

News and Information

Welcome - Welcome to University Presbyterian Church, an open and affirming "More Light" congregation in the PC(USA). Please sign the guest register at the back of the sanctuary if you are worshipping here for the first time. For more information about the life and work of this congregation, please contact Ron Gilmer.

Worship - The PC(USA) affirms that "the life of the Church is one, and that its worship, witness and service are inseparable" (*Book of Order*, preface to the Directory for Worship). In an effort to be inclusive, gender-neutral language is used in worship. When patriarchal language appears in hymns, members often substitute language that recognizes that God is neither male nor female. You are welcome to join them. Please be seated for the voluntaries at the beginning and end of the service. You may choose to use this time for prayer and meditation.

Announcements - All are welcomed to make announcements of interest to the congregation at the beginning of the service. The session asks that announcements be succinct. You are encouraged to submit announcements in writing by the end of business hours on the Wednesday before the Sunday that you would like the announcement to appear in print. Please send announcements to Carolyn MacVicar at upsa@bellsouth.net.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day - Being a university church in a university town, we find ourselves scattered on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. In an effort to help us to worship together wherever we find ourselves when the church celebrates Christ's coming, liturgies for services of Evening Prayer for Christmas Eve and Morning Prayer for Christmas Day to be used in homes are being made available beginning with this afternoon's Service of Lessons and Carols.

'Tis the Season - Thanks to all who helped to decorate the church for this past Sunday's Service of Lessons and Carols, especially Linda and Phil Grote, who gave the poinsettias that are in the windows of the sanctuary. The decorating crew was led by Mary Helen Martin, whose leadership and work are appreciated.

Carols by Candlelight - A Carols by Candlelight Service will take place at First Presbyterian Church Tuscaloosa tonight at 7 p.m. Among the children singing at the event will be Lydia Gilmer, Chet and Suzanne Alexander's grandson Will and Ruthie Sherrill's granddaughter Emmie.

Belonging to God - The final session in the Belonging to God series will take place this afternoon at the home of Mary Meares at 3:30 p.m. Thanks to Brock and Maria Fisher for hosting the group this past Thursday and to all who participated in the group including: Joanna Biermann, Brock and Maria Fisher, Kendall French, Bill Henderson, Jessi Hitchins, Mary Meares, Christopher Uptain and Denise Yanaura.

Christmas Joy Offering - The PC(USA) annual Christmas Joy Offering will be collected next Sunday, December 20. One half of this offering goes to support retired church workers and their families. The other half of this offering goes to support racial ethnic education within the PC(USA).

Service of Ordination and Installation - A Service of Ordination and Installation will take place on Sunday, January 10, when the church remembers the Baptism of the Lord. Please be in prayer for Jamie Campbell, who will be ordained to the office of elder, Rachel Walker, who will be ordained to the office of deacon, Annabel Stephens and Lena Prewitt, who will return to active service on the session and Pat Dunbar, who will return to active service on the diaconate.

Elliot Jackson Jones Memorial Scholarship - Capstone Alliance, an organization representing LGBTQ faculty and staff on the University of Alabama campus, announces the availability of the 2010 application for the Elliot Jackson Jones Memorial Scholarship. The Scholarship, named for the first president of UA's gay student union (now known as Spectrum), is awarded annually to students who continuously find ways to positively support the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer population on the University of Alabama campus as well as surrounding community. To download an application form or to find out more information concerning Capstone Alliance, visit www.dama.ua.edu/~calliance.

Deacons' Lunches - Lunch will be served by the deacons in the fellowship hall following this morning's service. Please mark your calendars for every second Sunday of the month. Meaning: The first deacons' lunch of 2010 will take place on Sunday, January 10, following the ordination and/or installation of the next class of officers. Contributions to the Deacons' Food Pantry are welcomed. You may give by bringing plastic bags, canned foods and/or contributing financially.

Attendance - December 6-42, November 29- 33 + 2 nursery

December Birthdays- **December 5**-Kai Miller, **December 7**-Cathy Andreen, **December 8** -Linda Grote and Robert Robinson, **December 9**-Suzanne Alexander, **December 16**-Vicki Cox, **December 21**-Phil Grote, **December 25**-Jeanette Byrd, **December 30**-Sheri Shuler

Sunday Assignments

December 13

Communion Kay Ellis
Reader Ruthie Sherrill
Ushers The Millers
Welcomer Paige Miller
Greeter Mary Helen Martin

December 20

Communion Nancy DuPree
Reader Gillie Presley
Ushers Lydia Gilmer and Mary Helen Martin
Welcomer Julia Hartman
Greeter Cathy Andreen

Lectionary Readings

December 13

Zeph. 3:14-20
Isa. 12:2-6
Phil. 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 20

Mic. 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55 or Ps. 80:1-7
Heb. 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Let us Pray....

