



# Contact

May 2024

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

## Inside

- **Calendar** p. 3-4
- **Youth Group** p. 4
- **Pres. Women** p. 5
- **Faith Formation** p. 6
- **Annual Reports** p. 7-8

## 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 View from the Bench

I never set out to be a church musician. But God had a plan to keep me from straying too far.

It seemed an accident of circumstances. As a choral music education student at DePauw University, I was supposed to minor in voice, but too many voice teachers were out on sabbatical, or for other reasons, and it was suggested I study organ until I could move to voice.

Well. I liked it. Enough to spend more time practicing organ instead of my major instrument, piano. I switched majors. There wasn't any particular emphasis on church music, so it didn't cross my mind that I might spend a lot of time playing in churches.

But I did. I never had to look for a church job. They found me. Sometimes I was the organist, sometimes the choir director, and sometimes both. I served churches in Ohio, Missouri, and Louisiana.

I don't remember exactly how you found me. Probably through some grapevine of substitute organists, which is what I was doing at the time. I played for a wedding. I played for a few Sundays here (2008), and then a few more there (2009), and then a little longer (2010, 2011), until finally I became "official" in 2012. Eventually, I retired from my school library position and this became my retirement job.

Aside from the fact that I was here longer than any other church, University Presbyterian will always stand out. The preaching was revelatory, the people friendly and kind (if somewhat chatty during the prelude), and wow, you all sing like no other congregation I've played for. That made playing here especially fun, along with the fine volunteer choir and wonderful musical colleagues in Lois and now our student conductors. There were times this job kept me sane (and maybe one or two where it drove me just a little nuts).

I pray that a new organist will come along and find the job as fulfilling as I have. She or he will be very lucky.

Thank you for many wonderful years of sacred music making...  
and soup...  
and pie...  
and pancakes.

Anne

# May...

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 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 2 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
- 4 10:00 a.m. Transitions Small Group - Conference Room  
Noon NAJAMA Food Prep - Fellowship Hall
- 5 6th Sunday of Easter - 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*)  
4:30 p.m. Youth Group (*wear paint clothes!*)
- 6 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library  
7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 7 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room  
7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 1725 Eugene
- 8 9:00 a.m. Faith & Community Small Group - Parks Wilson Room  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 9 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
- 11 1:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room  
2:00 p.m. Terry Iyasere Retirement Party - Fellowship Hall
- 12 7th Sunday of Easter**  
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
- 13 11:30 a.m. Membership Committee - Library
- 14 6:00 p.m. Don't Cook Night - Pedro's, 7655 Andrea Dr.  
7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library  
7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
- 15 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
10:00 a.m. Day School Graduation - Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 16 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
- 18 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Spring Recital - Unitarian Church BR
- 19 Pentecost** (*Anne Mavrick's last day*)  
9:30 a.m. Church School & Inquirer's Class  
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  
3:00 p.m. Children's Music Workshop Recital - Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. Youth Group Pool Party - 6238 Riverbend Lakes Dr.
- 20 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library

## Office Notes

### CLOSURES

The Day School and church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. The Day School will be closed May 30-31 for Teacher Planning.

### TABLES

Have you borrowed one or more of our folding tables or stacking chairs? If so, please return it (or them) as soon as you are able... no questions asked!



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

- May 7 Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil  
by John Berendt
- June 4 No Two Persons  
by Erica Baurmeister

### Transitions Small Group

On May 4, Linda Melancon with Legacy Estate & Elder Law of Louisiana LLC will be the guest speaker for Transitions from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the conference room of UPC. Melancon's presentation is How to Protect Your Family and Leave a Lasting Legacy: A Primer on Basic Estate Planning in Louisiana. She'll present Louisiana-specific answers to the most pressing questions people have about estate planning: wills, trusts, powers of attorney and health-care directives. Contact: Lori Tucker at [ljtucker70@gmail.com](mailto:ljtucker70@gmail.com) or Beth Paskoff at [BPaskoff@lsu.edu](mailto:BPaskoff@lsu.edu).

**June/July  
CONTACT  
DEADLINE  
May 20**

# Welcome!

Welcome to all the folks who have affirmed they want to be on the Christian journey with us as members of UPC.

