



Contact

December 2021
January 2022

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

Inside

- **Calendar** p. 2-5
- **Advent & Christmas** p. 3
- **Co-pastor Installation** p. 6
- **Annual Campaign** p. 7

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From My Window



Yet again, it's been quite a year! In some ways we've still stayed close to home and in other ways we've been getting out and together in more and more ways. As we begin the last days of this calendar year, we usher in a new church year with the start of Advent. I love Advent: the naming of the already and not yet of God's presence in the world, the subdued blue and purple hues amid all the "Hobby Lobby" flash of Christmas, the hymns of longing set in minor keys, the growing light of candles, and the hope and joy that seem to grow along with the light.

Once again we are partnering with *A Sanctified Art* for one of their multifaceted themes to center our celebration of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. This is what one of their pastorists (pastor + artist) had to say about this year's theme, which is entitled "Close to Home."

"It has become abundantly clear that the theme of home intersects with the full range of human experience. Home can be soothing and sacred or unsettling and painful. It can be grounding and particular, or it can feel hard to name or pin down. It can be invitational and warm, or it can poke at wounds of exclusion and displacement. For some, home can be the source of war, stolen lands, or economic loss. We navigate this tension of comfort and unsettledness in the season of Advent. In the midst of cheery holiday celebrations, grief and nostalgia may become unwelcome guests. We give thanks for the gifts and blessings of our lives, while longing for the dreams that are not yet realized. We celebrate the closeness of a God who chooses to dwell with us, while remembering what that closeness will cost: Jesus will face displacement, marginalization, suffering, and, ultimately, death. No matter if this season brings great comfort and joy, or hits a bit too close to home, may we remember that God is also just as close."

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Founding Creative Partner

I hope that you will find all sorts of ways to participate in the "Close to Home" series at UPC and at home. You will discover the theme in the home delivered children's bags (including supplies to make a family advent wreath to use in brief times of conversation and prayer with your children), in worship each Sunday, in the Advent devotional booklets that are available online or can be picked up at church, in the Advent calendar, and in special liturgies for a Longest Night Service, the Sundays after Christmas, and Epiphany (don't worry, we will still be receiving our Epiphany Stars!)

I look forward to worshipping with you this season either in person or online as we welcome the Christ child into our hearts and homes.

Blessings,

December...

Meetings times/locations are subject to change.

- 1 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 5 2nd Sunday of Advent**
- 9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room
- 9:45 a.m. "Home" Parks Wilson Class - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 4:30 p.m. High School & Middle School Youth Group - Fellowship Hall
- 7 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
- 5:00 p.m. Budget Meeting - Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - TBA
- 8 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive
- 12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - TBA
- 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 9 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 1:00 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 11 2:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 12 3rd Sunday in Advent**
- 9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room
- 9:45 a.m. "Home" Parks Wilson Class - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 4:30 p.m. High School Youth Group - Courtyard
- 13 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 14 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - 6630 Boone
- 15 5:30 p.m. Personnel & Administration Committee - Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 16 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 1:00 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 17 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Concert - UNO, New Orleans
- 19 4th Sunday of Advent**
- 9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room
- 9:45 a.m. "Home" Parks Wilson Class - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 1:00 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Format TBD
- 3:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Concert - St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group - Courtyard
- 20 **DAY SCHOOL CLOSED THROUGH DECEMBER 31**
- 21 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service - Sanctuary
- 22 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

Office Notes

Day School and Office Closures

The Day School will be closed from December 20 - December 31.

The Church Office will be closed from December 24-31.

The Church Office and Day School will be closed January 17 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Bulletin Deadlines

Due to Caralyn being out and limited staffing in the office, announcements and prayer requests to appear in the Sunday bulletin are due by noon on Tuesday prior to publication. This is in effect until mid January.

LSU Food Pantry

Thanks to the generosity of the UPC Church and Day School, the LSU Food Pantry collected 301.5 lbs of food on November 24 and put it into immediate distribution! Food donations may be dropped off in the boxes right inside the doors to the church office area.

**FEBRUARY
CONTACT
DEADLINE
JANUARY 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

Dec 7 The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

Jan 4 Four Winds by Kristen Hannah

December...

