

# Contact

February 2024

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

## Inside

- **Calendar** p. 3-4
- **Day School News** p. 4
- **Lent** p. 5
- **Pres. Women** p. 7
- **Youth Group** p. 8

## Church Staff

**Mamie Broadhurst**  
Co-Pastor  
[mbroadhurst@upcbr.org](mailto:mbroadhurst@upcbr.org)

**Caralyn Durham**  
Office Manager  
[cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org)

**Ross Cawthon**  
Choir Director  
[rcawthon@upcbr.org](mailto:rcawthon@upcbr.org)

**Anne Maverick**  
Organist  
[amaverick50@gmail.com](mailto:amaverick50@gmail.com)

**Terry G. Iyasere**  
Day School Director  
[upcdayschool@upcbr.org](mailto:upcdayschool@upcbr.org)

**Robert Gourgues**  
Custodian  
[rmgourgues@cox.net](mailto:rmgourgues@cox.net)

**Jerry Trahan**  
Clerk of Session  
[upc-clerk@upcbr.org](mailto:upc-clerk@upcbr.org)

**Emily Cogburn**  
Moderator of Deacons  
[cogburn83@yahoo.com](mailto:cogburn83@yahoo.com)



## A l o n g   t h e   w a y

### Living the Questions, Together

Lent starts this year on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Though Valentine's Day isn't a religious holiday, the convergence is a chance to reflect on love and how it shows up in our lives.

Stories of the origin of St. Valentine's Day frequently include accounts of the martyrdom of a priest named Valentinus or Valentine. Roman emperor Claudius II had nullified engagements and banned new marriages in order to increase the size of his army. Valentine defied the ban and continued marrying couples until he was discovered and killed on February 14, 270 A.D.

Another priest, also named Valentine, was also martyred on February 14, in a different year, for helping imprisoned Christians. In some traditions, he may have healed his jailer's daughter before being martyred. In others, he and the jailer's daughter fell in love — before he was executed. In any case, the idea of risk and martyrdom for the sake of honorable love replaced a more ancient Roman festival with a new name, purpose and a feast day on the church calendar.

Centuries later, Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized St. Valentine's Day. Sweethearts began exchanging love notes on February 14, in medieval times.

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten season (which includes a call to return to the interconnectedness of all life rooted in God's love). Can we understand Lent's call to repentance to be the invitation we need to start anew? The ash that tells us we come from dust and return to it - that we are God's at the start and all the way through to our end - is a gift of love if there ever was one. What would it mean, then, to anchor yourself in love and in God this Lent? That question is just one of many we will ask this Lent as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and to his death - "Living the Questions," together.

I'll start with this one - **Will you be my VaLENTine**



*Mamie*

# February...

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

- 1 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room  
1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom  
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 3 10:00 a.m. Transitions Small Group - Conference Room
- 4 **5th Sunday after Epiphany** *Communion*  
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  
1:00 p.m. Youth Group @ MidCity Gras, 4100 N. Blvd
- 5 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 6 9:00 a.m. Presbytery of South Louisiana Stated Meeting - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 1725 Eugene
- 7 9:45 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 8 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
- 11 **Transfiguration**  
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*)  
No Youth Group
- 12 **Church Office & Day School Closed (Mardi Gras Holiday)**  
7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 13 **Church Office & Day School Closed (Mardi Gras Holiday)**  
8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room  
7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 14 9:00 a.m. "Faith and Community" Small Group - 1848 Glendale  
5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 15 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
- 17 10:00 a.m. Transitions Small Group - Conference Room
- 18 **1st Sunday of Lent**  
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*)  
12:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room  
4:30 a.m. Youth Group at Bluebonnet Swamp
- 19 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library  
11:30 a.m. Membership Committee - Library
- 20 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
- 21 9:45 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary  
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony

## Office Notes

### Day School and Office Closures

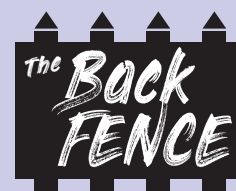
The Church Office and Day School will be closed February 12 and 13 for Mardi Gras.

### Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2023 have been e-mailed and are also available by checking your Realm account. If you have problems logging in or have questions about your contributions, please contact Caralyn in the church office at [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org).

### CNC Selected for 2024

Congratulations and thanks to those selected to the 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee on January 14. They are Nora Broadhurst-Williams, Bill Crummett, Dave Launey, Bizza Britton, and Lori Tucker. They are joined by Deacon Faimon Roberts and Elders Lois Kuyper-Rushing and Carl Motsenbocker.



- Congratulations to Dana and Zach Dhom on the birth of their son Jacob Andrew Dhom on January 16, 2024. Proud grandparents are Suzanne and Jerry Trahan.
- Congratulations to Nora BW whose three person troupe received a "superior" rating at the LA Thespian Festival in January.

### IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2024

(as of 1/30/2024)

**Received Pledged giving: \$60,466**

(11% of \$565,278 pledged)

Received Unpledged giving \$1,245

Received Bequest giving \$25,000

**TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$86,711**

*It's not too late to make a pledge!*

*Pledges may be made in Realm,  
by filling out a pledge card,  
or contacting the church office.*

*Thank you for your generous contributions!*



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

Contact Ellen Morgan for info

Feb 6 Tom Lake  
by Ann Patchett

Mar 5 Crow  
Lake by Mary Lawsen



### TRANSITIONS SMALL GROUP

The Transitions Small Group meets on Saturday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to any or all of these presentations. If you have questions, please contact Lori Tucker ([LJ\\_Tucker70@gmail.com](mailto:LJ_Tucker70@gmail.com)) or Beth Paskoff ([BPaskoff@lsu.edu](mailto:BPaskoff@lsu.edu))

Feb 3 Obituaries (*Jan Risher*)

Feb 17 Real Estate During Times of Transition (*Leslie Green*)

Mar 2 Preplanning Funerals (*Mamie*)



### 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 spring. We are still working out the specific dates, but we hope to gather on Sunday mornings for about four weeks in March to talk about Presbyterianism, UPC, our own stories, and whatever else comes up. Please let Mamie know if you are interested in learning more.

**MARCH  
CONTACT  
DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 20**

## February...

- 22 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
- 24 9:00 a.m. Laughter & Conversation PW Mini Retreat - UPC Facility
- 25 2nd Sunday of Lent**
- 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
- 2:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- No Youth Group
- 26 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 27 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Zoom
- 28 9:00 a.m. Faith & Community - Parks Wilson Room
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 29 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 Mens Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room

## Stewardship & Finance

### ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

There are many ways to give to the ministry and mission of UPC, financial gifts are one important element. Thank you to those who pledged their monetary support to UPC for 2024. We have 186 member households in our congregation, and 55% of them pledged this year. Thirty-three households increased their pledge and we had sixteen new pledges for 2024. We even have seven pledges from people who love UPC but are not members!

The total pledged for 2023 was \$554,271, and in 2024 we have pledges totaling \$563,478, an increase of \$9,207. More specifically, this is the distribution of current pledges:

\$0	80
\$1-\$1,000	19
\$1,001-\$2,500	30
\$2,501-\$5,000	30
\$5,000-\$7,500	8
\$7,500-\$10,000	10
\$10,000-\$18,000+	9

If you have not made a pledge for 2024, it is not too late. You may go to the Realm link on the UPC website, or email the office at [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org) to add or change a pledge, or to confirm your pledge for 2024. And if your financial situation changes, you can always adjust your pledge as well. Thank you again for your generosity!

### LEGACY GIVING: Joyce Poché Gift

In January we received a generous gift of \$25,000 from the estate of Joyce Poché. There are still many good memories of Joyce in this place, and some of those stories are sure to be lifted up again as we share the news of her continuing generosity to the church she loved and that loved her. Joyce's gift will be invested alongside other UPC funds. The Session is forming a small group to make recommendations for how to best use this gift and future legacy gifts.

If you would like to know more about how to give a gift to UPC through your estate, please contact Cordell Haymon or Beth Paskoff.



