



Contact

December 2019
January 2020

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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From My Window



It's the season of endings and beginnings. Both the church year and the calendar year are ending. Our lush summer and the threat of hurricanes have given way to pine straw blanketing our gardens and a blue sky winter. In the midst of the dying of the old, there is much putting down new roots. Advent, Christmas, and the New Year bring our minds and hearts to what might be, to what is being born, waking in us.

As Richard Rohr puts it, "When you wake up, you begin to overcome your separate-ness... You wake up when your protective ego boundaries begin to dissolve and lessen." And you begin to see "our radical connectedness...with eyes much larger and other than our own." This, Rohr suggests, is holiness. And this perception, this holiness, is preceded by a "necessary self-emptying – or there is never room in the inn!"

Sometimes this time of year seems like a perpetual exercise in raw addition rather than intentional self-emptying or widened vision. More events show up on our calendars rather than deeper connections. Our meals become rich and complicated, sometimes at the expense of genuine hospitality or refreshment. We get sucked into the mentality of extravagant gifts rather than simple kindness to ourselves and others.

I know; you've heard this all before. But each year we are given an invitation to anticipate and celebrate Christ's reign in our hearts and in this weary world so in need of something to rejoice in, to make room in the inn. I, for one, want that kind of Advent, Christmas, and New Year. You?

With the love of Christ ever-new born,

Rohr, Richard; Just This; 2017, CAC publishing, Albuquerque, NM; pp 52-54

December...

- 1 First Sunday of Advent** - *Betsy Irvine preaching*
Communion, CentsAbility Offering, World AIDS Day
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Music Club of Baton Rouge Choral Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 2**
2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
5:30 p.m. UPC Book Group Christmas Party - Parrain's on Perkins Rd.
- 3**
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
Noon AIAnon - Library
6:00 p.m. TBR Gala - MT. Pilgrim Baptist Church
- 4**
9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
6:00 p.m. Taizé
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 5**
11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 6**
10:00 a.m. Aphasia Support Group - Conference Room
- 7**
11:00 a.m. Wee Retreat - Sanctuary
- 8 Second Sunday in Advent** - *Patti Snyder preaching*
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
- 9**
2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 10**
8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee Breakfast - 7401 Seven Oaks
Noon AIAnon - Parks Wilson Room
12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room
6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Star Party - 6630 Boone
7:00 p.m. NAMI Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall
- 11**
11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - Library
3:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room
5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Conference Room
6:00 p.m. Taizé
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12**
11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 14**
11:00 a.m. Wee Retreat - Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. N.O. Gay Men's Chorus Christmas Concert - Unitarian Church of BR
- 15 Third Sunday in Advent** - *Patti Snyder preaching*
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:30 p.m. Session Meeting - Conference Room
2:00 p.m. Children's Music Studio Winter Recital - Sanctuary
- 16**
2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 17**
9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Conference Room
- 18**
9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
6:00 p.m. Taizé
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 19**
11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library

Office Notes

Office Volunteers Needed

Help is needed in the office to answer phones while Caralyn is on vacation. Shifts are 8:30 - 11:30 and 11:30 - 2:30 but are flexible for volunteers.

Dates needed are:

Monday, December 23

Thursday, December 26

Friday, December 27

Monday, January 30

If you are able to help, please email Pat Wright at li-mu@att.net or call 225-276-2092.

Offering Envelopes for 2020

Offering Envelopes for 2020 will be only available by request. Boxes can be modified for weekly or monthly. Please contact the church office if you would like a box.

IN MEMORIAM

**Amy Howe Bourg, who died on
October 30, 2019**

**FEBRUARY
CONTACT
DEADLINE
JANUARY 20**

The University Presbyterian Church CONTACT is printed monthly. Articles may be submitted via email to cdurham@upcbr.org or turned in to the church office no later than the 20th of each month. To be removed from the mailing list, please contact the church office.

