



▶ CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



▶ YOUTH GROUP 5



▶ WOMEN'S RETREAT.....8

O Issue 2

O Vol. 39

O February 2015

Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
 Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

Your Lenten Discipline and Your Church

The season of Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday until Easter that Christians use to prepare for Easter. Traditionally it is a time of penitence (reflection, regret, repentance) and fasting (giving up certain foods or giving up certain activities), as a way to reflect on Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. We sometimes call these things that we do a Lenten discipline.

Here at Union UCC we have shared a variety of expressions, traditions and experiences of Lent through the years. In the most recent past, Adult and Children's classes and gatherings would be offered on Wednesday evenings. This year, many of those leaders and participants will be involved in the Leadership Planning Team with Rev. Bill Metzger as we go through the process of preparing for the search for a called pastor. This group has agreed to meet about twice a month.

As a result, the staff and leaders thought it might be best not to have our Wednesday Lenten offerings and instead focus our Lenten discipline on the Leadership Planning Team process. We're asking all of you to do the same. Prayerfully think about your Lenten discipline and see how you might include our church in that discipline in a bigger way this year.

- *Would you consider adding additional prayer time in your day and week and include our church, the Leadership Planning Team, our staff and leaders in your prayers?*
- *Would you be willing to commit to coming to church for an additional activity or worship service already on the calendar as a way to show your prayerful presence and support?*
- *Would you be willing to contribute an additional Sunday's offering as part of your offering in order to keep our financial situation secure and strong?*
- *Would you be able to add helping others to your list? See the many donations and opportunities we are always gathering in addition to your Lenten offering envelope which will go to Allentown's Rescue Mission supporting men who are homeless.*

My prayer is that as we move from the stars and light of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany we will stay on the journey as we grow in our relationship with Christ and with one another moving toward the empty tomb and cross of Easter.

Pastor Kris

Here are some of our newly added and familiar Lenten events and worship services at Union UCC this year. **See details in this newsletter or Sunday worship bulletins.**

- **Lent Devotions:** The pastors and church leaders will write a weekly prayer devotion for you. This will be sent to those on our weekly email list (contact secretary@unionucc.org to be added), posted on Facebook, and printed in the following Sunday's bulletin.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 17: Shrove Tues. Supper** at 6-7pm, Entertainment 7-8pm
- **Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7pm: Ash Wed. Worship** Receive ashes and communion.
- **Sunday, Feb. 22 at 11:30: Lenten Lunch Celebration**
- **Friday, March 13 at 5:30pm Soup Nite** Supports Meals on Wheels
- **Saturday, March 28 Easter Egg Hunt**
- **Holy Week:** Palm Sunday Adult Choir Musical
- **Maundy Thursday 6pm Discipleship Meal** with Communion, Preparing For Good Friday
- **Good Friday** (Sanctuary will be open for prayer during the day.) **7pm Worship with Communion**
- **Easter 6am Sunrise Worship** in the Cemetery with Communion, **8am and 10:30am Worship** with Communion



From the Interim Pastor

"Pre-Lenten Reflections"

The Season of Lent is traditionally a time of introspection and reflection. It's a time to take stock of our lives and examine where we are in need of new life and resurrection. This year Lent takes on an added dimension as we journey together during a time of transition... transition from the long and fulfilling ministry of Pastor Tom to an unknown future.

Jesus himself experienced times of transition in his own earthly life.

- Following his baptism, he went into the wilderness for forty days and even wrestled with Satan during this time;
- Later in his ministry, Jesus went up on Mt Tabor and had a vision of Moses and Elijah, when the heavens opened up and he heard a voice calling to him and instructing him to go to Jerusalem to be arrested and crucified;
- And he went into the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

During each of these transitional times, Jesus prayed intently, asking God's guidance, direction and strength so that he might fulfill the ministry to which God called him.

Jesus teaches us the importance and power of prayer during transitional times. During the upcoming Season of Lent, I invite you to deepen your prayer life as a means of discerning God's presence in your life and in the life of our congregation.

Pastor Allan

Our Church Family in the News...

- **Laura Beltz**, a senior at Northern Lehigh, was Slatington Girl of the Month for December and pictured in the *Town and Country Gazette*.
- **Jennifer and Jesse Young's** mother, **Carol Young**, was featured in the *Parkland Press* reading her book "Monkey Moos: The Adventure of Mea and Ima, the Zoo"
- **Nate Rex** was pictured in *The Morning Call* for being honored as one of the Lehigh Valley's Soccer Scholar Athletes.

