



University Presbyterian Church
125 YEARS
and **STILL GROWING!**

A Generous People Responding to a Generous God

UPC UPdate
February 6, 2017

2016 Report from UPLift

\$83,000 in community assistance distributed through the UPLift program

To the congregation of UPC,

First and foremost, THANK YOU to all of you who have made this outreach ministry at University Presbyterian Church possible! This ministry is able to assist our neighbors in need because of YOU and your very generous support!

The attached report hopes to show how your gifts have made a difference in the lives of those in our community who struggle with the basic necessities of life. The information is from the UPLift Summary report provided by our Financial Manager, Sandie McGee.

In the report, you'll discover where the money comes from, how it was distributed in 2016, and a bit about the wonderful saints of UPC who make our primary service program a success.

To get a copy of the full 2016 UPLift report, please contact the church office at 512-476-5321.



UPLift Loving "Experience"
Sunday, February 12, noon to 1:30 pm
UPC Fellowship Hall

Please join us after church after worship on February 12 for "An UPLift Loving Experience" and learn more about this important UPC ministry. You'll have an opportunity to experience what it's like to be an UPLift client, help make bean soup, enjoy coffee and cookies, and talk to UPLift volunteers about their work. Watch for roving reporters and don't miss the photo booth!

Chancel Choir Presents Spirituals During Black History Month

Once again our Chancel Choir will be singing African-American Spirituals for its anthems during February, annually designated as Black History Month. This year's offerings include the following, some of which are new to this choir, others of which are already familiar:



Betelehemu
by V. Olatunji & W. Whalum, arranged by B. Brooks
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
by William L. Dawson
This Little Light of Mine
Laudate Children's Choir
Unclouded Day
by Rev. J. K. Alwood, arranged by Shawn Kirchner
Soon Ah Will Be Done
by William Dawson

February 12, 2017
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

David Evans continues his February sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount. Note that the sermon text is taken from the prior week's lectionary readings. Sunday's sermon: "Salt and Light." Sermon text is Matthew 5:13-20.

Letter to the Congregation from David Evans

February 6, 2017

Dear Friends,

In the month of February your UPC Staff and Church Officers will be working overtime to prepare for the arrival of our new pastor, Matt Gaventa. Last week we had the opportunity have dinner with Matt and Sarah while they were in Austin looking for housing. It was a wonderful evening of getting acquainted and only served to heighten the anticipation of Matt becoming our pastor.

In the meantime, the Staff Support Committee has asked me to continue in my position as Acting Head of Staff/Moderator of the Session until March. I will preach each Sunday in February and join John and Krystal in leadership for the Ash Wednesday service on March 1. Then as we transition, Ted Wardlaw will preach at UPC on the First Sunday of Lent, March 5, and John Leedy will preach on March 12. My last day in the office will be Tuesday, March 7. I chose that day to end my ministry here because on Wednesday, March 8, I have booked a flight to Fort Lauderdale, Florida and will spend the next week in West Palm Beach watching the Astros prepare for winning their very first World Series next fall!!

You are, and will continue to be, my "home" church in retirement. And I am overjoyed at having Matt as my pastor. And one final note: please get in the habit of wearing your nametag each Sunday. It will be an enormous gift to Matt. And if you do not have a nametag, please contact Jan in the church office.

Blessings,

David

Our new Senior Pastor Matt, his wife Sarah, and son Charlie will be with us in just over a month. Please help us make them feel welcome and sign the card in the narthex. If you'd like to include your own well wishes for our new start together, you'll find baskets in the narthex and outside the church office for cards and letters.
Matt's first Sunday in the pulpit is March 19.



You Are Invited to the Micah 6 Food Pantry Dedication February 19

In 2016, UPC Session approved a request from the Micah 6 Board of Directors to dedicate the food pantry here at UPC as the “**Micah 6 Dan Robertson Food Pantry.**” Prior to his death in December 2015, Dan served this ministry a faithful volunteer, fund raiser, and board member, and was board president for several years.

