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○ Issue 5 | ○ Vol. 39 | ○ May 2015

Union UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
BUILDING THE FUTURE



COUNTRY sale

Union United Church of Christ

May 2nd 9-2pm

Flea Market · Delicious Food · Book Sale



Our parking lots will be full with members, friends, neighbors and vendors selling their treasures. It's always a great day for a bargain at this church and community-wide yard sale.

Enjoy delicious soups, lunch items and baked goods made by our church. Our youth will be selling walking tacos, root beer floats and soft pretzels for their summer mission trips. We can't wait to see you!





From the Interim Pastor

Spring Musings

After the cold and snow of the past winter, the first signs of Spring are a joy to behold!

- The Easter Sunrise Service, while brisk and cold, witnessed a glorious sunrise.
- The daffodils in the grove are blooming once again.
- The leaves on trees are appearing right on schedule.
- Fields are plowed and lawns are greening up.

All of nature confirms the story of Easter resurrection: there is life after death! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Allan

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!

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.**

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Geraldine M. Schafer—May 4

3350 Airport Rd Lot 34
Allentown PA 18109

Terrance Rohr—May 8

4952 Hoffmansville Rd
Orefield PA 18069



Seed & Soil Sunday

May 3 at 8am and 10:30am Worship

Bring your seed packets and seedlings with your names written on them as we ask God to bless our growing season. After worship, take your blessed items home to your gardens.

Throughout the summer gardeners are invited to share your bounty with others on the God's Garden Gifts table. Cash donations given for these items and remaining items are given to the food bank.

Then, in September we will celebrate Harvest Home and we will remember the summer's harvest, our church's ancestors and our farming heritage with a beautiful display of food which will again be given to the food bank and Phoebe Home. Psalm 65 which is on the arch in our church says, "Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion." This farmer's song gives thanks to God, "You visit the earth and water it...the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they should and sing together for joy." Thank you, God, for your creation!





Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

What Is Forgiveness?

Our Sunday morning adult education class has been studying Barbara Crafton's series, *Embracing Forgiveness*. Together we have learned some new things and affirmed some things we already knew about forgiveness. Forgiveness is not a feeling. It is a commitment of our wills toward making one step toward forgiveness. Feelings may follow. Forgiveness is not forgetting. When we forgive someone, that does not erase our history or change the event that caused the hurt, but it does allow us to move forward with far greater freedom into the future.

Sometimes forgiveness is more about ourselves than the perpetrator of the hurt. If we carry a hurt around with us, our own lives can be diminished. Often the person helped the most by forgiving is us. Sometimes the hardest person to forgive is ourselves. Forgiving ourselves can open us up to forgiving others.

If we have a hard time even thinking about forgiving someone, a good place to start is simply praying the person's name. Trust that over time God will bring forgiveness.

Ultimately, God does not command us to forgive others without empowering us to do so. Learning a habit or spiritual practice of forgiveness takes commitment, openness to God, and a desire for the best for ourselves and others.

With God's help, forgiving 70 times 7, or times without number, no longer seems impossible.

Consistory Minutes

by Jen Young (Subject to Approval)

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, April 20th, 2015 by President Brad Hackett. The Treasurer's Report and March/April bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that the Easter Season went extremely well, lots of activities all around, all parking lots, including the grove parking lot were full for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Selig Electric repaired various light fixtures. Koren Plumbing cleaned up grease trap in the kitchen last week. Thank you to the spring clean crew who raked and mulched around the church on April 11th. The daffodils in the grove are in full bloom this week, check it out. The pavilion in the grove will be finished this week, the ground crews will be coming Saturday, weather permitting, to grade the ground and plant grass. The property committee requests approval to replace the wooden kitchen windows with the roll up aluminum doors, allowing greater visibility from the

kitchen into fellowship hall. Request was made and approved for these items.

Church and Ministry reported that they are continuing to work on staff policies and annual staff reviews.

Evangelism Committee reported that the plans are underway for the Make your own sundae- June 7th in the grove.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, May 18th, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. in Room 101.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

CONGRATULATIONS to the 1st Communion Class of 2015

Twelve children attended a class on March 29 with Pastor Kris and Mrs. Bonsell to learn more about communion...when we take communion, how we take communion and most importantly, why we take communion. The following children were ready for their first communion on Maundy Thursday or Easter Sunday.

