

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter

Reverend Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Senior Pastor



Volume 16, Issue: 1

Winter 2025

A Meditation for You from Our Pastor

KEEP THE FAITH

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12 NIV

Dear Union,

As we approach this holiday season and beyond, the good news is that **Christ still shines amidst the darkness of this world**. This is the cause of our joy as we get ready to celebrate another blessed Christmas. We celebrate because no matter what may be happening in the world, we know who is really in charge! God himself has come on a mission of grace, mercy, love, and salvation.

We must learn to trust the Lord. We must learn to trust in His divine will for us. Last Christmas, none of us could have imagined what this year would bring, but we have seen the hand of God at work in our lives especially in times of trial. Mary and Joseph had to trust God completely when they had to make the long journey to Bethlehem and then again when they had to flee into Egypt and so do we.

May we be people of faith and joy who rejoice in the light and hope that Christmas brings. This light truly does shine in a world full of darkness, and this light must penetrate in our hearts. **We are called to be the light of Jesus to the world**, so that one person at a time, one soul at a time, we can share that light to a world that so desperately needs it.

As we approach the end of 2024 and prepare for 2025, the words of the Apostle Paul come to mind: **"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Be joyful! Be prayerful! Be thankful! This sounds pretty simple, but we need to be reminded of this daily.

We **rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ** because He is our Savior! In Him, we have the forgiveness of all sin, past, present, and future. We don't have to carry regret over past mistakes into the new year, Praise God! Instead, we can prepare to begin 2025, knowing that we are forgiven and eternally loved by our gracious God.

We **pray for a renewed sense of purpose** as individuals and as a congregation. We believe God will lead us as we strive to fulfill our purpose and mission. As we face tough decisions in the new year, and unprecedented changes in our institutions and the new administration, we are trusting that God will lead us, and thus we can experience the peace that passes all understanding that only He can give.

We **thank God** for every experience that has shaped us this past year. Even during difficult seasons, we grew closer to one another and stronger in faith and fellowship! We are thankful for each of you! During this past year, we have offered thanksgiving for successful surgeries; the

(Continued) birth of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; safe travels across highways and into foreign lands; the renewal of hope and faith; the homegoing of loved ones who entered their heavenly rest; and many other experiences.

To be sure, we are living through challenging times; financial insecurity; health issues; attacks that threaten many in the community and others who are the most vulnerable among us. Nevertheless, the Word reminds us to "keep our spiritual fervor as we serve the Lord: be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

So let us get ready for a wonderful year ahead! Let us be on the lookout for the new thing God wants to do **in** us and **through** us. To God be the glory for the great things He has done in 2024 and will do in the future through Jesus Christ our Lord! **Amen.**

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
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!

WORD WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: The last class session of Word Wednesday Bible Study will occur on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 before winter break. Word Wednesday Bible Study Facebook Live and on YouTube classes will resume on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.**

ANNUAL FAMILY COMMUNION: Annual Family Communion will be observed on the first Sunday in December on **December 1, 2024** at the 10:45 a.m. worship celebration. Families are asked to come and sit together as much as possible. Family members are also asked to give a sacrificial Family Communion offering above your tithes and offering.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at Noon



Thank you, Union and the community for supporting the Wreaths Across American Program for Historic Union Baptist and Historic United Colored American Cemeteries. This year, **we will be honoring 50 veterans**. What a wonderful blessing for the community!



In honor of our veterans, please consider purchasing a wreath that will be laid at the grave of a veteran at the **Union Baptist Cemetery** and at the **United Colored American Cemetery** this holiday season. To make your purchase and for more information, please go to the following link:

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/.../OHUNBP>

We are also in dire need of the people of God to help place wreaths on the graves of veterans on **Saturday, December 14, 2024. Please plan to arrive by 11:45 a.m.** The program will begin across the nation at noon and conclude by 12:30 p.m.

Come out, take pictures, and have fellowship with us. We have asked the media to come to share this event with the larger community.

Historic Union Baptist Cemetery is located at 4933 Cleves Warsaw Pike (45238) and **Historic Union United Colored American Cemetery** is located at Duck Creek Rd & Strathmore Dr. (45227)

Sis Dorene Dillard, Chairperson and **Sis. Louise Stevenson** and **Sis. Lisa Adams, Co-Chairpersons**

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: will be held on **Sunday, December 22, 2024**, from **9:30 am to 10:30 am in the sanctuary** sponsored by the Sunday School of Union and 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 after the 10:45 a.m. Pre-Christmas Day Worship by the Sunday School Leadership, Deacon Ernest Norman and Deacon Donald Darby.

CONGRATULATIONS UNION AND SIS. ANGELITA JONES!!

