



► CONSISTORY 3

○ Issue 7/8

○ Vol. 39

○ July/August 2015



► CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



► YOUTH GROUP.....5

Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
BUILDING THE FUTURE

Church Family Picnic-Aug 9

**After the 10:30 a.m.
Outdoor Worship Service
Fun ... Fellowship ... Food !!!**

**Bring a side dish or salad or dessert
to share**

*The Fellowship Committee will
provide a lunch of
hot dogs, barbecue and potato
chips & beverages.*

**Bingo ♦ Cake Walk
Annual Softball Game**

*bring your baseball bats, gloves and
balls*

**Games for all ages
Raffle Drawing**

*~The picnic will be moved to Fellowship Hall if
the weather does not permit us to be outside.~
Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.*



Donations of cakes, cantaloupes, watermelons, and anything you feel is appropriate for a cake walk will be gratefully received. (Please tell the person or label the item for the cake walk.) Prizes for bingo are also needed. **If you'd like to help** with setting up, bingo calling, the cake-walk or anything else, call Dave & Dolly Mulcahy 610-262-8696.



From the Interim Pastor

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me.
Bless God's holy name."
Psalm 103.1*

Something sacred happens when we bless another being. When we bless someone or something, we acknowledge and lift up that which is holy about that person or thing. We are able to recognize and lift up this holiness only because of the holiness within ourselves. The holiness of the other touches the holiness within ourselves, and we proclaim the other: "Blessed."

Elizabeth recognized the divine drama unfolding in Mary's body when she greeted her with these words:
*"Blessed are you among women;
and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Lk 1.42*

RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

Summer is an important time to highlight the importance of using sunscreen. While we usually think of the warm, summer days as the only time to protect ourselves from the sun's harmful rays, sunscreen should be used all year long. Sunscreens are safe and effective when used properly, but can't protect from all UV rays. These dangerous UV rays can still travel through clouds, so use sunscreen on cloudy and overcast days too. Wide brimmed hats, SPF lip balm, and wrap-around sunglasses are also helpful in offering full sun protection.

There are many types of sunscreen on the market, but the most important key is to use sunscreen liberally, and reapply every 2 hours. Broad spectrum sunscreens are recommended since they offer protection from both UVA and UVB rays. Sunscreens are rated and measured by sun protection factors, or SPF. For example, a product with an SPF of 50 means that using it will protect skin 50x longer than the time it takes for unprotected skin to burn. A sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 is preferred. Higher number of SPFs do not last any longer than lower SPFs; any kind still needs to be reapplied approximately every two hours. There is no such thing as "all day protection".

Some more quick facts about sun safety to keep in mind...

- Use about a shot glass worth of sunscreen for good coverage- a bottle should be empty before the end of the summer if you are using it correctly!
- Check expiration dates on the bottle; ingredients lose effectiveness over time

In blessing Mary, Elizabeth was blessed.

Likewise, Jesus blessed the poor, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers (Mt 5.1-9)

In blessing each of these, Jesus lifted up the sacredness of each one; and in doing so, Jesus revealed his own sacredness.

The Psalmist exhorts us: *Bless the Lord...* When we bless God, we discover our own holiness. When we bless God, we are blessed. Blessedness is reciprocal. May each of us learn to experience all of life as blessing!

Pastor Allan

Home Visitation Members Birthdays



Eleanor Kistler—July 4
2033 Becker St..
Allentown, PA 18106

Violet Baer - July 17
Phoebe Bridgeways
Room 362D
1925 W. Turner St.
Allentown, PA 18104

Joan Fenstermaker - Jul. 18
4138 Hampshire Ct.
Allentown, PA 18104

Beatrice Hregician - Aug. 3
4116 Route 309
Schnecksville, PA 18078

- Apply sunscreen at least 15 minute prior to going outside
- Don't forget areas like lips, back of the neck, top of feet, and tips of ears
- Use a water-based sunscreen if you have oily skin or are acne-prone
- Avoid sun exposure from 10am to 4pm when the sun's rays are at their strongest

Sunscreen is the number #1 way to protect your skin- and can be a lifesaver when used correctly. Next month, read about the types and classifications of skin cancer.



