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Union, KY 41091
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Reverend Lisa Stenner, Pastor

March 14, 2026

From the Pastor

Happy Pi Day!!! In the chaos of life, pie can cheer the spirit. If you're reading this on March 14th (3.14), you still have time for your favorite sweet or savory pie. If you're reading this after Pi Day, there's no timetable to celebration.



In fact, the whole planet is looking for reasons to celebrate and to find goodness in this hurting world. (See articles below) Frequently, the first step to gratitude and celebration is acknowledging what is weighing on our hearts and giving space for lament, anger and all the other heaviness. We will have an opportunity to do that at our **Service for the Overwhelmed** (see article below) on Thursday, March 19th at 7pm. I know my heart needs it. I hope you will join me.

Tomorrow is the fourth Sunday of Lent. The theme is *The Good News is Protection and Care of the Vulnerable*. In preparation, I invite you to read Deuteronomy 24:17-22 which was and is a foundational teaching of Judaism (and Islam and Christianity). How might the Spirit be using this story to teach us about the nature of God and about God's relationship to creation?

Jesus was certainly familiar with this teaching and so were those who gathered to hear him teach in Matthew 19:13-15. How do you think Deuteronomy's teaching and others like it affected how Jesus delivered these words? How do you think the teaching influenced how others heard Jesus' words? How does reading the text from Deuteronomy affect how you hear Jesus' words?

Where might the words of challenge and of comfort be in these texts especially in conversation with our world?

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

Peace, Pastor Lisa

LOTS of Spring Opportunities for Willing Disciples

Prayerfully consider if the Spirit is leading you to assist with the opportunities below and contact [Pastor Lisa](#) to get the details:

1) Batteries replacement specialists to replace batteries in smoke detectors and security cameras. Must be comfortable on a ladder and have a spotter while on the ladder. (You do not have to provide your own spotter. The Spirit will provide one for you.)

2) Picnic table restorers to give new life to our picnic tables by replacing missing legs, to sand rough spots and to repaint. Some table legs may be irreparable and need new legs. We'd like to have the tables to be sturdy and welcoming again before UPC hosts the city of Union's Easter Egg hunt on March 28th.

3) Parament artists to sew cloths for the pulpit and communion table in liturgical colors. No specific time table. However, it would be awesome to have new white paraments for Eastertide which begins Easter Sunday, April 5th.

4) Wall scrubbers and glass cleaners to scrub the walls in the kitchen and family room and to clean all of the glass doors and sanctuary windows. We'd like to have spring cleaning complete before UPC hosts the city of Union Easter Egg hunt on March 28th .



Service for the Overwhelmed Thursday, March 19th 7pm

From personal concerns to global events, many of us are hauling around “a little red wagon” that may be more than overwhelming. Bring your concerns, anxiety, anger, exhaustion, fear and whatever else is weighing on your heart for a relaxed time of music, prayer, scripture and quiet.

This service is in-person only. It will not be streamed.

What is Lent?

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord on Easter. It is a period of 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Maundy Thursday leading to Easter. This period does not include Sundays because every Sunday is a “mini Easter” in its celebration of Jesus’ resurrection.

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter vigil when new members were received into the faith community. Today we journey through Lent as a season of prayerful reflection on our relationship with God. Many disciples “give up” something during this season to remember Jesus’ sacrifice in the crucifixion. We encourage disciples to “take on” a spiritual discipline like a daily devotion or acts of compassion in order to nurture our relationship with God.

Tell Me Something Good is our theme this Lent. We are using materials prepared by [A Sanctified Art](#). The series is especially appropriate this Lent

when the very planet is weighed down by not good news. The series contributors explain their rationale and Spirit's leading in this series:

As we crafted this series, we studied what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.

Jesus' words are easily distorted and sanitized in our modern world. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news?

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

I hope and pray your Lenten reflection will include actively looking for and sharing good news. Check out the article below for resources to facilitate your journey.

Tell Me Something Good Tree

During Lent we are "growing" a good news tree. Similar to Christmas trees formed with strands of lights, our tree is formed with strands of line onto which folks are invited to tie cloth strips with good news written on them. This colorful witness to good news in our world will be visible to everyone traveling on Hwy 42. Please jot good news on the fabric strips in the narthex. You may tie them on the lines attached to the church sign or leave the strips in the box in the narthex for "good news fairies" to tie them on the tree.



