



How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!  
I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!  
Psalm 139: 17-18

**August 27, 2023**  
**10:30 Worship in the Grove**  
**Jazz Ensemble**

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://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 are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

Lay Readers: Devon Kuharik

Ushers: Carrington Smith, Jim Lane, Jason Klinger, Susan Smith, Al Stubbmann, Karen Misera, Claire Kern, Gene Thrash

Greeters: Brynn and Jon Buskirk, Sally Saltzer, Devon Kuharik

Sound: Mike Baer, Karl Klinger

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

### **Prelude Music**

This Is My Father's World  
Jazz Ensemble

### **Welcome**

**When we worship in the sanctuary the offering will be collected by our ushers in your seats.**

**When we worship outside in the grove the offering is collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave worship.**

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

### **Preparing for Worship**

Leader: Hidden in the quiet of our morning, our ancestors gather among us.

**ALL: Together, we open our hearts to spiritual worship.**

Leader: We come seeking transformation and the renewing of our minds;

**ALL: so that we might know what the work of justice looks like now in this moment.**

Leader: We share in the ministry of being one body with differing gifts.

**ALL: Let this time of worship be a time of growing in compassion.**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Leader: Mothering God, midwife of all our experiences and dreams, we thank you for the ways you have brought us into new life over and over again. We praise you for protecting us when the threats of life ensue. We honor you for the cunning and ingenuity with which you have crafted our oppor-

tunities to grow and thrive. In humble devotion, we remember your rescuing intervention when the way has been difficult and the light has grown dim. Gathered as your people, wonderful and diverse, we join as one body in worship – remembering your saving Spirit and embodying your creative purpose. Make yourself known to us as we worship, we pray.  
Amen.

**Response Song #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions**  
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: In the midst of new dimension,  
In the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples  
Wandering in their separate ways?  
God of rainbows, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
Now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**

### **Passing the 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 no matter who you are or where you  
are on life's journey,

**ALL: And, no matter who you are or where you  
are on life's journey,**

Leader: God loves you and so do we.

**ALL: God loves you and so do we.**

Leader: Please stand and greet each other,

sharing God's love and welcome.  
We send our love to those worshipping at home too.

**Please stand in body or spirit.**

**\*Hymn Here I Am, Lord**

**I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**CHORUS**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

**CHORUS**

**I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I  
will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

**CHORUS**

**Please be seated.**

**During Summer Worship:**

**\*A reminder to pick up your Children's Activity Bulletins at**

**the door when you arrive.**

**Starting September 10 - Education Hour/Sunday School** 9:15-10:15am on Sundays for ages 3 to grade 7 You are welcome to attend any and all Sundays. Adult Class starts on September 10.

**Starting September 17 Children's Church** – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5. Children start in worship with their parents and leave with Ms. Tiffany, returning before worship is over. You are welcome to attend anytime.

**School Supply Donations – We are collecting your donations through September 24 for our students in the community.**

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

## **PRAYER**

God, thank you for new opportunities to learn and grow in this upcoming school year.

Be with our teachers, leaders, caregivers, and administrators as they guide us into the new school year. Give them the tools and energy to create engaging ways to learn and grow.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to new ideas, new friends, new leaders, and new ways of learning.

Show us how to seek joy in all things.

When things don't go as planned, help us rejoice in the new experience.

God, pour out your blessing upon these students, families, teachers, and leaders. Bless their backpacks, Chromebooks, classrooms, school buildings, and all preparations that help build a wonderful school experience. May each of you be a blessing and light in your new year! Go and light up the world!

Amen.

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

Asus    A     $\text{\textcircled{S}}$  Dm    Bb    C

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

Dm    F    Asus    A

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

Go make a dif - f'rence.    We can make a dif -

- f'rence.    Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. *Fine*

Bbmaj7    Asus    A    Dm    Am    Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

**Scripture Reading**  
**Exodus 1:8—2:10**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The

Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said

to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

### **Music Offering**

Down by the Riverside

**Jazz Ensemble**

### **The Message**

The Defiance of Love: She Spies

Pastor Kris

### **Entering into Prayer**

#### **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.**

### **PRAYER SONG RESPONSE**

#107 Amazing Grace Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of  
God

**ALL: Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.**



**When we worship in the sanctuary the offering will be collected by our ushers in your seats.**

**When we worship outside in the grove the offering is collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave worship.**

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

## **NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH**

### **OFFERING**

---

**Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC  
Because of YOU our church changes lives....**

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

- **ELECTRONIC GIVING** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home>  
Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)
- **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"
- **Mobile Giving** Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
- **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.



Vanco



Venmo

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**

I Surrender All    Tune: Surrender (Weeden)

## **Jazz Ensemble**

Please stand in body or spirit.

### **\* Offering Response**

#562 Take My Gifts Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
Gave me light and food and shelter,  
gave me life and set me free,  
Now because your love has touched,  
I have love to give away,  
Now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply.**

### **\*Benediction**

Leader: Go into the world knowing God's goodness in your heart and assured that you are loved. Go full of mercy, carrying peace, abundant in generosity and steadfast in the work of love. Be defiant with your love, with God's love. Today and every day. May you know peace and shalom.  
Amen.

**\* Hymn** Blessed Be Your Name    Matt Redman  
**Jaxon Egge, vocalist**

Blessed Be Your Name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed Be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
When I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed Be Your name  
Every blessing You pour out, I'll

Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord  
Still I will say

**(Congregation)**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your name**  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your glorious name**

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be'  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name  
Every blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord  
Still I'll say

**(Congregation to the end)**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your name**  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your glorious name**  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your name**  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your glorious name**

**You give and take away**  
**You give and take away**  
**My heart will choose to say**  
**Lord blessed be Your name**

You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

### **Postlude Music**

Four Miles Davis

### **Jazz Ensemble**

**Jazz Ensemble: Mike Baer – guitar, Blake Hoppes-  
piano, Matt Gerry – Trumpet, Gareth Hill - Saxophone**

**Summer Coffee Hour** will continue on Sundays after 10:30 worship. Stop by in Memorial Hall for some cool lemonade, juice, water, and a snack and visit with friends and pastors.

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$4,849.00		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-July)	\$223,865.00	8:00 am	n/a
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-July)	\$226,189.00	10:30 am	<b>64</b>
Change from Last Year	-1.0%	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2023-24 (July)	\$33,220.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July)	\$27,821.00	Last Week:	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-16.3%	Total YTD:	3,307lbs, \$785
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Neighbors in Need	\$326.42

## Presentations to the Glory of God

*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.*

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732

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