



# Contact

December 2022  
January 2023

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

## Inside

- **Advent/Christmas** p. 3-4
- **Annual Campaign** p. 4
- **Advent Calendar** p. 6
- **Youth Group** p. 8
- **Presbyterian Women** p. 9

## 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)

### Jerry Trahan

Clerk of Session

[upc-clerk@upcbr.org](mailto:upc-clerk@upcbr.org)

### Jill Clemmons

Moderator of Deacons

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



## From My Window



True confession of a staunch "Adventer" - I love hearing Christmas music this time of year. Yes, before Christmas! Not in church so much, but my car radio is on go! One of my favorites is "There's no Place Like Home for the Holidays."

This year we will be asking ourselves "Adventy" questions in worship - What are you waiting for? How could you keep watch? What do you wonder about God? How have you experienced welcome? As I ponder, particularly that last question, others are brought to mind.

What is home for you? Is it a place? A group of people or a person? A feeling? A memory?

We often refer to UPC as our "church home" but some of us don't have much of an experience of church being home. For some of us church is more like looking in through a window at someone else's home. Some of us experience anxiety about who we will talk with as everyone hangs out after worship, are self-conscious about our questions about faith, or are worried about how loud or active our kids might be.

The anxiety can fade with a few kind gestures from others and the questions can find a place where none of us shy from them, for we all have questions. And as for the kids... I'd suggest that kids often lead the way in showing us how to make church our home.

Recently I read an article published by an arm of the Virginia Theological Seminary ([buildfaith.org/feral-church-children-why-kids-need-to-hang-out-at-church/](http://buildfaith.org/feral-church-children-why-kids-need-to-hang-out-at-church/)) that calls these kids "feral church kids" and reminds us that kids and I suggest, grown ups too, need time to "just be" at church. The author reminds that being at church not for a specific purpose but just to hang out, to be bored, to poke around, helps kids form relationships and community. She goes on, "I tell families, of course you should worship with your children. By all means, bring your kids to Sunday school. But, if you can swing it, find the time after the service to just "be" at church. Take time for another cup of coffee. Assist with preparing communion or leading worship. Linger a bit longer after a parish meal. Attend an adult education offering. While you're taking time to be a member of your church community and building a home, your kids are hanging out at church... and getting something out of it."

I'm reminded of the kids helping to set up for Advent last Sunday or rolling around on the grass in the courtyard during our Courtyard Adventures last year, helping with the "little kids" in church school or just hanging out in the library, engaging in sleeping bag races at a youth group lock in or standing around the donuts on Sunday mornings, Michael Purser curling up for a nap in the pew, or Mary Collier Wilks falling asleep after one Sunday service on the floor in the pulpit! All of this suggests a sense of "this is my place," "these are my people," "I am at home here."

So how can we make UPC our home - for the kids and the grown ups too, for the holidays and all year? Show up. Make space for folks of all ages to just be. Ask your questions. Welcome the joyful noise of children and the laughter of all ages. Be on the watch for those on the outside looking in and find ways to welcome them in. This Advent our worship texts will remind us that we are part of a big multicultural, multi-generational, multi-place-on-the-journey/stage-of-life family not bound by time or space. Let's do what we can to make it so, to be "home-makers."

May Christ be born anew in each of us and create a home for all of us this holiday season. Blessings,

# December...

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

- 1 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom  
1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom  
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 4 2nd Sunday of Advent** *Communion*  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)  
Noon Potluck and Guatemala Presentation and Craft Fair - Fellowship Hall  
Noon Youth Group - Fellowship Hall
- 5 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library  
11:30 a.m. Membership Committee - Conference Room
- 6 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee Christmas Brunch - 2849 Zeeland Ave.  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room  
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 1725 Eugene
- 7 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive  
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 8 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom  
1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom  
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11 3rd Sunday of Advent** *Communion*  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)  
1:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room  
4:30 p.m. Youth Group Wrapping Extravaganza - Fellowship Hall
- 12 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library  
7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 13 9:00 a.m. Two Tuesdays Small Group - 1723 Blouin  
6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Star Party - 6630 Boone  
7:00 p.m. NAMI Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall
- 14 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 15 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom  
1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
- 16 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Concert - UNO PAC Recital Hall
- 17 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Concert - St. Margaret's, 12663 Perkins Rd.
- 18 4th Sunday of Advent** *Communion, Christmas Joy Offering*  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)  
12:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room  
3:00 p.m. Children's Music Studio Violin Recital - Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. Youth Group Movie Night
- 19 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 20 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Thomas Kim Recital - Sanctuary

