

November 28, 2025

From the Pastor

What a glorious Christ the King Sunday! We celebrated the "over and above" love and mercy of God by acknowledging the "over and above" generosity of this faith family. Your gifts and commitments to the capital campaign paid UPC's line of credit in full a few weeks ago. Your gifts and commitments paid UPC's mortgage in full last week. Sunday we burned a symbolic mortgage and celebrated your gifts that wiped out the burden of debt for this and future generations. The Spirit is busy in our midst, and I whole-heartedly believe that we are being prepared for a future that God has promised us is filled with hope (Jeremiah 29:11). I can't wait to journey together to discern the Spirit's leading!



This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent - the beginning of a new liturgical year. Many Christian churches follow a cycle of themes and scriptures that begin with advent, a season of prophecy and waiting for the birth of the Christ-child, and end with Christ the King Sunday celebrating the ultimate kingship of Christ. As I mentioned last week, God's kingdom is upside down according to the world's standards. God in Christ revealed his ultimate power in ultimate sacrifice offering reconciliation and salvation to ALL of creation - not just a select few that proved or earned their worthiness or even asked for it. This shattering of expectations of what a king, savior or Messiah is essential to exploring our collective faith story and to discerning and understanding our individual faith journeys. What could be more expectation-shattering than beginning the church year awaiting the birth of the Creator of the universe as a helpless child to an unmarried girl?!?

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 breathes 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?

We've crafted an Advent series that takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. This series looks closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invites us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us, and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work? This series gently invites us to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way toward hope, with the angels' voices in our ears.

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.

Advent and Christmas promise to be a wild, honest, challenging, comforting grace-filled ride. I pray we will all enter the season open-heartedly trusting the Spirit for guidance, comfort and peace.

In preparation for worship this Sunday, I encourage you to read Lamentations 3:55-57. Most of us don't read often from this book. In the midst of heartache, the writer still speaks of God's mercy and power. How might the Spirit be using this text to teach us about the God's relationship to creation? How might the Spirit be using this text to teach us about creation's relationship to God?

Then, read and pray about Luke 1:5-13. This shortened version of the story of the angel's appearance to Zechariah and announcement of Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy. The text begins "In the time of Herod" which sets a stage of fear, uncertainty, and rampant injustice. (It's hard to imagine. I know.) The angel's announcement sounds like good news, and it literally shakes Zechariah to his core. How would you have reacted in Zechariah's place? Why? How might the Spirit be using this text to challenge us and to encourage us to face our fears and to insist on hope as individuals and as a faith family?

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

Peace, Pastor Lisa



Christmas Pageant Preparation Sunday, November 30th & December 7th after worship

The pageant is part of worship on December 14th. We obviously need folks (children and adults) as actors. Some will have speaking parts. Others will not. We also need folks to prepare and assist with

staging, costumes and props.

There's still time to join the fun even if you haven't previously committed. ALL of God's children are welcome!

Please contact [Heather Dern](#) asap if you are willing to participate in this celebration of the season.



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.

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 29th 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

First Sunday of Advent Sunday, November 30th

9:30am Choir Warm Up
10am Worship

Christmas Pageant practice
after worship

Monday, December 1st

9am Yoga
7pm Boy Scouts Troop 805

Tuesday, December 2nd

5:30pm No Welcoming
6:30pm No Deacons
Cub Scouts Pack 3805

Wednesday, December 3rd

9am Yoga
6:30pm Choir
Girl Scout Troop 2830
8pm AA

Friday, December 5th

9am Yoga
6pm Christmas Union
Girl Scout Troop 2146

Saturday, December 6th

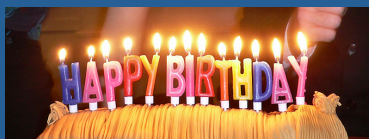
8:30am Union Breakfast w/
Santa
Noon UPSeniors Christmas
Party

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7th

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

After worship
Pageant Rehearsal
2026 Budget Q&A



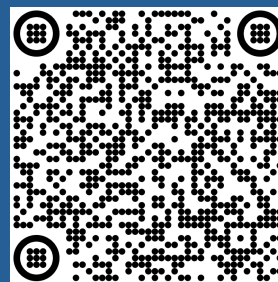
BIRTHDAYS

11/28 - Kat Tasev
12/3 - Ellis Golden
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



ANNIVERSARIES

12/19 - Kevin & Bethany
Brewer Ball



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.

Union Presbyterian Church

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Union KY 41091

Contact Us



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