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Reverend Lisa Stenner, Pastor

September 8, 2023

From the Pastor

Our official "reset" begins this Sunday (see article below). As I've said for quite sometime, it's been over 4 years since we had a "normal" routine. Whether you've been here fifty years or five days, most of us have (at best) fuzzy memories of a routine. It's discombobulating for sure. AND, the good news is that's created a pretty level playing field. We get to let go of preconceived notions and reboot our life together!

UPC is in a weird, sweet spot of lots of new folks, rebooting life together, and collective amnesia. It's like a new church development with a history and a huge invitation to step out in faith and experiment. The Spirit is leading us to break down barriers of presumptions and create open, brave, transparent community in this family of faith and in our community. To that end, we need your feedback. What "insider language" do we use? What are barriers to feeling at home? What do you wish you knew that everyone else seems to know? Please contact [me](#), the [church office](#), and/or any of our officers to share your insights. We are all on this wild ride together, and we discern the Spirit's leading in community.

Our text for Sunday offers some guidance for this journey. In preparation for worship, I invite you to read, think and pray about Romans 13:8-14. How might listeners in the early church have heard this text? They were getting worried that Jesus wasn't returning anytime soon. Where are the words of encouragement? Where are the words of challenge?

The text reminds us that Jesus leads us out of darkness and into light that includes love for all. What might this encouragement and call mean to us as individual disciples and as a faith family in this reset time? Click [here](#) for the worship bulletin. Worship is streamed on the [UPC website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel.

Peace, Pastor Lisa

K-5th Grade Sunday School Survey

Last year our K-5th graders met on the 2nd & 4th Sundays from 9:15am - 9:55am for faith formation in Sunday School. If you have kiddos in this age group, we'd LOVE to hear your thoughts and suggestions about what might

work for your family. Click [here](#) to complete the Google doc to share. Thank you in advance for your input!

Hedge trimming Saturday, Sept. 9th 8:30am – 11:30am

We're getting ready for Brush Arbor and fall by trimming the hedges. Please bring your loppers, trimmers, gloves, water bottle, etc. for the fun. Sign up in the narthex or on the [website](#). For more info, contact Bob Janes.



UPC 101 Potluck Breakfast Sunday, September 10th

Bring a breakfast dish to share. Learn about UPC's emerging ministry teams and ways that you can be involved. We also hope to prepare UPC 101 glossary to clarify our "insider language". What is Brush Arbor? What is a narthex or sacristy? What is a care group? Where is the door to nowhere? Contact [Pastor Lisa](#) with your questions, and she'll do her best to dispel some of UPC's mysteries.

Are you ready to make your relationship with UPC "official"?

We will receive new members on September 24. Please contact [Pastor Lisa](#) if you are ready to make the commitment of official membership or if you have questions and would like to know more.

Abraham's Pantry Quilt Raffle

Here's your chance to win a beautiful, vibrant, handmade quilt and support Abraham's Pantry at the same time! During September you can purchase raffle tickets for \$10 each before and after worship each Sunday. Abraham's Pantry leadership team will be in the Narthex and the quilt will be on display! You may purchase as many tickets as you wish and 100% of your donation benefits our neighbors in need. You may also purchase your tickets online through the [website](#). Please choose "other" and list Abraham's Pantry in the comment box. Tickets will be mailed to you. The quilt measures 62"x74". Our winner will be drawn at the October potluck! Good luck! And thank you for supporting Abraham's Pantry!



UPC is in cahoots with our awesome siblings from Lakeside PC, Crescent Springs PC, Community of Faith PC, Ft. Thomas PC, Ft. Thomas UCC, and St. Johns UCC for collaborative youth ministry. 5th - 12th graders are invited to participate in study, fellowship, and mission activities on Sunday evenings. For study events, middle schoolers will be with middle schoolers. High schoolers will be with high schoolers. For fellowship or mission events, we'll all be one big group.

Each church will also have adult disciples at every event, so youth will always have familiar folks while making new friends. Contact [Pastor Lisa](#) if you have questions and/or if the Spirit is leading you to serve as an adult disciple for a month or two or

**Oktoberfest Parking
Friday, September 15th
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. Proceeds benefit youth camps and conferences. 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 17th
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 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.



Abraham's Pantry served 2 families this week. Both families are currently staying in hotels. The families contained 8 people including 6 children. The pantry is currently well-stocked. You may support the pantry by purchasing quilt raffle tickets.

Schedule for This Week

18th Sunday
of Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 10th

9am UPC 101 Potluck
Breakfast
10am Worship

3pm Iglesia Pentecostales
Palabra de Vida

5pm NKY Youth Group
Kickoff

Monday, September 11th

9am Yoga
7pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, September 12th

6:30pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday, Sept. 13th

9am Yoga
8pm AA

Thursday, September 14th

7pm Iglesia Pentecostales
Palabra de Vida

Friday, September 15th

9am Yoga
5:45pm Oktoberfest Parking

Saturday, September 16th

9:30am Union Children's
Choir
5pm Boy Scout Troop #805
parking for Oktoberfest

Brush Arbor

Sunday, September 17th

8:45am Brush Arbor set-up
10am Brush Arbor outdoor
worship
Lunch on the grounds
following worship

3pm Iglesia Pentecostales
Palabra de Vida



BIRTHDAYS

9/9 - David Mathew,
Owen Pears
9/12 - Bob Sherwood
9/13 - John Seibert
9/17 - Jan Lawson,
Kristin Lintelman
9/19 - Bill Martin
9/21 - Emmett Pears
9/24 - Lori Russell
9/25 - Kevin Dern
9/27 - Dave Kozlowski
9/29 - Stacy Cole
10/2 - Shannon Eggleston,
Elle Springer
10/3 - Jim Vanzant
10/9 - Lisa Stenner



ANNIVERSARIES

9/27 - Winston & Jessica
Wood
10/3 - Jim & Andrea
Vanzant
10/4 - Bob & Linda Janes
10/7 - Will & Donna Jones
Adam & Amy Scott
10/8 - Paul & Ollie Seidman



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 Vanco Payment Solutions.

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 2.75% to cover the processing costs.

Union Presbyterian Church

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Contact Us



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