



8 & 10:30am
October 13, 2024
"These Lives Are Precious"
Week 1

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 Ron Pope, 10:30am Doug Brace

Ushers: 8am: Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd, Lorie Hackett
10:30am: Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli,
Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: Tracey & Rob Bilger, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace

Sound: Dawn Dengler

Prelude Music

Holy, Holy, Holy Tune: Nicaea John B. Dykes
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC and Worship Today!

Welcome & Announcements

We begin a new worship series today that we pray will bring a “breather” and a sense of assurance to us all. Life is a series of exclamations from “O No!” to “Help!” to “Oh Yeah!” We can swing between disappointment, helplessness, and gratitude on a daily basis. The Book of Psalms knows all about this. Written over a span of time from exile and isolation to the rebuilding of the community, the poetry of the Psalms will accompany us in this series, reminding us that through it all, we can trust that God is, indeed, holding our lives. This worship will allow us to simplify and slow down for a time. We will lean on prayer, reflection and sharing with one another.

Threshold “God is Holding Your Life”

We do not live in a land ruled by Kings, as the hearers of our first Psalm of this series did. Nevertheless, the petitions of the psalmist for justice, deliverance, defense of the poor and oppressed, and peace for all peoples is an undergirding theme of our faith. We are reminded that a just society is one that proclaims “these lives are precious” and worthy of protection. God, indeed, is holding our lives.

**All Sung: Lift up your eyes, behold the hills.
From where will help and rescue come?
We call the One who made the earth,
Who bless'd the stars, the moon and sun.**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**
[repeat refrain]

Opening Collect Prayer

Leader: Holy and Just God, You have shown us what is right and good. Open us this day to a vision of the world made all-right so that we might follow your ways and know the peace of your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

People: We praise you for your steadfast presence, holding our lives together in love. Amen.

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

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

ALL: You are welcome here. God is holding your life.

***Opening Hymn #448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be (New Century Hymnal)**

**1) Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise**

**2) Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love
Take my intellect and use all it's powers as you choose**

**3) Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place**

**4) Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

Please be seated.

10:30 Worship Children's Time

Children are invited forward during the song and then leave with Ms. Tiffany for Children's Church.

**Let everything that God made say thank you Lord
Let everything that God made say thank you Lord
Let everything that God made say thank you Lord
Thank you God for making me!**

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 Music Offering Jesus Will Make Us His Own
Nancy Price & Don Besig
Heritage Choir

10:30 Music Offering Sound of Our Breathing
Jason Gray
Jason Klinger, vocals **Blake Hoppes**, piano

Scripture

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Lukan Psalter translation

O God, give your anointed one your judgment—

and your justice.

*Teach your chosen one to govern your people rightly
and bring justice to the oppressed.*

*The mountains will bring the people peace
and the little hills bring justice!*

*Your anointed will defend the oppressed
among the people,*

save the children of the poor,

and crush the oppressor.

The reign of your anointed will endure

as long as the sun and moon—

throughout all generations.

The rule of the chosen one will be

like rain coming down on the meadow,

like showers watering the earth.

Justice will flower through the days,

and abundance of peace 'til the moon

shall be no more.

Tarshish and the Isles will offer gifts;

Arabia and Sheba will bring tribute.

All rulers will pay homage,

and all the nations will serve your anointed.

Your anointed will rescue the poor

when they cry out,

and the oppressed when there is no

one to help them.

Your chosen one will take pity on the lowly

and the poor,

and will save their lives.

*Your chosen one
will rescue them all from violence
and oppression,
and will treat their blood as precious.*

Reflection Pastor Kayli

God Is Holding Us Moment

**Keeping the Faith as Members and Disciples of Union UCC
for 40+ Years.**

Cliff & Carol James, Mark Liscka & Deb Wenner

Sung Reprise

God is Holding Your Life

**All Sung: God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**
[repeat]

“Selah” Moment

The Psalms have a repeated direction throughout—the word “Selah.” Scholars are not sure exactly what it means. Perhaps because the Psalms were to be used in worship, we can surmise that the word indicates a pause, or an invitation for a musical instrument to be played. In this worship series, we will use an instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath, and remember that the settling of our hearts can offer the feeling that we are held in the hands of the Divine. We will hear a bell and then have some silence. Feel free to close your eyes if you like. Imagine yourself held in safety and love and care. When you hear the bell again, consider opening your eyes and returning to prayer with us.

Silence

Prayers of the People

Each week we will have a moment to write prayer concerns on small pieces of paper. We will then place these prayers in a container at the altar railing - a symbolic action of placing them in God's hands, God's care. You can use the prayer slips in the pew rack and then place them in the offering plate later. Let the people say, "Selah" **Selah!**

Let us continue our prayers. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause. As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God's love and peace, and in preparation to be God's love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind...

Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort, for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One, for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know, hear our prayer.

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.**

Sung Prayer Response

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

All Sung:

**Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short let hands speak out;
the heights of love expressing.**

**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/](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home)

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.

Electronic Giving

• **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.



Vanco Mobile

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

He's Got the Whole World Spiritual

Blake Hoppes

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

***Offering Response**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
Sing! Prayer and Praise #139

**I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anytime Lord, and anywhere.**

**I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anytime Lord, and anywhere.**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anytime Lord, and anywhere.**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anytime Lord, and anywhere.**

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Closing Hymn #451 Be Now My Vision (New Century Hymnal)**

**1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
Ever within me, my soul is assured
Mother and father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**3. Riches I need not, no life's empty praise;
You, my inheritance, no and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my treasure, may we never part**

**4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!**

**Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

Benediction

Leader: Now go in the knowledge that
that God is holding your life
even as we hold each other.
You are not alone. You are loved. Amen.

Postlude Music

Portrait of a Child Dino Kartsonakis
Blake Hoppes

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

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$9,106.00	8 AM	50
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Sept)</i>	\$ 288,842.00	10:30 AM	102
<i>Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Sept)</i>	\$ 279,515.00	Online Views	213
Change from Last Year	3.3%	Sunday School	13
Budget FY 2024-25 (<i>July-Sept.</i>)	\$ 84,430.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July-Sept.</i>)	\$ 82,665.00	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.1%	Breathe	15
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$50, 325lbs
		Total YTD:	\$1025, 4,265lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In memory of Gordon 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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