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Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
 Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

Semi-Annual Meeting

On June 14 2015, after the 10:30 a.m. service, we will hold our **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting**. The focus of this meeting will be the proposed fiscal 2015-2016 General Budget (covering July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) and a presentation from Pastor Bill Metzger on the progress of the Leadership Planning Team.

Regarding the budget, an informal information session will be held prior to the June 14 formal meeting so that congregation members can get more information or ask questions in advance. **This information session will be held at 9:15AM during education hour in the conference room on Sunday, June 7**, for those requiring a deeper examination of the budget details. Members of the Budget Committee, which spends a great deal of time preparing the budget proposal, and Consistory will be available to answer your questions. A copy of the proposed budget is also available in the church office. As our church continues to grow, it is very helpful for all of us to continue to be supportive in as many ways as possible. In order to maintain our programs, activities, and our beautiful building and grounds, we need a continuous flow of time, talent and treasure! We, the members, are the heart of this Church, and with everyone's help, we will continue to grow and thrive!

Please plan to attend this semi-annual meeting on June 14 and be supportive of the budget, and let's continue to keep Union United Church of Christ moving forward.

Brad Hackett, Consistory President





From the Interim Pastor

Biking for Spiritual Exercise

By the time you read this, my wife and I will be bicycling several hundred miles on the Great Allegheny Passage-C & O Canal towpath. The GAP-C&O is a 335 mile bicycle trail that winds through Western Pennsylvania and Maryland, from Pittsburgh, PA to Washington, DC. My wife and I have ridden through this trail several times over the past 20 or so years. When we began these adventures, we carried our tent and sleeping bags and camped along the way. After we turned 60+ years of age, we began staying in motels and B&Bs. We will be staying in motels and B&Bs this time.

There is something spiritual about biking the GAP-C&O trail. There is the natural setting—off the highways, out of cell phone range for the most part, along flowing rivers. There is wildlife—deer, wild turkeys, turtles sunning themselves on dead logs in the canal, groundhogs, and an occasional fox. The sound of birds singing, crows crowing, frogs croaking... all of this makes the ride an opportunity to re-connect with nature.

There is much history along the way, as the C&O Canal

passes through civil war territory... Harper's Ferry, Antietam, Fort Frederick. There are old canal tenders' cabins, living re-enactments of canal boat days, and abandoned mines and factories.

There is the physical component of actually pedaling 30 miles each day. We are usually tired enough at the end of the day that we don't have problems sleeping while we're on these adventures.

And, Nancy and I also take along some devotional materials. We stop at a scenic spot along the path to read scripture, give thanks, and just enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

Yes, bike riding is a spiritual experience for me. Dave DiPaolantonio and I are planning a shorter intergenerational ride for our members on Saturday, August 15. We will be riding along the old Lehigh Canal towpath from Laury's Station to the Lehigh Gap. All folks, 6th grade and older, are welcome to join us for a day of spiritual exercise.

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.**

RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

Along with the beautiful weather we've had recently comes an unfortunate increase in seasonal allergies. More than 36 million Americans suffer from seasonal allergies—with symptoms ranging from runny noses to itchy eyes to nasal congestion.

The first step in taming seasonal allergies is to avoid the triggers that cause symptoms. Some simple measures can be taken such as:

- Wear a mask when doing yard work or gardening
- Use air conditioners to keep cool instead of opening windows and bringing pollen into the house
- Use HEPA filters in air conditioners to trap pollen
- Wash your hair at the end of the day to wash out pollen and avoid transferring pollen to your pillow-case

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Ruth Miller - June 16
701 Main St, Apt 611



If you exercise outside, do so in the early morning or at the end of the day, when pollen counts are lower

Interestingly, there are some foods that can trigger symptoms in those that have allergies to ragweed. About one-third of people with seasonal allergies have a sensitivity to bananas, cucumbers, melons, zucchini, sunflower seeds, and chamomile tea!

There are many types of over-the-counter medications available to treat the various symptoms, including oral antihistamines and decongestants; nose sprays, and eye drops. Medication should be tailored to the specific symptoms instead of a combination product that contains more medicine than necessary for what you are experiencing. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about the best way to treat your seasonal allergies.



Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

"The heavens declare the glory of God
The skies proclaim the work of God's hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
Night after night they display knowledge. (From Psalm 19:1-2)

Have you taken a walk in the church grove recently? When surrounded by the beauty of the budding and blossoming daffodils, the tall trees, home to many birds and other wildlife, we become aware of God's power, majesty and grace. Take a minute and stop and look around you at the beauty and complexity of creation. Take a minute to give God praise for these gifts.

