

November 1, 2026
Grieving to Rejoicing
All Saints Day

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
8:00am - Doug Albert 10:30am- Eric Minnich
Greeters
Dale & Maria Brace, Margie & Malcolm MacKenzie
Ushers
8:00am- Ron Pope, Leoma Kern
10:30am- Leanna Lane, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, John Fabian, Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler
Sound
Doug Albert

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
- Jesus (The Gospel according to John)

The scene is set. Jesus gathers at the table with his disciples to break bread and break the news that this is their Last Supper together. Alarming fear, bitter betrayal, and tension-laden uncertainty fill the room. In the midst of this unsettling moment, the Gospel of John records Jesus' "famous last words." Central among these was the commandment to love one another. How do we survive, or even thrive, in times like these? We put love into action, replacing "othering" with "neighboring."

Prelude Music

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
Tune: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson Arr. Mark Hayes
© 2006, 2015, 2018 The Lorenz Corporation CCLI License #1523377
Blake Hoppes

WE PREPARE THE TABLE

Welcome & Announcements

We often share parts of worship responsively.
Phrases in Bold = All Read
Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

The Invitation
Threshold Moment

Leader: Before the end of the Last Supper, Jesus winds down his last words to the disciples by offering compassion and a Helper. He knows they are sad, they are afraid, they are having a hard time bearing it all. He assures them that their grief will turn to joy, like when a mother's love for her newborn child wipes away her crying. As we remember those who we deeply miss on this All Saints Sunday, we take Jesus' words to our hearts. Our commitment to neighboring, not othering, is sealed by the knowledge that we are alike in our grieving and in our desire for joy. We proclaim that no one, especially those who seek to harm or destroy, can take away the joy that comes from God's Ever-Present Love.

ALL Sung:
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
we are family.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Your responses are in bold…

We come to the table today to remember the cloud of witnesses.
We are grateful that their lives are part of the fabric of Love Itself.
We bring both joy and grief, just as the disciples felt
at the thought of losing Jesus.
All of our feelings are held in the love of God.
One thing is true: no matter how different we may seem,
we all grieve those we have loved that are no longer with us.
Help us to live in the compassionate truth that in this we are truly…
neighbors,
neighbors.
Not "others."
Not "others."

Leader: Let us pray:
Forgive us when we forget that we all mourn and grieve.
Help us to embrace that loving one another is the way to healing and transformation.
Even though it feels like a difficult thing to do,
help us to listen–not cut off,
help us to serve–not judge,
help us to reach out–not pull back,
help us to risk reciprocal relationship
so that together we are soothed
in our common struggle of life and death.

In this moment we ponder those we find difficult to love,
that we consider "others"…

… and in this moment we imagine them as neighbors who,
like us, have needs and fears and the desire for safety, sustenance, and love.

Jesus, in your name we pray for the all who mourn,
and know that already your love is healing the wounds of grief,
making way for joy. Amen.

ALL Sung:
Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment,
and live each moment,
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; Copyright © 1955, Renewed 1983 by Jan-Lee Music, (ASCAP All Rights Reserved. International copyright secured.)

SHARING PEACE

Leader: When we gather at the table, we believe that all who have passed before us are present in a special way, as a cloud of witnesses to our lives. Let this be a peace for us and let us share that peace today with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***Please rise in body or spirit to greet each other and for the first song.**

***Hymn** I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
Words and Music: John Ylvisaker. © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker. CCLI License #1523377

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Please be seated.

WE LAY THE FEAST

10:30 Children's Time – Invite Children Forward

ALL SING:
This is My commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full.
This is My commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full:
That your joy may be full,
that your joy may be full.
This is My commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full.

8am Music Offering: Spirit of God
© 1990 Harold Flammer Music Nancy Price & Don Besig CCLI License #1523377
Heritage Choir

10:30am Music Offering: Ready to Rise
(I Can Do All Things Through Christ)
Words and Music by Angie Killian, Chelsea Stevens, James Stevens, and Joelle Einerson. © 2023 Angie Killian Music LLC. All rights reserved.
Kids Choir

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

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.

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

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

Our Nursery is Open! Parents are welcome to stay with their little ones in our nursery during church. Listen To and watch worship together while you snack, play, and rest.

Scripture Reading
John 16: 1; 12-13a; 20-22

Reader: "I have told you all this to keep your faith from being shaken… I have much more to tell you, but you can't bear to hear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, she will guide you into all truth… The truth of the matter is, you'll weep and mourn while the world rejoices; you'll grieve for a time, but your grief will turn to joy. When a woman is in labor she cries out, because her time has come. When she has borne her baby she no longer remembers her pain, because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. In the same way, you are now grieving; but I will see you again and then you'll rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

The Message: Grieving to Rejoicing Pastor Kris

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE
Prayers of the People

ALL SUNG:
Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.
Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.

