



Resurrection Story: Found
April 21, 2024
8am and 10:30am Worship
New Members Received

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.**

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

Lay Reader: 8am Sue Steinmann 10:30am Don Penrod
Ushers: 8am Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross
10:30 am Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, C Gloria Toner, Carol Stout,
Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman
Greeters: Bruce & Chris Roth, Jim & Edie Fella
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

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

Spiritual

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

The Collective Story of Resurrection

Leader: What is it like to literally not have a home, a place to lay your head at night? “Homeless” can also mean a sense of not feeling “at home,” lacking a feeling of belonging, feeling alone even in the midst of others. So many in this world are isolated. How can we find, and offer each other, “home” with the assurance of the presence of God and a beloved community?

Rise Up in Us

Amanda Udis-Kessler

3 Rise up in us and we will rise from
6 death in - to a new - found life: from bond - age freed, from
9 harm re - leased, from ill - ness healed, as one in peace. When
12 all is lost our hearts are warmed, our hope re - stored, our
15 lives trans - formed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and music © 2024 Amanda Udis-Kessler. All rights reserved.
Email: amanda@amandaudiskessler.com New hymns: queersacredmusic.com
Permission is given for free use of this worship song.

Please share it with clergy, musicians, and other worship planners for their possible use. Thank you.

Leader: Jesus appeared among the disciples again. He stood among them and said: “Peace be with you.” Yet, the disciples were terrified.

They thought they were seeing a ghost.

ALL: Centering our hearts and minds in peace is a way to feel calm within.

We learn to still ourselves to be open to unimaginable possibilities.

Leader: Jesus asked: “Why are you frightened and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

ALL: Doubts play an important role in our faith journey.

Facing our uncertainties allows room for our hearts and minds to be filled with healing narratives.

Leader: "Touch me and see," Jesus invited, as he offered his pierced hands and feet.

Yet, the disciples — even in the midst of their joy — felt disbelief.

ALL: Sometimes we are presented with signs of hope long before we realize we are not abandoned. Our hearts rejoice, yet our minds still wonder at what we have seen.

Leader: Jesus asked if they had anything to eat, and the disciples shared a piece of fish, which Jesus ate while in their presence.

All: Jesus frequently shows us how to create community in the midst of feeling lost. We can form communities of sustenance and belonging.

We are not alone – we are found – when we share Christ's call to peace.

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

All: Thanks be to the Living Word.

– based on Luke 24:36-43

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

Opening Hymn What A Friend We Have in Jesus
#506 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!**

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to our God in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to our God in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to our God in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to our God in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

The Key to Peace

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.

Let's sing our Easter Alleluia and pass the peace of Jesus Christ *[making sure to greet those worshiping 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!

REPEAT

Please be seated.

Music Offering

8am Heritage Choir : Let There Be Love

Loonis McGlohon, Arr. Jerry Nowalk

10:30am Kids Choir: Love the Lord

Lincoln Brewster

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.

Welcoming New Members

The Mission Statement of Union UCC

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 a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

Welcome and Reception (ALL in unison)

ALL: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

New members being welcomed today:

Cynthia Basta

Michael Basta

Pablo Coello Jr.

Cozette El-Kik

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pablo Coello Jr.

WELCOME HOME! ~ John Roedel

Left Side:

**You are somebody's front porch to God.
You are someone's doorway to mercy.
You are the world's threshold to kindness.
You are my entrance to letting go of regret.**

Right Side:

**No pressure, but...
Your life is a gateway to peace
for both strangers and friends alike.
Whether you realize it or not...**

ALL:

**Empathy has chosen you to turn your
heart into a welcome mat for others.
This is the purpose of your life...
To let your existence become a candlelit veranda of hope
for the rest of us to gather on to hold each other during the
long dark night.**

Leader:

We are somebody's front porch to God.
Welcome home to God, welcome home to Union.

Notes on HOME

All scripture translations from the NRSVUE.

SCRIPTURE John 14: 18-28

Reader: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are

those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I."

Testimony to Home: A Resurrection Story

Pastor Kris

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

**Let There Be Praise Dick & Melodie Tunney
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,
whatever causes you to feel unsettled or unbalanced,
whatever keeps you up at night or keeps you from feeling a
sense of belonging,
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 your home in love in all the ways you discover you
can,
for yourself, for others, for the world.
And may the God who created you to live in harmony with
yourself and others,
the Christ who showed you what acceptance and serenity
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** On Eagle's Wings

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge
My rock, in whom I trust!"**

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings, your refuge
His faithfulness, your shield**

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you
Near you it shall not come**

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**Postlude
Just As I Am, Without One Plea
Tune: WOODWORTH
Blake Hoppes**

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$5,858.00
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	53
10:30 AM	103
Online Views	
Breathe	12

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$150, 0lbs
Total YTD:	\$850, 2,725lbs

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.

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