## Office Notes

### Day School and Office Closures

The Day School will be closed from December 21 - January 2.  
The Church Office will be closed from December 24 - January 2.  
The Church Office and Day School will be closed January 16 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

### Bulletin Deadlines

Announcements or prayer requests to appear in the December 25th and/or December 31st Sunday bulletins are due on Monday, December 19.



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

Contact Ellen Morgan for info

Dec 6 [The Christie Affair](#)  
by Nina de Gramont  
Meeting at 1725 Eugene St.

Jan 3 [The Last Mona Lisa](#)  
by Jonathan Santlofer  
Meeting on Zoom



## Worship

### Advent, Christmas, Epiphany - Oh My!

By the time you receive this newsletter, Advent will have already begun. The narrative lectionary keeps us in the Jewish scriptures until the 18th of December when we begin to hear about the life of Jesus according to Matthew's gospel. Having changed the voices we usually hear from, we are changing the words we use as we listen to them as well. This year we will:

**WAIT  
WATCH  
WONDER  
and  
WELCOME**

Pick up an Advent devotional calendar at church (*see page 6*) or follow along with the same prompts on our Facebook page. Kids will get the prompts on paper strips to make ever-growing chains (and if any adults want those too, just let us know), and they're going to be the ones lighting our Advent wreath this year too. We'll be asked questions that help us wait, watch, wonder, and welcome and our answers will literally help prepare a place for Jesus' birth.

Plan for some quiet time with us every Wednesday night during Advent at 6:00 p.m. for **Taizé** worship as well as a service that recognizes there is sadness in this season as well as joy on December 21st. We'll gather on **Christmas Eve** at 5:30 p.m. to hear the age-old story that sends us into...

**Christmas!** We will share a potluck meal together on Sunday, the 25th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dish and an appetite. We will sing, pray, remember, and celebrate. To ring in the New Year we will have a hymn sing and continue our celebration of this 12-day season. Then, a few days late, we'll come together for...

**Epiphany!** You can get your star word (or let us know you'd like us to pick one out for you) and continue on the journey with Jesus.

**FEBRUARY  
CONTACT  
DEADLINE  
JANUARY 20**

## December...

- 21 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony
- 22 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
- 24 5:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service - Sanctuary
- 25 Christmas Day (NO CHURCH SCHOOL)**
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- NO YOUTH GROUP UNTIL JANUARY 8*
- 26-30 Day School & Church Office Closed

## Advent and Christmas at UPC

### Worship

#### November 27 - First Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. Worship

#### November 30 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

*A simple candlelit service of sung prayer and intercession*

#### December 4 - Second Sunday in Advent

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

#### December 7 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

#### December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent

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

#### December 14 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

#### December 18 - 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*

#### December 25 - Christmas Day (No Church School)

11:00 Potluck in Fellowship Hall

#### January 1 - Baptism of the Lord

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

*We will have a Hymn Sing and communion will be served.*

#### January 8 - Epiphany Sunday

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

*Come for our annual distribution of Epiphany Stars*



# January...

## 1 **Baptism of the Lord** *Communion*

*NO CHURCH SCHOOL*

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

## 2 **New Year's Day Observed - Day School & Church Office Closed**

- 3 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room & Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - Zoom
- 4 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 5 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room

## 8 **Epiphany** *Epiphany Stars will be distributed*

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 9 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 11:00 a.m. Membership Committee - Library
- 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 10 7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 11 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 12 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom

