

# Contact

March 2021

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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## Church Staff

### **Mamie Broadhurst**

*Co-Pastor*

[mbroadhurst@upcbr.org](mailto:mbroadhurst@upcbr.org)

### **Patti Snyder**

*Co-Pastor*

[psnyder@upcbr.org](mailto:psnyder@upcbr.org)

### **Caralyn Durham**

*Office Manager*

[cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org)

### **David Walters**

*Choir Director*

[dwalters@upcbr.org](mailto:dwalters@upcbr.org)

### **Anne Maverick**

*Organist*

[amaverick50@gmail.com](mailto:amaverick50@gmail.com)

### **Terry G. Iyasere**

*Day School Director*

[upcdayschool@upcbr.org](mailto:upcdayschool@upcbr.org)

### **Robert Gourgues**

*Custodian*

[rmgourgues@cox.net](mailto:rmgourgues@cox.net)

### **Jeff Perry**

*Clerk of Session*

[jperry@lsu.edu](mailto:jperry@lsu.edu)

### **Jill Clemmons**

*Moderator of Deacons*

[jclemm1@lsu.edu](mailto:jclemm1@lsu.edu)



## From My Window

Dearest ones,

Is it just me or did some of you take note that it was just as we were entering Lent that we were inundated with cold and ice incredibly unusual for South Louisiana? The weather resulted in many being without the essentials...power, light, water, and warmth. And finding ourselves struggling for restful sleep and ways to prepare food. The disproportionate hardship this placed on people already living on the edge is not to be trivialized nor should the corporate decisions that may have enhanced that hardship – not just in Texas - be ignored. But coupled with the staggering deaths of more than 500,000 Americans due to COVID and almost 2 million globally, it sure seemed like a teachable moment for those of us entering a season of deep reflection about the infrastructure, the state of our souls, our lives. It was a moment when we were reminded of the importance of the essentials.

Our community this Lent will be turning again and again to the covenant stories in the biblical texts. These covenants are the foundations of our relationships with God, with one another, and with the creation. They call us to reflect on the sources and nature of our power and our vulnerability, the quality of the light that makes our hearts flourish, the waters that bring new life, the warmth that we need and receive from sharing. This season opens a neighborly door to practices that might deepen the restfulness of our souls and give us renewed sources of sustenance for the days in which we live.

I know, sometimes Lenten “disciplines” can feel – particularly this year - like a burden, like one (or 10) more things to feel guilty about not doing! And so it bears repeating, Lent doesn’t have to be a competition. It is not meant to be a piling up of expectations. It can be restorative and even freeing to invite new little practices into our lives. As similarly, in an odd way, it renews something in us to focus on the essentials of life for ourselves and others – on power, light, water, rest, food – during and after a storm.

So I’m wondering, what practices, thought processes, or little rituals might become infused with a new mindfulness this Lent? It’s not, nor ever, too late. Perhaps for you it could be taking a moment each evening as you load the dishwasher to look at the prism spinning in your kitchen window and ponder what gave you light that day? Or, in the shower, spending your thoughts on washing away mental ruts that trap you? Perhaps it could be noticing when one of the devotional words in the bags delivered to our homes seems to touch a chord, nourishing and stirring something. And then just staying with that word, perhaps even for the whole season. Holding it up to the light in your heart. Perhaps it’s something like going slowly enough to take note when someone or something ignites in you a warmth of spirit and then asking for cracks in your own routines in order to share warmth with someone else?

These little kinds of things are essential, essential to life as it was meant to be, no less than literal power, light, water, rest, and food. May our eyes and hearts be open to them.