- 23 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 1:00 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 24 Christmas Eve - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- 5:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols - Sanctuary
- 25 Christmas Day**
- 26 1st Sunday after Christmas**
NO CHURCH SCHOOL
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 28 2:00 p.m. Bettye Burford Memorial Service - Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Jones/Sloan Wedding Rehearsal
- 29 2:30 p.m. Jones/Sloan Wedding
- 31 New Year's Eve - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Advent and Christmas at UPC

Worship

November 28 - First Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. Worship

December 1 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

A simple candlelit service of sung prayer and intercession

December 5 - Second Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. Worship (*a nursery is provided*)

Traditional service celebrating the themes of the season.

December 8 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

December 12 - Third Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. Worship (*a nursery is provided*)

December 15 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

December 19 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:00 Worship (*a nursery is provided*)

Christmas Joy Offering will be collected.

December 21 - Longest Night Service

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

A service of prayer, reflection, and remembrance

December 24 - Christmas Eve

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

Traditional service of lessons and carols (sung by the choir)

December 26 - First Sunday of Christmas

11:00 Worship (*no church school*) (*a nursery is provided*)

January 2 - Baptism of the Lord

11:00 Worship (*no church school*) (*a nursery is provided*)
Communion will be served.

January 9 - Epiphany Sunday

11:00 Worship (*a nursery is provided*)

Come for our annual distribution of Epiphany Stars

Education

Parks Wilson Class

During the Advent season, the Parks Wilson class will explore the theme of "Home." What is home--how do we make it, lose it, regain it? From Sunday Nov. 28 through Sunday Jan. 9 we will consider the idea of home through various contexts: poetry, public housing, refugee resettlement and disaster assistance. Please join us either in person at church or via Zoom for this series of classes. This will be a hybrid class that will meet both in the Parks Wilson room and via Zoom. <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/2765203639>

Fellowship

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING IN THE COURTYARD

Die Kommission Tannenbaum von UPC (aka the UPC Fellowship Committee) is organizing a Christmas Tree Decoration in the Courtyard on December 5, 2021 immediately following Worship Service. Cider will be served. Children of all ages are invited to decorate a simple craft ornament for the tree or you may bring your own. If you can't make it on that day, you are welcome to bring an ornament on another day and share a picture of it being hung on our outdoor tree.

Hope to see you there!

January...

2 2nd Sunday of Christmas

NO CHURCH SCHOOL

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)

4 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room

5:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom

7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - TBA

5 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

6 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room

1:00 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom

7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary

9 Epiphany Sunday

9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room

9:45 a.m. "Home" Parks Wilson Class - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)

4:30 p.m. High School Youth Group - Courtyard

10 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Parks Wilson Room

11 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom

12 12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - TBA

5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom

13 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room

1:00 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom

7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary

16 Baptism of the Lord

9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room

9:45 a.m. Parks Wilson Class - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)

1:00 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Format TBD

2:00 p.m. Children's Faith Formation Adventure - Courtyard

4:30 p.m. Patti Snyder & Mamie Broadhurst Installation - Sanctuary

17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - DAY SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

18 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom

19 5:30 p.m. Personnel & Administration Committee - Zoom

6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

20 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room

1:00 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom

7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary

23 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room

9:45 a.m. Parks Wilson Class - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)

1:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting - Format TBD

4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group - Fellowship Hall

25 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library

Advent

Taizé

Prayer Service

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 PM

December 1, 8, 15



JOIN THE CHOIR

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
Sundays 10:30 a.m.

We're inviting the choir and anyone interested in choir back to Wednesday rehearsals and Sunday services! We'll be managing the numbers as we go, everyone is singing masked, we maintain distance, and everyone attending is vaccinated. This is a great way to participate in worship and an awesome group of people with whom to sing! Join us!

Any questions? Email Choir Director, David Walters at dwalters@upcbr.org



January...

- 27 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 1:00 p.m. "Visio Divina" Small Group - Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 30 4th Sunday After Epiphany**
- 9:45 a.m. "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room
- 9:45 a.m. Parks Wilson Class - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 12:00 p.m. Soup & Pie Luncheon - Fellowship Hall (*tentative*)
- 4:30 p.m. High School & Middle School Youth Group - Fellowship Hall



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!