**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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(225)383-0345
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www.upcbr.org**



The **UPC Book Club** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
287 Baird Drive

Join us for our annual Christmas Party at Parrain's on Monday, December 2, at 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 7 The Blithedale Romance
by Nathaniel Hawthorne



A Place at the Table

The Nurture Committee would like to offer a holiday meal gathering for folks who may be dining alone for the Christmas holidays. In an effort to coordinate hosting and guest lists, please contact Victoria Robertson (225)229-6455 if you can add an extra place at your table. (If you have wheelchair ramp access please let Vic know.)

Spread the Joy!

Once again UPC is working with Presbyterian Children's Home and Services and Catholic Charities to provide Christmas gifts for children. If you chose to participate in this worthwhile event, please remember all wrapped gifts must be returned to UPC by Sunday, December 8.

December...

- 20 6:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Party - 6630 Boone
- 21 11:00 a.m. Wee Retreat - Sanctuary
- 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent** - Patti Snyder preaching
Christmas Joy Offering
- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- Noon Advent Potluck, Cookie Swap, Caroling - Fellowship Hall
- 24 Christmas Eve**
Day School and Church Office Closed
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service
- 25 Christmas Day**
Day School and Church Office Closed
- 29 1st Sunday After Christmas**
11:00 a.m. Worship
- 31 New Year's Eve**
Day School and Church Office Closed

January...

- 1 New Year's Day**
Day School and Church Office Closed
- 3 10:00 a.m. Aphasia Support Group - Conference Room
- 5 Epiphany Sunday** - Patti Snyder preaching
Communion, CentsAbility Offering, Epiphany Stars
- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting & Potluck - Fellowship Hall
- 6 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
- 7 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
- Noon AIAnon - Library
- 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 287 Baird Drive
- 8 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
- 12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - Library
- 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 9 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room




January...

- 12 Baptism of the Lord** - *Patti Snyder preaching*
 9:45 a.m. Church School
 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 13**
 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 14**
 Noon AlAnon - Parks Wilson Room
 12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room
 6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Meeting
 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 15**
 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
 3:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room
 5:30 p.m. Personnel & Administration Committee - Conference Room
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 16**
 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 19 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** - *Patti Snyder preaching*
 9:45 a.m. Church School
 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 6:30 p.m. Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- 20**
 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 21**
 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
 Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Conference Room
- 22**
 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 23**
 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 26 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** - *Patti Snyder preaching*
 9:45 a.m. Church School
 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:15 p.m. Soup & Pie Potluck - Fellowship Hall
- 27**
 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 28**
 Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Conference Room
- 29**
 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 30**
 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room



Congratulations!

- to **Cary Byrd** who has a new job in Development at the Nashville Ballet on November 11
- on the November 17 marriage of **Clayton Samson** to Leighton Firnberg



Are you collecting change at home? UPC is collecting coins to support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Cents-ability, on Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, January 5.



over-the-top festive Christmas sweater competition,
 soup, cookies, and caroling
Sunday, December 22 @ Noon
Fellowship Hall



Advent and Christmas at UPC

Advent Worship in Community and At Home

Advent, the season of preparation for Christ's birth, begins this year on Sunday, December 1. Each Wednesday in Advent we will gather in candlelight to share meditative worship in the style of the Taizé Community of France. The service lasts 30-45 minutes and is a calming way to focus mid week. Each Sunday morning in Advent we will gather to the sounds of Bach chorales, light the Advent candles symbolizing one of the Christian themes relating to the coming of Christ into the world – hope, love, joy, and peace, hear the Word proclaimed, and lift our prayers for each other and the world.

This year our members and friends are also encouraged to develop a brief daily (or occasional, if daily seems out of reach) practice of worship at home. You may wish to develop your own practice or join with others in using "Straw for the Manger," a free devotional resource made available in the Welcome Center. This resource includes a brief scripture reading, a short story, a prayer, and prompts for engaging in acts of love and kindness that prepare the world for Christ's birth.

