

Contact

September 2023

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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A l o n g t h e w a y

There are rhythms to the church year that come from both the church calendar and the “regular” one. Here that means Advent as well as the home football schedule, the start of the school year and All Saints Day, youth group plans and aaalllll the parades. The fall also brings us into budget planning for next year. We could call that stewardship season, but the truth is that stewardship is something that happens all year long.

Rather than being just a churchy word for fundraising, stewardship is a spiritual discipline and a way of living that helps us manage what God has entrusted to us and to share with others the joy of giving as a response to God’s generosity. We are called to be good stewards of all that we have: stewards of time, stewards of gifts, stewards of resources, stewards of relationships, stewards of ministry, stewards of the knowledge of God, stewards of the people in our community of faith, stewards of the mysteries of God.

What does being a good steward look like in your life?
Where would you like to exercise your stewardship muscles a little more?

Those are reflection questions for and throughout our whole lives.

Stewardship does include thinking about the way we spend our money - as a household and as a church. Giving of our financial resources is a spiritual discipline, rooted in gratitude, and there is no “right” amount - nothing that is too small or too large to consider a pledge. It’s healthy to talk about money, and the more we do it the easier it gets.

To be the body of Christ in the world we also need more than money. We need folks to: water the plants, prepare the communion elements, show up at the Capitol, be youth advisors, read at Park Elementary, lead small groups, do stream clean up, serve as liturgists, volunteer at the food bank, serve on committees, sing in the choir, wash the dishes, and more! When you share your time and talents, we all win.

Throughout the year we hope you’ll reflect on your commitments, and once each year we’ll focus together on the commitments we’ll all make - to pledge our financial resources to the ministries that God is calling the church to do, but also to consider our participation and involvement in them. It means having the chance to say “thank you” to God by caring for others with our time, talent, and treasure. It means it’s not just something to pay attention to in October, even if we may use the word a little more then!

Bendiciones (Blessings) -

September...

Meetings times/locations are subject to change.

Please check with your group leader for confirmation and/or information on how to log into Zoom meetings.

- 3 14th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion**
 9:30 a.m. Church School
 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (Live)
 2:00 p.m. NAJMA Food Care - Fellowship Hall
 No Youth Group
- 4 Labor Day Holiday - Day School and Church Office Closed**
- 5** 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom
 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 2285 Cedardale (*this month only*)
- 6** 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive
 5:00 p.m. Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee - Zoom
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 7** 10:30 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 8** 7:00 p.m. BRACE Performance - Sanctuary
 8:30 p.m. Youth Group Lock-in - Fellowship Hall
- 9** 6:30 p.m. LSU vs. Grambling State @ LSU (*PARKING*)
- 10 18th Sunday after Pentecost**
 9:30 a.m. Church School
 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (Live)
 No Youth Group
 7:00 p.m. BRACE Performance - Sanctuary
- 11** 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 12** 6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 13** 9:00 a.m. "Faith and Community" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 10** 7:00 a.m. Interfaith Federation Prayer Breakfast - 10335 Highland Rd
 10:30 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 16** 10:00 a.m. Transitions Small Group - Conference Room
- 17 19th Sunday after Pentecost**
 8:30 a.m. Blood Drive - Bloodmobile @UPC
 9:30 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
 4:40 p.m. Cuba Potluck Dinner - Fellowship Hall
 4:30 p.m. Youth Group @ Cuba Din
- 18** 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 19** 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
- 20** 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 21** 10:30 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 23** TBA LSU vs Arkansas @ LSU (*PARKING*)

Office Notes

Holiday Closure

The Day School and Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 4 for the Labor Day holiday.

Church Calendar

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

Check Reimbursements

Forms for requests/reimbursements can be found in the mail closet across from the church office (right side in a leucite box). If you are not a committee chair, your request will need to be approved by the chair. Once completed, attach your receipt and put it in Caralyn's mailbox. The pink copy is yours to keep. Please do not turn in requests without filling out this form. Checks are cut every Wednesday morning.



