



How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered!
I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!
Psalm 139: 17-18

August 13, 2023
10:30 Worship in the Grove
Guests Musicians: The Patrick Kerssen Trio, Church Picnic

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, fellowship, 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 are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Readers: Donna Christman
Ushers: Carol James, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metzger,
Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli
Greeters: Karen Misera, George & Val Borman
Sound: Mike Baer, Karl Klinger

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

Everyone is welcome to stay for our picnic today which will start right after worship is over.

Hot dogs, turkey barbecue, snacks and beverages are provided by the Fellowship Committee. Vegetarian and Gluten Free options available.

Thanks to those of you who brought side dishes and desserts to share.

If you didn't bring something, no worries. There is always plenty of food, please enjoy! Stay for the Cake Walk and Bingo.

And, enjoy more music with The Patrick Kerssen Trio!

Prelude Music

Amazing Grace The Patrick Kerssen Trio

Welcome to the Patrick Kerssen Trio!

Noah Flaharty, Drums; Andrew O'Connor, Bass:

Patrick Kerssen, Piano

Patrick is a pianist and bandleader based in Bethlehem PA. He began performing professionally as a teenager and has since become extremely busy as a freelancer and educator, averaging over 200 performances each year throughout the mid-Atlantic region at music festivals (Musikfest, Christmas City Jazz Festival, COTA Jazz Festival, Berks Jazz Festival), jazz clubs (Deer Head Inn, Lafayette Jazz Bar, Jazz on Main, Vic's Jazz Lounge) and theaters/PACs (Sellersville Theater, Miller Symphony Hall, Sherman Theater, Mauch Chunk Opera House). His trio relies on tight arrangements heavily influenced by both the hard bop stylings of Bobby Timmons, Benny Golson, and Cannonball Adderley and the soul/R&B music of Ray Charles and Ramsey Lewis. Patrick also keeps

busy accompanying high school and college soloists and groups, adjudicating the occasional high school jazz band competition, and serving as an artist lecturer and staff accompanist at Moravian University.

www.patrickkerssenpiano.com

Today's appearance of special music guests is made possible through funding from the Funds of Lasting Gifts. Thank you to the many generous estate donors through the years.

Welcome

When we worship in the sanctuary the offering will be collected by our ushers in your seats.

When we worship outside in the grove the offering is collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave worship.

Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's work and God's people.

Preparing for Worship

Leader: In a world overwhelmed by waves of bad news,

ALL: we feel tossed and turned in the chaos of current events.

Leader: Here we are, carrying our dreams in our spirits,

ALL: wondering what God dreams in the storms and turmoil.

Leader: It is God's dream of abundant life,

ALL: and we are stirring to interpret its meaning.

Leader: We come together to listen and wonder, to praise and celebrate.

We come in hopeful anticipation to awaken our hearts to God's dream fulfilled.

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: God of grace, come to us. Be among this extravagant gathering. Be within this miscellaneous cluster of people. Come to us, we pray, as Jesus came to the disciples in that stormy sea many years ago. Come to us and bring your calming touch and faithful presence into our awareness. Enter our boat and be in our midst in ways so tangible that we have no more room for doubt or fear. Come to us, and anchor our confidence in your grace. Come, God of grace, bring your spirit and the spirit to this place. Amen

Passing the 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: And no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

ALL: And, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

Leader: God loves you and so do we.

ALL: God loves you and so do we.

Leader: Please stand and greet each other, sharing God's love and welcome.

We send our love to those worshiping at home too.

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Hymn His Eye Is On The Sparrow**

All:

**Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.**

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK

**Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.**

Please be seated.

During Summer Worship:

***A reminder to pick up your Children's Activity Bulletins at the door when you arrive.**

***Mornings with Ms. Tiffany**

Kids are invited to join Ms. Tiffany for stories, activities, crafts and fun every Sunday at 10:30 worship through August 20.

Pastors invite children forward to leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them!

Children will be in room 100 (or the gazebo when we're in the grove) and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

During the School Year: Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays
Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5.

Song: Go, Make a Diff'rence Angrisano, Tomaszek #199
 Sing! Prayer and Praise

Asus A $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ Dm B \flat C

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff-

Dm F Asus A

— 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. —

— Go make a dif - f'rence. — We can make a dif -

— f'rence. — Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. — *Fine*

B \flat maj⁷ Asus A Dm Last time, Fine Am Am

Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. — 1. 2.3.

Scripture Reading

Matthew, chapter 14, verses 22 to 31a.

As soon as the meal was finished, [Jesus] insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared to death. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage (take heart), it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come ahead." Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!" Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand.

The Message in Music with The Patrick Kerssen Trio

Lyrics are here for your prayer and meditation.

Hymn to Freedom

When every heart joins every heart
And together yearns for liberty
That's when we'll be free
When every hand joins every hand
And together molds our destiny
That's when we'll be free
Any hour any day, the time soon will come

When men will live in dignity
That's when we'll be free, we will be
When every man joins in our song
And together singing harmony
That's when we'll be free
Joshua Fought the Battle Of Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
and the walls came a-tumbling down
Hear Our Prayer O Lord
Hear our prayer, O Lord,
hear our prayer, O Lord;
incline thine ear to us,
and grant us thy peace. Amen.

Entering into Prayer

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.**

HYMN What A Friend We Have In Jesus

ALL:

What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,

Oh, what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry

**Everything to God in prayer!
INSTRUMENTAL BREAK**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there**

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NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH

OFFERING



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. 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.

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***Benediction**

Leader: Send us forth, O God, as people unafraid to step out of the boat and into life knowing that you are holding our hands, even reaching out to us, and helping us from sinking. Give us faith and trust in you. Show us how to reach out to others and invite them into your boat with us. Amen.

Hymn When the Saints Go Marching In

ALL:

**Oh, when the saints go marching in
Oh, when the saints go marching in
Dear Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in**

**Oh, when the sun refuse to shine
Oh, when the sun refuse to shine
Dear Lord I want to be in that number
When the sun refuse to shine**

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK

**Oh when they crown Him Lord of All
Oh when they crown Him Lord of All
Dear Lord, I want to be in that number
When they crown Him Lord of All**

**Oh, when they gather 'round the throne
Oh, when they gather 'round the throne
Dear Lord, I want to be in that number
When they gather 'round the throne**

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desserts to share.

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Summer Coffee Hour will continue on Sundays after 10:30
worship. Stop by in Memorial Hall for some cool lemonade,
juice, water, and a snack and visit with friends and pastors.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$8,893.00		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-May)	\$162,264.00	8:00 am	n/a
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-May)	\$158,771.00	10:30 am	141
Change from Last Year	2.2%	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2022-23 (July-May)	\$397,230.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-May))	\$374,108.00	Last Week:	120lbs, \$50
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.8%	Total YTD:	3,307lbs, \$785
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Neighbors in Need	\$291.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In honor of Fellowship Committee

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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