



▶ INTERIM PASTOR 2

○ Issue 9 | ○ Vol. 39 | ○ November 2015



▶ CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



▶ YOUTH GROUP.....5



HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
BUILDING THE FUTURE

A Future with Hope & Pie

What a year we have had together! Last October we recognized Pastor Tom's 30-year ministry with us. What a celebration! It was also a celebration of our church's ministry and mission here in Neffs. Everyone has been working hard in this time of transition to continue God's work in this interim time while preparing to call our next Senior Pastor. We are excited to start this new chapter of our life together.

Now a year later, we come to you ready to launch a plan for the future that builds on our strong foundation of serving and loving Jesus Christ here for over 260 years while also expanding the plan to meet the needs of our members, guests and our community in ways that are meaningful, engaging, relevant, and faithful. All of us will play an important part in this plan, God's plan, and we can't wait.

By now you should have received a letter from the Financial Leadership Team asking you to consider increasing your financial support to our church's ministry and mission. An increase of any amount will be a blessing. Prayerfully consider increasing your financial gifts to our church, as well as your time and talents, as an additional gift to what you already share so that we can support our plans for the future.

On Sunday, **November 15th** we will take the next step of planning our future with hope as we reveal what our leaders have committed to give so far. We hope their generosity and faithful giving will inspire you to also make this faith commitment. Faith Commitment Cards are due by **January 10th** by mail or the offering plate.

Oh, and I think pie is involved. Pie to eat. Pie to throw? Stay tuned. ~ Pastor Kris



Join the Choir!
Practice Schedules:
Tuesday Nights—Youth Cherubs (age 4-1st grade)— 6pm
Juniors (2nd-5th)-6:30pm
Middlers (6th-8th)-7:00pm
High School (9th-12th)-7:30pm

Sunday Mornings—Adults
Heritage Choir-7:00am
Horizon Choir-9:15am



From the Interim Pastor

"Anniversaries"

It's hard to believe that I have been serving as your Interim Assistant Pastor for a year now. I mentioned this to someone recently, saying how fast the time is going, and he informed me: *"Life is like a roll of toilet paper; the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes."*

Well... bathroom humor aside, it has been an exciting year. Joining the Union UCC family has been like jumping on a fast moving train! There are so many things going on here, it's hard to keep up at times. You have been very gracious in receiving me here and I have been blessed to be part of the Union family during this time.

Much has been accomplished since Pastor Tom retired: We have worshiped together through an entire liturgical year. We have studied and learned together in Bible Studies and educational programs. I have participated in a variety of committees and social events, including a Men's Group, Bean Bag Tournament, etc. I have had the opportunity to play the part of the Easter Bunny and a mad science professor. Most importantly, we have developed an in depth plan for Mission and Ministry. It has been a full year!

Sometimes its hard to remember that this is a transitional time. God is still speaking! We have much more to do during this interim time of ministry. We need to continue our discussion about what it means to be an open and affirming congregation; we need to decide whether or not to change our marriage policy; we need to decide on a staffing model for the future; and we need to call a pastor to implement that staffing model.

So... I begin this second year of interim ministry full of enthusiasm and hope for the future of Union UCC. We have an excellent plan for Mission and Ministry. It's time to call a pastor and implement this plan. As much as I have enjoyed this time with you, I don't want to be here for a second anniversary. Its time to celebrate our accomplishments and move on to become the church that God is calling us to become.

Pastor Allan

Consistory Minutes by Deidre Bilger (Subject to Approval)

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, October 19, 2015 by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and September/October 2015 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee had no meeting/report.

Christian Education Committee reported on the Salsa sale and sheets were passed around for last-minute orders. Also, Consistory approved a donation of funds from FOLG to Christian Education.

