



Contact

November 2025

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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Every Thanksgiving, the Butterball Turkey Helpline receives thousands of calls from panicked home cooks. Questions about internal temperature (175°) or if you can thaw a turkey in the dryer (no). They're the ones to call. Wouldn't it be nice if there were a hotline for other Thanksgiving concerns though?

What if you're not quite thawed out, not prepared to meet your cousin's boyfriend or hear your uncle's fascinating theories? What if you haven't stocked up on courage to try your sister's new questionable casserole or you didn't bring enough patience to manage political differences? What if Grandma is not there with her signature dish? Or what if there are other empty chairs? What if you're the only chair you know will be filled, and you wish that weren't the case? Alongside all the joy of gathering and feasting, holidays are a cornucopia of mixed emotions smothered in expectations.

Gratitude can get buried under all the questions and the stress.

Maybe we need a Gratitude Helpline for when our stomachs are full but our hearts feel empty. Someone to dish out heaping spoonfuls of grace when there's too much other stuff on our plates, bring a serving of inner peace for our sleepless midnight snack. Maybe we need seconds of gumption to be who we are, or at least to keep loving who we are, in the company of folks who seem to be holding on to who they want us to be.

Maybe it's not an actual phone number to call, but (as you know) God is everywhere all the time, and you can always talk to God - who is ready to answer, toll-free, day or night, year-round, never a busy signal. Though you can pray in the midst of chaos, if you begin to feel overwhelmed, maybe it's worth taking a walk around the block or going to a quiet room (even the bathroom...) for a few minutes. You can take a few deep breaths, talk about the questions or concerns you have, and ask for the clarity, healing, patience, forgiveness, or compassion you need. Stepping back may be just what you need to find a blessing in your situation, and the gratitude that comes with that may allow you to step back in the fray for a little while.

The holidays can be a wonderful time, but they aren't all gravy and dessert. If you need some help don't hesitate to check in with God and with folks who love you at UPC. But if you need turkey help? Call Butterball.

Bendiciones,

** Thanks for the devotion by Rev. Chris Mereschuk (he/him) of the United Church of Christ that is the basis for this reflection.*

November...

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

- 2 21st Sunday after Pentecost** *Communion, All Saints' Day Observed*
 - 9:30 a.m. Church School
 - 9:30 a.m. Inquirers Class - Fellowship Hall
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
 - 4:00 p.m. Erin Tolar Installation Service & Reception - Sanctuary/FS Hall
 - 4:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Erin's Installation Service
- 3** 10:45 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 4** 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Zoom
 - 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
 - 6:00 p.m. Bella Voce Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 - 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 1846 Glendale Ave
- 5** 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
 - 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive
 - 6:00 p.m. Gary Meise Celebration of Life - Fellowship Hall
 - 7:00 p.m. UPC Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 6** 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Library
 - 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost** *O'Donnell Baptisms, Welcome New Members*
 - 9:30 a.m. Church School
 - 9:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting - Fellowship Hall
 - 9:30 a.m. Inquirers Class - Fellowship Hall
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
 - 1:00 p.m. Church Picnic & Kickball - BREC Kenilworth Park Pavillion
 - 1:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Church Picnic
- 10** 11:30 a.m. Membership Committee - Conference Room
 - 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
 - 7:00 p.m. Les Sirens Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 11** 4:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom
 - 6:00 p.m. Bella Voce Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 - 7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - Zoom
 - 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 12** 9:00 a.m. Faith and 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. UPC Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 13** 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Library
 - 6:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Zoom
 - 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 14** 6:00 p.m. Bella Voce Choir Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 15 Kickoff TBA** LSU vs. Arkansas @ LSU (*PARKING*)
- 16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
 - 9:30 a.m. Church School
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
 - Noon Chrismon Crafters - Conference Room
 - 12:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Library
 - 3:00 p.m. Bella Voce Choir Concert - Sanctuary
 - 4:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 17** 10:45 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 18 CONTACT DEADLINE - December/January Issue**
 - 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
 - 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom
- 19** 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel - Sanctuary
 - 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Dr.

