



February 4, 2023
Beyond the Boundaries
Scout Sunday
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 Marie Beltz 10:30 Tami Wassum
8am Ushers: Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern
10:30am Ushers: Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider
Greeters: Ron Snyder, Doug and Angie Kuntz
Sound: Mike Baer

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

Prelude Music

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen / All Day, All Night
Traditional Spirituals

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Welcome to Scout Troop 57!

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: Sometimes we are captured by the boundaries of our own making. Things have become so toxic in our lives that we are bound, imprisoned, by them. Today, along with the awestruck worshiping community in the scripture story, we experience the power of Jesus to call out unclean spirits — those things that rage within us, limiting our ability to love and grow. We can lean on the authority of Jesus in our lives to conquer and be freed to move beyond our boundaries.

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,
loosen the bondage that ensnares our spirits
and keeps us from healing and wholeness.
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**

#107 Amazing Grace

Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That save a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

**2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

**3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

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

Heritage Choir: My Lord, What A Morning
Traditional Spiritual, Arr. Jay Althouse

Kids Choir: Awesome God with How Awesome is the Lord
Most High

Rich Mullins & Chris Tomlin

Gospel Good News: Beyond Belief

Mark 1: 21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

Just then, there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Message Pastor Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation

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

Standing on the Promises

R. Kelso Carter

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: Restoring God, in you we proclaim life and liberty over everything in our lives that makes us feel trapped, guilty, or fearful. We raise our hearts in gratitude for the ways that your love softens the sharp edges of our lives and calls us into love and connection within this community. Help us to leave behind any thought patterns or behaviors that keep us from wholeness, and to be a healing presence for others.

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 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 [Lori Hershberger](#):

*Out of my Familiar I have traveled
Breaking through the membrane of fear
That held me captive, compromising
In the womb of safety that held me near.*

*And I struggled to be born, to burst, to break
Away from ties that held me tight
To stand up, to speak out, but I could not
Till the Physician's hands drew me to light.*

*So now I am born again, not once or twice
But many times, for I continue to die
And be born, again and again, until the day
I, newborn to heaven, in my Savior's arms will lie ...*

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 to push the boundaries of your comfort zone
and to embrace the healthy growing pains of life led with
integrity,
restored by faith, supported in love,
held and healed by grace.

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

Amen.

***Closing Hymn #351 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry**
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. I was there to hear your boring cry,
I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;**

**I'll be there in case you
wander off and find where demons dwell.**

**2. When you found the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;**

You were raised to praise the living God,
to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

3. In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently
closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

4. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Postlude Music

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Thomas A. Dorsey

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 4– Boy Scouts

Feb 11– SouperBowl Lunch

Feb 18– Confirmation Class

Feb 25– Church & Ministry

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$8,173.00	8 AM	25
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Dec.)	\$ 403,460.00	10:30 AM	100
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan.-Dec.)	\$ 408,693.00	Education Hour	
Change from Last Year	-1.3%	Online Views	342
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Dec.)	\$ 228,270.00	Breathe	20
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Dec.)	\$ 207,436.61	2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-9.1%	Last Week:	\$, lbs
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Total YTD:	\$100, 1,100lbs

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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