

People and Ministries of University Presbyterian Church

Multitude

300 Bushnell Ave • San Antonio, TX 78212-5334 • 210-732-9927 • www.upcsa.org

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**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ENDS SUNDAY, NOV. 1**

**REMEMBER TO SET
YOUR CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR AT 2:00 A.M.**

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WORSHIP AND MINISTRY NEWS

A NOTE FROM DRIES

Greetings as we enter the season of Thanksgiving.

Many of us are physically tired and emotionally drained. Yet there is no end in sight as we are amidst a global pandemic and living in a divided nation. This month our worship invites us to ground ourselves spiritually as we live in light of God's wholeness for the church and the whole of creation. Explore in this issue of the Multitude how you can participate in God's Way which involves vigilant prayer, thoughtful stewardship, and compassion for our neighbors.

As always, I invite you to read the *In Touch* for my weekly meditations and the latest updates.

Blessings,
Dries

ONLINE WORSHIP - SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

Join us for worship each week lead by Dries Coetzee and assisted by Dawn Martin. Music provided by Mary Lowder, Keith Martinez, and the Choral Scholars. Church members take turns sharing in the time for children. Guest speakers and special visitors also add to the line up of some services.

Online Service Links:

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM WEBINAR](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR YOUTUBE LIVE](#)

Dial-In Numbers:

346-248-7799, 669-900-6833, 301-715-8592, 312-626-6799

Enter Webinar ID: 209 945 961

Added Security:

Worship services are password protected. [Contact Anastasia](#) for the password. Please note, the password is the same week after week, so if you've received a password from the church office recently, it is the same.



WORSHIP INFORMATION

November 1 – All Saints and Stewardship Sunday

Services: 8 a.m. – Outside Meditative Social Distancing Worship at UPC and 10 a.m. – Virtual Worship

Preaching/Leading: Dries Coetzee and Dawn Martin

Scripture: *Matthew 5:1-12*

The Beatitudes: Blessed are you; your reward is great in heaven.

Worship Focus: On All Saints Sunday before the presidential election, we gather in the comfort of all the Saints who have gone before us.

November 8 – Proper 27

Services: 8 a.m. – Outside Meditative Social Distancing Worship at UPC and 10 a.m. – Virtual Worship

Preaching/Leading: Dries Coetzee and Dawn Martin

Scripture: *Matthew 25:1-13*

The parable of ten bridesmaids: Keep awake, the Lord is coming.

Worship Focus: On this post-election Sunday, how do we cultivate a ministry of reconciliation, using the resource of time as our watch for the coming of God's realm.

November 15 – Proper 28

Services: 8 a.m. – Outside Meditative Social Distancing Worship at UPC and 10 a.m. – Virtual Worship

Leading: Dries Coetzee and Dawn Martin

Preaching: Rev. Ed Sackett, Disaster Recovery Coordinator – Mission Presbytery

Scripture: *Matthew 25:14-30*

The parable of talents: Good, trustworthy servants are rewarded.

November 22 – Reign of Christ

Services: 8 a.m. – Outside Meditative Social Distancing Worship at UPC and 10 a.m. – Virtual Worship

Preaching/Leading: Dries Coetzee and Dawn Martin

Scripture: *Matthew 25:31-46*

Just as you did it to the least, you did it to me.

Worship Focus: This vision focuses on service. How do we love and serve Christ as we love and serve our neighbors in need, especially as we live into the Matthew 25 vision of eradicating systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism, and building congregational vitality?

November 29 – First Sunday in Advent

Services: 8 a.m. – Outside Meditative Social Distancing Worship at UPC and 10 a.m. – Virtual Worship

Preaching/Leading: Dries Coetzee and Dawn Martin

Scripture: *Mark 13:24-27*

The Coming of the Son of Man

Worship Focus: How do we embrace nonviolence, following the Way of Jesus. On International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, we focus on the cradle of Christianity and cultivating a spirituality of peace.

November 29 – Special Worship

Service: 4 p.m. – Virtual Service of Loss and Grief

Preaching/Leading: Dries Coetzee, Dhawn Martin, and UPC Deacons

Focus: Join the deacons as we engage the sacred work of grief, facing the harsh reality of loss and death in our lives. Experiences of loss and grief are something we all can relate to this year, yet at this particular time of year these feelings are magnified. Whether you grieve for a loved one or a loss of normalcy, join us for virtual worship on Zoom with music, prayer, and time for sharing.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

*“We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.”*

The final verse from *The Church of Christ in Every Age* is a powerful message for All Saints Day. Through our *Caring and Connecting* actions (e.g., reconceptualizing our worship space, installing solar panels, writing cards to and calling members of the congregation in need) we are living UPC's vision to be a community of Saints; one which has “no mission, but to serve.”

