



Theme: Compassion

Word:

Luke 10:25-37

Mark 6:30-44

**October 5, 2025
8:00 am & 10:30am
Holy Communion**

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– Michael Roth; 10:30 am– Donna Christman

Ushers: 8 am– Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern

10:30 am- Don Penrod, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog-Wassum, John Fabian, Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler

Greeters: George & Val Borman, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace

Sound: Mike Baer

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

Sweet Hour of Prayer William B. Bradbury
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC!
Welcome & Announcements

The Call to Fly

Over the next four weeks, we will be exploring Jesus' identity, and our own, as "changemakers." We are inspired by The Changemaker Initiative, whose work is helping churches see that the work God is about these days is less about perfecting the church and more about changing the communities we live in. The problems in the world can be so overwhelming that we stop believing we can make a difference. But we can, if we change our own perception of what that looks like. We will discover that each one of us is called and equipped to make change. And this, my friends, is our true asset in the world. We, the people of the Body of Christ, have so much to give. We will reimagine together.

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

This first week, we will affirm the starting point: changemaking starts with compassion. Jesus tells his disciples, "Take a look." As people of faith who want to make a difference, we must start with compassion: with connection, with seeing and "suffering with." The source of this deep compassion, and the source of strength to be a part of the change, is God's love.

**ALL: In our dreams we can fly
and we soar
and our feet touch the sky
and it seems I 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

The world is changing. We see it everywhere. We feel it in our bones.

It seems to happen so much faster now than it used to.

The world is changing.

And also, the world needs to change. Children are hungry.

Systems are unjust.

People are afraid. There are people on the streets who won't make it a day longer.

The world needs to change.

It is God's desire that the world would change and become more like a holy commonwealth of just peace in which all have what they need.

And we are the changemakers.

We are called to work alongside the Holy Spirit.

We are called to follow the way of Jesus.

May we be changed by this time of worship!

Call to Confession

We are called and equipped with everything to make change in this world, but sometimes we cannot get out of our way. Let us confess these shortcomings to one another, that we might be made new in a spirit of grace and forgiveness.

Holy One, you are the beginning of all things. You are older than time itself.

But we're the ones who have a problem with change.

We like things to stay the way they are.

Or even better, we'd like things to go back to the way they were before.

And so we get in the way when you are trying to do a new thing.

We find change to be scary,

and so when things need to change, we often don't show up.

All: Forgive us.

Forgive us for when we ignored the people who need change the most.

Forgive us for when we resist your holy transformation.

Forgive us for when we, ourselves, refuse to change.

Change us again.

Remake us now to be more like your son Jesus.

**Open our hearts to all that you would
have us change in this world. Amen.**

Assurance and Peace

Hear this assurance of Good News: the scriptures use this phrase many times: "And Jesus had compassion on them..." This is not just a story from long ago. It is true today. Jesus has compassion for us, for all that holds us back, for all that frightens us, for all that we have failed to do. This is the beginning of being a Changemaker—to know and believe in the compassion of Jesus, to accept this forgiveness, and to move toward greater compassion and forgiveness of others in our own lives. 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 #6 Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good**
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**Sing praise to God, our highest good, profound respect expressing
God gives us health, life, livelihood, with every needed blessing
To God, who wondrous works performs, creating life and calming
storms,
To God give praise and glory!**

**Creation thanks you, Holy One: you made us and renew us
Delighted at what you have done, you show your greatness
through us
So may all living things proclaim the wonders of their Maker's
name:
To God give praise and glory!**

**What God has made, God will preserve, with righteousness
unfailing
Regardless what we may deserve, we see this good prevailing
To God who governs evermore with justice serving rich and poor,
To God give praise and glory!**

**I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please, God of mercy, hear me!"
My certain help provides relief, faith, hope, and love to cheer me
So let me sing, joyful and free: ah, thankful Christians, sing with me:
To God give praise and glory!**

Please be seated.

10:30 Music Offering: Your Way's Better
Forrest Frank & Petar Krstajic
Kids' Choir

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

**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

At 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!

Prayer of Illumination

**All: Holy One, by the power of the Spirit,
open our ears anew to your Word today.
Free us of our cynicism and our certainty
so that we may embrace fresh possibilities and grow in our
faith.**

**May these stories show us the way
to become compassion-driven changemakers, like Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

A Story about Compassion

Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"

He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way.

Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was.

But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day,

he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him."

Each week we will experience a song by Bobby Jo Valentine, a singer/songwriter who has collaborated with many churches to offer concerts and retreats. He was in residence at the church that originated The Changemaker Initiative, a program of identifying our passion for making our small corner of the world better that is the inspiration for this series. In this video, Bobby Jo sings about how we so often stand at the edge of decisions we face and wonder if we can make the jump into new possibilities. Being a changemaker requires that we take risks to bring more compassionate care into the world. This song reminds us that we can be brave!

