



January 7, 2023  
Bread  
Communion  
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](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://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 Rosalie Snyder; 10:30am Lucille kuhns  
8am Ushers: Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern  
10:30am Ushers: Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider  
Greeters: Ruth Ensley, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace  
Sound: Karl Klinger

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats.

Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so. A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray.

Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

For those of you at home, please take a minute to find something to drink and eat to represent communion for you.

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

### **Prelude Music**

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It  
Fanny J. Crosby, William J. Kirkpatrick  
**Blake Hoppes**

### **Welcome**

### **Becoming Present — an Advent Ritual**

What Can I Give Him Arr. Mark Hayes

*Leader:* The new year always brings opportunity to move beyond our limitations...to find new beginnings and be better than we were before. 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!

### **At the Dawn — Threshold Moment**

"On the Edge of Tomorrow" by guest artist, Ken Medema

Leader: As Christians, we believe that when we gather around the communion table to remember the last night Jesus was with his disciples in the Upper Room, it is beyond just a "historical" remembering. It is also a remembering "into the future." We gather around the table with all who have ever done so, who do now, and who ever will do so. It is a "little heaven below" that transforms us into the One Spirit. As we stand on the precipice of the new year, we begin this series with a commitment to "break open" our lives to God's future horizons for us.

Choir/ Solo:

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,  
feed our souls for the journey ahead  
into your vast horizon of possibility.**

**Guide us, Holy Spirit,  
Nudge us, Teacher Jesus.  
Love us, Holy One.  
Amen.**

**All Sing:**

**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!"

**\*Opening Hymn**

**#18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer (New Century Hym-  
nal; Black)**

**1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more**

**2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing waters flow  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.**

**Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Ever be my strength and shield,  
ever be my strength and shield.**

**3. When I reach the River Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me save on heaven's side  
Song's of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever sing to you, I will ever sing to you.**

**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.

**Word of Life: Bread**  
*Revelations 21: 1-6a*  
*(three voices)*

*Voice 1:* Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

*Voice 2:* And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her spouse.

*Voice 1:* And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. The Holy will dwell with them; they will be God’s peoples, and God will be with them and be their God;

*Voice 2:* God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

*Voice 1:* And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

*Voice 2:* Also they said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Voice 1: Then they said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

## **Washed in the Word: Bath**

*Psalm 8*

Leader: O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**All: You have set your glory above the heavens.**

Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

**All: to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**All: what are humans that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**All: You have given them dominion over the works of your  
hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**All: O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**Gospel Good News: Beyond**

*Matthew 25: 31-46*

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”



NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH

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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.)

• **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.

• **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.



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## **Musical Offering**

Wonderful Words of Life Philip P. Bliss  
Blake Hoppes

**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.**

### **Invitation to Bread for the Journey**

Leader: Christ invites to this table all who are ready to move  
beyond the limitations of the past,  
all who are eager to move into the “new thing” that God is  
doing in our midst,  
all who are willing to let go of the pain that’s gone.

**All Sing:**

**This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that’s gone...**

*Leader:* And so this is an open invitation to come  
and receive the bread that will sustain us as we embark on  
this new year.

All are invited to receive the sweetness of the cup  
as a sign of God's promise of abundant possibilities.  
All are invited to this meal, for all are forgiven their past

regrets and invited into God's grace-filled future!

**All: Praise to the Living God!**

### **Confession and Assurance**

Leader: For the times when we fail to recognize you  
in those who are hungry, thirsty, cold, and alone,

**All: forgive us, we pray.**

Leader: For the times when we turn away from the sun-  
drenched horizon,  
fearful of making ourselves wide-open to your possibilities,

**All: give us courage, we pray.**

Leader: For those things that weigh us down  
with worry for the future and regret for the past,

**All: free us, O God.**

*[silence]*

Leader: Know that already the Holy is making you brand  
new. Day by day, minute by minute, you are changed and  
changing. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God!**

### **Prayers of the People**

Leader: And in this moment, we name those who need our  
prayers this day and gather them in spirit alongside us at this  
table of sustenance and healing:

#### **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.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts in this new day.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Leader:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Creator and Renewer of all life.

Time and again you seek us out,  
breathing again the breath of life into the deflated places  
of our lives.

And so,  
we come to your table again to praise you  
and taste yet again what your steadfast love can do...

**All Sing:**

**In faith we'll gather round the table  
to taste and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new...**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with those others considered unworthy.  
Through him, faith and hope were born again for so many...

**All Sing:**  
**For by the life and death of Jesus,**  
**God's mighty Spirit, now as then,**  
**can make for us a world of difference,**  
**as faith and hope are born again...**

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

*Leader:* And so,  
as we remember these words and acts of Jesus,  
we offer our own lives, leaving behind what we do not  
need,  
seeking new paths full of risen life in you.  
As followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy  
mystery:

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**All Sing:**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find...**

*Leader:* Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
breaking ourselves open to your new horizons,  
pouring ourselves out with love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heav-  
enly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever!

**All Sing:**

***Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.***

***This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new!***

**Breaking, Pouring, and Eating**

L: This is the Bread of Life;  
one loaf for the One Body.

L: The is the Cup of Love;  
quenching our collective thirst.

L: Come, for all is ready.  
Come, receive the gifts of God  
for the people of God.  
Be renewed for a new day.

### **SHARING THE MEAL**

**Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats.**

**Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.**

**A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray.**

**Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.**

### **THE BREAD**

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

**HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread Together (New Century Hymnal, black)**

**1. Let us break bread together on our knees**

**Let us break bread together on our knees**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**My God have mercy on me**

**2. Let us drink wine together on our knees**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**My God have mercy on me**

**3. Let us praise God together on our knees**

**Let us praise God together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
My God have mercy on me.**

## **THE CUP**

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you.

## **MUSIC OFFERING**

There is a Balm in Gilead     Spiritual  
Blake Hoppes

## **The Blessing**

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep  
and preserve you unto eternal life.

## **COLLECTING OF CUPS**

### **HYMN #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (New Century Hymnal, black)**

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy;  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound

2. Christ is able to make us one,  
at his table he set the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of



doubt;  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share,  
God (Immanuel) everywhere  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound

## **Words for Going Forth**

Each week we feature a poem written about going beyond the horizon. This week the poem is by [Walterrean Salley](#):

*It's a new day  
Another chance to discover  
And rediscover  
And make changes  
And enjoy life.*

*A chance to reach out.  
A chance to hold on  
To the things that are dear.  
It's a new day  
Another opportunity.*

*A chance to live  
And love  
And laugh;  
The chance of a lifetime.*

## **Benediction**

Leader: 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 every new day  
contains the possibility of something new;  
some new way to lay the table where the  
bread is aplenty and the love is abundant.

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

Amen.

### **\*Closing Hymn**

**#448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be (New Century Hymnal;  
Black)**

**1. Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise**

**2. Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love  
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose**

**3. Take my will; your will be done!  
Make your will and mine be one  
Take my heart and by your grace make of it your dwelling  
place**

**4. Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

### **Postlude Music**

Just As I Am, Without One Plea    Tune: WOODWORTH  
**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 7**– Sunday Staff

**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	\$4,152.67	8 AM	
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Oct.)	\$ 308,275.00	10:30 AM	60
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	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Nov.)	\$ 11,2,231.00	<b>2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-12.4%	Last Week:	\$, lbs
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Total YTD:	
<b>Christmas Mission Donations</b>		\$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.*

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