## Day School

The UPC Day School began as a service to the community in 1961. What began as a preschool program running from 9 a.m. until noon changed to a day care in 1963 and the hours were adjusted to 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Through the years we have always tried to adjust to the needs of the community and the children we serve.

### Ms. Terry to Retire

The Director, as a member of the UPC Staff, works under the direction of the pastor and the Day School Committee which reports to the Session. We have been blessed to have Terry Iyasere serve as director since 2006. Terry has announced her retirement at the end of May. As we begin our search for a new director please keep us in your prayers. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in the position resumes should be sent to Peggy Carroll, Day School Committee Chair [peggoc@yahoo.com](mailto:peggoc@yahoo.com).



### Congratulations!

Congratulations to our UPC Day School teachers who scored excellent scores of 6.0 to 7.0 during the 2022-2023 school year.

Elizabeth McDonald

Vanessa Williams

Denise McKee

The UPC Day School brought home six "Crystal Apples" at the 2022-2023 East Baton Rouge Early Childhood Education Department, Early Start Network "Teacher of Excellence" banquet held Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Drusilla Catering. We are so proud and excited for our teachers for during an excellent job during their classroom observations! Congratulations!!!



For more information contact the Day School at 225-344-8077 or [upcdayschool@upcbr.org](mailto:upcdayschool@upcbr.org)

## LINK LOVE

*Some fun, funny, inspirational, or thought-provoking links for you enjoy this month.*

- A quick video from the Walls Project that ran the clean up for MLK Fest 2024 in Baton Rouge. Our youth and families were helping with trash pickup rather than painting, but together we all make it happen, right? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHVgvt2Zf3I>
- Alicia Keys sings "Lift Every Voice and Sing," often referred to as the Black National Anthem, with a voiceover narration by Anthony Mackie. This was part of the Super Bowl 2021 celebrations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i30SdcfEpSE&t=15s>
- "Bring me your mistakes" is the invitation Ohio tattoo artist Billy Joe White makes. "Beneath the Ink" is a 12-minute documentary that looks at racism in contemporary America, and reveals the possibility for change in one Appalachian community. <https://vimeo.com/381369278>
- A beautiful picture of the Godafoss (Goðafoss) waterfall in northern Iceland in front of a very active aurora in late February. This may be what the word "wow" was made for. <https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap230704.html>
- Iancu Barbarasa drew a picture a day for his partner over a three year period. Then he compiled them into this short film. Sweet and beautiful. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdFEecBMQmw>
- In 2021 The CDC director declared racism a serious public health threat. See what she has to say about it here: <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/08/985524494/cdc-director-declares-racism-a-serious-public-health-threat>
- Tyler Childress has written a beautiful love song, with a video that will both charm and wreck you. You've been warned. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll-L8Hq0\\_i4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll-L8Hq0_i4)
- Since 2016, every February libraries and museums all over the world participate in the "Color Our Collections" program, which is "an annual coloring festival on social media during which libraries, museums, archives and other cultural institutions around the world share free coloring content featuring images from their collections." This year between February 5-9, 2024 they will share coloring content based on collection items on social media with the hashtag #ColorOurCollections. You can color too - just go here: <http://library.nyam.org/colourcollections/>



## LENT IN A BOX!

### CALLING ALL KIDS (AND THEIR PARENTS)

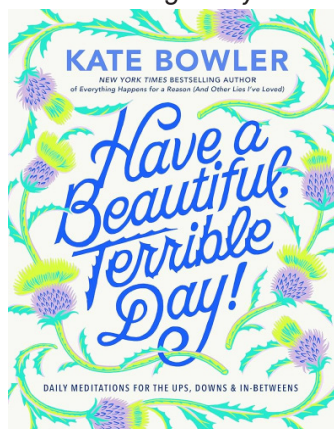
Come eat and play together as we have dinner (provided) and unpack a new box each week that has a Lent activity for us to do together. Open to all, this is geared toward kids/youth whose parents still live at home with them. We'll be in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. for about an hour, starting on February 22nd. Friends and family are all welcome. Contact Meredith Veldman ([hyveld@gmail.com](mailto:hyveld@gmail.com)) with any questions or to let her know you will join!