2 CIRCLE MEETINGS to choose from

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m. Bring your favorite Christmas goody to share. THE PW Circle is meeting in person in the Parks Wilson Room. It is wonderful to get to meet in person! We will study Lesson 3, Rahab, of "What My Grandmothers Taught Me, learning from the Women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus." Masks will be required.

Wednesday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m. Meeting First Wednesday only in December. The PW Circle 2 that meets on Peggy Carroll's carport will meet and study Lesson 2, Tamar, of "What My Grandmothers Taught Me, learning from the Women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus." Peggy's address is 1545 Patrick Drive.

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 4th at 10:00 a.m. The PW Circle is meeting in person in the Parks Wilson Room. We will study Lesson 4, Ruth and Loyal Love, of "What My Grandmothers Taught Me, learning from the Women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus." Masks will be required.

Wednesday, January 5th at 10:00 a.m. The PW Circle 2 that meets on Peggy Carroll's carport will meet and study Lesson 3, Rahab, of "What My Grandmothers Taught Me, learning from the Women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus." Peggy's address is 1545 Patrick Drive.

Helping Hands is Back

Helping Hands will resume its monthly work days on Tuesday, January 18, 9:30 a.m., in the Conference Room. All are welcome to join for fellowship and service. As we make quilts for shut-ins, knit/crochet hats for preemies and cancer patients, and create other needed items with fabric and fiber, we are using our hands, hearts, and minds in local and world-wide mission.

Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership Pin

Congratulations to Linda Walker for being honored with the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership Pin. This is a well-deserved honor in recognition of Linda's dedication to serving UPC, Baton Rouge, and the Cuba ministries in numerous ways in the past. Thank you Linda for your commitment to Christ and the mission of the church in Presbyterian Women and so many other areas of the global church and community.

Join the PW Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Each annual session of the Commission focuses on a specific priority theme and a review theme.

The focus of the 66th session of the Commission is achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies, and programs. The review theme is women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

[Learn more or apply to join the PW delegation.](#) Please note: The deadline for applications is December 10, 2021!



Faith Formation

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Sundays

1. **Feasting on the Word - Adult Bible Study**
Group led bible study centering on the lectionary texts for each Sunday. In person in the Conference Room
2. **Parks Wilson Class**
During the Advent season, the Parks Wilson class will explore the theme of "Home." What is home--how do we make it, lose it, regain it? From Sunday Nov. 28 through Sunday Jan. 9 we will consider the idea of home through various contexts: poetry, public housing, refugee resettlement and disaster assistance. Please join us either in person at church or via Zoom for this series of classes. The Zoom link for this class is <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/2765203639>

Small Groups

Soul Feast

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Parks Wilson Room (*ongoing*)
Readings from various writers in spirituality. The group reads essays, books, and poems from a wide variety of authors.

Visio Divina

Thursdays at 1:00 - 2:30 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. We will be using a series of images from A Sanctified Art paired with biblical texts about Old Testament characters to ignite our time together. 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

THE NURSERY IS OPEN

Now that many of us are worshipping in person again on Sunday mornings, the nursery for children ages 5 years and younger is OPEN! The nursery will be staffed each week by Katherine Carroll, who has been working in our nursery for years, or by our newest caregiver, Marissa Ramirez. We welcome Marissa who is familiar with UPC, as she works during the week at the Day School! Each Sunday we also need a volunteer to assist our paid staff. Perhaps you need a "baby fix" or think that sitting on the floor and playing with toddlers on an occasional Sunday morning sounds like fun? Or perhaps you are just grateful for all the Sundays that SOMEONE ELSE played with your children when they were young?

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444abaa2da5ff2-sunday>

Faith Formation for Children

Faith Formation for children continues and takes on a particular feeling of anticipation and joy as we enter the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons! As has become our practice, resource bags were delivered to families Thanksgiving week which include ideas for weekly guided conversations and prayer around homemade "kid friendly" advent wreaths. The bags also contained fun advent calendars and a couple of seasonal projects for elementary aged children. Watch your email, church bulletins and FB page as we move into the New Year for word about a potential start up of in person church school for children on Sunday mornings. We await word from the church COVID Task Force and the Session regarding our ability to start back up. And speaking of church school... WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP OUT!? Starting church school again means that we will need church school teachers and shepherds. There is no better way to embody the promises you make each time we hold a baptism and there is no better way to get to really know the fabulous children of UPC! Give Patti Snyder a call or drop her an email if you think you might be interested in working with our children in one way or another. Curriculum and all kinds of support are provided!

