



**January 18th, 2026  
Healing Service & Pray with a Pastor**

**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– Eric Minnich

**Greeters**

Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner

**Ushers**

8 am- Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross, Debbie Romig

10:30 am- Donna Christman, Gloria Toner, Deb Wenner, Doug Brace, Marianne Kitzmiller, Brian Horwith, Maryann Puia

**Sound**

Dawn Dengler

**Prelude Music**  
Just A Closer Walk Traditional  
**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

**TODAY: PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR**

**During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with you or to receive a blessing.**

**Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.**

**Call to Worship**

One: Come, all you weary and hurting;

**All: Here, find rest for your souls.**

One: Here, enter into the grace of forgiveness;

**All: Here, taste the living water of renewal.**

One: Come from busy weeks and anxious worry;

**All: Find here stillness, like being led to green pastures;**

One: Songs that lift you to the heavens,

**All: Prayers that ease the wrinkles from your soul.**

One: Come and worship, for God is our Maker, our Defender and Guide.

**PRAYER**

In her poem, “White Owl Flies Into and Out of the Field,” the poet Mary Oliver describes a magnificent snowy owl, descending out of the sky “like an angel, or a buddha with wings ... beautiful and accurate.”

For her, the owl’s flight inspires a meditation on life, and the sacred light that guides us through it. An excerpt:

... and then it rose, gracefully,  
and flew back to the frozen marshes,  
to lurk there,  
like a little lighthouse,  
in the blue shadows —  
so I thought:  
maybe death  
isn’t darkness, after all,

but so much light  
wrapping itself around us —  
as soft as feathers —  
that we are instantly weary  
of looking, and looking, and shut our eyes,  
not without amazement,  
and let ourselves be carried,  
as through the translucence of mica,  
to the river  
that is without the least dapple or shadow —  
that is nothing but light — scalding, aortal light —  
in which we are washed and washed  
out of our bones.

—Mary Oliver, *House of Light* (Beacon Press, 1990), 79.

The full text of the poem may be found here:

[www.poemsthatilove.com/2010/09/white-owl-flies-into-and-out-of-field.html](http://www.poemsthatilove.com/2010/09/white-owl-flies-into-and-out-of-field.html).

### **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** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

**Joyful, joyful, we adore You,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,  
Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!**

All Your works with joy surround You,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,  
Let Your light upon us shine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
Joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

**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.

**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!**

## **Music Offering 8:00am**

My Lord, What A Morning Traditional Spiritual, Arr. Jay Althouse  
**Heritage Choir**

## **Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## **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 Kris**

## **Prayers of the People**

Darkness descends earlier. Winds rattle naked trees.  
Winter landscapes push us to the hearth,  
to the warmth of a blazing fire,  
to the depths of a thoughtful heart. <sup>5</sup>

There in the interior, in the midst of shadows and worries,  
You have placed your Word like a lamp,  
Your Spirit like a bright star,  
Your truth like a crescent moon.

Every darkness is punctured by light.  
Every light carries shafts of eternal Light.  
God of the day and the night, God of winter darkness,  
We praise you for your Epiphany lights.

(Today's prayer list...)

Amen.

### 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



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

Electronic Giving



**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.

Vanco Mobile



**Cash or checks to "Union UCC"** Place in Sunday's offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks).

Venmo



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.

**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 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 forth now, continuing to seek God's light, reflecting it to all who walk in darkness. Tell others of God's light in Christ, inviting them to search with you. With your eyes of faith, search for God's work where others see failure; envision hope in places of despair.

As you walk through shadows, may they be brightened by God's presence. As you search for God's star, may you find Christ anew. As you look up and down, around and within, may the light of the Holy Spirit bathe you and your world in God's love.

**PRAYERS WITH A PASTOR**

**During the last hymn and the postlude you are invited to come to the railing if you would like to have a pastor pray with you or to receive a blessing.**

**Pastors will offer a blessing of anointing oil on your hand or forehead.**

**\*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:** Blessed Assurance Fanny J. Crosby, Phoebe P. Knapp  
**Blake Hoppes**

## **EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY**

<b>Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)</b>	
Last Week	\$6,457.00
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-Dec)	\$417,794.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Dec)	\$430,609.00
Change from Last Year	-3.0%
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-Dec)	\$227, 510.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Dec)	\$230,290.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	1.2%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

<b>Attendance Last Week</b>	
8 AM	36
10:30 AM	67
Online Views	-
Sunday School	-
God First	-
Faith on Tap	40
Breathe	-

<b>2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Last Week:	\$100
YTD	600 Lbs \$200

### **Presentations to the Glory of God**

**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.