

what r u up 2?

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

Raise Up

March 3, 2024

8am and 10:30am Worship

Baptism at 10:30



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 Doug Albert, 10:30 Dan Topp

8am Ushers: Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern

10:30am Ushers: Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider

Greeters: Jen Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace

Sound: Dawn Dengler

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

This Is My Father’s World

Tune: Terra Patris, Franklin L. Sheppard

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

We Acknowledge What’s Up

You Raise Me Up

Leader: The story of Jesus’ response to the temple being made into a marketplace was profound and may have been another step toward his ultimate demise on the cross. He refers to raising up a new temple in three days — something his disciples later remembered as a foretelling of his resurrection. How might we raise up as the Body of Christ and be a holy temple — a holy dwelling place of God — in the world?

**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:

**God of restoration and rebuilding,
we are here today seeking resurrection and renewal
for our tired and worn-out bodies
and the body of this community.
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:

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. . . . The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (*Psalm 19, 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**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
#43 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion;
pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

2. Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit

into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit,
let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all you life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing,
love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing,
wounded arms outstretched above.

Please be seated.

Music for Soaring
10:30 Music Offering
Here With Me Gateway Kids Worship
Kids Choir

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 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**

10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Thea Ruth Geronikos child of Rebecca and James Geronikos

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice



Music for Soaring

8:00 am Music Offering

Softly and Tenderly

Will Lamartine Thompson & Carl J. Nygard, Jr.
Heritage Choir

FILLING UP

The Word Uplifts

Scripture

John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Message Pastor Kris

BUILDING UP

Up to Something Good

Prayers of the People

Let My Prayer Rise Up

Leader: Psalm 141 is our inspiration for our prayer time in this Lent series as we sing “let my prayers rise up like incense before you.” Prayers in the Temple were offered as the smoke of incense rose up and up... a symbol of taking the prayers to God. We believe that God is here, among us, within us, around us, as well as above us — for the Spirit of God is everywhere. But this season we especially honor this idea that we ourselves are uplifted and upheld by the presence of the Divine One, our spirits rising like the prayers of all through the ages.

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 listen for your voice, O God, in the story of Jesus turning over tables in the temple. Sometimes we have to break down what is no longer working and start again with a new foundation. As we consider what tables we are ready to turn in our own lives, 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 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://>

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.



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

**Majesty Jack Hayford (Arr. Bruce Greer)
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

Revolutionary God, we share this portion of our resources today
not as those looking to turn a profit or to amass wealth,

but as stewards of your gifts — along with our time, talents, and
unique passions —
charged with the responsibility and the desire to put them to use
in your name.

Blessing for the Journey

And so now go from this holy dwelling place,
ready to encourage and raise your neighbors up
from a foundation built on grace,
holding fast to the vision for God's kin-dom on earth,
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** Dream God's Dream #120 Sing! Prayer and Praise
See Insert

Music for Movin' on Up

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
Tune: Near the Cross William H. Doane
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

March 17– Youth Group

March 24– Fellowship Committee

March 31– Easter Crew!

UPlifting Messages

grateful for our welcoming church and celebrating
becoming ONA

giving thanks life's adventure and the beauty of the
small things

friendships made here at Union UCC

the caring of our pastors for our church family

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.

there is light, keep going

smile God loves you

thank you for supporting the YMCA warming station,
it is critical

slay the day queen!

God heal the hearts of those who are sad and lonely
sometimes the darkest nights are the bridges to the
brightest tomorrows

please pray for those with mental health struggles

thank you to our UCC leaders

learn how to love yourself the way God loves you, you
are worthy

UPLifting Messages

feelings are like waves, no feeling is permanent, it
will not last forever, it will get better

choose love and peace

you are enough

your life may be the only bible somebody reads

freedom of religion everywhere

you matter i matter we matter

what if you are right where you are supposed to be?

God is bigger than anything, with Him, all things are
possible

you do not know if you do not try

give my daughters love that i didn't get

be a kind person

God is love, love is God

for teachers giving their all every day

for successful basketball games

let go and let God

believe in yourself and open yourself up to others

pray for peace

be true to yourself

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

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$5,632.00
Calendar Year 2024 (January)	\$ 37,004.00
Calendar Year 2023 (January)	\$ 37,004.00
Change from Last Year	0.0%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Jan.)	\$ 267,040.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Dec.)	\$ 244,440.97
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-8.5%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	35
10:30 AM	109
Education Hour	
Online Views	
Breathe	10

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

Blanket Sunday	\$2,160.00
Souper Bowl	\$700.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

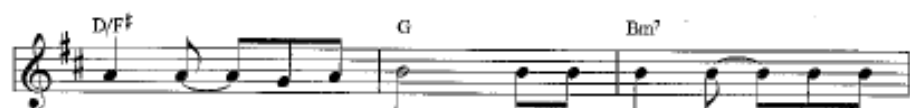
Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin. Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.

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Dream God's Dream



Dream God's dream! Ho-ly



Spir - it — help us dream of a world where there is



jus - tice — and where ev - 'ry one is free to



build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -



-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.



1. I'm dream-ing_ of a world where the col - or of one's
2. I'm dream-ing_ of the call God is of - fer-ing to
3. I'm dream-ing_ of the way that I want my life to



skin will mean less than_ what's with - in the per - son's heart.
me, how to use my_ en - er - gy and my best gifts;
go. I've got hope and_ I've got goals I'd like to meet.



A world where wa - ter's clean and where
to do the work of Christ to say
I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I



air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry__ chi - ld
God, please use my life to spread Your heal - ing
won't for - get the scars of Christ who__ died to



born has e - nough to eat. dream.
love and to live Your truth.
show that the dream's for all.