



January 14, 2023
Bath
Baptism
8:00am & 10:30am Worship

BREAD, BATH & BEYOND

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

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 Reader: 8am Susan Steinmann, 10:30 Eric Minnich
8am Ushers: Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd
10:30am Ushers: Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James
Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Gene & Christina Thrash
Sound: Doug Albert

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

Prelude Music
Just A Closer Walk Traditional
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

At the Dawn — Threshold Moment

["On the Edge of Tomorrow"](#) by guest artist, Ken Medema

Leader: We use this cultural word-play in our series title, "Bread, Bath & Beyond," to remember that the most basic transforming experiences of our faith — communion (bread) and baptism (bath) — are the starting points for life "beyond" our limitations. Let's make this year one of amazing transformations — for our lives, for our community, for our world!

Leader: Christian baptism is full of meaning. Paul invites the early believers depicted in the Acts story to go beyond a narrow teaching of baptism into the fullness of living in the Spirit of Christ available to them. On this day we remember the power of baptism and affirm the Spirit that lives and moves and breathes through us — offering power and strength beyond what we think we have.

Solo/Choir: Standing on the edge of tomorrow,
standing on the edge of adventure,
Standing in the place of discov'ry,
learning every step on the way.
Thankful for the pathways behind us,
looking to the future before us,
Guided by the Spirit among us,
standing at the dawn of the day.

Standing at the dawn of the day.

**ALL: God Beyond our Knowing
and yet right here in our midst,
draw us into your waters of renewal
so that our thirst for new life may be quenched.
Guide us, Holy Spirit,
Nudge us, Teacher Jesus.
Love us, Holy One.
Amen.**

**ALL: Standing on the edge of tomorrow,
standing on the edge of adventure,
Standing in the place of discov'ry,
learning every step on the way.
Thankful for the pathways behind us,
looking to the future before us,
Guided by the Spirit among us,
standing at the dawn of the day.
Standing at the dawn of the day.**

The Peace

Leader:

The peace of Christ, the Dawn of the New Day, be with you
now!

And also with you!

Will you greet those around you with this great news,
"It is the dawn of a new day! So be it!"

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Opening Hymn**

Shall We Gather at the River

#597 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing
by the throne of God?**

Refrain:

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.**

**2. On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.**

Refrain

**3. As we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.**

Refrain

**4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.**

Please be seated.

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



10:30 Children's Time with Ms. Tiffany and Friends

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.

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** and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Cameron Mitchell Carpenter child of Jordan and Austin Carpenter

Sponsors: Sydney Gutekunst, Joshua Lee and Colten Peischl

Joseph Paul Frey child of Lora and Jeffrey Frey

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

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



Gospel Good News: Bread, Bath, and Beyond

Mark 1:4-11

So John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Message Pastor Kris

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH



OFFERING

Thank you for the many ways you give of yourself to God's ministry and mission here at Union.

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

• **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?" See QR code.

• **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 Heritage Choir
More Like You, Lord Jay Althouse
10:30 am In Christ Alone Andrew Craig and Donald A. Koch

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** Offering Response**

All Sing:

**Praise God, the One whose presence grounds;
Praise Jesus Christ, whose love surrounds;
Praise Holy Spirit, life resounds;
Praise Three in One, beyond all bounds!**

Please be seated.

Prayers of the People and Invitation to the Water

Shepherd Me, O God

Leader: I invite you to a memory of your favorite body of water. If it helps to close your eyes in order to access that memory, please do so. It may be a place you've been many times, or it may be a place you've only seen once in your life. It may be an ocean, a lake, a river, or even a backyard fountain. But it is a body of water at which you felt the grandeur or the simple beauty of the calming waters. Take in the scene. Notice the color and motion of the water. Perhaps imagine touching it with your hands or putting your feet into it. Look up in your imagination and see the horizon wherever you are. You are being refreshed and renewed, washed and invigorated for the journey ahead.

Shepherd Me, O God

Marty Haugen

Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life. _____

Leader: I invite you to sing the refrain if you would like.

***Shepherd me O God,
beyond my wants,
beyond my fears,
from death into life.***

Creating God, how magnificent are the works of your hands. We remember how your spirit moved over the waters of the earth and out of these waters you created life.

