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HONORING THE PAST \* CELEBRATING THE PRESENT  
BUILDING THE FUTURE

# Semi-Annual Meeting

As we look forward to a future full of hope, please plan to attend and participate in our semi-annual meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2016, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

We are indebted to and sincerely thank our Leadership Planning Team (LPT), Consistory, committees and congregation for your collaborative engagement in Christ's ministry and mission through Union UCC this past year. My thanks to all of you. Relying on God's grace and guidance, the LPT, Consistory and congregation have worked together to focus Christ's ministry and mission through Union UCC and prepare to search for our next Senior Pastor.

At this semi-annual congregational meeting, we will be presenting, recommending and asking for **congregational adoption of our "Plan for Ministry and Mission."** Our Plan has been developed by the LPT with Consistory and Congregational input. We will also be presenting, recommending and asking for congregational **endorsement of selected portions of Union UCC's Local Church Profile.** Our Profile has been developed by the Search Committee, utilizing input of the LPT, Consistory and the congregation and will be used in our search process for our next Senior Pastor. In addition we will be reviewing our mid-year financial position and announcing the results of our Stewardship Campaign.

We are also pleased to be sharing three **individuals have been nominated to serve** a first three-year term on Consistory: Deb Wenner, Leslie Thompson-Strack and Susan Smith. Three additional persons, Marilyn Hill, Susan Neal and I, have been nominated to serve a second consecutive three-year term on Consistory. Additionally, Deb Wenner has been nominated to continue to serve our congregation as a Trustee of the Funds of Lasting Gifts. These members have freely chosen to offer their service and leadership talents to God's church and God's mission here at Union UCC.

May God always be with you, and may your New Year be full of good cheer!

Respectfully,  
*Brad Hackett*  
Consistory President





# From the Interim Pastor

## Spiritual Inventories

The beginning of a New Year is always a good time to take a spiritual inventory of our lives. It's a time to take stock of where we've been in the past year, and where we're headed in the year to come.

Actually, the month of January is named for the Roman god, Janus. Janus has two faces. One looks to the future; the other, to the past. Janus embodies the ancient truth that the best way to look forward to the future is by remembering the past.

So this month, I'd like to invite you to take a spiritual inventory of your life. I invite you to think back over the past year as a way of shaping some of your hopes for the coming year.

First, let's review a few of the top news stories of 2015.

- violence and terrorist activities continue to dominate the news;
- the 2016 presidential campaign began with candidate debates;
- the pope visited Philadelphia.

Here on the local scene, Union UCC developed a detailed Plan for Mission and Ministry and prepared a Profile as part of the search for a new Sr Pastor.

How did you grow in your spiritual life over the past year? I was especially grateful for the opportunity to lead and attend Bible Studies here at the church, and I grew spiritually through sermon preparation and preaching. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity you have given me to serve as your Interim Pastor.

So, what do we have to look for in the coming year? Let us pray that our world leaders continue to work together to address the issue of terrorism throughout the world. Let us pray that the presidential campaign becomes kinder and gentler in the process of choosing a new president. And let us pray that our Search Committee finds a suitable candidate to be our next Senior Pastor.

We have much to be grateful for and much to be concerned about as we begin the New Year. May God continue to guide and direct us in all we say and do.

*Pastor Allan*



**Thank you to the congregation and our church leaders** for the Christmas gift given to the staff on Christmas Eve. Your generosity and support means the world to us. We are also grateful for the many cards and goodies that reflected your Christmas spirit to us. We are blessed to be part of this family of faith.