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]

Eight [8] Key Areas of Ministry & Mission and five [5] Core Values that transcend across and integrate with all Union's ministry and mission have been identified by the LPT. Key Areas include Christian Education, Evangelism, Member Ministries, Worship & Music, Governance & Structure, Facility/Property/Grounds, Stewardship and Mission. Core Values include Extravagant Welcome, Open/Affirming & Diverse/Inclusive, Spiritual Growth/Faith Development, Teaching God's Word and Fellowship. LPT Sub-teams for each of the Key Areas and have started working with existing Union UCC Committees which align with the Key Areas to begin jointly drafting a Plan for each Key Area, including the development of policies and procedures they may decide are needed. These Key Area plans will ultimately be integrated into a comprehensive Union UCC Plan for Ministry & Mission.

All of the work and output from the LPT during Phase 1 will remain in "draft" status as much of it will be shared with the congregation for their further input, review and refinement in our Phase 2 Congregational Forums which will be held in August and September, 2015. Dates are currently being planned.

Several items have emerged which are also being addressed during this process. Those items include our lower than average rate of financial stewardship giving, Pastoral compensation being below the minimum recommended PNE

Conference guidelines, the need to refine our Staff annual performance review process, and the need to evaluate, market benchmark, analyze and potentially recommend adjustments to Staff compensation. In addition, the Church & Ministry Committee has developed and recommended to the LPT a process for us to follow to explore more fully living out our Core Values of being Open, Affirming, Diverse and Inclusive and to revisit our policy on marriage equality. With broad based support from the LPT endorsing this process Church & Ministry will be taking this recommendation to Consistory in June for their consideration.

We are on schedule to complete Phase 3 of the process which includes recommending Consistory and the congregation approve relevant portions of Union UCC's Local Church Profile and Union's Plan for Ministry and Mission by the end of March 2016.

Please keep Union UCC, its staff, leaders and the entire congregation in your prayers.

Pastor Bill

Rev. A. William Metzger

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, June 15th, 2015 by President Brad Hackett.

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

Mission Committee reported that lots of baby materials collected for 6th street shelter, the shelter was very grateful for donations.

Church and Ministry reported that a Seminary Student will be preaching July 26th in church.

Worship Committee reported that they would like to add another Christmas Eve Service. The services will be at 3 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm, and 11 pm.

This motion was approved by Consistory and the new service (3 pm) will start on Christmas Eve 2015.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, August 17th, 2015 at 7:00 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

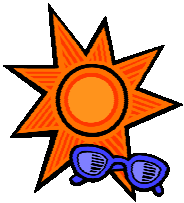
SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

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). Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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 Closed

Summer Nursery Closed: The Little Lambs Nursery will be closed for the summer. Maryann Ulrich, our nursery attendant volunteer, is looking for volunteers for the 2015-2016 session. Please contact Kathy Bonsell if you have any questions or would like to help with this very important ministry.

We sponsor two children at Mt. Selinda Orphanage in Zimbabwe, Africa through Global Ministries. They have sent pictures and notes.



Tendai Magihi is 10 years old, she is staying with a Christian family of eight. Her mother passed away.

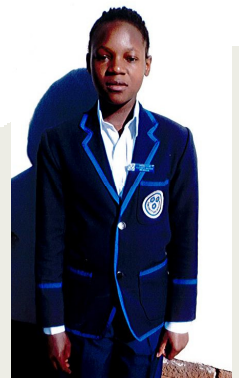
Her favorite game is tennis, and her best friends is Natalie.

She spends her free time playing with friends and going to church or visiting places of interest where they play on swings and other games.

Elizabeth Magihi is 14 years old. Her mother passed away but she staying with her mother's sister who is married to a reverend. She is enjoying her extended family.

Her favorite game is netball, and her best friends are Allina, Peaceful, and Tashinga.

