



**April 5th, 2026  
Easter Sunday  
"Make Your Way"**

**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- Michael Roth; 10:30am- Devon Reese Kuharik

### **Greeters**

George & Valerie Borman, Gene & Christina Thrash

### **Ushers**

8 am- Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern

10:30 am- Leanna Lane, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog-Wassum  
, John Fabian Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler

### **Sound**

6:30am- Mike Baer; 8am- Doug Albert; 10:30am- 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*

**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**

I Know That My Redeemer Lives John Hatton

**Instrumental Ensemble: Isaac Brace, Connor Maxwell, Lucas Maxwell, Andy Dyszel, Mike Baer**

**Director: Michael Roth**

### **WE GATHER**

Meeting One Another on The Way

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Holy Communion**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of God's love and grace.  
**If you are at home**, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents Communion to you.

**Here**, you will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

**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:* Easter morning is where we leave our wilderness wandering and turn toward the new day with the hope and truth that we found along The Way: we are not alone.

The morning comes on the third day after Jesus had been crucified and grief turns to fear and then to astonishment and joy. The message is clear; Jesus is not dead and they are given instructions to make their way to Galilee where he will meet with all the disciples. And so we

make our way this morning to meet the risen Christ on the shores where the disciples were called and where we are called once again to be the Christ's risen Body on the way to liberation from death into renewed life, renewed journeys, forevermore.

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

**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**

**God of Renewed Life,  
we give you thanks for Ultimate Good News—life wins!  
On this day of celebration of the rising of Jesus, the Christ,  
we open ourselves to our destination: your unending love.  
We know that whenever we need direction,  
we have only to begin the journey afresh  
and you will come alongside.  
Thank you, Spirit, for the wind beneath our wings,  
the pep in our step,  
the flame of desire for life and love renewed.  
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:

“Where have you seen new life recently?” or  
“Where are you praying for or working toward new life?”

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

**\*Hymn** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today  
#233 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

**Jacob Roth, Othsn**

**Instrumentalists**

**Director: Michael Roth**

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

**Please be seated.**

**10:30 Music Offering** Risen for Me Angie Killian & Monica Scott  
**Kid's Choir: Isaac Brace, Raegan Minnich, Cali Monahan, Esther Poremba, Lily Stanek**  
**Director: Blake Hoppes**

**10:30 Today Children Worship with their Families but typically there is Children's Church.**

**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!**

**WE PROCLAIM**  
Discovering Ourselves on The Way

**First Reading**  
*Psalm 107 (NRSVUE)*

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
those redeemed from trouble  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to an inhabited town;  
hungry and thirsty,  
their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress;  
God led them by a straight way,  
until they reached an inhabited town.

Let them thank the Lord for steadfast love,  
for God's wonderful works to humankind.  
For God satisfies the thirsty,  
and the hungry God fills with good things.  
God turns rivers into a desert,  
springs of water into thirsty ground,  
a fruitful land into a salty waste,  
because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

The Holy One turns a desert into pools of water,  
a parched land into springs of water.  
And there God lets the hungry live,  
and they establish a town to live in;  
they sow fields and plant vineyards  
and get a fruitful yield.

**8 and 10:30 Music Offering** Christ Arose  
Words & Music by Robert Lowry Arr. Mar McDonald  
**Jacob Roth, organ ; Blake Hoppes, piano**  
**Andy Hill & Mitchell Roth, trumpet**  
**Adult Choir: Lucy Boyer, Doug Brace, Geoff Brace, Donna**  
**Christman, Teresa Dalrymple, Matt Gerry, Susan Glosan, Stephen**  
**Kareha, Jason Klinger, Karl Klinger, Carol Pope, Jacob Roth, Natalie**  
**St. Hill, Carol Stout, Julie Wehr**

