



10259 US Hwy 42
Union, KY 41091
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Reverend Lisa Stenner, Pastor

December 5, 2025

From the Pastor

This year we will journey together again this wild journey of advent by proclaiming God's mind-boggling grace and mercy throughout history that still lives and breaths in the present. We don't do this in a pollyanna-ish way ignoring the real struggles of life. By the power of the Spirit, we courageously acknowledge the pain and difficulty of life and dare to cling to hope, peace, joy and love in the midst of the hot mess.

Our theme for advent and Christmas this year is *What do you fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent*. We are using devotions and resources from [A Sanctified Art](#). The creators explain the theme:

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers, however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

In preparation for worship this Sunday, I encourage you to read Isaiah 43:19-21. These hope-filled words were shared with the Hebrew people in exile. Isaiah reminded the people that God had cared for them faithful in the past and was about to do something even greater. Scripture is filled with similar encounters of reminding people that God never has and never will abandon creation. How is the knowledge that God's isn't done with us comforting and challenging to us as individual believers and as a faith family?

Then, read and pray about Matthew 11:1-11. John the Baptist was in prison after baptizing Jesus. He was hearing about Jesus' ministry and didn't understand what was happening. Jesus seemed to be upending traditional rules and understandings of God and faith. John was incredibly unsettled and wondering if Jesus was, in fact, the Messiah. Remember, he knew the hope-filled words of the prophets and proclaimed God's faithfulness. Imagine being John. Can you relate? What do you think John wanted to hear about Jesus to give him a sense of peace in the chaos? Do you think John was satisfied by Jesus' response? Would you have been? Why or why not? How might the Spirit be using this text to comfort and to challenge us as individual disciples and as a faith family?

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

Peace, Pastor Lisa

PS

Some of you have asked about the song shared by Lori, Phil and Heather last week. It will be included frequently in our advent worship. *Show Up* is an original song written for this Advent series by Britt Kusserow. Click [here](#) for the video which includes lyrics.



Come, celebrate the blessings of the season
and God's gift of community!

CHRISTMAS UNION

At

Union Presbyterian Church

10259 US 42 Union, KY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER ● 5 ● 6PM-8PM

A casual evening of refreshments, musical entertainment by Union Children's Choir and the Front Porch Singers from Colonial Heights, and crafts for the young (or the young at heart).

Dress festively for an evening of fun and fellowship.

This is a drop-in event. Come when you can. Leave when you must.



Click [here](#) to RSVP. Reservations are not required; however, they help ensure we have enough food and supplies.



Advent Devotionals

What do you fear?: Insisting on Hope this Advent is our theme this advent. a sanctified art is the publisher of many of our advent resources including the adult devotional, a daily breath prayer exercise, and a coloring craft devotional for children of most ages.

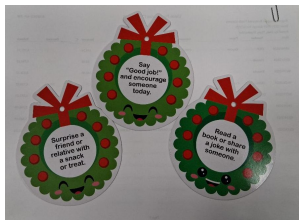
- The adult devotional is available in printed format in the narthex and a digital

format. Contact the [church office](#) if you'd like the hard copy mailed to you or the PDF copy emailed to you.

- The daily breath prayer will also be posted in [UPC's Facebook group](#) and [UPC's Facebook page](#).
- The coloring craft devotional is available in the narthex. Contact the [church office](#) if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Other devotionals include:

- A daily devotional for children and families with a window to open each day;



- A devotional with an ornament to make for each day that includes an advent activity.

Both of these devotionals are available in the narthex. Contact the church office if you would like one of these mailed to you.

If you are interested in a daily online devotion, check out www.d365.org. The site is sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, PC-USA, and Episcopal Church in America. While aimed particularly at youth & young adults, the site provides a powerful experience of scripture, meditation, music, and prayer for ALL ages. d365 is also an app.

Angel Tree for Gallatin County CAC

The Angel Tree is up in the narthex. All of the angels have been claimed. Remember, you are not expected to purchase every thing on the list. Please label all packages with the angel's name and number and check the appropriate box when its gifts are returned.



UNWRAPPED gifts are due by Sunday, December 14th.

