# The Union Baptist Church Newsletter

Reverend Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Senior Pastor



Volume 16, Issue: 3

**Summer 2025** 

# A Meditation for You from Our Pastor

# This Summer: A Season of Growth and Connection

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7 (NIV)

As the summer months approach, many of us look forward to warmer weather, vacations, outdoor activities, and a more relaxed pace. However, for some, summer can also bring unique challenges. With children and grandchildren out of school and schedules less structured, we can easily feel overwhelmed and uncertain about how to navigate our time.

But what if we viewed summer as an opportunity for spiritual growth and development, not just for our loved ones, but for ourselves as well? God has designed the seasons to reflect the rhythms of life, and summer is no exception. This season offers a chance for us to slow down, reflect and reconnect with our families, acquaintances, and with God.

One of the most powerful ways we can invest in the lives of others is through prayer. By praying for others, we can ask God to work in their hearts, to shape their character, and to draw them closer to Himself. We can pray for their physical safety, their emotional well-being, economic uncertainties, rising prices, wealth inequalities, as well as their spiritual growth.

Here are a few ideas to ponder:

- Pray for opportunities to learn new skills, such as swimming, bicycling, crafts, or playing a musical instrument.
- Pray for the development of healthy relationships with friends and family members.
- Pray for continual growth in understanding God's love and character.
- Pray for the development of a sense of responsibility and ownership over actions and decisions.
- Pray for the experience of joy, wonder, and awe at God's creation.

As we pray for others, let's not forget to express gratitude to God for the blessings we already enjoy. Let's thank Him for the gift of our families, for the privilege of being parents, grandparents, Godparents, and mentors and to be Godly examples to them.

When we pray for others, it's essential to be specific. Instead of simply asking God to "bless" them, let's ask Him to work in specific ways in their lives. Let's ask Him to help them overcome particular struggles, to develop certain character traits, and to achieve specific goals.

Finally, let's not forget to pray for ourselves as well. Let's ask God to give us wisdom, patience, and compassion as we navigate life's challenges. Let's ask Him to help us be good witnesses in word and deed, and to provide us with the support and encouragement that we need to be effective prayer warriors and ambassadors for Christ.

Summer is a unique season that offers many opportunities for growth, reflection and connection with family, friends, and others that we meet along life's way. When we pray for others, we can ask God to work in their hearts and lives to shape them into the people He has called them to be. Let's make the most of this season by investing in the lives of others through prayer. God is depending on each of us! Amen. *-selected* 

#### Have a blessed summer!



## **Worship Services and Christian Education**

**Sunday at 8:30 a.m. -** Worship service on Spectrum Cable TV (Channel 8) 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: <a href="https://www.radio.net/s/wcvq">https://www.radio.net/s/wcvq</a>

**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 IUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

**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**.

<u>INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY:</u> 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.

<u>UBC WEBSITE - GIVING:</u> 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 <a href="https://www.union-baptist.net">www.union-baptist.net</a>. 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!

<u>WORD WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:</u> 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.

<u>MEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE CLASS</u>: The Men's Ministry Bible Class is on break until the Fall and will resume on <u>Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7:15 p.m</u>. Men are encouraged to stay in the Word and study over the course of the summer. Pastor Yates is the lead teacher





Vacation Bible School is for all ages! Sis. Gwen Hall and Sis. Jean Brown, VBS Co-Principals.

ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC: All are invited to attend the Church Family Picnic on Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 10:00am to 5:00pm at the Blue Ash Recreation Center (Oak Shelter) located at 5889 Idalia Avenue (45242). Lunch will be served at 1:00pm.

Annual Father's Day / Men's Laity Day - June 15, 2025



# Graduation Recognition Observance - June 22, 2025

This year, we are celebrating four graduates from Union Baptist Church. We will honor them during our Annual Graduation Recognition Observance at 10:45 a.m.



#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

Cydney Emery Kyenes Mincy Lola Pate Umi-dae Phillips

#### COLLEGE

Tracey Phillips Jones Rev. Alvin L. Wyatt

~~Submitted by Sis. Louise Stevenson, Scholarship Ministry

Annual Church Revival - June 29-July 1, 2025



# Invitation to First Baptist Church of Chillicothe's 200th Church Anniversary

Union Baptist Church is invited to **First Baptist Church of Chillicothe** on <u>Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm</u> for worship service leading up to their 201<sup>st</sup> Church Anniversary. Pastor Yates is to preach; the combined choirs are to sing; and Deacons and Ushers are to serve. Dinner will be served upon Union's arrival.

