

You were created for a purpose, formed into
something spectacular—not just created, but recreated
again and again.

Ready to be stretched? It's time to be re-shaped!

Worship Theme September 25–October 23



WWW.WORSHIPDESIGNSTUDIO.COM/RESHAPED

October 16, 2022

8:00am and 10:30am Worship

Week 4

“En-Couraged”

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 on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Reader: 8:00 Carol Pope, 10:30 Doug Kuntz

Ushers: 8:00 Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross

10:30 Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Dan Haftl, Maryann Puia, Eric Minnich, Gloria Toner, Carol Stout

Sound: Karl Klinger

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

**Prelude Music for Gathering
Blue Bossa
Blake Hoppes**

Welcome

Leader: This is the last week of our worship series on change. As we have seen, there are a lot of spiritual considerations to make before we even take the first step of change. We have been reminded that our Creator God made us for change, that we are being made new always from the inside-out, and that our job sometimes is just to let go into trust that God is with us through the loss and rediscovery that is this process of change.

Here at church we're handing out play dough each week for during the prayer. For those of you at home see if you have any around or stop by on the south porch and get some from the bin there.

Enter the Play Zone

Leader: Sometimes it can feel like such a big task to take the first small step. But then we see encouragement on all sides and it gives us courage to do what we can do to move forward. And that's what friends are for!

Theme Song
"Change is Good"

Choir/Soloist: (Feel free to join in anytime! And maybe even dance a little.)

Change is good you go first
my brain is suspicious of change
anything out of the ordin - ary
can cause my brain to com - plain
But I was created

for a pur - pose
formed into something spec -ta - cu - lar
not just created, but recreated a - gain
and again and again and again
o-kay so

Change is good I'll go first
we were made for this
God's gonna work from inside out cause
in - ner change is where it starts
Everything changes if we are will - ing
to let old expectations fall a - way
if you feel some stirrage
take a step t'wards cour - age
and be re - shaped a - gain
and again and again and a - gain
Eve-ry-bod-y now!

EVERYBODY NOW:

**Change is good I'll go first
we were made for this
God's gonna work from inside out cause
in - ner change is where it starts
Everything changes if we are will - ing
to let old expectations fall a - way
if you feel some stirrage
take a step t'wards cour - age
and be re - shaped a - gain
and be re - shaped a - gain
and be re - shaped a - gain
and again and again and a - gain
and again and again and a - gain
and a - gain**

Leader: It takes courage to change, to break out of whatever narrow paths we might find ourselves in. Just like Peter, if we are going to change, we have to take the first uncertain steps out of the boat onto the water and into the unknown. Luckily, we too have Jesus 'redeeming help and support, his hand reaching out to us, if we start to sink or lose our way.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray together – repeat after me line by line so that our friends at home can join us:

**Encouraging God,
we hear your invitation into the future
and we look to you for courage.
Open us to know your presence as we
embark together on new adventures.
Calm our fears, and animate our spirits
for ongoing discovery.
Amen.**

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Hymn #436 Black, New Century Hymnal)
God of Grace and God of Glory**

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.

4. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives
that they may be armored with all Christ like graces,
in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
in the quest for liberty, in the quest for liberty.

5. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for your salvation be our glory ever more. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

Peace

Leader: One of our core values as God's church here in Neffs is extravagant welcome.

So repeat after me - No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

ALL: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

Leader: you are welcome here.

ALL: you are welcome here.

Leader: And when we're together we like to remind each other that God loves you, and there's nothing you can do about it.

Leader: For those of you who are here, I invite you to pass the peace with those around you saying, "God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it."

We send our prayers and blessings to those watching and listening at home or during the week.
God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it.

Please be seated.

8:00 and 10:30 Worship

Music Offering **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**
Scriven, Converse
Jazz Ensemble

Story for All Ages

Education Hour for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am
Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for
ages 3-grade 5.

Ms. Tiffany would like to invite children to join her and her volunteers for Sunday School at 9:15 and Children's Church

during 10:30am service.

Ms. Tiffany also offers **Tales with Ms. Tiffany on Zoom every Sunday at 7pm**. It includes a story and some fun creative movement before bedtime.

