

News and Information

Welcome! Thanks be to God for gathering us to worship. Welcome to University Presbyterian Church. This congregation is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and More Light Presbyterians, a covenant community dedicated to the pursuit of social justice in both the church and the world. If you are worshipping here for the first time, please sign the register on the stand inside of the front door of the sanctuary. For more information on the life and work of this congregation, please contact Ron Gilmer at the church (758-5422), by way of e-mail (rongilmer@aol.com) or visit the church's web site: www.uaupc.org.

PC(USA) The 218th General Assembly convened this summer in San Jose, CA. Grady Parsons was elected stated clerk. He will serve a four-year term at the Office of the General Assembly in Louisville, KY. Bruce Reyes-Chow, pastor of an "emergent church" in the San Francisco Bay area, was elected moderator of the denomination and will serve in that capacity until the next meeting of the General Assembly in 2010. For a full report on the happenings at this year's event, please join us for a gathering at UPC on Sunday, September 7, 5:30 p.m. Delegates Greg Bentley, pastor of Brown Memorial Presbyterian here in Tuscaloosa, and Sheppards and Lapsley Executive Presbyter Tom Evans are scheduled to lead this presentation.

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery's annual series of educational workshops, The Main Event, will take place at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, August 8-9. Ron Gilmer, Adam Miller and John Whitehead will be representing UPC. The next stated meeting of presbytery is set for Thursday, August 21, at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church. Nancy DuPree will serve as UPC's commissioner; Lena Prewitt will serve as alternate.

More Light Presbyterians More Light Presbyterians are still celebrating the General Assembly's proposal to eliminate the "fidelity and chastity" clause from *The Book of Order*. Now presbyteries throughout the denomination will vote on whether to accept the General Assembly's recommendation. Please be in prayer for this series of meetings in which important decisions regarding the church's standards for ordination will be made.

Alabama Arise Alabama Arise, a citizens' policy project, is a coalition of religious, community and civic groups that promote state policies to improve the lives of low-income people. UPC's Peace and Justice Committee has a long-standing commitment to this organization, whose annual meeting will take place Saturday, September 13, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in Montgomery. For more information, contact Gillie Presley or Ruthie Sherrill.

On Worship Our life together as Christ's body, the church, is shaped by a liturgy known as "The Service for the Lord's Day." Our commitment to the Revised Common Lectionary is reflected not only in the reading of the Scripture but also in the litanies and prayers with which we give all praise, honor and glory to God. We follow the rhythm of the liturgical year and now find ourselves midst Ordinary Time, the appropriate color for which green.

On Communion All who confess their faith in Jesus Christ are welcomed at the Lord's table. It, like us, belongs to God and not to any particular tradition within the body of Christ. Baptized children of all ages are encouraged to participate fully in our celebration of the Sacrament. The church gathers around the table when the bread and wine (which is actually non-alcoholic grape juice) are served. The tradition at UPC is to serve each other. When serving the bread, it is appropriate to say, "The body of Christ, given for you," or "The body of Christ, bread of heaven." When serving the cup, one may say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you" or "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." An appropriate response to being served is, "Thanks be to God," "Amen" or "Alleluia! Amen." The congregation is invited to sing during the ritual. The refrains that are repeated throughout this part of the service are: "Holy is the Lord;" "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry;" "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst;" and "Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord."

In Sympathy Our thoughts and prayers are with Cleveland Hinton following the death of his father Eddie W. Hinton, Sr.

Attendance - July 20 – 27, July 13 – 31 + 2 nursery

Sunday Assignments

August 3

Communion Miller Family
Reader Chet Alexander
Ushers Steve Borrelli and
Norm Baldwin
Welcomer Paige Miller
Greeter Ann Webb

August 10

Communion Kay Ellis
Reader Richard Keenam
Ushers Bierman Family
Julia Hartman
Welcomer Mary Helen Martin
Greeter

Lectionary Readings

August 3, 2008

Gen. 32:22-31
Ps. 17:1-7, 15
Rom. 9:1-5
Matt. 14:13-21

August 10, 2008

Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28
Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Rom. 10:5-15
Matt. 14:22-23

Let us Pray.....

