



No Trouble in My Heart

May 18, 2025

8:00am & 10:30am

Celebrating Marissa Haney, Office Administrator

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 Readers: 8am Ron Pope, 10:30 Vicki Mayk

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

10:30 Deb Wenner, Doug Brace, Marianne Kitzmiller, , Brian Horwith,
Maryann Puia, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli

Greeters: Doug and Angie Kuntz, Ruth Ensley

Sound: Mike Baer

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number... — Acts 2

The life and death of Jesus had one strong message that was both overt and inherent: love one another. The heart of the matter was love. Time and again we hear Jesus offer the disciples a post-resurrection message of empowerment to give to the world what he had given to them. This Easter Season we will encourage one another to truly live out the heart of the matter.

SIGNS OF LOVE

Please send Pastor Kris (pastorkris@unionucc.org) or Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org) pictures of you and your friends or family or pets or favorite scenery with their hands in the heart position. We'd like to show them in our slides in worship and on Facebook so that we can see each other, give thanks for each other, and pray for each other.

Prelude Music

My Jesus, I love Thee Adoniram J. Gordon (Gordon)
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

Today is Church Family Worship where kids stay in church with their families. Be sure to get an activity bag at the entrances to enjoy during church.

Be sure to get a prayer stone (or worry or heart stone or cross) at the door when you arrive. You can keep it in your pocket and bring it back with you each week or get a new

one. <3

Call to Worship

Leader: We continue with our Easter Season because Easter isn't just one day. Today we hear Jesus' say "do not let your hearts be troubled." The early church knew that Christ went before them to prepare a place and so they prepared a place for each other in this way:

*"Day by day, as they **spent much time together** in the temple, they **broke bread at home** and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God** and **having the goodwill** of all the people." (Acts 2: 46-47a)*

We create a "temple" of worship in our hearts that connects us across boundaries, distance and time. As we share this worship, we stay connected whether we are here or online. At the "heart of the matter," we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

"Worry Stone" or "Heart Stone" Invitation

L: In the account of the resurrection in the Gospel of Matthew, after the stone is rolled away from the tomb, the angel sits on the stone and gives the women this message, "Don't be afraid." Throughout the Season of Easter, we invite you to use a "worry stone," which is a stone you carry about with you to rub when you are feeling anxious or worried or to just remember you're not alone.

You can get a stone or cross here at church or you can find your own stone or even paint a stone. It will remind you of this angel's message which Jesus then repeats, "Do not be afraid."

If you have your stone, hold onto it now. Or get one as you leave today or look for one this week for next Sunday.

Opening Act of Centering Our Hearts

We are going to center our hearts as one to begin.
Let's take a deep breath together.

I invite you to place your hand on your heart and
let's lightly tap together in a slow heartbeat rhythm

Holy Living God,
Heartbeat of Creation,
help us to take this time to center on you,
for you made us,
you gave us life,
and you continue to be with us
every moment...
every breath...
every step.

Hear this assurance from God:
Tune: Amazing Grace

ALL Sing:
Be still, O heart, you're not alone,
your beat is shared with me.
Come now, and calm, and center here,
you're mine, secure and free.

Let's take another deep breath, making sure our shoulders
and any tension we feel in our bodies is letting go
with the breath.

Let us pick up our heart stone, sometimes called a "worry
stone," and let our touch on its surface remind us that God's
touch is within us, between us, and around us.
As close and real as this object is in our hands right now,
is how close Love is to us always.

Let us imagine letting go of our worries for now into God's heart of love.

We offer a prayer song of letting go:

ALL Sing:

**Into your care, we offer now,
our worries, fears and strife.**

**We turn to you and know you're near—
Your light, our love and life.**

The Peace

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

I invite you to share the peace of Christ with those around you, [remembering to greet those online with a wave to the camera].

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

***Opening Hymn #87** Leaning On the Everlasting Arms
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain:

**Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,

**Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

Please be seated.

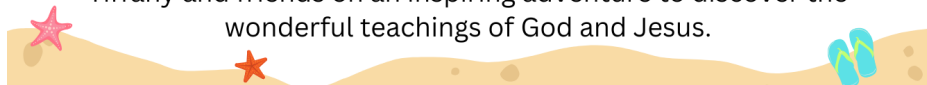
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KIDVENTURE SPRING & SUMMER

May 25th to August 31st

During the 10:30am service, children are warmly invited to join Ms. Tiffany and friends on an inspiring adventure to discover the wonderful teachings of God and Jesus.



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 with Ms. Tiffany 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.