Julianne Falls and Madison Smith  
Sue Kenyon  
Dinah Keyes  
Kelly Larson (with son, Arthur)  
Lea and Ryan O'Donnell (with son, Michael)  
Margaret O'Donnell  
Pat Phelps  
Beverly Tipton  
John Ward III

We are so glad to have you in our midst! Photos and a very brief blurb about each of these fine folks is on the Membership board near the elevator. We hope everyone will introduce yourselves and continue to help those who are newer to navigate this wonderful place in the coming months. You can find their contact information through Realm. If you need help navigating that, please contact Caralyn.



This summer, we need volunteers to perform a musical offering during the offering. This could be a solo or small group performance. The summer season begins May 26 and will run into September.

If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please contact the Choir Director, Ross Cawthon at [rcawthon@upcbr.org](mailto:rcawthon@upcbr.org)

## IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2023

(as of 4/24/2024)

Received Pledged giving: \$190,870

(33% of \$571,538 pledged)

Received Unpledged giving \$8,995

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$199,865

Thank you for your generous contribution!

# May...

- 21 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
- 22 9:00 a.m. Faith & Community Small Group - Parks Wilson Room  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Dr.
- 23 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room  
1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom
- 26 Trinity Sunday**  
9:30 a.m. Blood Drive - Bloodmobile  
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)  
Noon Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room
- 27 Memorial Day - Church Office and Day School Closed**
- 28 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Zoom
- 29 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Dr.
- 30 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Parks Wilson Room  
1:00 p.m. Visio Divina - Zoom

May 2024

Farewell Message

Dear University Presbyterian Church,

I am very excited and looking forward to this next chapter in my life as I retire. It has certainly been an amazing journey throughout these past eighteen years. I would like to thank you for the opportunity and support you've given me during my time with the church serving as the Day School Director. It has been an honor working alongside such an incredible team helping UPC Day School offer a high quality educational and developmental program for children.

I am grateful and will cherish the memories made as University Presbyterian Church Day School Director.

Sincerely,  
Terry Iyasere



# Day School

The Director reported that registration for the Summer and next Fall are like other years (going along slowly at this point) and should be okay.

Our Day School Director, Terry Iyasere, is retiring at the end of May. Terry has been the UPC Day School Director since 2006 and her retirement party will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 2-4 p.m. at UPC in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to come and thank Terry for her wonderful leadership and wish her well for the future.

The search for the new Director has more than a dozen applicants and interviews with prospective candidates are on going. The plan is to hire someone by the middle of May so the new Director can spend the last two weeks of May shadowing Terry before the new Director takes over on June 1.

The monthly staff meeting took place Tuesday, May 9, 2023 via Zoom. Classroom observations for Spring 2024 are complete and all teachers scored very well. Ms. Tammy Matthews will complete her CDA course and will graduate from the EBR Network Teacher's Institute, June 2024. We are very proud of her! Congratulations Ms. Tammy!



## ConGRADulations!

• **Angelle Bradford** will graduate with a doctoral degree from Tulane School of Medicine on May 16 and May 18. Angelle is planning to stay in academic medicine as faculty or some hybrid between faculty and nonprofit work. She also plans to stay in Louisiana, if she can help it!

• **Ian Lewis** will graduate from Arlington Preparatory Academy and plans to attend Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond starting this summer.

# Youth Group

## April Highlights

Painting and camping were the big highlights of April together. The youth have been diligently working on getting new rainbow doors ready for display in June. We really appreciate the help of Julio Naudin to get us going. Feliciana Retreat Center hosted us for an overnight campout where we shared food, games, and worship thanks to the leadership of Michael Strain, Kristin Savicki, and Richard Williams.

Thanks to all of you as well for your Bowl-a-thon support. If you still have an outstanding bowling pledge, you can give check to a youth, put it in the offering plate on Sunday, or pay online through Realm and select "Church School Offering Youth." In every case please put "bowling" on the memo line. As of right now we have raised \$7,989.11 which will forgive almost \$80,000 of medical debt for folks in Louisiana. STRIKE!

