



**Resurrection Story: Released
April 14, 2024**

8am and 10:30am Worship

Installation of Pastor Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation

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 are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Reader: 8am Rosalie Snyder, 10:30 Doug Brace
Ushers: 8am Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd
10:30 am Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli,
Connie Gioielli, Carol James
Greeters: Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner
Sound: Doug Albert

GATHERING AT THE GATE

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” — John 11: 25-26, NRSVUE

The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness, and oppression — not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? Join us for powerful testimonies of courage, kindness, strength, and overcoming — Resurrection Stories — from those who have found “resurrection” in their lives. It might just inspire you to unlock your own rising up!

Prelude Music

To God be the Glory

Fanny Crosby, Robert Lowry, W. Howard Doane

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

The Collective Story of Resurrection

Leader: : In 12-step recovery programs, the first step is admitting powerlessness over anything that threatens to destroy our connection to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to others. This week, we consider the variety of ways addiction occurs in our lives. We will celebrate the Good News that we can refocus our lives onto things that lead us to life and connection to the Holy.

**ALL (sung): Rise up in us and we will rise
From death into a newfound life:
From bondage freed, from harm released,
From illness healed, as one in peace.
When all is lost our hearts are warmed,
Our hope restored, our lives transformed.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Leader: They trembled in fear behind locked doors as the sun set on that first Easter...

ALL: We often do not perceive the most transformative possibilities of our lives because we are afraid — of change, of loss, afraid even of healing.

Leader: Jesus broke through the barrier of their hiding place and stood among them...

ALL: Even when we long for our burdens to be lifted, we become so accustomed to carrying them we cannot imagine being released from them.

Leader: Jesus greeted them with the words: "Peace be with you."

ALL: We sometimes find it difficult to embrace peace when our lives are in upheaval, when our hearts grieve, when our world aches.

Leader: Knowing what they needed, Jesus extended his pierced palms and his stabbed side...

**ALL: What evidence do we require to believe our lives can experience resurrection from a power higher than our own?
What helps us trust and believe?**

Leader: They rejoiced as they recognized their friend, their leader, their Solace and Redeemer...

ALL: When we search for help and hope, do we rejoice when we see the first possibility of transformation? Do we rejoice along the way to healing?

Leader: Again, Jesus offered his peace and said, as he was sent by God, he now sends them...

ALL: Even in the midst of our own turmoil, can we find the courage to go where we are sent for healing for ourselves and to go where others are in need of our witness?

Leader: Jesus breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit."

ALL: The gift of Holy Spirit power is always with us and within us to lead and guide and sometimes cajole and awaken us to all the possibilities for renewed life.

Leader: Jesus assured them: Forgive the sins of anyone, and they are forgiven, retain the sins of any and they are retained.

All: We see in the example of Christ how to forgive others and how to release our own woundedness. We open ourselves to the freedom, release, and peace that comes through forgiveness. We forgive ourselves and we forgive others.

Leader: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

All: Thanks be to the Living Word.

– based on John 20:19-23

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

Opening Hymn Sing of Colors
#402 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**Sing, of colors, sing of colors that over the hills
in profusion are springing:
Sing, of colors, Of the birds that fly outside
my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors,
In the rainbow's bright colors
God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who created us all.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes
raise a song to the God of Creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares,
Who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news!
Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

The Key to Peace

Leader: Know that Christ companions us along this journey.
Because of this, we can be honest about our lives, our
struggles, and the things that keep us locked up.

This is the key to peace: as soon as truth is spoken and the
desire for freedom is known, Divine Love begins the process
of resurrecting your life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know freedom.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know freedom.

Leader: Let's sing our Easter Alleluia and pass the peace of Jesus Christ *[making sure to greet those worshipping remotely]*.

Halle, Halle
#236 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

All (sung):
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle-luya, halle-luya!

Please be seated.

8:00 Music Offering

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise Lani Smith

Heritage Choir

AT 10:30 WORSHIP I invite the children forward as we sing again.

All (sung):
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle-luya, halle-luya!

10:30 Worship Children's Time

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—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 in Room 100 on the first floor.

All (sung):
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle-luya, halle-luya!

Notes on Release

All scripture translations from the NRSVUE.
SCRIPTURE *Psalm 121*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot be moved;
God who keeps you will not slumber.
God who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
God will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*

Testimony of Release: A Resurrection Story

Pastor Kris

**Installation of Pastor Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation at
Union UCC
And Chaplain, St. Luke's University Health Network**

**Greeting Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Penn Northeast
Conference Minister**

Rev. Dr. Bates: The Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth. Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and iniquity which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**Presentation Eric Minnich, Union UCC Consistory
President**

Union United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Pastor Carrie Beleno as it's pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Penn Northeast Conference install her in the ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Bates: The Penn Northeast Conference has reviewed the request of Union United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Pastor Carrie Beleno, and we are pleased to install her as your visitation pastor and teacher.

