

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter

Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Senior Pastor



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Spring 2022

A Meditation for You from Our Pastor

The True Meaning of Easter

Satan had lied and tricked Adam and Eve into sinning, causing them to be cast out of the Garden of Eden and all of humanity to be separated from God, and condemned to Hell. Then God confronted Satan and told him that One of Eve's offspring would one day restore His people and that he, Satan, would be cast into a lake of fire. (Gen 3:15)

God loved mankind, so He sent His prophets to tell them that He would send a Savior, the Messiah, or "Anointed One." The Messiah arrived in the form of a baby, and His name was Jesus. **Jesus had been given an assignment by God to save the world from their sins, and He had obeyed.** He healed the sick, cast out demons, and condemned the false leaders of His people; gave His life for the sins of all mankind so that all who would believe in Him could have Eternal Life. (John 5:24)

Historical records abound attesting to the life of Jesus. His life and death on earth are considered to be the most proven of all historical figures. **Before His arrest, Jesus prayed to the Father which included the following:**

- **First, He prayed for Himself:**
That the Father would receive Him back into Heaven and restore the glory He had before the world began. (John 17:4-5)
- **Then He prayed for His Disciples:**
That the Father would protect, guide and be with them as they delivered His message. (John 17:18)
- **Then he prayed for all Christians:**
He prayed for each child of God to have the same unity as exists between He and the Father. A unity, which allows for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and oneness with God. (John 17:20-21)

Later that day Jesus was hung on a cross until dead. Near the point of death, He said with a loud voice, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). Upon His death, heaven and earth were shaken with violent earthquakes, and the earth was covered with darkness. People who had previously died were seen walking about, and the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. (Matt 27:51)

The torn veil was to signify that the Spirit of God would no longer reside in the back of the temple in the Most Holy of Holies place under the "Old Covenant." Now under the "New Covenant" the Spirit was placed in the heart of every born-again believer. The followers of Jesus are now His Tabernacle (His Church). (Luke 23:45, Matt 27:45-53)

Jesus had executed the mission given Him by His Father, and in doing so had opened the "Kingdom of Heaven" to all who would receive Him. He was the new Passover Lamb! Never again would there be a need for animal sacrifice. **The Lamb of God had shed His blood once and for all!**

(The True Meaning of Easter continued) **Jesus had paid it all! His life, death, burial, and resurrection ushered in a new plan of Salvation for humanity.** This better and more perfect way was God's "New Covenant" with His people. Salvation and Eternal life were now available to anyone who would believe and accept Jesus as their Savior. Every time we take the bread & drink the cup of the New Covenant, we are proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah, the Lamb of God, and Savior of the world.

The chief priests and Pharisee's had tried to stop the inevitable, but neither Roman soldiers, government seals, nor large stones could prevent the King of Kings and Lord of Lords from accomplishing His mission. Jesus is the true message of Easter, and Because Of Him mankind can have a relationship with their Creator and be with Him for eternity.

Easter brings hope, new beginnings, and Eternal Life, made possible by the One who loved us enough to die in our place, Jesus Christ. For much of the world, Easter is only a tradition celebrated by colored Easter eggs and the Easter bunny. But to the followers of Christ, the true message of Easter proclaims the greatest act of love known to man.

God's infinite love for humanity is the true message of Easter, a love that will continue into eternity. Amen.

The True Message of Easter - The Greatest Act of Love
(trusting-in-jesus.com) Samuel L. Mills

Worship Services and Christian Education

Sunday at 8:30 a.m. - Worship service on Spectrum Cable TV (Channels 8 and 979) and on Cincinnati Bell Fioptics TV (Channel 850).

Sunday at 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. - Sunday Church School Bible Study. The class is held on Zoom Conferencing at www.zoom.com, meeting # 73490206480. Rev. Marshall is the teacher.

Sunday at 10:45 a.m. - In-Person and Livestream Worship Service on YouTube and Facebook.

Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. - You are invited to join us for prayer and meditation. The Prayer Line is 515-604-9520 (Code 356781). Prayer Band Ministry

Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. - Weekly "Call-Em-All" devotional message from Pastor Yates.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. - Word Wednesday Bible Study (Facebook Live) led by Pastor Yates on the business page of UBC Facebook.

Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - UBC Radio Broadcast (WCVG 1320). The UBC Radio Broadcast is also available to stream online at the following link:
<https://www.radio.net/s/wcvg>

Saturday at 2:00 p.m. - Saturday Church School Bible Study. The class is held via phone call-in: 1-712-770-5505 (code 344097). The teacher is Sis. Shirley.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE BORN IN APRIL AND MAY



REPORTING ILLNESSES, SURGERIES AND BEREAVEMENT INFORMATION: Please contact the church office if you or a loved one is sick or entering the hospital so that your Family Ward Deacon and Pastor Yates may be notified. Please also contact the office if you or a loved one is being released from the hospital or if there is bereavement in your family. The church office phone number is **(513) 381-3858**.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY: Please continue to keep in prayer our UBC members in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals and at home. Please also continue to pray for all of the bereaved families at Union and bereaved families all over the world.

