



**August 23rd, 2026
go and do likewise**

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

Brynn Buskirk

Greeters

Brynn & Jon Buskirk, Sally Saltzer, Devon Kuharik

Ushers

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

Sound

Doug Albert, 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

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

African American Spiritual, Public Domain

**Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes-piano, Malcolm MacKenzie-bass
Mike Baer-guitar, Mitchell Roth – Trumpet**

Welcome & Announcements

We often share parts of worship responsively.

Phrases in Bold = All Read

Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

Call to Worship

Leader:

Dare we sit here
at the feet of the Savior
and listen
deeply.

Listen
with intent.

Listen
to hear the story
that is our story
and find ourselves
right in the heart of the gospel
ready to live the whole story
of compassion
and grace
and love.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

God of compassion and presence,
you meet us in the doing and in the being
in acts of mercy on the roadside
and in quiet moments at your feet.

You call us to love with our whole lives.

And yet we struggle to hold that balance.

We confess how easily we rush past those in need,
too busy, too distracted, too comfortable to stop.

We confess too
how rarely we slow down long enough
to listen, to rest, to be present with you.
We live hurried lives and call it faithfulness.

Forgive us.

Teach us your rhythm
where love is both active and attentive,
where compassion is not occasional
but a way of life.

Shape us into people
who see, who stop, and who respond.
So be it.

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 and for the first song.**

***Hymn #541 They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"**

Black Hymnal / New Century Hymnal

Words & Music: Jan Wesson, 1981 © The Hymn Society

**They asked who's my neighbor
And whom should I love
For whom should I do a good deed
The Master related a story and said
It's anyone who has a need
Yes anyone who has a need**

**There once was a traveler set on by thieves
Who beat him and left him to die
A priest and Levite each saw him in pain
But they turned away and walked by
Yes they turned away and walked by**

**A certain Samaritan then came along
To bind up his wounds and give aid
He took him to stay at an inn until well
And for all the service he paid
Yes for all the service he paid**

**I know who's my neighbor
And whom I should love
For whom I should do a good deed
For Christ made it clear in the story
He told it's anyone who has a need
Yes anyone who has a need**

Please be seated.

10:30 Children's Time – Invite Children Forward

SONG Snowball Mountain Challenge
(Theme Song)

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

**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!**



Sunday Funday
CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERIES

May 24th -
August 23rd

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.

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.

Music Offering Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Traditional Spiritual, Public Domain

Jazz Ensemble

Scripture Reading Luke 19:25-42

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him

to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii,* gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing.* Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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: go and do likewise Pastor Kris

Reflective Prayer

God of presence and purpose,
slow us down this week.
Help us to notice
where love is needed
and where presence is required.
Give us the courage to act
when compassion calls,
and the humility to pause
when listening is needed.
In the busyness of life,
draw us back to what matters
to love, to mercy, to being with you.
And in those moments,
quietly shape us
into people who reflect your heart
in all we do.
So be it.
Amen.

(Silence for your own reflections)

Prayers For Others And Ourselves

God of neighbor and stranger,
we pray for those who have been overlooked
those left at the roadside of life,
those who feel invisible,
those who have been passed by too many times.
May they encounter compassion.
We pray for those who offer care
quietly, faithfully, often without recognition.
Sustain them, strengthen them,
and remind them that their work matters.
We pray for a world that too often values
productivity over presence,
efficiency over compassion.
Re-shape our priorities.
And for ourselves open our eyes
to who our neighbor truly is.
Disrupt our assumptions,
challenge our comfort,
and draw us into deeper love.
Give us courage to stop,
to notice, to act.
And give us wisdom too - to sit,
to listen, to be still.
So be it. 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!

Amazing Grace (Leslie Monahan's Favorite)

Words by John Newton, 1779 *Public Domain*

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

Standing on the Promises (Blake Hoppe's Favorite)

Russel Kelso Carter, 1886 *Public Domain*

**Standing on the promises of Christ, my King!
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
"Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.**

Chorus:

**Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing on the promises that cannot fail!
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.**

Chorus:

**Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.**



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

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is one of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ, and part of Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM). This annual special offering supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry, two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

You can make a difference. Your gifts to NIN provide immediate aid and long-term support to people and families around the United States. Collections for NIN will take place the first two weeks of August, to make a donation, please use the special envelope included. This may be mailed to the church office or dropped into the collection plate. Donations may also be made online.

Thank you for supporting this annual mission collection.

Ambassadors (everyone!): Share our news, events, and spirit on social media and with your friends, family, and neighbors.

That's what keeps us relevant, and growing!



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 When The Saints Go Marching In
Traditional, *Public Domain*
Jazz Ensemble

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: God of generous love,
we offer these gifts
as a response to your compassion.
Use them to bring healing,
to offer care, and to create spaces
where people are seen, valued, and restored.
And shape us to live what we give
with open hearts and willing hands.
Amen.**

Sending

Go and do the same!
May you find the courage
to sit when the world urges you to hurry.
May you recognize the voice of Christ
not only in what you do,
but in where you choose to be.
And may the blessing of our
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be with you, this day and every day.

***Hymn** Love, Love, Love, Love

American Folk Hymn, *Public Domain*

**Love, love, love, love,
Christians, this is your call:
Love your neighbor as yourself,
for God loves us all.**

Postlude Music: Four Miles David

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Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes-piano, Malcolm MacKenzie-bass
Mike Baer- guitar, Mitchell Roth- trumpet

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	
2 Weeks Ago		8 AM	See You In September!
		10:30 AM	85
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, 165 Lbs
		YTD	\$600, 2,740 Lbs
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date(July-June)	\$426,108.00	NEIGHORS IN NEED	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.4%		
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		MEDICAL DEBT FUNDRAISER	
		\$45,000+ !!!	

Presentations to the Glory of God

Children's Bulletin

In Memory of Walt Disney

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.