Keeping the Faith as Members and Disciples of Union UCC for 20-39+ Years

Video Highlight: Deana Correll, Ron Pope, and Johanna Zellner

Music Offering Lord, I Need You

Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt maher, Christy Nockels & Daniel Carson Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson

8am Heritage Choir

10:30 Horizon Choir

Contemporary Reading

During this series we will using readings from Mark Nepo's book *More Together Than Alone: Discovering the Power and Spirit of Community in our Lives and in the World*. He draws from historical events, spiritual leaders, and the natural world to show how, in every generation, our tendency is to join together to accomplish our greatest achievements, from creating education and preserving the arts to providing clean drinking water.

My grandfather was a gentle soul who became a letterpress printer in New York City, only to lose his job during the Great Depression. With little to eat, He'd bring strangers home for dinner. When Grandma would say, "We Don't have enough," he'd say, "Break whatever we have in half, it will be enough." He taught me that basic shelter is the first form of hospitality: a place to sleep, something to eat, something warm to wear.

In India, hospitality is based on the principle *Atithi Devo Bhava*, meaning "the guest is God." The assumption is that the stranger bears a gift that no one may know

about which loved into the open will complete us all. The same belief is found in the Jewish principle of *Hacknasat Orchim*, which means “welcoming guests.”

At the heart of all welcome is the humble recognition that though we open our door today, we may well be in need of an open door ourselves tomorrow. Henri Nouwen says, “We live in a desert with many lonely travelers who are looking for a moment of peace, for a fresh drink and for a sign of encouragement so that they can continue their mysterious search for freedom... Hospitality is the ability to pay attention to the guest.”

Scripture Reading

The Psalm today mentions something we have been using throughout this Easter Season—our rocks. God is described many times in the Bible as a rock—as something that is a solid foundation and a shelter in times of distress. Hear the trust of the writer even as hard times are upon them. This is from **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**.

I take refuge in you, Lord.

Please never let me be put to shame.

Rescue me by your righteousness!

Listen closely to me!

Deliver me quickly;

be a rock that protects me;

be a strong fortress that saves me!

You are definitely my rock and my fortress.

Guide me and lead me for the sake of your good name!

Get me out of this net that’s been set for me

because you are my protective fortress.

I entrust my spirit into your hands;

you, Lord, God of faithfulness—

you have saved me.

My future is in your hands.

Don't hand me over to my enemies,
to all who are out to get me!

Shine your face on your servant;
save me by your faithful love!

Our future is in the hands of Love, in the heart of God. Jesus, as God-in-the-flesh, helps us to know that we are in the house and family of God. He called God "Abba"—in intimate name that a child would call a Parent in the language Jesus spoke. God was not distant, but a Parent who loves tenderly, protects faithfully, and wants us to know intimately. Hear Jesus comfort the disciples, who are distressed at the thought of living life without him. This is from the gospel of **John chapter 14, verses 1 to 14.**

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me, that where I am there you may be as well. You know the way that leads to where I am going."

Thomas replied, "But we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus told him, "I myself am the Way—I am Truth, and I am Life. No one comes to Abba God but through me. If you really knew me, you would know Abba God also. From this point on, you know Abba God and you have seen God."

“Rabbi,” Phillip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Phillip, and still you don’t know me? Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God. How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’? Don’t you believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me? The words I speak are not spoken of myself; it is Abba God, living in me, who is accomplishing the works of God. Believe me that I am in God and God is in me, or else believe because of the works I do. The heart and truth of the matter is, anyone who has faith in me will do the works I do—and greater works besides. Why? Because I go to Abba God, and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that God may be glorified in me. Anything you ask in my name I will do.

Jesus himself cried out to God from the Hebrew scriptures that were his holy texts, and what we read today, “into your hands I commit my spirit.” This is the kind of relationship with God that he wanted us to have. To be able to let go of our need to control the future, our anxiety about what is going to happen, which we cannot know right now, and let God comfort us. Jesus reminded his disciples, and he reminds us, to trust in God when our hearts are troubled. It is ok to be troubled, but we can also know that even while our minds may be working overtime, our hearts can rest assured in God’s love. Steadfast love is what God shows and what we are called to offer each other. In this way, we also are the presence of God, through Christ, so that others may know this comfort of the Divine One.

The Heart of the Matter Message

Pastor Kris

Breaking Open Our Lives with Each Other

Leader: Our theme scripture says, "they ate their food with glad and generous hearts." One way we can be glad and generous is to share about how we are finding strength, hope, love and peace in these days. This is part of "breaking bread" with each other as we break open our hearts to one another as well. In this week's scripture, we are invited to trust in God, the rock, and to take a break from worry.