Leader: In the midst of grief, it is literally "unbelievable" that joy will come. But at that Last Supper with his disciples, when Jesus knew their grieving would be all-consuming at his death, he tells them that joy

will come again despite all their troubles, misgivings, conflict, oppression, and pain. The evidence that Love gives us is that death and grief are not the last word. The evidence of Love is that joy comes like the dawn of a new day if we allow it to work in us. And if we allow Love to flow through us to others, seeing strangers as neighbors, the healing effects are multiplied.

Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.
Love, love, love one another
Love one another for God is love.

"Love One Another" | Words and music by Tommy Walker.
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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.

All Saints Day

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE ENTERED THEIR ETERNAL REST SINCE OCTOBER 31, 2025

Today we remember those church members and friends who have passed away this year and those for whom our pastors presided over funerals.

We name them and give thanks for them:

Clara "Louise" Chowansky
Charles Mesics
Elaine Moyer
Susan Andrews
Ruth Ensley
Mary Ellen Yaniga-Taras
Gloria Simock
Earl Purner
John Simock
Michael Harring
Dean Dengler
Roberta George
John Remaley
Dale Weber
Joseph Szapacs, Jr
Doris Marsteller
Bruce Laub
Joyce Lawrence
Dorothy Reph
Verna Traube
Carol Beers
Ferne A. Strauss

Video Memorial Tribute

Family members: A candle has been lit for your loved one. Please take your candle home to remember that you are not alone in your loss.

A Moment of Silence We pause to remember others in our lives who have passed this year, as well as those who have passed in other years who we still mourn and celebrate.

Funds of Lasting Gifts, Memorial Fund, and Estate Gifts/Reserve Fund

We pause to give thanks for those individuals and families that have given these funds in order to remember their loved one and support the mission and ministry of God's church here.

Chimes Played

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

THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

OUR OFFERINGS to GOD

Thank you for all that you do and all that you are to help create a church that is relevant, engaged, and growing!

Electronic Giving

Vanco Mobile

Venmo

Ways to give financially:

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 Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options like legacy or estate gifts to Union UCC.

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also..." – Matthew 6:21

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!

UNION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Relevant • Engaged • Growing

Music Offering Come, Thou Almighty King

Tune: Italian Hymn, Felice de Giardini (1769) Public Domain

Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

All Sung:
Praise God, the Source who makes us one,
Praise Jesus Christ, beloved Son.

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Our gifts we give as we've been led,
all bodies, minds, and spirits fed.
Help us show love,
Here as above,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

Dedication Prayer

Leader: Matthew 6: 21 says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

All: Generous God, we know that faithful stewardship is not primarily about money—it is about placing our hearts in your hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices, and resources will follow. Together, as a community shaped by grace, we will ask: Where is our treasure? How can our hearts more fully align with yours? Let our giving reflect our deepest values and commitments. Align our actions with our commitment to love and serve wholeheartedly. Transform, heal, and renew our hearts. May our generosity be rooted, joyful, and Spirit-led we pray, Amen.

The Mandate: Love in Action

Leader: As we prepare to go from this place with our closing hymn/ song, we affirm and believe the words of Jesus to his disciples when they were feeling grieved and afraid. Let us say this together:

"You are now grieving;
but I will see you again and then you'll rejoice,
and no one will take away your joy."

The Blessing

God, who created you ready for relationship,
be with you as you seek to love in the midst of difficulty.

Jesus, who showed you the way,
be with you as you seek to love like him.

The Spirit, who will never leave you lonely,
give you capacity for love that surprises even you.

In the name of the Three-in-One,
go out to be Love-in-Action
this week and for all time. Amen.

***Hymn** #402 De Colores (Sing of Colors)
Black Hymnal / New Century Hymnal
Favorite Hymn: Sara Jane Brace
Blake Hoppes

Sing of colors,
sing of colors that over the hills
in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors
For the birds that fly outside
my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors,
in the rainbow's bright colors
God's promise of hope we recall;

Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who create us all,
Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who create us all.

Sing, rejoicing!
Every creature that breathes
raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing!
Sing to God who so earnestly cares,
who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news!
Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.

Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

Postlude Music: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Tune: NETTLETON / John Wyeth (1813) Arr. Mark Hayes
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Blake Hoppes

Altar Design Team: Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Pastor Kris

Worship Theme: "*Adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/ neighbor in collaboration with https://campaignforkindness.com/.*

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	$4,645..00
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan.-Sept.)	$ 289,863.00
Calendar Year 2025(Jan.-Sept.)	$ 274,871.00
Change from Last Year	**5.5%**
Budget FY 2026 (July-Sept.)	$ 89,702.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date *(July-Sept.)*	$ 88,570.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	**-1.3%**
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	38
10:30 AM	79
Confirmation Class	8
Faith on Tap	32
Breathe	12

2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week	$25, 450 Lbs
YTD	$625, 3,520 Lbs

FMSC
$1, 863.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News

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.*