

Contact

December 2023
January 2024

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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A l o n g t h e W a y

I'm weary y'all.
I don't think I am the only one.

It's tiring out there right now. The news is hard from so many parts of the country and the world. Food and housing still cost more than it feels like they should. The days are getting shorter while it is getting colder. Many of us have lost people we love this year. It makes a gal weary just thinking about it.

The creators of our Advent and Christmas theme this year - "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" - seemed to pick up on that. Looking at the scriptures we'll be reading this December they write:

"Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people."

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, "How does a weary world rejoice?" From the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy."

It's not weariness or rejoicing. It is finding a way to hold each - both. Their image of two people holding onto the world - one radiating joy and the other wading through weariness - feels right to me. It might represent two sides of our own selves, recognizing that we shuttle between the highs and the lows. It might remind us of the need to find partners so we can hold on together; showing each other joy and light when we can't find it, but not asking us to pretend hard things don't exist.

Join us this December for the fun of caroling, and the quiet of Taizé. Laugh and play while making crafts, and know there will be space to cry at our Longest Night service. What makes you weary? What brings you joy? You don't have to forgo one for the other. There's room in this inn for all of it.

Bendiciones,



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.*

- 2 10:00 a.m. Transitions Small Group - Conference Room
- 3 1st Sunday of Advent** *Communion*
 - 9:45 a.m. Church School
 - 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
- 4 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
 - 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom
- 5 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
 - 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 1725 Eugene
 - 7:00 p.m. BRACE Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 6 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
- 7 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 10:45 a.m. LSU Lab School Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 9 10:00 a.m. Crafting for Christmas Event - Conference Room/Library
 - 1:00 p.m. Linda Green Memorial Service - Sanctuary
 - 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Christmas Concert - Unitarian Church, Goodwood Blvd.
- 10 2nd Sunday of Advent**
 - 9:45 a.m. Church School
 - 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
 - 12:15 p.m. Carolers Lunch - Fellowship Hall
 - 12:15 p.m. Youth Group @ Carolers Lunch followed by Caroling
 - 6:30 p.m. LSU Lab School Singers Recital - Sanctuary
- 11 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
 - 11:30 a.m. Membership Committee - Library
 - 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 12 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee Christmas Brunch - 3630 Gladiola St.
 - 6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Star Party - 256 W Ardenwood Dr
 - 7:00 p.m. NAMI Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall
- 13 9:00 a.m. Faith & Community Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
 - 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom
 - 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
 - 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 14 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom
 - 1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
- 17 3rd Sunday of Advent**
 - 9:45 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
 - 3:00 p.m. Children's Music Studio Violin Recital - Sanctuary
 - 4:30 p.m. Youth Group Wrapping Extravaganza
- 18 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library

Office Notes

Day School and Office Closures

The Day School will be closed from December 18 - January 1.
The Church Office will be closed from December 22 - January 1.
The Church Office and Day School will be closed January 15 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Bulletin Deadlines

Announcements or prayer requests to appear in the December 24th and/or December 31st Sunday bulletins are due on Monday, December 18.



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

Dec 5 [The Shrines of Gaiety](#)
by Kate Atkins

Jan 2 [The Big Door Prize](#)
by M.O. Walsh



Worship

Taking Care of Yourself this Advent

Sometimes we get caught up in what everyone else puts on our calendars. How can you nourish yourself this Advent season? Here are some spiritual practices for this season you might consider if you don't have any.

- Let decorations/your surroundings be a cue to practice mindfulness:
 - "Every time I see Christmas lights I will remember how Christ is the light of the world."
 - "Every time I see a wreath, I will remember God's love, which as no beginning and no end, just like a circle."
 - "Every time I see a Christmas bird or dove, I will say a prayer for peace."
- Light a candle and sit in its light and scent. The moment of lighting the candle is the practice, along with extinguishing it. As I extinguish a candle, I try to remember that the smoke that rises is all of the prayer energy that I've put into the candle rising up to God and to remember, of course, that God is...everywhere.
- Take five minutes in the morning to center yourself and start the day off right. There is a five minute journal app you can use, or even just play the NYT "connections" game as a little moment of zen.
- Can you tack something on to a specific time or already established practice to make it consistent? Similar to #1, when you eat - say a prayer, when lunch ends - walk around the block, after you put away the dishes - stretch.

PREPARE THE WAY!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AND CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO RECEIVE A DIGITAL COPY!

**FEBRUARY
CONTACT
DEADLINE
JANUARY 22**

December...

