



8 & 10:30am
September 22, 2024
“Listen More, Speak Less: Humility”

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.

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.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Reader: 8am Sue Steinmann, 10:30 Vicki Mayk
8am Ushers: Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haffl, Daniel Haffl
10:30 am Ushers: Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel, Ashleigh Albert, Claire Kern, Gene Thrash, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose
Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace
Sound: Karl Klinger

Prelude Music

More Love to Thee, O Christ William H. Doane
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC and Worship Today!

Our worship theme: Do Unto Others

Just as water reflects the face, so one human heart reflects another. – Proverbs 27:19

Our world seems to be consumed with division—often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place. The “purple space” is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

Re-Orientation

Leader: Today, we continue our worship series that points us toward connection in a world of divisions. The root of the word “human” is the same as the word “humility.” It all means literally “on the ground.” From dust we came, and to dust we shall return. When we hear each other’s fears, anxieties, and pain, we can return to the ground of hope... that we are all experiencing the pains of being human. This week, we remember to look first at our neighbor as a person, not a position. Beginning conversations this way may help us to stay

human and “on the ground” with one another rather than needing to come out “on top.”

Sung Response: Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

All Sung:

Christ has broken down the wall.

Christ has broken down the wall.

Let us join our hearts as one,

Christ has broken down the wall.

Leader:

The act of simply coming together is “revolutionary,” which in its earliest form meant “finding a course around a central point.” We gather around the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our “humility revolution.” Let us pray:

Creator God,

we ask you to come close and remind us
of our belovedness as your children,
for we are feeling distant.

Open our eyes to the beauty and pain we all contain,
and invite us to “do unto others” in ways that build up
your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. **Amen.**

All Sung:

We’re accepted as we are.

We’re accepted as we are.

**Through God’s power, all is reconciled;
we’re accepted as we are.**

**Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love freely offered here;
cast aside your doubts and fears.**

Peace Across the Divide

Reader 1: We are on opposite sides, it seems.

Reader 2: It is hard to even talk about it.

Reader 1: What if we don't see eye to eye?

Reader 2: What if you never see things as I do?

Reader 1: I cannot imagine what will happen to all of us.

Reader 2: I'm not sure I can handle this tension, this pain.

Leader: Wait.

People: Breathe.

Leader: Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.

People: Breathe again.

Leader: We are not alone.

People: Christ is with us.

Leader: Let us take a deep breath together ...

The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same.

Our desire for life and love is the same.

Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same.

Let this moment permeate our souls,

and let us pass the peace of Christ between us.

This peace is meant for all people.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Please stand in body or spirit to greet each other and for the first song.**

***Opening Hymn** Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant
#539 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

ALL:

Won't you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on the journey
We are travelers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the shadow of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

Won't you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too

Please be seated.

10:30 Worship "The Jesus Tour" Children's Time

Song: The Wheels on the Bus (adapted)

Children are invited forward for a Children's Time during the song and then leave with Ms. Tiffany for Children's

Church (Or return to sit with their family if they prefer).

***The wheels on the bus go round and round
Round and round, round and round
The wheels on the bus go round and round
All in God's love***

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.

10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Alaya Noelle Flamm child of Kelsey and Spencer Flamm
Sponsors: Jessica Flamm

Elijah Parrales child of Angelina and Sergio Parrales
Sponsors: Denis Router and Jessie Creepy

Noah Parrales child of Angelina and Sergio Parrales
Sponsors: Leilani Bourbon and Marialana Santiago

Lilliana Parrales child of Angelina and Sergio Parrales
Sponsors: Lyonel and Maryssa Anderson

Lalik Shabazz child of Ashley Shabazz grandchild of Debra Grote
Sponsors: Amber and Dave Snyder

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

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



8:00 and 10:30 Music Offering

Lead Me, Lord Words & Music by John D. Becker Arr. By Mark Hayes

Geoff Brace, vocals

Blake Hoppes, piano

Scripture

Ephesians 4: 1-6, NRSVUE

Reader: Sometimes even if we find it hard to believe, we must claim as truth the Gospel good news. Together, we find ways to tell deeply good news for all people by filtering our interactions through the lens of humility. Today's scripture speaks of approaching one another with "all humility, gentleness, and patience." What we put into the world is part of the ongoing creation of the world. Notice the scripture doesn't say that unity requires agreement, but rather we are to cultivate the qualities that equip us to live in unity regardless of agreement. Can we begin to believe this is possible?

Scripture Reader: I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith,

one baptism, one God and [Parent] of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Reader: A word of God for our times.

