

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness, but will have the light of life."

-John 8:12

Jesus ALSO said,
"YOU are the Light of the World."

- Matthew 5: 14

February 19, 2023

Guest Preacher Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek

Communion, Installation of Pastor of Visitation and Communion Ministers,
Healing/Time to Pray with a Pastor

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 on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Readers: 8:00 Carol Pope, 10:30 Janice Metzger
Ushers: 8:00 Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross
10:30 Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Dan Haftl, Maryann Puia, Eric Minnich, Gloria Toner, Carol Stout
Greeters: Bruce & Chris Roth, Jim & Edie Fella
Sound: Dawn Dengler

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

Prelude Music

He Hideth My Soul

Fanny Crosby & William Kirkpatrick

Welcome

Sharing God's Peace

Leader: One of our core values as God's church here
in Neffs is extravagant welcome.

So repeat after me - No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey,

**ALL: No matter who you are or where you are on life's
journey,**

Leader: you are welcome here.

ALL: you are welcome here.

Leader: For those of you who are here, I invite you to
greet those around you, waive across the aisle, walk
around.

We send our prayers and blessings to those watching
and listening at home or during the week.

(Please stand in body or spirit to greet each other and
for our first song.)

*Hymn #8 Gather Us In

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place, new light is stream-ing, now is the
 2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some



1. dark - ness, van - ished a - way, See, in this space, our
 2. old who yearn for your face, We have been sung through-
 3. take the bread of new birth, Here you shall call your
 4. heav - en, light years a - way, but here in this place, the



1. fears and our dream-ings, brought here to you in the light of this
 2. out all of his - t'ry, called to be light to the whole hu - man
 3. sons and your daugh-ters, call us a - new to be salt for the
 4. new light is shin - ing, now is the King-dom now is the



1. day. Gath-er us in the lost and for - sa - ken, Gath-er us
 2. race. Gath-er us in the rich and the haugh-ty, Gath-er us
 3. earth. Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, Give us to
 4. day. Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, Gath-er us



1. in the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall a -
 2. in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so
 3. eat the bread that is you; Nour-ish us well, and teach us to
 4. in and make us your own; Gath-er us in all peo - ples to -



1. wa - ken, we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 2. low - ly, give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 3. fash - ion, lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 4. geth - er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Please be seated.

Call to Worship

The response today is:

ALL: Let God's light shine out of darkness.

Leader: Come, gather to receive God's light in your life, heart, body, and mind. Our scripture says, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

ALL: Let God's light shine out of darkness.

Leader: Come, gather here in the presence of Christ, who is our Friend and Healer and who makes us whole.

ALL: Let God's light shine out of darkness.

Leader: Come, gather to be melted, molded, filled, and used by God's spirit to be vessels of God's love and grace.

ALL: Let God's light shine out of darkness.

Leader: Here we are welcomed and loved and cherished. May God's light shine in all parts of our lives and in our life together.

Prayer

Leader: God of our deepest yearnings, give us devoted hearts that seek to listen, think, and feel anew. Open in us the wisdom of Jesus, with the courage needed to travel his life-changing journey. Shape us and guide us we pray. Amen.

Sung Response:

#526 We Are Marching In the Light of God

Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal

**ALL: We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

We are marching, oo-oooh,

**We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, oo-oo,
We are marching in the light of God.**

10:30 Worship – Time for Children

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

Children's Church – during 10:30am 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 they 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'ence Angrisano, Tomaszek #199
Sing! Prayer and Praise

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics: "Go make a dif - f'ence... We can make a dif -". The second staff continues the melody, with lyrics: "- f'ence... Go make a dif - f'ence in the world...". The piece ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine" written above it.

Scripture 2 Corinthians 4: 5-10

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge

of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

Sung Response:

#526 We Are Marching In the Light of God

Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal

**ALL: We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, oo-oo,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, oo-oo,
We are marching in the light of God.**

The Message

We Are the Jars of Clay Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek
United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ Global Ministries
mission coworker Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek has been serving
with our partner denomination United Church of Christ in
Japan (UCCJ; Nihon Kirisuto Kyōdan, or Kyōdan for short)
for 33 years. He works as chaplain at J.F. Oberlin University in
Tokyo, Japan and is responsible for teaching introductory
classes on Christianity and religion in general as well as
organizing programs on campus which instill in young hearts
the Christian spirit of the university. At the same time Jeffrey
has continued to monitor the situation in Fukushima
following the nuclear disaster, and is also involved with

Christian colleagues in promoting dignity education.

Here's his blog for more information: <http://jeffreyfromjapan.blogspot.com/>

Rev. Mensendiek organizes a Christmas card ministry that our Friday and Sunday Adult Classes have been participating in with 3 Japanese churches from his area.