The **UPC Book Club** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., 1725 Eugene St. Contact Ellen Morgan for info

Sept 5 Never Let Me Go
 by Kazuo Ishiguro
 (will meet at 2285 Cedardale)

Oct 3 Lessons in Chemistry
 by Bonnie Garmus

Nov 7 Shrines of Gaiety
 by Kate Atkinson

**OCTOBER
 CONTACT
 DEADLINE
 SEPTEMBER 18**



Have you ever wanted to be a Wild Card in a game, you know, the one which changes the outcome? You can be that Wild Card for upcoming Fellowship Committee events. You can be the one that uniquely adds to the fun and fellowship, changing the outcome for the better, by volunteering on an occasional basis, for the event(s) that you'd like to help with. No long term commitment. Contact Barbara Hoffman (bhoffman2652@gmail.com) to see how you can become a Wild Card, furthering fellowship at UPC, and being as wild as you want (think costumes, dancing as you dry dishes, smiling as you serve food, promoting an event with clever words and images).

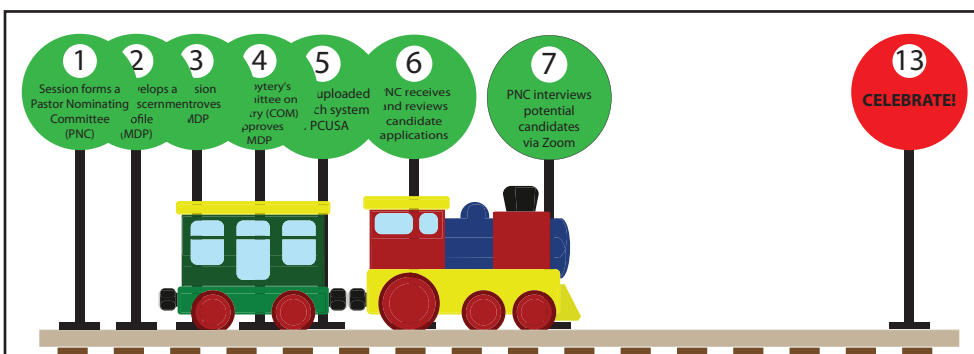
September...

24 20th Sunday after Pentecost

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Church School |
| 10:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room |
| 11:00 a.m. | Worship - Sanctuary & Facebook (<i>Live</i>) |
| 1:00 p.m. | Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room |
| | No Youth Group |
| 25 9:30 a.m. | Staff Meeting - Library |
| 26 7:00 p.m. | NAMI - Conference Room & Library |
| 27 9:00 a.m. | "Faith and Community" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room |
| 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room |
| 28 10:30 a.m. | "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room |
| 1:00 p.m. | Visio Divina - Zoom |
| 4:30 p.m. | Personnel & Administration Committee - Zoom (<i>tentative</i>) |
| 7:30 p.m. | New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room |
| 30 10:00 a.m. | Transitions Small Group - Conference Room |



It's that time!! The Choir is returning and everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday, September 6 from 7-8:00 p.m. in the choir room on the second floor of the church. The choir also meets at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays for a brush up rehearsal before joining the 11:00 a.m. service. No experience necessary- bring an open heart and a willing voice.



We're moving along...

The Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee has been hard at work this summer in its quest to hire a transitional associate pastor until a new permanent pastor can be found. The committee is reviewing various applicants that matched our own "discernment profile" and has begun the process of interviewing various candidates (via Zoom). To see what step we're on in calling a pastor, please check out the progress train in the hallway between the day school and the welcome center. Please keep the committee members (Daniel Burch, Jill Clemmons, Lois Kuyper-Rushing, Gary Meise, and Mamie) and prospective candidates in your prayers as we move forward in this process.

To see the whole time-line visit the hallway near the Coke machine.

