



**November 26, 2023
8:00am & 10:30am**

Thanksgiving Sunday

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 Carol Pope, 10:30 Devon Reese Kuharik
Ushers: 8:00 Cliff James, Carol James
10:30 Carrington Smith, Jim Lane, Jason Klinger, Susan Smith,
Al Stubbmann, Karen Misera, Claire Kern, Gene Thrash
Greeters: Karen Misera, George & Val Borman
Sound: Karl Klinger

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

**Prelude Music
Give Thanks, Now Thank We All Our God
Henry smith, Arr. Joel Raney
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 #422 Come, O Thankful People, Come**
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Come, O thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker does provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**2. All the blessings of the field,
all the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand
scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores,**

**3. These to you, our God, we owe,
source from whom all blessings flow;
and for these our songs we raise,
grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.**

Please be seated

Call to Worship

Leader: The time of gathering is here.

**ALL: We have come from far and wide to offer our praise to
God for God's many blessings to us.**

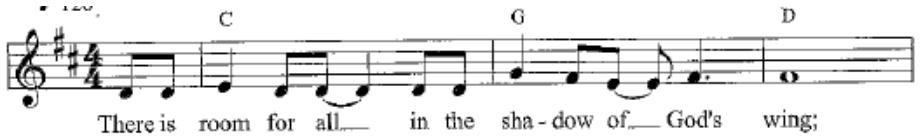
Leader: Open your hearts to God's compassionate words
of love.

**ALL: Help us, O Lord, to receive your gifts in gratitude and to
live lives of helpful service to others.**

Prayer

Leader: Patient and perfect God, we are rushing
headlong into the holiday season. When we forget that the
word "holiday" is actually comprised of two words: "holy
and day" help us pause and remember. When we treat
the "holy days" as a task and a burden, when we load
ourselves down with tasks that do not enhance this day,
bring us back to you and your love. Help us move past the
busyness of the season into the attitude of gratitude we
want to display for all the many wonders and blessings you
have poured on us. When we grumble and gripe about the
work and do not relish the delight in having family and
friends together, show us again your joy and peace. Help us
remember that there are those for whom this season is hard
and filled with heartache. Hold their hearts and ours, we
pray. Cause us to be about the perfect love you have
given to us and about the meaning and purpose that
comes from serving you and others, we pray. Amen.

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



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 ALL Sing 2 times #28 Open Our Hearts Sing! Prayer and Praise

$\text{♩} = 50$

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

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

God _____ O - pen our hearts _____

Scripture

1 John 4:17-21

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

8:00am Music Offering Heritage Choir

Thanks Be To Thee Handel/ Wiley

10:00am Music Offering

I Will Enter His Gates With Thanksgiving William Bay

Craig Knauss, Clarinet and Blake Hoppes, Piano

The Message: The Message Perfect Love

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. David DeRemer

The Rev. Dr. David DeRemer most recently retired as Director of Supervised Ministry and Director of Enrollment at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem PA. In 2014 he concluded more than 18 years as Senior Pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ in Nazareth PA. In 1985, DeRemer was the founding director of New Bethany Ministries in Bethlehem. Created by the Episcopal Diocese, this ecumenical, social ministry organization grew from one program to a continuum of housing services in his ten-year leadership. He served as pastor of First UCC Bethlehem from 1979 to 1985.

Recently, DeRemer has been providing consulting services through Penn Northeast Conference UCC to congregations in transition.

He is married to Kathy. They live in Macungie PA.

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, forever. 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.

8:00 Musical Offering

Oh, How I Love Jesus Traditional Melody

10:30 Musical Offering

The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte

Craig Knauss, Clarinet and Blake Hoppes, Piano

Please stand in body or spirit.

* Offering Response

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

ALL Sing:

Musical score for "Dream God's Dream" in G major, 3/8 time, tempo 69. The score consists of five staves of music with lyrics and guitar chords. The lyrics are: "Dream God's dream! Ho-ly 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." The chords are: D, C, G, D, C, G, D, Em7, D/F#, G, Bm7, F#m7, G, Em7, A, A/G, D/F#, G, Bm7, A, G, D/F#, Em7, Asus, A7, D.

Please be seated

***Benediction**

Leader: Loved ones of God, place your whole trust in God's absolute abundant and perfect love. Go and be God's love in the world. Amen.

*** Hymn #423 Great Is Your Faithfulness**
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
all of your goodness forever will be.**

**Refrain: Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

Refrain

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.**

Postlude Music

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Tune: Nettleton
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:

11/26– Sunday Staff

December 3 Worship Committee

Dec 10 and 17 – Everyone please bring cookies to share!

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 308,275.00
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 309,414.00
Change from Last Year	-0.4%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Oct.)	\$ 128,120.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Oct.)	\$ 11,2,231.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-12.4%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
	In person
8:00 am	48
10:30 am	111
Education Hour	13
2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, 2,000lbs
Total YTD:	6,9707lbs, \$1310

Presentations to the Glory of God

In memory of Walt Disney

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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