



May 26, 2024
8am and 10:30am Worship

Mental Health Sunday,
Memorial Sunday

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs. Let us know you're here by completing the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it to a pastor or drop it in the offering plate.

Vision Statement

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING

Mission Statement

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.

***No matter who you are or where you on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Reader: 8am Ron Pope, 10:30 Donna Christman
Ushers: 8am Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl
10:30 am Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel, Ashleigh Albert, Claire Kern,
Gene Thrash, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose
Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, Carol Pope, Ron Pope
Sound: Pat Sorg

Prelude Music

"Freedom Hymn" with "A Mighty Fortress"
Dino Kartsonakis, Bill George, Martin Luther
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons
no one.

All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.

One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy
through your presence with us.

**All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a lov-
ing relationship with all your children.**

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one
outside.

**All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a
message that we share with others as we seek to live out
Christ's love.**

One: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems,
and sustains us.

All: Amen. (Rev. Amy Petré Hill)

Prayer

Leader: Holy One, be with us in this sacred space. Stir your
Spirit in and among us as we offer our prayers and praises.
We long to hear more than the groaning of Creation around
us, more than our own fearful groaning. From the places
deep within us, that we mistakenly believe are hidden from
you, may your Spirit intercede for us. Draw us into your
presence. May we recognize you in ourselves and in our
neighbors. Let us see you through all brokenness that we
may find wholeness in being your body here and now. In the

name of the One who fills the world with Hope. Amen.
(Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, based on Romans 8)

Response

ALL sung:

**For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth,
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

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

Welcoming Each Other to Union and God's Family

***Opening Hymn**

#539 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

- 1. Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.***
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road; We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.***
- 3. I will hold the Christ light for you in the shadow of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.***
- 4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.***
- 5. When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony. Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.***

6. *Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*

Please be seated.

10:30 Worship Children's Time

Song: The Fruit of the Spirit Uncle Charlie Songs

ALL Sung:

**The fruit of the spirit's not a coconut
(pineapple, banana, watermelon)
The fruit of the spirit's not a coconut
If you want to be a coconut
You might as well hear it
You can't be a fruit of the spirit.**

Cause the fruit is:

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
Goodness faithfulness,
Gentleness and self-control.**

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
Goodness faithfulness,
Gentleness and self-control.**

This Summer on Sundays at 10:30 worship – Times with Ms. Tiffany and Friends. Start worship with your family and then leave at the Children's time with Ms. Tiffany for a time just for you with activities, Bible story, crafts, and more! Kids return to the families by the end of worship or can be found in Room 100 or at the Gazebo when we're in the grove.

Starting in September:

Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-

grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and are invited forward for a children's time, They then leave with Ms. Tiffany and return before worship is over.

Kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

Scripture Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was

spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Response

Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet MW Smith

ALL sung:

Chorus: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path

Repeat

When I feel afraid

And I think I've lost my way

Still you're there right beside me

Nothing will I fear

As long as you are near

Please be near me to the end

Chorus

Message Pastor Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation

Prayers of the People

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.**

Response

Amazing Grace John Newton

ALL sung:

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.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,

I have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

The congregation responded to the invitation to submit names of those who died during military service. We remember all who serve or have served, but on the

Memorial Day, especially those who died in military service and whose names are listed here:

PVT Larry W. Bachman, U.S. Army
Ensign Vernon G. Kern, U.S. Navy
W-O David P. Kuhns, U.S. Army-Air Force
SP4 Larry R. Lalan, U.S. Army
Richard Wehr, U.S. Army

All unknown soldiers who gave their lives in service

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY By Maren C. Tirabassi

**ALL: God, we come with Taps in our hearts
remembering those who have died for others,
soldiers, sailors, air corps, in this country and others,
remembering those who risk life for others,
coast guard, firefighter, law enforcement,
both near and far away,
remembering those who go forth
in emergency response, disaster relief,
and aid to victims of war,
remembering those who witness for justice
in the face of opposition,
and remembering our own losses –
some, fresh wounds,
some, long-familiar sadnesses.
Day is come, not just one,
but a year full of dawns
in the east.
While some rest, we are blest,
given peace. Amen.**

Leader: We remember that Memorial Day began when Confederate war widows decorated the far-from-home graves of Union soldiers.

ALL: We remember – and pray for those who grieve on all sides of a conflict.

Leader: We remember that Memorial Day also began at

Charleston's Washington Race Course when newly freed slaves honored prisoners of war.

ALL: We remember – and pray for people everywhere who are seeking freedom or living with the loss of freedom.

Leader: We remember that May 30 was chosen for Memorial Day because it was one day that did not commemorate a particular battle.

ALL: We remember — and pray for a time when every day is an anniversary of peace.

Leader: We remember ANZAC Day, when Australians and New Zealanders memorialize not only those in combat, but nurses, stretcher bearers, conscientious objectors, and those who bear home front burdens.

