



► INTERIM PASTOR 2

○ Issue 9

○ Vol. 39

○ October 2015



► CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



► YOUTH GROUP 5

Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
BUILDING THE FUTURE

Basket Social-Oct. 7

Doors open at 5:30 pm/Social begins 7 pm

Fellowship Hall, Union UCC, Neffs

Tickets are \$5 each with 25 chances on a sheet and are available from Dolly Mulcahy, 610-262-8696, or the church office. There are only 150 tickets, so secure yours early! Hot dogs & soda served

Donations of filled baskets (valued about \$10) & door prizes can be brought to the church office at any time, or to Fellowship Hall between noon & 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct 7. Donations of baked goods can be brought to the kitchen on Wednesday evening. If you need a basket, call Dave or Dolly Mulcahy.



Country Holidays Craft Show

Union UCC, 5550 Route 873, Neffs

Saturday, October 17, 2015

9am-3pm

Juried Crafts, Food & More





From the Interim Pastor

"Growing a Healthy Church"

One hundred years ago the church was the social center of a community. People were grateful to walk long distances to participate in church services, church dinners, and other church events. The slogan of the day: *"If you build it, they will come."* Churches were filled to capacity.

No longer. Technology and social media now provide us with countless opportunities for social interactions of all kinds. From the internet to school functions to sports events to social organizations, there are many other things competing for our time. Churches are no longer filled to capacity.

It's time for we good church folk to acknowledge that the old *"If you build it they will come"* mentality no longer works. It's time for we good church folk to recognize that we need to develop a new attitude. It's time for we good church folk to get out of our pews and start inviting people to come and grow our church.

We Pennsylvania Germans are a bit modest and reluctant to get too excited about telling other people about our faith. We prefer the security of our own private pews. But if Union UCC is going to continue to exist, we all need to get out and grow a healthy church. This means telling others about the good things we have going here and inviting them to come experience the Spirit for themselves.

As part of the Leadership Planning process, the Evangelism Committee is committed to growing a healthy church. We are praying and brainstorming new ideas about how to increase our membership by 100 new active members (in addition to Confirmations) by the year 2017. We will be asking you to join us in this effort. Those who have gone before us have built it; now it's up to us to make sure that people come.

Pastor Allan

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, September 21st, 2015 by President Brad Hackett. The Treasurer's Report and August/September bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that the Roll Up Doors in kitchen were installed. Blues Night out was a success- raised \$5,600. There is a need to buy an auto scrubber. This will cost roughly \$4,000. It was approved by consistory to approach Memorial Fund to cover the costs.

Christian Education Committee reported that Trunk or Treat- Oct. 24th from 3-5pm; sign up on Kathy Bonsell's door. Sunday School, Children's Church, & Little Lambs Nursery are running- could use more help. Salsa fundraiser is underway.

Mission Committee reported that \$500 from Mission Discretionary account was donated to Northern Lehigh Food Bank; \$100 donated to Ashleigh Albert for her mission trip work in Africa; and \$150 to Day-break for kitchen improvements. Harvest Home was successful. A beautiful display in church along with donations from church members. 450 lbs of groceries donated to NL Food Bank, along with 400 lbs of potatoes. 500 lbs of groceries and produce donated to the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank for a total of over 1,350 lbs of food collected and donated. The Crop Walk is on October 11th.

Church and Ministry reported the results of Staff Market Analysis of Compensation and Recommendation from Church and Ministry are that our Staff are currently paid very close to or about equal to staff of other similar churches for similar positions. No salary adjustments are necessary. The committee would like to reserve the prerogative to

utilize a portion of the \$5,000 reserve set aside for one time bonuses for staff whose performance may warrant consideration in the spring of 2016. Pastor Kris is taking vacation from Nov. 23rd- Nov. 30th and Dec. 28th- Jan. 4th.

Evangelism Committee reported that they are Rethinking and reorganizing the committee- recruited 3 new members- looking for more! Marilyn Hill agreed to serve as chairperson. Next meeting Oct. 13th - 7 pm. Renaming to the Welcoming Committee!

Stewardship Committee reported we need to increase giving! New members are in the group with some great new ideas. Increase each giving unit (family) by \$200/year. Ask congregation for their help- increase by \$5 a week or 72 cents a day! Asking consistory for 100% commitment to increase giving by whatever they can each week. Want our leaders to model what we hope others will do.

Fellowship Committee reported that Basket Social is on October 7, 2015. Pancake Supper is on 2/9/16. Next meeting is November 2nd.

