



May 3rd, 2026
“Purpose”
10:30am Baptism

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- Michael Roth; 10:30am- Tami Wassum

Greeters

Jen Haley, Jim & Edie Fella

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

Dawn Dengler

“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

Sing Your Blues Away

Wallace B. Varner Arr. Stan Whitmire

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: Today we continue to dwell with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples by imagining what it means to pray “thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Jesus’ ministry offered tangible, visible signs of right relationship and pointed us toward God’s will for “a little heaven on earth.” How will our work bringing right relationship for all in the world be a prayer of action everyday? “Purpose” is our focus about prayer today. How can our prayers help us practice the purpose God has for us as kingdom builders in this world?

“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,
“Love is the purpose.”

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

We hear you say,
“Love is the purpose.”

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

We hear you say,
“Love is the purpose.”

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. . 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 feel how your kingdom-making purpose is taking shape like the beads in your hands..

Silence

Leader: Take a deep breath [pause]. God's kingdom vision needs us all to keep making it real and tangible in our midst. God is revealing to us what of our work mirrors this Divine vision, so that we are part of heaven drawing near to us, as tangible among us as these beads. Let us worship God, follow Christ, and revel in the Spirit of Purpose 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 #493** O Jesus, I Have Promised (New Century Hymnal, black)

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end
Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide**

**O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul**

**O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
That where you are in glory your servant shall be, too
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend**

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: Love Was When Don Wyrzten
Heritage Choir

10:30 Sacrament of Baptism

Lincoln Davidse, child of Jillian (Maletsky) and Patrick Davidse
Sponsor: Sharon Maletsky

Margaret Davidse, child of Jillian (Maletsky) and Patrick Davidse
Sponsor: Sharon Maletsky

Charles Bachman Jr
Guardian & Godmom: Melissa Lynn

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice



THE WHAT WE PROCLAIM

Scripture Reading

James 2:2-5

For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved [siblings]. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

Luke 17:20-21

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

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 continue with the practice of "bidding prayers" that has been a part of 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 it's own vision of God's kingdom, as it is or as it could be. 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 Purpose

Leader: Each week we focus on a different kind of prayer with our prayer beads that you can then take home and practice during the week. Today, we are focusing on our purpose in life—to bring God's will of love and wellbeing for all people into fruition here on this earth. We will take a time of quiet to move through eight beads, simply reciting the line in our minds, letting each one sink into our hearts as we use our hands to move from one bead to another.

Bead 1: For those who are alone.

Bead 2: For those who need food and clothing.

Bead 3: For those who need shelter.

Bead 4: For this struggling planet.

Bead 5: For those who are afraid because they are deemed "less than."

Bead 6: For those who are in harm's way.

Bead 7: For those who are excluded.

End Bead: Let heaven on earth be my purpose today.

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: Majesty Jack Hayford (Arr. Bruce Greer)
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 #351 I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry**
(New Century Hymnal, black)

**I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off, and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time, and you join your
hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk til rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise**

**I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.**

**Postlude: In the Garden C. Austin Miles
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 Purpose

When we pray "thy kingdom/kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," we are naming our purpose in life—to bring God's will of love and wellbeing for all people into fruition here on this earth. As you move along the beads, feel your purpose confirmed as a disciple of Jesus, who taught us to pray with our words and our actions.

Bead 1: For those who are alone.

Bead 2: For those who need food and clothing.

Bead 3: For those who need shelter.

Bead 4: For this struggling planet.

Bead 5: For those who are afraid because they are deemed "less than."

Bead 6: For those who are in harm's way.

Bead 7: For those who are excluded.

End Bead: Let heaven on earth be my purpose today.

*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:

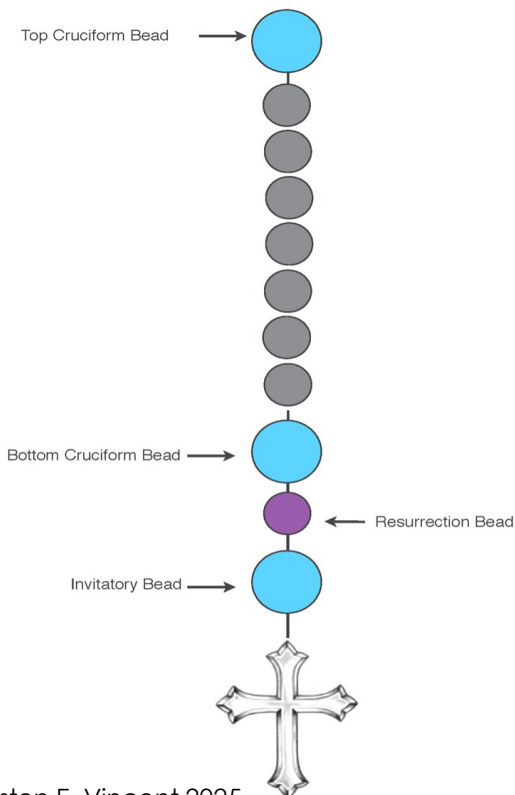
- Using each bead to name something you are thankful for.
- Using each bead to bless someone.
- Using each bead to offer up a prayer concern.
- Using each bead to share what you are feeling.
- Using each bead to tell God about your day.

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	\$6,174.00
<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	36
10:30 AM	97
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 & Children's Bulletin

In Honor of Lincoln and Margaret getting baptized today -
by Sharon Maletsky

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.