

# January 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b> <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit	<u>6 9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30</u> Junior/Middler <u>7pm</u> Bible Study <u>7:30</u> High School Choir	<b>7</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry	<b>8</b> <u>6pm</u> Preschool Board <u>7pm</u> Pre-baptism Meeting; Christian Ed	<b>9</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	<b>10</b> <u>8:30am</u> Leadership Planning Team
<b>12</b> <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Evangelism  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>13</b> <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30</u> Junior/Middler <u>7pm</u> Bible Study <u>7:30</u> High School Choir; Worship Committee	<b>14</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>15</b> <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	<b>16</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	<b>17</b>
<b>19</b> <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Consistory	<b>20</b> <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	<b>21</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>22</b> <u>10am</u> PNEC Lay Educators <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	<b>23</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study	<b>24</b>
<b>26</b> <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>27</b> <u>9am</u> Newsletter <u>10am</u> VBS Planning <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	<b>28</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>29</b> <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	<b>30</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study	<b>31</b> <u>9am</u> Men's Breakfast
SUNDAYS					
<b>4</b> <b>Covenant &amp; Communion</b> <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	<b>11</b> <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service- Baptism Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Tech Committee	<b>18</b> <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Spuds n Suds Luncheon	<b>25</b> <u>8am</u> Heritage Service  <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/ Semi-Annual Meeting Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds		

HONORING THE PAST \* CELEBRATING THE PRESENT  
BUILDING THE FUTURE

## Semi-Annual Meeting

**Our semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.**

At this meeting, the mid-year review of our financial position will be presented. Also, five individuals have been nominated to serve a first three-year term on Consistory: Ardith Kuhns, Carol James, Ernie Dojack, Phil Wehr and Cheryl Yencho. Two additional persons, Deb Sanek and Paul Tomlin, have been nominated to serve a second consecutive three-year term on Consistory. Additionally, Deb Wenner has been nominated to continue to serve our congregation as a Trustee on the Funds of Lasting Gifts. These members have freely chosen to offer their service to our church and God's mission here.

May God always be with you, and may your New Year be full of good cheer!

Respectfully,  
*Carrington Smith*



**Thank you to the congregation and our church leaders** for the Christmas gift given to the staff on Christmas Eve. Your generosity and support means the world to us. We are also grateful for the many cards and goodies that reflected your Christmas spirit to us. We are blessed to be part of this family of faith.

*Pastor Kris, Rev. Patience, Pastor Allan, Kathy Bonsell, Mike Baer, Blake Hoppes, Barbara Carinci, Tara Henninger, Nate Rex, Ron Kneller, Maria Beltz, Jason Conrad*



# From the Interim Pastor

Pastor Allan concluded a three week study of the Psalms during the Friday morning Bible Study. Pastor Allan learned that the German words inscribed upon the arch in our sanctuary, **"GOTT, MAN LOBET DICH IN DER STILLE ZU ZION"** are a quotation from Psalm 65: "Praise is due to you, O God in Zion." During the last session Pastor Allan invited members of the class to write a Haiku Psalm. Here are some of the Haiku Psalms that persons wrote:

*We are here O Lord  
Help us live our lives with You.  
'Til we meet with You.*

*Giver of my life  
How do I praise thee enough  
To Show You my love.*

*Bless my children God  
Family time is precious  
Rejoice in the Lord.*

*O precious One Dear  
You provide comfort and hope  
Thank you for blessings.*

*Watch over my child  
As she travels home from school  
Our home full once more.*

*Thanksgiving is here  
Help us praise the Lord today  
Happy and great times...*

*The dawn of the day  
Beautiful orange sun rise  
A new beginning.*

*Thank God for Union  
A true spiritual home  
Bless us on our way.*

## Year End Donations

For donations to be credited in 2014 all donations need to be into the church office by **December 29, 2014**. Any donations received after December 29, 2014 will be credited for giving year 2015. Any questions please call the church office.

