



August 25, 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: Eric Minnich

10:30 am Ushers: Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel

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

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Ralph & Connie Gioelli

Sound: Dawn Dengler & Karl Klinger

Prelude Music

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus George Duffield, Jr., George
J. Webb
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

Leader: Why have you come to this place?

ALL: We have come to find Jesus.

Leader: Why have you come today?

ALL: We are tired in body and spirit.

Leader: Jesus bids you sit and be at ease.

ALL: We are hungry with nothing to eat.

Leader: Come and eat your fill.

ALL: But there are only five barley loaves and two fish.

There is plenty for all.

ALL: Will we find wholeness here?

Leader: Jesus gathers the fragments of our lives,
that nothing may be lost.

Prayer

Leader: God of our hopes and dreams,
we are empty, and long to be filled;
we are hungry, and long to be fed;
we are lost, and long to be found.
Gather us into your love,

and pick up the pieces of our lives,
 just as Jesus gathered up the fragments
 of the five loaves and two fish
 that remained after feeding the five thousand.

Call us anew to eat our fill
 and to find our true nourishment in Jesus,
 the bread of heaven. 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 #187 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a
 Sanctuary (Sing! Prayer and Praise)**

♩ = 60

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

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



-giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -
 jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - 'ring
 - ar - y for you. 1. hope where there is you. 2. God em- pain.

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks, Devices, Students, Educators, School Staffs, and all Learners and Growers!

PRAYER

God, thank you for new opportunities to learn and grow in this upcoming school year.

Be with our teachers, leaders, caregivers, and administrators as they guide us into the new school year. Give them the tools and energy to create engaging ways to learn and grow.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to new ideas, new friends, new leaders, and new ways of learning.

Show us how to seek joy in all things.

When things don't go as planned, help us rejoice in the new experience.

God, pour out your blessing upon these students, families, teachers, and leaders. Bless their backpacks, Chromebooks, classrooms, school buildings, and all preparations that help build a wonderful school experience. May each of you be a blessing and light in your new year! Go and light up the world!

Amen.

Scripture

John 6:56-69

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.

57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the
Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like
that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one
who eats this bread will live forever."

59 He said these things while he was teaching in the
synagogue at Capernaum.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This
teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"

61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were
complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?"

62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending
to where he was before?"

63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words
that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For
Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not
believe, and who was the one that would betray him.

65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one
can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no
longer went about with him.

67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go
away?"

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go?
You have the words of eternal life.

69 We have come to believe and know that you are the
Holy One of God."

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
Does This Offend You? Pastor Kayli

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->

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

Holy God, who has given to us so many gifts, your generosity is sometimes even more than we can comprehend. We praise you for all your loving gifts. Now we bring to you our gifts. May these gifts that we bring now, and our lives, be dedicated by you for service and ministry.

Music Offering

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Ludwig Van Beethoven
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: Gracious God, Jesus promised his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift that remains as powerful and transformative today as it was on the first Pentecost. With generous and thankful hearts, we offer our gifts to you — our time, treasure and talent, but most of all, our hearts. Use us and these offerings for your purposes and glory. Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit.

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***Benediction**

One: So now we leave this space of worship
And while so much of the road ahead is uncertain,
the path constantly changing,
we know some things that are as solid and sure
as the ground beneath our feet,
and the sky above our heads.

We know God is love.
We know Christ's light endures.

We know the Holy Spirit this there,
found in the space between all things,
closer to us than our next breath,
binding us to each other,
until we meet we again.
Amen.

***Closing Hymn** God Will See Us Through Ceurvels, Sirchio

**In times of brokenness, In every wilderness,
God has seen us through.
Times when our strength was gone,
Somehow we carried on,
God has seen us through.**

**Look behind and see throughout history,
God has never let us down.
Lean ahead and trust
God is guiding us,
God is with us here right now.**

**God will see me through
God will see you through
God will see us through somehow.
Step by step we'll be,
Given all we need,
God will see us through this now.**

(Repeat)

Postlude Music

You Are My King (Amazing Love) Billy James Foote
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$5,383.00
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	74
Online Views	83

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$50, lbs
Total YTD:	\$1025, 3,390lbs
Neighbors in Need	
\$537.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

In honor of special music in the Grove this summer from Phil and Julie Wehr

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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