



January 11th, 2026
Guest Preacher Rev. Linda Lennon

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.***

Lay Readers

8 am– Ron Pope; 10:30 am- Doug Brace

Greeters

Ralph & Connie Gioelli, Tracey & Rob Bilger

Ushers

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

Sound

Doug Albert

Prelude Music

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It
Fanny J. Crosby, William J. Kirkpatrick
Blake Hoppes

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

Leader: We gather today in hope, for the Lord promises a new heaven and a new earth.

ALL: We rejoice in God's vision of peace and renewal, where sorrow and pain are no more.

Leader: The former things shall not be remembered, for God is creating something new.

ALL: We lift our hearts in gladness, for God's new creation is already in motion.

Leader: In this new creation, there will be no more weeping, no more distress.

ALL: We receive the promise of peace, where every tear is wiped away.

Leader: They shall build houses and live in them, they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

ALL: We will work with joy, knowing that all our labor is blessed by God.

Leader: Before we call, God will answer; while we are speaking, God will hear.

ALL: We trust in God's presence, knowing that we are never alone.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of restoration and hope.

ALL: We come with open hearts, ready to be part of God's new creation.

PRAYER

**ALL: God of new beginnings,
we come before you with grateful hearts,
for you are the One who creates new heavens and a new earth.
When the weight of former things presses upon us,
you invite us instead to rejoice in what you are making new.**

**As we worship today,
shape us into people of your new creation—
a people who seek peace,
who long for justice,
and who live in harmony with all you have made.**

**Gather us now on your holy mountain,
where nothing shall hurt or destroy,
and lead us deeper into your joy.
We offer this prayer in hope and thanksgiving.
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 #417 This Is a Day of New Beginnings**

(New Century Hymnal, black)

**This is a day of new beginnings
Time to remember and move on
Time to believe what love is bringing
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus
God's mighty spirit now and then
Can make for us a world of difference
As faith and hope and born again**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring
Step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
Seeking new paths and sure to find**

**Chris is alive and goes before us
To show and share what love can do
This is a day of new beginnings
Our God is making all things new.**

Please be seated.

Music Offering 8:00am

Tender Lord, Precious Lord Douglas E. Wagner

Heritage Choir

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

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord

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

Hope for Each Day Rev. Linda Lennon

Pastor Linda, now a retired UCC Pastor, served both in Trexlertown and Richlandtown. Ministry is a second (or third) career for Pastor Linda, as she was a Home Economics teacher before being a stay at home mother of three, before graduating from Moravian Seminary. Pastor Linda and her husband Jerry, a retired Lehigh University Professor now enjoy traveling and babysitting for their grandchildren.

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>



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



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: Wonderful Words of Life Philip P. Bliss
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.**

Benediction

Leader: Go now in the blessing of the God
who makes all things new.

Rejoice in the promise of a new heaven and a new earth,
where sorrow and crying are no more
and joy takes root among God's people.

Go in joy, go in peace,
and live as signs of God's new creation.
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: Just As I Am, Without One Plea Woodworth
Blake Hoppes**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week (12/22)	\$7,322.40
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%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	34
10:30 AM	119
Online Views	-
Sunday School	-
God First	30
Faith on Tap	38
Breathe	8

2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	600 lbs \$100
YTD	600 Lbs \$100

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In honor of the incredible music at Union UCC
-Martha Lutz**

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.