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! <u>Worship Theme September 25-October 23</u>



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 <u>www.unionucc.org</u> or like us on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/unionneffs</u>.

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

Page 2

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.

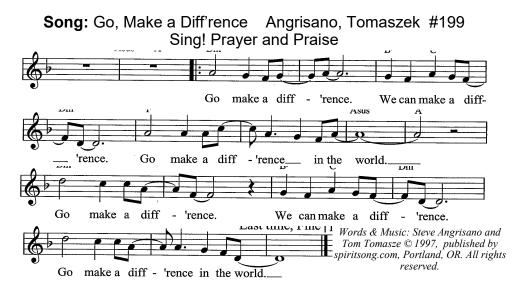
Ms. Tiffany would like to invite children to join her and her volunteers for Sunday School at 9:15 and Children's Church

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.



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, 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 = golds - 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.

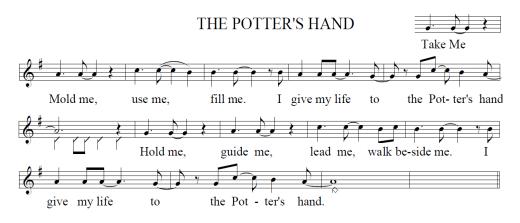
MOBILE GIVING. If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith \Engagement" and follow the prompts.

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

Musical Offering I Surrender All Blake Hoppes

*Offering Response

Please stand in body or spirit.



*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!

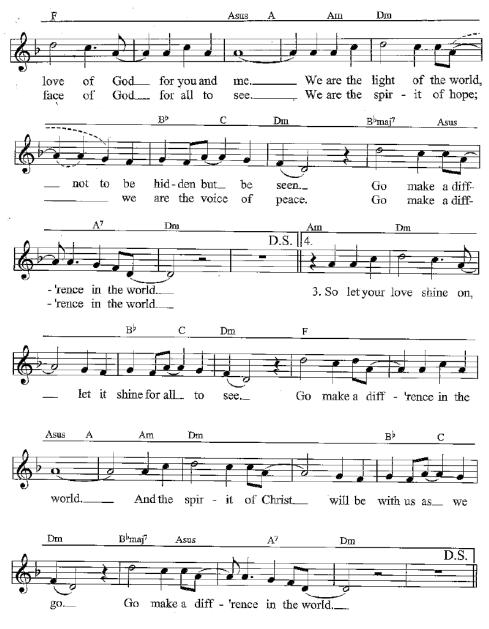
Prayers with a Pastor

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 Diff'rence Angrisano, Tomaszek #199 Sing! Prayer and Praise





Postlude Music Change is Good Chuck Bell Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$7,397.00		In person	Online
Calendar 2022 (Jan- Aug.)	\$253,657.00	8:00 am 10:30 am	38 72	153 107
Calendar 2021 (Jan Aug.)	\$244,800.00	Education Hour	6	
Change from Last Year	3.6%	2022 Donations to the		
Budget FY 2022 (July- Aug.)	\$69,100.00	Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Actual FY (July-Aug.)	\$56,884.00	Last		
Giving vs. Budget	-17.7%	Week: Total	4,913 lbs	s. \$745
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		YTD:	.,	-,

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.

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732

One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from *ONE LICENSE*, License #A714125