

Contact

October 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

In the 1970s, Ray Oldenburg, a sociologist, suggested that informal, public gathering spaces were critical for the functioning of civil society. He called those spaces “third places” - the “first place” being a person’s home and the people they live with, and the “second place” being the workplace.

Third places are anchors of community life, and they have a variety of attributes:

- there is no obligation to be there;
- your status doesn’t matter there;
- there are usually “regulars,” but welcoming ones who draw others in;
- they are accessible and accommodating;
- conversation is often central, and the mood is often playful;
- they are not pretentious or snobby, and they can be cozy

Basically, they are places you relax in public - where you encounter familiar faces and make new acquaintances.

Oldenburg was thinking more of public libraries, bars, cafes, and parks, but I think churches - at our best - are this as well. We offer a place to go that is not home or work but where you can still be yourself. You can see friends and meet new people. We want the building and programs to be available and open to anyone. Maybe UPC could be more playful, but I’ve also seen y’all cut up, so...

What I know, and what I give deep thanks for, is that church is a place I can count on. It is a place that has to take me, and generally does so with great joy. Church is a place that invites me to be better as it tries to be better, but it reminds me that, no matter what, I am loved by God and by people that aren’t my family. It is a place that reminds me that I am part of a larger story - the story of God - whose narrative arc started way before me and is longer than I can see or describe alone. It is a story in which I belong, and have an important place, though no more important than any of the other cloud of witnesses to whom I also belong. For me it’s more like a 2½ space (occupational hazard), but I remain grateful for it - for you. Thank you.

Bendiciones (Blessings) -

October...

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.

- 1 18th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion**
 - 9:30 a.m. Church School
 - 9:30 a.m. Inquirers Class - Fellowship Hall
 - 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org)
 - 2:00 p.m. NAJMA Food Care - Fellowship Hall
 - 4:30 p.m. Youth Group
 - 5:00 p.m. UUMC & UPC Blessing of the Pets @ UUMC parking lot
- 3**
 - 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom
 - 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 St.
- 4**
 - 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive
 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 5**
 - 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
 - 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
 - 5:00 p.m. Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee - Zoom
 - 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 7**
 - 11:00 a.m. Kerr Memorial Service & Reception - Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall
- 8 19th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - 9:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
 - 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org)
 - 4:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 9**
 - 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
 - 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 10**
 - 6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
 - 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 11**
 - 9:00 a.m. "Faith and Community" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
 - 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom
 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 12**
 - 11:00 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
- 14**
 - TBD LSU vs. Auburn @ LSU (PARKING)
- 15 20th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - 9:30 a.m. Church School
 - 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org)
 - 12:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room
 - 12:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting - Parks Wilson Room
 - No Youth Group
- 17**
 - 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
 - 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
- 18**
 - 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 19**
 - 11:00 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
- 21**
 - TBD LSU vs Army @ LSU (PARKING)
- 22 21st Sunday after Pentecost**
 - 9:30 a.m. Church School
 - 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org)
 - 1:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room
 - No Youth Group
- 23**
 - 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library

Office Notes

Back Door

The code to the back door has been changed. During business hours, everyone should enter through the office or day school doors so we may know who is in the building in case of an emergency. If you require a code or key for after hours entry, please contact the church office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Church Calendar

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



IT'S FOOTBALL TIME AT UPC

Once again, our church has opened its parking lot for each home LSU Football Game. The church has an allocation plan for donations received, providing funds for youth trips, including international trips, scholarships for youth and adults, and mission and peacemaking. Thanks are due to our members who give their time organizing the game day parking efforts and arrive hours before kickoff to direct cars to parking spaces and collect contributions. The home game schedule is:

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.

**NOVEMBER
CONTACT
DEADLINE
OCTOBER 20**



CELEBRATE!