Congratulations to: Parker Haydt, Owen Stetz, Bella Young, Eve Horvath, Jillian Conrad, Emma Mericle, Hannah Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Annie Friel, Jimmy Friel, Ethan Solderich, and Adrianna Danyluk



HELP WANTED: VEGGIETALE LEADERS

We need two adults each Sunday this summer to lead our children during the 10:30 worship service. The position involves taking the children downstairs to the Youth Room, operating the DVD player, providing a snack (optional) and waiting until all the children have been picked up by their parents before leaving. We will not have VEGGIETALES on Outdoor Worship Sundays. A sign up sheet is on Kathy's office door.



WE WANT YOU!!! Yes, YOU!

As the 2014-2015 Sunday School and Children's Church session comes to a close, we are already looking for helpers for next year. We're looking for moms, dads, aunts, uncles, neighbors, grandparents, friends...anyone who would like to share some time and their faith with the children of Union UCC. Please contact Kathy if you are interested in Children's Church (once a month) or Sunday School (2-4 Sunday's a month). Sign-up sheets are located on Kathy's office door. Our children's programs are successful because of volunteers like YOU! **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

to our devoted and talented Sunday School and Children Church staffs for another wonderful year of great teaching and faith guiding for the youngest members of our church.



VBS 2015 – June 22-June 26

This summer, Union UCC is headed to SonSpark Labs! We will have a great time with 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 22nd through June 26th, 9:00am to noon daily. We hope you can join us for a week of fun and adventure! SIGN UP TODAY! Registration forms and volunteer forms are in Memorial Hall. Registration closes May 17th!

2015 COIN EXCHANGE

Please return your gift certificate order form to Mrs. Bonsell by May 3rd in Children's Church and May 10th in Sunday School.

Summer Camp Opportunities

Sadly, Camp Mensch Mill has closed, but the **Hartman Center** in Milroy, PA is open! The Hartman Center offers wonderful summer camping adventures for campers of all ages, including men, women and families. Check out the many opportunities at www.hartmancenter.com. Camp brochures are available in the church office.

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).



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.

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)

ALL PIECES MATTER—to God and at Union UCC!
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.

High School and College Seniors: send Pastor Kris your graduation information and come to worship to be celebrated and blessed at 8 or 10:30am.

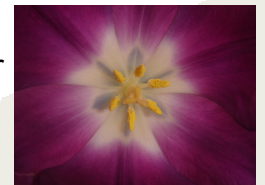


SUMMER EVENTS: River Rafting, Dutch Springs and Biking (Aug 15 with Pastor Allan and Dave). Watch for details.

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.

JUNE 21 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., May 5**

12 noon

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

Program: : Mary Starshine

She is a fun, outrageous persona of Mary Lilley-Thompson, an inspirational humorist, professional speaker, Certified Laughter Leader!

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)
- **DEADLINE: May 17th, 2015**



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

SAFE CHILD POLICY

ALL VOLUNTEERS and STAFF who work with children (Sunday School, Munch Bunch Children's Church, Nursery, VBS, CIA, Confirmation, Breakfast Club, Youth Group, and Preschool) need to complete:

- An online Mandatory Reporter training
- A Criminal Check
- A Childline Check

Packets are available in the office with step by step directions on how to comply with this new PA law. Please complete all requirements by August 31, so we are ready for the new program year.

Any questions, please contact Barb Korastinsky at bjs140@juno.com.

Thank you for making our church a safe place for our children.



Book Club

Next meeting: June 3rd @ 7:00pm in the Memory Room. The book is *THE LADIES OF MISSALONGHI*, Author Colleen Mcullough. She also wrote the *Thornbirds*, the book is a short read.

Contact Kathi Charles for more details at 610- 462-5551 or kac4b@hotmail.com.



Veronica Fabian is our Catch the Spirit recipient for May. She will be recognized on May 10, 2015 at the 10:30 am worship service.

By Veronica Fabian

Veronica was nominated by the Fellowship Committee as this month's Catch the Spirit Award recipient.

