



SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

February 16, 2025

8:00am & 10:30am

Confirmation Class Leads Worship
"Fill My Future with Vision"

*"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 Carol Pope, 10:30 Dan Topp

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: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Andy & Jan Dyszel

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

He Hideth My Soul
Fanny Crosby & William Kirkpatrick
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC!

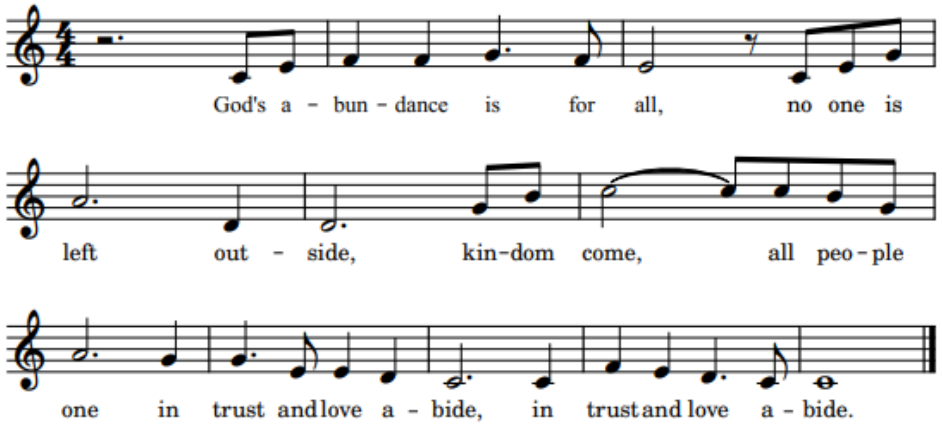
Welcome & Announcements

A Call to Plenty

Lucas Maxwell & Tricia Schwarz

Leader: Being "blessed" is something we too often associate with good luck or privilege or prestige. But in the economy of Jesus, blessedness is quite the opposite. It relies only on active participation in a kin-dom of God in which all are blessed and lifted up to a level playing field, especially those whose identity is demeaned by the powers-that-be. Jesus proclaims a vision of the future in which the jars of plenty never run dry and those who need to dip from plenty the most go to the front of the line.

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 believed the scarcity narratives perpetuated by
those in power,

**he imagined a narrative of selflessness that prized humility
over hubris.**

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 Surprising Paradoxes,
we come to you today, lifting to you our feelings of
powerlessness against empire
and the rage we feel when bad things happen
to good people.

In the midst of our confounded search for answers, remind
us of your justice
that restores dignity to those who have been laid low and

promises an inheritance of goodness and grace
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 #451 Be Thou My Vision (New Century Hymnal)**

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

**3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise
You, my inheritance, now and always;**

**You and you only are first in my heart
Great God my treasure may we never part**

**4. Sovereign of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

NEVER-ENDING SPENDING

Music Offering

8am Come Share God's Gift Nancy Price & Don Besig

Heritage Choir

10:30 Amazing Grace John Newton

Hazel Dojack & Aubrey Flueso

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

10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kinslee Mae Geisinger child of Peyton Schlosser and Ryan Geisinger

Sponsors: Riley Schlosser, Cali Buskirk, Morgan Weber and Mason Weber

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 6: 17-26

Reader: The "have" and "have not" narrative weaves itself through all of history as humans oppress one another out of a fear of scarcity. We have been conditioned to believe that more power, more money, and more control equate to more security. And yet, this script has not actually created

the security it espouses. Jesus comes to a “level place” and not only levels the hierarchy, but flips the script entirely and offers a vision of the future in which all are filled. Hear this Word from the 6th chapter of Luke:

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

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 Kayli

SALVIFIC SAVINGS

Prayers of the People

Freely, Freely

Leader: In the economy of Jesus, up is down and down is up. The last shall be first, and the first shall be last. We live out Jesus' example by putting others before ourselves. Together, we work to dismantle the structures of inequality that create injustice in our world.

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.**

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-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

God and God Alone Phil McHugh

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 meaning we need
and the meaning we are called to offer others.

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 #454 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**
(New Century Hymnal)

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart

In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart

2. Lord, I want to be more loving
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart

In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart

3. Lord, I want to be more holy
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart

In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart

**4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart**

**In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart**

Postlude Music

There is a Balm in Gilead Spiritual

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 AM	
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (January)</i>	\$ 31,482.00	10:30 AM	
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (January)</i>	\$ 37,004.00	Online Views	
Change from Last Year	-14.9%	Sunday School	
Budget FY 2024-25 <i>(July-Jan.)</i>	\$ 243,040.00	God First	35
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date <i>(July-Jan.)</i>	\$ 255,913.67	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	5.3%	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

Blanket Sunday \$315.00	Souper Bowl \$305.00
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Presentations to the Glory of God

**Love to our Confirmands and Pastor Kayli, Dan,
and Deana from Pastor Kris**

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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