Worship Committee reported that there are lots of exciting worship opportunities coming up! Extra 3 pm service for Christmas Eve.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, October 19th, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. in Room 101.



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]

A Draft Union UCC Plan for Ministry & Mission was shared with the congregation on 9/27/15 and two [2] Congregational Forums were held on Sunday, September 27th, at 9:15-10:15 AM and 11:45-12:45 PM in Memorial Hall for congregational review, input and refinement. **Thanks to all who participated in these Planning Forums.** The Leadership Planning Team [LPT] will be final drafting Union's Plan and recommending it to Consistory at its December 21st meeting. **After Consistory endorsement the Draft Plan it will be recommended to the Congregation for adoption at the January 24th, 2016, semi-annual congregational meeting.**

The **Search Committee**, comprised of Sue Ondrey, Ardith Kuhns, Teresa Dalrymple, Donna Christman, Dave Fleming [Chair], Carrington Smith, Phil Wehr, Don Penrod, Aften Hamm & Dennis Foster, was installed in worship on September 27th, 2015. They are diligently working to Draft Union's Local Church Profile, utilizing input from the LPT and the Congregation. On November 10th the Search Committee will present a Draft of Union UCC's Profile to the LPT for its review and refinement. Following this they will be final Drafting the Profile and recommending it to the Consistory at their December 21st meeting for their endorsement.

Selected portions of the Draft Profile will be presented to the Congregation for endorsement at the January 24th, 2016, semi-annual congregational meeting.

On October 4th we will be holding two [2] Congregational Forums to share and discuss various perspectives on same sex marriage of members who are in the care of Union. Consistory will be revisiting their 2006 Policy on this subject in October and November.

We are on schedule to begin the search for Union's next Senior Pastor in February 2016, 2 months ahead of our original schedule!

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 continue to keep Union UCC, its staff, leaders and the entire congregation in your prayers.**

Pastor Bill

Rev. A. William Metzger

Consistory and the Open & Affirming Ad Hoc Team invite you to attend

The 3rd Adult Study/Discussion session, using the UCC's "God is Still Speaking on Marriage" curriculum, will be held on 10/11/15, from 9:15-10:15 AM

10/4/15 Congregational Forums [CF's]

CF #5 - Sunday, October 4th, 9:15-10:15 AM &

CF #6 - Sunday, October 4th, 11:45-12:45 PM in Memorial Hall

The purpose of the 10/4/15 Congregational Forums is to share information, hold discussion and gather information as one of several sources of input to the Consistory as they reconsider the 2006 Policy on same sex marriage. At the Forums we will hear various perspectives on same sex marriage and then break into small groups with Consistory and the O&A Ad Hoc Team members for sharing, reflection and providing input on worksheets designed for small group discussion. Following small group sharing each table will debrief their discussions and hand in their worksheets so the information can be consolidated. Utilizing this, and other information, the O&A Ad Hoc Team will consider recommending a revision to the 2006 Policy to allow same sex couples, in our care, to be married in the church. If they recommend this change, they will draft a proposed revision to the Policy and provide it to Consistory on October 19th, asking them to make a decision at their November 16th Consistory meeting. Consistory's decision will be shared with the congregation.

Please prayerfully consider participating in these remaining educational and information gathering sessions. If you are unable to attend and/or are interested in talking privately with any Consistory member, O&A Ad Hoc Team member or a Pastor on this subject, you are invited and encouraged to do so.

Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

Email: dired@unionucc.org



All children, Kindergarten—6th grade, are invited to be a part of our Junior Youth Group, known as the CIA (CHILDREN IN ACTION). Their first event will be GLOW GOLF at Spring Hill Golf on October 9th at 7:00. The cost is \$4 per participant. Parents must provide transportation and remain at the event.



Please RSVP to neffsCIA@gmail.com by Oct. 2nd.

Union UCC and Union Evangelical Lutheran would like to invite all children to our fourth

TRUNK-OR-TREAT on Saturday, October 24th, 3:00 to 5:00 pm. We will be in both our grove parking lot and the Lutheran lot with a short cemetery walk in between.



Trunk or Treat

Wear your costume and pick up treats at each participating decorated vehicle. In our lot, you can vote on the car that you think is the BEST DECORATED and the vehicle that is the MOST CREATIVE. Both churches will also have food for our hungry trunk-or-treaters. Union UCC is also having a Food Drive—Bring canned goods for the local food bank and receive a special treat! Hope you can join us at this fun and safe event!