REALM Church Database

Have you moved in the past few months or changed your email or phone number? Summer is busy and sometimes things fall through the cracks. Please check your Realm profile to make sure all your contact information is listed and up to date. If you need a Realm login, please contact the church office.

Tech Folk Needed

We are looking for volunteers with IT skills or an itch to learn a/v production by helping to livestream Sunday worship. If you are interested please contact Mamie or on Sundays visit the tech booth located in the choir loft to see where the magic happens!



PARKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once again UPC will open its parking lot for LSU Football Game parking. UPC has provided this service for many years with proceeds going to support youth, education, and mission projects. The home game schedule is:

| | | |
|-----------|----|---------------|
| September | 9 | Grambling |
| | 23 | Arkansas |
| October | 14 | Auburn |
| | 21 | Army |
| November | 11 | Florida |
| | 18 | Georgia State |
| | 25 | Texas A&M |

Game times are subject to change due to television. Typically, volunteers arrive four or five hours before game time and are done an hour before kickoff. If you haven't participated, it is a fun activity and everyone is invited to participate. Contact Peggy Carroll (225-485-8485) for information or to add your name to the list of helpers.

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!)*

- Here's a silly site that's just for fun. It has many applications on it, ostensibly made by Neal, but one cool one is Wonders of Street View, which just consists of a random screen capture from Google Street View. It's cooler than it sounds - keep hitting the random button for more pictures. <https://neal.fun/>

- The level of skill Paulina Bartnik demonstrates with her embroidered birds is truly extraordinary. Even if it's not your thing, the artistry is worth scrolling through. <https://embirdery.com/gallery/>

- Poet David Whyte in collaboration with filmmaker Andrew Hinton and composer Owen Ó Súilleabháin present two beautiful poems - one for the sound and one for the light. To see the video go here: <https://vimeo.com/639146289>
For the poem text and context go here: themarginalian.org/2021/10/26/david-whyte-blessings/

- A bicycle is an anti-poverty machine. UPC has given money to provide bicycles for Afghan refugees here in Baton Rouge. Read stories of folks around the world whose lives have improved dramatically with the help of two wheels. <https://bit.ly/3uWYH9L>

- In England a company is using 'dead' electric car batteries to help power the city in the evenings. An interesting look at folks trying to green up a green solution even more! <https://bit.ly/3mYXUEV>

- A slightly different take on loving your neighbor - this one being about your actual neighbors. <https://verilymag.com/2021/10/community-proximity-agape-love-your-neighbor-2021>

- Miles plays piano, harmonica, guitar, drums, sax, trumpet, and mixes his own music. And he's 6. <https://www.instagram.com/milesmusickid/?hl=en>

Youth group is up and running again this year! After our backpack blessing in church on the 13th, we started in earnest with a pool party (and parent meeting) at the Costellos house (thanks y'all)! We have also gotten our first volunteer gig under our belt, volunteering at the Food Bank.

We welcome our new 6th graders and anyone up through 12th grade who wants to join in the fun. It doesn't matter if you have never come before, you are always welcome. Here's what's coming up for September:

September

- 3 Labor Day Weekend - NO YOUTH
(Be aware: There's a Sunday home game today - 6:30pm LSU vs. Florida St)
- *8-9 Lock-In (no youth group on Sunday) - Spiritual Discipline - Unplug
- 9 LSU vs. Grambling - High School Youth Parking
- 17 Conversation with our Cuba Partner (4:30-6:30 with dinner!)
- 23 LSU vs. Arkansas - High School Youth Parking
- 24 4th Sunday: NO YOUTH

Our "regular" schedule is to meet from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on the first three Sundays of the month (mostly at church). Make sure you double check though because we have lock-ins, work days right after church, and other fellowship opportunities that won't necessarily follow that pattern. We're a go with the flow kinda crowd though, right?

This year Larry Reynolds, Samantha Hartmann, and Cindy Tyler Rice are all back as advisors! Hail, hail, the gang's all here! We have already done some planning, and we're all looking forward to being with the "yoots." We've missed you. It's gonna be awesome.