Office News

Church Calendar

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

•CONTACT DEADLINE

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the deadline for article submissions for the December/January edition of **Contact** is **Monday, November 18.**

•OFFICE CLOSURES

The Church Office and Day School will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.



Don't forget to set your
clocks back on November 2



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

Nov 4 [My Friends](#)
by Fredrik Backman

Dec 2 [Horse](#)
by Geraldine Brooks

Little Food Pantry

The little food pantry is in need of non-perishable dry goods. Please drop off your contribution in the pantry located outside the church office.



JOIN THE CHOIR

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
Sundays 10:30 a.m.

The Advent and Christmas season is a great time to join the choir! We're inviting anyone interested to join us for Wednesday rehearsals and Sunday services! This is a great way to participate in worship and an awesome group of people with whom to sing! Join us!

Any questions? Email Choir Director, Ross Cawthon at rcawthon@upcbr.org



PARKING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Almost there... only two more home games to go! The remaining home game schedule is:

Nov. 15 Arkansas
22 Western Kentucky

Parking cars is a fun and meaningful way to showcase UPC's hospitality to fans from near and far. More volunteers make it even better! Join us for this exciting opportunity to serve. Game times vary due to TV schedules, but volunteers typically arrive 4-5 hours before kickoff and finish about an hour before the game starts. To learn more or sign up, contact John Ward at 225-505-4418. So far this year we have raised \$8825!

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

On behalf of Nurture Committee, if you would like to offer a member a place at your table for Thanksgiving, please contact Vic Robertson, 225-229-6455.

If you would like to be invited to a Thanksgiving meal please contact Vic before 11/21.

November...

- 7:00 p.m. UPC Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 20 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Library
- 11:00 a.m. Day School Thanksgiving Feast - Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 21 11:00 a.m. Day School Thanksgiving Feast - Fellowship Hall
- 22 *Kickoff TBA* LSU vs. Western Kentucky @ LSU (*PARKING*)
- 23 Christ the King/Reign of Christ**
- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
- 1:00 p.m. Najma Food Distribution - Fellowship Hall
- No Youth Group (*4th Sunday*)
- 24 7:00 p.m. Les Sirenes Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 25 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 26 9:00 a.m. Faith & Community - Parks Wilson Room
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle II - 1545 Patrick Drive
- 7:00 p.m. UPC Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 27 THANKSGIVING DAY - Church Office and Day School Closed**
- 28 Church Office and Day School Closed**
- 29 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Decorating for Advent
- 30 1st Sunday of Advent**
- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)

All Saints' Sunday Special Music

On November 2, UPC will be observing All Saints' Day, a commemoration of the departed, in a special worship service at 11:00 a.m. The music for this service will include familiar hymns and tunes artistically elevated for All Saints' Day. Please join us in worship as we remember those who have left us recently or long ago.

Tis the season! Sanctuary Decorating for Advent

On Saturday, Nov. 29, at 10:00 am, the Worship Committee will be meeting in the sanctuary to set up decorations for Advent, including the Chrismon Tree. We invite all congregants to join us in preparing our worship space for a new liturgical season, which begins Nov. 30. With enough hands on deck, it should be done in about an hour. Contact Christine Kooi or Leslie Green for details.



The UPC Society for Seeing How Long Hubchen's Knees Can Hold Out (SoSHoLHuKCHO, AKA the Fellowship Committee) invites the congregation to attend the Fall Picnic at BREC's Perkins Road/Kennilworth Park, Pavillion 1 (7122 Perkins Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, although we'll be meeting at the parking lot at Kennilworth) on Sunday, November 9 at 1:00 PM. This will be a potluck picnic; SoSHoLHuKCHO will provide drinks, cups, plates, plastic-ware and similar items

SoSHoLHuKCHO also will provide the recreation and entertainment, namely the UPC Fourth Annual Kickball Grudge Match between the Saints and the Sinners. Draft picks will be held at the park, after which participants will sign medical waivers and the action will begin. Don't forget to enter your time for the Knee Blow-out Pool...

Stewardship & Finance

Rooted and Reaching

We are very grateful that 77 households have made financial pledges to the church for 2026. So far we have 6 new pledges, and 45 folks have increased their pledge! Thank you! We know that all who have turned in a commitment have made considered decisions about the ways you are able to support UPC going forward.