Are you finding it difficult to let go of worry,
to take a break?

What have you witnessed this week that helped you
feel an ongoing and steadfast love that was comforting?

Or if you can't think of something from this week,
what do you have in your memory as something or
someone that offered comfort?

We'll take a few minutes to talk.

Breaking Open our Hearts with God

Leader: When we gather, we believe that we can bring people not with us closer by lifting up their names in prayer. Take a moment and say out loud the names of people you wish were right here with you today or who are on your mind and heart. As we name them, they are present with us in our hearts and in God's heart.

We also want to call to mind, the people we cannot name, whose names we do not know. But we know they need our prayers and God's comfort.

For those who are grieving.

For those who are sick and recovering.
For those who are caregivers.
For those who are feeling alone and isolated.
For those who are struggling to find friends, food,
and comfort.
For those who are afraid.
For this church.
For this community.
For people and leaders around the world.

Leader: Let us take another breath of Spirit as our "Amen."
We know that God sends out our prayers and the Spirit,
Breath of God, is blowing from within us outward, as a Spirit
of Compassion and Presence.

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:
Spirit of the Living God
Fall fresh on me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall fresh on me
Melt me mold me
Fill me use me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall fresh on me**

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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neffs, Pennsylvania

OFFERING

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Easter Offering. We raised \$3,185.00 which will be divided and given to The Chemo Bag and World Central Kitchen.

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.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or 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

Music Offering

Majesty Jack Hayford (Arr. Bruce Greer)

Blake Hoppes

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

*** Offering Response** Every Step of the Way
#66 Sing! Prayer and Praise

All Sing:

**Help me do the justice to be done today.
Help me love kindness in all I do and say.
Help me walk humbly with you, O God I pray
Every step of the way, every step of the way.**

PRAISE GOD!

The Easter Season is a time of celebration, no matter what is happening in the world and in our lives, there are things to be grateful about. Let's start with this affirmation, repeating after me:

We know Jesus is present among us...
in our church and in our homes...
We will not let fear be louder than love...
but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls...
we will sing God's praise...
for we are Easter People...!

HAVE GOODWILL

Let's decide to send some energy out to the world that needs it! What message does the world need? Perhaps you will decide to create a way to let more and more people know the message of Christ, "You are not alone. I am here. Do not let your heart be troubled." What can we do to create more comfort in our household, in our family, in our relationships? How can we offer comfort to anyone who is feeling anxious? Make your own plan today.

Benediction

(based on Psalm 16)

As we close this time together, remember:
God is always with you. No matter what you face,
no matter what trials or hardships come your way,
God is right beside you, ready to hold you,
to be a rock for you,
guiding and directing your path.
So, acknowledge your fear and your worry
and know it is as true and holy as any feeling,
including joy and hope and love.
Take heart! This is the heart of the matter.
Amen.

SIGNS OF LOVE

Please send Pastor Kris (pastorkris@unionucc.org) or Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org) pictures of you and your friends or family or pets or favorite scenery with your hands in the heart position. We'd like to show them in our slides in worship and on Facebook so that we can see each other, give thanks for each other, and pray for each other.

***Hymn Day of Peace #287 Spirit & Song
I dream of a morning in springtime, bright with sunshine.
And here in the heart of this very land,
God's delight, hand in hand.**

**I know there will be a day of peace.
For this, let us all work and pray.**

**I dream of a winter's night, fair and calm,
streets are dark, but all are home,
and weary, but thankful, for another day;
chance to work, love and pray.**

I know there will be a day of peace.

For this, let us all work and pray.

O peace, when will I see you?

O peace, will I ever see your dawning?

**O peace, in a world of pain and longing,
your day is not today. And yet,**

**I dream of a night when all children slumber safe,
warm and fed,
and rise to a day of possibility,
each one loved, each one free.**

**I know there will be a day of peace.
For this, let us all work and pray.**

**Oh, let us work, oh let us pray, oh, let us live for peace.
Oh, let us work, oh let us pray, oh, let us live for peace.**

Postlude Music

Jesus Shall Reign

Tune: Duke Street, John Hatton

Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$6,541.00	8 AM	36
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-April)	\$ 132,469.00	10:30 AM	80
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-April)	\$ 141,275.00	Online Views	219
Change from Last Year	-6.2%	Sunday School	8
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-April)	\$ 359,440.00	God First	32
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-April)	\$ 357,048.00	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.7%	Breathe	10
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$100, 125 lbs
		Total YTD:	\$800, 2,195lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

**Giving thanks for our Consistory and Leadership
Planning Team**

**Thanks to our Family Promise volunteers
-Pastor Kris**

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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