*People: **Thanks be to God.***

Video: Do Unto Others - The Golden Rule

Message Pastor Carrie Beleno

**Looking for more encouragement to Do Unto Others and practice the Golden Rule?
Join the Campaign for Kindness!**

<https://campaignforkindness.com/>

How do you want to be treated?

There's a phrase, commonly known as The Golden Rule, that simply states: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." A version of this teaching can be found in almost every major religion. This universal rule holds the power to bring people together.

Do Unto Others is a grassroots movement launched by [Resurrection, a United Methodist Church](#) in the Kansas City area, to encourage people to be intentional about treating one another with kindness, even those with whom we disagree. A vote for kindness is a step toward overcoming the polarization in our country through civility and respect.

Get a sticker, pin, or magnet today – and Go Purple with Kindness!

Prayer Song

Ubi Caritas

*Original Latin Translation: "Where charity and love are found,
God is there."*

All Sung:

**Live in charity and steadfast love,
Live in charity, God will dwell with you.**

Prayers

Leader: Jesus' ministry turned the idea of social stratification in his day on its head. Our response to the invitation of Christ to be his Body in the world is to make these alternative sacred narratives more real in our own lives for the sake of the world. We come to prayer today as the "populace"—a word whose French origins in the 16th century meant "the multitude of persons not distinguished by rank, education, office, or profession"—and perhaps we could add "political party" to that list. We are people first, "the populace," not positions. And so, we pray together the prayers of the people, for we are all human, *humus* of the earth, before we are anything else.

We pray for a sense of connection,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for a setting aside of ego,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for the spiritual capacity for humility,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for the relief from fear,
for ourselves and others.

Holy, Loving, and Egalitarian God...

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.**

All Sung:

Live in charity and steadfast love,

Live in charity, God will dwell with you.

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH AT UNION



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 Electronic Giving 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.



Vanco Mobile

• **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.



Venmo

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

8:00am O Jesus, I have Promised David Catherwood
Heritage Choir

10:30 In Christ Alone Andrew Craig and Donald A. Koch
Blake Hoppes

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

***Offering Response**

Tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All Sung:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Help us to work together well,
off’ring compassion to the world.**

Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

RIPPLING FORTH

Leader: Actions create ripples of reactions. We move into the world praying that the result of our worshipful work will create actions of humility that extend far beyond our knowing. Let's just see what can happen when we turn up the volume of kindness and treat others as we would hope to be treated. Let us Do Unto Others with ever-deepening understanding that lasts far beyond this moment in history. Let us continue into the unknown future with hope that we can survive, we can thrive, together—no matter the outcomes of a divided world. Let us sing our closing hymn/song as a way of beginning to ripple forth from here, inviting humility in our daily lives.

***Closing Hymn**

God Will See Us Through Ceurvels, Sirchio

**In times of brokenness, In every wilderness,
God has seen us through.
Times when our strength was gone,
Somehow we carried on,
God has seen us through.**

**Look behind and see throughout history,
God has never let us down.
Lean ahead and trust
God is guiding us,
God is with us here right now.**

**God will see me through
God will see you through
God will see us through somehow.
Step by step we'll be,
Given all we need,
God will see us through this now.**

(Repeat)

Benediction

May the Holy One show you the way
to Do Unto Others with Humility.

May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is
ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love.

May the Spirit show forth through you
in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power
to achieve.

And may you know the peace that surpasses all
understanding, especially when it is difficult to understand.

And the people said, "**Amen!**"

All Sung:

**We will tear down the walls.
We will tear down every wall.
God has called us one and all;
Christ has broken down the wall,
Christ has broken down the wall.**

Postlude Music

He Giveth More Grace / No One Ever Cared For Me Like
Jesus Arr. Mark Hayes

Blake Hoppes



Worship Theme: c. Worship Design Studio

Worship Design Team: Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb
Topp, Pastor Kris, Damon Gelb

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-July)	\$ 234,804.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.July)	\$ 223,865.00
Change from Last Year	4.9%
Budget FY 2024-25 (July)	\$ 22,350.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July)	\$ 28,680.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	28.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	35
10:30 AM	66
Online Views	241

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, lbs
Total YTD:	\$975, 3,390lbs

Neighbors in Need	
\$722.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

In memory of Walt Disney

Good News Sponsor— for \$20 help us cover the costs of advertising on social media, mailings, and local papers.

Children’s Bulletin Sponsor— for \$8 cover the cost of bulletins for children.

Send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or 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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