



From the Pastor

This week we are continuing our journey through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as told in the gospel of Matthew. Remember that last Sunday we began with Matthew 5:1-12, the beatitudes. Instead of being a flowery poem of who and what *could* be blessed, the beatitudes are Jesus' initial explanation of the revolutionary nature of God's kingdom that already exists in a broken and hurting world. In the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus challenges all the previous understandings of who is and would be included in the kingdom of God, who God had claimed as beloved. The rest of the Sermon of the Mount continues the divine shake-up.

In preparation for worship, I encourage you to read Psalm 112. In Hebrew this is an acrostic easily memorized that describes the joy of those who are awed by the Lord, a joy that stands in contrast to what the world says brings happiness and/or security. What might this text have to say to us today? How does it challenge us? How does it comfort us as individuals and as a family of faith? What would our lives look like if we feared or truly lived in awe of the Lord?

With those ponderings in mind, read Matthew 5:13-20 knowing that most of those gathered to hear this text would know the Psalm text. Jesus exhorts believers to be salt and light in the world, to have commitment and joy that spice things up, that cast light into a dark world. Then, Jesus offers caution to those who want to scrap the tradition that came before him by reminding them that he did not come to abolish the previous laws and teachings of the prophets. In fact, he claim to fulfill them. How might the early listeners have heard Jesus' words and connected them to what they had learned. How might those listeners been challenged to move beyond learning into transformative action and living? How do we hear these words today? How are we being called to claim our rich heritage and tradition of faith and spice things up for God's kingdom in all areas of our corporate and individual lives?

Peace, Pastor Lisa



It's official – UPC Women are the 2020 Souper Bowl champs!

**UPC Women—569 points
UPC Men—389 points
Plus \$337.77**

Yes, it is a THREE-PEAT for the women! However, both groups collected more items than in the past, and we collected the most money ever. Our ministry partners are thrilled! And, our totals are not final. New Haven Elementary is our Souper Bowl partner, and students are collecting for a few

more weeks. Many of our siblings in the area will have full bellies because you chose to share the hospitality of Christ. Thank you for being faithful and generous disciples!

2020 National Souper Bowl totals (as of 2/5):
2,675 groups have collected
\$8,091,965 in food and funds



“Home is Where the Heart Is” Fundraiser for Family Promise

Friday, February 7th 6:30pm – 10:30pm

St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center, Erlanger, KY

Doors open at 6pm for an evening of bourbon and wine tasting with food prepared by McHale’s Events and Catering. Music is provided by Nick Greenberg and Richard Goering while you can bid on silent auction and live auction items. You will also get to hear from the former guest(s) and the difference the program made in their lives! Tickets are \$65. Tables for 10 are \$70. To purchase tickets click [here](#).

Indoor Church Work Day Saturday, February 8th

Enjoy some indoor exercise and fellowship from 8:30am-12:30pm as we remove all the bulletin boards from the south lower corridor, do some simple carpentry & maybe a little demolition, and move a few things around in preparation for painting the hallway. A list of tasks and needed tools is in the narthex. ?’s: Contact [Bob Janes](#)



Everyone is invited!

Saturday, February 15th the Presbytery of Cincinnati will meet at Community of Faith’s new location at 1400 Highland Pike, Covington. The business part of the meeting begins at 9am with educational workshops beginning at noon. The workshops include: “Why God Desires a Multiracial, Multicultural Church” with Oneya Okuwabi, “Church Leadership and Outward-Focused Church” with Dave Workman, and a Poverty Simulation led by the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. A carpool for folks attending all day will leave at 8:15am and return by 2:30pm. A carpool for folks only attending the workshops will leave at 11:30am and return by 2:30pm. Sign up in the narthex. ?’s: Contact [Pastor Lisa](#)

Mark Your Calendars Thursday, March 14th

Our youth will once again be partnering with the NKY



Women Entrepreneurs to host a Quarter Auction fundraiser. Youth are currently collecting gift cards to local restaurants and attractions as well as gift basket items to be raffled. You may drop off items in the church office. Start gathering your friends for a fun-filled evening. More details to follow soon.



Did you know that you can provide flowers for worship in celebration of someone or a special event, in memory of someone, or simply to the glory of God?

Sign up on the flower calendar in the narthex or click [here](#) to sign up through the website. Secret Garden will contact you for payment and deliver the flowers directly to the church. Arrangements cost \$35-\$55, and you may request particular colors and/or flowers. Questions? Contact the [church office](#).

Schedule for This Week

**5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 9th**
9am Adult Sunday School
10am Worship

Confirmation lunch & class

12:30pm WMM Worship

Monday, February 10th
6:30pm Finance Ministry
7pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 11th
7pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, February 12th
7pm Choir
8pm AA

Thursday, February 13th
Noon WW
6:30pm WMM Worship

Saturday, February 15th
Presbytery of Cincinnati Mtg
& Workshops
9am - 2pm

**6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 16th**
9am Adult Sunday School
10am Worship

ALL Youth Lunch & Cornerstone
Pick up at 3:15pm

12:30pm WMM Worship



BIRTHDAYS

- 2/7 - Heather Dern
- 2/8 - Henry Clouse,
Cathy Kowalski
- 2/9 - Tyler Gieske
- 2/10 - Dave Claar
- 2/11 - Ainsley & Braeden Brown
- 2/12 - Sue Arts
- 2/13 - Preston Scott
- 2/18 - Lauren Clouse
- 2/21 - Sue Dobrzykowski
- 2/25 - Winston Wood
- 2/27 - Robin Huddleston,
Paul Seidman
- 3/1 - Romanus Wirasakti
- 3/4 - Liam Wood
- 3/5 - Amanda Wirasakti
- 3/7 - Alivia Gaytos, Donna Jones
- 3/8 - Nancy Goodall
- 3/14 - Jennifer Michael
- 3/15 - Tony Huddleston,
JaNay Lastivka



Online Giving

You can now give to UPC online by clicking the Give Online" button on 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.

You may also scan the QR code with your mobile device and give electronically via that portal.

Both methods of giving will ask you if you wish to donate an additional 2.75% to cover the cost of processing the electronic transaction.



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/14 - Bob & Judy Heiges
Joe & Holly VonLehman

