



10259 US Hwy 42
Union, KY 41091
(859) 384-3255
Reverend Lisa Stenner, Pastor

August 14, 2026

From the Pastor

If you read nothing else, please read the TL;DR to stay in the loop of all the exciting things the Spirit is doing at UPC.

This Sunday is the Blessing of Backpacks and Summer Potluck! EVERY one that is going back to school as a student, a teacher, a bus driver, a custodian, etc at any level of learning is encouraged to bring their backpack, messenger, bag, etc and receive a blessing and a backpack charm for the new year. (You don't actually have to bring your bag in order to get a charm.) After worship we will share a potluck cookout and fellowship as we welcome the 2026-27 school year.

This week we will continue our journey with weird parables of Jesus. However, our text this week is **not** the lectionary text for this week. It is a parable more suited to the 2026 backpack charm. Remember, parables all have an interesting twist. I invite us all to open our hearts and spirits to experiencing these stories anew, to look for the weird, and to maybe catch a glimpse of God in Christ that we haven't seen.

In preparation for worship Sunday, I encourage you to read Luke 10:25-37 as if you'd never heard it. Imagine you are the person questioning Jesus. How do you react to Jesus' telling you a story rather than just answering the question? Imagine you are in the crowd witnessing the interaction. What jumps out at you? What is bizarre? How do you react to the whole encounter?

This story is usually called the story of the "good Samaritan" - a total oxymoron in Jesus' day. Read the story again and replace "Samaritan" with a person or group of people that you would not call "good". What is your reaction to the story now?

How might the Spirit possibly be using this text to teach us something about God? Something about humans? Something about the relationship between God and humans? What might this have to do with us as individual disciples and as a faith family today?

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

Peace, Pastor Lisa

TL;DR

Too Long; Didn't Read

- Blessing of the Backpacks & Potluck August 16th
- Thank you from New Haven Family Resource Center
- Opportunities to serve
- Buddy Walk 2026 for Down's Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati - Join the team and/or donate.
- Update on admin position
- NKY Youth Kickoff Sunday, September 13th
- Save the date - Brush Arbor Sunday, September 20th

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 16th

During 10am worship, ALL educators, school staff, bus drivers, and students preschool through graduate school will receive backpack charms and a blessing for the new school year. You may also get charms for friends and family.



*We will also have a cookout potluck after worship.
Deacons are providing hot dogs & PB& J.
Others are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share.*

Thank you for your generous hearts that made our school supply drive such a blessing to our neighbors! Below is a note from New Haven Elementary:

*Thank you for all the love and support you share with our students and families! We appreciate you and your congregation so much!
-Kelsee & New Haven Family Resource Center & Staff*

Opportunities to Serve

Thank you to all who helped with our Sunday worship on August 9th: Martha and Dan Spanier, Logan Kemp, Hayden Monson, Nancy Goodall, Richard and Ruth Ann Sloan, and Donna Shupe. Harper Gilbert and Annie Brooks were acolytes. AV was Kim Fry and Lemonade Hostess was Bev Johnson.



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](#).



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.

Update Admin Position

Administrative Position

Personnel Ministry is to interview applicants for the Admin Position. Please pray for the team as they discern the Spirit's leading.

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.



Save the Date!

Brush Arbor, our annual outdoor service and lunch on the grounds, is **Sunday, September 20th**. More info soon about how you can help make this fantastic event happen.

12th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 16th
10am Worship
Blessing of the Backpacks

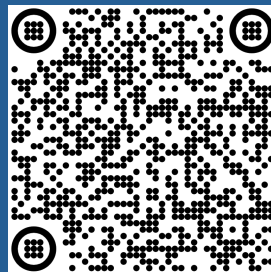
After worship Summer Cookout
Potluck

Monday, August 17th
9:30am Chair Yoga
6:30pm Session
7pm Boy Scouts 805



BIRTHDAYS

8/16 - Morgan Dern,
Dustie Kemp,
Steven Springer
8/17 - Will Jones,
Roxana Rosario



Online Giving

You may give online or via text through the UPC website. You can make a one time gift or set up a

Wednesday, August 19th

9:30am Chair Yoga

12:30pm NKY SafetyNet Alliance

@ Lakeside Christian

8pm AA

Thursday, August 20th

11am UPSeniors @ Buckhead

Mountain

Friday, August 21st

9:30am Chair Yoga

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23rd

10am Worship

8/24 - Tina Wilcox

8/28 - Andrea Brooks,
Logan Kemp

8/30 - Sam Caudill,
Bill Martin

8/31 - Sharon

Fedders

9/2 - Laura Buckley

9/4 - Ed

Dobryzkowski,

Linda Janes

9/6 - Miles Kirby

9/9 - Owen Pears

9/12 - Bob Sherwood

9/14 - Martha Spanier

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.



ANNIVERSARIES

8/20 - Steven & Kim
Springer

8/23 - Dave & Lisa
Stenner

9/6 - Phil & Lori Ruwe

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Contact Us



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