

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter

Reverend Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Senior Pastor



Volume 16, Issue: 2

Spring 2025

A Meditation for You from Our Pastor

Spring Cleaning for the Soul

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:7)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we anticipate a time of reflection during the Lenten season, we prepare our hearts for a time of reflection, repentance and a so-called "Spring Cleaning for the Soul." We will enjoy Shrove Tuesday together as a way of indulgence and reminder of the many blessings we enjoy in abundance, and then we will move into Ash Wednesday. And on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, hundreds of millions of Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in churches all over the world.

Why ashes? Since Old Testament times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mortality. When ashes are placed on our foreheads we hear the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." It's a reminder that the world that often seems so important to us at this moment is passing and we need to give more thought to eternal life with Christ.

Ashes are also a sign of our need for repentance and a heartfelt acknowledgment that we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. To many in the modern world, the very concept of sin seems old-fashioned. Yet, sin is part of our human nature, brokenness is our human condition, and because of our fallen nature we need the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. We need to repent and trust the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) with our whole hearts and minds.

If you intentionally hurt a good friend, whether you are religious or not, something deep inside compels you to apologize. What's more, whether you say it out loud to your friend, or just think about it to yourself, you'll resolve not to hurt them again. But chances are good that someday you will. And that is similar to the all-too-human cycle of sin and sorrow and sinning again.

As the Bible points out, we are all sinners, and we all need repentance. We all need to confess our sin and sinfulness and ask for God's forgiveness. And as people of the resurrection, we trust and lean into God's gift of abundant grace. Lent gives us an intentional time of the year to do just that (although our prayer is that we practice confession/repentance year-round).

The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for springtime. Think of it as a form of spring cleaning for the soul. This means to take stock of our spiritual lives to clean out our hearts and souls. Here are some ways to spring clean your soul:

(continued)

- Clear your space.
- Cleanse negative thoughts.
- Clean up your goals.
- Reset your habits.
- Release trapped energy.
- Purge any old attitudes and allow yourself the freedom to move into a new season.
- Ask Jesus to scrub your heart clean again as you request forgiveness and forgive yourself.
- Clean out the cobwebs of negative thoughts.

Lent is a momentary pause to rethink the fundamental purpose of our lives. But it can also be the occasion of a momentous transformation; a first step on the path, at the crossroads, of becoming the people God has called us to be. **Amen and Happy Spring!** ~~Selected



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 9:30 am to 10:20 am - Sunday Bible Church School (In person/meets in Sanctuary).

Sunday at 9:30 am to 10:20 am - New Members Class (In person/ meets in the first-floor classroom).

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 meditation and online prayer via Zoom. (Zoom ID: 845 3234 7314; Passcode: 208170). Prayer Band Ministry

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. - Weekly "Call-Em-All" devotional message from Pastor Yates.

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.- 8 p.m. Men's Bible Study and Fellowship. Pastor Yates is the Lead Teacher.

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

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 1:00 p.m. - Saturday Church School Bible Study. The class is held via phone call-in: 1-267-807-9605 (code 344097). The teacher is Sis. Faye Shirley



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE BORN IN THE MONTHS OF MARCH, 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, ext. 3**.

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** at www.union-baptist.net. Thank you.

EMAIL ADDRESS REMINDER: In addition to church newsletters and call-em-all messages, you can also receive emails to stay informed with other UBC updates. You can call and leave your email address at the church voicemail box at 513-852-1638 or email to Public Relations Ministry at publicity@union-baptist.net. God Bless!

WORD WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: All are encouraged to attend Word Wednesday Bible Study each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on UBC Facebook Live and on YouTube. Pastor Yates is the Lead Instructor.

MEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE CLASS RESUMES ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025: All men are invited to attend the weekly Men's Ministry Fellowship and Bible Class on Tuesdays at the church 7:15 p.m. for the continuation of the series, "**Power in Faith**", which features a video presentation each week in addition to the book instruction. Pastor Yates is the lead teacher

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL HONOR



I Hear Music, Inc. will honor Union Baptist Church at a banquet with the Spotlight on the Church/Ministry Award at the **24th Annual I Hear Music Legends Ball** which will be held on **Sunday May 4, 2025 at 5:00pm** at the Sharonville Convention Center (Main Ballroom) located at 11355 Chester Rd. Glendale, OH 45246 This honor is being bestowed upon Union Baptist Church in appreciation of Union's dedicated years of ministry and service to the community through the advancement of music arts.