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Kathy Klimek—February 3

Good Shepherd #233
2855 Schoenersville Rd
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Caroline Schillinger - February 6

Topton Home 114 Tower Crt
1 South Home Ave
Topton, PA 19562

Verna Traube - February 9

4740 Terrace Rd
Orefield, PA 18069

Naomi Follweiler—February 15

4501 Homestead Dr.
Coplay, PA 18037

Franklin Strauss - February 15

6334 Lamar Court
Slatington, PA 18080-3022

Fay Cornell - February 29

Gracedale Nursing Home, Room 9
2 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064



Join the Choir! Practice Schedules:

Tuesday Nights—Youth
Cherubs (age 4-1st grade)— 6pm
Juniors/Middlers (2nd-8th)-6:30
High School (9th-12th)-7:30

Sunday Mornings—Adults
Heritage Choir-7:00am
Horizon Choir-9:15am



Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Embracing Forgiveness

Join the Adult Education Class as we explore the topic of forgiveness in a 5 week study using Barbara Cawthorne's *Embracing Forgiveness* during February and March. We will use the author's DVD and workbook. **Barbara Cawthorne Crafton** is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director, and author. She was rector of St. Clement's Church in Manhattan's Theatre district and also a chaplain on the waterfront of New York. She served both historic Trinity Church, Wall Street and St. John's Church in Greenwich Village. She was a chaplain at Ground Zero during the recovery effort after the WTC bombing. She heads The Geranium Farm, an institute for the promotion of spiritual growth.

Mark your calendars: Feb. 15 and 22, and March 1, 8, and 15 in Room 5 (Basement Level). Please let me know if you plan to attend, as each participant will need a workbook.

Please email me at vispastor@unionucc or drop off or mail the attached registration form to the church office (P.O. Box 66, 5550 Route 873, Neffs, PA 18065.)

I plan to attend the Adult Education Class, *Embracing Forgiveness*. Please order me a workbook:

Name

Phone

Email

Consistory Minutes

by Jennifer Young (Subject to Approval)

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, January 19th, 2015 by President Carrington Smith.

The Treasurer's Report and December/January bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that there is a need for a snow thrower and a salt spreader. The total cost would be \$500.00. A request was made and approved to take the money from Memorial Fund to pay for these items.

Christian Education Committee reported that all classes are going great. The Advent workshop in December went well. This year's Lent Workshop will be scaled down to one day, instead of a program lasting 4 weeks. There was a new law passed in regards to background checks and mandated reporting. Changes definition of a mandated reporter - it is now anyone that comes in contact/responsibility for a child. This changes requirements for background checks. New law requires new clearances every 3 years. Paid employees caring for children are required to submit following information: PA state criminal check, PA child abuse clearances, and FBI fingerprinting. Volunteers are required to do the PA state criminal check and PA child abuse clearance. If volunteers have not lived in PA for 10 years, they will also need the FBI fingerprinting. Christian Ed is looking to increase this item in the budget to cover the cost of this expense for staff and volunteers.

Mission Committee reported that Blanket Sunday is coming up. Souper Bowl Sunday is February 1st. Looking for donations of soup. This year's Lent offering will be given to Allentown Rescue Mission.

Church and Ministry reported that their big topic- Marriage Equality- should be brought up as a major topic during a consistory meeting in the future.

Evangelism Committee reported that dates for the next new members' class are February 15th, 22nd, and March 1st at the 9:15 hour. Tailgate Party is on February 1st. Admission is free with a soup or monetary donation!

Stewardship Committee reported that a lot of offering envelopes still need to be picked up.

Worship Committee reported that Pastor Kris would like us to consider a 4th service on Christmas Eve (earlier in the afternoon). This is topic to talk about later on. A request was made to approach FOLG for 2 CD players for homebound members. This request was approved.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, February 16th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101.

Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

Email: dired@unionucc.org

First Communion Preparation Class is scheduled for **Sunday, March 29th during and after the church service.** The class is open to all first graders and any other students (2nd through 7th grade) who have not previously attended the class and would like to participate in communion. The children will join Mrs. Bonsell during the 10:30 service (after Children's Time). Pastor Kris and parents will join the class after the service. The children will receive their **first communion** on **Thursday, April 2nd** during the Maundy Thursday evening service. The children will then be prepared to take communion on Easter Sunday. Information flyers will be handed out in Sunday School and Children's Church. Please register with **Kathy Bonsell** before **March 22nd** or contact Kathy at dired@unionucc.org.



BLANKET SUNDAY

Let's hug our neighbors with a nice, warm blanket. Church World Service provides blankets to victims of natural disasters in the United States and around the world. **ONLY \$5.00** buys a blanket! We will be collecting BLANKET SUNDAY envelopes in Children's Church on Feb. 15th.



VBS 2015 June 22-June 26



We are starting to work on this year's VBS program.