## May Schedule

- 5 Finish Painting God's Doors - wear painting clothes!
- 12 No Youth Group - Mother's Day
- 19 Final youth group - Pool Party and Senior Celebration  
Bridwell-Bowles House - 6238 Riverbend Lakes Dr
- 26 Memorial Day Weekend



## PSL Work Day

*Come join in as we help our neighbors in the Bayou!*

Friday, May 10th and/or Saturday May 11th

The Presbytery is partnering with the Pointe au Chien Indian Tribe. Members of this tribal have been steadfast in rebuilding their community, while also helping our Presbytery learn more about their history and culture in the Bayou region. The Pointe au Chien Indian Tribe is located 35 minutes south of Houma.

To Register: <https://forms.gle/2Pj8yX83j4n3J2Ni9>

For more information contact Richard Williams with any questions about volunteering ([richard@pbysouthla.org](mailto:richard@pbysouthla.org))



# Presbyterian Women

Join our Facebook group PW of UPC, Baton Rouge

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

# LINK LOVE

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

*PW at UPC has expanded beyond women only to include ALL!*

2 CIRCLE MEETINGS to choose from Tuesday, May 7th at 10:00 a.m. in person in the Parks Wilson Room. We will study Lesson 9, "People Encounter Jesus through the Work of the Disciples." Barbara Hoffman will lead the lesson. It will be followed by our celebration of the PW Birthday Offering.

Wednesday, May 8th at 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II will meet at Peggy Carroll's carport to study the same lesson, 1545 Patrick Drive.



## Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership

On Sunday, April 14th, Mary Wardlaw was honored with a Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership for her amazing service in all areas of Presbyterian Women and in the church. This is a well-deserved honor for a very special member of our congregation. We love you Mary.

## Spring Gathering Recap

On Saturday, April 20th, the Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering of the Presbytery of South Louisiana (PSL) was hosted by Broadmoor Presbyterian Church with attendees from

the churches of UPC, West Baton Rouge, Broadmoor, Berean, and St. Charles as well as representatives from Evergreen Life Services. Kathy Randall of St. Charles led a workshop, "Where Our Heart Is (Mission and Treasures)" and Emily Fleshman led a workshop, "Successful History (Write, Give, and Bears)". In response to Presbyterian Women's call to mission: Evergreen Services received over \$600, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services received a large collection of household items, and CentsAbility Hunger Program received \$58.48. Julie Launey was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, Presbyterian Women.



## Helping Hands

Helping Hands will meet in the Conference Room Tuesday, May 21st, 9:30 a.m. Quilts will be tied, and fellowship will abound. Bring a sack lunch. All other supplies are provided.

## 2024 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering recipients

**Advocates for Community Choice dba Bethel Hills**

**Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation Area Marthasville, Missouri**

With the Birthday Offering grant, Bethel Hills will expand its mission to provide supportive, faith-based, inclusive community where all are accepted and valued.

## Shawnee Presbyterian Church


**Café Gingko Louisville, Kentucky**

With the Birthday Offering grant, Café Gingko will be able to reopen with a renovated kitchen and expanded capacity to provide meals.

**Please consider donating by check or using Realm.**

- Summer camp can be tricky for some kids. kin-dom camp is an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12-17 to feel safe and free to show up as their full selves. Please pass the word along to anyone you know who might be interested. <https://kindomcommunity.org/camp>
- In Mississippi they are paying for the removal of lost crab traps to great success. Is there anything like this in Louisiana y'all? <https://hakaimagazine.com/news/wanted-lost-crab-traps-reward-5/>
- It is questionable whether it is wise to say that college isn't for everybody at a University Church, but we are called to say true things even in tough circumstances... The idea of skills-based camps is an attempt to give kids some experience before they head straight into the job arena. <https://www.fastcompany.com/90933558/skills-based-camps-programs-kids-college-alternative-trades>
- You Are Not Alone murals - a public art project that inspires artists to create work in their communities, sparking hope, connection, and conversations about mental health. A couple of them are in Texas, but they are the closest ones. That seems too far away... <https://www.youarenotalonemurals.com/>
- The College of Wooster Pipe Band is in a Coca-Cola commercial! Who'd a thunk it. Go Woo. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCsJOCTceA0>
- If you ever wanted to learn how to do stained glass you should probably talk to Bill Crummet. If you ever wanted to pretend you know how to do stained glass you should click on this link. <https://glass.funwebsite.fun/>
- Telehealth Ukraine, founded in April 2022, is a virtual health service that provides both physical and mental health services to anyone in Ukraine who can access an internet-connected device. They sign up volunteers and providers from all over the world to offer support. <http://bit.ly/3Phga85>