## TEXT PRAYERS

It can be hard to set aside a time to pray. What if you had a group of 3 or 4 people who would meet you on your phone once a week for just twenty minutes to share a joy and concern with you and who would listen to yours and hold it too? If that sounds compelling to you, join us for text prayers during Lent. It's a simple way to hear from others and to share your joys and concerns so we all remember we're in this together. Let Mamie know if you are interested ([mbroadhurst@upcbr.org](mailto:mbroadhurst@upcbr.org)) by February 14th.

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL Small Groups

Pick up a copy to read alone or join one of our small discussion groups. Groups will meet starting February 14 and run through Holy Week.



### Mondays 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Jill Kerr  
9445 W Van Pl

### Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

Hosted by Peggy Carroll  
1545 Patrick Dr

You can also sign up here ([katebowler.com/seasonal-devotional/have-a-beautiful-terrible-lent/](http://katebowler.com/seasonal-devotional/have-a-beautiful-terrible-lent/)) to get daily prompts delivered straight to your inbox starting February 14th.

## And What about Lent?

Another way to think about "giving something up for Lent" is simplifying, decluttering, making some space for God to fill. This Lent, Faith Formation would like to invite you to make some space for yourself to encounter God in the presence of other seekers. Why not commit—just for Lent (Feb 14- Mar 29)—to joining one of the following?

- the Bible study church school class - every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room
- the Life and Faith church school class - every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parks Wilson Room
- the Transitions small group - Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Lori Tucker ([LJTucker70@gmail.com](mailto:LJTucker70@gmail.com)) or Beth Paskoff ([bpaskoff@lsu.edu](mailto:bpaskoff@lsu.edu)) for details
- the Faith and Community small group - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Parks Wilson Room.
- Taizé services - Wednesdays from the 14th (Ash Wednesday) through March 20th from 6-6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- the Soul Feast small group - Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Parks Wilson Room
- Visio Divina - every Thursday on Zoom 1:00-2:30 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88426746848?pwd=YjdZeDc1WGJSNHhzcmluMjRlYy9lUT09> Meeting ID: 884 2674 6848 Passcode: 960537



Bring us your extra plastic Easter eggs!!

Eggs may be dropped off in the church office.

EXPERIENCE the stillness... the music... the prayer  
for a whole new season

**Taizé**  
Sung Prayers

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. February 14 - March 20

Make Taizé a part of your Lenten preparation.



# Fellowship

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

A big shout-out to all who participated in UPC's annual Soup and Pie luncheon. Whether you cooked, baked, or showed up to eat, you each played a part in fellowship and community. A big thank-you to Fellowship Committee regulars and Wild Cards and to the youth who helped to make this event such a success. No complete count of attendees was taken, but over 100 trays of soup cups were used.

### Winners:

- Soup: #1, Lemon Chicken Orzo, Linda Walker  
#2, Potato Soup, Victoria Robertson,  
#3, Curried Butternut Squash and Apple, Pat Wright
- Pie: #1, Salted Caramel Chocolate and Peanut Pie, Jill Kerr  
#2, Lemon Meringue Pie, Sofia Savicki-Kelly  
#3, French Silk Pie with Coconut Crust, Pat Wright

The next Fellowship Committee-sponsored event will be an intergenerational event, March 8, 6:30 p.m., in the courtyard. Please plan to attend the second annual Fire Pit Night of sharing stories, while roasting marshmallows and eating s'mores. If you have a portable fire pit, please contact Barbara Hoffman or Doug Walker.

Be on the lookout for other upcoming UPC events which bring us together around a meal and conversation.

