



Prayer:

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Word:

1 Samuel 2:1-10
Luke 10: 1-9, 17-21

September 7th, 2025

8:00 am & 10:30am

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 Readers: 8 am– Ron Pope; 10 am– Nikki Pentland

Ushers: 8 am– Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern; 10 am– Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, John Fabian, Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler

Greeters: Ralph & Connie Gioelli, Kim & Sean Flueso

Sound: Karl Klinger

Prelude Music

Invocation - Bill George & Dino Kartsonakis / Sweet Hour of
Prayer - William B. Bradbury

Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship:

Let us gather our praise,
lift our thanksgiving,
share our hosannas.
Let us find the song
that celebrates God
and thanks the creator for our living.
In this place
let us open the words
that bless God for love's goodness,
Let us worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

Holy One,
our hearts exult as we rejoice
to come together
in your presence
on this Sabbath Day.
We come to this space
from our different interactions
with many in our communities
and even across the world
to worship you.
We recognize there
is no one beside you
and give thanks for the many reminders

in our daily lives of your wonder:
the changing seasons,
the new life in programs and new routines,
and new relationships
that show us your love.
We also offer our confessions,
recognizing we do not go
where you intend us to go.
We ignore the people
we are meant to protect.
We wallow in the darkness
refusing to move toward
your light.
Forgive us.
Lord, guard the feet of your faithful ones.
Grant us your peace within this house.
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 #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (New Century Hymnal, black)**

**Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt
away
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect
your rays
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing
sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise
should be**

**You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.**

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. 4**

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!”

Reflection

Achievement Is A Journey Not A Prize

Here I stand, head held high
and my heart sings a song,
a burst of joyful feeling
an achievement of what's I've done.

“Well done!” the Lord said to me.
“But the great triumph is not in your authority over evil”.
Achievement is a process not an afterglow.
Here I stand, head in the clouds,
the wings of my heart flying,
thoughts so far from the ground
an achievement of what I have done.
“Come down!” the Lord said to me.
“Not what you do for God but what God does for you”.
Achievement is a progress to the final outcome.
Here I stand, head bowed
with a humble respectful heart,
giving grateful praise to my God,
the greatest achievement of what God has done for me.

Scripture Reading **1 Samuel 2:1-10**

Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.

The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.

For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's; on them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."

Luke 10: 1-9, 17-21

After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you

have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."

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 Thanksgiving Pastor Kayli

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: More Than Wonderful Lanny Wolfe
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

We thank you, God,
Lord of Heaven and earth,
for the countless blessings
we enjoy.
The harvest is plentiful
and we are your grateful workers.
We offer the works of our hands
and return a portion of our bounty to you,
joyously giving for your kingdom
here in this community
and across the world.
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 #28- For the Beauty of the Earth** (New Century Hymnal, black)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the
skies**

**For the love which from our birth over and around us
lies**

**REFRAIN: God of all to you we raise this our hymn of
grateful praise**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the
night**

**Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon, and
stars of light**

**REFRAIN: God of all to you we raise this our hymn of
grateful praise**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle
thoughts and mild**

**REFRAIN: God of all to you we raise this our hymn of
grateful praise**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none
exclude**

**For a faith that never tires, and for every heart re-
newed**

**REFRAIN: God of all to you we raise this our hymn of
grateful praise**

Postlude Music: Christ is Made the Firm Foundation,
Westminster Abbey

Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$3, 879.00
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-July)</i>	<i>\$ 215,876.00</i>
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-July)</i>	<i>\$ 234,804.00</i>
Change from Last Year	-8.1%
Budget FY 2025-2026 <i>(July)</i>	<i>\$ 29,710.00</i>
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date <i>(July)</i>	<i>\$27,326.00</i>
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-8.0%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	-
10:30 AM	87
Online Views	-
Sunday School	-
God First	-
Faith on Tap	-
Breathe	-

2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$100

Neighbors in Need: \$630.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In loving memory of grandparents, Eleanor and Norman Peters and Iva Geiger-Kern. Love, Ann.

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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