**Second Reading**  
*Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSVUE)*

**WE RESPOND**

Opening to the Holy on The Way

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

*After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."*

**Reflection: Make Your Way**  
**Pastor Kris**

**Prayer for the Shoreline**

*Leader:* And so the disciples end up where many began... the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee. Just as the pilgrims in our theme movie ended up and parted ways at the sea, we come to this moment of our journey and we give thanks for all that has been given to us in the midst of doubt. Once more we hear the voice of our prayer poet, Rev. John Winn, whose prayers have traveled with us during Lent:

O God of both Good Friday and Easter morning,  
overcome my willingness to take life as it is,  
rather than search out its new possibilities.  
Sometimes I have been deadened by hard reality  
and cold facts longer than I care to admit.

Give me back the laughter,  
the enthusiasm,  
the optimism,  
the dreams,  
that help me find something  
to believe in once again.

Roll away the stone from my heart  
when it becomes cold  
and enable me to truly live and love once more.

Help me to see myself as you see me  
and to be fully alive  
to the new morning  
that has broken this day,  
through Jesus Christ,  
who has become our Savior.  
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.**

**8 and 10:30 Music Offering** Stillness Lindsay Thompson, Mark Miller  
Words & Music by Robert Lowry Arr. Mar McDonald

**Jason Klinger, Solo**

**Andy Hill & Mitchell Roth, trumpet**

**Adult Choir: Lucy Boyer, Doug Brace, Geoff Brace, Donna  
Christman, Teresa Dalrymple, Matt Gerry, Susan Glosan, Stephen  
Kareha, Jason Klinger, Karl Klinger, Carol Pope, Jacob Roth, Natalie  
St. Hill, Carol Stout, Julie Wehr**

**Blake Hoppes**

**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.



**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



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**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:** Indescribable Laura Story  
**Lincoln Hoppes, alto saxophone; Cayden Hoppes, piano**

**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.**

### **Holy Communion**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of God's love and grace.

**If you are at home,** we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents Communion to you.

**Here,** you will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

### **Invitation**

Will you open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table?  
If so, say, "Open us to your grace, Lord."

**"Open us to your grace, Lord."**

Will you open yourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ?  
If so, say, "Open us to your call, Lord."

**"Open us to your call, Lord."**

Will you open yourselves to the possibility of transformation through Jesus Christ?

If so, say, "Transform us, O Lord."

**"Transform us, O Lord."**

You formed us in your image,  
creating all in goodness,  
asking us to walk with You in love.

When we held back from Your invitation,  
You sought us out, encouraging us on our way, time and again.



You led those who could not see by a road they did not know.  
You have turned nighttime before them into light.  
You have smoothed out the rough places and made them plain.  
You have released the prisoners from the dungeon.  
You have made all things new.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit anointed him to walk with the poor, the captive, and  
the oppressed  
and to proclaim freedom and abundance in your name.  
On dusty paths and lakeside shores he encountered friends,  
strangers, and enemies,  
inviting them to journey with him and to eat with him.  
He offered newness of life and renewed covenants of love by  
water and the Spirit.

On the night that he gave himself up for the path of justice,  
he was at the table with his friends.  
He invited them... and he invites us,  
to pause in our quest for destinations and savor the company of  
each other  
and the ways in which he still is present in our gathering together.

He took the bread, he broke it and blessed it and shared it.  
"Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the cup, he poured into it, blessed it and shared it.  
"Do this in remembrance of me."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ on this pilgrimage,  
walking together one with each other,  
working together in ministry to all the world,  
until all are fed and all are loved.  
May we know new life and resurrection in our yes to your grace,  
your call, and your transformation in our lives and in the world.  
Amen.

## **BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE**

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

## SHARING THE MEAL

### THE BREAD

**HYMN** You Have Come Down to The Lakeshore

You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.

### CHORUS

Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.

You know full well what I have, Lord;  
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fishnets and will for working.

### CHORUS

You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
Working love for the rest of the weary,  
A love that's willing to go on loving.

