



July 28, 2024
10:30 am Worship
Christmas in July

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: Brynn Buskirk

10:30 am Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel

Ashleigh Albert, Claire Kern, Gene Thrash, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose

Greeters: Brynn & Jon Buskirk, Sally Saltzer, Devon Kuharik

Sound: Dawn Dengler, Doug Albert

Prelude Music
Christmas Medley
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: A light shining in the darkness . . .

Many: What could it be?

One: The sound of angels' wings . . .

Many: What could it mean?

One: A baby born in a stable . . .

Many: Who could it be?

One: Come to Bethlehem and see!

Prayer

O Wondrous God of the stars, we come to worship with breathless wonder to celebrate again the babe who changed our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth with your unconditional love. Touch us again— touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this celebration magical again. 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** Angel Christmas Carol Medley

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"**

Angels we have heard on high,

**sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:**

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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 3-5. 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 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,

keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

What Does It Take to be An Angel Today?

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.

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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

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.

Music Offering

Go Tell It on the Mountain Spiritual
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**

**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:

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***Benediction**

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.

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** Joy to the World

**Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing**

**Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy**

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as, the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

Postlude Music

Linus and Lucy Vince Guaraldi

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	\$6,334.00
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	81
Online Views	128

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, 65lbs
Total YTD:	\$975, 3,390lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

In Memory of Walt Disney

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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