## 15 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room
- NO YOUTH GROUP (UNTIL TOMORROW!)*

## 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Day School & Church Office Closed**

- Youth Group Service Event (TBD)
- 17 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
- 18 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony
- 19 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom

## 22 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (*Live*)
- 1:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room
- NO YOUTH GROUP*
- 23 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 24 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 25 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony
- 26 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Personnel & Administration Committee - Zoom

## 29 **4th Sunday after Epiphany**

- 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
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Soup & Pie - Fellowship Hall
- 30 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library

## Stewardship & Finance

### STEWARDSHIP 2023 UPDATE

**As of 11/28/22 we have 96 pledges totaling \$523,641.12.** Thank you!

Last year we had 103 pledges totaling \$543,338, and we hope to beat that in 2023. You can find a paper pledge form in the sanctuary or pledge online using Realm ([onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org)). Go to GIVING, choose the GENERAL FUND and click SAVE PLEDGE. If you have any questions you can contact the office for assistance. We are grateful for your generosity, and all the ways you support the ministry of UPC.

### GIVING REMINDER

If you give electronically through Realm, and you have changed your pledge amount, remember to change your banking information at the beginning of the year. Realm doesn't automatically adjust the amount for you.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like monthly offering envelopes for your 2023 pledge, please let Caralyn know ([cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org)) and she will make some for you.

### END OF THE YEAR BOOKKEEPING

We are rapidly counting down to the end of 2022. Please have all check or reimbursement requests for the 2022 budget into the church office by Tuesday, December 20.

### CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE

Contributions must be received online or postmarked by 12/31/22 to be reflected on your 2022 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC's name on 12/31/22 to be counted as a 2022 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>.

### IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2022

(as of 11/28/2022)

**Received Pledged giving: \$497,662**

(89.5% of \$556,298 pledged)

**Received Unpledged giving \$27,957**

**TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$525,619**

*Thank you for your generous contribution!*



## What are you waiting for?

We begin this advent with a focus on waiting. When our Quest confirmation class was asked to reflect on the question "What are you waiting for?" as part of their leadership in worship on the 1st Sunday in Advent, they came up with these beautiful reflections. Aren't they amazing?! *(Not just the words, but the youth who wrote them!)*

### Advent Reading, First Sunday of Advent

*We wait.*

*We wait to be able to drive.*

*To vote.*

*For school to be over.*

*For baseball season to start.*

*For snow.*

*For summer.*

*For annoying things to end,*

*As well as others not being so annoyed with us.*

*For others to open the Christmas presents we prepare.*

*For our upcoming holiday performances.*

*To see grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins we haven't seen since last year.*

*And as we wait, we hope.*

*We hope for food and housing to be affordable.*

*For wars to end.*

*For people to be kind and respectful to each other.*

*That the middle class would not shrink.*

*That the government would ensure ethical treatment for college students who have to borrow money.*

*For equal rights for all people.*

*That we would treat little kids as real people who have real thoughts and real feelings.*

*That we would teach right and wrong without yelling.*

*And for better treatment of animals.*



## Special Events for Advent and Christmas at UPC

### Education

#### Parks Wilson Class

During Advent, the Parks Wilson adult church school class will host a series on Christianity and the arts. Each week will consider a different form of artistic expression-literature, music, painting and pottery-and its relationship to faith and spirituality. Please join us either in person at church or via Zoom for this series of classes. <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/2765203639>

