

Contact

September 2021

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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Church Staff

Mamie Broadhurst
Co-Pastor
mbroadhurst@upcbr.org

Patti Snyder
Co-Pastor
psnyder@upcbr.org

Caralyn Durham
Office Manager
cdurham@upcbr.org

David Walters
Choir Director
dwalters@upcbr.org

Anne Maverick
Organist
amaverick50@gmail.com

Terry G. Iyasere
Day School Director
upcdayschool@upcbr.org

Robert Gourgues
Custodian
rmgourgues@cox.net

Jeff Perry
Clerk of Session
jperry@lsu.edu

Jill Clemmons
Moderator of Deacons
jclemm1@lsu.edu



From My Window

Recently I've been reintroduced to a word and a concept that I'm falling in love with all over again; the word is perichoresis. It stems from the Greek words that can be translated "circle" and "dance." It is an ancient term used for the Trinity. One writer suggests that: "Perichoresis is the dance of love. As human beings, we relate to one another in the 'dance of life' on this planet. The relationships between the three Persons of the Trinity—'dynamic, interactive, loving, serving'—form the model for our human dance steps."* The Christian community we call church is one form of this dance.

To be truthful, it has been difficult for UPC to gather, much less to dance together this last 18 months. And as a COVID variant ravages Baton Rouge and we continue, for another month at the least, our return to only online worship, we find ourselves at yet another juncture in needing to find creative ways to "gather" and to circle up in order to share our lives.

Here's an idea that has shown up in a number of committee meetings, casual chats between Mamie and me in the hallway between our offices, and in pastoral conversations recently. It's an idea that embodies, I think, the dynamic, interactive, loving, and serving nature of the Trinity, of perichoresis.

What if, not necessarily in any formal way, some of you decided to circle up. To invite other church members or friends or folks you don't know all that well to meet in your carport, your front yard, around your pool, or on your porch for a glass of tea or lemonade and a chat? It could be just to hear about each other's lives and what has changed in these last months or with some other purpose. What if we had a little prayer circle in the courtyard one morning a week? And if there was another prayer circle that met say someplace outside at LSU? What if a group of us brought camp chairs to the Farmer's Market on Saturday and circled up on the lawn of one of the state buildings to discuss recipes for our produce or ways that we'd been sustained or nourished the previous week? What if someone invited folks to a game night in their backyard? Or a bible study at a picnic table at one of the BREC parks? What if...?

Rather than wait for someone else to plan it, I'd suggest we just run with it! But perhaps a better way to put it would be "now, go dance!"

Blessings to all of you,

**If you find yourself curious about this word or idea I recommend reading Richard Rohr's The Divine Dance.*

September...

*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 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom
- 5 15th Sunday after Pentecost Communion**
- 9:00 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)
- 11:00 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 6 LABOR DAY - Church Office and Day School Closed**
- 7 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - Zoom
- 8 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - 1545 Patrick Drive
- 12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - TBA
- 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom
- 9 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom
- 12 16th Sunday after Pentecost**
- 9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom
- 9:45 a.m. "Topics in Modern Life" Parks Wilson Class - Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)
- 11:45 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group & Parent Meeting - 6630 Boone (*outside*)
- 14 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
- 15 5:00 p.m. Personnel & Administration Committee - Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
- 16 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom
- 19 17th Sunday after Pentecost**
- 9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom
- 9:45 a.m. "Topics in Modern Life" Parks Wilson Class - Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)
- 11:45 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Children's Faith Formation Adventure - UPC Courtyard
- 21 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
- 23 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom
- 25 9:00 a.m. Huntington's Disease Team Hope Walk - Highland Rd. Park
- 26 18th Sunday after Pentecost Camille Short Baptism**
- 9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Zoom
- 9:45 a.m. "Topics in Modern Life" Parks Wilson Class - Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Facebook (*Live*)
- 11:45 a.m. Post Service Fellowship - Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Session Meeting - Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group & Parent Meeting - 6630 Boone (*outside*)
- 28 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Zoom
- 30 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom

Office Notes

•Office Closures

The Church Office and Day School will be closed on Monday, September 5, for Labor Day.

•Church Calendar

In order to prevent conflicts, please check with the church office for availability before scheduling an event.

