



July 14, 2024
10:30 am Worship
In the Grove
Blessing of the Animals

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 Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Andy & Jan Dyszel

Sound: Mike Baer, Karl Klinger

Prelude Music

You Are My All in All Dennis Jernigan

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.

Call to Worship

One: No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, or how many paws or claws you have, you are created by God and welcome here at our gathering. Today, in the tradition of St Francis, we celebrate animals, wild and tame, that make our lives richer because of their presence.

Circle of Praise – inspired by Psalm 148
Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson

One: All God's family, come and praise our Creator!

ALL: We come with eyes to see, and ears to flap and hear,

One: All creatures lift your voices in singing, mewing and barking.

ALL: We come to celebrate God's marvelous creation!

One: With dogs and cats, hamsters and snakes

ALL: We come to thank the Giver of all life!

One: All creatures that crawl, all sea serpents that swim and feathered friends that fly

ALL: We come to praise our Creator!

Prayer

One: Here we are again, God, gathered to worship. But today we have some special and exciting guests, the animals we love and care for. Bless our time together in this circle of love, with tails thumping and ears flapping. Let our hearts sing like the lark and soar like the eagle, as we rejoice in your amazing creation. 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 All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir
Payge Haydt, Viola**

[Chorus]

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they
got now

[Verse 1]

Well listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do

And old cow just goes moo

[Verse 2]

Well the dogs and the cats they take up the middle
The honeybee hums, the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls

[Chorus]

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got
now

[Verse 3]

Oh listen to the top where the little bird sings
The melody with the high voice ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees

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.

Music Offering

You'll Never Walk Alone

Oscar Hammerstein II / Richard Rodgers

Marcus Mumford

Jason Klinger, soloist

Scripture

Psalm 50: 1, 10-11 & Luke 12:6

In Psalm 50, the author proclaims God's claim that every beast on land and in the air is a worthy part of God's creation.

The Mighty One, God, Yahweh, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting..., "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine."

And in Luke's telling of the Good News, Jesus reminds the crowds that even the smallest birds they sacrifice at the temple are part of God's beloved creation.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight.

Today as we welcome animals into our worship space to bless them and celebrate how they bless us we proclaim anew their important place in God's creation.

Response

Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet MW Smith

ALL sung:

**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

Reflection--A dramatic reading: In Our Hands

Pastor Kris

When we are in the Sanctuary:

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.**

Blessing of the Animals

What is a Blessing? In a few minutes, we will have a Blessing of the Animals. But first, let's think about 'blessing.' We don't bring our companion animals to a service like this so much because we think they need a special blessing from God – We bring them because we have been blessed by them and we want to say a thanks to them and to God. We know the blessing of a tail wagging when we return home, the blessing of whiskers twitching and ears turning to our voice. We know the blessing of bird song in the morning and hamster wheels spinning at night. Blessing words for the animals: We know the blessing of a nose nudging our hand for a treat, a mane brushing our face. We know the blessing of company, of trust, of playfulness, and of the responsibility to care and feed and love something that cannot speak words but speaks daily to our hearts. So we come to say thanks today. But we also come today because we know that we have blessing work to do. We come because we want to be a blessing. We want to bring safe harbor to creatures losing their homes to our overdevelopment of the land and resources. We want to protect the fragile ecosystems and gentle beaches that are home to rich bio-diversity. We want to ensure that no more creatures pass to extinction because we made it impossible for them to adapt. So we come today to be a blessing.

Words of Thanksgiving

For all the animals in creation,

We give thanks!

For all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We give thanks!

For these animals we love,

We give thanks!

A Time of Blessing of the Animals

Please bring your pet forward to one of the pastors for a

blessing.

If you brought a picture or a stuffed animal or would like to come forward to represent your pet, we can provide a blessing for that as well.

Music Offering

Mansion Over the Hilltop Ira F. Stanphill
Blake Hoppes

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.

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.)

• **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

Keep your eye on the sparrow! Keep your focus on God’s unfolding realm on earth. Keep your heart open allowing it to spill all over everyone you meet. If you have a financial offering, place it in the plate but more importantly place your hand over it and silently commit to God to use your gifts, talents, and heart for furthering the unfolding realm of God on earth.

***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**

**ALL: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.**

St. Francis of Assisi

Please stand in body or spirit.

When we are in the sanctuary:

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.

***Benediction**

One: Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand of it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love

everything, You will perceive the divine mystery in things.
 Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it
 Better every day. And you will come at last to love the
 whole world With an all-embracing love. ~Fyodor
 Dostoyevsky

Friends, go in the peace and gentle wisdom of God, to
 care for all God's creatures, with feathers, paws, tails or fur,
 with a grateful heart and loving hands. Let the 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 #4 Spirit, Fill Me

♩=85

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,

Dm⁷ G⁷ E⁷ Am⁷ Dm G⁷ G^{#dim}
 1.2.

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 open to... re-
 Help us give our hands to those in need... Let our hearts be open 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
 3.

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

Sing! Prayer and Praise

Postlude Music

In The Presence of Jehovah Becky and Geron Davis
 Blake Hoppes

**Parts of today's service are adapted from Open Table
 Worship Compiled by Ana Gobledale.**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$10,945.00
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	109
Online Views	142

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$50, lbs
Total YTD:	\$975, 3,325lbs
OGHS to date	\$981.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In honor of Pepper and all of our pets
- 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.

<p>CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732 One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from <i>ONE LICENSE</i>, License #A714125</p>
--