



**Straight From the Heart**  
**May 4, 2025**  
**8:00am & 10:30am**  
**Jazz Ensemble**  
**Confirmation Day (10:30am)**

**GUESTS,** Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://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 Sue Steinmann, 10:30 Dan Topp

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

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

Greeters: Jim and Leanna Lane, Jen Haley

Sound: Karl Klinger

*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](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)) or Pastor Kayli ([pastorkayli@unionucc.org](mailto: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  
Jesus is All the World to Me  
Jazz Ensemble**

**Welcome to Union UCC!  
Welcome & Announcements**

***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. It is the message of God's desire for us to live fully every day. The early church practiced their hope 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 remember today that the earliest Christians spent time in the temple, but also worshiped in their homes before they had churches, and so this season we meet around tables both here at church and at home, taking time to worship and talk about what is important—the "heart of the matter"—connecting with each other through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

## "Worry Stone" or "Heart Stone" Invitation

Leader: 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. We encourage you to find a stone and paint or draw a heart on it. It will remind you of this angel's message which Jesus then repeats, "Do not be afraid."

## Opening Act of Centering Our Hearts

Leader: 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:  
**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's take another one.

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.

**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 The Summons     John L. Bell c. 1987   Iona Community**

**1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**3. Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around**

**Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**5. Lord, your summons echoes true if you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.  
Please be seated.**

### **10:30 Children's Time**

**Kids, as you come forward and sing with us please find 3 people to shake hands with or wave to.**

**ALL SING:**

**Shake another hand shake the hand next to you  
Shake another hand and sing this song  
Shake another hand shake the hand next to you  
Shake another hand and sing, sing this song.**

**Al la la la la la le luia  
Al la la la la le luia  
Al la la la la la le luia  
Al la la la la LA le luia**

**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.

**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.**

**Today is Church Family Worship. Children are invited to remain with their families during worship. If needed, the nursery is available for use across the hall from the sanctuary. Worship is livestreamed for viewing.**

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

**Video Highlight: Deb & Dan Topp**

**Music Offering**

Poor Wayfaring Stranger      Traditional Spiritual

**Jazz Ensemble**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 24:13-35

*Leader:* Here is how the story of Jesus' surprise visit on the road and at the dinner happened. Imagine yourself walking down the road and a stranger comes along...

*Reader:* On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, “The Lord



really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread. - Luke 24:13-35

## **The Heart of the Matter Message**

**Pastor Kayli Freeman**

### **CONFIRMANDS ARE CALLED FORWARD TO AFFIRM THEIR FAITH**

#### **STATEMENT OF FAITH by The Confirmation Class of 2025**

God is who allows for hope and reassurance to people  
Jesus Christ was a passionate believer in faith and the good found somewhere in every person.

The Holy Spirit is the presence of Good in the world;  
connecting people to faith, allowing for feelings of hope and understanding

Faith is what helps a person see good in the world in any parts of it.

The church is the home of a community that welcomes and supports all people (**Lucas Maxwell**).

I believe that church has a bigger meaning behind it.  
It's a place where people go to find themselves.

I believe that church is a place that you belong and to put your faith in God and Jesus.

It's important to know that God is always on your side, and everything is a reason. I live out my faith in everything that I do.

(**Tricia Schwarz**)

### **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

#### **Invitation**

#### **Questions**

## **Prayer of the Candidates**

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully, all the days of my life. Amen.

## **Prayer of the Congregation (UNISON)**

**Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of you Holy Spirit**

**Grant them love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things.**

**Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **Act of Confirmation**

Confirmands will be blessed and prayed over by a pastor, parents, and God Guides.

They will also receive a cross and a certificate from the teaching team.

Parents and God-Guides are invited to come forward when your Confirmand is at the railing

## **Prayer of Confirmation**

## **Questions about Participation**

### **Welcome (unison)**

**We promise you our continuing 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. Amen.**

## **Greeting of Christian Love**

Consistory Officer -Eric Minnich (Consistory President)

## **Prayer**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **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, Jesus shared with people straight from his heart.

What have you found yourself saying to people "straight from the heart"

in the last few weeks that you didn't say as much before?  
Have you heard or seen something this week that felt loving?

Or if you can't think of something from this week,  
what do you have in your memory as something that was loving?

Let's take some time to find someone you're sitting near to  
share your responses.

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 there next to you. As we name them, they are present with us in our hearts.

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.)



Electronic Giving

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app**

Look for our church Union United Church of Christ,  
Neffs, PA and register your information to  
contribute.



Vanco Mobile

• **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.



Venmo

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.

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**Music Offering**

When the Saints Go Marching In  
**Jazz Ensemble**

**\*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!**

It is time to praise God and raise our endorphin levels. 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**

That was great! I hope you feel some good vibes right now. So while we have our energy up, 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. I love you straight from the  
heart." What can we do to create more love in our house-  
hold, in our family, in our relationships with those we cannot  
be with right now? How can we offer love to those who  
feeling short on love, peace or comfort? 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, offering love straight from the  
heart,  
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.**

**\*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**

**I Will Bless the Lord at all Times**

### **Jazz Ensemble**

**Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes-piano, Mike Baer-guitar,  
Andy Hill – Trumpet, Malcolm MacKenzie, bass**



EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$5,494.00	8 AM	36
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-March)	\$ 93,711.00	10:30 AM	50
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-March)	\$ 115,296.00	Online Views	185
Change from Last Year	-18.7%	Sunday School	7
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-March)	\$ 312,910.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-March)	\$ 318,241.98	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	1.7%	Breathe	15
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, 200lbs
		Total YTD:	\$700, 2070lbs

Easter Mission: \$3,185.00

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

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