Registration forms for the children will be available in March. Adult and Youth sign-ups will be in the February bulletins.

CREATIVE DESIGN LAB (also known as the "Painting Crew") will begin in February to make decorations. We will meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 10-2. Our February dates are Feb. 10th and Feb. 24th in the Youth Room. Hope to see you there!

We Need You!

The Christian Education Committee is looking for more help for the many activities we lead throughout the year. Check out our list. ***Is there anything you would like to help us with even if you cannot make monthly meetings?*** Please email Kathy (dired@unionucc.org) before our February meeting (Feb. 5th @ 7pm) if there is anything that interests you or join us on the 8th!

- ♦ HOAGIE MAKING
 - ♦ BUS TRIPS
- ♦ FALL FUNDRAISER
- ♦ TRUNK OR TREAT
- ♦ ADVENT CELEBRATION
- ♦ LENT ACTIVITY: FAMILY LENT NIGHTS or LENT CELEBRATION
 - ♦ SAFE POLICY
 - ♦ THREE WISE MEN

IT's HOAGIE TIME!



The children will receive hoagie order forms on February 8th. We will be making ITALIAN and TURKEY hoagies again this year. **\$5 each.** Order forms are due March 15th. HOAGIE PICK-UP will be MARCH 21st, 10-11am.



Youth Group News 6th-12th Grades

For more information contact: Pastor Kris assocpastor@unionucc.org 610-657-6007 Cell
Or Dave DiPaolantonio at 610-349-9162 and youth_group@unionucc.org.

Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group

[www.unionucc.org/Ministries/Youth Group](http://www.unionucc.org/Ministries/Youth%20Group)

Anyone who is in grades 6-12 is considered a member of youth group. Any parent, guardian of our youth or adult can assist youth group. Friends and families are always invited (unless noted).



Feb 7-8 Confirmation Class Sleepover at Church and Leading Worship at 8 and 10:30 If you have been confirmed and you'd like to join us, contact Pastor Kris.

Feb 17 —Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Help serve supper to our church family from 6-7pm. Optional: Stay to eat and for the entertainment 7-8pm.

Sun Feb 22 Snow Tubing at Blue Mountain Meet at church at 5pm, Tube 6-9pm home by 9:30. Youth Group provides drinks, snacks and supper (sandwiches). COST: \$23 (DUE Now, no later than Feb 15, checks to Union UCC Youth Group).

Sun March 1 – Advisory Team Lunch and Meeting 11:30am-1pm

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15am

THE MUNCH BUNCH (6th & 7th grades 2nd Floor Room 203)

CONFIRMATION CLASS
(8th grade Youth Room)
Confirmants can go to The Breakfast Club when there's no class.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB (9th- 12th grades Room 4 Basement)



Sun March 22 Youth Sunday at 10:30 Worship Sign up to help greet, take the offering, read, preach (Seniors!), sing, dance, and smile.

And Mystery Dessert Raffle During Coffee Hour after both worship services. **\$5 for 25 Chances** Our church's best bakers will donate their famous baked goods for you to buy a chance to win. Sign up to donate a baked good.
*Fundraiser



Sat May 2 Country Sale—Church and Community-wide Yard Sale

Youth Group sells Walking Tacos, Root Beer floats, pretzels. *Fundraiser

Sun May 17 Confirmation Day at 10:30 Worship

Celebrate this year's class and if you've been confirmed walk in with your banner.

Sun June 7 Build Your Own Sundae Sunday Picnic in the Grove and Graduate Sunday

High School and College Grads get your info to us!

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Dave DiPaolantonio, Rachel and AJ DiPaolantonio, Jen and Natalie Ondrey, Kimi Bath, Mollie Jarrett are going to Pittsburgh July 13– 17 with other UCC kids to the Pittsburgh Project (pittsburghproject.org) for a week of helping others and putting our faith into action. **Ashleigh Albert** will be serving in Malawi, Africa for several weeks.

***On Youth Sunday, we'll invite you to offer your financial support and prayers.**

July 26-29, 2016
National Youth Event
Disney World, Florida



Sunday Morning Alive



Sunday Morning Alive leads worship on Sundays at 10:30 for about six Sundays throughout the year.

We have a worship team that includes a group of singers, guitar players, keyboards and drums.

**Feb. 22 at
10:30
Worship**

We play traditional and favorite hymns as well as contemporary and alternative worship music.

Golden Times

(Senior Adults) *For those wise in years and young at heart.*

Our next gathering will be **Tues., February 3.** Friendship, homemade soup, lunch, dessert and a program ~ Free! Bring a dessert to share

Program: "Earl the Accordionist"

A retired UCC pastor and former chaplain at Grandview Hospital in Sellersville, PA, Earl Ball is an accordionist who has become well known for his street music at the Easton Farmers' Market.

