



April 19th, 2026

“Presence”

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- Rosalie Snyder; 10:30am- Doug Brace

Greeters

Dale & Maria Brace, Margie and Malcolm MacKenzie

Ushers

8 am- Edie Fella, Dixie Gross, Debbie Romig

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

Sound

Pat Sorg

"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

Reverie Claude Debussy
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: Welcome back to our series on prayer. Today we begin to unpack the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples by looking closely at the significance of the first line. Abba is the Aramaic name for God that Jesus used. This was a very intimate term- referring to God as family- and was a radical idea in Jesus' day. Relationship was central to Jesus' teaching and what he passed on to us is that we are as close with the Divine as a parent and child. How might addressing God with a diversity of names in prayer help form us as disciples and make God more present to us? "Presence" is our focus about prayer today. God is always present, but are we?

"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,
“I am present with you”

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

We hear you say,
“I am present with you”

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

We hear you say,
“I am present with you”

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. Those of you who were here last week know that we are using an ancient tradition of prayer beads to help us spend more time in prayer. Bring your beads back each week but we will always have “loaners” on hand if you forget. For those who were not here last week, please feel free to take these home and bring them back with you each Sunday for the series. Now, I invite you to simply hold the prayer beads in your hands. Begin to sense that the presence of God is as close and real as the beads in your hands.

Silence

Leader: Take a deep breath [*pause*]. You are not alone. We are connected to God. This is not “pie in the sky” but a presence that is close and real in all created things—in the sun that shines on us, in the people that cross our paths, in the tangible presence of these beads. Let us worship God, follow Christ, and revel in the Spirit of Presence in this place.

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.**

***Hymn #459** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (New Century Hymnal)

**Come, o Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn a-new
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

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: There Is A Savior
Bob Farrell, Greg Nelson, & Sandi Patti - Arr. By Dan Goeller
Carol Pope

THE WHAT WE PROCLAIM

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Mark 14: 35-36

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want."

The Message Pastor Kayli Freeman

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: We are doing "bidding prayers" in our worship for this series. This is where I invite you to lift up joys and concerns in short words or phrases so that we fill this sanctuary with our prayers. Each prayer is a sign that we believe God is present and working among us. 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.

The Prayer of Presence

Leader: Each week we will be focusing a different kind of prayer with our prayer beads. Today, we have focused on the beauty of exploring names for God that help us to learn more about God and about ourselves in relationship to God, offering us more ways to imagine God's presence

- Bead 1: Creator (we are also creative) Gen 1:1
- Bead 2: Logos ("the Word" scripted on our hearts) John 1:1
- Bead 3: Mother ("as a hen gathers her chicks") Matt 23:37
- Bead 4: Alpha & Omega (always with us) Rev 1:8
- Bead 5: Great Light (shining into our darkest places) Isa 9:2
- Bead 6: Refuge (shelter in times of trouble) Ps 9:9
- Bead 7: Gracious & Merciful (always loving us) Jonah 4:2
- End Bead: Abba (intimate and fully known)

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

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



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



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



Venmo

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.

Music Offering: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus Helen H. Lemmel
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!**

**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 #448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be (New Century Hymnal)**

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise**

**Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose**

**Take my will, your will be done! Make your will and mine be one
Take my heart and by your grace make of it your dwelling place**

**Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

Postlude Music: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Adoniram J. Gordon (Tune: Gordon)

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.

The Prayer of Presence

God through prayer can be a creative act. The Bible uses many names for God. Abba is just one of them. In this prayer, we repeat various names for God (just say the name, not the explanation or reference). As you pause between each one, imagine what knowing God in this way means for your developing relationship with the Divine.

- Bead 1: Creator (we are also creative) Gen 1:1
- Bead 2: Logos ("the Word" scripted on our hearts) John 1:1
- Bead 3: Mother ("as a hen gathers her chicks") Matt 23:37
- Bead 4: Alpha & Omega (always with us) Rev 1:8
- Bead 5: Great Light (shining into our darkest places) Isa 9:2
- Bead 6: Refuge (shelter in times of trouble) Ps 9:9
- Bead 7: Gracious & Merciful (always loving us) Jonah 4:2
- End Bead: Abba (intimate and fully known)

*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:

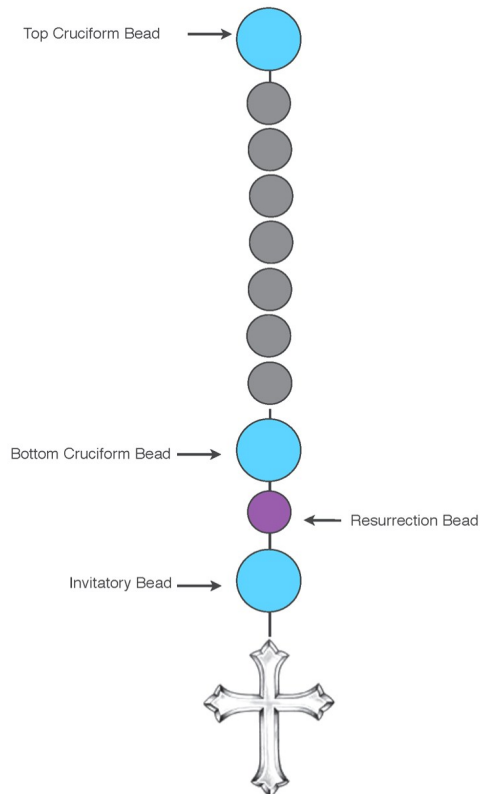
- Using each bead to name something you are thankful for.
- Using each bead to bless someone.
- Using each bead to offer up a prayer concern.
- Using each bead to share what you are feeling.
- Using each bead to tell God about your day.

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)	
Last Week	\$9,849.00
<i>Calendar Year 2026 (Jan. - Mar.)</i>	\$94,780.00
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Mar)</i>	\$93,711.00
Change from Last Year	1.1%
Budget FY 2025-2026(<i>July-Mar.</i>)	\$322,720.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July-Mar.</i>)	\$322,427.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.1%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	33
10:30 AM	94
God First	-
Faith on Tap	42

2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week	\$300, 125 Lbs
YTD	\$600, 2,225 Lbs,
Easter Mission	\$3,294.83

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News:

Pray for me- I'm at the women's retreat!

Pastor Kris

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.