

University Presbyterian Church

Welcome! May you find strength, joy, and a new challenge here. If you would like more information about membership or the program, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to one of the pastors as you leave worship today or visit our website, www.upcbr.org.

CHURCH CALENDAR Week of November 27, 2022



Sunday (11/27) First Sunday of Advent

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (Live)
- 2:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus - Choir Room & Fellowship Hall
No Youth Group

Monday (11/28)

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library

Wednesday (11/30)

- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday (12/1)

- 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 - Choir Room

Sunday (12/4) Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (Live)
- 12:00 p.m. Guatemala Potluck Presentation & Craft Fair - Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Group - Fellowship Hall

STEWARDSHIP 2023 UPDATE

As of 11/21/22 we have 91 pledges totaling \$507,081.12. 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). 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For meetings, classes, and events, Zoom links may be found on our website (www.upcbr.org), on Realm (onrealm.org), or by contacting a group leader.

Learn more about us by reading our monthly church newsletter, the Contact.

Copies are available in the back of the church and Welcome Center, or you can find Contact on our web site, www.upcbr.org.

Check us out on Facebook, too! (<https://www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian>)

SUNDAY NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A Nursery is provided during worship for those younger than first grade. Whether or not you have a child who is eligible for the nursery, please consider giving some of your time to the youngest among us! To sign up go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444ABAA2DA5FF2-sunday1>

BIRTHDAYS This Week (November 27- December 3)

7 Michelle Zerba; 30 Tristyn Bemis, Cindy Hartgerink, and Cheri Strain; 3 Kathy Perry

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like monthly offering envelopes for your 2023 pledge, please let Caralyn know (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.

2022 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE

Contributions must be received on-line 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>.



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 before and after services. **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.



Online giving is available...

- via the GIVE tab on our website (www.upcbr.org)
- by texting "upcbr (space) and then the number of dollars" to 73256
- by scanning the QR code

IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2022 (as of 11/23/2022)

Received Pledged giving: \$494,154 (90.9% of \$543,338 pledged)

Received Unpledged giving \$27,920

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$522,074

Thank you for your generous contribution!

Your support of UPC and its missions is greatly appreciated.

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!



Sunday
December 4
following worship

Guatemala

potluck • presentation • craft sale

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a presentation by youth and adults who traveled to Guatemala in June. They will share their experiences as volunteers for Local Hope XELA AID in San Martin Chiquito. There will also be an opportunity to purchase hand-woven items made by members of the weavers cooperative at Local Hope. Items for sale will include purses, table runners (some in Christmas colors), and hand-made beaded jewelry and decorative items.

Proceeds will help the weavers, all of whom are single mothers or grandmothers, feed their families or send their children and grandchildren to school.

and

Tree Decorating

Bring an ornament to hang on our
outdoor Christmas tree!

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!



Small Groups

Two Tusedays

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=YU9OTXA3YTdlcmQ4aFVh-b004Q1dkdz09> Meeting ID: 853 5793 0055 Passcode: 301709

Visio Divina - Patti Snyder, facilitator

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. 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/85245359532?pwd=dXNFamloa0ZqVDdGQlRscWlKeG4ydz09>
Meeting ID: 852 4535 9532 Passcode: 621029

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 we will talk about faith in God's promises.

Parks Wilson Class

Conference Room and on Zoom

This Sunday, Nov. 27, the Parks Wilson class will begin an Advent series of classes on spirituality and the arts. This Sunday Lori Tucker and Jim Wilcox will lead us in a discussion about poetry and spirituality. Join us in person or via Zoom at 9:45 <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/2765203639>



The poinsettias this Advent and Christmas Season have been provided by:

- Skeeter Cedars in memory of Henry R. Cedars, Sr.
 - Donald and Nan Patt in memory of Kathryn and Jim Ivey and Theresa Gasquet
 - Diana and Larry Reynolds in memory of Sandy and Mike Prusoff and Georgina and Larry Reynolds
 - Daniel and Priscilla Burch
 - Bizza and Ed Britton in memory of Katie and Henry Nelson and Phine and Orland Britton
 - Mary Wardlaw in memory of Jack Wardlaw
 - Virginia and Elizabeth Davis in memory of Harry F. Davis, M.D.
 - Jennifer Bravinder and Amy Braymer in memory of Beverly Bravinder
 - Cynthia and Edward Peterson
 - The Patty Family in memory of Harvey J and Anna Marie Hall and Deanna Patty
 - Christine Kooi in memory of her parents
 - Pat Wright in memory of Leonard and Muriel Hammar
 - Faimon and Elizabeth Roberts in memory of Mary Garrett
 - Samantha and Steven Hartmann in memory of Iris Lebron Cruz
 - Ellen Morgan and Susan Ourso in memory of their parents
 - Leslie Green and Griffin Campbell in memory of Betty and J. Griffin Campbell and James D. Wells
 - Linda and Ed Green in memory of Jim Wells, Edna and Leslie Ledbetter, and Nola and Ernest V. Green
 - Jerry and Sarah Kennedy in memory of Pant Kenned, Marion Liggett, and John Kennedy
 - David and Margaret Bach
 - Kelly Kerr in memory of Lorna Lee Kerr and Rolland Dean Kerr
 - The Walette Family in memory of Cameron (CB) Barr and the recovery of Jack's leg
 - Jeff and Kathy Perry in memory of Paul Perry
 - Megan and Adam Knapp in memory of Chris "Gramps" Johnson
 - Rosemary and Chacko John in memory of their parents
 - Lois Kuyper-Rushing in memory of Hop and Joyce Kuyper and Ed and Judith Rushing
 - Necia Lanus in memory of Madge and Henry Lanus
 - Ann and Terry Miller
 - Jim Hanifen and Patti Snyder in memory of Dolores Ingram and James A. Hanifen
 - Rick Bowles and Lilly Bridwell-Bowles in memory of their parents, Hilda and Norman Sasser and Lorne and Will Bowles
- 

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.

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

- **David**, brother of Paul Hoffman, in hospice in Mississippi
- **Angelle Bradford and family** upon the death of her grandfather
- **Peggy Carroll and her family** upon the death of her sister, Janet, on November 16
- **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**