DINNER AND A DANCE

Hey Kids!

Join the CIA and take your parents out for a Valentine's pasta dinner and dance night on **February 21st at 6:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. There will be salad, pasta, meatballs and rolls. You can treat your parents to an evening of fun, help serve the meal, and then join Mom and Dad in Memorial Hall for a dance party. Please bring a dessert to share.



RSVP to
NeffsCIA@gmail.com by Feb. 15.

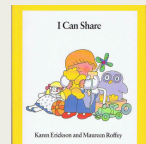
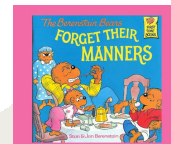
Grandparents
Day



Grandparents are invited to join their grandchildren in Sunday School on March 1st, 9:15-10:15.

Parents....we didn't forget about you! You are invited to join your children in Sunday School on April 26th. ~Please RSVP for both events~

Children's Book Drive



To help foster literacy, we will be collecting **gently used or new** children's books for a local food bank, to be delivered with Easter packages. Please place book donations in the marked boxes in the foyer or on the stage by March 15th. Thanks to the ONE READ special interest group and the CE Committee for making this possible.



Leslie Thompson-Strack is our Catch the Spirit recipient for February. She will be recognized on February 15, 2015 at the 8:00 am worship service.

Leslie was born in Washington, DC but grew up in the Lansdale/Souderton, PA area. She attended a Presbyterian church and was confirmed in 8th grade. Leslie was married to Steve 2010, and I joined Neffs soon after that. She enjoys walking, biking, photography, reading, and murder mystery tv/movies. Along with their 11 year old Welsh corgi, Maggie, she visits Phoebe Home residents. "She brings much happiness to them and receives plenty of attention in return." Leslie is a Senior Project Manager for Telerx, a subsidiary of Merck, in Lansdale, PA, where she manages product inventory and online resources for Sampling Operations.

Some of the activities Leslie is involved with here at Union UCC are lay reader and Communion preparation. She is also a member of the Book Club. Leslie comments, "I have attended the Women's Retreat every year since I've joined the church, and I plan to keep up this tradition for many years!"

When asked about a favorite church memory she responds, "I really appreciated the Blessing of the Animals service last summer. It was the first one held at our church and I hope it continues. In previous years, I had to take Maggie to Jordan UCC or Union Lutheran. Animals are God's creatures too and need God's blessing, as well as human love and care. Without animals, this world would be a very lonely place."

Thank you, Leslie, for your kind and faithful service.

LENT CELEBRATION: Join us for a time of family fun and fellowship! **February 22, 2015**

Immediately following the 10:30 worship service in Fellowship Hall



Lunch: Pizza and Salad, Assorted Drinks, please bring a DESSERT to share!
Family Project: Resurrection Gardens

We will provide the saucer, dirt, pebbles, flower pot (cave), twigs, twine and grass seed. *Please bring a **rock** to put in front of the tomb entrance.*

Sponsored by your Christian Education Committee!

Lent Celebration Registration Form

(Please return by February 15th)

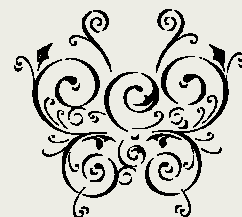
Family Name: _____

Email address: _____

Adults: _____

Children: _____

\$5 per family towards garden supplies CASH CHECK # _____



Happy 25th Birthday

Neffs Preschool

In 1990, the Union Church formed a committee to research a need for a weekday preschool program. There was some opposition to this as some people believed the church should not be involved in this type of business and others were concerned that this would affect the Sunday School attendance in some way. There was enough interest that the preschool plans went ahead and the first classes began in September, 1990. The first teachers were Bonnie Glose and Sally Simitz. Thirty four children attended the first year. The preschool was under the auspices of the Union Church for the first ten years. During the 2000/2001 school year, sponsorship of the preschool was transferred to the UCC Church when the congregations separated facilities.

Over the course of these twenty five years, preschools have become a necessary prelude to kindergarten. Neffs Preschool has stayed current and kept up with the trends. I-pads are now used as a supplement to enhance learning basic skills such as letters, numbers, motor skills, and social skills. In response to the issue of childhood obesity, an organized gym class has been added to the curriculum. Library time and an age appropriate lending library teach a love of reading. There are field trips, holiday celebrations, and a visit from Santa Claus. The students bring a stuffed animal for the annual Teddy Bear Clinic which helps familiarize the children to basic medical care and includes a visit inside an ambulance. Fire safety is taught and the children always enjoy their tour of a real fire truck. Monthly Chapel Time allows the children to visit the church sanctuary and to become familiar with the pastors and the Christian Education director. The preschool has both a website and a facebook page which is filled with photos of the students having fun at school. Over the years, the church has had many new members join because their children attended the preschool. Five years ago, the preschool established a \$250 annual scholarship for a graduating senior who began their academic career here.

