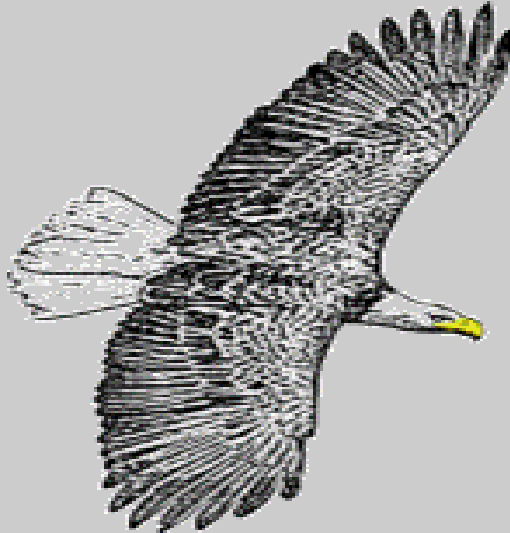


Union Church at Brimfield,

# ON EAGLE'S WINGS

March 2026



*“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31*

**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING! ;**

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

### *What is lent all about??*

Have you ever wondered what people are talking about when they say they're giving something up for Lent? Do you want to understand what Lent is and how it relates to Easter?

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it's a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. Jesus, before starting his public ministry, went away to spend time with God his father and to overcome temptations. This is his example to us.

#### **What Are the Key Days During Lent?**

**Ash Wednesday** is the first day of Lent. You will notice people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

**Maundy Thursday** is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when He shared the Passover meal with His closest friends and followers.

**Good Friday** is the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs, or sins.

**Easter Sunday** is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

#### **What Happens During Lent and Why?**

Lent reminds us that we do not belong to this world and that we need to take time to come away with Jesus and re-focus our time and energy on living into the kingdom that Jesus has invited us into. The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

**Prayer** during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

**Fasting**, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

**Giving money or doing something good for others** is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves. But we live in an imperfect world and Jesus invites us to come away and to prepare ourselves to grow in our relationship with God. He knows how hard this is to do in our busy and crazy world, so he invites us to take 40 days to prepare our hearts for the event that makes sense out of our faith life.

(continued) →

### From the Moderator – March 2026

Spring feels like it's in the air. After the rather cold and snowy winter, I think we are all ready for some warmer spring weather.

Spring always brings us the very holy season of Lent and Easter. Pastor Steve always plans very meaningful services. Connie and Winston along with the choir, provide some beautiful music for these services. Plan on joining us for the Sundays in Lent as well as Good Friday. Easter Sunday is the culmination of our Lenten journey. Join us for that wonderful celebration.

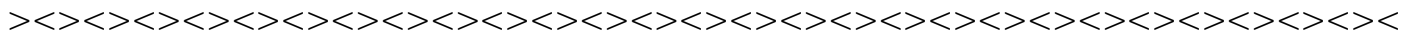
We recently lost a wonderful member of our church. Mary Anderson is now with the Lord. Her hard work and contributions to our church will be missed. Pray for her family during these difficult times.

The Wider Service team will be planning some fun activities for our church and community. The Pancake/Sausage day is always a fun time. Many volunteers are needed to make this event successful. Watch for details about this annual event.

Jane Strevils is a very busy church member. We appreciate all the work she does for our church. She heads up the Worship Care Team. She is an active member of the Trustees. Her contribution to the monthly luncheons is always appreciated. And her delicious cinnamon rolls are a favorite! Thank you, Jane, for all you do for our church.

As always, keep our country and our leaders in your prayers. Pray for all those who are suffering in any way and pray that the truth will be known.

Prayerfully submitted,  
Coleen Martin



On Good Friday, Jesus sacrificed Himself to take on our sins and offer forgiveness. He was raised from the dead -on Easter Sunday to overcome death and to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during **Lent praying, fasting, and giving** can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful. May all of us make some changes to grow in our faith and make this Lenten season a fruitful and life changing one.

In Christ's Love,  
Rev. Stephen W. Barch

## Worship Care Team

Members of the Worship Care Team are: Joyce Carlson, Tonja Siegel, Bev Johnson, Ginny Emerick, Sue Savage, & Jane Strevils

### Lenten Services:

Palm Sunday ~ March 29th Service @ 9am

Maundy Thursday ~ April 2nd Service @ 6:30pm

Good Friday ~ April 3rd Service @ 6:30pm

Easter Sunday ~ April 5th Service @ 9am



- If you would like to donate an Easter or Spring flower for the altar for Lenten Services, please bring them by Palm Sunday. Thank you in advance.
- We do our best to keep all the worship services running smoothly, but if you have any suggestions or concerns, please let us know.
- If you would like to become a member of Union Church, let Pastor Steve know.

