



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 20, 2023
10:30am Worship
Healing Service (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, 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: Janice Metzger

Ushers: Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, Gloria Toner, Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller

Greeters: Jim and Leanna Lane

Sound: Patrick Sorg

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

Prelude Music

Jesus is all the World to Me (Tune: Elizabeth) Will L. Thompson
Blake Hoppes

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: Here we have gathered as God's people, inspired by the Spirit ... to witness more effectively, to listen more deeply, to speak more truthfully, to live more peacefully, to love more energetically, to teach more eloquently, to pray more seriously, to worship more enthusiastically, to celebrate more joyfully, to sing more faithfully, to give more generously, to serve more compassionately. Come, let us worship.

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: With open arms You welcome all who call on Your
name—

who acknowledge You as Lord, and look to You in faith.

No one stands outside the circle of Your mercy and love.

And so we come to offer You our worship—

to declare that You are our God,

and that we are Your people,

called and chosen by You from the very beginning.

Through the presence of Your Holy Spirit
open our eyes to see You here;
open our minds to receive Your truth,
and our mouths to speak and sing Your praise.
For You alone are God—
worthy of all praise and worship,
now and to the end of time.
Amen.

Response Song #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: In the midst of new dimension,
In the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
Wandering in their separate ways?
God of rainbows, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**

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 #43 Live Divine, All Loves Excelling (New Century Hymnal, black)**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heave on earth be found
Fix in us a humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown
Jesus you are all compassion,
pure unbounded love impart
Visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling heart

2. Breathe o breath your loving Spirit
into every troubled breast
Let us all in you inherit let us find your promised rest
Take away our love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be
End of faith, as its beginning set our hearts at liberty

3 Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive
Suddenly return and never, nevermore your temples leave
You we would be always blessing,
love you as your angels love
Pray and praise for your unfailing wounded arms out
stretched above

4. Finish then your new creation,
pure and spotless may we prove
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you
Changed from glory into glory,
fill in heaven we take our place
Crowned as saints we ever shall be lost in wonder,
love and praise

Please be seated.

Blessing of the Backpacks, Devices, Students, Educators, School Stuff, and all Learners and Growers!

Leader: God, thank you for new opportunities to learn and grow in this upcoming school year. Be with our teachers, leaders, caregivers, bus drivers, crossing guards, cafeteria workers, janitors, office staff, support staff, and administrators as they guide us into the new school year. Give them the tools and energy to create engaging ways to learn and grow.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to new ideas, new friends, new leaders, and new ways of learning.

Show us how to seek joy in all things.

When things don't go as planned, help us rejoice in the new experience.

God, pour out your blessing upon these students, families, teachers, and leaders. Bless their backpacks, Chromebooks, classrooms, school buildings, and all preparations that help build a wonderful school experience.

May each of you be a blessing and light in your new year!
Go and light up the world!

Amen.

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 maj 7 Asus A Dm Am Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

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

Scripture Reading
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

15:10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them,

"Listen and understand:

15:11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

15:12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"

15:13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

15:14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."

15:15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."

15:16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?"

15:17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?

15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

15:19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

15:20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

15:21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

15:22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

15:23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

15:25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

15:26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

15:27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs

that fall from their masters' table."

15:28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Message Pastor Kayli

Hymn #42 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (New Century Hymnal, black)

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemers
praise

The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace

2. My gracious Savior and my God assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your
name

3. Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our
sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life and health and peace

4. Glory to God and love and praise be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and
heaven.

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.**

PRAYER SONG RESPONSE

#107 Amazing Grace Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of
God

**ALL: Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

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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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**Music Offering**

What a Wonderful World  
Bob Thiele and George David Weiss  
Matt Gerry & Blake Hoppes

**\* Offering Response**

#562 Take My Gifts Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
Gave me light and food and shelter,  
gave me life and set me free,  
Now because your love has touched,  
I have love to give away,  
Now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply.**

**\*Benediction**

*(In the Sanctuary of Women, copyright © Jan L. Richardson)*

**Leader: May God,  
who comes to us  
in the things of this world,  
bless your eyes  
and be in your seeing.**

**May Christ,  
who looks upon you  
with deepest love,  
bless your eyes  
and widen your gaze.**

**May the Spirit,  
who perceives what is  
and what may yet be,  
bless your eyes  
and sharpen your vision.**

**May the Sacred Three  
bless your eyes  
and cause you to see.**

## **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 offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.**

### **\* Hymn #417 This Is a Day of New Beginnings (New Century Hymnal, black)**

1. This is a day of new beginnings  
Time to remember and move on  
Time to believe what love is bringing  
Laying to rest the pain that's gone

2. For by the life and death of Jesus  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then  
Can make for us a world of difference  
As faith and hope are born again

3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring  
Step from the past and leave behind  
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving  
Seeking new path and sure to find

4. Christ is alive and goes before us  
To show and share what love can do  
This is a day of new beginnings  
Our God is making all things new

### **Postlude Music**

**Matt Gerry & Blake Hoppes**

**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<br>(e-giving, envelopes, and plate)                                |              | Attendance Last Week                                |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Last Week                                                                   | \$4,849.00   |                                                     | In person       |
| Calendar Year 2023<br>(Jan-July)                                            | \$223,865.00 | 8:00 am                                             | <b>n/a</b>      |
| Calendar Year 2022<br>(Jan-July)                                            | \$226,189.00 | 10:30 am                                            | <b>145</b>      |
| Change from Last Year                                                       | -1.0%        | Education Hour                                      |                 |
| Budget FY 2023-24<br>(July)                                                 | \$33,220.00  | 2022 Donations to the<br>Northern Lehigh Food Bank: |                 |
| Actual Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date <i>(July)</i>                                | \$27,821.00  | Last<br>Week:                                       |                 |
| Difference in Giving vs.<br>Budget                                          | -16.3%       | Total<br>YTD:                                       | 3,307lbs, \$785 |
| <i>Additional financial information available in<br/>Consistory Minutes</i> |              | Neighbors in<br>Need                                | \$326.42        |

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**In honor of special music in the Grove this summer  
from 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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