Please join the Micah 6 board, staff, and volunteers, along with Dan’s family, **Sunday, February 19, at 1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall** as they celebrate his service and dedicate the food pantry to his memory. All are welcome!



Dan Robertson (third from left) and the Early Bird team
photo credit Karen Miller 12-23-15



Memory Loss Family Support Group Meets February 11

Is someone you care about living with dementia? Susanna Caballero and Jennie Chao are starting up a support group so that we can help and inform each other during the caregiving process. Join us for informal conversation and brunch next Saturday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m. at **Bribery Bakery in Mueller**. Contact Jennie at 512-699-1153 (text or call) for more information.

Faith & Grief Meets

Faith & GriefSM

February 9

The Mission of Faith & Grief Ministries is to provide ongoing comfort to persons who have experienced the death of a loved one. As we prayerfully discern our mission, we value most the gifts of the Holy Spirit’s gentle and restless source of comfort; community that understands grief and mourning; compassion revealed in silence, listening, tears, and surprising laughter; stories that speak truth in love and promote wholeness; and collaboration that joins strength to strength.

The Austin area Faith & Grief Gathering occurs February 9 at noon, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

[Click here to register.](#)

To find out more about Faith & Grief Ministries, visit **www.faithandgrief.org**.

Spring Schedule ^{Young} **Adults**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events - you don't want to miss them! Email Sarah French at sbradbur@alum.trinity.edu with questions.

Happy Hour!

February 13, 6:00 p.m. at [Flying Saucer](#)

Cook Dinner for UKirk

February 19, 4:30 p.m.

UKirk, our campus ministry program, is awesome! Come help us provide a home-cooked meal for hungry college students! Email Emily Givens at emstenator@gmail.com if you can help.

Dinner and Dogma: Immigration

March 11, 5:30 p.m. at the home of Sarah and Byron French

This edition of our Young Adult Dinner series will focus on the complicated issue of immigration from a Christian perspective. Come to learn and share your thoughts on the role of UPC in this issue!

Volunteer at Micah 6

March 16, 5:30 p.m. at UPC

Micah 6 serves hundreds of Austinites every week and operates right out of our basement! They are especially in need of help during Spring Break, so come and get your service on!

A Potluck of Ideas: Choose Your Adventure!

April 8, 5:30 p.m. at the home of Sarah and Byron French

We want your input on Young Adult programming at UPC! Come for a delicious potluck, fellowship, and a brainstorm about the future of the Young Adult Ministry at UPC!

All-Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch

April 21-23

Everyone should go to All-Church Retreat! Scholarships are available for Young Adults!!

Young Adults Hiking Expedition

May 6, 10ish, location TBD

Join your fellow young adults for a casual hike to appreciate God's creation right here in Austin!

Welcoming the Stranger:

a look at immigration through the lens of our faith

The Social Witness Committee and Faith & Life Class invite you to a three-part series on immigration, **February 12, 19, and 26, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.**

February 12: Introduction to the topic and its intersection with our Christian faith;

The UPC Social Witness Committee will share a brief overview of immigration and the Presbyterian Church's history with regard to immigration. The Reverend Margaret Aymer will discuss her personal experiences as an immigrant and her perspective on what our Christian responsibility is with regard to welcoming the stranger among us.

Everyone is welcome!

February Circle Meetings

The Martha Circle will meet at 11:30 a.m. on February 11 at the church.

Betsy Boyt will be the hostess.

G.G. Saravia will lead lesson 6, *Who is Jesus - According to the Hebrews*. Please contact Karen Grice kwgrice@grandecom.net for more information.

The Ruth-Dorcas Circle meets at Dottie Penn's home on February 14 at 2:30 p.m. Please contact the church office for more information.

Women Who Work

For all you ladies who would like to be part of a circle, but just can't find the energy or time, come try **Women Who Work**. We meet once or twice a quarter, and our next gathering will be at Central Market, **Thursday, February 23**, at 6:00 p.m., for dinner. No special program, no prior agenda, just a chance to grab a bite, unwind, and be with UPC friends.