While growing up in Slatington and Northampton, Veronica attended Neffs Union UCC with her mother starting in 1973. Veronica grew up here at Union UCC. She was a member of the children's choir and participated as a Sunday school teacher's assistant for the kindergarten class. In 1984, Veronica entered the confirmation class with Pastor Tom during his first year as a pastor at Neffs. After high school, her and her future husband John assisted Sunday school classes for grades 4-7 followed by classes for pre-K. John and Veronica also enjoyed spending time helping out in the Little Lambs Nursery during church services. She married John at Neffs in 1993, their daughter Shelby was baptized in 1995 and confirmed in 2008.

As a member today, Veronica's biggest church contribution comes from being a member of the fellowship committee, where she runs the annual church basket social. She is the wedding coordinator for non-members who wish to have their ceremonies at our church. Most recently, Veronica joined the church's chime choir which is directed by Edie Fella.

Veronica works as an office manager for two family medical practices: one in Schnecksville and one in Allentown. She loves scrapbooking, reading, taking walks with

her dog Comet, and going to the Iron Pigs games.

"My favorite church memory comes shortly after Pastor Tom started at Union UCC in 1984. Upon his arrival, Pastor Tom was immediately challenged with having to confirm two combined classes of confirmands, one of which I was a part of. Our combined classes were tasked by Pastor Tom to do spring cleaning of the church. During our cleaning assignment, many things went awry – including a church window being accidentally broken, a flower vase broken during a Frisbee incident and a confirmand's finger being pinched in a door. Needless to say, our class immediately tested Pastor Tom's patience and we were all sure we would make him think twice about why he decided to take this job at Neffs UCC! Pastor Tom handled everything we threw at him and earned our admiration with the understanding and calmness he displayed during those first few months at the church."

"Why do I love my church? The Fellowship, the activities for everyone, a great youth group program, the wonderful pastors and staff, and the chime choir. I love being a part of Neffs UCC family. Faith and family helped me win my battle with breast cancer during the past two years."

Build Your Own Sundae Sunday June 7

Worship at 8 and 10:30am with musical guests Alatheia

www.alatheia.com

Picnic in our Grove 11:30am -1pm

Games, moon bounce, rock wall, tattoos, face painting.

Everyone gets to enjoy hot dogs, snacks, veggies, drinks, and **LOTS of ICE CREAM - FREE*** (vegetarian hot dogs and gluten-free rolls available)



THIS IS FOR ALL KIDS and YOUTH in our church as well as the young at heart – that's EVERYONE!

Celebrate the start of summer with us.

Bring your favorite chair or blanket ~ event is held rain or shine.

Hosted by the Evangelism Committee, the Youth Group, and Christian Education





Stewardship Committee



Stewardship is a way of life, a life of accountability and responsibility acknowledging God as Creator and Giver of all. Christian stewardship involves managing of our God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. We are caretakers of all God's gifts.

Based on the teachings of Jesus, we have learned to thank God for all His blessings. We have learned to be grateful for our lives and that all we have comes for God. In return we thank God by serving our church, church family, local community, and the world through sharing our time, talent, and treasures.

Union UCC is blessed with spirited stewards enriching the life of the church. All week long, members share their time and talents through worship, music, education, mission, evangelism, fellowship, property, and more. All year long, members share their treasures to keep the ministries and missions of Union UCC strong.

Your weekly offerings provide for a vibrant and active church, the more you give, the more you will receive, the more you share God's love, the more love will be returned.

Thank you for being Christian Stewards and sup-

Property Committee

Easter has come and gone, but the memories linger. Members witnessed the building of the cross on Palm Sunday, the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, the Tenebrae service of darkness on Good Friday, the sunrise in the cemetery on Easter, and the joy of resurrection during Easter Sunday services.



What a joy to see the church decorated during the Lenten and Easter season. What a pleasure to see the snow melted from the parking lots, cars filling up the spaces, plus flowing over to the grove parking lot. What fun to see three pastors waking up really early for sunrise services in the cemetery. How exciting to see every seat filled at 10:30 service on Easter Sunday.

Thanks to our pastors, staff and volunteers for making the 2015 Easter season memorable.

Spring is now in full swing, stop on over in the church grove to witness the daffodils, primrose, azaleas, and other flowers and trees in full bloom. God's beauty arrives each year in our church grove and woods. Take a walk and enjoy nature, and take a look at the new picnic pavilion which will be finished soon and ready for summer activities.

Give Praise.

