



▶ CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



▶ YOUTH GROUP 5



▶ WOMEN'S RETREAT.....8

Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
 Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

Into the Wilderness

Through the Search Journey at Union UCC Pastor Kris

You might be feeling that this time in your life feels like a wilderness or that the time we live in is a wilderness. Or maybe this time of preparing to call a new Senior Pastor feels a bit like a wilderness too. Lent is often described as a time of being in the wilderness as well. We will walk through this wilderness time, as people of faith and as a church, together and with God.

The pastors and church leaders have created a series of prayers and devotions that will be posted on our facebook page, sent as a weekly email, and printed for Sunday's bulletin during the six weeks of Lent. (Contact Tara at secretary@unionucc.org to be added to the email list.) We hope that these prayers will guide and bless you and our church through this wilderness time.

Include your church more intentionally in your Lenten wilderness experience. Add the church, the Leadership Planning Team, our staff and leaders to your prayer list each day; come to church for an additional activity or worship service to show your prayerful presence and support; contribute an additional Sunday's offering in order to keep us strong and healthy; and help and serve others through donations of time and money through opportunities offered here. Through these and other disciplines I know that you will grow in your understanding and awareness of God's love and grace in your life and in our church.

Here are some other opportunities for the Wilderness Journey:

Friday, March 13 at 5:30pm Soup Nite Supports Meals on Wheels.

The cost for the evening will be \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 ages 4-12.

Saturday, March 28 Easter Egg Hunt 2pm Ages 0-10, please register.

March 22 Palm Sunday: Adult Choir Musical at 8 and 10:30 worship

April 2 Maundy Thursday 6-8pm Discipleship Meal with Communion, Preparing For Good Friday

April 3 Good Friday (Sanctuary will be open for prayer during the day.) 7pm Worship with Communion

April 5 Easter *6:30 am Sunrise Worship in the Cemetery with Communion *Note time change.

8am and 10:30am Worship with Communion



Families - Watch for Lent ideas from Mrs. Bonsell to share with your children each week too!



From the Interim Pastor

"Lenten Reflections"

The Season of Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

In his book, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes*, theologian Belden Lane explores the impulse that draws spiritual seekers into the wilderness. At the same time he is exploring wilderness spirituality, he is reflecting on his mother's long struggle with Alzheimer's and cancer, and he reflects on her experience in a nursing home as a kind of spiritual wilderness in itself. He concludes, "There is an unaccountable solace that fierce landscapes offer to the soul. They heal, as well as mirror, the brokenness we find within."

Jesus' experience in the wilderness... Belden Lane's reflections on wilderness spirituality... and his experience with his mother's life in a nursing home... all teach us the spiritual power of leaving the comfort of our lives to experience the presence of God in new and deeper ways.

Whatever wilderness experiences you encounter during this Season of Lent, may you discover the power of God's goodness and love in new and deeper ways.

Pastor Allan

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.**



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Althea Schiffer - March 29

Fellowship Terrace 163
3010 Fellowship Drive
Whitehall, PA 18052-3343



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

Funeral Luncheon Hosts

Are you someone who enjoys organizing and hosting? We're looking for additional volunteers who would help families to host a catered lunch. We provide families with the names of caterers and their plans, or a family provides their own caterer. Our hosts assist with setting up, serving, and cleaning up during the meal. We would ask families to give a stipend to the hosts for their time.

We have about 1-2 funerals a month, sometimes less, sometimes more. Generally there would be at least two hosts on a team for each funeral. Hosts would need to be available during weekdays and occasional weekends.

This would not be a high paying job, but rather a ministry of hospitality. If you are interested in learning more or in being considered, please contact the church office or Karen Fleming or Deb Sanek, our coordinators.

Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Do You or a Family Member Suffer from a Brain Disorder?

Recent research has found that what we have long thought of as mental illness is actually a type of brain disorder that is not a lot different from Parkinson's disease or epilepsy. These types of brain disorders are more common than you think. Depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and dementia are among the brain disorders that many of us have faced in ourselves or our families. We are not alone, as research indicates that approximately one in four Americans suffer from some type of brain disorder every year.

This type of brain disorder regularly disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others

and function, but with early intervention and proper support and treatment, outcomes can be improved.