Being outside in nature provides us an opportunity to "reset our perspectives." Taking time to be surrounded by God's creation is an opportunity to praise God. Perhaps you live in a rural area surrounded by God's gifts of creation, or you are a city dweller, relying on local parks and small havens in your own yard. I encourage you to take a few extra minutes to walk through the grove, walk through a local park

or enjoy your own backyard. This summer as you venture to the beach or mountains, take a moment to reflect on God and give God praise for the beauty of creation. You may find yourself bursting into song.

"For the Beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise."
Folliott S. Pierpoint 1864



Photo by Kevin Richter

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, May 18th, 2015 by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and April/May bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that the Oil Burner was cleaned, Gutters cleaned and only a few slate repaired, 3 AC Units for Addition were serviced, Lines in the grove parking lot painted, and the grease trap in kitchen needed another cleaning a week ago. This grease trap is failing, as it was installed in 1957. A new unit needs to be installed in the kitchen base cabinets. Approximate cost is \$1,000. It was approved to approach Funds of Lasting Gifts to access the money to replace the grease trap.

Christian Education Committee reported that Sunday School and Children's Church ended for the year, VBS begins on June 22nd, and the End of the Year Celebration and Build Your Own Sundae is on June 7th.

Mission Committee reported that they will be participating in OCWM- One Great Hour of Sharing- May 31st

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

Evangelism Committee reported that the plans are un-

derway for the Build Your Own Sunday- June 7th in the grove. They will be calling new members to personally invite them to this great event!

Stewardship Committee reported on our 2014 report

Phil Wehr distributed a 2014 Stewardship Report

10% of our members give nothing

29% of our members give between \$1-\$50

40% of our members give between \$51-\$500

9% of our members give between \$501-\$1,000

7% of our members give between \$1,001-\$2,000

5% of our members give \$2,000 and up

21% of our members provide us with 80% of our income

Fellowship Committee reported that the next big event- August 9th- Family Picnic! They have given \$500 to the General Fund.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, June 15th, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. in Room 101.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

Email: dired@unionucc.org

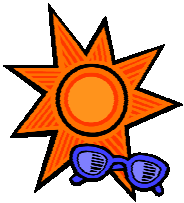
SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

Join us this summer for our video program, VEGGIETALES. We will offer this program during the 10:30 worship service in June, July and August. Preschool aged children through fifth grade are welcome to join us for a new adventure each Sunday. (We do not show VEGGIETALES on Outdoor Service Sundays.)



Attention Parents: We still need more volunteers to help with this program. The sign up sheet is on Kathy Bonsell's office door.

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



CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL...are officially on vacation until September 13th (mark your calendar). A tremendous thanks to all the teachers, helpers, parents and children for another wonderful year. Your support, participation and cooperation all contributed to this year's success. What a great team!! Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

SonSpark Labs VBS



We're off on another adventure! Registered children will receive a packet of information by June 17th. (Our registration is now closed for this year's program.) Our **summer adventure** will begin on Monday, June 22nd at 9:00am. Our volunteer staff of over fifty scientists are ready with games, songs, snacks, skits, crafts, experiments, bible stories and a whole lot of fun! We will have our **Closing Program** on Friday evening, June 26th. You are all invited to join us at 7:00 in the grove for entertainment and refreshments.

VBS Volunteer Meeting: JUNE 21 @ 11:30 in Memorial Hall

Wanted: Sunday School volunteers and Children's Church volunteers for the 2015-2016 session. Sign up sheets are located on Kathy Bonsell's door. Please contact Kathy if you have any questions (610-434-1169 or dired@unionucc.org). NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.



Summer Nursery



The Little Lambs Nursery will be unstaffed for the summer. Parents/caregivers are welcome to use the room during the 10:30 service. The service is broadcast into the nursery room. We would appreciate it if you would clean up the toys before you leave. Marianne Ulrich, our nursery attendant volunteer, will be on vacation and resting up for next year! She will **return on Sept. 13th and need a partner** every Sunday for the 2015-2016 session. Please contact Kathy Bonsell if you have any questions or would like to help with this very important ministry.

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 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: Come to worship to be celebrated and blessed at 8am or 10:30am services.