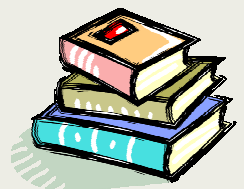
Intergenerational Bike Ride August 15

Pastor Allan and Dave DiPaolantonio are planning an Intergenerational Bike ride for **Saturday, August 15**. We will ride the Lehigh Canal tow path for approximately **20 miles round trip**, stopping at Lehigh Gap Nature Center and exploring other hiking/biking trails along the route. We will leave from the Laury's Station Bridge trail head at 10 am; picnic at Lehigh Nature Center; and return to Laury's Station by 4 pm. Riders of all ages (6th grade and up) are invited to join us. Contact Dave (youthgroup@unionucc.org) or Pastor Allan (interimpastor@unionucc.org) for more details and sign up information.



Thank YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped donate and deliver children's books to our literacy program book drive. Books were delivered to Pathways, 6th Street Shelter, and the Salvation Army Women's Center.





Preschool Scholarship

The Neffs Preschool Board of Directors is pleased to announce their 2015 scholarship winner. This \$250 scholarship is given every year to a high school senior who is planning on higher education and started their educational career at Neffs Preschool. The applicants are required to complete a 500 word essay in which they discuss themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory. Congratulations to Ashleigh Albert, a senior at Parkland High School, who plans on pursuing a degree in journalism.

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.**

Our Church Family in the News...

- **Katie Mericle** was pictured in *The Morning Call* riding a horse as part of a program at the Manito Equestrian Center.

In April, we raised money for Muscular Dystrophy through a Hop-a-thon. The children had fun wearing their Easter bonnets in our Easter parade and sharing a few Easter songs with their families before ending the day with an egg hunt.

It is time to start cleaning out those closets and drawers. **The Recycle Local truck**, which is a fund raiser for the Preschool, is scheduled to be here April 24th to the May 4th. If you would like to help the Preschool, bring your unwanted clothing and household items and place them in the truck.

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. Forms and information are also available on our website at unionucc.org/preschool.

NEFFS PRESCHOOL RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

It is time to start cleaning out those closets and drawers. There will be a truck by the Church grove to collect your unwanted clothing and household items. This is a fund raiser to benefit Neffs UCC Preschool. Your donated items will be recycled.

DATE: April 24th to May 4th

Items accepted: Clothing, shoes, bedding, dishes, pots, plastic products, knickknacks, luggage, tools, toys, stuffed animals, sporting goods, exercise equipment, small appliances, home electronics. All items should be clean and dry. Electronic items and appliances do not need to be working.

Items NOT accepted: TV's, mattresses, carpets, large furniture or appliances, car seats, any moldy or mildewed items.

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

Donald & Janet Bachman, Dick & Madeline Bingell, Nancy Christman, Eunice Diehl, Phyllis Hamm, Judy Hoffman, Eleanor & Ron Kleckner, Diana Miller, Barbara Panner, Linda & Wilbur Romig, Jill Schlosser, and Larry & Marianne Ulrich



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.

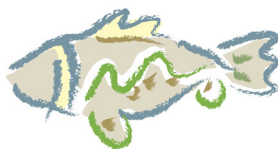


Bean Bag Tournament

Union UCC's Bean Bag Tournament will be returning to the church grove this summer. This years event will be held on **Thursday June 25** for men of all ages, fathers, sons, grandfathers, cousins, in-laws, friends are welcome too. Picnic dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, with tournament to follow.

Warm up your throwing arms, a fun night in the grove for the Men's Group is being planned. Pastor Allan has started practicing and is looking for a partner with good aim and a strong arm.

Contact Pastor Allan or Phil Wehr to help with the event.



Remembering Those Who Served

Please help us collect the names of those who lost their lives while serving their country. We will collect names separately for all veterans for Veterans Day in November. We will make a display board as well as recognize these individuals on **Memorial Day worship at 8:00 & 10:30 services (May 24th)**. Please complete the following info and **submit it to the church office by May 17th**.

Rank/Title and Name: _____

Branch of the Military: _____

Died during which Conflict: _____

Date of Death _____

Special Honors: _____



**MEMORIAL
+DAY+**



Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

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

We will conclude Amy Jill Levine’s study of the Hebrew Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). Sessions will include:

- **May 1** We will conclude Amy Jill Levine’s study of the Hebrew Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible) and adjourn to the Grove for a closing “Pot Luck” picnic. Sessions will include:
- **May 8** “Covenant and Law” Yahweh’s covenant with the Hebrew people as outlined in the 10 Commandments
- **May 15** “Conquest or Revolt” How did the Hebrews come into the “Promised Land”?