# SPOTLIGHT on FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

**When Kids Ask Hard Questions:**

Faith Filled Responses for Tough Topics (Volumes One and Two) — The world is a confusing and painful place for children (and adults). How do you respond faithfully to your kids big questions? Learn to craft faithful conversations and be better prepared to talk about the tough stuff with your kids. More than 30 essays from a diverse group of young Christian parents/pastors address today's toughest topics, including gender, race, bullying, mental illness, death, divorce, money, technology, and generosity. When Kids Ask Hard Questions invites you to take a deep breath, create safe spaces for the hard conversations, and speak the truth in love. Each chapter includes a resource list for further exploration.

<https://chalicepress.com/products/when-kids-ask-hard-questions>



**RETIRING**  
AFTER **18** YEARS

LET'S HONOR

**TERRY IYASERE**  
UPC DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

**MAY 11** | 2:00PM - 4:00PM  
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

# Faith Formation

**The Results Are In!**

Faith Formation thanks the 85 UPC members who responded to the FF Adult Church School Preferences survey. We know you've all been waiting with bated breath for the results:

**Class time:** A bit of a split here: 57% prefer the new church school time (9:30); 37% prefer the old time (9:45). Almost 20% would attend a class at 11:15, if the church service moved to 10:00 am all year round.

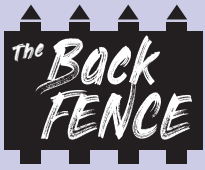
**Class content:** Clear demand exists for the Bible study class (just to be clear--FF has NEVER considered canceling the Bible study class!). It is also clear that many UPCers want the return of what we used to call the "Parks Wilson class" (classes that examine specific issues or themes, running for 2-6 weeks, often led by an "expert" but with time for discussion):

- 60% want a variety of class leaders.
- 56% want the leader to be an expert on the topic.
- 53% want topics discussed over a series of sessions.
- 77% want time for discussion.
- We are split on the desirability of a class that requires some pre-class preparation from attenders: 35% want to study a book, 38% would attend a class with reading required; 38% want no reading or other mid-week prep.
- There is a small group who would very much like to continue with the new-this-year class, currently meeting in the Parks Wilson Room, that discusses the last week's Scripture texts and sermon.

**Class composition:** 92% want classes made up of a diverse group of adults only, but 31% are open to classes attended by both youth and adults, and 17% would attend a class designed for their age group.

Thank you for all the suggestions RE adult class topics and for those of you who are willing to join FF in some capacity!

**A Final Note:** Because 86% of the respondents are over age 55, FF is pondering creative ways to reach the 55-and-under crowd. If you have suggestions contact Meredith Veldman.



•Congratulations to **Brannon Costello**, who has been awarded the Barbara Womack Alumni Professorship. This award recognizes a faculty member with a reputation for excellence in instruction, especially in undergraduate teaching; a record of active and continuing interest and participation in areas of professor-student relations; dedication to his/her academic field; and outstanding professional relationships with other faculty and staff members.

•Former UPC Choir Director, **David Walters**, announced via Facebook that "Toward a Star," his setting for mezzo, choir, piano, brass, and percussion of Henrietta Cordelia Ray's poem "Aspiration" is a national finalist for the 2024 American Prize. Congratulations to David!

## Mission and Peacemaking

by Kristen Savicki, Chair

As the Mission and Peacemaking committee at UPC, we are tasked with planning and overseeing UPC's involvement in mission and peacemaking activities on a local, regional, national and international level. We seek to provide resource to help UPC members grow as peacemakers, and work for social, racial, religious, environmental and economic justice.

In 2023 UPC joined the PC USA's Matthew 25 movement, which calls us to look for the ways we can follow Jesus's call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, and visit the prisoner. UPC has committed to two of the focus areas of the PC USA's Matthew 25 movement to help us be the church in the world today: a call to eradicate systemic poverty, and to dismantle systemic racism.

