

Link for Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94327921872?pwd=a05walRGK1MxcTRab0pLWC9DeFViQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 2792 1872

Password: 023012

To connect by phone, call (646)558-8656

When attempting to join our Sunday morning worship on Zoom, participants enter a “Waiting Room” and are allowed entrance only when recognized by a member of the UUC Tech Team. This means your Zoom login must have your name or some identifying information that we can recognize. “Zoom User” will not work!

Those joining us for worship on Zoom can present their tithes and offerings online through our [website](#) or by downloading the [Tithe.ly App](#) for your iPhone or Android device. You may also give using Venmo. Our Venmo “handle” is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church, or you can scan this QR code to donate to UUC on Venmo:



**UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 30, 2025

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

PRELUDE

Wayfaring Stranger

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are hungry for something deeper— Not just answers, but meaning. Not just certainty, but truth.

People: We come seeking wisdom— Not the wisdom of the powerful, But the wisdom that lives in silence, in soil, in stories.

Leader: Come, all who have been told your voice doesn't matter, Who have been overlooked, dismissed, or silenced.

People: We come with the wisdom we carry in our bodies, In our memories, in our joy and our pain.

Leader: Here, we are not climbing ladders of greatness— We are planting seeds of grace. We are becoming a people who know otherwise.

People: We come to listen, to learn, to love. We come to worship the One who speaks through the humble, And reveals truth at the margins.

All Together: Let us worship God, Who is still speaking, still guiding, And still making a way for wisdom to rise.

*** GATHERING HYMN #716 (vs 1-3) God of Grace and God of Glory**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You may also give directly through your bank, or online through Tith.ly or Venmo. Our Venmo "handle" is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church or use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.)

OFFERTORY Improvisation (Koln concert) by Keith Jarrett

***DOXOLOGY #71A & BLESSING**

Praise God, the source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame.

All glory, honor to God's name.

*** HYMN OF THE MONTH #556** I Bind My Heart This Tide

SCRIPTURE James 3:13–18 (pew Bible p. 1055-56)

MEDITATION Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

SERMON Practicing Freedom: Wisdom—Knowing Otherwise

Rev. Roberto Che Espinoza, PhD

*** CLOSING HYMN # 737**

(vs 1-3) Breathe on Me Breath of God

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE #805**

Peace, salaam, shalom, peace, salaam, shalom,

peace, salaam, shalom, peace, salaam, shalom.

POSTLUDE Keep on the Sunny Side *Carter Family*

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Center following worship

Accessibility

Accessible parking and **ramp access** to the Church is available in the parking lot on West University St. **Hearing assistance** and **large print hymnals** are available. Ask the Usher for a Hearing Assistance device. The Hymnals are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

Prayer Concerns

Ding Jiayi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Kenneth Williams, Bob & Deb Lewis, Bob Condrate, the Burdick family, Joan & Brad Bowden, Sally Hopkins, Luanne Crosby's friends: Kathy Kalushka (breast cancer) & Kathy Bohlen (cancer), Steve Crandall.

March Leadership: **Elder:-**Larry Casey, **Trustee-**Anna McHale, **Deacon -**Erin Law, **Fellowship-**Cindy Tucker, **Christian Ed-**Melissa Jusaniec.

Serving Today

Lay LeaderColleen Sarnicola Moon
Flowers.....No flowers during Lent
Greeter(s)M. Tichy
Coffee Hour.....Hluchy & Burke
Piano Peter O'Connor
Usher.....John Meacham
Zoom Hosts Jim Ninos

Looking Ahead – April 6

Lay LeaderRick Stephens
Flowers.....No flowers during Lent
Greeter(s)Evangelista & Dosch
Coffee Hour.....Tuckers
Piano Peter O'Connor

Usher.....TBD

Zoom Hosts Jim Ninos

Meetings

March 30, Diaconate meeting following worship in Bergren Room

April 8, Elders Meeting at 7pm in Bergren Room

Upcoming Youth Sundays: April 6

The Youth meet at 9:30am in the King David Room for breakfast and an inspiring lesson.

Guest Preacher on April 6

We will welcome Rev. Stan Mitchell back to the UUC pulpit on 4/6. He is the Pastor Emeritus of GracePointe Church in Nashville, TN, having served as its Lead Pastor from 2003 through 2019. He spends his vocational time now as a speaker, LGBTQ+ advocate, and consultant within the Progressive Christian movement.

Stewardship & Pledge Forms will be distributed on April 6

Upcoming Farmer's Market on April 13 in the King David Room from 9am-3:30pm

Financial Update

As an independent church, not affiliated with any denomination, UUC is funded entirely by individual members and donors. We need a steady stream of financial support and volunteers to enable us to pay salaries and utilities and to help maintain our facilities and programs.

