



**8 & 10:30am**  
**September 15, 2024**  
**"The Polarization Within: Compassion"**

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://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: 8am Ron Pope, 10:30 Doug Brace  
8am Ushers: Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross  
10:30 am Ushers: Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, Gloria Toner,  
Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman, Brian Horwith  
Greeters: Ron Snyder, Doug & Angie Kuntz  
Sound: Doug Albert

## **Prelude Music**

His Eye is on The Sparrow Martin & Gabriel, Arr. Mark Hayes  
**Blake Hoppes**

### **Welcome to Union UCC and Worship Today!**

#### **Our worship theme: Do Unto Others**

*Just as water reflects the face, so one human heart reflects another. – Proverbs 27:19*

**Our world seems to be consumed with division—often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place. The “purple space” is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.**

### **Re-Orientation**

*Leader:* Today, we continue our worship series that invites us to consider the qualities that will help us navigate the divisions we are experiencing in our world. This week, we consider compassion. Why do we need this quality more than ever now? Because we are complex beings living in a complex world. We sometimes deal with conflict within us in addition to the conflict between us. Research tells us that because we humans are desperate for a sense of cohesion and belonging in these confusing times, we are hanging

onto ideological generalities instead of treating ourselves and each other with the compassion required to alleviate despair. Compassion grows when we are able to know ourselves and one another on a deeper level and act out of understanding.

**Sung Response:** Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

**All Sung:**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**Let us join our hearts as one,**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

Leader: The act of simply coming together is “revolutionary,” which in its earliest form meant “finding a course around a central point.” We gather inviting the Light of Christ to be the guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our “compassion revolution.” Let us pray:

Reconciling God,

we ask you to help us open to compassion,

for we are a divided world,

and the conflict is waging even within us in this moment.

Empower us, and invite us

to “do unto ourselves and others” in ways that build up  
your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,  
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. **Amen.**

**All Sung:**

**We’re accepted as we are.**

**We’re accepted as we are.**

**Through God’s power, all is reconciled;**

**we're accepted as we are.  
Cast aside your doubts and fears.  
Cast aside your doubts and fears.  
Peace and love freely offered here;  
cast aside your doubts and fears.**

### **Peace Across the Divide**

*Reader 1:* Sometimes I can't make out my own thoughts,  
much less yours.

*Reader 2:* Making sense of this life and this time seems  
unreachable.

*Reader 1:* What if we never figure it out?

*Reader 2:* What if we become too estranged?

*Reader 1:* I cannot imagine your viewpoint.

*Reader 2:* I'm not sure I am willing to believe that any  
solution will work.

*Leader:* Wait.

**People: Breathe.**

*Leader:* Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.

**People: Breathe again.**

*Leader:* We are not alone.

**People: Christ is with us.**

*Leader:* Let us take a deep breath together...

The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same.

Our desire for life and love is the same.

Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same.

Let this moment permeate our souls,  
and let us pass the peace of Christ between us.

This peace is meant for all people.

*Leader:* The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**\*Please stand in body or spirit to greet each other and for the first song.**

**\*Opening Hymn** Help Us Accept Each Other  
#388 New Century Hymnal

**ALL:**

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some,  
to love them as we find them or as they may be come.**

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

**Please be seated.**

### **10:30 Worship "The Jesus Tour" Children's Time**

Song: The Wheels on the Bus (adapted)

Children are invited forward for a Children's Time during the song and then leave with Ms. Tiffany for Children's Church (Or return to sit with their family if they prefer).

***The wheels on the bus go round and round  
Round and round, round and round  
The wheels on the bus go round and round  
All in God's love***

**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.

**8:00 am Music Offering**

**Lord, Speak to Me Francis R. Havergal, Arr. Lani Smith  
Heritage Choir**

**Scripture**

*Isaiah 11: 6-9, NRSVUE*

*Reader:* In this series we are examining the news we take in  
and share. We are looking for the “really good news” that  
can sustain us in the long haul. Together, we find ways to tell  
deeply good news for all people by filtering our interactions  
through the lens of compassion. Today's scripture gives us  
what feels like an impossible vision: those who are enemies  
existing peacefully together. It is said that if we can envision  
something, we can work towards it. Can we believe in the  
vision that the scriptures offer us of a way of being “full of the  
knowledge of God” instead of our own limited imagination  
and knowing?

