



Prayer:

Prayers of Complaint

Word:

Jeremiah 20:7-18

1 Samuel 1:1-18

August 31, 2025

10:30am

Labor Sunday

Blessing of Students and School Personnel

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 Reader: Tami Wassum

Ushers: Eric Minnich, Doug Brace, Edie Fella, Mark Liscka

Greeters: Dale & Maria Brace, Gene & Christina Thrash

Sound: Karl Klinger

Prelude Music

Nocturne in E-Flat, Op. 9, No. 2 Frederic Chopin

Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship:

Here is the place
where we voice to heaven
the worries of the earth.
Where the ear of the holy
hears every concern.
Where the love of the divine
holds the fear of the world
and every word we speak
falls into the love of God.
We bring our living,
our complaining,
our loving,
our celebrating,
and gather them all
in worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

O Lord of Hosts, we approach you in worship today
knowing you look upon us in certainty,
individually and uniquely.
Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord!
We cannot comprehend your ways,
but we know through Scripture of your great love
and your desire for relationship.
Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord!
We offer our thanks and praise
for creation more intricate and awesome

than we can imagine, for the gift of life
in all its complexity.

Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Loving God, we pour out our souls
in prayer to you now, speaking out of
anxiety and vexation,
confusion and calamity,
lips moving, wordless, heartfelt.

We confess that we do not bring our cares and concerns
to you as regularly as we could
and we sometimes struggle with loving ourselves and others.
We often wait until the last resort
to spend time with you.

Forgive us.

May we, your servants,
find favor in your sight,
and help us hear the words, "Go in peace
God grants your petition"
Amen.

SONG

**Blake will play the response 1 time for us to hear before we
sing it:**

**ALL: There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
There is room for all sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing,
"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all,
There is room for all.**

#76 Sing! Prayer and Praise

Passing Love

The Love of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

I invite you to share the LOVE of Christ with those around you

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

***Hymn #5 Morning Has Broken
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God**

**Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day**

Please be seated.

Children Are Invited forward to go with Our Adult Leaders

**This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

September 7th– No Children's Church At 10:30 worship yet :) There will be activity bags available.

**Returning September 14th- Kids are invited to the
Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15**

10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7. **There will be activity bags available at 10:30 worship.**

Returning September 21: 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 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.

Blessing of the Backpacks, Devices, Students, Educators, School Staffs, and all Learners and Growers!

AND A GIFT FROM THE PASTORS AND MS. NIKKI

If you brought your backpack or device, bring it forward with you. If you don't have it, we will bless you!

Prayer

Pastor: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become. God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all. Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes. However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new. For the grown-ups going back to school, With-Us God, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow. God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.

Youth: God, bless these backpacks and the children and youth who carry them as they begin yet another year of school. Give them peace when they feel nervous, focus

when they feel distracted, energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, and at home, and may they feel your loving care in all they do.

Teacher: Lord, bless those in the ministry of teaching future generations. As they embark on a new school year, grant them energy, passion, discipline, and endurance for their daily tasks. Infuse their classrooms with an atmosphere of care and mutual respect, that all interactions there will be bathed in patience and understanding. Help their lessons to grow pupils in both knowledge and character, and help us all to support the work these teachers do building up our community and our future.

Youth: God, bless our donations of backpacks and school supplies and the children who will use them. Let these physical gifts be symbols of the love and support we give to the children of our community throughout the year. Help us to look upon every child in our community as one of our own, helping them to grow in character and knowledge.

Put your hand on the shoulder of someone next to you and say, “God loves you and so does your church! Have a great start to your school year!”

Musical Offering: For the Beauty of the Earth, Folliott Pierpoint

Instrumental Ensemble: Mike Baer, Lucas Maxwell, Connor Maxwell, Isaac Brace

Directed by: Mitchell Roth

Reflection

Tell Me God!
What's the point?
Is it worth the effort?
Is the struggle so necessary?