Operating Income is now running behind budget by about 8.8% -- about the same as last month. Income through February 28: \$114,751.00. Income needed through February 28 to make budget: \$124,844.00.

Donate through Venmo



Lenten Project

This year the Elders have decided to partner with Haiti Outreach for our Lenten project. As many of you may recall we have a longstanding relationship with Haiti Outreach and several of our members and former youth have been to Haiti. We also contributed to a water project there in conjunction with Michele Hluchy's "Water Planet" class. Details will follow as we firm up plans.

Pastoral Evaluation Report

Submitted by Lana Meissner, Board of Elders Chair

There were 62 responses, 41 online and 21 paper (40 from church members and 22 from non-church members).

The results of the evaluation have been shared with Pastor Beto and plans are under way for meeting the most immediate needs identified in the survey.

Pastoral Leadership Coaching – Beto has connected with Rev. Nathan Kirkpatrick, one of the principal consultants at Saison Consulting, LLC, who has secured a grant to cover 6 months of pastoral leadership coaching with Beto at no cost to UUC. Coaching will begin as soon as it can be arranged given that these are the weeks leading into Easter.

Moving Forward – Rev. Stan Mitchell will return to Alfred April 4-6 to work with Beto and church leaders to envision next steps forward. The trustees have approved travel costs for this site visit. Stan will also preach on April 6.

Healing and Reconciliation – I believe we all agree that before we can fully focus on the future there is a need for reconciliation and healing on several fronts. We will be working to find facilitators who can help with these healing conversations.

While we cannot share specific, detailed results from the evaluation surveys because they are personnel records, I can share the results of member and non-member “visions” for UUC

Church Members’ Vision for UUC (Summarized from the Pastoral Evaluation Comments)

1. A welcoming & inclusive Church, 2. A church that balances social justice with internal congregational care, 3. A spiritually nourishing church, 4. A hub for community & relationship-building, 5. A sustainable & adaptable church for the future

Non-Members’ Vision for UUC (Summarized from the Pastoral Evaluation Comments)

1. A community-centered church that engages beyond Sunday worship, 2. A justice-oriented, inclusive, and prophetic church, 3. A place of safety, support, and healing, 4. A bold, forward-thinking church that leads change

Pastor Beto has asked that I add his note of thanks:

Dear Union University Church family,

Thank you to all who participated in the pastoral evaluation. I am deeply grateful for your time, honesty, and care. Your reflections are a gift, and I receive them with an open heart. I am committed

to growing as your pastor and to embodying an ethic of care in all that I do. With your partnership, I hope to continue building a community rooted in love, grace, and shared transformation.

With gratitude and hope,

Roberto Che Espinoza+

716 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7 extended

G D G C G D7

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to thy con -
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de -

G D G Am7/C

pow'r. Crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry, bring its bud to
 ways! From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to
 trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and
 plore. Let the search for thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry

G/D D G D7 G

glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing

D7 G Am7/C G/D D7 G

fac - ing of this hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
 liv - ing of these days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
 miss thy king - dom's goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 thee whom we a - dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick (USA), 1930, *Praise and Service*Music: John Hughes (Wales), 1905, *The Voice of Thanksgiving* no. 4, 1928

556 I Bind My Heart This Tide

UNION 6.7.7.7

Dm Gm Dm Gm F

1 I bind my heart this tide to the Gal - i - le - an's side, to the
 2 I bind my soul this day to the neigh-bor far a - way and the
 3 I bind my heart in thrall to the God, the Lord of all, to the
 4 I bind my - self to peace, to make strife and en - vy cease. God!

Dm F Gm F Dm C G Dm

wounds of Cal - va - ry, to the Christ who died for me.
 stran - ger near at hand, in this town and in this land.
 Christ, the poor one's friend, and the Spir - it he did send.
 Knit se - cure the cord of my thrall-dom to my Lord! A - men.

Text: Lauchlan M. Watt (Scotland), *The Tryst: A Book of the Soul*, 1907, alt.Music: J. Randall Zercher (USA), 1965, *The Mennonite Hymnal*, 1969, © 1965 J. Randall Zercher

737 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM SM

F B \flat B \flat m F B \flat G7 C

1 Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, breath of God, my will to yours in - cline,
 4 Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what you so love, and do what you would do.
 un - til with you, I will one will: to do and to en - dure.
 till all this self - ish part of me glows with your fire di - vine.
 but live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

F B \flat F B \flat maj7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

Text: Edwin Hatch (England), *Between Doubt and Prayer*, 1878, alt.
 Music: Robert Jackson (England), *Fifty Sacred Leaflets*, 1888