

# 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 March 15, 2026

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

#### **Sunday (3/15) 4th Sunday in Lent Communion**

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room  
No Youth Group

#### **Monday (3/16)**

- 10:45 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
- 5:30 p.m. College Dinner & Bible Study - Library
- 6:00 p.m. Bella Voce Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Lent Book Study - Parks Wilson Room

#### **Tuesday (3/17)**

- 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Zoom

#### **Wednesday (3/18)**

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

#### **Thursday (3/19)**

- 11:00 a.m. "Soul Feast" Small Group - Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. "Lessons for Lent" Family Dinner/Activity - Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room

#### **Saturday (3/21)**

- 1:00 p.m. Youth Group Camping Trip at Feliciana Retreat Center

#### **Sunday (3/22) 5th Sunday in Lent Communion**

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 9:30 a.m. New Member Class - Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary (*Live Streamed via Facebook & upcbr.org*)
- 1:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting - Conference Room  
No Youth Group



The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God and in celebration of the 49th wedding anniversary of Julie and Dave Launey on March 19.



# **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 the 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 Sign Up**

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

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

## **Inquiring Minds Want to Know**

Next Sunday (March 22nd) we will begin a four class series for folks who are interested in learning more about Presbyterianism, UPC, and each other. The next classes will be March 29th, April 19th, and April 26th. Please put them in your calendar if you are interested, and let Mamie know so she can tell you more. All classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall on those Sunday mornings at 9:30am. If you can't make those dates (well, three out of the four at least), don't worry, we'll have another class in the fall!

## **Birthdays** *(March 16-21)*

17 Henry Tyler; 18 Linda Babin; 19 Michael Purser; 20 George Armstrong, Josie Costello, Adam Knapp, Terry Miller, and Riley Shaffer

## **Lessons for Lent Family Gatherings**

Join us this Thursday at the church's Fellowship Hall for our weekly “Lessons for Lent” gathering, specifically designed for families with children ages 5–18. Running from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., the evening begins with a provided simple dinner from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a short lesson and engaging activity. Together, we'll explore Jesus' “I Am” metaphors from the Gospels, loosely tied to the upcoming Sunday Scripture texts. These gatherings continue every Thursday through March 26 and offer a meaningful way to deepen connections with the Lenten season, Scripture, and one another. Please RSVP to Sarah Sabin at [sarahtsabin@gmail.com](mailto:sarahtsabin@gmail.com) to help us coordinate dinner, though you are always welcome to just drop in and join us!

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

**Taizé**  
Sung Prayers

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. February 18 - March 25

Make Taizé a part of your Lenten preparation.

# Don't Cook Night

Tuesday, March 24 - 6:00 pm  
Pastime Restaurant @ 252 South Blvd.  
Food, fun, and fellowship! Everyone is welcome!!!

## Celebrate Harry Houdini's Birthday!

The UPC Escapism League (or the Fellowship Committee) is coordinating a Don't Cook Night on Tuesday, March 24, at 6:00 p.m. in celebration of the great escape artist Harry Houdini. Congregation members are invited to escape the trials of everyday life and meet at the Pastime Restaurant (252 South Blvd, 225 343-5490, [www.pastimerestaurant.com](http://www.pastimerestaurant.com)). Enjoy fine food, friendly banter – and maybe we can convince Griff to try to get out of a straitjacket...

## SANCTUARY FLOWER DONATIONS 2026

The following Sundays are available to reserve celebratory or memorial flowers for the sanctuary. 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*).

March 22	April 12, 26	May 3, 10, 24, 31
June 14, 21, 28	July 26	August 9, 23, 30
September 6, 13, 20, 27	October 11, 18, 25	



### 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.*

### **IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS 2026** (as of 3/11/2026)

**Received Pledged Giving: \$136,874** (22% of \$620,512 pledged)

Received Unpledged Giving: \$3,267

**TOTAL GIVING RECEIVED: \$140,141**

*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!*

# 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 • Faye Coco • Melanie Driscoll • Dawn Dominy  
Pat Phelps • David Strain • Mickey Brown  
Members of our sister church in Cuba, San Jose de los Ramos**