She spends her free time gardening and sweeping the house. She also spends time playing with her dog Rex and cat Lily.



Youth Group News 6th-12th Grades

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

Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group

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

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



Confirmation Class for 2016 Youth in 8th grade will receive a letter this summer inviting them to be a part of the confirmation class. A registration fee of \$45 and forms will be due August 30. **A required information session for each student and at least 1 parent will be on October 4th, 9:15-10:15 in the Youth Room (basement.)** This will be the last day to join the class. If you know someone who is interested in being in the class, please have them contact the church office or watch our website for the forms and information.

Intergenerational Bike Ride with Pastor Allan and Dave DiPaolantonio 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 to sign up by **August 9**.

Dutch Springs Aqua Park www.dutchsprings.com

Saturday August 29 Meet at church at 9AM, Home by 5:30pm. \$27.00 10 years and older, \$17.00 5-9 years Checks to "Union UCC Youth Group". Youth Group will provide a picnic lunch, families will be asked to bring an item to share. Bring: beach attire, towels, sunscreen, change of clothes. Water shoes recommended. Extra money for additional activities (kayak, etc.) Dutch Spring Waiver and Union UCC transportation form must be completed by everyone before leaving. We need parents to help drive and chaperone. **Money due now through August 16.**

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)
Confirmants can go to The Breakfast Club when there's no class.

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



National Youth Event 2016 * Walt Disney World Resort * July 25-30, 2016

You have heard that National Youth Events are an amazing experience. (It's a gathering of middle and high school UCC Youth from around the country who get together for a week of workshops, fun, worship, and friends every 4 years.) Now we present to you: A National Youth Event at DISNEY WORLD! See your email for details. **\$50 Deposit to "Union UCC Youth Group" Due Now through August 30, 2015.** No signs ups or deposits will be accepted after that date. No exceptions.

Book Club



Next book: "The Jesus Cow" by Michael Perry. We will meet August 26 at 7pm in the Memory Room. For more info contact Kathi Charles kac4b@hotmail.com or 610-462-5551.

Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be **Tues., October 6.**

12 noon – 1:30pm

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

Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

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.

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.**

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!



Vicki Mayk is our Catch the Spirit recipient for July/August. She will be recognized on July 26, 2015 at the 10:30 am worship service.

Vicki was brought up a Catholic in Pittsburgh. She relocated to eastern Pennsylvania in 1985. "I attended the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley for about 15 years - and while I embraced the Unitarian Universalist focus on acceptance of all people and on social justice, I missed being part of a more traditional Christian faith community." After hearing about Union UCC from neighbor, Tina Jarrett, for most of those 24 years, Vicki finally visited and began attending regularly in 2009. "It's been wonderful being in a church where I can worship as a Christian while still being very grounded in social justice and a liberal congregation that welcomes all people."

Favorite church memories include Christmas Eve services, "The most beautiful anywhere!" and volunteering for Blues Night Out, "which is so much fun, it never seems like work." Another favorite was being part of the flash mob during a service, "was such fun and reflects the fun and joy that's part of worship here."

Vicki has been married to husband, Gary, for 32 years. They have two adult daughters, Monica, and Katharine, and a four-legged child, a black Lab named Barkley. She is the di-

rector of public relations at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre and also teach a class for freshmen there.

Hobbies and interests of Vicki's include reading, writing, scrapbooking, film and theatre. She is a volunteer for St. Luke's Hospice, where she teaches a memoir workshop as part of the hospice bereavement program.

Vicki has been a member of the Mission Committee since joining the church. She has volunteered on Soup Night and at Blues Night Out and has also been a volunteer at the Country Holidays and Country Sale. You will see her at Sunday services as a lay reader and greeter.

"Why do I love my church? I love my church because it is one of the most welcoming faith communities I've ever known. I always remember that people greeted me by name very soon after I began attending. A stranger quickly feels welcome and it is wonderful to be part of a church where members care so much for one another."

