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WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Friends,

This Sunday we will be transitioning out of the Old and into the New....Testament that is. From Moses to Paul, we will be continuing our Journey this Sunday with the Ten Commandments which came to be referred to as "The Law." Moses, while leading the Israelites out of Egypt and to the promise land, goes to the top of Mt. Sinai and receives a set of instructions from God to bring back to the people of Israel. It is this Law that Paul refers to in our Scripture Reading from the book of Romans this Sunday. Diving between the lines of Paul's writings we will begin to see the depth of his theology and find out what obeying the law looks like for us today. Spoiler alert....it's about love. See you all on Sunday!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Josh

SUNDAY SCHEDULE INFORMATION

8 a.m. Outdoor Meditation

Participate in meditative gathering out on the front lawn. Bring a blanket or chair and join us.

10:00 a.m. Summer Childcare

Childcare is offered for children Kinder and younger in UPCC Room #2. Obtain gate code [from Erika Stiner](#) or one of the Greeters. (Note: UPCC family codes do not work on Sundays.)

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Join us for worship in the sanctuary or online. [Click here for the bulletin](#). The first Sunday of each month we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Worship leaders include Lora East, Erika Stiner, Josh Clapp, Christian Carpenter, Keith Martinez, Zachary Ridgway, Nicholas Dimick, and others.

Online Service Links

[Click here for Zoom Webinar](#) or [click here for YouTube Live](#). You can also watch past services at any time by [clicking here](#).

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY

Because of your generosity, we purchased supplies for alternative ways to listen to God's word and to feel God's Spirit during worship in the prayer stations this past Sunday.

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS



WE WANT YOUR PICTURE - SEPTEMBER

The Welcome & Fellowship Committee is updating the UPC photo directory with plans to print in the Fall. In order to have the most accurate and complete publication, we need your attention.

[Please click here](#) for the 2026 Photo Only document to check your current photo and [submit new photos to the church office](#) by the end of September. While you're at it, [please click here](#) to download and view the 2025 Photo Directory to check your contact info and [submit updates to the church office](#) by the end of September, too. (This page requires a password [from the church office](#).)

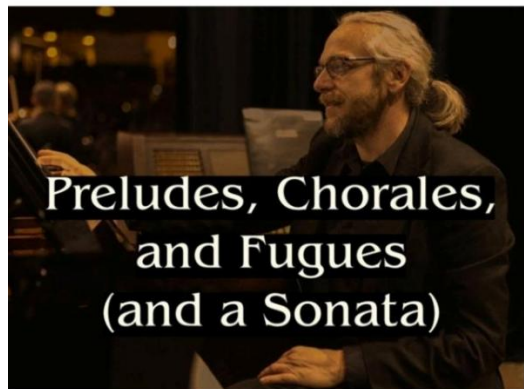
FAMILY FEAST & MOJ SERVICE PROJECT - SEPT. 6

Our September First Sunday Family Feast on Sept. 6 will be potluck style. [Click here to let us know you're coming and what dish you will bring.](#) Drinks will be provided.

We are looking forward to gathering together as a community around the table for a meal and then coming together as a faith family to assemble 50 hygiene care kits. These bags are for Thrive Youth Center, which provides a safe and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness.

LUNCH BUNCH - SEPT. 6

The Lunch Bunch will gather at Costa Pacifica (875 E. Ashby Place, Bldg. 3, 78212) on Sunday, Sept. 6 after worship. This Dutch treat lunch fellowship opportunity is a great way to get to know people from UPC. If you have questions or want a ride to and from church, please [contact Janifer Meldlum.](#)