Diane Shaw, our Day School Cook, will celebrate **40 Years** with UPC on Tuesday, October 9th. What a blessing she has been! She has cooked for us and our children. You decide how you want to show Diane your appreciation with cards, letters, flowers, gift cards, etc., and we will all be rewarded with one of Diane's beautiful smiles!



Day School Annual Book Fair

This year's Book Fair will open for day school families on Monday, October 23-29 (8-11 AM and 3-5 PM), and will be open Sunday, October 29, for our church families (time TBD). If you can't make it in person, you are invited to go to <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/fair-finder.html> and search for University Presbyterian Church Day School to browse through over 6,000 products including Book Fair exclusives, new releases, value packs, and more! Your support of the Day School means a lot and we thank you!

A/V Folk Needed

We are still 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!

October...

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 24 | 7:00 p.m. | NAMI - Conference Room & Library |
| 25 | 9:00 a.m. | "Faith and Community" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room |
| 26 | 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 |
| 28 | 10:00 a.m. | Transitions Small Group - Conference Room |
| 29 | 22nd Sunday after Pentecost - Pledge Dedication Sunday | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Church School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship - Sanctuary (<i>Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org</i>) |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Halloween Event - UPC Parking Lot |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Youth Group @ Halloween Event |
| 30 | 9:30 a.m. | Staff Meeting - Library |

UPC ANNUAL GIVING KICKOFF

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

sunday, october 8
9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



TELLING OUR STORY

What part of UPC's story do you claim as your own?
How is UPC part of your story?

Find out on Sunday, October 8 in the Fellowship Hall as we gather to renew our adventure with the church, consider our role in UPC's mission and ministry, and hear about the vision UPC has for the future.

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!)

- Gorgeous aerial shots by Pham Huy Trung showcasing the annual harvests in Vietnam's countryside. <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2022/05/pham-huy-trung-vietnam-photographs/>

- * Suzanne Vega singing "Luka" for NPR's Tiny Desk concerts. A song about domestic violence, it is terrifyingly beautiful. (Two other songs follow that are also quite good.) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AndEMO_p2U

- Vistas from Waffle House windows across the South, and a reflection on the "feel" of the restaurant itself. And if you were wondering - covered, smothered, chunked, and peppered. <https://bittersoutherner.com/waffle-house-vistas>

- OLAUG - Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage - is a group of women ages 65+ who dive and clean up ponds across Cape Cod. It's doubtful they have to worry about alligators, but they do get their share of turtles! <https://bit.ly/3YAa0Da>

- Ryan Burge is an assistant professor of political science at Eastern Illinois University, and he puts together graphs on politics and religion. He's got graphs on just about anything, and he's always up for suggestions about what else to look at, so take a peek and see what you find! <https://www.graphsaboutreligion.com/>

- A Montana judge sided with young environmental activists who said state agencies were violating their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment by permitting fossil fuel development without considering its effect on the climate. <https://n.pr/450eIRD>

- At an American Mathematical Society meeting, high school students presented a proof of the Pythagorean theorem that used trigonometry—an approach that some once considered impossible. Y'all, kids are amazing. <https://bit.ly/3Lx2sf8>

Youth Group

We kicked off September with a lock-in and had a great time. From Friday at 8:30 p.m. - Saturday at 8:30 a.m. it was all youth group all the time. There were games and service and pizza and conversation. They came up with lots of adjectives for both youth group and UPC, and it was clear that the two were related. There was even a little sleep, at least by the kiddos...

The next week we had the chance to serve and listen at the potluck dinner for Rev. Infante to hear more about Cuba and our partnership there. With a mix of spirituality, service, and silliness, we are grateful to get together. Any 6th-12th graders are welcome; we'd love to have you join in the fun! Here's what's coming up next month:

October

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Blessing of the Animals - meet at UPC (it's next door with the Methodists) |
| 7 | LSU vs Missouri- High School Youth Parking |
| 8 | Lunches for BR refrigerators |
| 15 | Fall Break - NO YOUTH |
| 21 | LSU home game parking |
| 22 | 4th Sunday, no youth |
| 29 | UPC Halloween Extravaganza - parking lot |



Faith Formation

Small Groups

Transitions Group

The Transitions Group will have a special guest speaker on Saturday, October 28 when Rev. Joseph Moore will talk about Estate Planning and Planned Giving. Rev. Moore is the Ministry Relations Officer for the South Central Region of the Presbyterian Foundation. He previously served as pastor at several churches in Texas and Colorado.