Easing The Transition from Home to School

Returning to school is a huge time of transition for parents and children individually and families as a family unit. Tradition, ritual, and spiritual practice can help get you back on track. Here are three very simple faith practices you might try as you get your year off to a great start. All of these are from the book *Faithful Families, Creating Sacred Moments at Home* by Traci Smith.

1. End the night with a butterfly hug. Cross your hands and interlock your thumbs, like a butterfly. Put the tips of your fingers on your collarbone and tap them back and forth, one at a time. Tap, tap, tap.
2. Step into the new year with footprints. Make footprints in the sand or with paint to think about how you'll walk with the spirit this year. Save the prints from year to year and watch how you grow!
3. End the night with a nightly examen. The examen is simply looking over and reviewing the day that has passed. Some people do this by asking about "highs and lows" and others talk about a "rose and thorn" or "joy and concern." I like asking the question: "When did you feel close to God today" and "When did you feel far away?"

Parents, on Sundays let's meet up in the Welcome Center for coffee and doughnuts to talk about how things are going. Blessings to you and your family as you begin a new school year!

Faith Formation

Adults

BIBLE STUDY - *Conference Room (near the Church Office)*

This group led class will be reading texts from Genesis in September as we see how "God Creates Family."

LIFE AND FAITH - *Parks Wilson Room (near the Sanctuary)*

This adult church school class will resume on September 10. The theme for September will be Second Thoughts, a reflection and discussion on the liturgy, sermon and poem from the previous week. More details about plans for the fall will be shared on September 10 and in upcoming bulletins.

PreK - 12th Grade

This year we are once again using the *Follow Me (Year 2)* curriculum. Classes this year are PreK-1st Grade, 2-5th Grade, 6-7th Grade, and 8-12th Grade. If you are interested in checking out the curriculum go to pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/15439/Follow-Me-Curriculum.aspx and click on the introduction video and a sample lesson.

The Good Samaritan, 2023

A student was walking down a middle school hallway. Someone pushed him, he fell, and all his stuff went everywhere. A teacher walked by, saw the student and kept on walking. The Assistant Principal came by, saw the student and walked on the other side. The janitor came by, saw the student, helped him up, and took him to the school nurse for help. Then, the janitor went back to pick up all the student's books and papers and brought them to him.

6th and 7th grade SS class

Inquirer's Class

Have you been visiting lately and have some questions about UPC? Are you wondering how to join this fabulous community and get more involved than you already are? Do you wonder what Presbyterians believe and how we organize ourselves? Would you just like to meet some new people and see their names on name tags so they're harder to forget?

All these things can be yours if you are able to join our Inquirer's Class this fall. We are still working out the specific dates, but we'll gather on four Sunday mornings in October. Please let Mamie know if you are interested in learning more.

Small Groups

Transitions Group

The Transitions group meets on select Saturday mornings, from 10-11:30, to discuss changes that we face at various times in our lives. Starting September 16, we will begin a new series using the book *Get It Together: Organize Your Records So Your Family Won't Have To* by Melanie Cullen, published by NOLO. We will work through the topics in the book at home then meet to share challenges, questions and ideas. Some topics include financial records, health care documents, funerals, obituaries, and estate planning. Transitions will meet in the conference room on these dates: Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2. Contact Lori Tucker at ljtucker70@gmail.com for more information.

Faith and Community

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. (ongoing)

All are welcome to join us as we explore a wide range of topics concerning faith and community. We look forward to sharing ideas and conversation. This group currently meets in the Parks Wilson Room. Watch your bulletins for changes in location.

Soul Feast - Parks Wilson Room

Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. (ongoing)
In this ongoing small group, Mary Mikell and Betsy Irvine will continue to illuminate how our spiritual concerns are affected by the different stories we encounter in books, poetry, and articles.