If you intend to pledge but have not yet done so, it will be very helpful if you can do so soon. We put together our annual budget by first looking at our pledges, as they are the best indicator of the financial landscape available to us. If you are unable to give financially this coming year, don't fret, it's ok! It will help if you can let us know that is the case so we can budget responsibly.

We remain more than appreciative for the many ways each of you gives of your time and talents to make UPC the loving community it is. We literally couldn't do it without you!

Year-End Financial Giving

As we approach the end of the year, here are some key details about financial gifts to UPC to ensure they qualify for 2025 tax purposes.

Pledges & Cash Gifts

All year-end gifts, pledges, special offerings, and designated contributions must be postmarked by December 31. The church office will be closed from December 24 - January 2, so any in-person deliveries must be received by December 22. If you pay your 2026 pledge online in 2025, we'll first apply funds to any outstanding 2025 balance before allocating the remainder to 2026.

Gifts of Stock

We encourage thoughtful stewardship by considering the benefits of donating appreciated stock instead of cash.

- You avoid capital gains tax on the stock's growth.
- The full fair market value at the time of transfer is tax-deductible.

Many members find this a smart giving strategy—please consult your financial advisor to see if it's right for you.

To count toward 2025, securities must be received by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (on UPC's behalf) no later than Tuesday, December 22. Contact Drew Patty in advance for transfer instructions. Per church policy, all stock gifts are sold immediately, with proceeds deposited into UPC's account.

We're deeply grateful for your generous support in every form!

Thank you!

Thanks again to all who helped make the Pancake Breakfast a success this year. We are grateful for: our chefs (Edem Mensah, Hannah Asomaniwaa, Mark Berko, Mike Olinde, and Jerry Trahan), our setter-uppers (Dave and Julie Launey, Doug Walker, and Alexander Campbell), our servers (Beth, Corrina, Evangeline, Hattie, Henry, Nicholas, Nora, Raye, Riley, Ruby, Sadie, and Violet), our entertainment (Jeff and Kathy Perry, Hattie Knapp, Drew Patty, Lynne Wallace, Ross Cawthon, Leslie Green, Kay Lindsay, and Erin Tolar), our helpers (Mary Mikell and Amy Vidrine), our cleaner-uppers (all of you and Jonathan Hubchen) and for Peggy Carroll who helped pull it all together.

Thanks also to Caralyn Durham and Robert Gorges who help with the behind-the-scenes magic of everything we do! We truly are better (and only really functional) together.

How to Give in Realm

Log into your Realm account at onrealm.org. If you don't yet have a realm account, please contact the church office. Once you are in your profile go to GIVING then + PLEDGE and a new pledge window will appear. Choose the GENERAL FUND for 2026, fill in how often you would like to pledge, from dates 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026, and how much you would like to pledge. Realm will calculate the yearly total for you. When you are done click SAVE PLEDGE. It's that easy!

REMINDER:

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

IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2025

(as of 10/29/2025 we are
81% through the year)

Received Pledged giving: \$474,182

(81% of \$586,655 pledged)

Received Unpledged giving: \$17,828

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$492,010

Thank you for your generous contributions!

Youth Group

The youth had a busy month in October. We started with meeting everyone's pets during the Blessing of the Pets with UUMC - a joyous albeit soggy occasion. The youth also decorated and put together care packages for UPC college students. We were able to make them for both students who grew up here in the church and are away at college, and students who come to us from LSU. Enthusiastic thank yous and gratitude abound from the recipients!

The November schedule will vary as we participate in full-church events the first two Sundays. Get excited for a post-installation service reception and a highly competitive kickball game! Gameday parking for the last two home football games is coming up quickly - high school youth are strongly encouraged to sign up if they haven't been able to participate previously.

November Calendar:

- *2 Erin's installation service at 4pm
- *9 Church-wide picnic and kickball after worship at Perkins Road Community Park
15th: Gameday parking vs. Arkansas
22nd: Gameday parking vs. Western Kentucky
- 16 Youth group at UPC at 4:30pm
- 23 NO YOUTH GROUP (4th Sunday)
- 30 NO YOUTH GROUP (Thanksgiving)



Some of our local college students receiving their care packages the youth made.