We are still looking for families, groups and/or organizations to decorate vehicles and hand out candy. Please sign up on Kathy's door or in Memorial Hall.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We will continue to use the curriculum, **Whirl**, in Children's Church. It is a lectionary based curriculum that emphasizes the church year and worship experience. This curriculum also includes short videos and weekly use of the Bible. There is a Whirl Story Bible for 1st—2nd grade and a Whirl NRSV Bible for 3rd-6th grade. We will have Bibles in the classrooms for the children to use. Another component is a leaflet that includes in-class activities and take home activities. We hope each family will take the time to complete some of the weekly activities to further experience and explore the Sunday lesson. We are shifting our grade groupings to fit the lessons. 1st and 2nd grade will meet in Room 7, 3rd and 4th grade will have class in Room 5, and 5th and 6th grade will gather in Room 4. Preschool/K will meet in Room 100 and use the Lil'K curriculum.



OCTOBER Children's Church Calendar

Oct. 4 **World Wide Communion** Mark 10:2-16
 Oct. 11 **Sneaker Stroll (mission)** Mark 10:17-31
 Oct. 18 *Children's Sabbath Sunday* Mark 10: 35-45
 Oct. 25 Mark 10: 46-52

SNEAKER STROLL (our version of the CROP WALK)

October 11th during Children's Church. Wear your sneakers or crocs and bring your donation envelope!



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 youthgroup@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).



[stancatastrophe](http://stancatastrophe.com)

Sleepout for Homelessness—THANK YOU to everyone for your support with this event. Watch for a tally of money raised for Synergy of Valley Youth House, an organization that helps with youth who are abused, neglected or homeless.



Corn Maze Sunday, October 11, 5pm.

We are going to Bear Rock Junction. Meet at church (eat supper at home) Bring a flashlight!. \$8 cash due by Friday, October 9 to PK. (No checks)

Saturday, October 17 Country Holidays Craft Show 9am-2pm

Come to shop and sign up to volunteer for an hour shift to serve in the kitchen, to serve beverages or food.

FUNNEL CAKES are coming! Fundraiser for Disney Trip.

Brad Hackett Returns to Breakfast Club on Sun Nov 1 9:15-

10:15 He'll share his insights about the college search process as a track coach at Muhlenberg. Parents welcome too.

Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale Pick up your flier at church starting on Sunday, November 1st. Funds raised are for youth group and Disney trip.

Hang in Night Sat Nov 7 7-9:30pm Music, food, games, friends and time to hang in together. FREE: bring a canned good for the food bank.

Confirmation Retreat Nov 20-22 If you have been confirmed and you'd like to join us, contact Pastor Kris for forms. \$40

Sun Dec 13 Youth Group Advisory Team Lunch and Meeting 11:30-1



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

Fundraisers: M&Ms! We handed out plastic tubes of M&Ms in worship on Sep 13 and Oct 4. Please fill the tube with quarters (\$14), bills or a check (To "Union UCC Youth Group") and return them through the offering plate by **November 1**.

Thanks!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:15-10:15am

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

Starts Oct 4

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

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, Psalm 17: 8

Sunday Morning Alive



Sunday Morning Alive leads worship on Sundays at 10:30 for about six Sundays throughout the year.

We have a worship team that includes a group of singers, guitar players, keyboards and drums.

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

October 18 at 10:30

Worship

Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday, October 6**

12 noon – 1:30pm

Program: "Healthy Rhythms" with Moe Jerant of the Lehigh Valley Drum Circle

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

Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

Women's Retreat

April 22-24, 2016

Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg

Lavender Springs Spa: Where Women Rest in God's Faithfulness

Members, Friends, Family members are invited.

Cost: \$125 (Collecting \$60 deposit now, final payment due April 5.)

Pay to "Union UCC" with memo "Women's Retreat."

Please mail or put in Barbara Carinci's mailbox.

Leaders: Pastor Kris and the Planning Team

Home Visitation Members' Birthdays

Dorothy George - Oct. 10

Eastern Comfort, 206 Diamond St
Slatington, PA 18080-1589

Marion Snyder-Oct. 10

4323 Route 309
Schnecksville, PA 18078

Dorothy Rabert-Oct. 15

At Home at Parkland
4315 Washington St.
Schnecksville, PA 18078

Hilda Nagel - Oct. 23

2757 PA Rt 309
Orefield, PA 18069-9775

Adeline Miller- Oct. 29

Whitehall Manor
1177 6th St
Apt. C69B
Whitehall, PA 18052



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.**



All Saints' Sunday November 1, 2015

Come celebrate those who have received the Catch the Spirit Award this year and we will remember those who have entered into eternal rest. Recipients and family members, please join us as we honor you and your family members.



