



**May 10th, 2026**  
**“Petition”**

**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- Rosalie Snyder; 10:30am- Pastor Kayli

### **Greeters**

Ralph & Connie Gioelli, Gene & Christina Thrash

### **Ushers**

8 am- Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd, Lorie Hackett  
10:30 am- Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Karen Nuschke, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

### **Sound**

Karl Klinger

*“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**

Sweet By and By Joseph P. Webster

**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 continue our intentional encounter with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples discovering how we are formed by asking for what we need, like our daily bread. Jesus offers us assurance that asking God to act in our lives and in the world is a practice of trust and belief that we are not alone in our need. Our prayer for sustenance is both physical and spiritual. The meeting of needs with the power of prayer helps ease suffering. “Petition” is our focus about prayer today. How can intercessory prayer help us become mindful of the needs of the world and remember that God is the Source of All Gifts?

### **“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,  
**“Seek and you will find.”**

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

We hear you say,  
**“Seek and you will find.”**

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

We hear you say,  
**“Seek and you will find.”**

### **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. Bring your beads back each week but we will always have “loaners” on hand if you forget. For those who have not been here before, 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 notice what petitions rise to the surface, held tenderly by God like the beads in your hands.

*Silence*

*Leader:* Take a deep breath [pause]. You are not alone in your need. God meets us here with more love, more sustenance, more nourishment than we can ask or imagine. Let us worship God, follow Christ, and revel in the Spirit of Openness 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 #466** What A Friend We Have in Jesus  
(Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God)

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

**Please be seated.**

**8:00 Music Offering** Because You are God's Chosen One's  
G. Alan Smith  
**Heritage Choir**

**10:30 Music Offering** The Ones Who Mother Me  
Angie Killian & Joelle Einerson  
**Kids Choir**

**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!**

## **THE WHAT WE PROCLAIM**

### **Scripture Reading**

*James 5:13-16*

*Reader:* Our first reading is from the letter of James, chapter 5, verses 13-16. These are some of the last words the author of James shares with his letter readers. These are words of encouragement to ask for what is needed, leaning into communal support. How might God be calling us to this kind of interdependence this day?

*Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*

### **Second Reading**

*Luke 5:15-16*

*Reader:* Our second reading from Luke 5:15-16 reminds us that Jesus, too, needed to pause in the busyness of his ministry to pray, discerning and asking God for what he and his community needed.

*But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds were gathering to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Meanwhile, he would slip away to deserted places and pray.*

## **The Message Pastor Kris**

## 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:* Our prayer this week again takes the form of “bidding prayers” as we have throughout our worship for this series. This is where I invite you to lift up joys and concerns in short words or phrases, spoken aloud or in the quiet of your heart so that we fill this sanctuary with our prayers. Each prayer is a moment where we can meet the suffering and celebrations of the world with the power of prayer. 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?

Like each bead on our prayer strands, each prayer is precious to the Holy One, even and especially the ones we cannot speak, but keep close in our hearts. For all these things spoken and the ones spoken in the quiet of our hearts, hear our prayers, O God. Amen.

### The Prayer of Petition

*Leader:* Each week we will be focusing a different kind of prayer with our prayer beads. Today, we are focusing on naming our own needs and the needs of others before God, trusting that God wants flourishing for each and all of us. We will take a time of quiet music to move through eight beads, reciting each line in our minds, letting each one sink into our hearts as we use our hands to move from one bead to another. You may have specific names to insert or you might just say, “for healing, for confidence, etc.” Do this on your own time, with the words in the quiet of your own heart.

Bead 1: For healing for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_.  
Bead 2: For confidence for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_.  
Bead 3: For assurance for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_.  
Bead 4: For basic needs met, for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_.  
Bead 5: Give me this day, \_[insert your need]\_\_\_\_.  
Bead 6: Give me this day, \_[insert your need]\_\_\_\_.  
Bead 7: Give me this day, \_[insert your need]\_\_\_\_.  
End Bead: Open me to receive your gifts and to be a gift to others.

### **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**

**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*

**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



**Music Offering:** Wind Beneath My Wings    Larry Henley and Jeff Silbar  
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!**

## Shepherd Me, O God

128

Psalm 23

Marty Haugen

Refrain

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

1-3, 5, Final to Vss 1-3, 5 4 to Verse 4  
 death in - to life. life.