Zachary Ridgway,
pianist

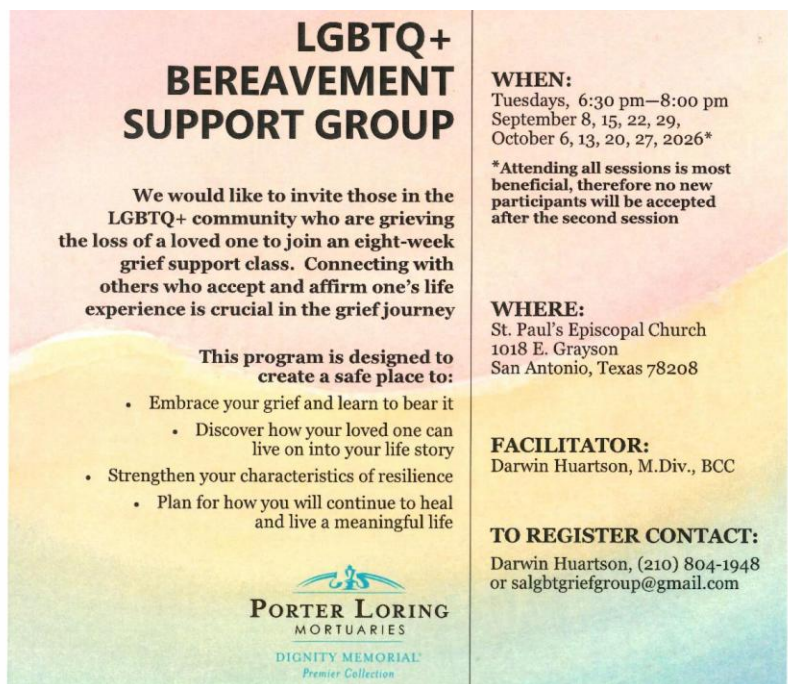
Music of Bach,
Bach-Busoni, Franck,
and Schubert

**Preludes, Chorales,
and Fugues
(and a Sonata)**

Sunday,
Sept. 6th, 2026
3:00p.m.

Ruth Taylor
Recital Hall, Trinity
University

FREE ADMISSION



**LGBTQ+
BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT GROUP**

We would like to invite those in the LGBTQ+ community who are grieving the loss of a loved one to join an eight-week grief support class. Connecting with others who accept and affirm one's life experience is crucial in the grief journey

This program is designed to create a safe place to:

- Embrace your grief and learn to bear it
 - Discover how your loved one can live on into your life story
- Strengthen your characteristics of resilience
 - Plan for how you will continue to heal and live a meaningful life

**PORTER LORING
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WHEN:
Tuesdays, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm
September 8, 15, 22, 29,
October 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026*

*Attending all sessions is most beneficial, therefore no new participants will be accepted after the second session

WHERE:
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1018 E. Grayson
San Antonio, Texas 78208

FACILITATOR:
Darwin Huartson, M.Div., BCC

TO REGISTER CONTACT:
Darwin Huartson, (210) 804-1948
or salgbtgriefgroup@gmail.com

PLAYOLOGY WORKSHOP - SEPT. 12

Experiencing God Through the Art of Play

Playology is chock full of interactive training and practical resources to integrate recreation and play into your ministry context. Experienced leaders will lead a full day of recreation-related workshops. Playology events provide great resources for children's ministry leaders, youth leaders, pastors, worship leaders, camp counselors, educators, recreation leaders, volunteers, and more!

UPC's CE Jr Committee is working with Mission Presbytery to host this event on Saturday, Sept. 12. [Click here](#) for full information and to register.



FALL 2026 CE KICK-OFF - SEPT. 13

Christian education and formation is the lifelong community-based process of growing in relationship with God, self, and others through educational classes, group discussions, and project-oriented gatherings. It's the coming together with others for faith fellowship.

On Sunday, Sept. 13, UPC kicks off the Fall 2026 season. A special email will be sent on Sept. 9 with full details. We are continuing some of the same adult studies and have some new class offerings. We have both online and in-person opportunities. We have gatherings on Sundays and during the week, in the mornings, during the day, and in the evenings. We hope you consider attending one, two, or more of these offerings.

PW BIBLE STUDY - SEPT. 16

All UPC women are invited to join the Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study for 2026-27, *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*. This is a study of the New Testament book, *1 Corinthians*, written by Paul the Apostle, in approximately 50 AD. *1 Corinthians* is a compilation of letters that Paul wrote to the Christian church he established in Corinth. These letters were written to help the new church address conflicts that arose due to the diversity in the church. Paul's primary emphasis was that Christ's death and resurrection were for everyone—that God's grace is extended to each person, regardless of social station, heritage, or any other personal trait. This message is as relevant today as it was for first-century Christians.