Bill and Marilyn Hill are our Catch the Spirit recipients for October. They will be recognized on October 25, 2015 at the 10:30 am worship service.

Bill and Marilyn have been nominated by the Welcoming Committee (formerly the Evangelism Committee). Bill and Marilyn both enjoy playing the chimes with chime choir, they are members of the Welcoming (Evangelism) committee, and Marilyn is on Consistory. They both enjoy attending Friday morning Bible Study classes and Sunday school classes. Both Bill and Marilyn have also helped with preparing dinners for Daybreak, and appreciate Nancy Christman for encouraging them to get involved with this service.

Marilyn, prior to joining Union UCC, had always been a member of the Presbyterian church, first in Homestead, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh; then in Marion Center, Pennsylvania, in Indiana County, and finally, in Mountaintop, Pennsylvania. Her mother took Marilyn and her three brothers, and sister to Sunday school every Sunday. "To this day I still remember many of the songs we learned there." Marilyn says that her mom is the person who planted the seed of faith in her by being so faithful herself. Bill was raised in the Lutheran church in Dravosburg, Pennsylvania, also a suburb of Pittsburgh. His parents were very active in their church. When the Hills married, Bill became a Presbyterian.

Bill and Marilyn have three adult children. Dave has been in the Army for 25 years, having graduated from West Point in 1990. He was recently promoted to Brig. General, and he and his family currently live in Dallas, Texas. Their son, Ryan, and his family live in Schnecksville. Ryan works for PPL as Director of Corporate Communications. His wife, Jana, has been a member of Union UCC since she was a child. Their daughter, Lori, and her family live in Fleetwood. Her career as a school speech therapist is currently on hold until her youngest child enters school. All told, the Hills have 11 grandchildren. Some of their hobbies are reading, helping out whenever asked with the grandkids, as well as attending their many sports and musical performances.

Their response to 'How has being a part of the church changed your life?': Marilyn says, "A favorite quote of mine is, 'Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.' by Jane Howard. Our Union UCC church has become our church family and we are richer for it."

Some of their favorite memories made here at Union UCC were in Bible Study classes with Pastor Tom. Why do the Hills love their church? "The people are friendly people, great music, and great messages for leading a Christian life."

Thank you Bill and Marilyn, for your commitment, leadership, and spirit that you share with us so generously.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, November 14.

All men of the church are invited to join us for breakfast on Saturday, November 14.





Stewardship Committee

By Phil Wehr

Trust in the Promise

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you . . .
To give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

For the past year, church members and our staff have been hard at work planning for the future of Union UCC and the search for the next Senior Pastor. Members have given of their time, shared their thoughts, and prayed for guidance for our future. What a blessing.

Union UCC's ministry of warm hospitality, inclusive vision, witness for justice, and hope filled generosity brings life to the church and the community. We are living in hope, and inspiring hope in others, inviting new people to come through our doors, inviting all to become faithful stewards of Union UCC.

The mission and ministry of Union UCC has continued to thrive this past year, and leaders are planning for the future. A future with hope.

Out of that hope will spring generosity, a generosity that will share what you have been so abundantly blessed with by God, allowing Union UCC to flourish and be a vital, thriving place of ministry and good news to the Neffs community and the world, in ways you can hardly begin to imagine, and yet you dare to hope for.

Please show your support of Union UCC's ministry through regular use of your church envelopes in the collection plate or by mailing them to the church office.

Give Hope.



Property Committee

By Phil Wehr

During the summer months, facility caretaker Ron Kneller has been busy performing the annual cleaning and waxing of all the tiled floors through out the building. All of the classrooms, hallways, choir room, youth room, preschool areas, along with Memorial and Fellowship Halls were fully cleaned and waxed by Ron this summer.

We thank Ron for the special attention given to our floors around the church property. Our church building is utilized by so many members and groups throughout the week, month and year. We encourage everyone to participate in keeping all rooms and areas tidy and clean when finished with their events, to allow Ron or others to prepare the room for the next event as needed.

Meanwhile, Maria Beltz works regularly to keep the sanctuary clean, along with numerous bathrooms around the property. Together, our facility caretakers work hard to keep all of the rooms within the church property clean and attractive for all services, meetings, events, and activities.

