

what r u up 2?

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

UpEnded

March 29, 2024

Good Friday



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 Dan Topp, Maria Beltz, Ron Pope, Donna Christman, Janice Metzger, Don Penrod, Eric Minnich
Sound: Dawn Dengler

We will be sharing Holy Communion today.

Everyone is welcome to this meal of God's love and grace.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents Communion to you.

Here: We invite you to come forward to the railing to receive communion. The ushers will direct you when to come forward. The pastors will let you know when to leave the railing. Please place your empty cup in the trays as you return to your seat.

If you want to be served in your seats, let the ushers know and the pastors will come to you.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups.

Please choose either.

Music for Centering

Prelude

Via Dolorosa Billy Sprague and Niles Borop
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

We Acknowledge What's Up

You Raise Me Up

Leader: The disciples were aghast at the topsy-turvy way that Jesus kept upending the status quo. That night in the upper room was no different. Jesus got up and radically changed the hierarchical structure of that gathering by

showing how the first can be last and the last can be first. The hierarchy of our day can be disrupted if we but follow Jesus in this final act of table hospitality that invites us to get up out of our own position in order to serve and lift up 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:

**UpEnding God,
we live, as Jesus did,
in times that teeter on the brink of catastrophe.
At times we are stuck in our seats,
hanging on for dear life to things that we mistake for
security
and keep us tied to the way things are, even if they aren't
for the good.
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: I love the Lord, because God has heard my voice and my supplications. Because God inclined God's ear to me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live. What shall I

return to the God for all God's bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of God's faithful ones. (*Psalm 116, 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**

***Opening Hymn**

***Hymn #226 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal) Verses 2 & 3 V. Kemper, 2011**

**1. O sacred Head, now wounded with grief and shame
weighted down, Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, your
only crown, How pale you are with anguish, with sore abuse
and scorn! How does your visage languish which once was
bright as morn!**

**2. What you, dear Jesus, suffered casts light upon our way,
We see the cost of loving and living for the day
When all God's children flourish in justice and in peace,
When hungry mouths will be fed and warring ways shall
cease.**

**3. What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest friend;
For this your selfless living, your love that did not bend?**

**May my life bless all people, may my love bring you praise,
That all may share God's blessing, that all would know
God's grace.**

Please be seated.

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH



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.



Electronic Giving

Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)

• **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.



Venmo

• **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.

Music Offering

In the Hour of Trial

Mitchell Roth, Trumpet

***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.**

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

We will be sharing Holy Communion today.

Everyone is welcome to this meal of God's love and grace.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents Communion to you.

Here: We invite you to come forward to the railing to receive communion. The ushers will direct you when to come forward. The pastors will let you know when to leave the railing. Please place your empty cup in the trays as you return to your seat.

If you want to be served in your seats, let the ushers know and the pastors will come to you.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray.
Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups.
Please choose either.

BUILDING UP

Up to Something Good

An "UpEnding" Ritual

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: You are invited this evening to a Ritual of UpEnding. The end of Jesus' earthly life felt anything but uplifting to those that loved him and ate with him that night. Our world sometimes feels as upside-down as this balloon, with reality and peace hanging by a thread. But Jesus already knew that this was the only way to truly show us how to love one another completely. Not by sleeping through it or denying the chaos, as the disciples may have tried to do in the Garden of Gethsemane that night after supper. Not by wielding a sword, which Peter wanted to do later in the Garden when they came to arrest Jesus. But by remaining true to the UpEnded vision of what it looks like when we pay attention to the masses of humanity who suffer. And so we come this night with sorrow for the world, sorrow for all those who have lost loved ones just as those around that table were about to lose their beloved teacher and friend. Yet we come knowing "the rest of the story," that the UpEnded become UpLifted in the realm of God.

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands**

as an offering to you.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and holy thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Creator of all things.

You formed us in your image
and filled us up with your breath of life.
When we turned away, deflated and down,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
ignited us again with the warmth of your love,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

Jesus upended the status quo at every turn,
choosing love and healing before all else.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners,
and humbled himself as a servant to wash the feet of his
friends.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,**

**the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

When the Lord Jesus went up to his place on high,
and into the depths of this Body of Christ,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

God of love,
pour out your love and spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the love of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the love of Christ!

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry with all the world,

Amen.

