

*Blessings on all of our students, educators,
school staffs, and all of us
as we learn about and grow in God's love.*

**I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND TEACH YOU
IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO;
I WILL COUNSEL YOU WITH MY LOVING EYE ON YOU.
PSALM 32:8**

**September 11, 2022
8:00am and 10:30am Worship**

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs.

Please complete the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it in with your offering or give it to a pastor. This is a good way to let us know you're here.

One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God's inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Reader: 8:00 Sue Steinmann, 10:30 Dan Topp

Ushers: 8:00 Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson

10:30 Deidre Bilger, Carol James, Randy Bilger, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metzger,
Julie Johnson, Todd McCoy, Laura Kohler

Sound: Mike Baer

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

**Prelude Music
Blake Hoppes**

Welcome

Sharing God's Peace

Leader: How have you known God's love this week? How have you been God's peace? Where have noticed God?

Are there God stories that you can reflect on or share with your neighbors as we remind each other that – No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey:

ALL: You are welcome here.

(Please stand in body or spirit to greet each other and for our first song.)

***Hymn: : #363 To God Be the Glory** Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God)

Verses 1 and 3

**1. To God be the glory great things He hath done!
So love He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that wall may go in.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory great things He hath done!**

**3. Great things He hath taught us,
great things He hath done, And great our rejoicing through
Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,**

**Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory great things He hath done!**

Please be seated.

Call to Worship

Leader - The shared response is: Love is never far away.

Leader: When we find ourselves surrounded by supportive relationships or when we feel lost and alone, unsure of the way forward:

ALL: love is never far away.

Leader: When our faith is rock solid and we are filled with wisdom, or when we are mired in doubt and we just don't know:

ALL: love is never far away.

Leader: All that we are – every circumstance and feeling – is welcomed by the Spirit into the heart of worship:

ALL: love is never far away.

Prayer

Leader: “The world will give you that once a while, a brief time out; the boxing bell rings and you go to your corner, where somebody dabs mercy on your beat-up life”

(from *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd).

Leader: Bring to mind the circumstances and people in need of healing touch. As they come into consciousness, know they are held by God and release them into the care of merciful love.

(Silent Pause)

Locate your own state of mind. How are you feeling within yourself right now? How does it go with your soul? Become aware of your inner being and know you are also held in the care of merciful love.

(Silent Pause)

We welcome you, Spirit of Mercy, into the space we have prepared in this room and in our hearts. Dwell in and with us, dab mercy on us, renew us for life. Amen.

The Opening of Our Hearts


Leader sings first time.

ALL second time.

Listen for directions to sing this in a round.

Gathering Chant #742 Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)


1.



Gath - ered here in the mys-tery of this hour

3


2.



gath - ered here in one strong bod - y,

5


3.



gath - ered here in the strug- gle and the power,

7

4.



Spir - it draw near.

Blessing of the Backpacks, Devices, Students, Educators, School Staff, and all Learners and Growers!

BLESSING Will all students of all ages, educators, and anyone working in schools or in education please stand if you are here in the sanctuary or raise your hand if you are at home?

Leader: Scripture tells us that Jesus was a learner. As a child, he grew just as we grow, gaining years and gaining wisdom. As we begin a new school year, we remember that God has given us the ability to learn many things.

All: Learning is a gift from God. We are meant to love God with our whole selves: body, heart, spirit, and mind.

Leader: Scripture also tells us that Jesus was a teacher. When he saw the crowds that followed him, his compassionate response was to teach them and walk with them through life.

All: Teaching is a calling from God. We give God thanks for those who teach, guide, and lead our children and all of us.

Leader: We ask God to bless our schools and teachers. We ask God to bless our classmates. We ask God to bless our principals, administrators, aides, counselors, and school staffs. We ask God to bless those who prepare our meals, those who

drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean. We give thanks to God for books and computers and all the tools that help us learn.

All: We give thanks to God for the gift of learning! May all of us be blessed as we grow in our faith and discipleship.

Leader: We have been collecting school supplies and backpacks for local families and agencies. We ask God to bless our offerings and those that receive them.

Leader: Psalm 32 verse 8 says,

All: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." Thank you God!

