United Presbyterian Church
Bloomington, Indiana
Christ's People for the World



First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026 10:00am

Welcome and Announcements — Thomas Koehnline, Secretary

Prelude — Benjamin Watkins, piano

Lighting of the Advent Wreath — The Candle of Hope – Thomas Koehnline

Call to Worship — Thomas Koehnline, Liturgist

Liturgist: We come, O God, with adoration and praise as well as with thanksgiving, to you.
People: Prepare your way within us, O God, as the new year of life in your Church unfolds.
Liturgist: Our anticipation grows as we begin … to wait.
People: Open our hearts that we may truly receive the gift of your Son.
Liturgist: Prepare your way within us and fill us with hope.
**People: Make of us a people ready to receive you, to learn from you,
to receive your gifts, and to live out your calling in mission.**

Opening Hymn № 3 * "Comfort, Comfort You My People"

Call to Confession — Liturgist

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us,
to be our advocate, and to teach us the way of God.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolving to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Prayer of Confession (together w/ Liturgist)

**Lord, we come now seeking your forgiveness. Because we have seen pain
without being moved, because we pass by comfortably before poverty and sadness,
we seek your forgiveness. For speaking of love, yet not loving our sister or brother,
for speaking of faith without living your word, for living as people who do not recognize
our own sinfulness, we seek your forgiveness. For our tranquility in our affluent life,
for wanting to make excuses for injustice, we seek your forgiveness.
For our self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest
which strangles compassion, we seek your forgiveness.
For our failings in community, our lack of understanding, we seek your forgiveness.
For the times when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother,
when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,
we seek your forgiveness.**

** You are invited to stand in body and/or in spirit*

Assurance of Pardon (adapted from Romans 8:33–34) Liturgist

Hear the good news, people of God! Christ Jesus came into the world that we may know forgiveness. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

The Gloria Patri № 579 *

The Peace of Christ *

Liturgist:	The Peace of Christ be with you.
People:	**And also, with you.**
Liturgist:	Rejoicing in our differences, we come together as one. Let us share this peace with one another.

Prayer for Illumination Rev. Mac Bellner

Music for Meditation Benjamin, Members of UPC Quartet

First Lesson	1 Corinthians 1: 1–9	Liturgist
Gospel Lesson	Mark 13: 24–37 The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**	Rev. Bellner
Sermon	"Wait – It's an Action Word"	Rev. Bellner
Hymn of Response № 391 *	"Take My Life"	

Affirmation of Faith (from the Belhar Confession), led by Rev. Bellner

We believe, "…. that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit, it is a binding force, yet simultaneously, a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain…"

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Bellner

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.

Invitation to the Offering		Rev. Bellner
Offertory		
The Doxology № 592 *		
Prayer of Dedication		Rev. Bellner
Closing Hymn № 411 *	"Arise, Your Light Is Come"	
Charge and Benediction *		Rev. Bellner
Postlude		Benjamin Watkins, piano

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

Roby Troy Virginia Kathleen Seth Andy Hill and family

His Eyes in Honduras Nyaka Global in Uganda Pantry 279

All people who are suffering from armed conflict

The **Madison Presbyterian Church**, led by **Rev. Karen VanderPloeg**, has a renewed sense of energy and excitement about what God is doing here. We average about 100 in worship and value our traditional service with a great choir led by a member of the Hanover College faculty. This summer, after a community VBS program closed, we held our own Creation Camp because we have a growing number of families in worship. We also started a "Beer & Carols" event at a local bar, creating an opportunity for people who don't attend church but love the carols to sing with us. We are all about loving and encouraging each other and our community. We partner with the schools here to provide clothing, coats, and necessities for children in need. We also have partnerships that feed hungry children and families, that provide temporary housing for emergencies, and help transition homeless families to housing stability. Please pray for energy, intelligence, imagination and love as we continue our journey of faith and service in Madison.



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

Pastor Alejandra Haddad – (812) 322-5327

Treasurer Stephanie Worden – sworden4@gmail.com

Music Director Benjamin Watkins – (864) 980-7731 – btwatkins@alumni.iu.edu

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

The Worship Team
invite you to the

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

And

Dessert Auction

to benefit UPC's Music Program!

Wednesday, December 9 **6–8 p. m.** **Fellowship Hall**



Tossed Salad!

Spaghetti with Marinara! Spaghetti with Meat Sauce!

Fettuccini Alfredo!

Garlic Bread! Homemade Desserts!

Coffee! Tea! Milk!



Celebrity Chefs!
UPC Christian Ed Director Melanie Mathis-McBride
Elder Darian McBride
UPC Music Director Benjamin Watkins

Celebrity Auctioneers!
Deacon Fadi Haddad
Elder Souheil Haddad



If you'd like to donate a homemade dessert . . .
See Thomas or Melanie.

$10 adults $5 for children 10 and under