Wills and other estate planning documents provide an opportunity to leave a faith legacy and give resources that will support UPC for years to come. We all have something to give as we plan to return to God that which God has entrusted us with during our lifetimes.

Even if you have not been participating in other meetings of the Transitions Group, you are invited to hear Rev. Moore at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 28.

UPDATE: The October 7 meeting of Transitions, when Mamie was going to talk about advanced planning of funerals, will be rescheduled for January.

If you have questions about the Transitions Group, please contact Lori Tucker, ljtucker70@gmail.com or 225-288-0885.

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 meets in the Parks Wilson Room.

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=YjdZeDc1WGJSNHhzcmNMRWFmLy9LUT09>

Meeting ID: 884 2674 6848

Passcode: 960537

Church School

Adults

BIBLE STUDY

Conference Room (near the Church Office)

Join us in October as this group led class learns about "Responding to God's Love" and "God's Way of Leading."

LIFE AND FAITH

Parks Wilson Room (near the Sanctuary)

In October, the adult church school class (formerly the Parks Wilson class) will continue to explore Second Thoughts, a reflection and discussion of the scripture, sermon, and poem from the previous week.

PreK - 12th Grade

Classes are divided into PreK-1st Grade, 2-5th Grade, 6-7th Grade, and 8-12th Grade and are using the Follow Me (Year 2) curriculum. 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.

Inquirer's Class Starting October 1

Have you been visiting lately and wondered:

What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?

What is some of UPC's history?

How can I get more involved in this fabulous place?

*Who are some of the other people in this community,
and how did they come to be here?*

We will do our best to answer those questions and others in our Inquirer's Class this fall. We will gather on Sunday mornings starting October 1 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and end on the last Sunday of the month. (We will join in with the Pancake Breakfast on the 8th because... pancakes!).


During the class we'll talk about Presbyterianism, UPC, our own stories, and whatever else comes up. You may decide to become a member of the church as we come to a close, or you may come to the class just to learn more. Either is great. Please let Mamie know if you are interested in participating. And if this month won't work, don't worry, we'll do this again in the spring.

ADVENT is coming
Want to help plan for it?
Contact Mamie or Christine Kooi

Blessing of the Pets

October 1st at 5 P.M.

University United Methodist Church
Front Parking Lot | All Pets Welcome



Stewardship

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR UPC?

This year UPC committees were tasked to provide a "Vision Budget" to share how they would use a significant increase in their annual budgets. As you decide on your pledge for 2024, please think about these visions. If we all increase what we pledge, UPC will be able to meet these needs for now and the future.

WORSHIP: \$30,000 for livestreaming and organ maintenance

- \$20,000 for upgrades/replacements of audio and video hardware to improve livestreaming. Each Sunday, 20-30 people worship online; more sign-in later.
- \$10,000 to add to the organ repair fund, with the expectation that the organ is going to need major repairs in the next ten years. A total of \$120,000 will ultimately be needed.

PROPERTY: \$5,000 to Maintenance Reserve

- We are concerned about the AC unit that handles the Kitchen/Fellowship Hall/Offices. Adding to the Maintenance Reserve means we will not be completely caught off guard.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: \$500 for childcare for PW Retreat

- Presbyterian Women will host a one-day retreat in Baton Rouge, bringing women of all ages together for fellowship, creative time, and spiritual writing. Childcare will be provided for those participating using these funds.

