WELCOMING

"We were a first time visiting family with a special needs 3-year old. Very warmly received!" -Spring 1977

"I arrived at UCP and went to 745 Bible Study. It was a warm and welcoming group whom I dearly love to this day." -1996

"While going through a difficult time and looking for a church community, I received a warm welcome at UCP." -1999

"UCP is not only the most beautiful church, but the kindest and is lovely, friendly and is caring for all." -2018

...PROVIDING SUPPORT

"After my divorce and loosing a big house I paid for in full, and loosing every dime in cash, UCP gave me known and unknown helping hand. Something I don't forget." -1999

"Non-stop love, care and support for our family during a loved one's health issues." -2005-2006 & 2008-2009

"The hope expressed in the Adult Issues Class on the Social Gospel." -2009

"We care about people: what hurts and what blesses." -2018

...INSPIRING SPIRITUAL & PERSONAL GROWTH

"Beautiful and spiritually uplifting music." -1985-present

"UCP helped me to thrive as a musician." -1990-2015

"UCP is the people who continue to inspire me." -2000-present

"On my first visit to the Sanctuary, the beauty of the space made me feel the presence of God so very powerfully." -2009

"Earlier this year, my daughter was preparing to go off to college to study piano performance. She asked the Music Director for some guidance. He generously and at no cost gave her a few valuable piano lessons. They helped her improve her playing. She and we are very grateful." -2018

"We explored the holiness of art-it was inspiring. And I found UCP as a church home!"

...INTERFAITH RELATIONS

"On September 11, 2001, when the entire country and community were in shock, UCP hosted a gathering of all-truly a demonstration of how this church embraces all. UCP has always been a beacon of Christianity and embraces all." -2011

"There is the joy of the Interfaith Service before Thanksgiving each year." -2018

A BRIEF HISTORY OF UCP

JUNE 10, 1973

UCP was established on Pentecost Sunday.

1974-1980s

The new community of Reston became aware of the need for the churches to come together to help those in need. UCP helped in the development of **Reston Interfaith** (now Cornerstones) in response.

Parishoners **retreated at Bethany Beach**. The pastor attempted to hold Bible Study but everyone wanted to be on the beach.

Dedication of one campus, Hunter's Woods Elementary School, with the **choir singing *I Want to Dance on the Steps of the Church***.

Bishop Desmond Tutu spoke (unexpectedly) on a Sunday morning at Hunter's Woods.

UCP **sponsored a refugee family** from Vietnam.

AUGUST 1995

Works Sunday, an annual interfaith community service event, began.

2002, 2004, 2006

Mission trips to **Rwanda**.

2012

Renovation of the existing building completed. The first large event held in the new facility was a Stop Hunger Now (now known as **Rise Against Hunger**) event to produce 20,000 packaged meals to be sent to developing nations.

2018

UCP was a co-sponsor of the first **Reston Pride**.

1966

United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) **affirmed a covenant** for church development in Reston, Virginia.

1973-1998

UCP had **three "campuses"** throughout Reston. Worship was at all three locations.

1992

Mission Trip with **Habitat for Humanity** in Tennessee.

JANUARY 1, 1999

The Parish began to **worship as a unified congregation** at one campus, Redeemer, located where UCP is today).

2008

\$550,000 raised to **build a school** in Rwanda.

2015

Same-sex marriages officially allowed at UCP.

PRESENT

UCP plays an important role in the development of Reston as a Washington DC suburb, by guiding inter-denominational community service agencies. The Parish continues to break new ground in ecumenical ministry.