Neffs Preschool functions under the auspices of the consistory but is managed by its own board of directors and has its own budget. It has contributed to numerous building improvements in the preschool area which included new bathrooms, painting, wall-papering, new ceilings, and lighting which also benefit the Children's Church and Sunday School classes who share the space. Playground equipment has been kept up to date and the preschool children as well as the community can enjoy the beautiful church grove.

The success and longevity of the preschool is a testament to the dedication of both the staff and board and is quite an accomplishment in a time when other area preschools are closing their doors.

For further information, contact the Preschool office at 610-767-5327.



In January, the children enjoyed many "winter" and "snow" activities, including a snowball battle and snow centers. The classrooms and hallways were decorated with snowmen, polar bears, and penguins. During Chapel time, we talked about honesty and telling the truth. Our students had fun at our annual pajama parties!

We will be holding an open house on February 3rd from 6:30 to 8 PM for families interested in enrolling for the upcoming year. If you, your family, or your friends are interested in enrolling a child for 2015-2016 and would like more information or a registration form, please stop by or call the Preschool office at 610-767-5327. Registration forms can also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.unionucc.org/preschool/>. We also have a facebook page where you can visit us and see pictures of the children enjoying Preschool activities.

Attention High School Seniors!

The Neffs UCC Preschool is offering a \$250 Scholarship to a graduating senior who plans on continuing their education. The senior must be a graduate of the preschool and submit an essay by March 1st. The essay should be 500 words or less in which the applicant tells about themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory. Application forms are available in the church office or preschool office.





Blanket Sunday



Blanket Sunday - Feb 15, 2015

Blanket the World with Love and Warmth. Help people around the world with the purchase of **blankets which are \$5**

each, the more blankets bought, the more people to share in the love and the warmth of the blanket.

Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold Blankets events for Church World Services, providing funds to help people in need around the world.

For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including: Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster, tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields, wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens.

Please be generous and open your hearts to this great world wide mission to spread Love and Warmth to all.

Mission Thank-yous

- ♦ Bethlehem Salvation for generously supporting the Angel Tree program providing Christmas gifts for 75 local children.
- ♦ The 6th Street Shelter for the donation of many hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks and more.
- ♦ The Northern Lehigh Food Bank for donation of 300 five pound bags of potatoes for both of the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food distributions to our clients.
- ♦ The Allentown Rescue Mission, Bethlehem Salvation Army, Northern Lehigh Food Bank, 6th Street Shelter, Lehigh Conference of Churches, and Agape Food Bank for the huge donations of toilet paper for their missions.

About shaking hands: After the announcements, we take a few minutes to greet each other. Often we do this with a hand shake. We are all concerned about and sensitive to not sharing germs with each other. If you are not feeling well or prefer not to shake hands, please know that we honor that and understand. The pastors and worship leaders will sanitize their hands before and after the greeting and will not shake hands if they have not been feeling well. Thank you for being the caring church that you are.

Sunday Sponsors:

We are always in need of sponsors weekly for Adult/Children's Bulletins and Spread the Good News. Flower Baskets are available as well.

Flower Basket (\$30) Adult & Children's Bulletins (\$20, \$8) contact Phyllis Hamm at 610-349-0324. You may also text this number.

Spread the Good News (\$20) contact- Tara Henninger, 610-767-6961

Soup Dinner Night 2015

March 13, 2015

The tradition continues, a great winter night out dining with your church family and tasting all of the famous soups and chili's made by the superb chefs of Union UCC.

The Mission Committee will once again host Soup Nite on Friday night, March 13, 2015. Come and enjoy the many and varied home made soups made by our own church members. **The cost for the evening will be \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 ages 4-12.** Coffee, refreshments and desserts are included. Tickets will be available in the church office and during coffee hours beginning Feb 22, and also at the door.

Members are encouraged (but not required) to make their special soup or chili and bring along to Fellowship Hall that evening to share with everyone. Please contact Denise Rothrock or Elaine Moyer during coffee hours if you are able to bring a soup, the more soup, the more to taste!!! Members may also bring a favorite dessert to share or home made bread.

So mark your calendars now for **Friday night March 13, 2015, dinner time is 5:30 - 7:30.** Proceeds from the "all you can eat" Soup Dinner will **benefit Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley.** In case of extreme bad weather, Soup Nite may be cancelled, with no snow date.



Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30 am-11am Room 5 (Basement) Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows:

February 6, 13, 20 and 27 *The God We Can Know*
Pastor Kris will lead this video series on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus (By Rob Fuquay). We will visit the Holy Land and see the places where Jesus stood as he revealed his true identity to those who followed.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

9:15-10:15 am Room 5 (Basement) Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows:

February 15, "Pre Lenten Reflections" with Pastor Allan

February 22, and March 1, 8, and 15 in Room 5
Pastor Patience leads "Embracing Forgiveness" please see page 3 of this newsletter for workbook registration information.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday 7-8:30PM room 5.

We will study The Book of Revelations with a DVD video series led by Dr. Mickey Efird.



Harry B. Burger invites you to come learn new things and grow in faith. Contact Harry B. Burger 610-767-

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

All committees and groups must complete a use of facility form to schedule events or activities.

Please contact Barbara, Church Administrator, in the church office at 610-767-6961

or

administrator@unionucc.org for forms and room availability. Thank You!

Are you interested in joining our church and making a commitment to practice your faith here?

Pastor Kris and church leaders invite you to three gatherings on **February 15, February 22, March 1 at 9:15am until 10:15am.** We will meet in the Memory Room (Room 200) on the second floor.

This an informal time to get to know each other and ask questions. Attendance is not required to join.

You will be welcomed as members in worship on **Sunday, March 1st at the 8am or 10:30am worship service.**

Contact Pastor Kris if you have questions.
assocpastor@unionucc.org 610-767-6961

Business Directory

Do you have a skill, service, or a business that you want to share? We are compiling a list of businesses that our congregation has so that we can support each other when we are looking for services. For example when you're looking for an electrician, instead of hiring someone from the yellow pages, we can hire a trusted friend from church so you know you're getting good service and you're helping a member of the congregation succeed at the same time.

This is completely voluntary and you can share as much or as little information as you want. Some things we are looking for are; business name, services provided, your name, phone number, email, website. Information can be emailed to Chris Hamm at: chamm187@live.kutztown.edu. Thank you for your services and support of our congregation!



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs



RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

This year's influenza season has made the news headlines more than once. The vaccine that was formulated, while effective for several virus strains, is not protective against all the circulating strains. Despite the media reports, influenza vaccines are still recommended for anyone that hasn't already received one for the 2014-2015 season. Other than hand washing, vaccines are the most important line of defense against the virus.

Antibiotics are not effective in treating influenza, since the flu is caused by a virus. Influenza can be managed through prescription antiviral medication, such as oseltamivir (Tamiflu®). The mainstay of treating influenza involves symptom management. Since even antiviral medications can't cure the virus immediately, attention is given to specific symptoms and preventing discomfort. Many over the counter products are used; for example, acetaminophen (Tylenol®) can be used to treat fevers, pseudoephedrine (Sudafed®) can be used to treat congestion, or guaifenesin (Robitussin®) can be used to control coughing.

It is important to read the labels of all medications before purchasing or using them. Many "cough and cold" or "cold and flu" formulations contain multiple ingredients, which could potentially lead to taking more medication than necessary for the symptoms you are treating. Only use products that are treating the exact symptoms you are experiencing. Additionally, make sure you aren't "doubling up" on medications that could be included in more than one product. The product name doesn't always indicate what the main ingredient is, but all ingredients will always be listed on the label, along with dosing instructions and precautions.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for recommendations in treating your symptoms.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 17, 2015 ~ 6PM Supper
7-8PM Entertainment -
Tootsie the Clown's Magical Show

Menu: Pancakes (Gluten Free available), sausage, applesauce, and fastnachts.
FREE! - Donations accepted.



Hosted by: Fellowship Committee
Served by: Youth Group

Make your reservation by February 15th!
Return the bottom portion to the office
or call 610-767-6961.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Name _____

#Adults _____ #Children _____

#People Ordering Gluten Free Pancakes _____

Phone/Cell No. _____

TAILGATE PARTY

FEBRUARY 1, 2015

11:30 - 12:30PM

**Welcome New Church Members to
our Team!**

Everyone is invited!

**Menu includes: Subs, pizza, wings,
chili, salads, snacks, birch beer, soda, desserts.**

The cost to attend is FREE.



Be sure to help the Mission Committee with their effort to help others by bringing a can(s) of soup or cash donation.