Blessings,

# March...

*Meetings times/locations are subject to change.  
Please check with your group leader for confirmation and  
information on how to log into Zoom meetings.*

- 2 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom  
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Book Group - Zoom
- 3 11:00 a.m. "God's Promise..." Small Group - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
7:00 p.m. Choir (Recording)
- 4 11:30 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom  
12:30 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 7 3rd Sunday in Lent - Communion**  
9:30 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom  
9:30 a.m. "Presbyterian Presence on Congo (DRC)" Class - Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)  
11:45 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 8 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Zoom (*for more info [dwalters@upcbr.org](mailto:dwalters@upcbr.org)*)
- 9 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
- 10 11:00 a.m. "God's Promise..." Small Group - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - TBA  
5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Choir (Recording)
- 11 11:30 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom  
12:30 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 14 4th Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom  
9:30 a.m. "Presbyterian Presence on Congo (DRC)" Class - Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)  
11:45 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 16 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
- 17 11:00 a.m. "God's Promise..." Small Group - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
5:30 p.m. Personnel & Administration Committee - Zoom  
6:30 p.m. Congregational Nominating Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Choir (Recording)
- 18 11:30 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom  
12:30 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 21 5th Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom  
9:30 a.m. "Violence and Politics in US History" Class - Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)  
11:45 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 22 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (*for more info [dwalters@upcbr.org](mailto:dwalters@upcbr.org)*)
- 23 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom
- 24 11:00 a.m. "God's Promise..." Small Group - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom  
3:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Zoom  
6:30 p.m. Congregational Nominating Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Choir (Recording)
- 25 11:30 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom  
12:30 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 27 TBA Church Work Day - UPC Facility

## Office Notes

### NEW OFFICE POLICY

As a measure to assure the security of UPC financial and other private or privileged records, access to the Administration (Caralyn's) office will be restricted. Commonly needed office supplies will be placed in the outer office. Requests for additional or special supplies can be prearranged as needed a week in advance.



The **UPC Book Club** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Ellen Morgan for info.

Apr 6 [A Place for Us](#) by Fatima Fasheen Mirza

May 4 [The Yellow House](#) by Sarah M. Broom

### DID YOU KNOW?

UPC has a medical closet full of donated medical equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, bedside commodes, and canes. If you or someone you know has a need for medical equipment please contact Pat Ho.

The University Presbyterian Church CONTACT is printed monthly. Articles may be submitted via email to [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto: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

3240 Dalrymple Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(225)383-0345  
(225)383-3495 Fax  
[www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org)

## One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering Now through April 4

Started in 1949, OGHS is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising funds to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. What started as an hour-long radio appeal has evolved over the years and has become the most participated-in offering in the PC(USA). Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than 100 countries.

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Receives 32% of funds raised

- Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters

### Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

Receives 36% of funds raised

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities

### Self-Development of People (SDOP)

Receives 32% of funds raised

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues

There are three ways you can give:

- through your congregation
- text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10
- [presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs](http://presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs)

## March...

### 28 Palm Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. "Violence and Politics in US History" Class - Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)
- 11:45 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting - Zoom
- 30 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom
- 31 11:00 a.m. "God's Promise..." Small Group - 1545 Patrick Dr.
- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Nominating Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir (Recording)



### Text Prayers

It can be hard to set aside a time to pray. What if you had a group of 3 or 4 people who would meet you on your phone once a week for just twenty minutes to share a joy and concern with you and who would listen to yours and hold it too? If that sounds compelling to you, join us for text prayers during Lent. We can fit you in an existing group, or we may even start a new one. If you want to join in, you'll be right on time. Let Mamie know if you are interested ([mbroadhurst@upcbr.org](mailto:mbroadhurst@upcbr.org)).

### Prayer Wall

Weave your prayers together with others from the community all through Lent. Just outside the courtyard, on the wall facing Dalrymple, there are pens and plastic strips on which you can write your prayers and remember God's holy "&" - that there is always more. Joy & grief can co-exist. Despair & hope can take turns.