PERSONNEL: \$15,000 for staff

- Raise pastor and staff salaries by 5%.
- Hire a part-time (5 hours/week) Communication Coordinator position to be responsible for digital strategies to improve UPC's communication with the congregation and community, through Instagram and other social media platforms.

NURTURE: \$500

- to revive the monthly Caregiver Support meetings including lunch.

MISSION & PEACEMAKING: 5% Increase, about \$2,100

- In order to build upon UPC's Matthew 25 commitments to eradicate systemic poverty and dismantle structural racism, we could expand our response to climate-driven disasters by increasing contributions to disaster support organizations, and our partnership with groups working at the intersection of addressing poverty and racism.

FELLOWSHIP: \$600 for events

- These funds would subsidize the cost of the crawfish boil and fish fry to lessen the cost for families and individuals, and to provide roast turkey for an Advent meal.

DAY SCHOOL:

- Minimum of 3% increase in base pay for teachers; provide optional benefits for teachers; new software for processing tuition payments; additional security options for Day School

What is Per Capita?

Each year UPC sends money to support our Presbytery, Synod, and the national church. We send \$80 per church member (per capita) in gratitude for the ways those bodies support us locally. This year we have had a safety seminar sponsored by the Presbytery, our synod contact for Disaster Recovery preached for us, and we will have a representative from the Presbyterian Foundation speak to our Transitions small group and preach for us - among many less noticeable means of connection. If you are able to do so, would you consider adding \$80 to your giving this year to cover your per capita expense and help us be stronger together?

DEDICATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 29

Please join us as we pledge our time, talents, and financial support for 2024!

If you did not pick up your annual giving packet at the pancake breakfast, it will be mailed to you. (Additional pledge cards will be available in the sanctuary and Welcome Center)

How to Give in Realm

Log into your Realm account at onrealm.org. If you don't yet have a realm account, please contact the church office. Once you are in your profile go to GIVING then +PLEDGE and a new pledge window will appear. Choose the GENERAL FUND for 2024, fill in how often you would like to pledge, from dates 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024, and how much you would like to pledge. Realm will calculate the yearly total for you. When you are done click SAVE PLEDGE. It's that easy!

REMINDER:

If you change your pledge and have automatic payments sent through REALM, remember to update your bank information. REALM will not automatically do that for you.

How to Pledge Time/Talents

In your REALM account go to SERVING. Under SERVING you will see your "Serving Profile", "Assignments," and "Teams" information. Click on the ... to edit days and times you are available to volunteer and to add skills. Under the OPPORTUNITIES tab on that page there is a list of available opportunities to get involved with UPC. You can browse by Role (specific task) or by Team (general area). Choose as many as you would like and a leader will be in touch with you.

Presbyterian Women

Join our Facebook group PW of UPC, Baton Rouge

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

Presbyterian Women at UPC includes ALL

Purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

MEETINGS:

The Bible Study, Sacred Encounters continues with Lesson 2 "The Exorcism in Gerasa" (Luke 8:26-39)

- Tuesday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. in Parks Wilson Room (Available on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81784562587?pwd=SkVBMFk1TFdqTUFTSTVEbU1oMmN6UT09> Meeting ID: 817 8456 2587 Passcode: 655870)
- Wednesday, October 4, 10:00 a.m. at Peggy Carroll's, 1545 Patrick Dr.

Check out PW's YouTube channel: youtube.com/presbyterianwomen

Thank Offering

Each year faithful givers demonstrate their thankfulness to God through giving to the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women which began in 1888. The grants for 2023 will support:

- Synod of Mid-America - Grounded Gardening hosts a worshipful support group for people with mental health variances.
- Synod of Mid-Atlantic - Summer Arts Camp offers a safe, tuition-free summer camp that introduces children from families that struggle financially to valuable art experiences for healing.
- Synod of South Atlantic - Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance provides safe and affordable housing for agricultural workers and their families.
- Synod of South Atlantic - Gainesville Community Counseling Center provides mental health support, community education and camping that addresses the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ youth.
- Synod of the Northeast - TAUM provides a safe space in an underserved area for youth to learn to use Microsoft Office to develop skills that prepare them for employment.
- Synod of the Sun - Okra Abbey: Their sanctuary is a garden where food grows and where people and faith grows thru sharing stories, scripture and prayers. A solar power system will allow them to expand. Zambia: A new health care facility that will provide maternal, prenatal and postnatal care as well as primary care of children.



