



Word and World: Civic Space

Word:

1 Samuel 8:1-21

Luke 20: 20-26

Theme:

Crossroads of Culture and Faith

August 24, 2025

10:30am

Outdoor Worship

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: Devin Kuharik

Ushers: Eric Minnich, Gene Thrash, Jason Klinger, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose, Kim Pentland, Andy Dyszel

Greeters: Tracey & Rob Bilger, Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Sound: Dawn Dengler, Pat Sorg

Prelude Music

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
George Duffield Jr., George J. Webb

Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship:

From market square to political forum,
we bring the debate and the story,
the discussion and the question
to this forum of heaven.

And in worship
meet the God whose word
meets us here
to challenge,
wrestle, support,
and encourage us.
Let us worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

God of the marketplace
and of the sacred sanctuaries,
of roadsides and waysides,
we gather as your people,
diverse in opinion and belief,
yet finding common ground here.

And we celebrate it
and give thanks for it
and rejoice in it
and come alive because of it.

May we find you always
here and beyond here,
behind stained glass,

and on the other side.
Without rituals,
and out with all ritual,
God of all of us,
may we have minds to recognize you,
wherever you may be.
God of word and debate,
of possibility and reality,
of dream and of plan,
of vision and horizon,
in every place and time,
may we find you,
alive between us,
in all the ways we speak,
explore and discuss.
That we might make here,
a creative space.
That is not bound up
or tied down.
But sets you free in our hearts,
to yet be who you are becoming.
As we grow into what we are becoming,
together.
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.**

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 #400 Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation**

(New Century Hymnal, black)

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and
cornerstone

Chosen of our God and precious, binding all the Church in
one

Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone

To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts
today

With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they
pray

Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the way

Here renew your servants' vision, that by faith they may
attain

Peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort
those in pain

Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting
reign.

Please be seated.

Children Are Invited forward to go with Our Adult Leaders
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

September 7th– No Education Hour/Sunday School at 9:15 yet :) At 10:30 worship there will be activity bags available.

Returning September 14th- Kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15 10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

Returning September 21: 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.



Musical Offering: In Christ Alone with The Solid Rock
Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, Arr. Lloyd Larson
Geoff Brace

Reflection

Voice 1: I want.
Voice 2: You can't get.
Voice 1: But it's my game.
Voice 2: I don't want to play.
Voice 1: It's my way or the highway.
Voice 2: I'll take the highway then.
Voice 1: Gimme, gimme, gimme.
Voice 2: No-yes, no-yes, no-yes.
Voice 1: I'm in charge.
Voice 2: I'm not listening.
Voice 1: But I'm the president.
Voice 2: Chief servant of all.
Voice 3: I am the voice of reason.
Reason is a big word,
it means thinking and debating,
working out through listening,
weighing up,
deducing,
the most reasonable way.
Neither one extreme nor the other.
Neither all about you,
or all about someone else,
but common ground.
Voice 1: Common ground.
Voice 2: Mutual understanding.
Voice 1: Area of agreement.
Voice 2: Joint interest.
Voice 1: Point of convergence.
Voice 2: Collective basis.
Voice 3: And that is our hope.

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 8:1-21

When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second was Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba. Yet his sons did not follow in his ways but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased

Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us."

Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots, and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his eunuchs and his courtiers.

He will take your male and female slaves and the best of your cattle and donkeys and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.

And on that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you on that day."

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel. They said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles." When Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice and set a king over them."

Luke 20:20-26

They watched him and sent spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him by what he said, so as to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you are right in what you say and teach, and you show deference to no one but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "The emperor's." He said to them, "Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's." And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said; and being amazed by his answer, they became silent.

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

Jacob Roth, member of Union UCC

Jacob Roth is an eighth-generation member of Union UCC. He is a member of the Worship Committee and has primarily been involved in church life through Union's music ministry, filling in for Blake on piano and organ and singing with the adult choir. He is also a frequent substitute organist at several other area churches of varying denominations. A proud Parkland High School and Penn State University graduate, Jacob is currently a third-year law student at Villanova University. He is also passionate about civic engagement, having served on the South Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners since December 2022.

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

When we worship outside in the grove the offering is collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave worship.

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-751X/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

Mansion Over The Hilltop Ira F. Stanphill

Blake Hoppes

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

***Offering Response**

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

May we fall in together again,

sharing our points of view,

and our diversity of opinion.

May we create strong community,

with our shared values,

bound together through the variety of experience.

May we grow the kin-dom,

by celebrating our differences, and listening to them all.

May we be your people

tartan and colorful,

weaving together our different strands of ideas.

May we be here as we are,

and know we are an open space for all.

May we offer love, in all its hues,

to all your people.

Amen.

Sending

May we proclaim
wise words of the true God,
may we speak up for peace,
and express love in our actions.
May we be people of compassion,
champions of justice,
kings of unity
and people of grace.
May we go from here
as followers of Christ,
and servants of the one true God,
filled with the Holy Spirit.

Hymn #386 The Church's One Foundation

(New Century Hymnal, black)

The church's one foundation is Jesu Christ our Lord
We are Christ's new creation by water and the word
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us
free
With precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth
One charter of salvation, one God, on faith, on birth
One name together blessing, one holy food we share
To one hope we are pressing at one in work and prayer

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war
We wait the consummation of peace forever more
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest

Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy! God give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally

Postlude: In The Presence of Jehovah

Becky and Geron Davis

Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$10,249.00	8 AM	-
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-July)	\$ 215,876.00	10:30 AM	94
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-July)	\$ 234,804.00	Online Views	-
Change from Last Year	-8.1%	Sunday School	-
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July)	\$ 29,710.00	God First	-
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July)	\$27,326.00	Faith on Tap	-
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-8.0%	Breathe	-
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, 25 lbs
		Total YTD:	3,230lbs

Neighbors in Need: \$605.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

Thanks for a great summer in The Grove! - Patrick

Thank God for this great Church Family. - Pastor Kris

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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