Visio Divina - Zoom

Every Thursday at 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (ongoing)

This ongoing small 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. No artistic skill is needed to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88426746848?pwd=YjdZeDc1WGJSNHhzcmlNMRWFMLy9LUT09> Meeting ID: 884 2674 6848
Passcode: 960537

How Rare is
Your Blood Type?

Blood Types and
Compatibility

| Donor \ Recipient | O- | O+ | A- | A+ | B- | B+ | AB- | AB+ |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| O- | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| O+ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| A- | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| A+ | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| B- | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| B+ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| AB- | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| AB+ | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Source: www.nursabuff.com

THE RAREST BLOOD TYPE IS THE ONE NOT AVAILABLE WHEN A PATIENT NEEDS IT MOST

**EVERY DROP COUNTS
EVERY DROP SAVES**

**GIVE BLOOD
SAVE LIVES**

University Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 17
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM • In the Bloodmobile

Schedule your appointment today at vitalant.org or contact Beth Paskoff!
For more information or to schedule a donation call 877-258-4825 or visit us at vitalant.org
Find us @ IDs are required to donate.

Love Your Neighbor: A Public Service Announcement (PSA)

September holds various high holidays for our Jewish siblings. Here's a quick rundown so you can be aware and be respectful.

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Friday, September 15 and lasts through sundown Sunday, September 17. Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Sunday, September 24 and lasts until Monday night, September 25.

Lesser known holidays Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah are also part of this holiday season. Sukkot begins at sundown on Friday, September 29 and the non-work holiday lasts until sundown on Sunday, October 1. Sukkot continues (as a working holiday) until sundown on Friday, October 6. Shmini Atzeret begins that same night, Friday, October 6, and the following night begins Simchat Torah, which lasts until sundown on Sunday, October 8, both as non-work holidays.

During these days, please be thoughtful of those who observe them by not scheduling meetings, conference calls, or deadlines. For teachers, please do not schedule tests, presentations, or other mandatory activities. And remember that many of us host family and/or other guests for these holidays.

For those who celebrate Christmas, imagine if everyone wanted something from you between the mornings of December 24th and December 26th while you had multiple things cooking, preparations to be in services, and family and friends coming over.

Be thoughtful, kind, and inclusive.

And greetings: "Happy New Year" is appropriate to say on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. "Have an easy/meaningful fast" is appropriate to say on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement when Jews traditionally fast for 25 hours. Or to avoid mentioning fasting (which not everyone can do) you can say "Have a meaningful holiday" instead. "Happy holiday" is appropriate for Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah, and really most Jewish holidays.

Stewardship

Pledge Updates

If you made a pledge this year for the 2023 budget - first, thank you!

Pledges, of whatever amount, help us plan and allow us to operate with confidence throughout the year. Halfway through the year we had collected a little more than half of our pledges, which is great news. If you aren't up to date with your pledge at this point though, that's okay! We know there are ebbs and flows to the year, and sometimes a pledge needs to be revised (down or up) when circumstances change.

We will be sending out updates this month by email to let you know what our records show, so please keep an eye out and check to make sure all is correct from what you know on your end. If it isn't, please get in touch with Caralyn who can help make corrections. Thank you again!



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

Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies.

Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2023 (as of 8/30/2023)

Received Pledged giving: \$347,540 (61% of \$567,995 pledged)

Received Unpledged giving \$39,454

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$387,034

Thank you for your generous contribution!

Your support of UPC and its missions is greatly appreciated.

It's never to late to make a pledge! Contact the office for more information.



2023

HIGH HOLIDAYS

Mark your calendars for this year's holidays

Rosh Hashanah: September 15-17

Yom Kippur: September 24 & 25

First Night of Sukkot: September 29

Sukkot Ends: October 6

Shmini Atzeret: October 7

Simchat Torah: October 8

Psalmtember

In 2009 a guy named Jake Parker started a drawing challenge for every day in October and called it "Inktober." Now there are people all over the world taking part through art classes in school or just on their own. Feel free to gear up for that next month, but you're also invited to start getting in the groove this month, in any medium you wish, with Psalmtember.

