

September 17, 2023 8:00 and 10:30 Worship 10:30 Baptisms The Table of Peace

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 Carol Pope

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

10:30 Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, Gloria

Toner, Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller

Greeters: Bruce & Chris Roth, Jim & Edie Fella

Sound: Pat Sorg

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Prelude Music

Blessings Laura Story Victoria Toto Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Setting the Table

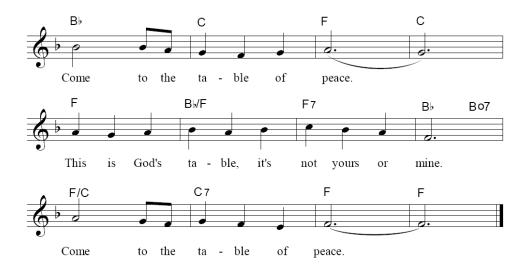
Come to the Table of Grace #112 Sing! Prayer and Praise

Choir sings first time, then everyone the second time.

Leader: The table of peace can take almost any shape. Our table this week is a conference table, perhaps depicting where two or more parties meet to negotiate the terms of a contract, a settlement, or a ceasefire. For Jesus, peacemaking was often found in the act of sharing a meal with people who would have been considered "outsiders." We like to imagine Jesus in perfect harmony with everyone who gathered with him at the table — but perhaps sometimes even he held his breath when he brought people together with opposing viewpoints. Today we come to the table of peace, ready to practice patience and compassion, even when we disagree

ALL sing: Come to the Table





Taking Our Place, Opening to Others

Leader: We gather today to listen, to learn, and to love.

ALL: We are ready to share and to hear what others have to say.

Leader: Though we are all different, we yearn to find a mutual understanding.

ALL: We are standing on common ground.

Leader: We take our seat at the Table of Peace.

ALL: We know that God is already here!

Passing the Peace, Welcoming Each Other to the Table
Welcome each other to this time of worship, to this place of belonging.

Please stand in body or spirit.

*Hymn #478 I've Got Peace Like A River (Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal)

1. I've Got Peace Like A River I've Got Peace Like A River I've Got Peace Like A River In My Soul,

I've Got Peace Like A River
I've Got Peace Like A River
I've Got Peace Like A River In My Soul.

2. I've Got Joy Like A Fountain
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain In My Soul,
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain In My Soul.

3. I've Got Love Like An Ocean
I've Got Love Like An Ocean
I've Got Love Like An Ocean In My Soul,
I've Got Love Like An Ocean
I've Got Love Like An Ocean
I've Got Love Like An Ocean
I've Got Love Like An Ocean In My Soul.

4. I've Got Faith Like an Anchor
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor In My Soul
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor In My Soul.

Please be seated.

10:30 Worship Children's Time

Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and are invited forward for a children's time, They then leave with Ms. Tiffany and return before worship is over.

Song:

THERE ARE PROMISES

There are promises

For you and me

In the B-I-B-L-E

All God's promises

We can See

In the B-I-B-I -E

I'm gonna stand up tall

And spin around

Jump up high

And shout out loud "woo hoo"

There are promises

For you and me

In the B-I-B-L-E



Also kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

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.

Repeat Song

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Amelia Charlotte Lorah child of Alexis and Isaac Lorah Sponsors: Zach Glassic and Rebekah Lorah

Quinn Leona Pradel child of Kristen Haugh and Robert

Pradel

Sponsors: Robin Haugh & Dan Haugh

Hunter William Serfass child of Jasmine Garris and Jacob

Serfass

1. Teach us

through this

ho - ly

Sponsors: Alexis Eberly and Trent Viola

Jacob Hunter Beers child of Cassandra and Jarret Beers Sponsors: Kevin Hamm and Melissa Hamm

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

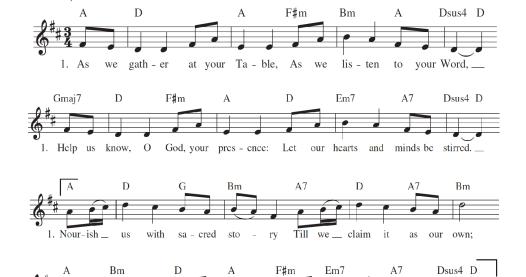
All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice



Preparation to Hear God's Word

As We Gather at Your Table (vs. 1) #332 New Century Hymnal



ban - quet How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.