Where to Get Help

Don't be afraid to reach out if you or someone you know needs help. Learning all you can about these brain disorders, often referred to as mental illnesses, is an important first step. Reach out to your pastor or primary care doctor for more resources.

God wants us to be healthy to head to toe. Get help now by talking to someone if you think you or a loved one has a brain disorder.

You may contact Pastor Patience for more information on this topic at vispastor@unionucc.org or 610-248-5587.

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, February 16th, 2015 by President Carrington Smith.

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

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that the Clothing Shed results for the year 2014 (March-December), 24,610 pounds of clothing collected provided income of \$1,968 for general fund. In addition there two collections for the preschool that provides them with income over \$1,000 each time. Collections are underway for 2015, the shed usually fills up once a month, providing about \$200/month. Keep your donations coming!

Snow and Ice have been keeping us busy the past six weeks, all cleaned up now, ready for the next two storms this week.

We have been taking care of lots of little things around the property. All of the light bulbs here in Memorial Hall have been changed. There are a few light bulbs in the main sanctuary chandeliers that need to be replaced; we are planning to replace all of the bulbs in the eight ceiling lights on Saturday March 7th at 8:30 am. Helpers are welcomed!

The grove pavilion is moving along well, construction stopped a month ago due to the snow, but still at 85% done. We need warmer days to finish the rest, and then finish with the ground and grass planting.

The property committee request permission to remove one more pine tree, damaged by Hurricane Sandy, remove the small candy stand, and install one new light pole. Request was made and approved for these items.

Christian Education Committee reported that on February 22nd there will be a Lent Celebration. Families will make a resurrection garden and share a meal of pizza and desserts. On March 21st, the committee will participate in Hoagie Making. This is the biggest fundraiser for this group for the year. Orders are being taken now. Kathy Bonsell and Barb Korastinsky are working hard to work out logistics of new Safe Child Law.

Mission Committee reported that Blanket Sunday celebrated this last Sunday and is going to be extended into next Sunday as we did not meet our goal. Soup Night is on Friday, March 14th. Sign up to come or to make a pot of soup!

Church and Ministry reported that in the call for a new pastor we need to look at staff and have written procedures/job descriptions for the staff. This committee will work on this.

Evangelism Committee reported that the dates for the next new members' class- Feb 15, 22, and March 1st at the 9:15 hour. 3 people showed up this past Sunday. The Tailgate Party- February 1st- went really well.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, March 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 10:30 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 after "Children's Time" to discuss Biblical history and prepare communion bread. Pastor Kris and the parents will join them after the service for further instruction. We hope to conclude the session by 12:30pm. 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 610-434-1169 or at dired@unionucc.org.

Wear your Easter hats on Easter Sunday!



Easter Hat Challenge

The Sunday School leaders and children will be creating EASTER HATS during March to wear on Easter Sunday at the 10:30 service. We invite ALL members of the congregation to create or wear their favorite Easter bonnet/hat on April 5th.

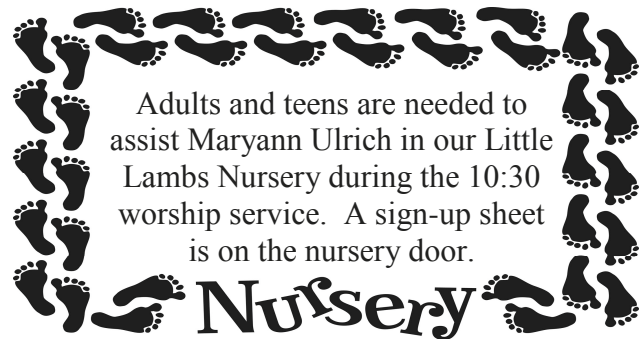
Celebrate the joy of Easter morning with us!

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

Grandparents Day



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~



Adults and teens are needed to assist Maryann Ulrich in our Little Lambs Nursery during the 10:30 worship service. A sign-up sheet is on the nursery door.

Nursery

March CIA Event (K- 6th Grade)

Candy Bingo

March 20, 2015

Bring your favorite candy bar!
6-8pm in Fellowship Hall

RSVP: NeffsCIA@gmail.com



VBS 2015 June 22-June 26

This summer Union UCC is headed to SonSpark Labs! We will have a great time with experiments, lively songs, humorous skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks....all of the things that make VBS so much fun for children (and adults). This year's program is scheduled for June 22rd through June 26th, 9:00am to noon daily. We hope you can join us for a week of fun and adventure!