Harvest Home—Mum Sponsors

It is time to start planning the produce display. Bring your canned goods, produce, cut flowers, cornstalks, herbs, etc. to Memorial Hall from 9-10AM on Saturday, September 20, 2015. Food collected will be divided between the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and the Ecumenical Food Bank.

Chrysanthemums will also be included in the display and later given to homebound members of the congregation. The congregation is invited to sponsor these individual Mum plants by using the form below.



Please **print** your information on this form and place in the offering plate with your payment (checks payable to Union UCC) or mail to the church office **no later than Sunday, August 30, 2015.**

I would like to sponsor # _____ potted Mum(s) for a **HOMEBOUND MEMBER**.

I would like to sponsor # _____ potted Mum(s) for **DISPLAY** which I may pick up after 10:30 service, Sept 20.

I will pick up my Mum(s) following the service. ☐ YES ☐ NO

TOTAL # OF MUM(S) _____ **X \$5.50 per Mum = TOTAL \$** _____ **Envelope Number:** _____

Sponsor's Name: _____ **Phone/Cell No:** _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



Stewardship Committee

Union UCC is an active, growing church supporting many and varied ministries and missions to the congregation, the community, and the world. All of these ministries are made possible through your donations through the envelope packets and e-giving, or special envelopes for special missions or ministries.

Roughly 80% of church giving is provided by 25% of the individuals or families (210 envelope units) that make up our church family. This group of 210 giving units are giving at least \$10 a week to support Union UCC, some are giving \$20, \$50, or \$100 per week.

We are very grateful for the support from these families, and those that do more than their fair share to grow our ministries. Thank you.

But we can do better -

Consider the possibilities to serve God, the extra mission work, the extra programs for all ages, special worship guests and more if **every family would give \$50 additional support each year**, or maybe an additional \$100 per year. Our future will blossom with additional support from everyone in the church family.

Union UCC is blessed to be active and vibrant, your continued support will help us to grow and strengthen our faith to the Neffs Community and the world. Show your support and pride in your church by inviting family, friends, neighbors or guests to attend a worship service, a special event, a children's program or just a visit with a pastor.

Summer vacations and sports events keeping you away from Sunday services? Just mail in your offering envelopes to the church office, or try our convenient e-giving program. Union UCC's mission and ministry continues all summer long, your support is greatly appreciated.

God is still speaking,

Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Blessing of the Animals

Perhaps you feed birds in your backyard, or create a wildlife habitat by providing water, planting shrubs, trees and flowers that provide cover for God's creatures. There are many ways in which we can care for God's creatures. One is to offering a blessing to those creatures who God has given us as pets. On **July 19**, we will worship outdoors at the Union UCC grove at the 10:30 worship service. We will have a special service for the "Blessing of the Animals". We invite you to bring your animals to be blessed*. Perhaps your animal does not travel well or would find the presence of many strangers uncomfortable. If that is the case, please bring a photo of your pet for a blessing.

Property Committee

Taking care of the church property is a year long job, much like that of your own home, only ten times bigger. There are weekly chores, monthly chores and yearly chores which are taken care of, some by our staff, some by volunteers, some by hired professionals.



Just in the past two months we have had the oil burner cleaned, the AC units serviced, gutters cleaned, slates repaired, lines painted on the grove parking lot, lawn fertilized, elevator inspected, plumbing pipes repaired and a few other routine items.

As we head into summer, facility caretaker Ron will be cleaning and waxing the tile floors throughout the building. A small project in the basement kitchen will take place as the wooden pass through windows will be removed and replaced with roll up doors, allowing better viewing between the kitchen and Fellowship Hall, and will be easier to use for our church chefs, cooks, and volunteers.

We take pride in the care of our church property so that our staff, members and guests can share in God's spirit and love, through worship, mission, fellowship and more.

Enjoy the summer and God's beauty all around.

Rev. Alan Miller Update: Alan has successfully completed 12 weeks of chemo; and will receive radiation therapy throughout the summer. During this treatment, Alan will be on sabbatical from Monday, June 29th and return to the Office on Tuesday, September 8th

You may ask why we offer such a service. God created animals and humans and has given us the gift of a special relationship with our pets. God's unconditional love for us is often reflected in the warm, unconditional welcome we receive from our pets. Let us give thanks for that special bond in this special service.