**Please make your lunch reservation by calling the
office (610-767-6961) or emailing
secretary@unionucc.org.**



Sunday, February 1, 2015

4th Sunday after Epiphany/Souper Bowl Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Proverbs 3: 5

Message: "Every Cloud has a Silver Lining"

Brad Hackett, Vice President of Consistory, Head Track Coach at Muhlenberg College

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Curtis Frantz

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Lou & Mary Burdick

Acolytes: 8AM - Tegan Haley

10:30AM - Abbey Hafler, Jacob Gladish

Sunday, February 8, 2015

5th Sunday after Epiphany/Confirmation Leads Worship

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Mark 1:29-39

Message: *Busy, Busy, Busy!*

Confirmation Class

Lay Readers: Confirmands

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Sueann Hregician

Acolytes: 8AM - Jason Check

10:30AM - Rachael and Christopher Bath

Sunday, February 15, 2015

6th Sunday after Epiphany/Blanket Sunday/Communion

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Rev. Bill Metzger, Consulting Pastor at Union UCC

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Chrissy Shivok

Greeters: Vicki Mayk, Karen Wonderly

Acolytes: 8AM - Madison Amorim

10:30AM - Brandon Zellner, Ian Schory

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Shrove Tuesday

6:00 pm Pancake and Sausage Supper

7-8 pm Entertainment by Tootsie the Clown

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Ash Wednesday/Communion

7:00pm Worship Service

Text: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

Message: "Go Into Your Room and Pray"

Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: Andy Wight

Greeters: Roger & Nancy Christman, Sueann Hregician

Acolytes: Madison Milander, Kaitlyn Mericle

Sunday, February 22, 2015

1st Sunday in Lent/

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service –Sunday Morning Alive

Text: Mark 1:9-15; Matthew 6:25-34

Message: Into the Wilderness: Do Not Worry

Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelsan

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

Greeters: Glenn & Susan Mattern, Tim & Marian Funk

Acolytes: 8AM - Rebekah Lorah

10:30AM - Dylan Kuntz, Madelyn Kohler



Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

Every Sunday

9:15-10:15 & 11:30-12:00

Continues on Sundays after 8am and 10:30 Worship Services and in between the services in Memorial Hall (on the same level as the sanctuary). Stop by for snack or drink, to say hello to a friend, or learn about something new about a committee.

Thank you to our hosting committees:

Feb. 1— No Committee

Feb. 8— Confirmation Class

Feb. 15— Christian Education

Feb. 22—Evangelism Committee



Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
7-1-2014	\$ 9,644.00	\$21,417.00	\$31,061.00
Income	\$230,508.00	\$31,250.00	\$261,758.00
Expenses	\$203,576.00	\$27,105.00	\$230,681.00
12-31-2014	\$36,576.00	\$25,562.00	\$62,138.00

Designated Funds category includes offerings for NIN, Mother's Day, OGHS, Lenten, Advent, Improvement Fund, Flowers, Directory, Bulletins, Phoebe Campaign, & Special Gifts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
Dec 7	83	246	38	367
Dec 14	97	237	44	378
Dec 21	101	240	46	387
Dec 24	5pm 559	8pm 466	11pm 301	1326
Dec 28	59	165	CFW	224

Memorials

The following donations were accepted into The Funds of Lasting Gifts Thomas Family Fund of Union UCC in honor of the Rev. Thomas N. Thomas:
Vick C. Mayk

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

December 2013– 3,043 December 2014 - 2,682

AVG ATTENDANCE

December 2013–380 December 2014 - 383



Book Club

Next Book is "The Hiding Place" by Corrie Ten Boom, meeting on **February 4 at 7pm** in Memory room. Contact Kathi Charles for more details at 610-462-5551 or kac4b@hotmail.com.

UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson
Acting Lead Pastor
Cell Phone : (610) 657-6007
assocpastor@unionucc.org

Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer
Interim Pastor
interimpastor@unionucc.org

Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson
Pastor of Visitation
vispastor@unionucc.org

Rev. A. William Metzger
Pastoral Consultant
Renaissinc@aol.com

Rev. Thomas N. Thomas
Pastor Emeritus

Kathy L. Bonsell
Director of Christian Education
dired@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci
Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org

Tara Henninger
Communications Coordinator
secretary@unionucc.org

Mike Baer
Music Coordinator
dirmusic@unionucc.org

Blake Hoppes
Organist/Accompanist
Blake.charger@gmail.com

Church Office:
610-767-6961
Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66,
5550 Route 873
Neffs PA 18065-0066

www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:
610-767-5327

Ronald Kneller
Facility Caretaker
caretaker@unionucc.org

Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

Pastor Kris	ext. 25
Pastor Allan	ext. 24
Pastor Patience	ext. 23
Barbara Carinci	ext. 21
Tara Henninger	ext. 22
Kathy Bonsell	ext. 27
Mike Baer	ext. 26
Kitchen	ext. 30