As we prepare for the final Sunday of the Stewardship season, we've been reflecting on the fact that UPC has been blessed by generosity during this difficult year. When you read The Beatitudes during (or in preparation for) worship this Sunday, give pause to consider how your continued generosity will enable UPC to *Care and Connect* to those in need, “without reserve,” through our ministries in the year ahead.



**As of Oct. 29, only
46 families had pledged
for a total of \$275,350
towards our goal of \$545,675
so we still need \$270,325.**

Regardless of membership status all are invited to support University Presbyterian Church.
[CLICK HERE](#) for an online digital pledge card or [CLICK HERE](#) to print a paper pledge card.
You can also [contact the church office](#) to send you a pledge card to complete and mail back or [send an email to Sandy Nicholson](#), Treasurer, with your pledge amount.

With Grace and Peace,
The Stewardship and Finance Committee

HISTORY OF THE UPC PARTNERSHIP OF PRAYER

Over twenty years ago, shortly after Gwen Burke was diagnosed with cancer, Bunny Adamson, Mariel Garber, and Ruth Ann McIver went to our pastor, Lib McGregor Simmons, and told her they would like to start a prayer group to help support Gwen during her illness. Lib agreed it was a good idea and the Partnership of Prayer was born.

The original mode of communicating prayer requests was through a “telephone tree”. The three ladies each had a list of names and phone numbers. They would call the first person on our list, that person would call the next person, until everyone on the list had been notified. Fortunately email use, a much more efficient way of communicating with a large group, soon became commonplace. Bunny agreed to be the administrator, and Ruth Ann served as her backup. In June of 2008, Bunny died suddenly while she and Larry were in Scotland. Sadly Ruth Ann's first official act as facilitator of the Partnership of Prayer was to ask for prayers of comfort for Larry and his family as they grieved.

Ruth Ann was fortunate to have Kate Wilson step up and volunteer to be backup and has helped whenever she was called on. Now, Kate has graciously agreed to take Ruth Ann's place to keep UPC's prayers for one another going.

Through the years many people have asked us for prayers and have said what strength they have drawn from knowing others were praying for them. If you would like to be part of UPC's Partnership of Prayer ministry, [please contact Kate Wilson](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT DURING THE WEEK

Sunday Worship - 10:00am

[Click here for the Zoom Webinar](#), [click here for YouTube Live](#), or call 346-248-7799 with meeting ID 427 660 200. You can also watch the service later at your convenience on [YouTube here](#).



Sunday Joys, Concerns & Prayers Fellowship Time - 11:00am

We miss the personal connection when we watch services online. Not seeing each other in worship takes away a critical connection we have come to love about worshiping at UPC. Join Dries after worship for sharing your joys and prayer. [To Join Click Here](#) or dial 346-248-7799 and enter Meeting ID 742 807 278.

Meditation Tuesdays: Centering the Week with Dawn Martin - 10:00am

Whether you've never meditated or are a transcendental sage, join us for communal meditations. Together we will breathe in new possibilities for how we shape our days, setting intentions that nurture peace, generosity, and compassion. We will open the hour with centering prayer and wisdom literatures from diverse traditions, and then move into the contemplative. [To Join the Zoom Webinar, Click Here](#), **PLEASE NOTE: No Meditation on Tuesday, Sept. 8,**

Tuesday Discerning Worship with Karen Jensen and Dries Coetzee - 2:00pm

Worship is about so much more than just a sermon. Join a discussion lead by Karen Jensen and joined by Dries as we discuss the upcoming Sunday's Scripture and make it relevant to our lives. Through art, poetry, and meditation, we explore the multi-facetedness of God's word for our time. [Contact Karen Jensen to receive Zoom invite](#).

Wednesday Zoom Knit-In - 7:30am

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join. For further information, [contact Caryl Gaubatz](#). Even though we may not be able to enjoy each other's physical presence, we realize the need to remain a "knitted-together" community. Plus there are real psychological benefits to working with one's hands: the repetitive motions of knitting activate the parasympathetic nervous system, calming the "fight or flight response." (*British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 2013). [To Join Click Here](#).

