



**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**Online Worship**

*“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” —*

*The Messenger*

**Advent 2**

**I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship**

**GUESTS,** Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs) . If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, [pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)

**NEW MEMBERS:** For more information email Pastor Kris. [pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org) or call the church office to speak to her.

*We believe in extravagant welcome. We believe in God’s inclusive love. We start worship with a greeting that reflects that welcome and love.*

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## **PRELUDE**

Jingle Bells

Julie & Phil Wehr

Send us videos of you and your loved ones singing your favorite Christmas songs.

## **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**L** No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey

**C** You are welcome here.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**    I Believe    Mark A. Miller

**L** In both the Gospel of Matthew and Isaiah, a messenger appears as a sign from God, heralding a new era. In each passage, the words "do not be afraid" appear... offering a clue that the messenger—whether prophet or angel—was referencing something that induced fear in the recipient. A new way of being together, of relating and loving takes courage—eschewing the present order of things so that a new and better day can be born.

## **SOLO: Amanda Lane**

I believe in love, I believe in love,  
even when, even when I don't feel it.

SOLO/CHOIR: I believe in love, I believe in love,  
even when, even when I don't feel it.

Reader 1 : The emptiness of loneliness

Reader 2: The emptiness of loneliness

Reader 1: The wounds inflicted

Reader 2: The wounds inflicted

Reader 1: The fear of the "other"

Reader 2: The fear of the "other"

## **PRAYER**

Holy One,  
we thank you for the glimpses we catch  
of your gift of daring love.  
Even in the midst of fear,  
of challenge, of struggle—  
even when we cannot yet see a better day  
when we will act like the human family we are,  
ignite the flame of love within us,

**ALL: ... that we might glow with its brilliance  
from the inside out.**

**ALL (SUNG):  
I believe in love, I believe in love,  
even when, even when I don't feel it.**

**1** Help us face this fear of difference  
and dare to see what love can do.  
Amen.

If you have an advent wreath at home, or a candle, you are  
invited to light your candle of **LOVE** at this time.

**\*Hymn** Away in a Manger 187 Gold Hymnal, Hymns for the  
Family of God

**1. Away in a manger,  
No crib for His bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky  
Looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay**

**2. The cattle are lowing  
The poor Baby wakes**

**But little Lord Jesus  
No crying He makes  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side,  
'Til morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever  
And love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children  
In Thy tender care  
And take us to heaven  
To live with Thee there<sup>1</sup>**

### **Passing the Peace**

You are invited to turn toward those who are with you or to face toward your screen and bow, offer the peace sign, or use sign language for “peace.”

### **Children’s Time to Shine**

This Little Light of Mine with Mrs. Maryann Puia

This Little Light of Mine is a song that turns 100 years old this year! A woman named Fannie Lou Hamer sang it on a bus one day that had been stopped by police and it became a very important song that was sung a lot during the Civil Rights movement when some people wanted to dim the light of African Americans by not letting them vote in elections. As we all learn more about the importance of music in making the world a better place, we are going to highlight this song! There are four verses and we are going to learn one each week.

### **Isaiah Scripture Reading**

*Isaiah 7: 1-14 (CEB)*

In the days of Ahaz (Jotham’s son and grandson of Judah’s King Uzziah), Aram’s King Rezin and Israel’s King Pekah (Remaliah’s son) came up to attack Jerusalem, but they couldn’t overpower it.

When the house of David was told that Aram had become allies with Ephraim, their hearts and the hearts of their people shook as the trees of a forest shake when there is a wind. But the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the channel of the Upper Pool, by the road to the field where laundry is washed, and say to him, 'Be careful and stay calm. Don't fear, and don't lose heart over these two pieces of smoking torches, over the burning anger of Rezin, Aram, and Remaliah's son. Aram has planned evil against you with Ephraim and Remaliah's son, saying, "Let's march up against Judah, tear it apart, capture it for ourselves, and install Tabeel's son as its king." But the Lord God says: It won't happen; it won't take place. The chief of Aram is Damascus; the chief of Damascus is Rezin (in sixty-five more years Ephraim will be shattered as a nation); the chief of Ephraim is Samaria; and the chief of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you don't believe this, you can't be trusted.'"

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign from the Lord your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I won't ask; I won't test the Lord." Then Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Isn't it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God? Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel.

## **Gospel Scripture Reading**

*Matthew 1: 1-25 (CEB)*

A record of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

*[and thus is listed all the generations before and after David the King until it comes to...*

*Abraham was the father of Isaac.*

*Isaac was the father of Jacob.*

*Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.*

*Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,*

*whose mother was Tamar.  
Perez was the father of Hezron.  
Hezron was the father of Aram.  
Aram was the father of Amminadab.  
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.  
Nahshon was the father of Salmon.  
Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab.  
Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth.  
Obed was the father of Jesse.  
Jesse was the father of David the king.  
David was the father of Solomon,  
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.  
Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.  
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.  
Abijah was the father of Asaph.  
Asaph was the father of Jehoshaphat.  
Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram.  
Joram was the father of Uzziah.  
Uzziah was the father of Jotham.  
Jotham was the father of Ahaz.  
Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.  
Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.  
Manasseh was the father of Amos.  
Amos was the father of Josiah.  
Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.  
This was at the time of the exile to Babylon.  
After the exile to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel.  
Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.  
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.  
Abiud was the father of Eliakim.  
Eliakim was the father of Azor.  
Azor was the father of Zadok.  
Zadok was the father of Achim.  
Achim was the father of Eliud.  
Eliud was the father of Eleazar.  
Eleazar was the father of Matthan.  
Matthan was the father of Jacob.*

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary—of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Christ. So there were fourteen

generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
And they will call him, Emmanuel.  
(Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

## **Reflection I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship Rev. Patience Stevenson**

### **FILM FESTIVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

(See the details of reflections, activities and prayers in the care package you received from the Pastors and Staff.)

