



The Heart of the Matter: Pentecost
June 8, 2025
10:30am Worship Only
Graduate Sunday

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: Nikki Pentland

Ushers: Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Karen Nuschke, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: Ralph & Connie Gioielli, Kim & Sean Flueso

Sound: Pat Sorg

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

**Just A Closer Walk Traditional
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

Call to Worship

Leader: The day of Pentecost has come! We have been spending time together each week being reminded that “love is our religion” and that our hearts have the Spirit of Christ within, helping us, guiding us, giving us strength and courage and overflowing gratitude for each other. All of this was inspired by the early Christian community, one that was often under difficult circumstances but continued to support each other along the 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)*

As we share this worship weekly, here and at home, we will 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 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.

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 #448 Take My Life, God Let It Be (New Century Hymnal, black)**

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community
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



KIDVENTURE 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.

Graduation Recognition and Blessing

ALL: God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward in their journey, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your faithful presence and unconditional love. Help them know they never walk alone, trusting in you and remembering this family of faith. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as Modern day disciples in a world that needs their spirit. Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them and guiding them. Help them see others through your eyes and be your heart and hands in the world, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Leader: We return to a scripture that describes a time, before Jesus' crucifixion, when he had traveled to the temple in Jerusalem for the Jewish Festival of Booths. This was a very important time of celebrating the harvest and also remembering the Israelite's journey out of Egypt and their dependence on God to provide sustenance. As our scripture says, Jesus pronounced that another Holy Sustainer would come—the Spirit that would flow from him, from God, and then from within us. Hear from the Gospel of John, chapter 7, verses 37 to 39.

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted,

“All who are thirsty should come to me!

All who believe in me should drink!

As the scriptures said concerning me,

Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.”

Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn’t experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn’t yet been glorified.

Leader: And so the Spirit did come after Jesus had left this earthly home. The Spirit, as in the previous reading is sometimes symbolized in flowing water and sometimes as wind and fire! Let’s hear from - **Acts 2:1-21**

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism),

Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.*

*Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

*I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

*The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the
Lord comes.*

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Leader: Throughout this season, we have proclaimed that love is that which binds us to God, to Jesus, to each other. Love IS our religion. On the day of Pentecost, the church received the power of the Holy Spirit to let this message flow out *from all, to all*. The power of this message is ever-so important to offer to the world today. The Spirit is poured out on each one of us so let us be a community of messengers letting living compassion flow from our hearts.

The Heart of the Matter Message Pastor Kayli

***Hymn #187 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary (Sing! Prayer and Praise)**

- 1. Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you**
- 2. God empower me, to be a witness for you
Acting boldly in your name
Seeking justice, where there is hurting
Offering hope where, there is pain.**

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, hear

about what is being poured out from the disciples, and poured into them, and that love is at the root of it all.

What is it that is pouring from your heart today?

What is it that your heart is on fire for?

What winds of change you want to blow through your life?

Finally, what do you feel is at the heart of the matter of life?

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

I'll Fly Away Albert E. Brumley

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...!

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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...
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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, breathing breath into 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

You Are My All in All Dennis Jernigan
Blake Hoppes



Congratulations Class of 2025

High School Graduates

Ellyana Belletieri-Bieber

Graduated from Salisbury High School; plans to attend DeSales University in the fall majoring in Nursing; plans to play soccer with eventual plan to work in the NICU

Izzy Fekula

Graduated from Parkland High School; plans to attend Juniata College in the fall to study Education and play volleyball.

Regan Haley

Graduated from Parkland High School; planning to attend DeSales University in the fall, for the Physician Assistant Program.

Garet Hill

Graduated from Parkland High School; plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall to study nursing.

Hannah Minnich

Graduated from Whitehall High School; planning to attend American University in the fall, majoring in Political Science.

Ryleigh Minnich

Graduated from Commonwealth Charter Academy; plans on attending Lehigh Carbon Community College in the fall.

Emma Milander

Graduated from Parkland High School; plans to attend Susquehanna University in the fall, for Music Education.

Bryce Thrash

Graduated from Northwestern Lehigh HS; plans to attend West Chester University in the fall to study secondary education.

Luke Thrash

Graduated from Northwestern Lehigh HS; plans to attend West Chester University in the fall to study sports medicine

College Graduates

Jason Joseph Check

Graduated from LeBow College of Business at Drexel University with a B.S.B.A. with a major in Finance and Legal Studies. Plans to enter the workforce and put his knowledge to good use.

Sonya Shivok

Graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a B.S. of Science in Civil Engineering Technology. Plans to return to the area and work in municipality engineering.



Congratulations Class of 2025

Kaitlin Solt

Graduated from Lehigh Carbon Community College with an A.S. in Psychology. Plans to continue education at Penn State Lehigh Valley to earn a full Bachelor's Degree with a minor in Business.

Graduate School Graduates

Susan Glosan

Graduated from Moravian Theological Seminary with a Master of Chaplaincy. She's been accepted to St. Luke's CPE (clinical pastoral education) Chaplain Residency program beginning August; seeking ordination as a chaplain in the UCC.

Trisha Rabenold

Graduating from Wilkes University with her Masters in Educational Development and Strategies. She will continue to work as a kindergarten teacher.

**If your name was missed please be sure to email Pastor Kayli
(pastorkayli@unionucc.org)**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$7,604.00
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-May)	\$164,672.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-May)	\$ 169,837.00
Change from Last Year	-3.0%
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-May)	\$ 387,990.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-May)	\$389,400.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.4%
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	54
10:30 AM	82
Online Views	116
Sunday School	
God First	32
Faith on Tap	30
Breathe	10

2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$100, 300lbs
Total YTD:	\$900, 2,495lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

In memory of Carlton Wehr who celebrated his 21 birthday while fighting in Normandy on D-Day 75 years ago. From Phil & Julie

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

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