



**April 5, 2026
6:30am Sunrise Worship
"Make Your Way"
Easter Sunday and Holy Communion**

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.

"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
Brass Ensemble: Mitchell Roth, Andy Dyssel, Mike Baer

WE GATHER

Meeting One Another on The Way

Welcome & Announcements

We will be sharing Holy Communion today.

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served by the worship leaders. Please be sure to see them as they come around.

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

Leader: Christ is risen!
People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: This sunrise moment on 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.

Prayers for the Path

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

Leader: 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 greet each other and share your answers with each other for the first song.**

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

**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!**

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.

Second Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

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."

Reflections on The Way Pastor Kayli

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.

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

Offering – we will not be collecting your offerings during the service. Please plan to share offerings and/or Easter Mission offerings supporting Habitat for Humanity and Meals on Wheels as you arrive or as you leave worship in the offering plates on white stands. Thank you for all the ways you continue to support the mission and ministry of Union UCC.



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



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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

Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served by the worship leaders. Please be sure to see them as they come around.

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

All are invited to the mystery of this table.

It is a place of awe as we not only remember Jesus here, but encounter him anew in the real presence of communion with God and with each other.

There is beauty here.

The precious nature of fleeting life and time reminds us that all of it is beautiful—the joy and the heartbreak.

There is wonder here.

We are wide-eyed as we soak in Jesus' invitation, reminding us that each person is offered grace—no matter who we are or what we aren't sure about.

There is meaning here.

What feels at times devoid of sense is made whole as we are reminded that our very existence has purpose before we even become aware of it.

There is curiosity here.

Jesus sometimes surprised people with his invitations, reminding us that we belong already, even and especially because we don't already have things figured out.

There is delight here.

Can you imagine being in the presence of Jesus, not just at the Last Supper, but at any table where he was present?

His light is surely our delight.

There is connection here.

When we gather at this table, we are reminded of connections to all times and places that people have gathered in the name of Christ.

There is self-giving here.

Indeed, it was Jesus' own self-giving that prompted his words over the elements at the table, and we become a part of that self-giving story as we gather here.

And so, come, come to this moment of awe. We approach the beauty, wonder, and meaning with curiosity, delight, connection, and self-giving.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and awe-filled thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

With wonder, we muse at how you formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of your wonder-filled acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in self-giving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, seal our connection with Christ,
our connection with each other,
and our connection to all the world through
our ministry and mission as God's people and church.
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

Leader: Friends, we welcome everyone to this meal. Please receive your elements from the ushers. You are invited to take and eat, to take and drink, and to be filled by the precious body and blood of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

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!”

***Hymn #240 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

**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
Brass Ensemble: Mitchell Roth, Andy Dyszel, Mike Baer**

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.

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

Easter Sunday Worship

6:30am Sunrise Worship in the Grove and Online
8am and 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary and Online

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.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

| Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate) | | Attendance Last Week | |
|---|--------------|---|-------------------|
| Last Week | \$5,978.77 | 8 AM | 65 |
| Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.-Feb) | \$61,191.32 | 10:30 AM | 141 |
| Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb) | \$59,944.00 | Sunday School | - |
| Change from Last Year | 2.1% | 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% | 2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank: | |
| <i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i> | | Last Week | \$100, 1,200Lbs |
| | | YTD | \$300, 2,100 Lbs, |
| | | Easter Mission | \$2,826.90 |

Presentations to the Glory of God

Easter Blessings! - 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.



Flower Sponsors

*Union United Church of Christ
Easter 2026*



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Flower Sponsors

*Union United Church of Christ
Easter 2026*



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Loved Ones
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Mothers
Our Parents
Our Parents
Parents
Parents
Parents and Brothers
Parents and Tom
Parents: Donald & Peggy Ressler, and
Cleonice & George Borman, Jr.
Parents: John L. & Marguerite C.
Kemmerer
Parents: Marvin & Beatrice Christman
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Sister, Maureen Bennicoff and Brother,
Gary Kemmerer
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Families
Loved Ones