Helping Hands

Helping Hands, a sewing ministry of UPC, will meet on Tuesday, October 17. **Sewing skills are not essential.** Bring a brown bag lunch and join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.



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

Oct 3 Lessons in Chemistry
by Bonnie Garmus

Nov 7 Shrines of Gaiety
by Kate Atkinson

HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 • 4:00-6 PM • UPC PARKING LOT

FUN • GAMES • COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

Mission & Peacemaking

Forgiving Medical Debt

UPC has been talking a lot about forgiving medical debt – you may have heard about this in worship or in church school. So what is this all about?

We know what Jesus calls us to do in Matthew 25- when we encounter someone hungry and give them food, thirsty and give them drink, when we welcome the stranger and visit the prisoner, that is where we encounter God. UPC recently joined the PC USA's Matthew 25 movement, which calls us to look for the ways we can follow Jesus's call in our society today. One of the calls of the Matthew 25 movement is to eradicate systemic poverty, by taking a hard look at the systems and structures that bind our neighbors in poverty. One example of these systems is the prevalence of medical debt.

We know that we live in a world where not all have equal access to healthcare, nor to the things that keep us healthy. More often than not unfair systems contribute to sickness, and then when lack of access to affordable healthcare puts people in debt, they become more and more trapped. Medical debt is a debt of necessity not of choice, and it does not affect people equally. It disproportionately affects Black households and further compounds the racial wealth gap, making this an urgent issue of racial justice. Medical debt is pervasive and the emotional weight and toxicity of unpaid medical bills affects people's mental health and economic well-being. Studies show that people forgo or delay care due to fear of medical bills. Twenty-three million people in the US (nearly 1 in 10 adults) owe significant medical debt with an estimate of \$195 billion owed.

Here is the good news: we have been learning that there is a way we can relieve this burden for our neighbors. An organization called RIP Medical Debt was founded in 2014 by two former collections industry executives. This program's mission is to end medical debt by combining the generosity of donors with debt industry expertise to produce a high volume of debt relief. They use data and knowledge of the debt buying market to find people who need debt relief the most, then buy up the medical debt for pennies on the dollar. Then, they forgive the debt. Beneficiaries receive a letter in the mail to tell them that their debt has been forgiven. In less than 10 years RIP Medical Debt has erased over \$8 billion in medical debt by buying it down for pennies on the dollar. They estimate that a \$100 donation relieves \$10,000 in medical debt. This debt relief reduces mental and financial distress for millions of people. This program receives a 100% rating on Charity Navigator.

We kicked off our efforts to relieve medical debt with a special offering taken up on August 27th – on that day, your contributions totaled over \$3,000! RIP Medical Debt estimates that our collection can be put to use to relieve over \$300,000 in medical debt. Just imagine for a moment the relief this will bring – thank you UPC!

The adult and the youth church schools are continuing their campaign to raise funds to relieve medical

debt throughout the church school year, and will complete a final total contribution in May. There's a friendly (read: cutthroat) competition between the adult and the youth church school classes to see who can raise the most this year – game on!

Cuba Ministries Update

September was a busy month! Our ministry partnership of 33 years with our Cuban brothers and sisters works by walking side by side, sharing in the ministries of our faith. This is a change from the more colonial, paternalistic model of the past.