Mission Committee reported that the Crop Walk on October 11 collected a total of \$1,307 in donations. November is Union UCC's opportunity to assist at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank (date and time details are in this Newsletter), and the Mission discretionary fund provided \$300 to Neighbors in Need

Church and Ministry provided Consistory with a binder containing the Open & Affirming Ad Hoc Team's recommendation regarding revision to Consistory's 2006 Marriage Equality Policy

Evangelism/Welcoming Committee reported that new member meetings will be held November 1, 8 and 15, and the committee is sponsoring Holy Grounds coffee hour on November 15. Souper Bowl tailgate plans are in progress.

Stewardship Committee reported that Commitment letters were sent out and responses will be presented at next Consistory meeting.

Fellowship Committee had no meeting/report.

Worship Committee reported on November worship opportunities as well as plans for Christmas Eve services. Reminder for ushering and assistance for 3:00pm Christmas Eve service.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, November 16, at 6:45 p.m. in Room 101.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs



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

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

The Leadership Planning Team [LPT] will be reviewing and finalizing the **Draft of Union's Plan for Ministry & Mission** at its November 10th LPT meeting and recommending it to Consistory at Consistory's 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** is diligently working to Draft Union's Local Church Profile, utilizing input from the LPT and the Congregation. On November 10th they **will present a Draft of Union UCC's Profile to the LPT** for review and refinement. **They will be final Drafting the Profile and recommending it to the Consistory, for Consistory's endorsement, at their December 21st meeting. Selected portions of the Profile will be presented to the Congregation for endorsement at the January 24th, 2016, semi-annual congregational meeting.**

On October 4th we held two [2] Congregational Forums to share and discuss various perspectives on same sex marriage of members who are in the care of Union. Thank you to all who spoke and all who participated. **Consistory will**

be revisiting their 2006 Policy on this subject in October and November.

The **Stewardship/Finance/FOLG/Budget Team** is focused on their portion of the Plan for Ministry & Mission and the **Fall Stewardship Campaign. Leadership is being asked to make a faith commitment** in advance of asking the congregation to do so. **November 15th is Stewardship Sunday!**

The search for Union's next Senior Pastor will commence in February 2016!

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

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.



Photo by Kevin Richter

Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961 Email: dired@unionucc.org



Union UCC's HOLIDAY challenge—Nov. 1 - Dec. 6



This year, the CE Committee is organizing a Christmas Drive for Bethany Children's Home. Bethany Children's Home provides residential services for a school-age, co-ed population who are unable to live with their own or a substitute family. Bethany's family environment provides a place of nurture, protection, and supportive care while helping with self understanding and growth. Founded in 1863 and related to the United Church of Christ, Bethany serves more than 300 youth (mostly 15-19 years old) each year on its Womelsdorf, PA campus.

We will be collecting the following:

Items: bed pillows, bath towels, 1" binders, washable duffel bags, watches, electric digital alarm clocks (no radios), books for teens, canvas art boards, metal cookie cutters (for clay), puzzles, hard bound journals, hair straighteners, bikes, helmets, slippers, pajamas, Nike athletic socks, gym shorts and white t-shirts

Gift Cards: I tunes, AC Moore, Michaels, Walmart, Target, Kohl's, American Eagle, Hollister, Famous Footwear, Foot Locker, TJ MAXX/Marshalls, Dick's Sporting Goods, Aeropostale, JoAnn Fabrics, Hobby Lobby

Cash: will be donated to the "Brighter Futures Fund" to provide for youth needs and activities throughout the year.

Please place items in the box in Memorial Hall. Please put cash or gift cards in an envelope marked Bethany Home and place in offering plate, give to office or Kathy Bonsell. Thanks for your support!

WHOOOO knows?

Our Sunday School children are learning **The Fruits of the Spirit**. Check out the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall to see what our amazing children are doing! All children who complete this challenge will receive 100 coins for the end of the year coin exchange.



The children participated in our annual SNEAKER STROLL on Oct. 11th.

They collected **\$80.10** in sponsor money to donate to our local Crop Walk. **YAY!**



CIA Movie Night

When: Saturday, Nov. 28
6:00 pm

Where: Memorial Hall

What: LEGO family movie
Pizza and Popcorn



Bring blankets and chairs
AND a new unwrapped LEGO toy to be donated to Toys for Tots. RSVP to neffsCIA@gmail.com by Nov. 25th.

