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Reverend Lisa Stenner, Pastor

September 12, 2026

From the Pastor

The short week contributed to the tardiness of this newsletter. Please take the time to read it because there is LOTS going on. Next weekend is proof that fall is coming - Oktoberfest AND Brush Arbor. Be sure to sign up for the food and fun!

In worship this week, we pick up where we left off last week. Peter is having another "Bless your heart" moment except this time there is no blessing. Actually, Jesus is quite harsh with Peter. I invite you to read Matthew 16:21-28. What is up with this story? Where do we hear a gospel message? Is there a gospel message here?

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

- Adult Education Opportunities for Fall
- Ongoing opportunities to serve
- NKY Youth Kickoff Sunday, September 13th
- Oktoberfest Parking Friday, September 18th - Sign up to help
- Brush Arbor Sunday, September 20th - Info, lunch reservations & how to help
- Workshop for Growing Churches Tuesday, September 29th - Info & reservation
- 3rd Annual Boone County Pride Festival Sunday, October 4th - Info, reservations & how to help

Adult Education Opportunities for Fall Survey & Conversation

Pastor Lisa is definitely offering a bible basics course for the whole year that begins with an assumption of no biblical knowledge. Classes build upon each

other to a degree; however, participants can attend as many or as few classes as they wish. We would also like to resource other classes as well.

Click [here](#) to share your thoughts and/or wisdom about your your interest in the bible class and scheduling options and other topics of interest.

After worship THIS Sunday, September 13th, we'll gather to discuss your input and options and kick off a season of nurturing our faith journeys together.

Opportunities to Serve

Thank you to all who helped with our Sunday worship on September 6th:

Martha Spanier, Lynn Jasensky, Sam Caudill, Holly VonLehman, Frank Lindsey, Ollie Seidman, Richard Sloan, Kevin Dern, Donna Shupe, Dave & Ginny Claar, Dustie Kemp, Julie Bailey and Sheila Wenstrup. Morgan Dern served as acolyte. Kim Fry ran A/V, and Beverly Johnson was the lemonade hostess.



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](#).

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.



Oktoberfest Parking Friday, September 18th 5:45pm - 9:45pm

It's the first night of St. Tim's Oktoberfest, and we will be parking cars at UPC that evening from 5:45 pm – 9:45 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex and on the [website](#). Boy Scouts will park on Saturday night to benefit Troop #805.

Brush Arbor Worship & Dinner on the Grounds Sunday, September 20th Please make a reservation

We will worship outside, enjoy fried chicken for lunch, and spend some time enjoying the blessing of our church family along with our brothers and sisters from the community. Once again the Hills of Kentucky Dulcimer group will be providing music for worship. Our deacons will provide the meal. Reservations are not required but are extremely helpful to ensure enough food and tables. Click [here](#) to make your reservation.



What is Brush Arbor?

Growing up in Alabama, the term was used for outdoor services that usually happened in the late summer or early fall. These services were most common in rural communities and could involve a single congregation or combine several community congregations. Brush Arbor could be a single worship service or services over several nights for a full-fledged revival.

I did a little internet research in order to learn where the term originated. Lo and behold, Brush Arbor has Presbyterian roots and was birthed in Tennessee and Kentucky. The following excerpt is from <http://thelibrary.org/lochist/periodicals/bittersweet/fa75d.htm>.

An American heritage that has always been cherished is the right of religious freedom. Americans have always been free to gather together to listen to the word of God. For the early New Englanders it was not a difficult task, for the people lived in close communities centered around a church. But as the frontiersmen moved farther west, people moved farther away from a community life, becoming semi-isolated from their neighbors and the outside world. Still, the people longed for fellowship and a place to worship together.

Then around the late 1790's a powerful Presbyterian preacher came up with the answer. His name, James McGready, and the answer, the camp or brush arbor meetings. The technique he developed was one which used the resources provided by the hilly regions of Kentucky and Tennessee where he preached. Trees and brush were used to build a temporary out-of-doors shelter for the people who came from miles and miles around to hear the word of God. This protected them from the harsh sunlight and rainfall.



Many hands make light work.

Many Hands are Necessary to Make Brush Arbor a Reality Brush Arbor Helping Hands Opportunities

Click [here](#) to sign up to help make Brush Arbor happen. Generous disciples may serve in the following ways:

Set up crew begin at 845am putting up tables and chairs.

