



► CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



► YOUTH GROUP 5



► PROPERTY COMMITTEE.....8

○ Issue 4 | ○ Vol. 39 | ○ April 2015

Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
BUILDING THE FUTURE

Holy Week & Easter

The Pastors and Staff hope and pray that this Holy Week and Easter will bring you renewed faith and a strong awareness of God's grace and presence in your life. We look forward to walking through this time with you and sharing the transforming power of Easter with you in worship and service.

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday Discipleship Meal/ First Communion

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 & 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





From the Interim Pastor

"The Greatest Eucatastrophe Ever!"

"Eucatastrophe" is a term coined by J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit*, *Lord of the Rings*, and other stories. The term "eucatastrophe" refers to the sudden turn of events at the end of a story which ensures that the protagonist does not meet the terrible, impending doom expected. Tolkien believed that all good stories led up to a "eucatastrophe," and his stories certainly did so. Just when all seems lost, something happens that changes the outcome of the story so that all is saved.

In *The Hobbit* Bilbo Baggins sets out for Lonely Mountain to recapture ancient family treasures. Along the way he has countless adventures that threaten to do him in. Over and over again, just when he is about to die—eucatastrophe: eagles fly in to rescue him and bring him new life!

In *The Lord of the Rings* Frodo struggles to get to Mt Doom to destroy the One Ring of Power that corrupts all who possess it. Just when it appears that the One Ring will overcome even Frodo's virtue—eucatastrophe: Gollum attacks Frodo and the One Ring is permanently destroyed in the ensuing fight.

The Easter story is without a doubt the greatest eucatastrophe ever! Just when all seems lost... When the principalities and powers of this world appear to have defeated the powers of God's goodness and love—eucatastrophe: a resurrection occurs. God raises Jesus from the dead and the promise of everlasting life saves the day.

As Christians, let us proclaim the power of the Easter eucatastrophe through the lives we live. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Allan



Book Club

Next meeting: April 1, 2015 at 7, Memory Room "Crossroads" by WM. Paul Young (Author of The Shack) Contact Kathi Charles for more details at 610- 462-5551 or kac4b@hotmail.com.

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Sandra Grim - April 14

2815 Willow Street
Coplay, PA 18037-2014

Beatrice Moyer - April 30

4638 Sieger Road
Orefield, PA 18069-9636



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.**

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



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs



Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Take it Seriously – Suicide Prevention

Many of us find it difficult to talk about suicide, or to understand why people could die by suicide. It's important for all of us to have a basic understanding of it and to know the warning signs.

A suicidal person may not ask for help, but that doesn't mean that help isn't wanted. Most people who commit suicide don't want to die—they just want to stop hurting. Suicide prevention starts with recognizing the warning signs and taking them seriously. If you think a friend or family member is considering suicide, you might be afraid to bring up the subject. But talking openly about suicidal thoughts and feelings can save a life. You are not going to “give someone ideas” about suicide by asking about it. You will give them a lifeline, an opportunity to talk about something that has been burning inside them, and an opportunity to get help.

To those not in the grips of suicidal depression and despair, it's difficult to understand what drives so many individuals to take their own lives. But a suicidal person is in so much pain that he or she can see no other option. Suicide is a desperate attempt to escape suffering that has become unbearable. Blinded by feelings of self-loathing, hopelessness, and isolation, a suicidal person can't see any way of

finding relief except through death. But despite their desire for the pain to stop, most suicidal people are deeply conflicted about ending their own lives. They wish there was an alternative to committing suicide, but they just can't see one.

These are some of the common warning signs: talking about suicide or harming oneself, talking or writing about death or dying, seeking out access to guns, pills, knives or other objects that could be used in a suicide attempt, feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, and a belief that things will never get better, getting affairs in order, unusual calls or visits to say goodbye to loved ones. Sometimes children and teenagers will become withdrawn, change sleeping or eating patterns, become uncharacteristically violent or rebellious.

Talk to the person you think is suffering. Help them to know that someone loves them, and there is hope. Help them to get help. If you think the danger is imminent, Call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 or take your loved one to the closest hospital emergency room.

Just as we become trained in CPR and First Aid, it's important for us to learn lifesaving skills for someone contemplating suicide. **Talk to Pastor Patience if you'd like further information.**

Consistory Minutes

by Deidre Bilger (Subject to Approval)

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, March 16, 2015 by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and February/March 2015 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that a new fan motor was needed on one oil burner, 6 new fire extinguishers were purchased, and light bulbs were replaced in the sanctuary with the rewiring of one light needed.

