



GROOVE IN THE GROVE *MUSIC FOR THE SOUL*

On Sundays we will celebrate music and how music feeds our spirits and connects us with God and each other.

Let Pastor Kris know what some of your favorite songs are and why. They can be hymns and sacred music, but they can also be what are called 'secular hymns'. Email or call her with your list. See if your song gets chosen to be sung, performed by a guest musician or one of our own beloved musicians, listened to or included in the sermon.

Godspell in the Grove (July 30 & 31)

Your love, God, is my song, and I'll sing it forever.
-Psalm 89:1

Note: With your permission, we will add your name to the songs you have shared and any reflections shared as well. Thank you for grooving with us, we hope it is music for your soul!

Sunday, July 25, 2021
Christmas in July!

Thank you and welcome to our Community and Horizon Choir!

We give God thanks for their music and Christmas spirit.

Ronda Gerry (Director), Susan Glosan, Alyssa Vella, Daniel Stewart, Cameron Price, Laurel Bendetti, Zachary Evans, Carol Stout, Jenny Delorimier, Julie Wehr, Matt Gerry (Director), Amanda Lane, Leanna Lane, Teresa Dalrymple, Karla Bachl, Abigail Kern, Naomi Henninger, Donna Christman, Lucy Boyer, Ryan Zickafoose, Kris Snyder-Samuelsan (Aka: Santa's Favorite Elf)

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

UPDATE:

**We will no longer be signing people in before worship.
Masks are optional.**

**Please continue to visit the welcome tables to receive your
bulletin (and communion) and share your offering.**

**In Person Sanctuary Worship at 10:30am
Sunday, August 1 (Communion) and August 22**

We will open the church at 10am, worship starts at 10:30am.
Please go to the welcome tables for your bulletin and to share your
offering (or pick up communion elements). You will not be asked to
sign in.

Masks are preferred, but optional for those who are vaccinated. We
ask that those NOT fully vaccinated wear masks in the building at all
times.

Pews will be marked to allow for 3 feet of distancing. Please sit in
open areas only. The balcony will be closed.

On Communion Sundays, we will continue to use the prefilled
communion cups of grape juice and a gluten free cracker. Please use
the ziploc bag to take your garbage with you.

For now, there will not be congregational singing. Special music will
be provided by soloists and instrumentalists.

Please gather with others for conversation outside of the
building. The pastors will greet you outside on the porches.

We hope to evaluate and edit these precautions when vaccination
rates continue to increase, COVID (and variant) numbers continue to
decrease, and guidelines are updated for churches and our
region. There is no guarantee of complete safety from transmission
of the COVID-19 virus, but we will continue to do our best to keep our
members, friends, and families as safe as possible.

We are grateful for the love of this church family and for God's love
which sustains and carries us during this challenging time.

~ The Pastors and Consistory of Union UCC

Starting September 12

In Person Sanctuary Worship at 8am and 10:30am

Note: Our new air conditioning system has the recommended air scrubbing system. Masks will be optional, pews will be arranged for 3ft of social distancing.

If you are staying in your car, turn your FM Radio to 102.3 FM to listen to the service.

Lay Reader– Janice Metzger

Ushers: Suzanne Schneider, Debra Sanek, Phil Wehr

Sound: Mike Baer, Dawn Dengler

PRELUDE

Carol of the Bells

GREETING 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.

***Favorite Christmas Carol O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**O Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

**O Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy word.
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,**

Christ the Lord.

**All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
O Jesus! For evermore be Thy name adored.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

***Call to Worship**

(Today's liturgy is inspired by Worship on Sunday July 19, 2020 at rivierachurch.org)

One: Christ was born among us!

All: God lives within our world.

One: Because of God-with-us, life is full of promise for you and for me. Life is full of promise for our community.

All: We celebrate today the presence of God's promise in our midst.

One: The promise of a small child coming into a crowded, hurting world, and growing to be a liberator.

All: It is the promise of you and me, struggling and stumbling together, growing and celebrating, reaching out to make a new presence in our world.

One: Merry Christmas in July!

All: Merry Christmas in July!

Prayer

Unison

ALL: God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: As children of the Holy One, God forgives you and loves you eternally. By the power of God's Spirit, forgive yourself and forgive others as God has forgiven you.

Children's Time

Ms. Tiffany Lakatosh, our Faith Formation Minister of Children and Families, invites our children to join her in the gazebo for a story time, activities, and a craft. Children will return to worship with their families when they are done meeting with her.