November

Children's Church Calendar

Nov. 1 Mark 12:28-34

Nov. 8 Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 15 Mark 13:1-8

Nov. 22 John 18:33-37

Nov. 29 Church Family Worship

Union UCC has a **GIFT BIBLE PROGRAM** which is sponsored by the Christian Education Committee. We will present BIBLES the first Sunday of Advent to those children who are in 3rd grade or older and have attended at least 5 Sunday School or Children's Church classes. We will be presenting WHIRL NRSV Bibles.



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

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).



** Brad Hackett Returns to Breakfast Club—Sun Nov 1

9:15-10:15 ROOM 4 **

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

Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale Pick up your flier at church starting on Sunday, November 1st. **Orders and money due November 15.**

Pick up candy at church on Tuesday, Dec 1st 4-7pm.

***Note: Confirmation Class is also doing this fundraiser, their dates are different.**

Money raised covers the cost of events and we give

10% of our profits back to the church or another charity. Invite your family and friends to **shop online: www.gertrudehawk.com**. Click on Fundraising button, find "The Youth Group of Union UCC", enter our number: **725031**. For Online orders: Delivery is free to the church, or with shipping added orders can be delivered to their home.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:15-10:15am

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

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

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

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.



Thank You, LORD!

www.flickr.com

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

Sun Dec 20th 2-5:30pm Christmas Caroling to local Nursing Homes



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!

I always thank God for you. I Corinthians 1:4



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.

**December 20 at 10:30
Worship**

Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday, November 3
12 noon – 1:30pm**

Program: The Strolling Strings of Parkland High School

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

Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

Women's Lunch & Retreat

**Women's Lunch Date
Saturday, December 5th at 1-3pm**

Take a break and sneak away for some time with us. Includes a devotion and some Christmas cheer.

**Starlite Diner - 233 Pennsylvania Route 100,
Allentown**

Lunch – choose from the menu, pay your own.

RSVP to Aften Hamm by Friday, Dec 3
at Unycorn12@msn.com



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

Elaine Creitz - Nov. 10
c/o Vicki Lindsay
3844 Vista Dr.
Slatington, PA 18080



All Saints' Sunday

November 1, 2015



We will remember our members who have entered into eternal rest. There will also be a chance to remember family and friends who are not members. You are in our prayers as you continue to grieve and heal.

Pastor Kris, Rev. Patience, Pastor Allan, Pastor Bill

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.**



Karen Nuschke is our Catch the Spirit recipient for November. She will be recognized on November 15, 2015 at the 10:30 am worship service.

Karen and her children have been active at Union UCC, participating in youth group activities, volunteering in the nursery. Most recently, while experiencing "Empty Nest," Karen has volunteered as one of the teaching team members for Confirmation. She is an avid gardener and enjoys spending free time outdoors with family and friends.

Karen was raised Methodist in a very small town in Northeastern PA. Her entire family and small community belonged to this church. She was very active in youth group, MYF, choir, Sunday school and was married there. Karen graduated from nursing school in 1981, and has worked as an RN since then. She has been at Lehigh Valley Hospital, mostly as a Cardiac nurse, for 32 years.

Karen has been married since 1983 to Jack, "...my best friend and comrade in life's journey. We have enjoyed raising our children together—skiing, biking, exploring, spending time with family and friends. Most importantly we face life's challenges together." They have three grown children: Andrea, Kate, and JD.

Karen moved to the Lehigh Valley with her husband in 1983, but didn't find the path to Union UCC until 1994. Daughter, Kate who was 5 at the time, wanted to attend children's church with her new kindergarten friends. Kate then introduced her sister and brother to children's church. "The kids loved Sunday school and their energy and excitement led us to join UCC!" The Nuschke children loved Vacation Bible School and enjoyed Confirmation. Last summer her oldest was married at Neffs.

