

# what r u up 2?

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

## Raise Up

March 10, 2024

8am and 10:30am Worship

Festival Choir and  
Instrumentalists



**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: 8am Rosalie Snyder, 10:30 Devon Kuharik

8am Ushers: Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd

10:30am Ushers: Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: Andy & Jan Dyszel, Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Sound: Mike Baer

## **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**

#### **Prelude**

*Reverie Claude Debussy*

**Blake Hoppes**

#### **Welcome**

### **We Acknowledge What's Up**

*You Raise Me Up*

*Leader:* John 3:16 is probably one of the most infamous and oft-quoted scriptures in the Bible. What follows that verse is important for our Lenten journey. God did not send Jesus to condemn the world, but to offer it saving light. As believers in that light, we are called to be those who will continue to light up the world through our lives so that the world might see the hope it yearns for.

**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:

**Illuminating God, we gather together today  
to call one another in from the shadows  
and bask in the light of your mercy.  
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*

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

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south . . . . Some were sick through their sinful ways and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and God saved them from their distress; God sent out God's word and healed them and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy. (Psalm 107, 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**

My Life Flows on in Endless Song  
#476 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet,  
though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul how can I keep from singing?**

**2. What though my joys and comforts die?  
My Savior still is living.  
What though the shadows gather 'round?  
A new song Christ is giving.**

No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
while to that rock I'm clinging;  
Since Love commands both heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

4. I lift my eyes' the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it;  
And day by day this pathway smooths,  
since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing;  
All things are mine since I am Christ's  
how can I keep from singing?

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  
invited 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**

## **FILLING UP**

### **The Word Uplifts**

*Scripture*

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

**Message** Pastor Kris and the Festival Choir  
of Gerry Music Studio and Union UCC Choir with Gerry Music  
Studio Instrumentalists  
Directed by Matt Gerry with Blake Hoppes

Pastor Kris

Lead Me Out of the Wilderness Brad Nix  
Students of Gerry Music Studio  
Blake Hoppes

*Lead me out of the wilderness  
I am lost and alone  
Come to meet me  
Come and welcome me home  
Place your loving arms around me  
And forgive every wrong,  
Lead me out of the wilderness  
And home where I belong.*

Pastor Kris

Flight Song Euan Tait  
Students of Gerry Music Studio  
Union UCC Choir members: Lucy Boyer, Geoff Brace,  
Doug Brace, Donna Christman, Teresa Dalrymple, Susan  
Glosan, Stephen Kareha, Jason Klinger, Karl Klinger, Carol  
Pope, Carol Stout, Julie Wehr  
Instrumentalists: Grant Pinsley, Katleyn Attieh, Logan Me-  
sics, Edward Peng,  
Matt Barbieri, Julie Gavarati and Mitchell Roth.

*All we are, we have found in song:  
You have drawn this song from us  
Songs of lives unfolding  
Fly overhead, cry overhead:*

*Longing, rising from the song within*

*Moving like the rise and fall of wings  
Hands that shape our calling voice  
On the edge of answers  
You've heard our cry, you've known our cry:  
Music's fierce compassion flows from you*

*The night is restless with the sounds we hear  
Is broken, shaken by the cries of pain:  
For this is music's inner voice  
Saying, yes, we hear you  
All you who cry aloud  
And we will fly, answering you:  
So our lives sing, sing  
Wild we will fly  
Wild in spirit we will fly*

*Like a feather falling from the wing  
Fragile as a human voice  
Afraid, uncertain  
Alive to love, we sing as love  
Afraid, uncertain  
Yet our flight begins as song*

Pastor Kris

Amazing Grace    Craig Courtney  
Roni Gerry, Solo  
Blake Hoppes

## **BUILDING UP**

### **Up to Something Good**

*Prayers of the People*

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.**

*Leader:* Today we reflect, O God, on the powerful transformation that occurs when we allow our journeys through this life to be witnessed by others. Rather than hiding our imperfections and denying our fully human selves, we accept your call to offer our light, to show up just as we are in this community, and 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 calm or 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 strip of paper in your bulletin. 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



Vanco Mobile

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



Venmo

- **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.