Faithfully, the Worship Care Team

~ Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 8th at 8am.



**Grief & Loss Group meets  
Tuesday afternoons from  
3pm ~ 4:30**

**Adult Bible Study meets  
Tuesday evenings from  
6:15 ~ 7:30**

**MARCH 8- THE TIME  
SPRINGS FORWARD AN  
HOUR!**

REMEMBER  
TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS  
AHEAD  
AN HOUR  
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!



**Faithful Friends  
Preschool**  
Union Church of Brimfield



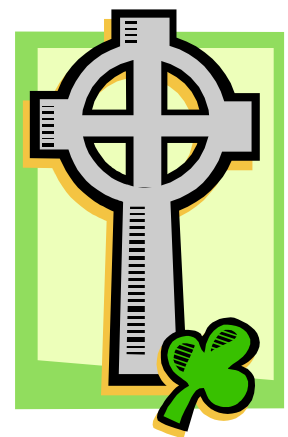
**THE UNION CHURCH  
LUNCHEON WILL BE  
HELD TUESDAY,  
MARCH 10TH AT  
NOON.**

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS



- 5th Kevin Smith
- 7th Connie Andrews
- 14th Lori Conway
- 15th Jarrod Short
- 16th Eric Sollenberger  
Stephanie Parod
- 21st Craig Barch
- 28th Margie Emerick

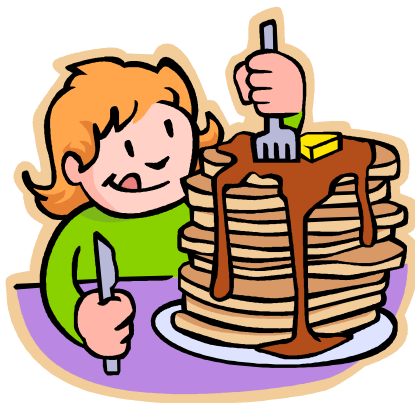
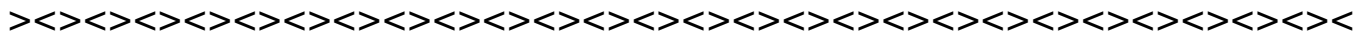


**Wider Service**

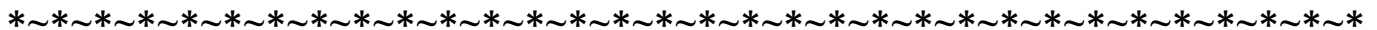
~**Thank you** to our current members who continue to serve on our Wider Service team:  
*Coleen Martin, Jim Martin, Constance Monk, Allison Porter, Lori Porter, Tonja Siegel*

We are looking at our calendars to find a date for the Pancake & Sausage Day.  
More info coming soon!

Next Wider Service Team meeting date TBA



**UNION  
CHURCH  
PANCAKE &  
SAUSAGE  
DAY**



**The 5th Sunday Special Collection will be March 29th and will benefit Easter Seals of Peoria.**

Easter Seals Central Illinois provides speech therapy to support children with communication challenges. Whether it's improving speech clarity, language skills, or social communication, our expert therapists create personalized plans to help every child express themselves with confidence.

Easter Seals Central Illinois offers feeding therapy to support children who experience challenges with eating, drinking, or mealtime behaviors. Our expert therapists use a personalized approach to help kids develop safe, healthy eating habits in a positive, supportive environment.

At Easter Seals Central Illinois, we offer a full spectrum of services, including pediatric therapy, autism supports, camp and recreation programs, and educational resources. No matter your child's needs, we're here to help them thrive every step of the way. These services focus on improving mobility, communication, daily living skills, and overall quality of life.

## Our Mission Focus for the Month of **MARCH**



### Our Purpose

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

### The history of One Great Hour of Sharing

Fifty years ago, during World War II and immediately following, Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction. In 1946, Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, newly-elected Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, set a goal of one million dollars per year for the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. On nationwide radio, he challenged members to raise "one million dollars in one hour." His impassioned challenge worked.

