



SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

January 19, 2025

Healing Service/Pray with a Pastor

8:00am & 10:30am

“Fill My House with Hoping”

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."*

– Luke 4:18

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 Carol Pope, 10:30 Tami Wassum

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

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

Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman, Brian Horwith

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Gene & Christina Thrash

Sound: Karl Klinger

A miscalculation has occurred. The wedding guests have drunk all the wine before the party is over. At times, life can feel like we're "running out" of so much, and scarcity is shutting down the party. In these moments, we are invited to turn to the currency and economy of Jesus. In his economy, the true measure of abundance is fullness for the whole community, not just for some. Let us build the Kin-dom of God by drawing from jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace for all people.

THE YEARN TO EARN

Prelude Music

Just A Closer Walk Traditional
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC!

Welcome & Announcements

A Call to Plenty

Leader: A miscalculation has occurred. The wedding guests have drunk all the wine before the party is over. At times life can feel like we're "running out" of so much and scarcity is shutting down the party. In these moments, we are invited to turn to the currency and economy of Jesus. In this new worship series, we will be reminded that in Jesus' economy, the true measure of abundance is fullness for the entire community, not just for some. Let us build the Kin-dom of God by drawing from jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace for all people.

Abundance

God's a - bun - dance is for all, no one is
left out - side, kin - dom come, all peo - ple
one in trust and love a - bide, in trust and love a - bide.

In this world of striving,
we feel the yearn to earn.

The world measures our worth in those earnings.

But Jesus had different ideas.

Where they perceived that things had run out and dripped
dry,

he saw the possibility for transformation.

When we feel our own resources are lacking,

**we can view our lives and practices again from the econo-
my of Jesus.**

Let us pray:

God of Abundance,

we come to you today, lifting to you our emptiness,
our longing, our hoping for a better world.

In the midst of our fear, remind us of your transforming and
overflowing love

and the jars of plenty out of which we can live abundantly
in service to all people,

especially those who are struggling in body, mind, and spir-
it. Amen.

The Peace

Leader: Just as our worth as humans is not dependent on the bottom line of our bank accounts, our relationships are not dependent upon the earning of favors and the limitations of “quid pro

quo.” The peace of Christ has no limits, and we get more just by giving it. So may jar-fulls of peace be with you today.

People: And also with you.

Leader: You are invited to pass the “plethora of peace” among you,

remembering to pass it to those joining us remotely.

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

***Opening Hymn #2** How Great Thou Art
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

All Sing:

**O 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 Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

**When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.**

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

**When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"**

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**



10:30 Worship - Children's Time

ALL SING:

**Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

The Jesus Piggy-Bank

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. 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.

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

**Go make a difference, we can make a difference
Go make a difference in the world
Go make a difference we can make a difference
Go make a difference in the world**

Music Offering

Everywhere I Go Natalie Sleeth

Heritage Choir

Gospel Lesson

John 2: 1-11

Reader: We begin our worship series with the iconic story of Jesus as the wedding guest you always want to invite—the one who saves the day when the wine runs out. In the economy of Jesus, there is always more than meets the eye as hope never runs dry. Just when we begin to expect the worst, Jesus’ reminds us that there is more good stuff in store. Hear this Word from the 2nd chapter of John:

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it.

When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

This is a Word of God reminding us that we can never out-spend the hope that fills the house.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Pastor Kris