•Office Hours

The church office is open 8:30 - 3:30 Monday - Thursday. On Fridays from 8:30 - 2:30 Caralyn will be working remotely. If you need to reach the office, phones are forwarded to Caralyn's cell phone, however, the connection isn't always great; the fastest and easiest way is to contact her at cdurham@upcbr.org

OCTOBER CONTACT DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20

The University Presbyterian Church CONTACT is produced 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 added to or removed from the mailing or email 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



The **UPC Book Club** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
For meeting location or link contact Susan Ourso at emmorgan@cox.net

Sept 7 The Island of Sea Women
by Lisa See

Oct 5 The Lathe of Heaven
by Ursula LeGuin



Saturday, September 25
9:00 AM
Highland Road Park Grand Pavilion
14024 Highland Road

For more information go to
<https://louisiana.hdsa.org/about/baton-rouge-team-hope-walk>

IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2021

(as of 8/25/2021)

Received Pledged giving:
\$350,576

Received Unpledged giving
\$26,556

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED:
\$377,132

*It's never too late to make a
pledge to UPC!*

You can pledge online through your Realm
account under GIVING or by contacting
the church office (cdurham@upcbr.org)
for a pledge card.

*Thank you for your prayerful
consideration and donation.*

Youth Group



August Highlights Though we're not starting up officially until this month (Sept. 12th for high schoolers and 26th for middle schoolers), we had a great time as we gathered for a back to school blessing and on our trip to New Orleans to clean up the Young Adult Volunteer house. Here are a few photos from that morning's work. Parents, look out for more information in your email!



GAME DAY PARKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Earlier this summer the Session approved resuming game day parking, but at this time the public will not have access to the bathrooms. UPC will continue to offer parking as long as we can secure enough volunteers. If there are not enough volunteers on any given week, we will block the parking lot and put up "NO PARKING" signs.

For several years we have provided this service, which doubles as a fund raising event with proceeds going to support youth, education, and mission projects. The home game schedule is:

September	11	McNeese
	18	Central Michigan
October	2	Auburn
	16	Florida
November	13	Arkansas
	20	ULM
	28	Texas A&M

Game times are subject to change due to television. Typically, volunteers arrive four or five hours before game time and are done an hour before kickoff. To volunteer, contact Randy Nichols at 225-241-6374 or rkNichols@homelessinbr.org.

Worship

WORSHIP - Starting September 12th - 11:00 AM!

At their August meeting, the Session decided to keep the church building closed and to continue with online worship for another month. With COVID case rates at all time highs and significant strains on our hospitals, the decision to wait a little longer before we return to worship in person seemed prudent (though certainly not ideal). We will move back to our regular fall worship schedule and begin worship at 11:00 a.m., so tune in to Facebook (*Live*) and join us there for the next few weeks.

Reading the Bible

The Bible is our holy text, and yet sometimes it can be so confusing and hard to read, especially with children. Here are some thoughts and ideas for reading the Bible at home with children:

- Find a good children's Bible — Having a good children's Bible does a lot of the work for you in terms of helping to make the passages accessible to children. There are three recommendations below, or do your own searching among the options out there. Be sure to read through the passion narrative to see if you are comfortable with the way it's portrayed, and don't overlook the pictures.
- Re-read the passages you read at church — Stumped about what to read? Re-read and review the passages that were talked about in your church.
- Try Bible Art Journaling — There are tons of examples of beautiful art that you can make using Bible stories as an inspiration, including specific journaling Bibles you can buy. It's a great way to remind children that we can use all of our senses and talents when we read through the Bible.
- Try reading through a book of the Bible — Reading through the Bible gives a great sense of accomplishment. I recommend starting with one of the Gospels and reading through the story of Jesus to start.
- Remember: not everything in the Bible is suitable for children — There's nothing wrong with censoring parts of the Bible for young children. There are many themes and passages that are simply not appropriate for young children.