***ALL Pieces Matter to God and at Union UCC
Celebrating our youth and families who confirmed their faith on May 17.***

Confirmand

Parents/Sponsor

God Guide

Ethan Baer
Colby Carlson
Charlotte Cherry
James Cipolla
Ryan Correll
Zachary Fitzgerald
Samuel Gerry
Abbey Hafler
Shelby Hafler
Brandon Hess
Morgan Hurd
Madison Janotka
Cheyenne Johnson
Sierra Johnson
Zachary Kistler
Adam Klinger
Chloe Krempasky
Vanessa Krempasky
Edge Kroll
Julianne Lane
Lexi Meckes
Dylan Miller
Brandon Moll
Brooke Penrod
Morgan Ritchie
Trevor Roberts
Gregory Santa-Anna
Lydia Stein
Andrew Stewart
Morgan Thomas
Abriana Todd
Aubree Williams

Mike & Deb Baer
Geoffrey & Jennifer Carlson
Beth & Paul Cherry
Dawn & James Cipolla
Richard & Deana Correll
Timothy & Heather Fitzgerald
Matt & Roni Gerry
Shelly & Greg Hafler
Shelly & Greg Hafler
Keith Hess, Suellen Serfass
Lynn Hurd, Tim Hurd
Mark & Michelle Janotka
Sherry & Troy Johnson
Sherry & Troy Johnson
Rodney & Becky Kistler
Karl and Lynne Klinger
Dave & Kim Krempasky
Dave & Kim Krempasky
Jeff & Marcey Kroll
Jim & Leanna Lane
Gary & Tammy Meckes
Stacey Miller
Clay & Cheryl Moll
Donald & Sherry Penrod
Franklin & Susan Ritchie
Randy & Deanna Roberts
Neil & Shelly Santa-Anna
Dawn Stein, Ken Stein
Andrea & Richard Stewart, Jr
Richard & Felicia Thomas
Russel & Deirdre Todd
John & Jeannie Williams

Veronica Herbine
Shelly Santa-Anna
Carol James
Stephen Ewald
Brian Selig
Jen Carlson
Kim Krempasky
Jana Hill
Sherry Penrod
Edie Fella
Sharon Geroulo
Jana Hill
Kelsey Stoss
Karen Selig
Deanna Correll
Deb Baer
Heather Fitzgerald
Heather Fitzgerald
John Binder
Naomi DeNardo
Ann Stoss
Russ Todd
Edie Fella
Colette Kern
Karen Selig
Lori Grischott
Heather Fitzgerald
Ann Trussell
Deana Correll
Maria Beltz
Shelly Hafler
Pat Warmkessel

SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:15-10:15am
Resumes in September

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)



NEXT SUMMER
July 26-29, 2016

**National Youth Event
Disney World, Florida**

Collecting \$50 deposits now.

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., June 2**
12 noon

Program: Sarajane Williams, Harpist and Music Therapist

This Month: Potluck – Bring a salad, side dish, casserole, or dessert to share. We will provide hot dogs, ice cream and beverages.

Blues Night Out

Summer is coming, and so is Blues Nite Out, our twelfth year !!!

Mark your calendars now for **Friday Night August 21 featuring the Bryant Brothers from 7 - 10. Saturday Night August 22 begins with Jake Kaligas's Dynamic Duo from 4 - 6:30 then finishes with the Sarah Ayers Band from 7 - 10.**



Bring your family, bring your friends to an evening of great music and great food in our church grove. Bring your lawn chair, bring your blanket, bring your appetite, there will be barb-q's, hot dogs, sausage sandwiches, shrimp delight, home made baked goods, and ICE CREAM !!! Food stands open at 5 pm on Friday and 4 pm on Saturday.

In case of rain, the event may be moved into Memorial Hall.

Union UCC's big outdoor festival and fundraiser of the summer welcomes all !!

See you there !!!!

Women's Retreat 2016

**Union UCC Women's Retreat
April 22-24, 2016**

**Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg
Put this in permanent marker on your calendar!**

Summer Quilt Time

Looking for a new quilt for this winter, or a trip to a local restaurant, supermarket, gas station, or extra cash? Summer time is a great time to support Union UCC. A beautiful queen size quilt created by Velma Wehr and quilted by the church Busy Bee Quilting group, plus three quilted wall hangings, gift certificates and cash gifts will be available this summer.

Please support the mission of Union UCC by August 9, 2015, come to the outdoor service in the grove on Sunday August 9 and see if you are the lucky one to receive the quilt or other gifts. Then stay and enjoy our annual church family picnic, bingo, cake walk, and other fun activities.

All proceeds support the General Fund and other church missions.

Book Club



Next meeting: June 3rd @ 7:00pm in the Memory Room. The book is *THE LADIES OF MISSALONGHI*, Author Colleen McCullough. 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.



