



8 & 10:30am
September 29, 2024
“Living Together on Uncommon Ground: Respect”
Harvest Home

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: 8am Rosalie Snyder 10:30 Don Penrod

Ushers:

Greeters: Brynn and Jon Buskirk , Sally Saltzer, Devon Kuharik

Sound: Pat Sorg

Prelude Music

Come, Christians Join to Sing Tune: Madrid
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 extend ourselves beyond the divisions we feel in this world. This week, we consider what it means to respect each other, irrespective of our differences. “R.E.S.P.E.C.T., find out what it means to me,” so sang Aretha Franklin. And she convinced us that it means a lot. Sometimes we think having respect means to agree or be the same. But that is not actually the depth of what respect is about. It comes from the Latin *respectus* which means “the act of looking at one often, to consider, to observe.” We are called to respect by tending

one another—regarding each other, considering each other—early and often. The reality is that common ground is sometimes not possible. As so as we live on uncommon ground, what can we do to keep tending to one another as “kin” worthy of respect despite our differences?

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 around the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our “respect revolution.” Let us pray:

God of All of Us,
we ask you to hover close,
for we are a divided world,
and we are not sure how to regard one another
in this moment.

Bind us as your beloveds, and invite us
to “do unto 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: If you are my sibling, then this family is in trouble.

Reader 2: No kidding! What in the world are you thinking?

Reader 1: What if you really hate me?

Reader 2: What if we never find common ground?

Reader 1: I cannot imagine getting beyond this divide.

Reader 2: I'm not sure I am willing to work to repair all of this.

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** Dream God's Dream
#120 Sing! Prayer and Praise

ALL:

(Chorus)

Dream God's dream

Holy Spirit, help us dream...

Of a world where there is justice,

and where everyone is free

To build and grow and love

And to simply have enough

The world will change when we dream God's dream

I'm dreaming of a world where the color of one's skin

Will mean less than what's within the person's heart

A world where water's clean,

and where air is safe to breathe

And every child born has enough to eat.

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the call God is offering to me

How to use my energy and my best gifts

To do the work of Christ -- to say, God please use my life

To spread Your healing love -- and to live your Truth

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the way that I want my life to go

I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to meet

I'm reaching for the stars, but I won't forget the scars

Of Christ who died to show that the Dream's for all...

(Chorus)

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.

10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Drew Michael Lerch child of Andrea (Nuschke) and Alex Lerch

Sponsors: JD Nuschke and Caitlin Lerch

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Celtic Alleluia O’Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music Offering You Make the Sun to Rise
Martin Gehring & Craig Courtney
8:00 Heritage Choir
10:30 Horizon Choir

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12: 1-26, NRSVUE

Reader: In studying scripture each week, we consider the ways that our spiritual ancestors dealt with their own time of division. Together, we find ways to tell deeply good news for all people in our day by filtering our interactions through the lens of respect. Today's scripture describes how dependent we are on one another, that we all have a part to play, and the reality is that humanity was created to help one another. What we put into the world is part of the ongoing creation of the world. Will we respect our dependence upon one another, especially the kind that we are to know as Christians connected as the Body of Christ?

Scripture Reader: Now concerning spiritual gifts, [siblings], I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to

another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all

suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

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 often said, "Go and sin no more." Healing is possible, but "staying the course" takes a lot of effort. And we are at times more or less successful at offering an alternative narrative to fear and division as the Body of Christ. We come to prayer today as those who lament that common ground is not easily found. We find ourselves off balance and disheveled from navigating the life of rocky and uneven paths and gaping potholes that threaten to swallow up our best efforts. We come together in this moment to honor each person's attempt at making sense of sometimes senseless circumstances. We respect the efforts, even if we don't all see eye to eye about the kind of effort required. And so we pray together the prayers of the people, for when there is suffering or joy, we all are part of the Body that experiences it.

We pray for a sense of stability,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for safety on the journey,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for the spiritual capacity for respect,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for transformation of suffering to joy,
for ourselves and others.

Holy, Loving, God of Us All...

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



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.)

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app** Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile

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.



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.

Music Offering

We Will Glorify Twila Paris

Blake Hoppes

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

***Offering Response**

Tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All Sung:

All Sung:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Help us to work together well,
respect and honor in this 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 respect 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 a world of respect.

***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 Respect.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth Foliott S. Pierpoint

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	\$8,769.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-August)	\$ 259,759.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-August)	\$ 251,873.00
Change from Last Year	3.1%
Budget FY 2024- 25 (July-August)	\$ 50,320.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to- Date (July-August)	\$ 53,632.02
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	6.6%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	42
10:30 AM	114
Online Views	
Sunday School	13

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, 225lbs
Total YTD:	\$975, 3,615lbs

Neighbors in Need	
\$722.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

In honor of Harvest Home– Phil and Julie Wehr

In memory of Ruth Rothrock by daughters Lucille Kuhns, Lana Reitz, and Leoma Kern and family

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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