

# University Presbyterian Church

Welcome! May you find strength, joy, and a new challenge here. If you would like more information about membership or the program, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to the pastor as you leave worship today or visit our website, [www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org).

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Week of December 1, 2024

*For meetings, classes, and events, Zoom links may be found on our website ([www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org)), on Realm ([onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org)), or by contacting a group leader.*

#### **Sunday (12/1) 1st Sunday in Advent** *Communion*

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
- 1:30 p.m. Music Club of Baton Rouge - Choir Room
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group

#### **Monday (12/2)**

- 10:45 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 5:00 p.m. APNC - TBA

#### **Tuesday (12/3)**

- 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
- 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 287 Baird
- 7:30 p.m. LSU Chamber Singers Recital - Sanctuary

#### **Wednesday (12/4)**

- 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Dr.
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

#### **Thursday (12/5)**

- 10:30 a.m. Kathy Barry Memorial Service - Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room

#### **Sunday (12/8) 2nd Sunday in Advent**

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
- 1:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:30 p.m. LSU Lab School Holiday Concert - Sanctuary

### **IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2024** *(as of 11/26/2024)*

**Received Pledged giving: \$495,494** *(86% of \$573,738 pledged)*

Received Unpledged giving \$29,888

**TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$525,382**

*Thank you for your generous contributions!*

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Learn more about us by reading our monthly church newsletter, the Contact.*

*Copies are available in the back of the church and Welcome Center,*

*or you can find Contact on our web site, [www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org).*

*Check us out on Facebook, too! (<https://www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian>)*

## **SUNDAY NURSERY OPPORTUNITY**

A Nursery is provided during worship for those younger than first grade. Whether or not you have a child who is eligible for the nursery, please consider giving some of your time to the youngest among us! You can sign up in the back of the sanctuary or with the link below to serve as a “second” in the nursery!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444ABAA2DA5FF2-sunday1>

## **BOOK GROUP**

The UPC Book Club will meet December 3rd, Tuesday, 7:00, at the home of Pat Wright, 287 Baird. The discussion book is Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The House of the Seven Gables. The January 7th book is Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. All are welcome.

## **BIRTHDAYS** (December 1 - 7)

3 Kathy Perry; 6 Mona Truluck; 7 Gina Costello and Friedrich Pilly

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you would like monthly offering envelopes for your 2025 pledge, please let Caralyn know ([cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org)) and she will make some for you.

## **END OF THE YEAR BOOKKEEPING**

We are rapidly counting down to the end of 2024. **Please have all check or reimbursement requests for the 2024 budget into the church office by Tuesday, December 17.**

## **2024 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE**

Contributions must be received on-line or postmarked by 12/31/24 to be reflected on your 2024 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC’s name on 12/31/24 to be counted as a 2024 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>.



# CHRISTMAS DINNER



Sunday, December 15  
Following Worship  
Fellowship Hall



*The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to a UPC Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 15 following worship. Please let the church office know if you will be attending so we can have enough food.*

*The committee will provide roast turkey and several sides. If you would like to bring a gluten-free side dish, or your favorite rolls or dessert, let Barbara Hoffman know, via text or call, 225-241-2743.*

YES! Please include me/us in the UPC Christmas Fellowship Dinner!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

# Nativity Play



## Sunday, December 22

**following worship**

UPC's more energetic members aged 3 to 17 and the Faith Formation Committee request the honor of your presence at UPC's first-that-we-can-remember Nativity play!

Yes, that's right—we're doing a Nativity play, complete with shepherds, sheep, wise men, camels, stars, angels, the Holy Family and a donkey.

