



April 12th, 2026

“Be Still and Know”

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/unioneffs. 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- Ron Pope; 10:30am- Vicki Mayk

Greeters

Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner

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

Sound

Karl Klinger

“Prayer is a small fire lit to keep cold hands warm. Prayer is a practice that flourishes both with faith and doubt. Prayer is asking and prayer is sitting. Prayer is the breath. Prayer is not an answer, always, because not all questions can be answered. Prayer can be a rhythm that helps us make sense in times of senselessness, not offering solutions, but speaking to and from the mystery of humanity.”

- Pádraig Ó Tuama, Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community

“Prayer is...” How would you finish this sentence? Prayer is such a personal, and often ambiguous, practice. Are we not “pray-ers” if we don’t start with “Dear God...” and end with “Amen?” Can prayer be simply an attitude, a heightened moment of attention to our surroundings, or a gasp of gratitude when beauty crosses our path? Yes and yes and yes. Prayer is many things. Even the disciples needed some coaching from Jesus about how to pray.

Prelude Music

Behold the Lamb Dottie Rambo
Blake Hoppes

THE WHEN WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

We often share parts of worship responsively.

Phrases in Bold = All Read
Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

Threshold

Leader: Jesus had a rich prayer life. Whether it was public prayers and blessings or private prayers on the mountain or in the garden, praying was a deeply connecting practice for him. Sometimes prayer can be a bit abstract for us. We may not be sure about incorporating it into our lives. We know it is part of our Christian tradition and we practice it here in our sanctuary. But we may not be as sure about what it can mean for us outside of worship. That’s ok. Jesus’ disciples weren’t sure either and so they asked him to help them. He gave his disciples a template for ways to relate to God in prayer. In this new worship series, we are going to sink deep into the “when, where, what, and why” of prayer as Jesus showed his disciples.

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

ALL SUNG:

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

We arrive fully into this moment, Holy One.
We open to sense your presence among us.

We hear you say,
“Be still and know.”

We need you, Jesus, to help us.
We come to you as your first disciples did.

We hear you say,
“Be still and know.”

Spirit of Divine Love,
come to us with your healing waters.

We hear you say,
“Be still and know.”

ALL SUNG:

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**

Leader: I invite us to a few moments of silence. Feel your rhythms slow a bit. You were given a strand of prayer beads when you arrived. Simply hold those in your hands. Feel the textures with no need to figure anything else out about them right now. Just “be still and know....” meaning, listen to whatever is in your heart.

Silence

Leader: Take a deep breath [*pause*]. You are allowed to simply “be” in your life sometimes. “Be still” sometimes. Because when we do, we can finally hear what we know about the Holy deep inside of us. Let us worship God, follow Christ, and revel in the Spirit of Presence in this place. Let us rise in body and/or spirit and sing together.

The Peace

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,

ALL: You are welcome here.

Leader: Welcome to this place and time of worship, prayer, and service.

***Please rise in body or spirit to greet each other with Christ’s
welcome and for the first song.** 3

***Hymn #505 Sweet Hour of Prayer**
New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Maker's throne
let all my needs and wants be known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return,
sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for your return!
With them I hasten to the place
where I would know my Savior's face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
whose wings shall my petition bear
to One whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless,
And since I'm bid to seek God's face,
believe God's word, and trust God's grace,
I'll cast away my every care,
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Please be seated.

10:30 Children's Time – Invite Children Forward

SONG Alleluia, Praise Ye the Lord

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia!
Praise ye the Lord!
Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia!
Praise ye the Lord!
Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!
Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!
Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!
Praise ye the Lord!

Children's Church— during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and are invited forward to 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 9:15-10:15am, 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!

8am Music Offering: Jesus, Savior Hugh S. Livingston
Heritage Choir

THE WHAT WE PROCLAIM

Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Message
Guest Preacher: 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.

**THE WHERE
WE RESPOND**

Prayer Song

ALL SUNG:
You know my words before they're said.
You know my need and I am fed.
You give me life. You know my ways,
my strength, my path, for all my days.
my strength, my path, for all my days.

Prayers of the People

Leader: When we come to the prayer time in our worship, we have been in communication with God throughout the service, but this is the moment when we have heard the Word from the scriptures, we've heard a word from a guide, a preacher, who helps us to explore our faith, and now we are ready to ask—"just ask"—for God's Word to become flesh among us once again as we intercede on behalf of the world. When we bring joys and concerns in this moment, it serves to bring them predominantly into our minds and hearts so that our response to the Gospel Good News is to prepare to be that Good News through our actions in the world. This is the "where" of prayer. Prayer happens where we are "a-ware" of our need for loving relationship with God, with others, with ourselves. So we are going to share our joys and concerns to bring them top-of-mind and then we will pray with our beads.

What are you thankful for today? We are going to just lift up words or phrases of thanksgiving. I am grateful for _____
What are you grateful for?

What concerns you today? Who needs our prayers? I pray for _____
Who else needs our prayers?

For all these things spoken and the ones spoken in the quiet of our hearts, hear our prayers, O God. Amen.

Be Still and Know Prayer

Leader: Each week we will be focusing on various forms of prayer. In this opening service we are getting oriented to our focus on prayer, and learning to slow down and center ourselves so we can sense God is with us. I want to teach you a "Be still and know" prayer with our prayer beads

Bead 1: Be, be, be

Bead 2: Be still, be still, be still

Bead 3: Be still and know, be still and know, be still and know

Bead 4: Be still and know that I am God.

Bead 5: I am God. I am God. I am God.

Bead 6: I am, I am, I am.

Bead 7: God, God, God

End Bead: Stillness

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.

ALL SUNG:

You know my words before they're said.

You know my need and I am fed.

