



July 7, 2024
10:30 am Worship

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: Doug Brace

10:30 am Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod,
Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Carolyn Seyler

Greeters: Tracey & Rob Bilger, Ruth Ensley

Sound: Pat Sorg

Prelude Music

Battle Hymn of the Republic Julia Ward Howe

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Jesus offers a new-old commandment,
that we should love each other.

**All: With the incredible power
and the unfathomable depth of God's love for us
we can
we must
love one another.**

One: And it is in this
our love for one another
that the world will know
whom and what we worship.

**All: Children of God, lovers of Jesus,
followers of the Holy Spirit,
let us love one another.**

~ written by Katherine Hawker

Prayer

One: Christ Jesus, we come into your presence from many
different places.

We come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude. We
come carrying heavy burdens
and sighs of suffering. As you welcome us into your house, lift
our burdens
and receive our praise. Salt us with your grace and flavor us

with your mercy.
Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one
another and be strengthened to go forth
in service to the world. In your holy name, we pray. 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 Let There Be Peace on Earth**

#681 Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God) adapted

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator
Family all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live**

**Each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.**

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

Favorite Hymns:

In the Garden

**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
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**

Blessed Assurance

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

How Great Thou Art

**Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds 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**

The Old Rugged Cross

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown**

For The Beauty of the Earth

**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**

Scripture

Amos 5: 18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Isaiah 10: 1-4

Ah, you who make iniquitous decrees,
who write oppressive statutes,
to turn aside the needy from justice
and to rob the poor of my people of their right,
that widows may be your spoil,
and that you may make the orphans your prey!
What will you do on the day of punishment,
in the calamity that will come from far away?
To whom will you flee for help,
and where will you leave your wealth,
so as not to crouch among the prisoners
or fall among the slain?
For all this, his anger has not turned away;
his hand is stretched out still.

Mark 9: 30-35

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.
Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the

greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.'

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

Guest Preacher and Union UCC Member, Geoffrey Brace

Geoff has been around church most of his life. He's served on the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ (and a few denominational predecessor boards), was PNEC Conference Moderator, attended at least eight UCC General Synods (including one on his honeymoon), did terms on local congregation governing bodies, sings when needed, and has been spotted cooking and doing dishes in a few church kitchens. Geoff, his wife Sara Jane and their son Isaac are members of Union UCC. Geoff was elected to the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners in 2013, serving as Chair since 2021.

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-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.)



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

As we come to this time for gratitude and generosity, what is it that we gather as we give? We gather good will; we gather hope; we gather love and healing and grace. And when all of these things are gathered up, and drawn near, the blessing of God fills us up and others too...and the world is

changed for the better. Like the servants who gathered up the gifts of the Master and helped them to grow, we too are called to make God's blessings grow through our generosity. And know this, that your generosity gathers—it gathers people to you, it gathers a force for good in the world, it gathers a love that flows with a great will in the world to extend God's grace beyond these walls. This is no small thing, but lovely and precious. Give thanks for the ministry God has entrusted into our care and for each other, and know, beloved, that your faithful service makes a difference.

Music Offering

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Arr. John H. Head & Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Mitchell Roth, trumpet and Craig Knauss, Clarinet

***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**

Gracious God, we give thanks and ask your blessings on the many and diverse gifts we bring to join you in your work in the world. Amen.

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.

***Benediction**

One:

Now, go forth from this place with renewed inspiration to do the work of God.

Seek good, not evil, love goodness, and establish justice.

This the greatest offering we can make;
letting justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.
Go in peace, with love for our neighbors.

~ written by Phyllis Tenney,

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

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

God Bless America Irving Berlin

Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$9,697.00
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	137
Online Views	153

2024 Donations to the North- ern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, 450lbs
Total YTD:	\$925, 3,325lbs
OGHS to date	\$921.00

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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