*Pastor Kris, Rev. Patience, Pastor Allan, Kathy Bonsell, Mike Baer, Blake Hoppes, Barbara Carinci, Tara Henninger, Rachel DiPaolantonio, Ron Kneller, Maria Beltz*



[www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)

# Senior Pastor Search Committee Report

By David Fleming, Chair

The year-long work of the Leadership Planning Team (LPT) under the excellent facilitation and leadership of Pastor Bill has been completed and the team produced two major documents for our congregation to use as we move toward the New Year and the eventual calling of our next Senior Pastor. **The Plan for Ministry and Mission and the Congregational Profile will be voted upon at the December meeting of Consistory and will be brought before the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>.**

The Search Committee has been meeting bi-weekly with our consultant, Len Kesselring from the PNEC Search & Call Committee, to work on finalizing the profile, reviewing the expectations for leadership, and preparing interview questions. In the upcoming weeks we will be preparing for the "mock" interview with a local pastor, developing the advertisement/posting for the position and finalizing the congregational profile for distribution around the United Church of Christ.

It is our hope that we will begin the actual search soon after the Congregational Meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor profiles from the entire UCC denomination will be accepted, screened and reviewed for consideration. While this process will remain confidential, (names and information about the candidates) I will continue to communicate to the congregation where we are in the process.

Once pastor profiles are selected by the committee, candidates will be invited to interview, references will be checked and a final candidate (one only) will be recommended by the committee to Consistory. Consistory would then vote to approve the recommendation and recommend to the congregation that the final candidate be invited to come for a "trial sermon" and a weekend "meet and greet", if necessary, where a congregational vote will be taken at the end of the service. That vote will be conducted by our PNEC consultant.

If the required number (percentage per our Constitution) of votes is affirmative the congregational leaders would extend a call to the pastor on that date. The pastor would then accept or reject the call. Hopefully he/she would accept and then we would have called and received our next Sr. Pastor. That is an abbreviated scenario that we plan to follow as prescribed by the UCC, PNEC and our own Constitution and Bylaws.

It is impossible to predict precisely how long this process will take but I would estimate that we would be searching, interviewing and investigating candidates in February/March and it is my hope that we will have the search completed this coming spring.

As I stated, I will keep you informed as we follow this path, led by God with a certain faith that we will discern who God is calling to be our next Senior Pastor.

The committee thanks all of you for your continued prayers and support.



## A future with Hope

By Pastor Kris

There is no better investment in the world than to invest in the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ here at Union UCC. It will make a difference in the lives of God's people and it will make a difference in your life as well.

We hope that you have been thinking and praying about the letter from the Financial Leadership Team that you received asking you to consider increasing your financial support to our church's ministry and mission this year. Please respond anytime between now and no later than **January 10th** by returning your Faith Commitment Card to us through the mail or Sunday's offering plate.

***"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11***

### FAITH COMMITMENT CARD

I/We have made the faith-promise to God to assist our church in the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ at Union UCC by promising to **INCREASE** my/our financial support starting in the year 2016:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ a week or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a one time gift.

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this commitment card to worship on **January 10th** where they will be received and blessed.  
Or mail to the church or place in the offering plate on any Sunday prior to January 10, 2016.

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

# Children's Programs

## Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

Email: [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)



### BETHANY HOME CHRISTMAS DRIVE



**Thank you** to all who donated pillows, towels, school supplies, alarm clocks, gym clothes, etc. to Bethany. Rick and I drove our van, fully loaded with gifts, to Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf, PA on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The staff was so very appreciative of our donation. They currently have 67 children on campus, the youngest being 11 years old. There are 140 staff members involved in this wonderful ministry. The CE Committee hopes to work on a few more projects throughout the year. **Watch this newsletter for future opportunities to help the children at Bethany.**

## January

### Children's Church

- Jan. 3 Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Jan. 10 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
(Baptism Observation)
- Jan. 17 John 2:1-11
- Jan. 24 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

### CIA JANUARY MISSION

(Children In Action—K-6)

**Bowling** at Slate Bowl  
Sunday, January 10 at 3pm  
\$2 a game, shoes included!



Please RSVP or send questions to Tammy, Kathy and Jennifer at [NeffsCIA@gmail.com](mailto:NeffsCIA@gmail.com)

VBS Planning Meeting—Jan. 26, 10am

### It's HOAGIE TIME!

The children will receive hoagie order forms on January 24th.

