



June 4, 2023
Fly: Daring New Heights
Communion
Graduate Sunday

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.

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.

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 Readers: 8:00 Ron Pope, 10:30 Youth

Ushers: 8:00 Phil Wehr, Ron Pope

10:30 Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider

Sound: Mike Baer

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

Prelude
In the Garden C. Austin Miles
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Preparing for New Life

Leader: We've spent the last several weeks reflecting on the process of transformation and growth, using the butterfly as an amazing metaphor for our own lives and faith journeys. Today we leap forward into the winds of adventure, ready to soar to new heights and break away from the systems of injustice and oppression that have kept us bound. Come, catch a headwind, and rise up to freedom!

Gathering Song of Invitation

"Come Out!"

First time: Choir

Second Time: All



1. Come out! Come out of your com-for-ta-ble spac-es.



Come, meet Je-sus in the dif-fi-cult plac-es.

Questions for Metamorphosis

Leader: Before we chose a life of faith, we wondered...

People: ...where will this path lead me?

When we are confronted with limitations, we wonder...

...what can I do to move past this obstacle?

When we are frozen with fear and sidelined by doubt, we wonder...

...what if this hesitation didn't hold me back?

When we are in need of physical or spiritual healing, we wonder...

...could the hand of God reach me, even here?

Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

"You too are my child.

You can emerge to renewed life.

Again and again."

Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Passing the Peace

Leader: I invite you to stand and pass the peace of Christ to one another by waving, smiling, and introducing yourself to each other.

Remember to send peace to those worshiping remotely.

***Opening Hymn: : #278 Creator God, Creating Still—New Century Hymnal (Black)**

**1)Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed
Create a new humanity to meet the present need**

**2)Redeemer God, redeeming still, with overflowing grace
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a holy place**

**3)Sustainer God, sustaining still, with strength for every day
Empower us now to do your will. Correct us when we stray**

**4)Great triune God, for this new day we need your presence
still.**

Create, redeem, sustain us now to do your work and will.

Please be seated.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES (see insert for names)

ALL: God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward in their journey, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your faithful presence and unconditional love. Help them know they never walk alone, trusting in you and remembering this family of faith.

Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as Modern day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.

Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them and guiding them. Help them see others through your eyes and be your heart and hands in the world, we pray. Amen.

10:30 Mornings with Ms. Tiffany

(there will be NO Mornings with Ms. Tiffany on June 11)

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.

Education Hour for All Ages and Children's Church will return in September.

Song: Go, Make a Diff'rence Angrisano, Tomaszek #199
Sing! Prayer and Praise

Asus A $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ Dm B \flat C

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

Dm r Asus

— '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 maj 7 Asus A Dm Last time, Fine Am Am

Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. — 1. 2.3.

Scripture Reading

Finally, the moment has arrived! The butterfly launches into its new environment — the heights that are now possible through transformation into what it was always meant to be. Nothing will hold it back. When the crowds made it impossible for the friends of the paralytic to get him to Jesus, they broke through the roof of the home where Jesus was. We too can be roof-breakers, we can “raise the roof” into new ways of moving and being in the world. What was bound has been freed! Let us boldly look like, act like, know ourselves to be the healed and freed people we truly are!

From Mark 2: 1-5: *When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a*

paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

The Message

Pastor Kayli Freeman

Entering into Prayer

"Open Me"

All sung, repeated and echoed after the leader:

**Form me...
hold me...
open me...
unfold me...
unfurl me...
untether me...
uncurl me...
uncrease me...
unwrap me...**

Prayers of the People

Praying with Jesus

**ALL: Freeing God, in whom is heaven,
may your name be lifted in the chambers of our hearts.**

**May the joy of transformation come,
may your plans for us be unfurled here on earth
as it is in the flight of heaven's glory.**

For the strength we need, feed us.

For the forgiveness we desire, and need to give, invite us.

**Save us from the temptation
of all that would keep us from you,
and deliver us from those things that seek to harm.**

Unwrap your perfect kinship

of love, power, and glory forever.

