



1st Sunday of Christmas  
December 28, 2025



**University Presbyterian Church**

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

Pastors: Mamie Broadhurst and Erin Tolar

Choir Director: Ross Cawthon

Organist: Christopher Cunningham

Audio/Visual: Tom Shelton

Ministers: The people of this church

# 1st Sunday of Christmas December 28, 2025

*Merry Christmas one and all!*

*Whether you are worshiping in the sanctuary or online, at any time in the course of the service, you are invited to light a candle signifying a concern, a desire for healing, a confession, or a prayer of thanksgiving that, though private, you would like to remember in the midst of our worship.*

*Please speak aloud the bold portions of the liturgy in the bulletin.  
The asterisk \* is an invitation for worshipers to rise in body or spirit as able.*

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### PRELUDE

*Sing We Now of Christmas  
Jason Krug, Lorenz Corporation, 2014*

### CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Some feel as if the world is ending.

**Here we proclaim that God so loves this world.**

Some are worried about the new year approaching.

**Here we proclaim the chance to begin again.**

Some are seeking good news.

**Here we proclaim that God seeks us as well -**

**Christ's birth shows us that.**

And so we sing.

**We sing our hope.**

We sing our peace.

**We sing our joy.**

We sing our love.

**And in singing we believe.**

\*HYMN No. 132

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice***

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Mary Mikell

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God born among us,**

**too often the celebration of your birth is relegated to one day a year.**

**Too often we imagine you coming into a first century world**

**and fail to answer the invitation to see you in the here and now.**

**Too often we do not allow your humanity to form our own.**

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us and invite us to begin again, relishing in your presence.  
Forgive us and fill our voices with praise, today and every day!  
Forgive us and show us how to embody your love,  
learning from you, following you, and serving like you.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *(responsive)*

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

**Alleluia! Amen.**

### \*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

*Hymn 112 vs. 3*

**When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place; (2x)  
heaven and earth with joy may sing,  
all for to see the newborn King.**

## SINGING SONGS OF CELEBRATION

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 2:8-20

### WORSHIPING GOD IN SONG

*You are invited to call out any Christmas (or Advent) hymn for all to sing.  
They can be found in the purple hymnal and are between numbers 82 and 156.*

## WE RESPOND WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

Julius Tipton

**Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## OFFERING of GIFTS

*The invitation to give is not one that is intended to increase our weariness. Instead it is an opportunity to feel the deep satisfaction and joy that giving of our time, our talents, and our treasure can provide. With hopeful hearts, you are invited to give generously as you are able.*

## INVITATION

## OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

**We have raised our voices in songs of wonder and praise.  
Their tunes stay with us just as does the presence of Christ.  
In these pledges and offerings we commit to share Christ's  
welcome with any who are in need of it. Continue to draw  
us into the circle of your hope, peace, joy, and love that we  
might use all of our gifts to embrace others. Amen.**

### \*HYMN No. 140

***Once in Royal David's City***

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

## CHARGE and BENEDICTION

God with God.

**Alleluia and Amen!**

## POSTLUDE

***I Saw Three Ships***

*Dan Edwards, Lorenz Corporation, 2012*

***The Rev. Dr. Julius R. "Tip" Tipton is an honorably retired PC(USA) minister.  
He is currently "pastor-on-the-loose" at St. James Place, Baton Rouge.***

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Worship services at University Presbyterian Church are filmed. While most of the footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. If you have concerns, please speak with one of the ushers who can direct you to locations where being recorded is less likely.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Week of December 28, 2025

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 (12/28) 1st Sunday of Christmas

No Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & [upcbr.org](http://upcbr.org))  
No Youth Group

#### Sunday (1/4) Epiphany Sunday - Communion, Epiphany Stars

No Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (Live Streamed via Facebook & [upcbr.org](http://upcbr.org))  
4:30 p.m. Youth Group

## DAY SCHOOL AND OFFICE CLOSURES

The Day School and Church Office  
will be closed from December 23 -  
January 4

*Mamie and Erin will be away from  
December 26-January 3.*

*Rick Pitcher will be accepting calls for  
pastoral emergencies during this time.*

### Star Words

When we celebrate Epiphany, everyone who wants one receives a paper star with a word to focus on or pray over for the next year. It is a spiritual practice that offers one way to listen to the Spirit's whisper. It can be a point of connection with other church folks as well. They are not magic, they are a lens to look at the year as it unfolds. Come get one and see!

### Youth Group

The first youth group of the new year will be board game night on January 4th from 4:30-6 at the church. Bring your favorite game and competitive spirit!



# **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**

Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or with the link below to serve as a “second” in the nursery in 2026!

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

## **BIRTHDAYS** *(December 28 - January 3)*

28 Eleanor Canon and Audrey Cogburn; 30 Charlie Blanchard and Joanie Cangelosi; 31 Darla O'Connor; 3 Mary Clinkenbeard

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you would like monthly offering envelopes for your 2026 pledge, please let Caralyn know ([cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org)) and she will make some for you.