We will be making ITALIAN and TURKEY hoagies again this year.

**\$5 each.**

Order forms are due **February 28th**. HOAGIE PICK-UP will be MARCH 5th, 10-11am.



The CE Committee invites you to join us.....

### Lehigh Valley PHANTOMS

Faith and Family Night

**Saturday, April 9th, 7:05pm**

PPL Center

**\$20 per ticket** (Red Phantoms Attack Zone)

See Kathy for an order form.



# Youth Group News 6th-12th Grades

**For more information contact: Pastor Kris [assocpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:assocpastor@unionucc.org) 610-657-6007 Cell  
Or Dave DiPaolantonio at 610-349-9162 and [youthgroup@unionucc.org](mailto:youthgroup@unionucc.org).  
Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group [www.unionucc.org/Ministries/Youth Group](http://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).**

## Saturday, Jan 2 BOWLING

Meet at church at 5:45pm, Bowl 6:30-8, home @ 9pm; \$11 Cash, bring with you. Includes bowling, shoes, soda and kid's meal. Bring extra money for video games, etc.  
**SIGN UP WITH DAVE D by DEC 27 at** [youthgroup@unionucc.org](mailto:youthgroup@unionucc.org).



**Confirmation Class Retreat**

## Sunday, Jan 17 Spuds and Suds Lunch 11:30am-1pm

Baked Potato Lunch with over 15 toppings!  
\$5 per person for 1 potato and beverage.  
Sign up to help 9am-2pm and/or to donate a topping.

## Jan 30-31 Confirmation Class Sleepover at Church and Leading Worship

If you have been confirmed and you'd like to join us, contact Pastor Kris.

## Tuesday, Feb 9 —Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Help serve supper to our church family from 6-7pm. Entertainment is from 7-8, optional.

**Saturday, Feb 20 Free Fall Trampoline Park** Meet at church at 5:30, 2 hours of fun, home by 9pm. Cost: \$20 Due Feb 7 to Pastor Kris

## Sunday, Feb 28 – Advisory Team Meeting 11:30am-1pm

**Sunday, March 6 is Youth Sunday!** Mark your calendars and start thinking of how you want to participate. Sign up to greet, take the offering, read, preach (Seniors!), sing, dance and smile.

**SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15am**  
**THE MUNCH BUNCH** (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade 2nd Floor Room 203)  
**CONFIRMATION CLASS** (8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Room)  
Confirmands can go to The Breakfast Club when there is no class. **Confirmands can go to Breakfast Club when there isn't class.**  
**THE BREAKFAST CLUB** (9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade Room 4 Basement)



**National Youth Event 2016**  
**Walt Disney World**  
**July 25-30, 2016**  
**Fundraisers: January 17**  
**Spuds and Suds**  
**Baked Potato Lunch**





## 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.

**Next Sunday Morning Alive: Sunday, February 21 at 10:30 Worship**

## Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday, January 5**  
**12 noon – 1:30pm**

**Program: Ron Snyder will present "Svalbard, Land of Polar Bears and Reindeer"**

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 (due January 31, 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

## Women's Day Connecting with Spirit: Meditation and Painting

**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm at our church**  
**Save the date and sign up with your payment by February 7<sup>th</sup>. \$40 to "Union UCC"**

**Leaders:** Carrie Beleno, Spiritual Teacher and Kristina Cole, Paint of Mind

Are you looking for a chance to reconnect with God and to stay grounded in the midst of life's joys and struggles? Carrie, one of our church members, will lead this seminar that will include guided meditation, discussion, Reiki, and prayer. Kristina Cole will guide us through creating our own painting that reflects our meditation time.

Watch for more info and a sample of the painting on facebook and email.

This is limited to 30 people, so don't wait to commit to this time for you and God. And yes, Pastor Kris will provide snacks.