In mid-September, UPC and the Presbytery of South Louisiana sponsored the visit of Pastor Alison Infante Zamora through the PC(USA) International Peace makers Program. Alison is moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Cuba and pastor at Juan G. Hall church in Cardenas, Cuba. In his sermon at the September 17th worship and at fellowship dinner the same day he shared issues of peace and justice that are facing the church in Cuba. While here he had the opportunity to visit the One Stop Homeless Center, the Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants (LORI), and he met with officials with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. This was followed by travel to New Orleans to spend time with other Presbyterian churches and visit affiliated community organizations.

Following that visit, a UPC team left to visit Cuba with two goals. First was a sustainability visit to our partner Gethsemane Presbyterian Church in San José de los Ramos, to restore and strengthen our partnership after several years of COVID-forced absence. We renewed many old friendships. The second was to check on the operation of Living Waters for the World systems installed in San José, Sabanilla, Matanzas Central, the Cuban Council of Churches in Havana, and the Convent of Santa Brígida in Old Havana. In addition to all of the donated supplies from UPC (thank you for your generosity), we delivered funds and various items (cataract lenses, iPhone cases, prescription medicines, letters) to people and groups from various other US-based churches.

Choir Notes

Choir is in full swing and we invite you to give us a whirl! Choir isn't only an important part of our worship service, it's also a great way to connect with an awesome group of people. Rehearsals are in the choir room every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and we gather every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. just before worship begins. Join us! Contact Ross Cawthon (rcawthon@upcbr.org) or Anne Maverick (amaverick50@gmail.com) for more information... or just show up!

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 • Mickey Rose Braud Zaitoon

- **Joe and Ari Latino**, friends of Caralyn Durham, upon the death of Joe's wife, Candi
- **Mamie Broadhurst and her family** upon the death of her father, David
- **Jill Clemmons and the Kerr family** upon the deaths of Kelly and Kelly's sister, Marla
- **Whitney Rushing**, recovering from breast reconstruction surgery
- **Jason Benedict**, son of Linda and Forest Benedict. His stem cell transplant has been delayed until his health condition improves
- **Donna Crumpler**, mother of Tavia Crumpler, recovering from breast cancer surgery
- **Hugh Huffman**, friend of Rosemary John, recovering from surgery for esophageal cancer
- **David Klimash**, brother of Victor, recovering from open heart surgery
- **Blair LeBarge**, friend of Mary Mikell, with a rare type of brain cancer
- **James and Gloria Snowden**, Ethel Felder's parents, after recent hospitalizations
- **Cheryl Whitting**, on dialysis awaiting a kidney transplant
- **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
- **Edna Faust**, friend of Kay Lindsey, recovering from surgery
- **Susana Arevalo**, a Cuba partner, undergoing chemo and radiation therapy
- **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**

IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2023 (as of 9/20/2023)

Received Pledged giving: \$402,946 (72% of \$562,275 pledged)

Received Unpledged giving \$42,585

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$445,531

Thank you for your generous contribution!

Your support of UPC and its missions is greatly appreciated.

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

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 the 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)

October Birthdays

1 Talia Daigre	19 Sadie Knapp
3 Pamela Bistany Jon Cogburn Amybeth Mainord	20 Rick Bowles Lori Tucker Doug Walker
5 Peggy Carroll Casey Cogburn	21 Jane Wallace
6 Drew Patty Scott Phillabaum	22 Joseph Tyler
9 Linda Green	23 Pat Wright
12 Linda Walker	25 Ed Britton Larry Reynolds
16 Mickey Brown	27 Becca Bartlett Vinny Talley
17 Laurie Gaona Ann Miller	31 Cecil Eubanks
18 Katherine Carroll Jill Scherrer	

Looking Ahead

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE INVITES EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE



CHURCH WORK DAY

NOVEMBER 5 • FOLLOWING WORSHIP • ALL AGES WELCOME

Daylight Savings Time Ends - November 5

Don't Cook Night - November 14

Day School Thanksgiving Feast - November 16

Advent Begins - December 3

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

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3240 Dalrymple Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



Change Service Requested