Thanks to the many members, committees, groups, and guests who also take the time to clean up and organize after their events, taking pride in our church and showing respect for the ability to use the church facilities.

Union UCC's spirit shines and glows, welcoming all to our church, come join us in service and mission to God.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Are you interested in joining our church and making a commitment to practice your faith here?

Pastor Kris and church leaders invite you to three gatherings on **November 1, 8 and 15 at 9:15am until 10:15am**. We will meet in the Memory Room (Room 200) on the second floor.

This an informal time to get to know each other and ask questions. Attendance is not required to join.

You will be welcomed as members in worship on **Sunday, November 15th at the 8am or 10:30am worship service**.

Contact Pastor Kris if you have questions. assocpastor@unionucc.org 610-767-6961

RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

Each year one million people are diagnosed with skin cancer; one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in the course of a lifetime. To put it in perspective, more people have had skin cancer than all other cancers combined! The most frequent cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light, but exposure to high levels of radiation or contact with certain chemicals can also cause skin cancer. Although the number of skin cancer cases is growing at a rapid rate, increased awareness results in earlier diagnosis and better outcomes.

Most skin cancers start as pre-cancerous lesions- they are changes in skin that can become cancerous over time. There are three main types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma. Basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas are also known as 'non-melanoma' skin cancers.

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common type. It is rarely fatal but can cause disfigurement if allowed to grow. Bumps can look raised and smooth or pearly, with possible crusting or bleeding. It often presents as a sore that does not heal.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the second most common form, though the incidence has increased 200% over the past 30 years. SCC is fatal in about 2% of cases. Its appearance is usually a well-defined red, scaling, thickened bump on sun-exposed skin. It can bleed or grow into a larger mass if untreated.

Melanoma, or malignant carcinomas, are brown-to-black pigmented lesions, and can often include a change in an existing mole or appearance of a new mole in adulthood.

The following "ABCDE" list is an easy guide to remember what kinds of skin/mole features that should be noted and evaluated.

- A: asymmetry- one side of the lesion does not look like the other side
- B: border irregularity- margins may be notched or irregular
- C: color- a mixture of brown, black, tan, blue, or white
- D: diameter- cancerous lesions can be larger than 6mm across (like a pencil eraser)
- E: evolution- has a mole changed over time?

Treatment for the different types of skin cancer can include: lesion removal, surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. Sometimes a combination of therapies is required. The best ways to limit your chance of developing skin cancer are: avoid tanning beds, limit sun exposure, and protect yourself with hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen. It is good practice to see a dermatologist yearly and to self-monitor any changes in skin. Alterations in size, shape, color, elevation, pain, itching, ulceration, or bleeding of a mole should be evaluated immediately.



In September the Preschool celebrated the start of our 25th year by welcoming 47 students to our 3 year old, 4 year old and Pre-K classes. Students and teachers dove right into learning with apple themed lessons that focused on the letters and numbers of the week. In October we turned our attention to learning about our community complete with a visit from the fire department for Fire Safety Week. Then it was off to the pumpkin patch for some seasonal fun. We will wrap up October with our traditional Halloween parties and Costume Parade.

With a rolling admissions process, there is still time to enroll for the 2015-2016 school year. If you, your family, or your friends are interested in enrolling a child and would like more information or a registration form, please stop by or call the Preschool office at 610-767-5327. Registration forms can also be downloaded from our website at www.unionucc.org/preschool/.

NEFFS PRESCHOOL RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

It is time to start cleaning out those closets and drawers. There will be a truck by the Church Grove from October 10th through the 17th to collect your unwanted clothing and household items. This fundraiser benefits Neffs UCC Preschool.

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

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

Blues Nite Out

By Phil Wehr

Beautiful weather brought record crowds to Neffs Church Grove to enjoy the music and food provided for this years Blues Nite Out. Two fun nights of community fellowship sponsored by Union United Church of Christ.

The Bryant Brothers returned Friday night to a large crowd of followers who steadily flowed into the grove as the music began. Blues Nite Out is the favorite performance spot of the year for the Bryant Brothers. They truly appreciate the opportunity to play in our beautiful grove, brothers Tom and Bob and the rest of the band performed a variety of classic rock and blues songs through out the evening.

Saturday's event started off with guitarists Jake Kaligis and Mike Rauscher. The crowds rolled in as their set progressed, their musical style pleasing to all with quality vocals and guitar skills. Always a treat for them to come to the grove.

