

what r u up 2?

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

Sit Up

March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday



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: 8am Sue Steinmann, 10:30 Doug Kuntz
8am Ushers: Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl
10:30am Ushers: Gene Thrash, Jason Klinger, Marlene Blose, Claire Kern, Andy Dyszel, Ashleigh Albert
Greeters: George & Val Borman
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

Easter Proclamation Lloyd Larson

Chime Choir Director: Edie Fella

Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Tami Wassum, Barbara Carinci,
Bonnie Herzog, Sandy Daumer, Dawn Dengler, Susan
Glosan, Debbie Romig, John Fabian and Dan Haftl

The Palms J. Faure

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

We Acknowledge What's Up

You Raise Me Up

Leader: : Make no mistake, the powers-that-be in Jerusalem sat up and took notice at the actions of Jesus and his motley crew of palm-waving followers on that morning. It was a show of the “power” of love and injustice for the “least of these,” in stark juxtaposition to the military might of the Roman rulers. It was a non-violent action featuring a man

sitting on a donkey — an action that has offered hope throughout the ages. Will we sit up and take notice of the injustice of this world and work to eradicate it in ways that honor that first Palm Sunday parade?

**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:

**Peace-loving God, our first instinct in fighting oppression
is often to take up weapons,
utter fighting words, and lash out with vitriol.
But Jesus demonstrated humility and patience,
even against his mortal enemies.
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; God's steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever." . . . Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter

through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. . . . Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and God has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever. (*Psalm 118, 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**

#132 Pave the Way with Branches
(Sing! Prayer and Praise)

**Jesus is coming.
Pave the way with branches.
Jesus is coming. Hosannah
Jesus is coming.
Pave the way with branches.
Jesus is coming. Hosannah**

Chorus

**Hosannah. Jesus is coming.
Hosannah to the Prince of Peace.
Hosannah. Jesus is coming.
Hosannah to the Prince of Peace.**

**Hope for the downtrodden
Pave the way with branches.
Hope for the downtrodden. Hosannah.
Hope for the downtrodden
Pave the way with branches.
Hope for the downtrodden. Hosannah.**

Chorus

**Release for the captives
Pave the way with branches.
Release for the captives, Hosannah.
Release for the captives
Pave the way with branches.
Release for the captives, Hosannah.**

Chorus

Jesus is coming.

**Pave the way with branches.
Jesus is coming. Hosannah
Jesus is coming.
Pave the way with branches.
Jesus is coming. Hosannah**

Chorus

Please be seated.

FILLING UP

What's Up? with Children

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

8:00 and 10:30 Chimes

You Raise Me Up Rolf Lovland, Graham Arr. Eithun

Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Tami Wassum, Barbara Carinci,
Bonnie Herzog, Sandy Daumer, Dawn Dengler, Susan
Glosan, Debbie Romig,
John Fabian and Dan Haftl.

Edie Fella, Director

FILLING UP

The Word Uplifts

Scripture

John 12: 12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

Message

Pastor Kris

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: We are watching, O God, for signs of your gentle presence in the midst of insurmountable systems of oppression. We remember the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey as a symbol of hope that endures in this age of violence. Especially in these times of heightened anxiety and fear, 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-251X/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.



Venmo

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.

Music Offering

We Shall Behold Him

Dottie Rambo

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 Gentleness, we offer up not only the gifts we share
today
but the whole of our lives as we join the procession
of all those who have toiled for justice through non-violence.
Bless these gifts for your work in creating a more peaceful
world.

Blessing for the Journey

And so now go into the world,
committed to peaceful acts of resistance,
sitting up and paying attention to the quiet symbols of
God's uplifting presence,
knowing that even in the midst of crushing oppression,
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** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
#213 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. "Hosanna, loud hosanna," the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**2. From Olivet they followed a mid a cheering crowd,
the victory palm branch wavering, and chanting clear and
loud. The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's
gait.**

**3. "Hosanna in the highest!: That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and
voice. Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!**

Music for Movin' on Up

Postlude

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Tune: St. Christopher, Frederick C. Maker

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 24– Fellowship Committee

March 31– Easter Crew!

UPLifting Messages

God is good

thank you Jesus for walking with me

thanksgiving for all union ucc is doing with our youth

impossible is for the unwilling

if your wings are broken please take mine until yours

can open too because I'm gonna stand by you

yay! we're an open and affirming church officially!

way to go seniors on youth sunday, you're awesome

you are so loved

love your neighbor

so proud of union's wonderful youth under the

mentorship of pastor kayli

even in your darkest moments stars continue to shine

you are stronger than you know

you are beautiful and wonderfully made

kindness is everywhere

thank you for being you

music sparked my faith inside me

loving your neighbor doesn't mean just those that live

next to you, but are everywhere

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$7,323.00
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	
10:30 AM	123
Online Views	376
Breathe	10

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$50, lbs
Total YTD:	\$750, 2,575lbs

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

**In memory of Ruth Rothrock from Lucille Kuhns,
Lana Reitz, and Leoma Kern and family**

In memory of Roni Fabian from the Chime Choir

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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