



September 1, 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: Lucille Kuhns

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

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Sound: Mike Baer

Prelude Music

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Joseph M. Scriven, Charles C. Converse
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Here, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds
in our hearts:

**ALL: calling us to generous acts,
to share the gifts we have been given.**

Leader: Now, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds
in our land:

**ALL: calling us to generous acts,
to open our hearts to all in need.**

Leader: In every place, in every moment,
our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds
in all creation:

**ALL: calling us to generous acts,
to stand with God's people:
the least, the lost, the little, the last.**

Prayer

Leader: Creating God,
you are the source of summer's splendor—
the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers,
and sweet sound of birdsong.
We come to you this morning
with delight and gladness,
grateful for all of your wonders.

As the fields produce their harvest,
may your love grow within us,
that we too may produce a harvest
of love, hope, and joy. 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 John L. Bell c. 1987 Iona Community**

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be
known
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or
scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world
around**

**Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in
me?**

Lord, your summons echoes true if you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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.

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.

Music Offering

Climb Every Mountain

Oscar Hammerstein II & Richard Rodgers

Craig Knauss, clarinet and Blake Hoppes, piano

Scripture

James 1:17-27

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

18 In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;

20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;

24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

1 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him,

2 they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.

3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders;

4 and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"

6 He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

7 in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

8 You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand:

15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

21 For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,

22 adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.

23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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
The Perfect Religion 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.

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

I Have Found a Resting Place (In the setting of Christian Singing's Rustle of Spring) Gladys Blanchard Muller - Arr. Pamela French Block

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**

Leader: Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,

that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives.

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: Go out, and be doers of the Word.

Cleanse your hearts of all pollution,
be quick to listen and learn,
welcome the Word that God implants in you,
and bring it to birth in acts of righteousness and
compassion.

And may God pour grace upon you
and bless you forever;
May Christ Jesus reveal to you the truth of God's ways;
and may the Holy Spirit fill your life
with passion and love.

***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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds Us Together Bob
Gillman, Arr. Mark Hayes

Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
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	
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

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.

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732
 One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from *ONE LICENSE*, License #A714125