Karen says she has many wonderful memories of Union UCC. A few of her favorites include spending Christmas Eve midnight service with family, attending youth group/Confirmation activities with her children, celebrating her daughter and son-in-law's marriage and, most recently, spending time with Sue Ondrey, Dan Topp, Pastor Kris and the Confirmands.

"I love this church for its open-mindedness, the safe haven it provides, and the spiritual and emotional support. The wonderful staff and congregation make this a wonderful church community. I look forward to continuing my faith journey here and am honored and blessed to be receiving this award. My deepest thanks!"

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast November 14

All men of the church are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am. Following the breakfast, Carrington Smith has invited those who are interested in joining him for a hike to the Pinnacle at Hawk Mountain. RSVP to Pastor Allan interimpastor@unionucc.org or call the church office.

Volunteers Needed

The men of the church are staffing the Northern Lehigh Food Bank on Saturday, November 21, 9am-Noon. Volunteers please contact Pastor Allan or Phil Wehr.

Men Needed for Christian Ed

The Christian Ed Committee is vested in getting more men involved in the children's educational programs of the church. Men—please consider volunteering one Sunday a month to help with Children's Church (during 10:30 worship) or with a Sunday School class (9:15 am). Men would be a great help to our teachers and kids! Please contact Kathy Bonsell for further details on how you can help.





Welcoming Committee

“Growing a Healthy Community of Faith”

The Welcoming Committee has been meeting to explore ways of growing our congregation. Members of the committee will be attending New Members classes this month to welcome our new members and mentor them on their faith journey.

Ideas for growing our congregation include: Developing a more welcoming Sunday worship experience, exploring ways of inviting persons to visit our services and programs, etc. We welcome new ideas and new members for our committee. If you would like to help us grow our church, please contact one of our pastors or Marilyn Hill, chairperson of the committee.

Christmas Eve From Pastor Kris

***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.



Property Committee

By Phil Wehr

Fall is here, the leaves are falling, sunlight is fading away earlier and earlier. No more air conditioning, soon time for the oil burner to run to warm our bodies and when in church, warm our hearts.



The season of Thanksgiving will soon arrive, and we have so much to be thankful for here at Union UCC. We are thankful for our beautiful church where our spirits are lifted during Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, confirmation, communion, even Memorial services.

Let us all be thankful for our classrooms, youth and choir rooms, Fellowship and Memorial Halls, church grove, and offices for all of our dedicated staff. Let us be thankful for our bathrooms too, water, sewer, electric, telephone, cable, elevator, all which keeps humming to allow the mission and ministry of Union UCC to thrive.

We are thankful to be able to improve and renovate our church property for both current and future needs, thanks to generous members, leaders, and the Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund.

We are blessed in so many ways, spread the word. Have a wonderful season of Thanksgiving, and then prepare for the season of Advent and Christmas. Peace to all.

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 Heninger, 610-767-6961 (secretary@unionucc.org)

Please note: we have discontinued Sign-Up Genius

RX Corner

by Ann Kirka, R.Ph.

RX Corner has been part of the monthly newsletter since October 2006. Many pharmacy, health, and wellness related topics have been covered over the years. Healthcare is such a broad and overwhelming subject; the content of the brief articles barely addressed even a fraction of the information available.

This article will be my last submission for the newsletter. My hope is that each monthly article has been easy to read, informative, and has encouraged everyone to examine his or her own health. Hopefully the topics have inspired better overall well-being and have encouraged many people to actively participate in their own healthcare and make informed decisions.

No matter who you see- a Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Osteopathic Doctor, Family Physician, etc.. see them regularly- and not just when you're sick. Be honest, keep an open mind, and don't ever be afraid to get a second opinion- medicine isn't always black and white. Listen to your body- you know it best. Get to know your pharmacist, and don't hesitate to ask as many questions as it takes to understand your medications.

It's easy to take our health for granted and underestimate the importance of taking good care of ourselves. Like my Gram always said, "Health is Wealth".

