



**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://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 Michael Roth 10:30 Vicki Mayk  
Ushers: 8am Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern  
10:30 am Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod,  
Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Carolyn Seyler  
Greeters: Jen Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace  
Sound: Mike Baer

## **Prelude Music**

In the Garden C. Austin Miles

**Blake Hoppes**

## **Welcome**

### **Directions for Communion Today:**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

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.

## **Call to Worship**

One: We come. Ready to step into the witness of God's abundance and grace.

**ALL: We have come to listen and to learn. In our joy. In our sadness. In all the ways we have entered here we bring our whole selves – imperfect and wonderful. Let us have ears to hear what the Spirit brings us today and intention in living out the message.**

## **Prayer**

One: Gracious and loving God. We pray for healing when the rocky ground in our lives cuts deep. We pray for kindness when thorns strangle compassion and block life. We pray for confidence when the message of the open path is one of fear and scarcity. Fill us with your healing, compassion, and

generous spirit so we might be filled with your life giving Good News. We pray with thanksgiving, knowing your love surrounds us in all we do and are. Amen.

**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**

#586 Come to Tend God's Garden  
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow,  
Planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!  
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant health!  
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!**

**As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise  
Stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!  
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,  
Unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!**

**May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed,  
May God bless our actions, every word and deed!  
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,  
Chartered by the Spirit, for the task at hand!**

**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 Mark 4: 1-20

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that

"they may indeed look, but not perceive,  
and may indeed listen, but not understand;  
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." '

And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the

thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

### **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** Tending God's Garden      Pastor Kris

### **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.**

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

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### 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-751X/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.)

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



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile

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



Venmo

• **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.

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### **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.

**Don Penrod, from the Financial Leadership Team**

### **Music Offering**

How Great Thou Art      Carl Gustav Boberg

**Blake Hoppes**

**\*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.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

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.

One:

Today we remember with gratitude those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

(Pause for a time of reflection)

Above all, we recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

Bless and renew our faith, we pray, so that we might bear the fruit of your mercy, love and grace.

Amen.

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

Leader: God of love,  
pour out your spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the love of Christ,  
so that we may be for the world the love of Christ!  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry with all the world,

One: We come to this table with an awareness that the gifts of bread and wine placed here come from seeds sown into the good soil of the life-sustaining planet upon which we make our home. Seeds which grew, multiplied, ripened, were harvested and that produced something many times greater than the single, original seed could have done alone. These gifts, enough to sustain all living things on the face of the earth, remind us of God's abundant provision. With confidence, we can come to this table and be reminded that there is enough. As we leave this table, we can take with us that faith and multiply and transform the gifts of our own lives for the sake of growing God's garden here in our church and community and in the world.

### **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.**

## **THE BREAD**

### **Music Offering**

Isn't He John Wimber, Arr. Mark Hayes

Blake Hoppes

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

## **THE CUP**

**HYMN** In the Bulb There Is a Flower

#433 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;**

**In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!**

**In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,**

**Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;**

**There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.**

**From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,**

**Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;**

**In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,**

**In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,**

**Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

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** #588 In The Garden  
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses.**

### **REFRAIN**

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.**

**He speaks, and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.**

### **REFRAIN**

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Directions – as you leave worship: There are flower post it notes in the front of the church, near the railing. Please take time to write on a post it where you see God's love blooming or where you are praying for it to bloom. We will share these in our prayers.**

**Place your post it on the railing.  
Join us for a cold drink and snack in the lobby.**

**\*Benediction**

**Lord, We Would Grow With You**

**Piano Side:**

**Lord, we would grow with you  
New shoots reaching out  
Hands stretched upward  
Like leaves newly formed  
Soaking up your light and warmth  
Lord, we would grow with you**

**Podium side:**

**Lord, we would grow with you  
In sunshine and rain  
In darkness and light  
In cold days and summer days  
From Springtime to Winter  
Lord, we would grow with you**

**ALL:**

**Lord, we would grow with you  
And bring forth fruit  
That is pleasing to you  
Fed by your living water  
Giving sustenance to others  
Lord, we would grow with you**

~ contemporary Welsh prayer posted on A Place for Prayer.  
<http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>

**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 #4 Spirit, Fill Me**  
 Sing! Prayer and Praise

♩=85

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 85 beats per minute. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The score includes a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket.

Chords: C, G/B, Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, E<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, C, G/B, Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, E<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm, G<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>#dim</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup>, Fmaj<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, C, F, G

1. Spir - it come and fill\_ me, fill me with your peace,  
 come and fill\_ us, fill us with your peace,

fill me with your joy\_ and your love. Spir-it come and show me,  
 fill us with your joy\_ and your love. Spir-it come and show us,

show me how to care, show me how to share your light.  
 show us how to care, show us how to share your light.

Help me give my hand to those in need... Let my heart be o-pen to\_ re-  
 Help us give our hands to those in need... Let our hearts be o-pen to\_ re-

C Bm7 E7 Am7 Fmaj7 G7 C

- ceive. When we share your love, we can work to - geth-er to  
 - ceive. When we share your love, we can work to - geth-er to

C7 F Am7 G7 G7 C

heal this bro - ken world. 2. & 3. Spir - it light.  
 heal this bro - ken world.

Postlude Music  
 Waltz Op. 64, No.2 in C# Minor  
**Blake Hoppes**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$3,599.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-April)	\$ 141,275.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-April)	\$ 138,705.00
Change from Last Year	<b>1.9%</b>
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-April)	\$ 372,070.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-April)	\$ 361,368.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-2.9%</b>
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	28
10:30 AM	57
Online Views	187
Breathe	10

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

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**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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