



**March 29 2026**  
**"The Other Way"**  
**Week Six**

**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](http://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**

8am- Rosalie Snyder; 10:30am- Devon Reese Kuharik

### **Greeters**

Margie & Malcolm MacKenzie, Doug & Angie Kuntz

### **Ushers**

8 am- Connie & Ralph Gioielli, Carol James

10:30 am- Deb Wenner, Eric Minnich, Donna Christman, John Fabian

### **Sound**

Dawn Dengler

"You don't choose a life, you live a life." — *The Way* (2010)  
*I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert- Isaiah 43:19*

**Lent is a time of reflection, and there's nothing like a pilgrimage to conjure that up. Making intentional journeys has been a ritual of humankind across time and traditions. Inspired by passages in the Judeo-Christian scriptures that talk about the journeys, roads, and pathways of life, we will make our way together through this season. The popular and poignant movie, *The Way*, about a father's pilgrimage in honor of his late son on the famed Camino de Santiago in France and Spain, accompanies us as our modern-day inspiration to live the life we've been given to the fullest.**

### **Prelude Music**

Prelude: The Palms J. Faure  
**Blake Hoppes**

### **WE GATHER**

Meeting One Another on The Way

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**We often share parts of worship responsively.**

**Phrases in Bold = All Read**

**Phrases NOT in bold = Leader**

### **Preparing Together**

A Wilderness Wandering People Jim and Jeanie Strathdee

*Leader:* Today our worship series theme about journey takes on a very literal journey for Jesus. It likely felt like both the end and the beginning. Such are so many moments of our lives. A pilgrimage may reach its destination but the hope, the wisdom, the lessons learned along the way have offered a new starting point for us. What have we learned and what transformation—what "other way"—are we called to in the name of right relationship in our lives?

### **All Sung:**

**We are a wilderness wandering people  
on a journey of the soul.  
May we find our destination  
in our longing to be whole.  
Our Holy God is calling to us.  
With Jesus by our side  
may compassion be our compass;  
may the Spirit be our guide,  
on The Way,  
on The Way,  
on The Way.**

## Prayers for the Path

**ALL:**

**Jesus of Palm Sunday parades,  
be with us on The Way.**

**We wonder if we have what it takes  
to truly march in the name of justice and love for all people.**

**Are we able to sacrifice the paths that benefit only us  
for the ones that make a way in the wilderness for the least?**

**We come seeking your courage and resolve  
in order to follow your way of love.**

**Amen.**

## Greeting Each Other

The best part of having companions on The Way is the sharing that we get to do that makes us feel just a little less alone. During this series, we will share answers to a common question with each other. I invite you to turn to someone you did not come to church with and answer this question: "What is your favorite parade?"

**\*Please rise in body or spirit to greet each other and to share your answers with each other and for the first song.**

**\*Hymn #216 All Glory, Laud, and Honor  
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, O Christ, we sing,  
To whom the lips of children  
Mad sweet hosannas ring!  
The people of the Hebrews  
with palms adorned your way;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
we offer you this day.**

**O Promised One of Israel,  
Of David's royal line,  
The one called "God's beloved,"  
Of flesh and yet divine,  
To you, Before your passion,  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.**

**As you received their praises,  
Receive our prayers today,  
Whose justice and whose mercy  
And sovereignty hold sway.**

All glory, laud, and honor  
To you, O Christ, we sing,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring!

Please be seated.

10:30 Children's Time- Invite Children Forward

**SONG** I Have Decided

**All Sing:**

I have decided to follow Jesus  
I have decided to follow Jesus  
I have decided to follow Jesus  
No turning back, no turning back.

Forward with Love: A Time with Ms. Nikki and the Pastors

Palm Sunday Parade

Jesus is coming.  
Pave the way with branches.  
Jesus is coming. Hosannah.  
Jesus is coming.  
Pave the way with branches.  
Jesus is coming. Hosannah.

Chorus

Hosannah. Jesus is coming.  
Hosannah to the Prince of Peace.  
Hosannah. Jesus is coming.  
Hosannah to the Prince of Peace.

Hope for the downtrod,  
Pave the way with branches.  
Hope for the downtrod,  
Pave the way with branches.  
Hope for the downtrod,  
Pave the way with branches.

Chorus

Release for the captives  
Pave the way with branches.  
Release for the captives  
Pave the way with branches.  
Release for the captives  
Pave the way with branches.

