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Reverend Lisa Stenner, Pastor

September 4, 2026

From the Pastor

I am so excited to announce that UPC's Session has hired Debbie Story as our new administrative assistant! (Read a note from Debbie below.) Debbie will join our leadership team on Tuesday, September 8th. She will be training for a couple of weeks, and we will announce her regular office hours when training is complete. Please extend UPC's amazing hospitality as Debbie learns names, processes, policies, etc and acclimates to the UPC vibe.

Welcoming Debbie is the culmination of LOTS of people's hard work. Thank you to Lisa Denham, the head of Personnel Ministry, and Nancy Goodall, Lynn Jasensky, Sue Kozlowski, Laura Pears, Ruth Ann Sloan and Kim Springer for developing the job description, screening application, interviewing candidates and making the recommendation to Session to hire Debbie. Thank you to Jacob Brooks, Sue Johns, and Sue Kozlowski who have worked countless hours not only to keep operations running while the position was vacant but also to evaluate and streamline operations and to implement new technologies for greater efficiency. Jacob, Sue and Sue will also be training Debbie over the next couple of weeks. Please take time to let these folks know how much you appreciate their generous contributions of time and talent to help UPC live into God's dream for us.

If that's not exciting enough, it's also meteorological fall and a late Labor Day weekend! It's hotter than the face of the sun, but meteorological fall started September 1. However, the summertime temps will hopefully allow folks to enjoy Labor Day which is as late as it ever gets. (Click [here](#) to learn more about Labor Day.) The challenge of a late Labor Day is there is no time to e-a-s-e into a fall schedule. It's here. So, I know it's a holiday weekend, but please take time to at least read the TL;DR so you don't miss out on what the Spirit is doing.

Worship this week encourages us to listen to God and illustrates that when we listen closely we might catch a glimpse of God's sense of humor. In preparation for worship, I invite you to read Isaiah 51:1-6 and ponder the difference between "listening" and "hearing". Then, read Matthew 16:13-20. The text sounds innocuous enough unless you remember what we've learned about Peter over the past month. I'm not going to give away the ironic humor. Listen to the voice of the Spirit. Do you hear it?

Click [here](#) for the worship bulletin. Worship is streamed on the [UPC website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel.

TL;DR

Too Long; Didn't Read

- A Note from Debbie Story, UPC's Administrative Assistant
- Adult Education Opportunities for Fall
- Choir returns!
- Ongoing opportunities to serve
- Buddy Walk 2026 for Down's Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati - Saturday, Sept. 12th
- Legacy Education Day @ Loveland Presbyterian Saturday, Sept. 12th
- NKY Youth Kickoff Sunday, September 13th
- Oktoberfest Parking Friday, September 18th - Sign up to help
- Brush Arbor Sunday, September 20th - Info, lunch reservations & how to help
- Workshop for Growing Churches Tuesday, September 29th - Info & reservation
- 3rd Annual Boone County Pride Festival Sunday, October 4th - Info, reservations & how to help

A note from Debbie

Hello, my name is Debbie Story, and I am delighted to be joining the staff at United Presbyterian Church. After retiring from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where I spent 20 years as an Administrative Manager and a total of 25 years in administrative leadership and support roles, I am excited to begin this new chapter of life. Throughout my career, I have found great joy in administrative work because it is ultimately about serving people, building relationships, and helping organizations run smoothly so others can thrive.

Family is the greatest blessing in my life. My 28-year-old daughter, who lives in Cincinnati, is truly the apple of my eye, and my 14-year-old Chiweenie keeps me company at home on my 14 acres in Union. Earlier this year, I welcomed my father into my home, and I spend much of my free time helping him and working outdoors on the property. My mother currently lives in Arkansas, and I am hoping to move her to Kentucky before the end of the year so she can be closer to family. I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to getting to meet you.

See you next week!
Debbie

Adult Education Opportunities for Fall Survey & Conversation

Pastor Lisa is definitely offering a bible basics course for the whole year that begins with an assumption of no biblical knowledge. Classes build upon each

other to a degree; however, participants can attend as many or as few classes as they wish. We would also like to resource other classes as well.

Click [here](#) to share your thoughts and/or wisdom about your your interest in the bible class and scheduling options and other topics of interest.

After worship next Sunday, September 13th, we'll gather to discuss your input and options and kick off a season of nurturing our faith journeys together.

Choir Returns Wednesday, September 9th Sanctuary 6:30pm

All adults and teens are invited to come make a joyful noise to glorify our Lord and to enrich worship. No previous experience required & no lifetime commitment expected. Questions? Contact [Heather Dern](#).



Opportunities to Serve

Thank you to all who helped with our Sunday worship on August 23rd & 30th: Martha and Dan Spanier, Richard and Ruth Ann Sloan, Sue Kozlowski, Lori Ruwe, Frank Lindsay, Andrea Vanzant, Cheryl Davis, Ollie Seidman, Logan Kemp and Nancy Goodall. Phil Ruwe ran A/V on the 23rd. Tim Daniel ran A/V on the 30th. Harper Gilbert was the acolyte on the 30th, and Neva Martin was the lemonade hostess.



