



**July 26th, 2026
where is your faith?
Outdoor Worship in the Grove
Christmas in July**

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 Reader

Donna Christman

Greeters

Jim & Leanna Lane, Sharon Maletsky, Deb Ross

Ushers

Eric Minnich, Gene Thrash, Jason Klinger, Marlene & Dale Blose,
Kim Pentland, Andy Dyszel

Sound

Karl Klinger, Dawn Dengler

Worship Theme: The Gospel of Luke – The Ministry of Jesus

This Summer we are embarking on a journey through the texts written by Luke: both his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Worship will include some beloved and familiar songs and some new ones. The pastors hope our time together in God's word and this place of worship will give you the space you need to move through your days and weeks knowing that this community travels with you and that God holds, nudges, and carries you as well.

Let's settle in and sink into God's love and grace as Spirit gathers us here.

Prelude Music

Holiday Medley Arranged by Mark Hayes

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Blake Hoppes

Welcome & Announcements

We often share parts of worship responsively.

Phrases in Bold = All Read

Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

Call to Worship

Leader: Breathe

Pause

Calm

Find the quiet center
in this place,

among these people.

There is God.

There is healing.

There is calm.

Let us worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

Leader: God of the deep waters,

God of the crowded road,

God of the house filled with grief,

we come to you as we are:

carrying fear, weariness, questions,

and hope that flickers but does not go out.

In Jesus Christ

you stepped into

the boat in the storm,

crossed into places

others feared to enter,

stopped for the one who
reached out in desperation,
and stood in the room
where death seemed
to have spoken the final word.
You are not absent from
the places that shake us.
You are not driven back by chaos,
by pain of mind or body,
by long suffering,
by loss,
or by the cries we barely
know how to pray.
And yet we confess
that when the storms rise,
we often believe we are alone.
When the waiting stretches on,
we fear that you have passed us by.
When healing does not come as we long for it,
we struggle to trust your presence.
We confess our hunger for easy answers,
our impatience with mystery,
our reluctance to sit beside
those whose pain cannot be solved.
Forgive us
when fear makes us narrow,
when suffering makes us bitter,
or when disappointment hardens us.
May Jesus meet us once more,
not with empty comfort
but with his living presence.
may he Steady us in the storm,
find us in the tomb-like places,
and draw us into the courage of his love.
Amen.

God's Open Arms and Our Union UCC Welcome

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 #192 Angels We Have Heard on High (Gold Hymnal)**

French Carol Tune: GLORIA French Carol; Public Domain

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains**

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

**Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song?**

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King**

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

Please be seated.

10:30 Children's Time – Invite Children Forward

SONG Snowball Mountain Challenge (Theme Song)

**This is a Snowball (Snowball) Mountain (Mountain) Challenge!
This is a Snow! (Snow!) Ball! (Ball!)
Moun! (Moun!) Tain! (Tain) Challenge!
No matter what the future brings,
With Jesus we can do all things
Snowball (Snowball) Mountain (Mountain) Challenge!
Let's go, let's go, let's go!**

Activity Bags for children can be found at the doors.
No Children's Church August 30th

 Sunday Funday CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERIES We invite all youth, ages 3 through 5th 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. During our outdoor services this summer, we will hold Children's Church in the Grove.	May 24th - August 23rd	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.
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Scripture Reading

Luke 8: 4-21

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, 'Who touched me?' When all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.' But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.' When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'

While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer.' When Jesus heard this, he replied, 'Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved.' When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, 'Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, 'Child, get up!' Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Song

ALL:

**Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you,
O loving God.
(Repeat)**

Open Our Hearts Jim Strathdee
#28 Sing! Prayer and Praise

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The Message: where is your faith?
Pastor Kayli

Reflective Prayer

Jesus,
when the storm does not stop,
where are you?
When the waves keep striking the boat,
when the road runs through places of fear,
when the body still aches,
when the mind still wrestles,
when the house is still full of grief,
where are you?
You are here,
not always in the ending we begged for,
not always in the cure or the rescue,
but in the crossing,
in the reaching,
in the waiting,
in the stubborn refusal of love to let go.
Teach us to recognize you
not only in the miracle
but in the companion who stays,
the courage that rises,
the hand that reaches out,
the truth that grief is real
and still not beyond your embrace.
When we cannot find calm,
be our steadiness.
When we cannot find answers,
be our comfort.
When we cannot see the shore,
be our courage for the crossing.
And where others are overwhelmed,
make us a sign of your presence:
attentive, truthful, compassionate,
and strong in love.
Amen.

