

Word and World: Politics

Word:

2 Chronicles 1:1, 7-13
Luke 3:7-18
World
International Moon Day

July 20, 2025 10:30am Baptism

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 on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

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

Lay Reader: Eric Minnich

Ushers: Donna Christman, Gloria Toner, Deb Wenner, Doug Brace,

Marianne Kitzmiller, Brian Horwith, Maryann Puia

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Gene & Christina Thrash

Sound: Mike Baer

Prelude Music

Praise Him! Praise Him!
Tune: Joyful Song, Chest G. Allen
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Where questions and debate shape us;
where critical thinking deepens us;
where faith stretches us;
where the world challenges us:
in that crossing point,
of faith and reality,
we find the God who speaks into our times.
In such a place
we worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

Gracious God. you are the source of all truth. the one who reigns with justice and love. From the beginning of time, you have guided leaders, inspired prophets, and spoken wisdom into the hearts of all. Like Solomon. we stand before you in awe, knowing that all power and understanding come from you. We thank you, O God, for your boundless wisdom that surpasses human knowledge. For your justice, that lifts the lowly and humbles the proud, for your love that embraces all people,

may your Spirit guide us in truth, may your love shape our hearts. Merciful God. we come before you, humbled, knowing that we have often sought our own ways instead of your wisdom. Like so many before us, we have pursued power without responsibility, spoken without listening and acted without love. You have called us to seek justice. but we have turned inward. protecting our own interests rather than uplifting others. Forgive us for the times we have been silent in the face of injustice. Forgive us for seeking control instead of discernment, for chasing wealth instead of wisdom, for valuing appearances over integrity. We confess that too often. we have asked the wrong questions, we have sought our own comfort instead of the well-being of others, we have chosen fear over faith. division over unity. and self-interest over service. God of grace, cleanse our hearts. Renew in us a spirit of wisdom and humility. Teach us to ask the right questions, to lead with love, and to act with courage. May we, like Solomon, seek wisdom not for our own sake but for the flourishing of all people. Have mercy on us, O God, and shape us into the people you have called us to be.

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, [remembering to greet those online with a wave to the camera].

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

*Hymn #351 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (New Century Hymnal, Black)

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.

1. I was there to hear your borning cry,

- 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 til 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.

Please be seated.

Children Are Invited forward to go with Our Adult Leaders
Adults: You are the "where?" response!



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.

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 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 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.

10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Colson Lee Anewalt child of Macy (Snyder) and Troy Anewalt

Whilden Philip Groller child of Gabriela (Vitorino) and Cody Groller

Luna Stout child of Keneley Bautista and Travis Stout Sponsors: Maria Murillo and Hayden Soto

Sly Stout child of Keneley Bautista and Travis Stout Sponsors: Sharon Becks and Phoenix Soto

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

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



Music Offering

Spanish Ballad Traditional Mike Baer, guitar

Reflection

Leader: The leaders behind the curtains, are speaking in forever circles pulling strings again and again, their words appear as nonsense skirting around direct answers, to hide the truth and call it wisdom. Take a peek through the curtains,

to find Solomon, the king of old.

Have the sense to recognize
his need for wisdom not power,
an understanding mind
and the difference between right and wrong,
that is wisdom.

The curtains are open to us,
we can ask God for the same wisdom,
the knowledge of what to do
the difference between right and wrong,
the help in everyday life
and the courage to follow it through,
God is the source of all wisdom.

Scripture Reading 2 Chronicles 1:1, 7-13

Solomon son of David established himself in his kingdom; the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask what I should give you." Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to my father David and have made me succeed him as king. O Lord God, let your word to my father David now be fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of yours?"

God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you and none after

you shall have the like."

So Solomon came from the high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem. And he reigned over Israel.

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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 Political Religion Pastor Kayli

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

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.)



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.



• **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 Venmo racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person. Contact 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Ludwig Van Beethoven **Blake Hoppes**

*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

Leader: Gracious God,
we dedicate this time of worship to you,
the source of all wisdom, justice, and truth.
May the words we speak, the prayers we offer,
and the meditations of our hearts
be pleasing in your sight.
Accept what we offer
and let it be used for
your good and the good
of all your people,
in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Sending

Leader: Be wise, be smart,
be cunning.
Ask and you will receive,
seek and you will find,
knock and the door will be opened unto you.
Speak up,
speak out,
speak well.
For God and God's kingdom,
demand it of you,
today and every day,
now and forevermore. Amen.

*Hymn #493 O Jesus, I Have Promised (New Century Hymnal, black)

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
 Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend;
 I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side
 Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide

- 2) O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still, Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will
 O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control
 O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul
- 3) O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you That where you are in glory your servant will be too And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend

Postlude Music
Isn't He John Wimber, Arr. Mark Hayes
Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme adapted from www.spillthebeans.org.uk

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$6,222.00	8 AM		-
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.May)	\$164,672.00	10:30 AM Online Views		95
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan May)	\$ 169,837.00	Sunday School		
	2.00/	God First		32
Change from Last Year	-3.0%	Faith on To	ар	30
Budget FY 2024-25 <i>(July-</i> <i>May)</i>	\$ 387,990.00	Breathe		10
Actual Fiscal Year-to- Date <i>(July-May)</i>	\$389,400.00	2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.4%	Last Week:	\$, 225lbs	
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		Total	\$900, 3,370lbs	

One Great Hour of Sharing to date: \$915.00

<u>Presentations to the Glory of God</u>

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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