Faith Practice Spotlight: *Lectio Divina*

Lectio Divina means divine reading and is an ancient practice of reading one passage several times through and seeing how the Holy Spirit opens up your interpretation of it. There are many different ways to approach it. Here's a simple version:

1. Step one, read. — Read through the passage, out loud. Note any verse or word that stands out to you.
2. Step two, meditate — Read through the passage again, out loud. Think about how it connects to your life.
3. Step three, pray — Read through the passage a third time, out loud. Consider if God is speaking to you through this passage. What is God saying to you about it? What would you like to say to God about it?
4. Step four, contemplate — Read through the passage one final time. Consider if there is any action you'd like to take as a result of the passage.

Note: If you do lectio divina as a family, take turns reading the passage out loud. There are many guides and different approaches to lectio divina. Experiment until you find one that works for you and your family!

Reading the Bible Links:

Children's Bibles: [Growing in God's Love](#), [Celebrate Wonder](#), [Children of God Storybook Bible](#)

A helpful article: [Six Ways of Reading the Bible](#) from Illustrated Ministry

A place to start with reading plans: there are so many different reading plans [HERE](#), and you can choose the version of the Bible you wish to receive. Always screen the passages before reading with children.

LINK LOVE

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

- "Church" by Samm Henshaw. If you need a pick-me-up on a slow day, here you go. You can read the lyrics by clicking "More" below the video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_8-P4eZ1jA
- Want to listen to 54 jokes in 4 minutes... here ya go. Great for kids (of all ages). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMFj3eU1IS8>
- Masks are tiring, but they are also really helpful at keeping us all safe. Here's a really good reflection by the Wisconsin Council of Churches about why we continue to mask. <https://bit.ly/3ghxaJw>
- Listen to Maya Angelou read her poem "Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All." Especially recommended if life maybe frightens you a little bit sometimes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN4_wfm7rjE
- Read about an eviction diversion program in Philadelphia that started because of the pandemic but may be a great and lasting resolution to a common challenge between landlords and tenants. <https://bit.ly/3geBcCc>
- Pet confessions on Saturday Night Live. You can find more pets who may need to go to confession if you search "pet shaming memes" on the interwebs. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptlqXlhkrvM>

THANK YOU!

Thanks to your support, a trunk load of donated school supplies was delivered to Park Elementary, our Partners in Education. This included many sets of the much needed computer earbuds, backpacks, construction paper and much more. Through the UPC benevolence we were also able to support the 40 staff at Park by providing a jambalaya lunch before the start of school and select items for staff support kits. Thanks to all from the Mission and Peacemaking Committee and for your prayers of support for Park and its important mission in our community.



Presbyterian Women

Join our Facebook group PW of UPC, Baton Rouge

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/340272321019732>

PW at UPC has expanded beyond women only to include ALL!

CIRCLE MEETINGS X 2!

This fall there will be two options for UPC PW Circle. One will be on ZOOM and the other will be on Peggy Carroll's carport.

The UPC PW Circle begins on ZOOM on Tuesday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m. This circle will meet the first Tuesday of every month.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365121229?pwd=Q2YxUjJTa0RD TLJHTDFERSWg4a2xWQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 6512 1229 Passcode: 810057

The UPC PW Circle at Peggy's begins on Wednesday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m. This circle will meet the first Wednesday of every month.

This meeting will take place in Peggy Carroll's carport, 1545 Patrick Dr. If you plan to attend, please call Peggy at (225)726-7856 so that there will be a chair for you.

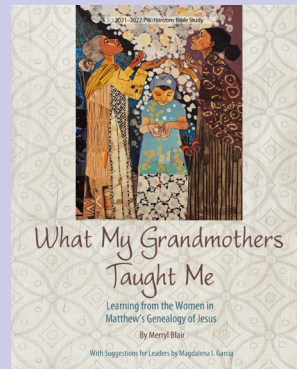
Please keep donating to Michael Terry's military mission box!

Michael's unit is moving to an undisclosed location. But please bring in your donations to the church office pronto. Please keep him, his family, and all military personnel in your prayers.

PW Circle is alternating monthly packing/shipping with Nurture Committee! If you would like to help with the cost of shipping, please contact Victoria Robertson at victoriarobertson@yahoo.com. Here are some suggestions:

- **Nothing perishable.** And no meat products (including dried)
- **Nothing that hints, or could be misconstrued as, any form of religion. The penalty is very high for the recipient. So please donate cautiously!**
- **Small sizes** are best (easier packing and usage), and remember that anything that can leak should be encased in plastic bag or container
- **Acceptable:** lip balm, foot powder, baby wipes, sunscreen, lens wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, knit scarf/hat, socks, petroleum jelly, granola bars, peanut butter crackers, small bags/boxes of pancake mix, cookies, etc.