As the Body of Christ, we all have gifts, talents and abilities to share. Lending a hand to help lead Sunday worship or caring for our facility is one simple but important way to serve Christ and each other. Brochures with more info are available in the sanctuary. You may sign up on [the SignUp Genius website](#).

FYI, as Sue K. noted in this week's stewardship update, the SignUp Genius no longer includes communion servers. Worship Ministry will organize communion servers so that all ordained folks have the opportunity to serve. The SignUp Genius will also include 2 spots for greeters so that we can have a dedicated person to assist with name tags.



Buddy Walk 2026 Saturday, September 12th Sawyer Point 10am Step off

Join the fun and raise funds for Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati! Click [here](#) for the link to join Logan's Hulk Heroes team with Logan Kemp or to donate to the team. The t-shirt deadline has passed; however, you may

register for the walk through the morning of September 12th.

Creating a Legacy Workshop
Saturday, September 12th 9am - 11:45am
Loveland Presbyterian
(Carpool leaves UPC @ 7:45am)

Each of us has been entrusted with gifts from God—our faith, our values, our relationships, our resources, and our stories. One of the greatest acts of stewardship is thoughtfully considering the legacy we will leave for those who follow us.

You are warmly invited to join us for Legacy Education Day at Loveland Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 9:00–11:45 a.m.

During this special morning, we will welcome Stephen Keizer, Senior Ministry Relations Officer, and Karl Mattison, Vice President of Philanthropic Solutions, The Presbyterian Foundation, who will guide us through practical and inspiring conversations about faithful stewardship and legacy planning. The morning will include:

- Keynote Address: A Legacy of Purpose: The Power of Faithful Stewardship
- Workshop: The Gift of Your Story: Writing an Ethical Will
- Workshop: Creating Your Charitable Legacy: Understanding Planned Giving Options
- Questions & Answers with our presenters
-

This event is about much more than financial planning. It's about passing on your faith, your values, your wisdom, and the love that has shaped your life. Whether you're just beginning to think about your legacy or have already started planning, you'll leave with practical tools and encouragement for the journey ahead.

There is no cost to attend, and everyone is welcome as the information is NOT specific to Loveland Presbyterian. We encourage spouses, adult children, caregivers, and friends to attend together as they begin or continue these important conversations. Click [here](#) to register. Contact [Sue Johns](#) if you'd like to carpool.

NKY Youth Fall Kick-Off
Sunday, September 13th

Middle Schoolers & High Schoolers will reunite with old friends and make new ones in NKY Youth group beginning Sunday, September 13th. UPC is part of this group in collaboration with Crescent Springs PC, Lakeside PC, Ft. Thomas PC, Christ Church UCC, and St. John's UCC.





Oktoberfest Parking
Friday, September 18th
5:45pm - 9:45pm

It's the first night of St. Tim's Oktoberfest, and we will be parking cars at UPC that evening from 5:45 pm – 9:45 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex and on the [website](#). Boy Scouts will park on Saturday night to benefit Troop #805.

**Brush Arbor Worship
& Dinner on the Grounds
Sunday, September 20th
Please make a reservation**



We will worship outside, enjoy fried chicken for lunch, and spend some time enjoying the blessing of our church family along with our brothers and sisters from the community. Once again the Hills of Kentucky Dulcimer group will be providing music for worship. Our deacons will provide the meal. Reservations are not required but are extremely helpful to ensure enough food and tables. Click [here](#) to make your reservation.

What is Brush Arbor?

Growing up in Alabama, the term was used for outdoor services that usually happened in the late summer or early fall. These services were most common in rural communities and could involve a single congregation or combine several community congregations. Brush Arbor could be a single worship service or services over several nights for a full-fledged revival.

I did a little internet research in order to learn where the term originated. Lo and behold, Brush Arbor has Presbyterian roots and was birthed in Tennessee and Kentucky. The following excerpt is from <http://thelibrary.org/lochist/periodicals/bittersweet/fa75d.htm>.

An American heritage that has always been cherished is the right of religious freedom. Americans have always been free to gather together to listen to the word of God. For the early New Englanders it was not a difficult task, for the people lived in close communities centered around a church. But as the frontiersmen moved farther west, people moved farther away from a community life, becoming semi-isolated from their neighbors and the outside world. Still, the people longed for fellowship and a place to worship together.

Then around the late 1790's a powerful Presbyterian preacher came up with the answer. His name, James McGready, and the answer, the camp or brush arbor meetings. The technique he developed was one which used the resources provided by the hilly regions of Kentucky and Tennessee where he preached. Trees and brush were used to build a temporary out-of-doors shelter for the people who came from miles and miles around to hear the word of God. This protected them from the harsh sunlight and rainfall.