UBC WEBSITE - GIVING: There are two methods of giving on the website: *Tithely and Givelify*. Please visit the website and click on the **"Give"** tab for more information and check out the video. Thank you.

EMAIL ADDRESS REMINDER: If you have an email address and have not had a chance to provide your email address to the church office, please do so by contacting **Sis. Marionnetta Hayes-Rodgers**, Administrative Assistant at (513) 381-3858, ext. 3, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from **10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**, or you can email your address to her at marionnetta.rodgers@union-baptist.net. God Bless!

UBC NEWSLETTER: In addition to electronic mailing of the newsletter, a copy of the UBC Spring 2022 Newsletter can be found in the vestibule of the church and is also posted on the church website in color. If you would like to provide an article for the UBC Summer 2022 Newsletter, please send to publicity@union-baptist.net by **May 20, 2022**.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRY: For additional information about the Children's Church Ministry, please visit the UBC website at <https://union-baptist.net/> and click on the Ministries tab. If you have any questions, you can also contact Rev. **Emanuel Marshal, Minister Leader**, by calling 513-381-3858, ext.7.

PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY (PDYM): Rev. **Alvin L. Wyatt, PDYM Minister Leader**, is maintaining contact during the pandemic with the teens of Union via phone calls and individual or group text. He can also be contacted regarding any spiritual needs that a teen may have by calling 513-381-3858, ext.7. For additional information about PDYM, please visit the UBC website at <https://union-baptist.net/> and click on the Ministries tab.

COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAMS REMINDER FROM THE UNION FOUNDATION: Community Rewards programs are renewed annually. If you have not done so, please reconfirm the Union Foundation as your rewards organization on your online application (Kroger card). You can also check how much money you have given to The Union Foundation on your Smile Amazon account. We appreciate the support we have received for our Amazon and Kroger Community Rewards programs. Please invite your friends and family to also support us. Please contact **Sis. Carolyn Turner** or **Sis. Louise Stevenson** for more details.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED: On **April 15, 2022** from **12 noon to 2:00 pm**, several area ministers will deliver the seven last words of Jesus on the cross. Come when you can and leave when you must. Parking will be available.

Deacon Emeritus Status For Deacon Marvin Grizzard And Deacon Clamion Marshall

To our Union Baptist Church Congregation: On behalf of the Union Baptist Church Deacon Ministry, and our Pastor, Dr. O. B. Yates, we would like to make the following announcement:

After serving for more than fifty years as a Deacon at the Union Baptist Church, **Deacon Marvin Grizzard** is being granted Deacon Emeritus status as of April 3, 2022. Deacon Grizzard has been a faithful member of the Deacon Ministry. He has supported the ministerial staff, carried out his assigned Deacon duties with serving communion to our shut-in members and leading Tuesday night prayer and bible study. He is a member of the male chorus and has participated in numerous drama ministry plays. He has also been a faithful Sunday School teacher for the Men's Class. On behalf of your fellow Deacons and Pastor Yates, we salute you Deacon Grizzard, for you are truly a man of God. May God's blessings continue upon you and your family as your journey continues in the word of God.

Deacon Clamion Marshall, after serving as a Deacon at Union Baptist for more than 10 years, is also being granted Deacon Emeritus status as of April 3, 2022. Deacon Marshall has been a faithful member of the Deacon Ministry. He has supported the ministerial staff and served communion to our shut-in members with his Deacon partner Deacon Marvin Grizzard. He also helped lead Tuesday night prayer and bible study. Deacon Marshall was a part of the Men's Sunday School class as well. Deacon Marshall also recently chaired the Long-Range Planning Committee for the church. On behalf of your fellow Deacons, and Pastor Yates, we salute you Deacon Marshall for you are a true man of God. May God's grace and blessings be upon you as you continue your journey in the word of God.

~~ **Deacon Ernest Norman, Chairman** and **Deacon Donald Darby, Vice-Chairman**

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Re-Opening the Rest of Union

As most of you know, only the main floor of Union Baptist has been open on Sundays for worship services. Property & Space Chair, Portia Fuller and her team, have kept this area cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized since March 2020. Hays Hall, the Nursery, Choir Room, Kitchen, and Bathrooms have been closed for the past two years. The only area open downstairs has been the Food Pantry. Upstairs on the 3rd floor, there has been no activity at all.

Sadly, closing these areas has had a significant impact on our youth as well as on the cleanliness of the church.

On March 15th, the ministry leaders over these areas met to discuss what it would take to reopen these areas of the church. Sister Fuller presented steps needed to accomplish these tasks – and they are extensive and somewhat costly. Many solutions were proposed, including engaging the services of professional organizations to perform several of these tasks to get God's House back in order. Unfortunately, these tasks must include more than just cleaning and sanitizing these areas. (Can you imagine abandoning several rooms in your house for two years?)