## Year-end Statements

Financial statements for those that have given \$200 or more for 2015 will be mailed out by January 31, 2016. If you do not receive your statement or wish to have a statement that is for less than \$200 in giving please contact Barbara in the church office.



***Eric Minnich is our Catch the Spirit recipient for January. He will be recognized on January 17, 2015 at the 10:30 am worship service.***

Eric is a lifelong member of Union UCC. He became active in the life of the church after Confirmation Class as part of the Youth Group with Pastor Dey. "The Youth Group was an amazing experience for me and I made lifelong friends in it. It taught me so much about exploring my faith and serving God." He recently has joined the Consistory. As a teen and young adult, he served on the Consistory, the Christian Education committee, the Associate Pastor Search committee, and the Director of Christian Education Search committee. He has taught Children's Church, Sunday School, and was a Youth Group advisor.

"Being a member of Union UCC has taught me a great deal in life. One of the most important is that our church is a family. Throughout life, you wander down different paths, go different places and find other things that might keep you away, but there comes a point when you want and need your relationship with God to grow. For me, like a family, our church was there with open arms."

Eric loves our church because, "Without question, I love how welcoming our church is. 'No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here' is not just something that is said at the start of worship, it is our way of life here."

Eric is married to wife, Pam, who officially joined our church earlier this year. He has three daughters, Ryleigh and Hannah (9-year old twins) and Raegan (15 months old). Ryleigh and Hannah are part of the Junior choir and are active in Children's Church. Eric works for the Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center as the First Deputy Coroner / Operations Manager. He is also the Assistant Fire Chief of the Neffs Volunteer Fire Company. His other interests include sports and cooking.

When asked about his favorite church memory Eric said, "I'm a lifelong member of the church and have many wonderful memories. Sharing a homily with the congregation during a Youth Service was very special to me. I'd have to say that my favorite memories are yet to come. My daughters have a love for our church and all the programs that are available to them. Pam and I look forward to raising our family in the life of Union UCC."

## Year End Donations

For donations to be credited in 2015 all donations need to be into the church office by **December 29, 2015**. Any donations received after December 29, 2015 will be credited for giving year 2016. Any questions please call the church office.

## 2016 Envelope Packets

Envelope packets for 2016 are ready for pickup. 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.

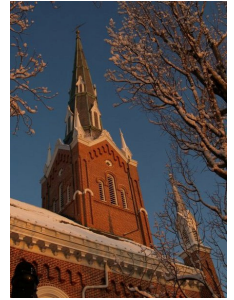
Thank you, The Stewardship Committee.



# Property Committee

By Phil Wehr

Happy New Year to all. The Christmas Season has come and gone here at Union UCC. A big thank you to all who helped to make Christmas festive and meaningful to all who passed through the church doors and entrance-ways all month long.



Meanwhile the compressor for the double door refrigerator in the basement kitchen failed on November 28. With further research, due to the age of the fridge, the best decision would be to purchase a new unit, rather than the costly replacement of the compressor. The consistory provided a prompt response to purchase a new commercial refrigerator, utilizing funds from the Memorial Fund. The new unit is up and running to serve the needs of our chefs, cooks, and bakers who use the kitchen.

The property committee is also working with the technology committee to upgrade and improve the wi-fi network to all three floors of the church property. New wiring and electrical outlets will be installed this winter to make these improvements. This project is being funded through the Funds of Lasting Gifts.

Union UCC is blessed to have the Memorial Fund and the Funds of Lasting Gifts to allow for the projects listed above to happen, especially in emergencies like the failure of the fridge. Give thanks to all who have provided to these funds to enhance the mission and ministries of Union UCC.

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**February 9, 2015 ~ 6PM Supper**  
7-8PM Entertainment -  
Scott Wagstaff, Ventriloquist

Menu: Pancakes (Gluten Free available), sausage, applesauce, and fastnachts.



**FREE!** - Donations accepted.

Hosted by: Fellowship Committee  
Served by: Youth Group

Make your reservation by February 7th!  
Return the bottom portion to the office  
or call 610-767-6961.