This is an honor to the church for Union's contribution through the years to gospel music here in the city of Cincinnati and beyond. Pastor Yates will be accepting the honor on behalf of the church. Members are encouraged to purchase a ticket and attend this event to support the church in this honor. If you are interested in purchasing a table, please see **Sis. Rogena Stargel** or **Sis. Tammy Jones**. Also, please see the following website for additional information. <http://www.ihearmusicintheir.com/>

A THANK YOU FROM SIS. LOUISE STALLWORTH: Sis. Stallworth extends a warm thank you for the calls, flowers, cards and all other acts of kindness bestowed upon her for her 90th birthday on December 9, 2024. In addition, The Urban League of Cincinnati treated Sis. Stallworth to a special birthday dinner and presentation at Pappadeaux Seafood Restaurant. She also received a special citation from the State of Ohio from State Senator Catherine Ingram.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTED VISITORS FROM UC DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: On February 9, 2025, Union Baptist Church celebrated Black History Month with the University of Cincinnati History Department of Africana Studies, which is under the leadership of Professor Holly McGee. After a wonderful worship service, we were treated to refreshments sponsored by the University of Cincinnati Office of the Vice Provost. The worship celebration ended with a tour of the Historic Union Baptist Cemetery conducted by Bro. Chris Hamlin, Historian. ~~Submitted by **Sis. Rogena Stargel**

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

MINISTRY UPDATES

Message From UBC Sunday School Superintendent

Greetings Union Baptist Church Family from the Sunday School Ministry,

We continue to hold our adult classes as follows: Sis. Faye Shirley holds a class on Saturday afternoons via phone participation. Our regular Sunday morning class is held in the lower balcony of the sanctuary from 9:30am to 10:20am. Rev. Alvin Wyatt is our lead instructor with Rev. Michael Darden and Dea. Ernest Norman as backup instructors. Our class material is from Union Gospel Press (Lifestone) and our lessons are very timely messages that will help you in your walk with the Lord. We encourage you to come out and join us for Bible study this coming Spring quarter and you will be glad you joined in learning what God has for you and your families.

Also please mark your calendar in advance. I want to also include a reminder about the Annual Church picnic. The picnic will be held at the Oak Shelter at 5889 Idalia Ave in Blue Ash, Ohio (45242) on **Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 11am to 5pm.** We look forward to seeing everyone for this annual church fellowship. Directions to the shelter will be provided at a later date.

May God bless and keep you is our prayer.

Deacon Ernest Norman

Music Ministry

The Word of Life Choir jointly with Joy and the Male Chorus will be hosting a Winter Vocal Workshop at the church on Saturdays, February 22nd, March 1st, March 8th and March 22nd at 10:00am. Sessions will last 45 minutes with time for questions and answers after each session. This workshop will flow into regularly scheduled rehearsals for the music groups of the church. In addition to vocal training, participants will be provided teaching and training information on topics such as the calling of a choir member, what to do in between rehearsals, what is choir etiquette, anointing and its importance, building confidence in singing and more! Our special guest facilitator will be Sis. Sharon McCullom from Corinthian Baptist Church who holds over 40 years of experience in vocal training and music ministry. She is no stranger to our congregation. The cost of the workshop is \$15.00 per session or \$60.00 for all 4 sessions. Payments for the remaining sessions are due no later than Saturday, March 8, 2025. You do not need to attend all sessions if your schedule will not allow it, however **it is strongly encouraged to reap the full benefit!**