### Worship Texts for Lent and Holy Week

- Lent 3 Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-20
- Lent 4 John 3:14-21 and Ephesians 2:1-10
- Lent 5 Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33
- Lent 6 - Palm Sunday, Mark 11:1-11, and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

# BECAUSE WATER IS LIFE



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Now through April 4, 2021



# Faith Formation

## Presbyterian Presence on Congo (DRC)

Bizza Britton - leader

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom, March 7 & 14

*Bizza Britton will conduct two sessions on the work of the Presbyterian Church in the Congo: The first session will focus on her parents' medical work and Bizza's Public Health work as Peace Corps volunteer. The second session will focus on the current climate in Congo and the church's ongoing presence and work.*

## Violence and Politics in US History

Aaron Sheehan-Dean - leader

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom, March 21 - April 18

(No class 4/3 - Easter Sunday)

*Aaron Sheehan-Dean, Fred C. Frey Professor and Chair of the LSU Department History, will be offering a series of presentations on the history of political violence in the United States from the post-Civil War era to the present day. He is a specialist in the history of the Civil War and recently published *The Calculus of Violence: How Americans Fought the Civil War* (2019). Topics will include Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights and modern domestic terrorism.*

## Feasting on the Word - Adult Bible Study

Rotating leaders

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom (ongoing)

*For each lectionary text, participants will find brief essays and discussions concerning the biblical texts. One review states, "A very helpful resource for those who use the lectionary in their weekly church services. I love that each passage is broken into theological perspective, pastoral perspective, exegetical perspective and homiletical perspectives. Having each perspective side by side discussing the passage for the week is very helpful."* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81701086436?pwd=Y255a0dwK0NkSVhseEhzaWVwMWRFdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 0108 6436 Passcode: 369663

## Bible Study - God's Promise I Am With You

Peggy Carroll, leader

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

*"God's Promise I Am With You", takes us on a journey through old and new scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated God's most frequent promise of presence. Held in-person and led by Peggy Carroll at 1545 Patrick Drive on Wednesday mornings at 11:00. For information contact Peggy: 225-726-7856 or [peggpc@yahoo.com](mailto:peggpc@yahoo.com).*

## Soul Feast

Mary Mikell and Betsy Irvine

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom

*Readings from various writers in spirituality. The group reads essays, books, and poems from a wide variety of authors.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87248796877?pwd=NHVkZWJYVmIzUmpFZHN3eTlpQTdzZz09> Meeting ID: 872 4879 6877 Passcode: 592271

## Visio Divina

Facilitator: Patti Snyder

Thursdays, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

*Latin for "divine seeing," this small group will use resources in the Sanctified Art: Again and Again series to explore - through meditation on visual art, artist's statements, bible study, and group discussion around the theme of Covenant. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Patti Snyder ([psnyder@upcbr.org](mailto:psnyder@upcbr.org)).*

# LINK LOVE

Some fun, funny, inspirational, or thought-provoking links for you this month.

- Meet another vision of classical music. The duo Black Violin fuses classical music with hip-hop and talks about diversifying the field as well as well as how they came to be. Don't miss the video! <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/future-classical-music-diversity/>
- 1 minute and 42 seconds of 8th grade awesomeness - how Holly Thorpe is helping move the Miami Dade school system to electric school buses. Go middle school science projects! <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-55861908>
- Would You Kill God Too? A Visual Poem about the death of Breonna Taylor. The article includes the poem's words which may help you to read before watching the video. This one is not light-hearted, but it will get your brain spinning. <https://deadline.com/2021/01/ava-duvernay-array-breonna-taylor-wj-lofton-visual-poem-would-you-kill-god-too-law-enforcement-accountability-project-leap-1234684369/>
- Giant pandas Mei Xiang and Tian Tian took full advantage of the winter wonderland left behind by the snow storm in Washington D.C. at the beginning of February. With our recent cold snap, it seemed a good time to see happy pandas. <https://people.com/pets/national-zoo-giant-pandas-play-snow-adorable-video/>
- It's not so often you see a priest on late night TV, but this interview of Father James Martin talking about no "right way" to pray was good watch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tS72tzSD908&feature=youtu.be>
- Did you miss Mardi Gras? This is an article about folks in various parts of the world who reflect on how they feel about missing Carnival. What did you miss? <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/18/world/europe/carnival-canceled.html>

## Meeting IRL (In Real Life)

The cold weather has made meeting up difficult, but I'm glad to have met a few more of you in February. Let's keep it going for March! If we can find a time to sit on the church porch, in your driveway, walk around the lake, eat lunch outside your office (6 feet away), then I'd love to set up a time to do that. I'm hoping to hold out the most time on Wednesdays (yes, last month it was Thursdays...I'm still figuring this out). If that day will never work for you, let's try to figure something else out. Contact me at [mbroadhurst@upcbr.org](mailto:mbroadhurst@upcbr.org) or send me a text.