Marcus Hong, a Presbyterian pastor who works at Louisville Seminary loves to make art inspired by the Psalms, and this year he has created a prompt list to go along with the psalms he selected and issued an invitation for folks to join him. The "rules" are simple.

Read the psalm.

Make some art.

If you're game to post what you make online, he'd love to see it (use the hashtag #psalmtember2023) and we would too! You can tag us (#upcbr) or even put it up on our Facebook group page.

PSALMTEMBER 2023

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|----------|
| Sep 1 | Ps 31 | REFUGE | Sep 16 | Ps 46 | RIVER |
| Sep 2 | Ps 32 | WATERS | Sep 17 | Ps 47 | THRONE |
| Sep 3 | Ps 33 | BREATH | Sep 18 | Ps 48 | CITY |
| Sep 4 | Ps 34 | RADIANT | Sep 19 | Ps 49 | GRAVES |
| Sep 5 | Ps 35 | NET | Sep 20 | Ps 50 | TEMPEST |
| Sep 6 | Ps 36 | MOUNTAINS | Sep 21 | Ps 51 | CLEAN |
| Sep 7 | Ps 37 | SMOKE | Sep 22 | Ps 52 | UPROOT |
| Sep 8 | Ps 38 | BURDEN | Sep 23 | Ps 53 | BONES |
| Sep 9 | Ps 39 | BURNED | Sep 24 | Ps 54 | UPHOLDER |
| Sep 10 | Ps 40 | BOG | Sep 25 | Ps 55 | DOVE |
| Sep 11 | Ps 41 | RISE | Sep 26 | Ps 56 | BOTTLE |
| Sep 12 | Ps 42 | DEER | Sep 27 | Ps 57 | SHADOW |
| Sep 13 | Ps 43 | ALTAR | Sep 28 | Ps 58 | SNAIL |
| Sep 14 | Ps 44 | DUST | Sep 29 | Ps 59 | DOGS |
| Sep 15 | Ps 45 | ROBES | Sep 30 | Ps 60 | CRACKS |

Presbyterian Women

Join our Facebook group PW of UPC, Baton Rouge

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

Presbyterian Women at UPC includes ALL

There will be 2 options for PW Gathering and Study this year.

- One will be on the first Tuesday at 10am in the Parks Wilson Room. This group will do Bible Study and the usual fellowship and conversation as well as other PW mission focuses.
- The second will be on first Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Peggy Carroll's, 1545 Patrick Dr. This group will be a slower paced Bible Study as well as the usual fellowship and conversation.

Both groups will study "Sacred Encounters"

PW will meet Tuesday, September 5th, 10:00 a.m. in Parks Wilson Room.

PW will meet Wednesday, September 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Peggy Carroll's, 1545 Patrick Dr.

Presbyterian Women of Presbytery of South Louisiana Fall Gathering

The Presbyterian Women (PW) of the Presbytery of South Louisiana (PSL) held their Fall Gathering on August 19th at First Presbyterian Church of Scotlandville. Seven Presbyterian Women from UPC attended. We are all thankful that we can now gather in person. The event was well attended by forty-four women from eight churches in the presbytery. Patrice Butler, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Scotlandville, led us in a workshop on the 2023-2024 PW Bible Study, Sacred Encounters. The nine lessons in the study cover sacred encounters in Luke-Acts. They include the story of Mary and Elizabeth meeting when they were pregnant with Jesus and John. Also included is the story of the hemorrhagic woman who was healed by touching Jesus' robes and other stories.

A workshop on PW Interpretation and Information was held. Also, a hands on workshop was held to fill hygiene bags with items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, socks, shampoo, combs, snacks, etc. Sixty-four bags were filled to be given to a nursing home that the Scotlandville church supports. Gathering attendees provided the items for the bags.