Christian Education Committee reported that hoagies will be made on March 21. Vacation Bible School will be held June 22-26, 2015. In need of volunteers for VBS. Sunday School teachers and children are making hats and everyone is encouraged to wear an Easter bonnet on April 5. Information on The Safe Child Act was provided to congregation during March 8th service.

Mission Committee reported that the Soup night held on March 13th raised \$850 to be donated to Meals on Wheels.

Church and Ministry reported that a letter will be sent to inactive members before Easter to provide inactive members the opportunity to reconnect with the church.

Stewardship Committee reported that unclaimed new envelopes will be sent out to members.

Fellowship Committee reported that the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held on February 17.

Worship Committee reported that there are Holy Week and Worship opportunities on Maundy Thursday with a 6pm Potluck and 7pm service and Communion at the tables; Good Friday with a 7pm service and Communion at the railing; Easter Sunday at 6:30am in the Cemetery with Communion, 8:00am and 10:30am in the Sanctuary with Communion at the pews.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, April 20th, 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



VBS 2015 – June 22-June 26

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Forms are available in the church office and in Memorial Hall.
Registration closes May 17th.

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!

HEY PARENTS!

How has Sunday School changed since you were in Sunday School? Here's your chance to find out!

All parents are invited to join their children in Sunday School on **April 26th, 9:15-10:15.**

So, mark your calendar and come back to Sunday School!

Please RSVP to your child's teacher.

APRIL CIA

April 17, 2015

PETCO tour and SPCA drive

Meet at PETCO in Whitehall at 6pm. Bring a pet supply donation to church for local SPCA.

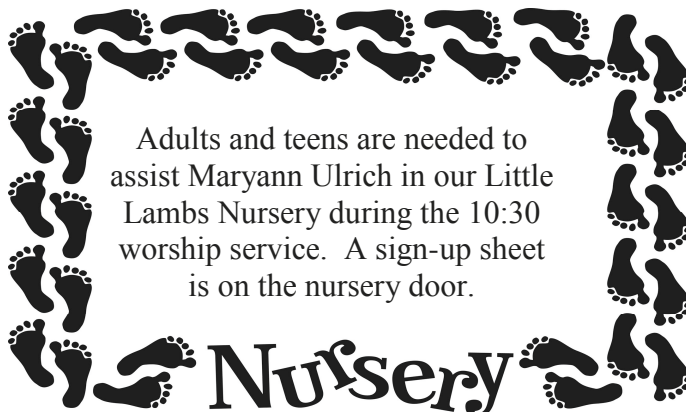
RSVP to
NeffsCIA@gmail.com



SAFE CHILD PACKETS

are available
in the church office!

All volunteers, 18 years and older, who work with children are required to complete an online mandatory reporter training, a child abuse check and a criminal check. The packets contain detailed instructions on how to comply with this new PA law.



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

2015 COIN EXCHANGE

The children will receive coin exchange order forms in Sunday School and Children's Church. This year, the coins can only be exchanged for gift certificates, ranging from \$1 to \$10. There will not be a coin exchange at the Family Celebration on June 7th.



SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

We are looking for volunteers to lead the summer video series. We will begin May 31 and continue through Aug. 30. We do not show a video on Outdoor Worship Sundays.



Job description: Take the children down to Room 15, start the DVD player, provide snack (optional), stay with the children until their parents pick them up. Have fun!

A sign up sheet is on Kathy Bonsell's door. We need two adults each Sunday. Find a friend and enjoy some time with our children!

Youth Group News 6th-12th Grades

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

Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group

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

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



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.



SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15am

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

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

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



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

Youth Group helps with serving drinks and sells Walking Tacos, Root Beer floats, pretzels. Sign up for a one hour shift or to donate food with Pastor Kris or Dave D.

Sun May 17 Confirmation Day at 10:30 Worship

Help welcome and celebrate this year's class—all 32 of them!

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 Pastor Kris 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.

Happy Easter!



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.