The Presbytery of South Louisiana
cordially invites you to
the installation of

Rev. Mamie Williams Broadhurst
and
Rev. Patricia Ingraham Snyder

as Co-pastors of
University Presbyterian Church

on
Sunday, January 16, 2022
at 4:30 p.m.

A reception will follow
in the Fellowship Hall



University Presbyterian Church
3240 Dalrymple Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

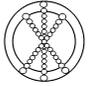
The Chrismon Tree

A Chrismon is a monogram of Christ. All the designs of Chrismon ornaments are symbols for Christ which have been passed down through the centuries of Christian history. All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold represents the Lord's majesty and glory. At the top of the tree is the Moravian Star, first made in the Moravian settlement at Niesky, Germany, about 1850, a reminder of the star that led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. It also symbolizes the Christ Child of whom the Old Testament prophesied, "A star shall come out of Jacob" (*Numbers 24:17*). The Risen Christ likewise proclaimed himself as "the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (*Revelation 23:16*).

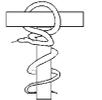
1st Sunday of Advent: HOPE



Sun of Righteousness: An Old Testament prophetic symbol based on Malachi 4:2, "But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings." In order to identify the sun as a Christ symbol, a Christ monogram has been placed in the center.



Six Pointed Star: Based on an Old Testament prophecy from Numbers 24:17, "A star shall come out of Jacob..." this star appears in many forms. One form is made by combining the Greek letter Iota (I) which is the first letter of Jesus, and Chi (X), the letter for Christ. The other is the Jewish Star, also known as the Creator's Star, created by two triangles. It represents that Jesus was born into Judaism, the six days of Creation, and the Trinity.



Serpent on Tau Cross: Prefiguration of the sacrifice on the cross (*John 3:14*).



Anchor Cross (Cross of Hope): This Child, the hope of the world (*Hebrews 6:19*).

2nd Sunday of Advent: PEACE



Chi Rho: The most widely known Chrismon in the combination of the first two letters in the Greek form of Christ, Chi (X) and Rho (P). Another name for it is *Pax*, which is Latin for peace. Sometimes it is shown with the Alpha and the Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus said "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (*Revelation 22:12*).



3rd Sunday of Advent: JOY



Latin Cross: Long upright; most widely used form of the cross among Christians.



Celtic Cross: Came from the Isle of Iano; plain cross with circle of everlasting life.



Cross Potent: Also known as the Jerusalem Cross or Crusader's Cross; usually has four small crosses between the arms, the five crosses symbolizing the five wounds of our Lord.

4th Sunday of Advent: LOVE



Lamb: A scriptural symbol for Christ, Lamb of God (*John 1:29 and Revelation 21:22*). The standing lamb bearing the cross banner of victory signifies the resurrection.



Rose: Messianic promise, the Messiah. Also, our Lord's virgin mother Mary; His human birth or humanity.



Butterfly: Our Lord's Resurrection; Resurrection of those who die in Christ (*1 Corinthians 15:20-23*).



Cross Triumphant: (Of Victory); Triumph of the Lord over earthly sin. Christ glorified.

Prayers and Blessings for Decorating

One tradition to start with your family is a blessing over the decorations in your house.

It's simple, easy, and memorable. Here are a few:

Christmas Tree Blessing: God who created all things, bless this tree as we decorate it and make it a joyful symbol for our home. May its branches remind us of the shelter and shade you provide for us and for your creatures. May its trunk remind us of your strength. May its lights bring us peace. May we remember your gift to us this season, the gift of the baby Jesus. Amen.

Angel: As we put the angel on top of the tree, we remember the angels in the Bible who say, "Do not be afraid! May we be reminded of the modern-day angels who tell us the same thing and who watch over us all night and all day.

Star: The stars in the Bible shine light and show the way to Jesus. So, too, may this star shine brightly on our tree, reminding us that Jesus can light our path.