Wednesday Midweek Check-In and Prayer with Dries - 9:00am

These are trying times. Not being with each other removes the sense of connection. Join Dries for a midweek check-in and prayers as we cultivate a community of faith that seeks to nurture and support one another through life's trials and triumphs while we minister to the brokenness in the world. [To Join Click Here](#)

Thursday Theology 101 with Dawn Martin - 7:00pm

Deepen your faith with Dawn Martin as you engage in a theological conversation. Dawn has taught courses in Philosophy and Theology, Civil Engagement, Peace and Power, and Utopias and Dystopias, at Drew University, St. Mary's University, and Hanover College. Her areas of academic study include political theology and peace-making. [To Join Click Here](#)

Saturday COVID-19 Bereavement Support Group - 10:00am

This weekly online support group is for those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. This informal group will be held one hour a week and is limited to 20 people. [Contact Joseph Luedecke, LMSW for more information and to sign up](#).

LOAVES & FISHES

November 4 is the next Loaves & Fishes Sunday benefiting CAM and HNS. Loaves & Fishes is the first Sunday of each month with the items collected rotating each quarter. Since we are unable to collect physical items, please consider sending a check to the church marked "Loaves & Fishes" to help buy monthly items. For November, we are collecting money for canned items such as soup, fruits, veggies, meat, tuna, and peanut butter.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET 2020

YES! We are still having an Alternative Gift Market this year, but it will be held electronically since we can't meet in person.

An email will be sent out next week with details and a link to the online (password protected) shopping page that will be open from Nov. 8 - Dec. 8.

HAPPY SHOPPING!



CONCERT FOR FAMILIES

On Friday, November 13 at 5:30pm, Will Parker and the Make Believe Band will provide a free concert for families with children elementary and younger on the front lawn of UPC. This is a combined effort of UPC and Travis Park UMC. All pandemic health and safety guidelines will be followed in the same manner as the early morning outdoor worship service to include social distancing practices, 13' distance from singer, and wearing of masks for all adults and children over 3.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on Will Parker and the Make Believe Band.

CLUSTER HABITAT

Habitat for Humanity, in spite of the Covid pandemic, continues to build homes in San Antonio! Since its beginning in San Antonio in 1976, more than 1,100 homes have been built. Over 1,100 families have received a helping hand up (not a hand out) and for the first time in their lives became proud home owners.

The latest location for construction of homes is at 13801 Watson Road, San Antonio. It is a tract of 90 acres in the south part of town. It is in the Southwest Independent School District and is easily accessible to Texas A & M University and local parks. Employers in the area include Toyota Manufacturing, Schlumberger Pressure Pumping, and Aramark Uniform Services.

The Presbyterian cluster of churches, which has sponsored the building of 24 new homes the past few years, continues to do more as it is strengthened by gifts from individuals and Presbyterian congregations.

University Presbyterian will be receiving an informal offering during November which will help raise the approximately \$60,000 needed for the next home. If you wish to donate, you may give to University Church with a notation for "Habitat". [Andrew Wilson](#), [Joseph Luedecke](#), and [Leslie Ellison](#) are persons you can contact for Habitat Information.



I/CAN UPDATE (INTERFAITH/COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK)

I/CAN leaders and neighbors spent the last year conducting small group conversations, meeting with election candidates of all parties, and honing the I/CAN Family Action Agenda. On Sunday, October 18th, we collaborated with The Border Organization (TBO – our partner group in Del Rio) and conducted a successful Political Accountability Session attended by approximately 140 people and 8 candidates over Zoom. [CLICK HERE](#) to catch the full video here! We spent the next couple weeks getting out the vote. By the time this issue of the *Multitude* is published, the election will be imminent.

Our Organizer Ramon Duran will conduct two 2-hour training sessions in November, for those who want to learn more about what I/CAN does.

- The first, on Thursday, November 12, will be on conducting House Meetings (small group meetings to learn what concerns neighbors have for improving their families' lives);
- The second, on Thursday, November 19, will go over one-to-one personal conversations, which we use to get to know people better and understand our stake in all this.

Information how to join these training sessions will appear in the InTouch and be sent out via email. Please join us!

Over the last year and a half, Nancy Campbell and Joseph Luedecke have led UPC's I/CAN efforts, with the help of a dozen or so other wonderful UPC members. As we look forward to 2021, we need everyone's continued commitment to help -

- Communicate the work of I/CAN throughout our congregation;
- Participate in I/CAN small group conversations;
- Lead I/CAN small groups;
- Meet with elected officials (to hold them accountable to our community's needs once elected);
- Attend I/CAN trainings; and
- Invite others to join our efforts.