## Salted Caramel, Chocolate, and Peanut Butter Pie

*Jill Kerr, First Place*

- 1 refrigerated pie crust, such as Pillsbury, softened as directed on the box
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- One 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- One full-sized Hershey bar, melted
- One 14-ounce bag caramels, unwrapped
- 1-1/2 cups Spanish peanuts, plus 1/4 cup for topping
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup miniature Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, unwrapped, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon fleur de sel or Kosher salt

1. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place the crust in a 9-inch deep-dish pie plate, prick with a fork, and place pie weights on a buttered piece of foil. Bake the pie crust as directed on box to make a one crust pie shell for about 10 minutes. Cool completely on cooling rack, about 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a medium microwavable bowl, microwave the caramels and whipping cream uncovered on high for 1 to 2 minutes or until melted. Stir until smooth. Reserve 2 Tablespoons of the melted caramel. Stir 1-1/2 cups peanuts into remaining caramel. Pour caramel mixture into the baked pie crust.
3. Reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, stir the condensed milk, egg, and peanut butter until smooth. Stir in the chopped peanut butter cups. Pour over the caramel mixture. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until filling is set. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Drizzle the melted candy bar and reserved caramel over top of pie. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup peanuts. Lightly sprinkle the fleur de sel over the pie. Cover and refrigerate any remaining pie.

# Mission & Peacemaking

## CUBA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

A team from UPC and First Presbyterian Lafayette visited our partner and other churches in Cuba last September to reaffirm our 30+ year relationship. UPC's partner is Getsemaní Iglesia (church) in San José de los Ramos. As part of our partnership, we installed a water treatment system in 2013, which has since provided more than half a million gallons of clean water for the community. On our visit we observed special needs that we have acted to address, and report on here.

Because of deterioration of the physical facilities housing the treatment system, the UPC Mission & Peacemaking Committee provided \$400 for facilities repair, system maintenance, and purchase of the bleach required for water treatment. This enables correction of structural problems, continued operation of the system, and enhanced service to the community.



The pastor at Getsemaní is Josué (Joshua) Montejo. With the shortage of pastors in Cuba, exacerbated by departures to the US, Josué is now responsible for five churches – Getsemaní and churches in Sabanilla (First Presbyterian Lafayette's partner), Manguito, Unión de Reyes, and Cidra. Getsemaní has for years owned a car – a 1983 Russian Lada 1600 – for the pastor's use, but its condition after 40 years had deteriorated to the point of inoperability. Without an operating car it has been impossible for Josué to lead all of his churches and has required ministry to be led by phone. After our return in September, we raised \$1,400 to rebuild and repair the car, with \$500 from UPC and contributions from First Presbyterian Lafayette and First Presbyterian Ft Worth (another Sabanilla partner). Replacement parts are usually unavailable and so must be created from scratch. Once the rebuild is completed Josué will be better able to lead these congregations.

Our partnership with Getsemaní is one of mutuality, where both partners benefit and jointly walk in our faith journeys. Although our financial support is unquestionably important, those of us who participate in this relationship likewise benefit in countless ways. Our brothers and sisters in Cuba are connected to the membership of UPC at deep levels in our shared faith.





# 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

### FEBRUARY

**Tuesday, February 13th at 10:00 a.m.** This PW Circle is meeting in the Parks Wilson Room. We will study Lesson 6, "A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus", of Sacred Encounters. We will finalize the planning of our one day mini-retreat scheduled for Saturday, February 24th.

**Wednesday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m.** The PW Circle 2 that meets on Peggy Carroll's carport will meet and will also study Lesson 6, "A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus", of "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts." Peggy's address is 1545 Patrick Drive.

Presbyterian Women's  
One Day Mini Retreat

*Laughter & Conversation*

**Saturday, February 24th**  
**9am - 2pm**  
**University Presbyterian Church**

Light breakfast and lunch are provided.

Childcare is available upon request.

Females 12 and over invited.

Activities:  
Learning to Crochet with Emily and Audrey Cogburn  
Chair Yoga with Victoria Robertson  
Telling Your Own Story with Jan Risher  
Flower Arranging with Peggy Carroll  
Hug A Bear stuffing (bears for children in stressful situations) with Susan Seifert  
Tying Fleece blankets for Sanctuary use and for the UPC little food box with Pat Wright  
Adult Coloring Books with Jill Kerr  
Puzzles  
Quiet Time in Sanctuary (individual option)

Questions? Please contact Julie Launey or Peggy Carroll

## PW Churchwide Gathering

Presbyterian Women's 2024 Churchwide Gathering will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8–11, 2024. Save these dates, share these dates, and plan to join Presbyterian Women from around the country on these dates!