The grove was packed surrounding the stage and pavilion as the Sarah Ayers Band started their main set. Sarah was accompanied by guitarist Lou Franco, harmonica player James Supra, bassist Dan Evans and drummer Jim Ruffi. The audience enjoyed her original songs, along with her classic cover songs Me & Bobby McGee, Son of a Preacher Man, and so much more. Sarah comments "This is our favorite family gig of the year, we love coming to Blues Nite Out and Neffs Church Grove".

Special thanks to all Blues Nite Out helpers (over 70 members), bakers, chefs, ice cream dippers, raffle ticket sellers and music lovers who help to make this community event a success, and blessings for the beautiful weather. **All proceeds support various missions and ministries within Union UCC.**



Mission Committee News

By Phil Wehr

Operation Project Food Bank

Every November, Union UCC is responsible to provide volunteers to help distribute food at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank in Emerald. **Ten to twelve volunteers are needed on Thursday November 5, 12, and 19 from 3:30 pm - 7:15 pm and on Saturday November 21 from 8:30 am - 12:00 noon.** Please consider providing time to help others, call Phil Wehr 610-767-3657 or Wilbur Romig 610-285-2191. The food bank is located on Center Street in Emerald, directly across from the Washington Township Municipal building.

The NL food bank provides food relief to over 250 families in the local area. Director Dale Bryfogle manages the huge task of overseeing the daily operations of the food bank, along with many volunteers from the community, over twelve participating local churches, and other service organizations.

She is always looking for more regular helpers to organize, stock shelves, distribute food and other duties. Volunteer opportunities are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Please contact Phil or Wilbur for more information.



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



Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Pastor Allan will lead a Bible Study of the Prophets, using a series presented by Walter Brueggemann: *Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture*.

October 2 "Moses, Pharaoh, the Prophets and Us"

October 9 "The Prophets as Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant"

October 16 No Class (Craft Show set up)

October 23 "Moral Coherence in a World Of Power, Money and Violence"

October 30 "The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial"

Sunday Morning Adult Class

9:15-10:15 - Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

October 4 No Class (Congregational Forum)

October 11 Pastor Patience will conclude the series "God is Still Speaking about Marriage."

October 18 "Faith and Film" Series

Pastor Allan will show clips from and discuss the film *Mr. Holland's Opus*.

October 25 "Faith and Film" Series

Pastor Allan will show clips from and discuss the film *Fiddler on the Roof*.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday 7-8:30PM room 5.



We are starting with Genesis and how it relates to the coming of the Messiah.

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

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

Tom & Linda Anderson, Donald & Janet Bachman, Madeline Bingell, Eunice Diehl, Teresa Dalrymple, Phyllis Hamm, Judy Hoffman, Eleanor & Ron Kleckner, Linda Migliori, Barbara Panner, Linda & Wilbur Romig, Jill Schlosser, and Marianne Ulrich

Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

At a recent office visit to my physician I was asked to sign in electronically. I had to fill in my name, address and insurance information on a small electronic "tablet," similar to an iPad or mini computer. The receptionist rattled off instructions very quickly and handed me the tablet. Even though I use my smart phone and computer on a daily basis, it sounded as though the receptionist was speaking Russian. I sat down and did my best to complete the required questionnaire. As I proceeded I couldn't help but remember a "factoid" that I had heard some time ago. "If you were born after 1963 speaking "computer" is second nature to you, similar to speaking in your first language, such as English. If you were born before 1963 learning computers will be more challenging.

I then began to think of my wonderful parishioners born before 1963 who might be going to a doctor with similar information gathering methods. Hand us a clipboard with a pen and a piece of paper with a list of

questions and we're fine. Hand us a computer and expect us to figure it out without guidance and we might be lost. So what can we do?

Attend the Phoebe Institute on Aging Conference October 15 from 8-4 at DeSales University. The Phoebe Institute on Aging promotes improved quality of life and care for the aging and their families. **The official deadline is October 2, but you may be able to register if you call Tina Brady at 610-794-5150 as soon as you read this newsletter.**

Reach out to a teenager! Many of you have wonderful grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends to reach out to. If you don't, please call Pastor Patience at 610-248-5587 and I'll connect you with a helpful teen or young adult who could help teach you how to speak "computer".



Staying a Part of our Church Family

By Pastor Kris

Our pastors, staff and leaders want to thank everyone for all that they do: attend worship, support an event, join a group or committee, share in leadership, pray for our church, or give donations of money. Thank you, and thank you, God!

We realize that there are times when attending church, participating in events, or contributing financially to our church's mission and ministry is not always possible. Know that we are always praying for everyone and are always glad to support you in these times.