Important SonSpark Lab information:

- We will be enrolling children four years old (by Oct. 1, 2015 and preschool experience preferred) through current seventh graders.
- Registration closes May 17th.
- **There is a \$5.00 materials fee per child.** This fee included a CD of VBS music.
- Registration forms are located in Memorial Hall.

2015 Lab Technicians and Assistants: We are still looking for helpers of all kinds. We need age-level leaders and helpers, recreation help, "crafters", and youth helpers (8th grade and older).

DESIGN LAB—Help with this year's VBS decorations on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 10am-2pm. We will meet in Room 5. Bring your lunch!





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
 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 March 1 – Advisory Team Lunch and Meeting 11:30am-1pm RSVP to Pastor Kris by that Friday, Feb 27

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 Buy a chance to win dessert made by our church's best bakers! **Sign up with Kathi Charles to donate at kac4b@hotmail.com 610-462-5551.**

SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:15-10:15am

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

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

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



March 28 Work Day at Camp Ichthus Let's help our favorite retreat spot do some spring cleaning. Meet at church at 9am, home by 3:30. Lunch included.

Fri April 10 7- 9:30pm HANG IN NIGHT at Church
 Music, food, games, friends and time to hang in together.
FREE: Bring a canned good for the food bank.

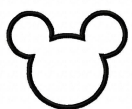
Sat May 2 Country Sale—Church and Community-wide Yard Sale
 Youth Group sells Walking Tacos, Root Beer floats, pretzels. *Fundraiser
Sun May 17 Confirmation Day at 10:30 Worship



Sun June 7 Build Your Own Sundae Sunday Picnic in the Grove and Graduate Sunday Sign up to help with the moon bounce, rock wall, face painting or tattoos for a one hour shift. Donate snacks, veggies/dip. **Seniors send PK your graduation information and come to worship to be celebrated and blessed.**

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.



NEXT SUMMER
July 26-29, 2016
National Youth Event
Disney World, Florida
We're going to DISNEY!!



Collecting \$50 deposits now through June 1, 2015.
If you're thinking of going, get a deposit in to save your spot!
Checks: "Union UCC Youth Group"



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.

April 26 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., March 3.** Friendship, homemade soup, lunch, dessert and a program ~ Free! Bring a dessert to share

Program: The Strolling Strings of Parkland High School

Summer Lancaster Adventure

Saturday, July 18th 8:45am—7:30pm

- Sight and Sound's production of **JOSEPH** (11am show)
- Shopping at **Kitchen Kettle Village** (40 outdoor shops—authentic PA Dutch Country shopping)
- Homemade Amish family style meal at the Lapp Family Home prepared and served by Ruth and her eight children. (chicken, beef, vegetable, noodles, mashed potatoes, and more)

Adults: \$100 Children (3-12): \$75



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.

IMPORTANT SAFE CHILD NEWS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Protecting our children from child abuse is a community responsibility.

On October 22, 2014 House Bill 435 was signed into law becoming Act 153 of 2014. This PA law requires comprehensive criminal and child abuse background checks for all paid employees and volunteers who work with or around children. We are currently reviewing the requirements and preparing a compliance procedure which is as straight forward and efficient as possible for all of us at Union UCC.

All staff will be required to complete an online tutorial, [Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse](#), complete a PA criminal record check, complete a PA child abuse history check, and complete a fingerprint record check.

All volunteers will be required to complete the online tutorial, the criminal record check, and the child abuse history check. (A fingerprint record check is only required if the volunteer has not lived in PA for the last 10 years.)

Barb Korastinsky has agreed to be our Safe Child Coordinator. We are preparing packets with step by step instructions for our staff and volunteers.

These checks are now required for everyone that works with or around children. This includes schools, sports teams, girl scouts, boy scouts, clubs, etc.. If you are employed or volunteer for another entity requiring these items, it is not necessary to complete the items again. You need only submit copies of the documents for your files.