Our home worship will be joined to our communal worship as each Sunday as we gather we inscribe the acts of kindness or love we have shared on small slips of straw colored paper and place them in the manger, literally making a bed for Christ's presence among us. Whether or not you are engaging in the daily devotion at home, everyone - from the young to the oldest among us – can participate in making a particular effort to show kindness this Advent and add their efforts to the manger on Sunday morning!

Bach

A note about the preludes and intros for Advent

Our preludes and postludes are often based on hymn tunes. These pieces take different forms - preludes, fugues, fantasias - but all use and embellish a chorale (hymn) tune. During the season of Advent, our worship will include a chorale prelude (or in one case, a fantasia) by J.S. Bach, who perfected this form, followed immediately by the choir singing his arrangement of the chorale itself. Listen for another version of the chorale/hymn at the postlude.

We Retreat at Advent "WEE RETREATS"

"Wee" is used in Scotland to mean "small modest or humble." Our Wee Retreats will be like that, a couple of hours long, just a break in a busy day to engage in refreshment for our souls. Join others from UPC (bring a friend if you wish), each Saturday in Advent. Each Wee Retreat will include a time of quiet meditation in our sanctuary, some conversation, an opportunity to engage in a small creative activity like collage making or writing, and to share a simple lunch. We'll gather at 11 and be finished by 1 p.m. Please sign up in the welcome center or by contacting the church office so we can plan accordingly.

Advent Devotional at UPC



During Advent, we invite children and adults to contribute "straw" to the manger in preparation for the coming of the Christ child. The "straw" is strips of yellow paper found at the entrance to the sanctuary. Straw strips will also be handed out to the children during Sunday school classes.

We invite you to write down acts of kindness you intend to do during the Advent season on the strips of straw. Acts of kindness include doing something special for a neighbor in need, making a donation or visiting someone. During the lighting of the Advent candle, all are invited to the front of

sanctuary to cushion the manger for baby Jesus with your strips of straw and prepare a way for Christ to be born into this world with our actions.

For suggestions of other acts of kindness, please pick up an Advent Devotional Calendar found at the back of the sanctuary.

Worship

First Week in Advent

December 1 - First Sunday in Advent

11:00 Worship

Traditional service celebrating the themes of the season. Communion will be served. Betsy Irvine preaching.

December 4

Taizé Service - Sanctuary 6 p.m.

A simple candlelit service of sung prayer and intercession

December 7

Wee Retreat - Sanctuary 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Second Week in Advent

December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent

11:00 Worship

Traditional service celebrating the themes of the season. Patti Snyder preaching.

December 11

Taizé Service – Sanctuary 6 p.m.

December 14

Wee Retreat - Sanctuary 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Third Week in Advent

December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent

11:00 Worship

Traditional service celebrating the themes of the season. Patti Snyder preaching.

December 18

Taizé Service – Sanctuary 6 p.m.

December 21

Wee Retreat - Sanctuary 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fourth Week in Advent

December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:00 Worship

Traditional service celebrating the themes of the season. Christmas Joy Offering will be collected. Patti Snyder preaching.

Worship

December 24 - Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols
5:30 p.m.

A family-friendly service that centers on the story and music of the season

December 30 - First Sunday of Christmas Season
11:00 Worship (no church school)

This Sunday will be a "Hymn Sing" focused on the Carols of the Season.

January 5 - Epiphany
11:00 Worship

Don't miss the annual distribution of the Epiphany Stars!

Education

(for more information see page X)

December 1 - Art and Advent: The Annunciation

December 8 - Literature and Advent

December 15 - Food Traditions and Advent

December 22 - The Christmas Carol and Advent

December 29 - No Church School

Fellowship

December 2 - Book Club Christmas Dinner
5:30 p.m. Parrain's on Perkins Road

December 10 - Nurture Committee Breakfast -
8:30 a.m. Betty Armstrong's, 7401 Seven Oaks

December 10 - Mission & Peacemaking Chili & Star Party
6:00 p.m. Jim & Patti's, 6630 Boone

December 12 - Soul Feast Small Group Christmas Party
11:30 a.m. Betsy Irvine's, 1848 Glendale

December 19 - Day School Staff Christmas Party
6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

December 20 - Staff Christmas Party
6:30 p.m. Jim & Patti's, 6630 Boone

December 22 - UPC Advent Extravaganza
Potluck, Cookie Swap, Ugly Sweater Contest, and
CAROLING!

