



October 19th, 2025

8:00 am & 10:30am

Creativity

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 Readers: 8 am– Rosalie Snyder; 10:30 am– Eric Minnich

Ushers: 8 am– Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross, Debbie Romig

10:30 am– Donna Christman, Gloria Toner, Deb Wenner, Doug Brace, Marianne Kitzmiller, Brian Horwith, Maryann Puia

Greeters: Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner

Sound: Dawn Dengler

A Changemaker is a risk-taker, someone who puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Jesus was a Changemaker. The Good News is... so are we. Made in the image of God, sharing in the purposes of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we are the "assets" we've been looking for. Our wealth lies in the Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Empowerment that sustains us through change, for change, for the sake of a better world. Join us as we hatch new ideas and fly to new heights, risking something big for something good.

Prelude Music

Holy, Holy, Holy Tune: Nicaea John B. Dykes

Blake Hoppes, piano

Welcome to Union UCC!

Welcome & Announcements

The Call to Fly

Sometimes, it seems like every big problem left in the world is intractable, stubbornly hard to take care of. If it could be solved easily, it would have been done already. Like those disciples, we are inclined to look at the problems in front of us and say, "I don't know how to fix this. It's impossible." But we are children of a creative God. The very first act in this God's story is the creation of an earth that includes palm trees and sea anemones, giraffes and armadillos—all from nothing. How is that God is likely to work in the world today?

SONG

**ALL: In my dreams I can fly
and I soar
and my feet touch the sky
and it seems I can go anywhere if I try
and the world's not so dark
when the clouds make it white
If there's no hope
tell me why
in my dreams I can fly**

We have the capacity to be creative because God is creative. Look at creation, at diversity. We are made in God's image. We have everything we need to make change; we have enough. We just need to stretch our imaginations, break out of constrained thinking.

**ALL: In our dreams we can fly
and we soar
and our feet touch the sky
and it seems we can go anywhere if we try
and the world's not so dark
when the clouds make it white
If there's no hope
tell us why
in our dreams we can fly**

Fly Bobby Jo Valentine

Call to Confession

We are called to show up and cooperate with what God is doing, but that is often more difficult than it should be. Let us confess the times that we have failed to be a part of what God is already doing.

Holy One, you are always at work in the world,
and you call us to be a part of what you are doing.
But all too often, we don't see the creative opportunities that you
have for us.
We think too narrowly about what we can give, what we can do.
We struggle to trust that you are at work within us as well.

All: Forgive us.

Forgive us for when we fail to see others.
Forgive us for when we failed to trust.
Forgive us for when we failed to risk vulnerability.
Forgive us, and change us again.
Remake us as the people who cooperate with your Spirit.
**Remake us as the Body of Christ,
that we would work for the healing of the world. Amen.**

Assurance and Peace

Hear this assurance of Good News: the scriptures say that God is making "all things new." Transformation is the nature of the Divine One. We are imbued with the ability to be made new, and to make new things. All we need is to lean into this calling and to release our imaginations for the sake of love. In this moment we let go of all we have not done and recognize that each moment can be the start of something new. We have everything we need.

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

As forgiven and freed people through Christ,
let us pass the peace of Christ with one another.

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

***Hymn #556** God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens,
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space,
we, your children, in your likeness,
share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.**

**We have conquered worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through uncharted realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose,
serving others, honoring you.**

**May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.**

Please be seated.

Sundays at 10:30am: Worship Children's Church 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. Nikki 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.

10:30 Worship Children's Time

ALL SING (Words are on the video too!)

**We can be a changemaker,
change the world.**

Make a better place for everyone!

Changemaker!

**Just one small change
can make a difference every day
make a difference every day!**

Be A Changemaker

Al Start

Also on Sundays 9:15-10:15 am, ages 3 to grade 7. Kids are invited to the Education Hour with Ms. Nikki and Leaders.

Watch for God First Wednesdays and other events too!

Music Offering (8 am): The Power of Your Love

Words & Music by Geoff Bullock, Choral Setting by Jane Holstein

Heritage Choir

Prayer of Illumination

Holy One, help us to hear what you are doing in the Gospel.

**Help us to hear the ways that we can
show up and cooperate with your Spirit.**

**May this story show us the way
to become a compassion-driven changemaker, like Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

A Story about Creativity

Luke 7:36-50 (CEB)

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner.

Jesus replied, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Teacher, speak," he said.

"A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day's work. The other owed enough money for fifty. When they couldn't pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled."

Jesus said, "You have judged correctly."

Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn't give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other table guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this person that even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Video: Wild, Wild, Heart

Bobby Jo Valentine

Our song by Bobby Jo Valentine this week underscores our focus on creativity. He sings about how sometimes "the nest becomes the cage" when we put too much emphasis on "staying safe" rather than celebrating that we each have a "wild, wild, heart" that needs the adventure of letting go into the possibilities that are right outside our door. We are called to imagine a world in which all feel free and can climb to the heights of flourishing.

Lectio Divina

Mark 6:30-44 (NRSVUE)

Let us enter our practice in this series of the ancient Christian tradition called "lectio divina" of repeating a reading in order to understand more fully. The story of the multiplication of loaves and fishes is one that is teaching us many things about our relationship to Jesus and his call to creatively solve the problems we face. Hear this version now:

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."

Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Sermon Pastor Kris

Looking to learn, study, or pray more?

**Journals for this series can be found on the table in the Lobby.
Here's a book our Friday and Sunday classes are doing.
Copies are in the lobby.**

Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church Right Where You Are
Tim Soerens

Is the church really necessary anymore? Is it even possible? The author sees this unsettled time in the church as an extraordinary opportunity to the church in our everyday lives.

Prayers of the People

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.**

Song

Let Us Be Makers (verse 1)
[Sung to the tune of Blessed Assurance]

**ALL: Let us be makers, makers of change,
born of our passions, with limitless range.
We pray for guidance, we seek your grace;
be with us now, God, in this holy place.**

Celebrating and Blessing Our Members And Disciples of 1-19 Years

Video: Brynn & Jon Buskirk

Ritual of Offering: The Nest

Rev. Kathi McShane, the theologian-in-residence of The Changemaker Initiative, says this:

“Change happens in small ways. It takes indirect paths. It happens locally, among small groups of people who care about a problem, sometimes just one or two people working together. It doesn’t face a big problem head-on; it pokes tiny holes at it from the edge, where the resistance is softer, where something small can change without taking on the whole, thorny problem.”

In this third week of focusing on being Changemakers in the tradition of Jesus, we call upon our creativity with ease, not with anxiety. We don't have to come up with a grand scheme to obliterate injustice, no matter how much we wish we could. We are thinking of things that could make a small, ordinary, but important difference in our community, in people's lives. Again, these ideas are gestating as they wait to hatch someday. As we continue playing with this metaphor of tending the nest, what is continuing to develop in your imagination? What is one next, small step you can take—an experiment in changemaking that you can try and learn from?

Write an idea on the nesting strip of paper in your bulletin. Place your paper in the offering plate.

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

8 & 10:30 Music Offering: Your Grace Is Enough
Julie Wehr, Blake Hoppes

Matt Maher

*** Offering Response**

Let Us Be Makers (verse 2)

[Sung to the tune of Blessed Assurance]

**Let us be makers, makers of change,
compassion and courage for each new exchange.
As we discern, God, our offerings now,
gift us and bless us, show us just how.**

Changemaker Blessing

Blessed are the changemakers.
Blessed are you who are not asleep
to the world's pain and suffering.
Blessed are you who lament for the way things are.
Blessed are you who know, to the depth of your bones,
that this is not how things are meant to be.
Blessed are you for not believing the lie that
this is how they will always remain.
Blessed are you who know that things can change,
who long for things to change.
Blessed are you whose life's ambition is to bring the change
that is justice and mercy for all.
Blessed are you who know that God has always employed
the faithful acts
of ordinary people to heal and change this world.
Blessed are you who know that change begins today,
change begins with us,
and that we are blessed to be the changemakers.
Let the people say... **Amen!**

Dismissal

Now go into the world,
risking something big for something good.
Know that community is a vital resource for survival,
and that by working together, we can do great things.
And know that your passion will emerge from the nest
when the time is right... and fly!

***HYMN** Here I Am, Lord Dan Schutte

**I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save**

**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**

**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**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away**

**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**

**I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words 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

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life 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

Postlude Music: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
John Hughes (Tune: CWM Rhondda) Arr. Larry Shackley
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$5,099.00
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-September)</i>	\$ 274,871.00
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-September)</i>	\$ 288,842.00
Change from Last Year	-4.8%
Budget FY 2025-2026 (<i>July-September</i>)	\$ 86,050.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July-September</i>)	\$88,094.31
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	2.4%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	34
10:30 AM	78
Online Views	-
Sunday School	10
God First	20
Faith on Tap	28
Breathe	6

2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	330 lbs \$80
YTD	3,875 Lbs \$1,335.00

Neighbors in Need: \$630.00

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 Sarah to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.