We hope to have the majority of checks completed by September 1, 2015. Packets with detailed information, websites, and step by step instructions will be available for all volunteers by March 1, 2015.

If you have any questions about the legislation or the process, please contact Barb at 610-767-1993 or bjs140@juno.com.

Thank you for helping our church grow and be a safe place for our most precious children.



Miranda Perloff is our Catch the Spirit recipient for March. She will be recognized on March 8, 2015 at the 10:30 am worship service.



Miranda grew up in New Jersey and she says, "Mom was a minister throughout my childhood so being in a church has always been very comfortable to me. I have continued that habit ever since and am so glad that I can provide my son with a caring church community."

Miranda's family includes 13-year-old son, Ian, whom she credits with a great sense of humor, two "beautiful, sweet" stepdaughters, Carley and Sydney, and husband, Jon. Together they have three cuddly cats and a lovable dog. Miranda and Jon were married at Neffs in 2013, after Lisa Wright, a church member and longtime friend, introduced us. "I love to read, bake, cook, garden, do sewing crafts, find new activities for my students, and watch my kids play. I have my dream job as a first grade teacher at Ironton Elementary School where the students and fellow teachers push me to be a better person every day."

Miranda teaches Sunday School and VBS and is on the Christian Ed committee. She has also worked with Children's Church, the Craft fair, Family Lent Nights, and was a God Guide. She and Jon love to attend all of the delicious lunch events, as well!

Responding to 'How has being a part of the church changed your life?' she replies, "I get a great deal of comfort from my faith and from having a church family, which helps during difficult times. I have met many wonderful people here who share similar views. Best of all, I attend church with two of my closest friends and we are able to discuss our faith with each other."

Miranda's favorite church memory is, "...watching my children and my friends' children participate in our wedding. Having the chance to start a new life with Jon is amazing and, we were so fortunate that so many of our friends were able to help us celebrate. That was an amazing and beautiful day."

Why does Miranda love her church? "I love Neffs because there are so many activities for my family. I have always felt welcome here and the people have been so friendly and kind since my first day here."

Thank you Miranda for showing you don't have to be a life-long member to be an important part of our church family.

Saturday, March 28 at 2PM

In the Church's grove, weather permitting. If not, Memorial Hall. Ages 0-10
Bring a basket or container to collect eggs!



Please register your child no later than Sunday, March 15!

SPONSORED BY
THE FELLOWSHIP
COMMITTEE

EASTER BUNNY VISIT / EGG HUNT Registration Form

Name : _____ Age _____ (Boy) (Girl)
 Name : _____ Age _____ (Boy) (Girl)
 Name : _____ Age _____ (Boy) (Girl)
 Parent: _____
 Contact Phone No.: _____

Donations needed for Easter Bunny's Visit:

Wrapped candy. Examples: Wrapped kisses, chocolate/white Easter candy, etc.

Prizes for "lucky eggs." Examples: Books, coloring book, larger pieces of wrapped chocolate, pencils, chalk, stuffed toys...

Please bring donations before March 15th and place them in the containers at the church entrances.

I will donate wrapped candy. Yes No

I will donate a prize or prizes for the lucky eggs that can be given to either a boy or girl. Yes No

THANK YOU!



Women's of Union UCC

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



Theme: Garden Getaway ~
Where Women Walk with God

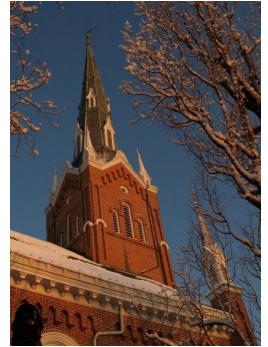
Cost: \$125 (Registration is now closed, 30 women signed up! Balance payment due April 5.)

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

Leaders: Pastor Kris and the Planning Team

Property Committee

No polar vortex this year, but it sure has been cold during February. Snow has been moderate this winter, but rain, sleet and freezing rain is miserable. So glad our church is not up in Boston, now that is snow. Almost as much as we got here in Neffs last year, oh the memories.



Spring gets closer every day, along with Easter. Plans are underway for many Easter activities here at Union UCC. We hope you can attend our special services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, plus the Easter Bunny will be hopping around the grove for families to enjoy.