12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hall



UPC Advent Extravaganza!

The UPC Fashion Police (AKA the Fellowship Committee) will be organizing a soup and cookie potluck on Sunday, December 22, right after the 11:00 service. After that, those who feel so inclined will spread holiday cheer by caroling some of our less mobile friends.

Congregation members and friends are invited to bring their favorite soup as well as cookies for a cookie swap. They also are welcome to compete for several tacky Christmas sweaters/sweatshirt awards – including those for kids. All are welcome!





New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus (NOGMC) takes to the stage once again for their annual Christmas concert, *Sounds of the Season*. NOGMC's music will fill your heart with peace and joy! Christmas, here we come featuring a suite of Spanish and Catalan carols and lullabies, as well as a few traditional carols in English! We'll also have our annual raffle to benefit Food for Friends in New Orleans and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank in Baton Rouge.

Sounds of the Season will be performed in in Baton Rouge on Saturday, December 14, 2019, at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, 8470 Goodwood Boulevard. and in New Orleans on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at the UNO Performing Arts Center Recital Hall and Both shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and are available online at www.nogmc.com.



Stewardship & Finance

2019 Contributions Deadline

Contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked by 12/31/19 to be reflected on your 2019 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC's name on 12/31/19 to be counted as a 2019 donation. If you have questions about your pledge status, please log into your Realm account at www.onrealm.org or contact Caralyn in the church office or email cduham@upcbr.org.

Pledge Update 2020

As of 11/26/19 we have received 78 pledges totaling \$442,560... **that is 33 pledges short of last years' total and about 82% of our current budget..** It's not too late to make your pledge to UPC's Annual Stewardship Campaign. Pledge cards can be found in the pews, in the back of the church, or by logging into your Realm account. The church's budget in 2020 will require significantly more in pledges for the year in order to continue our current mission pathways. Make your pledge today for the future ministry of UPC in 2020!

IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS *(as of 11/25/19)*

Received Pledged giving year to date: \$451,269

Received Unpledged giving year to date: \$28,250

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED YEAR TO DATE: \$479,519

2019 Total Pledge Amount Expected: \$537,201

Currently we have received only 84% of the total pledged for 2019.

If you are behind on your pledge, please consider bringing it up to date before the end of the year. If you want to check your giving status, log into onrealm.org or contact the church office. Thank you!

New Way To Pledge for 2020

This year, in addition to the paper pledge card, you are able to make your pledge online using Realm! Just log into your Realm account at onrealm.org. *If you don't yet have a realm account, please contact the church office.* Once you are in your profile go to GIVING then +PLEDGE and a new pledge window will appear. Choose the GENERAL FUND for 2020, fill in how often you would like to pledge, from dates 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020, and how much you would like to pledge. Realm will calculate the yearly total for you. When you are done click SAVE PLEDGE. It's that easy!

Christian Education

Please join us for Church School every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Godly Play helps our children explore their faith through story, gain religious language, and enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upck to the number 81010*

Early Elementary (1st-3rd Grade)

Whirl Curriculum: Each week, kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, complete a creative leaflet activity, and work on a craft relative to the story.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upcel to the number 81010*

Upper Elementary (4th-5th Grade)

Whirl Curriculum: Each week, kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, complete a creative leaflet activity, and work on a craft relative to the story.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upcel to the number 81010*

Junior High

Making Sacred Art Curriculum: Students will create various forms of art (poems, murals, music, videos, etc.) as they learn important life lessons through the stories of the Bible.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upcmid to the number 81010*

Senior High

Students will enjoy walks to our caffeinated holy place (Highland Coffees) and take a closer look at what the Bible says on a variety of life relevant issues that they face on a daily basis at school.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upchig to the number 81010*

Adult Bible Study

The Conference Room class will explore a variety of biblical texts through the Feasting on the Word curriculum.