To discern new and creative ways to live into these commitments, we took a hard look at the systems and structures that bind our neighbors in poverty – like the prevalence of medical debt. We know that 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 disproportionately affects Black households and further compounds the racial wealth gap, making this an urgent issue of racial justice as well. The good news is, that through partnering with RIP Medical Debt, we can relieve this burden for our neighbors. We kicked off our efforts to relieve medical debt with a special offering, and UPC's donations were put to use to relieve over \$300,000 in medical debt for our neighbors in Louisiana. The adult and the youth church schools are continuing their campaign to raise funds to relieve medical debt – hence the youth group's Bowl-a-thon fundraiser on Palm Sunday! - and will complete a final total contribution at the end of May.

In 2023 we also continued long-standing partnerships and started some new ones, for good work in our community and beyond, much of which can also be understood as flowing from our Matthew 25 commitments:

- We continue our commitment to community organizing through our membership in and engagement with Together Baton Rouge, where we build relationships and organize across lines of race, religion, neighborhood and politics, to build power, address community problems, and achieve change as part of our common call to justice.
- We partner with LORI: Louisiana Organization for Refugee and Immigrants, an organization that advocates for refugees and immigrants in our community. LORI provides legal assistance, and promotes civic engagement and social and economic development, with the goal of creating self-reliance.
- UPC had a long-time partnership, and fellowship, with St. Anthony's Home, which provided housing and support to individuals disabled due to HIV and AIDS. When St. Anthony's home closed last year, we determined to continue our commitment to our siblings experiencing HIV and AIDS, who we know are disproportionately coping

with the effects of systemic poverty and structural racism as well. We have begun a new partnership with Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge, which provides a variety of resources and support to individuals with HIV, including coordinating care, programs for women and children, and HIV counseling and testing.

- In addition to our partnership with Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless to care for our unhoused neighbors, and with IRIS Domestic Violence Shelter to remove the barriers of poverty that serve to bind people in violent situations, we partner with Habitat for Humanity to build permanent homes for families. UPC and the UPC "She Nailed It" team provided labor and financial support to the Women Build, building a Habitat for Humanity home for a local homeowner last fall.
- We continue our commitment to feeding the hungry, partnering with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and the LSU Food Pantry, to address hunger widely in the parish and close by at LSU.
- We address the disproportionate impact of disasters – which are increasingly climate-driven disasters – on impoverished communities and people of color, by partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for assistance to impacted communities close to home and all over the world. In response to the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza, we provided funding to World Central Kitchen, the organization led by Jose Andres, which is working with to provide meals to Gazans who have been impacted and displaced by the war.
- To offer hospitality and welcome to our LGBTQ+ siblings who have often been excluded, we partner with two Presbyterian organizations focusing on welcome to LGBTQ+ persons, Covenant Network and More Light Presbyterians. UPC showed up and showed our welcome during the Baton Rouge Pride festival this year, engaging in fellowship (including passing out plenty of rainbow "You Are Loved" stickers and applying plenty of rainbow "Beloved" temporary tattoos) with festival-goers throughout the day.

Farther afield, we were joyful for the opportunity to invest time and resources last year into UPC's 30+ year relationship with our partner church in Cuba, Iglesia Presbiteriana Getsemani in San José de los Ramos. In 2023, our delegation including members of UPC and First Presbyterian Lafayette visited our partner church as well as 4 other locations in Cuba, to assess and support continued maintenance and operation of clean water systems that UPC teams have helped to install over the years through Living Waters for the World. In response to what we learned of the dire needs in the church community, we were able to bring material support such as much-needed medicine, funding to help with the church's program to feed vulnerable seniors, and we partnered with the Lafayette and Ft. Worth congregations to collectively fund repairs to the church-owned vehicle, which is now allowing for the pastoral staff to effectively travel between and care for multiple congregations.

# 2023 Annual Reports

## Personnel and Administration

by Gaines Foster, Chair

The Personnel and Administration committee had a relatively busy year in 2023. In the spring it recommended the timing and terms of Patti Snyder's retirement to the session, which approved them. It set up a committee that held Patti's retirement party and, for her retirement gift, commissioned Bill Crummett's beautiful stained glass of the church window. In addition, it discussed at some length how best to replace Patti, both in the short and long term, although of course the session then makes decisions on such matters.