In peace and wellness,
Ann

Union Thanksgiving Service

**Hosted at Union Lutheran on Wednesday,
November 25, 2015, 7:00pm**

Everyone is invited to a worship service of Thanksgiving at Union Lutheran Church. For the past few years we have taken turns hosting this special service. This year, the Lutherans are hosting. Give thanks to God with our neighbors.

An offering will be taken for the Food Bank administered by the Agape Fellowship of Schnecksville.



By Annette Wilcox

Say Cheese! This month the students and teachers smiled for their yearly photographs, taken by Valentine Photography. In addition, fall celebrations are well underway as we prepare for Thanksgiving and an opportunity to express our gratitude for the support provided by everyone at Neffs Church. Students are learning about the five senses and continue to add new letters and numbers to the list of those they know. In October we began our Parent Visitations, which provides each child with a day to take his or her family on a "behind the scenes" tour- showing off artwork and favorite classroom items.

Do you know a child who wasn't ready to start preschool in September, but is ready now and does not want to wait until next fall? 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 <http://www.unionucc.org/preschool/>.



CROP Walk

By Susan Smith

We could not have asked God for a better day than the warm golden one we had on October 11. **Ten of us church members, ranging in age from under 10 to over 80, set out to walk a 10 K** (that's 6 miles for those uncomfortable with the metric system) for Allentown's CROP Walk. **We joined members from 27 other congregations** who also ventured the round-trip route that began at St. Timothy's ELC, just south of Muhlenberg College, through mostly transitional city streets of Allentown, rounding 5th Street and back.

The course was relatively flat and mostly well maintained. To make good on a challenge posed to the congregation, **two of us vowed to carry a gallon of water (8 pounds) for each \$75 we raised.** We ended up carrying two gallons each. It was a very tangible and weighty reminder of the arduous task and great distance that many women and children must endure on a daily basis for the basic human necessity of potable water. What compassion we two experienced when some of the other 8 members helped share the burden by taking turns to carry the water. It was appreciated that, symbolically and verily, we must share the global burden.

We had ample opportunity for rest stops along the way. Hospitality was extended to us pilgrims at three well spaced points: Episcopal Church of the Mediator, Alliance Hall (home of Daybreak) and St. James UCC. It was a great feeling to know that these churches and the members who care for them, cheerfully opened their doors – especially their restroom doors—for us. We were literally, just people off the street. It was very kind to offer water to quench our thirst, but also food for the journey. However, the irony was not lost on being offered food three times over the course of a 3 hour walk that raises money and awareness to fight hunger.

We couldn't manage to walk as a group, as some of us have longer legs, younger bodies, or less endurance. That was fine. To those stranger-pilgrims walking among us, members of Union UCC are probably best in small doses. Early in our walk, someone asked about the water jugs. She carried a jug for a few minutes, and applauded our efforts in further understanding the inequality. Toward the end of the walk, a CROP walk aid followed in his marked vehicle, stopping to offer to take the weight of the unopened jugs in his beast of burden, his pick-up truck. How bizarre we must have seemed, to be carrying all this water, not drinking it, and having had access to so much water along the way. It was a teachable moment for him.

We continued on with aching arms and shoulders. Three of us were some of the first to finish. Four of us were some of the last ones to finish. In the end, **more than \$30,000 was raised by these 28 congregations (over \$1300 by Union UCC)** in Allentown's CROP Walk. Bethlehem and Easton had their own. **Plan to walk next year; it is always the second Sunday of October.** Pray for another glorious day. I'll provide the water.

Mission Committee News

By Phil Wehr

Operation Project Food Bank - HELP us serve the community.

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 Thursdays November 5, 12, and 19 from 3:34 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.

2016 Envelope packets

Envelope packets for 2016 will be ready for pickup after Thanksgiving. Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs.

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2016, everyone gets new numbers each year. Thank you, The Stewardship Committee

Christmas Eve Yard Signs

Yard Signs are available for you to pick up starting November 22 after worship. If you already have a yard sign, please use it if it's in good shape. We ask that you place them in your yard or at important corners near your home to help us share the hope of the Christmas season with your neighbors and invite them to our church. Please hold onto signs for next year or return them to the church office in the New Year.