Picnic—Following our Bible Study today we will conclude this semester with a “pot luck” picnic lunch in the Grove.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Sunday morning Adult Classes will conclude May 17. Sessions will include:

- **May 3** “The Power of Forgiveness” Pastor Allan will lead discussion of video featuring Elie Wiesel, Thich Nhat Hanh, Rev. James Forbes, and others.
- **May 10** “Up Close and Personal” Pastor Allan will interview the Rev. Lisa Weida, ordained UCC pastor and chaplain of Neo-Natal Care at LVHC.
- **May 17** “The Power of Forgiveness” Pastor Allan will lead discussion of video featuring Elie Wiesel, Thich Nhat Hanh, Rev James Forbes and others.

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. You are invited to come learn new things and grow in faith. Contact Harry B. Burger 610-767-5344.

Baptism

On March 15, 2015 the congregation joyfully embraced:



Hunter Scott Tibak, son of Dean and Nicole (Woods) Tibak



Ashley Mary Ritter, daughter of Joseph and Amy (Guldin) Ritter



Bryson Mark Eisenhard, son of Jamie Woods and Randy Eisenhard



Micayla Lynne Hoffert, daughter of Michael and Jenna (Stout) Hoffert



Lillian Harper Bloch, daughter of Renee Eisenhard and Evan Bloch



Mission Committee News

To celebrate Mother's Day this year, the Mission Committee is holding a special collection drive to help local mothers who may need extra help in the caring of their babies. There is a great need for baby supplies around the Lehigh Valley.



The items we will be collecting are as follows : baby food, wipes, diapers, baby lotions, soaps, powders, oils, and any other new toiletries for newborn and young babies.

Collections of these items will end on Mother's Day, May 10. Please bring your items to church and drop off in the specially designated areas. All items will be divided and donated to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

Please celebrate Mother's Day and honor your mother with a donation to this special collection drive to help the life of local mothers and their families. Your life and those you help will be truly enriched. Thank you for sharing your love to the local community.

Operation Project Food Bank

Fighting HUNGER is a full time job for food banks all around the country. Union UCC is one of twelve local churches that sponsors the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, located in Emerald, directly across the street from the Washington Township Municipal Building.

Every week food bank volunteers spend time working at the food bank, stocking shelves, unloading trucks, organizing donated fruits and vegetables, picking up food donations from local warehouses, performing office work, and ultimately helping families gather food on distribution days.

Sounds like a lot of work. Well it is. There is much work needed to help Food Bank Director Dale Bryfogle in the daily and weekly operation to provide food to over 300 local families each month, over 1,000 people of all ages.

Union UCC is responsible for helping on distribution days every November, but there are opportunities to help year round. **Volunteers are welcome every Tuesday from 9-12 noon** to help stock shelves, every **Sunday from 2:30 - 5:00** to organize fruits and vegetables and stock shelves, the **first three Thursdays from 3:45 - 7:00** and the **last Saturday from 9 - 12 noon** to help distribute food to local families.

Currently eight Union UCC members help year round at various times during the week, and are hoping for more members to help. Everyone has a great time working together for a common goal. Please consider volunteering as your schedule permits, contact Phil Wehr or Wilbur Romig for more information.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, part of our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. **Our church will observe One Great Hour of Sharing with a collection on May 31.** Envelopes will be distributed in the bulletin on May 17 and 24 and a speaker will share information about the great work funded by One Great Hour of Sharing at services on May 17.

The United Church of Christ is one of eight Christian Denominations who partner, together with the Church World Service, to develop materials and share costs associated with raising funds. Sharing the cost of these kinds of thing keeps administrative costs down. Ninety cents out of every dollar raised is used directly for mission programming. Each denomination receives its own funds.

Under One Great Hour of Sharing, 138 countries receive aid from the United Church of Christ for disaster assistance, development and refugee needs. That includes the United States, where aid goes to people touched by disaster or in need of a helping hand for a better life.



Lenten Self-Denial

The Allentown Rescue Mission, this year's recipient of the Lenten Self Denial Offerings, will be pleased with our collection of close to \$1,700 for their Mission.