Amen.

Holy One, we gather together today to dream of a more just and equitable world. We cannot fully live into our potential as free beings, or even secure our basic human needs, if we do not abolish the systems of injustice and violence that plague our social relations and our economies. We know that there will be times when we stumble or stutter in our work to create a more equitable world. We pray for your grace to cover our faltering flutters and for your joy to give us the confidence we need to boldly overturn the status quo. Help us share this joy with others and sustain us for the work ahead.

We pray this day for....

Praying with Jesus (again...still)

**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.**

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH

OFFERING

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. 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.

VENMO Union UCC now has Venmo! You can now make donations, pay for events, and support the church through this platform. Please be sure to include in the "What it's for" line what your Venmo is supporting. You can either search for @unionuccneffs

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. This annual special offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM).

In Galatians, the Apostle Paul encourages followers of Jesus to generously help and care for others. Though there is great need in the world and we can grow weary because we do not know how to help, God's spirit energizes us to help.

You can make a difference. Your gifts to OGHS provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world.

Collections for OGHS will take place in June, to make a donation, please use the special envelope . This may be mailed to the church office, or dropped into the collection

plate. Donations may also be made online.

Musical Offering

Open Our Eyes Robert Cull

Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

* Offering Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. It consists of five lines of music with lyrics underneath. The first line starts with a whole rest followed by a half note G, then quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and a half note G. The second line starts with a whole note G, followed by quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and a half note G. The third line starts with a quarter note G, followed by quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and a half note G. The fourth line starts with a quarter note G, followed by quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and a half note G. The fifth line starts with a quarter note G, followed by quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and a half note G.

1
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise

4
God, all crea - tures high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

7
lu - ia! Praise God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre -

10
a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

13
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the

Pastor invites you to do so.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

Leader: The Transforming God be with you.

People: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Living One.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Creator of All That Is.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life,
imbuing us with all we need to navigate this life,
to fly in the face of fear.

When we doubt our ability
to imagine our way out of despair,
we have often turned away from you,
instead of toward you.

You have time and again delivered us
from our captivity to hopelessness,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and have spoke to us through your prophets.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
His life and ministry offered us a vision
of the DNA of Love also instilled in us,
waiting for us to transform into those who will follow him.

Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of this love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our love completely
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

All: Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the
body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the commun-
ion of the blood of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all
things are ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

THE BREAD

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread Together (Black Hymnal,
New Century Hymnal)

Let us break bread together on our knees

Let us break bread together on our knees

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

My God have mercy on me

**Let us drink wine together on our knees
Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me**

**Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me.**

THE CUP

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you.

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

MUSIC OFFERING

Beneath the Cross of Jesus Tune: St. Christopher, Frederick
C. Maker

COLLECTING OF CUPS

HYMN #677 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
Hymns for the Faith of Faith (Gold Hymnal)

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love**

**We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's
pride**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Benediction

Leader: Now go into your lives,
dreaming big dreams
and ready to "raise the roof"
so that others can experience the healing grace of God.
And may the assurance of the God who created you,
the Christ who is raising you,
and the Spirit that will unleash you,
be with you now and always.
Blessed be.
Amen.

***Hymn #417 This Is A Day of New Beginnings** (New Century
Hymnal, black)

**1) This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and
move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain
that's gone**

**2) For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit now
as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope
are born again**

**3)Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past
and leave behind
Our disappoint, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths
and sure to find.**

**4)Christ is a live, and goes before us to show and share
what love can do
This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all
things new.**

Postlude Music

Sweet By and By Joseph P. Webster
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$3,396.00		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-April)	\$138,705.00	8:00 am	30
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-April)	\$127,458.00	10:30 am	58
Change from Last Year	8.8%	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2022 (<i>July 2022-April. 23</i>)	\$365,541.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July 2022- 23</i>)	\$350,548.00	Last Week:	\$50, 217
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-1.7%	Total YTD:	2,472lbs, \$535
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Phoebe Home	\$785.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

Congrats to our graduates. We love you!
- Pastor Kris

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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