



September 6th, 2026
relax, eat, drink, be merry?
Labor Sunday

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

Lucille Kuhns

Greeters

Jen Haley, Jim & Edie Fella

Ushers

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

Sound

Pat Sorg

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

Thy Word Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith

Arr. Mark Hayes © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company
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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: We choose to be here.
We choose to open ourselves to God.
We choose to follow love.
We choose to shape a welcome.
We choose to live in peace.
We choose to be God's people.
We choose to worship.

Prayer of Adoration And Confession

Ever-present God,
we cannot imagine
crowds trampling
to be close to your Word.
Today we come
grateful for those around us,
but missing the packed spaces
and crowds hungering for a glimpse of the holy.
This day, we come to you
with prayers for those
on our right and our left,
in front and behind,
and for those we miss who are unable
to come together to worship.
We give you thanks for those
in our lives that shape our beliefs,
that share our faith and commitment to you.
We are sorry that we
sometimes are less that faithful.

We pray for hypocrisies in our lives:
times when we fail
to follow your commandments;
when we deny you before others;
and make decisions based on greed
rather than love.

Forgive us.
Let us come
to celebrate the festival,
to worship with glad hearts
and to welcome in the Spirit,
giving thanks for
your most gracious and generous gift,
in whose name 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 and for the first song.**

***Hymn #448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be**

Black Hymnal / New Century Hymnal

Words by Chales Albert Tindley, c. 1906 Music Justin H. Knecht, 1797

**Take my life, God let it be,
consecrated faithfully
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise**

**Take my spirit, let it move
At the impulse of your love
Take my intellect and use
All its powers as you choose**

**Take my will; your will be done
Make your will and mine be one
Take my heart and by your grace
Make of it your dwelling place**

**Take my love and help it grow
Let my loving overflow
Take me now, and help me be
Part of Christ's community
Our dear God make them all**

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!

Children's Church • Ages 3 through Grade 5 • Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Children's Church returns on September 13th! Children begin worship with their families and are invited forward for Children's Time with Ms. Nikki. They then leave with Ms. Nikki and return to worship with their families before the service ends.

Summer Children's Church will continue into Fall Children's Church with Ms. Nikki beginning September 27th

Education Hour • Ages 3 through Grade 7 • Sundays 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Education Hour returns September 20! Children are invited to join Ms. Nikki and our Education Hour leaders in Fellowship Hall.

***There is no Children's Time September 6th
Activity bags can be found at the doors.***

**Blessing of the Backpacks, Devices, Students, Educators,
School Staffs, and all Learners and Growers!**

AND A GIFT FROM THE PASTORS AND MS. NIKKI

If you brought your backpack or device, bring it forward with you,
If you don't have it, we will bless you!

Prayer

Pastor: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become. God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all. Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes. However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new. For the grown-ups going back to school, With-Us God, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow. God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.

Youth: God, bless these backpacks and the children and youth who carry them as they begin yet another year of school. Give them peace when they feel nervous, focus when they feel distracted, energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, and at home, and may they feel your loving care in all they do.

Teacher: Lord, bless those in the ministry of teaching future generations. As they embark on a new school year, grant them energy, passion, discipline, and endurance for their daily tasks. Infuse their classrooms with an atmosphere of care and mutual respect, that all interactions there will be bathed in patience and understanding. Help their lessons to grow pupils in both knowledge and character, and help us all to support the work these teachers do building up our community and our future.

Youth: God, bless our donations of backpacks and school supplies and the children who will use them. Let these physical gifts be symbols of the love and support we give to the children of our community throughout the year. Help us to look upon every child in our community as one of our own, helping them to grow in character and knowledge.

**Put your hand on the shoulder of someone next to you and say,
“God loves you and so does your church! Have a great start to
your school year!”**

Music Offering: Meanwhile Back at the Cross
Words and Music by Chip Davis, Douglas Johnson, and Kim Williams
© 2013 Mike Curb Music / Sweet Radical Music

Larry Ritter



Scripture Reading

Luke 12:1-34

Meanwhile, when the crowd gathered by the thousands, so that they trampled on one another, he began to speak first to his disciples, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy.

Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.

Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more.

But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight.

But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say;

for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say."