One area that takes priority is getting our Library back on track. That will take a group of people working together to get this done. Please let us know if you can help.

However, please know, we still have Union's vision at the forefront, and nothing too costly will take place without the blessing of the members of Union Baptist Church. ~ **Sis. Angelita Jones, Trustee Board Ministry Leader**

Funding of 165,000 for the Union Baptist Church Cemeteries Revitalization

This funding will support the Union Baptist Church's stewardship and revitalization of our two historic African American Cemeteries, Union Baptist Cemetery and United American Cemetery, as well as our historical documents.

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown hosted a news conference call to discuss the introduction of his ***African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act***. The newly-introduced bipartisan bill is also sponsored by U.S. Senator Mitt Romney.

Brown first introduced similar legislation in 2019 after **he visited Union Baptist Cemetery in Cincinnati** following news reports of vandalism at the cemetery and the cemetery's call for much-needed repairs.

"As a nation, we have not invested the necessary resources to preserve these hallowed grounds. That's why we've worked with the community, and with civil rights, veterans, and historic preservation groups to introduce bipartisan legislation to preserve historic Black burial grounds around the country," said Brown. **"Cemeteries like Union Baptist are important historical sites, and they're tools for education and understanding the American story. We need to act now before these sites are lost to the ravages of time or development."**

"Burial grounds are a place of solemn remembrance, allowing us to connect the present with the past and honor the history of our loved ones and communities," said Romney. **"It is important to preserve and protect African-American cemeteries around the country for generations to come."**

The ***African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act***, would establish a program at the National Park Service to provide grant opportunities and technical assistance to local partners to research, identify, survey, and preserve these cemeteries. Providing federal resources will ensure sites like **Union Baptist** are preserved and maintained for future generations.

Brown was joined on the call by Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, the Vice Mayor of Cincinnati.

"Cemeteries not only honor our ancestors, but the history of our communities. I am very grateful for Sen. Sherrod Brown for recognizing the need for care that our cemeteries require to show respect for and uplift our heritage," said Kearney.

The legislation is also supported by historic preservation groups in Ohio and across the country.

~ **Sis. Angelita Jones, Trustee Board Ministry Leader**

UNITED AMERICAN CEMETERY HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN THE UNITED STATES.

We are so delighted to receive this national recognition. This will allow us to apply for more grants from federal, state, and local funding sources. Kudos to Chris Hanlin for his extreme dedication to the United American Cemetery project. Mr. Hanlin is the author of our application that was submitted to the National Register. Special thanks to all of the Union Foundation Ministry for their work and support of this project. ~**Sis. Louise Stevenson, Cemetery Ministry**

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN-UP: The Cemetery Ministry is asking volunteers to join them in restoring the historic Union Baptist Cemetery on April 9, 2022 and April 30, 2022 from 9 am to 12 pm. The focus will be on cleaning headstones and volunteers are asked to bring any landscaping and power tools that will help. Light refreshments will be provided. Union Baptist Cemetery is located at 4933 Warsaw Pike (45238). Volunteers can sign up by calling 513-381-3858 or emailing Cemetery@union-baptist.net

“SCALES: LIFE IN THE BALANCE” BY SIS. WANDA MARI-JATA: is available on Amazon.Com in both Kindle and paperback formats. The book is based on Sis. Mari-Jata’s life experiences. Sis. Mari-Jata previously served as co-chair of the Deaconess and Ministers’ Wives Ministry at Union.

April is Discipleship Emphasis Month

April 3, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Worship Celebration and Holy Communion** on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

April 10, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Palm Sunday Worship** Celebration on You Tube at 10:45 a.m. (includes the traditional waving of the Palms)

April 11 - April 15, 2022: Holy Week

April 15, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Good Friday Worship Celebration** on YouTube at 12:00 p.m.

April 17, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Easter Sunday Worship Celebration** on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

April 24, 2022: In-Person & Livestream Sunday Worship Celebration on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

An Easter Prayer

*God, give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty in every living thing
And may we see in lacy leaves and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe with gentleness and power
And may this Easter grandeur that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God, the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful than man’s often empty words
Telling harried human beings who are lost in dark despair
Be like us and do not worry for God has you in His care.*

~ Helen Steiner Rice



May is Family Emphasis Month

May 1, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Worship Celebration and Holy Communion** on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

May 8, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Annual Mother’s Day Observance and Worship Celebration** on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

May 15, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Sunday Worship Celebration and Combined Children and Youth Day** on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

May 22, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Sunday Worship Celebration** on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

May 29, 2022: In-Person & Livestream **Sunday Worship Celebration** on You Tube at 10:45 a.m.

May 30, 2022: **Memorial Day Observance** (Church Office Closed)

The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring. ~**Bernard Williams**

“For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.” (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

“Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.” (Zechariah 10:1)