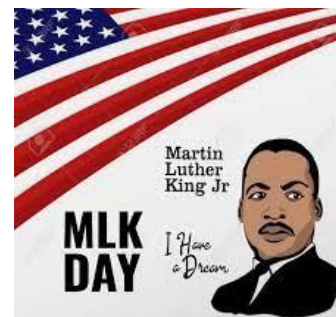
Union Baptist Church received Church of the Year Recognition and Sis. Angelita Jones received Business of the Year Recognition (Eastern Personnel Services) at the CEG Business Excellence Awards Gala and Fundraiser held by the Collective Empowerment Group (CEG), Metro Cincinnati Chapter on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

"A LITTLE NOTE OF THANKS": To Pastor, First Lady, Officers and Members of Union Baptist Church - Thank you so very kindly for all of your thoughtful expressions of sympathy for the loss of my mother-in-law, Geraldine Jackson. I am so grateful and appreciative that I do not have words to express just how much. For all that you have done, I thank you once again. May God bless you. Blessings, **Greta Jackson**

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OBSERVANCE DAY MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025:

The 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Program is extra special this year because of the celebration of the program's 50th year. The theme is **"Jubilee for MLK's Beloved Community."**

The morning will start with a morning of music, reflection and call to action in celebration of the life and enduring legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Annual MLK Breakfast held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center located at 50 East Freedom Way (45202). The doors will open 8 a.m., with a continental breakfast from 8-8:30 a.m. The program will start at 8:30 a.m. Union submitted a half-page ad for the souvenir booklet.



Tickets can be purchased at: Tickets <https://freedomcenter.org/klc-ticket-standard/>

The 50th March and Program will begin at the Freedom Center at 10:30 am. From the Freedom Center, marchers will proceed to Washington Park for closing interfaith prayers.

The marchers will then proceed into Music Hall for the program beginning at 12:00 noon. Cincinnati Metro provides the Rosa Parks Bus throughout the March for people with mobility concerns, for families with children, and anyone who prefers to ride while participating in the March.

The doors will open at 11:15 a.m. at Music Hall. There will be pre-program entertainment followed by a 90-minute program, which includes music from the award-winning MLK Chorale and Youth Choir, and keynote speaker Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries from the Ohio State University.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI WILL OBSERVE AFRICAN HERITAGE OBSERVANCE DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH UNION ON FEBRUARY 9, 2025: Dr. Holly Y. McGee, Associate Professor of the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati, staff and students will join Union Baptist Church again this year to observe Black History Month during the 10:45 a.m. Worship Celebration. A Fellowship Hour with lunch will follow immediately after the worship service.

African apparel is encouraged to be worn for this special observance and worship celebration.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

UBC MINISTRY UPDATES

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry Bible Study and Fellowship will be held at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. A class **will not be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024**. There will be a **final class on Tuesday, December 17, 2024** concluding the series, "Power in Faith". There will be a winter break for the men's Bible Class and the class will **resume on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7:15 p.m.** with a new Bible series to be announced. All men are encouraged to be in attendance. **Pastor Yates is the lead teacher.**

Sunday School Ministry

Greetings from the Sunday School Ministry:

The Sunday School ministry continues to offer our traditional class from 9:30am to 10:20am each Sunday. **Rev. Wyatt** is the lead instructor, and we have capable instructors in his absence.

Sis. Faye Shirley continues to offer a Saturday afternoon class as well. I still have not been contacted by parents concerning classes for our children. I would like to see classes for our children this coming year 2025. Please contact myself or Deacon Donald Darby about the classes for your child.

Sunday school is a very important time of studying and learning God's word. I pray that you will make every effort to join us the rest of this year, and in 2025 as we study God's word, now more than ever in these critical times we face as Christians.

May God continue to bless you and your family as we come to a close of this year.

~~~**Deacon Ernest Norman/Sunday School Superintendent**

#### **Cemetery Ministry**

##### **Her Grant: United Colored American Cemetery**

We will have an update in January about the \$750,000 NPS grant. We are excited about moving forward with our restoration projects at United Colored American. This spring, we will also have a ceremony for the installation of our historical marker. Again, special thanks to the Councilman, Mark Jefferies, and the City of Cincinnati for helping us with this project.

##### **Archival Staff**

Elizabeth Coleman from the Ohio America Corp Program will collaborate with Schroder and JP Parker School on a series of events and lectures about the United Colored American Cemetery and will also be involved in our archival work.

Rachel Powell and Etta Cole are student workers from the University of Cincinnati who also work with Carolyn Davis on Saturdays. These three individuals have been gifted to us. Union Baptist does not pay their salaries; our partners have picked up their wages for this archival project.

##### **Archival Work and Move**

We will move upstairs to the newly renovated Archival room in the next few weeks. We are still digitizing our records with the public library. The Cemetery Advisory Board has been actively engaged in our archival work; we highly appreciate their recommendations and support for our cemetery work.

##### **Greater Cincinnati Foundation**

Congratulations, Union. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation has awarded us a \$19,000 Environmental Grant for work at Union Baptist Cemetery. We will begin this work in January 2025 and be able to cut down and remove dead trees and fix sunken graves and potholes.