For Hanging Stockings: We hang up our stockings, empty, knowing that they'll later be filled with treats and treasures. May these stockings also remind us of the warmth of family, the joy of being with others, and the truest Christmas treasures of all: hope and peace, joy and love. Help us to share these treasures with others.

For Putting Out the Nativity: As we put out our nativity figures, one by one, we reflect on each: Mary, and her bravery and strength; Joseph and his compassion and loyalty; the baby Jesus, and his holiness and royalty. We add the other figures, too, as we find them: the shepherds watching over their flocks; The magi who come to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh; The angels who say, "Do not fear!" And the star who shines brightly, watching over us all. God, please bless this nativity, and bless us as we use it to remember the story of Christ. Amen.

When We Decorate the Outside of Our Home: We thank you God for the blessing of a home to keep us warm and safe and dry. We decorate our house, today, to celebrate Advent and Christmas. May the lights shine bright and remind us of Christ's love.

Excerpted from Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas (Chalice Press: 2020) Used with permission. All rights reserved.



Youth Group

LINK LOVE

October & November Pics:



November Highlights:

This month high schoolers began talking about food insecurity and looked at the Lord's Prayer - particularly giving us our daily bread. The middle schoolers will dig into that in December, but their meeting was so close to Advent that we made some decorations and talked about the new church season.

Besides their separate gatherings, both groups also met together and with the help of Pat Ho, Beth Paskoff, and Victoria Robertson made a lot of lunches for both Baton Rouge Community Refrigerators. You can read more about that effort [here \(https://bit.ly/3wOfvQE\)](https://bit.ly/3wOfvQE). You can also follow them on [Instagram](#) - @brcommunityridge.

December CHANGE!

Due to the schedule for Presbyterian Homes and Services, the Christmas shopping/wrapping extravaganza has been moved to December 5th at church. The new December schedules is:

- Dec 5 High School and Middle School - 4:30 at church for Advent cheer
- 12 High School only - meet at church
- 19 Middle School only - meet at church (*this is not a change*)

There will be no meetings again until Jan 9th.

January Schedule

- Jan 9 High School only
- 16 Mamie and Patti's Installation - 4:30pm - HS & MS
- 17 MLK Service Event (Monday)
- 23 Middle School only
- 30 HS & MS Secret Adventure

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

- One woman's push to get everyone in her rural Alabama town vaccinated. The video is about 16 minutes long, but you'll see in it the power of relationships that are going to get us through this crisis. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1wl4T9SKGA>
- To read a sweet story about a dog who is a copycat. <https://bit.ly/3qUCatR>
- [Keep Watch \(Noelle's Lullaby\)](#) by Liturgical Folk. Might have to try and add this one to our repertoire. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odrmMBzsW9g>
- Some people are strategically placing oysters in their waterways to help clean them up. It's not an answer on its own, but it's a nifty part of a wider solution! (NB - This link possibly should have been vetted by Morgan Savicki-Kelly, but here goes nothing...) <https://bit.ly/3ccTZvh>
- Merriam-Webster has a feature on their site where, if you tell them a year, it will tell you what words were first used in print that year. What's in your year? <https://www.merriam-webster.com/time-traveler/1973>
- Here are the top photographers and merit awards for AAP Magazine's 21st Edition Photo Contest in the theme of "Colors". <https://bit.ly/3Dj2aCg>
- The Honey Lesson. Thanks to Wes Mainord for passing this one along. Just a heads up - a few swear words in this one if that's something that bothers you. <https://biggeekdad.com/2021/11/the-honey-lesson/>
- TikTok can save lives. A teenager used a hand signal she learned on the social media platform to transmit her need for help, and help came! <https://abcn.ws/3wGVyLx>

Stewardship & Finance

ARE YOU ALL IN FOR UPC??

2021 Contributions Deadline

Contributions must be received on-line or postmarked by 12/31/21 to be reflected on your 2021 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC's name on 12/31/21 to be counted as a 2021 donation. For more information on contributing stock please contact Edward Peterson. If you have questions about your pledge status, please log into your account at <https://onrealm.org/UniversityPresb15909>.