The 2024 PW Gathering will be an exciting, faith-filled time to renew our connections within and across PW groups from across the country. Join us to be invigorated, equipped for your PW life, welcomed into community by hundreds of other PWs, and empowered to "Do everything in love."

### Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup

Linda Walker, First Place

Recipe from Natasha Bull

2 sticks celery chopped finely  
2 medium carrots peeled & chopped finely  
½ medium onion chopped  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
3 cloves garlic minced  
2 tablespoons flour  
6 cups chicken broth  
¼ teaspoons Italian seasoning  
1.5 pounds uncooked chicken breasts  
1 cup uncooked orzo  
1 tablespoon lemon juice or to taste  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley or to taste  
Salt & pepper to taste

1. Saute the celery, carrots, and onions in a large soup pot with the butter and oil on medium-high heat for 5-7 minutes.
2. Stir in the garlic and cook for about 30 seconds, then add the flour and cook for another minute or two.
3. Pour in the chicken broth and stir until the flour has dissolved, then add the Italian seasoning and chicken. Bring the soup to a boil.
4. Cover the soup (lid slightly open) and reduce the heat and simmer 15 minutes.
5. Stir in the orzo and cook for another 10 minutes or until the orzo is cooked through. I keep the lid off and stir it fairly often because it tends to stick to the bottom of the pot.
6. Take the chicken out of the pot and cut it up, then add it back in. Add the lemon juice (you may want to add more than I suggest – I didn't want to make the soup too lemony for some people), and the parsley, and season the soup with salt & pepper as needed. Serve.

Note:

You may need to add more broth to leftovers as the orzo soaks it up. If you want to make this with already cooked/roisserie chicken, I suggest adding the chicken in at the same time as the orzo so you don't overcook it.



# Youth Group

In December and January we did a variety of things that included service, learning, and fun. We made oversized Advent calendars and delivered them to some of our members, helped wrap presents for Presbytery Children's Homes and Services, we joined the Mayor's cleanup day for MLK Day, talked about baptism, ate a lot of soup and pie, and participated in conversations about UPC's past and present.

## February

- 4 Mid City Gras Meetup - 1 p.m. at 4100 N. Blvd
- 11 NO YOUTH - Mardi Gras weekend, and we're not crazy
- 18 Service Day at Bluebonnet Swamp
- 25 NO YOUTH (4th Sunday)

## Planning for Summer!

### Camp Agape: 3rd-12th graders

Camp Agape is a local camp run by folks in our Presbytery for grades 3-12 (completed). This camp is a week long (June 16-22, 2024) and is held at Feliciana Retreat Center in Norwood, LA. Campers are divided into cabins by age and have lots of traditional summer camp fun, including: rock wall climbing and a zip line, archery, canoes, swimming, hiking, 4 square, gaga ball, arts and crafts, and more. Campers will use the week to dive deeper into their faith as well with either indoor or outdoor worship every day. The camp is memorable for its daily energizers and huge indoor games! Older campers experience off-site adventures like tubing and hiking to local waterfalls. Meals are eaten camp-style together outside or in the dining hall.

Prices and additional information will be available soon, though in recent years it has been about \$500 for the week. You can talk with Sadie Knapp, Nora Broadhurst Williams, or Jude Raetzsch about their experience as well.

### Civil Rights Pilgrimage Opportunity: 18 and older

Join the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program at the beginning of June as they embark on a civil rights pilgrimage through the U.S. South, exploring the historically important sites of the civil rights movement, learning about the lives of the people who made up the movement, meeting with leaders and those who can share stories of those times, and wrestling with the legacies of racism and white supremacy even as they reappear in our communities and nation today.

This Peacemaking Travel Study Seminar will begin in Birmingham, AL and travel to Montgomery and Selma, AL, Jackson, MS, the Mississippi Delta region and conclude in Memphis, TN. Participants will be expected to use the seminar resource list and attend pre-seminar group meetings in advance and to develop and implement an anti-racism action plan upon completion of the seminar.