News about the Ministry and Mission of God's Church

Offering

Offering Prayer

Leader: Call us out of our complacency, generous God. Open our ears to your voice, our eyes to your light, and our hands and hearts to share the blessings that you have made possible for us. We dedicate these gifts and our lives to your service. Send us out to follow and serve the Christ. Amen.

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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.

AMAZON SMILE. Amazon will be discontinuing Amazon Smile on February 20, 2023

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Musical Offering

God and God Alone Phil McHugh
Blake Hoppes

RECOGNITION OF HELPING HEARTS and COMMUNION MINISTER MINISTRIES

INSTALLTION OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Debbie Romig, Fawn Albert (absent)
Ardith Kuhns, *Donna Christman, *Suzanne Schneider,
***Carol Pope, *Debbie Romig, Sue Klotz, *Fawn Albert,**
***Carol James, Lorie Hackett, Mary Bachman, Lila Cygan,**
Robin Christman
**Communion Ministers*

Leader: As Communion Ministers you are called to visit church members who are unable to attend worship with us in person for a variety of reasons. In those visits you represent God and God’s church here at Union UCC. You extend God’s reach and our reach through your presence and by sharing Holy Communion.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered these duties and responsibilities, are you prepared to serve with God’s help?

Response: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing the love of Christ?

Response: I do, relying on God's grace.

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR OF VISITATION Carrie Beleno

Leader: As Pastor of Visitation your primary responsibilities include visiting our members in the hospital and in their homes, leading our Golden Times ministry, assisting in worship and preaching, and supporting our adult programs.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered these duties and responsibilities, are you prepared to serve with God's help?

Response: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing the love of Christ?

Response: I do, relying on God's grace.

ALL: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ here at Union UCC. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may love and serve faithfully together.

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in the household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties, so that the church may prosper in the mission you place before it. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats.

Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray.

Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups.

Please choose either.

Invitation

Leader: We are hungry. We are hungry for justice. We are hungry for love. We are hungry for acceptance. We are hungry for peace. We are hungry for food. We are hungry for God. Here at this table, we encounter the risen Christ who feeds us. Yes, with physical food, but also with spiritual food. The kind that sustains us and does not run out.

So, come to this table and be fed by Christ. Heap your plates high with God's abundant grace and love. Dine on justice, and peace, and love. Be fed by God. This table is open to all who seek to follow Christ

In Jesus' life, and in his ministry, he called us to feed those who were hungry. Hungry for peace. For justice. For acceptance. For love. Those who hungered for food and stability, and those who are hungry for you. You call us to feed those in need and remember that how we treat "the least of these" is how we treat Christ.

So feed us Lord, feed us so that we can feed the world with your peace, justice, acceptance, welcome, love, and, yes, actual food. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup so that we may be fed by you to go out and do what you call us to. That we may have courage, energy, acceptance, and love to serve others who hunger. Meet us

in the bread and fruit of the vine.

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us,

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.”

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

You will be served in your seats.

Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray.

Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread Together (Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal)

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees**
Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me
- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees**
Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me
- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees**
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me.

THE BREAD

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

MUSIC OFFERING

8:00 Heritage Choir: Come, Holy Spirit

Bill and Gloria Gaither Arr. By Don Besig

10:30 High School Choir: Only Hope (from "A Walk To Remember")

Artist: Mandy Moore, Jon Foreman / arr. Ed Lojeski

THE CUP

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you.

The Blessing

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

COLLECTING OF CUPS

HYMN #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (New Century Hymnal, black)

- 1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound**

- 2. Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound**

- 3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt;
Gives us love to tell, bread to share,
God (Immanuel) everywhere**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound**

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** The LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

*** Benediction**

Leader: Go now, beloved, to follow the love of God, to be surprised by God's wonder to lift your voice for love and compassion. Feel God's encouragement to be a blessing as you offer blessings with your heart and hands, and know that you never, ever go alone. Amen.

PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with you or to receive a blessing.

Pastors will be masked and we will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.

***Hymn #611 Precious Lord, Take My Hand** (Gold Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God)

- 1. Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Thru the storm, thru the night, Lead me on the light, Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
- 2. When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near; When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall; Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Postlude Music

There is a Balm in Gilead
Spiritual

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan)	\$37,004.00
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan)	\$29,651.00
Change from Last Year	+24.8%
Budget FY 2022 (<i>July 2022-Jan. 23</i>)	\$261,970.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July 2022-Jan 23</i>)	\$248,782.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.0%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week		
	In person	Online
8:00 am	42	98
10:30 am	118	78
Education Hour	4	

2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	bs, \$
Total YTD:	924lbs, \$100

Souper Bowl	\$400.00
Blanket Sunday	\$745.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In honor of the Mission Committee by Phil and Julie Wehr

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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