We remember how you sent rains upon the earth to cleanse it. We remember how you sent the rainbow as a sign of promise each time it rains.

We remember how you created a new people by having them pass through the sea with a “wall of water on the right and on their left.” We remember how you provided water that was sweet for forty years in the desert.

***Shepherd me O God,
beyond my wants,
beyond my fears,
from death into life.***

We remember how the Psalmist called the sheep of the flock to find pasture beside the still waters. We remember how the Prophets announced a time when the wilderness would blossom forth with new life and justice would flow like a mighty river.

We remember how Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan and filled with the Spirit who proclaimed him a beloved child. We remember our own baptisms and the claim you have placed on us as your beloved children.

We remember how Jesus calmed the waters of Galilee. We remember how he invited all to come and drink from a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

***Shepherd me O God,
beyond my wants,
beyond my fears,
from death into life.***

O Creator of Living Water, we pray this day for all in this world that feels dry and deserted and thirsty. Bring your healing waters to the planet and all its inhabitants. Hear our prayers today from our prayer list and those on our hearts and minds. We pray that you will lead us beyond our shortcomings and regrets to a more full life, cleansed time and again in you. Lead us as you led the people of Israel across the Red Sea. Guide us to life-giving water, as you did for the woman at the well. Challenge us to offer the water of life freely, as you did through Isaiah. Immerse us in the water of new life, as you did for Jesus; and send to us the Holy Spirit of peace, justice and love.

***Shepherd me O God,
beyond my wants,
beyond my fears,
from death into life.***

Leader: Amen. Friends, we are going to come to the baptismal font to remember our link to new life through the waters of baptism. Whether or not you are baptized, or have any memory of your actual baptism, the waters can remind us that just as water is necessary for life, being renewed year by year, day by day, is necessary for a full life of hope and possibility. We are always invited to the abundance and fresh horizons in our journey of faith.

When you come to the water, you are invited to take a blue glass bead from the water — a reminder of renewal and the depths of love that accompany you in this new year.

Then you will be given a gold glass bead — a reminder to look to the horizon where the dawn of this new day, this new year, is beckoning you to the heights — beyond your fears into new life.

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.**

Words for Going Forth

Each week we feature a poem written about going beyond the horizon. This week the poem is by [Robin A Walker](#), called "The Dawn":

*I stood upon a street at break of day,
When first the rays of sunlight pierced the clouds
And banished frosts and mists of night away
And with them all the fears that night enshrouds.
I saw the city's buildings lift their heads,
To stand once more four square beside the spires,
And [those] who last night crawled half-heartedly to bed
Now hurried forth with hope's rekindled fires.
The mighty clouds that fain would linger on
The chilling winds that sought to hurt and freeze,
Now faded into nothingness at dawn,
I marveled that we'd given heed to these.*

*While through the air a thought of newness came,
New strength and vim, with joy to brest the fray,
This was God's gift, to every one the same.
The greatest of all gifts — a new-born day.*

Benediction

And so now go forth and contemplate
the horizon you are called to move beyond,
trusting that there is more in store for you
than you can perceive or know all at once.

Go forth knowing that the sun over the waters
glistens upon you — the precious gem of a new day.

And you are beloved, claimed, and known —
containing all the depths of blue and the heights of golden
rays.

Keep on, my friends,
sustained by the Bread of Life,
washed in the Grace of Christ,
moved beyond your wildest imaginings.

Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore – #597 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. You have come down to the lakeshore seeking
Neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow,**

Refrain:

**O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling,
you've called out my name.**

**On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.**

**2. You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working.**

Refrain

**3. You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary
A love that's willing to go on loving.**

Refrain

**4. You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me.**

Refrain

Postlude Music

Blessed Assurance Fanny J. Crosby, Phoebe P. Knapp
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:

Jan 14– Fellowship Committee

Jan 21– Consistory

Jan 28– Christian Ed

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$5,543.00	8 AM	
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 308,275.00	10:30 AM	32
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 309,414.00	Education Hour	
Change from Last Year	-0.4%	Online Views	274
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Nov.)	\$ 128,120.00	Breathe	12
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Nov.)	\$ 11,2,231.00	2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-12.4%	Last Week:	\$, 1,000lbs
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Total YTD:	\$, 1,000lbs
Christmas Mission Donations		\$2,300.00	

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