**Education Hour for All Ages – Returns on September 11
9:15-10:15am**

**(Adult Class begins September 18)
Children's Church – Returns September 18th during
10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5**

Mornings with Ms. Tiffany 10:30am Worship

Pastors invite children forward to leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them! This time will include a variety of activities that will change weekly. It will be including things such as reading stories, watching videos, crafts, movement, music, and lots of fun!

Children will be in Room 7 (basement) and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

Chord symbols: F, C/E, Dm, Bb, F/A, Gm, Am/C, C

Voice

This, this is where child-ren be - long,

Wel-comed as part of the wor - ship - ping throng.

5 F Gm Am Bb

Wat - er, God's Word, bread and cup, pray'r and song,

7 F/C Bb F

This is where child - ren be - long.

Scripture 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Our Response to God's Word in Song

Make Us One, Lord Carol Cymbala **ALL: Sung, 2 times**

Make us one, Lord, make us one; Ho-ly

6

Spir - it; make us one. Let Your love flow so the

9

world will know we are one in You. Make us

The Message

Pastor Kris

Hymn #619 I Love to Tell the Story Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God)

Verses 1, 2, and 4

**1. I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story Because I know'tis true,
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.**

**I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.**

**2. I love to tell the story More wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies Of all our golden dreams;
I love to tell the story It did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to Thee.**

**I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.**

**4. I love to tell the story For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long.**

**I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.**

Prayers of the People

The 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,

For ever. Amen.



1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a
 (2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't
 pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a
 ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



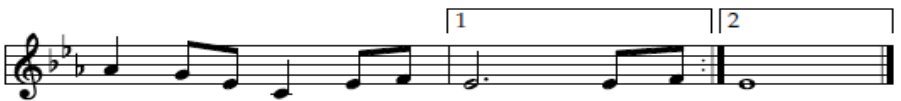
spir - it of love in this place. O al - le -
 pres - ence of peace in this room.



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a



spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

News about the Ministry and Mission of God's Church

Offering

The offering will be collected by our ushers in your seats.
 Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's
 work and God's people.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these gifts and ask that they be used to help share your love in our community and throughout the world.

As we offer you these gifts, we offer ourselves as well, that together we might transform the world with your grace and love. Amen.

Musical Offering

Blake Hoppes

Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC

OFFERING ENVELOPES. If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

ELECTRONIC GIVING. Choose to give a repetitive contribution on a regular basis (i.e weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly), or make single contributions whenever you desire in an amount of your choice. These contributions can be made from a credit/debit card or be deducted from a checking or savings account. Electronic contributions are initiated from Union UCC's website (UnionUCC.org). Click on 'giving', then on 'Ways to Give' and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact John Harting 610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-398-2654) to answer your questions or demonstrate the process.

MOBILE GIVING. If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith \Engagement" and follow the prompts.

AMAZON SMILE. Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop on Amazon <https://smile.amazon.com>

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

***Offering Response #139 I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me—Sing! Prayer Praise**

I'm gon-na live so - God can use me - an-y -
time, Lord, and an-y - where. I'm gon - na live so -
- God can use me an-y - time, Lord - and an-y - where.

***Benediction**

Leader: Let's not dwell on the weaknesses of our past for, by grace, we are seen with new eyes. Each day we can start again, striving to embody the unconditional love that finds, heals, and liberates. We go now to witness to this love carrying within us the Source and grace of Jesus and the friendship of this community.

***Hymn #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)**

**1. In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering their separate ways?**

Refrain

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

2. Through the flood of starving people,

**warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?**

Refrain

**3. As we stand a world divided
by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams.**

Refrain

**4. We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.**

Refrain

**5. Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again.**

Refrain

Postlude Music

Blake Hoppes

Our Mission Statement of Our Church

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.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$5,868.00
Calendar 2022 (Jan.- July)	\$226,189.00
Calendar 2021 (Jan.- July)	\$212,392.00
Change from Last Year	+6.5%
Budget 22-23 (July)	\$26,970.00
Actual 22-23 (July)	\$31,712.00
Giving vs. Budget	+17.6%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
10:30 am (includes children)	60

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	
Total YTD:	4,303 lbs, \$570

Neighbors in Need	
To date:	\$555.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News :

***In loving memory of Harold R. Olenwine and Arlene
G. Olenwine from Debra & Fred Sanek***

***In memory of grandparents, Eleanor and Norman
Peters and Iva M. Kern.***

*Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering
envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for
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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