### Fellowship

The UPC organization for spreading Christmas cheer (aka the Fellowship Committee) encourages you to "don we now our gay apparel" to worship service on Sunday, December 18. Wear your favorite festive Christmas attire or your ugliest Christmas sweater as we sing we joyous all together at church!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Light:</b> 1 candle <b>Read:</b> Genesis 1:1-5 <b>Ask:</b> Where is God in this story? <i>searching</i>	Make a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows. Enjoy drinking a cup of shadows and light!	Take a walk in the dark or semi-dark with a flashlight. As the light bounces over what's around you, what can you see and not see?	Find a quiet spot and light a candle. Without getting too close breathe in the warmth of the flame. Carry that warmth with you into the world.	Take a walk in the daytime. How is the light different compared to your walk in the dark?	O God, let me find you in both the light and shadows. Help me show others your love and grace. Amen.	One name for Jesus is Emmanuel which means God-with-us. Search for Jesus today. Where do you find God-with-us?
<b>Light:</b> 2 candles <b>Read:</b> Luke 1:26-33 <b>Pray:</b> O God, help me be open to the surprises you have in store for me. Amen. <i>reflecting</i>	Make a fire in the fireplace or watch a fire on YouTube ( <a href="https://bit.ly/YouTube-fire">https://bit.ly/YouTube-fire</a> ). Enjoy some cozy time with your family.	Sit in a dark place with a flashlight/candles and a mirror. How much can you see with just your light? How much more can you see when you use the mirror?	Place your hands over your heart and look at another member of your family. Reflect all the love you feel as you say, "God loves you" to them.	Find a body of water to see the sun or the moon reflect off of, or even fill a bowl with water and take it outside. What do you see in the reflection?	O God, let me find your reflection in all of creation—moon and stars, sun and earth, plants and animals—and even in myself. Amen.	How do you reflect the love of Jesus into the world?
<b>Light:</b> 3 candles <b>Read:</b> Luke 1:46-55 <b>Ask:</b> Why is Mary so excited about giving birth to Jesus? <i>dreaming</i>	Make stars out of paper by cutting or folding. Hang them in a window to remember that light and shadows are present together.	Turn off the lights except for those on your Christmas tree. Lay on your back looking up at the tree. How does it look from this angle?	Find a quiet spot and light a candle. Fill your heart with a prayer and blow out the candle. Watch the smoke drift upward and know your prayer has been heard.	Make a list of dreams (or hopes). Include dreams for yourself, your community, and the world.	O God, inspire my dreams to imagine how the world can be a better place. Help me serve others. Amen.	What makes you happy as you prepare for the birth of Jesus? How can you share this joy with others?
<b>Light:</b> 4 candles <b>Read:</b> John 1:1-5 <b>Pray:</b> O God, you were here before everything, thank you for shining brightly in our world today. Amen. <i>beholding</i>	Take a walk or drive to see holiday lights around you. How do you feel when you see the lights?	Plant a seed in the shadows of soil – even in a small cup on your window sill. Trust that new life begins in the darkness, and God is present.	Gather candles, flashlights, lanterns, etc. Light one source of light at a time and offer a prayer or one of the dreams you wrote last week with each one.	Share a gift with the Christ child. It can be a gift you bring to church or another organization, or craft a card or other gift to place beneath your tree.	O God, I feel you in the shadows and see you in the flicker of candlelight. Help me to behold these days with wonder and delight. Amen.	

## CHRISTMAS EVE

**Light:** 5 candles

**Read:** Luke 2:13-14

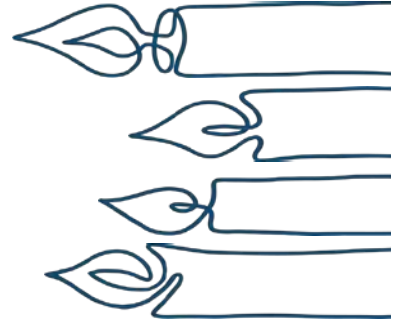
Look up at the stars and imagine what they and shepherds saw in the sky. Describe them to your family.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

**Light:** 5 candles

**Read:** Luke 2:15-20

Give thanks to God today for the birth of Jesus called Emmanuel (God with us). He is the greatest gift of all!





# 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).

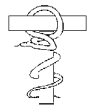
## 1st Sunday of Advent: WAIT



**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: WATCH



**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: WONDER



**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: WELCOME



**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.

## HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

UPC is excited to once again be participating in the Hope for the Holidays program, run by Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS), to provide holiday gifts for children in our community. If you would like to purchase holiday gifts for a child, you may sign up in person in the Welcome Center. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, December 4.** You may make a monetary donation in lieu of choosing a name. In the event that any children are unclaimed, donations will be used to purchase gifts for those children. If all children are claimed, any collected funds will be donated to PCHAS to support their work.