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

**April 26 at
10:30
Worship**

Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be **Tues., April 7**
12 noon

Friendship, homemade soup, lunch, dessert and a program ~ Free! Bring a dessert to share

Program: Eric Minnich from the Neffs Fire Co. - Fire Safety and Seniors

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



Acolytes

Attention Acolytes - Prospective and Currently Serving

Sixth graders, you are invited to attend NEW acolyte training on Sunday, May 3rd from 9:15AM-10:15AM in the sanctuary. You will then be able to serve as acolytes on various Sundays and holidays throughout the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to help prepare yourself for your Confirmation year.

Acolytes that are completing their service this year will be **recognized at the 10:30 AM service on May 17**. After worship, you and your families are invited to gather at DiFiores for a pizza lunch hosted by the Worship Committee.

For more information, contact the office or acolyte coordinators, Mrs. Glosan or Mrs. Tomlin, at 610-799-4136 or n.tomlin@juno.com, or Pastor Kris.

Thanks to our 2014-2015 acolytes!

Madison Amorim, Christopher Bath, Rachael Bath, Jason Check, Jacob Gladish, Abbey Hafler, Tegan Haley, Abigail Hill, Gabriel Horvath, Jacob Klinger, Sebastian Knerr, Madelyn Kohler, Dylan Kuntz, Rebekah Lorah, Kaitlyn Mericle, Madison Milander, Jacob Roth, Ian Schory, and Brandon Zellner



Music News

YOUTH CHOIRS

Youth Choir singing dates:

April 5th – Easter Morning at 10:30

May 10th – last time singing for this season.

Practice is Tuesday night: Cherubs-6:00PM.; Juniors and Middlers-6:30

ADULT CHOIRS

Horizon Choir rehearsal is on Sunday at **9:15 AM** in the choir room (2nd floor).

Heritage Choir rehearsal is on **Sunday morning at 7:00 AM** in the choir room.

All are welcome to participate in choir; you can obtain more information by coming to a rehearsal or by contacting Mike Baer via the church office or by email < mbaer@rcn.com >

Mike Baer

Music Leadership Team, Coordinator

Business Directory

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

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

Death

Reuben E. Christman passed away on March 12, 2015. Services will be held at a later date.

I know you LOVE your church but do you LIKE your church?

from Pastor Kris

Our new members tell us all the time that it's the people here that made the difference when they were looking for a new church.



Here are some more ways to keep being the 'good news' to others:

- **Say hello** to people who you don't know on a Sunday, they may be a guest or a member who needs a smile.
- Personally **invite people** to an event or to worship. This has always been and still is the best tool to reach others. And it's what Jesus tells us to do.
- When is the last time you looked at our **website**? Share our website, posts and events with your friends.
- **Have you "LIKED" us on Facebook?** Look for us at Union United Church of Christ. Invite your friends to "LIKE" us on Facebook or share our events with them.
- Sign up for our weekly constant contact **emails** so that you can stay on top of our news and ministries and forward the info to others. Contact at secretary@unionucc.org.
- If you're not a technology person, no worries. Your **smile, friendship, faith and prayers** will still bless our guests and members.
- And **keep praying** for our members, guests, leaders and staff so that our church will continue to touch and change lives with God's grace.

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 in September. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a lily for those on our visitation list.**

Think Summer! Alatheia 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. Alatheia 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.alatheia.com.



Blues Night Out

Winter Blues got you down? Tired of shoveling snow and braving the cold weather? Well thinking about Blues Nite Out this summer may be of some help. Mark your calendars now - **Friday August 21 with the Bryant Brothers and Saturday August 22 starting with Jake Kaligis and Mike Rauscher Dynamic Duo, then headliner The Sarah Ayers Band.**

Neffs Church Grove's new seating pavilion will be welcoming everyone this year. See you then.



In March our students went to Hampton Lanes for our annual Bowl-a-thon. The 4 year old and pre-k classes enjoyed a visit from Carbon County Environmental Center, and learned about various animals that live in Pennsylvania. The children decorated eggs and made bunnies and chicks to prepare for our Easter celebration.

There is still time to enroll for 2015-2016.

If you, your family, or your friends are interested in enrolling a child for 2015-2016 and would like more information or a registration form, please stop by or call the Preschool office at 610-767-5327. Registration forms can also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.unionucc.org/preschool/>.