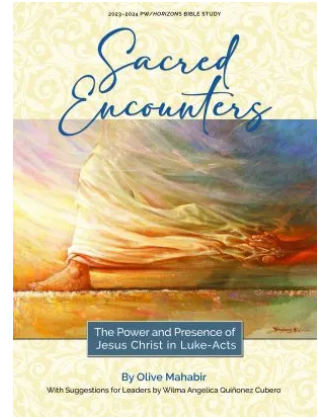
We had so many items that we were able to provide the extras to PCHAS(Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services) and other churches. The offering was designated for Presbyterian Disaster. \$459 was collected. Donation checks from PW PSL were also presented to PCHAS and Evergreen. School supplies were also purchased for PCHAS by St. Charles Ave Presbyterian PW.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE INVITES EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE



CHURCH WORK DAY

NOVEMBER 5 • FOLLOWING WORSHIP • ALL AGES WELCOME



Bible Study 2023-2024 Sacred Encounters

The 2023-2024 PW/Horizons Bible study by author Olive Mahabir

Within the pages of this study, Olive Mahabir invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel According to Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts, "one story in two parts," demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.



Helping Hands

Helping Hands, a sewing ministry of UPC, will meet on Tuesday, September 19. **Sewing skills are not essential.** Bring a brown bag lunch and join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Mission & Peacemaking

INTERFAITH FEDERATION PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tickets are now available for the Interfaith Federation annual prayer breakfast on Thursday, September 14, 7:00-9:00 a.m., at the Baton Rouge Stake Center (10335 Highland Road). This year's breakfast, with the theme "Love Thy Neighbor: The Path to a Brighter Future," features inspirational music, speakers, guided interfaith prayers, and chances to connect with fellow peace-makers. Tickets are available online. Visit www.ifedgbr.com/breakfast23 - or call the Federation office (225-267-5600) to reserve your seat.

WE'RE GOING TO CUBA!

A UPC group will be traveling to visit our Cuba partner church (Getsemani) September 22-27, and we hope to bring with us essentials that Cubans are unable to secure. Below is a list of items they have requested. A labeled box is in the Welcome Center to collect donations. For any questions, contact George Strain (937-8094, strain@lsu.edu).

Medications: aspirin, acetaminophen/Tylenol, ibuprofen/Advil, Excedrin, vitamin C, multivitamins, multivitamins for 50+, folic acid, omeprazole, Pepto Bismol, diarrhea pills, Alka Seltzer, calcium, vitamin D3, antacids, Benadryl, loratadine/Claritin, cytericin/Zyrtec, hydration salts, thermometers, suture kits, syringes, urinary catheters and collection bags (Cuba has universal health care but no meds or medical supplies)

Food and personal items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, stockings for children and adults; cumin, oregano, cloves, complete seasoning, powdered milk (especially hard to find in Cuba)

Sunday school materials: colors, crayons, modeling clay, board games (need not be new), parcheesi, dominos, cards, balloons, foam craft sheets, etc.

INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS

The Presbyterian Peace Program of the PC(USA) Mission Agency has a program known as International Peacemakers that brings faith leaders from other countries to the US to lift up issues of peace and justice that are facing their countries. One of the ten Peacemakers for 2023 is Alison Infante, moderator of the Synod of Cuba and pastor at the Juan G Hall Church in Cardenas, Cuba. The Presbytery of South Louisiana will host Alison from September 15-21. He will preach in worship on September 17th, and we will share a meal with him in the Fellowship Hall that evening. Alison is a friend of a number of UPC members who have visited Cuba, and we're excited about the opportunity to have him here to talk about the challenges facing the Cuban church and the difficulties of day-to-day life for all Cubans. Watch the bulletin for more details!



The Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

Individual congregations are encouraged to use up to 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to engage in local peacemaking and reconciliation ministries. Mid-councils retain 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Our goal for this year's offering is \$1000, which would exceed the \$741 collected in 2022. As always, we encourage your suggestions as we prayerfully discern which local ministry we will support this year. The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected on **October 1**; however, online giving is available at any time through (1) the GIVE tab on our website at www.upcbr.org (2) the Realm mobile app, (3) your REALM profile in the Realm website at www.onrealm.org, or (4) by texting "UPCBR [number of dollars]" to 73256. Be sure to specify that your gift is for the Peace and Global Witness Offering.