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 19 | 9:30 a.m. | Helping Hands - Conference Room |
| | 7:00 p.m. | BRACE Rehearsal - Sanctuary |
| 20 | 9:30 a.m. | Day School Chapel - Sanctuary |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony |
| 21 | 11:00 a.m. | "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room & Zoom |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Visio Divina - Zoom |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Longest Night Service - Sanctuary |
| 24 | 4th Sunday of Advent (NO CHURCH SCHOOL or NURSERY) | |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org) |
| | | NO YOUTH GROUP UNTIL JANUARY 7 |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary |
| | | (Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org) |
| 25-29 Day School & Church Office Closed | | |
| 31 | 1st Sunday of Christmas (NO CHURCH SCHOOL or NURSERY) | |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org) |
| | | NO YOUTH GROUP UNTIL JANUARY 7 |

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT UPC

WORSHIP

December 3 - First Sunday in Advent

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

December 6 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

December 10 - Second Sunday in Advent

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

December 13 - Taizé

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

December 17 - Third Sunday in Advent

11:00 Worship (a nursery is provided)

December 21 - Longest Night Service

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

A service of prayer, reflection, and remembrance

December 24 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:00 Worship (No church school)

Christmas Joy Offering will be collected.

December 24 - Christmas Eve

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

Traditional service of lessons and carols. This service will be live-streamed.

December 31 - 1st Sunday of Christmas

11:00 Worship (No church school)

January 7 - Epiphany Sunday

11:00 Worship (a nursery is provided)

Come for our annual distribution of Epiphany Stars



January...

1 New Year's Day

Day School and Church Office Closed

- 2 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room & Zoom
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom
7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 1725 S. Eugene
- 3 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 4 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
- 7 **Epiphany** *Epiphany Stars will be distributed*
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*)
4:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 8 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 9 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
7:00 p.m. BRACE Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 10 9:00 a.m. Faith & Community Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive
5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 11 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
- 13 10:00 a.m. Transitions Small Group - Conference Room
- 14 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
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*)
NO YOUTH GROUP (UNTIL TOMORROW!)
- 15 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Day School & Church Office Closed**
Youth Group Service Event (TBD)
- 16 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
7:00 p.m. BRACE Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 17 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony
- 18 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
- 20 10:00 a.m. Transitions Small Group - Conference Room
- 21 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
8:30 a.m. Blood Drive - UPC Bloodmobile
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
4:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 22 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 23 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
7:00 p.m. BRACE Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 24 9:00 a.m. Faith & Community Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

UPC is excited to once again be participating Hope for the Holidays, a program run by Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS), to provide holiday gifts for children in our community. If you would like to participate, sign up in the Welcome Center before and after service. Monetary donations in lieu of choosing a name will be accepted. Donations will be used to purchase gifts for any unclaimed names. If all children are claimed, 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 be wrapping gifts for those who choose to make use of this service. **The deadline to drop off gifts or make a donation is Sunday, December 17.**



The Presbytery of South Louisiana is Seeking a New Stated Clerk

The PSL Administration Committee seeking candidates for this important ministry leadership position. They are interested in an open and wide-ranging search, and urge persons from a wide variety of backgrounds to apply. The candidate must be a Ruling or Teaching Elder, according to the PCUSA Book of Order. To apply send a letter of interest in the position to the PSL Transitional General Presbyter Richard Williams (richard@pbysouthla.org). Applications and letters should be received by noon, December 5th.



Stewardship & Finance

STEWARDSHIP 2024 UPDATE

As of 11/28/23 we have 100 pledges totaling \$555,158. Thank you!

Last year we had 107 pledges totaling \$562,955, and we hope to beat that in 2024. 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 and the church office can't change it.**

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like monthly envelopes for your 2024 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 2023. **Please have all check or reimbursement requests for the 2023 budget into the church office by Tuesday, December 19.**

CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE

Contributions must be received on-line or postmarked by 12/31/23 to be reflected on your 2023 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC's name on 12/31/23 to be counted as a 2023 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 2023

(as of 11/29/2023)

Received Pledged giving: \$503,955

(89.5% of \$562,955 pledged)

Received Unpledged giving \$53,516

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$557,471

Thank you for your generous contribution!

January...