Thank you Robbie Phillabaum, Mary Stevens, and Beth Paskoff for your work coordinating this year's annual campaign!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering is being collected today. Donations may be made via check and mailed to UPC with Joy Offering in the memo line or made on-line through Realm. (*see instructions on how to give in the bulletin under OFFERING*) The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



YOUR pledge matters, and shows that you care about UPC. We can only create a budget for 2022 if we know how much we will have to work with. Will we be able to pay our bills? Will we be able to expand what we do?

Over the recent Sundays in our worship service, you heard several Minutes for Stewardship to explain how your gifts to UPC are used

- Melanie talked about UPC's outreach to support organizations in Baton Rouge, the nation, and internationally
- Doug talked about the cost of maintaining our church building,
- Mary and the children thanked you for your support of education, fellowship and nurture of our congregation
- Our pastors have related giving to scripture and modern life.

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with what ever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:8-10)

Robbie and Mary answered questions about pledging

- ONLY the church treasurer and secretary will know how much you pledge. The pastors do not know, and the budget committee does not know.
- All pledges are needed. When you prayerfully consider what you can give each week, you will know how much to pledge. Even \$5.00 is welcome.
- If you need to change your pledge during the year, that is an option.
- And then they sang:
*You put your pledge card in, you take your money out
You give it to UPC and we spread it all about*

And now it is time to find out if you are all in for UPC. Will you provide support for the continued roles of worship, outreach, education, nurture and fellowship in your church?

- If you are one of the 77 people who have already pledged, THANK YOU.
- If you are one of the 78 who have NOT PLEDGED, it is not too late.
 - › Pledge online at the UPC Realm site <https://upcbr.org/contact/realm-portal/>
 - › OR return the pledge card you received last month
 - › OR use a pledge card in the pew racks in the Sanctuary
 - › OR ask us to send you another pledge card. 225-383-0345

University Presbyterian Church is YOUR church. Stewardship is for everyone. We value your time, talent and treasure. Our PCUSA Book of Order reminds us that *"In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods."* (W-2.5000)

IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2021 (as of 11/23/2021)

Received Pledged giving: **\$428,831**

Received Unpledged giving \$37,542

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$466,373

Currently we have only received 83% of the total pledged for 2021.

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!

Mission & Peacemaking



The Cuba Partners Network shipment to Cuba has arrived and is being distributed. Thanks to all involved!



Together Baton Rouge 10th Anniversary Exhibit

To celebrate their 10th anniversary, Together Baton Rouge (TBR) has opened an exhibit about the organization's history. Combining portraits and oral histories of longtime TBR leaders, "Toward A Larger Freedom: Ten Years of Citizen Power Organizing with Together Baton Rouge" tells the story of TBR's founding and most significant fights. More than a dozen UPC members are among those being recognized for their contributions over the past decade to TBR's mission.

The exhibit will remain on display until Thursday, Dec. 16, in the Shell Gallery at the Cary Saurage Community Arts Center. It's also accessible online at towardalargerfreedom.com. Be sure to check it out to see some familiar faces!

Fellowship

Soup & Pie (hopefully) Rides Again!!!

Save the Date of January 30, 2022 'cause the UPC Society for the Power of Positive Thinking (aka the UPC Fellowship Committee) is planning the Return of the Soup & Pie Luncheon if the way be clear! Pending approval by Session for resumption of normal social activities, we aim to resume that classic contest after the 11:00 service on the afore-mentioned day. We hope that plenty of you will dust off your soup-cooking and pie baking skills to engage in some friendly culinary competition (try to tone down the smack talk this year...). Everyone else is welcome to sample the wares. Hope springs eternal!



THANK YOU



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped park cars during the 2021 LSU football season.

Their dedication helped raise \$14,039 to go toward mission.



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)

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 • Gerard Klein • Melanie Driscoll • Alan Williams • Kathy Poché
Our Cuba Partners • Kathy Rossman • Jeanette Hanifen • Fay Coco**