**Jarod Porkony is our Catch the Spirit recipient for June.
He will be recognized on June 7, 2015 at the 10:30 am
worship service.**

By Pastor Kris

Jarod Pokorny is a senior in high school. He is the son of Greg and Joanne Pokorny. He came to Neffs seeking a church that had a vibrant youth program. He has been involved in Breakfast club, Youth group, Advisory team, the Leadership Planning Team (LPT with Pastor Bill), and has been taking piano lessons from Blake. He has also given some nature presentations during the Sunday School. He was nominated by the Worship Committee for his inspiring music offerings in worship as well as his leadership and participation in our church.

As hobbies, Jarod enjoys practicing piano, guitar, cooking, writing, and studying primitive technology and Native American philosophy. Jarod is passionate about nature, primitive skills, and piano. This summer he will be going to the Tracker School, to further his skills in wilderness living, and will also be a student instructor with the Children of the Earth Foundation. He intends to become a survival instructor to guide people closer to the natural world and help them establish a stronger sense of community among each other.

At Union UCC Jarod has found friends, fellowship, and various opportunities including those of music, and activities in the community. On the LPT, Jarod has learned much about the inner workings of the church, and how it runs. There is quite a bit of work and careful thought that goes into finding a new senior pastor.

“We all go through feeling like outcasts in certain times of our life. But it is important to take advantage of these situations, and take heart in them, for that is how we become role models for others. Living in non-conformity can be a constant challenge. For many people, it may take serious will power not to fall into the “norm” that others are entangled by. As one single bird can change the direction of an entire flock, a single human can change the direction of an entire group of individuals. Live your own life, accept yourself as yourself, and know that life is your own adventure. Do not be afraid to be who you are. In that sense, you should have no fear in this place, because no matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!”

Thank you Jarod for living out your faith with us and for being such an important part of our ministry and mission here at Union UCC!

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



Every parent wants to raise children who share and give generously. When our children someday meet God face to face we want to know that they will hear Jesus say to them the same words the master said to those who used their talents wisely, *"Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master's joy."* (Matt 25:21)

However, raising a generous child is a challenge in a society that constantly teaches children to want more and more things for themselves. One of the key factors in teaching children to be generous is to let them see you giving. After all, children mimic what they **see**, *not* what they **hear**.

Today many donations to the church offering may be made electronically, or via mail. Thus, children may never actually see their parents give. A child who never sees a parent place an envelope in the offertory could grow up thinking, *"My parents never gave any support to the Church. Why should I?"*

Therefore, it is important that parents talk with children about the charitable gifts the family makes. If you would like to increase your giving you might even ask your kids about ways the family budget could be adjusted so that there is more to share with God.

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.

Property Committee

For over 80 years the church grove has provided enjoyment and memories to church families, friends and the community. My memories begin 50 some years ago, as the annual Sunday School picnic welcomed families to listen to the marching music of the Allentown Band. Picnic tables and benches were brought out of storage each year and set up around the old stage.



The soda tables were set up selling small bottles of A-Treat sodas, one of my early jobs as a kid was picking up all the bottles during the night and returning them to their wooden cases, so they could be sent back (true recycling). The candy stand was busy selling all kinds of penny and nickel sweets for us kids to enjoy, and ruin our teeth.

The food stand was filled with the usual picnic treats, and of course baked goods and ice cream, the old freezer is still working. I can picture all of the Sunday School leaders of the 1960's and 1970's who sold tickets at the end of the food stand, every year the same crew was in charge of selling five and ten cent tickets, even twenty five cent ones in future years. The little secret money drawers are still in the stand today.

We all have memories of the grove from the past, some going back to the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's, some maybe only going back five to ten years ago when Union UCC began major improvements with the building of the covered stage, small pavilion, and paved parking lot.

As the decades passed, mother nature provided a beautiful setting for the church grove. But mother nature also caused much destruction, the loss of twelve pine trees during a snow storm back in the 1980's, a tree or two every few years due to snow, wind or disease, and 14 fallen pine, maple, and oak trees during Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Trees which were an asset to the grove suddenly became a liability due to their age, height, and disease. On the positive side, with the removal of these trees, along with others, we were able fulfill a long dream to design and build a new covered pavilion, in the similar location of the old stage. This new pavilion, holding twelve picnic tables will provide shade and comfort from the elements for guests. No more worries when small showers pop up for events, or tree sap dripping onto the picnic tables.

New trees have been planted the past few years, and more will be planted next year in locations which will allow for future growth without fear of being harmed by the older tall trees.

