



June 16, 2024
10:30 am Worship
Graduate Sunday,
Fathering 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: Eric Minnich

10:30 am Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, C Gloria Toner,
Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman, Brian Horwith

Greeters: Tracey & Rob Bilger, Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Sound: Pat Sorg

Prelude Music
Guide Me, O, Thou Great Jehovah
J. Hughes/ DeCou
Thank you Susan Cervin for being our guest organist.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. Smallest of seeds, yet greatest of trees; home for the birds of the air."

People: Let our faith bloom and grow in this time of worship; let this place be a shelter and home for all who are weary.

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, kneaded into flour, that it might rise and feed many.

People: Let the community gathered here increase in faith and devotion, so that we might nourish the world with the good news of God.

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like hidden treasure, buried in a field until it is discovered in joy.

People: Let this time of worship be an uncovering of God's mysteries. God is here! Christ is revealed! The Spirit lives among us! Let us worship God!

Prayer

One: God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

written by Nancy C. Townley.

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**

#540 We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

- 1. We plant a grain of mustard seed,
and in our faith we find
the proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind;
the proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind.**
- 2. Our actions, more than words,
define how love's example feeds
a greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds;
a greater love, for love divine
bursts froth from smallest seeds.**
- 3. When stooped to lend a helping hand,
we find a touch that heals,
for love invested will expand to bear the fruit love yields;
for love invested will expand to bear the fruit love yields.**
- 4. Make love our purpose, love our aim,
for love endures all things,
and choosing love our lives will claim**

**the peace forgiveness brings;
and choosing love our lives will claim
the peace forgiveness brings.**

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.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES (see insert for names)

ALL: God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward in their journey, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your faithful presence and unconditional love. Help them know they never walk alone, trusting in you and remembering this family of faith. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as Modern day disciples in a world that needs their spirit. Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them and guiding them. Help them see others through your eyes and be your heart and hands in the world, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Mark 4: 26-34

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a

mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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 Small Seeds, Mighty Trees Pastor Kris

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.
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



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.)



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.



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.

Invitation to the Offering

We give thanks for this opportunity to change hearts and lives with all that we offer to God. And we give thanks that God changes our hearts and lives as well.

Music Offering

Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth J. Pachelbel
Susan Cervin

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

***Offering Response**

**O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the words Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

***Offering Dedication**

May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds,
planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that God's way
may be realized anew in this world.

Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend
your precious garden. **Amen.**

~ written by Katherine Hawker

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Benediction**

One:

Go into God's world, planting seeds of love, mercy, joy,
and peace in all that you say and do. May God bless
and fertilize these seeds in our lives, community, and
world. AMEN.

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

♩=85

C G/B Am⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷

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

E⁷ Am⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ C G/B Am⁷

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,

Dm⁷ G⁷ E⁷ Am⁷ Dm G⁷ G^{#dim}

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

Am⁷ Fmaj⁷ G⁷ C F G

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.

1. 2. 3.

Postlude Music

In Thee, O Lord, Have I Put My Trust

J.C. Bach (Johann Christoph)

Susan Cervin

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$ 7,694.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-May)	\$ 169,837.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-May)	\$ 162,264.00
Change from Last Year	4.7%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-May)	\$ 396,720.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-May)	\$ 380,274.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-4.1%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	N/A
10:30 AM	69
Online Views	198
Breathe	10

2024 Donations to the North- ern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$50, 150lbs
Total YTD:	\$925, 2,875lbs
OGHS to date	\$466.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In memory of Gordon Rothrock from Lucille Kuhns,
Lana Reitz, and Leoma Kern and family**

**Grateful for the men & fathers in our church- Pastor
Kris**

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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