This effort is hosted by the Evangelism Committee and Sponsored by the Good News Fund.



Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

November 6 Pastor Allan will continue to discuss the Hebrew prophets, using the Walter Brueggemann DVD series "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture."

November 13 Pastor Allan will continue to discuss the Hebrew prophets, using the Walter Brueggemann DVD series "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture."

November 20 *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam* (by James W. Moore) Christmas or confusion? Bethlehem or bedlam? Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our chaos. God breaks in and brings us Christmas, no matter. This series with Pastor Kris will meet Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11, & 18.

November 27 No Class--Thanksgiving Weekend

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

November 1 Aging and Technology – Help yourself or an older friend or family member access current technologies. Pastor Patience Stevenson will share learnings from Phoebe's Institute on Aging Fall Conference on "Aging and Technology".

Phoebe Institute on Aging: Dr. Benjamin Mast
Wednesday, November 4, 2015 8-11, Jordan UCC, 1837
Church Road, Allentown, PA 18104

Dr. Mast highlights the power of the gospel for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Filled with helpful, up-to-date information, Dr. Mast answers common questions about the disease and its effect on personal identity and faith as he explores the biblical importance of remembering God's commitment to not forget his people.

Please register by calling Scott Brooks Cope at 610-794-5119.

November 8 Pathstones by Phoebe Guest Speaker: Melanie Kohler, Executive Director of "Pathstones by Phoebe", will share a presentation on the new "Pathstones by Phoebe", the new continuing care at home program(CCAH).

Are you one of the nearly 90% of adults who wants to remain in their home as they age? A progressive direction in senior care programs may be the solution. Pathstones by Phoebe offers personalized wellness coordination and the services of a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in the comfort and security of your home.

The goal of Pathstones is to help people stay in their homes even as their needs change. Pathstones by Phoebe addresses the needs of seniors who prefer to live at home by providing them with Phoebe's expertise, guidance and services in their own home. For more information about Pathstones by Phoebe, please join us November 8th.

November 15 Joint Adult Education with Breakfast Club

November 22 Pastor Allan will continue his "Faith and Film" series by showing clips from the movie "Brother Moon, Sister Sun— A biographical depiction of the life of St Francis."

November 29 Pastor Allan will lead an Advent Bible Study

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



Join us for an Advent Celebration!

When: December 6, 2015
After the 10:30 service

Where: Fellowship Hall

Who: All ages are welcome!

What: Brunch (by the Fellowship Committee)

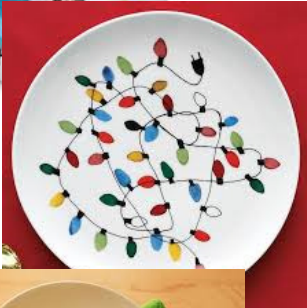
Three stratas: baked french toast, italian with sausage, ham & cheese
gluten free cereal, breads, muffins, fresh fruit,
hot and cold beverages

Christmas Cookie Share

Decorate a Plate (with oil based sharpies)

Fun and Fellowship

Cost: \$2 each (includes a ceramic plate and the use of paint pens. If you want to purchase your own paint pens for the event, SHARPIE OIL BASED PAINT PENS are available at craft stores.)



A Christian Education Committee and Fellowship Committee event!

Bring a batch of your favorite CHRISTMAS COOKIES to share.



Please return this ADVENT CELEBRATION registration form and \$2.00 (for each participant) by Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015.

Join us for an afternoon of food, friendship and fun!