26	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
28	4th Sunday after Epiphany	
	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>)
	12:00 p.m.	Soup & Pie Luncheon - Fellowship Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Youth Group @ Soup & Pie - Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room
29	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting - Library
30	7:00 p.m.	BRACE Rehearsal - Sanctuary
31	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT UPC

EDUCATION

Life & Faith Class

During Advent, the Visio Divina small group will lead the Life & Faith class. On December 3, Lauren Cooper will lead a session where we will explore an Advent reading using Lectio Divina, which means "divine reading." On December 10, Melanie Driscoll will lead a session on Visio Divina, which uses visual images and scripture. Both sessions allow an opportunity to experience these forms of meditation. Art supplies will be provided for the Visio Divina session. On December 17, Robin McCulloough-Bade will conclude the series with "How Does a Weary World Rejoice" as we approach the darkest night of the year. The class meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Parks Wilson room.

FELLOWSHIP

December 3 - Deck the UPC Christmas Tree

Wear your most festive holiday sweater or pajamas to worship! We will decorate UPC's outdoor Christmas tree 10:30-11:00 a.m. and after worship. Make or bring a weather-proof ornament which represents something about your self or family. Clear plastic ornaments are available for you to take home and decorate to bring back anytime.

December 9 - Crafting for Christmas

Join us in the Conference Room and Library for a fun morning of crafting. A light lunch and childcare will be provided - please let us know how many children (and their ages) by contacting Suzanne Trahan at suzannetrahan@cox.net

December 10 - Caroling

Following worship, anyone wishing to carol is invited to Fellowship Hall for a light lunch then caroling to home-bound UPC members. Carpooling is available and children should be accompanied by an adult. Youth Group will participate in this event.



Update from the Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee (TPNC)

The TPNC issued a report to the Session in Mid-November on the status of its search for a transitional pastor to serve the congregation until a permanent pastor is called to work with Mamie. After five months of active searching, the TPNC believes this has been a failed search.

For those unfamiliar, the process of seeking candidates was through the PCUSA's online employment tool, whereby prospective candidates were matched with our church's own discernment profile. Ultimately, the UPC Profile was matched with only fourteen profiles for people searching for positions and three people sent their files directly to us.

We invited and met by Zoom with five people. Others were either not selected by us, or, when we invited them, they withdrew their application from the pool. Only one of the zoom interviews led us to consider an on-site interview, but the candidate accepted another position before it could be scheduled.

Obviously, this was not the outcome for which we had hoped. Consequently, the TPNC gave recommendations to the Session in its report as to how proceed going forward which the Session will consider in its next meeting. Please be in prayer for the Session and our congregation as we discern what is next.



CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 9
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room
& Library

Project materials and ideas will be provided or bring your own project to work on... you can even bring your Christmas cards to work on!

Middle Schoolers through adults are welcome to join the crafting fun.

Babysitting provided
please let us know how many children and their ages you plan to bring by contacting Suzanne Trahan at suzannetrahan@cox.net

Faith Formation

**THERE WILL BE NO CHURCH SCHOOL ON
DECEMBER 24TH OR 30TH**

LIFE & FAITH CLASS

For three Sundays in Advent, the Visio Divina small group will lead the Life & Faith class. On December 3, Lauren Cooper will lead a session where we will explore an Advent reading using Lectio Divina, which means "divine reading." On December 10, Melanie Driscoll will lead a session on Visio Divina, which uses visual images and scripture. Both sessions allow an opportunity to experience these forms of meditation. Art supplies will be provided for the Visio Divina session. On December 17, Robin McCulloough-Bade will conclude the series with "How Does a Weary World Rejoice" as we approach the darkest night of the year. The class meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Parks Wilson room.

Small Groups

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

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Parks Wilson Room

Readings from various writers in spirituality.

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. 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/88426746848?pwd=YjdZeDc1WGJSNHhzcmNMWFwMLy9LUT09>

Meeting ID: 884 2674 6848 Passcode: 960537

Transitions

The Transitions Group meets on Saturday mornings from 10:00 -11:30 a.m. On December 2 we will wrapup the book we've been using, then take a break until January when we will have a series of speakers. Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these sessions. Please contact Lori Tucker (LJTucker70@gmail.com) or Beth Paskoff (bpaskoff@lsu.edu) if you have any questions.

Jan 13 Real Estate sales during times of transition
(Leslie Green)

Jan 20 End-of-life decisions (Hospice of Baton Rouge)

Jan 27 Faith and death (Rick Pitcher)

Feb 3 Obituaries (Jan Risher)

Feb 10 Funerals (Mamie Broadhurst)

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).

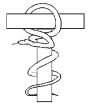
1st Sunday of Advent: WAIT



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.

As GIRLS we played house, as WOMEN we build them!



