

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter

Reverend Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Senior Pastor



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Winter 2024

A Meditation for You from Our Pastor

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 KJV

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

At this special time of the year, I wish to extend to each of you and your families peace and hope at Christmas and a blessed New Year. I pray for strength, love, and joy for you this holiday season and beyond. May the Lord order all of your steps with His Word and help you to walk in obedience and love.

We have come to the end of a very challenging year, but the light of Christ still shines in the midst of the darkness of this world but thank God the darkness has not overcome his light. For **John 8:12** declares, **"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."** This is the real reason for our joy as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. For many of us, Christmas may be different this year because someone may be missing that we loved so much. But we can still rejoice because Christmas is not about the Christmas tree, gifts, or even family gatherings, it is all about the birth of our Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

Here are some reasons to celebrate:

1. Jesus was born because of **mankind's sin**.
2. Jesus was born because God wanted to **reveal His own character to humanity**.
3. Jesus was born to **remove the sins of humankind through a perfect sacrifice**.
4. Jesus was born for **mankind to have a Mediator**.
5. Jesus was born to **provide the promised Seed of Abraham**.
6. Jesus was born for God to **make His Spirit available to all humankind**.
7. Jesus was born for God to **redeem mankind**.

We can rejoice because as the Godman, Jesus knows everything that we go through. Every pain we have ever felt, he has also felt! So, he knows how much we can bear! Therefore, we must learn to trust Him in all things. We must learn to trust in his divine will for us.

Last Christmas, none of us could possibly imagine what this year would bring, but we can see the hand of God at work in our lives, especially in times of trial. Mary and Joseph had to trust God completely when they made the long trek to Bethlehem and then again when they had to flee into Egypt. We ask God to help all of us trust Him as they did.

May we be people of faith and joy who rejoice in the light and hope that Christmas brings and the blessed opportunities that the New Year offers. The light of Christ truly does shine in a world full of darkness, of wars, of political discord, of so much evil and this light must penetrate into our hearts and actions. We are called to be the light of Jesus, to carry the light into a lost world that so desperately needs it.

(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 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 prayer via Zoom. Please consult the UBC website at www.union-baptist.net for information on connecting to Zoom / audio access. Prayer Band Ministry

Tuesday at 7:00 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 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
DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY**



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!

MESSAGE FROM UBC SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings Union,

As we come to the close of 2023, we have enjoyed our Saturday and Sunday school classes.

For upcoming 2024, Sunday School will be held beginning in January in person in the church sanctuary for adults and young adults, singles and couples from 9:30am to 10:20am. The start date will be on January 28, 2024. New members class will start on January 28, 2024 as well.

Until then, students or those interested in a Bible Study class can join Sis. Faye Shirley's Saturday class which is held via phone conference call on Saturday afternoons. (please refer to page 1 for more information)

On behalf of the Church School department, we wish you and yours a very joyous holiday season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. May God's blessings be upon you all in the coming new year.

Deacon Ernest Norman/Sunday School Superintendent

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Please Join us for our **Wreaths Across America** programs at both Historic Union Baptist and Historic United Colored American Cemeteries on **Saturday, December 16, 2023 at noon**. We would like to thank all the people who donated funds for wreaths this year. We have surpassed our goal. We have wreaths to put on our veterans' graves and **volunteers are needed**. Please come out to the ceremony and place a wreath on a veteran's grave. For more details or to volunteer, please contact **Sis Louise Stevenson**.



Historic Union Baptist Cemetery is located at 4933 Cleves Warsaw Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45238. Historic United Colored American Cemetery is located at Duck Creek Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45227.

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: The Cemetery Ministry is also looking for volunteers to work with our cemetery records. We take all volunteers at Union and in the community. If interested please contact **Sis. Gwen Hall** or **Sis. Louise Stevenson**.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: will be held on **Sunday, December 24, 2023**, from **9:00am to 10:15am in the sanctuary** under the leadership of Dr. Raven Spratley, Ministry Leader and Bro. Richard Spratley, Assistant Ministry Leader; and assisted by the Music and Drama Ministries; and Praise Dance Ministry leaders. Treats will be passed out afterwards by the Sunday School Leadership, Deacon Ernest Norman and Deacon Donald Darby.