It is time to start cleaning out those closets and drawers. We are planning to have a truck from Recycle Local by the Church grove to collect your unwanted clothing and household items. We have asked that the truck be there April 24th through May 4th. This is a fund raiser to benefit Neffs UCC Preschool. Your donated items will be recycled. If you participate in the Country Sale, any unwanted items can be placed on the truck at the end of the day.



Is your child ready

TO LEARN...TO PLAY ...TO GROW?

We are ready for your child!

REGISTER NOW FOR 2015-2016

Check us out on facebook—Neffs UCC Preschool or on our website— www.unionucc.org/preschool

WHERE SCHOOL MEMORIES BEGIN!

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

Men's Breakfast and Work Time—May 16

A Men's Breakfast and Work Time is scheduled for Saturday, May 16. Ed Norman and his crew will serve a **breakfast at 8:30 am**. Following breakfast, the men will adjourn to the Grove for various work projects supervised by the Property Committee., i.e. cleaning up the pavilions, raking leaves, etc., etc., etc. We will finish up our work by Noon. All men of the church are invited to join us for this event. **RSVP by May 10** by calling the church office at 610-767-6961 or by email to: interimpastor@unionucc.org.

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, fathers, sons, grandfathers, cousins, in-laws, friends are welcome too. Picnic lunch will begin at 6:00, with tournament to follow.

Warm up your throwing arms, a fun night in the grove for the Men's Group is being planned. **Contact Pastor Allan or Phil Wehr to help with the event.**

Look for more information in future newsletters.

Soup Night

Thank you to all of the chefs, cooks, and bakers for helping the Mission Committee to create Soup Night. Thirty five crock pots of soup and chili filled the tables surrounding Fellowship Hall, along with countless desserts.

You are a blessing to our church, our Mission Committee, and to the Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County organization. Through your efforts, along with the many hungry guests in attendance, \$815 was raised and donated to Meals on Wheels. This donation will allow them to prepare and deliver countless meals to those in need throughout Lehigh County.

Thank You, The Mission Committee.

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

Blanket Sunday Results

Donations for Blanket Sunday this year totals over \$1,600 for Church World Services. Thank you for supporting this yearly event to provide warmth, comfort, and love to people around the world when disasters strike.

Union UCC is one of over 8,000 congregations across the U.S. which holds a CWS Blankets event.

For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including: Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster.

Tools and seeds for refugees returning home. Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water.

During 2014, CWS services provided over 2,000 blankets in 15 US states, including Pennsylvania, to help families after disasters or to protect the homeless. Blankets were also provided to communities in Central America and countries around the world.



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 resume discussions of the Old Testament series taught by Professor Amy-Jill Levine, professor of Biblical Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Sessions will include:

April 3 Good Friday-- No class.

April 10 Old Testament Lessons: Moses and the Exodus

April 17 Old Testament Lessons: God's Covenant and Law

April 24 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:

April 5 Easter-- no class

April 12 "Embracing Forgiveness" video and discussion led by Pastor Allan

April 19 "The Power of Forgiveness" video and discussion led by Pastor Allan

April 26 ???

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

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.

New Members

On March 1, 2015 we welcomed these new members into our congregation



Pam Hart-Podeszwa
(daughter Raegan)



Bill and Ruth Mann



James Ricketts and Stephanie Schuster
(children Olivia, Logan, Sophia)

Connie Gioielli not pictured



TURN YOUR TRASH INTO CASH

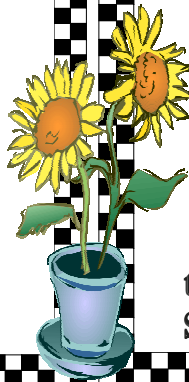
It's time to start thinking about spring and yard sales again. Why not sell your items at our Country Sale!

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



Book and Puzzle Donations Wanted



The Country Sale Committee is looking for donations of 'gently' used books and puzzles for our Book Room Sale. Starting April 20th place on stage in Memorial Hall. All donations can be taken to Room 4 AFTER April 27th. *We are no longer accepting Christmas decoration donations. Watch for future collection dates.*

Lenten Self-Denial

The Mission Committee has designated the **Allentown Rescue Mission to be the recipient of the Lenten self-denial offering.** Since the turn of the century, the mission has worked to end homelessness one life at a time. Using a Christ-centered approach, its programs have worked to tackle the root causes of homelessness. Since 1961, the mission has been located at 355 Hamilton Street near center-city Allentown. On the average, more than 800 individuals are served annually. It offers services to homeless men through several programs.

