



June 23, 2024
10:30 am Worship
Semi-Annual
Meeting

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: Janice Metzger

10:30 am Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel, Ashleigh Albert, Claire Kern,
Gene Thrash, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose

Greeters: George & Val Borman

Sound: Mike Baer

Prelude Music

Blessed Assurance

Fanny J. Crosby, Phoebe P. Knapp

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Call to Worship

(written by Tim Graves, <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>)

Leader: In the midst of darkness & chaos...

ALL: God imagined.

Leader: In the fury & darkness...

**ALL: God imagined a world filled with trees,
and blue skies
and fluffy white clouds.**

Leader: In the meadow, God stood and...

ALL: imagined foxes, bluebirds, and slithering snakes.

Leader: In a world of rainstorms and wildlife
and cattle and grasses blowing in the breeze...

**ALL: God imagined humanity.
God imagined the continuum from man to woman.**

Leader: In a world teeming with billions of people...

ALL: God imagined me.

Leader: God imagined you and God imagined me.

We are created in the image of God.

ALL: God imagined us all. God loves each of us.

Leader: Let us worship with the same imagination
as the creating One!

Prayer

(written by Rev. Gord, <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>)

God of gentle rains and warm sun, God who encourages
growth;

we are creatures who sometimes grow quickly,
and sometimes get stuck.

God of freedom, of liberation, of binding ropes being cut;
we are bound in ways we don't always understand or recognize.

God of exodus and exile and homecoming,
God who calls us to leave where we are and come home;
help us to have the courage to make the journey
and to trust in the path.

God of health and healing,
God who wants us to be made whole;
we come as people who are wounded in body and in spirit,
people who seek healing.

God who has laid out a way for us to live,
who has given us rules for living in community;
we come as people who sometimes go astray,
people who stretch the rules.

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 #187 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary
(Sing! Prayer and Praise)**

♩-60

D/A Em/A D A

1. Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
- pow'r me to be a wit - ness for you, act - ing

G Em⁷ D/A A A⁷

ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks -
bold - ly, in your name; seek - ing

D A

-giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -
jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - 'ring

G Em⁷ A⁷ D D/A Em/A D

1. - ar - y for you. 2. God em -
hope where there is pain.

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
Luke 12: 22-31**

22 He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and

yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! 29 And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

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

What Does It Matter? Pastor Kayli

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.

• **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.



Venmo

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

Giving is not a casual act—
it relates God’s work to our work.

Peter writes:

“as each has received a gift,
employ it for one another,
as good stewards of God’s varied grace,
that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

Let us give as people
whose work is inextricably linked to God’s great works
of creation, redemption and empowerment.

Music Offering

Exodus Ernest Gold, Pat Boone

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**

(written by Katherine Hawker, <http://liturgyoutside.net>)

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.

Please stand in body or spirit.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, Pa

Eric Minnich, Consistory President presiding

For those of you at home:

Please log in or call in to our zoom meeting. There is a waiting room, please be patient until someone lets you into the meeting. Please mute yourself once you are in the

meeting. We may ask you your name in order to identify everyone present and be sure that we have a quorum. The agenda and other documents were emailed to you or will be available to see on your screen.

Thank you for being a part of the work that we do as God's church.

Zoom Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83097072849?pwd=FlgL3ZvlMlgYNwmQP8bIZXEzVzxpmb.1>

Meeting ID: 830 9707 2849

Passcode: 560069

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**

May the love of God welcome you.

May the table of Christ sustain you.

May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit bind us all into new community,

Now and forever.

And all of God's people say: **Amen.**

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 #562 Take My Gifts
(New Century Hymnal, black)**

- 1. 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 me,
I have love to give away
Now the bread of love is rising,
loves of love to multiply!**
- 2. Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter,
flavor of the Jesus life
Tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief**
- 3. Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be
Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.**

Postlude Music

**More Love, More Power Jude Del Hierro
Blake Hoppes**

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	116
Online Views	
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

**May Pastor Kris have a very Happy Birthday on the
25th. God Bless You.
Love Carolyn B.**

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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