



**August 2nd, 2026
commission and blessing
Holy Communion**

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

Eric Minnich

Greeters

Dale & Maria Brace, Malcolm & Margie MacKenzie

Ushers

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

Sound

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

The Power of Your Love

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Blake Hoppes

Welcome & Announcements

TODAY: HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

Here, you will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so. A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups.

Please choose either.

AT HOME: Please find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you so that you can share in Communion.

We often share parts of worship responsively.

Phrases in Bold = All Read

Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

Call to Worship

Leader: Who?

It is a question of searching,
an invitation for discovery,
a word of adventure.

It is the word faith hinges on.
Let us explore who Jesus is
in worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

God of the road and the open table,
you call people by name and send them out
with good news and compassion.

You meet us in villages and streets,
in places of hunger and hope,
in the demands of the crowd,
in the questions we would rather avoid,
and in the small offerings we are tempted to dismiss.
You come among us in Christ,
speaking of your kingdom,
healing what is bruised, feeding what is empty,
and asking us still,
"Who do you say that I am?"

And so we come to worship:
bringing our faith and our uncertainty,
our generosity and our fear,
our longing to serve
and our habit of holding back.

Forgive us
when we have preferred safety to trust,
when we have sent people away
rather than welcoming them near,
when we have looked at what we lack
instead of offering what we have,
when we have spoken of your love
but failed to embody it.

Forgive us
when we have mistaken caution for wisdom
and self-protection for faithfulness;
when we have forgotten that your grace
is often discovered in the sharing.

Meet us here with mercy,
not to shame us,
but to remake us.

Feed us again with your life,
that we may leave this place
ready to follow where Christ leads.

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** Jesus Is All the World to Me
#626 Gold Hymnal / Hymns for the Family of God
Words and Music by Will L. Thompson (1904); *Public Domain*

Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without him I would fall:
When I am sad, to him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad, he makes me glad,
He's my friend.

Jesus is all the world to me,
My friend in trials sore;
I go to him for blessings, and
He gives them o'er and o'er:
He sends the sunshine and the rain,
He sends the harvest's golden grain;
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
He's my friend.

Jesus is all the world to me,
And true to him I'll be;
Oh, how could I this friend deny,
When he's so true to me?
Following him I know I'm right,
He watches o'er me day and night;
Following him by day and night,
He's my friend.

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 Aug. 30th**



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.

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:1-20

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.' They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

Now Herod the ruler heard about all that had taken place, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. Herod said, 'John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?' And he tried to see him.

On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured.

The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, 'Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.' But he said to them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, 'Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.' They did so and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.'

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: commission and blessing Rev. Randy D'Angelo

Randy is ordained in Metropolitan Community Churches and currently serves as Director of Administration at Moravian University School of Theology in Bethlehem. He is married to life-long Union UCC member Chris Hamm.

[Video: The Same Power](#) [Jeremy Camp](#)

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Prayers For Others And Ourselves

God of abundance,
we thank you that in Christ
you do not turn the crowds away.
You see hunger and do not flinch from it.
You see need and do not despise it.
You take what seems small,
bless it, break it, and share it,
until there is enough.
We thank you for all the ways
your kingdom still comes among us:
in acts of courage and care,
in meals shared,
in burdens carried together,
in healing that comes slowly or suddenly,
in justice longed for and pursued,
in communities that make room for one more.
We pray for your world,
where so many are told there is not enough:
not enough food,
not enough safety,
not enough welcome,
not enough mercy.
Be with all who are hungry today,
all who live with war, displacement, or fear,

all whose lives are diminished
by poverty, violence, or neglect.
Stir leaders, nations, and communities
to choose sharing over hoarding
and courage over indifference.
We pray for your church,
called to travel light and trust in you.
Where congregations are tired, renew them.
Where they are anxious, steady them.
Where they are uncertain, guide them.
Where they are tempted to believe
that they have too little to offer,
show them again the gifts already placed in their hands.
We pray for those known to us
who need healing, strength, or companionship this day:
those carrying grief,
those facing illness,
those worn down by responsibility,
those searching for work or home or hope,
those whose faith feels fragile,
and those whose questions have no easy answer.
And we pray for ourselves.
When we feel small in the face of great need,
keep us from despair.
When we are tempted to send others away,
give us the courage to stay present.
When we cling too tightly to what we have,
teach us the freedom of open hands.
And when Christ asks us,
"Who do you say that I am?"
give us honesty, humility, and faith. 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



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

10:30 Music Offering Day By Day

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg (1832-1903); Tune: Oscar Ahnfelt (1813-1882)

