



# January 12, 2025

8AM & 10:30AM

## BAPTISM

**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 Sue Steinmann, 10:30am Doug Brace

Ushers: 8am Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd, Lorie Hackett  
10:30am : Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, Tracey & Rob Bilger

Sound: Dawn Dengler

## **Prelude Music**

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It  
Fanny J. Crosby, William J. Kirkpatrick  
**Blake Hoppes**

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

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Light for the Journey**

Leader: Come and see!

**ALL: The light of God has come into our world  
to proclaim God's justice and love;  
It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.**

Leader: Come and follow!

**ALL: Christ our companion has redeemed our world  
He draws us into a loving family  
From every tribe and family and culture.**

Leader: Go and tell!

**ALL: The Spirit has equipped us for service  
To love our neighbors as we do ourselves  
To bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.**

Leader: Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!

**ALL: In God's Love the nations of the earth will put their  
hope.**

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;**

**the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**We're on our way  
We're on our way  
Dream of the day  
When hope holds sway  
With all the earth  
In all our hearts  
We're on our way  
This is the day.**

The journey continues, and the light remains.

**We have been changed on this journey.**

We have journeyed from grand to humble places in search  
of Good News.

**We are a people who believe that Good News resides in  
every place.**

The milestones and markers of hope, peace, joy, and love  
have guided us along the way.

**God's light continues to go before us, we are never alone.**

**We're on our way  
We're on our way  
Dream of the day  
When hope holds sway  
With all the earth  
In all our hearts  
We're on our way  
This is the day.**

**Opening Prayer and Words of Assurance**

Faithful God,  
you call us to be saints,  
but we are more comfortable with the role of sinner;

you call us to be your servants,  
but we worry that we lack the skills to do your work;  
you put a new song of praise in our mouths,  
but we stumble on unfamiliar words;  
you show us the work to be tackled,  
but we turn away defiant,  
insisting we have more important things to do.

Put your song on our lips and in our hearts,  
and remind us of the joy that awaits us  
when we put our trust in you.  
Guide us into the light  
of your unwavering, never-ending,  
and grace-filled love.

Let this be a marker of assurance that we are moving in a  
faithful direction:  
God is with us every step of our way toward your Kin-dom.  
Jesus has been born into our lives.  
The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

Peace be with you!  
**And also with you.**

As people forgiven and freed,  
I invite you to pass the Peace of Christ among you  
[and those worshiping remotely, we are glad you are on the  
journey with us!].

### **The Peace**

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

**\*Opening Hymn #451 Be Now My Vision—New Century Hymnal (black)**

**Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
Nothing surpasses the love you impart  
You my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
Ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**Riches I need not, no life's empty praise;  
You, my inheritance, no and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

**Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joy, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

**Please be seated.**

**10:30 Worship Children's Time**

**Children's Church** – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-5. 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. They will return to worship before it's over and if not, please pick up your children in Room 100. If you want your child to stay in worship with you, please let them know.

**Little donkey, little donkey  
On the dusty road  
Got to keep on plodding onwards  
With your precious load.  
Been a long time, little donkey  
Through the winter's night  
Don't give up now, little donkey  
Bethlehem's in sight.**

**Kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation  
for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.**

### **10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**Cade Wyatt Cronrath child of Alexis and Bret Cronrath  
Sponsors: Ashley and John Varady**

**Kinslee Mae Geisinger child of Peyton Schlosser and Ryan  
Geisinger  
Sponsors: Riley Schlosser, Cali Buskirk, Morgan Weber and  
Mason Weber**

**Liam Joseph Grammes child of Allison and Joseph Grammes  
Sponsors: Laura and Kendrick Schell**

**Tyler James Muth child of Katie Schnecker and Glen Muth  
Sponsors: Amber Schnecker and Greg Muth**

**Peyton Daniella Zuber child of Alexa and Eric Zuber  
Sponsors: Daniel and Nicole Muhr, Ashley Zuber and Jared  
Shoaf**

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**All: We promise our love, support, and care.**

## Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice



### 8am Musical Offering

All That I Am William Himes

### Heritage Choir

### Scripture Reading

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Sermon**      **Pastor Kayli Freeman**

### Guided by Prayer

*Guide:* We begin our prayer time today remembering that when we need guidance the most, we can turn to God in

prayer. Today we are guided by the sense that Christ is our Home.

## Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you  
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each  
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*Leader:* Let us pray:

God of Hope, we come to you today longing for your presence in our lives and with all those who suffer—in body, mind, or spirit. We pray this day for...

God of Joy, we come to you today so deeply grateful for celebrations, triumphs, and even small steps toward the lives we seek and the world we desire. We pray this day for...

Holy God of Peace and Love, we know you are near. We know that every step along the way to Bethlehem in this Advent season was a step closer to renewed life in Jesus, the Christ. We know that your Spirit resides within us, growing day by day into the fullness of the Kin-dom. In this moment, we pause in silence, marking your presence with awe and asking you to fill us and guide us along our journey into the new year.



## Moments of Silence

May we live by the prayer you taught us...

### 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.**

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

### OFFERING



**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-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



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile

contribute.



Venmo

• **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.



**Music Offering**

Wonderful Words of Life

Philip P. Bliss

**Blake Hoppes**

**\*Please stand in body or spirit.**

Offering Response

(Sung to the tune of *Away In a Manger*)

**Praise God for these gifts that we offer today**

**and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.**

**Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,**

**the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.**

Please rise in body or spirit.

**We Set Off: A Proclamation for the Continued Journey**

*Guide:* We checked the signs and markers all along the way to make sure we were moving in a faithful direction. And now, with faith, we move on into a new year with

perseverance for the continued journey ahead. Having been to Bethlehem, we know that the Light of Christ shines through any night we may encounter. We are never alone.

### **Benediction**

And now as you go forth from this place,  
know that all the places you encounter in the world  
will contain signs and markers of God's work among us.

So keep your senses alert,  
your perception wide,  
and your heart open  
to new discoveries along the way.

### **\*Closing #351 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry – New Century Hymnal (black)**

- 1. I was there to hear your borning 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;  
I'll be there in case you wander off,  
and find where demons dwell.**
- 2. When you found the wonder of the Word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living God,  
to whom you now belong.  
Should 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 til rising sun.**

3. 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
  
4. I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold.

**Postlude Music**

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Tune: Woodwarth

**Blake Hoppes**

**Worship Theme:** c. Worship Design Studio

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$23,764.00	8 AM	40
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Nov.)</i>	\$351,540.00	10:30 AM	84
<i>Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Nov.)</i>	\$346,119.00	Online Views	357
Change from Last Year	1.6%	Sunday School	15
Budget FY 2024-25 ( <i>July-Nov.</i> )	\$145,390.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July-Nov.</i> )	\$145,362.06	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.0%	Breathe	15
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		<b>2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
		Last Week:	\$, 250lbs
		Total YTD:	\$, 250lbs

Christmas Mission YTD:	\$3,100.00
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## Presentations to the Glory of God

**In honor of Liam Joseph Grammes  
From Grandparents Wes and Maria Beltz**

**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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