Union Baptist Church has direct ties to First Baptist Church of Chillicothe because of **David Leroy Nickens**. He was born a slave in Virginia in 1794 and was probably the first African American to be ordained as a minister in Ohio.

In 1824, Reverend Nickens helped found the First Regular African Baptist Church of Christ of Chillicothe, the predecessor of the First Anti-slavery Baptist Church and of the First Baptist Church. In 1867, the church was relocated to 65 West Fourth Street from the New Jerusalem Society. Along with the move came a new name, the First Baptist Church of Chillicothe.

Reverend Nickens was called as the first pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Cincinnati, which was established on July 21, 1831. He died in Cincinnati in 1838 and is buried in the Union Baptist Cemetery.

## **Reverend Nickens** (Continued)

Reverend Nickens has a Heritage Center in his name that is located in Chillicothe, Ohio. The **David Nickens Heritage Center** is home to three permanent exhibits: The Underground Railroad, African American Women in the 19th Century, and The Black Church in America. The Heritage Center is also the original site of Nickens's church, now called First Baptist Church of Chillicothe.



The museum is located in close proximity to the church at 71 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street and features tours by appointment.

The First Baptist Church of Chillicothe is located at 65 W.4th Street in Chillicothe, Ohio (45601).

For those who are not driving to Chillicothe and are interested in going in a van, please call the church office (513-381-3858, ext.3) by **June 22, 2025** for van transportation and leave your name to sign up.

# 194th Church Anniversary - July 20, 2025



# SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, August 23, 2025

You are cordially invited to a special celebration honoring Dr. Orlando B. Yates for 55 years of preaching and dedicated service to the Lord.

Join us for an evening of reflection, gratitude, and celebration.

Word of Deliverance Church 693 Fresno Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45240

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Let us come together to honor this faithful and humble servant of the Lord. ~~ Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel

# PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY SERVICE - August 24, 2025



## **Union Baptist Church Honored Memorial Day with Special Ceremonies**

Union Baptist Church proudly commemorated Memorial Day with heartfelt observances at both **Historic Union Baptist Cemetery** and **Historic United Colored American Cemetery**. We were deeply honored by the presence of the **University of Cincinnati Army ROTC Color Guard** (United Colored American Cemetery) and **Boy Scout Troop #107 Color Guard Unit** (Union Baptist Cemetery) who helped set a dignified tone for the events.

Our program featured stirring words from guest speakers: **Ohio State Representative Cecil Thomas** (United Colored American Cemetery) and **Dr. Jonathan Brown**, Pastor of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church and CEO of City Gospel Mission. Their reflections on service, sacrifice, and legacy deeply moved all in attendance.

Musical selections were beautifully rendered by the **Word of Life Choir** (United Colored American Cemetery) and **Joy** (Union Baptist Cemetery), adding a powerful spiritual dimension to our remembrance.

The observance at the United Colored American Cemetery was officiated by **Dr. Orlando B. Yates**, while the ceremony at Union Baptist Cemetery was led by **Rev. Alvin Wyatt**.

A special moment of recognition was given to **Presley Gregory**, a veteran of the **American Revolutionary War** who rests at the United Colored American Cemetery—a poignant reminder of the enduring contributions of African American patriots to our nation's history. A picture of Presley Gregory's headstone with the floral wreath next to it is featured below.

We thank God for the opportunity to honor our ancestors and the brave men and women who served our country with valor. May their legacy continue to inspire future generations.

~~Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel











#### I HEAR MUSIC IN THE AIR LEGENDS BALL - May 4, 2025

Union Baptist Church salutes our Pastor, **Dr. Orlando B. Yates** who was honored at the 2025 *I Hear Music in the Air Legends Ball*. Pastor Yates was recognized for the impact that he and Union Baptist Church have had on the Cincinnati Community.





~~Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel



"In everything give thanks, for this is the will Of God in Christ Jesus for you." -1 Thessalonians 5:18

We want to express our "Heartfelt Thanks,"

"Sincere Gratitude" and "Grateful Appreciation,"

For your outpouring love, gracious generosity, kindness

And words of encouragement during the transition

Of our beloved, Rev. Dr. Winfred M. Hope.

We deeply appreciate the Resolutions and donations
to the Ebenezer Baptist Church West Scholarship Fund.

Your thoughtful expressions, prayers, and many
acts of kindness brought much comfort and
strength during this season of life.

We solicit your continued prayers.

May God grant you special grace and blessings!

With Sincere Love,
The Family of the late Rev. Dr., Winfred M. Hope

#### Words of Appreciation to the Music Ministry from Sis. Jaci Powell:

My Dear Friends, I want to express my gratitude for your kindness in remembering me with a "Love Package". I thank you, for allowing God to use you to bless me.