Our church property welcomes all to participate and enjoy the many and varied ministries within the church. We give blessings for the stewards of the church which provide for the costs of continued care, maintenance, and annual expenses associated with operating the church property.

Thank you for sharing and caring.
Give Praise.

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship means taking care of scarce resources. Thank you to all who give of their time, treasures and talent, to all who give faithfully through regular giving, to all who give to special mission projects, to all who support church fundraisers.



Stewardship means entrusting our resources to trustworthy people. Thank you to all of our leaders--pastors, church administrator, all staff members, Consistory members, church treasurer, Funds of Lasting Gifts trustees, committee chairpersons, and so many others. Blessings to all who work together in a fiscally responsible manner.

Stewardship is an attitude of thanks and faith in a God of abundance whose resources and love are limitless. Sharing the love of God is a great joy and blessing

Stewardship is caring, for the past, present, and future. Thank you members of Union UCC for caring and making church stewardship a part of your life.

2015 Envelopes

Have you used your initial envelope yet? Help offset the cost of the envelope package by using this envelope at any time, in addition to your regular giving.

Have you missed Sunday Services due to the winter weather? Mailing your envelopes to the church office will support the daily, weekly and monthly missions and ministries of Union UCC.

Have you thought about E-Giving? Sign up with the church office to make regular monthly donations to the church, so simple, no need to get out your church envelopes.

Your generous support on a regular basis keeps Union UCC alive and our ministries strong.

-The Stewardship Committee



Holy Week Schedule

Saturday, March 28— Easter Egg Hunt
at 2:00 p.m. (children must sign up before March 22)

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday Celebration

Receive a Palm at both services

8am Heritage Worship

10:30 Horizon Worship

Thursday, April 2

Maunder Thursday Discipleship Meal/First Communion Celebration

6-8pm Communion (and 1st Communion)

A Pot-luck supper begins at 6pm. Bring a casserole, salad, or side dish to share. We will have a relaxed worship in Fellowship Hall with Holy Communion and a hand-washing service. We close the evening with the stripping of the altar in the sanctuary to prepare for Good Friday.

Friday, April 3, 12-3 Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Spend some quiet time in the sanctuary meditating and waiting for the good news of Easter.

Friday, April 3 at 7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship & Altar Communion

This service uses light and darkness to dramatically lead us in walking the path Jesus walked to his death on the cross.

Sunday, April 5 – EASTER CELEBRATION

* 6:30am Easter Sunrise Cemetery Service (weather permitting) *Please note time change

8:00am Easter Celebration & Communion

10:30am Church Family Worship, Easter Celebration & Communion



The Preschoolers had fun at their Valentine's Day parties and talked about love during Chapel Time. The children shared a variety of red items, which they brought in for show and tell, and they learned about our Presidents. We hope the ground hog is wrong with his prediction. We are all ready for spring!

It is time to enroll for next 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 www.unionucc.org/preschool/. Check out our pictures on facebook.

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.**

Think Summer! Alathea is coming back!

June 7th at 8 and 10:30 Worship (Same day as our first summer picnic – Build Your Own Sundae) Cristi and Mande are an acoustic, Americana-folk, singer-songwriter, harmony-driven female duo from the mountains of Tennessee. Alathea takes stories from their own lives and weaves them into music that's instantly relatable. They share their faith in real and inspiring ways.

Check them out at www.alathea.com.

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

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

Men's Group

Bean Bag Tournament

Union UCC's Bean Bag Tournament will be returning to the church grove this summer. This year's event will be held on **Thursday June 25** for men of all ages, friends are welcome too. Warm up your throwing arms, a fun night in the grove for the Men's Group is being planned.

Look for more information in future newsletters.



Pastor Allan says its not too early to start training for the Men's Bean Bag Tournament.

Souper Bowl Sunday Results

Union UCC is part of the God's winning TEAM in fighting HUNGER through our collections of over 350 cans of soup to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and cash donations of \$205 for Lehigh Conference of Churches. Thank you to all who participated in this yearly event.

We truly make a difference in the lives of local families. While we highlight our annual soup drive during Super Bowl week, the fight for HUNGER continues every week for children, parents, and seniors through out the local community, some may even be your friends or neighbors.

