



# Union Presbyterian Church

## Epiphany Sunday

### January 4, 2026 | 10AM

Reformed worship is centered around the Word, both the Word of scripture and Christ as the Word Incarnate. In worship we gather around the Word, engage with the Word, and respond to the Word.

**Bold text** is read or sung by the congregation.

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

This morning's liturgy is adapted from offerings by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed A Sanctified Art LLC [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

Confession is our opportunity to be honest with God, so that our relationship may be restored and our hearts reconciled.

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient practices of worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.

## Gather

### Welcome and Announcements

*Please help us to know you by signing the fellowship pad or scanning the attendance QR code on the card in the pew. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue prayer card. Please place prayer request cards on the pulpit during the passing of the peace. Please place fellowship pad sheets in the basket when you come forward for communion.*

### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

In the dark of morning, the stars still shine.  
**In the depth of winter, the birds still climb.**  
At the start of the year, tender and new,  
**God is here. God is near.**  
Do not rest in your fear.  
**God is here.**  
So like the stars and the birds,  
**Let us worship holy God.**

#### \*Hymn 151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

### Prayer of Praise

#### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

**Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again. So today we pray—forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks. Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call. Forgive us when fear is louder than love. Show us how to turn our fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world. With hope we pray...**

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

#### Responsive Assurance of Forgiveness

Family of Faith, whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid, God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:  
**Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks, God's love for us is boundless. We are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### \*Sharing Christ's Peace

Because God has given us the peace of forgiveness, let us also be at peace with one another. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Hymn 150 (v.1,3)

Children of all ages are invited to come to the chancel steps.

To the tune of Hymn 128



Scan QR code to give electronically from your phone

Our worship does not end with the postlude, but continues out into the world, where we are sent to love and care for God's people.

# Engage

**\*Preparation for the Word** *As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

## Children's Message

**Special Music** *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 2:1-18 (Pew Bible NT pg.4)  
Hear what God's Spirit is saying to us. This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ!**

**Message** *The Journey Continues* Rev. Lisa Stenner

**\*Song** *We've Seen God's Face* W ZLOBIE LEZY

# Respond

## Prayers of the People

**The People Share Communion with God and with Each Other**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**  
**Invitation to the Table**  
**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer**  
**Words of Institution**  
**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**  
**Closing Prayer**

**\*Hymn #100 (v.2-4)** *Canticle of the Turning* STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**Worship Leaders**  
Cheryl Martinez, Accompanist  
Lisa Denham, Liturgist

# Announcements

## Welcome to worship at UPC this morning!

Please help us get to know you by signing the fellowship pad. If you are a first time visitor, please leave your email address or phone number so that we can continue to welcome you. Also, stop by the Welcome Center in the narthex to pick up your welcome gift after the service!

**We value children in worship!** There are children's materials and crayons available as you enter the Sanctuary, a play area in the north window of the Sanctuary, and a nursery area down the hall to the right of the narthex.

## Epiphany Celebration then De-decorating

We celebrate Epiphany today which is the end of the Christmas season. After worship, we will de-decorate the church. This certainly isn't as glamorous as decorating for the season. However, many hands make light work, and the fellowship is always delightful!

**Donations needed for Quarter Auction** The auction isn't until June, but you may have some extra holiday gifts that weren't distributed or gifts that you cannot use. Proceeds from the auction benefit UPC's ministries with children and youth. We need donations of 15-20 items such as cool jewelry items, bath goodies, supplies for a family game night or movie night, gift cards, etc. Auction items can be dropped off in the vestibule or church office. We'll store them until the auction.

## ◆Other Activities this Week

**Tuesday** Welcoming Ministry 5:30pm  
Deacons 6:30pm

## ◆Adult Activities

### Choir Practice

Wednesdays 6:30pm Sanctuary  
Adults and teens welcome.

### Sunday School

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays after worship Family Room

### Chair Yoga

Mon, Wed, Fri 9am Narthex

### Wrapped in Prayer Stitchers

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 7pm Choir Room

### Florence Women's Club

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 12:30pm – 2:30pm  
Info: Sharon Price 859-391-3984

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesdays at 8pm

### UPS (Union Presbyterian Seniors)

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Lunch at local restaurants  
Info: Elaine Johnson

## ◆Youth Activities

### Sunday School 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays after worship Room 115

### Middle School Youth

This week: Spend time with your family  
Next week: NKY Youth Gathering Lakeside PC  
5:30pm – 7:30pm

### High School Youth

This week: Spend time with your family  
Next week: NKY Youth Gathering Lakeside PC  
5:30pm – 7:30pm

### Boy Scouts, Troop 805

Monday at 7pm

## ◆Children's Activities

### Sunday School K-3rd Grade

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays after worship Room 114

### Cub Scouts, Pack 3805

Tuesdays 6:30pm

### Girl Scouts Troop 2830

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 6:30pm

### Girl Scouts Troop 2146

Every other Friday 6pm

### Union Children's Choir

Saturdays at 9:30am Holiday hiatus until 1/17

## Birthdays

January 7 Koben Beasley  
Henry Springer  
January 8 Dan Kieffer

## Prayers

Lisa Denham, Dan Spanier, Molly Gilbert, April  
Merkel, Dave Kozlowski, Lori Ruwe



**We have 9 days left in UPC's partnership with HundredX to raise funds, and we need YOU!**

Sign up is easy! <https://programs.hundredx.com/contributewithoutcash> or text "CONTRIBUTE" TO 90412. Complete 90 second surveys on brands you use every day, and UPC earns \$1.60 for each survey you complete before January 13. Each person may complete up to 75 surveys and earn an easy \$120 for our

congregation! We can earn a max of \$10,000!

Complete surveys on your phone, tablet or computer. Participants' information will NOT be shared. Please forward this info to friends and family and invite them to participate. Questions, contact Bev Johnson [bgsjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:bgsjohnson@hotmail.com) for more details!

**Congregational Meeting & Lunch Sunday, January 18th** The meal will be prepared by the Deacons. No need to bring anything but yourself. This annual meeting is for the congregation to approve Pastor Lisa's 2026 terms of call, to elect the 2026 Officer Nominating Committee, and to answer any questions about the 2026 budget. In the PC-USA, the Session approves the budget and has already presented it to the congregation for information and held a question and answer session after worship on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The Session recommends the pastor's terms of call; however, the congregation calls the pastor and is the body that must annually approve the pastor's terms of call. Finally, the Session presents names for the Officer Nominating Committee with a representative from the Music Program, the UPSeniors group, the Session, the Deacons, and a member at large. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor provided that the person nominated has already agreed to serve. The 2026 Officer Nominating Committee will help our congregation discern who the Spirit is leading to serve as Deacons and Elders in the class of 2029.

### SESSION

#### Class of 2026

Jacob Brooks  
Laura Pears

#### Class of 2027

Mary Lu Funiyak  
Erin Kieffer

#### Class of 2028

Sue Kozlowski  
Frank Lindsey

### DEACONS

#### Class of 2026

Danni Kavanaugh  
Dave Stenner  
Holly VonLehman

#### Class of 2027

Sam Caudill  
Grace Daniel  
Cheryl Davis

#### Class of 2028

Molly Gilbert  
Ollie Seidman  
Alison Vessa