We start back in January 2021, when we will resume small group conversations and meetings with our elected candidates. Please prayerfully consider how you might wish to get involved! [Reach out to Joseph Luedecke](#) or [reach out to Nancy Campbell](#) if you have questions.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The UPC Women's Book Group, currently meeting via ZOOM, will convene on Monday evening, Nov. 23, at 7:00pm to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Janifer Meldrum will moderate. Please join us even if you have not read the book yet. Instructions for joining the discussion will be sent a day or so before the meeting. To be included in the group, [please contact Bonnie Bartlett](#).

Goodreads Review:

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

GRIEF & THE HOLIDAYS OFFERINGS

UPC Service of Grief and Loss, Sunday November 29th at 4:00pm

Grief is debilitating at any time, but even more so during this unusual year. Holiday seasons are especially hard for those grieving the loss of a loved one, as well as many other types of losses that face us during this life's journey. This year we will be offering our *Service of Grief and Loss* via Zoom on Sunday, November 29th at 4:00pm. This will be a Holy Communion service. All are welcome whether grieving the loss of a loved one or other losses, or if you just want to support others who are grieving.

Community Offerings

In addition, we want you to be aware of other opportunities in the community for grief support. Porter Loring offers workshops for those grieving the loss of a loved one. The workshops are via Zoom and are free to the public. You do need to register, however, as each workshop is limited to 25 people. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) for more details and to determine a time and date that is best for you. Also note that there is a *Blue Christmas Service* on Sunday, December 13th at 4:00pm. There is no limit to the number of guests at this virtual service.

Life after Loss Class to be offered at UPC/SoL Center

Finally, UPC and the SOL Center will be offering a *Life after Loss* class to begin March 2, 2021 for those grieving the loss of a loved one. This class is an 8-week course that meets once per week. The class is facilitated by Porter Loring and is designed provide an understanding of the grief process, where you are in the process and to determine how grief can transform into a better person. This class will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. There is no charge for this class. Registration information coming soon.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

What does a pandemic Christmas look like? When families gather for Thanksgiving, *if they can gather this year*, what will they be thankful for?

Those of us who attempt to follow the path of faithfulness set by Jesus look for ways to spread comfort and inclusion during this season of uncertainty. The Alternative Gift market (AGM) has traditionally offered UPC members an opportunity to reach out into the community.

Last year, for the first time the UPC Shawl Ministry was privileged to participate in the AGM. This allowed us to extend our ministry beyond the Sunday worship services. We found new ways to make contact with those who are going through dark times. This year the AGM is going on line and a Virtual Alternative Gift Market will allow UPC members to continue their generous ministry to the community. How then does the Shawl Ministry respond to the life changes wrought by the pandemic? By taking our ministry to the streets - specifically Bushnell. We recognize that there are many hurting people out there - if you are reading this you can probably name at least one person who is struggling and needs to know that someone cares. A shawl is a tangible expression of Christ's love - as evidenced in the pictures here of recipients of shawls and laprobes.



Shawls In the Street Schedule:

Sat., Dec. 5, 10-11:30 a.m.
Wed., Dec, 9, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 10, 4-5:30 p.m.

Members of the UPC SHawl Ministry are setting up tables along the sidewalk on Bushnell on days and times listed above. We are offering drive-by shawl service! Drive up, hop out, make your selections and away you go. Knitters will be masked and observe social distancing. We especially hope the deacons will take advantage of this opportunity of easy access to shawls and laprobes for their parish members. As always, shawls and laprobes are free - just like grace.

If you are unable to drive by to get a shawl or want more info about this group, [contact Caryl Gaubatz](#).

God's love and a shawl - one size fits all.

GOT MASKS?

Several UPC members are keeping busy helping others by making masks and now that it is necessary to wear a mask in most places, there is a larger need. [CLICK HERE](#) for a request form/questionnaire to have masks made for you and your family.

PRAYER FLAGS AVAILABLE FOR ALL

The prayer flag makers have made prayer flags available (for free) for each deacon to give to folks in their parish who have suffered a death or other severe occurrence in their life, as well as for those who are experiencing a joyous event - a birth, wedding, graduation, etc. However, the flaggers met by zoom today and decided to tell deacons and all members of UPC to take or mail a flag to others, outside UPC, that may be comforted by a flag.

There is a bin in the library, next to the prayer shawls, with flags inside for individuals to select from. All flags have been prayed over with blessings for healing and hope. Flaggers are also working on efficient ways to distribute flags and to mail. [Contact the church office](#) to set up a time to retrieve a flag.

SESSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING UP YOUR PLEDGE OR DONATING EXTRA TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

Continue to mail checks to the church office or [CLICK HERE](#) for online donations.

OFFICE HOURS

The staff will continue to work full time from home most of the time, but Anastasia will be in the office for essential business on Mondays from 9:00am-2:00pm and Dries will be available for in-person meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We recommend you schedule an appointment to ensure availability.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - OCTOBER

- Approved three recommendations from the Pandemic Advisory Group: a joint event with Travis Park Church for an outdoor children's concert on Nov. 13th, authorizing Anastasia to schedule small (less than 10 people) church groups to meet at UPC, and approval for Dries to schedule time with congregants on the church campus. All recommendations come with the requirements of wearing masks and social distancing.
- Approved to a motion from the Mission Outreach & Justice Committee to designate the the Equal Justice Initiative (a racial and social justice non-profit from Montgomery, Alabama) as recipient of UPC's share of the 2020 Peace & Global Witness Special Offering.
- Discussed the ongoing need to be aware of the mental health of members of our church community, and to reach out when possible. Several members - especially those living alone - are experiencing anxiety and other issues in this difficult time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to all who have kept up with their pledges in 2020 and to the many new members and visitors who have made donations. UPCC and the church allocated some of the funds for the SBA Paycheck Protection Loan in support of staff employment. Expenses continue to be lower than planned though we have been upgrading technology. We currently have a surplus of \$104,316. We have a healthy balance in most of the special funds which are non-operating funds, usually designated for a particular purpose. The overall balance in the special funds account is \$393,627 which includes a very generous anonymous donation of \$125,000 which will be used to seed some campus improvements focusing on making the sanctuary more audio/visual friendly. The solar panel project is moving forward and should be completed by the end of the year. The SoL Center offers interfaith adult education and has an operating budget of \$34,825 and separate endowment accounts.

Financial Report for September 2020 - Operating Budget				
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Revenues				
Pledge Income	\$398,265	\$407,620	-\$9,355	\$543,493
Reimbursements	\$23,653	\$51,603	-\$27,950	\$68,804
Other	\$118,428	\$17,750	\$100,678	\$54,349
Total Revenues	\$540,346	\$476,973	\$63,373	\$636,047
Expenses				
Mission, Outreach & Justice	\$43,329	\$48,700	\$5,371	\$63,500
Stewardship & Finance	\$1,301	\$750	-\$551	\$1,000
Personnel	\$295,292	\$307,216	\$11,924	\$411,622
Christian Education	\$3,641	\$6,188	\$2,547	\$8,250
Worship & Arts	\$3,921	\$5,775	\$1,854	\$7,700
Facilities & Operations	\$82,319	\$100,702	\$18,383	\$134,270
Welcome & Fellowship	\$983	\$3,338	\$2,355	\$4,450
Session	\$5,244	\$3,904	-\$1,340	\$5,255
Total Expenses	\$436,030	\$476,573	\$40,543	\$636,047
Net Total	\$104,316	\$400	\$103,916	

In addition to operating funds and special purpose funds, we also have Endowment Funds which are funds invested for the long term that help support programs of the church and The SoL Center. The current market value of UPC Endowments is \$584,931 and the book value is \$414,773. The current market value of SoL Endowments is \$140,010 and the book value is \$105,061. Endowments are invested and only the earnings or a percentage of the current value may be used regularly.

A CALL FOR UPC LEADERS -- ELDERS AND DEACONS

This year's nomination committee is starting to fill next year's slate of elders and deacons who will be presented at the congregational meeting in February and begin their terms in June 2021. Please nominate yourself or another member. The nomination committee includes Sally Smith, Chair; Melissa Almsted, Session Representative; Nancy Vaughan, Deacon Representative; Karen Jensen; Joseph Luedecke; Melissa Richard; and Andrew Wilson. [Please contact Sally Smith](#) for a list of Elder and Deacon responsibilities and meeting times or to put forth a submission.

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

The COVID-19 pandemic continues, and so does UPC's drive to respond through the COVID-19 Response Fund. Our church community has contributed approximately \$22,000, so thank you!