## Day School Registration Now Open!

Registration for the Summer 2021 and Fall 2021/Spring 2022 is open now to present students, siblings of present students, University Presbyterian Church members, and the public on a first come, first served basis. Application and registration information can be found on our website. [www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org)  
Your registration is complete only when your registration fees, complete application for enrollment is received and accepted by the Day School Office. You can mail, scan to day school email ([upcdayschool@upcbr.org](mailto:upcdayschool@upcbr.org)), or drop off your application. You will receive an official acceptance letter at a later date. Thank you!

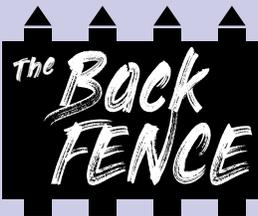
**APRIL CONTACT  
DEADLINE MARCH 22**

## Feedback on Worship Survey

Just before Advent, the Worship Committee asked our congregation to respond to a survey about how we conduct our worship services, in the present and the future, to help us plan for both virtual and in-person. We received 125 very thoughtful responses!! We continue to consider and discuss all the information we received. Thank you all for this and for continuing to show up and participate in these strange times!

## Nonperishable Food Items Needed

The LSU Food Pantry needs your help. We'll collect non-perishable food items at the church every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. until further notice. There will be two bins inside the door closest to the church office where you can leave your donations. Especially needed are protein items (beans, tuna, chicken and meat sauce), vegetables and cereals. Please no sweets!



Congratulations to UPC's **Darlene Rowland** on her promotion to Executive Director of Red Stick Farmer's Market: BREADA

<https://www.225batonrouge.com/food-drink/darlene-adams-rowland-takes-helm-breada-popular-red-stick-farmers-market>

Join us for a virtual luncheon event  
benefiting the children of PCHAS



 Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services™

Thursday  
April 15, 2021

Event Starts at:  
12:00 pm (Central Time)

Zoom and additional log-in  
information will be provided  
through email when you RSVP.

Kindly RSVP  
by contacting your table host or:

**Laura Joy**  
713.893.3735 | [laura.joy@pchas.org](mailto:laura.joy@pchas.org)

[pchas.org](http://pchas.org)



@pchasway

# 5 WAYS TO GIVE



**IN PERSON**

Drop your gift into the  
offering plate on  
Sunday



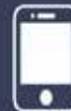
**MAIL**

Mail your gift to:  
University Presbyterian Church  
3240 Dalrymple Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



**ONLINE**

Give online at:  
<https://onrealm.org/UniversityPresb15909/give/now>  
or through your REALM portal  
under GIVING/+GIVE



**MOBLIE APP**

Realm Connect is available  
for download at iTunes  
and Google Play  
(uses your onrealm login)

**UPC BR 75**

**TEXT**

Text UPCBR and  
your amount to  
73256  
(as shown above)

# Mission & Peacemaking

## The Sthreshleys: Mission Co-Workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In pursuit of human rights and economic justice around the world, UPC continues to support the mission work of the Sthreshleys. Larry and Inga Sthreshley have been PCUSA mission co-workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for more than 30 years. They are staff of the Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA), a faith based global non-profit. Larry directs one of the largest church-run health programs in Africa and assists the government to provide medical care to people in over 800 health centers and hospitals in four provinces of the country. Inge works on the nutrition, home garden and clean cook stove component of the program.

Here is an update of their mission work:

According to a report in the fall 2020 issue of Mission Crossroads, a major focus of Larry Sthreshley's current work is COVID-19. Sthreshley has experience with global pandemics, most recently Ebola. He praised the government's quick action in closing the borders, schools and nonessential stores as early as August 2020 but because COVID-19 is more contagious than Ebola, they have had to exclude the door to door visitation and temperature monitoring strategies used with Ebola, and limit their community efforts to identifying cases, and distributing educational materials and masks to contacts. While the population is younger than in Western cities with 62% of the population under 25, The impact of COVID-19 is still expected to be significant; there is a high incidence of diabetes and hypertension and there are thousands of children suffering from acute and chronic malnutrition. The nine Presbyterian health facilities in the capital city benefit from Grants to IMA; the funds are used for medical treatment, and to purchase personal protective equipment and messaging on how to protect from COVID-19.

