



August 9th, 2026
true greatness

Welcome to our Guest Musicians, Directed by Matt Gerry
Thank you Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern Music Fund
for supporting the special music in worship today.

Church Picnic

Please stay after worship for lunch and games and friends!

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

Tami Wassum

Greeters

Carly & Randy Kocher, Ralph & Connie Gioelli

Ushers

Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Karen Nuschke,
Ralph & Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Sound

Pat Sorg, 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

Nocturne in E-flat major, Op. 9, No. 2
Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

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:

With all God's people
we gather,
the great and the small,
the well-known and the unknown,
all of us
each created in the image of God
and here is the place of our naming,
our homecoming,
our renewal.
Let us worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

God on the other side of the mountain,
of the valleys, of the messiness of life,
we come to you not with our best
but with what we actually have:
questions, doubts, worries.

We come to you
knowing you are the one
who keeps showing up
even when those around you
keep letting you down.

In our arguments about greatness,
in the shadow of the cross,
even when we are unable to do
what you have given us to do,
even then—you are still God.
And still gracious.
Hear us as we worship you.
Why has your patience not run dry.
We're still struggling and arguing
over the same things now
as your first disciples did then.
We still miss the inversion of your kingdom,
the knocking away of our assumptions.
Forgive our lack of insight
into a kingdom that makes small things large,
the last ones first,
that finds grace working in places we didn't send it.

Silence

And so we confess
what we would rather not say aloud:
that we are the disciples in this week's story—
capable of missing the point
even when it is placed directly in front of us,
that we have argued about our own importance
while someone beside us needed help.
Forgive us not with the forgiveness
that lets us off the hook
but with the forgiveness
that turns us around
and sends us back into the road.
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 #98** Great is Thy Faithfulness
Gold Hymnal / Hymns for the Family of God
Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 Music: William M. Runyan, 1923 Public Domain

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

Refrain

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Refrain

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**



**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 Crown Him With Many Crowns

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851; Godfrey Thring, 1874. Music: DIADEMATA,
George J. Elvey, 1868

Public Domain

Matthew Barbier- Trumpet; Katelyn Attieh- Euphonium

Scripture Reading

Luke 9: 37-50

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he* shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.' But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, and said to them, 'Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.'

John answered, 'Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.' But Jesus said to him, 'Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you.'

Music Offering O Love Elaine Hagenberg

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Vocal Ensemble: **Michaiah Watkins, Kylie Masters, Katelyn Attieh, Jillian Krempasky, Gavin Sachse, Doug Brace, Cody Ranck, Jake Ott**

Directed by **Matt Gerry with Blake Hoppes**

The Message: true greatness Pastor Kris

Reflective Prayer

Who is the greatest?
It feels like a question
that lives in all of us,
hidden beneath polite words
and careful humility.
Who matters most? Who is seen?
Who stands closest to the center?
And Jesus does something unexpected—
he places a child beside him.
No status.
No voice in the argument.
No claim to importance.
And suddenly the scale shifts.
Greatness is no longer about rising above,
but about making room,
about receiving what cannot repay you.
It is measured in how gently you hold
what the world overlooks.
Then the question widens—
Someone not in our circle, someone doing good
without our permission.
We want to draw lines, to protect what is ours,
to name who belongs and who does not.
But Jesus loosens our grip again—
Do not stop them.
So greatness becomes smaller,
and wider, all at once:
small enough to welcome a child,
wide enough to recognize good
even when it does not look like us.
And somewhere in that undoing,
the need to be greatest begins to fall away.

(Silence for your own reflections.)

10:30 Music Offering Give Me Jesus

Traitional Spiritual Arr. Moses Hogan
Public Domain

Roni Gerry with Blake Hoppes

Prayers For Others And Ourselves

Creator, we pray for those
who have found themselves
at the feet of the church
and found us unable to help.
For the ones who come hoping
and leave without what they need.
Grace has not run out, we have.
We pray for those who live in bodies
that do not do what bodies should,
for those whose days are shaped by illness,
by pain that has no name yet,
by the exhaustion of being unwell
in a world that does not slow down.
for those who care for them:
the parents who have tried everything,
the families who carry more than their share.
Holy God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who do not understand
what is happening to them,
who sense that something is shifting,
that the ground is moving beneath their lives,
but are afraid to ask what it means,
for the bereaved who cannot yet find words,
for the young who are frightened of the future,
for those whose faith is fraying at the edges
and who have not told anyone.
Holy God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those doing good work quietly,
outside the circles we recognize:
the carers and the campaigners,
the ones who serve without needing it noticed,
who belong to no church, no group we know,
but in whose hands your grace
is nevertheless moving.
Holy God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.



We pray for this congregation
that we might be large enough
to celebrate grace wherever it falls,
and humble enough to know
it does not belong to us.
Holy God, in your mercy,
hear our prayers. 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,

Hymn #1 For the Beauty of the Earth Julie Wehr's Favorite

Gold Hymnal / Hymns for the Family of God

Words, Folliott S. Pierpoint, alt.; Adapted by Conrad Kocher

Public Domain

**For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies**

Refrain:

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise. Amen.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light**

Refrain

Hymn #67 Blessed Assurance Larry Ritter's Favorite

Gold Hymnal / Hymns for the Family of God

Words Fanny J. Crosby, Tune Phoebe P. Knapp

Arr. Ovid Young, *Public Domain*

**Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste pf glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood**

Refrain:

**This is my story,
This is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story
This is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love**

Refrain

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

Dreaming God’s Dream Moment: Jason Klinger

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, 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 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



10:30 Music Offering Better Than I

John Bucchino
© 2000 SKG Songs

Jason Kilinger with 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

**ALL: 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.

Sending

May we welcome the opportunity to live
called to holiness,
loving each other, working with our hands
to help our neighbors, for this is where we find true greatness.
May we go from this place astounded at the greatness of God,
amazed at all Jesus has done and is doing,
and recognize the work
of the Spirit given to us in our daily lives.

Please stand.

***Hymn #2 How Great Thou Art**

Gold Hymnal / Hymns for the Family of God

Copyright 1953 by Stuart K. Hine, © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;**

Refrain

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"**

Refrain

Postlude Music: Jesus is all the World to Me

Mark Hayes, William Lamartine Thompson

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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!
		10:30 AM	137
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%	Last Week	\$300, 165 Lbs
Budget FY 2025-2026(July-June)	\$428,000.00	YTD	\$600, 2,740 Lbs
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date(July-June)	\$426,108.00	MEDICAL DEBT FUNDRAISER	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.4%		
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		\$12,782.35	

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News

Happy Birthday in Heaven Rich Correll

By Deana, Ryan, and Brooke Correll

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.