We'll be designing costumes, building sets, and rehearsing during December. If you're willing to help out, we'd love to have you join us at one or more of our sessions:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Sunday, Dec. 1    | 4:30-6:00 pm (usual Youth Group time—just the 6th-12th graders for this session) |
| Sunday, Dec. 8    | 4:30-6:00 pm (usual Youth Group time—younger kids please come this time!)        |
| Saturday, Dec. 14 | 3-5 pm (everyone that can come)  |
| Sunday, Dec. 15   | 9:45-10:45 am (church school hour, after 1st-5th grade choir)—if needed          |
| Saturday, Dec. 21 | 1-3 pm (everyone that can come)  |
| Sunday Dec. 22    | 9:45-10:45 am (FINAL REHEARSAL!)   |
| Sunday, Dec. 22,  | 12:15 pm: THE PLAY   |

## **Small Groups**

### **Faith and Community**

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

We explore a wide range of topics concerning faith and community, and look forward to sharing ideas and conversation. Everyone is welcome. This group currently 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**

Visio Divina is returning for Advent! For more information, please contact Melanie Driscoll at [melaniedriscoll3@gmail.com](mailto:melaniedriscoll3@gmail.com).

## **FAITH FORMATION FALL/WINTER 2024** *Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*

### **For Adults:**

#### **Bible Study**

This group uses the "Living the Word" curriculum which follows the Narrative Lectionary used in worship. Themes for this fall include: "Promises Made, Promises Broken", "God Sightings", and "The Hope of the Messiah". Several participants of the class share the weekly facilitating. Everyone is encouraged to weigh in on the class discussion. Meet in the Conference Room.

#### **Bless This Mess**

This adult discussion class is aimed at parents of babies through college-age kids, but of course is open to anyone. We'll be using podcasts and book chapters to spark discussion of what it means for Christians to parent in 2024. This class meets in the "Room of Requirement" (opposite Mamie's office).

#### **Digging Deeper**

Gaines Foster continues his series on "The History of Religion in American Public Life" through December 3rd.

For Advent, starting December 10th, we will be using the Sanctified Art curriculum "Words for the Beginning: You are A Blessing."

## **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 once again 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 15.**

# 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 • Cheryl Whitting • Kathy Rossman  
Mickey Rose Braud Zaitoon • Fay Coco • Melanie Driscoll  
Our Cuba Partners • Lynn Nichols Dull**

- **Gabrielle Clune**, friend of Barbara and Paul Hoffman, who has completed her treatment for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. She and her family are very grateful for UPC prayers on her behalf
- **George Gullett**, friend of the Hoffmans, undergoing cancer treatment
- **Cody Lucero**, as he recovers from surgery
- **Jan Risher and family**, upon the death of her uncle, Mac Greer
- **The United States of America** as we transition after the election
- **Vanessa Harris**, sister-in-law of Jonathan Hubchen, undergoing chemotherapy for liver cancer
- **Doug Toothman**, brother-in-law of Jerry and Sarah Kennedy, with liver cancer
- **Lee Wirth**, brother of Karen Paterson, as he continues treatment for lymphoma
- **Suzanne E.**, friend of Kathie Pohlman, at home recovering from a stroke
- **Frances McGraw** (95), grandmother of Matthew McGraw, in the hospital with gallstones and possible onset of dementia
- **Brian Babin**, recovering at home from back surgery
- **Lillian Magruder**, aunt of Leslie Green, in hospice, and Leslie's cousin, Tad, her caretaker
- **Patti Aldrich**, neighbor of Patti Snyder, diagnosed with cancer
- **Betty Nelson**, aunt of Bizza Britton, with congestive heart failure and a move at age 96
- **Faye Beroth**, Bizza Britton's aunt with Alzheimer's, and her son, Tom, her sole caretaker
- **Josh Rosenberg and Angelle Bradford** as Josh undergoes radiation and chemotherapy
- **Bill Benton**, uncle of Mamie Broadhurst, in hospice
- **Kathy Kennedy**, Jerry's sister, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Julio Piña**, nephew of Jan Risher and Julio Naudin, with multiple brain tumors
- **Corrie Hale's Dad, Conrad**, with inoperable cancer on his spine
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **Craig Fisher**, Anita Melon's brother in law, with Lewy-Body dementia
- **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**
- **All those recovering from hurricanes Helene and Milton**