RSVP to Liz Wright at elisabethw2013@gmail.com or send a text to 512-934-2248.



Parenting & Faith meets in Room 1, Lower Level, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Stephanie Morris at stephanietmorris@sbcglobal.net.

February 26th – Craig Deats will join us for our second discussion on adolescence. Craig and Lydia Deats have raised two kids here at UPC and Craig will share some of his insights in this phase of our parenting journey and answer questions.

February 12 – Our second class on adolescence will be lead by UPC member Craig Deats. Craig will share his experience with raising two children through these trying years, with an outcome of positive and productive adult children!

March 5th – Bill Kilday will lead our class this day. More info to come on his topic.

February 19th – Katherine Barnhill, parent to three children, will be leading our class on “some of the marriage relationship science that has come out of John Gottman’s research. John Gottman is best know for the Love Lab his team created to study couples; the data that emerged gives us lots of information about why marriages succeed or fail.” He has several highly popular relationship books. <https://www.gottman.com>

March 12th – NO CLASS has been scheduled at this time. It is the first weekend of Spring Break and I know many of you will be out of town.

UPC Bridge Gathering

UPC Bridge Group will get together at the house of Liz Wright and Scott Kelley Saturday, February 18th. Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, cards at 7:00. Anyone who is interested in playing or learning to play bridge is invited. RSVP to elisabethw2013@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Women’s Conference @ Mo-Ranch

March 24-26, 2017

The Grace Presbyterian Church - Round Rock planning team cordially invites UPC women to the 2017 PW Spring Gathering at Mo-Ranch. We are planning a fun, spirit filled weekend with a lot of good workshops and fellowship.

We hope you can join us as we "Celebrate Our Hats."

[Download the registration forms here.](#)

Looking forward to a seeing you there. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at grace.springgathering@gmail.com

- *Lori Black, Libby Reeves
and Nancy Reeves*

[P.S. For more information, please join our Facebook page.](#)

UPLift Needs Next Week

Every Tuesday morning, UPC volunteers provide some food and coffee, hygiene items, and occasional financial assistance for our clients. While all donations are welcome at any time, here are some items to consider bringing to worship this week.

Thank you for your incredible support of this UPC mission!!



UPC children put together bean soup packages for UPLift.



For this week's grocery cart:

A variety of needs:

- jelly or preserves (for pbj sandwiches)
- oregano (for bean soup)
- bars of soap
- snack or breakfast bars
- feminine pads

Amplify Austin is right around the corner, March 2-3, 2017. Watch for how you can support UPLift, helping Austinites meet some of their financial needs through a single day of giving.

*Are you a young musician between the ages of 11 and 16?
Do you want to try playing **this REALLY BIG PIPE ORGAN?***

Austin Chapter American Guild of Organists

Presents:

PEDALS, PIPES AND PIZZA Saturday February 18, 2017 10 am – 1 pm at UPC.

Participants should bring a prepared piano piece.

\$10 student participation fee;

\$5 observer fee

Go to www.austinago.org for additional information. Click on the link for the Registration Form found on the page. Fill it out and send it in along with the fee(s) by February 10 to the address listed on the form. Space is limited to 15 participants.



pedals
pipes &
pizza

austin chapter
american guild
of organists

Celebrations & Concerns

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



February 5, 2017



[Click here to download the full UPC prayer list.](#)

Please pray for

Suzanne Freeman, knee replacement surgery
February 6, St. David's South

Sharon Bayer, in ICU at Seton Central

Debbie Warden, who continues to improve at
Cornerstone Hospital.
Follow Debbie's progress at
CaringBridge.org/visit/debbiessupportteam

If you'd like to be part of UPC's Prayer Chain, please
email the church office.

You will receive emails asking you specifically to
pray for people who have requested prayer support.

**[Click here to download the full UPC prayer list or
pick up a copy each week in the narthex or
outside the church office.](#)**

To request prayers, email **upc@upcaustin.org**

Find us on  @UPCaustin

Rooted in worship. . .

Growing through education and service. . .

Connecting to campus and community. . .

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