Michael Strain, Mamie Broadhurst, Ellen Morgan, and Susan Ourso represent UPC at the LSU pride mixer for incoming students on August 17.

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

- **Kelly Kerr**, waiting for test results
- **Blair LeBarge**, friend of Mary Mikell, with a rare type of brain cancer
- **James and Gloria Snowden**, Ethel Felder's parents, after recent hospitalizations
- **Donna Crumpler**, mother of Tavia Crumpler, diagnosed with breast cancer
- **Cheryl Whitting**, on dialysis awaiting a kidney transplant
- **Dina Courrege**, friend of Cindy Rice, battling Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma
- **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
- **Mickey Rose Braud Zaitoon**, wife of Samear, who is in declining health
- **Hugh Huffman**, friend of Rosemary John, undergoing chemo and radiation treatment for esophageal cancer
- **Edna Faust**, friend of Kay Lindsey, recovering from surgery
- **Jason Benedict**, son of Forest and Linda Benedict, with advanced stage scleroderma/multiple connective tissue disease
- **Susana Arevalo**, a Cuba partner, undergoing chemo and radiation therapy
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister, undergoing chemotherapy and dialysis
- **Ruth Mitchell**, sister of Mary Wardlaw,
- **Jo and her family**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, experiencing difficult times
- **Andy Peterson**, husband of Jane Smith's niece, undergoing treatment for Multiple Myeloma
- **Rev. Adelaida Jiménez and the efforts toward peace in Colombia**
- **All those affected by war**
- **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**

BLESSING BOX

While the heat is on in South Louisiana our Blessing Box of canned goods will become a Blessing Box of feminine hygiene products and COVID necessities (masks, hand sanitizer, clorox wipes). Bring your donations and place them directly in the box at the edge of the parking lot. Please do not leave canned goods as they will spoil in the heat and please do not leave items in the hallway outside the church office. Thanks for stepping up to help our neighbors!

Stay Connected!



Facebook Instagram

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

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 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

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

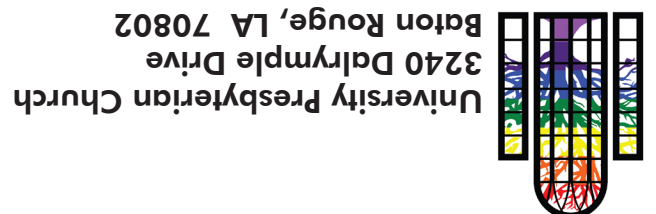
Text UPCBR and your amount to 73256 (as shown above)

September Birthdays

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Charlotte New Tyler Rice | 9 Hannah Samson | 18 Owen Meier | 28 Anne Maverick Susan Ourso |
| 2 Andreas Giger Christine Kooi | 10 John Tyler | 20 Rick Pitcher | 29 Alexander Campbell Ed Green |
| 3 Mary Mikell | 13 Julie Launey Amanda Richey Timothy Wright | 22 Edward Peterson Nora Williams | 30 Laina Fontenot Terry Iyasere |
| 4 Deborah Abernathy Simon Lewis Chet Pilley | 15 M Kennedy | 23 Tabitha Lewis | |
| | 16 Beth Paskoff | 26 John Richardson | |
| | | 27 Mary Wardlaw | |

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

Mission Statement
In response to God's grace,
University Presbyterian
Church of Baton Rouge
seeks creatively – through
nurture, education, worship
and community outreach
– to sustain an inclusive,
compassionate family of
faith; it seeks to promote
spiritual growth by
awakening souls to God's
infinite mercy embodied in
the reconciling love of Christ.
--Adopted by the Session
December 1995



Change Service Requested