TODAY: Pastors invite children forward to leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them! Children will be in the basement and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

Song: Go, Make a Difference Angrisano, Tomaszek #199
Sing! Prayer and Praise

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.

Words & Music: Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek © 1997, published by spiritsong.com, Portland, OR. All rights reserved.

Contemporary Reading

In an article in 1991, Marion Wright Edelman recalled hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak at Spelman College when she was a young lawyer. “One of the things I liked about him was that he didn’t pretend to be a great powerful know-it-all. I remember him discussing openly his gloom, depression, his fears, admitting that he didn’t know what the next step was. He would then say: ‘Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.’”

Here is a poem called “Start Close In” by David Whyte

Start close in,
don't take the second step
or the third,
start with the first thing
close in,
the step you don't want to take.

Start with the ground you know,
the pale ground beneath your feet,
your own way to begin the conversation.

Start with your own question,
give up on other people's questions,
don't let them smother something simple.

To hear another's voice,
follow your own voice,
wait until that voice becomes a private ear
that can really listen to another.

Start right now
take a small step you can call your own
don't follow someone else's heroics,
be humble and focused,
start close in
don't mistake that other for your own.

Start close in,
don't take the second step
or the third,
start with the first thing
close in,
the step you don't want to take.
What's your first step? The one you don't want to
take?

Ancient Reading

Matthew 14: 22-31a (The Message)

As soon as the meal was finished, [Jesus] insisted that the

disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared to death. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come ahead." Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!" Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand.

Music Offering **There Is A Balm**

The Message En-Couraged
Pastor Kris



*Look for Elmo "Take the First Steps" song
video,
"See how brave your heart can be!"*

Play-Doh Contemplation

Leader: Each week, we have a time of contemplation as an opportunity to shape Play-Doh as we think about change in our own lives. Today I invite you to use the Play-Doh to create a footprint, a shoe, a walking stick, a suitcase...anything that represents embarking on a journey to you. As you create it, think about one step that you have been contemplating taking

that requires change in your life. Allow the shaping of the clay to be your petition of prayer to God for the courage and encouragement you need.

Prayers of the People

Song: Ready for a Change Mark A. Miller

CHOIR OR SOLO:

*Take this broken spirit, create in me a clean heart,
heal this wounded healer and point me to the good road.
Lord, I'm ready for a change, only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change, only you can make me change,
only you can make me change, Lord, I'm ready for a change.*

*Wipe away these tears, Lord, and end my night of weeping,
wash away the old ways, replace my pain with your joy!
Lord, I'm ready for a change, only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change, only you can make me change,
only you can make me change, Lord, I'm ready for a change.*

For all who are experiencing change as a result
of civic policies and laws,
may they be supported in their search for
good outcomes and resolutions.
From our community and beyond, we name these persons...

For all who are experiencing change in their
sense of identity or work,
may they know their sacred worth no matter the chaos of
unsettled circumstances.
From our community and beyond, we name these persons...

For all who are experiencing change in their sense of home,
may they be welcomed into safe and vibrant
communities of belovedness.
From our community and beyond, we name these persons...

For all who are experiencing change in their health,
may they feel the healing power of love and care.
From our community and beyond, we name these persons...

For all who are facing change in their lives,
may they, may we, find the strength and courage
to move forward.
For our community and beyond, we name these things...

In this silence we offer to you the deepest yearning
of our hearts...

Silence

God of Next Steps,
when we just can't muster our courage
and shut ourselves off from those who encourage us,
forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven.

When we choose comfort over needed confrontation
that could move the world closer to justice,
forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven.

When we stand in the way of other's forward motion,
and forget to be the encouragers you would have us be,
forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who came to change our
hearts for good...

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,
forever. Amen.**

Sung Response

ALL:

***Take this broken spirit, create in me a clean heart,
heal this wounded healer and point me to the good road.***

***Lord, I'm ready for a change,
only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change,
only you can make me change,
only you can make me change, Lord,
I'm ready for a change.***

401(g) Discipleship Portfolio

In a 401(k) one invests resources for the future and retirement.

In a 401(g) (g=God) we are investing in our spiritual lives hoping for short and long term returns (blessings!), on earth as in heaven.