## Home Visitation Members Birthdays

**Betty McGee—January 6**  
534 Third Street  
Apt. 706  
Catasauqua, PA 18032-2432

**Rachel Diehl—January 17**  
c/o Gloria Simock  
PO Box 190  
Neffs, PA 18065-0190

**Clara Hoster—January 30**  
3350 Airport Road, Lot 34  
Allentown, PA 18109-9306



## 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](mailto:chamm187@live.kutztown.edu). Thank you for your services and support of our congregation!



### DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED HOLIDAY DECORATIONS?

It's that time of the year when you are decorating and un-decorating for the holidays. How many items do you keep in your holiday bin that you don't even use anymore?

**SANTA'S ATTIC** is looking for those unwanted decorations. Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween....even Easter decorations are welcome! Bring your "gently used" decorations to Memorial Hall and place them in the marked box on the stage during the months of **December and January**. Don't worry....you'll see them again next October at our Country Holidays Craft Show!

**GO GREEN for the HOLIDAYS....let's reduce, reuse and recycle those decorations!**

### 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**

## Thanks to our Office Helpers!

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

## Global Ministries

Messages from our Global Ministries Sponsored Children

Tendai Magidhi

Age 9 - Grade 4 - Zimbabwe

I like to spend my free time reading novels of funny stories and watching cartoons on television. During my spare time I also wash my clothes and tidy my bed. I also practice our school songs. When I grow up I want to be a medical doctor.

Something about our family - There are eight members of my family. Most of our family members go to school, we enjoy story telling, watching TV, working in our gardens, tending to our flowers.

Thank you for sponsoring me.



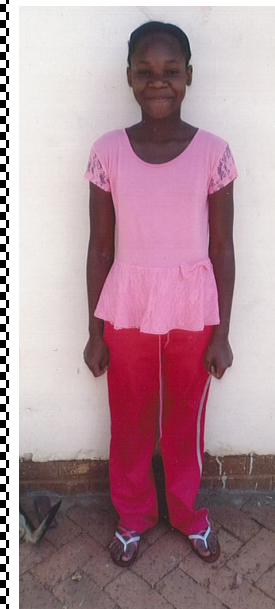
Elizabeth Magidhi

Age 13 - Grade 7 - Zimbabwe

I like to spend my free time reading novels, singing church songs, playing with my friends. I am working to write my final examinations in primary school. I wish to get best grades so that I can find the next best school. I want to be a lawyer when I grow up.

Something about my family - We are eight in our family. We help and work together everyday, go to school together, and are all United Church of Christ members. We always pray as a family before we sleep everyday.

Thank you for sponsoring me.



### Church Code 511.

Hospitals will not list patients under our congregational code unless given permission by the patient. If you are hospitalized, please let the hospital staff know that you would like us to be notified. Our church code is 511. This allows the church staff to know that you are in the hospital.



# Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
<b>7-1-2014</b>	\$ 9,644.00	\$21,417.00	\$31,061.00
<b>Income</b>	\$161,491.00	\$24,108.00	\$185,599.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$168,996.00	\$22,301.00	\$191,297.00
<b>11-30-2014</b>	\$2,139.00	\$23,224.00	\$25,363.00

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

## 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:  
Robin & Michael Christman, Ruth H. Miller

The following donations have been accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Henry C. Fenstermaker**:  
Janet Bartynski, John & Nancy Remaley, Bernadine Schumaker, Donald Schumaker, Mack Truck's "OM" Group, R. James Schaffer

The following donation has been accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Barbara A. Kern**:  
Donnie & Heather Kern  
**SANCTUARY CD RECORDER**: Donated in memory of Donald & Claire Rothrock by The Family  
**CANDLEHOLDERS**: Donated in memory of Fern Snyder by Ron Snyder

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
November 2	69	174	39	282
November 9	70	210	36	316
November 16	83	219	38	340
November 23	70	165	55	290
November 30	80	225	CFW	305

<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>	
November 2013– 1,563	November 2014 - 1,533
<b>AVG ATTENDANCE</b>	
November 2013–391	November 2014 - 307

## Deaths

Henry C. Fenstermaker, passed away November 25, 2014, and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery, Neffs.

# Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

On a recent visit to a parishioner, I noticed a book that she was holding. The book was a photo journal of her family. Each picture was labeled with the name(s) of the person(s) pictured. This book was a life-line for this woman, as it helped her to stay connected to the people she loved the most. This book helped her to remember what her loved ones look like and to remember their names. This lovely woman suffers from dementia. Dementia is a set of symptoms that include memory loss, difficulties with thinking, problem solving or language.

On a visit to a different parishioner, she and several of her "housemates" were singing Christmas carols. They knew the tunes and the words and sang out with vigor. Although each of these people suffered with some type of dementia, it was clear that they were experiencing great joy in sharing familiar carols with each other.

Music and pictures are some of the ways we can help our loved ones who suffer from different types of dementia to stay connected to important people and memories in their lives. Next time you sing a familiar

hymn during worship, remember that it's a vital link for someone sitting next to you or in front of you who has memory issues and has been a church member for many decades. The Lord's Prayer can be a special blessing, as it offers familiar words to express faith for someone who struggles to find the right words to say to God.

As a faith community we want to welcome everyone into our church family. We want to foster inclusion, confidence and caring in our community. We can learn to be more aware of the needs of our brothers and sisters who might be struggling with some type of dementia, Alzheimer's or a related disease. I encourage you to take some time to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of dementia, Alzheimer's and related diseases. There are many excellent websites, such as the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, Alzheimer's Speaks and the Alzheimer's Society of Britain. Let us also keep them and their caregivers in our prayers.

## Consistory Minutes

by Brad Hackett (subject to approval)

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by President Carrington Smith.

The Treasurer's Report and October/November bills were presented and approved.

**Property and Maintenance Committee reported that** A new starter was installed on the emergency generator. The Grove Pavilion is moving along well and will continue throughout the winter. First snow plow bill has been received due to Thanksgiving Eve storm. All help will be greatly appreciated for Christmas Eve services. A motion was made to approve \$3,000 for maintenance and repairs for the elevator, \$2,000 for gutter cleaning and slate repair and \$3,000 for miscellaneous property repairs.

**Mission Committee reported that the church** provided 300 5lb. bags of potatoes for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. The church delivered a truck load of Christmas tree gifts. The church delivered a total of 2,200 rolls of toilet paper.

**Worship Committee reported that** a motion was made to ask the Funds of Lasting Gifts for \$3,000 for special Guest speakers and musical performers in 2015.

**The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101. Copies of the full meeting minutes are available on the table in the foyer or at coffee hour.**

## UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsen**  
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

# Children's Programs

## Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961  
Email: dired@unionucc.org

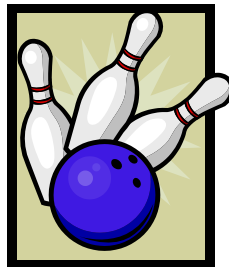


### VBS 2015 – June 22-June 26

We are starting to form a steering committee to work on this year's VBS program. We will again be working with Gospel Light. At **SonSpark Labs**, children will explore God's life-changing plan as they find out the answers to life's most important questions. They will discover that God loves them and that **through Jesus** they can be members of God's family and personally experience God's plan for each of us—**GP4U=J!** Our VBS scientists will experiment, play games, create colorful crafts, and enjoy yummy snacks. If you would like to help plan for this exciting week, contact Kathy. Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, January 27 at 10:00** in the Youth Room.

- ◆ **CREATIVE DESIGN LAB** will begin in February to make decorations. We will meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 10-2.
- ◆ We are also looking for **WHITE LAB COATS and BEAKERS**.