Felicianita Retreat Center Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Get ready for another unforgettable summer at FRCC! Summer Camp 2026 is set for July 12-17, and we can't wait to welcome campers back to experience a week filled with faith, fun, and friendship.

Whether you're a returning camper or joining us for the first time, this is your chance to explore God's creation, build lasting community, and grow in faith — all in the heart of Felicianita's beautiful woods.

Spaces fill quickly, so don't wait to secure your spot!

Register now at <https://www.frcccenter.org/summer-camps>

Come honor God, build community, and enjoy creation with us this summer!

LINK LOVE

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

- We get to celebrate the sacrament of baptism on November 9th at UPC for two little ones, but such an event doesn't only happen when you're small. You can read about a church that did a reaffirmation of baptismal vows for a transgender youth in their congregation. It is a lovely story about the way church can get things right - pastorally and theologically.
<https://bit.ly/4kynoSS>
- In this time of uncertainty, it is helpful to know your rights. You will find a tip sheet from the National Immigrant Justice Center at this link that you can read online and/or print out.
<https://bit.ly/4oBG8Cc>
- After being snatched off the street in Massachusetts, Rumeysa Ozturk writes about her experience as a detainee in Louisiana.
<https://bit.ly/47e3syS>
- If you thought your Thanksgiving preparations were a lot, here's a short, silly video about some very little ones!
<https://bit.ly/4qm7lon>
- As we head toward the holidays, joy may be accompanied by grief as well. Grief is challenging for everyone, but it can be tricky to help kids through grief (especially if you are grieving as well). This link offers some resources from the PCUSA that may be helpful.
<https://bit.ly/3JiWdgQ>
- Advent begins at the end of this month! Ever thought of making your own nativity at home? Here's a pretty quick and easy one to consider!
<https://bit.ly/49fG2LO>
- People are amazing. <https://bit.ly/47jD46F>
- Tamari Kudita's photos aim to show that, in a world filled with limited facts and plenty of misinformation it is important to acknowledge that the clothes we wear and the objects we value tell stories about who we are, what we value, and where we come from. Her work here with women in Zimbabwe is stunning.
<https://tinyurl.com/ebtnx87j>

Mission & Peacemaking

Hope for the Holidays

UPC is excited to once again be participating in the Hope for the Holidays program, run by Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS), to provide holiday gifts for children in our community. We will be distributing names later this month, so keep an eye out for our table in the Welcome Center before and after services.

Cuba Update

Those following recent conditions will be aware of the dire circumstances facing our brothers and sisters in Cuba, exacerbated by the recent rash of infections by the Dengue, Chikungunya, Oropouche, and Zika viruses, transmitted by mosquitos and biting midges. Nearly fifty members of our partner church in San José de los Ramos are fighting or recovering from infections, including Pastor Josué and his wife Danely. Symptoms include fever, severe headache, and severe muscle and joint pain that can last for weeks and may lead to meningitis, encephalitis, and even death in already compromised individuals. At least two in the congregation have died. There is no treatment except for analgesics and nutritional and symptomatic support that are unavailable to most in Cuba.

After an appeal from Pastor Josué for medical and nutritional support supplies, UPC members responded with over \$3,000 in donations, with more on the way. These funds have been expended through a web site called Supermarket23 that permits purchase of medical and grocery supplies in Cuba. Items we've been able to provide include ibuprofen and acetaminophen, (including child formulations - we wiped out their available stock), multi-vitamins, B-complex vitamins, vitamin C, mosquito coils, chicken, ground meat, sausages, gelatin, noodles, eggs, milk, tomato purée, instant drink mix, detergent, and bath soap. Our most recent shipment arrived Friday (10/17). Depending on funds availability and feedback from Josué, we will continue to provide support. Please keep our Cuban brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Peace and Global Witness Offering Update

On October 5th UPC joined congregations far and wide in taking up the Peace and Global Witness offering. This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Local congregations retain 25% of the offering to support peacemaking in local communities, with the encouragement to "find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world." Your Mission and Peacemaking committee determined to direct the local amount (\$395.25) of the offering to our good friends at LORI (Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants). LORI is working hard to support our immigrant neighbors as they struggle through this time of intense anxiety and discord- and UPC is grateful to be able to contribute to their work.

