

**November 19, 2023
8:00am & 10:30am**



**Because of You Our Church Changes Lives!
Worship Led by Pastor Kris and
the Financial Leadership Team
Covenant Sunday with the Penn
Northeast Conference of the UCC**

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs.

Let us know you're here by completing the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it to a pastor or drop it in the offering plate. Feel free to call or email a pastor.

Vision Statement

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING

Mission Statement

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.

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Lay Readers: 8:00 Maria Beltz, 10:30 Janice Metzger
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: Al Stubbmann, Andy & Jan Dyszel
Sound: Pat Sorg

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

Prelude Music

All Creatures of Our God and King

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Welcome to worship!

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.**

**Please stand in body or spirit to greet each other and
for our first song.**

Passing the Peace

May God's love for you deepen every day.

***Hymn #23 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

**2. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's word;**

**And our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.**

Please be seated

Call to Worship

Leader: God of abundant grace called Jonah long ago

ALL: God of abundant grace calls us today

Leader: God called Jonah to share the good news of
God's grace

**ALL: God is calling us to share the good news
of God's grace**

Leader: Come

ALL: Despite our fears

Leader: Come

ALL: Despite our desires to run away

Leader: Come

ALL: Despite our worries that we are not enough

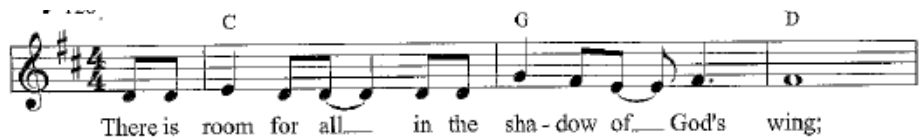
Leader: Come

ALL: Let us worship the one who calls us

Prayer

Leader: Gracious God, you have created a world of abundance – an abundance of love and of grace. And yet, like Jonah, we run away. Rather than answering your call, we are preoccupied with ourselves. Instead of extravagantly sharing your abundance, we have lived life as if your treasures are scarce. Help us to answer your call to practice generosity, and to take the abundance of treasures you have given to us into our communities to transform lives.

#76 There Is Room For All
Sing! Prayer and Praise
ALL Sing 2 times



10:30 Music Offering Kids Choir

House of the Lord Phil Wickham & Jonathan Smith

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-L-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 Room 100 on the first floor and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children in Room 100.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

#28 Open Our Hearts

Sing! Prayer and Praise

ALL Sing 2 times

♩ = 50

O - pen our hearts, o - pen our minds.

O - pen our lives to you, O lov - ing

God. O - pen our hearts.

Scripture Jonah 1 and 2

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²'Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.' ³But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

⁴ But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. ⁶The captain came and said to him, 'What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.'

⁷ The sailors said to one another, 'Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.' So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, 'Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are

you?' ⁹'I am a Hebrew,' he replied. 'I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.' ¹⁰Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, 'What is this that you have done!' For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

¹¹ Then they said to him, 'What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?' For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.' ¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. ¹⁴Then they cried out to the LORD, 'Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.' ¹⁵So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

¹⁷ But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

²Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ²saying,

'I called to the LORD out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.

³ You cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, "I am driven away
from your sight;
how shall I look again

upon your holy temple?"
5 The waters closed in over me;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head
6 at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me for ever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,
O LORD my God.
7 As my life was ebbing away,
I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.

8:00 Music Offering Heritage Choir

The River is Here Andy Park, Arr. Bruce Greer

The Message: Because of You Our Church Changes Lives



**Pastor Kris and the Financial Leadership Team
Don Penrod, Marianne Kitzmiller, Laura Kohler,
Larry Todd, Phil Wehr, John Harting
Janice Metzger, Penn Northeast Conference
Ambassador**

Prayer

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

**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.**

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, for-
ever. Amen.**

#107 Amazing Grace

Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

All Sing

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,

I have already come.

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

And Grace will lead me home.

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://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone. Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)



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.

Musical Offering

8am Offertory:

Morning Has Broken & O Worship the King Arr. Bill George

10:30 Offertory:

As the Deer Arr. Buryl Red

Naomi Henninger, vocals & Payge Haydt, Viola

Please stand in body or spirit.

* Offering Response

#120 Dream God’s Dream Sing! Prayer and Praise

ALL Sing:

Musical notation for the offering response. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 6/8. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 69. The notation includes a series of whole notes with lyrics underneath: "Dream God's dream! Ho-ly". Above the notes are the following chords: D, C, G, D, C, G, D, and Em7.

Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is
 jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is free to
 build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -
 -nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

Please be seated

***Benediction**

Leader: Go out in the world and live in the abundance of God's treasure, embracing God's call to use that abundance to transform lives.

*** Hymn #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions**

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**In the midst of new dimensions,
 in the face of changing ways.**

**Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
 wandering in their separate ways?**

**[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
 leading where the eagles soar,
 We your people, ours the journey
 now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?
Refrain

As we stand a world divided
by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village
might envision wider dreams
Refrain

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit,
resurrect the church again.
Refrain

Postlude Music

The Potter's Hand Darlene Zschech
Blake Hoppes

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:

11/19– Financial Leadership Team

11/26– Sunday Staff



What Jonah Learned about Abundance

by Lee Hull Moses

At first glance, Jonah seems an odd choice for a reflection on stewardship. There is no offering of gifts here, no passing the plate, no mention of money at all. Missing is the imagery of the overflowing baskets of first fruits in Deuteronomy 26, or the quiet generosity of the widow in Luke 21. Jonah, as we'll see, isn't even a particularly generous person; quite the opposite, in fact. And yet, this little story of a reluctant prophet has much to offer as we discover the joy of sharing God's abundant grace.

Jonah learns over the course of his story that God's justice is not a zero-sum game; more for other people doesn't mean less for me. There is plenty of God's grace to go around, enough for all the Ninevites and Jonah too. "Should I not be concerned about Nineveh?" God asks (4:11), as Jonah sulks, but the obvious truth is that God has been concerned about Jonah all along. Even when Jonah is running away from God, God provides what he needs: safety in the storm, a rescue from the depths of

the sea. The abundance of God's grace is that there is enough; no one needs to be left out.

We live today in a culture that is bent on scarcity; we have believed the narrative that there is not enough to go around, and so we should hang on tight to what we have. We're convinced that if you get something good, that means there will be less available for me. Perhaps the greatest gift the church can give the world right now is to bear witness to God's abundance. The story of Jonah – along with the rest of the Biblical witness – convinces us that there is enough – enough of God's care, enough of God's grace, enough of God's love.

Questions to Consider:

- 1. In what ways does our congregation operate within a mindset of scarcity?**
- 2. In what ways do you practice abundance?**
- 3. What could our congregation do if we really took seriously the abundance of God's grace? How would lives be transformed?**
- 4. What might happen if we oriented our whole lives and our whole ministry toward the abundance of God's grace?**



Because of **You** our church changes lives.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$11,642.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-Sept)	\$223,865.00
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Sept)	\$226,189.00
Change from Last Year	-1.0%
Budget FY 2023-24 (Sept)	\$33,220.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to- Date (Sept)	\$27,821.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-16.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
	In person
8:00 am	44
10:30 am	144
Education Hour	
2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$100, lbs
Total YTD:	4,9707lbs, \$1310

Presentations to the Glory of God

**Have a beautiful and blessed birthday Pastor Kayli
- Carolyn Barry**

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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