Adult Parks Wilson Room

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 1 | Rosemary Goodell - Art and Advent: The Annunciation |
| December 8 | James Wilcox and Ava Haymon - Literature and Advent |
| December 15 | Maggie Richardson - Food Traditions and Advent |
| December 22 | Anne Maverick - The Christmas Carol and Advent (followed by soup and cookie swap and caroling after worship) |
| December 29 | No Church School |
| January 5 | Paul Hoffman (ret. History LSU) and Michael Desmond (LSU School of Architecture and Design): The Primeval History of LSU-The Campus Beginnings. |
| January 12 | Paul Hoffman and Michael Desmond (continuation) |
| January 19 | Dr. Michael Pasquier, LSU Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, The Uprooting of South Louisiana Communities Through Climate Change. |

Volunteer Opportunities

Task Group to Consider Church Security

The Session is forming a task group to consider church security issues such as building access, procedures for fire or emergency, lighting, etc. Please contact Caralyn Durham (cdurham@upcbr.org) in the church office if you are willing to be part of this short term work group to formulate recommendations for the Session.



Opportunities at Park Elementary

UPC Public School Partner

•Become a UPC Reading Friend at Park Elementary

Are you looking for fulfilling ways to connect to your Baton Rouge community? Please join UPC members who are each reading a few hours a month with an eager young student at our partner school, Park Elementary, through the Everybody Reads program of Volunteers in Public Schools. Training sessions are available at <http://vipsbr.org/everybody-reads-training-registration/> Please call Karen Foote, 387-2594, for help signing up and more info on the UPC Reading Friends.



UPC Food Ministry

Many UPC folks have volunteered to provide meals to folks who may be recovering from surgery or illness or welcoming a new baby into their home. If you know of someone who has a need, please contact Rev. Patti Snyder or Pat Ho. If you wish to volunteer for the food ministry, please contact Pat Ho.



Mission & Peacemaking



Cuba Ministry

By George Strain

Three UPC members (Carl Motsenbocker and Michael and George Strain) have returned from visiting Cuba to renew our church's partnership with Iglesia Getsemani in San José de los Ramos (116 years old!), where we have been partners for nearly 30 years. Gifts were exchanged – perhaps you got one of their key chains. Visits were also made to five other churches and organizations. We were very warmly received.

San José has suffered for many years with pastoral vacancies or the temporary assignment as the second or third church of pastors with other primary posts. Growth has slowed or even reversed in recent years despite the water treatment system we installed in 2013. However, the recent assignment of a former Presbyterian pastor who has felt the call to return to the ministry has had a remarkable revitalizing impact. Josué Montejo has grown the church's youth and children's programs, brought adult men back to the church, initiated non-Sunday activities, begun training of future Elders, begun a community garden, and much more. We now exchange regular email listings of congregants needing prayers. The Presbytery of Matanzas meets in early spring to return (everyone hopes) Josué to full pastor status, and hopefully assign him full time to San José. Prayers for that.

As part of growing their Sunday School activities, they have requested the following items, which are mostly unavailable locally. If you can help, please bring them to me and I'll get them delivered. Color markers, construction and drawing paper, crayons, tape, glue, puzzles (4-6 yo), table games (chess, checkers), cards, Parchezí, Monopoly, Twister, dominos, mah jong, and bingo. For office use they could also use pens, a stapler, tape, glue, and paper clips.

God is doing wonderful things in Cuba!

Special Offering for Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge

The Mission and Peacemaking Committee will launch a special offering in January to raise funds for Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge a 501(c)(3) organization, which is one of over 200 nationwide Rebuilding Together affiliates. Their mission is to revitalize Baton Rouge communities and help low income elderly, veteran, and disabled homeowners live in their homes longer. By doing maintenance work such as bathroom, kitchen, and exterior repairs, and wheelchair ramps at no cost to the homeowner, they make homes safer, more accessible, and more energy efficient.

