



**January 21, 2023
Beyond Belief
Healing/Pray with a Pastor
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 on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Lay Reader: 8am Ron Pope, 10:30am Donna Christman
8am Ushers: Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross
10:30am Ushers: Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, C Gloria Toner, Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman
Greeters: Bruce & Chris Roth, Jim & Edie Fella
Sound: Pat Sorg

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

**At the end of worship today we will have a chance for
PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR .**

**During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to
come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray
with you or to receive a blessing.**

**Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or
forehead.**

Prelude Music

He Hideth My Soul Fanny Crosby & William Kirkpatrick
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

At the Dawn — Threshold Moment

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!

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

Leader: As this season progresses, we will see people discovering this remarkable man named "Jesus of Nazareth." The people had been waiting so long for a Messiah that it was hard to believe for some that the Savior had come out of a little town like Nazareth, much less the son of a

common carpenter. How can we go beyond our own beliefs and assumptions about where God shows up? Can we move beyond these to open our eyes to the holy in unexpected places and people?

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**

#451 Be Now My Vision

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
Ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
You, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

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.

Music Offering

8:00 Heritage Choir: My Lord is Like a Shepherd Lani Smith, Arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

10:30 High School Choir: Our God Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, & Matt Redman

Gospel Good News: Beyond Belief

John 1: 43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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 @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

God and God Alone Phil McHugh

Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** Offering Response**
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: Holy God of guiding star and revealing light, we thank you for making your love visible in our midst. With all those who have journeyed in your light, we praise you for signs and witnesses in every generation that lead us to Christ. Move us beyond the limitations of our former ways of thinking and being, and empower us to make real the new life for which we pray.

We pray for the faithful all over the world, that all who love you may be united in your mission.

Seeking transformation beyond our limited understanding,
we sing and pray,

Shepherd Me, O God

Marty Haugen

Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

The image shows two lines of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first line contains the melody for the first two phrases: 'Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -'. The second line continues with 'yond my fears, from death in - to life.' and ends with a double bar line. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes.

For the peoples and leaders of the nations, that they may be reconciled one to another in pursuit of your justice and peace.

For all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence, that the heart of humanity may radiate with your tenderness. Seeking transformation beyond our limited understanding, we sing and pray,

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

For all in need because of famine, flood, or earthquake, that they may know the hope of your faithfulness through the help of others.

For the land, the sea, the sky — for your whole creation, which longs for its redemption that we may live with respect for your creation and use your gifts with reverence. Seeking transformation beyond our limited understanding, we sing and pray,

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

For all who suffer the pain of sickness, loneliness, fear, or loss, that those whose names are in our hearts, in the hearts of others, or known to you alone, may receive strength and courage. We pray for those on our prayer list and for those on our hearts and minds.

Seeking transformation beyond our limited understanding, we sing and pray,

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

O Jesus, light of the world, be a morning star above for us, a radiance within us, and the shining brightness all around that transforms our lives in love. And all God's people say and pray

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 [Indigo Wisdom](#):

*What lies beyond the horizon
Over there where I can't see
I am fearful to move towards it
Though I feel it beckoning me*

*The offer is of a whole new life
A world were I am reborn
An awareness of what I have missed
Do I want this, I am torn*

*For I know that once I go there
I will not wish to return
To this life that I am living
I have so much more to learn*

*A gentle but persuasive hand
Is urging me to go forth
And sample some of life's wonders
I have never tried before*

*I would not consider going there
but for the total trust
That I have for the one who leads me
So grasp this chance I must ...*

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 there is much to learn
and that belief is not a static thing
but always and forever growing and moving
toward more light, more enlightenment.

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

Amen.

PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR

During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with you or to receive a blessing.

Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.

***Closing 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

Postlude Music

There is a Balm in Gilead Spiritual

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 21– Consistory

Jan 28– Christian Ed

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week		8 AM	27
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 308,275.00	10:30 AM	115
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 309,414.00	Education Hour	
Change from Last Year	-0.4%	Online Views	
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:	\$, lbs
<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

**In memory of Gordon Rothrock from Lucille Kuhns,
Lana Reitz, and Leoma Kern and family**

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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