Carrie, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of a Conference of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with the local church.

Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

Exhortation

Rev. Dr. Bates: Here these words from the Apostle Paul: we beg you, children of God and family in Christ, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves. See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Covenant

Rev. Dr. Bates: Dear friends, Union United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Pastor Carrie Beleno to minister in this place as Pastor of Visitation and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Carrie, seeing that you are called to authorized ministry by the grace of God and that Union United Church of Christ has been led to call you as Pastor of Visitation, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are on in Christ with us in the Penn Northeast Conference?

Pastor Carrie: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Tierney: Carrie, seeing that you are called to serve as a chaplain in the St. Luke's University Health Network, supporting staff, visiting and comforting the sick and dying, comforting the injured and their families, administering anointing and the sacraments as you fulfill

this role, are you willing to enter this covenant with the St. Luke's University Health Network?

Pastor Carrie: I am willing, and I promise to serve the patients, families and staff of St. Luke's University Health Network, fulfilling the role of Chaplain to best of my ability, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Bates: Members of Union United Church of Christ, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your Pastor of Visitation?

Members of Union UCC: We, the members of Union United Church of Christ receive Pastor Carrie Beleno as our Pastor of Visitation, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Prayer of Installation

Rev. Dr. Bates: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant Carrie to whom the care of your people this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on her, on the people of Union United Church of Christ, on all of the churches of the Penn Northeast Conference and on the people of St. Luke's University Health Network that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of grace in this time and place. Amen.

Declaration

Rev. Dr. Bates: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as Pastor of Visitation of Union United Church of Christ and as Chaplain at St.

Luke's University Health Network.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Words and Presentations

**Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Penn Northeast Conference
Minister of the United Church of Christ**

**Rev. Heidi Tierney, St. Luke's University Health Network,
Network Director of Spiritual Care**

Eric Minnich, Consistory President at Union

Teresa Dalrymple, Chair of Church and Ministry at Union

Rev. Kris Snyder, Senior Pastor on behalf of Staff at Union

**Pastor Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation at Union &
Chaplain at St. Luke's University Health Network**

Responding to Freedom

Prayers of the People

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.**



Opportunities to Live Resurrected

**NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH
AT UNION**



OFFERING

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.

• **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

By Faith with Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Townsend, Getty, Chisholm, Runyan

Geoff Brace with Blake Hoppes

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

***Offering Response**

Sung to the Tune I Love to Tell the Story

**ALL (sung); The Savior of our stories
has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story,
for others need it too.
To ev'ry one who's hurting
ring out the gospel call;
proclaim that Christ is risen
and grants his peace to all.**

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

***Benediction**

Whatever binds you, whatever locks you up and makes you
feel powerless,
whatever gets in the way of you living life with vitality,
integrity, and joy,
can be wiped clean...

... for we believe our stories can be rewritten each and
every day.

We know it isn't this easy or quick, but let this be a vision of
your life resurrected.

And now, may you go into the world,
finding release in all the ways you discover you can,
for yourself, for others, for the world.
And may the God who created you as an unbound soul,

the Christ who showed you what letting go looks like,
and the Spirit who is transforming your life even now,
be with you now and evermore.

Amen.

There are baskets of keys at the entrance doors. Please feel free to take one with you as you unlock your resurrection stories of new life, healing, hope, and joy.

**ALL (Sung): Rise up in us and we will rise
From death into a newfound life:
From bondage freed, from harm released,
From illness healed, as one in peace.
When all is lost our hearts are warmed,
Our hope restored, our lives transformed.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

***Closing Hymn**

#249 Peace I Leave With You, My Friends
Black Hymnal/ New Century Hymnal

Refrain

**Peace I leave with you, my friends:
Shalom my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends,
I give to you, so you can give to others, too.**

**To share God's love is why I came,
To show God's kindness to the world
Go now my friends and do the same,
Until I come again...**

Refrain

**Take my hand and be at peace,
The spirit of our love I send;
And with this love you will be free,
Until I come again...**

Refrain

**With this love you all will know,
That loneliness is at an end,
Rejoice my people though I go
For I will come again...**

Refrain

Postlude

Abide With Me Henry Francis Lyte
Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$9,664.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Mar.)	\$ 115,296.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Mar.)	\$ 91,680.00
Change from Last Year	25.8%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Mar.)	\$ 323,840.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Mar.)	\$ 322,733.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	25
10:30 AM	95
Online Views	380
Breathe	12

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	150 lbs
Total YTD:	\$700, 2,725lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

In honor of Pastors Kris, Kayli, and Carrie

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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