Many hands make light work.

Many Hands are Necessary to Make Brush Arbor a Reality Brush Arbor Helping Hands Opportunities

Click [here](#) to sign up to help make Brush Arbor happen.
Generous disciples may serve in the following ways:

Set up crew begin at 845am putting up tables and chairs.

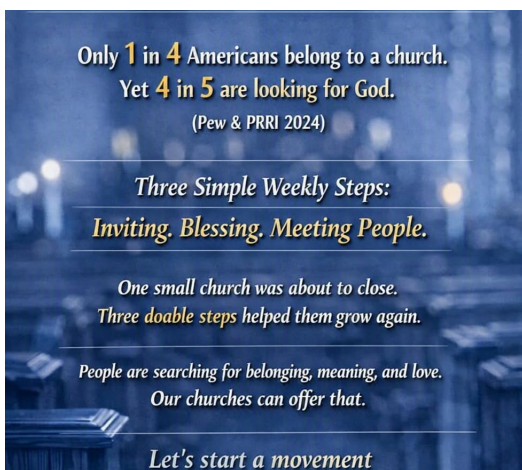
Table decorators begin at 915 am.

Food service set up begins at 9:15 am.

Worship set up begins at 9:15 am.

Lunch set up and service begins at approximately 10:45am.

Clean up crew. After the festivities anyone & everyone is invited to help clean up. It's a big job, but many hands make light work.



Growing Church Workshop Tuesday, September 29th 6pm

John Fong is leading this Zoom workshop. You can participate on your own at home or join a watch party at church. Contact [Pastor Lisa](#) if you'd like to participate.

From John, *"I am a church growth consultant who specializes in helping congregations grow in simple and realistic ways. I have worked with more*

than a dozen churches in our presbytery. It has been a joy to walk alongside them and to see how even small steps can create new growth and renewed hope.

In this 35 minute workshop, I will present 2 Case Studies + 3 Doable Growth Steps. If your congregation would like to increase visitors, ignite fresh energy, and discern a clearer path forward, I would be glad to have you join us."

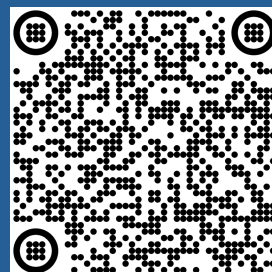
3rd Annual Boone Pride Sunday, October 4th 12pm - 4pm

UPC has a booth at the festival. We're joining over 70 booths for vendors, community organizations, businesses and churches and sharing the love of Christ, great info, giveaways and activities. Entertainment, concessions, a kids' area and more provide a joy-filled afternoon for all ages. Entertainment includes MUSE, drag queens with family friendly songs and Dance Flash Fusion. There is a kids' area, and concessions are available for purchase. If

you'd like to help plan and/or want to join the fun, sign up in the narthex or on the [website](#).

Click [here](#) to reserve a free ticket to this fabulous afternoon with our neighbors!

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 6th
10am Worship w/ communion



BIRTHDAYS

Monday, September 7th

Church Office closed
for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8th

6:30pm Cub Scouts 3805
7pm Wrapped in Prayer Stitchers

Wednesday, September 9th

9:30am Chair Yoga
6:30pm Choir
8pm AA

Friday, September 11th

9:30am Chair Yoga
6pm Girl Scouts 2146

Saturday, September 12th

9am Legacy Education Day @
Loveland Pres
10am Buddy Walk step off @
Sawyer Point

9/4 - Ed
Dobryzkowski,
Linda Janes
9/6 - Miles Kirby
9/9 - Owen Pears
9/12 - Bob Sherwood
9/14 - Martha Spanier
9/17 - Kristin
Lintelman
9/21 - Emmett Pears
9/25 - Kevin Dern
9/27 - Dave Kozlowski
9/30 - Hudson Clouse
10/1 - Frank Lindsey,
Sam Roberts
10/2 - Shannon
Eggleston,
Elle Springer
10/3 - Jim Vanzant

Online Giving

You may give online or via text through the [UPC website](#). You can make a one time gift or set up a recurring gift. You may make a memorial or honorary gift and even pay for youth conferences. The online transaction processes the gift from your checking account, savings account, credit card or debit card and is secured through Global Payment Services which integrates with Servant Keeper, our membership program.

UPC does not receive the total amount of your gift due to processing fees. At the end of the transaction, you will be asked if you wish to donate an additional percentage to cover the processing costs.

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 13th
10am Worship



ANNIVERSARIES

Adult education opportunities
conversation after worship

5:30pm NKY Youth Group Kick-Off
Dinner & Fun @ Lakeside Pres.

9/6 - Phil & Lori Ruwe
9/10 - Kevin & Molly
Gilbert
9/27 - Winston &
Jessica Wood
10/3 - Jim & Andrea
Vanzant
10/4 - Bob & Linda
Janes

Union Presbyterian Church

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Contact Us



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