



April 26h, 2026
“Praise”
Guest Preacher: Susan Glosan

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.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Readers

8am- Carol Pope; 10:30am- Eric Minnich

Greeters

Carly & Randy Kocher, Andy & Jan Dyszel

Ushers

8 am- Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl
10:30 am- Eric Minnich, Gene Thrash, Jason Klinger, Marlene Blöse,
Dale Blöse, Kim Pentland, Andy Dyszel

Sound

Mike Baer

"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

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
Tune: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson

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

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.

Threshold

Leader: Welcome back to our series on prayer. Today we continue our exploration of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples by dwelling with the phrase, "Hallowed be thy name." Devotion is time set apart (the meaning of "sacred") to honor something or someone we love. When Jesus called God's name "hallowed," he was drawing us to the sacred nature of the holy. When we pray, we set apart our time and attention to things that matter deeply. Who and what do we deem "worthy" and what happens when we make praise a regular expression? "Praise" is our focus about prayer today. How are we being called to set apart our time and attention to witness holiness and offer praise?

"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,
"This moment is sacred"

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

We hear you say,
"This moment is sacred"

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

We hear you say,
"This moment is sacred"

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. 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*]. Sacredness permeates this world. We are surrounded by so many people and plants, creatures and landscapes that reveal Divine glory. Our hearts overflow with awe, wonder, and praise. Hallowed be. Let us worship God, follow Christ, and revel in the Spirit of Praise 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 #423 Great Is Your Faithfulness (New Century Hymnal)**

**Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator
With you no shadow of turning we see
You do not change, your compassion they fail not
All of your goodness forever will be**

**REFRAIN: Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed, your hand has provided
Great is your faithfulness, God unto me**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

REFRAIN

**Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside**

REFRAIN

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!

Music Offering: I Go To The Rock

Dottie Rambo, Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson

8am, Heritage Choir; 10:30am, Horizon Choir

THE WHAT WE PROCLAIM

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:2-3

On the sixth day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work... So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, [siblings], whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Message

Susan Glosan, member of Union UCC

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: The practice of prayer we are using in this worship series is called "bidding prayers." 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 an expression of what matters most to us, hallowing and drawing our attention to the deep longings and praises of our hearts. 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 Praise

Leader: Each week we will be focusing a different kind of prayer with our prayer beads. Today, we have focused prayers of praise. When we say "hallowed be..." we are setting something apart as sacred, special and worthy of praise, whether they are people or circumstances for which we are grateful or ones that are difficult. We take a time of quiet music to move through eight beads, lifting up one person or circumstance or thing in your life for which you'd like to give praise to God

Bead 1: Hallowed be _____

Bead 2: Hallowed be _____

Bead 3: Hallowed be _____

Bead 4: Hallowed be _____

Bead 5: Hallowed be _____

Bead 6: Hallowed be _____

Bead 7: Hallowed be _____

End Bead: Hallowed be thy name.

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

May Mission Collections

This year, the Mission Committee is partnering with Lehigh Conference of Churches by organizing a special collection of items needed for families in the local community. In honor of Mother's Day, we will be collecting baby supplies, feminine hygiene products, incontinence products, and more.

A special baby crib will be set up in the foyer for you to drop off donations during the whole month of May. Items needed are baby wipes, diapers, lotion, soap, feminine hygiene products, depends, shampoo and conditioner for women, and toilet paper. These may seem like simple little items but are truly needed to improve the lives of people and families that are served through Lehigh Conference of Churches.

Please share your love to the community and drop off these items during our special May mission collection



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: The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte
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!**

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.

***Hymn #1** For the Beauty of the Earth
(Hymns for the Family of God, Gold Hymnal)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise**

**For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise**

**For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise**

**For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above
Offering up on every shore, her pure sacrifice of love
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise**

**For thy-self, best give divine, to our race so freely given
For that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise**

Postlude Music: There is a Balm in Gilead Spiritual
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 Praise

Gratitude has many benefits. Offering praise prayers can help us get more specific as we name things and people and circumstances for which we are grateful. When we say “hallowed be...” we are setting something apart as sacred, special and worthy of praise. See what happens when you also praise God for circumstances/people that are difficult.

Bead 1: “Hallowed be _____”

Bead 2: Hallowed be _____”

Bead 3: Hallowed be _____”

Bead 4: Hallowed be _____”

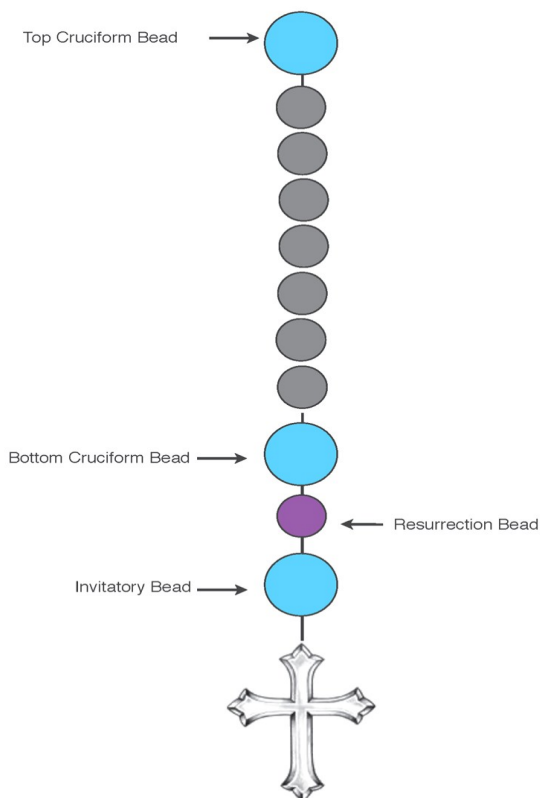
Bead 5: Hallowed be _____”

Bead 6: Hallowed be _____”

Bead 7: Hallowed be _____”

End Bead: Hallowed be thy name.

*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	\$7,961.00
<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	40
10:30 AM	55
God First	-
Faith on Tap	42

2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week	\$300, 75 Lbs
YTD	\$600, 2,300 Lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News:

Grateful for my Dad Roscoe! By Pastor Kris

Children's Bulletin:

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.