



**Word and World:
Music**

Word:

Psalm 95

Luke 2:21-29

World

St Swithin's Day
(15 July)

July 13, 2025

10:30am

Blessing of the Animals

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.

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 are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

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

Lay Reader: Doug Brace

Ushers: Gloria Toner, Julie Johnson, Karen Nuschke, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: George & Val Borman, Dale & Maria Brace

Sound: Dawn Dengler, Mike Baer

Prelude Music

He Leadeth Me William Bradbury
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Section 1: Come let us sing.

Section 2: Make a joyful noise.

Section 3: Offer thanksgiving.

Section 4: Sing songs of praise.

Section 1: Let us bow down.

Section 2: Let us kneel before the Lord.

Section 3: Listen to God's voice.

Section 4: For God is our God.

**All: Worship God: heart, soul, mind,
body, spirit, voice, eyes, ears – all of you, all of us.**

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

Loving God,

you are the creator of all that is, seen and unseen, known and unknown.

Your love knows no boundaries, your grace extends to every corner of the earth,

and your mercy flows freely to all who seek you.

We come before you with thanks, for you are the breath in our lungs,

the light in our darkness, the still, small voice

that calls us toward justice, peace, and love.

You are the God of the broken-hearted and the joyful,

the God of the forgotten and the celebrated,

the God of the outcast and the welcomed.

Your love is expansive, embracing every race, every identity, every ability, and every story.

You do not turn away; you do not withhold your presence.

Instead, you invite us in, just as we are,

wholly known and wholly loved.

But, O God, we confess that we do not always
live in the light of your love.
We have failed to see your image
in those who are different from us.
We have spoken words that wound
and have remained silent when
justice called for our voice.
We have withheld love out of fear,
and we have clung to comfort instead of courage.
Forgive us for the times we have built walls
instead of bridges.
Forgive us for the moments when
we have chosen apathy over action,
when we have allowed selfishness
to guide us instead of your Spirit.
In your mercy, O God, reshape our hearts.
Let us be bearers of your love, messengers of hope,
and instruments of peace in a world longing for justice.
Renew in us the courage to love boldly,
to stand with the oppressed, to speak truth with compassion,
and to live as people transformed by grace.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

SONG

**ALL: I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.**

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**

#588 Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

Passing Joy
The Joy of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

I invite you to share the JOY of Christ with those around you
***Please rise in body or spirit to greet each other and for the first song.**

Hymn: How Can I Keep From Singing?

#476 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul-
How can I keep from singing?**

**What though my joys and comforts die?
My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love commands both heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?**

**I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's-
How can I keep from singing?**

Please be seated.

Children are invited forward to go with our Adult Leaders



During the 10:30am service, children are warmly invited to join Ms. Tiffany and friends on an inspiring adventure to discover the wonderful teachings of God and Jesus.

Adults: You are the “where?” response!

**I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay**

**I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay**

**I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart
I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart to stay**

Resuming September 14: 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. They will return to worship before it's over and if not, please pick up your children in Room 100. If you want your child to stay in worship with you, please let them know.

Returning September 7: Kids are also invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages
9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

Music Offering: Sound of Our Breathing Arr. Jason Gray
Blake Hoppes, piano; Jason Killingger, vocals

Cause the name of God
Is the sound of our breathing
Hallelujahs rise
On the wings of our hearts beating
So breathe in, breathe out
Speak it aloud oh oh, oh oh
The glory surrounds
This is the sound oh oh, oh oh

REFLECTION

Music,
different kinds of music.
jazz, classical, vocal, folk, pop, rap, storytelling.
thought-provoking, memory-triggering.

Music,
different kinds of music.
Expressive, enriching, vigorous.
A sense of community and belonging,
a spark creativity and imagination,
enhancing cultural identities and values

Music,
hymn, organ, choral.

transcendent,
mysterious,
powerful.
Sensation of sacredness,
transportation of heaven, pondering the Divine.
Thank you, God, for the music.

Scripture Reading **Psalms 95**

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my
work.
For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.'
Therefore in my anger I swore,
They shall not enter my rest.

Luke 2: 21-29

After eight days, the time came to circumcise the baby. He was called by the name Jesus, which the angel had given him before he had been conceived in the womb.

When the time came for them to be purified according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him before the Lord. That's what the law of the Lord says:

"Every firstborn male shall be called holy to the Lord." They also came to offer sacrifice, according to what it says in the law of the Lord: "A pair of turtledoves or two young 'pigeons.'"

Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout, waiting for God to comfort Israel, and the holy spirit was upon him. He had been told by the holy spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Led by the spirit, he came into the Temple.