We look forward to this challenging study and the meaningful discussions that will unfold. The PW Bible Study meetings are held on the third Wednesday morning of each month, beginning Sept. 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the UPC Library (in the Administration Building, adjacent to the Sanctuary). For more information, [contact Paula Gentner](#).

VACCINE CLINIC - SEPT. 18

The Children's Center will host a Vaccine Clinic through HEB Pharmacy on Friday, Sept. 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Stay tuned for registration information.



HOUSE OF NEIGHBORLY SERVICE WALK/RUN - SEPT. 26

We are thrilled to announce House of Neighborly Service's 4th Annual Walk/Run : Steps to Brighter Tomorrows, taking place on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, at Our Lady of the Lake University.

For over 100 years, we have stood alongside Westside families, providing programs that encourage, educate, and empower. Your support ensures our community receives quality early childhood education, child and family wellness through play therapy, and older adult wellness and meal service. This event is more than a race—it's a symbol of hope for a brighter tomorrow for our community. Together, we can create lasting change—and we invite you to take that first step with us!

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - SEPT. 28

The book group will meet on Monday, Sept. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Miriam Martinez. Kelli Weedon will lead the discussion of *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. As usual, all are welcome, even if you have not yet read the book. Simply bring a salad to share. [Kindly notify Miriam](#) if you plan to attend or need directions to her house. [Contact Sandy Nicholson](#) to RSVP as a Zoom participant.



BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER YARD SALE - OCT. 2 & 3

University Presbyterian Church is a Core Partner to [Building Hope Together](https://www.buildinghopetogether.org/) (2802 W Salinas, 78207) helps older adults age in place in safe, secure, and economically sustainable households. They are asking donations to sell. If you would like help getting donations delivered [contact Janice Zitelman](mailto:janice.zitelman@buildinghopetogether.org) before Sept. 24.

Come shop, save, and support our BHT's mission! Bring your family, invite a friend, and come find some great treasures while helping make a difference in our westside community. All proceeds go back to supporting our mission and the work we do in our community!



MARCH AGAINST ICE - OCT. 3

Consider marching with other members of our congregation on Saturday, Oct. 3 to stand against an ICE Detention Center in San Antonio. If you would like to join the UPC group, [contact Janice Zitelman](mailto:janice.zitelman@upcusa.org).

At the PCUSA General Assembly this summer a resolution was passed in support of dissolution of ICE Detention Centers. Detention centers are ugly places that cause serious harm to many innocent adults and children. They have many of the same features of the concentration camps of the Nazi era.

Our church body, the Presbyterian Church, USA, has long had policies regarding care for immigrants and UPC has been at the forefront of providing care and resources to our immigrant neighbors. If you do not wish to march, please pray and then call your representatives in the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate.

SAVE THE DATES

OUTDOOR SERVICE & PICNIC OCT. 18



FESTIVAL OF FAITHS OCT. 25



SESSION AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUGUST STATED SESSION MEETING

- Jeanna Balreira and Pastor Lora will attend the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Sept. 21-23, 2026.
 - Session approved moving worship to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6, 2026, due to the San Antonio Marathon. A potluck is being planned for 5 p.m. following the service.
 - Session approved hiring Shelby Ochoa as the Administrative Assistant.
 - F&O Chair Tracy Wilson shared that the Heritage Oak on the Northwest front lawn will be trimmed and low-hanging branches will be lifted.
 - CE Jr. Chair Miriam Martinez shared that the hygiene kits will be assembled at the next First Sunday Family Feast held on Sept. 6, following the worship service.
-

Financial Report for July 2026 - Operating Budget				
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Annual Budget
Revenues				
Pledge Income	\$415,142	\$382,505	\$32,637	\$655,722
Reimbursements	\$33,255	\$31,983	\$1,272	\$54,828
Other	\$41,247	\$35,894	\$5,353	\$61,534
Total Revenues	\$489,644	\$450,382	\$39,262	\$772,084
Expenses				
Mission, Outreach & Justice	\$37,991	\$41,527	\$3,536	\$71,610
Stewardship & Finance	\$10,438	\$10,852	\$414	\$19,103
Personnel	\$260,029	\$264,558	\$4,529	\$456,471
Christian Education	\$11,925	\$8,517	-\$3,408	\$14,600
Worship Ministry	\$3,877	\$4,375	\$498	\$7,500
Facilities & Operations	\$92,265	\$105,102	\$12,837	\$180,175
Welcome & Fellowship	\$4,116	\$5,527	\$1,411	\$9,475
Session	\$7,727	\$7,525	-\$202	\$12,900
Total Expenses	\$428,368	\$447,983	\$19,615	\$771,834
Net Total	\$61,276	\$2,399	\$58,877	

