



October 26th, 2025
8 am Baptism
8 and 10:30 am New Members

Empowerment

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.***

Lay Readers: 8 am– Carol Pope 10:30 am- Brynn Buskirk
Ushers: 8 am– Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl
10:30 am– Eric Minnich, Gene Thrash, Jason Klinger, Marlene Blose,
Dale Blose, Kim Pentland, Andy Dyszel
Greeters: Dale & Maria Brace, Mark & Debbie Daluisio
Sound: Karl Klinger

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

Invocation - Bill George & Dino Kartsonakis

Sweet Hour of Prayer - William B. Bradbury

Blake Hoppes, piano

Welcome to Union UCC!

Welcome & Announcements

The Call to Fly

What if every time you serve someone—the person standing in line waiting for food, or your child, or your parent, your student, your patient, your client, your customer—you remember that the most important use of your power—your influence—is to lift up the full and powerful humanity of the person in front of you?

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**

Like Jesus, changemakers use power differently. Jesus was a leader, but he led in a different way—he shared and gave away

power rather than amassing it. Changemaking is about a deeper restoring, healing, uplifting, liberating, and unburdening of others.

**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

God has given us all we need to build a movement, but it is slow and difficult work. Let us confess together the times that we have waned and faltered in our work of making change.

Holy One, you have shown us how to empower other people through the life of Jesus Christ, and yet, we insist on doing this changemaking work alone.

We say that's because no one else came to do the work,
but did we bother to invite them? No, we didn't.
Maybe we were too afraid to ask. Maybe we were afraid they
would say, 'No.'

We don't like the feeling of rejection.

Or maybe we wanted things done our way,
and we didn't want someone else to mess it up.

We do like the feeling of control.

But in all of this, we forget that the work of changemaking is not
about us.

It is God's work. It is important work that must continue beyond us,
and after us.

All: Forgive us.

Forgive us for making your work small.
Forgive us for our weakness and timidity.
Send us your spirit again, and free us from our fear
and complacency. Embolden us.

**Make us unafraid of change,
and undeterred in our work of changemaking. Amen.**

Assurance and Peace

Hear this assurance of Good News: the scriptures remind us that the "Spirit is poured out on all people." We can trust that when we work together, we will see and recognize this Spirit in others. This is the best part about being a Changemaker—the power of the community can rise up to heights we never imagined on our own. We have more than 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 #539 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant**
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through. 4
Please be seated.**

8:00 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ruth Everett Johnson, child of Sara (Pruneski) and Ross Johnson
Sponsors: Lynne Pruneski and Lauren Pruneski (Godparent)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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



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.

Music Offering: Tell The World Words and Music by
Jonathon Douglass, Joel Houston and Marty Sampson

Kids Choir

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!

Welcoming New Members

The Mission Statement of Union UCC

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 a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

Welcome and Reception (ALL in unison)

ALL: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

New members being welcomed today:

Carly Kocher

Judith Kern

Lynn Serfass

Sue Matta

Melissa Kohler

WECLOME HOME! ~ John Roedel

Left Side:

You are somebody's front porch to God.

You are someone's doorway to mercy.

You are the world's threshold to kindness.

You are my entrance to letting go of regret.

Right Side:

No pressure, but...

Your life is a gateway to peace

for both strangers and friends alike.

Whether you realize it or not...

ALL:

Empathy has chosen you to turn your heart into a welcome mat for others.

This is the purpose of your life...

To let your existence become a candlelit veranda of hope for the rest of us to gather on to hold each other during the long dark night.

Leader:

We are somebody's front porch to God.

Welcome home to God, welcome home to Union.

Prayer of Illumination

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

Help us to hear the ways that you are empowering us, and in this story, help us to learn how to empower others.

In every way, make us more like Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

A Story about Empowerment

Mark 10: 46-52 (CEB) The Healing of Bartimaeus

Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!" Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, show me mercy!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward."

They called the blind man, "Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you."

Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."

Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

We have been blessed by the poetic music of Bobby Jo Valentine throughout our series. This week, his song "Trading In" is an inspirational invitation to trade in the things that hold us back from the empowerment we already have to make a difference in our lives, our communities, our world. We trade in loneliness, hiding, and control-seeking to accept the wholeness that is meant for us so that we can be The Changemakers.

Lectio Divina

Mark 6:30-44 (The Voice)

We have heard the next reading each week of this series in an ancient Christian tradition called "lectio divina" of repeating readings in order to understand more fully. Hear now another interpretation of the story:

Now the twelve returned from their travels and told Him what they had done, *whom they had seen*, and how they had spread the news of God's kingdom.