Please place your gifts, wrapped or unwrapped, in a single bag, such as a tall garbage bag. Make sure to attach a label with the child's name. You may drop off your gifts either in the Welcome Center before and after services, or contact Samantha Hartmann at 832-387-7343 to arrange drop-off. The Youth Group will once again be wrapping gifts for those who choose to make use of this service.

**The deadline to drop off gifts or make a donation is immediately following the service on Sunday, December 11.**

Thank you for helping to provide Hope for the Holidays!



"She Nailed It" Women Build team members got it done (in cold, wet weather) on Saturday, November 19 as part of the annual Habitat for Humanity Women's Build. What an incredible group of women!



# Youth Group

**October Pics:** Because we couldn't get them in last month!



## DECEMBER AND JANUARY SCHEDULE

*\*Sunday, 4:30-6 p.m. at UPC unless noted otherwise*

### December

- 4 Guatemala Trip - Potluck/Presentation - Following Worship  
*We get to listen to last year's youth (and adult) crew talk about their experience!*
- 11 Christmas Wrapping Extravaganza
- 18 Regular bat time and channel
- 25 NO YOUTH through Christmas/New Years

### January

- 1 NO YOUTH
- 8 Cuba Partnership
- 16 MLK Service Event (MONDAY)  
*details TBD*
- 22 4th Sunday, NO YOUTH
- 29 Soup and Pie Event - Following Worship

**It is never too late to join youth group. You're always welcome!**

## YOUTH PLEDGES

This year youth at UPC took time to consider the ways they want to give their time, talents, and treasure to the church. Together we talked about the many things they have offered in just the past year - courtyard clean-up, playing instruments in worship, serving at the food bank, wrapping Christmas gifts, being Sunday School shepherds, etc - and then what they might offer in 2023. Here were their options:

- I will be kind to my friends at school and to my family at home.
- I will listen and learn in my classroom/youth group.
- I will be brave in standing up for others at my school and in my community.
- I will share 10% of my Halloween candy.
- I promise to give \_\_\_\_ (¢/\$) each week/month to UPC.
- I will serve my community at church/school/scouts/etc.

Everyone checked something, and no one checked everything. They were honest and generous about what they were able to offer. The kids are all right y'all. Actually, they're even better than that. They're the best.

## November Highlights:




In November the youth got started early preparing for Advent. Some of you have already seen the fruit of those efforts and will all Advent season! While we missed getting to picnic and kickball because of the weather, we took up a different ball game and went bowling before the month was out.









## 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 6th at 10:00 a.m.** Bring your favorite Christmas goody to share. This PW Circle is meeting in person in the Parks Wilson Room. We will study Lesson 4, Sabbath and Surrender, of "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." Barbara Hoffman will lead the lesson.

**Wednesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m.** The PW Circle 2 that meets on Peggy Carroll's carport (1545 Patrick Drive ) will meet and will also study Lesson 4, Sabbath and Surrender, of "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight."

### Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering

The offering will continue to be collected until December 15th. The Thank Offering provides much-needed financial assistance to 20-30 worthwhile programs each year. At least 40 percent of this offering funds health ministries, often helping the most marginalized members of God's community. The remaining percentage supports new or expanded projects and small capital improvement projects. You can donate via REALM or mailing a check to UPC, designating PW Thank Offering in your memo.

### JANUARY

**Tuesday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m.** THE PW Circle will meet in the Parks Wilson Room. We will study Lesson 5, Sabbath and Surrender, of "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." Peggy Carroll will lead the lesson.

**Wednesday, January 4th at 10:00 a.m.** The PW Circle 2 that meets on Peggy Carroll's carport (1545 Patrick Drive ) will meet and study Lesson 5, Sabbath and Surrender, of "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight."


