



**May 31st, 2026**  
**“Persistence”**  
**Graduate Recognition Sunday**  
**Guest Musician: Doug Brace**

**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/unioneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unioneffs). 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- Sue Steinmann; 10:30am- Eric Minnich

**Greeters**

Kim & Sean Flueso, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace

**Ushers**

8:00am- Dixie Gross, Leoma Kern, Ron Pope, Carol James

10:30am- Eric Minnich, Donna Christman, John Fabian, Deana Correll

**Sound**

Pat Sorg

*"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**

Berceuse (from Jocelyn) Benjamin Bodard

**Doug Brace**

### **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 to the last week in our series on prayer. Today we lean into the doxology that concludes the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. Many in the Christian tradition have closed the Prayer of Jesus with the phrase "for thine (or yours) is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever." The power Jesus spoke of, and that the early Christians invoked, made the so-called powerful of the world nervous because it expressed a confidence that ultimately the world is in God's hands, not the powers of the principalities. As we close this worship series on prayer, we draw on a persistent habit of prayer practices to take us throughout "all our days."

#### **"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,  
**“I am holding this world.”**

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

We hear you say,  
**“I am holding this world.”**

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

We hear you say,  
**“I am holding this world.”**

### **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. Draw your attention to your breathing. As we have been, we continue praying with our prayer beads. I invite you to simply hold them in your hands. Begin to sense God and God's kin-dom, power, and glory are always as near to us as the beads in our hands.

### *Silence*

*Leader:* Take a deep breath [pause]. God's love and power are greater than any force in the universe. Glory. And God's love and power are as close to us as our breath. Glory. On this we can rely, for all our days, as tangible as the presence of these beads. Let us worship God, follow Christ, and revel in the Spirit of Presence in this place. Let us rise in body and/or spirit and sing together.

### **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 #451** Be Now My Vision  
New Century Hymnal

**Be now my vision, O God of my heart  
Nothing surpasses the love you impart  
You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**Be now my wisdom, and be my true word  
Ever within me, my soul is assured  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise  
You, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart  
Great God my treasure may we never part**

**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!**

 <p><b>Sunday Funday</b> CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERIES</p> <p><b>We invite all youth, ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, to join us this summer as we explore the love and strength of our God. Kids begin worship with their families before being welcomed to Children's Church with Miss Nikki. Children will return before worship concludes.</b></p> <p><b>During our outdoor services this summer, we will hold Children's Church in the Grove.</b></p>	<p><b>May 24th - August 23rd</b></p>	<p><b>Returning in September: Kids are also invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.</b></p>
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## Graduation Recognition and Blessing

**ALL: God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.**

**As they step forward in their journey, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your faithful presence and unconditional love. Help them know they never walk alone, trusting in you and remembering this family of faith. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as Modern day disciples in a world that needs their spirit. Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them and guiding them. Help them see others through your eyes and be your heart and hands in the world, we pray. Amen.**

### **THE WHAT WE PROCLAIM**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 6:14-18

Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

#### **Second Reading**

Luke 22:66-71

*When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"*

**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:* As has been our practice for this series, we will pray today in the form of "bidding prayers." Each prayer is a testimony to God's power and glory, from now until God's kingdom comes. 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 Jesus**

*Leader:* Today, we have focused on how our persistence in prayer forms us to trust God as our strength and path for all our days. This last week of the series, we pray the Prayer of Jesus, the "Lord's Prayer," that he taught his disciples. We use our prayer beads to connection mind, heart, and hands. My prayer is that this prayer and any of the others during this series will persist in your own practice beyond our focus on it

Bead 1: Our Abba, God, who art in heaven

Bead 2: hallowed be thy name.

Bead 3: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Bead 4: Give us this day our daily bread.

Bead 5: And forgive us our trespasses (or debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (or debtors).

Bead 6: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Bead 7: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

End Bead: 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.

### 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.



**Dreaming God's Dream**  
NO GIFT TOO SMALL. NO DREAM TOO BIG.

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:** Scherzo in G Major    Ludwig van Beethoven  
**Doug Brace**

**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 #454 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (New Century Hymnal)**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart, in my heart  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart**

**In my heart, in my heart  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart**

**Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart, in my heart  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart**

**In my heart, in my heart  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart**

**Lord, I want to be more holy  
In my heart, in my heart  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart**

**In my heart, in my heart  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart**

**Postlude: Rondo Militaire Ignaz Joseph Pleyel  
Doug Brace**

**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 Jesus

To be persistent in prayer is to pray "all our days." When you don't know what or how to pray, when you are searching for words but cannot find them, when you are not sure that you feel the presence of the Divine, persist in your prayer with this one that comes right from Jesus. It is the prayer that he offered when his disciples were struggling to know how to pray, how to relate to the God that Jesus proclaimed as the intimate "Abba," the family, the kin-dom.

Bead 1: Our Abba, God, who art in heaven

Bead 2: hallowed be thy name.

Bead 3: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Bead 4: Give us this day our daily bread.

Bead 5: And forgive us our trespasses (or debts), as we forgive those  
who trespass against us (or debtors).

Bead 6: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Bead 7: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

End Bead: Amen.

*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:

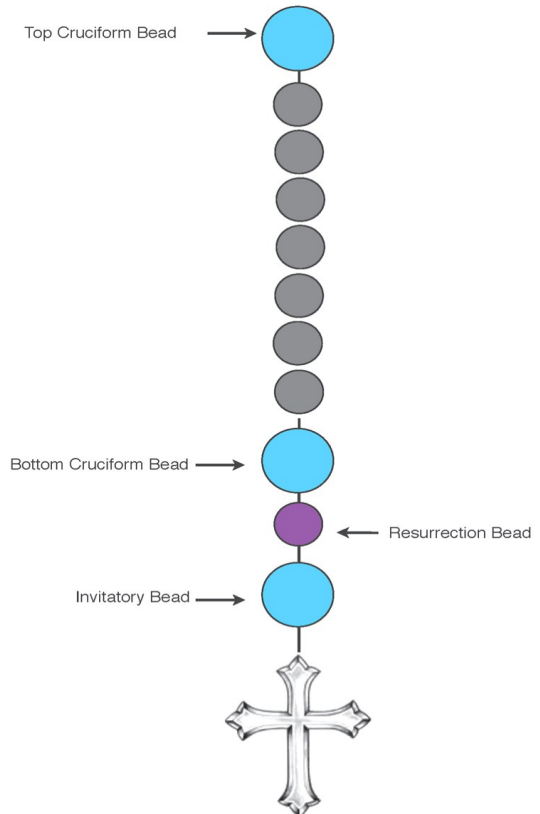
- Using each bead to name something you are thankful for.
- Using each bead to bless someone.
- Using each bead to offer up a prayer concern.
- Using each bead to share what you are feeling.
- Using each bead to tell God about your day.

**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	39
Last Week	\$5,300.00	10:30 AM	73
<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>	<b>2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Budget FY 2025-2026( <i>July-Apr.</i> )	\$365,930.00	Last Week	\$300, 100 Lbs
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July-Apr.</i> )	\$364,201.7.11	YTD	\$600, 2,400 Lbs
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>Medical Debt</b>	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		\$1,631.00	

## Presentations to the Glory of God

*Children's Bulletin*  
**In Memory of Walt Disney**

*Spread the Good News*

**In honor of Keira Kuhns' confirmation at Friedens Church in  
Shartlesville, PA on May 17th**

**In memory of Jeffrey R. Kuhns, who served in the army in Vietnam**

**In honor of Collin Kuhns' graduation from Hamburg H.S. on June 5th**

By Lucille Kuhns

**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.