The committee recommended, and the session later approved, adding Juneteenth and the Monday after Easter to the existing list of church holidays.

As the committee primarily responsible for the oversight of the church staff, in the fall it recommended a 5 percent raise for the church staff, which the session then approved. The previous fall, we conducted, in consultation with the pastor and various members of the congregation, yearly reviews of the staff; all were found to be doing an excellent job. During the year, however, and with the session's approval, the committee adopted a revised procedure for staff evaluations. New staff members will be evaluated yearly for their first two years; after that, each staff member will be evaluated only every third year, although if any problems arise, they can be addressed through an evaluation at once.

P&A also assisted the committees directly responsible for replacing departing staff members. On behalf of P&A Cordell Haymon served on the search committee that chose Ross Cawthon as choir director. Currently, Janet Whyde serves on the search committee for a new organist and Gaines Foster on the committee to hire a new Day School director.

Finally, as it tries to do every year, the committee reviewed its own list of responsibilities and those of other UPC committees. It did recommend, and the session approved, removing responsibility for a technology committee from P&A, which had no particular expertise in the area. In addition, P&A reviewed the church operations manual.

Although much of its work remains advisory to the session and coordinated with the pastor as head of staff, the P&A committee provides members of the congregation a means to ensure that those who work for and with us are treated fairly and that the church operates as efficiently as possible. In doing so, the committee meets no more than monthly and only when necessary, almost always on Zoom.

# Mission & Peacemaking

Your Mission and Peacemaking committee has been working with partners old and new to look for opportunities for UPCers to put our faith into action this year, and... there's so much happening in June! Keep an eye out at worship, and for announcements in the bulletin, for how to join in for any and all of these activities. Here is a preview of coming events:

### June 3-7 (Monday-Friday)

UPC staffs the Holy Grill. To volunteer, add your name to a sign-up sheet at worship in May, or email Linda Clark at [Linda@decurilaw.com](mailto:Linda@decurilaw.com).

### June 15 (Saturday)

UPC supports our new partner Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge at their Summer Wellness Health Expo! UPC will host a children's art table, and a table to hand out drinks, to offer our help and hospitality as attendees receive free confidential health services like HIV testing and other clinic and counseling services. Sign up to volunteer by contacting Karen Foote at [olfo@aol.com](mailto:olfo@aol.com) or 225-939-2889.

### June 22 (Saturday)

UPC supports our partner LORI (Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants) in celebrating World Refugee Day. More information to come, or volunteers can sign up now to support the event at this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQXmc5qm58vXN\\_5ebcxRdSsoXgu87SkpgFc\\_HZT9yntVVIgW/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQXmc5qm58vXN_5ebcxRdSsoXgu87SkpgFc_HZT9yntVVIgW/viewform)

### June 25 (Tuesday evening)

UPC is the host for a Together Baton Rouge dinner! Stay tuned for how you can help to welcome our TBR partners for dinner at our house that evening.

### June 29 (Saturday)

Baton Rouge Pride – come show God's love and UPC's welcome for our LGBTQ+ neighbors at the UPC table at the Pride festival. Contact Kristin Savicki at [klsavicki@gmail.com](mailto:klsavicki@gmail.com) to join us at the table.

## **DON'T COOK NIGHT CATORCE DE MAYO!!!**

The UPC Society of Atonement for Gringo Imperialism (SAGI or the Fellowship Committee) asks you to observe the U.S. Navy's Blockade of Veracruz during the Mexican American War on May 14, 1847.

Join us to solemnly commemorate this occasion at the new Mexican restaurant, PEDRO's, at 7655 Andrea Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 on Tuesday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m. Margaritas are available for those wishing to properly atone.

*(hey, Cinco de Mayo would be packed...)*

## Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering supports ministries with children, youth, and young adults in our community, across our nation, and around the world. Your offering will go to help support the year of service offered to those who join the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program, help kids attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, and offer support to children through the Educate and Child, Transform the World Initiative to ensure equitable, accessible, quality public education.