On Saturday, November 11, team 'She Nailed It' spent the day with Whitney Breaux building her Habitat for Humanity (HFH) home. Since 1989, HFH has worked with community volunteers to build over 400 homes in our 4 parish area. By providing low-income families the opportunity to purchase a simple, decent home at an affordable price, Habitat offers a "hand up", not a "hand out." This year, UPC gave \$3,000 to BR Habitat for Humanity!

Currently, HFH is building three houses in the neighborhood around Park Elementary. One house is sponsored by the Methodist church, and one is a Community Build. Wednesdays and Saturdays are build days, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - all are welcome!

The third house being built now is the Women Build where women do most of the building. 'She Nailed It' team members provide labor and/or financial support to the Women Build.

The 2023 team members are Barbara Hoffman, Melanie Driscoll, Lorinda Sealy, Mary Stevens, Holley Haymaker, Linda Walker, Victoria Robertson, Mary Ann Coleman, Mary Ann Sternberg, Ava Haymon, Lynne Wallace, Bizza Britton, Diana Reynolds, Kathie Pohlman, Caroline Elder, Lynn Clark, Cindy Popadic, Mary Wardlaw, Sue Bernie, and Mary Mikell.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity contact Mary Mikell (marymikell@cox.net).

'Tis the season...

for Christmas Sweaters!
Sunday, December 3

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 3. Wear your favorite festive Christmas attire or your ugliest Christmas sweater as we sing we joyous at church!

Youth Group

At the end of October we joined the Fellowship Committee to provide fun and games at the Halloween Extravaganza and as November got underway we provided lunch for everyone teaming up with the Property Committee to clean up inside and outside the church. Lilly Bridwell-Bowles guided us in making some fun pottery items before the month was out.

This next month RSVPs are going to be very helpful, so look at your calendars and let Mamie, Cindy, Larry, or Samantha know when you/your family can participate!

December

- 3 Advent Angel Activity (just one delivery!)
- 9 Saturday - Advent Craft Event in the Fellowship Hall (whole family)
- 10 Lunch and Caroling - immediately following worship (whole family)
- 17 Christmas Shopping/Wrapping Extravaganza
- 24/31 NO YOUTH through Christmas/New Years

January - Keep your eye out on your emails...!



*The best way to spread
Christmas cheer is
singing loud for all to hear!*

Join us for a light lunch and caroling!
Sunday, December 10
Fellowship Hall
(following worship)
Caroling to UPC homebound will follow.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Carpooling is available.

Sponsored by the UPC Fellowship Committee



Longest Night

a service of prayer, reflection, and remembrance

Thursday, December 21 • 6:00 pm



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 5th at 10:00 a.m. Bring your favorite Christmas goody to share. This PW Circle is meeting in the Parks Wilson Room. We will study Lesson 4, "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus", of "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts." 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 will meet and will also study Lesson 4, "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus", of "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" Peggy's address is 1545 Patrick Drive.

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m. THE PW Circle will meet in the Parks Wilson Room. We will study Lesson 5, "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus", of "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts".

Wednesday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. The PW Circle 2 that meets on Peggy Carroll's carport will meet and study Lesson 5, "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus", of "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" Peggy's address is 1545 Patrick Drive.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands meets on the third Tuesday of each month, 9:30, UPC Conference Room. Join us for fun and fellowship on December 19 and January 16. We will sort supplies and plan new projects. Sewing skills are not required.

What child
is this?

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering will be collected December 3-24. 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.



Coming in February From Presbyterian Women to You:

A One Day Mini Retreat on a Saturday (TBD)

We would love to have you join us for a few relaxing hours to relax with Art or Crafts, Gentle Yoga, Singing, Laughing... And Lunch

Childcare will be offered

Final details will be available in January

Please send your ideas by text or email or phone call to

Peggy Carroll 225-485-8485 peggoc@yahoo.com or

Julie Launey 225-236-6949 jalauney13@gmail.com

SUNDAY JANUARY 21




GIVE THE GIFT OF life


vitalant BLOOD DRIVE

1 PINT OF BLOOD SAVES 3 LIVES!

University Presbyterian Church
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.



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 28** after the 11:00 service. Bring your own entries to compete for the esteemed Golden Ladle and Golden Pie Pan awards.

Bling good.

Soup and Pie

Noon Sunday, January 28

Fellowship Hall



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!)