WORD WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY (FACEBOOK LIVE) will have a last class for the fall session on **Wednesday, December 13, 2023** at 7:30 pm and be on Winter break from **Wednesday, December 20, 2023** up to **Wednesday, January 17, 2024**. Word Wednesday Bible Study will **resume on Wednesday, January 24, 2024**.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

A Prayer for December

Oh Lord, this is a season of light
of Bethlehem candles burning
of menorahs aglow.
Help me to bask in that light.
In that full radiance
help me to see
My brother
as he really is:
Your child, needful of me.
Help me to sustain that recognition
of him, of Thee
as the seasons turn
and the night sky, once more,
Is aburst with the brilliance of Your birth. ~ ~ *Gordan Neel (Guideposts Devotional)*



December is Advent Season

ANNUAL FAMILY OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION: Sunday, December 3, 2023, In-Person and Livestream on YouTube and Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND SPECIAL RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS: Sunday, December 10, 2023, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

ANNUAL SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, December 17, 2023, In-Person and Livestream on YouTube and Facebook at 10:45 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 through Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Sunday, December 24, 2023, In-person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube from 9:00am to 10:15am.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND CHILDREN & YOUTH REDEDICATION: Sunday, December 24, 2023, In-Person and Livestream on YouTube and Facebook at 10:45 a.m.

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, December 31, 2023, In-person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

WATCH NIGHT OBSERVANCE AT HOME WITH FAMILY: Be in prayer at midnight.

A Prayer for January

Today, Lord,
Our calendar for January
And the months ahead
Is as fresh and clean
As we ourselves could be
If only we tried more often
To live as You would have us to live.
We know that this is possible, Lord,
For You are our forgiving Father,
God of the Second Chance,
The One Who promises
That we can always make
A fresh beginning.
Today, Lord,
As the new year dawns,
Let us begin.

~ ~ *Guideposts Editors*



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

January is Worshiping Jesus Christ, Only, Always!

HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE OBSERVED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JANUARY: January 7, 2024, In-Person and Live-Stream on YouTube and Facebook at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, January 14, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: Monday, January 15, 2024 (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance)

CITY WIDE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OBSERVANCE DAY WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024: The MLK Day Commemorative March will begin outside the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center at 10:30 a.m. The March will conclude at Washington Park about 11:15 a.m. with an interfaith prayer service. Metro's buses will be on-hand to assist march participants who cannot make the full walk between the Freedom Center and Washington Park. At noon, the public is invited to continue to Music Hall for the free MLK Day Commemorative Program. (for more information visit the MLK Coalition website)

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, January 21, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, January 28, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

February is Black History Month

HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE OBSERVED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY: February 4, 2024 In-Person and Live-Stream on YouTube and Facebook at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, February 11, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, February 18, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: Monday, February 19, 2024, Presidents' Day Observance

UBC AFRICAN HERITAGE OBSERVANCE AND WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND (WEAR AFRICAN APPAREL): Sunday, February 25, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

Why Do We Celebrate Black History Month?

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans.

Woodson believed that his role was to use black history and culture as a weapon in the struggle for racial uplift. By 1916, Woodson had moved to DC and established the "Association for the Study of Negro Life and Culture," an organization whose goal was to make black history accessible to a wider audience.

Black History Month is celebrated across the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany and Netherlands, and from school systems to television networks, many organizations recognize the month by building Black history into their programming during the month of February. *Wikimedia*



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

UBC MINISTRY UPDATES

MENS MINISTRY: will begin again their weekly Fellowship and Bible Class series on Tuesdays in the church sanctuary from 7 pm to 8:00 pm beginning **Tuesday, January 30, 2024.** All men are encouraged to come and fellowship.

WOMENS MINISTRY 2024: An announcement will be forthcoming regarding the new Ministry Leader and Assistant Ministry Leader.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

(Information and pictures provided by **Sis. Annette I. Bell, Health and Wellness Ministry Leader**)

The Health and Wellness Ministry thanks everyone for their support during the month of October. We raised \$620 of the \$1,000 goal for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 10 am. The UBC HAW Steppers walked in honor of our very own Breast Cancer Survivor, **Sis. Kathy Spratley.**



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The Health and Wellness Ministry thanks everyone for their support during the month of October 2023. **Think Pink on Sunday, October 22, 2023.**



Community Involvement



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.

*Grow
in Christ*