



SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

February 23, 2025

8:00am & 10:30am

“Fill my Days With Meaning”

*"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 Susan Steinmann, 10:30 Brynn Buskirk

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: Jim and Leanna Lane, Gene and Christina Thrash

Sound: Doug Albert

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

This is my Fathers World

Tune: Terra Patris, Franklin L. Sheppard

Jazz Ensemble

Welcome to Union UCC!

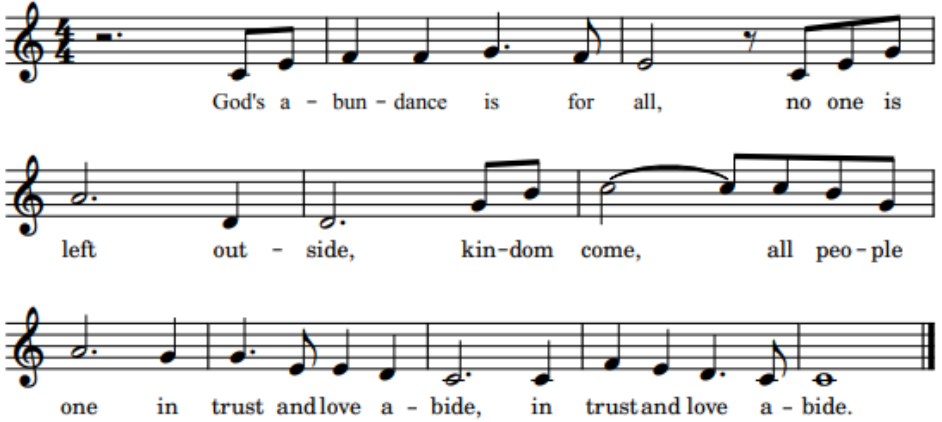
Welcome & Announcements

A Call to Plenty

Leader: As we continue to examine how we might be transformed into devotees of the economy of Jesus, we remember this week that abundant lives are ones filled with meaning. Work and play are important parts of life but in the economy of Jesus, we are also called to fill our jars with meaning. What does this "mean," so to speak? Amassing more resources than we need is a game that can leave us empty and can make us feel frightened even though we have enough. But when our lives are spent playing a

different game of communal cooperation and transformation, we find a richness of soul and more than enough even in hard times.

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 held tight to their narrow worldview,

he offered new interpretations that opened their minds to abundance.

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 #3 Come to the Waters**

Sing! Prayer and Praise

Come, Jesus is calling to you.

“Reach out, take my hand. You’ll not fall.

Come, come, I am waiting for you.

O’er the waters of life, hear my call.”

“Reach out in faith, cross the waters to me.

Your hand in mine, that’s the way it should be.

Stretch out in faith, take my hand if you will.

Waters be calm! Wind be still.”

Come, Jesus is calling to you.
"Reach out, take my hand. You'll not fall.
Come, come, I am waiting for you.
O'er the waters of life, hear my call."

"Walk out in faith, take the risk if you can.
I bring you peace, come along, take my hand.
Step out in faith, I will carry you on.
You may be weak; I am strong."

Come, Jesus is calling to you.
"Reach out, take my hand. You'll not fall.
Come, come, I am waiting for you.
O'er the waters of life, hear my call."

Please be seated.

NEVER-ENDING SPENDING

10:30 Music Offering

Do, Lord, Remember Me Spiritual Arr. Bruce Trinklely
Horizon Choir

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

Wade in the Water Spiritual

Jazz Ensemble

Welcoming New Members

The Mission Statement of Union UCC

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 a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

Welcome and Reception (ALL in unison)

ALL: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

New members being welcomed today:

Amber Monahan

Cali Monahan

WELCOME HOME! ~ John Roedel

Left Side:

You are somebody's front porch to God.

You are someone's doorway to mercy.

You are the world's threshold to kindness.

You are my entrance to letting go of regret.

Right Side:

No pressure, but...

Your life is a gateway to peace

for both strangers and friends alike.

Whether you realize it or not...

ALL:

Empathy has chosen you to turn your

heart into a welcome mat for others.

This is the purpose of your life...

To let your existence become a candlelit veranda of hope

for the rest of us to gather on to hold each other during the

long dark night.

Leader:

We are somebody's front porch to God.

Welcome home to God, welcome home to Union.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 5: 1-11

Reader: The Gospel of Luke gives us the numbers as crowds continue to follow the movements of Jesus and his popularity and notoriety spread. So many were crammed on the

shores of the lake that he had to get some distance in a boat in order to speak to them. The crowd size is then mirrored in the size of the surprise catch of fish that happens when the "sermon" is over. Fishermen become followers. We, like them, are invited to use our gifts to demonstrate the abundance of God's economy, filling our days with meaning. Hear this word from the 5th chapter of Luke:

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who are partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

This is a Word of God reminding us that we can never out-spend the moments of meaningfulness that can fill us in these days.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Pastor Kris

SALVIFIC SAVINGS

Prayers of the People

Leader: In the economy of Jesus, we find abundance in the most unlikely places. We ask for God's guidance to discern when we need to change direction or try things differently. We find abundant meaning in the midst of life's uncertainties when we look to Jesus.

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**



Electronic Giving

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.



Venmo

- **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

Wat a Friend We Have in Jesus
Joseph M. Scriven, Charles C. Converse

Jazz Ensemble

***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** You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore
#173 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow,**

Refrain:

**O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.**

**2. You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,**

Just these my fishnets and will working.

Refrain

**3. You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary
A love that's willing to go on loving.**

Refrain

Postlude Music

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Jazz Ensemble

Worship Theme: c. Worship Design Studio

Thank you to our Jazz Ensemble:
**Blake Hoppes-piano, Mike Baer-guitar,
Mitchell Roth- trumpet**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$3,805.00	8 AM	23
Calendar Year 2025 <i>(January)</i>	\$ 31,482.00	10:30 AM	117
Calendar Year 2024 <i>(January)</i>	\$ 37,004.00	Online Views	372
Change from Last Year	-14.9%	Sunday School	5
Budget FY 2024-25 <i>(July-Jan.)</i>	\$ 243,040.00	God First	25
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:	\$100, lbs
		Total YTD:	\$100, 61200lbs
Blanket Sunday \$1,203.00		Souper Bowl \$875.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In honor of the Mission Committee
by Phil and Julie Wehr**

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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