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**SHROVE TUESDAY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_ #Children \_\_\_\_\_

#People Ordering Gluten Free Pancakes \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell No. \_\_\_\_\_

◇ I will donate one dozen fastnachts/doughnuts!

## 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-7:15am**
- Horizon Choir-9:15am**

## 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*





# Tales From the Road

## Celebrating our Oldest Members

*Willard Ruch* was 103 on December 16! Willard was baptized and confirmed at Union Lutheran Church, but joined Union UCC when he married Marie Hoffman. Marie was a wonderful wife, with whom he raised two children, Ernest and Dorothy. Willard worked for Mack Trucks for 32 years, including years during WWII when he assisted in the manufacturing of military trucks. Willard still lives in his home in Egypt, which he has adapted to help him maintain his independence. He gets lots of company from his children and grandchildren.

*Clara Hoster* will be 99 on January 30! Clara was baptized, confirmed and married at Union UCC. She remembers attending Union UCC faithfully for most of her life. Clara lived independently, aided by a faithful Union UCC member, until recently when her health required her to be moved to a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Allentown. Clara fondly remembers her father's years as a lockmaster in Northampton. She used to run down the towpath to meet the mules and ride them back up to the lockmaster's house and stable. Clara would help her father feed, water and stable the mules. Sometimes she would travel with families who transported goods in their barges along the canal. Clara was married for many years to Benjamin Hoster. Following his death she shared her home with longtime friend, Geri Schafer. Clara, Geri, and their cat, Lily, now live at Above and Beyond in Allentown.

Please send them cards at:

Willard Ruch, 4119 Wilson Street, Whitehall, Pa 18052

Clara Hoster, Above and Beyond, 2232 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, Pa 18103-7165



By Annette Wilcox

Check us out on Facebook—  
**Neffs UCC Preschool**

or on our website—  
[www.unionucc.org/preschool](http://www.unionucc.org/preschool)

The staff and students at Neffs UCC Preschool wish everyone a blessed Christmas season; may you find time to enjoy moments of peace and joy with those you love. It is hard to believe that 2015 has come to an end so quickly. They say time flies when you are having fun, and that has been the case in the Preschool. Our students enjoyed a field trip to see the Pip the Mouse Performance, baked Christmas cookies, and ended with a Christmas party complete with a visit from Santa himself! We squeezed in plenty of learning as well, focusing on the seasons, numbers 9-10 and the color green.

Although 2015 is just coming to an end, it is not too early to start thinking about September and the start of a new school. **Registration for the 2016-2017 school year begins in February.** Join us on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 for an informational open house to learn more about our program.

## WHERE SCHOOL MEMORIES BEGIN!

**We offer rolling admissions with classes for 3, 4 and 5 year-olds**  
**Curriculum aligned with Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards**  
**Whole child focused: academic, social and emotional**

# Souper Bowl Sunday



## Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 7, 2016

The soup pots will be out early in mid-January to start collecting soup for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Help TACKLE HUNGER by buying a six pack of soup, or head for the goal posts with a case of 12 or 24 cans.

**The Mission Committee** encourages all members to get off the sidelines, get in the game and donate canned soup to feed families in the community. We need YOUR help to meet our GOAL to collect over 600 cans of soup. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Following the 10:30 worship, **the Welcoming Committee** will provide a tailgate luncheon of sandwiches, chili, pizza, wings and other assorted goodies.

Join in the fun on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 7, 2016 and join Union UCC and thousands of churches around the country as we celebrate SOUPer Bowl Sunday.

## Home Visitation Members' Birthdays

### Betty McGee—January 6

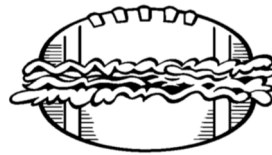
Phoebe Bridgeways  
Room 374A  
1925 Turner St.  
Allentown, PA 18104

### Clara Hoster—January 30

Above and Beyond  
2232 29th St.  
Allentown, PA 18103



## Souper Bowl Tailgate Party



**FEBRUARY 7, 2016**  
**11:30 - 12:30PM**

Welcome New Church Members to our Team!  
Everyone is invited!