Arlee Vallery, Marie and Joe Stone, Barbara Miller,
Jill Martindale, Regina Lassiter, Lucy Morgan, Steve
Borrelli and family, Robert Robinson, Lois Field,
Wilma Warren, Martha Folmar, Jackie Reid, Kay VanLuvender and Frederick
Washington

This Week at UPC

Sunday 9:30 Choir rehearsal
11:00 Worship
12:00 Coffee Hour
12:30 Peace and Justice Mtg

Tuesday

11:30 Lectionary Bible Study
1:30-3:30 Food Pantry
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday

Food Pantry Shop Day

Monday 11:00 Staff Meeting

Friday

The Main Event begins
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Elders

Nancy DuPree
Linda Grote
Julia Hartman
William Henderson
Adam Miller
Gillie Presley

Lena Prewitt
Annabel Stephens
Garry Warren
Ann Webb
John Whitehead

Deacons

Robert DuPree
Carla Hall
Paige Miller

Mission Statement

We come together as the body of Christ, an expression of God's grace in this community. We are bound together in God's steadfast love and in our mutual love and support for one another. We honor a special commitment to provide nurture, support and encouragement to students. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to live with compassion, to work for justice, to integrate faith and learning and to celebrate the gift of our life together. Since God's love excludes no one, our mission is to be inclusive. We trust that in God's time and by God's grace, God will destroy all barriers. We resolve to erect no barriers while working to overcome existing ones. Recognizing that we do not possess all the truth all the time, we affirm a variety of expressions of life and faith. This is an open church. You are welcome here.

Ron Gilmer, Pastor

Stated Hours: Monday 1:30-2:30 and Friday 11:00-12:00

Carolyn MacVicar, Secretary
Office Hours: Monday 9-1



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Ron Gilmer, Pastor
William Henderson, Director of Music
Patrick Rish, Organist

*“University Presbyterian Church is a More Light Congregation,
an Inclusive Church Committed to Social Justice”*

August 3, 2008 – 11:00 a.m.
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 17:1-7

Hear our plea of innocence, O Lord; give heed to our cry; listen to our prayers, which do not come from lying lips.

Let our vindication come forth from your presence; let our eyes be fixed on justice.

Weigh our hearts, summon us by night, melt us down so that you will find no impurity in us.

We give no offence with our mouth as others do; we have heeded the words of your lips.

Our footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; in your paths our feet shall not stumble.

We call upon you, O God, for you will answer us; incline your ear to us and hear our words.

Show us your marvelous loving-kindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up against them.

Hear our plea of innocence, O Lord; give heed to our cry; listen to our prayers, which do not come from lying lips.

*HYMN PH #483 *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*
MIT FREUDEN ZART

CONFESSION OF SIN (UNISON)

Search our hearts, O God, and reveal to us our sin. Help us not to speak when we should be listening or to be silent when we should be crying out in the face of injustice. Show us all that you have given us to proclaim your glory and strengthen us to serve the church and the world with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. Fashion us into the people that you are calling us to be. In the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray.

KYRIE arr. Healey Willan, 1930



DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

GLORIA Thomas Keesecker



THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Matthew 14:13-21 (NT p. 16)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Genesis 32:22-31 (OT p. 30)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Keep Me Faithfully In Thy Paths George F. Handel
arr. Richard Proulx

Keep me faithfully in thy paths, O Lord, and cleanse me, from my sin.
In thy goodness, Lord be thou merciful.
Keep me faithfully in thy paths, O Lord, and cleanse me, from my sin.

SERMON

Wrestling and Limping Ron Gilmer

*HYMN PH #251 *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure* WINCHESTER NEW

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

God created human beings so that we may respond to the love of the Creator. God created us male and female and has given us a life that proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. We have been endowed with capacities to make the world serve God's needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. We rejoice that we are free to seek our lives within the purpose of God: to develop and protect resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use our creative powers for the fulfillment of human life. For this freedom, we are grateful. Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy...
Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore, Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise....

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power— and might,
Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

LORD'S PRAYER

The prayer, as it will be prayed this morning, begins, "Our Mother God and Father God, who art in heaven..."

AMEN!



A - men, A - men, A - men, A - - men!

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The congregation is invited to gather at the Lord's Table.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN PH #118 *The Day of Resurrection* LANCASHIRE

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Alleluia! Amen.

VOLUNTARY