Through our offering, \$600 is being designated to buy bibles and books for the mission's Christian Living and Values Program. This residential program works to restore homeless men to God and the community. It includes transitional housing and housing assistance, meals and clothing and life skills education. Daily Bible study and pastoral counseling addresses spiritual issues. Students participate in money management and budget classes and learn resume writing, basic interviewing techniques to help them find a job. Information about drug and alcohol counseling is provided and men receive referrals to meet their needs in these areas. Psychiatric services also are available.



Thursday, April 2, 2015 - Maundy Thursday

6PM First Communion Celebration
Hand Washing and Discipleship Meal

Friday, April 3, 2015

Good Friday Worship 7PM
Tenebrae and Altar Communion

Text: John 19:38-42

Message: "It's Friday but Sunday's Coming"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Acolytes: Rebekah Lorah, Dylan Kuntz

Sunday, April 5, 2015

Easter Sunday/Communion

6:30am Sunrise Service

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Message: "Who Will Roll Away the Stone from the Tomb?"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

8:00am Heritage Service

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Message: "From Groundhog Day To Easter"

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Message: "Easter: Your Mission – Should You Choose To Accept"

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Claire Kern

Greeters: Karl & Karen Imdorf, Roger & Nancy Christman

Acolytes: 8AM - Madelyn Kohler, Jacob Klinger

10:30AM - Sebastian Knerr, Gabriel Horvath

Sunday, April 12, 2015

2nd Sunday of Easter/Healing Service

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Healing Service – At the end of worship we will offer a chance to pray with a pastor and be blessed.

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

10:30 - Dan Topp, Sr.

Greeters: Cliff & Carol James, Jim & Leanna Lane

Acolytes: 8AM - Abigail Hill

10:30AM - Tegan Haley, Abbey Hafler

Sunday, April 19, 2015

3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Psalm 4, Luke 24:36-48

Message: "Could that be God dancing with my daughters?!?!"

Sermon: Rev. A. William Metzger

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Doug Albert

10:30 - Vicki Mayk

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

Acolytes: 8AM - Jason Check

10:30AM - Jacob Gladish, Kaitlyn Mericle

Sunday, April 26, 2015

4th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service –Sunday Morning Alive

Text: John 10:11–18, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24

Message: "Sheep: Sometimes We're Baaaad"

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Susan Rumble

10:30 - James Ondrey

Greeters: Karl & Lynne Klinger, Deirdre & Russ Rodd

Acolytes: 8AM - Brandon Zellner

10:30AM - Rachael & Christopher Bath



**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:

April 5—No Committee

April 12—Church & Ministry

April 19—Helping Hands

April 26—Worship Committee



Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
7-1-2014	\$ 9,644.00	\$21,417.00	\$31,061.00
Income	\$284,772.00	\$36,080.00	\$320,852.00
Expenses	\$267,964.00	\$35,525.00	\$303,489.00
02-28-2015	\$26,452.00	\$21,972.00	\$48,424.00

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 Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Audry P. (Kern) Knerr:**
Donald & Eunice Diehl

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Robert E. Hoppes, Sr:**
Wilbur & Linda Romig
Anna M. Moffa
John & Veronica Fabian
Donald & Bonnie Herzog
Robert A Moser
Philip & Julie Wehr
Richard Gogle

Ronald & Eleanor Kleckner
Barbara J. Panner
Karen & Dale Schleicher
Dennis & Denise Rothrock
Carolyn M. George
John & Gloria Simock
Schott & Debra Selig
Robert & Marian Hoppes, Jr.
Donald Roberts
Floyd J. Hoppes, Sr.
Ray & Sheila Sloyer

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Mollie J. (Steckel) Rex:**
Dorothy Ann Clune
Lucy J. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Geiger

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/</u>	<u>Total</u>
	8AM	10:30AM	<u>Nursery</u>	
February 1	56	217	55	328
February 8	105	200	46	351
February 15	35	113	26	174
February 18	Ash	Wed.		52
February 22	36	150	31	217

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

February 2014– 1,341 February 2015 –1,122

AVG ATTENDANCE

February 2014– 335 February 2015 - 268

Barry & Karen Hunsicker
Richard & Madeline Bingell
Dr. Sally Ann Rex
Lori L. Hildebrand
Ondie Neifert & Sandy Brink
Anne Eisenhard
Betty H. Brown
Kay E. Bingell
Mary Ann Marchock
Patricia Csencsits
Janet Levine
Jackie Oberduster
Eloise J. Snyder

