

# what r u up 2?

Get up to something instead of  
giving something up this Lent.

## Take Up

February 25, 2024

8am and 10:30am Worship



**WORSHIP**  
DESIGN STUDIO  
WDS

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs).

Let us know you're here by completing the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it to a pastor or drop it in the offering plate. Feel free to call or email a pastor.

### **Vision Statement**

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING

### **Mission Statement**

Our church is a diverse family of believers, spiritually united in Christ, rooted in a rich heritage and growing with vitality into the future. We proclaim God's word, nurturing and inspiring dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

***No matter who you are or where you on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.***

Lay Reader: Maria Beltz

8am Ushers: Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl

10:30am Ushers: Jim Lane, Jason Klinger, Al Stubbmann, Karen Misera, Claire Kern, Gene Thrash, Marlene Blöse, Dale Blöse

Greeters: Tracey & Rob Bilger

Sound: Pat Sorg

## **GATHERING UP**

Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just “giving up” in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is “up to” and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can’t do, or used to do, in a culture where “measuring up” to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God’s call in our place, for our time.

### **Music for Centering**

I Need Thee Every Hour

Annie S. Hawks, Robert Lowry, Arr. Mark Hayes

**Blake Hoppes**

### **Welcome**

### **We Acknowledge What’s Up**

*You Raise Me Up*

*Leader:* Jesus was very clear that following him might not be a smooth ride. He was bound to choose the just way, not the easy way, through life. To take up the cross was to lose one’s life — to let go of certain expectations of safety and acceptance in order to stand for the Gospel message of love. How are we to take up the causes of Jesus — justice, righteousness, and mercy in our day?

**ALL: When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence  
Until You come and sit awhile with me**

**You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be**

Leader: Let us pray together:  
**Motivating and Invigorating God,  
you challenge us to walk a difficult path.  
Show us, as Jesus did,  
that letting go of our own security and comfort  
is the only way to create space  
for your justice to move over the earth.  
In this moment of quiet, we lift up to you  
those things we'd like to give up for good...  
for the sake of The Good.**

*Meditative Moment*

Hear assurance in what the Psalmist proclaims:

*Leader:* : Hear assurance in what the Psalmist proclaims:

You who fear the Lord, praise God! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God; stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel! For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; God did not hide God's face from me but heard when I cried out. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear God. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!  
*(Psalm 22, excerpts)*

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.  
**ALL: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.  
Glory to God, Amen!**

**\*Please stand in body or spirit.**

**ALL: You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be**

### **The Peace**

As a people forgiven and freed,  
we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ.  
Peace be with you!  
**And also with you!**

You are invited to share the Peace with those around you  
[remembering to send your peace through the camera to  
those worshiping remotely].

### **\*Opening Hymn**

The Summons John L. Bell c. 1987 Iona Community

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?**

**Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world  
around**

**Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in  
me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true if you but call my name.**

**Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**Please be seated.**

## **FILLING UP**

### **What's Up? with Children**

#### **10:30 Children's Time**

**ALL: I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good**

**I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good**

**When I can't understand the things that happen in my life**

**I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good**

**Children's Church** – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-  
grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and are in-  
vited forward for a children's time, They then leave with  
Ms. Tiffany and return before worship is over.

**Kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith For-  
mation for All Ages** – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to  
grade 7.

Children will be in **Room 100** and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

**ALL: I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good  
I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good  
When I can't understand the things that happen in my life  
I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good**

**Music for Soaring**

**Music Offering**

Heritage & Horizon Choir:  
Shepherd Me O God  
Marty Haugen  
Choral Setting by Mark Hayes

**FILLING UP**

**The Word Uplifts**

**Kendall Miller**

*Scripture*

Mark 8: 31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and

take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**Message** Pastor Kris

## **BUILDING UP**

### **Up to Something Good**

*Prayers of the People*

#### Let My Prayer Rise Up

*Leader:* As we begin our time of prayer today, I want to let you know that, if you don't have one already, we have devotional journals available for you to use at home each day for a brief time of reflecting. I hope that carving out a regular moment to stop and offer your intentions to God is a Lent practice that is uplifting for you — connecting you to a moment each day with the Source of Goodness.

If you like incense, or candles, we encourage you to light them at home each day when you spend time in reflection and prayer. This connects our practice to an ancient practice mentioned by the Psalmist in chapter 141: *"I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you. Let my prayer rise up as incense before you and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice."*

Choir: Let my prayer rise up  
like incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands  
as an offering to you.

**Let my prayer rise up  
like incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands  
as an offering to you.**

We cry out to you, O God, from the wreckage of a world wracked with sorrows. Our hands are often idle in the face of injustice, though we know you call us to take action. Even when we feel so small and are tempted to believe that we cannot make a difference, we pray that we can be “up to something good” for our selves, our neighborhoods, and our world. And so this week we start with thanksgiving for these acts of uplifting goodness:

**Let my prayer rise up  
like incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands  
as an offering to you.**

We call upon you, O God, to incline your ear and extend your love and healing power for these laments:

**Let my prayer rise up  
like incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands  
as an offering to you.**

We call upon you, O God, to give us the strength and



courage to be up to something good for the sake of The Good. In this moment — in our mind's eye — we imagine and offer our commitment to one small thing this week that will lift someone up, elevate and affirm the good when we see it, and bring a bit more justice and joy where we are. And if we find we are not up to it, we pray we can accept the goodness of others and feel your encouraging love.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**ALL: 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.**

**Let my prayer rise up  
like incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands  
as an offering to you.**

## **NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH**

### **Uplifting Messages of Support**

*Offering/Offertory*

During this series, we will offer our support for our church activities, mission, and budget in the usual ways, but we will also be collecting “uplifting messages” to each other, our

church and community and the world.

As we listen to our announcements, you are invited to write a message that you want to put out into the world on the card insert. Share an encouraging word of hope or message for others as a prayerful response to worship. We will gather these in the offering plates. Or you can place them in the hot air balloon baskets at the doors. For those of you at home, you can post your messages in your comments or email them to the office or a pastor. We will be adding these to our hot air balloon throughout the season and on Easter Sunday.



## OFFERING

### **Easter Mission Offering**

Please share your financial support by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Easter Mission, or donate online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/campaign/C-12H63>

### **The Allentown Warming Station at the YMCA**

The Warming Station provides shelter, food, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness in the community. They are open to welcome guests Nov 1 - April 15 each night from 7 pm - 7 am. The YMCA also provides healthy dinner time meals seven days a week.

### **Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry**

Parkland C.A.R.E.S. strives to feed and serve every member of the community affected by and suffering from hunger in the Parkland community. The food pantry serves over 130 families who are provided with a variety of food

items each month.

**Thank you for the many ways you give of yourself to God's ministry and mission here at Union.**

**Because of YOU our church changes lives....**

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

• **ELECTRONIC GIVING** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone. Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. ( Help us with fees if you can.)



Electronic Giving

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app**  
Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.



Vanco Mobile

• **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?" See QR code.

• **Cash or checks (to "Union UCC")** Place in the offering plate with a member offering

• envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.



Venmo

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## **Music Offering**

Widmung (Dedication)

Schumann - Liszt

**Blake Hoppes**

**\*Please stand in body or spirit.**

## **\*Offering Response**

*What R U Up 2 for My Sake?*

*[sung to the tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN]*

**What are you up to for my sake?  
What are you up to “for the Good?”  
Would you come now, follow, join up?**

**Let us take up, wake up anew,  
Let us build up, fill up with you!**

**Let us lift up  
the gifts we raise up.  
For the sake of,  
for the shape of,  
heaven on earth.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

Spirit of Life, we offer these gifts  
not as reluctant sacrifices but as wholehearted tokens of  
gratitude  
for all you are doing in this community and in our lives.  
May our offerings help further God's goodness and mercy,  
here and everywhere.  
And the people say, **Amen.**

## **Blessing for the Journey**

And so now pick up where you left off  
on the path that God has set before you,  
leaving behind your certainty and the need for everything to  
be “just so,”

trusting your decision to follow the One who taught us the  
way of love,  
knowing that you have all you need to be up to something.

When someone asks you, "What are you up to?"  
you can respond,  
**"With God's help, I'm up to something good!"**

Let the people say, Amen!  
**Amen!**

### **LIVING IT UP**

**\*Closing Hymn** Take My Life, God, Let It Be  
#448 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my spirit, let it move  
at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use  
all its powers as you choose.**

**Take my will; your will be done!  
Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by your grace  
make of it your dwelling place.**

**Take my love and help it grow;  
let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be  
part of Christ's community.**

## **Music for Movin' on Up**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart  
Tune: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson  
**Blake Hoppes**

## **Holy Grounds Coffee Hour on Sundays**

Enjoy some coffee, tea, juice, hot chocolate, and snacks on Sundays in Memorial Hall after both worship services.

Upcoming hosts include:

**Feb 25**– Church & Ministry

**March 3**– Mission Committee

**March 10**– **No Coffee Hour**

**March 17**– Youth Group

**March 24**– Fellowship Committee

**March 31**– Easter Crew!

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$8,009.00
Calendar Year 2024 (January)	\$ 37,004.00
Calendar Year 2023 (January)	\$ 37,004.00
Change from Last Year	<b>0.0%</b>
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Jan.)	\$ 267,040.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Dec.)	\$ 244,440.97
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-8.5%</b>
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	42
10:30 AM	104
Education Hour	7
Online Views	
Breathe	20

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$600, 300lbs
Total YTD:	\$700, 1,400lbs

Blanket Sunday	\$1,851.00
Souper Bowl	\$675.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### In memory of Walt Disney

*Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin. Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.*

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