- If you are thinking about how to talk about Santa Claus with your kids (or whether to do so), or if they are already talking to you in ways that you're not sure how to manage, here's a good reflection by a friend of mine with a sample of some of her conversation, in case it's helpful. <https://bit.ly/3sRNBpk>
- Do you know about the Wandering Wisemen? This is their 10th and final Advent appearance. Starting on December 3 you can travel with them as they seek Jesus through a sometimes perilous but often whimsical journey to the manger. If you're on Facebook, give them a follow. It's worth it. <https://www.facebook.com/thewanderingwisemen/>
- A 13-member handbell choir provides some unexpected accompaniment for a Salvation Army bell ringer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40qHb9uFpRI>
- An entrancing video to go with Joni Mitchell's song "River." As she says, "'River' expresses regret at the end of a relationship...but it's also about being lonely at Christmas time... A Christmas song for people who are lonely at Christmas! We need a song like that." Indeed. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLHxxBT171I>
- Nathan Myhrvold spent the 1980s and '90s conducting cosmology research with Stephen Hawking. Now he takes pretty amazing high resolution pictures of snowflakes. We might not get snow here very often, but we can still enjoy it. <https://bit.ly/3Hlby6I>
- "Beneath The Bird Feeder" - a photographic project by Carla Rhodes starring many feathered (and furred) visitors during the winter months of 2020-2021 in the Catskills. <https://www.carlarhodes.com/portfolios/beneath-the-bird-feeder/>
- There has been a dramatic increase in waste from discarded clothing. France is trying to change that by subsidizing the cost of clothing and shoe repair. <https://bit.ly/48YhNPF>
- What's on your happy list? Do you live primarily in your head? Remembering the past or imagining the future? Solving problems that don't even exist yet? This video is for you (and me). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syR_NinJ2B0&list=PLnTHV8ZielDbsGRZOz9ZfMDdeOnqpsolX

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 • Mickey Rose Braud Zaitoon
Lynn Nichols Dull • Fay Coco • Cody Lucero

- **The Greens and their family** upon the death of Linda on November 24
- **Pat Ho**, facing brain surgery
- **Dauda Sesay**, Executive Director of LORI and his people in Sierra Leone, especially his mother, where there was an attempted coup and continued political unrest
- **Clauda Singelmann**, sister-in-law of Lorinda Sealey, in Germany recovering from a bad fall which resulted in a broken pelvis and a muscle tear in her thigh
- **Sherry Olds**, upon the death of her brother, Earl Ray
- **Corrie Hale's Dad, Conrad**, diagnosed with inoperable cancer on his spine
- **Barbara Sims**, recovering from hip replacement surgery on November 15
- **Donna Crumpler**, mother of Tavia, beginning radiation treatment for breast cancer
- **Joanne**, sister of Peggy Carroll, with cellulitis in her leg
- **Paul James**, friend of John Earle, with lung cancer
- **Tiffin White**, UPC Day School teacher, diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor
- **John Graff**, friend of Collier Roberts, with terminal bone and prostate cancer
- **Pat Strain**, recovering from wrist surgery
- **Hugh Huffman**, friend of Rosemary John, recovering from surgery for esophageal cancer
- **David Klimash**, brother of Victor, recovering from open heart surgery
- **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
- **Ruth Mitchell**, sister of Mary Wardlaw
- **Jo and her family**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, experiencing difficult times
- **Rev. Adelaida Jiménez and the efforts toward peace in Colombia**
- **All those affected by war - Ukraine, Middle East, and beyond**
- **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**

IN MEMORIAM

Linda L. Green who died November 24



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

This fund allows our Co-Pastor 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!



&



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)

December Birthdays

3	Kathy Perry	20	Steve Whitting	26	Cindy Rice Anna-Karin Skillen
6	Mona Truluck	21	Pat Strain	28	Eleanor Canon Audrey Cogburn
7	Gina Costello Friedrich Pilly	22	Mamie Broadhurst Elijah Fontenot Stafford	31	Darla O'Connor
8	Bunny Heroman Hattie Knapp	23	Ann Knapp		
		25	Leslie Green		
10	Dorothy Jones				

January Birthdays

2	Dawn Simpson	9	Emilia Hartmann	15	Deanna Black Jennifer Bravinder	29	Kathy Poché
3	Mary Clinkenbeard	10	Suzanne Trahan	16	Forest Benedict Lori Hyatt Pilley Darlene Rowland	30	Mitch Patty
6	Kathleen Richey Ben Stoker	12	Cordell Haymon Gerard Klein Carl Motsenbocker Jeff Perry	22	Griffin Campbell	31	Mary Stevens
7	Betty Shelton			25	Lynne Wallace		
8	Paul Nguyen	13	Rivière Juneau				

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

University Presbyterian Church
3240 Dalrymple Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



Change Service Requested