During the first three years, Episcopalians raised \$3.8 million. In 1950, the title "One Great Hour of Sharing" was used for the first time. A logo depicting a church steeple clock with hands fixed at eleven was also adopted. A series of six fifteen-minute radio programs was produced to promote the effort, but problems with radio stations brought disappointing results. The next year, the name of the offering was changed to "One Great Time of Sharing." In 1952, the name was changed back to One Great Hour of Sharing, and has remained so ever since. By 1954, the announced goal for all giving to One Great Hour of Sharing reached eight million dollars.

From the beginning this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating communions. Currently, the One Great Hour of Sharing committee officially comprises nine Christian denominations. In various ways, all work in cooperation with Church World Service, the relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A .

The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid.

### Praise be to God !

#### 2026 Mission Giving to Date:

Jan ~ Blankets+//TOH : \$ 235

Feb ~ Neighborhood : \$ 155  
House

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of people. Church World Service, a division of the National Council of Churches, with overseas partner churches and church councils are often the first on the scene following a disaster of natural or human origin. One Great Hour of Sharing, nearly 50 years old, continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.

*Serving at Union Church MARCH 2026*



**March 1, 2026**

Greeter  
**Ginny Emerick**  
Usher  
**Jim Martin**  
Lay Reader  
**Jeff Barnewolt**  
Children's Story  
**Pastor Steve**  
Sunday School  
**Communion**  
Sound System  
**Rudy Carlson**



*Donuts ~ Linda Williams*

**March 8, 2026**

Greeter  
**Coleen Martin**  
Usher  
**Rudy Carlson**  
Lay Reader  
**Mariola Kabat**  
Children's Story  
**Kelly Walker**  
Sunday School  
**Kelly Walker**  
Sound System  
**Tim Siegel**



*Donuts ~ Jane Strevils*

**March 15, 2026**

Greeter  
**Joyce Carlson**  
Usher  
**Tim Siegel**  
Lay Reader  
**Tonja Siegel**  
Children's Story  
**Pastor Steve**  
Sunday School  
**Coleen Martin**  
Sound System  
**Rudy Carlson**



*Donuts ~ Constance Monk*

**March 22, 2026**

Greeter  
**Linda Williams**  
Usher  
**Volunteer**  
Lay Reader  
**Coleen Martin**  
Children's Story  
**Pastor Steve**  
Sunday School  
**Emma Blundy**  
Sound System  
**Tim Siegel**



*Donuts ~ Volunteer*

**March 29, 2026**

Greeter  
**Lori Porter**  
Usher  
**Tonja Siegel**  
Lay Reader  
**Janet Fishel**  
Children's Story  
**Pastor Steve**  
Sunday School  
**Tonja Siegel**  
Sound System  
**Rudy Carlson**



*Donuts ~ Joyce Carlson*



# MARCH 2026

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1 <b>Worship</b> 9:00am	2	3 <b>Grief group</b> 3-4:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:15-7:30	4	5	6	7  <b>Set your clocks ahead before bed.</b>
8 Worship Care mtg. 8am <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Trustees mtg. 10 am	9	10 <b>Luncheon @ noon</b> Grief group 3-4:30pm <b>Adult Bible Study 6:15-7:30</b>	11	12	13	14
15 <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Leadership mtg 8am	16	17  <b>Grief group 3-4:30pm</b> Adult Bible Study 6:15-7:30	18	19	20 	21
22 <b>Worship 9:00am</b>	23	24 <b>Grief group 3-4:30pm</b> Adult Bible Study 6:15-7:30	25	26	27	28
29 <b>Worship 9:00am</b> <b>5th Sunday Mission</b>	30	31				

March 2026

Union Church at Brimfield, UCC



## On Eagle's Wings Newsletter

THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES; THEY SHALL RUN, AND NOT BE WEARY; THEY SHALL WALK, AND NOT FAINT." ISAIAH 40:31

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Virginia Emerick.....Newsletter Editor  
Articles for **On Eagle's Wings** are due the  
third Sunday of the month.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.brimfieldunionchurch.org](http://www.brimfieldunionchurch.org)

Pastor	<b>Rev. Stephen Barch</b>
Sunday Worship Service	<b>9:00 AM</b>
Pastor's Office Hours	<b>Tuesdays 1pm-7pm</b>
Grief & Loss Group	<b>Tuesday Afternoon 3-4:30pm</b>
Adult Bible Study	<b>Tuesday Evenings 6:15-7:30pm</b>
Children's Bible School	<b>During Sunday Worship</b>
Office Hours~	<b>Tuesday 1-6pm</b> <b>Friday 1pm-5pm</b> <i>Or by appointment</i>