During the past decade, Union UCC's church grove has gone through a renaissance of change, respecting the past, but looking to the future. All of the improvements have been made so future generations of church families, friends, and the community will create new memories. Memories of sharing God's love and spirit will be made during outdoor worship services, church picnics, Build your Own Sundae Sunday, Vacation Bible School, Blues Nite Out, Boy Scout events, Girl Scout Events, the Lion's Festival, or just a walk through the park or a swing on the swing.

Enjoy Neffs Church Grove.

-Phil Wehr



Preschool In the Park



DATE: July 30, 2015
TIME: 9:30 to 11:30 AM
PLACE: Union UCC Grove

In case of inclement weather, the activities will be held indoors.

All preschool-aged students for the 2015-2016 school year are invited to attend this special event. If you register your child for preschool, you will receive a \$25 discount on your September tuition.

We hope you can join us for a morning filled with fun activities, games, crafts, and story time.

Register for Preschool in the Park by July 23rd
 (Minimum number of children to hold the event—10)
 Phone: (610)767-5327
 Email: preschool@unionucc.org



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...

We have a bunch of our kids playing on their high school baseball and softball teams and in the news all over the place:

- Northern Lehigh Girls:** Amber Thomas
- Parkland Girls:** Madison Marshall, Sydney Stibitz, Jessica Kutteroff
- Parkland Boys:** Isaac Neal, Rhett Jacoby
- Zach Trexler** was pictured in *The Parkland Press* for placing 4th at the East Penn Conference championship track meet.

Brandon Selig was in the Press for his trip to 4-H Congress in Atlanta. Olivia Geiger and Brandon were the Lehigh County Outstanding 4-Hers this year and were able to attend.

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

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

In May, we completed another fun year at Neffs UCC Preschool. Our 3 year old class enjoyed a great day at the Lehigh Valley Zoo. Our 4 year old and pre-k students learned about water safety during a program presented by Swim-in Zone. The Preschool has been filled with new life! We watched our dinosaur plant come back to life, hatched baby chicks, and raised painted lady butterflies.

We thank everyone who donated items to the collection truck to help make our fundraiser with Recycle Local a success.

We will be offering Preschool in the Park for children who are of preschool age for the 2015-2016 school year. The event will be held on July 30th from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the Church grove. In case of inclement weather, the activities will be moved indoors. If you would like to have your child attend, please contact the Preschool by July 23rd to register.

If you, your family, or your friends are interested in enrolling a child to attend preschool for the 2015-2016 school year, there is still time to enroll. Join us for a new year of fun and learning! If you would like more information or a registration form, please call the Preschool office at 610-767-5327. Registration forms can also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.unionucc.org/preschool/>.



Goodbye Mrs. M!

For the past 14 years, Linda Migliori has been the director of our Preschool. The Preschool Board would like to announce her deserved retirement at the end of this school year. Linda has been a dedicated director sharing her time and talents with our precious children. We thank her and wish her all the best.

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

Hot dogs, ice cream, water and sodas will be provided for the picnic lunch. Participants shall bring a favorite salad, side dish, desert, or snack for all to enjoy.

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.

Please sign up early with Pastor Allan, walk up players are also welcome the night of the event. Events starts at 6:00 in the grove, see you there.



Holy Bean Bag! Pastor Allan is taking this tournament seriously!

Mission Committee News

Summertime . . . vacation time . . . travel time . . . MISSION time. While you are off traveling this summer on family vacations, take a minute to think about folks at home that may need some extra help.

During your stay at a hotel or resort, check your bathroom each morning for full bottles of shampoo, shower gels, or hand soap and pack them in your suitcase. The hotel staff will bring you new toiletries each day and restock your bathroom. At the end of the week you will have a nice little bag of toiletries to bring back home and donate to the church to help others in the Lehigh Valley.

We thank the many of you who are already practicing this Mission technique, and encourage all travelers to **bring home unused toiletries from your travels** all year long. **Toiletries will help families through the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, or through Lehigh County Conference of Churches.**

Each small bottle of shampoo or bar of soap will bring a smile of hope to a mother, father, child, or grandparent. Please drop off toiletries in the blue barrel in Memorial Hall. Thank you to all.

Did You Know?

- You can get **weekly emails** updating you on the events and Sunday services at church?
- You can get your monthly **newsletter online**?
- We have a **Facebook** page: Facebook.com/unionneffs
- You can sign up for **E-giving** at no cost to you?
- You can **see photos** from church events on our website and Facebook (you don't even need an account to view)

To sign up to get emails/e-newsletter, or for E-giving visit our website:

WWW.UNIONUCC.ORG and click on the **RESOURCES** tab or send an email to: **secretary@unionucc.org**



Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Will Resume September 11

This group studies various Bible and faith topics, often using an author or video series to assist in learning. Anyone can attend and you can come as you schedule allows. Time for sharing joys and concerns and praying for each other and our church is included.