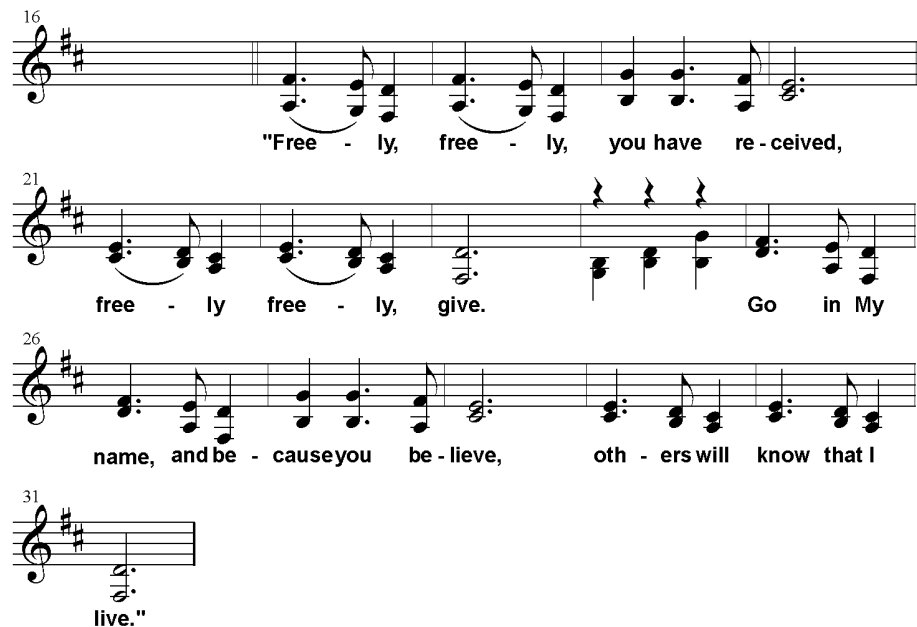


Prayers of the People

Freely, Freely

Leader: In the economy of Jesus, we are saved from the expense of a "this for that" accounting. We are freely given so much love that it overflows and surpasses our need. And so

we come to God in prayer that we might give back from the surplus of that saving grace.



16
"Free - ly, free - ly, you have re - ceived,
21
free - ly free - ly, give. Go in My
26
name, and be - cause you be - lieve, oth - ers will know that I
31
live."

Leader: Each week of this series we will be focusing on naming gifts of abundance we have received in the week, instances where we have seen the abundance of Christ at work in the world, and we will ask for the wisdom and strength to change so that abundance is more available to all.

There are notecards in your bulletin, if you wish to do so, you are invited in the pause between these petitions to write your abundance observations and place them in the Offering plate. We will add them to the canister on the Altar as a sign of thanksgiving and commitment.

In this pause, O God, we ponder the many gifts you have given us.

Our gratitude seems never enough for the plenty you provide.

We call to mind the gifts of creation, of relationships, of sustenance.

In this pause, Christ Jesus, we ponder the ways your love is still at work in the world.

Our awe and wonder at the goodness of others is profound.

We call to mind acts of kindness, generosity, and selflessness.

In this pause, Holy Spirit, we come asking you for strength. The temptation to live by the economics of not-enough is so strong in us.

We ask for revelation in our thinking and doing, so that we might live with hope in the house.

Loving God, Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit,
we are yours.

We bring to you now the concerns of our day, of our communities,
knowing that already you are present, already you are working to bring about comfort and healing. Today we pray for....

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 sing:
Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.

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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neffs, Pennsylvania

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-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.



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.

Music Offering

In Christ Alone Andrew Craig and Donald A. Koch

Blake Hoppes

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

***Offering Response**

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

#187 Sing! Prayer and Praise

All Sing:

**Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, Tried and true:**

With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

God empower me to be a witness for you,

Acting boldly, in your name:

**Seeking justice, where there is hurting
offering hope where there is pain.**

INVESTING INTEREST

PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR

During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with you or to receive a blessing.

Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.

Benediction

The jars are full in the Kin-dom of God.
The house is full of the hope we need
and the hope we are called to give away.

We are transformed in the economy of Jesus,
bearing the witness of dividends of grace.
We have heard the call to invest our interest
in the transformation of our communities.

And so we go, doing likewise in the world,
with the help of God,
the guidance of Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
Now and forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** #448 Take My Life and Let It Be
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2. Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.**

**3. Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place.**

**4. Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

Postlude Music
Blessed Assurance Fanny J. Crosby, Phoebe P. Knapp
Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme: c. Worship Design Studio

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$8,483.00	8 AM	34
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Nov.)	\$351,540.00	10:30 AM	131
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Nov.)	\$346,119.00	Online Views	6
Change from Last Year	1.6%	Sunday School	N/A
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-Nov.)	\$145,390.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Nov.)	\$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>		2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, 350lbs
		Total YTD:	\$, 6000lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

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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