- **Thelma Berg**, upon the death of her husband, Eugene, on Sunday
- **Terry Miller Jr.**, son of Ann and Terry Miller Sr., with health issues in Virginia
- **Bizza Britton**, recovering after a hip replacement
- **Elizabeth Roberts**, recovering from a tibia fracture
- **Becky and Bill Jones**, friends of Elizabeth and Faimon Roberts, as Becky is having medical issues
- **Josh Rosenberg**, praying for continued, good MRIs showing no return of cancer
- **Hal Horan**, former pastor of UPC in hospice, and his wife, Del
- **Ellen Severin**, Lois Kuyper Rushing's aunt, in hospice care, and her daughter and full-time caretaker, Jo Ellen Parrott
- **John Stoddard**, brother of Linda Walker, undergoing PT for pain in knees and hip
- **Gary & Judy Crow**, friends of the Brittons, as they deal with Gary's cardiac issues
- **Sherri Wilson**, friend of Darla O'Connor and Tavia Crumpler, with brain cancer
- **Amy Heller**, mother of the Hoffman's granddaughters, with a recurrence of cancer
- **David Pohlman**, dealing with liver disease
- **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
- **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
- **The United States of America** during these uncertain times
- **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**

IN MEMORIAM  
Eugene Berg, who died March 8, 2026

# FAITH FORMATION 2026

## For Children and Youth:

- Babies - Kinder in the nursery
- 1st-7th - Act Up! - 2nd floor in Room 204
- 8th-12th - Parks Wilson Room joining Digging Deeper for Lent

## 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: "Following Jesus", "God's Kingdom Revealed", and "God News Spreads". 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 is open to anyone. We'll be using podcasts and book chapters to spark discussion of what it means for Christians to parent in 2026. This class will meet on the 2nd floor in Room 208.

### Digging Deeper

The Lenten Discussion Group facilitated by Lori Tucker will run through Palm Sunday. This series offers a time of reflection and fellowship loosely tied to the previous Sunday scripture. The 8th-12th grade Sunday School class will also be with this group.

## PLASTIC EGGS and EGG STUFFERS NEEDED

If you have plastic eggs around your house that you would like to donate to the Easter Egg Hunt at church on Easter Sunday, we would be glad to have them. Please don't buy new eggs; we're glad to use the old ones! Also, if you would like to fill eggs for the kids to find, please let Jan Risher or Erin know. Eggs may be dropped off in the Church Office.

### Help us with our sanctuary sound problem....

*For the next 4 weeks we will be conducting a survey about sound in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to fill out the following questionnaire each Sunday this month and put it in the offering or turn it in to the church office.*

Pew # \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle one) Aisle side Window side

Is the sound audible? (Circle one) Yes No

Could you understand? (Circle one) Yes No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# worship for holy week

## **Palm Sunday March 29**

11:00 a.m.

This year we will begin with palms waving and end with Jesus' arrest. A roller coaster start to a roller coaster week.

## **Maundy Thursday Service April 2**

*A Service of Word and Sacrament centered on the events of this sacred evening*  
We will have a service at 6:30 p.m. starting in the Fellowship Hall. It will not be live streamed. Following the traditional Maundy Thursday story, we will begin with a meal (potluck) and shared supper around tables. Please join us.

## **Good Friday Service April 3**

*The Service of Tenebrae*

We will be back in our sanctuary this year at 7:30pm for a traditional service of Tenebrae - the extinguishing of the light. Sharing scripture, song, prayer, and silence, we will remember the final day of Jesus' earthly ministry.

## **Easter Sunday April 5 - A Service of Word and Sacrament Brunch, an Egg Hunt, and the Hallelujah Chorus**

During the 9:30 church school hour, we will fellowship together with a potluck brunch and Easter egg hunt. Then we join together to celebrate the gift of resurrection life at 11am. Hallelujah! We look forward to having folks from Scotlandville Presbyterian join us this year for our celebrations. The One Great Hour of Sharing PCUSA offering will be collected.

**Everyone is encouraged to bring flowers to add to the Easter cross.**

*NOTE: The Day School and Church office will be closed on Good Friday. The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 6.*



## **Easter Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt**

Our annual Easter Potluck Brunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Easter Sunday starting at 9:30 a.m. Members of the congregation are encouraged to bring their favorite brunch items to share.

Older and younger children will be invited from our Easter brunch to the playground beginning at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to assist - let Jan Risher know if you are interested in helping!

**We hope to see you there!**