So far, \$15,000 has been given to community nonprofit organizations serving those most impacted by the pandemic. Previous grants have included:

- The SA Food Bank (x4)
- Meals on Wheels SA (x3)
- Christian Assistance Ministry
- Culinaria's Emergency Relief Fund
- THRIVE Youth Center
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,
- Interfaith Welcome Coalition (x2)
- House of Neighborly Service
- SA Department of Arts & Culture
- John Knox Ranch
- Family Violence Prevention Services
- Project Quest
- Area Foundation's Emergency Housing Assistance Program

UPC's MOJ Committee will make additional gifts to these organizations and others thanks to your continued generosity.

UPC also stands ready to offer support to those in our own UPC and UPCC community who have been impacted by the crisis. \$3,500 has been given to several families in our midst that were in need of rent assistance and essential needs. If you or someone you know needs some extra help, please reach out to your Deacon or [Pastor Dries Coetzee](#) (UPC) or to [Cindi Catlin Gaskins](#) (UPCC). A subcommittee will review and respond to these requests confidentially and as quickly as possible.

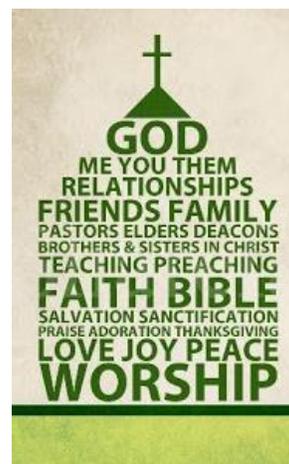
Thank you for all you have done—and all you will continue to do—to help UPC respond to this crisis quickly, with compassion, and in alignment to our Mission and Welcome Statement. Your generosity to the COVID-19 Response Fund and by maintaining your UPC pledge makes that possible. We will continue to respond faithfully as long as the need exists.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND COLLEGE MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry News

Children's ministry is in a strange state during the COVID-19 pandemic. While church staff and volunteers want to minister to and support children and families, they do not want to burden them, as many families are already overwhelmed with distance learning, working from home, and limited childcare availability. The Christian Education Committee is continuing to explore this situation and consider what type of programming we would like to offer for children and families in the fall. If you have suggestions, opinions, or questions, please [contact Children's CE Committee Chair, Melissa Almsted](#).



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group News

As we move from October to November, the youth will be shifting their focus from a study of Galatians to a study of Matthew 25. As a Matthew 25 Church, UPC has committed to working towards building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. The youth group will be looking at Matthew 25 in three parts and discussing how it can be applied to our lives today. Hannah believes it is important to engage the youth in our work as a Matthew 25 Church as they are the future of this and every congregation. In October, the youth continued to meet via Zoom as well as in-person when they partnered with the Sandy Nicholson and the Earthcare Taskforce to plant wildflower seeds on the corner of Shook and



Bushnell. The youth will meet again in-person on November 15th. Hannah also attended her second intensive of classes at APTS and began a midweek check-in called "Hang with Hannah" on Wednesday evenings to have more time to get to know each student better. If you have questions about what the youth or Hannah are up to or are interested in planning an event involving the youth, [please contact Hannah](#).

COLLEGE MINISTRY

College / Young Adult News

Pastor Dries and others are re-imagining what college and young adult ministry could look like at UPC. Todd McGraw established a vibrant college ministry group in his tenure at UPC, and Dakota Kohfield maintained it. But with some members of that group having graduated college and other young adults in our congregation not necessarily fitting into existing fellowship groups, it is time for UPC to redefine its young adult ministry to foster inclusion. If you'd like to be a part of this conversation, [please contact Dries](#).

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UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

SCHOOL NEWS

While approximately 85% of the families have returned to UPC, there are still a handful of families that are paying tuition and waiting to return when it feels right for their child to attend the program. A few new families have joined the program while some of the enrolled families decided to withdraw for the fall or until the next school year. UPCC currently has a few part-time openings in every class and 4 full-time openings in the oldest age group. The openings at UPCC are very unusual for the program that has been fortunate to be a capacity or near capacity for well over the past 10 years. While clearly understandable, the openings are concerning with the loss of revenue while the costs for staffing and supplies to meet the new pandemic requirements have significantly increased. The year will be tight financially for the center, but at this time, the revenue from tuition does fully cover payroll costs and some of the cost of the health and retirement benefits.



Yet, all 23 staff members at UPCC staff fully recognizes how fortunate we all are to have the school back open to be back teaching young children with the families working closely with us to keep the children and staff healthy. We also appreciate being able to utilize the amazing outdoors spaces around the church and school campus to extend the time the children spend outside every day, with some classes spending almost the entire morning outside and again after nap time. We all have deep gratitude for the tremendous support of the UPC community to continue the ministry UPCC provides for families with young children from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Thank you from all of the UPCC staff!