Tabatha Jarnagin, Anna Gordon, Danielle Rabel, Ginny Hartman, Paige Miller, Quinn Miller, Jared Dearing, Torry Ryan, Aaron Chun, Michael Yampolsky, James Walker, Marie and Joe Stone, Robert Robinson, Lois Field, Wilma Warren, Jackie Reid, Carl Washington, James Darget, Carla Hall, Tiffany Washington, Cadarius Washington and Frederick Washington.

This Week at UPC

Sunday 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Coffee Hour
11:00 Worship
12:00 Deacons' Lunch
3:30 Belonging to God

Monday 6:00-8:00 Westminster Fellowship

Tuesday 10:30 Staff Meeting
11:30 LBS
1:30-3:30 Food Pantry
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday 5:15 Stewardship, Finance and Personnel Comm. mtg.
5:30-7:00 Choir rehearsal

Friday 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Elders

Steve Borrelli
Nancy DuPree
Linda Grote
Julia Hartman
Gillie Presley
Lena Prewitt

Robert Spencer
Garry Warren
Ann Webb
John Whitehead

Deacons

Robert DuPree
Carla Hall
Paige Miller
Torry Ryan

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

Ron Gilmer, Pastor Stated Hours: Tuesday 11:30-1 and Thursday 8-9
Carolyn MacVicar, Secretary Office Hours: Tuesday 8-12, Wednesday 8-12 and Thursday 8-2

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University Presbyterian Church

1127 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 205-758-5422 upsa@bellsouth.net www.uaupc.org

Ron Gilmer, Pastor
William Henderson, Director of Music
Faythe Freese, Organist
Heekyung Lee, Intern

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

December 13, 2009– 11:00 a.m.
3rd Sunday of Advent

THE GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY *Silent Night* Albert Beck

MEDITATION George Appleton

*Help me, O Lord, to descend into the depths of my being,
below my conscious and subconscious life until I discover my real self,
that which is given me from thee,
the divine likeness in which I am made and into which I am to grow,
the place where the Spirit communes with mine, the spring from which all my life rises.*

OPENING SENTENCES Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE, PEACE AND JOY CANDLES Nicole Varnado and Rachel Walker

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise.

The God who gathers us to worship fulfills promises.

In accordance with God's promises we wait for new heavens and a new earth where righteous is at home,

Where the wolf dwells with the lamb,

Where the leopard lies down with the kid,

The calf and the lion and the fatling together,

And a little child shall lead them.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

And so, we are hopeful.

The Spirit of the Lord has appointed us to bring good news to the oppressed.

And so, we pray for peace.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

And so, we rejoice with joy and singing.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER *The Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you, now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN PH #9 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, we confess our doubts and despair. In Jesus Christ, there is hope, and yet we are anxious. In Jesus Christ, there is peace, but we prefer swords. In Jesus Christ, there is joy, and yet we strive for happiness. Help us to look beyond the circumstances in which we find ourselves, to be at peace and to be assured that you are with us regardless of what tomorrow may bring. For your grace, we are grateful. For your forgiveness, we give you thanks and praise. To God be glory in all that we say and do as you recreate us in Christ's image.

He Came Down John Bell

He came down that we may have hope,* He came down that we may have hope,* He-
came down that we may have hope,* Hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

*peace, joy, love, life

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Ruthie Sherrill

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-20 (OT p. 876)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid,

For the Lord God is my strength and my might; God has become my strength and salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And then you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on the Lord's name; make known God's deeds among the nations; proclaim that the Lord's name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING Luke 3:7-18 (NT p. 60)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Comfort, Comfort* arr. John Ferguson

SERMON *In Medias Res* Ron Gilmer

*HYMN PH #5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us in the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

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 PH #455 LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures, your Creator bless,

And worship God in humbleness.

O sing ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise Creator, praise the Son,

And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise....

SANCTUS Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'rand might. — might. —
Heav-en and earth are full — full — of — your glo - ry. Ho -
Bless-ed is he who comes — in the name of — Lord. — Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION Franz Schubert

Dy - ing you de-destroyed our death. Ris - ing you re - stored our life.
Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry, Lord — Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

LORD'S PRAYER

Please begin, "Our Mother and Father God, who art in heaven..."

AMEN Franz Schubert

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men. —

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Please gather at the Lord's Table. When giving the bread, it is appropriate to say, "The body of Christ, the bread of heaven." When giving the cup, it is appropriate to say, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN PH #18 *The Desert Shall Rejoice* STERLING

VOLUNTARY *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* Dale Wood

Please be seated during the closing voluntary as we give thanks to God for the gift of music.

The Worship Committee asks that you show your appreciation for the musicians

by some way other than clapping.

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!