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."

But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"

And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly.

And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"

Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'

But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.

For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying.

For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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: relax, eat, drink, be merry?

Pastor Kayli

Reflective Prayer

Do Not Worry...
We begin a prayer,
a valued time of quiet
with you, O God.
And worries creep in
complicated families,
friends with cancer,
loved ones who are losing
their mental capacity.
We worry.
And not only about others,
but about ourselves
whether we have enough energy
can we meet the demands of the day?
We do worry
about what we wear,
about our bodies,
what we will eat
and its effect on our lives.
Most abundant God,
may we in this moment of quiet prayer
put all those worries aside,
trusting you know them already,
and just be in your presence.

(Silence for your own reflections)

Prayers For Others And Ourselves

Holy God,
we come before you knowing
not one is forgotten in your sight.
Today we bring the prayers
of the lonely and the lost.
We pray for those suffering
from war that never ends.
We cry for the ravens and the lilies
destroyed by humans
arguing over dominance and territory.
For your creation and for the humans
Made in your likeness,
but ignoring the commonalities between them.
We pray for people who store up treasures on earth,
who plan and strategize and work and work,
to prepare for a day that never comes.

May relationships and human connection
be strengthened.
We pray for families
that divide inheritance,
where stress and strain
coupled with grief,
compounds strife.
May things not divide,
and may relationships heal,
bringing the love of Christ
to unite families.
We pray for children in new routines
and new schools,
for those contemplating new ways of learning.
May the teachers connect
with the people in front of them,
seeing them individually
without assuming collective behaviors.
May faith be a part
of their learning and discussion.
We pray that seeking your kingdom
will be the driving force in our lives.
May the downhearted, distressed and the ill
turn toward you and experience your loving care
in the interactions with others.
Lord, thank you for hearing
our heartfelt prayers,
those spoken and unspoken,
we rest now in your comfort
trusting your word,
Do not worry.
Do not be afraid.
Thanks be to God.
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!

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).



Vanco Mobile



Venmo



Electronic Giving

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.

Music Offering: To Know Your Heart - Medley

Would I Know You Wayne Watson
© 1987 Curb Word Music

Sweet Sweet Spirit Doris Akers
© Manna Music, Inc.

In His Presence Dick Tunney, Melodie Tunney
©1988 Dick And Mel Music CCLI License #1523377"

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: Abundant God,
let our hearts be where our treasure is,
making purses that do not wear out
by being generous and giving.
We receive so much grace and bounty
hoarding as if what we have will run out,
but your grace is beyond measure.
Help us to share joyously
not only our moneys,
but the inestimable riches
of being a child of God.
Take these offerings,
and our very selves
for the growth of your kingdom.
Amen.**

Sending

Go with your hearts
filled with sincerity and truth,
generously sharing those
full hearts with the knowledge
and persistence of one who knows Jesus.
Rejoice and do not worry,
you are loved by God.



***Hymn #403 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

(New Century Hymnal, black)

Words by Edward Mote, c. 1843; Tune by William Bradbury, 1863

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus love and righteousness
I dare not trust this earthly frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name**

**REFRAIN: On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When shadows veil my Savior's face
I rest upon unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil**

**REFRAIN: On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**Christ's oath and covenant and blood
Support me in the rising flood
When all around my soul gives way
Christ then is all my hope and stay**

**REFRAIN: On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When Christ shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in love be found
Dressed in God's righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne**

**REFRAIN: On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

Postlude Music: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley, 1747, Joel Raney

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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 Week		8 AM	See you next week!
\$4,330.00		10:30 AM	140
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.–Aug.)	\$261,653.00	2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.–Aug.)	\$246,542.00	Last Week	\$300, 165 Lbs
Change from Last Year	6.1%	YTD	\$600, 2,740 Lbs
Budget FY 2026 (July–Aug.)	\$61,752.00	NEIGHORS IN NEED	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July–Aug.)	\$60,366.00	\$455.00	
Difference in Giving vs.Budget	-2.2%	MEDICAL DEBT FUNDRAISER	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		\$48,000+ !!!	

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News

**In Memory of Janet Snyder and all those who suffer
from Multiple Sclerosis - Ron C. Snyder**

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.