Sunday School and Children's Church children are collecting **SUNDAY GOLD** for attending our programs and showing good Christian behavior. Keep your coins in a safe place! We will be exchanging our coins for gift certificates at the end of the year.



### JANUARY CIA EVENT

Our **Children In Action** (K through 6th grade) are **IN ACTION** again. This month their families are invited for an afternoon of bowling at Slate Bowl on Sunday, January 18th at 2:00pm. \$2 per game (this includes shoes). Please RSVP to NeffsCIA@gmail.com by January 12th.

### 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 January meeting (Jan. 8th @ 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
- ◆ CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



### Sunday, January 4, 2015

2nd Sunday after Christmas, Covenant Renewal/Communion

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** John 1.1-14

**Message:** "When the Word Becomes Flesh"  
Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack  
10:30 - Dan Topp

**Greeters:** Roger & Nancy Christman, Cliff & Carol James

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Brandon Zellner  
10:30AM - Ian Schory, Jacob Roth

### Sunday, January 11, 2015

Baptism of Christ

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** Acts 19:1-7

**Message:** "The Broken Places"  
Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelsan

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Doug Albert  
10:30 - Vicki Mayk

**Greeters:** Don & Candy Wingate, Stan & Jean Wieand

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Madison Milander  
10:30AM - Kaitlyn Mericle, Rebekah Lorah

### Sunday, January 18, 2015

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** Psalm 122

**Message:** "Civil Rights and Wrongs"  
Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Susan Rumble  
10:30 - James Ondrey

**Greeters:** Karl & Lynne Klinger, Karen & Karl Imdorf

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Dylan Kuntz  
10:30AM - Madelyn Kohler, Sebastian Knerr

### Sunday, January 25, 2015

3rd Sunday after Epiphany/Jazz Ensemble

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service –Semi-Annual Meeting**

**Text:** Psalm 62:5–12

**Message:** "I Will Not Be Shaken"  
Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelsan

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider  
10:30 - Donna Christman

**Greeters:** Carol Pope, Ronnie Pope, Greg & Johanna Zellner

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Jacob Klinger  
10:30AM - Gabriel Horvath, Abigail Hill



### 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.

**Thank you from a church family:** "My mother's Helping Heart stopped by this evening to visit my mom and to give her the poinsettia and gifts from the youth group. What a wonderful ministry! My mom continues to be so touched that she has not been forgotten by our church family. I cannot even begin to thank everyone involved and hope they know how uplifting these visits are for my mom. Our church is such a blessing!!!"



### 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:**

- Jan. 4— No Committee
- Jan. 11— Fellowship Committee
- Jan. 18— Evangelism Committee
- Jan. 25—Consistory

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

In Proverbs 29:18 [MSG] we read..."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."

The work of our Intentional Interim is underway! In November and early December 2014, forty nine lay leaders and staff members were asked to identify and nominate individuals within Union UCC who have a heart for Christ's church, demonstrate healthy leadership and who they believed would be a valuable member of the Leadership Planning Team [LPT] and this process. Responses to this invitation will be tallied the week of December 15th, 2014, and we are expecting 55-70 staff and leaders to be serving on the LPT. Thank you to all who have agreed to serve on the LPT.

From January to July 2015, I will assist and guide the LPT and Union UCC through Phase 1 of discerning your future ministry and mission, nurturing healthy church leadership, doing the work of the intentional interim and drafting portions of your Local Church Profile which will be used to search for your next permanent Senior Pastor. The LPT will be identifying your congregational gifts & graces, modeling how we are called by

## Men's Breakfast Scheduled for January 31

Pastor Allan is scheduling a Men's Breakfast here at the church for Saturday, January 31, 9 am. All men of the church, including fathers and sons are invited to attend. Menu will include eggs, bacon, home fries, toast and coffee. Following the meal we will discuss ideas for future get-togethers, including a Bean Bag Tournament, etc. **RSVP by January 15** by calling the church office at 610-767-6961 or by email to: [interimpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:interimpastor@unionucc.org).