**Family Film Festival:** How the Grinch Stole Christmas (animated version)

**Adult Film Festival:** Girls on the Wall

In this second week's film, Girls on the Wall, the teenage girls of Warrentville Prison are not your average delinquents. Having "graduated" from juvie to prison, these are the kids

most likely to remain in the correctional system their whole lives. They are also some of the sharpest and most irrepressible young women you'll meet. When the girls of this heartland prison are given an unlikely shot at redemption — the chance to write and stage a musical based on their lives — they must relive their crimes, reclaim their humanity, and take a first step toward breaking free of the prison system.

### **A Litany of Belief**

In times when humanity disappoints,  
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors  
disappoint, it is an important act to call out, name and claim,  
the consequences of our wrongs.

And in times of distress it is a prophetic act to call out,  
name and claim, our belief in the hope for tomorrow.  
What you're your statements of belief in this time and  
place?

*Leader:* I believe that we have been taught to fear one  
another AND

***People:* I believe that we are capable of learning to love.**

*Leader:* I believe that our society is built on a foundation of  
oppression of some over others AND

***People:* I believe that we can speak this truth and move  
to act in ways  
that balance this inequity.**

*Leader:* I believe that we are afraid AND

***People:* I believe that we can lean on each other and  
God for courage to face anything.**

*Leader:* We believe, even when we are discouraged.

***People:* We believe, that when we are discouraged,  
raising our voices for justice will bring about more love  
in the world!**



## Prayers in the Stillness

In the Stillness Lindy Thompson, Mark Miller

**Solo: Julie Lane**

**L**I invite you to get in a comfortable position of rest.  
I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can.  
I invite you to a deep breath and a deep listening  
posture—perhaps eyes closed or fixed on a candle—as  
we prepare for a time of prayer.

SOLO: The gentle pull of God  
is often lost amidst the rush  
of all the obligations which lay a claim on us.

Yet just beyond the frantic pace  
our restless feet have trod  
lie deep still pools of quietness—  
the dwelling place of God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive

O take me to that secret place  
where lost in wonder and in awe,  
the moment comes and I rejoice  
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive

***ALL Sung Coda:***  
**Meet me in the stillness, Lord**  
**Free me to receive,**  
**to receive.**

## Offering Announcement and Opportunities to “Fill the Night” with Hope

### Donate to God’s Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** This is a great time to try **e-giving!** Choose a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out the form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and return it to the church office. [financialmanager@unionucc.org](mailto:financialmanager@unionucc.org)  
**DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card**  
Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

**AMAZON SMILE** Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

### MUSIC OFFERING

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Spiritual

### WE GO FORTH

#### Carol of Resistance

① Our Carol of Resistance was written in 1849 by a Massachusetts Unitarian minister, Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears. One verse has been left out of several hymnals over the decades since then but the new hymnal, *Glory to God*, restores this powerful verse that refers to the love-song of the angels being drowned out by our warring nature:

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;*

*and we at war on earth hear not  
the love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease the strife,  
and hear the angels sing.*

Let us be reminded that we are to listen to the angel chorus  
and then join it, raising our voices with the message that  
love, not hate, is the answer.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
197 Gold Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God

**It came upon a midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!**

## Benediction

**L** We wait for justice  
but we do not wait to work for change;

We wait for restored health  
but we do not wait to work to heal;

We wait for wholeness  
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;

We wait for peace  
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that God is with us, Emmanuel. And continue to fill the night left by sadness with messages of love. Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that hope alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation. Raise your voices and repeat after me... "do not be afraid!"

**ALL: "do not be afraid!"**  
**Amen!**

## Postlude

I Believe            Handchime Benediction    Mark A. Miller/  
Stephanie Rhoades

**Chimers: Sandy Daumer, Veronica Fabian, Susan Glosan, Dan Haftl, Bonnie Herzog, Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Debbie Romig and Tami Wassum.**

**Director: Edie Fella**

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Sanctuary and Church decorations: Susan Glosan, Ron Pope, Edie Fella, Dan Gilbert, Deb Wenner, Claire Kern, Kathy Bonsell, Deb Topp, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Kris

# **EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY**

<b>Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)</b>	
Last Week	\$4,182
Calendar 2020 (Jan-Oct)	\$295,013
Calendar 2019 (Jan-Oct)	\$312,466
Change from Last Year	-5.6%
Budget (July-Oct)	\$120,000
Actual (July-Oct)	\$111,995
Giving vs. Budget	-6.7%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

<b>2020 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food</b>	
Last	\$60
Total YTD:	7,196 lbs, \$2,490

## **SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:**

In loving memory of Parents: Ruby & Donald Peters  
by: daughter, Ann

*Your support is especially important now as we work to provide  
spiritual care and connection for members and the community  
through Facebook posts, ads, and online worship.*

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

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