Ever since Fred passed away, God has been taking care of me, like He promised. I whisper, "Thank you, Lord, for another blessing." I know that God put it on your hearts to send these gifts to me. He knows my feet are always cold (socks). He knows that I am always looking for a snack (Boom Chicka Pop). He knows that my sweater has seen better days (blankets). He knows I have the worst sinuses in Cincinnati (tissues). "He will supply all my needs."

If God wills it, I will be back on the organ bench soon, and again become a functioning member of the Music Ministry of Union Baptist Church.

May God continually bless you all! Jaci

<u>Thank You from the Harper's:</u> Thank you so much for your compassion and condolences. We are truly grateful for your kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness. - Robert, Joy and Michael. May 2025

## **MINISTRY UPDATES**

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

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 summer 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 as 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 <u>Saturday</u>, <u>June 7, 2025 from 11am to 5pm</u>. 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, Sunday School Superintendent

#### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

## ~~~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.

Union Baptist Church happily welcomes our new Percussionist, **Bro. R.J. Watson**, as the church's new percussionist musician.

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

~~Submitted by Bro. Jeremy Yates

#### **CEMETERY MINISTRY**

Thanks to a grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Union Baptist Church, under the leadership of **Dr. Raven Spratley**, conducted two very successful cemetery cleanup days at the historic Union Baptist Cemetery on March 22, 2025 and May 17, 2025. A heartfelt thanks goes out to each UBC member and community volunteer who came out to assist with this project. A special thanks goes out to Pastor Daniel Holt, Bro. Caleb Holt and Bro. Richard Spratley for leading the crews who did a magnificent job backfilling holes, pruning limbs and landscaping the grounds. ~~ Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel

#### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

The women's laity will celebrate Women's Day on <u>Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 10:45 a.m.</u> Our guest speaker will be **Sis. Shauna Murphy**, **Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools**. More information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer to help, please see Dr. Carolyn Turner. ~~ Submitted by Sis. Rogena Stargel

# **MINISTRY UPDATES** (continued)

Submitted by Sis. Annette Bell, Health and Wellness Ministry Leader / Collective Empowerment Group,
Ambassador





# June is Family Emphasis Month

WORSHIP SERVICE AND OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION: Sunday, June 1, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on YouTube and Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Monday, June 2, 2025 - Friday, June 6, 2025 from 6:00p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**: Sunday, June 8, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**: Sunday, June 15, 2024, Annual Father's Day / Men's Laity Day In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**: Sunday, June 22, 2025, Graduation Recognition Observance, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**: Sunday, June 29, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

ANNUAL CHURCH REVIVAL: Sunday, June 29 through Tuesday, July 1, 2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

#### A Prayer for June

Heavenly Father,
Each sunbeam that touches the earth's face,
Is a gentle reminder of Your loving grace.
Every blossom that unfurls its hue,
Speaks of Your creation, fresh and new.
As I tread on life's path, day after day,
Guide my steps, Lord, lest I stray.
In every moment, in joy or strife,
Let me feel Your presence, the pulse of life.

~~Anonymous (Guideposts)

# July is Church and Family Emphasis Month

**INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED:** Friday, July 4, 2025 (Church Office Closed)

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



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

UNION AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHILLICOTHE: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**: 194<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, July 20, 2025, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

THIRD QUARTER CHURCH CONFERENCE: Friday, July 25, 2025 in UBC Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.

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

# A Prayer for July

Jesus, Our Redeemer, in July we celebrate The freedom found in Your loving embrace. Liberate our spirits with Your truth and light, Fill our hearts with the joy of Your grace, And grant us peace in Your boundless love.

~~Anonymous (Guideposts)

# August is Fellowship and Family Emphasis Month

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND HOLY COMMUNION:** Sunday, August 3, 2025, In-Person and Streaming on Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m.



**WORSHIP CELEBRATION:** Sunday, August 10, 2025, In-Person and Streaming on Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m.

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION:** Sunday, August 17, 2024 In-Person, and Streaming on Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m.

<u>WORSHIP CELEBRATION</u>: Sunday, August 24, 2025, 37<sup>th</sup> Pastor Appreciation Day Observance, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION:** Sunday, August 31, 2024 In-Person and Streaming on Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m.

# A Prayer for August

Heavenly Father,
As I journey through August, with its long, golden days,
Steer my heart, Lord, to follow Your ways.
In every encounter, in unity or in strife,
Let me feel Your guidance, my compass for life.
Each whisper of the summer breeze,
every star that lights the night,
Reaffirms Your presence, my everlasting beacon of light.
~~Anonymous (Guideposts)

# **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.