



Unanswered Prayer

**Prayer:**

Unanswered Prayer

**Word:**

2 Samuel 12: 15-23

Psalms 98

**September 28, 2025**

**8:00 am & 10:30am**

**Prayer: Unanswered Prayer  
Harvest Home**

**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](https://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.***

Lay Readers: 8 am– Rosalie Snyder; 10:30 am– Janice Metzger

Ushers: 8 am– Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl

10:30 am- Eric Minnich, Gene Thrash, Jason Klinger, Marlene Bloese, Dale Bloese, Kim Pentland, Andy Dyszel

Greeters: Tracey & Rob Bilger, Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Sound: Dawn Dengler

## **Prelude Music**

Come, Christians Join to Sing    Tune: Madrid

**Blake Hoppes**

## **Welcome to Union UCC!**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Call to Worship:**

A holy space is where we meet the world as it is,  
held by God in all its pain and wonder.  
This is that holy space and we pause within it,  
waiting, wondering, holding on,  
and holding others knowing the loss and hurt we feel  
when heaven remains silent.  
Any space of regret and hurt.  
Where our humanity is real  
and we are honest to God,  
is a holy space. In such a space let us worship.

### **Prayer of Adoration And Confession**

God of mystery,  
you are the breath of all life,  
the steady presence in every season,  
the love that holds us even  
when the world feels uncertain.  
You are with us in the joy we can shout  
and in the grief, we can barely name.  
You are God, still.  
And yet we confess that  
we struggle when our prayers go unanswered.  
We confess the weariness of waiting,  
the ache of hoping,  
the confusion that comes when what  
we long for does not come to be.  
We have doubted your nearness.  
We have closed our hearts in disappointment.

We have tried to give meaning too quickly,  
to explain away pain,  
or to believe it must be our fault.  
Forgive us, O God,  
not for asking questions,  
but for thinking we had to hide them from you.  
Forgive us when we have tried to manage sorrow  
instead of offering it to you with open hands.  
Forgive us for the ways we have turned away,  
from you, from one another, and even from ourselves.  
So now, in the stillness,  
we offer you the most honest parts of our hearts:  
our longing, our gratitude, our doubt, and our hope.

### **Silence**

God of deep compassion,  
you receive us exactly as we are.  
You do not measure our faith by  
the number of our answers,  
but by the courage it takes  
to stay open to the questions.  
Thank you for your mercy  
that meets us here.  
Thank you for grace that holds us  
even in our unanswered prayers.  
In your love, we are forgiven.  
In your presence, we are never alone.  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

### **Song**

**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 #395 We Plow the Fields and Scatter the Good Seed**  
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**We plow the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand:  
He sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes, and the sunshine,  
And soft, refreshing rain.**

**Refrain:  
All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord,  
For all His love.**

**He only is the Maker  
Of all things near and far;  
He paints the wayside flower,  
He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him,  
By Him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, His children,  
He gives our daily bread.**

**Refrain:  
All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord,  
For all His love.**

**We thank Thee then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food;**

**Accept the gifts we offer  
For all Thy love imparts,  
And what Thou most desirest—  
Our humble, thankful hearts.**

**Refrain:**

**All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord,  
For all His love.**

**Please be seated.**

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

**Sundays at 10:30am Worship Children's Church** 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. Nikki 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.

**All Sing:**

**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.**

**Also on Sundays 9:15-10:15 am**, ages 3 to grade 7. Kids are invited to the Education Hour with Ms. Nikki and Leaders.

**Watch for God First Wednesdays and other events too!**

#### **Music Offering**

8 am- Heritage Choir:

10:30 am- Horizon Choir:

Trust in Jesus

Words by Louisa M.R. Stead

Music by Mark Hayes

## **Reflection**

*Based on Psalm 98*

Sing a new song to the Lord.  
What wonders they have done!  
Though power and strength,  
victory won.

Promises kept,  
with loyalty and love.

Victory in plain sight.

And yet here we are with all our  
whataboutery, our questions,  
our doubts.

Sing for joy to the Lord,  
all the earth sing God's praise.

Get out the harps, trumpets  
and drums and shout for joy!

And yet again here come our  
whataboutery, our questions,  
our doubts.

We were never promised it would be easy.  
We were never expected to leave it all to God.

We were never excused our part.

So yes, sing our new songs,  
sing our songs of joy,  
make a joyful noise...  
and then we get to work.

God with us.  
God guiding us.  
God using us.

## **Scripture Reading**

**2 Samuel 12: 15-23**

Then Nathan went to his house. The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became very ill. David therefore pleaded with God for the child; David fasted, and went in and lay all night on the ground. The elders of his house stood beside him, urging him to rise from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the seventh day the child died.

And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, "While the child was still alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us; how then can we tell him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, he perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." Then David rose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes. He went into the house of the LORD, and worshiped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him and he ate. Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive; but when the child died, you rose and ate food." He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me, and the child may live.' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

## **Psalms 98**

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his  
vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the  
house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of  
our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joy-  
ous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound  
of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise be-  
fore the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in  
it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with  
equity.

**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**

Unanswered Prayers Pastor Kris

### **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**

You Will Find Me Andrew Ripp

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

## OFFERING

**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.

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:** We Will Glorify      Twila Paris  
Blake Hoppes

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

### **Offering Response**

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

Make Us One Carol Cymbala

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God,  
we offer these gifts  
not as payment for your favor,  
but as a reflection of our trust in your love.  
Even when our prayers go unanswered,  
we choose to give, to serve, and to hope.  
Bless these offerings,  
use them to bring compassion  
where there is need,  
and light where there is longing.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

### **Sending**

Hurting or heartbroken, grieving or mourning,  
wailing or screaming, God is with you.  
Doubting or skeptical, afflicted or tormented,  
burned out or burnt up, God is with you.  
Praying or wishing, hoping or wanting,  
worshiping or revering, God is with you.

**\*Hymn** His Eye Is On The Sparrow

**Why should I feel discouraged?**  
**Why should the shadows come?**  
**Why should my heart be lonely**  
**And long for heav'n and home,**

When Jesus is my portion?  
My constant Friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy—  
I sing because I'm free—  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled."  
His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness,  
I lose my doubt and fear.  
Though by the path He leadeth,  
But one step I may see:  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy—  
I sing because I'm free—  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted,  
Whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing,  
When hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him;  
From care He sets me free:  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy—  
I sing because I'm free—  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

**Postlude Music:** For the Beauty of the Earth    Folliott S. Pierpoint  
Blake Hoppes

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$5,488.00
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-August)</i>	\$ 215,876.00
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-August)</i>	\$ 234,804.00
Change from Last Year	-8.1%
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-August)	\$ 29,710.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-August)	\$27,326.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-8.0%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	30
10:30 AM	109
Online Views	-
Sunday School	14
God First	-
Confirmation Class	-
Breathe	-

2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	150 lbs
YTD	\$50

Neighbors in Need: \$630.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**In Honor of Harvest Home - Phil & Julie**

**In memory of Ruth 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 Sarah to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.