Lenten devotions are available in the narthex

Please contact the [church office](#) if you would like a digital copy of the adult devotion and/or a paper or digital copy of the prayer cards prepared by A Sanctified Art. Fish banks and sharing calendars are available from One Great Hour of Sharing of our denomination PC(USA). If you prefer a digital devotion

or devotion app, check out d365.org. This resource is written for young people but is appropriate for God's children past their teen years.

Free Lenten Interactive Online Resources

Edward Goode, pastor of Resounding Joy Church (PCUSA) in Cincinnati and awesome human, has created several online interactive Lenten resources that are free for individuals and congregations to use. You can find them on his [Imago Scriptura](#) site. One is centered on [Lent Through the Labyrinth](#) using prayer labyrinths from around our area to center us on the stories of Lent. The other centers on the [Stations of the Cross](#), inspired by and drawing upon Lilly Lewin's interactive Stations of the Cross. Both are free and available to all to share.



Order Easter flowers now

You may purchase tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and/or violets 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 emailing the church office or by

clicking [here](#). The flowers cost \$15 each and can be taken home after the Easter service. A dedication page will appear in the Easter bulletin.



City of Union Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 28th

The fun city event happens at UPC. We get to help serve refreshments and the hospitality of Christ. If you'd like to share in the fun, sign up in the narthex or contact the [church office](#).

Smiling faces are welcome any time from 8:00am until about 10:30am. Wear your UPC

tshirt. No UPC shirt, come to the kitchen and get an apron.

Mark Your Calendars:

City of Union Easter Egg Hunt at UPC –

Saturday, March 27th 8:30am

Palm Sunday ~ Sunday, March 29th

Congregational mtg after worship to elect officers

Maundy Thursday Seder Worship ~ Thursday, April 2nd 6:30pm

Darkening the Sanctuary ~ Friday, April 3rd 12pm (noon)

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship ~ Friday, April 3rd 7pm

Easter Potluck Breakfast & Egg Hunt ~ Sunday, April 5th 9am

Celebration of the Resurrection! ~ Sunday, April 5th 10am



Schedule for This Week

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 15th

9:30am Choir Warm-Up

10am Worship

5:30p - 7:30p NKY Youth Dinner
& Game Night
@ Lakeside Pres.

Monday, March 16th

9:30am Chair Yoga

6:35pm Session

7pm Boy Scouts Troop 805

Tuesday, March 17th

12:30 Florence Woman's Club

6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 3805

Wednesday, March 18th

9:30am Chair Yoga

12:30pm NKY SafetyNet

Alliance @ Lakeside Christian

6:30pm Choir Practice

Girl Scout Troop 2830

8pm AA

Thursday, March 19th

7pm Service for the

Overwhelmed

Friday, March 20th

9:30am Chair Yoga

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 22nd

9:30am Choir Warm-Up

10am Worship

After worship Sunday School for
K-3rd grade, 4th - 7th grade
and adults

(Adult class Lesson 6)

NKY Youth Dinner & Service
Project @ Crescent Springs PC
5:30pm - 7:30pm



BIRTHDAYS

3/15 - Tony Huddleston

3/16 - Teddy Springer

3/18 - Cheryl Davis,
Cheryl Martinez

3/20 - George Wood

3/23 - Mary Lu Funiyak

3/28 - Katelyn Detwiler

4/1 - Hans Clouse

4/3 - Chelsea Uyeda

4/4 - Pat Gilliland

4/10 - Holly VonLehman

4/13 - Lori Ruwe

4/14 - Ollie Seidman

4/16 - Kevin Gilbert,
Dave Stenner



ANNIVERSARIES

3/17 - Kevin & Heather
Dern; Brian & Kim Fry

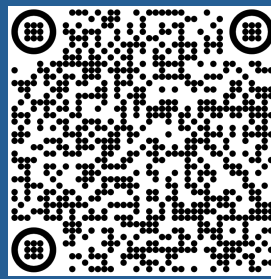
3/25 - Sam Caudill &
Alejandro Rosario;

Brian & Shannon
Eggleston

3/26 - Richard & Ruth
Ann Sloan

3/28 - Kurt & Kristin
Lintelman

4/2 - Mike & Sharen Frost



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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