



# SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

January 26, 2025

10:30 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

8:00am & 10:30am

**“Fill My Plans with Purpose”**

*"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](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 Michael Roth, 10:30 Devon Reese Kuharik

Ushers: 8am Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl  
10:30am : Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel, Ashleigh Albert, Claire Kern,  
Gene Thrash, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose

Greeters: Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner

Sound: Pat Sorg

***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**

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, No. 2 Johannes Brahms  
**Blake Hoppes**

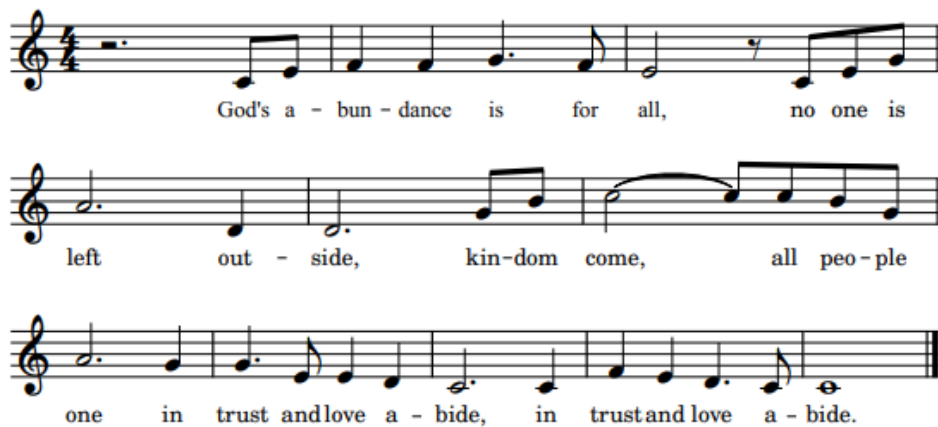
### **Welcome to Union UCC!**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **A Call to Plenty**

*Leader:* We continue our worship series on the economy of Jesus. Six stone jars in which water was turned to wine at the beginning of his ministry was a sign and symbol of the transformation of the community into abundant life. But this takes understanding our purpose—not as those who simply take care of “our own,” but those who especially are called to alleviate suffering in this world, bringing the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Today we hear Jesus lay out his purposeful plans clearly—the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy of freedom for the oppressed.

### **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 sought answers to life's uncertainties,  
**he showed us how to live into God's calling with conviction  
and integrity.**

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 Purpose and Prophetic Hope,  
we come to you today, having made space on our  
calendars

to seek your wisdom and clarity for our lives.

In the midst of our discernment,

remind us of your plans for us:

plans for goodness and not harm, plans overflowing with  
hope for the future.

Show us the actions we can take to ensure this hopeful  
future for all people. 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 #436 God of Grace and God of Glory**  
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower,  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**2. From the evils that surround us  
and assail the Savior's ways,  
from the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**3. Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control.  
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
make our broken spirits whole,  
make our broken spirits whole.**

## **NEVER-ENDING SPENDING**

**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 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**

## **Music Offering**

Be Still and Know Steven Curtis Chapman

**8:00 Heritage Choir**

**10:30 Horizon Choir**

## **Gospel Lesson**

*Luke 4: 14-21*

*Reader: Word is getting out since the wedding incident that this man Jesus is “something else.” Now he goes to his hometown synagogue and is asked to read from the holy scriptures. This is a scroll that he likely read from as he grew from child to adult. He knows it well. He unrolls the scroll and reveals to us a succinct outline of his purpose and the Spirit-anointed plans. In the economy of Jesus, there is Good News for those who need it most. Hear this Word from the 4th chapter of Luke:*

*Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

*When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.*

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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**

## SALVIFIC SAVINGS

### Prayers of the People

Freely, Freely

*Leader:* In the economy of Jesus, we are purposeful with our investments. Rather than maximizing returns, we focus on maximizing goodness in the world. We share from our abundance with those in need, seeking out the people and places in this community in need of support that we can gratefully provide.

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."

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff starts at measure 16 and ends with a double bar line. The second staff starts at measure 21 and ends with a double bar line. The third staff starts at measure 26 and ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff starts at measure 31 and ends with a double bar line.

*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.**

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## 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



Electronic Giving

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.
- **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.



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.

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### **Music Offering**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus      Helen H. Lemmel

**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

### Benediction

The jars are full in the Kin-dom of God.  
The plans are full of the purpose we need  
and the purpose we are called to embody in the world.

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** #120 Dream God's Dream  
Sing! Prayer and Praise

**(Chorus)**

**Dream God's dream**

**Holy Spirit, help us dream...**

**Of a world where there is justice,**

**and where everyone is free**

**To build and grow and love**

**And to simply have enough**

**The world will change when we dream God's dream**

**I'm dreaming of a world where the color of one's skin**

**Will mean less than what's within the person's heart**

**A world where water's clean,**

and where air is safe to breathe  
And every child born has enough to eat.

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the call God is offering to me  
How to use my energy and my best gifts  
To do the work of Christ -- to say, God please use my life  
To spread Your healing love -- and to live your Truth

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the way that I want my life to go  
I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to meet  
I'm reaching for the stars, but I won't forget the scars  
Of Christ who died to show that the Dream's for all...

(Chorus)

**10:30 Worship SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
CONGREGATION**

Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, Pa  
Eric Minnich, Consistory President presiding

**For those of you at home:**

Please log in or call in to our zoom meeting. There is a waiting room, please be patient until someone lets you into the meeting.

Please mute yourself once you are in the meeting.

We may ask you your name in order to identify everyone present and be sure that we have a quorum. The agenda and other documents were emailed to you or will be available to see on your screen.

Thank you for being a part of the work that we do as God's church.

## **Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87828667975?  
pwd=eMVN2mMfnCqibrEyh7HabwYwYVckWm.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87828667975?pwd=eMVN2mMfnCqibrEyh7HabwYwYVckWm.1)

**Meeting ID:** 878 2866 7975

**Passcode:** 273499

## **Postlude Music**

Have Thine Own Way, Lord     George C. Stebbins

**Blake Hoppes**

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

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$10,737.00	8 AM	24
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Nov.)	\$351,540.00	10:30 AM	51
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Nov.)	\$346,119.00	Online Views	387
Change from Last Year	1.6%	Sunday School	7
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>		<b>2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
		Last Week:	\$, 120lbs
		Total YTD:	\$, 61200lbs

## 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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