Jesus (*to the disciples*): Let us go out into the wilderness for a while and rest ourselves.

The crowds gathered as always, and Jesus and the twelve couldn't eat because so many people came and went. They could get no peace until they boarded a boat and sailed toward a deserted place.

But the people would not be put off so easily. Those along the shore who recognized Jesus followed along the coast. People pushed out of all the cities and gathered ahead of Him so that when Jesus came ashore and saw this crowd of people waiting for Him in a place that should have been relatively deserted, He was moved with compassion. They were like sheep without a shepherd.

He began to teach them many things as the day passed; at last the disciples came to Jesus.

Disciples: It is getting late, and there is nothing around for miles. Send these people to the surrounding villages so they can buy something to eat.

Jesus: Why don't you give them something to eat?

Disciples (*looking at Him*): What? It would cost a fortune to buy bread for these people!

Jesus: Does anyone have any bread? Go and see.

Disciples (*returning from the crowd*): There are five pieces of flatbread and two fish, if that makes any difference.

Jesus: Listen, tell them to gather in smaller groups and sit on that green patch of grass.

And so the disciples gathered the people in groups of 100 or of 50, and they sat down.

Jesus took the five pieces of flatbread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, thanked God for the food, and broke it. He gave the pieces to the disciples to distribute, and all of the people ate until no one was hungry. Then they gathered twelve baskets full of leftovers.

That day, 5,000 people ate their fill of the bread when Jesus fed the hungry crowd.

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: Rosalie & Kerry Snyder

Ritual of Offering: The Nest

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

"God's purpose is to make all things right. It is also true that we are the instruments in God's hands for doing that. What if every time something evil happened, its consequence was to raise up a great wave of goodness in response? What if every act of violence and evil evoked in us a counter-action that restores the balance of good in the world?"

In this, our last week of this series, you are invited to write something that has been sparked within you. What are you called to do as a Changemaker? It could be something very, very local... something within your household. It could be something that is done in community, for community. It could be that an idea shared in this four-week series sparked your interest and you've felt a desire to follow that idea in a way that could bring it to life here. Whatever it is, your impetus to fly changes all of us. It is part of the way the Spirit is lifting us on wings of goodness. We are each empowered to be part of this movement... each in our own way.

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



Thank you for all the ways that you help us make God's dream a reality at Union UCC.

ELECTRONIC GIVING <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or QR code. Single or ongoing donation with credit/debit card. Help 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 Sunday's offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks).



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



Venmo

Please reach out to Don Penrod or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.

Ambassadors (everyone!): Share our news, events, and spirit on social media and with your friends, family, and neighbors.

That's what keeps us relevant, engaged, and growing!

Watch for Union UCC merchandise soon!



8:00 Music Offering: My Lord is Like a Shepherd
Lani Smith, Arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.
Heritage Choir

10:30 Music Offering: Come Thou Almighty King
Felice de Giardini
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** 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 God has empowered YOU
to respond to evil with goodness, wherever and whenever you
may go in this world.
And know that your passion will emerge from the nest
when the time is right... and fly!

***Hymm #541** They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor"
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**They asked, "Who's my neighbor and whom should I love;
for whom should I do a good deed?"**

Then Jesus related a story and said,

**"It's anyone who has a need,
yes, anyone who has a need."**

**There once was a traveler set on by thieves
who beat him and left him to die;
a Priest and a Levite each saw him in pain,
but they turned away and walked by,
yes, they turned away and walked by.**

**A certain Samaritan then came along
to bind up his wounds and give aid;
he took him to stay at an inn until well,
and for all the service he paid,
yes, for all the service he paid.**

**I know who's my neighbor and whom I should love,
for whom I should do a good deed;
for Christ made it clear in the story he told:
it's anyone who has a need,
yes, anyone who has a need.**

Postlude Music: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Tune: Nettleton
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 (July-September)	\$ 86,050.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-September)	\$88,094.31
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	2.4%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	44
10:30 AM	112
Online Views	-
Sunday School	10
God First	20
Faith on Tap	28
Breathe	6

2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	200 lbs \$80
YTD	4,075 Lbs \$1,335.00

Neighbors in Need: \$630.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In Memory of Velma Wehr
from Phil and Julie**

**In Memory of Walt Disney
Don Steffy**

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.