



8 & 10:30am
October 20, 2024
"Awe and Wonder"
Week 2

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 Carol Pope, 10:30am Tami Wassum
Ushers: 8am: Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross
10:30am: Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, Gloria Toner,
Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman, Brian Horwith
Greeters: Jen Haley, Ruth Ensley
Sound: Karl Klinger

Prelude Music

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Jazz Ensemble

Welcome to Union UCC and Worship Today!

PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR

During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with you or to receive a blessing.

Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.

Welcome & Announcements

We pray that this worship series 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.

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time.

Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection, and sharing with one another.

Threshold “God is Holding Your Life”

Strength and peace is the prayer of the Psalm this week. The Psalmist says “let me count the ways” that we can know the strength of the Holy One. With awe and wonder we behold the presence of God in all the elements of creation—water, fire, air, earth. And it is this glory that assures us that 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

You who created everything in a spectacular show of light
and matter.

Open us this day to the wonder of your power
so that we might know the everlasting strength of your reign
on earth as it is in heaven.

**People: We praise you for your mighty works,
holding our lives in the fabric of the cosmos.
Amen.**

Greeting

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

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

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

***Opening Hymn #333 On Eagle's Wings Spirit and Song**

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge
My rock, in whom I trust!"**

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings, your refuge
His faithfulness, your shield**

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you
Near you it shall not come**

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

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.

Music Offering Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Jazz Ensemble

Scripture
Psalm Reading

Psalm 29

Give glory to ADONAI, you heavenly court,
give ADONAI glory and strength!
Give forth the glory that God's Name deserves,
and worship ADONAI in the splendor of holiness!

The voice of ADONAI resounds
over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the
raging seas.
God's voice is powerful,
God's voice is full of majesty.

The voice of ADONAI snaps the cedars,
shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
It makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of ADONAI strikes with
bolts of lightning;
the voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,

the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God twists the oaks,
and strips the forests bare;
and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"

ADONAI sits in judgment over the flood;
ADONAI is its Ruler forever.
Give strength to your people, ADONAI!
Bless your people with peace!

Reflection Pastor Kris

God Is Holding Us Moment

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

Sherry Penrod and Phil Wehr

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

As we explained last week, the Psalms have a repeated direction throughout—the word "Selah." While scholars are not sure exactly what it means, we are taking it to mean a "pause in the action." Pause is something that we need and our faith calls us to this holy pause. 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 [the sound] 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 sound] again, open your eyes.

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/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.

Music Offering

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Scriven, Converse

Jazz Ensemble

***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.**

Benediction

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

PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR

**During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to
come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray
with you or to receive a blessing.**

**Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or
forehead.**

***Closing Hymn #351 I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal**

**I was there to hear your borne cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
To see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off**

to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of The Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized T
o see your life unfold.

Postlude Music
Chitlins Con Carne
Blake Hoppes

Jazz Ensemble: Mike Baer – guitar, Blake Hoppes-piano,
Mitchell Roth - trumpet

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	\$6,176.00	8 AM	28
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Sept.)</i>	\$ 288,842.00	10:30 AM	58
<i>Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Sept.)</i>	\$ 279,515.00	Online Views	198
Change from Last Year	3.3%	Sunday School	9
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:	\$, lbs
		Total YTD:	\$1025, 4,265lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

Congratulations to Phil and Julie Wehr on their 40th Wedding Anniversary!

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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