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## **Music Offering**

**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

**Elisha A. Hoffman, Anthony J. Showalter**

**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 Redeeming Light, we offer these gifts  
in response to the needs that have been made visible to this  
community.

We ask that you guide us to discover the places yet unseen  
where you would have us be a beacon of hope to others.

**Blessing for the Journey**

And so now take your light out into the world,  
knowing that a single flame will overcome  
even the deepest shadows that you face,  
and that in the longest nights of uncertainty and doubt,  
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** Go Make a Diff'rence  
 #199 Sing! Prayer and Praise

$\text{♩} = 56$   
 Dm

Asus A  $\text{♩}$  Dm B $\flat$  C  
 Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff-

Dm F Asus A  
 - 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. \_\_\_\_\_

Dm B $\flat$  C Dm  
 Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B $\flat$ maj $7$  Asus A Dm Am Am  
 Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.  
 Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. \_\_\_\_\_

1. We are the
2. We are the

Dm B<sup>b</sup> C Dm



salt of the earth, called to let the peo - ple see the  
hands of Christ reaching out to those in need, the

F Asus A Am Dm



love of God for you and me. We are the light of the world,  
face of God for all to see. We are the spir - it of hope;

B<sup>b</sup> C Dm B<sup>b</sup> maj<sup>7</sup> Asus



— not to be hid - den but be seen. Go make a diff -  
— we are the voice of peace. Go make a diff -

A<sup>7</sup> Dm Am Dm



- 'rence in the world. 3. So let your love shine on,  
- 'rence in the world.

B<sup>b</sup> C Dm F



— let it shine for all to see. Go make a diff - 'rence in the

Asus A Am Dm B<sup>b</sup> C



world. And the spir - it of Christ will be with us as we

Dm B<sup>b</sup> maj<sup>7</sup> Asus A<sup>7</sup> Dm



go. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

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

**Postlude**  
**Sweet By and By**  
**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:

**March 10– No Coffee Hour today due to Feed My Starving Children Event. Water and snacks in the lobby**

**March 17– Youth Group**

**March 24– Fellowship Committee**

**March 31– Easter Crew!**

Choir Members:

Lucy Boyer, Geoff Brace, Doug Brace, Donna Christman,  
Teresa Dalrymple, Susan Glosan, Stephen Kareha,  
Jason Klinger, Karl Klinger, Carol Pope, Carol Stout,  
Julie Wehr



# UPlifting Messages

be kind to yourself

you got this

when you're overwhelmed avoid looking at the big picture, instead, take baby steps and celebrate your success big and small

you are not alone you are loved you are special

you are not yellow starbursts, you are pink

you are amazing and unique

i am thankful for you and this time we share

offer freedom for people to be who they are and love who they love without apology or fear

in a world of turmoil and division know that God has a plan

keep the faith

God is love and will prevail

just when you think there is no more hope and you are ready to give up, give it one more chance and God will give you a message and the strength you need

thanksgiving and celebration for being welcomed

spread love and kindness through the world

God is love and He loves you

have hope in the Lord and stay strong

be kind and show grace to yourself

you are stronger than you know, let God guide you

# UPlifting Messages

God's always here for you no matter what

every day brings new choices

thinking of you makes God smile

life has its ups and downs, life has its seasons, through  
it all, God is with you, even if you don't ask for help

you never know much a small gesture can mean to others  
there are days when small acts of kindness helped me get  
through

i am thankful to live in a country where we are free to  
express ourselves, without fear of reproach,  
punishment, or shame, a country where freedom really  
means free. we live by rules but those rules are meant to  
help and guide us for the good. God bless America

have hope in the Lord and stay strong

go with God and God will go with you

you are loved

kindness is free

proud of you!

dream God's dream

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$7,145.00
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	40
10:30 AM	152
Online Views	241
Breathe	10

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	175lbs
Total YTD:	\$700, 1,575lbs

Easter Mission	\$830.00
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## Presentations to the Glory of God

### Celebrating our Feed My Starving Children Event - Pastor Kris

**Good News Sponsor**– for \$20 help us cover the costs of advertising on social media, mailings, and local papers.  
**Children’s Bulletin sponsor**– for \$8 cover the cost of bulletins for children.

*Send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or 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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