Union UCC...in search of mission, vision and leadership

"If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves. But when they attend to what God reveals, they are most blessed." Proverbs 29:18 [MSG]

The work of our Intentional Interim is underway! On Saturday morning, 1/10/15, Memorial Hall was "alive" with the sound of almost 60 members of the Leadership Planning Team [LPT] as we started the planning and visioning work of our Intentional Interim. We engaged in Bible Study, shared where we have experienced God's grace within the life and ministry of Union UCC and reviewed the entire 3 Phase process we are following. The LPT is comprised of ~60 staff and members who were nominated as individuals within Union UCC who have a heart for Christ's church, possess the following leadership criteria and who would be a valuable member of the LPT and this process:

Criteria for Christian leadership:

1. emotionally healthy, stable, level headed and spiritually centered folks; who are well differentiated, have a pretty solid sense of their own assets and liabilities, know and keep boundaries and are able to rise above destructive anxiety and unhealthy emotional processes,
2. relying on God's grace, live the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity and self-control [Galatians 5],
3. demonstrate a contrite heart -- not looking to blame others but more interested in attending to their own functioning and having an interest in reconciliation, healing and hope, and,
4. willing to sign a covenant for how we are to model healthy Christian leadership and hold self and others accountable to it.

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

Madeline Bingell, Nancy Christman, Don & Eunice Diehl, Phyllis Hamm, Judy Hoffman, Eleanor & Ron Kleckner, Diana Miller, Barbara Panner, Linda & Wilbur Romig, Jill Schlosser, Marianne Ulrich, and Jean & Stanley Wieand

Nearly 100 members were nominated. From those recommendations invitations were extended to about 80 staff and members whose responses were overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic with ~60 leaders and staff members agreeing to serve on the LPT which will be meeting ~twice each month.

During January and February we will be answering and sharing our responses to the **Miracle Question** which asks...*"If you could flip a switch on the wall and instantaneously a miracle would take place and Union UCC would look just like God wished it would... describe what you would see."* We also are responding to and sharing our responses to what I call **"seed starter" sentences** some of which start with phrases like: *The best churches..., I hear God calling us to..., My biggest fear is..., My strongest hope is..., I am proud that this church..., I am disappointed that this church..., My hunch is God wants Union UCC to become more...* and we will begin to refine and develop a **Covenant for Christian Leadership** on how we are called to behave as leaders and members of the church, the "body of Christ".

Please **visit our Union UCC web site** (unionucc.org), where under the 'About Us' section, we have added a section with information about this process, including an overview of the process we are following, as well as other pertinent documents related to our work and ministry together.

As we "attend to what God reveals" during this process, please keep Union UCC, its staff, leaders and the entire congregation in your prayers.

Peace, *Pastor Bill*
Rev. A. William Metzger

Hospital Info Update:

If you are in the hospital, please ask a family member, friend, or the hospital chaplain to call a pastor or the church office to let us know if you'd like us to visit. **Please do not rely on the church code system to tell us since it has proven to be inconsistent with information.** Our church code is 511 and if you are listed correctly, when we call the chaplain's office, you will appear under our number. Usually the pastors do hospital visits on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays hoping they will catch everyone at some point during their stay. We are more than glad to visit and pray with you, so **please don't hesitate to call on us.**

February 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Fellowship Com- mittee, FOLG	3 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff; VBS Design Lab 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior/Middler 7pm Bible Study 7:30 High School Choir	4 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry; Book Club	5 7pm Christian Ed; Chime Choir	6 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	7 Confirmation Class Sleepover
9 6:30 Spiritually Fit	10 1 pm Property Com- mittee 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior/Middler 7pm Bible Study 7:30 High School Choir	11 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Leadership Planning Team	12 7pm Chime Choir NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	14
16 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Consistory	17 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 6pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	18 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 7pm Ash Wed. Service	19 7pm Chime Choir	20 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	21 6pm CIA-Jr. Youth Group
23 6:30 Spiritually Fit	24 9am Newsletter Mailing 10am Design Lab 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	25 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Leadership Planning Team	26 7pm Chime Choir	27 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30 am Bible Study	28
SUNDAYS					
1 Souper Bowl Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service Children’s Church 11:30am Holy Grounds Tailgate Party	8 Confirmation Leads 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service- Baptism Children’s Church 11:30am Holy Grounds Tech Committee	15 Blanket Sunday Communion 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class New Members 10:30am Horizon Service Children’s Church 11:30am Holy Grounds 4:00pm Scrapbookers	22 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class New Members 10:30am Horizon Service/SMA Children’s Church 11:30am Holy Grounds		