ROSE ANN'S ROCK GARDEN

To celebrate the retirement of Rose Ann Martinez after 38 years at the Children's Center, the school built a rock garden for her rock solid dedication to the children.

Allan Catlin constructed the area, large sitting rocks were donated, round stacking stones were purchased, and individuals were asked to bring a rock from their home or nature walks to add to the space. Children were asked to decorate rocks as well.

Dries held a dedication service on her last day, October 30.



THE SOURCE OF LIGHT CENTER

UPCOMING CLASSES

The SoL Center is offering online programming. Our deep gratitude to everyone for your patience and understanding as we discovered new ways to develop events that both fostered respectful curiosity and built Interfaith connections. [CLICK HERE](#) for updated listings and full instructor bios.



Cosmology: Exploring the Origin and Evolution of the Universe and Life

with Dr. David T. Young

Schedule: Final Monday, Nov. 2; 7-8:30 p.m.

Tuition: \$10 before Oct. 26, \$35 after

Since before recorded history humans have tried to explain the universe and our place in it. Today we know that the universe began with the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago, and about 9 billion years later, the solar system formed from giant clouds of interstellar dust. Not long afterwards life emerged on the Earth and evolved to make the world we see today. But there is still much that we don't know:

- What really happened during the very earliest moments of the universe?
- What are black holes, dark matter, and dark energy?
- Does life, especially intelligent life, exist elsewhere in the universe?
- And, as long as we're asking the big questions, are there other universes?

This course begins with a survey of ancient cosmologies followed by a look into modern technologies, such as giant telescopes measuring everything from light to radio to gravity waves, that have brought us to our present understanding of the universe. Then, starting with the Big Bang, we will explore how the universe evolved, giving rise to galaxies, stars, planets and, ultimately, to life. We will also examine mysteries that currently elude scientists including the special circumstances that make our universe suitable for life. The course ends by peering into the far future to see what it holds for life and the universe we know. NOTE: No previous encounters with fancy math or physics are required. Only curiosity. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

Exploring the Work of Toni Morrison with Bonnie Lyons

Schedule: Two Thursdays, Nov. 5 and 19; 7-8 p.m.

Tuition: \$15 before Oct. 5, \$20 after

To honor Nobel prize winner, Toni Morrison, who died in 2019, this class will begin with an introduction/overview of her life and work and then focus on two of her beautiful, socially astute "woke" novels, *The Bluest Eye* in the first class, *Song of Solomon* in the second. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

Faith and Race—An Ongoing Conversation

with Bishop Trevor Alexander, Rev. Andries (Dries) Coetzee, and Dr. Doshie Piper

Schedule: One Remaining Saturday, Nov. 21; 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Tuition: \$5.00 (for remaining discussion) before Nov. 16, \$7.50 after

Join us for these important conversations, which will explore how faith has shaped, and continues to shape, race relations. Three organizing topics will ground each discussion:

September 12—The Role of Love

October 17—The Role of Justice

November 21—The Roles of Confession and Forgiveness, of Reconciliation and Healing

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

A New Baby

We welcome Naomi Sabinal Germer who was born on September 15 to Tracy and David Germer and big brothers Josiah and Titus. Proud grandparents are Cathy Leary and Bill Germer.



Thank You Note

UPC family,

Tracy and I are so grateful for the ways that UPC continues to be supportive of our family and our ministry journey. Naomi Sabinal Germer was born under less-than-ideal circumstances on September 15, seven weeks before we expected her... and within days, the UPC community had sent an incredibly generous financial gift directly to us. Tracy did not get to hold Naomi for 4 days, and our boys did not get to meet her until October 8, when she was released from the NICU in Tacoma, a couple hours from our home in Packwood. Amidst weeks of uncertainty, stress, and exhaustion, the tangible financial help (on top of the love and light and prayers sent our way), helped us to trust and see God's provision and care, and to find and remember the remarkable beauty and joy that Naomi's life has already brought to us. Our entire family is so blessed to continue to consider UPC our formative faith family, and we love you all.

Grace and peace,

David, Tracy, Josiah, Titus, and Naomi Germer

Partnership of Prayer

Over 160 people are currently united in praying for others as needs arise. If you would like to participate or if you have a prayer request, please [contact the church office](#) or [contact Kate Wilson](#).