Day School

We're excited to share the latest news and updates from the DS team. As we wrap up a busy October, here's what's been happening and what's ahead.

Teacher Certifications and Classroom Updates

The DS is diligently reviewing all old and new accreditations related to teacher qualifications to ensure everyone is fully certified and compliant. Your child's education remains our top priority!

DS Book Fair Success

Our October Book Fair was a hit! We hope you had the chance to stop by, browse the selections, and support literacy in our community. A big thank you to everyone who participated.

2026 Budget Planning

In early October, a dedicated group gathered to prepare and finalize the DS budget for 2026. We have made significant progress this year, but we are not yet self sustaining. We need more students to be able to offer more hours and increased pay for our dedicated teachers.

Open Enrollment

We still have several openings in many of the classrooms. Spread the word. Let's get them filled for the new year!

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Feast: Mark your calendars! The DS Thanksgiving Feast will take place on Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21. More details on menus and sign-ups coming soon.

We Need Your Plastic Bags!

The DS is still collecting plastic grocery store bags—staff use them for a variety of purposes around the classrooms and offices. Please drop off any extras in the mailbox area across from Caralyn's office. Your contributions make a big difference—thank you!

New Director

Ethel Felder, our current director, has announced her retirement at the end of this calendar year. A group is meeting to determine her replacement. The DS committee would be grateful for your prayerful support in this time.

New this December: UPC is hosting a Parent Night Out! On December 12th from 6-9pm, parents can drop off their K-12th graders at the church for an evening of games, crafts, cookie decorating, and a Christmas movie. Parents are welcome to go out on their own or join other parents for dinner. The cost is \$5/kid to cover pizza.

Faith Formation 2025

*As individuals and as a church community, we are always forming and reforming our faith.
It's what makes us Presbyterians and what enlivens our understanding and our response
to God's love for each of us at this time and in this place.*

To encourage our faith-forming journey, we offer these classes on Sunday mornings this fall.

For Children and Youth:

Babies - kindergarten: in the nursery

- 1st-7th - Act Up! - 2nd floor in Room 204 -Each month, this class will study a different Bible story and create a unique way to tell that story as part of our worship service.

Act Up! Update!

You may have noticed that once a month, our worship service includes a new component: a dramatic enactment of the scripture lesson by UPC's very own drama troupe: Act Up!, consisting of our 1st through 7th graders.

- On Sept. 7, we introduced Act Up! to the congregation with a "Rhyme Read" of the Creation story, followed by "Jacob's Ladder" on Sept. 27. Oct. 26 was our first full-fledged play, "Elijah Hears God's Voice." We'll be participating in the worship service again on Nov. 30, and then joining with the 8th-12th graders for a Nativity play on Dec. 21.

- 8th-12th - Follow Me - 2nd floor in Room 206 -Fall themes for this curriculum-based class include spiritual disciplines, joy, following Jesus, and hope.

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: "God Provides Blessings", "Encountering the Messiah", and "God's Kingdom Revealed". Class volunteers lead the round table discussion on scripture that will be preached on in worship. Meet in the Conference Room.

Bless This Mess!

This adult discussion is a class for adults who are raising young people, babies through college-age. We discuss issues and concerns that come up for "kids these days" in the context of their (and our own) spiritual formation. The format is democratic and flexible, depending on the needs and whims of those present; in the past, we have had book studies and discussed podcasts.

This class will meet on the 2nd floor in Room 208.

Digging Deeper

This class explores various topics using a lecture and discussion format. This class meets in the Parks Wilson Room near the Sanctuary.

- Religion, Race—and Reparations?

Gaines Foster's class meets Nov. 2 and Nov. 9. Covering American slavery from the 1600s to today, it examines how Christians and churches (emphasizing Presbyterians) supported and sometimes challenged the racial system, ending with the PCUSA's debate on reparations for African Americans.

- Nov. 16 Brian Hightower from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank will be there to discuss the local food bank operations, challenges and opportunities.

Ongoing Small Groups

Small groups continue: Soul Feast (Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.) in the library and Faith & Community (2nd/4th Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.) in the Parks Wilson Room. Contact Jan Risher if you are inspired to start a new group.

UPCOMING FOR ADVENT:

This year, we will have a special four-week devotional series for adults happening during Advent! The book is Taste and See: Experiencing the Stories of Advent and Christmas by Jan Johnson. Books can be ordered from most major booksellers, or you can contact Erin if you need assistance. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate, there will be three different times offered: Sunday mornings at 9:30 during the Sunday school hour, Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. at the church, and a to-be-determined weekday evening. If you're interested in an evening option, please contact Erin. Please don't let tight funds stop you from joining a group. Let Erin know if the gift of a book would enable you to participate.

Families with children are encouraged to order Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas: 100 Ways to Make the Season Sacred by Traci Smith. It's a great opportunity to find advent-inspired activities you can do together as a family. It can be ordered online, or Erin has a handful of copies in her office

*You are invited to attend the
3rd Annual Women's Retreat
at
Feliciana Retreat and Conference Center.*

*This will be a time of fellowship, renewal, and
encouragement as we gather together in a beautiful
setting. We hope you will join us for this special
weekend of worship, teaching, and rest.*

*Feliciana Retreat and Conference Center
January 30 - February 1, 2026*

*Registration is now open!
Visit www.frccenter.org/womens-retreat
or call 225-683-6824 to reserve your spot.*



SPOTLIGHT on FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

Last month, we tried different ways to pray. This month, we're putting the spotlight on gratitude prayers. Each day, take a moment to offer a prayer of gratitude and write it down. By November 30th, you'll have a tapestry of prayers giving thanks to God.

- 1st: A person you love
- 2nd: A place of rest
- 3rd: A special moment
- 4th: A lesson learned
- 5th: A favorite animal
- 6th: A favorite hobby
- 7th: Something you made it through
- 8th: A person who taught you something
- 9th: A place you feel safe
- 10th: A favorite memory
- 11th: A lesson taught
- 12th: Something that grows in the ground
- 13th: An outdoor activity
- 14th: A difficult time
- 15th: A person who helped you grow
- 16th: A place of inspiration
- 17th: An experience you value
- 18th: A lesson that made you stronger
- 19th: Something in the sky
- 20th: A way of relaxing
- 21st: Something you take for granted
- 22nd: A person you don't know
- 23rd: A place from childhood
- 24th: A time you felt whole
- 25th: A lesson that shaped you
- 26th: Something God made
- 27th: Who God is
- 28th: A time you felt close to God
- 29th: A person who nurtured you
- 30th: A place that feels like home

Presbyterian Women

Join our Facebook group PW of UPC, Baton Rouge

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

**Presbyterian Women invite YOU to the Parks
Wilson Room on**

Tuesday, November 4th at 10:00 a.m.

To join us for the study of Lesson 3, "Jesus is Tested"

ALL ARE WELCOME

Dinah Keyes will lead the lesson.

"Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ"

2025-2026 Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering 2025 will be collected at circle. Current Recipients:

SYNOD OF ALASKA-NORTHWEST - Olympia Presbytery, Hope Housing Collaborative of Lewis County, Shalom Village Tiny Home Duplexes, Centralia, Washington \$50,000

SYNOD OF LAKES AND PRAIRIES - Homestead Presbytery, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Building a Better Future: Providing Beds for Kids in Need, Omaha, Nebraska \$5,000

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS - Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Buckhorn Children and Family Services, Play Area Fencing at Dessie Scott Campus Campton, Kentucky \$33,935

SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC - Presbytery of the Peaks, Lynchburg Daily Bread Safe, Healthy Foods for All, Lynchburg, Virginia, \$22,800; Presbytery of the Peaks, Roanoke Justice Ministries Leadership Development for Racial Equity, Lexington, Virginia \$25,000

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST - Albany Presbytery, St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, Church and Community Kitchen, Spencertown, New York \$50,000; Presbytery of New York City, First Jamaica Community and Urban Development Corporation, Enhance Our Technology Infrastructure Jamaica, New York \$6,000

SYNOD OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS - Presbytery of Wyoming, Lagniappe Ministries Leadership and Vocational Skills Lab, Sheridan, Wyoming, \$14,362