## Helping Hands

### DECEMBER

**Wednesday, December 21st at 9:30 a.m.** At the December meeting, we will be weaving the worship message strips into a blanket for the Manger in the sanctuary. We will meet in the Conference Room.

### JANUARY

**Wednesday, January 18th at 9:30 a.m.** In January, we will discuss priorities for projects in 2023. We will meet in the Conference Room.



### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering is being collected November 27 - December 18. 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.

# Faith Formation

**Adult Church School** 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Sundays

## Gathering of Parents

Welcome Center (*ongoing*)

Parents of all ages are welcome to come have a cup of coffee and a donut and enjoy some lively conversation during this church school time. Various topics will be discussed.

## Living the Word – Adult Bible Study rotating leaders

Conference Room (*ongoing*)

If you are interested in looking at the Bible stories we will be focusing on during the worship hour, join in this lively discussion group for people of all ages and levels of Bible knowledge.

November 27 - December 18: Faith in God's Promises

December 25 - January 22: God's Promise of Jesus

January 29 - February 12: Learning to Follow

## Parks Wilson Class

Conference Room and on Zoom

During Advent, the Parks Wilson adult church school class will host a series on Christianity and the arts. Each week will consider a different form of artistic expression-literature, music, painting and pottery-and its relationship to faith and spirituality. On Sunday Jan. 8, we will be hosting Dr. Jennifer Popowycz of the World War Two Museum in New Orleans; she will be talking about the ongoing war in Ukraine. Starting Sunday Jan. 15 the class will devote four weeks to the question of anti-racism and how its practices can best be implemented by churches.

## Small Groups dates and times vary by class

### Two Tuesdays

Our small group will meet again on Tuesday, December 13, at 9 a.m. at Rick Moreland's home, 1723 Blouin Ave. All are welcome to join Stu Irvine, Rick Moreland, and Jim Wilcox as we continue to explore a wide range of topics concerning faith and community. We look forward to sharing ideas and conversation.

## Soul Feast

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

Parks Wilson Room & Zoom (*ongoing*)

Readings from various writers in spirituality.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85357930055?pwd=YU9OTXA3YTdlcmQ4aFVhb004Q1dkdz09> Meeting ID: 853 5793 0055

Passcode: 301709

## Visio Divina

This group uses a process of lexio divina (a form of meditation listening to a specific biblical text) to fuel reflection and quick art project in response to the text and professional paintings/art based on them. The words and images that speak to each of us form the substance of our time together. New folks are welcome into the group and no artistic skill is needed to join. This group meets via zoom from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. each Thursday.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85078993685?pwd=dTVpTlpiRng4QXFxQkF3QWttZRRUT09>

Meeting ID: 850 7899 3685 Passcode: 302459

# LINK LOVE

Here are some fun, funny, inspirational, or thought-provoking links for you this month. (*If you open this online there are hotlinks embedded, but links you can type in are just below in case the hotlinks don't work or you are receiving this on paper!*)

- Angels We Have Heard on High by the Bowen Beer Bottle Band. This is a lot of dedication for a party get together, but enjoy how very happy they are about it! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uSvFVqLKM>
- A peek into how an 8 year old's book (The Adventures of Dillon Helbig's Christmas, by Himself) made it into the local library collection. <https://bit.ly/34cjg8D>
- Solar microgrids are helping to keep Ukrainian hospitals in Kyiv running. They have been used in other settings before - like Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Clean energy and a life-saving power source? Yes, please. <https://bit.ly/3zPVYme>
- A 13-member handbell choir provides some unexpected accompaniment for a Salvation Army bell ringer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40qHb9uFpRI>
- A short article about how awe can improve your life as well as some suggestions for how to find more awe if you're in need of it! <https://bit.ly/3yUulao>
- The best of the 2022 iPhone photography awards. Sometimes the best camera is just the one you have with you. <https://bit.ly/3KgcIX6>
- Kings Return Music sing Ave Maria in a stairwell. Beautiful. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRzl8y-EJJ0>
- We accept unused and unopened complimentary hotel items at church and give them to One Stop for folks who use their shower facilities, but this is an interesting article about recycling hotel soaps when they have been opened and used but not used up! <https://thehustle.co/the-surprising-afterlife-of-used-hotel-soap/amp/>