Thank you!



Bible Study 2021-2022

What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary - Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?

Have you thought about Jesus' grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

Working together to build God's Household of Peace where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace, and justice.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION
SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 3

FROM TOP LEFT: PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BOSTON; IN: JARAS BERTU LEMMON; GUEST: VAN NOSTRUP OLLANDER

Faith Formation



Why just have a Rally Day when you can have a Rally Month?!

This year we will spread out the excitement as we kick off the year's creative educational, faith formation, and spiritual development opportunities. Make plans to be part of these safe and enriching opportunities:

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 Adults and Senior High Youth Rally

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Church School for Adults *(Two Options)*

1. Feasting on the Word - Adult Bible Study

Group led bible study centering on the lectionary texts for each Sunday. On zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81701086436?pwd=Y255a0dwK0NkSVhseEhzaWVwMWRFdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 0108 6436 Passcode: 369663

2. Parks Wilson "Topics in Modern Life" Class

Begins with a multi week study entitled "Coping with COVID." Panel presentations and discussions centered around the resilience as it relates to mental health, educational and health care settings, and the church. On zoom at <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/2765203639>

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group and Parent's Meeting - 6630 Boone Drive *(outside)*

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 Children's Rally

2:00 - 3 p.m. **NEW** Children's Faith Formation Adventure in the church courtyard!

Children aged Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to joint and small group fun centered around hearing a bible story, engaging in related crafts, offering prayers, and (of course) snacks! This event will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Faith Formation bags will be distributed at the event for use at home on the weeks to follow. Don't miss the kick off of this new way of sharing and growing in faith for our children! *(Volunteers still needed to help with snacks, story-telling, and crafts. Contact Patti Snyder for more info.)*

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 Middle School Youth Rally

4:30-6:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group and Parent's Meeting - 6630 Boone Drive *(outside)*

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27 (and following) Fall Small Groups Rally

Held on various days, at diverse times, and in a variety of locals (all either virtual or outside at this time) UPC's small groups for adults will begin this week. Watch your email and bulletin announcements for more details, or contact, Patti Snyder or Jim Wilcox if you have an idea for a group! Two on-going groups welcome new participants:

Soul Feast

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Zoom *(ongoing)*

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83432015573?pwd=QVY3aHJDUnJZYld5c3NNenN6aHVqZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 3201 5573 Passcode: 184455

Visio Divina

Thursdays beginning September 30 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Zoom

This group engages together in contemplative reading of scripture texts and sharing reflection and our own artistic responses to text related pieces of art. Curious? Join us and see if this group is for you!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87918082267?pwd=a1M4OUgzellOTW52UU43QW8xMUdMQT09>

Meeting ID: 879 1808 2267 Passcode: 325964

*Not even a global pandemic can stop our commitment to conversation,
community building, and growing in our faith together!*

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



MOBILE 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)

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.

**Lois Liggett • Gary Meise • Ruth Bivins • Dean Kerr • Tabitha Lewis
John Earle • Bettye Burford • Gerard Klein • Melanie Driscoll
Alan Williams • Our Cuba Partners • Kathy Rossman
James and Jeanette Hanifen • Michael Terry • Joyce Poché**

