



Sunday, April 25, 2021
"By This We Will Know: The Dance of Love"
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

NEW MEMBERS: For more information email Pastor Kris. 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.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey
You are welcome here.

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PRELUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth Folliot S. Pierpoint

WELCOME

LNo matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
and faith's journey

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GATHERING OUR STRENGTH

Threshold

Leader: Easter is the unstoppable, unpredictable expression of God's love for humankind! The call of Jesus is to live fully in the power of that love – alive in each of us. We learn about that divine love as it is embodied in the person and ministry of Jesus, the one who is compared to a good shepherd. As we look to him to learn how to love, may our hearts praise the One who raised Jesus and raises us to abundant life and love!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Leader: If we are to dance with abandon, we learn and follow – then we can begin to lead. We can learn the steps to the dance of love through the lead of Jesus and those who have gone before us. May we dare to dance even as we continue to learn the way of love.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Leader: This is the call!

We lean into this day with the strength we have.

***People:* We lift up our heads to meet the day.**

God sends out a call that will not let us go.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of love and set out
anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

HYMN #677 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
Hymns for the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.**

**CHORUS: And they'll know we are Christians by our
love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in
hand; We will walk with each other, we will walk hand
in hand; And together we'll spread the news that God
is in our land.**

CHORUS

**3. We Will work with each other, we will work side by
side; We will work with each other, we will work side
by side; And we'll guard each one's dignity and save
each one's pride.**

CHORUS

Prayer

Leader: Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –
We know your voice, the sounds of your steps.

Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us.
Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.
Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Affirming the Peace Among Us

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

And also with you!

You are invited to turn to the people around you
and wave as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

LEARNING THE STEPS

A Story for All Ages

Make sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram for our Children's Chat with Mrs. Puia posted weekly!

A Story for the Ages

First Reading: John 10:11-17 (NRSV, adapted)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down their life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Holy One loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again."

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-18, 23-24 (NRSV, adapted)

We know love by this, that Christ laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees another in

need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. This is God’s commandment, that we should believe in the name Jesus and love one another, just as Christ has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Music Offering

One Way

Joel Houston, Jonathon Douglass

Kids Choir:

Lucas Bastidas

Brooklyn Hoppes

Lincoln Hoppes

Connor Maxwell

Lucas Maxwell

Raegan Minnich

Cael Vermeulen

Hunter Vermuelen

Directors: Judy Stubbmann & Blake Hoppes

MESSAGE

The Dance of Love

Pastor Kris Snyder-Samuelson

THE BODY MOVES IN RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

“Teach Me to Dance” [refrain only]

Buy accompaniment [HERE](#)

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Leader: For the beauty of the world in all its diversity, we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: **May our gratitude to you fill our days.**

Leader: We need your healing, O Holy One,
for our troubled planet, for our nation,
for all who are struggling in body, mind,
relationships, and spirit.
We remember those who are suffering...

Leader: *Let us pray together...*

People: **Come, O God, and restore our lives.**

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

Leader: Be with each of us now.
May the dance of your Spirit ever call us
to engage with you and with the needs around us.
Lead us; guide us; surround and fill us.

Leader: *Let us pray together...*

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Prayer of Jesus (Unison)

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.**

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Leader: How do we know the rhythm and dance of our lives is faithful? Drummer of the Grateful Dead, Mickey Hart wrote “To fall in love is to fall in rhythm.” It is love for each other by which we know we are followers of Jesus, the ever-attentive shepherd. In the face of societal rules and attitudes that strive to foster “everyone for themselves,” our hope is that others will know we are Christians by our love. Let us “fall in rhythm” with our neighbors and our planet in order to build up the whole through our offerings this day.

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

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>.

STEPPING OUT

Hymn Dance with the Spirit

Jim Strathdee CLLI Song Select Song Number: **2281771**

Video link: <https://strathdeemusic.com/DanceSpiritIm.html>

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day
Work and hope for the new life abornin’
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way**

Benediction

Leader: What would your life look like
if you sought each day to dance the dance of love?
To dance to the rhythm of the love of God moving in our lives?
May we hear the music of the Spirit
and follow in the steps of Jesus
whose love sets us free to dance with abandon.

And may the Loving God,
Risen Christ,
and Dancing Spirit
fill you with all you need
for the days ahead.

And all God's people said,
"Amen!"

Postlude

Blessed Assurance Fanny J. Crosby, Phoebe P. Knapp

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$7,355
Calendar 2021 (Jan-March)	\$319,780
Calendar 2020 (Jan-March)	\$302,781
Change from Last Year	-2.6%
Budget (July-March)	\$319,780
Actual (July-March)	\$302,781
Giving vs. Budget	-5.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food	
Last Week:	250lbs, \$20
Total YTD:	2,326 lbs, \$167

Easter Mission
\$1,123.00

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

Happy Administrative Professionals Day! Grateful for Marissa & Barbara - Pastor Kris & Pastor Kayli

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.