Inge Sthreshley's nutrition program includes working with "community animators" who travel throughout the provinces teaching communities and community volunteers about best infant feeding and home gardening practices. This program was implemented in Maniema province with success (Mission Connections, October 2020). The goal of the program is to overcome and prevent malnutrition using available resources. Interventions include teaching home gardening, how to make enriched porridge, and how to use powder made from Moringa leaves to enrich children's foods. Colored bands are provided to measure Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) to determine if a child is adequately nourished. Community volunteers are trained how to use the bands as a malnutrition screening tool. The introduction of feeding and gardening practices in Maniema province resulted in a decline in malnutrition from 13.8% in 2015 to 3.7% in 2020, based on systematic MUAC screenings. We are pleased to provide continued support to the Sthreshleys for their important work.

## Bedding and Detergent Drive for IRIS during Lent

The Mission & Peacemaking Committee is spearheading a donation drive to benefit Iris Domestic Violence Center of Baton Rouge to meet their increased need for bedding and laundry detergent due to COVID19. The Center is experiencing more rapid turnover of their families due to the stress and pressures of the pandemic. In addition, to reduce the likelihood of transmission of Covid19, bedding is often given to guests when they depart Iris, and all laundry at the Center is washed with greater frequency than in pre-pandemic times.

If you are able to donate new or gently used queen-sized bedding, blankets, or laundry detergent, you will find a drop-off box in the front hallway at UPC every Wednesday during Lent. Donated items will be taken to the facility by Melanie Driscoll as they accumulate, to keep up with the ongoing need. The staff at Iris have been working hard to keep themselves and the residents protected, and are grateful for all we have done and are willing to contribute to their mission during this challenging time.



### Braver Angels Virtual Workshops Thursday, May 9, 9 – noon

*In our current polarized political environment, many of us avoid or dread political conversations with friends or family members whose politics differ from their own. Attend one or both workshops to increase your skills in dealing with tough conversations. Braver Angels is a national organization dedicated to overcoming polarization.*

*Leader: John Fletcher is the Billy J. Harbin Associate Professor of Theatre at Louisiana State University. He studies social change performance and online disinformation/ misinformation.*

### 1) Depolarizing Within Tuesday, March 16, 6 - 8:30 p.m. (RSVP)

*Designed to foster skills to help you lessen the effects of polarization when you encounter them in your political conversations. Polarization refers to how we regard and talk about large groups of ordinary people on the other side of the political aisle.*

### 2) Skills for Bridging the Divide Saturday, March 20, 3 - 4:30 p.m. (RSVP)

*Designed to teach skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship. They also give participants a safe environment to practice those skills.*

For more information go to:  
[IFEDGBR.COM](http://IFEDGBR.COM) or 225-267-5600

## Faith Formation Committee

*Submitted to Session by Peggy Carroll, chair*

- January and February (2020): Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators Conference in Little Rock, AR was attended by Jill Clemmons, Mary Mikell, Linda Walker and Peggy Carroll. Information from APCE was shared with Session, congregation, teachers and shepherds.
- Children and Youth participated in Lent preparations for Wilderness by Sanctified Art.
- Session approved name change from Christian Education to Faith Formation.
- March thru December (2020): Covid Shut down required new approaches for Faith Formation.
- Adult classes, Bible Studies and small groups were held virtually on Zoom. The Parks Wilson lectures were recorded for the UPC Facebook Page.
- Because everyone was overwhelmed with the virtual we attempted to maintain contact with children and youth in other ways.
  1. Porch delivery of 26 Faith Formation Activity Bags which included projects, supplies and ideas for 44 children. The themes for the fall bags of hope, joy, love and peace coordinated with Worship. Senior High Youth assisted with delivery one month.
  2. Reading of children's books were posted on the UPC Facebook Page.
  3. Rally Day included donuts added to Activity Bag porch delivery.
  4. Parking Lot Trick or Treat with costumes was held.
  5. We requested that Worship be intentional about including children and youth in Worship.
  6. "Journey to Bethlehem" planned for the parking lot instead was filmed separately and posted on the UPC Facebook Page.
  7. Poinsettias were porch delivered to the congregation to connect at Christmas.
- Intergenerational Mission Trip to Guatemala was postponed to June 2021. Courtney held some zooms with youth.