Soup, cereal, canned goods, toilet paper and other toiletries are needed each and every week at the food bank. Please help us fight HUNGER all year long.

Thank you, The Mission Committee

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 (leave a message or text). You may also text this number.

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

Please note we have discontinued Sign-Up Genius

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:

Pastor Allan will continue to discuss the Old Testament series taught by Professor Amy-Jill Levine, professor of Biblical Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Session will include:

- March 6:** Old Testament Lessons: Moses and the Exodus
- March 13:** Old Testament Lessons: The God of Israel
- March 20:** Old Testament Lessons: Covenant and Law
- March 27:** Old Testament Lessons: Canaan: Conquest, Immigration or Internal Revolt?


Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

March 15, "Aging as Spiritual Journey" with Pastor Allan and Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope, Director of Pastoral Care Phoebe Ministries

March 1, 8 in Room 5
Pastor Patience leads "Embracing Forgiveness"

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-



MYSTERY DESSERT RAFFLE

Sunday, MARCH 22

After both worship services in Memorial Hall.

WINNING NUMBERS CALLED at 12 Noon
\$5 for 25 Chances

Win a dessert made by our church's best bakers!

Contact Kathi Charles at 610-462-5551 or kac4b@hotmail.com to donate. Drop off "dessert 8am-9am that morning.

*** DOOR PRIZES ***

Tickets for sale on Sundays.
Fundraiser for the YOUTH GROUP

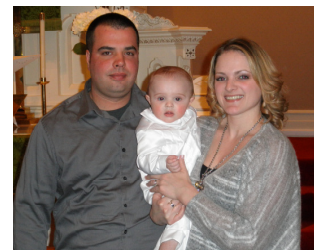


Baptism

On January 11, 2015 we joyfully embraced the following through Sacrament of Baptism.



Saige Louise Campbell,
Daughter of Mark and Jaquelin (Becker) Campbell



Caleb Michael Becker,
Son of Jarod and Tara (Miquel) Becker



Raegan Lynn Minnich,
Daughter of Eric Minnich and Pam (Hart) Podeszwa



Alexis Catherine Schenkel,
Daughter of Lora Schenkel



TURN YOUR TRASH INTO CASH

It's time to start thinking about spring and yard sales again. Why not sell your items at our Country Sale!

DATE: Saturday, May 2nd, 9-2
COST: \$20 donation per indoor/outdoor space
REGISTRATION: Contact Linda Migliori 610-799-6160 or download contract at unionucc.org

** All unsold items can be placed in a truck for donations for Recycle Local. This is a fundraiser for our Preschool. **

HOW CAN I HELP???

- **Reserve a table** , \$20 donation
Linda Migliori 610-799-6160
- **Bake...** Bring items to the church on Friday, May 2nd 12-8 or Saturday, May 3rd after 7am
- **Kitchen Help** serving, preparing, clean-up
Vicki Sorg 610-261-1242
- **Book Collection**, No earlier than April 19, drop off on stage
- **Greeters/Runners/Set-up/Clean-up/General Help/Traffic Control**
- **Advertise** pick up a flyer to hang in your business or local store
Maryann Puia 610-767-9318

To volunteer, contact name listed above or contact the church office. Hope to see you there!

Calling All Volunteers to Help with COUNTRY SALE Saturday, May 2nd




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]

"Relying on the grace of God we will do our best to live the fruits of the Spirit, love, joy peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control [Galatians 5:22-23a], remembering that is Christ's church founded as a spiritual community over 250 years ago. We are His servants and stewards and our words and our behaviors communicate many things."

This is the current opening statement of the draft **Covenant for Christian Leadership**. The Covenant will capture how we are called to behave as leaders and members of the church, the "body of Christ" and will be refined and revised until the members of the LPT are comfortable signing it. Their signature will mean that relying on God's grace they will do their best to model this behaviors. The draft Covenant also addresses topics such as, encouraging other points of view, voicing disagreement with respect, not talking negatively about others [Galatians 5:19-21], how we are to behave when we have offended someone or

been offended by someone [Matthew 5:21-24, Matthew 18:15-20] and recognizing the variety of gifts and graces we have [1st Corinthians 12].