## **Little Food Pantry**

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

## **Book Club**

The UPC Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 6, 7:00, 1750 S. Eugene.

The discussion book is Horse by Geraldine Brooks. The February book is Matrix by Lauren Geoff. All are welcome.



## **Online giving is available...**

- via the GIVE tab on our website ([www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org))
- by texting “upcbr (space) and then the number of dollars” to 73256
- by scanning the QR code

*Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies.*

*Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.*

## **FLOWER DONATIONS 2026**

The following Sundays are available to reserve celebratory or memorial flowers. Please fill out a flower donation envelope found in the pew and place in the offering plate. Payments may also be made online in Realm (*please note date in the memo line*).

January 18, 25

February 8, 15, 22

March 1, 8, 15, 22

April 12, 26

May 3, 10, 24, 31

June 14, 21, 28

July 5, 12, 26

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

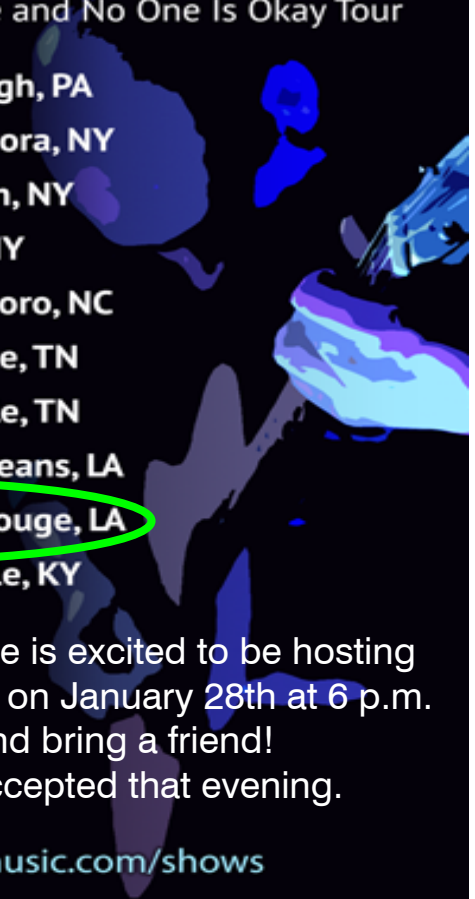
September 6, 13, 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18, 25

November 1, 8, 15, 22

# MATTHEW BLACK

The Everything Is Terrible and No One Is Okay Tour



Dec 5, 2025	Pittsburgh, PA
Dec 6, 2025	East Aurora, NY
Dec 8, 2025	Lewiston, NY
Dec 10, 2025	Olean, NY
Jan 9, 2026	Greensboro, NC
Jan 17, 2026	Maryville, TN
Jan 18, 2026	Knoxville, TN
Jan 25, 2026	New Orleans, LA
Jan 28, 2026	Baton Rouge, LA
Feb 7, 2026	Louisville, KY

The fellowship committee is excited to be hosting Matthew Black in concert on January 28th at 6 p.m.  
Come join us and bring a friend!  
Donations will be accepted that evening.

[matthewblackmusic.com/shows](http://matthewblackmusic.com/shows)

## **IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2025** (as of 12/18/2025)

Received Pledged Giving: \$565,580 (96% of \$586,655 pledged)

Received Unpledged Giving: \$20,270

TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$585,850

*Thank you for your generous contributions!*

*Important Reminder: For cash donations to count toward your pledge or taxes, use an envelope with your name on it. Checks should be payable to University Presbyterian Church (not UPC). Thank you for your support!*

*Final reminder: ALL contributions for 2025 must be postmarked by December 31 to be counted as a contribution for 2025.*

*happy new year*



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

- **The friends fan family of George Gullett** who died December 17
- **Carl Motsenbocker**, recovering at home from knee replacement surgery
- **For all those who are missing loved ones this holiday season**
- **Jane Smith and family** upon the death of her cousin, Retta Poynter, on December 7
- **John Stoddard**, brother of Linda Walker, undergoing PT for pain in knees and hip
- **Rhonda Fisher**, sister of Anita Melon, finishing with chemo and radiation for GI cancer
- **Gary & Judy Crow**, as he goes through further workup and treatment for cardiac issues
- **Sherri Wilson**, friend of Darla O'Connor and Tavia Crumpler, with brain cancer
- **Mickey Brown**, recovering at home
- **Lorainne Farnan**, aunt of Caralyn Durham, undergoing chemotherapy and radiation
- **Amy Heller**, mother of the Hoffman's granddaughters, with a recurrence of cancer
- **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, slowly 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
- **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
- **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**
- **Those who are serving in the armed forces**
- **Those who are going through separation or divorce**
- **Those who are affected by domestic violence**