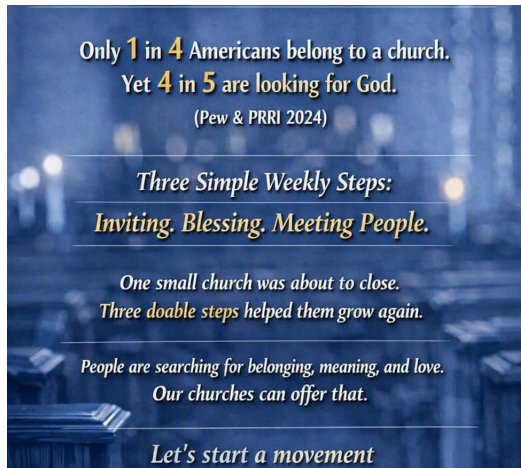
Table decorators begin at 915 am.

Food service set up begins at 9:15 am.

Worship set up begins at 9:15 am.

Lunch set up and service begins at approximately 10:45am.

Clean up crew. After the festivities anyone & everyone is invited to help clean up. It's a big job, but many hands make light work.



Growing Church Workshop Tuesday, September 29th 6pm

John Fong is leading this Zoom workshop. You can participate on your own at home or join a watch party at church. Contact [Pastor Lisa](#) if you'd like to participate.

From John, *"I am a church growth consultant who specializes in helping congregations grow in simple and realistic ways. I have worked with more*

than a dozen churches in our presbytery. It has been a joy to walk alongside them and to see how even small steps can create new growth and renewed hope.

In this 35 minute workshop, I will present 2 Case Studies + 3 Doable Growth Steps. If your congregation would like to increase visitors, ignite fresh energy, and discern a clearer path forward, I would be glad to have you join us."

3rd Annual Boone Pride Sunday, October 4th 12pm - 4pm

UPC has a booth at the festival. We're joining over 70 booths for vendors, community organizations, businesses and churches and sharing the love of Christ, great info, giveaways and activities. Entertainment, concessions, a kids' area and more provide a joy-filled afternoon for all ages. Entertainment includes MUSE, drag queens with family friendly songs and Dance Flash Fusion. There is a kids' area, and concessions are available for purchase. If you'd like to help plan and/or want to join the fun, sign up in the narthex or on the [website](#).

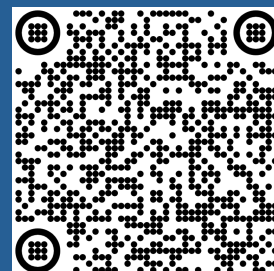
Click [here](#) to reserve a free ticket to this fabulous afternoon with our neighbors!

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 13th
10am Worship

After worship



BIRTHDAYS



Adult education opportunities
conversation
Children & youth Sunday School
conversation

5:30pm NKY Youth Group
Kick-Off Dinner & Gathering
@ Lakeside Pres.
for Middle & High Schoolers

Monday, September 14th

9:30am Chair Yoga
6pm Finance Ministry Virtual Mtg
7pm Scouts 805

Tuesday, September 15th

6:30pm Cub Scouts 3805

Wednesday, September 16th

9:30am Chair Yoga
12:30pm NKYSafetyNet Alliance @
Lakeside Christian
6:30pm Choir
8pm AA

Thursday, September 17th

11am UPSeniors @Tousey House

Friday, September 18th

9:30am Chair Yoga
5:45pm Oktoberfest Parking

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13th

8:45am Brush Arbor set up begins
10am BRUSH ARBOR worship

Lunch after worship

5:30pm NKY Youth Group Dinner &
Gathering @ Lakeside Pres.

9/12 - Bob Sherwood
9/14 - Martha Spanier
9/17 - Kristin
Lintelman
9/21 - Emmett Pears
9/25 - Kevin Dern
9/27 - Dave Kozlowski
9/30 - Hudson Clouse
10/1 - Frank Lindsey,
Sam Roberts
10/2 - Shannon
Eggleston,
Elle Springer
10/3 - Jim Vanzant
10/7 - Miguel Carlin
10/9 - Lisa Stenner
10/13 - Robert Brown



ANNIVERSARIES

9/27 - Winston &
Jessica Wood
10/3 - Jim & Andrea
Vanzant
10/4 - Bob & Linda
Janes
10/22 - Genesis &
Asher Tinslee
10/24 - Dan & Erin
Kieffer

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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Contact Us





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