Menu includes: Subs, pizza, wings, chili, salads, snacks, birch beer, soda, desserts.  
The cost to attend is FREE.

Be sure to help the Mission Committee with their effort to help others by bringing a can(s) of soup or cash donation.

Please make your lunch reservation by calling the office (610-767-6961) or filling out the form below by January 25th.



### TAILGATE PARTY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_

#Children \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.**



# Adult Study

## Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

- January 8 Pastor Allan will lead Bible Study using Bart Ehrman's The History of the Bible: The New Testament Canon
- January 15 Pastor Allan will discuss The Apostle Paul—Our Earliest Christian Writer
- January 22 Pastor Allan will discuss Paul's Letters part I
- January 29 Pastor Allan will discuss Paul's Letters part II

## Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

- January 3 Pastor Allan will begin discussing the series: **Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity**
- January 10 Pastor Allan will continue **Living the Questions—Speaking of God**
- January 17 Pastor Patience will continue **Living the Questions—Interpreting Creation Stories**
- January 24 Pastor Allan will continue **Living the Questions—Gospel Stories of Jesus**
- January 31 Pastor Allan will continue **Living the Questions—Paul's Understanding of Jesus**

# Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers

*Would you like to be a Helping Heart or Communion Minister? We are looking for additional people to serve in this ministry. Contact Rev. Patience or Pastor Kris with your questions or you interest.*

## 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 March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

**Helping Meals:** We are always looking for people who can make a meal for our families when they face a challenging time. If you can help, please contact **Lisa Rex at 484-225-5883.**

The pastors are also collecting donations of Weis and DiFiores Restaurant gift cards to assist families.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER:

All committees and groups must complete a use of facility form to schedule events or activities.

Please contact Barbara, Church Administrator, in the church office at 610-767-6961 or administrator@unionucc.org for forms and room availability. Thank You!

## 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, Diana Miller, Barbara Panner, Linda & Wilbur Romig, Jill Schlosser, Jean & Stan Wieand, and Marianne Ulrich



## 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]

At our January 24th, 2016 semi-annual congregational meeting, you will be asked to endorse and adopt **Union's Plan for Ministry & Mission** and endorse selected portions of Union's **UCC Profile** so the Search Committee can begin the search for your next Senior Pastor. This will be the culmination of our ministry together this past year.

Twelve short months ago, you decided to be open to God's phoenix Spirit...and over the past year we have done some amazing work in strengthening the foundation of Union's 250 year history of Christian ministry & mission and preparing yourselves for the future. You could have forged ahead with haste to call your next Senior Pastor without investing your talents. But you didn't. Instead you decided to invest in God's phoenix spirit and strengthen this, Christ's church for the future. Twelve months ago God wasn't asking us to do anything more than we were able, relying on His grace.

The journey is not over, it is only now beginning. You have been blessed with many talents, and you have been challenged by a revolutionary Christ to be the church... take a stand against evil, oppression, injustice and to live your life as Christ's Church, a living witness

of the grace, mercy and justice the gospel of Christ calls us to live.

Together we have taken some risks, dealt with some difficult issues, and worked and served together to follow a God who expects us to share Christ's radical gospel and expects a return on the investment Christ has made here at Union UCC.

God was and is asking Union UCC to use the gifts he has given you to grow and share Christ's love, justice and peace, inside and outside these four walls.

Listen to the Master of the house who, when he returns to see what we, his servants have done with what he entrusted us, says...

"well done – good and trustworthy servants.

You have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many... enter into the joy of your Master." [Matthew 25:21]

*Pastor Bill*

Rev. A. William Metzger

### Blood Drive-Coming Soon

'Pint for Pint' is a blood drive for Miller Keystone Blood Bank sponsored by Union UCC's Mission Committee.