(Silence for your own reflections.)



Prayers For Others And Ourselves

Faithful God,
we thank you
that you do not wait for life to become tidy
before you come near.
We thank you for your presence
in the rough crossing,
for your compassion
in the place of torment,
for your seeing
of those hidden in the crowd,
and for your love
that enters houses shadowed by grief.
We thank you for every sign of your kingdom:
for strength that rises in exhausted people,
for companionship that breaks isolation,
for healing that comes in
body, mind, or spirit,
for hope that returns
when we thought it lost.
We pray for those living through storms
that have not yet passed:
those facing illness, anxiety, depression,
conflict, uncertainty, or sorrow.
When no calm haven appears,
hold them close.
We pray for those who feel cut off from others,
misunderstood, feared, or pushed to the edges.
May they meet welcome, dignity,
and the restoring love of Christ.
We pray for those
who have waited a long time:
for healing, for justice,
for reconciliation, for relief.
When delay feels unbearable,
keep them from despair.
We pray for those whose homes
are heavy with grief,

for those keeping vigil,
for those whose tears
come in public and in secret.
Surround them with
tenderness, courage, and care.
And we pray for ourselves.
Where we are frightened, steady us.
Where we are exhausted, renew us.
Where we are tempted to give up
on one another or on you,
keep calling us back.
Teach us to be people
who carry hope honestly,
who do not deny pain,
and who stay present
with love when answers fail
through Jesus 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.**



SUMMER SUNDAYS

Favorite Hymns

During the greeting the Pastors will gather 2 favorite hymns from you to be sung at this time. We'll sing 2 verses of the selection.

If your favorite hymn is not from the Gold or Black Hymnal, we will save it for another Sunday when you are here and we can put the words in the bulletin. Enjoy!

#154 Go Tell It on The Mountain (Rebekah Lorah)

Traditional Spiritual, *Public Domain*

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hill and every where
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light**

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hill and every where
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth**

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hill and every where
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

#195 Silent Night, Holy Night (Anita Reider & Don Penrod)

Words by Joseph Mohr; English translation by John F. Young,
Music: STILLE NACHT by Franz Xaver Gruber *Public Domain*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night, son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord and thy birth, Jesu lord at thy birth**

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



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



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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

10:30 Music Offering Christmas Time is Here Vince Guaraldi

Music by Vince Guaraldi; Lyrics by Lee Mendelson.

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**Instrumental Ensemble: Mitchell Roth, Michael Roth,
Justin Bower, Isaac Brace**

Please stand in body or spirit.

Song

**Here are our hearts,
Here are our hands,
Here are our lives,
Use them as you can.
Show us those who hurt,
Show us those in need,
Show us how to serve,
Teach us how to see.**

Here Are Our Hearts Drake, Jennings
#178 Sing! Prayer and Praise

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Prayer of Dedication

**ALL: Gracious God,
take all that we have,
all that we are,
and shape it for your kingdom.
Send us to those who are battered by storms,
to those whose suffering has lasted far too long,
to those who are swallowed by loneliness,
to those who are waiting for news,
for change, for healing, for breath.
Let our lives bear witness
not to easy religion
but to steadfast mercy,
not to polished answers
but to the presence of Christ
among the broken and the brave.
Amen.**

Sending

As the Lord came to our aid
in the midst of our storm of life
may we go from here
and make ourselves available to support others
as they going through their own storms of life,
just to be there for them.

***Hymn #171 Joy to the World! (Gold Hymnal)**

Text: Psalm 98, adapted by Isaac Watts. Tune: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel.
Arrangement © Fred Bock and Ralph Carmichael. Used by permission.

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let Earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the World! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy**

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude Music: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley (1739); adapt. by George Whitefield

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1840)

Public Domain

Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last 2 Weeks		8 AM	See You In September!
		10:30 AM	111
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.- May)	\$167,501.00	2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-May)	\$164,672.00		
Change from Last Year	1.7%		
Budget FY 2025-2026(July-May)	\$402,470.00	Last Week	\$300, 175 Lbs
		YTD	\$600, 2,575 Lbs
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-May)	\$393,863.00	One Great Hour of Sharing	
		\$1,863.00	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.1%	MEDICAL DEBT FUNDRAISER	
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		\$10,476.81	

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News

Grateful for our Grove! - 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.