Video: Edge of the World Bobby Jo Valentine

Lectio Divina

Mark 6:30-44 (CEB)

Each week, we will read the scripture of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. It may seem strange to hear the same scripture four weeks in a row. But we will have the opportunity to consider what portion of it speaks to us most clearly each week. This is an ancient Christian tradition called "lectio divina" of repeating

readings in order to understand more fully. The “versions” of this story will change week-to-week.

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

Late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, “This is an isolated place, and it’s already late in the day. Send them away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something to eat for themselves.”

He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

But they said to him, “Should we go off and buy bread worth almost eight months’ pay and give it to them to eat?”

He said to them, “How much bread do you have? Take a look.” After checking, they said, “Five loaves of bread and two fish.”

He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass. They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. Everyone ate until they were full. They filled twelve baskets with the left-over pieces of bread and fish. About five thousand had eaten.

Sermon: Compassion

Pastor Kayli

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.

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

Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape; who are not afraid to grow in spirit.

**Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community;
who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as
much to minister as to be ministered to.**

Blessed are those who understand that the church is often imperfect, yet rather than harbor feelings of anger or disappointment, bring their concerns and needs to the church family.

Blessed are those who support the church and its work through their giving, and who give of themselves as well as their material goods.

Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do so gladly.

Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is the transformation of individual and society; who have a vision of the Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change. They are blessed indeed.

WELCOME 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.**

**We are somebody's front porch to God.
Welcome home to God, welcome home to Union UCC.**

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

Ritual of Offering: The Nest

Leader: Rev. Kathi McShane, the pastor of the congregation that founded The Changemaker Initiative, says this:

“Changemaking always begins when the heart of someone who is a changemaker is moved. Some wrongness that might have stayed just out there—broken, unfair, not-right-but-not-my-problem—gets inside of you. You feel the way that brokenness is hurting other people. And you know you have to get involved in its repair. You just have to.”

This is the work of God's people, to be changemakers like Jesus: to be courageous enough to make change for the sake of love. Not only here, when we're all together, but wherever you go—to work, or school, in the other places you volunteer and are a neighbor to others. Over the course of the next four weeks, we will be asking ourselves what we “just have to” do. It won't be the same for everyone, and that's the point. This is an opportunity to feel the connection to the hurt in the world that speaks most powerfully to us. This first week, we simply open ourselves to see. We notice what we think about often. What about the world breaks our hearts?

Our altar area includes bird nests. We often think that giving our support means adding to the “nest egg”—and this can be true. But perhaps the nest egg is not the end of the story. What if the support we give financially is really about what will get cracked open and born within our community, and what will eventually fly because the Spirit wind is beneath our wings?

So this morning during offering time, we are going to write on pieces of paper that we will tuck into our nest eggs. On one side, write a word or phrase that represents a gift you receive in *this* nest, our church. And on the other, a word or phrase that represents something you see in the world that is calling us to compassion. What need in our community or our world is speaking most clearly to you in this moment? Writing it doesn't mean you have to stick to that. But naming something—one thing—is an important step toward claiming who you are as a Changemaker.

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

This week's video features member Jacob Roth

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. 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.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere, to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image,
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we delight in your name and join their unending hymn:

**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)

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he 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.”

And so,
in remembrance of your wonder-filled acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves for changemaking as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, seal our connection with Christ,
our connection with each other,
and our connection to all the world through our ministry
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

The bread which we break is the communion of the
body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion
of the blood of Christ.

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 #466 What A Friend We Have in Jesus

**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!**

**Have we trials and temptations?
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

8:00 am: Come Share God's Gift

Nancy Price & Don Besig

10:30: It is Well with My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford and Philip P. Bliss

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 compassion is fueled by God's love
that is never absent or in short supply.

And know that your passion will emerge from the nest
when the time is right... and fly!

***HYMN #23** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

Theres a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt
Than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings
Have such kindly judgement given

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives would show thanksgiving
For the goodness of our God

Postlude Music: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
Tune: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$5,488.00	8 AM	31
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-August)	\$ 215,876.00	10:30 AM	101
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-August)	\$ 234,804.00	Online Views	-
Change from Last Year	-8.1%	Sunday School	10
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-August)	\$ 29,710.00	God First	-
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-August)	\$27,326.00	Confirmation Class	-
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	330 Lbs
		YTD	3,875 Lbs \$1,200

Neighbors in Need: \$630.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In Memory of Walt Disney

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.