God to live in Covenant as a "body of Christ" and, with significant congregational involvement and input, leading the congregation through this planning and visioning process. During Phase 2 of the process, August to October, 2015, we will be holding several Congregational Forums to engage and solicit input from the Congregation. During Phase 3 of the process, October to March 2016, the LPT, utilizing congregational input, will final Draft your Plan for Ministry & Mission and form the Search Committee from members of the LPT. The Search Committee will draft your Local Church Profile. The Draft Plan for Ministry & Mission and relevant portions of the draft Local Church Profile will be endorsed by the LPT and Consistory and shared with the Congregation for their endorsement, leading up to Union UCC being able to start its Search and Call process for your next Senior Pastor by April 2016.

As we "attend to what God reveals" during this process and our work together, 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.**

## Youth Group News 6th-12th Grades

**For more information contact: Pastor Kris [assocpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:assocpastor@unionucc.org) 610-657-6007 Cell Or Dave DiPaolantonio at 610-349-9162 and [youth\\_group@unionucc.org](mailto: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).

### Sun Jan 18 11:30am-1pm Spuds and Suds Lunch

Baked Potato Lunch with over 15 toppings! Donate a topping, help to serve/clean up. \$5 per person for 1 potato and beverage. Fundraiser!

**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 Meeting 11:30am-1pm**

**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

### SUMMER MISSION TRIP

We're heading to Pittsburgh with other UCC kids to the Pittsburgh Project ([pittsburghproject.org](http://pittsburghproject.org)) for a week of helping others and putting our faith into action. The week of July 13th, 2014. **Dave DiPaolantonio, Rachel and AJ DiPaolantonio, Jen and Natalie Ondrey, Kimi Bath, Mollie Jarrett.** **Anyone else interested? Talk to Pastor Kris.**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS**  
**9:15-10:15am**

**THE MUNCH BUNCH** (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades 2nd Floor Room 203)

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**  
(8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Room)  
Confirmands can go to The Breakfast Club when there's no class.

**THE BREAKFAST CLUB** (9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades Room 4 Basement)



## 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.

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

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

## Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be **Tues., January 6.** Friendship, homemade soup, lunch, dessert and a program ~ Free!

**Karen Heim ~ Amigos De Guatemala**  
Bring a dessert to share

## Adult Study

### Friday Morning Adult Class

**9:30 am-11am Room 5 (Basement) Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows:** Pastor Allan will be using "The Old Testament," a DVD by Amy Jill Levine, Ph.D. Professor of Biblical Studies at Vanderbilt University, to discuss the stories of Genesis. The Old Testament, or Tanakh, was written in ancient Israel over 1,000 years ago by many authors. What can this book teach us about the ancient Israelites? What does our faith find in new scholarly understanding? As scripture or as the most influential piece of literature ever written, this book is a source of constant wonder, inspiration, and intrigue.

- January 2 "Overview of the Old Testament"
- January 9 "Genesis 2 and 3: The Story of Adam and Eve"
- January 16 "Genesis 3-11: The Stories of Cain and Abel, the Flood, and Tower of Babel"
- January 23 "Genesis 12 ff: The Stories of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar"
- January 30 "Genesis 21-24: The Story of Isaac"

### Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Pastor Allan will discuss the life and theology of Karen Armstrong during the first three Sundays of January. Karen Armstrong is a British author and commentator known for her books on comparative religion. A former Roman Catholic religious sister, she became disillusioned with religious life and left the convent in 1969. She first rose to prominence in 1993 with her book *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. Her work focuses on commonalities of the major religions, such as the importance of compassion and the Golden Rule.

