



**July 5th, 2026**  
**jesus is amazed**  
**American Heritage Sunday**

**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 Reader**

Doug Brace

### **Greeters**

Dale & Maria Brace, Martha Lutz

### **Ushers**

Leanna Lane, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, John Fabian,  
Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler

### **Sound**

Mike Baer

## **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**

Onward, Christian Soldiers    Arthur S. Sullivan

**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:

Bread

Wine

Cross

Tomb

Touch

Teaching

Miracles

Parables

Each is a picture of who we gather around.

Each an invitation into the fullness of life.

Let us worship the one

who longs for us to find and follow him.

May this be that place

and may this be that hour.

### **Prayer of Adoration And Confession**

Living God, you are not hidden behind distance  
or locked within holy places.

You meet us in the road, in the house of need,  
at the edge of grief,

in the prison of unanswered questions.

In Jesus you come close:  
speaking life, crossing boundaries,  
touching sorrow, lifting up those the world has overlooked.  
You are not drawn to status or spectacle,  
but to truth, hunger, courage, and need.  
So we come before you now, bringing what is bright in us  
and what is bruised, bringing trust and doubt,  
bringing our hope and our fear that hope may not be enough.  
And we confess that we do not always look for  
Christ where Christ is found.  
We look for power,  
while you move in compassion.  
We look for certainty,  
while you stand beside those who question.

We look for glory,  
while you walk among the grieving and the poor.  
Forgive us  
when we draw lines you have already crossed.  
Forgive us  
when we close our hearts to those we call outsiders.  
Forgive us when we speak of faith  
but fail to notice pain standing in plain sight.  
Forgive us when we mistake noise for truth  
or appearance for holiness.  
Turn us again towards Jesus:  
Jesus in the healing word,  
Jesus in the act of mercy,  
Jesus in the presence that does not turn away.  
Meet us here, and reshape us in your grace.  
We pray, 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** This Land is Your Land  
Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

**This land is your land, this land is my land  
From California to the New York island,  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;  
This land was made for you and me.**

**As I was walking that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway;  
I saw below me that golden valley;  
This land was made for you and me.**

**I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps  
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;  
And all around me a voice was sounding;  
This land was made for you and me.**

**When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,  
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,  
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting:  
This land was made for you and me.**

**In the shadow of the steeple I saw my people,  
By the relief office I seen my people;  
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking  
Is this land made for you and me?**

**This land is your land, this land is my land  
From California to the New York island,  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;  
This land was made for you and me.**

**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**



May 24th -  
August 23rd

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.

During our outdoor services this summer, we will hold Children's Church in the Grove.

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.

## Scripture Reading

### Luke 7:1-23

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country. The disciples of John reported all these things to him.

So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'" Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

**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

**The Message: known by our fruit  
Pastor Kayli**

**Reflective Prayer**

Jesus, where are you to be found today?  
Are you standing at the  
bedside of someone afraid?  
Walking beside one who carries fresh grief?  
Speaking into the prison of doubt,  
where faith feels thin and worn?  
And will I recognise you there?  
Strip away my hunger for a safer, simpler faith.  
Teach me to look for you  
where the world least expects you:  
among those dismissed,  
among those grieving,  
among those asking hard questions,  
among those reaching for hope with trembling hands.  
When I ask who you are,  
show me your wounds and your welcome.  
Show me your healing, your justice,  
your refusal to pass by.  
Show me the life of God  
breaking into places I had almost given up on.

And when I wonder whether you are really present,  
turn my eyes to where love is taking shape,  
where dignity is being restored,  
where the poor hear good news,  
where compassion refuses to stand back.  
There, O Christ, let me find you.  
And finding you, let me follow.  
Amen.

**(Silence for your own reflections.)**

## Prayers For Others And Ourselves

Faithful God,  
we thank you for the signs  
of your kingdom among us:  
for love that breaks through fear,  
for courage that rises in hard places,  
for compassion that interrupts despair,  
for every moment when life is restored  
and hope begins again.  
We thank you for Jesus,  
whose word brings healing,  
whose presence honors the forgotten,  
and whose life reveals your heart.  
We thank you that he is not far off,  
but present wherever mercy takes flesh.  
We pray for those who long for healing:  
those living with illness, pain, exhaustion, or distress.  
Speak life into bodies, minds, and spirits  
that are worn down.  
We pray for those who mourn,  
for all whose future feels  
broken open by loss.  
Stand with them in the procession of grief,  
and hold them in love when words run out.  
We pray for those who feel like outsiders:  
those excluded by prejudice, poverty, stigma, or fear.  
May they find welcome, dignity, and justice,  
and may your church learn  
to recognize Christ in their midst.  
We pray for those who doubt,  
for those whose faith has been shaken  
by suffering, silence, or disappointment.  
Meet them not with condemnation  
but with signs of life.  
And we pray for ourselves.  
Where we are anxious, steady us.  
Where we are hardened, open us.  
Where we are reluctant  
to love beyond familiar boundaries,  
unsettle us.  
Teach us to seek Jesus  
not only in worship and word,  
but in the places where wounds are tended  
and lives are lifted.

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!

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

**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*



**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



**Music Offering:** Battle Hymn of the Republic  
Julia Ward Howe  
**Blake Hoppes**

**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

**Prayer of Dedication**

**ALL: Gracious God,  
we offer our very selves,  
take what we are  
and use it for the good of your kingdom  
and all your people.  
Let our lives bear witness  
to where you are to be found:  
in mercy, in justice, in healing,  
in hope shared out like bread.  
For your glory and for the good of your world.  
Amen.**

**Sending**

We have Good News,  
take it with you as you go.  
Live it,  
speak it,  
show it.  
And may God bless you on your way.



**\*Closing Hymn** America, the Beautiful Katherine Lee Bates

**O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!**

#594 New Century Hymnal  
verses Adapted Miriam Therese Winter  
(Favorite Hymn requested by Doug Brace)

**Indigenous and immigrant,  
our daughters and our sons;  
O may we never rest content  
Till all are truly one.  
America! America!  
God grant that we may be  
A sisterhood and brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea.**

**How beautiful, two continents,  
And islands in the sea.  
That dream of peace, nonviolence,  
all people living free.  
America! America!  
God grant that we may be  
A hemisphere where people here  
All live in harmony.**

**Postlude Music** God Bless America Irving Berlin  
**Blake Hoppes**

**Worship Theme:** spill the beans worship and learning resources for all ages  
issue 59, [www.spillthebeans.org.uk](http://www.spillthebeans.org.uk) © 2026 Spill the Beans Resource Team

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
		8 AM	See You In September!
Last Week	\$4,278.00	10:30 AM	99
<i>Calendar Year 2026 (Jan. - May)</i>	\$167,501.00	<b>2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan-May)</i>	\$164,672.00	Last Week	\$300, 175 Lbs
Change from Last Year	<b>1.7%</b>	YTD	\$600, 2,575 Lbs
Budget FY 2025-2026( <i>July-May</i> )	\$402,470.00	<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July-May</i> )	\$393,863.00	\$1,723.00	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>MEDICAL DEBT FUNDRAISER</b>	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		\$7,458.71	

## Presentations to the Glory of God

*Spread the Good News*

**In Honor of Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, and Lorie Hackett**  
by Wes and Maria Beltz

**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.