If you have any questions about this service,
please contact Pastor Patience at 610-248-5587 or
vispastor@unionucc.org.

*Please bring your animal leashed or caged.

*If it rains we will hold 10:30 worship in Memorial Hall

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 September 10th at 7pm. .**

The Country Sale: A Great Day!

"Many hands make light work!" It's True! From Pastor Kris

Thank you to the many, many people and hands who helped to make this year's Country Sale such a wonderful day for our church and community. We hosted over 72 tables or vendors who sold their wares. We also had a table for the Neffs Fire Company, the Union UCC Preschool and the Lehigh County Conference of Churches to support their work. Our grill guys served hundreds of hot dogs and hamburgers, our kitchen crew always fills our stomachs with delicious food, and our book room was filled to the brim with donations. We have some of the best bakers in the area who help to fill our dessert table and bake sale area. The Youth Group raised over \$1,000 at their Walking Taco stand.

This event raised about \$4,000. This money is used to support things like the North Whitehall Fire Police (thank you for their help in directing traffic), our Golden Times ministry, Helping Hands, the Knit Wits, and the church's General Fund. The 'leftovers' that are given to the Recycling Truck raised over \$800 for our Preschool. This year we are also supporting the kitchen window renovation project. What a blessing to be a blessing!

The committee who helps to organize this event includes: Mary Burdick, Janet Creitz, Elaine Moyer, Deb Wenner, Linda Migliori, Maryann Puia, Lisa Wright, Susan Smith, Chrissy Shivok, Diane Schaller, Vicki Sorg, Claire Kern, Phil Wehr, Kathy Bonsell, and Pastor Kris.

Thank you, thank you. And thank you, God.

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/>.





Mission Committee News

Thank you to members of Union UCC who have made a difference in the lives of others in the local community, nationally, and around the world.

Every week **80 - 120 pounds of groceries** are collected to support the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Every week **3 - 4 bags of toiletries** are delivered to Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

Four large boxes of baby food, diapers, and other toiletries were delivered to the Salvation Army Women's Center and the Sixth Street Shelter from the recent Mother's Day collection.

The Mother's Day envelope collection of \$682 was donated to Phoebe Home of Allentown.

Over \$1,900 was collected during the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign in May, helping families after a disaster strikes, including Nepal, Chile, and other countries dealing with natural disasters.

The Vacation Bible School program supported the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Lehigh County Conference of Churches through daily collections of groceries and toiletries, along with a special mission donation to the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

Mission is alive, continuously helping people and families of all ages all year long, please continue to support Union UCC's mission during the summer months through gifts to the benevolence envelopes or donations of groceries and toiletries.

Thank you for caring and sharing.

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

General Synod

Dave Fleming, Phyllis and Aften Hamm Go to General Synod 30

General Synod is a national gathering of about 3,000 United Church of Christ folks every two years who do the business and work of our denomination on the national level. This year the event is June 26-30 in Cleveland, OH.

Dave Fleming has been asked by our Conference Minister, Rev. Alan Miller, to be his substitute due to Alan's medical issues. Dave will not only be representing our church and conference at this meeting, but he will be leading our whole conference's delegation of 25 delegates and additional visitors.

Thank you, Dave, for this gift of time and leadership. He has said, *"I have always enjoyed this glimpse of God's larger church in action, full of inclusion, diversity, education, intense dialog, fellowship, beautiful and inspiring worship, music, dance and great preaching. And, FUN!"*

Thank you, **Phyllis Hamm**, for also serving as a delegate and **Aften Hamm** who is attending as a visitor.