Family Name _____

of Adults _____

of Children _____

_____ We plan on only staying for lunch.

_____ We plan on staying for lunch and the plate craft.

of craft participants _____ x \$2.00 = _____

**Sunday, November 1, 2015**

23rd Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints' Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Message:** Carrington Smith, Former Consistory President of Union UCC**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider
10:30 - Jim Ondrey**Greeters:** Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Jim & Edie Fella**Acolytes:** 8AM - Garrett Fitzgerald
10:30AM - Amanda Lane, Chase Misera**Sunday, November 8, 2015**

24th Sunday after Pentecost/Veterans Honored

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Guest Musicians: The Little Brass Band of the Lehigh Valley**

They will share their patriotic music as part of our recognition of our Veterans.

Founded in 2010 as a spinoff of the Bucks County based Galena Brass, the Little Brass Band of the Lehigh Valley epitomizes versatility. Concert series, holiday parties, community days, and ceremonial functions are just some of the venues where you will see the Little Brass Band. Recent performances include: Chriskindmarkt, the Cement Belt Fair, the Walnutport Canal Festival, and Fourth on the Field at Coca-Cola Park. Go to www.littlebrassband.com or www.galenabrass.com for more information.

Text: Mark 12: 38-44**Sermon:** "A Mighty Love" by Kris Snyder-Samuelsan**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Susan Rumble
10:30 - Harry Burger**Greeters:** Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, SueAnn Hregician**Acolytes:** 8AM - Hannah Horvath
10:30AM - Peyton Schlosser, Karl Schmidt, Jr.**Sunday, November 15, 2015**

25th Sunday after Pentecost/New Members

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Text:** Mark 13:1-8, Jeremiah 29:11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future with hope."**Message:** Future Hope and Pie**Sermon:** Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsan**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Doug Albert
10:30 - Don Penrod**Greeters:** James Ricketts & Steph Schuster, Jeff & Marcey Kroll**Acolytes:** 8AM - Amanda Lane
10:30AM - Justin Trexler, Sonya Shivok**Sunday, November 22, 2015**

26th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism****Text:** Psalm 107:1-43**Message:** "O Give Thanks to God"**Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns
10:30 - Elena Steidinger**Greeters:** Vicki Mayk, Karen Wonderly, Ron Snyder**Acolytes:** 8AM - Olivia Schuster
10:30AM - Ian Henninger, Garrett Fitzgerald**Sunday, November 29, 2015**

1st Sunday of Advent

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship****Text:** Luke 21:25-36**Message:** "Signs of the Times"**Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack
10:30 - Dan Topp**Acolytes:** 8AM - Will Filipovits
10:30AM - Hannah Horvath, Chase Misera**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:

November 1—Fellowship
November 8—Church & Ministry
November 15—Evangelism
November 22—Worship Committee
November 29—No 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	\$85,223.00	\$6,408.00	\$91,631.00
Expenses	\$99,746.00	\$13,778.00	\$113,524.00
9-30-2015	-\$4,879.00	\$18,265.00	\$13,386.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 6	51	131	CFW	182
Sept. 13	100	240	CFW	340
Sept. 20	86	159	56	301
Sept. 27	53	213	47	313

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

TOTAL ATTENDANCE	
September <u>2014</u> – 1,357	September <u>2015</u> – 1,136
AVG ATTENDANCE	
September <u>2014</u> –339	September <u>2015</u> - 234

Deaths

Betty Kern passed away on September 28, 2015 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on October 2, 2015.

Floyd Hoppes passed away on October 19, 2015 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on Oct.

Memorials

The following donation has been received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Patricia J. Szapacs**:
 Grundsau Lodsch #18
 Timothy & Susan Schaffer
 William & Elaine Horwith
 Carol Ann DeFrain
 Kathryn & Raymond Degrain
 Joe & Nancy Herzog

The following donations have been received into the Union UCC Memorial Fund in memory of **Betty E. Kern**:
 Phil & Julie Wehr
 Henry & Joyce Shankweiler
 John & Nancy Remaley
 Dennis & Darlene Kreitz
 Gladys Kuhns
 Marian Supp
 Richard & Linda Heintzelman

Fred Pfenninger
 Carl M. Heintzelman
 Loretta S. Wotring
 Schnecksville Grange 1684
 Rick & Kathy Bonsell
 Barbara & Richard Carinci
 Sally Kern
 Eunice M. Diehl

UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

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 Acting Senior Pastor
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 assocpastor@unionucc.org

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

Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson
 Pastor of Visitation
 Cell Phone: 610-248-5587
 vispastor@unionucc.org

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 Pastoral Consultant
 Renaissinc@aol.com

Rev. Thomas N. Thomas
 Pastor Emeritus

Kathy L. Bonsell
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Blake Hoppes
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Church Office:
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 Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66,
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 Neffs PA 18065-0066

www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:
 610-767-5327

Ronald Kneller
 Facility Caretaker
 caretaker@unionucc.org

Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

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



Help us to remember our Home Visitation Members by sponsoring a Poinsettia Plant at the cost of \$8.25. These members are unable to come to church to see the decorations in the sanctuary. However, you are able to help share the joy and love of Christmas with them by sponsoring a Poinsettia Plant for them.

Anyone who wishes to sponsor a Poinsettia Plant at the cost of \$8.25 for our church services during the Christmas Season, in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone, should order using the order form below. **The deadline date for orders is Sunday, December 6, 2015.**

POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM 2015

- I would like to sponsor # _____ Poinsettia(s) for a **HOMEBOUND MEMBER**.
- I would like to sponsor # _____ Poinsettia(s) for **CHRISTMAS SERVICES** which I may pick up after 11PM church services on December 24th. I will pick up my Poinsettia(s) following the service. ___YES ___NO

TOTAL # OF POINSETTIA(S) _____ X \$8.25 each = Total \$ _____ Envelope # _____

Sponsor's Name _____ Phone: _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

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 (PO Box 66, Neffs, PA 18065-0066) **no later than Sunday, December 6, 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. .**

Thank You!

Pastors Appreciate Being Appreciated!

We don't know who started the idea of October being Pastor Appreciation month but your pastors are certainly grateful that you showed your appreciation. Someone posted a thoughtful message and our pictures in *The Morning Call* and on our church's facebook page on behalf of the congregation. Thank you for all the ways that you support us and care for us as your pastors. **Every Month is "We Love Union UCC Month" for us!**

~Pastor Kris, Rev. Patience, Pastor Allan, Pastor Bill

Mark your Calendars! The Parkland High School Chorale returns to Union UCC

Sunday, December 13th at 7pm

This holiday concert in our beautifully-decorated sanctuary is always the perfect way to celebrate the season. It's Free, an offering is collected to support the Chorale. Refreshments are served after the concert.

3 of our students are in the chorale: **Abby Kern, Jillian Krempasky, Natalie Ondrey**

November 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Fellowship	3 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior Choir 7pm Middler Choir 7:30pm High School Choir; Bible Study	4 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	5 7pm Christian Ed, Chime Choir; Search Committee	6 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Wedding Rehearsal	7 2pm Wedding 5pm Hang-In Night
9 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	10 10 am Helping Hands 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior Choir 7pm Middler Choir; LPT 7:30pm High School Choir; Bible Study; Worship Committee	11 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry	12 7pm Chime Choir NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	14 8am Men's Breakfast
16 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Consistory	17 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 1pm Property 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7:30pm Bible Study; Worship Committee	18 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	19 7pm Chime Choir;	20 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	21 12pm Private Party
23 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Search Committee; LPT	24 9am Newsletter Mailing 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7:30pm Bible Study	25 9:30am Busy Bee Quilt 10am Knitwits 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Thanksgiving Worship at UELC	26 Thanksgiving Church office closed	27 Church office closed	28 5:30pm CIA Movie
30 6:30pm Spiritually Fit					

SUNDAYS

1 All Saints 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class New Members 10:30am Horizon Service-Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	8 Veterans 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class Tech Committee New Members 10:30am Horizon Service Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	15 New Members 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class New Members 10:30am Horizon Service-Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds; Prebaptism 4pm Scrapbookers	22 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service/ Baptism- Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	29 Communion 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service- Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds
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