



Word and World: Science

Word:

1 Kings 4:29-34

Luke 17:11-19

Theme:

Crossroads of Culture and Faith

August 17, 2025

10:30am

Healing Service (Pray with a Pastor)

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: Dan Topp

Ushers: : Donna Christman, Gloria Toner, Deb Wenner, Doug Brace,
Marianne Kitzmiller, Brian Horwith, Maryann Puia

Greeters: Jim & Leanna Lane, Ruth Ensley

Sound: Dawn Dengler

Prelude Music

Blest Be the Tie that Binds Us Together

Bob Gillman, Arr. Mark Hayes

Blake Hoppes

PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR

During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with you or to receive a blessing.

Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.

Welcome to Union UCC!

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship:

○ the beauty.
○ the wonder.
○ the poetry.
○ the discovery.
When words fail,
and questions flow,
and faith evolves,
and ideas reshape us.
We respond,
together,
in worship, here.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

God of creation,
today we worship you-
the one who stands head and shoulders
above all living things.
In power and ability you have no equals.

Yet you choose not to remain aloof,
or detached from the world we know,
instead, you are integral to it all.
Today we come before you in humility,
acknowledging the times we have misused
the gifts of our intellect and ability.
When wisdom became arrogance,
and our talents and gifts become tools of oppression.
In those moments of self-grandiose assessment
we stray from paths of righteousness.
In those moments when we assume ourselves
better than others—more talented, more intelligent,
we risk falling away from the humility
you ask us to have.
Forgive us for seeking to hold the power,
rather than feeding the objective to serve others.
Forgive us those times when we have
spotted opportunity and used it for selfish gain,
when our actions have exploited
the circumstances of others-
leaving them worse off as a consequence.
We thank you today for the reminder
of the dignity and worth of each living being.
Grant us the grace to learn from our mistakes,
to seek forgiveness and to make amends
for our bad choices.
In your gracious love we find our acceptance.
No matter how undeserving we might be-
you hold no love or forgiveness back from us.
From this day forward,
let us live and serve as those who strive for justice.
In all our endeavours, let love be our guiding light,
and may we put the welfare of others
very much ahead of all that is selfish by nature. 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.

***Hymm #10** Earth and All Stars

Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

Earth and all stars!

Loud rushing planets!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

O victory, Loud shouting army,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise him with a new song!

Hail, wind and rain!

Loud blowing snow storm!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

**Flowers and trees, Loud rustling dry leaves,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain**

**Trumpet and pipes!
Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp lute and lyre!
Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain**

**Engines and steel!
Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams!
Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain**

**Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain**

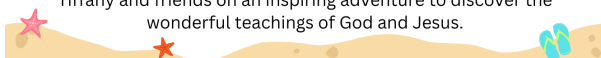
Please be seated.

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


**KIDVENTURE
SUMMER**

May 25th to August 31st

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, 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.

Special Music: My Lighthouse
Rend Collective
Cali Monahan, Blake Hoppes

Reflection

Why does the Twittersphere make it a choice:
one against the other?
Why do the silos in which our algorithms place us
one against the other,
create enemies between us?
Why do science and religion feel like rivals
rather than bedfellows?

Stop!

Pause.

What are we talking about when we think 'science'?
What do we understand when we imagine 'religion'?
Because it is a more nuanced landscape
than the oligarchs want us to realize.

Subtle. Refined.

Plenty of grey areas.

Black and white works for neither science nor religion.

You must live openly.

Be generous with other points of view,
they do not sit in opposition to each other,
but live a rather more measured relationship,
respectfully.

Indeed, those with open minds,
faithful hearts,
and adventurous spirits
relish the debate.

The discussion,
that is not prejudiced
by having to 'pick a side'.

The place to meet,
is the common ground of questions about life,
and enthusiasm for the world,
hope for humanity,
and a sharing of experience.

And that is not a choice,
it is a call that
both science and faith invite us to take.

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 4:29-34

God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, children of Mahol; his fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations. He composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish. People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon; they came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom..

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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: Science

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

Offertory: I Have Found a Resting Place (In the setting of
Christian Sinding's Rustle of Spring)
Glandy Blanchard Muller– Arr. Pamela French Block

***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

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



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Venmo

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,
we offer these gifts today,
in response to your call to love,
and give generously out of the
richness with which we have been blessed.

We live not in isolation
from the challenges faced by your people.

We exist in a church
that has the enthusiasm to serve faithfully,
but which needs resources to be able to do so.

May these offerings reflect your generosity,
and we ask that they may be used
wisely and appropriately
for the work of your mission in the world.

Amen.

Sending

As we go from here
into a world of both
certainty and uncertainty,
hold fast to what you know
and have faith enough to trust
in the love of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Comforter.

PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR

During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to
come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with
you or to receive a blessing.

Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or
forehead.

***Hymn:** In the Midst of New Dimensions
#391 Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)

**In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?**

Refrain:

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever more.**

**Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?**

Refrain

**As we stand a world divided
by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village
might envision wider dreams**

Refrain

**We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.**

Refrain

**Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit,
resurrect the church again.**

Refrain

Postlude: You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Billy James Foote

Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$7,065.00	8 AM	-
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-June)	\$188,550.00	10:30 AM	148
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.- June)	\$ 206,127.00	Online Views	
Change from Last Year	-8.5%	Sunday School	
Budget FY 2024-25 (July- June)	\$ 418,500.00	God First	
Actual Fiscal Year-to- Date (July-June)	\$413,238.00	Faith on Tap	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-1.3%	Breathe	
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last	\$, 25 lbs
		Total	3,230lbs

Neighbors in Need to date: \$480.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In Memory of Mother, Grete Werde
In Honor of special music in the Grove this summer -
Phil and Julie Wehr

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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