Pastor Allan and Pastor Kris share in leading this group on a rotating basis.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

9:15-10:15 - Will Resume September 13

This group discusses faith practice and faith application topics as well as Bible studies and uses books or videos as a guide. Anyone can attend and you can come as you schedule allows. Prayer time is also included.

Rev. Patience, Pastor Allan and Pastor Kris share in leading this group on a rotating basis.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday 7-8:30PM room 5.



Will resume meeting in the fall. Watch newsletter and bulletin for details.

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

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).

Spread the Good News (\$20) contact- Tara Henninger, 610-767-6961 (secretary@unionucc.org)

Please note: we have discontinued Sign-Up Genius

Baptism

On May 3, 2015 the congregation joyfully embraced:



Logan Nathaniel Gerhart, Olivia Grace Schuster, Sophia Elizabeth Ricketts children of Stephanie Schuster and James Ricketts



Mason Harley Keller son of Cheyenne Jones and Jason Keller



Hunter Adam Williams son of Matthew and Katelyn Williams

UNION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Anticipated Income for July 2015 thru June 2016		Income Budget		
Contributions, Current and Benevolent:		2014/2015 fcst		2015/2016
General (Weekly Envelopes and Plate)		\$342,100	\$347,000	
Improvement Fund		\$7,930	\$8,500	
Communion		\$7,740	\$7,600	
Benevolence		\$8,590	\$7,500	
Lent and Good Friday		\$2,610	\$2,400	
Music / Education Program		\$2,710	\$3,500	
Harvest Home, Thanksgiving and Christmas		\$20,480	\$17,800	
Special Gifts		\$6,800	\$16,800	
Program Income		\$15,980	\$15,900	
Miscellaneous (Building Donations, Interest)		\$7,020	\$6,000	
Fundraisers		\$9,300	\$8,500	
Preschool Contribution		\$0	\$1,500	
Total Anticipated Contributions				\$443,000
Church Reserve Fund		\$0	\$0	
Total Income Budget		\$431,260	\$443,000	<u>\$443,000</u>
Anticipated Expenses for July 2015 thru June 2016		Expense Budget		
Facilities and Office Equipment		2014/2015 fcst		2015/2016
Church Building / Property		\$63,020	\$58,240	
Office Equipment		\$5,420	\$6,380	\$64,620
Employee Salaries				
Pastor		\$25,850	\$0	
Interim Pastor		\$24,470	\$36,706	
Associate Pastor		\$61,000	\$64,725	
Visitation Pastor		\$15,690	\$15,924	
Church Administrator		\$20,560	\$20,975	
Director of Christian Education		\$24,210	\$24,694	
Organist/Accompanist		\$16,480	\$16,808	
Director of Music		\$8,350	\$8,517	
Communications Coordinator		\$17,700	\$18,049	
Facility Caretakers		\$26,970	\$27,313	\$233,711
Employee Expenses				
Insurance (net of Pastor's contributions)		\$20,700	\$22,346	
FICA		\$18,200	\$18,327	
Pension Dues		\$10,580	\$11,901	
Sr. Pastor Call Process / Salary Review		\$7,410	\$28,600	
Miscellaneous		\$5,400	\$4,900	\$86,074
Benevolence				
OCWM		\$7,400	\$7,400	
Phoebe		\$4,770	\$4,770	
Lancaster Seminary		\$1,075	\$1,075	
Bethany		\$240	\$240	
Lehigh Co. Conf. of Churches		\$1,200	\$1,200	
Mission Discretionary		\$3,190	\$2,100	\$16,785
Leadership				
Gifts / Materials / New Programs		\$760	\$550	\$550
Programs				
Worship		\$6,080	\$6,860	
Education		\$15,455	\$14,400	
Fellowship / Parish Nurse Ministry		\$3,010	\$3,000	
Flowers / Bulletins		\$5,120	\$5,500	\$29,760
Office Expenses		\$10,950	\$11,500	\$11,500
Total Operating Expenses		\$431,260	\$443,000	<u>\$443,000</u>
Total Income less Expenses		\$0	\$0	



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]

As previously shared with you, the Leadership Planning Team [LPT] has identified eight [8] **Key Areas of Ministry & Mission**. Each of the Key Areas have been aligned with existing Union UCC Committees. LPT Sub-teams have been established to address each Key Area. In April & May they have initially drafted outcomes/goals for the next 3-5 years. In June they will soon be reaching out to engage Committee members to work with them in drafting a Plan for each Key Area. These will ultimately be integrated into **Union UCC's Plan for Ministry & Mission**.