Since their formation in 2003, Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge has completed hundreds of projects in the greater Baton Rouge community with a cumulative market value of over \$4,000,000. Local workers and volunteers from around the country, including guests of the UPC hospitality center, have formed Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge teams and worked to fulfil their mission. The special offering to be collected will provide critical support needed to continue the mission of this wonderful organization. More information about this offering will be provided in the January bulletin announcements.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION January 5, 2020

WAIT... DON'T SKIP THIS!!!

Perhaps you usually skip our congregational meetings, those times when folks stay in the sanctuary at the end of the service and deal with various matters that require congregational votes. Well, if you do, you are not alone. But this January, January 5th to be exact, due to the popularity of this new format this past January, we are having a congregational meeting that you will NOT want to miss. At the end of the 11:00 am worship service we will move together to the Fellowship Hall and while enjoying a tasty pot luck lunch will hear from all the committees of the church about some of the particularly exciting ministries that they've been engaged in over the last year and learn more about a new church organizational structure. This will be a great chance to hear about mission and ministry that folks are excited about and join in the conversation as we put feet, hands, and heart to work in the new year!

Deacons To Begin Shepherding Outreach

Don't be surprised when a UPC deacon contacts someone in your household in the near future. The deacons are preparing to begin a new "shepherding" outreach in response to the Moving Forward process. The purpose of "shepherding" is to facilitate communication and build relationships so each member feels valued as a member of the UPC community. Your deacon may be someone you know – or someone new to you. The planning committee intentionally used a random method to pair deacons with members and friends of UPC. Each deacon has about the same number of households to shepherd. For introvert and extrovert, newcomer and long-time member, regardless of level of involvement, the shepherding outreach presents an opportunity for deacons and the congregation to connect and reconnect in new ways as friends in Christ. (For a more complete description of this program, see Page 4 of the November *Contact*.)

Pastor Emergency Contact Information and Funeral Arrangements

It's that time of year for getting your papers in order! If you do not have an emergency contact information sheet on file with the pastor or if it may be out of date, it is time to send in a new information sheet. This information is kept confidential and on file in the pastor's office and includes information such as emergency contacts and medical information on the off chance you have an emergency while at UPC. Also, if you are interested in making preliminary decisions as to your funeral services, Funeral Arrangement forms are available on Realm under Groups -> University Presbyterian -> Files or via the church office. Once you've filled your forms out you might wish to meet with the pastor to discuss your choices. This information will be kept in your membership file in the church office.

Caregivers Support Group

The Caregivers Support Group at UPC meets on the last Sunday of the month right after the 11:00 a.m. service. It is available for church members who are caregivers to elderly parents, friends, or adult children. Caregivers will meet again on January 26. If you have any questions or would like to have a particular topic of interest scheduled for a meeting, call Jane Smith at 225-315-4946.



Please remember that the parking spaces in front of the education building and behind the Parks Wilson Room are for persons who are handicapped. If you are dropping something off, please do so quickly; then move your vehicle so those who need the space can park.



The Pastor's Discretionary Account is currently low on funds. Please consider a donation.



RSVP online at www.ifedgbr.com
or call 225-267-5600

Silent Retreat

January 1-4

Tam Bao Buddhist Temple, 975 Monterrey Blvd.

Leader: Thich Dao Quang (Thay)

Attend the whole retreat or individual sessions. Begin the New Year with guided meditations and mindfulness. Donations welcome.