July 26 Preacher: Ashley Werkheiser, Our Seminarian

Ashley has finished her second of three years of seminary at Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Boston, MA. This spring she presented her Credo (Faith Statement) to the Penn Northeast Conference's Members in Discernment Committee and was approved for the next step. This summer she will present a sermon and exegetical paper to them and then if approved, her next step will be to write her ordination paper and prepare her profile (resume). She has one more year of seminary to go and a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education which she'll do next summer. She met with our church's Church and Ministry Committee this May to update them on her progress. **Please come to worship on July 26 to support her journey and to hear God's message from our Seminarian.**

Thank you to the Funds of Lasting Gifts for providing Ashley with financial support for her education.



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.



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!

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

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

We have a new Financial Secretary, Linda Migliori, who have been approved by Consistory, replacing Nancy Christman. Nancy has served for the last several years. Welcome Linda and thank you, Nancy!

God's Garden Gifts

Our vegetable exchange and food bank offering will start on July 1st. Home gardeners will bring in the bounty of their gardens, worshippers are invited to take the vegetables they need and make a donation to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. The Mission Committee will organize the collection and delivery of cash donations and remaining produce to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Deaths

Rachel Diehl passed away on May 27, 2015 and was laid to rest at Union Church Cemetery on June 2, 2015.

Alan Greiss passed away on June 9, 2015 and was laid to rest at Union Church Cemetery on June 12, 2015.

Donald Reider passed away on June 9, 2015 and was laid to rest at Union Church Cemetery on June 22, 2015.



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

June 28

July 19

August 9/Picnic



Agora Cyber High School

Jarod Pokorny

Northampton High School Graduate

Sarah Cherry

Penn State Hazelton - Physical Therapy Assistant

Northern Lehigh High School Graduates

Lauren Beltz

Shippensburg University- Accounting

Alexis Middaugh

Honors Scholars Program at LCCC

Zachary Moll

Penn State University Park, College of Engineering

Nate Rex

Lehigh University - Computer Science.

Northwestern Lehigh High School Graduates

Claire Bachman

Mansfield University -Biology/Pre-Vet degree

Trisha Nagle

LCCC for Interior Design and Early Childhood Education

Jacob Steidinger

Penn State in Happy Valley – Engineering

Parkland High School Graduates

Ashleigh Albert

Rowan University- Journalism

Fiona Bloise

Philly University - Fashion Merchandising and Management.

Caitlin Carlson

James Madison University - Master's Degree in Education

Laura Davis

University of Southern California

Zach Glosan

LCTI.-Masonry. Joining the Army.

Rhett Jacoby

Millersville University- Environmental Science

Blaire Liscka

Penn State University – Kinesiology

Jordan Lorah

West Chester University - Criminal Justice

Madison Marshall

LCCC in the honors college then to Penn State

Jennifer Ondrey

Vanderbilt University, Peabody College for Cognitive Studies

Katie Purner

Kutztown University -Psychology

Zach Trexler

Widener University Chester, PA. - Physical Therapy.

Jonathan Wenner

Penn State - Computer Science.

Whitehall High School Graduate

Jenni Herbine

University of Pittsburgh-Natural Sciences with a Pre-med track and Global Management with German

College Graduates

Julia Bloise

Duquesne University - Elementary Education.

Nick Bonsell

University of Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music BFA Theatre Design and Production-Technical Production. Automated Rigging Designer at Tait Towers, Lititz, PA.

Elizabeth Geronikos

Master of Science in Nursing Grand Canyon University.

Susan Glosan

LCCC with an A.A. In General Studies. Transferring to Muhlenberg College to major in Religion Studies

Kelsey Imdorf

Kutztown University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice

Darren Lorah

West Virginia University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He will be working at Pany & Lentz Engineering Co, in Allentown.

Brad Nagle

Northampton Community College with an Associate's degree in Applied Science

Lauren Klingensmith

New York University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Neural Science with minors in Music, Chemistry, and Psychology. Planning to attend med school in 2016.

