



August 18, 2024
10:30 am Worship
Guest Music:
The Patrick Kerssen Trio

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: Donna Christman

10:30 am Ushers: Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, Gloria Toner,

Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman, Brian Horwith

Greeters: Jen Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace

Sound: Dawn Dengler

Prelude Music

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen (trad.) Instrumental
The Patrick Kerssen Trio

Welcome to the Patrick Kerssen Trio!

Zach Martin, Drums; Jon Ventre, Bass; Patrick Kerssen, Piano

Patrick is a pianist and bandleader based in Bethlehem PA. He began performing professionally as a teenager and has since become extremely busy as a freelancer and educator, averaging over 200 performances each year throughout the mid-Atlantic region at music festivals (Musikfest, Christmas City Jazz Festival, COTA Jazz Festival, Berks Jazz Festival), jazz clubs (Deer Head Inn, Lafayette Jazz Bar, Jazz on Main, Vic's Jazz Lounge) and theaters/PACs (Sellersville Theater, Miller Symphony Hall, Sherman Theater, Mauch Chunk Opera House). His trio relies on tight arrangements heavily influenced by both the hard bop stylings of Bobby Timmons, Benny Golson, and Cannonball Adderley and the soul/R&B music of Ray Charles and Ramsey Lewis. Patrick also keeps busy accompanying high school and college soloists and groups, adjudicating the occasional high school jazz band competition, and serving as an artist lecturer and staff accompanist at Moravian University.

www.patrickkerssenpiano.com

Today's appearance of special music guests is made possible through funding from the Funds of Lasting Gifts. Thank you to the many generous estate donors through the years.

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: As we gather in this sacred moment for a sacred purpose, let us make the most of our time together.

ALL: We have come to worship God and discover God's meaning and purpose for our lives.

One: As we sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, let us make the most of our time together.

ALL: We have come to worship God and discover God's meaning and purpose for our lives.

One: As we respond to the melody in our hearts, let us make the most of our time together.

ALL: We have come to worship God and discover God's meaning and purpose for our lives.

Prayer

One: Time slips away like water in the hand,
or a balloon lifted into the sky.

We think there is plenty,
but then it is gone, wasted.

So it is the will of God
that we invest our time wisely
in the divine work of worship.

Today we lift our voices and raise our hands,
seeking to be filled with the Spirit,
in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 Joyful, Joyful**

Please Join in Singing – Patrick and Pastor Kris will help you know when to enter and when there are instrumental breaks.

**Joyful, Joyful
Lord, we adore Thee
God of glory
Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Hail Thee as the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light
Fill us with the light
Oh, fill us with the light of day**

Instrumental break

**Joyful, Joyful
Lord, we adore Thee
God of glory
Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Hail Thee as the sun above**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light
Fill us with the light
Oh, fill us with the light of day**

Please be seated.

10:30 Worship Children's Time

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 through August 25 – Times with Ms. Tiffany. 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 September 8 - Kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

Starting September 15 - 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.

Scripture

Ephesians 5:11-20 NRSV

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

'Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.'

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5: 11-20 The Message

Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they

look in the light of Christ.
Wake up from your sleep,
Climb out of your coffins;
Christ will show you the light!

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge drafts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.

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 Through Music

The Patrick Kerssen Trio

Please Join in Singing – Patrick and Pastor Kris will help you know when to enter and when there are instrumental breaks.

HEAR OUR PRAYER O LORD

Hear our prayer, O LORD,
hear our prayer, O LORD;
incline thine ear to us,
and grant us thy peace. (repeat)

Instrumental break

Hear our prayer, O LORD,
hear our prayer, O LORD;
incline thine ear to us,
and grant us thy peace. (repeat)

JUST A CLOSER WALK

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

Instrumental break

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

LORD LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. (repeat)

Instrumental break

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. (repeat)

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer

O what peace we often forfeit
O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Instrumental break

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

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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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-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

Freely we have received. So, we freely give: grace upon grace. Let's express our love and appreciation to God, by extending the grace and mercy of God to a hungry world.

Music Offering

I've Got Peace Like A River (trad) - Instrumental

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

***Offering Response How Great Thou Art**

O 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 Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

***Offering Dedication**

ALL: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! We bow before you and thank you for the privilege to participate in your acts of kindness and love here on earth. May these gifts truly become instruments of your purposes here in our church, our community, and around the world. Amen.

When we are in the sanctuary:

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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: Filled to the brim with the goodness of God; the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, and the power of the Holy Spirit, go now in peace to serve God in all that you think, do and say. God's peace and presence will always be with you. AMEN.

***Closing Hymn** God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Please Join in Singing – Patrick and Pastor Kris will help you know when to enter and when there are instrumental breaks.

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
may the Shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet.
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Instrumental break

**God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet.**

**Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude Music

When The Saints Go Marching In

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

| Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate) | |
|---|---------------|
| Last Week | \$7,732.00 |
| Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-July) | \$ 234,804.00 |
| Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.July) | \$ 223,865.00 |
| Change from Last Year | 4.9% |
| Budget FY 2024-25 (July) | \$ 22,350.00 |
| Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July) | \$ 28,680.00 |
| Difference in Giving vs. Budget | 28.3% |
| <i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i> | |

| Attendance Last Week | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 8 AM | N/A |
| 10:30 AM | 152 |
| Online Views | 83 |

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

| Neighbors in Need | |
|-------------------|--|
| \$297.00 | |

Presentations to the Glory of God

Celebrating our ONA status and Lehigh Valley Pride today. - 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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