At the close of the workshop, the combined choir will be ministering during the 10:45am Sunday morning worship celebration on **Sunday, March 23, 2025** as a demonstration of what we've learned! **The invitation to be a part of this workshop is open to all Union members only!** You do not have to be a choir member to participate and you will not be pressured to join the choir if you participate ~~**Submitted by Bro. Jeremy Yates**

~~~The Music Ministry is Looking to Grow! ~~~

Do you enjoy singing or playing an instrument? Do you feel a tug on your life to do more with music and you're afraid of where to start? Have you considered joining the choir but you just don't know where to start or feel you're not talented enough to contribute? We have news for you. **You are exactly who God desires to serve, and the Music Ministry is looking for you!** There is a home for all musical gifts in our music ministry. **The Word of Life Choir**, designed for adults 18 and up; **Joy**, a musical group specializing in praise and worship music; and our **Male Chorus**, comprised of men 18 and up, who have a desire to sing God's praises comprise our music department. Singers are needed as well as dedicated instrumentalists. Also, the Children's Ministry would love to have a dedicated music teacher to assist with more music involvement with our children. If any of these opportunities interest you, please reach out to Bro. Jay Bailey, Minister of Music, to express your interest and to discuss how you can become more involved in growing the ministry of music within your local congregation. God Bless you! **~~The UBC Music Ministry**

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

MINISTRY UPDATES (Continued)

Trustee Ministry

The Board of Trustees of Union Baptist Church is pleased to announce that The Union Foundation has been awarded the **2024 Environmental Sustainability Grant** from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. The amount of grant funds awarded is \$19,000.00. The funds will be used to fill in holes at Union Baptist Cemetery, remove trees and shrubs and to seed and straw the backfilled spaces. The project will be known as the *Union Baptist Cemetery Green Space Restoration Project*.

The UBC Board of Trustees thanks The Union Foundation for securing the grant. The UBC Board of Trustees also thanks the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for funding the grant.



As the region's leading community foundation, Greater Cincinnati Foundation connects people with purpose in an eight-county region in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. GCF is leading the charge toward a more vibrant Greater Cincinnati for everyone – now, and for generations to come.

~~Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." **Matthew 25:35-40**

As believers, we are called to actively spread God's words and love to make a positive difference in the world. Because of our members' obedience to God's word in 2024, Union Baptist Church was able to support the following mission driven work:

Western Union Baptist District Association

Christ Memorial Baptist Church

Our Daily Bread Ministries

City Gospel Mission

The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Foreign Mission Board

The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Home Mission Board

Ohio Baptist General Convention

Matthew 25 Ministries

Shelterhouse of Cincinnati

Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition

The Union Baptist Church extends its sincere thanks for those members who made the sacrifice to support these and other mission outreach opportunities. We hope that each member will find it in your heart to contribute to the Mission Fund in 2025 so that UBC can be a blessing to the community. The suggested donation is \$25.00 per member. However, any amount donated would be greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU!**

~~Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel

Cemetery Ministry

Did you know that there are several notable people buried at our historic cemeteries? Thanks to the efforts of Bro. Chris Hanlin, the stories of these wonderful people have been preserved. If you are interested in learning about their contributions to the community, we invite you to visit the following websites.

United Colored American Cemetery

[25 Notable Persons, United American Cemetery - Find a Grave Virtual Cemetery](#)

[150 Notable Persons in United American Cemetery - Find a Grave Virtual Cemetery](#)

Union Baptist Cemetery

[25 Notable Persons in Union Baptist Cemetery - Find a Grave Virtual Cemetery](#)

~~Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

MINISTRY UPDATES (Continued)

Cemetery Ministry (Continued)

The Ohio History Connection has awarded a Historical Marker for the United Colored American Cemetery. An unveiling of the marker at the cemetery is scheduled to occur in April 2025. Further information regarding the event will be forthcoming.



The Ohio Historical Markers program, begun in the 1950s, encompasses 1,750 unique markers that tell the state's history as written by its communities. Administered by the Community Engagement Department of Ohio History Connection, the program has placed approximately 1,750 markers that share our state's history. Partnering with community sponsors, these markers help tell the unique stories of the people, places, things and events that helped shape individual communities, as well as Ohio and our nation.

~~Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel

Union Baptist Church Cemetery Subcommittee

The UBC Cemetery Subcommittee is pleased to inform you that a partnership has been developed with Schroeder High School. The Cemetery Subcommittee is working with the Schroeder teachers and 11th and 12th grade students to discover the stories of the people buried at United Colored American Cemetery. We have been blessed with an AmeriCorps volunteer, Elizabeth Coleman, who has led the charge on this initiative. Thus far, the students have been enthralled with history by Bro. Chris Hanlin and participated in the Wreaths Across America Program. The Cemetery Subcommittee is excited to see what is next! ~~Sis. Louise Stevenson and Sis. Dorene Dillard

Wreaths Across America

On December 14, 2024, Union Baptist Cemetery and United Colored American Cemetery participated in the annual Wreaths Across America Program. Rev. Michael Darden and Pastor Orlando Yates were the worship leaders at the ceremonies. The purpose of the program was to honor our veterans who have been buried at the cemetery. We thank the members of Union and the community participants who helped to lay wreaths on the graves of our veterans. ~~Sis. Louise Stevenson, Union Cemetery Advisory Committee Chairman



The Mission of Wreaths Across America is to Remember the Fallen, Honor those that serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom. ~~Sis. Louise Stevenson and Sis. Lisa Adams, Co-Chairpersons

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

MINISTRY UPDATES (Continued)

Health and Wellness Ministry (Upcoming Dates in 2025)

Second Sunday of the month - Blood Pressure checks

Second Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm (except for December) - Health and Wellness Ministry Meeting. To participate in the meeting, please call 667-770-1089 and enter access code - 356781.

March 9, 2025 - Go Red Sunday (rescheduled from 2/16/2025)

March 15, 2025 - Mini Heart Marathon (on the third Sunday)

October 18, 2025 - Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk (Saturday)

October 26, 2025 - Think Pink Sunday



**DR. ORLANDO B. YATES, PASTOR,
ANNETTE I. BELL, R.D., L.D., MINISTRY LEADER**

**Interested in Joining the
Health and Wellness Ministry?
Call Us!!!**



Mission:

1. To promote health and wellness to the church congregation and the community.
2. During the church services:
 - a. To give urgently proper care, via CPR, and/or first aid, to a member or visitor who becomes sick or injured.
 - b. To serve the Pastor, Ministers and Guest Speakers with juice or water.
3. To provide, promote, and encourage a positive life style change as it relates to the entire being in spirit, mind, body, and relationships; first giving honor to God.

Vision:

To be known as a ministry who increases awareness of health-related issues by providing opportunities for the church congregation and community to receive the necessary tools for improving/maintaining their overall wellness spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially.

Scriptures Ministry is based on:

1. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, you are not your own? you were bought at a price. ..Therefore glorify God in your body..." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NIV)
2. "Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." (3 John 2, NIV)

Who May Become a member?

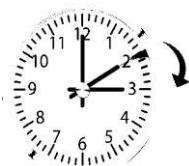
1. Any dedicated church or community member.
2. Medical professionals, other professionals, high-school students, or any dedicated person.
3. Male or female over sixteen years of age.
4. Any member who has completed First Aid, CPR, and Blood Pressure certification training is a plus.

Who do you Contact if Interested in Being a Part of the Ministry or have questions?

Sister Annette I. Bell, R.D., LD., at 513-601-8767

405 West 7th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203
Phone: 513-381-3858 or 513-601-8767
Email: aibellwellness@yahoo.com

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)



Daylight saving time is set to begin on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**. In the early hours, time will jump forward by one hour from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. Daylight saving time will occur from Sunday, March 9, 2025 to Sunday, November 2, 2025 and has been observed since 1908 (116 years). *Wikipedia*

March is Stewardship Emphasis Month

WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND HOLY COMMUNION: Sunday, March 2, 2025, In-Person & Livestream on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45 a.m. Baptism is also observed and dedication of the second-floor restoration work.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, March 9, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, March 16, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, March 23, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, March 30, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m. Union Baptist Church is also invited to worship at **Mt. Carmel Church at 4:00 p.m.** with Pastor Ashton Allen on the occasion of their 65 Plus Choir Anniversary. Dinner to be served before the worship service. Combined ushers and choir are to serve.

A Prayer for March

During this season of Lent,
lead me to find peace in Your presence,
and guide me to use this time
to reflect and grow closer to You.