- **The Loos family** following Helen's death
- **The family of Bill Hammond**, friend of Mary Stevens, after his death last week
- **Kelly Kerr**, undergoing tests at Baton Rouge General
- **Gus Rowland**, recuperating from shoulder surgery following a bike accident
- **Karen**, Christine Kooi's sister-in-law, having heart valve replacement surgery soon
- **Johnny**, uncle of Matt McGraw, in the hospital with COVID and pneumonia
- **Caralyn Durham**, facing retina surgery on December 8
- **Emily Delaney**, Steve Rushing's sister, continuing to recover from surgery
- **Kay Lindsay**, starting breast cancer treatment in December
- **Ronnie Fenasci**, recovering at home from open heart surgery
- **Ethan and Emily Strain**, family of George and Pat Strain, with COVID
- **M. Kennedy**, child of Sarah and Jerry Kennedy, recovering well from surgery and is grateful to UPC folks for the cards holding a place of honor on their refrigerator
- **Paul Hoffman's sister, Sharon, and her family**, dealing with a diagnosis of terminal cancer
- **Jordan Amirkhani**, granddaughter of Amybeth and Wes Mainord, with complications after a cornea surgery and facing more surgery
- **Eric**, friend of the Britton family, facing the prospect of a kidney transplant
- **Jazmon**, friend of the Britton family, at St Jude receiving treatment for a brain tumor
- **Trey Setzer**, grandson of Robbie Phillabaum, recovering from knee surgery
- **Amy Braymer**, diagnosed with Metastatic Thyroid Cancer
- **Carl Stoddard**, brother of Linda Walker, evaluating neck pain options
- **Dirk Ficca**, friend of Mamie and Richard, who is in a very precarious health situation.
- **Linda Clark**, recovering from major oral surgery
- **Jean Roberts**, Samantha Hartmann's aunt, with stage 4 ovarian and colon cancer
- **Nancy Pensis**, aunt of Linda Clark, making decisions regarding cancer treatment
- **Jordan Sealey**, nephew of Lorinda Sealey, with neurological symptoms of unknown origin
- **Eric**, friend of Lorinda Sealey, who is dealing with a cancer diagnosis in his family
- **Carmen Rodriguez**, friend of Cindy Tyler, with stage 4 colon cancer
- **The Dominguez family**, friends of Kathy Rossman, who are going through difficult times
- **Glenda Mathis**, sister of Ron Garton, with stage 4 pancreatic cancer
- **Bae Landry**, father-in-law of Janet Whyde, with cancer
- **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
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister, undergoing chemotherapy
- **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**

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/>

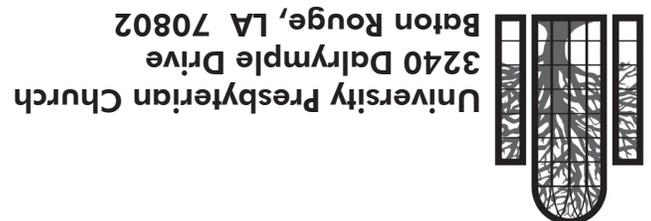
December Birthdays

1	Alexander Gochnour	8	Bunny Heroman Hattie Knapp	20	Steve Whitting	27	Jakob Hendrix
2	Ben Fisher			21	Pat Strain	28	Eleanor Canon Audrey Cogburn Danielle Terry
3	Kathy Perry	10	Dorothy Jones Nicholas Patty Jacqueline Samson	22	Mamie Broadhurst Elijah Fontenot Stafford	29	Claire McKinley
4	Veronika Stubblebine	12	Tobie Irvine	23	Ann Knapp	30	Brett Dietz
6	Linda Lee Mona Truluck	15	Kelley Massengale	25	Leslie Green Layne Motsenbocker	31	Silas Irvine Darla O'Connor Amy Phillips
7	Gina Costello Friedrich Pilly	16	De'Vannon Hubert	26	Cindy Rice Anna-Karin Skillen		
		18	April Armstrong Neviton Barros				

January Birthdays

2	Dawn Simpson	9	Dianne Garton	15	Deanna Black Jennifer Bravinder	25	Richard Kilgore Lynne Wallace
4	Jo Ann Lea	10	Suzanne Trahan	16	Forest Benedict Lori Hyatt Pilley Darlene Rowland	29	Kathy Poché Jan Reeves
6	Kathleen Richey Ben Stoker	12	Cordell Haymon Gerard Klein Carl Motsenbocker Jeff Perry	22	Griffin Campbell	30	Mitch Patty
7	Betty Shelton			24	Bill Stubblebine	31	Albert Adjaottor Donna Schlotzhauer Mary Stevens
8	Paul Nguyen	13	Rivière Juneau				

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