



**8 & 10:30am**  
**October 27, 2024**  
**"Where Can I Go?"**  
Week 3

**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 Michael Roth, 10:30 Devon Reese Kuharik  
Ushers: 8am: Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl  
10:30am: Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel, Ashleigh Albert, Claire Kern,  
Gene Thrash, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose  
Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Ralph & Connie Gioelli  
Sound: Pat Sorg

## **Prelude Music**

Invocation - Bill George & Dino Kartsonakis / Sweet Hour of Prayer - William B. Bradbury

**Blake Hoppes**

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

### **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”**

This week’s Psalm text brings home this message: we are in an intimate relationship with God. There is nowhere we go that God is not present—no state of our being that results in our being abandoned. God has knit us together, has woven us, knowing us from before our beginning. God, indeed, is holding our lives.

**All Sung: Turn now your gaze upon the earth  
Where is the One who never sleeps?  
We call the One who guards you now,  
Your spirit safe in holy keep.**

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

**Opening Collect Prayer**

*Leader:* Dear and Near God,  
you never leave our side.

Open us this day to feeling and knowing your presence  
deep in our hearts  
so that we might show forth love with the same confidence,  
offering your reign of right relationship on earth as it is in  
heaven.

**People: We praise you for your close attention,  
holding our lives together in care.  
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 Favorite Hymn Medley**

**All Sung:**

Here I Am Lord

**I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save**

**I, who made the stars of night**

**I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart**

I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry

**"I was there to hear your borneing 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."**

**"I was there to hear your borneing cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.**

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

**You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.**

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

## Dream God's Dream

### **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.**

### **Dream God's dream**

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**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**

## Spirit, Fill Me

**Spirit come and fill me fill me with your peace**

**fill me with your joy and your love.**

**Spirit come and show me show me how to care**

**show me how to share your light.**

**Help me give my hand to those in need**

**let my heart be open to receive.**

**When we share your love**

**we can work together to heal this broken world.**

**Spirit come and fill me fill me with your peace**

**fill me with your joy and your love.**

**Spirit come and show me show me how to care  
show me how to share your light.**

**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** Just a Closer Walk Arr. Jack Schrader  
**8:00 Heritage Choir**  
**10:30 Horizon Choir**

**Scripture**  
**Psalm Reading**  
Psalm 139: 1-18

ADONAI, you've searched me and known me.  
You know my sitting down and my rising up,  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You trace my journeys and my resting places;  
and are acquainted with all of my ways.  
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips;

but you, O God, know it altogether.  
You press upon me, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
it is so high I cannot attain it!

Where can I go then from your Spirit,  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.  
If I take the wings of the morning,  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there your hand will lead me,  
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,  
and the light around me turn to night,"  
darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

You created my inmost being  
and stitched me together in my mother's womb.  
For all these mysteries I thank you—  
for the wonder of myself,  
for the wonder of your works—  
my soul knows it well.  
My frame was not hidden from you  
while I was being made in that secret place,  
knitted together in the depths of the earth;  
your eyes saw my body even there.

All of my days  
were written in your book,  
all of them planned

before even the first of them came to be.  
How precious your thoughts are to me, ADONAI!  
How impossible to number them!  
I could no more count them  
than I could count the sand.  
But suppose I could?  
You would still be with me!

## **Reflection Pastor Kris**

## **God Is Holding Us Moment**

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

**Glenn & Susan Mattern**

### **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]*

**Celebrating and Blessing our Members – Those Who are  
Members for 40+ years  
And Welcoming New Members**

New members being welcomed today: **Angela Miller**

### **Questions for Candidates**

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family  
of Jesus Christ? I do. Do you renounce the powers of evil  
and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?



**I do.**

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**I do.**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**I promise, with the help of God.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**I promise, with the help of God.**

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**I promise, with the help of God.**

## **The Mission Statement of Union UCC**

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 a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

## **Question About Participation**

### **Welcome and Reception**

**We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

## **Greeting and Christian Love**

### **Blessing for Members of 40+ Years and New Members**

Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape; who are not afraid to grow in spirit.

**Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community; who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as much to minister as to be ministered to.**

Blessed are those who understand that the church is often imperfect, yet rather than harbor feelings of anger or disappointment, bring their concerns and needs to the church family.

**Blessed are those who support the church and its work through their giving, and who give of themselves as well as their material goods.**

Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do so gladly.

**Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is the transformation of individual and society; who have a vision of the Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change. They are blessed indeed.**

**WELCOME HOME! ~ John Roedel**

**Left Side:**

**You are somebody's front porch to God.**

**You are someone's doorway to mercy.**

**You are the world's threshold to kindness.**

**You are my entrance to letting go of regret.**

**Right Side:**

**No pressure, but...**

**Your life is a gateway to peace  
for both strangers and friends alike.**

**Whether you realize it or not...**

**ALL:**

**Empathy has chosen you to turn your**

**heart into a welcome mat for others.**

**This is the purpose of your life...**

**To let your existence become a candlelit veranda of hope  
for the rest of us to gather on to hold each other during the  
long dark night.**

**Leader:**

We are somebody's front porch to God.

Welcome home to God, welcome home to Union UCC.

**Favorite Hymn Medley**

**All Sung:**

In the Garden

**I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses  
And He walks with me  
And He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known**

Blessed Assurance

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long**

## How Great Thou Art

**Oh Lord, my God**

**When I, in awesome wonder**

**Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made**

**I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder**

**Thy power throughout the universe displayed**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

## The Old Rugged Cross

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross**

**The emblem of suffering and shame**

**And I love that old cross where the dearest and best**

**For a world of lost sinners was slain**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)**

**Till my trophies at last I lay down**

**I will cling to the old rugged cross**

**And exchange it some day for a crown**

## For The Beauty of the Earth

**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**

## “Selah” Moment

We come to our moment of “Selah”—that mysterious word found in the Psalms that invites us to pause. We will use an

instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath. Settle your heart and know that you 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**

You Will Find Me Andrew Ripp

**All Sung:**

**When your soul's weary**

**When you find doubt**

**When you can't hear me**

**Lay your troubles down**

**In your dark moments**

**When your heart's weak**

**Bring yourself broken**

**You will find me**

**[Chorus]**

**Who wrote the rain?**

**Who wrote the sun in?**

**Who called your name?**

**Where are you runnin'?**

**I'm gonna be there near or far**

**I'm gonna meet you where you are  
Who wrote the rain?  
Who wrote the sun in?**

**When you come thirsty  
When the well's dry  
When your soul's dirty  
I am by your side  
When your faith's broken  
When you can't see  
With my arms open  
You will find me**

**[Chorus]**

**Who wrote the rain?  
Who wrote the sun in?  
Who called your name?  
Where are you runnin'?  
I'm gonna be there near or far  
I'm gonna meet you where you are  
Who wrote the rain?  
Who wrote the sun in?**

**[Outro]**

**Mm-mm-mm, mm  
Mm-mm-mm, mm  
Mm-mm-mm, mm  
You will find me  
Mm-mm-mm, mm  
You will find me**

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

**OFFERING**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neffs, Pennsylvania

**Thank you for your faithful generosity and for all that you do  
to help our church be  
Relevant ♦ Engaged ♦ Growing**

• **ELECTRONIC GIVING** [https://secure.myvanco.com/L-](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-251X/home)

**251X/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.



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



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.

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**Music Offering**

More Than Wonderful Lanny Wolfe  
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.**

### **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.

### **\*Closing Hymn 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.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**Postlude Music**

Christ is Made the Firm Foundation,  
Westminster Abbey

**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	\$6,009.00	8 AM	33
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Sept)</i>	\$ 288,842.00	10:30 AM	
<i>Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Sept)</i>	\$ 279,515.00	Online Views	243
Change from Last Year	3.3%	Sunday School	14
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>		<b>2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
		Last Week:	\$, lbs
		Total YTD:	\$1025, 4,265lbs

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**Giving God thanks for our 40+ years members  
Pastor Kris**

**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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