As Jesus' parents brought him in, to do for him what the law's regulations required, he took the baby in his arms and blessed God with these words:

"Now, Master, you are dismissing your servant in peace, just as you said.

These eyes of mine have seen your salvation, which you made ready in the presence of all peoples: a light for revelation to the nations, and glory for your people Israel."

His father and mother were astonished at the things that were said about him. Simeon blessed them.

"Listen," he said to Mary his mother, "this child has been placed here to make many in Israel fall and rise again, and as a sign that will be spoken against (yes, a sword will go through your own soul as well), so that the thoughts of many hearts may be disclosed."

There was also a prophetess called Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having been widowed after a seven-year marriage, and was now eighty-four. She never left the Temple, but worshiped with fasting and prayer night and day. She came up at that moment and gave thanks to God, and spoke about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for the 'redemption of Jerusalem.

So when they had finished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, and was full of wisdom, and God's grace was upon him.

All Sing:

**ALL Sing: I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and 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?**

**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**

Here I Am, Lord Schutte

The Message: Music Pastor Kris

PRAYER

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.**

All Sing:

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

God Will See Us Through Sirchio

Blessing of the Animals

What is a Blessing? In a few minutes, we will have a Blessing of the Animals. But first, let's think about 'blessing.' We don't bring our companion animals to a service like this so much because we think they need a special blessing from God – We bring them because we have been blessed by them and we want to say a thanks to them and to God. We know the blessing of a tail wagging when we return home, the blessing of whiskers twitching and ears turning to our voice. We know the blessing of bird song in the morning and hamster wheels spinning at night. Blessing words for the animals: We know the blessing of a nose nudging our hand for a treat, a mane brushing our face. We know the blessing of company, of trust, of playfulness, and of the responsibility to care and feed and love something that cannot speak words but speaks daily to our hearts. So we come to say thanks today. But we also come today because we know that we have blessing work to do. We come because we want to be a blessing. We want to bring safe harbor to creatures losing their homes to our overdevelopment of the land and resources. We want to protect the fragile ecosystems and gentle beaches that are home to rich bio-diversity. We want to ensure that no more creatures pass to extinction because we made it impossible for them to adapt. So we come today to be a blessing.

Words of Thanksgiving

For all the animals in creation,

We give thanks!

For all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We give thanks!

For these animals we love,

We give thanks!

A Time of Blessing of the Animals

Please bring your pet forward to one of the pastors for a blessing. If you brought a picture or a stuffed animal or would like to come forward to represent your pet, we can provide a blessing for that as well.

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

OFFERING

Be an ambassador for Union UCC and tell your friends and neighbors about our church!

Thank you for your prayers, participation, and financial support which helps us be a church that is relevant, engaged, and growing!

• **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.

Please reach out to 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.



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



Venmo

Music Offering

I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked

Arr. Geoffrey O'Hara

Blake Hoppes, piano

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

ALL Sing: Dream God's dream

Holy Spirit, help us dream...

**Of a world where there is justice, and where everyone is
free**

To build and grow and love

And to simply have enough

The world will change when we dream God's dream

Dream God's Dream Sirchio

Prayer Of Dedication

Gracious God,
we offer ourselves to you
our voices to speak love,
our hands to serve,
our feet to walk in your ways.

May all we give,
our time, talents, and resources
be used for your work
of justice, healing, and hope.

Bless us as we go forth,
that we may shine with Christ's light
and live as reflections
of your love in the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Sending

Sing praises to God,
make a joyful noise, that all may hear.
Listen to God, keep your ears alert,
and your mouth closed.

Learn from God,
in sound and silence, as you experience his grace.
And let God inspire you,
let God touch you,
let God shape you,
in the name of the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Hymn: Sing of Colors

#402 Black Hymnal/New
Century Hymnal

**Sing of colors, sing of colors that
over the hills in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window
Their canticles singing;
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope
we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God
that created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God
who created us all.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Every
creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares,
Who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news!
Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us
God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us
God's love to recall.**

Postlude Music: What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Arr. Joseph M. Scriven, Charles C. Converse.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$3,785.00	8 AM	-
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-May)	\$164,672.00	10:30 AM	72
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-May)	\$ 169,837.00	Online Views	-
Change from Last Year	-3.0%	Sunday School	-
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-May)	\$ 387,990.00	God First	-
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-May)	\$389,400.00	Faith on Tap	-
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.4%	Breathe	-
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, 350lbs
		Total	\$900, 3,145lbs

One Great Hour of Sharing to date: \$979.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In memory of Walt Disney

In honor of our Wedding Anniversary-
Don and Sherry Penrod

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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