- January 4 A Short Discussion of the Life and Theology of Karen Armstrong  
Pastor Allan
- January 11 Karen Armstrong: "The History of God Part I"  
Pastor Allan
- January 18 Karen Armstrong "The History of God Part II"  
Pastor Allan
- January 25 We Are Called To Bless! ~ Pastor Kris  
Blessing is one of the central acts of the Christian faith. We ask God to bless, we invite God's presence into the world and into our lives, we ask god to turn us toward the things that call out for our attention, the good, the bad, and the ugly. How do we bless everything in our life?

**FREE bless prayer booklet if you attend.**

### 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 Efirid. Harry B. Burger invites you to come learn new things and grow in faith. Contact Harry B. Burger 610-767-5344.

## Year-end Statements

Financial statements for those that have given \$200 or more for 2014 will be mailed out by January 31, 2015. If you do not receive your statement or wish to have a statement that is for less than \$200 in giving please contact Barbara in the church office.

**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!

## Blessings in the New Year from Pastor Kris

I hope that your Christmas was a blessing to you and that your New Year is off to a good start. Know that you are always in my prayers.

Thank you to everyone who made our Advent and Christmas season so special and meaningful at church. Your many offerings of music, time, creativity, generosity, support, mission and service truly are gifts that I cherish and that inspire me and that touch the hearts and lives of so many. Thank you, thank you God.

We have many traditions here at church and ones that you have in your homes that you share with your family and friends. Last year at the 5pm Christmas Eve service I told you about the book *The Christmas Jar* by Jason F. Wright and invited you to consider making a Christmas Jar one of your new traditions. It's simple: keep a jar during the year where you put your spare change (or skip buying something and put the money in the jar). As you do this, pray for the person or organization to whom you will give this jar at Christmas at the end of the year. Then anonymously present the jar to them with a copy of the book or a reference to the website. <http://christmasjars.com> The book and the website have many moving stories from people who have received the jars.

My family added this to our tradition list, but honestly, I forgot that I invited the congregation to do the same. Then in December I started to get phone calls from you telling me that you had a Christmas Jar and did I have anyone in mind to give them too. Well, the calls kept coming in. What a joy it was to be a part of this with you! Thank you to ALL the elves, and disciples, who took on this new tradition and kept other traditions that shared the spirit of Christmas and the heart of our faith with others.

## 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](mailto:assocpastor@unionucc.org) 610-767-6961



[www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)

# Blanket Sunday



You're changing lives around the World !! Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency.

**Thank you for your support of the upcoming Blanket Sunday in February 2015.** You are helping to spread God's love to many families around the country and the world.

# Soup Night 2015

Mark your calendars for this year's soup night benefiting Meals on Wheels - **Friday March 13, 2015.** Get out your recipe books for your favorite soup or dessert.

# Souper Bowl Sunday



Join in the fun on Super Bowl Sunday, **Feb 1, 2015** and join Union UCC and thousands of churches around the country as we celebrate SOUPer Bowl Sunday.

The Mission Committee encourages all members to **bring canned soup** along to worship service on Feb 1, one can, two cans, even a case, whatever you can bring will be greatly appreciated. Cash donations will also be accepted.

All canned soups and cash donations will be delivered to the **Northern Lehigh Food Bank.** Thank you for fighting hunger and being on the winning SOUPer Bowl team.

## Sunday Sponsors:

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

Flowers (\$30) Bulletins (\$20, \$8) contact Phyllis Hamm at 610-349-0324.

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

or see our website at [www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give](http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give).

## Thank You, Ruth Purner!

**Ruth Purner** has retired her position as bulletin sponsor secretary as of January 2015. We thank her for her dedication throughout 30 years of calling and scheduling sponsors for the bulletins and even at one time flowers. To sponsor adult or children's bulletins please contact Phyllis Hamm or use the Sign-up Genius website.