*Scripture Reader:*

*The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.*

*The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand  
on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.*

Reader: A word of God for our times.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Video: Do Unto Others - The Golden Rule**

**Message Pastor Kris**

**Looking for more encouragement to Do Unto Others and  
practice the Golden Rule?  
Join the Campaign for Kindness!**

<https://campaignforkindness.com/>

How do you want to be treated?

There's a phrase, commonly known as The Golden Rule, that simply states: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." A version of this teaching can be found in almost every major religion. This universal rule holds the power to bring people together.

Do Unto Others is a grassroots movement launched by [Resurrection, a United Methodist Church](#) in the Kansas City area, to encourage people to be intentional about treating one another with kindness, even those with whom we disagree. A vote for kindness is a step toward overcoming the polarization in our country through civility and respect.

**Get a sticker, pin, or magnet today – and Go Purple  
with Kindness!**

**Prayer Song**

Ubi Caritas

*Original Latin Translation: “Where charity and love are  
found, God is there.”*

**All Sung:**

**Live in charity and steadfast love,  
Live in charity, God will dwell with you.**

**Prayers**

*Leader:* Jesus was in the business of healing, whether that was physical or spiritual—and often those two things were intertwined. His alternative narrative that all people are worthy of healing and whole relationship inspires us in our response to be his Body in the world, making these alternative sacred narratives more real in our own lives for the sake of the world. We come to prayer today as those who are in need of compassion. Our most bonding realization in times of trial are that we are all hurting and in need. Ironically, it is in times of feeling hurt that we are most likely to hurt others. This is an untenable situation, and we call on the God of Overcoming to help us address wounds with balm, not further infecting and inflicting pain. And so we pray together the prayers of the people with a depth of faithful compassion for each other's plight.

We pray for healing,  
**for ourselves and others.**

We pray for belonging,  
**for ourselves and others.**

We pray for the spiritual capacity for compassion,  
**for ourselves and others.**



We pray for the ability to reach out beyond walls,  
**for ourselves and others.**

Holy, Loving, Compassionate God...

**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.**

**All Sung:**

**Live in charity and steadfast love,**

**Live in charity, God will dwell with you.**

**NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH  
AT UNION**

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**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](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.)

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app**

Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.

• **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.

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.



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



Venmo

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**Music Offering**

Come Thou Almighty King Felice de Giardini  
**Blake Hoppes**

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

**\*Offering Response**

Tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**All Sung:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God all creatures here below!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Help us to work together well,  
off’ring compassion to the world.**

**Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**RIPPLING FORTH**

*Leader:* Actions create ripples of reactions. We move into the world praying that the result of our worshipful work will create actions of compassion that extend far beyond our knowing. Let's just see what can happen when we turn up the volume of kindness and treat others as we would hope to be treated. Let us Do Unto Others with ever-deepening understanding that lasts far beyond this moment in history. Let us continue into the unknown future with hope that we can survive, we can thrive, together—no matter the outcomes of a divided world. Let us sing our closing hymn/song as a way of beginning to ripple forth from here, creating ties of compassion that bind us together.

**\*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)**

**Benediction**

May the Holy One show you the way  
to Do Unto Others with Compassion.

May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is  
ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love.

May the Spirit show forth through you  
in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the  
power to achieve.

And may you know the peace that surpasses all  
understanding,  
especially when it is difficult to understand.

And the people said, "**Amen!**"

**All Sung:**

**We will tear down the walls.  
We will tear down every wall.  
God has called us one and all;  
Christ has broken down the wall,  
Christ has broken down the wall.**

Postlude Music  
Tis' So Sweet to Trust in Jesus William J. Kirkpatrick and  
Louisa M.R. Stead  
**Blake Hoppes**



**Worship Theme:** c. Worship Design Studio  
**Worship Design Team:** Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern,  
Deb Topp, Pastor Kris, Damon Gelb

# 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	<b>4.9%</b>
Budget FY 2024-25 (July)	\$ 22,350.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July)	\$ 28,680.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>28.3%</b>
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	33
10:30 AM	94
Online Views	322

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

Neighbors in Need	
\$722.00	

## Presentations to the Glory of God

In honor of our Pastors- Maria Beltz

In loving memory of grandparents, Eleanor and Norman Peters and Iva Geiger-Kern. Love, Ann.

**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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