**You give me life. You know my ways,
my strength, my path, for all my days.**

my strength, my path, for all my days

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



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.

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: God and God Alone Phil McHugh
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** Offering Response**

Doxology

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Like strands of beads, we offer gifts,
that one by one, your love will lift.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**That all may have just what they need,
by this we're bless'd and truly freed.**

Hear our prayers, God.

Be our guide, Lord.

Holy Spirit, come and fill us.

Alleluia!

Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



Venmo



**THE WHY
WE GO FORTH**

Benediction

Note: Take your prayer beads home to use throughout the week and then bring them back next week as we continue to learn new ways to pray.

And now hear this word of blessing:

God knows our words before they're said,
knows our need and we are fed.

God gives us life, knows our ways,
our strength, our path, for all our days.
our strength, our path, for all our days.

Go into the world with the assurance
that God goes with you,
Jesus prays for you,
and the Spirit breathes through you, all your days.
Let the people say, **Amen!**

***Hymn #471 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**
(Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal)

What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Chorus
Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Chorus

What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Savior near
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Chorus



Postlude Music: Jesus Shall Reign Tune: Duke Street, John Hatton
Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme: c. Worship Design Studio
Worship Design Team: Deb Topp, Pastor Kris
Prayer Beads: Thank you Susan Glosan!

Prayer Beads

Since the early church, Christians have used common, ordinary, everyday objects - including pebbles, knotted rope, crosses, and strings of beads - to help them in prayer. Prayer beads can be a wonderful prayer tool helping us feel connected to God and providing some structure for our prayer time.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER If you are using a prayer bead strand with introductory beads before the seven smaller beads, simply move along those, settling and asking God to open your heart. If you have a prayer bead strand with a different number, that's ok. It doesn't matter... simply moving up and down your prayer bead strand with each line.

Be Still and Know Prayer

This is a centering prayer adapted from the community at Iona, Scotland, based on Psalm 46:10. Move along your prayer beads once or multiple times. Feel your breathing slow. Take as much time as you need to simply be present, to find stillness.

Bead 1: Be, be, be

Bead 2: Be still, be still, be still

Bead 3: Be still and know, be still and know, be still and know

Bead 4: Be still and know that I am God

Bead 5: I am God. I am God. I am God

Bead 6: I am, I am, I am

Bead 7: God, God, God

End Bead: Stillness

*These prayers have been created by Dr. Marcia McFee,
www.worshipdesignstudio.com,
for the series on prayer, "All My Days."*

Using Beads to Talk with God Prayer beads can help us feel comfortable talking with God. This might look like:

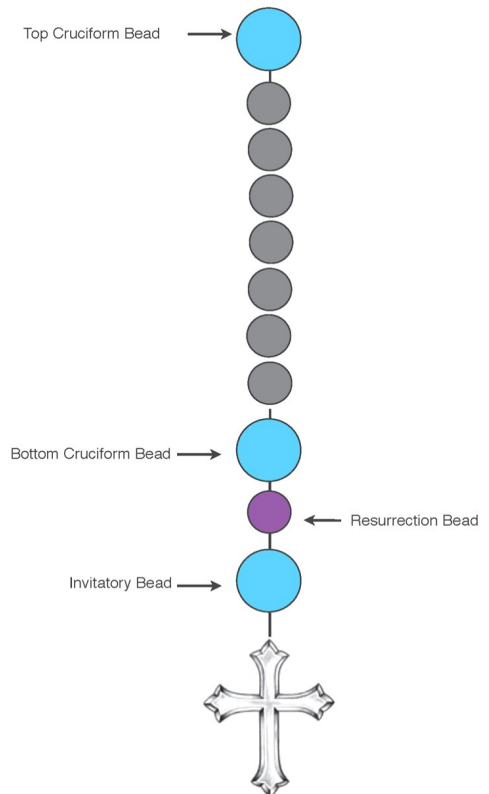
- Using each bead to name something you are thankful for.
- Using each bead to bless someone.
- Using each bead to offer up a prayer concern.
- Using each bead to share what you are feeling.
- Using each bead to tell God about your day.

Using Beads to Listen to God Prayer beads can also help us get quiet and listen to what God has to say to us. They can ground us when we are feeling scared or anxious. When we hold them, we are reminded that God is as close to us as the beads between our fingers. This might look like:

- Using each bead to take a deep breath.
- Using each bead to repeat a phrase, such as “Jesus loves me,” or “Please, God, help me.”
- Sitting with the beads while you listen to a song or a Bible story being read. What did you hear? What do you think God is saying to you through the song or story?
- Holding the beads when you are scared or sad, remembering that God is with you.

It's important to remember...

- There is no right or wrong way to use beads in prayer.
- Feel free to experiment with different ways to use your beads.
- You can use beads with prayers your family already uses or create or learn new ones.
- You can follow the beads to say your prayers, or you can hold them in your hands and feel God's deep love for you.



EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$17,233.00	Good Friday	108
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.-Feb)	\$61,191.32	Easter Sunrise	50
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb)	\$59,944.00	8 AM	102
Change from Last Year	2.1%	10:30 AM	331
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-Feb)	\$290,630.00	God First	-
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Feb)	\$290,041.00	Faith on Tap	42
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.2%	2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Last Week	\$100, 1,200 Lbs
		YTD	\$300, 2,100 Lbs,
		Easter Mission	\$3,294.83

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News

In Honor of Brooke Correll's Birthday

by Deana & Ryan Correll

In Memory of son and brother, Dean Dengler

by Mom, Diane and Sister, Dawn

Children's Bulletins

In Honor of Chevelle Humanick's 9th birthday on April 2

by Lucille Kuhns and Jodee & Brandon Humanick

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.