How diverse and balanced is your 401(g) discipleship portfolio?

g = God – worship, prayer, meditation, study, relationship. ALL the g's!

g = good – do good/serve, create goodness, notice goodness.

g = grace – receive and share God's grace.

g = gratitude – express gratitude to God and others.

g = generosity – give and love with your whole heart and life.

g = gold – money, resources, treasures, material goods.

g = goals – hopes and dreams, God's dream and mission.

g = gifts—talents, friendship, compassion, kindness, service.

g = grit and grind – perseverance, courage, strength, growth, meaning, purpose.

From Pastor Kris and the Financial Leadership Team

**Don Penrod, Marianne Kitzmiller, John Harting, Larry Todd,
Aften Hamm, Phil Wehr**

Offering the Possibilities and Praise

News about the Ministry and Mission of God's Church Offering

**Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's
work and God's people.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God,
We offer these gifts
and the gift of courage to go where you call us.
May all these gifts be multiplied for all those who need
our every effort and movement for change.
Bless all of this to your glory
and to the work of making the world a better place for all.

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>

Musical Offering
I Surrender All
Blake Hoppes

***Offering Response**

Please stand in body or spirit.

THE POTTER'S HAND



Take Me

Musical notation for the hymn 'THE POTTER'S HAND' on three staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Pot-ter's hand. Hold me, guide me, lead me, walk be-side me. I give my life to the Pot - ter's hand.'

Mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Pot-ter's hand

Hold me, guide me, lead me, walk be-side me. I

give my life to the Pot - ter's hand.

***Benediction**

Leader: From the Gospel According to Elmo's friends,
"Take the first step
and soon you'll see
just how brave your heart can be!"

Remember that you are never alone in the journey of change—
we're all on it with Jesus who says, "Come on ahead!" and then
moves with us each step of the way.

Go into the world knowing
that the Potter God is still shaping and reshaping you as you
were made to do;
that the Teacher Jesus is inviting you to a change of heart,
making it all so very possible;
and that the Adventurous Spirit is luring you to
more play and curiosity in your precious life.

Go in peace,
stay in courage,
Amen!

Prayers with a Pastor

During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come
to the railing if you would like to a pastor to pray with you or
receive a blessing.

**Pastors will be masked and we will offer a blessing
of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.**

***Hymn** Go, Make a Difference Angrisano, Tomaszek
#199 Sing! Prayer and Praise

$\text{♩} = 56$
Dm

Asus A Dm B \flat C

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff -

Dm F Asus A

— 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. —

Dm B \flat C Dm

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B \flat maj7 Asus A Dm Am Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. —

1. We are the
2. We are the

Dm B \flat C Dm

salt of the earth, called to let the peo - ple see the
hands of Christ reach-ing out to those in need, the

F Asus A Am Dm

love of God for you and me. We are the light of the world,
face of God for all to see. We are the spir - it of hope;

Bb C Dm Bbmaj7 Asus

— not to be hid - den but be seen. Go make a diff -
we are the voice of peace. Go make a diff -

A7 Dm D.S. 4. Am Dm

- 'rence in the world. 3. So let your love shine on,
- 'rence in the world.

Bb C Dm F

— let it shine for all to see. Go make a diff - 'rence in the

Asus A Am Dm Bb C

world. And the spir - it of Christ will be with us as we

Dm Bbmaj7 Asus A7 Dm D.S.

go. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

Postlude Music Change is Good Chuck Bell
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$7,397.00
Calendar 2022 (Jan-Aug.)	\$253,657.00
Calendar 2021 (Jan.-Aug.)	\$244,800.00
Change from Last Year	3.6%
Budget FY 2022 (July-Aug.)	\$69,100.00
Actual FY (July-Aug.)	\$56,884.00
Giving vs. Budget	-17.7%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week		
	In person	Online
8:00 am	38	153
10:30 am	72	107
Education Hour	6	

2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	
Total YTD:	4,913 lbs, \$745

2022 CROP Walk total: \$569.00

Presentations to the Glory of God
Spread the Good News :

***In memory of Gordon Rothrock from Lucille Kuhns,
 Leoma Kern, Lana Reitz, and families***

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.

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.

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