Zachary Wilmer Reichenbach, M.D., Ph.D

Temple University

Angela Snyder

Cedar Crest College with a B.S. in Neuroscience, B.A. in Psychology, Minors in Mathematics, and Health and Wellness. She will be interning this summer as a researcher at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Hannah Snyder-Samuelson

Vassar College, B.A. in Geography, Stewardship and Conservation. Intern at Massachusetts Nature Conservancy

Maddie Townsend

Bachelor of Philosophy Degree in International and Area Studies and Spanish with minors in Film Studies and Portuguese, and a certificate in Latin American Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. Locating to Austin, TX to serve in AmeriCorps to provide literacy tutoring in both English and Spanish to children grades K-2.

Kelly Trussell

Drexel University with BS in Health Sciences Continuing education at Drexel for a doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Dustin Wingate

B.A. Temple University. Will work for "Visit Philadelphia."



Sunday, July 5, 2015

6th Sunday after Pentecost/American Heritage Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Mark 6:1-13

Message: "Let It Go"

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Sandra Craig

10:30 - Claire Kern

Greeters: Ron Snyder; Karl & Karen Imdorf

Acolytes: 8AM - Sonya Shivok

10:30AM - Olivia Schuster, Justin Trexler

Every preacher and church I know has had at least one Sunday where this was the sermon title, based on the popular children's movie, *Frozen*. I'm finally feeling called to do the same. Love it or hate it. Jesus sends out his disciples on a mission and says "Take nothing for your journey, let it go." What are the things that we need to let go of in order to fulfill our mission?

Brass Ensemble will share Patriotic music.

Sunday, July 12, 2015

7th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Message: "The Return of the Prodigal"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

10:30 - Dan Topp

Greeters: Cliff & Carol James; Leanna & Jim Lane

Acolytes: 8AM - Ian Henninger

10:30AM - Justin Trexler, Hannah Horvath

Sunday, July 19, 2015

8th Sunday after Pentecost/Blessing of the Animals

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Outdoor

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Doug Albert

10:30 - Vicki Mayk

Greeters: Karl & Lynne Klinger; Russ and Deirdre Todd

Acolytes: 8AM - Garrett Fitzgerald

Sunday, July 26, 2015

9th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism

Sermon: Ashley Werkheiser, Seminarian

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Susan Rumble

10:30 - Donna Christman

Greeters: Carol Pope; Ronnie Pope; Greg and Johanna Zellner

Acolytes: 8AM - Ian Henninger

10:30AM - Peyton Schlosser, Karl Schmidt

Union UCC 'Babble from the Belfry' July/August 2015

Sunday, August 2, 2015

10th Sunday after Pentecost/Communion/Healing Service

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Revelation 16:12-16

Message: "Kissing Frogs"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - James Ondrey

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Jim & Edie Fella

Acolytes: 8AM - Will Filipovits

10:30AM - Ian Henninger, Garrett Fitzgerald

Sunday, August 9, 2015

11th Sunday after Pentecost/Church Family Picnic

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Outdoor

Sermon: Rev. A. William Metzger

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

Greeters: Nancy Jones; Eric Minnich; SueAnn Hregician

Acolytes: 8AM - Olivia Schuster

Sunday, August 16, 2015

12th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: John 21:15-19

Message: "Aging as a Spiritual Journey"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Doug Albert

10:30 - Dan Topp

Greeters: James Ricketts & Steph Schuster; Jeff & Marcey Kroll

Acolytes: 8AM - Justin Trexler

10:30AM - Olivia Schuster, Peyton Schlosser

Sunday, August 23, 2015

13th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Ephesians 6:10-20

Message: "Living So God Can Use Us"

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Don Penrod

Greeters: Vicki Mayk; Karen Wonderly; Ron Snyder

Acolytes: 8AM - Hannah Horvath

10:30AM - Karl Schmidt, Sonya Shivok

Sunday, August 30, 2014

14th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: James 1:17-27

Message: "Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall"

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Harry Burger

Greeters: Glenn & Susan Mattern; Mary & Lou Burdick

Acolytes: 8AM - Chase Misera

10:30AM - Olivia Schuster, Justin Trexler



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	\$402,337.00	\$63,882.00	\$466,219.00
Expenses	\$378,471.00	\$53,503.00	\$431,974.00
5-31-2015	\$33,510.00	\$31,796.00	\$65,306.00