*Patricia Frantz is our Catch the Spirit recipient for January. She will be recognized on January 11, 2014 at the 10:30am worship service.*

Pat was born in Punxsutawney, PA where she lived with her mother, sister at her grandparents until her dad was discharged from the Navy. The family moved to Youngstown, OH when her father took a job with Truscon Steel. She was taught three things, "You don't lie, cheat, or steal." She lived at home until she was married and then moved to Cleveland, OH. Pat moved the Lehigh Valley in 1979. She worked at the United Way for seven years, until health problems forced her to leave.

Pat says, "I miss not working, but since I joined the church I have found other things I enjoy." Pat started out in the Friday morning Bible Study class and has since been involved with the knitters, quilters, helping hands, and country sale.

"Being involved in these activities has developed many friendships that have enriched my life." She says her most memorable times was winning one of Velma Wehr's quilts. "It is special that I have a quilt she designed and I helped quilt."

Her hobbies include quilting, knitting,, reading and spending time with her dog, Dudley.

Pat concludes with, "I feel at home at Neffs church because of the people and all the wonderful programs it has to offer people of all ages."

Thank you, Pat, for being a quiet and steady hand in our congregation.

## Thomas Family Fund

Congratulations to Pastor Tom Thomas on his retirement. To honor his 30 years of leadership and service to Union United Church of Christ, a new endowment fund has been started within the Funds of Lasting Gifts.

The Thomas Family Fund has recently been established in memory of son Owen Thomas. Recognizing Owen's love of mission trips and learning experiences through his participation of Union UCC's youth programs, the purpose of this fund is to encourage youth and young adults to engage in mission efforts to serve God and people throughout the world.

During Pastor Tom's Celebration on Oct 26, 2014, we announced that over \$25,000 of donations were collected in honor of Pastor Tom's 30 years of service. Previous Memorial Gifts in memory of Owen Thomas will be added into the fund, to bring the grand total of the principal of the fund to over \$36,000.

Beginning in 2016, earned interest on a yearly basis from The Thomas Family Fund will support youth and young adults interested in mission efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. The Christian Education and Mission Committees will oversee the utilization of the fund's income.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to The Thomas Family Fund, which will be a gift that keeps giving each year supporting our youth and mission.

## 2015 Envelope Packets

**Envelope packets for 2015 are ready and available for pickup.** Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs.

To help offset the cost of the printing and shipping costs, we encourage members to use the first initial offering envelope. Weekly envelopes provide for the ongoing mission of the church, please use regularly in the collection plate or mail to the church office. Special envelopes are directed to special missions within the church, like Benevolence, Improvement, Music and Education, Pastor of Visitation or other special mission offerings.

**Keep God's mission strong here at Union UCC, show your support and give generously and regularly.**

# Women's of Union UCC

**Union UCC Women's Retreat**  
**April 17-19, 2015**  
**Trout Lake Retreats,**  
**Stroudsburg**



Members, Friends, Family members are invited.  
 Theme: Garden Getaway ~ Where Women Walk with God

Cost: \$125 (Collecting \$60 deposit now through January 1<sup>st</sup>, final payment due April 5.)

Pay to "Union UCC" either by mail or drop in mailbox at church. Be sure to mark your check "Women's Retreat."

Leaders: Pastor Kris and the Planning Team

## New Members Received November 16, 2014



Frank Sorg



Jeff and Marcey Kroll  
 (child: Edge)



Matt and Ronda Gerry  
 (children: Sam, AJ)



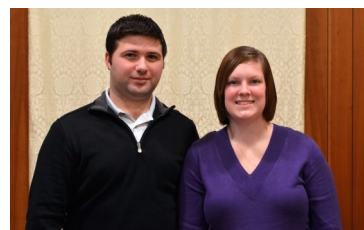
Jim and Leanna Lane  
 (children: Julianna, Amanda)



David and Amy Fusselman  
 (children: Damien, Courtney)



Sidney and Teresa Stoner,  
 daughters, Alicia Stoner,  
 Sarah Stoner (child:  
 Arianna)



David and Tiffany Roberts  
 (children: Alexis, Marlie, Joseph,  
 Olivia)