Verses 1-3

1. God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I  
 2. Gen - tly you raise me and heal my wea-ry soul, you  
 3. Though I should wan-der the val - ley of death, I

1. rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful - ness and love, I  
 2. lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my  
 3. fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

to Refrain

1. walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
 2. spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your Name.  
 3. rod and your staff, my com-fort and my hope.

Verse 4

4. You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

to Refrain

4. ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Verse 5

5. Sure - ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my

to Refrain

5. life; I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Text: Based on Psalm 23. Text and music © 1986, 1987, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**Postlude:** O Love That Will Not Let Me Go  
George Matheson and Albert L. Pace  
**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 Petition**

Jesus tells us to just ask for what we need ("give us this day our daily bread"). Naming needs are often easier for us to pray about for others than for ourselves. So in this prayer, the first few beads are opportunities to petition God on behalf of others. But then be bold to tell God what you need, knowing that God wants you to be well and whole.

Bead 1: For healing for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_\_.

Bead 2: For confidence for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_\_.

Bead 3: For assurance for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_\_.

Bead 4: For basic needs met, for \_[insert names]\_\_\_\_\_.

Bead 5: Give me this day, \_[insert your need]\_\_\_\_\_.

Bead 6: Give me this day, \_[insert your need]\_\_\_\_\_.

Bead 7: Give me this day, \_[insert your need]\_\_\_\_\_.

End Bead: Open me to receive your gifts and to be a gift to others.

*These prayers have been created by Dr. Marcia McFee,  
[www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://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:

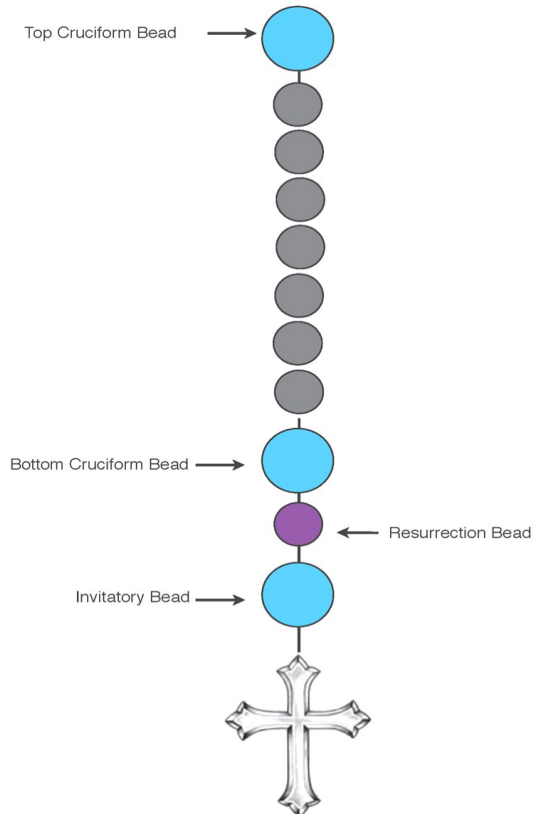
- Using each bead to name something you are thankful for.
- Using each bead to bless someone.
- Using each bead to offer up a prayer concern.
- Using each bead to share what you are feeling.
- Using each bead to tell God about your day.

**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)		Attendance Last Week	
		8 AM	28
Last Week	\$6,583.00	10:30 AM	108
<i>Calendar Year 2026 (Jan. - Apr.)</i>	\$136,714.00	God First	-
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan. - Apr.)</i>	\$132,469.00	Faith on Tap	30
Change from Last Year	<b>3.2%</b>		
Budget FY 2025-2026( <i>July-Apr.</i> )	\$365,930.00	<b>2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July-Apr.</i> )	\$364,201.7.11	Last Week	\$300, 75 Lbs
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-0.5%</b>	YTD	\$600, 2,300 Lbs
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>			

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### **Spread the Good News**

#### **In memory of Mom Ruth Rothrock and Family**

By Daughters Lucille Kuhns, Lana Reitz and Leoma Kern

#### **Grateful for the women of Union UCC**

By 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.