RSVP & more info: Batonrougebuddha.org

Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival

January 15, 16, 18, 19

Manship Theatre. Shaw Center for the Arts, 100 Lafayette St

Wed 1/15, 7 p.m.: *The Museum*

Thurs 1/16, 7 p.m.: *The Unorthodox*

Sat 1/18, 7:30 p.m.: *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*

Sun, 1/19, 7 p.m.: *Redemption*

Tickets and more info: BRJFF.com

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18-25

Theme: "They showed us unusual kindness"

Saturday Jan. 18: *Begin the week of Prayer for Christian Unity by making a commitment to pray daily for unity.*

Sunday Jan. 19: *Worship at a church not your own.*

Monday Jan. 20: *Attend Martin Luther King Jr Day service at 8 a.m. at Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, 356 TJ Jemison Blvd., and other MLK community events.*

Tuesday Jan. 21: *Participate in Centering Prayer at First United Methodist Church Spiritual Formation Center, 930 North Blvd., at 11:45-12:30 p.m.*

Wed. Jan. 22: *Attend a Bible Study at a Baptist Church. Option: Greater New Guide Baptist Church, 3445 Fairfields Ave., at 6 p.m.*

Thurs Jan 23: *Attend a Roman Catholic morning service. Option: St. Jude Catholic Church, 9150 Highland Rd., at 8:15 a.m.*

Fri. Jan. 24: *Walk the labyrinth at City Park (BREC) located near the golf club house (and art gallery). Option: Instruction from 2-4 p.m.*

World Religion Day

Sunday, January 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Baha'i Faith of Baton Rouge, 4270 Perkins Rd.

Reflect on selected Baha'i readings followed by conversation. (No RSVP needed)

Martin Luther King Jr Day

Monday, January 20, 8:00 a.m.

Service followed by March for Peace

Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, 356 TJ Jemison Blvd.

Celebrate Dr. King's vision of diversity, inclusion and peace with music, speakers, and interfaith prayers.

Peace Network

Saturday, January 25, 3-4:30 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2021 Tara Blvd.

Connect with others who wage peace in their daily lives. Facilitators: Rev. Charlie deGravelles and Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade

Prayer Requests

To add a name, remove a name, or update information on our prayer list, please contact the church office by noon on Thursday at cdurham@upcbr.org.

**Pat Kennedy • Lois Liggett • Mary Timmons • Gary Meise
Ruth Bivins • Dean Kerr • Tabitha Lewis • Don Snyder • Gerri Ward
Jonathan Lewis • Bettye Burford • Gerard Kline**

- **Lee Wirth**, brother of Karen Paterson, having his 4th occurrence of lymphoma
- **Gina Tharp**, friend of Ann Miller, undergoing treatment for Stage IV colorectal cancer
- **Shelby Lewis**, recovering from radiation therapy
- **Charlie Fisher**, recovering from back surgery
- **Kim Kirby**, daughter-in-law of Betty Armstrong, fighting an infection in her lungs and brain and from partial lung removal
- **Phil Quartararo**, at home, continuing his recovery
- **Terry Calendar**, friend of Wes Mainord, seriously ill following a stroke and with advanced cancer
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister, starting dialysis
- **Mary**, Kelly Kerr's cousin, recovering from a mastectomy and infection
- Ben Stoker's **Uncle Jody**, with advanced stage cancer
- **Mike and Chip**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, facing difficult cancer treatments
- **Jim Hanifen's mother**, recovering from a broken leg
- **Jerry Fabre**, friend of Susan Seifert, living with ALS
- **Susan Cottrell**, friend of Darla O'Connor, diagnosed with breast cancer
- **Becca Bartlet**, recovering from surgery
- **Mariano Hinojosa**, recovering from a stroke.
- **Barbara Behrmann**, in hospice care in North Carolina
- **Art Belcher**, Cynthia Peterson's brother, diagnosed with cancer
- **Betty Crawford**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, recovering from a stroke
- **Melanie Driscoll**, with chronic Lyme Disease
- **Ralph Simone**, friend of Darla O'Connor, diagnosed with bladder cancer
- **Kelli Carruth Miller**, friend of Kathy Rossman, undergoing immunotherapy
- **Joyce Dotson**, friend of Kenton Cooper, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **Alan Williams**, brother of Virginia Davis, with Parkinson's
- **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
- **Norma Fernández**, recovering from a foot amputation due to severe diabetes, from San José de los Ramos.
- **All families affected by Huntington's Disease**
- **All hospice patients and their families**
- **All those who suffer with mental illness and emotional disorders**
- **Men and women serving in the armed forces**
- **Those who are going through separation or divorce**
- **Those who are affected by domestic violence**
- **Those who are affected by alcoholism and addiction**
- **Our partner church, La Iglesia Presbiteriana, in San José de los Ramos, Cuba, and their pastor, Josué Montejo**