We also want to remind you that we take the commitment to membership here seriously. As our staff and leaders do all that they can to provide you with meaningful opportunities and pastoral care, we need you to do all that you can do to stay connected as well.

The minimal requirements to be a member here and to maintain membership here are to take communion and contribute financially each year. We will reach out to you if we see this isn't happening and offer support and a chance to reconnect. We hope that you will reach out to us to let us know when your life circumstances have changed, if there's a way that we can care for you, or if there is a reason you are no longer staying connected to our church family as a member.

Please contact a pastor or the church office if you have questions about your church membership.

Little Lambs Nursery

Marianne Ulrich is our Little Lambs coordinator. We need one additional volunteer to sign up for each Sunday. Please sign up on the nursery door.

Book Club



Next book: "The Dirty Parts of the Bible" by Sam Terode. We will meet October 28 at 7pm in the Memory Room. For more info contact Kathi Charles kac4b@hotmail.com or 610-462-5551.

How Many More Days Until Christmas Eve? From Pastor Kris

I know that many of you are trying to make the last days of summer last as long as you can. But soon enough you'll be thinking about Christmas. We wanted to let you know that as you and your family begin to start making plans for Christmas Eve Worship that **we are adding another worship service on Christmas Eve at 3pm**. Here's what the night will look like:

***NEW* 3pm** – Candlelight and Communion, Special Music

5pm – Candlelight (No Communion), Children's Choirs/Family Service, Special Music

8pm – Candlelight and Communion, High School Choir, Combined Adult Choir, Special Music

11pm - Candlelight and Communion, Combined Adult Choir, Special Music

As always, we love to have volunteers help us with various responsibilities throughout the night. ***If you can help with 1, 2, 3 or all of the services please contact Pastor Kris, Brad Hackett, Phil Wehr, or Dennis Rothrock.*** We need people to help with candles, set up and clean up, serving communion, taking the offering and a variety of other things to make it a special night for everyone. It's one of the best nights to hang out at church. Refreshments provided, too.

NOTE: The Sunday After Christmas Sunday, December 27th

There will NOT be 8am Heritage worship.

There will only be 10:30am Horizon Worship.





Sunday, October 4, 2015

19th Sunday after Pentecost/Worldwide Communion

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 13:33-34

Message: "No White Bread Here"

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Sandra Craig

10:30 - Claire Kern

Greeters: Cliff & Carol James, Jim & Leanna Lane

Acolytes: 8AM - Will Filipovits

10:30AM - Garrett Fitzgerald, Hannah Horvath

Sunday, October 11, 2015

20th Sunday after Pentecost/CROP Walk

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Sneaker Stroll

Text: Luke 18:9-14

Message: "Beyond Humblebragging"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

10:30 - Dan Topp

Greeters: Ron Snyder, Karl & Karen Imdorf

Acolytes: 8AM - Chase Misera

10:30AM - Amanda Lane, Olivia Schuster

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](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)
- You can sign up for **E-giving** at no cost to you?

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**

Sunday, October 18, 2015

21st Sunday after Pentecost/Healing Service

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 13:45-46

Message: "The Pearl of Great Price"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Doug Albert

10:30 - SueAnn Hregician

Greeters: Karl & Lynne Klinger, Russ & Deirdre Todd

Acolytes: 8AM - Karl Schmidt, Jr.

10:30AM - Sonya Shivok, Peyton Schlosser

Sunday, October 25, 2015

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 25:13-30

Message: "Ours the Journey"

Sermon: Rev. A. William Metzger

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Vicki Mayk

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

Acolytes: 8AM - Justin Trexler

10:30AM - Ian Henninger, Will Filipovits

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

Every Sunday

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



Continues on Sundays after 8am and 10:30 Worship Services and in between the services in Memorial Hall (on the same level as the sanctuary).

Stop by for snack or drink, to say hello to a friend, or learn about something new about a committee.