Blood donors will get a free pint of soup. Non donors can purchase soup. Soup sale profits will go to Meals on Wheels.

Stay tuned to this Newsletter and Sunday Bulletins for more details.

## Blanket Sunday



You're changing lives around the World !! Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency.

Thank you for your support of the upcoming **Blanket Sunday on February 14, 2016**. You are helping to spread God's love to many families around the country and the world.




# Worship Opportunities

## Sunday, January 3, 2015

2nd Sunday after Christmas/Covenant Renewal/Communion

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** John 1:10-18

**Message:** "Redeeming the Cosmos"

**Sermon:** Guest Preacher, the Rev. William Falla, adjunct Professor, Moravian College

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider  
10:30 - Don Penrod

**Greeters:** Cliff & Carol James, Jim & Leanna Lane

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Chase Misera  
10:30AM - Karl Schmidt, Jr.

## Sunday, January 17, 2015

2nd Sunday after Epiphany/Healing Service

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**Message:** "Spirit Work"

**Sermon:** Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsan

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Doug Albert  
10:30 - Chrissy Shivok

**Greeters:** Karl & Lynne Klinger, Greg & Johanna Zellner

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Garrett Fitzgerald  
10:30AM - Peyton Schlosser, Amanda Lane

## Sunday, January 10, 2015

Baptism of Christ

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism**

**Text:** Luke 3:15-22

**Message:** "The Life of the Beloved"

**Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack  
10:30 - SueAnn Hregician

**Greeters:** Ron Snyder, Karen & Karl Imdorf

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Will Filipovits  
10:30AM - Ian Henninger

## Sunday, January 24, 2015

3rd Sunday after Epiphany/Jazz Ensemble

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service-Semi-Annual Meeting**

**Text:** Matthew 25:13-30

**Message:** "Ours the journey...risk and faith-filled adventure"

**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 - Sonya Shivok  
10:30AM - Hannah Horvath, Justin Trexler

## Sunday, January 31, 2015

4th Sunday after Epiphany/Confirmation Leads

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service-CFW**

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**Message:** "The Agape App"

**Sermon:** Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsan

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Confirmation  
10:30 - Confirmation

**Greeters:** Confirmands

**Acolytes:** 8AM -  
10:30AM -



## 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:**

January 3—No Committee

January 10—Fellowship

January 17—Christian Ed

January 24—Consistory

January 31—Confirmation Class



# Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
<b>7-1-2015</b>	\$ 9,644.00	\$25,635.00	\$35,279.00
<b>Income</b>	\$164,981.00	\$20,219.00	\$185,200.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$162,187.00	\$27,651.00	\$189,838.00
<b>11-30-2015</b>	\$12,438.00	\$18,203.00	\$30,641.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<b>8AM</b>	<b>10:30AM</b>		
November 1	86	225	37	348
November 8	86	230	41	357
November 15	83	204	42	329
November 22	62	169	48	279
November 29	107	215	CFW	322

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

<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>	
November <u>2014</u> – 1,533	November <u>2015</u> – 1,635
<b>AVG ATTENDANCE</b>	
November <u>2014</u> – 307	November <u>2015</u> - 327

**DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED HOLIDAY DECORATIONS?**

It's that time of the year when you are decorating and un-decorating for the holidays. How many items do you keep in your holiday bin that you don't even use anymore?

**SANTA'S ATTIC** is looking for those unwanted decorations. Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween.....even Easter decorations are welcome! Bring your "gently used" decorations to Memorial Hall and place them in the marked box on the stage during the months of **December and January**.