## Soup and Pie

The UPC Society for the Appreciation of Minimalist Dialog in Cinema (SAMDC or Fellowship Committee) is pleased to receive the following endorsements:

*Soup good. Pie good.*

However, you are free to make your own appraisal at our Annual Soup & Pie Fest on **Sunday, January 29** after the 11:00 service. Bring your own entries to compete for the esteemed Golden Ladle and Golden Pie Pan awards.

*Bling good.*

## 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 • Tabitha Lewis • Gerard Klein  
John Earle • Cody Lucero • Alan Williams • Kathy Poché  
Melanie Driscoll • Our Cuba Partners • Kathy Rossman  
Jeanette Hanifen • Fay Coco**

- **Mary Clinkenbeard's mother Patricia** after complications from emergency surgery
- **The parents of Paul Wallace** after suffering recent falls.
- **Lynn Nichols Dull**, in rehab following a stroke
- **Betty Armstrong**, in the hospital with an infection; awaiting a bone marrow transplant
- **Bae Landry**, father of Dale Landry, in hospice care
- **Jo and her family**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, experiencing difficult times
- **Mary Stevens' father**, undergoing more chemotherapy
- **Andy Peterson**, husband of Jane Smith's niece, undergoing treatment for Multiple Myeloma
- **Ron Rossi**, friend of Susan Seifert, with aplastic anemia and other illnesses
- **Jason**, son of Forest & Linda Benedict, undergoing dialysis treatment
- **Rosemary Goodell**, recovering at home
- **Darla O'Connor's parents** who are in poor health
- **Freddy Crumpler**, father of Tavia, experiencing some unresolved medical issues
- **Cheryl Whitting**, with stage 4 kidney disease and on the transplant list
- **Dina Courrege**, friend of Cindy Rice, battling Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister, undergoing treatment for a bone infection
- **RJ LeBlanc**, father of Kathie Pohlman's 'Bonus Daughter,' Nikki, with lung cancer
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **Craig Fisher**, Anita Melon's brother in law, diagnosed with Lewy-Body dementia
- **Dennis Dimitri**, brother-in-law of Doug Walker, undergoing treatment for lung cancer
- **Mickey Rose Braud Zaitoon**, wife of Samear, who is in declining health
- **Jan Manno**, friend of Tavia Crumpler and Darla O'Connor, with aggressive endometrial cancer
- **Margaret Boyle**, sister of Christine Kooi, with early-stage Alzheimer's disease
- **All those affected by gun violence**
- **All families affected by Huntington's Disease**
- **All hospice patients and their families**
- **All those who suffer with mental illness and emotional disorders**
- **Those who are affected by alcoholism and addiction**
- **Men and women serving in the armed forces**
- **Those who are going through separation or divorce**
- **Those who are affected by domestic violence**



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

*This fund allows our Co-Pastors to respond quickly to particular needs of folks within the congregation and in the wider community.*

*Contributions may be made in Realm, but there is a 10 day delay in processing.*

## Stay Connected!



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

[www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian)  
<https://www.instagram.com/universitypresbr/>

**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)

## 5 WAYS TO GIVE



### IN PERSON

Drop your gift into the offering plate on Sunday



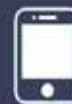
### MAIL

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)



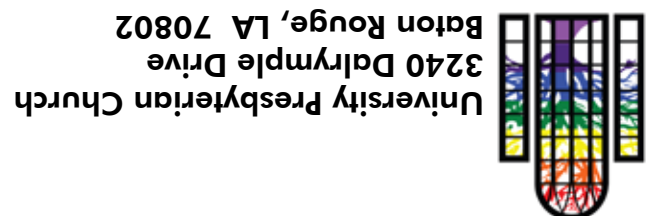
## December Birthdays

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

## January Birthdays

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

**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



Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Change Service Requested