\$600 of these offerings will provide bibles and materials for their Christian Living program, a residential program for the restoration of homeless men to God and the community. The balance of our offerings will provide for costs of meals and shelter at the Gateway Center, a 48 bed emergency shelter which is "Not just a bed and a meal ...but, A chance for a New Beginning".

Serving the needs of the homeless and needy in the Lehigh Valley for over 100 years, the Mission provides rescue, rehabilitation, and restoration for men in crisis through Christ centered programs based on accountability and compassion.





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

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

The Leadership Planning Team [LPT] has identified eight [8] **Key Areas of Ministry & Mission** and five [5] **Core Values** that transcend across and integrate with all Union's ministry and mission. Our **Key Areas** include Christian Education, Evangelism, Member Ministries, Worship & Music, Governance & Structure, Facility/Property/Grounds, Stewardship and Mission. Our **Core Values** include Extravagant Welcome, Open/Affirming, Diverse/Inclusive, Spiritual Growth/Faith Development, Teaching God's Word and Fellowship.

Each of the Key Areas have been aligned with existing Union UCC Committees. LPT Sub-teams are being established to address each Key Area. After the LPT has drafted Key Area goals or outcomes for the next 3-5 years they will be reaching out to engage Committee members to work with them to begin drafting a Plan for each Key Area. These will ultimately be integrated into **Union UCC's Plan for Ministry & Mission**.

The LPT also drafted and shared the **preferred qualification criteria** they would like to see possessed **by the**

next Senior Pastor. Background, experience, years of service in ministry, education and character and leadership attributes were addressed. In addition the LPT developed and shared their responses to six [6] **specific questions which are asked in the UCC Local Church Profile**. These questions addressed important faith experiences and events in Union's history, Union's theological/faith stance, how Union UCC has addressed conflict in the past, lay leaders' connection with the larger UCC and relationships with prior Pastors. This information is being consolidated and will remain in "draft" status as it will be provided to the congregation for further refinement in our Phase 2 **congregational forums which will be held later this summer**.

Please **visit our Union UCC web site** where you will find 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.

Many people have had chickenpox at some point in their life, but unfortunately, the inactive virus (known as varicella zoster), remains dormant in the nervous system. In some patients, the virus becomes activated later in life; the result of the virus reactivation is shingles, also known as herpes zoster. Shingles is a viral condition that causes pain, rash, and blisters. It mainly develops in people over the age of 60 years and in those with weakened immune systems.

Pain is often the first sign of shingles, and can be intense. Other common symptoms include burning sensations, itching, and skin sensitivity. Shingles can occur anywhere on the body but most often occurs on one side of the chest/torso, neck, or face. A rash usually develops as a stripe of blisters that eventually break open, crust over, and heal. The virus can cause damage to surrounding nerves, producing constant, stabbing pain. A usual course

of shingles lasts from two to six weeks, but pain can persist if nerves are damaged. Most people only get shingles once in their life, but it is possible to get it more than once.

There is no cure for shingles, however prescription antiviral medications are given to promote healing and reduce the risk of complications. Topical medications, numbing agents, and skin patches are also often used to treat pain and discomfort.

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent shingles and its associated complications. Zostavax® is an injectable vaccine that can be administered to adults ages 50 years and older. It is recommended for all adults over 60 years, even for those who have already developed shingles in the past.

Talk to your healthcare professional regarding your concerns about shingles or to find out if you are a candidate for vaccination.

**Sunday, May 3, 2015**

5th Sunday of Easter/Seed & Soil

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service –Baptism****Text:** John 15:1-8**Message:** "Spiritual Gardening"**Sermon:** Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider
10:30 - Donna Christman**Greeters:** Mark & Debbie Daluisio**Acolytes:** 8AM - Ian Schory

10:30AM - Madison Amorim, Jacob Roth

Sunday, May 10, 2015

6th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

8:00am Heritage Service**Text:** John 15:9-17**Message:** "Because I Love You."**Sermon:** Rev. Lisa Weida**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Sueann Hregician**Acolytes:** 8AM - Jason Check

10:30AM - Madison Milander, Kaitlyn Mericle

About our guest preacher: Rev. Lisa Weida and Aaron - her husband of 40 years - both grew up and lived most of their lives in Emmaus, PA. They presently live in Coopersburg and remain members of St. John's UCC, Emmaus. Rev. Weida represents the PNEC on the Board of Managers at Bethany Children's Home. Her full-time ministry is at Lehigh Valley Hospital where she is the Chaplain for Women, Infants and Children.

