

God Is Holding Your Life...

8 & 10:30am
November 17, 2024

...We Believe

"We Wait, We Hope, We Stay"

Week 6

Festival Choir Sunday

Welcome and thank you to our singers and musicians from Union UCC and the Gerry Music Studio!

Thank you for filling our church with beautiful music!

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 Sue Steinmann, 10:30 Don Penrod

Ushers: 8am: Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross

10:30am: Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, C Gloria Toner,

Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman, Brian Horwith

Greeters: Doug & Angie Kuntz, Jim & Edie Fella

Sound: Dawn Dengler

Prelude Music

All Creatures of Our God and King
Ralph Vaughan Williams
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”

Today’s Psalm comes late in the Book and offers a glimpse of a time when the exiled outcasts are gathering back together and seeing their world built back up. We too, yearn for a re-gathering and a day when we sing our praises and play our instruments with abandon together again. We wait, we hope, we stay firm in our faith, knowing as our ancient ancestors did, that God is indeed holding our lives.

**All Sung: Venturing out or coming home,
'neath heat of day or cool of night,
we call the one who hears your voice
and comes to heal and keep your life.**

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

Opening Collect Prayer

Leader: Healing God,

You are working to bind up the wounds of the world.
Open us this day to be your hands and feet for a suffering
people,

so that we might make a difference right where we are,
contributing to your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

**People: We praise you for the strength to persevere,
holding our lives together in love.**

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 #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

All Sung:

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,

God of glory, Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before you,

Op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day!

**All your works with joy surround you,
Earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Teach us what our praise should be.**

**You are giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit Father , Mother
All who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
By that love our joy renew.**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
Reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, march we forward,
Faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward
In the triumph song of life.**

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.

Scripture
Psalm Reading
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

*Alleluia! How good it is to praise our God!
How pleasant and how fitting to sing God's praise!*

*ADONAI rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers Israel's exiles.
God heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.*

*God knows the number of the stars
and calls each one by name.
Great is ADONAI, and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.
ADONAI lifts up the oppressed,
and casts the corrupt to the ground.*

*Sing to our God with thanksgiving;
sing praise with the harp to our God—
who covers the heavens with clouds,
who provides rain for the earth,
who makes grass sprout on the mountains
and herbs for the service of the people,
who gives food to the cattle,*

and to the young ravens when they cry.

*God does not thrill
to the strength of the horse,
or revel in the fleetness of humans.
ADONAI delights in those
who worship with reverence
and put their hope in divine love.*

Alleluia!

God's Message in Word and Music

Pastor Kris

Music Offering Psalm of Praise and Thanksgiving Mary
McDonald

Festival Choir and Musicians

ALL – please join in singing the last verse of the song.

**Come, Thou Almighty King,
help us Thy name to sing;
help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

Pastor Kris

Music Offering Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door
Elizabeth Alexander

Men's Choir

Gavin Sachse, Solo

Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door,
Do not leave them there when you come into this place
Be open to forgiveness and transformation
Come on in, you are welcome here
And do not leave your cares at the door

Bring your pain and sorrow and joy
There's a place for them upon the altar of life
Be open to forgiveness and transformation
Come on in you are welcome here
And do not leave your cares at the door

This is a place of grace,
A place of losing and finding your way upon the winding
road
Meeting and parting, Stumbling and starting over

Every story is sacred here
Even yours, even yours
So come on in and
Do not leave your cares at the door
Do not leave them there when you come into this place
Be open to forgiveness and transformation
Come on in you are welcome here
And Do not leave your cares at the door.

Pastor Kris

Music Offering Come to Jesus Chris Rice
Women's Choir

Weak and wounded sinner lost and left to die
Raise your hand for love is passing by
Come to Jesus and live

Now your burden's lifted and carried far away
And precious blood has washed away the stain
Sing to Jesus and live

Like a newborn baby don't be afraid to crawl
Remember when you walk sometimes you fall
So fall on Jesus and live

Sometimes the way is lonely
and steep and filled with pain
So if your sky is dark and pours like rain
Then cry to Jesus and live

When the love spills over and music fills the night
And when you can't contain your joy inside
Then dance for Jesus and live

And with your final heartbeat kiss the world goodbye
Then go in peace and laugh on glory's side
Then fly to Jesus and live

God Is Holding Us Moment

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

**Ronald & Carol Pope
Mike Baer**

“Selah” Moment

We come to our moment of “Selah”—that mysterious word found in the Psalms that in A “Selah” pause can also mean taking a moment to breath a prayer of thanksgiving in a random moment in our day, as we come across a flower or a breeze that reminds us to be grateful. Let us rest for a moment and let a healing pause settle inside us. 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

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

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



Electronic Giving



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Music Offering

All Hail the Power Tune: Coronation, Oliver Holden

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 #592** God of the Ages, Who with Sure
Command
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

All Sung:

**God of the ages, who with sure command
Brought forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

**Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;
God, set our path toward human liberty.
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

**From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
With steadfast care be ever our defense;
Your love and faith within our hearts increase;
With bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh your people on life's toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
With truth and love guide us through error's maze,
And we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.**

Postlude Music

The Potter's Hand Darlene Zschech

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		8 AM	50
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$320,290.00	10:30 AM	101
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 308,275.00	Online Views	348
Change from Last Year	3.9%	Sunday School	6
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-Oct.)	\$115,200.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Oct.)	\$114,112.00	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.9%	Breathe	15
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, 175bs
		Total YTD:	\$1150, 5,090lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

Thank you Festival Choir, Matt Gerry, Blake Hoppes, and Mitchell Roth
-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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