Arr. Bruce Greer

Public Domain

Blake Hoppes

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

**Gracious God, take what we offer today
and use it for your kingdom.
Take our money and turn it into welcome.
Take our time and turn it into care.
Take our buildings, our skills,
our conversations, our plans,
and turn them toward justice,
healing, and hope.
Take also what cannot be placed on a plate:
our weariness, our questions,
our love, our desire, our longing.
Bless what we bring,
however modest it seems,
and make of it more than we can imagine,
for the sake of the world you love.
Amen**

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

**Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.
Here, you will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink
until the Pastor invites you to do so. A non-gluten option with juice is
available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red
wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups.
Please choose either.**

**AT HOME: Please find something to eat and drink that represents
communion for you so that you can share in Communion.**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
All who come to me shall not hunger,
and all who believe in me shall not thirst.

With Christians around the world
and throughout the centuries,
we gather around these symbols
of bread and wine—simple elements
that speak of nourishment and transformation.

Loving God, we thank you
that you are as close to us as breath,
that your love is constant and unfailing.
We thank you for all that sustains life,
and especially for Jesus Christ,
who teaches us how to live out
an ethic of justice and peace,
and for the promise of transformation
made real in his life, death and resurrection.

We ask you to bless this bread and this cup.
Through this meal, make us the body of Christ,
that we may join with you in promoting the well-being
of all creation. Amen.

We remember on the night
when Jesus and the disciples
had their last meal together,
Jesus took the bread, gave thanks,
and gave it to the disciples,
saying "This is my body,
which is broken for you.
Take and eat it, and as often as you do, remember me."

In the symbol of the broken bread, we participate in the life of Christ
and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.

In the same way he took the cup,
and after giving thanks
he gave it to the disciples, saying:
“Drink this, all of you.

This cup is the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

In the symbol of the cup, Christ pours new life into us and into the world.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

THE BREAD

Song

Music Offering

Pass It On Kurt Kaiser

© 1969 Bud John Songs, Inc. CCLI License #1523377

Geoff and Isaac Brace

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

THE CUP

Music Offering

Loving God, Loving Each Other Williams Gaither

Words and Music by Gloria Gaither and William J. Gaither
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Chris Hamm with Blake Hoppes

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new life, poured out for you.

KPS L: May this meal keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

COLLECTING OF CUPS

Music Offering

Belovedness Sarah Kroger

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Abby Kern with Blake Hoppes

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**ALL: We give thanks, loving God,
that you have refreshed us at your table.**

**Strengthen our faith;
increase our love for one another.
As we have been fed by the seed that became grain,
and then became bread,
may we also go out into the world to plant seeds
of transformation, growth, and hope.
Amen.**

Sending

Who do you say I am?
He asks it not to the crowd, not to the noise of passing voices,
but closer— to those who have stayed.
Who do you say I am?
And suddenly it is no longer about what others have concluded,
no longer second-hand faith or borrowed language.
The question waits I cannot hide.
I want to answer quickly, to reach for the right words,
the ones that sound steady, certain.
But something in me hesitates— because to name you
is to place my life in response to that name.
If you are only a teacher, I can listen and leave.
If you are only a prophet, I can admire from a distance.
But if you are who you say you are—
then everything shifts.
Then I am not my own center.
Then I am called to follow, not just understand.
Then love becomes costly, and grace becomes necessary.
So the question lingers, pressing past easy answers,
settling deeper— Who do you say I am?
And in the quiet, with less certainty than I would like
but more honesty than before,
I begin to answer not only with words,
but with the direction of my life.

Please stand.

***Hymn #199 Go, Make A Difference Sing! Prayer and Praise**

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**Go make a difference,
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference,
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
REPEAT**

Postlude Music: Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1835; Tune: WOODWORTH by William B. Bradbury, 1849
Public Domain

Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme: spill the beans worship and learning resources for all ages
issue 59, www.spillthebeans.org.uk © 2026 Spill the Beans Resource Team

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last 2 Weeks		8 AM	See You In September!
	\$ 4,376.00	10:30 AM	105
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.-	\$200,870.00	2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.- June)	\$188,550.00		
Change from Last Year	6.5%		
Budget FY 2025-2026(July-June)	\$428,000.00	Last Week	\$300, 175 Lbs
		YTD	\$600, 2,575 Lbs
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date(July-June)	\$426,108.00	One Great Hour of Sharing	
		\$1,863.00	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.4%	MEDICAL DEBT FUNDRAISER	
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		\$10,476.81	

Presentations to the Glory of God

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.