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

Ritual of UpEnding

Friends, the table is ready. This night we come not just to the table to receive communion, but you are invited to stop at the basin of water as you come down the center aisle from the back. As you pause there, I invite you to think of the most unlikely person in your life whose feet you could not imagine washing, or even whose hands you could not imagine grasping. As you see them in your mind's eye, consider the radical upending that would need to take place in order to be restored to right relationship with them, in order to "right-side-up" your relationship. This is how shocking Jesus' upending words and actions were to those who were threatened by him, who desired his demise. Let these feelings be a moment of confession that it is difficult for us as well to grasp, to follow, to serve those who feel unredeemable to us. If it feels right to you, touch the water as a sign that the water of renewal is possible, even if unimaginable to us in this moment. And then let your approach to the table be the assurance you need, no matter where you are on this journey of grace. Jesus fed all. Jesus invited all. Even those who betrayed him. And that is the most upending, radical, bold grace of all. This is ultimately that which lifts us up and invites us to lift up others as well. Come to the table.

SHARING THE MEAL

MUSIC OFFERING

Grace and Peace to You Marty Parks

Adult Choir with Blake Hoppes

READING from Pastor Kris

Lent: The cross as a place to gather before Easter

ANTHONY T. PADOVANO

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Leader: Last night in our Maundy Thursday service, we gathered with Jesus in the Upper Room. There is only one other place in the Gospels where the Greek word used to describe the Upper Room was also repeated—the place, the room where Jesus was born. Two places where the dark birthed something new... the dark womb and the dark tomb. Tonight we continue the story that began last night in a tradition of “tenebrae” or “darkness,” descending with Jesus into the depths of our own stories of grief, disappointment, and betrayal.

SHADOW OF BETRAYAL Dan Topp

Mark 14: 10-11,17-21

SHADOW OF DESERTION Maria Beltz

Mark 14: 26-31

AGONY OF THE SOUL Ron Pope

Mark 14: 32-36

GOLD HYMNAL #283 What Wondrous Love Is This? Verse 1

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this,

That caused the Lord of bliss,
To bear the dreadful curse,
For my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

UNSHARED VIGIL Donna Christman
Mark 14: 37-42

ARREST IN THE GARDEN Janice Metzger
Mark 14: 43-50

PETER'S DENIAL Don Penrod
Mark 14: 53-54, 66-72

GOLD HYMNAL #283 What Wondrous Love Is This? **Verse 2**

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I AM, "
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

TRIAL AND SENTENCE Eric Minnich
Mark 15: 1-5, 12-15

THE CRUCIFIXION Pastor Kayli
Mark 15:25-32

GOLD HYMNAL #283 What Wondrous Love Is This? **Verse 3**

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on.

JESUS' DEATH Pastor Carrie

Mark 15:33-37

MUSICAL OFFERING

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord
Abby Kern

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.**

Blessing for the Journey

So keep vigil as those disciples did in the Garden that
night.

Go, remembering that

God is inviting you to UpEnd the status quo

of your life,

of societal oppression,

of hatred and fear.

Turn it all upside down for love,

You have all you need to be up to something good.

We usually leave this service in silence.

Blessings on your vigil until Easter morning.

**May you know God's light, love, courage, strength, and
grace in the journey to resurrection and new life.**

Easter Sunday Worship
6:30am Sunrise Worship in the Grove
8am and 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary
Mimosas and the Easter Bunny!
Join us after 8am and 10:30am worship on the front lawn
and steps of the church
for a celebratory mimosa, orange juice, and snack.
The Easter Bunny will be joining us.

Worship Theme ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com

Thank you to:

Our worship design team for their work in decorating the church for Easter: Claire and Doug Kern, Deb and Dan Topp, Kathy and Rick Bonsell, Tiffany Lakatosh, Miranda Brown, Pastors Kayli and Kris.

Sound Team Doug Albert, Mike Baer, Pat Sorg, Karl Klinger, Dawn Dengler.

Sunday Set Up Staff and Tech Team Payge Haydt, Hannah Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich

Flowers Sponsors for the Sanctuary and for our Visitation List and our **Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers** for delivery to those on our Visitation List.

ALL who helped to make our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so meaningful. Thank you to everyone who helped clean and decorate our sanctuary, church, and grove. Thank you to those who served as choir members, musicians, ushers, greeters, and worship participants. Thank you to our staff, Consistory, and leaders for giving your time and talents so generously.

And thank you to The Easter Bunny, his helper, and the Mimosa and Snack Team.

Giving God thanks for you and God's church community here at Union! Thank you for all that YOU do to be God's church here and out there.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$5,833.00
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	60
10:30 AM	163
Online Views	443
Breathe	12

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

Easter Mission	\$2,362.00
----------------	------------

Presentations to the Glory of God

In memory of Walt Disney

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.

<p>CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732 One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A714125</p>
