

United Presbyterian Church

August 30, 2026 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements Elder Allen Pease

Prelude Benjamin Watkins, piano

Call to Worship Deacon Vera Heitink, liturgist

Liturgist: Seek the Lord! Seek God in the wilderness.

People: Seek God in the sanctuary.

Liturgist: Seek God in the burning bush.

People: Seek God in the burning heart.

Liturgist: The Lord is here! This place is holy!

People: We are standing on holy ground.

Opening Hymn *Song of Zechariah* #601

Call to Confession

Sin casts us out into the cold, but the warmth of God's forgiveness welcomes us back. Trusting in God's love, let us confess our sins to God:

Prayer of Confession – In unison with liturgist

God of wonders, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, clumsy, busy or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears and excuses and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. Give us a purpose and the courage to pursue it. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! New life rises from the ashes. In Christ, your sins are dead and you are alive to all that is good. In Christ, we are made whole; in Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

***Gloria Patri** #579

****Passing of the Peace***

Liturgist: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share that peace with one another.

Prayer for Illumination— Liturgist

Divine Light, shine on these pages that the stories may speak again to us today. Shine on our hearts that we might know how to respond. Amen.

Music for Meditation

The First Lesson *Romans 12: 9-21*— Liturgist

The Gospel Lesson *Matthew 16: 21 - 28* — Reverend

Rev: The Word of God for the people of God **People: Thanks be to God**

Sermon: *Where Are We Going, Anyway?* Rev. Dr. Catherine Knott

***Hymn of Praise** *Lift High the Cross* #371

Affirmation of faith (adapted from the Confession of 1967) – Rev. Knott
God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, transcendence and awe-fulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. We believe that God has created us for a personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

Prayers of the People and ***The Lord's Prayer*** Deacon Michelle Heitink
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Call to Offering – Deacon Michelle Heitink

Offertory

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Reverend Knott

***Closing Hymn** *Keep Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning* #see insert

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Dr. Catherine Knott

POSTLUDE Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Roby Troy Virginia Kathleen Seth

His Eyes Nyaka Global Those suffering from armed conflict

First Presbyterian in Farmersburg, is a small-town church with loving and caring people. John Turner is Commissioned Pastor. Our church has been a gathering stop for community events, family dinners, and birthdays. We also host the annual community holiday bazaar, the summer yard sale, the annual pecan fundraiser (over 70 years!) and town/park board meetings. New this year is community movie showings with free lunch and free bingo with great prizes to all. Please pray for our members with health issues and worry about the future of their grandchildren and survival of our church.

United Presbyterian Church (812) 332-1850—upcbloomington@gmail.com

Commissioned Pastor – Alejandra Haddad – (812) 322-5327

Secretary–Allen Pease–cell 812-325-7849 upcbloomington@gmail.com

Treasurer Stephanie Worden – sworden4@gmail.com

Music Director–Benjamin Watkins–864-980-7731

Christian Education – Melanie Mathis-McBride – susieq_msm@yahoo.com



Judie Iverson was an active member of United Presbyterian Church for many years until her passing on June 26, 2021. Her family desired to do something meaningful and lasting in her memory. Judie loved music and she loved her church family and thus a contribution in support of the music program of United Presbyterian Church seemed appropriate.

In July of 2021, Krista Detor, daughter of Judie, presented UPC with a \$500 check. Krista noted that Judie loved music so much and was so pleased with the work of Music Director Benjamin Watkins, that her family would repeat the donation annually in her memory.

In 2022, the arrangement was formally organized as The Mulryan-Iverson Music Endowment for United Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Indiana
or . . . ***The Mulryan-Iverson Music Endowment.***

Since 2021, Judie's family has donated \$500 annually via The Hundredth Hill. In 2022, the Souheil & Alejandra Haddad family made a pledge of an annual donation and have done so annually. Other UPC members and friends made donations to the Endowment each August/September.

The Worship Team will receive 2026 donations until Sunday, September 27.