If you'd like to deliver gifts to Gallatin County on Tuesday, December 16th, sign up in the narthex or on the [website](#).

Christmas Eve Poinsettias



Help beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or to the glory of God. You may purchase these beautiful flowers by signing up on the sheet in the Narthex, by clicking [here](#) or by emailing the church office. Poinsettias cost \$15 each and can be taken home after the Christmas Eve

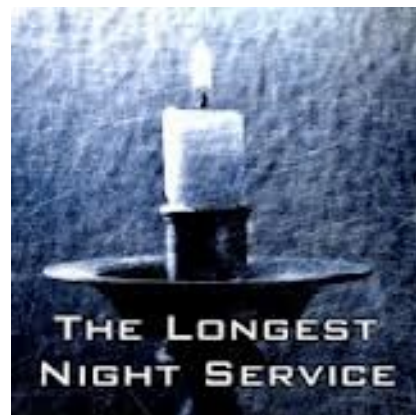
service. A dedication page will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The proceeds help support conferences and retreats

**Community Christmas ~ Sunday, December 14th at 6pm
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Stake Center
144 Buttermilk Pike, Lakeside Park, KY**

Enjoy a casual evening of worship filled with congregational singing, scriptural reflections, and musical offerings from various congregations as well as the chance to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ from various denominations. In this holy season, what better way can we witness to our unity in Christ than by worshiping the Lord together? Want to carpool? Sign up in the narthex or click [here](#) to sign up online.

**Longest Night Worship
Saturday, December 20 @ 7pm**

December 21 is the longest night of the year and reminds us that this festive season isn't joyful for everyone. This special worship service is for people who are grieving this holiday season and feel the weight of the darkness not just on the "longest night". Loss of loved ones, of relationships, of jobs, of health, or of many other things can quell our joy during this time of anticipation and celebration. This service will give space for people to acknowledge those feelings while also hearing God's word of hope and healing for all of us. We will also have a time of lighting candles of remembrance for those who have joined "the great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). We hope you will share the information about this service with anyone who would be blessed by it.



**Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 28th 10am**

Our worship on the first Sunday after Christmas is a service of lessons and carols filled with song and some readings. If you have a favorite

Christmas carol you'd like to sing that morning and/or if you are willing to serve as a reader, please sign up in the narthex or on the [website](#).

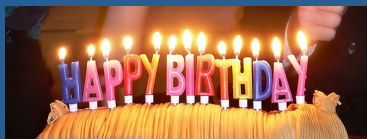
Schedule for This Week

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7th

9:30am Choir Warm Up

10am Worship w/ Communion



BIRTHDAYS

After worship
Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, December 8th

9am Yoga
6:45pm Finance Ministry
7pm Boy Scouts Troop 805

Tuesday, December 9th

6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 3805

Wednesday, December 10th

9am Yoga
6:30pm Choir
8pm AA

Friday, December 12th

9am Yoga

Saturday, December 13th

3pm Adams Cuthbertson
wedding

Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 14th

9:30am Choir Warm Up
10am Worship w/ Pageant

After worship
Sunday School K-2nd, 3rd-7th,
and Adults
2026 Budget Q&A

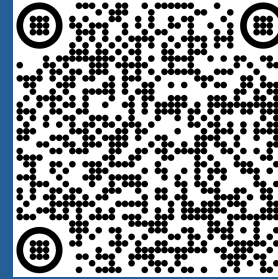
6pm Community Christmas
Service @ LDS Stakehouse on
Buttermilk Pike

12/7 - Elaine Johnson,
Laura Vergara
12/8 - Jessica Wood
12/9 - Joe VonLehman
12/17 - Drusie Miller
12/19 - Callan Lintelman
12/20 - Karen Kemp,
Becky Melchior
12/21 - Sharen Frost
12/25 - Holly Hillman
12/29 - Susie Claflin
12/31 - Alejandro
Rosario, Rob Wilcox
1/7 - Koben Beasley,
Henry Springer



ANNIVERSARIES

12/19 - Kevin & Bethany
Brewer Ball
1/12 - Javier Sabogal &
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 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.

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Contact Us



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