Chorus

**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 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:** Sing a Song! Hugh S. Livingston, Jr,  
**Heritage Choir**

### **The Mission Statement of Union UCC**

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 a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

### **Welcome and Reception (ALL in unison)**

**ALL: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our 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.**

### **Greeting of Christian Love**

New members being welcomed today:

Melissa Lynn  
Sonya & Keith Galvin  
Caroline McFadden  
Tamia Rice

**WELCOME HOME!** ~ John Roedel

### **Left Side:**

**You are somebody's front porch to God.  
You are someone's doorway to mercy.  
You are the world's threshold to kindness.  
You are my entrance to letting go of regret.**

### **Right Side:**

**No pressure, but...  
Your life is a gateway to peace  
for both strangers and friends alike,  
Whether you realize it or not...**



**ALL:**  
**Empathy has chosen you to turn your heart into a welcome mat for others. This is the purpose of your life... To let your existence become a candlelit veranda of hope for the rest of us to gather on to hold each other during the long dark night.**

**Leader:**  
We are somebody's front porch to God.  
Welcome home to God, welcome home to Union.

**WE PROCLAIM**  
Discovering Ourselves on The Way

**First Reading**  
*Psalm 37:1-9 (Inclusive Bible)*

Don't be vexed by evildoers,  
and don't be envious of the corrupt!  
They'll soon fade like the grass,  
and wither away like unwatered plants.

Trust in YHWH, and do good,  
and you'll dwell in the land and enjoy security.  
Delight in YHWH,  
and you'll be given the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to YHWH, and trust in YHWH;  
God will take action, making your vindication as sure as the dawn  
and your integrity as bright as noonday.

Be still before YHWH and wait patiently;  
don't fret about those who amass great fortunes  
and carry out their schemes unchallenged.  
Let go of your anger, and leave resentment behind.  
And stop worrying! It produces nothing but evil,  
and evildoers will be cut off.

But those who put their hope in YHWH—  
they will inherit the land.

**Second Reading**  
*Luke 19: 28b-40*

*...Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.' "* So those

who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

**Message**  
**Pastor Kris**

## **I Heard An Owl** **Carrie Newcomer**

I heard an owl call last night  
Homeless and confused  
and I stood naked and bewildered  
at the evil people do.  
Up upon a hill there is a terrible sign  
That tells the story of what darkness waits  
When we leave the light behind.

### **CHORUS**

**So don't tell me hate is ever right or God's will**  
**These are the wheels we put in motion ourselves**  
**And the whole world weeps and is weeping still**  
**Though shaken I still believe**  
**The best of what we all can be**  
**And the only peace this world will know**  
**Can only come from love.**

I am a voice calling out  
Across the great divide  
I am only just one person  
That feels they have to try  
The questions fall like trees or dust  
And rise like prayers above  
But the only word is "Courage"  
And the only answer "Love".



## CHORUS

**Don't tell me hate is ever right or God's will  
These are the wheels we put in motion ourselves  
The whole world weeps and is weeping still  
Though shaken I still believe  
The best of what we all can be  
And the only peace this world will know  
Can only come from love.**

Light every candle that you can  
For we need some light to see  
In the days of deepest loss,  
Treat each other tenderly  
And the arms of God will gather in  
Each sparrow that falls  
And makes no separation  
Just fiercely loves us all.

## CHORUS

**Don't tell me hate is ever right or God's will  
These are the wheels we put in motion ourselves  
The whole world weeps and is weeping still  
Though shaken I still believe  
The best of what we all can be  
And the only peace this world will know  
Can only come from love.**

### **Resources for you for this season leading you on The Way to Easter:**

**Movie: The Way (2010)** When his son dies while hiking the famed Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route in the Pyrenees, Tom flies to France to claim the remains. Looking for insights into his estranged child's life, he decides to complete the 500-mile mountain trek to Spain. Tom soon joins up with other travelers and realizes they're all searching for something. The Friday and Sunday classes will be watching the movie. You can also stream it on several sites.

**Book: Wisdom Walking: Pilgrimage as a Way of Life** Gil Stafford  
The Friday and Sunday adult classes are reading this. Join us! Extra copies are available on the table in the lobby.

**Journals:** Packets that include scripture, prayer, and reflections questions are available on the table in the lobby.

## WE RESPOND

Opening to the Holy on The Way

### A Ritual for Getting Out of Our Own Way

*Leader:* Jesus was constantly seeking out time in the stillness as respite to the times when he navigated the path alongside chaotic crowds. We pause our journey today at the threshold of entering the "what's next" of life to meet God in the stillness.

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Dear Lord,  
I, too, can feel the excitement  
in the long-awaited coming of One  
who can change shadows into sunlight,  
despair into hope,  
and even death into life.  
With all inhibitions down I could  
join in the parades, processions, and testimonials  
for such a One.  
When I am asked, though,  
to join with such a person on a march that might lead to  
rejection, negation, and maybe even death,  
I am not so sure.  
If it is possible,  
let that cup pass from me,  
but if not...  
Amen.