During March and April, the Leadership Planning Team will be utilizing their cumulative responses to the **Miracle Question** and what I call "**seed starter**" sentences and **Bible Study responses** [see February's newsletter for further definition] to identify **Key Areas of Ministry and Mission** for Union UCC. For each of these Key Areas we will develop draft goals or objectives for the next 3-5 years and then begin to draft **Union UCC's Plan for Ministry & Mission**.

Please **visit our Union UCC web site** where Tara has added a link to a page that contains 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

**Sunday, March 1, 2015**

2nd Sunday in Lent/New Members Received

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Text:** Luke 6:12-16**Message:** "Into the Wilderness to Pray"

Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Don Penrod

Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, Donna Gruber**Acolytes:** 8AM - Sebastian Knerr

10:30AM - Jacob Klinger, Gabriel Horvath

Sunday, March 8, 2015

3rd Sunday in Lent/Jazz Ensemble/Girl Scout Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service**

Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Susan Rumble

10:30 - Fawn Albert

Greeters: Rick & Natalie Rice, Dave & Karen Fleming**Acolytes:** 8AM - Abby Hill

10:30AM - Tegan Haley, Madelyn Kohler

Sunday, March 15, 2015

4th Sunday in Lent

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism****Text:** Ruth 1:1-18**Message:** "Accompaniment for the Journey"Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks Cope, Director of Pastoral Care
at Phoebe Ministries.**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Sueann Hregician

Greeters: Jane Schappell, Dana Krisko**Acolytes:** 8AM - Jacob Gladish

10:30AM - Rachael and Christopher Bath

Sunday, March 22, 2015

5th Sunday in Lent/Youth Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service –Church Family Worship****Message:** "The Puzzle of Life: Jesus Holds the Pieces Together - We are All Pieces Of God's Plan"

Be inspired by our middle and high school youth as they take charge of worship and share their faith with us. Our high school seniors will also preach at 8am worship.

Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Youth

10:30 - Youth

Greeters: Youth Group**Acolytes:** 8AM - Madison Amorim

10:30AM - Jason Check, Brandon Zellner

Sunday, March 29, 2015

Palm Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service –Church Family Worship****Adult Choir Musical at 8 and 10:30 worship***The Song Everlasting: A Sacred Cantata Based on Early American Folk Songs*

The life of Christ is dramatically presented in this choral cantata that tells the gospel story using American folk songs and hymns. The miracle and blessing of Christ's earthly ministry, the humility of His passion and the victory of His resurrection fill this work with emotion and power.

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

10:30 - Dave Fleming

Greeters: Kim Krempasky, Ron Snyder, Claire Kern**Acolytes:** 8AM - Ian Schory

10:30AM - Jacob Roth, Madison Milander

**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:

- March 1— Fellowship Committee
- March 8— Girl Scouts
- March 15— Mission Committee
- March 22— Youth Group
- March 29— Consistory



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	\$257,509.00	\$32,745.00	\$290,254.00
Expenses	\$238,017.00	\$33,146.00	\$271,163.00
01-31-2015	\$29,136.00	\$21,016.00	\$50,152.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	8AM	10:30AM		
January 4	60	144	27	231
January 11	88	270	48	406
January 18	57	84	32	173
January 25	56	187	43	286

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

<p>TOTAL ATTENDANCE <u>January 2014</u>– 1,233 <u>January 2015</u> - 1,096</p> <p>AVG ATTENDANCE <u>January 2014</u>–308 <u>January 2015</u> - 274</p>
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Memorials

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Audry P. (Kern) Knerr**:
 Dennis & Denise Rothrock
 Rick & Kathy Bonsell
 Brian & Colette Kern
 Jeffrey & Sandra Emig
 Philip & Julie Wehr
 Don & Bernie Schumaker
 Ronald & Eleanor Kleckner
 Chester & Carolyn Bostick
 Roma Handwerk
 Diane M. Pesola
 Kenneth & Alma Clouser
 Richard Snyder

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Robert E. Hoppes, Sr**:
 Rick & Kathy Bonsell

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Caroline M. (Buchman) Leh**:
 Rick & Kathy Bonsell

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Marie Kemmerer**:
 Rick & Kathy Bonsell

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Mollie J. (Steckel) Rex**:
 Dennis & Denise Rothrock

Deaths

Audry P. (Kern) Knerr passed away January 31, 2015, and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery February 4, 2015.
Robert E. Hoppes, Sr. passed away February 10, 2015, and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery February 14, 2015.
Caroline M. (Buchman) Leh passed away February 9, 2015, and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on February 13, 2015
Mollie (Steckel) Rex passed away February 12, 2015, and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery, February 16, 2015.