TREASURERS REPORT

Thank you for pledging and keeping up with your gifts. 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 \$392,060; however, there are large facility projects in the works. The SoL Center is mostly on hold and has a budget of \$10,000. The SoL Center has endowment funds which can be

used for programming needs.

In addition to operating funds and special purpose funds, UPC also has Endowment Funds. These funds are invested for the long term to help support programs of the church, The SoL Center, and the Children's Center. The July market value of UPC Endowments is \$1,641,320 and the book value is \$1,107,611. The July market value of SoL Endowments is \$202,674 and the book value is \$135,617. Endowments are invested and only distributions or a percentage of the current value may be used regularly.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS

The Nominating Committee of our congregation will soon begin meeting to identify members who may be called to serve as deacons and elders in the life and ministry of our congregation. Serving as a deacon or elder is both a responsibility and a privilege. These ministries give members an opportunity to help care for our church family, encourage others in their faith, provide spiritual leadership, and participate in the work Christ has entrusted to his church.

Please prayerfully consider if you or someone you know might be a good candidate to serve in one of these leadership positions. The term of office for these positions is three years beginning June 2027. As you think about potential nominees, look for people who demonstrate a growing faith in Jesus Christ, a commitment to the life of the church, wisdom and compassion, humility, integrity, and a willingness to serve others.

You may nominate yourself or another member of the congregation. Before submitting a nomination for someone else, please speak with that person to make sure they are willing to be considered. [Contact Janice Zitelman](#), chair of the Nominating Committee, if you have questions or wish to submit a nomination. Thank you for participating in this important part of the life of University Presbyterian Church. We look forward to seeing how God provides the leaders our church needs for this season of ministry.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Although you are probably reading this on Sept. 4, the memories of last Friday remain fresh and disturbing. Pictured is one of mine. The destruction was major and tragic, but the kindness and generous outreach of friends, strangers, and the church was a source of great comfort. Solidarity and showing up when someone is facing a crisis, challenge or change is one way we can walk in the path of faithfulness set by Jesus. It is bringing about the kingdom here, now, in real time.

Shawls are created with the idea that they will also bring comfort and a sense of God's presence to the recipient. On Sunday, Sept. 13, members of the UPC Shawl Ministry will be distributing shawls and lap robes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon outside the Narthex. You are invited to come and take a shawl and spread some comfort and love to anyone who needs to know that God loves them, and they are not alone. For more information, [contact Caryl Gaubatz](#).

PRAYER FLAG MINISTRY

An opportunity to introduce the UPC Prayer Flag Ministry to the women attending the PW Spring Gathering at Mo Ranch, will occur Mar. 5-7, 2027. Martha Hernandez and Marilyn Juarez along with Covenant Presbyterian Church and Northwood Presbyterian Church are hosting the gathering. After attending last year's gathering hosted by UPC and being introduced to the Prayer Flag Ministry, they feel that Prayer Flags would be a wonderful craft opportunity in the category of Justice and Peace in a workshop presented to attendees. The flags are truly a craft with a purpose. Congrats!



HABITAT STORY AND HOLY SMOKE

For Lidia and her children, their home signifies comfort, security and the opportunity to truly thrive. Lidia, a mother of three, faced constant stress from rising rent, unsafe housing conditions, and neighborhood crime. Wanting a better future for her children, she partnered

with Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio & Guadalupe Valley. Through over 300 hours of volunteer work and homebuyer classes, Lidia worked toward a safe, stable home for her family. Her house was the SA Presbyterian Cluster build for 2026. Now she loves watching her children play in their backyard and they even have a trampoline at the top of the wish list.