**GO GREEN for the HOLIDAYS....let's reduce, reuse and recycle those decorations!**

## UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

<p><b>Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson</b> Acting Senior Pastor Cell Phone: 610-657-6007 assocpastor@unionucc.org</p> <p><b>Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer</b> Interim Pastor interimpastor@unionucc.org</p> <p><b>Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson</b> Pastor of Visitation Cell Phone: 610-248-5587 vispastor@unionucc.org</p> <p><b>Rev. A. William Metzger</b> Pastoral Consultant Renaissinc@aol.com</p> <p><b>Rev. Thomas N. Thomas</b> Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>Kathy L. Bonsell</b> Director of Christian Education dired@unionucc.org</p> <p><b>Barbara Carinci</b> Church Administrator administrator@unionucc.org</p> <p><b>Tara Henninger</b> Communications Coordinator secretary@unionucc.org</p> <p><b>Mike Baer</b> Music Coordinator dirmusic@unionucc.org</p> <p><b>Blake Hoppes</b> Organist/Accompanist Blake.charger@gmail.com</p>	<p>Church Office: 610-767-6961 Fax: 610-767-7128</p> <p>PO Box 66, 5550 Route 873 Neffs PA 18065-0066</p> <p>www.unionucc.org</p> <p>Preschool Office: 610-767-5327</p> <p><b>Ronald Kneller</b> Facility Caretaker caretaker@unionucc.org</p>
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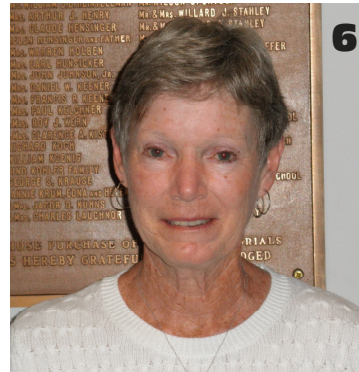
**Church Telephone Extension Directory**  
**610-767-6961**

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



# New Members Received November 15, 2015

- (5) Chris Bastidas,
- (2) Linda Buesgen,  
Doris Brotzman,  
George and (6) Betty  
Brittenburg,
- (3) Heather Bunn,  
Judy Hankee and Brian  
Rubright,  
Jessica Knerr,
- (7) Melanie Peters,
- (1) Debbie and John Romig,
- (1) Amanda Roth,
- (4) Andrea Stewart,  
Gary Yencho



## Baptisms

We celebrated with these families on November 22, 2015



Jessica Knerr and her sons, Sebastian Knerr and Gabriel Mantz



Riley Vienna Decker daughter of Chad and Emma (Lara) Decker

# January 2015

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
								1 <u>Church office closed</u>		2	
4 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7:00pm</u> Fellowship Committee		5 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>12pm</u> Golden Times <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30</u> Junior Choir <u>7pm</u> Middler Choir <u>7:30pm</u> High School Choir; Bible Study		6 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Search Committee		7 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Christian Ed; Pre-baptism		8 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study		9	
11 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7:00pm</u> Welcoming Committee		12 <u>10 am</u> Helping Hands <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7pm</u> Financial Leaders <u>7:30pm</u> Bible Study <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>		13 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry		14 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir		15 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study <u>6pm</u> Wedding Rehearsal		16 <u>12:00pm</u> Wedding	
18 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Consistory		19 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7:30pm</u> Bible Study; Worship Cmte		20 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilt <u>10am</u> Knitwits;Preschool Board <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Search Committee		21 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Search Committee		22 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study		23	
25 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> FOLG		26 <u>9am</u> Newsletter Mailing <u>1pm</u> Property <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7:30pm</u> Bible Study		27 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilt <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit		28 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir		29 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study		30 Confirmation Sleepover	
SUNDAYS											
3 <b>Covenant Renewal and Communion</b>  <u>8am</u> Heritage Service  <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class		10 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class Tech Committee  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/Baptism Children's Church  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds		17 <b>Healing Service</b> <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; Spuds and Suds		24 <b>Jazz Ensemble</b> <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/ Semi Annual Meeting  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds		31 <b>Confirmation Leads</b> <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- Church Family Worship  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds;			