



8 & 10:30am
October 6 2024
“Malice Toward None: Love”
Holy Communion

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 Susan Steinmann, 10:30am Eric Minnich

Ushers: 8am: Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern

10:30am: Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod,

Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Carolyn Seyler

Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, George & Val Borman

Sound: Doug Albert

Prelude Music

Sweet Hour of Prayer William B. Bradbury

Blake Hoppes

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

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: As this series draws to a close, we may feel more or less resolved in our openness to each other. Loving our

neighbors—including relatives, coworkers, acquaintances, strangers—as ourselves is no simple task. We need God. We need the love of God to show us mercy and strength to love as God loves. We need the story of Jesus—the one who loved across the lines that had been drawn in the society of his day but who also stood up for the least and the lost. We need faith that no matter the strain of differing positions, policies, and politics, we will move forward in love. Disagreeing need not be antithetical to love and grace. And indeed, our world depends on all of us working for a better world filled with more kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love.

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.” The Light of Christ is 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 “love revolution.” Let us pray:

Loving and Hope-filled God,
we ask you to stay close in our lives
as we move into an unknown future.

Wrap us in your love, and invite us
to go and do likewise—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: It has been an eye-opening experience
to be here.

Reader 2: In the end I'm still not sure I'm capable
of moving closer.

Reader 1: What if that never happens?

Reader 2: What if the chasm gets wider?

Reader 1: But I have begun to imagine a way
to live together.

Reader 2: I know we both are still afraid,
but I wish you no harm.

Leader: Yes.

People: Breathe.

Leader: Let us imagine this kind of outcome.

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.**

10:30am Music Offering

Intergenerational Choir: Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

***Opening Hymn #495** Called as Partners in Christ's Service

**1. Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,**

**breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**4. So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.**

Please be seated.

Music Offering

8:00 am Heritage Choir: Tender Lord, Precious Lord
Douglas E. Wagner

10:30am Kids Choir: Open up the Heavens
Andi Rozier, James McDonald, Jason Ingram,
Meredith Andrews, & Stuart Garrard

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.

Scripture

Matthew 22: 34-40, NRSVUE

Reader: Jesus names us many times in scripture as “neighbors” to one another. We have been depending on his vision for the neighborliness of humanity as we navigate our own search for “good news.” Together, we will continue to find ways to tell deeply good news for all people by filtering our interactions through the lens of love. Today’s scripture reminds us that interpretation of the law has always been difficult for humanity. We have never been of one mind. But as we have heard in this series, what we put into the world is part of the ongoing creation of the world. Is it possible to put love out there as always the first impulse for interpretation?

Scripture Reader: *When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, ““ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

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: In this series, we have searched for the alternative narratives of Jesus' ministry that moved people to a different

way of relating. Our response to the invitation of Christ to be his Body in the world is to make these alternative sacred narratives more real in our own lives for the sake of the world. We come to prayer today as those whom God loves deeply, despite our flaws and sometimes failed attempts at loving others. We come knowing that without the capacity to love, we are without capacity to hope; we are without capacity to survive in this world. Our frailty requires heroic acts of connection that we sometimes believe are beyond our ability to achieve. And perhaps it is beyond us... but not beyond God. And so we pray together the prayers of the people, for we are all in need of help.

We pray for your guidance,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for the ability to hope against hopelessness,
for ourselves and others.

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

We pray for mercy when we fail,
for ourselves and others.

Holy and Loving 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



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 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



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



Venmo

questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.

Music Offering

It Is Well with My Soul Horatio G. Spafford and Philip P. Bliss
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 our love to all the world.
Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HOLY COMMUNION

Please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

Today we gather around this table to remember what true relationship means. All are invited to this Table of Kindness, Compassion, Humility, Respect, Love. Jesus broke bread with those whose worldview did not mirror his. Jesus broke bread with those whose experience and traditions were sometimes not only different, but opposed, to his. He simply offered a place to be, to sit down at the same table, and see what transformation might happen between people. Yet, as we prepare ourselves for this feast, we are called to admit the complexity that lies at the edges of our relationships.

The Liberating God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts with joy!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give praise to the Author of Freedom!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and holy thing
to give our praise to you this day,
Liberator of all Humankind.

You unleashed your creative power,
and a world blossomed.
You bestowed upon every living thing
life and breath, color and movement.

No matter how many battles we wage
within and between ourselves and against you,
your promise, vision, and gifts of peace and abundance
continue.

And so we lift up our voices in celebration of You!

Holy, holy, holy are You!

We join all the prophets and saints!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

We join the parade of justice!

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord!

We add our cries and exclamations!

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus.

To those who were imprisoned

by status, law, illness, poverty, gender, age, and disease,
he said, "your belief has set you free.

You are a child of God."

He invited disciples, friends, and strangers alike to his tables.

He proclaimed God's grace to all
with whom he broke bread.

He proclaimed God's love to all
with whom he shared the cup.

And he told us to remember:

You are one at this table, the table of grace.

For Christ has died, Christ has risen,

and Christ comes again in this meal we eat together.

Holy Spirit, transform this meal and transform this body
so that we might be free to love without condition,

invite without hesitation,

go without reservation,

and proclaim your Kindness, Compassion, Humility, Respect,
and Love to all the world!

Let the people say, "**Amen!**"

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

You will be served in your seats.

Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a pre-packaged container on the bread tray.

Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

THE BREAD

HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together On Our Knees
#564 Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.**

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

[Refrain]

**Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.**

[Refrain]

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

THE CUP

HYMN 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, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away**

**I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
Who will speak my word 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, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save**

**Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life 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**

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you.

The Blessing

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

COLLECTING OF CUPS

HYMN #677 They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's
pride**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love**

Please stand in body or spirit.

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 love 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 song as a way of beginning to ripple forth love from here.

***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 Love.

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

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Tune: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson

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	34
10:30 AM	91
Online Views	311
Sunday School	12

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, 325lbs
Total YTD:	\$975, 3,940lbs

Neighbors in Need	
\$722.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

**Happy 1st anniversary Brooke and Ryan Correll,
Love Mom**

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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