- **Kathy Poche**, following surgery for a broken leg
- **All those who have been diagnosed with COVID in our community, congregation, and among our Day School staff and families**
- **Teresa Longer**, cousin of Frances Sullivan-González, dealing with complications following brain surgery
- **Jennifer Bravinder**, recovering from breast cancer surgery
- **Nancy Pensis**, aunt of Linda Clark, diagnosed with uterine and cervical cancer
- **Darla O'Connor**, facing medical tests
- **Bonnie Shuman**, wife of Barbara Hoffman's brother, Thom, undergoing tests
- **Linda Banister**, sister-in-law of Lois Kuyper Rushing, recovering from by-pass surgery
- **Virginia Caradine**, Peggy Carroll's neighbor Lu's mother, who is in the hospital with covid and pneumonia
- **Carl Stoddard**, brother of Linda Walker, facing neck surgery
- **John Stoddard**, nephew of Linda Walker, with continuing heart problems
- **Jordan Sealey**, nephew of Lorinda Sealey who is experiencing neurological symptoms of unknown origin
- **Eric**, friend of Lorinda Sealey, who is dealing with a cancer diagnosis in his family
- **Fay Coco**, recuperating at St. James after a fall
- **Lee Jenkins**, recovering at home after hip surgery
- **The Dominguez family**, friends of Kathy Rossman, who are going through difficult times
- **Linda Mathis**, sister of Ron Garton, diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer
- **Mary Garrett**, sister of Elizabeth Roberts, with pancreatic cancer
- **Sandra Samson**, mother of Ricky Samson, in hospice for pancreatic cancer
- **Bae Landry**, father-in-law of Janet Whyde, with cancer
- **James and Gloria Snowden**, parents of Ethel Felder (Day School Assistant Director)
- **Linda Clark's family** who are going through difficult times
- **Judith Gooch**, friend of Pat Ho, and her daughter Jennifer and granddaughter Evelyn
- **Misha Gottesman**, two-year-old nephew of Peggy Carroll, 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
- **Anne Bender**, friend of Pat Ho, undergoing cancer treatment
- **Ginger Zipperer**, friend of Darla O'Connor, with stage 4 lung cancer
- **Larla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Mike and Chip**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, undergoing difficult cancer treatments
- **Ralph Simone**, friend of Darla O'Connor, undergoing treatment for bladder cancer
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **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**

Online Meditation Room

UPC has a virtual meditation room! This is a site you can go to whenever you want to immerse yourself in peace, calm, and focus.

How do I find it?

Click on https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vS7Vno1cyHWSFsBZjcp3_Hdf-0M5ag4QsAgjVMMmBan4CC2Fi6U-IRN1vGhpJgFthVj18QPXiS1-zAREs/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.p

How do I use it?

Click on the different items to see what they do! You will find videos, coloring books, a labyrinth, online Bible apps, a chair yoga video, and instructions on candle gazing meditation. Almost every item in the room is clickable. Click around and enjoy the resources that have been pulled together for you!

Are there rules?

The beauty of an online meditation room is it is never closed or crowded, and there's never a dress code! Use as few or as many of the resources in the room as you like. The point is to help relieve stress and worry, not add to it.

*Come back as often as you like.
You're always welcome here!*

FOLLOW US!



Facebook Instagram

See us Sundays on Facebook for a live broadcast of our worship service!

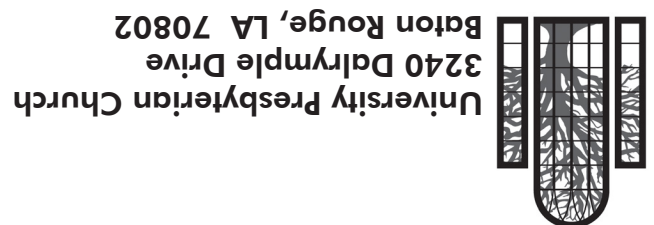
www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian
<https://www.instagram.com/universitypresbr/>

September Birthdays

1 Charlotte New Tyler Rice	9 Hannah Samson	21 Kate Freeman	28 Anne Maverick Susan Ourso
2 Andreas Giger Christine Kooi	10 John Tyler	22 Edward Peterson Nora Williams	29 Alexander Campbell Ed Green
3 Mary Mikell	13 Julie Launey Amanda Richey Timothy Wright	23 Tabitha Lewis	30 Laina Fontenot Jaclyn Walker Herringshaw Terry Iyasere Johanna Stadler
4 Deborah Abernathy Simon Lewis Chet Pilley Eva Thompson	15 Molly Kennedy	24 Suzie Hand	
	16 Beth Paskoff	25 Allison ElKoubi	
	18 Owen Meier	26 John Richardson	
7 Owen Dietz Elia Sorenson Pam Wright	20 Rick Pitcher	27 Mary Wardlaw	

****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