Older youth are welcome to join her as helpers, no need to sign up just meet them at the gazebo. We will need an adult volunteer to join her each week, please email her at dired@unionucc.org to sign up. This gathering will happen every Sunday at 10:30 worship through August 22.

Music for the Soul

Community Choir Anthem
African Noel arr. by Thomas

The Reading of Scripture Janice Metzger

Titus 3: 4-7

John 4: 13-14

Favorite Christmas Carol We Three Kings

From Ron Pope "To me this song is about a miracle, hope, and peace. It is also about finding something I have or we all have been longing for. Hoping for peace in the world is all I ask and that one day we all can love each other and see how we are all the same on the inside and not the outside."

**1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,

**gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.**

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

The Message

It's Too Hot for Christmas Carols!

Pastor Kris Snyder-Samuels

Music for the Soul

Community Choir Anthem

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose arr. Johnson

Pastoral Prayer and the Prayer of Jesus

One: God's light breaks through the darkness to fill our lives with grace and truth. This is the good news of Christmas and every day; that Christ came to show us how to walk the path of wisdom enlightened by your love. Let us pray for the world and our church saying,

ALL: Light of the world, shine in our lives.

One: Eternal Source, Divine Wisdom, we pray for all leaders of the world in this time of Pandemics of Racism and a Virus. May your justice guide them to govern with truth and equity for all.

Prince of Peace, we pray for all those who live and serve in medical facilities and places of unrest. May you keep them from unrest.

Spirit breath, we pray for the beauty of creation witnessed from the vault of heaven to the depths of the sea.

May your goodness stir up in us a willingness to care for the precious resources with which you have entrusted us.

ALL: Light of the world, shine in our lives.

One: Joy of every human heart, we pray for all who suffer sickness and sorrow. May your healing love find a dwelling place in our lives this day. Holy Comforter, we pray for those in need of food and shelter.

May your abiding presence shelter them with mercy as we build communities of care. Eternal Dayspring from on High, we pray for those who are dying and those who have died. May they find in you a resting place by springs of living water.

ALL: Light of the world, shine in our lives.

One: Oh Great Mystery, eternity entered time in your Word and our lives are embraced within the compassion of your Word. Open our hearts to the wonder of your love, that Wisdom may find a home in us and forever speak your praise. We pray and say together,

**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.**

Music for the Soul

Heaven Everywhere by Glover/Battistelli

Amanda Lane, Leanna Lane and Julie Lane

I hear the bells, they're ringing loud and clear
You can't help but love this time of year
It's Christmas time, there's something in the air
There's a little bit of heaven everywhere
Somehow there's a little more of love
Maybe there's a little less of us
Or maybe we're just slightly more aware
There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

It's the smile on a man who has finally found hope
It's the tears of a mother whose child has come home
It's the joy that we feel and the love that we share
There's a little bit of heaven everywhere
There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

It's funny how it takes a holiday
To show us how the world could truly change
If we all took the time to really care
There'd be a little more of heaven everywhere

It's the grace that we show to a world that needs hope
It's giving our lives knowing they're not our own
It's the joy that we feel and the love that we share

There's a little bit of heaven everywhere
There's a little bit of heaven everywhere
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Hallelujah, halleljuah
It's the joy that we feel and the love that we share
There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

Offering/Offertory

Leader: Thank you to everyone who baked Christmas cookies, please stay after worship to enjoy them or to take

some home with you. Thank you to everyone who donated socks and underwear to area shelters during July. We will continue to find homes for any donations that come in. And thank you for supporting God's ministry and mission here through your many offerings of love, time, prayer, encouragement, resources, and faith. May our offerings be a blessing to both the giver and receiver.

Music for the Soul

Linus and Lucy
Blake Hoppes

Vince Guaraldi

Outside Worship Offering – we will not be collecting your offerings during the service. Please plan to share them at the welcome table as you arrive or as you leave worship.

Thank you for being the church with us!

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 form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and send to

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>.

The Commission and Blessing

L: Merry Christmas in July! May the love, hope, grace, and peace of God guide your days and your week as you share these gifts with those around you.

***Favorite Christmas Carol Joy to the World**
Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Postlude

Go Tell It on the Mountain Spiritual
Blake Hoppes



EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$5113.64
Calendar 2021 (Jan.-April)	\$125,842.00
Calendar 2020 (Jan.-April)	\$121,255.00
Change from Last Year	+3.8%
Budget (July-April)	\$355,100.00
Actual (July-April)	\$338,935.00.
Giving vs. Budget	-4.6%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	
Total YTD:	2,916 lbs, \$392

Neighbors in Need	
To date:	\$145.00

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

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.

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732

One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A714125