



November 9th, 2025
Veterans Sunday
Guest Preacher and
Member: Brad Hackett

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 are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Readers: 8 am– Ron Pope 10:30 am– Lucille Kuhns

Ushers: 8 am– Kerry Snyder , Tom Anderson Larry Todd, Lorie Hackett
10:30 am– Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Karen Nuschke, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Gene & Christina Thrash

Sound: Mike Baer

Prelude Music

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Martin Luther
Blake Hoppes, piano

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

We often share parts of worship responsively.

Phrases in Bold = All Read

Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

Call to Worship

(inspired by Psalm 122)

We were glad when they said,
"Let us go to the house of God!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Holy City!

We pray for the peace of all God's beloved cities:

"May they prosper who love you.

**Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers."**

For the sake of friend and stranger we say:

Peace be within you, O Jerusalem!

**Peace be within you, O New York, O Washington, O Schnecks-
ville and Neffs!**

Peace be within you, O Kabul!

Peace be within this community!

**For the sake of the house of the Holy One, our God,
we will seek your good.**

Let us worship the living God, tender and just!

Amen.

Prayer

An adaption of Psalm 23 by Captain John Roberts (1874).

The Lord is my pilot;

I shall not drift.

He lighteth my way across the dark waters;

he steereth me in deep channels;

he keepeth my log.

He guardeth me by the star of holiness

for his name's sake.

Yea, though I sail

mid the tempest and thunders of life,
I will dread no danger,
for thou art near me,
thy love and thy care they shelter me.
Thou preparest a harbour before me
In the homeland of eternity.
Thou annointest the waves with oil;
my ship rideth calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight
shall favour me on the voyage I take,
and I will rest in the port of my God forever.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us not to repay evil with evil,
but to turn the other cheek,
to walk the second mile,
to love our enemies
and pray for those who persecute us.
**Forgive us, Lord,
when we choose retribution over mercy.**

On this Remembrance Sunday,
we confess that we have too often
let war become something that we accept as inevitable
in our world of divided nationhood,
beliefs and viewpoints.
Too readily we have ignored your call to peace—
believing that it will come only when
the threat is negated.
We have fostered feelings of division,
as we talk-up the differences between us,
over what draws us together as a single
family of people on earth.
**Forgive us, Lord,
when we fail to walk in your way.**

You call us to be children of the one God,
to reflect your mercy, your justice, your love.
But we confess we have not loved our enemies,
we have not prayed for those who harm,
we have not believed that peace is possible.
**Forgive us, Lord,
and make us peacemakers.**

Today we pray for courage to stand firm in love,
to speak truth without hatred,
to speak justice to power,
to serve without seeking reward.

**Renew us, Lord,
in the image of Christ, we pray.
Amen.**

Song

Spirit, Fill Me Parmeter Dyer

Sing! Prayer and Praise #4

**Spirit come, and fill me,
Fill me with your peace,
Fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me,
Show me how to care,
Show me how to share your light.**

Greeting

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

As forgiven and freed people through Christ,
let us pass the peace of Christ with one another.

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

***Hymn #695 My Country 'Tis of Thee**

Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

Instrumental Ensemble

Director: Mitchell Roth

Isaac Brace, Andrew Dyszel, Lucas Maxwell, Connor Maxwell, Mike Baer, Craig Knauss

**My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing: land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride
From every mountainside let freedom ring**

**My native country, thee, land of the noble free,
Thy name I love, I love thy rocks and rills**

**Thy woods and templed hills
My heart with rapture thrills like that above**

**Let music swell the breeze and ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song, let mortal tongues awake
Let all that breathe partakes
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong**

Please be seated.

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.

Song; Go, Make a Difference Angrisan/Tomaszek
Sing! Prayer and Praise #199

**Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.**

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!

8:00 and 10:30 Music Offering

America the Beautiful

Instrumental Ensemble

Director: Mitchell Roth

**Isaac Brace, Andrew Dyszel, Lucas Maxwell, Connor Maxwell,
Mike Baer, Craig Knauss**

Scripture

John 14:22-31

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my

words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

SONG

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love Scholtes
Gold Hymnal #677

**We are one in the spirit we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the spirit we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Sermon: Inner Peace

Brad Hackett

Brad Hackett recently retired after a forty year career as a college track and field coach. He has been a member at Union UCC for seventeen years and at one point served as the Consistory Vice President for one year and President for three years. This is his fifth time preaching here at Neffs, as he serves as a Lay Supply Preacher for the Penn Northeast Conference.