## Membership Committee

*Submitted to Session by Darla O'Connor, chair*

In 2020 the membership committee included Eleanor Canon, Ellen Morgan, Darla O'Connor, Susan Ourso, Robbie Philla- baum, Patti Snyder, June Klimash and Mary Wardlaw. The committee wants to thank Caralyn Durham for her considerable assistance throughout the year in helping the committee complete its duties. Committee continues to meet quarterly just for business. The committee gathers monthly to fold and mail the "Contact" and discuss any business that needs attention between business meetings.

Membership committee responsibilities:

- Fold and mail the "Contact"
- Contact visitors to UPC. This is complicated by the ZOOM services we are currently having.
- Maintain pew racks – when meeting in person. We will make sure the pew racks are stocked and ready prior to in-person services beginning again
- Columbarium is a subcommittee of membership
- We generally introduce new members to the congregation on the new member bulletin board and assign new member sponsors. All new members have a sponsor, but the bulletin board and the new member brunch did not happen due to COVID-19
- Organize greeters to welcome members and visitors to UPC services prior to Sunday worship. We continue to have a roster of greeters who will be ready to serve when in-person services commence.
- We review UPC membership rolls and keep accurate records. We continue the "Friend of the Church" category for folks who are not able to attend or contribute to UPC but want to stay in touch with the events and activities of UPC. In 2020, due to not meeting in person, we did not recommend anyone be taken off the rolls.
- We purchased 30 UPC t-shirts to make available to new members.
- We distributed the 2020/2021 church directory.

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## Fellowship Committee

*Submitted to Session by Matt McGraw, co-chair*

During CY 2020, the UPC Fellowship Committee met on the third Tuesday of each month and coordinated the following activities:

### *Pre-pandemic*

Soup and Pie Competition

Two Don't Cook Nights at local restaurants

### *Post-pandemic*

Post-service fellowship zoom after worship each Sunday

T-shirt contest to design and order new UPC t-shirts

Six zoom game nights

Virtual ice cream social

Virtual pancake breakfast to promote the annual budget campaign kickoff

Live Christmas tree decorating outside the church

In June 2020, Matt McGraw and Junita Meier assumed the roles of co-chair from Doug Walker and Jonathan Hubchen. Due to the pandemic the committee was well under budget but expects to resume to historical spending levels once in-person activities can resume.

# 2020 Annual Reports

## Personnel & Administration Committee

*Submitted to Session by Steven Hartmann, chair*

P&A held four committee meetings during the year. Committee members were Clarence Bahs, Gaines Foster, Steven Hartmann (chair), Cordell Haymon, Gus Rowland, Patti Snyder, Caralyn Durham, and Janet Whyde. The following is a list of the Committee's activities during 2020:

- Formed a subcommittee to identify and interview candidates for the position of Choir Director following Stuart Dameron's move to Colorado. This resulted in the recommendation and hiring of David Walters.
- Met with the Stewardship & Finance Committee to discuss the financial feasibility of funding a second pastor position in light of COVID-19.
- Conducted a study of personnel spending levels in other PC(USA) churches across the country and how spending varies based on the pastor model utilized.
- Reviewed the P&A Listing of Job Responsibilities for ed-its and asked other committees to do the same.
- Oversaw the transition to the co-pastor model: Betsy Irvine stepped down from her position as Interim Parish Associate and Courtney Dumas stepped down from her position as Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator following the congregation call of Mamie Broadhurst to the position of Co-Pastor.
- Added Mamie to the PC(USA) Board of Pensions benefits system.
- Made revisions to the Personnel Policy Manual to reflect the co-pastor model.