Applications are due February 23rd. UPC has funds to help with study trips like this. You can read more about it here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/civilrightspilgrimage/>

## Montreat: Rising 9th-13th graders

If you are planning to join the crew going to Montreat July 13-20, don't forget to let Mamie know and to get your \$150 deposit in by February 14th through the Presbytery website: <https://www.pbysouthla.org/>





## Prayer Requests

To add a name, remove a name, or update information on our prayer list, please contact the church office by noon on Wednesday at [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org).

Lois Liggett • Gary Meise • Ruth Bivins • Gerard Klein  
 Alan Williams • Kathy Poché • Melanie Driscoll  
 Our Cuba Partners • Kathy Rossman • Mickey Rose Braud Zaitoon  
 Lynn Nichols Dull • Fay Coco • Cody Lucero

- **Julio Pina**, nephew of Jan Risher and Julio Nadin, with multiple brain tumors
- **Family and friends of Carlos Chavez**, friend of Darla and Tavia, who died January 28
- **Michael Babin**, recently diagnosed with cancer, son of Edith Babin and former student of Faimon Roberts
- **Nick Cosford**, brother-in-law of Jill Scherrer, as he prepares for heart surgery on Tuesday
- **Sherry Olds** upon the death of her husband, Carl Frank Olds, and her move back to Tensas Parish
- **Larry Moss** as he settles into a VA home in Fort Worth
- **Steve Rushing and family**, upon the death of his brother Tim
- **Clara Larson**, sister of Karen Paterson, recovering from a broken kneecap
- **Pat Strain**, recovering from shoulder surgery
- **Lorinda Sealey's sister in Panama** who is undergoing diagnostic testing
- **Jim Wilcox**, recovering from an appendectomy
- **Corrie Hale's Dad, Conrad**, diagnosed with inoperable cancer on his spine
- **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
- **Hugh Huffman**, friend of Rosemary John, undergoing treatment for cancer
- **Mark McCulloch**, relative of Brannon Costello, recovering from serious burns
- **John Pohlman**, brother of Kathie, with pneumonia
- **Ellen Kuyper**, sister of Lois Kuyper-Rushing, recovering from a fall
- **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**



**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.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian)

<https://www.instagram.com/universitypresbr/>

**The University Presbyterian Church CONTACT is printed monthly. Articles may be submitted via email to [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org) or turned in to the church office no later than the 20th of each month. To be removed from the mailing list, please contact the church office.**

**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

3240 Dalrymple Drive  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
 (225)383-0345  
 (225)383-3495 Fax  
[www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org)

## 5 WAYS TO GIVE



### IN PERSON

Drop your gift into the offering plate on Sunday



### MAIL

Mail your gift to:  
 University Presbyterian Church  
 3240 Dalrymple Drive  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802



### ONLINE

Give online at:  
<https://onrealm.org/UniversityPresb15909/give/now>  
 or through your REALM portal under GIVING/+GIVE



### MOBLIE APP

Realm Connect is available for download at iTunes and Google Play (uses your onrealm login)

UPC BR 75

### TEXT

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

# February Birthdays

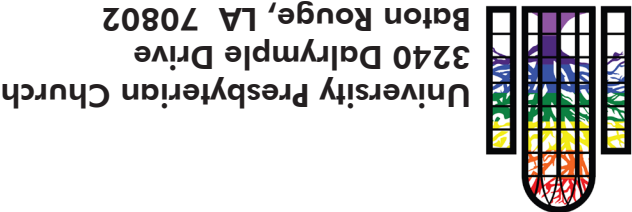
2	Paul Paskoff	10	Ryan Black Amy Braymer	20	Armin Meier Graham Nichols
3	Margo Brault Wade Midkiff Ian Strain	11	Pat Ho	21	Robin Patty
6	April Whitting	12	Larry Moss	22	Beverly Jones Elizabeth Roberts
7	Barbara Gray Robbie Phillabaum Shannon Stafford	18	Stephen Hoffman	23	Cheryl Giles Joyce Moreland
		19	Glenda Crummett	24	Janet Whyde

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 3**  
Churchwide Conversation (*Part 2*)
- March 8**  
Fire-pit Night
- March 10**  
Daylight Savings Time Ends
- March 24-31**  
Holy Week

Change Service Requested



**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