



January 4th, 2026
Confirmation Day
10:30 am
Communion

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- Michael Roth; 10:30 am- Donna Christman

Greeters

George & Val Borman, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace,

Ushers

8 am- Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern

10:30 am- Don Penrod, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum John
Fabian, Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler

Sound

Mike Baer

Prelude Music
The Holly and the Ivy
18th Century English Carol
Blake Hoppes
Welcome to Union UCC!
Welcome & Announcements

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.
Here, you will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink
until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged
container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice
are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

**AT HOME: Please find something to eat and drink that represents
communion for you so that you can share in Communion.**

We often share parts of worship responsively.
Phrases in Bold = All Read
Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

Call to Worship

Leader: For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose
under heaven.

**ALL: Today we celebrate a season of growth, learning, and new
commitment.**

Leader: A time to be born, and a time to grow; a time to seek, and a
time to choose.

ALL: We give thanks for those who now claim faith as their own.

Leader: God has made everything suitable for its time and has
placed eternity in our hearts.

ALL: God is still at work in us, shaping us for lives of love and service.

Leader: Come, let us rejoice in this holy moment God has given.

**ALL: We worship God with gratitude, trust, and hope for all the seasons
to come.**

PRAYER

**ALL: Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of your presence
in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without
and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is
really real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to
behold the world as you created it to be, as you created us to be.
Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May
your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days. This
we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the
light of all people. Amen.**

Response

Sending You Light Melanie DeMore

All Sung:

**I am sending you light to heal you,
To hold you.**

**I am sending you light
To hold you in love.**

**I am sending you light to heal you,
To hold you.**

**I am sending you light
To hold you in love.**

Greeting

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

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** The Summons John L. Bell c. 1987 Iona Community

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

Please be seated.

10:30 Children's Time

SONG: This Little Light of Mine— call forward and leave

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.**

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.

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!

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Scripture Response

#584 I am the Light of the World
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

All Sing:

**I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love
You'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

Message

Pastor Kayli

CONFIRMANDS ARE CALLED FORWARD TO AFFIRM THEIR FAITH STATEMENT OF FAITH by The Confirmation Class of 2026

I believe in God. I believe God created all things and loves all things. I think God is with me every day like a guide (**Isabella Micocci**)

Jesus is the Son of God and is my personal Savior. I will follow him and his examples of love and service (**Katie Kochmaruk**)

I believe the Holy Spirit lives within us and helps guide our choices. The Holy Spirit gives me strength to do what is right (**Madison Smallman**)

I think the Bible is a big book filled with different life lessons. My faith may be small but I am learning every day (**Lalik Shabazz**)

Prayer is talking and listening to God, and helps us feel closer to God (**Isabella Micocci**)

I believe the Church is a community where people come together to worship God. (**Madison Smallman**)

I think Church is a place to meet new people and try new things (**Lalik Shabazz**)

Being a Christian means trying your best to live like Jesus and to love everyone. (**Katie Kochmaruk**)

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Questions

Prayer of the Candidates

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully, all the days of my life.

Amen.

Prayer of the Congregation (UNISON)

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of you Holy Spirit

Grant them love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things.

Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

Confirmands will be blessed and prayed over by a pastor, parents, and God Guides.

They will also receive a cross and a certificate from the teaching team.

Parents and God-Guides are invited to come forward when your Confirmand is at the railing

Prayer of Confirmation

Questions about Participation

Welcome (unison)

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ

By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Amen.

Greeting of Christian Love

Consistory Officer -Eric Minnich (Consistory President)

Prayer

BENEDICTION

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.**

Prayer Response

**Into the Night Dave Ray
Tell me what is pure and undefiled
Which is the greatest of our Lord's commands.
But to love our God with heart and mind
And to love our neighbor hand in hand.**

Chorus

**For the widow and the orphan, for the broken and contrite,
To the shadows there has come a Light, and I will carry it into the
night.**

**Tell me, what will show the world our faith?
What will demonstrate the Father's love/
His to guide; we must in turn obey
That our lives below may point above.
Chorus**

**Tell me, who will do what he has heard?
Who will follow as our Savior leads?
We must love each other not with words,
But with action and the proof of deeds.
Chorus**

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

**Faith Commitment Cards – please complete and return
your Faith Commitment Card by January 18 by placing it in
the offering plate, or in the box at the sanctuary entrance,
or by completing it with the link
<https://bit.ly/faithcommitment25-26>**



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



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

Music Offering: Holiday Medley

Arr. Mark Hayes

Blake Hoppes

*** Offering Response**

ALL Sung:

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing

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

Communion

Leader: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.
You will be served in your seats.

Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray.

Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups.
Please choose either.

Invitation

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Creating God.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit fashioned, fired, and freed him

for preaching good news to the poor,

proclaiming release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

setting at liberty those who are oppressed,

announcing that the time had come

when you would save your people.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me."

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the vessels of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the vessels of Christ,
redeemed by his love.

By your Spirit change us for the better,
make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood
of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are
ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

THE BREAD

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread Together
(New Century Hymnal, black)

**Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees
Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me**

**Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me.**

THE CUP

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for
you.

HYMN #677 They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**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
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love**

The Blessing

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

COLLECTING OF CUPS

HYMN #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
(New Century Hymnal, black)

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy;

Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound

Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt;
Gives us love to tell, bread to share, God (Immanuel) everywhere
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.

Benediction

May the God who walks with you through every season
give you courage to claim your faith,
wisdom to discern God's leading,
and joy in serving Christ with your whole life.

Go now in the love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit—
today, and in all the seasons yet to come. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

#123 Draw the Circle Wide
Sing! Prayer and Praise

Chorus:

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever in God's gracious arms.
Chorus**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.
Chorus**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.
Chorus**

Postlude: He Is Born!
Traditional French Carol, 19th c.
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week (12/22)	\$15,972.00
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-Nov)	\$338,493.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Nov)	\$320,290.00
Change from Last Year	5.7%
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-Nov)	\$ 156,840.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Nov)	\$151,776.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-3.2%
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	-
10:30 AM	75
Online Views	-
Sunday School	-
God First	30
Faith on Tap	38
Breathe	8

2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	1,000 lbs \$100
YTD	6,590 Lbs \$1,560.00

Christmas Mission: \$2,146.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In Honor of This Year's Confirmands, You Did It!
Deana Correll

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.