In 2020, UPC changed pastoral models and saw changes to staff, all while adjusting to the new realities of COVID-19. This made for an especially challenging year. The Committee Chair greatly appreciates the consistent attendance by Committee members and their follow through on assignments.

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## Worship Committee

*Submitted to Session by Leslie Green, chair*

**Members:** Jill Clemmons, Stuart Dameron/David Walters (choir director), Kelly Kerr, Dave Launey, AmyBeth Mainord, Matt McGraw (reports to session), Leslie Green (chair), Anne Maverick (organist), Joseph Reynolds, Patti Snyder (senior pastor), Pat Strain

**Regular meeting:** monthly, first Monday at 5 p.m. in the conference room

**Worship Schedule:** Until mid-March we had only one service at 11 am on Sundays until we have a second pastor. Once the pandemic hit BR, we moved to online worship on FB via Zoom at 11 am on Sundays. The technical aspects of this have been coordinated by Tavia Crumpler. Patti prepares the worship schedule seasonally and then committee discusses. Previously we moved to one service at 10 am during the summer months but we kept worship at 11 am to have some sense of regularity for 2020.

**Preaching:** Patti Snyder preached regularly with Betsy Irvine preaching every two months and at least one guest preacher. Taize: The first Wednesday evening at 6 each month until the lockdown. We thereafter directed the congregation to the live

## Day School Committee

*Submitted to Session by Linda Benedict, chair*

2020 was a year of distress for the UPC Day School but also a year that demonstrated the talent, dedication and managerial skills of the Day School director and her staff.

- The UPC Day School was closed for three months—the end of March until the middle of June—because of the pandemic. It opened again on June 15 with a comprehensive plan developed with the assistance of the Louisiana Department of Education for protocols, procedures and actions in dealing with COVID-19. At no time during 2020 was a child or teacher infected with the disease, although a few had to quarantine from exposure.
- The Day School was at 85% capacity before the shutdown. After the reopening in June, the attendance hovered at 40%, and then for the fall, participation went to about 50% and stayed there for the remainder of the year as the state went from Phase 2 to Phase 3 and then back to Phase 2.
- Despite the financial strain caused by the pandemic, the Day School was able to keep its budget balanced with roughly the same amount of money going in that went out. During the year, the Day School director applied for and received more than \$45,000 in grants from the LDE, which helped make this financial stability possible. The church also received a PPP loan to help with personnel costs.
- During the year, the Day School was awarded a high proficiency rating by the LDE, based on evaluations in 2019. This rating is equivalent to level 3 in a four-level system. The highest level is the excellent rating, which the Day School is committed to achieving as soon as the pandemic is over.

Taize services on FB. Previously we also had Taize services each Wednesday during Lent and Advent.

**Communion:** We regularly serve communion on the first Sunday of the month. We ask Session for special Sundays, like Easter or Pentecost. We served gluten-free bread and grape juice in order to be inclusive. That is, until the lock down. We continue to have monthly communion on our FB services.

**Readers:** Tavia Crumpler recruited and coordinated.

**Liturgists:** AmyBeth Mainord recruited and coordinated for the year.

**Music:** After the pandemic, soloists and some small groups recorded both at home and in the sanctuary. Anne recorded organ music in the sanctuary. When David Walters began working as our choir director, we had octets recording some choral music and leading hymns. In November we again reduced our numbers and allow up to four singers with masks to record our weekly worship music. The choir has attempted to meet via Zoom every other week with some variance.