The annual fundraiser for each year's Cluster Habitat build is Holy Smoke. Lidia will be at this year's event, on Sunday, Oct. 11, and has agreed to speak for the Habitat families.

There are several ways you can support the SA Presbyterian Cluster build and Holy Smoke:

- Purchase tickets and attend.
- Provide an item for the silent auction.
- Volunteer to help with the auction at the event.
- Help Melissa and Daniel Almsted prepare and serve food at the event.

[Contact Daniel Almsted](#) if you have questions or want to volunteer. Tickets will go on sale mid-September. Thank you for your usual enthusiasm and support!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday Childcare

Childcare for those in kindergarten and younger is available 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the UPCC Downstairs Classrooms starting Sept. 13. [Contact Erika Stiner](#) for the gate code or ask the Greeters.



Sunday School and Children's Choir

Beginning Sept. 13, children will be dismissed during the Hymn of Response to attend Sunday School and Children's Choir. There will be two rotations based on grade 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Classes will be held in CE #6 and #7 while rehearsal will be held in CE #5.

There will be no children's programming after worship on the first Sunday of each month so families can celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

[Contact Erika Stiner](#) with questions.

Help Wanted

Do you like kids? Do you have an hour to share? Do you want a way to keep your baptismal promise to the children of UPC? Then you are perfect to be a volunteer to help with Sunday School or Children's Choir, [please contact Erika Stiner](#). Teacher Assistants, Hall Parents, and Choir Helpers are always welcomed for smooth lessons, rehearsal sessions and transitions.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth ministry is for 6th-12th graders. We are trying something new for the fall and meeting each Sunday after worship for food and fellowship. Come and check out the updated room! [Contact Josh Clapp](#) to get information.



Youth Group Gatherings, Sundays, 12-2 p.m.

Sept. 6 - Food, Fun, Service, Games

Sept. 13 - Lunch and Program

Sept. 20 - Lunch and Program

Sept. 27 - No Youth Group

Youth Special Events

Sept. 25-27 - Main Event at John Knox Ranch



YOUNG-ISH ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Young Adults will gather in the Church Library on Sunday mornings, 9-10 a.m. for a Bible study. This fall, they will discuss the women of the Bible. [Contact Josh Clapp](#) for more information.

Monday Evening Dinners

YAS continue to meet every-other Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at different restaurants. To get notifications of dates and locations, [contact Josh Clapp](#).

CHILDREN'S CENTER



UPCC STEPPING INTO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The children, families, and staff at University Presbyterian Children's Center have taken their hopeful steps for learning, discovery, and community into the 2026 – 2027 school year.

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 12 - Infant/Toddler Family Social, 9-11 a.m.

Sept. 15 and 16 - Individual School Photos
(sign up required)

Sept. 18 - Preschool Family Social, 5:30-7 p.m.

Sept. 22 - Fall Equinox Celebration, during class time



MORE CERTIFICATION EARNED

This summer, UPCC earned Level I Trauma Informed Center Certification (TICC) through the Ecumenical Center of San Antonio. For the certification process last Spring, the UPCC staff reviewed and updated policies, distributed family and staff feedback for setting goals, gathered samples of curriculum, developed social emotional activities and materials for all ages, and the majority

of the staff earned their individual Trauma Informed Certification. UPCC was awarded their certificate during the Work Week at the start of August. Congrats!

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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.](#)

Welcome New Baby

Brynn Elena Catlin was born Tuesday, Aug. 25, to Layne and Aaron Catlin and big sister Camden. She is the granddaughter of Cindi Catlin-Gaskins and Dave Gaskins and the niece of Allan Catlin.

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

1-Crystal Cox
3-Barry Bartlett
3-Brian Flores
3-Glenn Jensen
3-Don White
5-Jeanette Clark
6-David Anderson
6-Tom McIver
6-Jennifer Mitchell
6-Anthony Parkinson
6-Kelli Weedon
8-Nicolas Bueno
10-Scott Gage
10-Keith Kendall
13-Cynthia Balderrama
15-Paula Gentner
15-Shelby Ochoa

