



SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

February 2, 2025

8:00am & 10:30am

Boy Scout Sunday

“Fill My Wounds with Healing”

*"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 are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Lay Reader: 8am Ron Pope, 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: Boy Scouts

Sound: Mike Baer

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

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen / All Day, All Night
Traditional Spirituals
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC!

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to Cub and Boy Scouts from Troop 57 of Union Church. Leaders: Corey Groover, Matt Stahley, Bill Evans, James Allen, John Hardensberg, Jeff Phillips
Welcome to Connor and Lucas Maxell Union UCC members at Pack & Troop 1600

A Call to Plenty

Leader: Our call to "plenty" today on this third week of our worship series is to plentiful healing. Indeed there are plentiful wounds in this world, and plentiful threats of more wounds to come. It was as true in Jesus' day as it is in ours. People came to Jesus carrying wounds of body, mind, and spirit. This week we continue the story of Jesus in his own hometown.

pecially when wounding hits “close to home,” we tend to panic. Fear and anger may set in. The antidote? Join Jesus in his economy of healing 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.

When they demanded special treatment,

he offered healing and wholeness for all – not just for some.

When we feel our own resources are lacking,

we can view our lives and practices again from the economy of Jesus.

Let us pray:

God of Restoration,

we come to you today, bringing a laundry list of things that we wish we could change about the world, ourselves, and each other.

In the midst of our longing, remind us that your goodness

is not earned by our being good, and that we are called to
share your mercy
with everyone inside and outside of this faithful community.
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 Hymn** The Summons Bell/Maule

All sing:

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

**Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be
known,**

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

**Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or
scare?**

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

**Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

**Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world
around,**

**Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in
me?**

**Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my
name.**

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

**In Your company I’ll go where Your love and footsteps
show.**

Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me..

Please be seated.

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 in-

vited 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

His Dream Come True Phil Speary and John Leavitt

8:00 Heritage Choir

Life is Good Eternal Life is Better

Adam Agee, Jordan Messer, Cody Pellerin, Taylor Sitera

10:30 Kids Choir

Gospel Lesson

Luke 4: 21-30

Reader: Jesus' encounter with the crowd in Nazareth continues. Perhaps they feel they have the hometown advantage, and they want Jesus to exercise his renowned powers for them. But Jesus is not compliant. God's economy of wholeness is not just for insiders; it is for outcasts and foreigners. When we don't get an acceptable answer to the question, "what's in it for us," we sometimes try to push Hope itself off a cliff. Hear this word from the 4th chapter of Luke:

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

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

This is a Word of God reminding us that we can never out-spend the healing power that fills our broken spirits.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Pastor Kris

SALVIFIC SAVINGS

Prayers of the People

Freely, Freely

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 two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff (measures 16-20) begins with a double bar line and contains the lyrics "Free - ly, free - ly, you have re - ceived,". The second staff (measures 21-25) contains the lyrics "free - ly free - ly, give. Go in My". The third staff (measures 26-30) contains the lyrics "name, and be - cause you be - lieve, oth - ers will know that I". The fourth staff (measures 31-32) contains the lyrics "live." and ends with a double bar line.

Leader: In the economy of Jesus, we are not running a for-profit industry. God's love cannot be earned, and no one gets special treatment, even the people who follow all the rules. We welcome all people into the healing experience of witness and connection that we find in this community.

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.

The Installation and Ordination of Those Newly Elected to the Consistory

Giving Thanks to Consistory Members Finishing Their Service:

Claire Kern, Laura Kohler, Carol Stout, Gene Thrash

Giving thanks for those returning for a second term:

Debbie Romig, Gloria Toner, Phil Wehr

Giving thanks for those starting their first terms:

Doug Brace, John Fabian, Karen Nuschke, Kim Pentland

Giving thanks for Funds of Lasting Gifts Trustees Finishing Their Service:

Deb Wenner, Carrington Smith

Giving thanks for those starting a new FOLG Term:

AJ DiPaolantonio, Larry Todd

Leader: Community in Christ, you have been called to the ministry of Consistory leadership. Listen to some responsibilities of this particular calling: Be frequent in worship and diligent in study; Be an example of faithful living and generous stewardship; with order and wisdom, conduct the business of the congregation; And encourage and support others in their service to Christ and his church.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with God's help?

Response: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing the love of Christ?

Response: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Our tradition is to ordain those called to serve on the Consistory, so that God may set them apart and fill them for this unique service. Ordination is a one-time symbolic act of the church inviting the Holy Spirit to confer upon those called the gifts of Consistory ministry.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for Consistory service and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive the authority to execute your ministry in the name of Christ.

Leader: You have heard the promises made by our siblings in Christ. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

ALL: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in the household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties, so that the church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Union United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce that you are installed as members of the Consistory.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

**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-51X/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.

• **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.

Music Offering

Standing on the Promises R. Kelso Carter
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 house is full of the healing we need
and the healing 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** You Will Find Me Rupp

All sing:

**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**

**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**

**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?**

**Mm-mm-mm, mm
Mm-mm-mm, mm
Mm-mm-mm, mm
You will find me
Mm-mm-mm, mm
You will find me**

Postlude Music

Precious Lord, Take My Hand Thomas A. Dorsey
Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme: c. Worship Design Studio

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$4,230.00	8 AM	37
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Dec.)</i>	\$ 430,792.00	10:30 AM	95
<i>Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Dec.)</i>	\$ 403,460.00	Online Views	386
Change from Last Year	6.8%	Sunday School	7
Budget FY 2024-25 (<i>July-Dec.</i>)	\$ 206,010.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July-Dec.</i>)	\$ 224,615.00	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	9.0%	Breathe	15
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, bs
		Total YTD:	\$, 61200lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In memory of Gordon Rothrock by the daughters
Lucille Kuhns, Lana Reitz, and Leoma Kern**

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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