Sunday, May 17, 2015

7th Sunday of Easter/Confirmation Day/Acolyte Recognition

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service –Baptism****Text:** Ephesians 1:15-23**Message:** "The Holy Spirit: God's Autocorrect"**Sermon:** Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuels**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Doug Albert

10:30 - Dan Topp

Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, Donna Gruber**Acolytes:** 8AM - Madelyn Kohler

10:30AM - Sebastian Knerr, Jacob Klinger

Sunday, May 24, 2015

Pentecost/Memorial Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Text:** Acts 2:1-21**Message:** "Pentecostal Power"**Sermon:** Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Don Penrod

Greeters: Vicki Mayk, Karen Wonderly, Ron Snyder**Acolytes:** 8AM - Gabriel Horvath

10:30AM - Abigail Hill, Tegan Haley

Sunday, May 31, 2015

1st Sunday after Pentecost/Communion/Choir Recognition

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Sermon:** Rev. A. William Metzger**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

10:30 - Harry Burger

Greeters: Glenn & Susan Mattern, Lou & Mary Burdick**Acolytes:** 8AM - Abbey Hafler

10:30AM - Jacob Gladish, Jason Check

**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:

May 3—Fellowship

May 10—Christian Education

May 17—Confirmation Class



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	\$327,911.00	\$41,640.00	\$369,551.00
Expenses	\$312,291.00	\$42,628.00	\$354,919.00
03-31-2015	\$25,264.00	\$20,429.00	\$45,693.00

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:
Daniel & Debra Topp, Sr.
J.P. Spaide
Brian & Karen Selig

The following donations were accepted into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of

Reuben E. Christman:
Ann C. Snyder
Roy & Annie Kern
Linda Stewart
John & Jean Bieber
Philip & Julie Wehr

Bruce Quist
Carolyn M. George
Richard & Barbara Carinci
Wilma & William Meyer
Daniel & Debra Topp, Sr.
Terrence & Sandra Grube

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
March 1	85	190	45	235
March 8	65	220	32	317
March 15	83	315	56	454
March 22	93	363	CFW	456
March 29	109	336	CFW	445

TOTAL ATTENDANCE	
March <u>2014</u> – 1,950 March <u>2015</u> –1,992	
AVG ATTENDANCE	
March <u>2014</u> – 390 March <u>2015</u> - 398	

Deaths

Miriam Hausman passed away on March 26, 2015 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on March 31, 2015.

Luella A. Peters passed away on April 6th and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on April 25.

Donald Diehl passed away on April 10, 2015 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on April 15, 2015.

John Linde, Jr. passed away on April 18, 2015 and was laid to rest in Egypt Cemetery on May 5, 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

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Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org

Tara Henninger
Communications Coordinator
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Mike Baer
Music Coordinator
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Blake Hoppes
Organist/Accompanist
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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

May 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	2 <u>9am</u> Country Sale
4 <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Fellowship Committee; FOLG	5 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>12pm</u> Golden Times <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30</u> Junior/Middler <u>7pm</u> Bible Study <u>7:30</u> High School Choir	6 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry	7 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Christian Ed	8 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	9
11 <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Evangelism	12 <u>10am</u> Helping Hands; VBS Design Lab <u>1pm</u> Property <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	13 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> LPT	14 <u>6 pm</u> Preschool Board <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	15 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	16 <u>8:30am</u> Men's Breakfast
18 <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Consistory	19 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	20 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit	21 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	22 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	23
25 <u>Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday</u>	26 <u>9am</u> Newsletter Mailing <u>10am</u> VBS Design Lab <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	27 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30</u> Spiritually Fit	28 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; LPT	29 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	30

SUNDAYS

3 Seed & Soil <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir Confirmation Class Budget Review Acolyte Training <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Baptism Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	10 Mother's Day <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 Mission Committee	17 Confirmation Day <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 Church Family Worship <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds <u>4:00pm</u> Scrapbookers	24 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Horizon Choir <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service Children's Video Series <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	31 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/ Children's Video <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds
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