



Replacing "othering" with "neighboring"

**October 4th, 2026
Love One Another
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 are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Reader

8:00am - Carol Pope 10:30am- Doug Brace

Greeters

Dale & Maria Brace, Gene & Christina Thrash

Ushers

8:00am- Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern

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

Sound

Mike Baer

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
- Jesus (The Gospel according to John)*

The scene is set. Jesus gathers at the table with his disciples to break bread and break the news that this is their Last Supper together. Alarming fear, bitter betrayal, and tension-laden uncertainty fill the room. In the midst of this unsettling moment, the Gospel of John records Jesus' "famous last words." Central among these was the commandment to love one another. How do we survive, or even thrive, in times like these? We put love into action, replacing "othering" with "neighboring."

TODAY: 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 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

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

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Traditional Spiritual Arr. Mark Hayes CCLI License #1523377

Blake Hoppes

WE PREPARE THE TABLE

Welcome & Announcements

We often share parts of worship responsively.

**Phrases in Bold = All Read
Phrases NOT in bold = Leader**

The Invitation Threshold Moment

Leader: Welcome to our new series called "Love One Another." Over the next few weeks, we will focus on love—not as just an idea, but as an action. Jesus invited to the table those who would betray and deny him. This was as it had been throughout his entire ministry. Besides beloveds, he brought to the table those not like him, those who did not agree with him, those who felt threatened by him. At the Last Supper, he knelt and washed the feet of his disciples—an unexpected act for a Teacher with such status. Then Jesus said, "love one another as I have loved you." His actions had already spoken before his words. Through Christ's example and the power of the Spirit, we are capable of actions of radical and unexpected love, replacing "othering" with "neighboring."

ALL Sung:
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator,
we are family.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Your responses are in bold...

We come to the table and see that Jesus is with us.
Wherever two or three are gathered, his presence abides.
What we see, as the disciples did, was Jesus serving others.
And he asks us to do the same.

Even, and perhaps especially, in times of distress,
Jesus invites us to move toward others, not away.
We are called to see those around us as Jesus sees them.
As neighbors,
As neighbors.
Not "others."
Not "others."

Leader: Let us pray:

Forgive us when we turn away for the sake of self-preservation.
Help us to embrace that loving one another
is the way to abundant life.
Even though it feels like a difficult thing to do,
help us to see—not look away,
help us to serve—not judge,
help us to reach out—not pull back,
help us to risk reciprocal relationship
so all will know we are followers of Jesus, Lover of All.

In this moment we ponder those we find difficult to understand,
that we consider "others"...

... and in this moment we imagine them as neighbors who,
like us, have needs and fears and the desire for safety, sustenance,
and love.

Jesus, in your name we pray for the strength to love and serve,
as you loved and served. Amen.

ALL Sung:
Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment,
and live each moment,
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; Copyright © 1955, Renewed 1983 by Jan-Lee Music, (ASCAP All Rights Reserved. International copyright secured.)

SHARING PEACE

Leader: When we pass the peace of Christ—a practice as old as the earliest forms of Christianity—we are acknowledging that we are all a part of the same Spirit, a spirit of love.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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

***Hymn** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994 TUNE: CHEREPONI Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969; Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982. © Hope Publishing Company

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Refrain

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away.

Refrain

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Refrain

Please be seated.

WE LAY THE FEAST

10:30 Music Offering: Lift My Hands *with* Lord I Lift Your Name On High
Lift My Hands Forrest Frank Songs of Universal, Inc.

Lord I Lift Your Name On High Rick Founds

© 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing CCLI License #1523377

Youth Choir

10:30 Children's Time – Invite Children Forward

ALL SING:

**This is My commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full.**

**This is My commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full:**

That your joy may be full,

that your joy may be full.

**This is My commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full.**

Children's Church • Ages 3 to Grade 5 • Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Children begin worship with their families and are invited forward for Children's Time with Ms. Nikki. They then leave with Ms. Nikki and return to worship with their families before the service ends.

Education Hour • Ages 3 to Grade 7 • Sundays 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Children are invited to join Ms. Nikki and our Education Hour leaders in Fellowship Hall.

Our Nursery is Open! Parents are welcome to stay with their little ones in our nursery during church. Listen To and watch worship together while you snack, play, and rest.

8:00 Music Offering: Help Us to Be Like Them Nancy Price & Don Besig
© 1991 by Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc. CCLI License #1523377

Heritage Choir

Scripture Reading

John 13: 1-4a; 34-35

Reader: It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was. The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus—knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he

had come from God and was returning to God—rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist...

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

The Message: Love One Another Pastor Kris

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE Prayers of the People

ALL SUNG:

**Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.
Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.**

Leader: Prayer is connection and conversation with the Holy Divine One who is Love and calls us to love. Whenever we come to any table—whether the Lord's table, the kitchen table, dining table, or picnic table, we make the first step toward life-giving conversations. We answer the call of Jesus to see one another as worthy of connection. And so let us prepare our hearts for prayer by being reminded that love comes from God.

**Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.
Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.**

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.**

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH AT UNION



Dreaming God's Dream
NO GIFT TOO SMALL. NO DREAM TOO BIG.

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

Electronic Giving



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).

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.

Vanco Mobile



Vanco



Ambassadors (everyone!): Share our news, events, and spirit on social media and with your friends, family, and neighbors. That's what keeps us relevant, and growing!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Relevant • Engaged • Growing

Music Offering: I Will Call Upon the Lord

© 1981, Universal Publishing Group CCLI License #1523377

Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

All Sung:

Praise God, the Source who makes us one,

Praise Jesus Christ, beloved Son.

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

**Our gifts we give as we've been led,
all bodies, minds, and spirits fed.**

Help us show love,

Here as above,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

Dedication Prayer

All: Generous God, these gifts are from the hearts of our church. We do not offer them for status or recognition. We offer them for love, justice, and community. Keep our treasure and our hearts aligned as we use these gifts for your mission and ministry. Amen.

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 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.

Leader: Too often we stay zoomed out at a drone-level view of humanity, and the big picture we see shows problems too large for the few of us to solve. If we stay in that point of view, we fail to see what is really happening on the ground. At any one time in history, there are people who transgressed human-made boundaries to help each other. With a meal. With a kind word. With the sharing of resources. With a listening ear. This is what humanity is also capable of, besides painful acts caused by fear.

That is what Jesus demonstrated and talked about at the last meal he shared with his friends. His "famous last words" were not focused on the next strategic step to overthrow the oppressors. It was a "show-and-tell" of how love-in-action is what they would need as they continued his ministry.

How love is what God *requires*,
what God *inspires*,
and what can *transpire*
when we embody God's love in an "us-and-them" world.

And so we gather around this table, invited by Jesus to take on and take in his love that will sustain us so we can move into the world to share that love we have experienced here.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Vision of Compassion,

Giver of Grace,

You Who Shares Love like breathing,

You Who Restores us to one another,

we come to the table today with great thanks
that You are our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer.

When we pull away from Love,

you call us time and again to return.

As we gather as this table, we confess what we believe:

I believe in God,

the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting.

Amen.

(The Apostle's Creed)

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he wrapped himself in a towel and knelt as a servant,
showing us what love looks like in action.
He talked of fear and hard times,
grief and the relief of joy.

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."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.
Make them be for us the love of Christ, the Vine,
so that we may be for the world the branches of his love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE MEAL THE BREAD

Hymn I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
Favorite Hymn Karen Nuschke, Ralph Gioielli

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
To find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
To whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in,
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise,
I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.

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

THE CUP

Hymn

Favorite Hymn: Here I Am Lord Ralph Gioielli

**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
I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
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**

Daniel L Schutte © Epoch Universal Publications Inc

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new life, poured out for you.

L: May this meal keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

COLLECTING OF CUPS

Hymn

Favorite Hymn: Come to the Banquet Ryleigh Minnich

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Though you maybe have no money,
though you maybe feel unworthy,
in your strength or in your weakness
you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Woman, wise one, mother, maiden,
see your plate with food is laden
and your place is set and waiting.
you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Worker, father, little boy,
old man or youth without employ,
come rest your worry, here is joy,
you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Whether you've been lost or faithful,
whether you've been wise or wasteful,
here's a place of rest and grace,
and you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

The Mandate: Love in Action

Leader: As we prepare to go from this place with our closing hymn, we remember the mandate, the commandment, that Jesus gave his disciples and gives to us. Let us say this together:

“Love one another.

And you are to love one another the way I have loved you.

**This is how all will know that you are my disciples:
that you truly love one another.”**

The Blessing

Leader:

Receive this blessing:

God, who created you ready for relationship,
be with you as you seek to love in the midst of difficulty.

Jesus, who showed you the way,
be with you as you seek to love like him.

The Spirit, who will never leave you lonely,
give you capacity for love that surprises even you.

In the name of the Three-in-One,
go out to be Love-in-Action
this week and for all time. Amen.

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

***Hymn** They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

#677 Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

Peter Scholtes, © Copyright 1966 by F.E.L. Publications, Ltd CCLI License #1523377

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that our unity will one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love**

Postlude Music: O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1828,
adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1839 Public Domain

Blake Hoppes

Altar Design Team: Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Pastor Kris

Worship Theme: "Adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/neighbor in collaboration with <https://campaignforkindness.com/>.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Two Weeks (9/13, 9/20)		8 AM	38
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.–Aug.)		10:30 AM	119
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.–Aug.)		Confirmation Class	9
Change from Last Year		Faith on Tap	45
Budget FY 2026 (July–Aug.)		2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July–Aug.)		Last Week	\$25, 165 Lbs
Difference in Giving vs.Budget		YTD	\$625, 3070 Lbs
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		FMSC	
		\$1, 863.00	
		MEDICAL DEBT FUNDRAISER	
		\$52,400	

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News

In Memory of Mom, Ruth Rothrock, and Family

By Daughters Lucille Kuhns, Lana Reitz and Leoma Kern

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.