### CHORUS

You who have fished other waters;  
You, the longing of souls that are yearning;  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.

### CHORUS

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

### THE CUP

**Music Offering** In The Garden C Austin Miles  
**Natalie St. Hill, Vocals with Jacob Roth**

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

### The Blessing

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep and preserve you unto eternal life.



## COLLECTING OF CUPS

**HYMN** Here I Am, Lord Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

**Refrain**

Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

**Refrain**

I, the Lord of wind and fire,  
I will tend the poor and dire.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

**Refrain**

# WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

## Benediction

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 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).

\***Hymn** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #240 New Century Hymnal  
(Black Hymnal)

**Jacob Roth, Organ**

**Instrumental Ensemble: Isaac Brace, Connor Maxwell, Lucas Maxwell, Andy Dyszel, Mike Baer**

**Director: Mitchell Roth**

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**



**To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia!  
Spices rich, and offering, Alleluia!  
Asking where might Jesus be, Alleluia!  
Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!**

**Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!  
Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!  
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!  
Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!**

**Postlude Music** He Lives Alfred Henry Ackley  
Blake Hoppes

**Resources for you for this season leading you to 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.

**Mimosas and the Easter Bunny!**

**Join us after 8am and 10:30am worship on the front lawn and steps of the church for a celebratory mimosa, orange juice, and snack. The Easter Bunny will be joining us.**

**Thank you to:**

**Sound Team** Doug Albert, Mike Baer, Pat Sorg, Karl Klinger, Dawn Dengler

**Sunday Set Up Staff and Tech Team** Ryleigh Minnich, Claire Puia, Payge Haydt

**Flowers Sponsors** for the Sanctuary and for our Visitation List and our **Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers** for flower and Communion delivery to those on our Visitation List.

**ALL** who helped to make our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so meaningful. Thank you to everyone who helped clean and

decorate our sanctuary, church, and grove. Thank you to those who served as choir members, musicians, ushers, greeters, and worship participants. Thank you to our staff, Consistory, and leaders for giving your time and talents so generously.

**And thank you to The Easter Bunny, his helper, and the Mimosa and Snack Team.**

**Thank you Union UCC community for all you do to make God's dream one that is filled with love and spirit here.**

**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.**



# Flower Sponsors

*Union United Church of Christ  
Easter 2026*



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Annette Bauer & Barbara Scheirer  
Bonnie Herzog  
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Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren  
Grandchildren: Emilia, Cole, Zoey & Emma  
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## **In Memory of**

Aunt Mikaela  
  
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*Union United Church of Christ  
Easter 2026*



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## In Memory of

Husband, Robert J. & Son, Craig M. Yurick  
Jack & Janice Liscka  
Jack & Mary Nuschke Sr. & Jim Hankinson  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Lynne Klinger  
Mary G. Christ  
Michael J. Kern  
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Mother: Edna Best  
Mothers  
Our Parents  
Our Parents  
Parents  
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Parents and Brothers  
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Parents: Donald & Peggy Ressler, and  
Cleonice & George Borman, Jr.  
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Parents: Marvin & Beatrice Christman  
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Sister, Charlotte Bauer  
Sister, Maureen Bennicoff and Brother,  
Gary Kemmerer  
Snyder, Hausman, Kennel, & Semmel  
Families  
Loved Ones

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
		8 AM	65
Last Week	\$5,978.77	10:30 AM	141
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.-Feb)	\$61,191.32	Sunday School	-
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb)	\$59,944.00	God First	-
Change from Last Year	<b>2.1%</b>	Faith on Tap	42
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-Feb)	\$290,630.00	Breathe	-
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Feb)	\$290,041.00	<b>2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.2%	Last Week	\$100, 1,200 Lbs
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		YTD	\$300, 2,100 Lbs,
		Easter Mission	\$2,826.90

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**In Memory of Janet Snyder and all who suffer from Multiple Sclerosis**  
by Ron Snyder

**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.