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1-Joyce McDaniel
1-Mark Adams
2-Molly Roth
3-Hunter Morris
3-Robert Owen
6-Steven Owen
7-Jan Ayers
8-Shelton Aguilar-Mock
8-Libby Sanders
14-Jan Williams
16-Lucas Rodriguez
17-Ronald Knotts
18-Audrey Kuykendall
18-Alex Srinivasan
19-Sandy Nicholson
19-Margaret Cairnes
20-John Silantien
21-Thurman Adkins
21-Antony Carpenter
22-Ruth Ann McIver
22-Gwendolyn Giust
25-Tom Heger
30-Tanner Kohfield
30-Julie Voight
30-Lou Williams

Anniversaries

4-Anastasia and Lupe Bernal
4-Beth and Dries Coetzee
16-Melinda and Jay Louden
16-Joyce and Luke McDaniel
18-Julia and Eric Rodriguez

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

UPC Memorial Fund in Memory of Delores Capstraw

Felice Sieffert
Thurman Adkins
Ruth Ann & Tom McIver
Liz & Carl Helser
Margaret Cairnes

UPC Memorial Fund in Memory of Thames Jackson

Bernice Buxbaum
Thurman Adkins

UPC Memorial Fund in Memory of Jack Flannagan

Bernice Buxbaum

UPC Silantien Music Fund in Memory of Delores Capstraw

Marcia Ellison
Charlotte Jensen

UPC Memorial Wall Inscription for Delores Capstraw

Janifer Meldrum & Bud Eaton

The SoL Center Programming Fund

Jeanne & Robert Browning
Ariel Simpson & Joseph Luedecke

UPCC Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

Gayle & Mark Anderson

UPCC Classrooms

Gayle & Mark Anderson

PEOPLE SERVING YOU

STAFF

Anastasia Bernal - Church Administrator
Allan Catlin - Facilities & Event Steward
Cindi Catlin Gaskins - Children's Center Director
Andries Coetzee - Pastor
Hanna Cooley - Youth Ministry Director
Mary Lowder - Organist
Dhawn Martin - SoL Center Director
Keith Martinez - Choral Music Director
Leroy Sebesta - Music Administrative Assistant
Maggie Sorrell - Children's Music Director
Frank Villalpando - Custodian

SESSION

Ruling Elders - Committee Serving

Melissa Almsted - Christian Education, Co-Chair (Children)
Cathy Bray - Worship & Arts, Co-Chair
Robert Browning - Christian Education, Co-Chair (Adults)
Terry Fried - Stewardship & Finance, Chair
Keith Kendall - Mission Outreach & Justice
Hanna Kuykendall - Worship & Arts, Co-Chair
Melinda Loudon - Mission Outreach & Justice, Co-Chair
Art Nicholson - Facilities & Operations and Co-Clerk of Session
Ariel Simpson - Personnel, Co-Chair
Sally Smith - Christian Education and Nominating, Chair

Don White - Facilities & Operations, Co-Chair
Andrew Wilson - Mission Outreach & Justice, Co-Chair

Non-Session Members - Committee Serving

Ben Henderson, Facilities & Operations, Co-Chair
Sandy Nicholson - Church Treasurer
Betsy Pasley - Co-Clerk of Session
Melissa Richard - Welcome & Fellowship, Chair
Lou Williams - Personnel, Co-Chair

DIACONATE

Deacons - Parishes and Assignments

Carol Brown - Northwest Parish, Vice-Moderator
Margaret Cairnes - Olmos Parish
Bonnie Flake - Northwood Parish
Marlyn Gibbs - Windcrest Parish
Paula Henderson - Castle Hills North Parish
Linda Ireland - Northeast Parish
Cynthia Smith - College Student Parish, Treasurer
Anne Pearson - Alamo Heights Parish
Carlos Rodriguez - Fredericksburg Parish
David Sanders - University Parish
Nancy Vaughan - Moderator
Janice Zitelman - Stone Oak Parish, Secretary



UNIVERSITY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
San Antonio, TX

UPC'S MESSAGE TO YOU

*Wherever you may be in the journey of faith, UPC welcomes you.
We are a community where honest questions are valued
and where faith is considered a process, not an arrival.*

*Affirming that every person has worth as a unique creation and a child of God,
we welcome into full participation people of every age, sex,
race, color, ethnicity, culture, immigration status, political affiliation,
economic condition, physical and mental ability, marital status,
sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression.*

*If you are passing through, we extend God's blessings to you as you continue on your way.
If you are seeking a home, we invite you to join us in the adventure
of serving Jesus Christ in a challenging world.*