



**8 & 10:30am**  
**November 3, 2024**  
**"In God Alone"**  
Week 4  
**All Saints Sunday**

**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 Rosalie Snyder, 10:30 Nikki Pentland

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: Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner

Sound: Mike Baer

## **Prelude Music**

Morning Has Broken & O Worship the King Arr. Bill George  
**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”**

Leader: “My one and only!” So many songs have utilized this phrase to express devoted love. This week we see that this tradition goes back all the way to the poets of the psalm tradition. This is a love psalm of trust in the “Holy One and Only” who is the rock and refuge in the midst of life that sometimes feels as fleeting as breath. We put our trust in the One who, 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:* God of our devotion,  
you are the one constant in life.

Open us this day to see the things that hold us in their grip  
so that we might shed unnecessary distractions that keep us  
from seeing  
your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

**People: We praise you for being our rock,  
holding our lives together in the ways that matter most.**  
**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 #299** For All The Saints  
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

All Sung:

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,  
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.**  
**Alleluia, Alleluia**

**You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:  
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;  
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.**  
**Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,  
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.  
Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Please be seated.**

**Music Offering**

**8:00** Help Us to Be Like Them Nancy Price & Don Besig

**Heritage Choir**

**10:30** I Am Yours Elevation Church Kids

**Kid's Choir**

**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 62: 5-12

In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

who alone is my rock, my salvation,  
my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.  
Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.  
Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.

Humankind is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion.  
Put them on the scales and the balance  
is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.

For God has said only one thing,  
Twice have I heard it:  
that power belongs to God:  
Steadfast love is yours, ADONAI –  
you repay all people according  
to their deeds.

**Reflection Guest Preacher - Matthew Gerry (Michael Sheridan)** member of Union UCC and author of *The Many Faces of God*

Matt Gerry has been a faithful member of Neffs Church for several years. Most of his time in the church is spent in the choir room and in the balcony working with Blake and the other music makers in the congregation. Matt owns and operates a music teaching studio two doors

down from the church where he and his lovely wife, Roni have taught hundreds of students over the past decade, many of whom have strong connections to Neffs Church. Matt's life journey has also taken him to a variety of other places besides the church and his studio, including classrooms, concert halls and other performance venues, baseball fields and even a television station.

In his "spare" time, Matt enjoys writing and every now and then he writes enough about a subject to create a book. "The Many Faces of God" is the latest example of this. In this book, Matt shares personal stories about how the people in his life have shaped his faith and his relationship with God. Some of the stories in this book are deeply personal, hence the use of the pen name. Michael is his brother's first name and Sheridan is a family name from Roni's side of the family.

## **God Is Holding Us Moment**

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

**Ruth Ensley and Ann Koren**

### **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]*

### **All Saints Day**

**REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE ENTERED THEIR ETERNAL REST SINCE October 31, 2023**

Today we remember and give thanks for those church members who have passed away this year and those for whom our pastors presided over funerals.

We name them and give thanks for them:

**Alma Clauser  
Frances Correll  
Shawn Eberly  
Joanne Ebert  
Naomi Follweiler  
Patricia Frantz  
Joanne George  
Jeanne Hakler  
Roma Handwerk  
Curtis Hoffman**

**Janet Hoffman  
Mark Maletsky  
Thomas Moser  
William (Bill) Ochs  
Ruth Purner  
Russel Schneider  
Daniel Sechler  
Tyler Stoss  
Donald Wehr**

### **Video Memorial Tribute**

A candle has been lit for you. Please take your candle home to remember that you are not alone in your loss.

**A Moment of Silence** We pause to remember others in our lives who have passed this year, as well as those who have passed in other years who we still mourn and celebrate.

**Funds of Lasting Gifts and Memorial Fund** We pause to give thanks for those individuals and families that have given these funds in order to remember their loved one and support the mission and ministry of God's church here.

### **Chimes Played**

#### **“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 w Engaged w Growing***

• **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.



Venmo

• **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.

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**Music Offering** Be Okay Lauren Daigle and Ellie Holcomb  
Based on Psalm 121

*Lift your eyes to the hills;*

*Remember where your help comes from.*

*Lift your eyes to the hills;*

*You'll never face a valley alone.*

*'Cause even when your heart is breaking*

*And you've gone and lost your way.*

*You're, you're gonna be okay.*

**Pastor Kris, vocals and Blake Hoppes, piano**

**\*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 Hymn #391** In the Midst of New  
Dimensions Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**In the midst of new dimensions,  
in the face of changing ways.  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples  
wandering in their separate ways?**

**[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**

**Through the flood of starving people,  
warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches?  
Who will light the flame of care?**

**[Refrain]**

As we stand a world divided  
by our own self seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village  
might envision wider dreams  
[Refrain]

We are man and we are woman,  
all persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation,  
each a love song to be sung.  
[Refrain]

Should the threats of dire predictions  
cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit,  
resurrect the church again.  
[Refrain]

### **Postlude Music**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah John Hughes (Tune:  
CWM Rhondda) Arr. Larry Shackley

**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	\$8,480.00	8 AM	38
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Sept)</i>	\$ 288,842.00	10:30 AM	139
<i>Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Sept)</i>	\$ 279,515.00	Online Views	273
Change from Last Year	3.3%	Sunday School	25
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:	\$75, 300lbs
		Total YTD:	\$1100, 4,565lbs

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### In Memory of Walt Disney

**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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