The initial Draft Outcomes & Goals for each Key Area which we are continuing to refine are as follows:

1] Christian Education: a] Grow CE Committee core membership to (12) people, b] Increase Education Hour attendance by 20%/week, c] Increase children's worship hour by 20%, d] Increase adult volunteers for children's program to allow 3/class, e] Increase Adult Bible Studies by 20%

2] Evangelism: a] Increase church membership by (100) members by December 2017 [in addition to Confirmands]

3] Member Ministries: a] Create a Member Ministries Committee that provides outreach to our members and the community with a minimum of (25) members to be able to create subcommittees within, b] Provide a minimum of (12) members to provide services including communion, meals, flowers, prayer shawls to shut-in members, c] Provide activities to youth in grades 6-12 with attendance of at least (50) youth participating, d] Provide more activities targeted at young adults with at least (12) attending. e] Provide (6) men's activities throughout the year, f] Increase women's activities to (4) yearly. g] Maintain activities for children below 6th grade, providing at least (8) a year, h] Create (1) additional fundraiser to support fellowship activities. i] Provide at least (5) social events to promote fellowship within the church

4] Worship & Music: a] By June 2018, increase average attendance in worship by 15% and increase active formal participation [greeters, choirs, chimers, other musical groups, readers] in worship by 20%

5] Governance & Structure - Church & Ministry: a] Develop & recommend the 'post-interim' pastoral staffing model, including support staff, by January 2016, b] Utilizing LPT & congregational input, develop Performance Expectations/Job Description for next Senior Pastor by February 2016, c] Lead the process to decide if the congregation will pursue UCC Open and Affirming certification by TBD?, d] Resolve the Church's marriage equality policy by TBD?

6] Facility, Property & Grounds: a] Add (2) new members to the current Property Committee

7] Stewardship: a] Increase average giving per unit for each giving unit by X% per year to begin to approach the PNEC average [which is about double our per unit giving]

8] Mission: a] Grow the number of congregation members involved in "hands-on" mission & outreach projects by XXXX, b] Increase Mission budget by 50% by 2016-2017, c] Become a "mission-driven tithing" church by 2017, giving 10% of annual income to local, national, world-wide & UCC benevolence/missions & outreach, d] Develop guidelines to determine the initiatives that the Mission Committee undertakes, e] Add (5) businesses as mission partners

These Outcomes & Goals will remain in "draft" status and will be shared with the congregation for further refinement in our Phase 2 **congregational forums which will be held in August and September..**

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



Sunday, June 7, 2015

2nd Sunday after Pentecost/Graduate & Build Your Own
Sundae Sunday/Alathea

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Greeters: Dave & Karen Fleming

Acolytes: 8AM - Will Filipovits

10:30AM - Garrett Fitzgerald, Amanda Lane

Cristi and Mandee 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.

Sunday, June 14, 2015

3rd Sunday after Pentecost/Semi-Annual Meeting

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Mark 4:26-34

Message: "The Growing Seed of Our Church"

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuels

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Sandra Craig

10:30 - David Fleming

Greeters: Jane Schappell, Dana Krisko

Acolytes: 8AM - Hannah Horvath

10:30AM - Amanda Lane, Chase Misera

Sunday, June 21, 2015

4th Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service –SMA

Text: John 14:8-14

Message: "Stories My Father Told Me"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

Greeters: Kim Krempasky, Claire Kern

Acolytes: 8AM - Peyton Schlosser

Sunday, June 28, 2015

5th Sunday after Pentecost/Jazz Ensemble

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service –Outdoor Worship

Text: Epistle=Romans 8:31-39; Gospel=Mark 5:21-43

Message: "Seeing life through the lens of faith..."

Sermon: Rev. A. William Metzger

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Sueann Hregician

Greeters: Tim & Marian Funk, Gene & Christina Thrash

Acolytes: 8AM - Karl Schmidt

**Holy Grounds
Coffee Hour**

Every Sunday

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



We're grateful for the committees and church groups that host our Holy Grounds Coffee Hour from September to May. If you or your family and church friends would like to host a Sunday during the summer just pitch in or bring food to share on the Sundays that you are here. (Food ideas: baked goods, fruit, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, snacks.) This time is such a gift to us, thank you!