Prayers of the People

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.**

SONG

How Great Thou Art Hine
Gold Hymnal #2 Hymns for the Family of God

CHORUS

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art,
How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art,
How great Thou art!**

Celebrating and Blessing Our Members And Disciples of 1-19 Years

Video: AJ DiPaolantonio

Veterans Music Medley

Blake Hoppes, Piano; Mitchell Roth, Trumpet; Craig Knauss, Clarinet

**During this song, please stand when the song from your branch of the service begins. You are also invited to stand to represent someone in your family.*

Patriotic Medley Arr. Amy Potter

U.S. Air Force: The U.S. Air Force Song

U.S. Army: The Army Goes Rolling Along

U.S. Navy: Anchors Aweigh

U.S. Marines: The Marine's Hymn

U.S. Coast Guard: Semper Paratus

A Prayer for Veterans Day by Jill Duffield, The Presbyterian Outlook

Lord of all, you long for a time when all nations will be ruled with justice and a world where everyone lives in safety and harmony. Until that time when swords are beaten into plowshares and the wolf and the lamb eat together, we give thanks for veterans who have served their country with honor and courage.

We remember the sacrifices made by members of the military and their families. We know that they endured long seasons apart from loved ones, the disruption of moves and deployments, the stress of being sent to regions engulfed by violence, the repercussions of physical, spiritual and moral injuries.

Where the pain of those injuries persists, bring healing. Where the memories of that trauma are harrowing, grant relief. Where the grief of those losses threaten to overwhelm, grant hope.

We pray, gracious God, for an end to war and for the new earth where there will be no need for military might. But now, we ask your blessing upon our veterans and those closest to them that they may know the gift of your presence and the peace that passes understanding. Amen.

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

Dreaming God's Dream

Moment from our Financial Leadership Team : Phil Wehr

Music Offering: It is Well with My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford and Philip P. Bliss

Blake Hoppes, piano

Invitation to the Offering

As the king and the people worked together to rebuild, they each offered from what they had- the king from his great wealth and power and the people from the work of their hands. What gifts do we have today that can further the dreams of God's beloved community? Where can we invest in hope and beauty?

Ambassadors (everyone!): Share our news, events, and spirit on social media and with your friends, family, and neighbors.

That's what keeps us relevant, engaged, and growing!

Watch for Union UCC merchandise soon!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Relevant • Engaged • Growing



OFFERING

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL. NO DREAM TOO BIG.

Thank you for all the ways that you help us make God's dream a reality at Union UCC.

ELECTRONIC GIVING <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or QR code. Single or ongoing donation with credit/debit card. Help 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 Sunday's offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks).

Please reach out to Don Penrod 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



***Offering Response**

A Thousand Amens Tim Timmons

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly Host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

**Unfailing love comes with the morning
It's Your faithfulness we sing at night
It's Your kindness Lord that leads to our healing
All glory to our maker and a thousand amens.**

Dedication to God of our Generosity

**Inspiring God, thank you for the vision of rebuilding together.
Thank you for the abundance of gifts we have in our
community to embody your dreams for us. Bless what we have
offered, so that piece by piece, we are adding to your ministry.
Amen.**

Benediction

Listen again to the promise Jesus makes:

I will never abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.
Even though the world will not be able to see me,
I will never vanish from your sight.
And since I live, you will also live.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be
afraid.

Go from here in the knowledge
that you do not go alone:
the power and presence of God goes with you.

***Hymm** Dream God's Dream Sirchio

CHORUS

Dream God's dream

Holy Spirit, help us dream...

Of a world where there is justice, and where everyone is free

To build and grow and love

And to simply have enough

The world will change when we dream God's dream

I'm dreaming of a world where the color of one's skin

Will mean less than what's within the person's heart

A world where water's clean, and where air is safe to breathe

And every child born has enough to eat.

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the call God is offering to me

How to use my energy and my best gifts

To do the work of Christ -- to say, God please use my life

To spread Your healing love -- and to live your Truth

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the way that I want my life to go

I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to meet

I'm reaching for the stars, but I won't forget the scars

Of Christ who died to show that the Dream's for all...

(Chorus)

Postlude Music: God Bless America

Blake Hoppes, piano

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$10,276.64	8 AM	68
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-September)	\$ 274,871.00	10:30 AM	131
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-September)	\$ 288,842.00	Online Views	-
Change from Last Year	-4.8%	Sunday School	8
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-September)	\$ 86,050.00	God First	30
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-September)	\$88,094.31	Faith on Tap	38
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	2.4%	Breathe	6
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	115 lbs \$125
		YTD	4,415 Lbs \$1,460.00

Neighbors in Need: \$630.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

Please Pray for my friend Skip who has Throat Cancer, that treatments work! - Carol Barry

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.