SYNOD OF THE SUN - Grace Presbytery, Community Garden Kitchen of Collin County, Empowering Futures: CGK Training Program for Foster Care Youth, McKinney, Texas \$45,800; Presbytery of South Louisiana, First Presbyterian Church of Hammond, Louisiana Shower Ministry, Hammond, Louisiana \$5,000.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands, a sewing ministry of UPC, will meet on Tuesday, November 18. **Sewing skills are not essential.** Bring a brown bag lunch and join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

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 • Ruth Bivins • Cody Lucero • Gerard Klein
 Alan Williams • Kathy Poché • Kathy Rossman
 Cheryl Whitting • Edith Veldman • Faye Coco • Melanie Driscoll
 Lynn Nichols Dull • Dawn Dominy • Pat Phelps • David Strain
 Members of our sister church in Cuba, San Jose de los Ramos

- **Jeri Shread and family**, friends of Susan Seifert, on the sudden loss of her son, Andy
- **Lorainne Farnan**, aunt of Caralyn Durham, undergoing tests for a mass found in her brain
- **Amy Heller**, mother of the Hoffman's granddaughters, with a recurrence of cancer
- **The family and friends of Gary Meise**, upon his death on October 21
- **Kathleen Osborne**, mother of DS employee, Deidre Jones
- **Cameron Bagihan**, one of our DS students, diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes
- **David Hall**, recovering from back surgery
- **Kathleen Rinear**, friend of Ross Cawthon, who just lost her husband, John Jewell, to cancer after a long illness
- **Michael Williams**, Jonathan Hubchen's brother in law, continuing physical therapy
- **Albertha Hubchen**, as she continues care for her brother Michael
- **David Pohlman**, dealing with liver disease
- **Peter Wren McGuyer**, nephew of Shannon Couhig & Joanie Cangelosi, deployed
- **Josh Rosenberg and Angelle Bradford** as Josh undergoes radiation and chemotherapy
- **Carl Stoddard**, brother of Linda Walker, recovering from sarcopenia
- **Warren Goodman**, friend of Mary Stevens, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Gretchen Goodrich**, mother-in-law of Kathie Pohlman
- **Ron Veldman**, Meredith's brother, with pancreatic cancer
- **Will**, neighbor to the Walkers, undergoing chemotherapy for bladder cancer
- **George Gullett**, friend of the Hoffmans, undergoing cancer treatment
- **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
- **Faye Beroth**, Bizza Britton's aunt with Alzheimer's, and her son, Tom, her sole caretaker
- **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
- **Hugh Huffman**, friend of Rosemary John, undergoing treatment for cancer
- **The United States of America** during this uncertain time
- **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 Pastors 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.

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 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)

November Birthdays

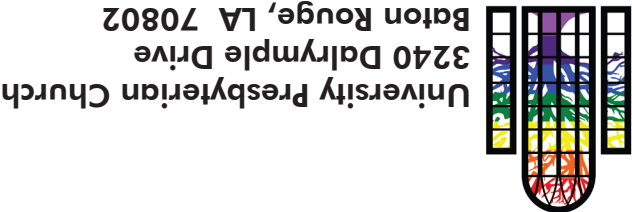
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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2 Necia Lanius | 17 Jack Perry |
| 3 Ethel Felder | 19 Gaines Foster
Victoria Robertson |
| 5 Thelma Berg | 21 John Grubb
Emerson Juneau
Charles Sabin |
| 9 Cynthia Peterson
Leah Raetzsch | 22 Sofia Savicki-Kelly
Jalynn Terry |
| 10 Eugene Berg | 25 Margot Pilley |
| 11 Pat Phelps
Gus Rowland | 30 Cindy Hartgerink
Cheri Strain |
| 12 Jerry Trahan | |
| 16 Nicholas Knapp | |

Looking Ahead

- Taizé - December 3, 10, and 17, 6:00 p.m.
- Parent Night Out - December 12, 6-9 p.m.
- Fellowship Dinner - December 14
- Nativity Play - December 21
- Lessons & Carols - December 24, 5:30 p.m.

Watch your bulletins and email for
December Fellowship Events!

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