Tell me God!
Crying out in despair.
Mixed with one praise or two,
faithfully proclaiming God's Word
and getting nothing in return.
But being ridiculed, humiliated, jeered at.
Who am I?
Who am I that I should...
Who am I that I should confront...
social injustice? welfare cuts? discriminations?
Tell me God!
God, give me a break!
I've done what you told me to do.
I'm exhausted and lonely now.
So, forget it and find someone else,
to stand up for your righteousness.
I am telling you God!
"I am with you".
"You are not the only one".
"You cannot right every wrong".
"You cannot fight every battle".
"My beloved Son Jesus didn't".
"Come away and rest with me awhile".
God is telling me so.

Scripture Reading **Jeremiah 20:7-18**

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us

denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers. Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed! Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, saying, "A child is born to you, a son," making him very glad. Let that man be like the cities that the Lord overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon, because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great. Why did I come forth from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?

1 Samuel 1:1-18

There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. Now this man used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.

Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

ALL Sing:

**Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, help me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Thru the storm thru the night,
Lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.**

Precious Lord #611 Hymns for the Family of God/Gold Hymnal

The Message

Prayers of Complaint

Sermon Song Pastor Kris

**Join me on the chorus:
I know there will be a day of peace.
For this, let us all work and pray.**

Day of Peace Janet Sullivan Whitaker

PRAYER

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:
When your souls weary
When you find doubt
When you can't hear me
Lay your troubles down
In your dark moments
When your hearts weak
Bring yourself broken
You will find me

Who wrote the rain
Who wrote the sun in
Who called your name
Where are you running
I'm gonna be there near or far
I'm gonna meet you where you are
Who wrote the rain
Who wrote the sun in

When you come thirsty
When the wells dry
When your souls dirty
I am by your side
When your faiths broken
When you can't see
With my arms open
You will find me

Who wrote the rain
Who wrote the sun in
Who called your name
Where are you running
I'm gonna be there near or far
I'm gonna meet you where you are
Who wrote the rain
Who wrote the sun in

Mm-mm-mm, mm
Mm-mm-mm, mm
Mm-mm-mm, mm
You will find me
Mm-mm-mm, mm
You will find me

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

OFFERING

When we worship outside in the grove the offering is collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave worship.

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-751X/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.

Please reach out to 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: O Magnify the Lord Michael O'Shields
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** Offering Response**

ALL Sing:
Make us one, Lord,
Make us one;
Holy Spirit, make us on.
Let your love flow so the world will know
we are one in you.
(Repeat)

Make Us One Carol Cymbala

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, our offerings of prayers
and our offerings of gifts; monetary as well as
each moment of shared time,
small kindnesses and moments of meaningful interaction,
we present joyfully to you, this day, O Lord.
We ask your blessing and your rememberings
for these offerings, for this church community,
for your world-wide church
in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Sending

Sent out into the world we are,
thankful and grateful, for the songs we carry
with us as we journey through our days.
Go out praising God,
share a song of deepest faith with the world.

***Hymn #640 Pass It On**

**Instrumental Ensemble: Mike Baer, Lucas Maxwell,
Connor Maxwell, Isaac Brace
Directed by: Mitchell Roth**

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's Love,
Once you've experienced it,
Your spread the love to everyone
You want to pass it on.**

**What a wonderful time is spring,
When all the tress are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it.
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
You want to pass it on.**

**I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found;
You can depend on God
It matters not where you're bound,
I'll shout it from the mountain top – PRAISE GOD!
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on.**

**Postlude Music: Jesus is all the World to Me
(Tune: Elizabeth) Will L. Thompson
Blake Hoppes**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$3, 485.00	8 AM	-
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-July)	\$ 215,876.00	10:30 AM	92
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-July)	\$ 234,804.00	Online Views	-
Change from Last Year	-8.1%	Sunday School	-
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July)	\$ 29,710.00	God First	-
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July)	\$27,326.00	Faith on Tap	-
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-8.0%	Breathe	-
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last	\$, 25 lbs
		Total YTD:	3,230lbs

Neighbors in Need: \$615.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In Memory Of Veronica Fabian's 54th birthday—Bonnie Herzog

In Memory of Walt Disney

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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