~~~*Anonymous, Guideposts Devotional*



### **April is Discipleship Emphasis Month**

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND HOLY COMMUNION: Sunday, April 6, 2025**, In-Person & Livestream on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, April 13, 2025**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE: Friday, April 18, 2025**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 12:00 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY OBSERVANCE: Children/Youth Easter Program from 9:00 to 10:20 a.m. on **April 20, 2025**.** Easter Sunday Celebration, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**SECOND ANNUAL QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE: April 25, 2025** in UBC Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, April 27, 2025**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

#### **Easter Blessing**

This Easter, rejoice in the loving,  
gracious promise of the resurrected Christ.

New life and eternal hope.

He is risen indeed! ~~~ *Isabella Yosuico, Guideposts Devotional*

## **INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)**



### May is Family Emphasis Month

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND HOLY COMMUNION:** Sunday, May 4, 2025, In-Person & Livestream on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION:** Sunday, May 11, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**ANNUAL CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY AND WORSHIP CELEBRATION:** Sunday, May 18, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION:** Sunday, May 25, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE:** Monday, May 26, 2025 (Church Office Closed)

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICICES HELD AT BOTH HISTORIC UNITED COLORED AMERICAN CEMETERY & HISTORIC UNION BAPTIST CEMETERY:** at 12 noon

### **A Prayer for May**

Heavenly Father,  
In this season of growth and transformation,  
please guide me to reflect on my journey.  
Lead me to become a better version of myself.  
Open my heart to appreciate my blessings  
and spread love and kindness wherever I go.

~~~ *Anonymous, Guideposts Devotional*



"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***

Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati Website

For more information about historic Union Baptist Church, please visit our website (**www.union-baptist.net**) which is **both informative and interactive** for those who are seeking the Will of God in their lives.

On our website, you will see upcoming events; evangelistic missions inclusive for men, women and children; discipleship opportunities for building God's kingdom; exploratory devotional links for personal spiritual growth; and, community connections that have demonstrated, in the past, and continue to demonstrate, the **POWER OF GOD** throughout the Greater Cincinnati area, and historically beyond.

UBC's newsletter is also posted on the website in color.

