



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

February 24, 2025

Pastor's Message

CHUMC Family,

Yesterday, I told the story of Tina Crawford and Jy'Aire Smith-Pickett and how Tina's radical love for Jy'Aire brought them together in the wake of her son Ira's murder. Here is a link to the story as shared by journalist Thomas Lake:

<https://bit.ly/4bfxlej>

That love, given to Tina by the grace of God, impacted not only Jy'Aire's life, but also her own, her family and friends and the community around them.

In the midst of her grief, Tina Crawford found this awareness:

"I have to stay at peace. I have to meditate. I have to keep myself in check at all times, because they took my son. And I refuse to let them have my spirit and soul."

Knowing she did not want the evil of others to overtake her and shape her, she found peace in meditation. This ancient spiritual practice has been utilized for centuries across religious traditions including Christianity. The point of meditation is presence. Unlocking our hearts and minds to be fully present and attentive to the moment and freeing our minds from the burdens trauma seeks to place upon our souls.

Christians practice this in a variety of ways, generally focusing on the grace of God to assure us of our human dignity and value so they can be free to commune with and care for others who are present with them in the moment. Sometimes Christians practice simple mindfulness with slow, deep breaths in and out for a set time. Other times they practice the lectio divina in which they read a passage of scripture and focus on a word or phrase that stood out to them as they breath. Still other times, they might silently focus on the Jesus Prayer or another centering prayer as they breathe.

You have heard the saying, "Hurt people hurt people." That certainly defined Jy'Aire the night that Ira Hopkins lost his life.

In Tina Crawford's case, you could say, "Hurt people help people." Through meditation, she was able to connect with God's love in the midst of her grief and share God's love with others, including a man involved in her son's murder. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound. Amen.

***Grace and peace,
Rev. J.D. Allen***



Chapel Hill UMC
Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

Kate Whitaker Hendrick
Minister of Families

Melissa Sky-Eagle
Worship & Music

Jill Cox
Office Manager

Jim Hanigan
Building Manager



Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Yvette's Mom, Patricia
The Gee Family	Jim Taylor
Yvette's kids	Amy Vuong's Brother
Matthew Shivar	Kathy Hill
Aaron Brooks	Nancy Hartman's
Lynda Lyon (Iris	brother, Randy
Shivar's Cousin)	Staton
Judy Bull	Wesley Freeman
Janis Coggshall	Don McCourtney
David Loper	The Family of Pat
Claudia Marchant	McCourtney
Terri Moore	The Family of Silverio
Julia and David Knutt	Soto
Stacey Ramsey	All of our mental and
Mike Tatum	physical health
Kaye Bandy	Farmers Branch
Gary Fuls	Community Garden
John Fuls	Mass Shooting Victims
Corky Rawdon	Peace, healing, &
Carolyn Curtis	restoration in war
Pat Moore	torn areas
Caleb Whitaker	New Orleans Attack
Rev. J.D.'s Brother-In-	Victims
Law	California Wildfire
	Victims



Easter Lilies may be ordered for \$15 each. They will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. An insert honoring or remembering your loved one(s) will be placed in the bulletin. Your flower(s) will be available to take home after the service. All orders are due by Noon on Sunday, March 16. Please complete one form for each order and be sure to print legibly. Make checks payable to Chapel Hill UMC and place it on the desk in the church office.

Church Office Hours

Regular Office hours are
Monday through Thursday
10 AM – 2 PM

If you have a pastoral care
emergency outside of office hours,
please contact our Senior Pastor,
Rev. J.D. Allen at (972) 467-7756.

Announcements

- **Chili Cook-off/Dessert Auction**, Sunday, March 2 from 2-4PM.
- **Our Communion Offering** Sunday, March 2 will support UMCOR.
- **Ash Wednesday Service** 6:30 PM March 5.

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: bit.ly/CHUMCYouTube

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc

BIRTHDAY REMINDER: Please let our church office know your birthdate, mm/dd/yyyy, so your church family can acknowledge your special day. **Your 'year' will remain private:** office@chapelhillumc.org



Brianna	Lopez	6-Feb
Sarah	Baird	26-Feb
Kathy	Scheihagen	26-Feb