Thank you to our hosting committees:

October 4—Christian Ed

October 11—No Committee

October 18—Helping Hands

October 25—Mission Committee



Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
7-1-2015	\$ 9,644.00	\$25,635.00	\$35,279.00
Income	\$30,710.00	\$5,953.00	\$36,663.00
Expenses	\$24,838.00	\$12,128.00	\$36,966.00
8-31-2015	\$15,516.00	\$19,460.00	\$34,976.00

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



TAI CHI Monday mornings, in the choir room from 10-11, ends Nov. 16th
Weds. evenings, starting 9/16 in Room 102 from 6-7, ends Nov. 18th.
SPIRITUALLY FIT Meets every Mon and Wed at 6:30PM.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	8AM	10:30AM		
August 2	90	143	10	243
August 9	60	215	CFW	275
August 16	69	117	9	195
August 23	61	102	9	172
August 30	60	120	15	195

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

August 2014– 1,168 August 2015 – 1,080

AVG ATTENDANCE

August 2014–234 August 2015 - 216

New Salsa Fundraiser

We will be selling Casa De Jorge Salsa. Locally owned and made; with 16 handcrafted artisan salsas to choose from at \$7 a jar. All are Vegan, Gluten, Dairy, and Nut free without artificial flavors and colors. **The more jars we sell the bigger our profit.** Look for Christian Ed Committee members at Coffee Hour.

Orders and money will be due October 18. Proceeds are for gift Bibles and Christian Education Events.



UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

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Ronald Kneller
Facility Caretaker
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Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

Pastor Kris	ext. 25
Pastor Allan	ext. 24
Pastor Patience	ext. 31
Barbara Carinci	ext. 21
Tara Henninger	ext. 22
Kathy Bonsell	ext. 27
Mike Baer	ext. 26
Kitchen	ext. 30



Memorials

The following donation has been received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of

Patricia J. Szapacs:

Horwith Trucks, Inc.
Henry & Joyce Shankweiler
Dalton & Mary Lorah
C. Jean Minnich
Kenneth M. Kemmerer
Ruthann Rex
Peter & Nancy Herzog
Ronald & Lois Szapacs
John & Nancy Remaley
Karl A. Stackhouse
Bellview Pump, LLC
Mike & Joan Schaffer
Gary & Donna Phillips
Jim & Helene Williams
Marlene & David Newhard
Preston & Beverly Williams
Nancy E. Gruber
Jane E. Bush
Dale H. Miller
Barry & Marilyn Rice

Deaths

Patricia Szapacs passed away on September 7, 2015 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on September 11, 2015.

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 December 10th at 7pm. .**

Sacrament of Baptism

On July 26, 2015 the congregation joyfully embraced:

Kennadi Rose Byrne daughter of Ashley Hunsicker and Richard Byrne

Ellie Ann Exaros daughter of Scott and Kim (Yencho) Exaros

Sofia Meckes daughter of Nicole Italiano and Allen Meckes

McKenzie Elizabeth Lewis daughter of Stephen and Jaime (Cantalini) Lewis

Weddings

Laura Deurer and Matt Rothlein were united in marriage under the care of Union UCC on July 26, 2015.

Eric Minnich and Pam Hart were united in marriage under the care of Union UCC on September 12, 2015.

Chad Christman and Vanessa Marie Fegley were united in marriage under the care of Union UCC

2015 Allentown

Who: About 300 walkers from approximately 30 faith communities in the Allentown area

When: October 11, 2014, 1:30 p.m.

Where: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church at Ott and Walnut Streets in the west end of Allentown PA

Why: to raise money for local and global hunger concerns

How: You can walk, sponsor a walker, or keep our walkers in your thoughts and prayers. There is a one mile walk and a six mile walk from which participants may choose.

The Children's Church staff and children will be participating in the annual Sneaker Stroll in the church cemetery to raise money for the CROP Walk. This will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship hour on Sunday, October 11, 2015.



October 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>7pm</u> Christian Ed, Chime Choir, Stewardship/budget	2 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	3
5 <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Fellowship	6 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30</u> Junior Choir <u>7pm</u> Middler Choir <u>7:30pm</u> High School Choir; Bible Study	7 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>5:30pm</u> Basket Social <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry	8 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	9 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	10
12 <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 <u>10am</u> Helping Hands <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7pm</u> Welcoming Committee <u>7:30pm</u> Bible Study; Worship Committee	14 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> LPT	15 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Search Committee	16 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	17 <u>9am</u> Country Holidays Craft Show
19 <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Consistory	20 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7:30pm</u> Bible Study	21 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits, Preschool Board <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	22 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	23 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	24 <u>3pm</u> Trunk or Treat
26 <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	27 <u>9am</u> Newsletter Mailing <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7:30pm</u> Bible Study	28 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Book Club	29 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; LPT	30 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	31

SUNDAYS

4 Worldwide Communion <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Mission Committee	11 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service Sneaker Stroll <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	18 Healing Service <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds <u>4pm</u> Scrapbookers	25 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds
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