**Budget Request:** Reduced for 2021 due to pandemic.

# Prayer Requests

*To add a name, remove a name, or update information on our prayer list, please contact the church office by noon on Wednesday at [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org).*

**Lois Liggett • Gary Meise • Ruth Bivins • Dean Kerr  
John Earle • Bettye Burford • Gerard Klein • Melanie Driscoll  
Alan Williams • Our Cuba Partners • Dolores Ingraham  
James and Jeanette Hanifen**

- **Rick Pitcher** and his family upon the death of his aunt, Doris Pitcher, after a fall
- **Paul Nguyen** on the death of his father Huong Nguyen from complications from COVID19
- **Meg Bankston**, upon the death of her father, Rich Vanderbrook
- **Jeff Janes**, husband of Caralyn Durham, recovering from distal biceps tendon repair surgery
- **Brett Dietz and family**, upon the death of his mother
- **Daran Reves**, relation of Amybeth Mainord, with COVID19
- **Tabitha Lewis**, with COVID19
- **Mitchel Bartolo**, friend of Frances Sullivan-Gonzalez, undergoing chest surgery to remove a thymoma tumor
- **Freddy Crumpler**, father of Tavia Crumpler, recovering at home from open heart surgery and COVID19
- **Linda Clark's family** who are going through difficult times
- **Michael Lee Terry** in Saudi Arabia
- **Nan Patt**, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Mary Steven's father**, undergoing treatment for colorectal cancer
- **Judith Gooch**, friend of Pat Ho, **and her daughter Jennifer and granddaughter Evelyn** who are going through some very difficult times
- **Pam Fisher**, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Misha Gottesman**, two-year-old nephew of Peggy Carroll, diagnosed with leukemia
- **RJ LeBlanc**, father of Kathie Pohlman's 'Bonus Daughter,' Nikki, with lung cancer
- **Kaley Hall**, ten year old niece of John Grubb, undergoing chemotherapy for a pineoblastoma at St. Jude's
- **Anne Bender**, friend of Pat Ho, undergoing cancer treatment
- **Ginger Zipperer**, friend of Darla O'Connor, diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Gina Tharp**, friend of Ann Miller, undergoing treatment for Stage IV colorectal cancer
- **Mike and Chip**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, facing difficult cancer treatments
- **Ralph Simone**, friend of Darla O'Connor, undergoing treatment for bladder cancer
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
- **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**

## **IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2021** (as of 3/1/2021)

Received Pledged giving: \$146,971  
Received Unpledged giving \$4,965  
TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$151,936

*It's not too late to make a pledge to UPC for 2021!  
You can pledge online through your Realm account under GIVING  
or by contacting the church office ([cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org)) for a pledge card.  
Thank you for your prayerful consideration and donation.*



## **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 OPEN
- 13 Mary Mikell
- 14 OPEN
- 15 OPEN
- 16 Beth Paskoff
- 17 OPEN
- 18 OPEN
- 19 Kristin Savicki
- 20 Jennifer Bravinder
- 21 Linda Benedict
- 22 OPEN
- 23 OPEN
- 24 OPEN
- 25 Cordell Haymon
- 26 OPEN
- 27 OPEN
- 28 Dave Launey
- 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!**



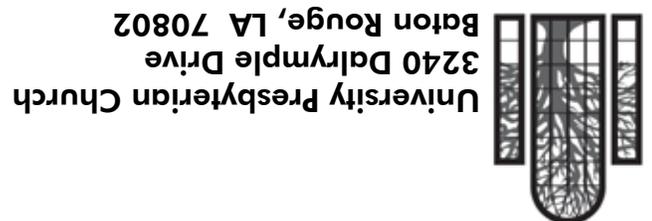
**Check out UPC on Facebook!**  
[www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian)

# March Birthdays

1 Nicholas Paubel	8 Chris Richardson	17 Henry Tyler	22 Faimon Roberts II Aden Rowland
2 Marissa Baham	9 Katheryn Barry	18 Linda Babin	23 Mary Collier Wilks
4 Courtney Dumas Lee Jenkins Samear Zaitoon	10 John Mazoch	19 Michael Purser	24 Jason New Katie Strain New Rachel Sheffield Jack Watson
5 Johnny Cook Matt McGraw	12 Tom Shelton	20 George Armstrong Josie Costello Adam Knapp Terry Miller	26 Gus Britton
6 Heather Atwood Gabi Perry	13 Charles Folk-Cruthirds Ann Vidrine	21 Adam Howell Andy Maverick	29 Cameron Motsenbocker Emory Wright

**\*\*Please remember to contact the church office if your contact information changes.\*\***

**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



Change Service Requested