



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

January 2, 2026

From the Pastor

Epiphany is January 6th, but we are celebrating this Sunday, January 4th. Epiphany is the 12th day of Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas season. Epiphany means "*a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience.*" The Christian observance celebrates the magis' arrival to the Christ child, and the revelation of Godself in human flesh.

The story is recounted in Matthew 2:1-12. Our Hispanic siblings celebrate the day in grand style as the Day of the Kings. Our celebration won't be quite that grand, but I invite you to wear something sparkly to channel the star. Bring an open heart and spirit as we will receive our "star words" for 2026. If you won't be physically present in worship on Sunday an wish to receive a star word, [email me](#). What are "star words"? Read the article below from Rev. Anna Strickland for more info.

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

Peace, Pastor Lisa

What are "Star Words"?

The use of star words, also called "star gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper stars. At some point during the Epiphany service, individuals are invited to draw a word from a basket or off the communion table, and to use that word as a guiding word throughout the year. Typically, participants are encouraged to trust the word they have drawn, and not to replace the word. However, there is not a strong need to be the "star police" if an individual wants to trade. Individuals are often encouraged to place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God is moving through, around, or in connection to that word.

There are several theological statements being made in this tradition:

1. The mag followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.

2. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words offer a tool to actively seek and reflect on God's presence among us, both in the moment and in hindsight.

3. We recognize that it is often easy to miss God throughout our daily lives. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.

4. We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe that star words invite a prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.

5. By not looking at or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

From Rev. Anna Strickland for A Sanctified Art



Epiphany Celebration then De-decorating after Worship on Sunday

This Sunday we will celebrate Epiphany 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!

**We have 9 days remaining
in our HundredX fundraiser.
Let's finish strong!**



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 will earn \$1.60 on each survey you complete before January 13.

You may complete up to 75 surveys and earn an easy \$120 for our congregation!

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

Complete on your phone or your computer
Your information will NOT be shared
Forward this info to friends and family and invite them to participate

That's it! Questions, contact [Bev Johnson](#) for more details!

From Pastor Lisa:

As of 12/30, we had 34 participants with 4 participants maxing out their participation of 75 surveys. Sign up & complete surveys today. Share with friends.

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.



Congregational Meeting

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 21st. 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.

Schedule for This Week

Epiphany Sunday
Sunday, January 4th

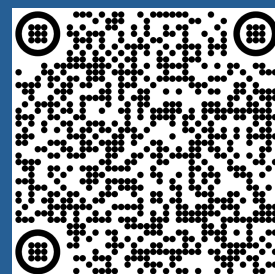
10am Worship w/ Communion &
Star Words

After worship
De-Decorating
Called Session Mtg



BIRTHDAYS

1/7 - Koben Beasley,
Henry Springer



[Online Giving](#)

Monday, January 5th
9am Yoga
7pm Boy Scouts Troop 805

Tuesday, January 6th
EPIPHANY!
5:30pm Welcoming Ministry
6:30pm Deacons
Cub Scouts Pack 3805

Wednesday, January 7th
9am Yoga
6:30pm Choir
Girl Scouts Troop 2830
8pm AA

Friday, January 9th
9am Yoga

Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Sunday, January 11th

9:30am Choir Warm-Up
10am Worship

After worship
Sunday School K-2nd, 3rd-7th,
and Adults

1/8 - Dan Kieffer
1/12 - George Kieffer
1/22 - Richard Sloan
1/25 - Sheila Wenstrup
1/26 - Iris Daniel
1/27 - Michael Frost,
Ray Merkel
1/29 - Brent Tolle
1/30 - Nancy Shupe
2/1 - Malcolm
Cuthbertson
2/3 - Joanie Kenkel
2/5 - Martin Sabogal
2/7 - Heather Dern



ANNIVERSARIES

1/12 - Javier Sabogal &
Roxana Rosario
1/14 - Joe & Pat Knipper
1/31 - Jim & Sheila
Wenstrup

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

10259 US Hwy 42
Union KY 41091

Contact Us



Union Presbyterian Church | 10259 US Hwy 42 | Union, KY 41091 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!