ALL: We remember – and pray to be aware of the gifts of many in our common causes.

Leader: We remember Christmas Eve truces and paper cranes, amnesties and poppies, folded flags and the desperate need of veterans for gratitude made real in support.

ALL: We remember — and pray for a memorializing, not confined to a holiday but alive in the spirits of young and old, enlisted and civilian, brand new Americans and those with deep hometown-roots, people of every faith, no faith and people willing to leave their politics outside the door in order to embrace everyone. God, be with us as we remember. Amen.

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH AT UNION



OFFERING

Thank you for the many ways you give of yourself to God's

ministry and mission here at Union.

Because of YOU our church changes lives....

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

• **ELECTRONIC GIVING** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone.

Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)



Electronic Giving

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app** Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.

• **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?" See QR code.



Vanco Mobile

• **Cash or checks (to "Union UCC")** Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.



Venmo

Invitation to the Offering

In our offering we share not only measurable treasures of time, talents and resources, we also radically commit to sharing immeasurable gifts of forgiveness, grace, compassion, acceptance and loving concern with each other and with ourselves.

Music Offering

8am: America the Beautiful
Samuel A. Ward Arr. Mark Hayes
Blake Hoppes

10:30am: Medley of Patriotism

Arr. Gary Lanier

Craig Knauss, clarinet and **Mitchell Roth**, trumpet

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

***Offering Response**

I Will Bless the Lord at All Times Joe Pace

ALL sung:

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good

He's good, so good, real good

And every day of my life

I'll bless the Lord for He's good

***Offering Dedication**

May these gifts help to build the community of care and compassion that we hope to create. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Amen.

***Benediction**

One: The One who created all that is calls us by name and invites us into a life of abundant Love.

All: We go out into the world as God's beloved people, bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet.

One: Jesus taught us to love one another as fiercely and freely as God loves each of us, with the power that binds us together as the Body of Christ.

All: We will embody Christ by shattering stigma and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.

One: The Spirit fills us with the Breath of Life and urges us to imagine anew how to be Church in the world today.

All: We will breathe deeply and move beyond what has been and what is. We will follow the Spirit and bring hope and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness. We will be the Church! Amen. (Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe)

Response

A Thousand Amens Tim Timmons

All sung:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly Host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

**Unfailing love comes with the morning
It's Your faithfulness we sing at night
It's Your kindness Lord that leads to our healing
All glory to our maker and a thousand amens.**

***Closing Hymn On Eagle's Wings Michael Joncas**

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge
My rock, in whom I trust!"**

[Chorus]

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings, your refuge
His faithfulness, your shield**

[Chorus]

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you
Near you it shall not come**

[Chorus]

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone**

[Chorus]

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

[Chorus]

And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand

Postlude Music
A Mighty Fortress is Our God Martin Luther
Blake Hoppes

Wisdom Tips for talking about Mental Health

Be a Friend:

"A friend loves at all times..." (Proverbs 17:17a).

Listen without judgment. Provide companionship. Offer a ride or a meal. Respect confidentiality. Avoid shame and guilt.

Remember that we all have and we all are impacted by mental health.

Remember that Words can Hurt:

"Rash words are like sword thrusts..." (Proverbs 12:18a).

Pay attention to the words you use and how they affect the people around you. Avoid labelling and stereotyping people.

Stop the Stigma:

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ" (Romans 12:5).

Challenge negative attitudes toward mental health and neurodiversity whenever you encounter it. Question your assumptions. Correct misinformation about mental health challenges, substance use disorders, trauma, and brain differences.

Educate Yourself:

"Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?" (Proverbs 8:1).

Learn the facts about the various challenges that can affect mental health, including substance use disorders, neurodevelopmental difference, trauma, and brain disorders. Realize that mental health is physical health.

Thank God for Neurodiversity:

"Wonderful are your works" (Psalm 139:14)

Be aware that we all process the world around us differently.

Celebrate and affirm neurodiversity and the many gifts that each person brings.

Resources:

Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence About Mental
Illness with Children and Teens by Sarah Griffith
Lund

Not Alone: Reflections on Faith and Depression by
Monica A Coleman

Keefe, Rachael A., The Lifesaving Church: Faith
Communities and Suicide Prevention by Rachael A.
Keefe

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$7,100.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-April)	\$ 141,275.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-April)	\$ 138,705.00
Change from Last Year	1.9%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-April)	\$ 372,070.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-April)	\$ 361,368.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.9%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	28
10:30 AM	126
Online Views	231
Breathe	10

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, 0lbs
Total YTD:	\$875, 2,725lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

Happy Birthday Mom. 4 years in heaven- Love you much Carolyn Barry

Good News Sponsor– for \$20 help us cover the costs of advertising on social media, mailings, and local papers.
Children’s Bulletin sponsor– for \$8 cover the cost of bulletins for children.

Send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or 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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