



## **Word and World:**

### **Literature**

#### **Word:**

2 Samuel 12:1-9

Luke 9:1-6

**August 3, 2025**

**10:30am**

### **Holy Communion**

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://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: Vicki Mayk

Ushers: Don Penrod, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, John Fabian,  
Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler

Greeters: Doug and Angie Kuntz, Jennifer Haley

Sound: Doug Albert

## **Holy Communion**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

Here, you will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

**AT HOME: Please find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you so that you can share in Communion.**

### **Prelude Music**

Thy Word

Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith, Arr. Mark Hayes

**Blake Hoppes**

### **Welcome to Union UCC!**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

'In the beginning'

is just the start

of the ancient story

still being told.

Not just in the printed word,

but in the living word.

And we are part of that story  
still.

So let us gather  
and worship the one,  
who writes our story  
anew each day.

## **Prayer of Adoration And Confession**

Everlasting God,  
you who sent Nathan and called the 12,  
you have called us here today to hear your Word,  
to worship and praise you.

We give thanks for the myriads of stories  
told throughout time that have enriched our lives.

For writers and storytellers  
that craft messages of truth and love,  
that transport us to different locations and times,  
that make us laugh and cry.

For letters and history, for law and parable.

There are stories that challenge us  
and stretch us,  
and precious ones that focus our attention on the holy.

We give you thanks for the story of creation,  
for the reassurance of order out of chaos  
and for the patience

to look forward to your glorious kingdom.

We are sorry we do not proclaim  
the message of the Good News,  
and that we, despise the word of the Lord  
take matters into our own hands  
without considering the way of your word.

Forgive us our lack of enthusiasm  
in proclaiming  
and living out your word.

Give us courage and fire.

Open our eyes to opportunities  
to joyfully share what your presence  
means in our lives. Help us to tell your stories.

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** #619 I Love to Tell the Story  
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,

to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story;  
more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden fancies  
of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story,  
it did so much for me;  
and that is just the reason  
I tell it now to thee.

(Refrain)

I love to tell the story;  
'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy Word.

(Refrain)

I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

(Refrain)

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**

**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.**

### **Reflection**

O let us not despise the word of God, like David.  
Let us hold fast to the word.  
Listen...the disciples were told to  
take nothing for their journey.  
We find that instruction difficult,  
arriving unprepared,  
relying on others, being a burden.  
But we have what we need  
God's word,  
God's presence through the Spirit,  
Christ interceding for us.  
We are sent out to  
proclaim the kingdom of God.  
Let's raise our voices.  
We are sent out to heal the sick:  
bodies, relationships,  
communities, creation.  
Let us repair and restore.  
Bring the good news  
and cure diseases everywhere,  
relying on the power and the authority of Jesus.  
Hold fast to the Lord.

### **Scripture Reading**

#### **2 Samuel 12:1-9**

Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to you in all that you have said to me, and have set a king over you. See, it is the king who leads you now; I am old and gray, but my sons

are with you. I have led you from my youth until this day. Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you." They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from the hand of anyone." He said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they said, "He is witness." Samuel said to the people, "The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of the land of Egypt. Now therefore take your stand, so that I may enter into judgment with you before the Lord, and I will declare to you all the saving deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your ancestors. When Jacob went into Egypt and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your ancestors cried to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought forth your ancestors out of Egypt, and settled them in this place. But they forgot the Lord their God; and he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of King Jabin of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them. Then they cried to the Lord, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord, and have served the Baals and the Astartes; but now rescue us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve you.' And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak, and Jephthah, and Samson, and rescued you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you lived in safety. But when you saw that King Nahash of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' though the Lord your God was your king.



## **Luke 9:1-6**

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

### **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: Literature**

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**

# 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



Vanco Mo-



Venmo

**Offertory:** To Know Your Heart - Medley with: Would I Know  
You, Sweet, Sweet Spirit; In His Presence

Arr. Bruce Greer

**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 Slrchio

**Prayer Of Dedication**

Creative God,

we heard a story today

about a rich and a poor man;

of power and authority

that takes and takes.

We give thanks for stories that teach  
us ways to be, think, and do.

Let us hold generosity in our hearts  
and make us aware of and respect  
the plight of others, in our giving.

We come to dedicate these offerings  
to your novel work in the world.

May these gifts and these givers  
be used to glorify you.

Amen.

**Please be seated.**

### **Holy Communion**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you. Here, you will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a pre-packaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

### **Invitation**

In a world that is hungry, where can real food be found? For those who starve for love, where can unconditional and everlasting love be found? For those who yearn for hope, where can hope be found? For those who crave acceptance and tolerance, where can true acceptance and tolerance be found? Seek the food that God has provided. Eat the bread of life, which has come down from heaven. Drink the cup of salvation, the promise of God's love. Eat, drink, and be satisfied.

### **Sung Response:**

**This is the joyful feast of the people of God.**

**Men and women, youth and children,**

**Come from the east and the west,**

**from the north and the south,**

**and gather about Christ's Table.**

**BLACK HYMNAL #786 (This Is the Joyful Feast)**

## COMMUNION PRAYER

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

With the faithful in all time and of every nation,  
we glorify God's holy name and sing:

**Sung Response:**

**Holy, holy, holy,**

**God of the heavenly host;**

**Heaven and earth are full, are full**

**of the majesty of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God,**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

BLACK HYMNAL #795 (Seraphic Hymn)

At this table we are shaped and formed by the mystery that makes us one; invited to taste bread that nourishes our souls because it reminds us no matter how broken and divided we may be, love can make us whole; welcomed to receive drink that quenches our thirst for life made new because it connects us with one whose quest to honor the last and the least was so great it led to his death. Here we become what we were made to be, one family blessed and bonded, fed and nurtured to be a blessing to the world. Amen.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the  
bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and  
said:

"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless  
this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and  
drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened  
and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst,  
in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.  
Amen.

## **BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE**

- L: The bread which we break is the communion of  
the body of Christ.
- L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the com-  
munion of the blood of Christ.
- L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come,  
for all things are ready.

## **Sharing the Meal**

## **The Bread**

**HYMN:** Let Us Break Bread Together  
#564 Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees;  
when I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees;  
when I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees;  
when I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

## **THE CUP**

**HYMN:** What A Friend We Have in Jesus  
# 466 Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!**



Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

## COLLECTING OF CUPS

**Music Offering:** I Am Not Alone

Kary Jobe, Marty Sampson, Mia Fieldes, Ben Davis,  
Grant Pittman, Dustin Sauder & Austin Davis

**Lucy Boyer, Blake Hoppes**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

"And the Table Will Be Wide"

© Jan Richardson. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

**And we will come as children who trust there is enough.  
And we will come unhindered and free.  
And our aching will be met with bread.  
And our sorrow will be met with wine.**

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.  
And we will turn toward each other without fear.  
And we will give up our appetite for despair.  
And we will taste and know of delight.

**And we will become bread for a hungry world.  
And we will become drink for those who thirst.  
And the blessed will become the blessing.  
And everywhere will be the feast.**

### **Sending**

May we fix our eyes on God  
and focus on God's mercy and forgiveness.  
May we let Christ direct our steps  
with renewed hope and peace.  
May we be filled with the Spirit  
to go out in and tell and live the story.

## **Hymm: The Summons**

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me..**

**Postlude Music:** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
John Zundel, Arr. Joel Raney  
**Blake Hoppes**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$4,669.00	8 AM	-
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-May)	\$164,672.00	10:30 AM	76
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:	\$, 85 lbs
		Total YTD:	\$900, 3,230lbs

Neighbors in Need to date: \$75.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**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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