Stillness  
Lindy Thompson, Mark Miller

**All Sung:**  
**Meet me in the stillness, Lord**  
**Be the air I breathe**  
**Meet me in the stillness, Lord**  
**Free me to receive**

***Time for Contemplation***  
***Pause, enjoy the music as you silently pray.***

Hear this: Whether you find yourself in the midst of the parade  
for justice  
or cheering on from the sidelines, your presence is a gift.  
Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it,  
Jesus knows your heart and your desire,  
and knows just how hard it can be to take courageous steps  
into the fray.  
You are forgiven and loved,  
especially when you think you are not doing enough.  
May it be so.

**All Sung:  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive**

### **Praying for Others Along the Way**

We continue our prayers with intercessions for those whose journeys are difficult in this moment...

And as we think about the difficulties of life, we also are reminded that there is so much good along the journey of life. We give thanks for...

We pray all these things spoken aloud, and the ones lifted in the quiet of our hearts, and conclude our prayers with the one that Jesus taught us, saying...

**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.**

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

**Easter Mission Offering:** You can support this by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or a blank envelope marked - Easter Mission, or donate electronically by using any of the options below and noting "Easter Mission."

Habitat for Humanity Founded in 1989, Habitat Lehigh Valley brings together people from all walks of life to help others. Habitat Lehigh Valley works by partnering with local businesses, individuals and faith-based groups to build and renovate housing for families in need in our community. Their objective is to provide families with a decent home in a safe neighborhood. Additionally, families help to revitalize neighborhoods and increase the local tax base.

Meals on Wheels For over 50 years, Meals on Wheels has been passionately committed to serving seniors and adults. Their mission is simple yet profound: to provide nutritious meals and foster social connection across the Greater Lehigh Valley. They have become an integral part of the lives of over 2,000 seniors and adults with disabilities.



**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:** We Shall Behold Him Dottie Rambo  
Blake Hoppes

**Please stand in body or spirit.**

## Offering Response

### ALL SUNG:

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

### WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

### Benediction

Our blessing, or "benediction," for this season  
is a call and response form.

Your response is:

"We will follow on The Way."

**"We will follow on The Way."**

The Creator God filled you with breath,  
inviting you to this journey called Life.

**We will follow on The Way.**

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means  
to make a new way with Love.

**We will follow on The Way.**

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward  
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

**We will follow on The Way.**

May this week be filled with opportunities to choose  
a path that leads to more life for all people  
and to keep moving toward horizons of love.

May it be so. Amen.

"Buen Camino!"

### At the doors: Pick up a scallop shell or a pebble.

- **The scallop shell** has long been a symbol of St. James, the apostle whose cathedral in Galicia, Spain is the final destination for many pilgrims who walk the El Camino. Many of the trail markers along the Camino bear the image of scallop shells to assure travelers that they are on the right path. Please take a shell any Sunday you'd to remind you of this journey we walk with God and each other and to remember you are not alone.

- **Carrying a small stone** has been one of the traditions along the Camino de Santiago. The stone is often treated as a physical symbol of the pilgrim's burdens in life – perhaps a sadness in need of soothing, or a wound in need of healing. Travelers may choose to release their stones anywhere along the journey that feels right, but there is one site that pilgrims often choose at the foot of the Cruz de Ferro (the Iron Cross).

**You are welcome to hold onto your shell and/or rock through this season that leads to Easter.**

**\*HYMN #213 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

**I am weak but Thou art strong;  
Hosanna, loud hosanna,  
the little children sang,  
through pillared court and temple  
the lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them  
close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed  
mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving,  
and chanting clear and loud.  
The one whom angels worship  
rode on in lowly state,  
And glad to see the children,  
Slowed down the donkey's gait.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!"  
that ancient song is ours,  
We hail our great Redeemer,  
and sing with all our powers.  
Hosanna Christ we praise you  
With heart and life and voice,  
Hosanna! In your presence  
Forever we'll rejoice.**

**Postlude: Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

Tune: St. Christopher, Frederick C. Maker

**Blake Hoppes**

**Worship Theme: c. Worship Design Studio**

**Worship Design Team: Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Pastor Kris**

**Easter Flower Set Up: Rick and Kathy Bonsell**

**Special thanks to Kerry Snyder, Ron Snyder, Pastor Kayli, and Nikki**

**Pentland for altar decoration supplies.**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$7,484.00	8 AM	50
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.-Feb)	\$61,191.32	10:30 AM	119
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb)	\$59,944.00	Sunday School	-
Change from Last Year	<b>2.1%</b>	God First	-
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-Feb)	\$290,630.00	Faith on Tap	42
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Feb)	\$290,041.00	Breathe	-
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.2%	<b>2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Last Week	\$100, 150 Lbs
		YTD	\$200, 900 Lbs,
		Easter Mission	\$2,241.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### In Memory of Mom Ruth Rothrock and family

by daughters Lucille Kuhns, Lana Reitz and Leoma Kern

### In Honor of Robert J. Kuhn's birthday on March 29, and Jeffrey R. Kuhns heavenly birthday on March 30

by Lucille Kuhns & Family

### In Memory of Walt Disney

**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.