Scripture

Reader 1: We welcome each other at the table even when we disagree. Coming to tables of peacemaking is hard work. We must be willing to suspend our propensity for making ourselves the judge of others. Accountability AND forgiveness are on the menu at God's table and we are called to sit down and find merciful ways to deal with one another despite our differences. Hear now this scripture advice from the 14th chapter of the Letter to the Romans, followed by a remembrance of what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew. Imagine those early Christian Romans gathered at a table, reading this advice to one another and remembering the words of Jesus:

Reader 2 Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with — even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently. For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat?

Reader 1: God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty

much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience. Reader 2: What 's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters.

Reader 1: So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly — or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

"As I live and breathe," God says,
"every knee will bow before me;
Every tongue will tell the honest truth
that I and only I am God."

So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

Do you remember what Jesus said about forgiveness? Peter asked, "How many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven."

All readers: "Hear! Hear!"

8:00 Music Offering Heritage Choir

Tender Lord, Precious Lord Douglas E. Wagner

The Message The Table of Peace Pastor Kris

PrayerAt This Table

Choir sings the first time, Pastor prays, congregation repeats the song.



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.

Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's

work and God's people here in Neffs and in the community and world.

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://

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Vanco

- FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.
- · **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?" See QR code.



Venmo

• 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. 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

O Magnify the Lord Michael O'Shields

Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

* Offering Response
ALL: For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

*Benediction

Leader: This Table of Peace requires much of us.

It asks us to listen to others when we are bursting with words of our own.

It asks us to speak with courage and grace when perhaps we would rather stay silent.

It asks us to be patient when we are raring to go!
It asks us to save a seat for people whose opinions differ from ours,

and to treat everyone with kindness and dignity, because we need each other — all of us — to survive.

The grace of God abounds!
The invitation of Christ is wide!
The power of the transforming Spirit will surprise us every
time!

May the blessings of peace you find here go with you and move through you to others wherever you go this week.

Let the people say, "Amen!"

ALL: Amen!

* **Hymn** #249 Peace I Leave with You, My Friends (Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal)

REFRAIN

Peace I Leave With You, My Friends: Shalom My Peace, In All You Do. Peace I Leave With You, My Friends, I Give To You, So You Can Give To Others, Too.

To Share God's Love Is Why I Came,
 Show God's Kindness To The World
 Now My Friends And Do The Same,
 Until I Come Again...

REFRAIN

2. Take My Hand And Be At Peace, The Spirit Of Our Love I Send; And With This Love You Will Be Free, Until I Come Again...

REFRAIN

3. With This Love You All Will Know, That Loneliness Is At An End, Rejoice My People Though I Go For I Will Come Again...

REFRAIN

Postlude Music

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling John Zundel, Arr. Joel Randy **Blake Hoppes**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week			
Last Week				In person	
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-July)	\$223,865.00	8:00 am		36	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-July)	\$226,189.00	10:30 am		74	
Change from Last Year	-1.0%	Education H			
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 3,30 YTD:		07lbs, \$835	
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		Neighbors in Need		\$518.00	

<u>Presentations to the Glory of God</u>

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.

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour on Sundays

Enjoy some coffee, tea, juice, hot chocolate, and snacks on Sundays in Memorial Hall after both worship services.

Upcoming hosts include:

9/17–Sunday Staff

9/24 & 10/1– Consistory and Leadership Planning Team/ Congregational Forums 10/8– Fellowship Committee

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