~~~**Sis. Louise Stevenson, Union Cemetery Advisory Committee Chairman**


INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (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.

February 16, 2025 - UBC Go Red Sunday

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)

December is Advent Season

ANNUAL FAMILY OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION: Sunday, December 1, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on YouTube and Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m. Christian Baptism will also be observed.



WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS: Sunday, December 8, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

ANNUAL SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL CHILDREN & YOUTH REDEDICATION PRAYER: Sunday, December 15, 2024, In-Person and Livestream on YouTube and Facebook at 10:45 a.m.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT 9:30 A.M. AND PRE-CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, December 22, 2024, In-person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube from 9:00am to 10:15am.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: Friday, December 20, 2024 through Friday, January 3, 2025.

PRE-NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, December 29, 2024, 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 on December 31, 2024.

ADVENT

Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity. -- *Wikipedia*

Advent in 2024 will begin on Sunday, December 1 and end on Tuesday, December 24.

A Prayer for December



Heavenly Father, as I step into the month of December, I come before You with a heart full of reflection and gratitude. This month marks the end of another year – a year filled with both challenges and blessings, losses and gains, tears and laughter.

I thank You for Your faithfulness through it all. Your unchanging hand has guided me, Your strength has upheld me, and Your love has enveloped me every day.

In this season of reflection, help me to look back with gratitude, acknowledging Your presence in every moment.

May I recognize the lessons learned, the growth experienced, and the grace You have abundantly provided. Let me carry forward the wisdom gained into the new year, trusting in Your continual guidance and care.

-- *christianstt.com*

Did You Know.....

The **Watch Night Service** also has theological significance. The biblical bases for the Watch Night Service may be found in the Gospel of Matthew 26:38-42. While in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus repeatedly admonished his disciples to “watch and pray” while he went nearby to pray a lament to God. -- *Wikipedia*

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

January is Worshiping Jesus Christ, Only, Always!



HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE OBSERVED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JANUARY:

January 5, 2025, In-Person and Live-Stream on YouTube and Facebook at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: **Sunday, January 12, 2025**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: **Sunday, January 19, 2025**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: **Monday, January 20, 2025** (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance)

FIRST QUARTER CHURCH CONFERENCE: **January 24, 2025** at 6:00 pm in the Church Sanctuary

WORSHIP CELEBRATION: **Sunday, January 26, 2025**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

A Prayer for January

Loving Creator, as we welcome the dawn of a New Year, we are grateful for Your love and grace. We thank You for the gift of time, allowing us to make amends and pursue our dreams. Guide our hearts and renew our minds as we embark on new paths and move forward in faith with courage, strength, and love guiding our actions.

~~~ *Anonymous, Guideposts Devotional*

### **February is Black History Month**

**HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE OBSERVED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY:** **February 2, 2025** In-Person and Live-Stream on YouTube and Facebook at 10:45 a.m.

**UBC AFRICAN HERITAGE OBSERVANCE AND WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND (WEAR AFRICAN APPAREL):** **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m. with guests from the University of Cincinnati.

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

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** **Monday, February 17, 2025**, Presidents' Day Observance

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION:** **Sunday, February 23, 2024**, In-Person and Livestream on Facebook and YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

### **A Prayer for February**

Our Heavenly Father,  
In this Short month  
Of long winter days,  
Guide me to focus  
On my blessings.  
Place in my heart  
a desire, to please You  
and fill my mind  
with thoughts of  
Your love.

~~~ *Anonymous, Guideposts Devotional*

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)



The scholar **Carter G. Woodson** was a driving force behind the establishment of Black History Month. He believed that Black people should be proud of their heritage and that all Americans should understand the achievements of Black Americans.

Did You Also Know:

Origins

Black educators and the Black United Students at Kent State University proposed Black History Month in February 1969. The first celebration took place at Kent State in February 1970.

Early years

The celebration was initially a week-long event, but was expanded to a month in the 1960s during the Civil Rights movement.

Official recognition

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially designated February as Black History Month. Since then, every U.S. president has officially designated the month.

Celebration

Black History Month is celebrated in the United States and Canada, and more recently in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Purpose

Black History Month is a celebration of African Americans' achievements and their role in U.S. history. It's also a reminder that Black history and achievement can be celebrated by everyone all year long. ~*Wikipedia*

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.