Beverly & Donald Rex
Linda & Russell Bowers
Bonita Weaver
Charles & Patricia Thomson
Kraft Foods, Inc. Quality Dept.
Bernice C. Russo
Carol Ann DeFrain
Jim & Liz Best
Dorothy Best
Marvin & Margaret Wright
David & Janice Sell
Tracy Applegate

UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

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

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

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

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

Rev. Thomas N. Thomas
Pastor Emeritus

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

Barbara Carinci
Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org

Tara Henninger
Communications Coordinator
secretary@unionucc.org

Mike Baer
Music Coordinator
dirmusic@unionucc.org

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

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

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

www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:
610-767-5327

Ronald Kneller
Facility Caretaker
caretaker@unionucc.org

Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

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



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

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

Utilizing their cumulative responses to the **Miracle Question** and what I call "**seed starter**" sentences and **Bible Study responses** the Leadership Planning Team [LPT] has started to identify draft **Key Areas of Ministry and Mission** for Union UCC. **Key Areas of Ministry** identified thus far include Christian Education, Governance Structure, Evangelism [growing the Church], Member Ministries, Worship & Music, Facility/Property/Grounds and Stewardship. In addition key "themes" of Ministry that cross over and inform the above Key Areas include Extravagant Welcome, Open/Affirming, Diverse/Inclusive, Spiritual Growth/Faith Development, Teaching God's Word and Fellowship. As we further refine these draft **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**. The work of the LPT will be shared with the congregation at large and further refined with congregational input received at **congregational forums which will be held during Phase 2** of our process.

Rev. Alan Miller, our PNE Conference Minister, met with the LPT on 3/11/15 to **review the history and polity of the United Church of Christ**. Rev. Miller's presentation highlighted that the UCC is rooted in several of the oldest denominations in America, is "congregational" in its polity, values maintaining our unity in Christ while affirming we need not agree on every doctrine, is a denomination of many "firsts", believes God was "liberal" and generous in sharing Jesus Christ with the world and that we too are called to be generous and liberal in sharing God's love through Christ with others.

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



RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

Probiotics are over-the-counter supplements that are often used to promote digestive health. They are sometimes called "good bacteria" because they can help supplement the naturally existing bacteria in our digestive systems. Most common probiotics contain bacteria from the *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* families. These live microorganism formulations are primarily used for antibiotic-induced diarrhea or infections; they help restore and maintain the body's balance of good and harmful bacteria. They are sold as different combinations of bacterial strains, and are available in capsule, tablet, liquid and powder form. They are also added to enriched fermented foods, such as yogurt.

Dosages are measured in colony-forming units, or

CFUs. Daily doses can range from 5 to 20 billion CFUs. Although generally well tolerated, common side effects of probiotics are: temporary bloating, gas, and mild stomach upset. Side effects are generally mild since these bacteria are already in our bodies. The long-term effects are unknown and use is not recommended for anyone with a weakened immune system.

Probiotic products are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). While their use seems to show some benefit in select populations, it is not well-studied or proven to be safe or effective. Because there is no regulation, companies cannot make health claims for their use. Check with a healthcare professional before beginning probiotic supplements.

April 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry; Book Club	2 6pm Maundy Thursday Discipleship Meal & First Communion	3 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study 7pm Good Friday Worship	4
6 10am Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Fellowship Committee	7 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior/Middler 7pm Bible Study 7:30 High School Choir	8 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	9 7pm Chime Choir; LPT	10 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study 7pm Hang In Night	11 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
13 10am Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	14 10am Helping Hands; VBS Design Lab 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	15 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	16 7pm Chime Choir	17 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	18
20 10am Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Consistory	21 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	22 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	23 7pm Chime Choir	24 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30 am Bible Study	25 8:30am LPT 4:30 SMA Rehearsal
27 10am Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	28 9am Newsletter Mailing 10am VBS Design Lab 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	29 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	30 7pm Chime Choir		
SUNDAYS					
5 Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service Cemetery 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	12 Healing Service 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	19 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 4:00pm Scrapbookers	26 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service/Sunday Morning Alive Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds Pre-baptism		