

what r u up 2?

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

Lift Up
March 17, 2024
YOUTH SUNDAY!

Do You Love Your Neighbor?
Jazz Ensemble



WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
WDS

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at 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: Youth

8am Ushers: Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross

10:30am Ushers: Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, C Gloria Toner,
Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman

Greeters: Brynn & Jon Buskirk, Sally Saltzer, Devon Kuharik

Sound: Karl Klinger

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

This is my Fathers World
Tune: Terra Patris, Franklin L. Sheppard

Jazz Ensemble

Welcome

We Acknowledge What’s Up

Hannah Minnich

You Raise Me Up

Leader: “When nothing else would help, love lifted me!” says the old Gospel song. To be lifted up is to be drawn into the love of God. Jesus drew all kinds of people to him during his short tenure on earth, drawing no boundaries for who was invited into that love. As his hour to die drew nearer, he spread the message that all things would be enveloped in his love even after he was gone. What uplifting message will we pass on to others?

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:

**Radically inclusive God, you offer each one of us
a life-changing love that leaves no one out.**

**Sometimes our hearts feel so heavy
that we struggle to rise up and claim it.
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

Kendall Miller

Hear assurance in what the Psalmist proclaims:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. (*Psalm 51, 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
Here I Am, Lord**

**I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I
will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

Please be seated.

FILLING UP

What's Up? with Children

Miranda Brown & Everret Lightner

10:30 Children's Time

Church Family Worship

**TODAY: Pastors invite children forward for a children's
time and then they are invited to return to their seats.
Worship bags are available for all kids.**

**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 Formation 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

Stand By You Rachel Platten

Naomi Henninger

The Word Uplifts

Grayson Christman

Scripture

John 12: 20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Abba, save me from this hour' ?No, it is for this reason that I have come

to this hour. Abba, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Message

High School Seniors

Katie Solt, Northwestern Lehigh High School
Payge Haydt, Northampton Area High School
Max Bilger, Parkland High School
Naomi Henninger, Northwestern Lehigh High School

Music Offering

Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Traditional Spiritual

Jazz Ensemble

BUILDING UP

Up to Something Good
Madison Eckhart & Nolan Buskirk

Prayers of the People

Let My Prayer Rise Up

(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 seek your vision, O God, to restore our sight so that we may see all people and all things as connected to you and forever redeemed by your love. We ask for you to make your presence known among us and to lift our spirits high with your hope and joy, 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
Jocelyn Kareha

**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-751X/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

Music Offering

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Joseph M. Scriven, Charles C. Converse

Jazz Ensemble

***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
Noah Roth**

Spirit of Encouragement, we ask you to glorify and grow
these gifts
up from seeds of potential into the fuel needed to raise up
our community,
lifting the spirits of all to new heights
offering life-giving hope where needed most.

**Blessing for the Journey
Zane Roth**

Leader: And so now go forth with no limits on love,
imagining a mighty Spirit wind beneath your wings
that will raise you up to new heights
and give you the assurance
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**

I Will Bless the Lord at all Times

Joe Pace

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

He's good, so good, real good

And every day of my life

I'll bless the Lord, for He's good

(Repeat from the top)

Music for Movin' on Up

Postlude

I Will Bless the Lord at all Times - Reprise

Jazz Ensemble

8 & 10:30

**Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes-piano, Mike Baer-guitar,
Mitchell Roth – Trumpet, Matt Gerry – Trumpet**

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 17– Youth Group

March 24– Fellowship Committee

March 31– Easter Crew!

UPlifting Messages

love. no exceptions

remember in the tough times it's not a bad life, just a
bad moment

you have so many gifts to share share them with the
world

one day is day one

develop success from failures

once you choose hope anything is possible

hope for new beginnings, challenges & commitment

Family Promise great work at getting students and
families out of homelessness

Jesus is our homie

all the friendships we've made at church

let the music raise you up

we have such loving and supportive pastors and staff
peace, love, and understanding come when we let God's

light in our hearts

open your hearts and mind, let his light enter you

believe you can be anything

rise above the storm and you will find sunshine

you're so loved, more than you can imagine

don't let the past affect your future

you are amazing just as you are

UPLifting Messages

you've got this
smile it's free
be kind

grateful for our welcoming church and celebrating
becoming ONA

giving thanks for life's adventure

I am glad you are here (someone said this to me at church
and it warmed my heart.)

God's love for you is greater than any pain you might
feel.

Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God will be
with you wherever you go - Joshua 1: 9

God's love chases after you

Jesus wants to walk with you through everything
don't forget to pray

be still and know that I am God

like Bartimaeus, Jesus asks us, what do you want me to
do for you? Tell him.

rest in the arms of God

this church loves you

God grant me the serenity to accept the things i can't
change, courage to change the things i can, and the
wisdom to know the difference

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$9,005.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Feb.)	\$ 70,110.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Feb.)	\$ 67,335.00
Change from Last Year	4.1%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Feb.)	\$ 298,400.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Feb.)	\$ 277,547.31
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-7.0%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	78
10:30 AM	163
Online Views	264
Breathe	10

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	1000lbs
Total YTD:	\$700, 2,575lbs

Easter Mission	\$1,435.00
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Presentations to the Glory of God

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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