

Open the Eyes of My Heart June 1, 2025 8:00am & 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: 8am Sue Steinmann, 10:30am Donna Christman

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, Gene and Christina Thrash

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 (<u>pastorkris@unionucc.org</u>) or Pastor Kayli (<u>pastorkayli@unionucc.org</u>) 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

Sing Your Blues Away

Wallace B. Varner Arr. Stan Whitmire **Blake Hoppes**

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

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.

Call to Worship

Leader: We have been celebrating Easter for an entire season and next week, Pentecost, is the last week of the Easter Season. But just like Jesus has been reminding his disciples since the resurrection, this is not the end of his presence with the world, but the beginning of how we will carry his heart within ours. And so it is. As we gather together today, and every time that we gather together—physically, virtually, in small groups or simply together in our memory of one another, Christ is still with us:

"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)

Creating a "temple" of worship in our hearts that connects us across boundaries, distance and time is one of the ways we stay connected. 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're 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 #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 might have the grace To let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on the 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 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

Won't you let me be your servant Let me be as Christ to you Pray that I might have the grace To let you be my servant too

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

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



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.

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.

In creating any kind of community it's important to

recognize that we at heart are the same and connected under all our differences. This fundamental view of life is as interconnected and interdependent affects how we educate and govern. IN every age, seeking truth and meeting trouble bring us together and make our underlying connections visible. In 1838, James Fenimore Cooper argued that a free community is based on "the necessity of speaking truth, when speaking at all, and a contempt for all designing evasions of our real opinions."

Yes there's a difference between telling the truth and

experiencing the truth. When we open our heart to concerns beyond our own, we start to experience the truth we're all a part of. This opening to concerns other than our own is the stitchwork of community

Scripture Reading

Today we commemorate the moment when the disciples witnessed Jesus' leaving this physical world. He had spent some quality time with them, helping them understand more about their faith and the continued mission that they must now carry on in the world. He asked them to encourage people to a change of heart—to believe in hope and life and love that was his message on earth. As we often do when we take our leave from someone we love, Jesus blessed his followers. Hear this reading from the gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 44 to 53.

Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the

forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I'm sending to you what my [Abba, God] promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power."

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

We have been reading some of the apostle's letters that circulated among the early churches. They read these letters as they gathered for meals, just as we have been doing. Here is an excerpt from a letter sent to an early Christian community. We can imagine it being written for us, as a community that needs prayers, that needs a spirit of wisdom. This letter is to the Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 15 to 23.

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sovereign of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him

at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

To be the "body of Christ" as the church is to see the world through the eyes of Jesus–to see through the eyes of love. As Christ's body here on earth, we try to create the same conditions of love that he did while he was here on earth. We hope that "the eyes of our hearts" can be continually opened, as the disciples' were that day of Jesus' ascension, so that we can be the best representation of his love here on earth. Perhaps we can see "ascension" with Christ as an "elevation" or "heightening" of our gratitude and of our commitment to do good in the world.

The Heart of the Matter Message Pastor Carrie

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. Let's share today about a new way of seeing with our hearts, with an eye of heightened gratitude.

What did you just see when you looked around

and did looking at it with "the eyes of a grateful heart" offer you a new perspective?

What else are you grateful for at this moment?

What do you want to "elevate" in your commitment to

We'll take a few minutes to talk.

make the world a better place?

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



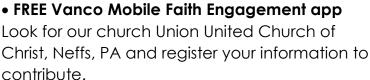
OFFERING

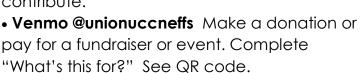
Thank you to everyone who helped with our Easter Offering. We raised \$3,185.00 which will be divided and given to The Chemo Bag and World Central Kitchen.

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



Vanco Mobile

• 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.

Music Offering

The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte **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...!

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.

Invitation

In a world that is hungry, where can real food be found? For those who starve for love, where can unconditional and everlasting love be found? For those who yearn for hope, where can hope be found? For those who crave acceptance and tolerance, where can true acceptance and tolerance be found? Seek the food that God has provided. Eat the bread of life, which has come down from heaven. Drink the cup of salvation, the promise of God's love. Eat, drink, and be satisfied.

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.

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

With wonder, we muse at how you formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

And so,

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



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

Ever-present God,
we gather in your name,
invited by Jesus,
bound together with your Spirit,
in union with each other.

Feed our bodies and our spirits with your comforting presence so that we might be your comfort to others.

Bless this food and break open our hearts. Bless this drink and pour out your love. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

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

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion

of the blood of Christ.

L: 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.

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

THE CUP

HYMN In the Bulb There Is a Flower #433 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity, In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

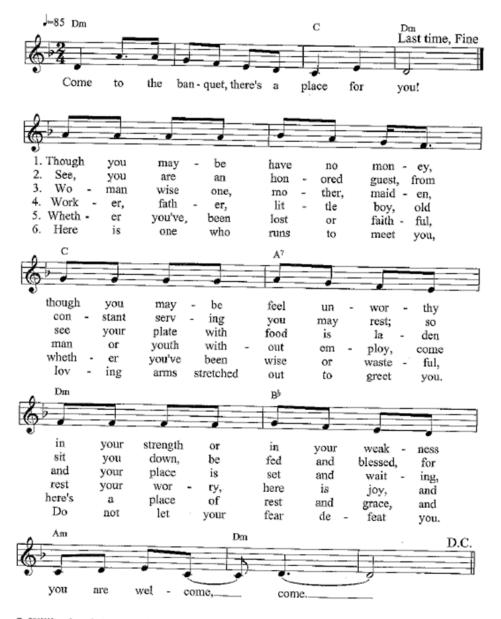
L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

The Blessing

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

COLLECTING OF CUPS

HYMN #8 Come to the Banquet Sing! Prayer and Praise



- Willing hands have made this bread with yeast and salt and labor shared.Let all hungry ones be fed. It's time for feasting, come.
- Abundant wine, enough for all! Our generous, loving host has called.
 The cup of blessing now is poured for sweet communion, come.

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...!

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, urging you to gratitude,
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 His Eye is on the Sparrow Civilla Martin, Charles Gabriel Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$9,087.00	8 AM	37
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.April)	\$ 132,469.00	10:30 AM	59
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan April)	\$ 141,275.00	Online Views	
Change from Last Year	-6.2%	God First	32
Budget FY 2024-25 (July- April)	\$ 359,440.00	Faith on Tap	30
Actual Fiscal Year-to- Date <i>(July-April)</i>	\$ 357,048.00	2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.7%	Last Week:	\$, lbs
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		Total YTD:	\$800, 2,195lbs

<u>Presentations to the Glory of God</u>

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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