During 10:30 Worship we will worship in the Grove on these dates. Bring a comfy chair.

June 28

July 19

August 9/Picnic

Deaths

Gloria L. (Loch) Beltz passed away April 30, 2015 and was laid to rest on May 4, 2015.

Harold S. Smith passed away May 1, 2015, and was laid to rest May 8, 2015 in Union Church Cemetery

Edna Leopold passed away May 11, 2014 and was laid to rest May 15, 2015.

Wedding

Congratulations to the following couple who was joined in marriage under the care of Union UCC:

Holly Emig and Kyle Leverage—May 2, 2015



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	\$370,677.00	\$53,098.00	\$423,775.00
Expenses	\$344,451.00	\$49,788.00	\$394,239.00
04-30-2015	\$35,870.00	\$24,727.00	\$60,597.00

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 received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Donald P. Diehl**:

- Dennis & Denise Rothrock
- Linda & Wilbur Romig, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. George Case
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Solt
- Mr. & Mrs. Barry Mertz
- Harold H. Solt
- Donna E. Christman
- Carolyn George
- Diane Peters
- Patricia J. Geiger
- Katherine W. Frey
- Lee & Carol Martin
- Ronald & Eleanor Kleckner
- Leona E. Baer
- Leon & Althea Grim
- David & Sondra Klotz
- Philip & Julie Wehr
- Colin & Izzy Andres
- Donald & Susan Rumble
- Keith & Carol Bloss
- Jimmy & Karen Betancourt
- Diane C. Selig

- Ken & Carol Bloss
- Cheryl & David Lamm
- Paul & Janet Creitz
- Madeline & Richard Bingell
- Gladys Kuhns
- Krista A. Maxwell
- Barbara J. Panner
- Michael & Robin Christman

The following donations were received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Reuben E. Christman**:

- Donna E. Christman
- Dennis & Denise Rothrock
- Mrs. Eunice Diehl
- Thomas & Bridget Muehlenkamp
- Barbara J. Panner
- Donald & Norma Breininger
- Sandra & David Klotz
- Michael & Robin Christman

The following donations were received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Luella Peters**:

- Curtis & Shirley Schneck
- Madeline & Richard Bingell

The following donation was received into

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
April 2	Maundy Thurs.	96	CFW	96
April 3	Good Fri.	144	CFW	144
April 5	6:30 am	93	CFW	
	252	527	CFW	872
April 12	64	180	21	265
April 19	79	195	33	307
April 26	72	160	26	258

TOTAL ATTENDANCE	
April <u>2014</u> – 2,213	April <u>2015</u> – 1,942
AVG ATTENDANCE	
April <u>2014</u> – 553	April <u>2015</u> - 426

the Music Fund in memory of **Luella Peters**:
Carolyn George

The following donations were received into the Union UCC Memorial fund in memory of **Gloria L. Beltz**:
Brian & Colette Kern
Phyllis W. Beltz
LaRue Anglestein

Richard & Madeline Bingell
Gale A. Breininger
Marion A. Miller
Milestone Financial Associates, LLC
Scott & Sheila Nagle
Richard & Barbara Carinci
Carolyn George
Wayne & Kathie Greer
Wynne Edelman
Dale & Marlene Blose

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

June 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	2 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 12pm Golden Times 7pm Bible Study	3 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry; Book Club	4 7pm Christian Ed	5 9am Bulletin Prep	6
8 10am Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	9 10am Helping Hands; 1pm Bazaar bunch 6pm Worship Com- mittee	10 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit	11 6:30 pm Preschool Board	12 9am Bulletin Prep	13
15 10am Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Consistory	16 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff	17 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm LPT	18	19 9am Bulletin Prep	20 4:30pm SMA Re- hearsal
22 9am-12pm Vacation Bible School	23 9am-12pm Vacation Bible School	24 9am-12pm Vacation Bible School	25 9am-12pm Vacation Bible School 6pm Men's Group	26 9am Bulletin Prep 9am-12pm Vacation Bible School 7pm VBS Closing	27
29	30 9am Newsletter Mailing 7pm LPT				

SUNDAYS

7 Graduate Sunday/Alathea 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service- Veggie Tales 11:30am Holy Grounds Build Your Own Sunday	14 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service Veggie Tales 11:30am Holy Grounds Semi-Annual Meeting 4:00pm Scrapbookers	21 Father's Day 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service-Sunday Morning Alive Veggie Tales 11:30am Holy Grounds	28 Jazz Ensemble 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service Church Family Worship Outdoor Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds
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