Dawn Cipolla (children:  
 Brooke, James, Brett)



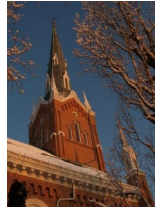
Russ Todd (children:  
 Abrianna, Harper)

NOT PICTURED:  
 Damon and Kelly Gelb (children: Courtney,  
 Brittany, Lindsay, Kelsey)

## Property Committee



Happy New Year to all. Union UCC is ready for another year of serving God in the Neffs community and the World. Our property continues to be one busy place on a daily and weekly basis. We are blessed to have a beautiful, welcoming building and property to call our home away from home.



We take great pride in seeing the sanctuary full of members and guests all Christmas season and the parking lots filled to capacity. Mission opportunities were happening everywhere, along with increased activities in the Music and Education departments.

Community and church sponsored groups utilize many rooms all week long. The Neffs UCC Preschool is active everyday of the week, preparing young children for a life of learning.

A busy, active place like Union UCC makes for a vibrant, energized church. We are blessed. Let's keep that spirit alive all year long, there are so many opportunities throughout the coming months to join your church family in worship, mission, music, education, fellowship, and more.

See you soon. Peace to all.

## RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

Happy 2015! Many people will make New Year's resolutions on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The beginning of a new calendar year signifies a time of change, renewal, and a fresh start. No matter what your resolution is, it is tough to stay committed throughout the year. Below are some tips to help keep you on track, stay motivated, and accomplish your goal.

- **Start small-** Set a measurable, realistic resolution that you can tackle over a specified time. If you plan to exercise more, schedule a few walks with friends or sessions at the gym three or four times a week. A mad seven-day stretch will burn you out faster and be harder to stick with.
- **Change one behavior at a time-** Striving to eat healthier, exercise more, quit smoking, and watch less TV all at the same time is a recipe for disaster. It is easy to be overwhelmed with any significant change in habit, so work towards one goal at a time.
- **Track your progress-** Keep track of your mission by incorporating a visual way to see how you are progressing. Many smart phones have apps that let you self-monitor your improvement. Drawing a star or smiley face on a calendar for every day that you meet your goal is just as much fun.
- **Talk about it!** Telling your family and friends about your goals allows them to encourage you, offer ongoing support, and help you avoid triggers and bad habits. Or, share your struggles and successes among a support group. Tackling a goal together makes the process less intimidating and helps keep you accountable.
- **Reward achievements-** when you reach a portion of your goal, find a small way to celebrate your accomplishment. Recognizing your progress will help keep you focused and remain excited about the overall goal.
- **Remember you are human-** No one is perfect, and keep in mind you'll have better days than others. A bad day (or week) isn't a reason to give up. Resolve to recover, learn from your mistakes, and get back on track. A resolution is a marathon- not a sprint!

Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy New Year!



The Preschool students made Christmas decorations, talked about the birth of Jesus during Chapel time, and learned Christmas songs to share with their families and Santa at their Christmas programs. The 4 Year Old and Pre-K students had fun baking cookies and visiting Zion's Reformed Church to see Pip the Mouse.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed items for Recycle Local truck fundraiser. If you missed it, we will be collecting again in spring!

**It is time to start planning for a new year!** In January we will begin accepting 2015-2016 registrations. **We will hold our Open House on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, in rooms 6, 7, and 8 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** The snow date is February 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information or for a registration form, stop in or contact the Preschool at 610-767-5327. Registration forms are also available on our website at [unionucc.org/preschool](http://unionucc.org/preschool).

## Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers

Our Helping Hearts group cares for our members on our visitation list by delivering flowers sponsored by church members and by visiting, sharing prayers and Christian friendship. Our Communion Ministers also share in this ministry by delivering communion. **Our next meeting will be March 19.**

**Thank you to everyone who sponsored poinsettias. And, thank you to our Helping Hearts for delivering them to our members. So many gifts!**