16-Alyssa Balderrama
16-Carla Monroe-Posey
16-Spencer Smith
17-Anastasia Bernal
17-Carol Brown
17-Michael Parkinson
19-Marc Raney
19-Bill Weller
20-Bud Eaton
22-Dave Garber
23-Emilia Armistead
24-Benjamin Bravenec
25-Wren Stevens
26-David Sanders
27-Janice Zitelman
28-Lucy Balderrama
30-Melody Hull

Anniversaries

3-Alyssa Noltner and Samantha Morgan

GIFTS & MEMORIALS - AUGUST

UPC Memorial Fund
in memory of Marian Edson
Barry Hubbard

UPC Memorial Fund
in memory of Ross Smith
Barry Hubbard

UPC Special Donations Fund
CE Building Improvements
Judy and Garry Cole
Jane and Terry Fried
Paula and Ben Henderson
Linda Ireland

UPC Special Donations Fund
Bangladesh School Needs
Angela Farrow
Diana Lindsey
Ann Mar
Sally Lloyd
Anonymous Donor

UPCC Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Barry Hubbard

PEOPLE SERVING YOU

W&A COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR SMILE (AND YOUR ASSISTANCE)

A greeter is usually the first person people see at Sunday morning worship and we invite you to be that smiling face!

[Click here for the sign up](#) or use the QR code provided.



F&O COMMITTEE REQUESTS YOUR HELP

The intent of the form is to involve everyone in the maintenance and safety of our facility.

[Click here to access the form online](#) or use the QR code provided.



UPC Facility & Safety Concerns Form



Issues reported will be reviewed and prioritized by the F&O Committee. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

STORM RECOVERY RESOURCES

The City of San Antonio has an emergency response webpage which includes helpful links and phone numbers for utility service restoration, debris clearing, temporary cooling centers, overnight shelter locations, transportation assistance, and reporting storm damage. [Click here for the information.](#)

STAFF DAYS OFF, HOLIDAYS, AND OFFICE CLOSURES

Lora East: 08/31/26-09/07/26, 09/10/26-09/12/26, 09/21/26-10/05/26

Cindi Catlin-Gaskins: 08/31/26-09/05/26

All Facilities Closed: 09/07/26

Shelby Ochoa: 09/14/26-09/15/26

Josh Clapp: 09/18/26-09/20-26

STAFF

Anastasia Bernal - Church Administrator
Christian Carpenter - Media Technician
Allan Catlin - Maintenance Coordinator
Cindi Catlin-Gaskins - Children's Center Director
Josh Clapp - Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director
Nicholas Dimick - Children's Choir Director
Lora East - Pastor
Keith Martinez - Choral Music Director
Shelby Ochoa - Administrative Assistant
Zachary Ridgway - Organist/Pianist
Erika Stiner - Children's Spirituality Director

SESSION

Ruling Elders - Ministry Serving

Laurie Doyal-Lampman - SoL Center Liaison
Ashley Gans - Worship & Arts Chair
Miriam Martinez - Christian Education Jr. Chair and UPCC Liaison
Jennifer Mitchell - Christian Education Jr.
Sue Martino - Stewardship & Finance Chair
Patty Nicholson - Worship & Arts
Doug Posey - Christian Education Sr. Chair
Mark Seaman - Worship & Arts
Elena Serna-Wallender - Welcome & Fellowship Chair
Tracy Wilson - Facilities & Operations Chair
Julie Wise - Personnel Chair
Janice Zitelman - Mission Outreach & Justice Chair

DIACONATE

Deacons - Parishes and Assignments

Paula Gentner - Moderator
Arlene Aguilar - University
Bonnie Bartlett - Airport
Safira Carpenter - Olmos
Cindi Catlin-Gaskins - Castle Hills North
Jeanette Clark - Downtown South and Secretary
Becky Huston - Northwood and Vice-Moderator
Laine Leibick - Northwest
Tatyana Lewis - North Central
Carla Monroe-Posey - Fredericksburg
Sally Smith - Northeast
Barb Warren - Alamo Heights

SPAM ALERT - PLEASE REMEMBER:
UPC nor any of the staff will ever call, send an email, or send a text asking for gift cards, money, or help/assistance; nor with ambiguous greetings like, "Hey, do you have a minute?" Report as spam or just delete the text or email.



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.***

University Presbyterian Church
300 Bushnell Ave | San Antonio, TX 78212 US

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