



February 11, 2024
Beyond the Fear
Holy Communion and New Members
Received
Jazz Ensemble
SouperBowl Sunday and Tailgate Lunch
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 Carol Pope, 10:30am Vicki Mayk
8am Ushers: Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson. Larry Todd
10:30am Ushers: Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Donna Christman, Gloria Toner Carol James
Greeters: Jim and Leanna Lane, Gene and Christina Thrash
Sound: Karl Klingner

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

Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes-piano, Mike Baer-guitar, Matt Gerry – Trumpet

Prelude Music

This is my Fathers World

Tune: Terra Patris, Franklin L. Sheppard

Jazz Ensemble

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: The saying goes, “feel the fear and do it anyway.” These common men, who just a mere few years earlier were getting up every day and simply praying for a good catch of fish, stand on the top of a mountain and see their leader joined by dead, yet famous, ancestors of the faith. They already have begun to realize that Jesus is something of a legend, but this seals it, and they are terrified. They felt the fear and left their professions anyway to follow Jesus. And now perhaps they can see that this is not your ordinary life they’re mixed up in. Do you feel like there are extraordinary

things you could do if only you could move beyond the fear?

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,
let us feel your peace
presiding over any fear.
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** Gather us in Marty Haugen
Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion

Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

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.

8:00 and 10:30 Welcoming New Members

The Mission Statement of Union UCC

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 a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

Welcome and Reception (ALL in unison)

ALL: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

New members being welcomed today:

C. Scott Boyer

**Kasey and Carol Neubert, Mason, Carson, and Everly
Janice Kay Williams**

WELCOME HOME! ~ John Roedel

Left Side:

**You are somebody's front porch to God.
You are someone's doorway to mercy.
You are the world's threshold to kindness.
You are my entrance to letting go of regret.**

Right Side:

**No pressure, but...
Your life is a gateway to peace
for both strangers and friends alike.
Whether you realize it or not...**

ALL:

**Empathy has chosen you to turn your
heart into a welcome mat for others.
This is the purpose of your life...
To let your existence become a candlelit veranda of hope
for the rest of us to gather on to hold each other during the
long dark night.**

Leader:

**We are somebody's front porch to God.
Welcome home to God, welcome home to Union.**

Music Offering

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Traditional Spiritual**

Gospel Good News: Beyond Belief

Mark 9: 2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his

clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them.

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Message Pastor Kris

The Installation and Ordination of Those Newly Elected to the Consistory

Giving Thanks to Consistory Members Finishing Their Service:

Jim Lane, Al Stubbman, Larry Todd

Giving thanks for those returning for a second term:

Dixie Gross, Brian Horwith, Janice Metzger, Don Penrod

Giving thanks for those starting their first terms:

Lorie Hackett, Ashleigh Albert, Andy Dyszel, Carolyn Seyler

Giving thanks for Funds of Lasting Gifts Trustees Finishing Their Service:

Jeff Herbine

Giving thanks for those starting a new FOLG Term:

Doug Albert

Leader: Community in Christ, you have been called to the ministry of Consistory leadership. Listen to some responsibilities of this particular calling: Be frequent in worship and dili-

gent in study; Be an example of faithful living and generous stewardship; with order and wisdom, conduct the business of the congregation; And encourage and support others in their service to Christ and his church.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with God's help?

Response: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing the love of Christ?

Response: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Our tradition is to ordain those called to serve on the Consistory, so that God may set them apart and fill them for this unique service. Ordination is a one-time symbolic act of the church inviting the Holy Spirit to confer upon those called the gifts of Consistory ministry.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for Consistory service and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive the authority to execute your ministry in the name of Christ.

Leader: You have heard the promises made by our siblings in Christ. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

ALL: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in the household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties, so that the church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Union United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce that you are installed as members of the Consistory.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People

Shepherd Me, O God

Leader: Peace-loving God, you bring us hope and healing in the midst of our conflicted lives. At times we struggle to follow you because we are so fearful of leaving behind the familiar and the comfortable. But you promise to be with us always, just as you have been for every generation. Embolden us now to follow in your ways and embrace the transformation to which you are calling us.

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

Seeking transformation beyond our familiar ways, 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.

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.**

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 on-going regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)



Electronic Giving

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app**
Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.



Vanco Mobile

• **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.

Music Offering

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Joseph M. Scriven, Charles C. Converse

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.

Invitation to Bread for the Journey

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.

On the night in which Jesus 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.”

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.

Breaking, Pouring, and Eating

One loaf for the One Body.

The Cup of Love; quenching our collective thirst.

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

MUSIC OFFERING

Arms of Love

Pastor Kris & Blake Hoppes

Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith & Gary Chapman

Lord, I'm really glad you're here

Hope You feel the same

When You see all my fear

And how I fail

I fall sometimes

It's hard to walk in shifting sand

I miss the rock and find
I've nowhere left to stand
I start to cry
Lord, please help me
Raise my hand, so You can pick me up
Hold me close, hold me tighter

[Chorus:]

I have found a place where I can hide
It's safe inside
Your arms of love
Like a child who's held throughout a storm
You keep me warm
In your arms of love

Storms will come and storms will go
Wonder just how many storms
It takes until I finally know
You're here always
Even when my skies are far from gray,
I can stay
Teach me to stay there

[Chorus]

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

THE CUP

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

**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**

**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**

**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.**

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

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)**

**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**

Chorus:

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound
(Repeat Chorus)**

**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**

Chorus:

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound
(Repeat Chorus)**

**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**

Chorus:

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound
(Repeat Chorus)**

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 with courage into this day,
knowing that God is with you always.

The inkling that feels like fear
may be the nudging of courage asking for a bigger con-
tainer.

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

Amen.

***Closing Hymn** I Will Bless the Lord at all Times
Joe Pace

**I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good
I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good
I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good
I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good**

**He's good, so good, real good
And every day of my life
I'll bless the Lord, for He's good
(Repeat from the top)**

Postlude Music

I Will Bless the Lord at all Times - Reprise
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:

Feb 18– Confirmation Class

Feb 25– Church & Ministry

March 3– Mission Committee

March 10– Consistory

March 17– Youth Group

March 24– Fellowship Committee

March 31– Easter Crew!

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$10,319.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Dec.)	\$ 403,460.00
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan.-Dec.)	\$ 408,693.00
Change from Last Year	-1.3%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Dec.)	\$ 228,270.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Dec.)	\$ 207,436.61
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-9.1%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	47
10:30 AM	112
Education Hour	
Online Views	358
Breathe	20

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, lbs
Total YTD:	\$100, 1,100lbs

Blanket Sunday	\$373.00
Souper Bowl	\$340.00

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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