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

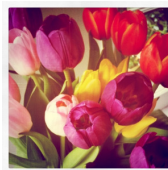
Ronald Kneller
 Facility Caretaker
 caretaker@unionucc.org

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

Flower Plants for the Home Visitation Members and for the Sanctuary

This year we are pleased to offer Easter Lilies (\$8.75 each), 6 bloom Tulips and 3 bloom Hyacinths (\$7 each).



Please help by sponsoring a Flowering Plant for the Sanctuary.

You may pick this up after the 10:30 a.m. Easter Service on April 5th.

Let us share this Joy of the Easter season with our Home Visitation Members. Sponsor a Flowering Plant and assure them that we include them within our Church Family.

Please *print* your information on the form, enter the number of plants you are ordering, and place in the offering plate, with your payment (checks payable to Union U.C.C.) or mail to the church office by Sunday, March 15, 2015.

I would like to sponsor Flowering Plant(s)
FOR SANCTUARY
 Lily (\$8.75) _____ Tulip (\$7.00) _____ Hyacinth (\$7.00) _____
FOR VISITATION MEMBER(S)
 Lily (\$8.75) _____ Tulip (\$7.00) _____ Hyacinth (\$7.00) _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Total amount enclosed is \$ _____

Envelope Number _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I will pick up my plants after the 10:30am Easter worship service on April 5, 2015:
 (Please circle one) YES NO

RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

National Poison Prevention Week is recognized March 15-21. While it is always important to keep an eye on the safe storage of hazardous household products, this designated week highlights the importance of year-long safety and everyday tips to keep our loved ones safe. Read below for some interesting facts about Poison Centers.

Poison Control Centers...

- Can be reached at **1-800-222-1222**.
- **Offer free, confidential medical advice** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Can communicate with callers in more than **150 languages**.
- Are staffed by nurses, pharmacists, toxicologists, physicians, and other **specialists certified in poison information**.
- **Have all the latest information** related to household products, foods and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine, and animal and insect bites and stings.

- **Responded to 3.1 million calls in 2013**; 2.2 million of those calls were about poison exposures, ranging from carbon monoxide to snake bites to poisonings. More than 87% of these poison exposure calls came from patients that could be treated at home.
- **Aren't just for parents** whose children get into the cleaning cabinet. Although children under 6 years of age account for half of the poison exposure calls, adults accounted for 92% of all poison-related deaths reported.
- **Are a valuable tool for medical consultations**; 18% of calls come from health care facilities. Patients managed with Poison Control expertise experience shorter hospitalization on average.
- **Save the US \$1.8 billion per year**. For every one dollar invested in the poison center system, \$13.39 are saved in medical costs and lost productivity.

1-800-222-1222: Keep the number handy at home and program it into your cell phone. You never know when you might need it!

March 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Fellowship Committee	3 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 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	5 7pm Christian Ed; Chime Choir	6 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	7
9 6:30 Spiritually Fit	10 10 am Helping Hands; VBS Design Lab 1pm Bazaar Bunch 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 LPT Meeting	12 6pm Preschool Board 7pm Chime Choir; Pre-baptism NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study 5pm Soup Nite	14
16 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Consistory	17 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	18 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits	19 7pm Chime Choir; Helping Hearts	20 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study 6pm CIA-Jr Youth Group	21 10am Hoagie Pick-up
23 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm LPT Meeting	24 10am Design Lab 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	25 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30 Spiritually Fit	26 7pm Chime Choir	27 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30 am Bible Study	28 2pm Easter Egg Hunt
30 6:30 Spiritually Fit	31 9am Newsletter Mailing 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study				
SUNDAYS					
1 New Members 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 Youth Group Advisory Team	8 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 Tech Committee Mission Committee	15 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 4:00pm Scrapbookers	22 Youth Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service/ Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds Mystery Dessert	29 Palm Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds	