



! It's time !

BeReal with Jesus Youth Sunday 2023

March 19, 2023
4th Sunday of Lent
Look for the Shepherd
Youth Sunday
BeReal. With Jesus

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs.

Please complete the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it in with your offering or give it to a pastor. This is a good way to let us know you're here.

Our church is a diverse family of believers, spiritually united in Christ, rooted in a rich heritage and growing with vitality into the future. We proclaim God's word, nurturing and inspiring dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care and outreach within our community and the world.

One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God's inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Readers: Youth Group

Ushers: 8:00 Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli

10:30 Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Dan Haftl, Maryann Puia, Eric Minnich, Gloria Toner, Carol Stout

Greeters: Youth Group

Sound: Mike Baer

“Yet even now,” says the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting...rend your hearts and not your clothing.” — Joel 2: 12-13

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the “usual” places. Isn’t it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don’t we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary “good feelings” and satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We will move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the “real deal.”

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

Prelude

All Good Gifts Godspell (Broadway)
Kiel Baer, vocals Blake Hoppes, Piano

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Katie Solt

Solo: Emma Milander

Hearts open, minds awake,
change us now for heaven’s sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred’s wake.
Show us how to love.
Show us how to love.
Show us how, show us how to love.

Leader: We have been focusing on where love is to really be found during this season of Lent. We too often look for

love in the security of powerful figures, sure that they can “fix” things for us. It was no different for the people of the First and Second Testaments. They were looking for Kings, Saviors, Liberators who would offer peace and security in uncertain times. And they often looked “in all the wrong places.” The Pharisees just can’t believe that this trouble-maker, rule-breaker named Jesus is the One, the Son of God and Savior. Time and again Jesus uses the unlikely metaphor of a Shepherd to teach us how we ought to love and care for each other. No wonder, the Shepherd does what is needed, when it is needed, regardless of the “rules.”

Solo:

Eyes open, shocked awake,
much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.

Show us how to love.

Show us how to love.

Show us how, show us how to love.

Confession and Assurance **Naomi Henninger**

Leader: Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward. For this reason, we can be honest with what most pains us most about our own thoughts and actions. Let us pray:

Holy and Merciful One,
in this season of discernment we come bringing our deepest longings, and our failed attempts at satisfying them.

We have often looked for love, for acceptance and security, in halls of the perceived power of public opinion or unexamined presumptions about others not like us rather than the real power of love and care for one another.

**People: We yearn for lives that matter,
we desire relationships that thrive,
we want less regret.**

Leader: At times we fail to see that you have already given
us what really matters:
your love and acceptance.
You provide opportunities all around us
to make a difference in the lives of others
by affirming their worth and dignity.
You give us a fresh start each day,
inviting us to do better.

In this silence, we bring to you our pleas for openness
to a different way of living.

Silence

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says that
“the Lord is our shepherd... whose goodness and mercy
follows us all the days of our lives.”
Let us respond together:

**All: We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision
to the ways of love
created by God,
embodied in Jesus,
and already moving in us by the Spirit.
We are forgiven, loved, and freed!
Amen!**

**Peace
Emma Milander**

Leader: The love and peace of Christ be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Leader: I invite you to pass this love and peace to one

another by crossing your arms across your chest, indicating love, and then opening them with the common two-finger sign for peace, [remembering to send some of that love and peace to those worshipping remotely].

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Hymn** Here I Am Lord Text: Daniel Schutte

**1. I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**2. I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**3. I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I
will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

Please be seated.

Music Offering

8am Heritage Choir

Walk in Humbleness William Dailey

10:30am Kids Choir

You Never Let Go Matt Redman

Matthew 28:19- GO

Written by Jason Houser ©2007 Big Songs of Extreme / Big Loud Songs

WE PROCLAIM Miranda Brown and Elijah Gladish

10:30 Worship - Story for All Ages

Education Hour for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am

Children's Church – during 10:30 Worship for ages 3-grade 5.

Ms. Tiffany would like to invite children to join her and her volunteers for Sunday School at 9:15 and Children's Church during 10:30am service.

TODAY: Pastors invite children forward for a children's time and then to leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them!

Children will be in the basement and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

Song: Go, Make a Diff'rence Angrisano, Tomaszek #199
Sing! Prayer and Praise

Musical notation for the song "Go, Make a Diff'rence". The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. Above the staff, the chords Asus, A, Dm, Bb, and C are indicated. The lyrics are written below the staff: "Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world." The notation includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the first line and a fermata over the final note of the second line.

Dm B^b C Dm
Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B^bmaj⁷ Asus A Dm Am Am
Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

Testimony of Love Mollie Jarrett

Scripture Reading Everett Lightner

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside still waters;
 he restores my soul.
 He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
 I fear no evil;
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
 enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
 my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life
 long.

The Message Youth Group Highschool Seniors

Mitchell Roth (Parkland High School)

Cameron Kuntz (Northern Lehigh High School)

Andy Hill (Parkland High School)

Musical Offering

Good Riddance Green Day

Cameron Kuntz, vocals and guitar

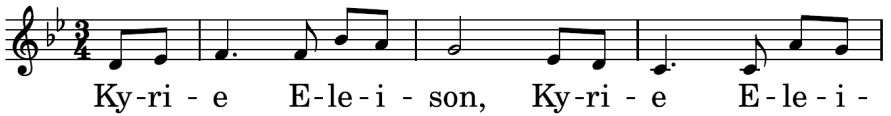
WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

Garet Hill and Hannah Minnich

Leader: In this season of Lent, we are joining together in prayer using an ancient form in the church. The Greek words, "Kyrie Eleison" mean "God, have mercy on us" and we learned a simple chant last week that we will be repeating throughout Lent. We will be led in various intercessions—prayers in categories—followed our sung "Kyrie" response to each one. The repetition of this beautiful "Kyrie" is itself a prayer. God's mercy is a gift of love, given freely to us.

Solo first time.



Prayers for the World

Leader: Loving Creator, we come to you asking for the power of love found in deep care and attention to mat-

ters of the world. You have asked us to love as you love us. Help us to do what we can, where we can, even when it seems there are endless things to do to alleviate the suffering of so many. Show us how to love like a shepherd, offering respite as we are able. Show us how to love without judgement of those who need love the most. God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this world to you with our love:

All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Prayers for Our Community

Loving Sovereign, we come to you asking for the power of love found in deep care and attention to matters in our communities. Even, and especially, when we do not understand one another, think or believe like one another, open our hearts to our common humanity so that we might build up, not break down. Show us how to love beyond the boundaries of ideology. We pray this day for every name on our prayer list and those on our hearts. God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this community to you with our love:

All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Prayers for Our Relationships

Loving Parent, we come to you asking for the power of love found in deep care and attention to matters in our homes and relationships. Show us how to create still waters, an oasis for comfort for each other. Show us how to love in ways that offer more freedom of mind, body, and spirit, not less. We pause in silence as we each lift up in our hearts

the relationships that need your love God have mercy. In this singing we lift up each other to you with our love:

All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Prayers for Our Selves

Lover of Our Souls, we come to you asking for the power of love found in deep care and attention to matters in our own hearts. Open our eyes with a healing salve that cures our inability to see your invitation to more abundant life. Help us know the lure of your love for us, so that we may be your love in this world, in our communities, and in the lives with whom we intersect each day. God have mercy. In this singing we open ourselves to your love:

All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Leader: And so, as your people following in the ways of your Son, Jesus, who set the pattern of love as shepherding and gathering and healing, we pray with confidence the prayer that he taught us:

The Prayer of Jesus

**ALL: 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.**

**NURTURING LOVE:
NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S
CHURCH**

OFFERING

**Collection by: Marissa Christman, Madison Eckhart,
Noah Roth, Parker Haydt, Claire Puia, Everett Lightner**

OFFERING PRAYER

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**Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's  
work and God's people.**

**Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES.** If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING.** Choose to give a repetitive contribution on a regular basis (i.e weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly), or make single contributions whenever you desire in an amount of your choice. Electronic contributions are initiated from Union UCC's website (UnionUCC.org). Click on 'giving', then on 'Ways to Give' and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact John Harting 610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-398-2654) to answer your questions or demonstrate the process.