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 **Gloria L. Beltz**:
John Opreskoe

The following donations were received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Donald P. Diehl**:
Randy & Deborah Mertz

The following donations were received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Rachel A. Diehl**:
John & Gloria Simock
Ronald & Lucille Simock
Donald & Eileen Meyer
Stanley & Jean Wieand

Carolyn M. George
Charles & Barbara Stopp
Loretta S. Wotring
Ronald & Carol Pope
Gary & Nancy Bowen
Jim & Carol Beers
Curtis & Janet Hoffman
Paul & Janet Creitz
Dennis & Darlene Kreitz
John & Nancy Remaley
Richard & Madeline Bingell
Roy & Annie Kern
Diane C. Selig
David & Lucille Hamm
Curtis & Shirley Schneck
Eunice Diehl
Robert & Patricia Swercheck
Mark Liska
Janice Liska

The following donations were

	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	
<u>Date</u>	8AM	10:30AM		<u>Total</u>
May 3	74	168	28	270
May 10	83	208	36	327
May 17	70	445	CFW	515
May 24	63	105	CFW	168
May 31	81	168	15	264

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

May 2014– 1,361 May 2015 – 1,544

AVG ATTENDANCE

May 2014– 340 May 2015 - 309

received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Alan K. Greiss**:
Rick & Kathy Bonsell
John & Janice Rauch
Carol & Maria Churchle
Philip & Julie Wehr
Richard & Madeline Bingell
Mike & Sandy Daumer
James & Carol Beers
Larry & Cynthia Hertzog
Donald & Janet Bachman
Monica Griffith
Bob & Lorraine Christman
Carolyn M. George
Mark Matlock

Pamela S. Hartzell
Frances Lichtenwalner
Paul & Janet Creitz
John & Gloria Simock
Gloria Fallon
Linda & Bernie Flory
Curtis & Janet Hoffman
Maryann Barone
Allen & Mary Blose
Ethel M. Dervarics
Linda & Wilbur Romig
David & Kreider
Dan & Dena Higgins
Ronald & Carol Pope
Rick & Kathy Bonsell

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Ronald Kneller
Facility Caretaker
caretaker@unionucc.org

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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



July 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	2 <u>1pm</u> Bulletin Prep <u>7pm</u> Christian Ed	3 <u>CHURCH OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u>	4
6	7 <u>9am</u> Program Staff Meeting	8 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	9 <u>6:30pm</u> Preschool Board	10 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	11
13	14 <u>1pm</u> Property <u>7pm</u> LPT	15 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	16	17 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	18
20 <u>7pm</u> Consistory	21 <u>9am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10am</u> Program Staff	22 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	23	24 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	25
27	28 <u>7pm</u> LPT	29 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	30	31 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	
SUNDAYS					
5 <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	12 <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 Tech Com Mtg	19 Blessing of the Animals <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Pre-baptism <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/ Outdoor Worship <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds <u>4pm</u> Scrapbookers	26 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Worship/Baptism Children's Video <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds		

August 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1
3 <u>7pm</u> FOLG; Fellowship Committee	4	5 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	6 <u>7pm</u> Christian Ed	7 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	8
10 <u>7pm</u> FOLG	11 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>7:30pm</u> Worship Committee	12 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	13 <u>6:30pm</u> Preschool Board	14 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	15 <u>4:30pm</u> SMA Rehearsal
17 <u>7pm</u> Consistory	18	19 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits	20	21 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>4pm</u> Blues Nite Out	22 <u>4pm</u> Blues Nite Out
24	25 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>9am</u> Newsletter Mailing	26	27	28 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	29
30					
SUNDAYS					
2 Communion <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Veggie Tales <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	9 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service Church Family Worship Outdoor Worship <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Church Picnic	16 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Veggie Tales <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds <u>4pm</u> Scrapbookers	23 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Veggie Tales <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	30 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Veggie Tales <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	