We currently support the New Orleans site of the Young Adult Volunteer Program through Mamie's service on their Board and the chance we have to meet the new volunteers who serve there each fall. We are involved in supporting public education through our partnership with Park Elementary. And we use a portion of the money we receive when people park in our lot during home football games to help kids attend conferences and go on mission trips. Contributing to the Pentecost Offering is another way to continue supporting children, youth, and young adults both here and beyond.



# 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 • Cheryl Whitting  
 Our Cuba Partners • Kathy Rossman • Mickey Rose Braud Zaitoon  
 Lynn Nichols Dull • Fay Coco • Cody Lucero

- **The family of Andy Maverick**, whose cousin, Paul Karl, died on April 25
- **Melanie Driscoll's dad, Lionel**, in hospice
- **Debbie Williams**, Virginia Davis' sister-in-law, in the ICU
- **Michael Babin**, former student of Faimon Roberts, who has responded well to treatment which ended April 19, and is improving
- **The family and friends of Wesley Rosa**, friend of Collier Roberts, who died April 19
- **Peggy**, mother of Darla O'Connor, recovering from a hip replacement
- **Al and Jane Meador**, brother-in-law and sister of Lee Jenkins, as Al continues rehab in a nursing home in Laurel with hopes he can return home in May. Her sister, Jane, is at home and attends cardiac rehab 3 times a week
- **Martha Spruell**, friend of Barbara Hoffman, recovering from surgery
- **Janet Strain**, niece of George & Pat, diagnosed with breast cancer
- **Robert Bayer**, uncle of Caralyn Durham, in declining health
- **Koreen Walker** who has entered hospice, friend of Barbara H, Peggy C, Julie L., and Deanna B.
- **Sarah Shuman**, sister-in-law of Barbara Hoffman, recently diagnosed with Leukemia, and hospitalized for further tests
- **Robin Bolner**, cousin of Susan Seifert, who has entered hospice care
- **Chuck Short**, father of Tanner Short, hospitalized for broken bones after a fall
- **Martha Adams**, mother of Darlene Rowland, undergoing radiation for breast cancer
- **Jeremy Walters**, son of a friend of Susan Seifert's, undergoing home therapies
- **Eddie Sylvester**, brother of Anne Cramer, struggling with a difficult health diagnosis
- **Julio Pina**, nephew of Jan Risher and Julio Naudin, with multiple brain tumors
- **Corrie Hale's Dad, Conrad**, with inoperable cancer on his spine
- **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, with Lewy-Body dementia
- **Jo and her family**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, experiencing difficult times
- **Hugh Huffman**, friend of Rosemary John, undergoing treatment for cancer
- **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)

**UPCBR 75**

**TEXT**

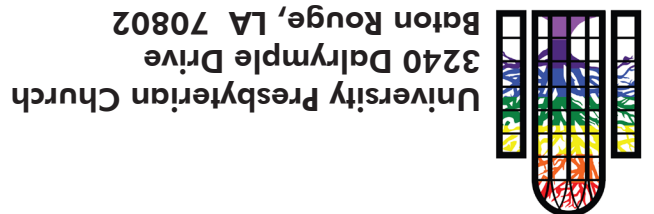
Text UPCBR and your amount to 73256 (as shown above)

# May Birthdays

|                                 |                                     |   |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2 Sherry Olds                   | 10 Lorinda Sealey                   | 17 Karen Foote                          | 24 Kay Lindsey                                   |
| 3 Jimmy Robertson               | 11 Stuart Irvine<br>Morgan Patty    | 19 Angelle Bradford                     | 25 Judy Dedrick                                  |
| 4 Joseph Nguyen                 | 12 Melanie Driscoll                 | 20 Rosemary Goodell<br>Albertha Hubchen | 26 Missy Stoker                                  |
| 5 Skeeter Cedars                | 13 Richard Williams                 | 21 Caralyn Durham                       | 28 Alyssa Bistany                                |
| 8 Jeana Esser                   | 15 Joseph Reynolds<br>Henry Rowland | 22 Robert Gourgues                      | 30 Ruth Bivins<br>Ross Cawthon<br>Steven Hartman |
| 9 Stacy Brown<br>Garrett Haynie |                                     | 23 Tom Warner                           |  |

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

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



Change Service Requested