**VENMO** Union UCC now has Venmo! You can now make donations, pay for events, and support the church through this platform. Please be sure to include in the "What it's for" line what your Venmo is supporting. You can either search for @unionuccneffs

**MOBILE GIVING.** If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith \Engagement" and follow the prompts.

## **Easter Mission Offering**

This year the **Easter Mission Offerings** will be divided between the **Habitat for Humanity and the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry**.

Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or make a note on your check or blank envelope for Easter Mission. Give online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/campaign/C-12H6T>

The mission of Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley is to provide hardworking families with simple, decent, affordable housing. Since 1989, Habitat has built 131 homes for families in the Lehigh Valley.

The Jubilee Breakfast Ministry at Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown serves about 65 breakfasts to those who need a meal each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the coldest months of the year, November through April.



## **Musical Offering**

Write Your Story Francesca Battistelli  
Payge Haydt, viola Blake Hoppes, piano

Please stand in body or spirit.

## **Offering Response**

**ALL: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, above, the heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**Benediction**  
**Ryleigh Minnich**

*Leader:* Go forth into the world, looking for love in all the right places!

***People:* We will look for signs of The Shepherd, tending to the world around us with love!**

**Dancing Out Into The World**

Speak Life Toby Mac

**\*Union UCC Youth Dancers:** Miranda Brown, Payge Haydt, Naomi Henninger, Esther Porembo, Claire Puia

**Postlude Music**

This Is My Father's World  
Sheppard

Tune: Terra Patris, Franklin L.



# **It's time**



# **BeReal with Jesus**

## **What Is BeReal?**

BeReal is a social media app that asks users to post unfiltered photos of themselves once a day, with the app intended to encourage people to be more authentic, taking away heavily filtered photos and asking them present themselves as they are in that moment.

## **How does BeReal Work?**

Every single user is notified to capture and share a photo during the same 2~minute period every day

## **How does this relate to faith?**

You might be asking how is this relate to our faith? Well we came up with the idea of „BeReal with Jesus.“ After the service we ask you all to give 2 minutes and reflect on your faith. During this time we hope you can „BeReal with Jesus“

# **Youth Sunday 2023**

# Youth Sunday Participants

**Hannah Minnich  
Ryleigh Minnich  
Katie Solt  
Naomi Henninger  
Garet Hill  
Parker Haydt  
Everett Lightner  
Marissa Christman\*  
Noah Roth  
Madison Eckhart**

**Payge Haydt  
Kiel Baer\*  
Emma Milander  
Cameron Kuntz\*  
Mitchell Roth\*  
Andy Hill\*  
Lalik Shabazz  
Esther Poremba  
Elijah Gladish  
Miranda Brown  
Claire Puia**

\*denotes HS Seniors

**Youth Sunday is not possible without all  
of the hard work and dedication of  
these youth & their parents!**

**Special thanks to Ryleigh Minnich for  
designing this year's Youth Group T~Shirt!**

# **THANK YOU!!**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

| Offering<br>(e-giving, envelopes, and plate)                                |               | Attendance Last Week                                        |                |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Last Week                                                                   | \$7,903.00    |                                                             | In person      | Online |
| Calendar Year 2023<br>(Jan)                                                 | \$37,004.00   | 8:00 am                                                     | <b>32</b>      |        |
| Calendar Year 2022<br>(Jan)                                                 | \$29,651.00   | 10:30 am                                                    | <b>123</b>     |        |
| Change from Last Year                                                       | <b>+24.8%</b> | Education<br>Hour                                           |                |        |
| Budget FY 2022 ( <i>July 2022-Jan. 23</i> )                                 | \$261,970.00  | <b>2022 Donations to the<br/>Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b> |                |        |
| Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July 2022-Jan 23</i> )                      | \$248,782.00  | Last<br>Week:                                               |                |        |
| Difference in Giving vs.<br>Budget                                          | <b>-5.0%</b>  | Total<br>YTD:                                               | 1179lbs, \$150 |        |
| <i>Additional financial information available in<br/>Consistory Minutes</i> |               | Souper Bowl                                                 | \$1,066.00     |        |
|                                                                             |               | Blanket Sunday                                              | \$997.00       |        |

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**Grateful for our youth on Youth Sunday! - Pastor Kris**

*Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin.*

*Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.*

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