HOSPITAL VISITS BY UPC OFFICERS

- 1 Lois Kuyper-Rushing
- 2 Peggy Carroll
- 3 Doug Walker
- 4 Thomas Shelton
- 5 Betty Armstrong
- 6 Lorinda Sealey
- 7 Steven Hartmann
- 8 Darla O'Connor
- 9 OPEN
- 10 OPEN
- 11 OPEN
- 12 Carl Motsenbocker
- 13 Mary Mikell
- 14 OPEN
- 15 Nan Patt
- 16 Beth Paskoff
- 17 OPEN
- 18 Cordell Haymon
- 19 Kristin Savicki
- 20 Jennifer Bravinder
- 21 Linda Benedict
- 22 Lee Jenkins
- 23 Pat Wright
- 24 Betsy Wilks
- 25 OPEN
- 26 Barbara Gray
- 27 Edward Peterson
- 28 OPEN
- 29 OPEN
- 30 Junita Meier
- 31 Andy Maverick

On your chosen date, please remember to contact the church office to check for people to visit!

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank needs your help!

Please place your contribution in any of the large marked FOOD BANK boxes located around UPC or bring it to the front of the sanctuary during the service.



Check out UPC on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian

December Birthdays

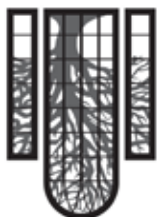
1	Alexander Gochnour	8	Bunny Heroman Hattie Knapp	20	Steve Whitting	28	Eleanor Canon Audrey Cogburn Danielle Terry
2	Ben Fisher			21	Pat Strain		
3	Kathy Perry	10	Dorothy Jones Nicholas Patty Jacqueline Samson	22	Elijah Fontenot Stafford	29	Claire McKinley
4	Veronika Stubblebine		Jim Serra	25	Leslie Green Layne Motsenbocker	30	Brett Dietz
6	Linda Lee	12	Tobie Irvine	26	Cindy Rice Anna-Karin Skillen	31	Silas Irvine Darla O'Connor Amy Phillips
7	Gina Costello John Ford	15	Kelley Massengale	27	Jakob Hendrix		
		18	April Armstrong Neviton Barros				

January Birthdays

2	Dawn Simpson	9	Dianne Garton	16	Forest Benedict Lori Hyatt Pilley Darlene Rowland	29	Kathy Poché Jan Reeves
4	Jo Ann Lea	10	Suzanne Trahan			30	Rachel Gellrich Mitch Patty
6	Kathleen Richey Ben Stoker	12	Cordell Haymon Gerard Klein Carl Motsenbocker Jeff Perry	22	Griffin Campbell	31	Albert Adjaottor Donna Schlotzhauer
7	Betty Shelton			24	Bill Stubblebine		
8	Paul Nguyen	15	Deanna Black Jennifer Bravinder	25	Richard Kilgore Lynne Wallace		

Mission Statement
 In response to God's grace,
 University Presbyterian
 Church of Baton Rouge
 seeks creatively – through
 nurture, education, worship
 and community outreach
 – to sustain an inclusive,
 compassionate family of
 faith; it seeks to promote
 spiritual growth by
 awakening souls to God's
 infinite mercy embodied in
 the reconciling love of Christ.
 --Adopted by the Session
 December 1995

University Presbyterian Church
 3240 Dalrymple Drive
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802



Change Service Requested