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○ March 2016



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*Union*  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**  
Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST \* CELEBRATING THE PRESENT  
BUILDING THE FUTURE

## Holy Week Schedule

**Saturday, March 19— Easter Egg Hunt**

at 2:00 p.m. (children must sign up before March 5  
see page 14)

**Sunday, March 20 Passion Sunday:**

**Palm Sunday and Holy Week at 8:00 am and  
10:30 am Worship**

**Pastors Kris, Allan and Patience will lead us through the  
readings and music of this week.**

**Thursday, March 24 Maundy Thursday 6-8pm**

Discipleship Meal with Communion and Potluck.  
Bring a casserole, side dish or dessert to share.

**Friday, March 25 Good Friday** The Sanctuary will be open for prayer during the day.

**7:00pm** Worship with Communion

**Sunday, March 27 Easter**

**\*6:40 am** Sunrise Worship in the Cemetery with Communion

\*Note time change based on the sunrise time.

**8:00 am** Worship with Communion

**10:30 am** Worship with Communion





# From the Interim Pastor

## *Lenten Reflections: "Praying the Daily Examen"*

Lent is a time when Christians are invited to explore a new spiritual discipline.

Some Christians give up something for Lent, i.e. eating chocolate, watching TV, playing computer games, etc. Others follow special dietary routines, i.e. fasting on Wednesdays or Fridays.

I find it meaningful to be more intentional in my prayer life during the Season of Lent. One way of being more intentional about prayer is to practice the **Daily Examen**.

**The Daily Examen** is a way of praying that was developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius was a Spanish priest who lived during the 16<sup>th</sup> century "Counter Reformation," and who founded the religious order of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

**The Examen** is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day to help us experience God's presence and to discern God's direction in our lives.

It includes five steps:

1. Become aware of God's presence by finding a quiet place and looking back over the events of the day.
2. Review the day with gratitude. Look at what you did, the people with whom you interacted, the gifts you received and gave to them.

3. Pay attention to your emotions. One of Ignatius's greatest insights was that we experience the presence of God in the movements of our emotions. Listen to what you are feeling and ask what God may be telling you through these feelings.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray about it. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something that happened to you and pray about it. It may be a negative or positive experience or feeling. Invite a prayer to flow out of this experience or feeling.
5. Look toward tomorrow. Ask God for strength to face tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to your feelings about tomorrow. Are you excited about tomorrow, dreading tomorrow, bored with life in general? Allow your feelings to turn into prayer.

St. Ignatius encouraged people to pray like they were having a conversation with a friend. End **the Daily Examen** with a conversation with Jesus.

May this Season of Lent bring you to the Season of Easter and may you learn to walk in the light of the resurrection in this world and the next.

*Pastor Allan*

## Wednesday Night Bread for the Journey Series

**Two Wednesdays left: March 2, and March 9**

**(If one session is cancelled the makeup snow date is March 16.)**

**You are invited to attend the whole night or the parts of the night that fit your schedule and interest.**

6:15-7pm Potluck Supper in the basement (Fellowship Hall)

Bring a casserole, side dish or dessert to share.

7-7:15pm Worship in the Sanctuary

7:15-8pm Children's activities, movies, crafts and Random Acts of Kindness with Mrs. Bonsell

7:15-8pm Adults meet with Pastors Allan and Kris to watch and discuss the movie *The Way*.

An inspiring story about family, friends, and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. While hiking through "The Way of St. James" in France, Tom discovers the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose." How do we live life to the fullest?



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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

## Thanks to our Office Helpers!

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



# Search Committee Update

Since the Congregation approved the amendment to our Constitution (establishing a percentage of votes needed to extend a call to a pastor and a process for that special meeting) and approved the congregational profile, our committee is poised to begin receiving ministerial profiles from candidates who may be interested in our Sr. Pastor position. I expect that the listing will be posted on the UCC website (the only authorized way candidates may apply for this position) in the next two weeks.

Once the position is posted, all interested candidates will send their profiles to the Penn Northeast Conference Office which will in turn forward them to our committee for consideration.

The Search Committee has been busily preparing for the “mock” or practice interview which we will conduct with a local pastor to help us prepare for the actual interviews.

As I mentioned in last month’s newsletter and shared with our leadership, 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.

Our committee expects to begin reviewing profiles and begin the selection process in early April. It is not known how long this process might take. We will search and interview as long as we need until we find the best candidate whom we feel God is calling to be our next Sr. Pastor.

It seems fitting that in this season of Lent (discernment) we are searching for our next shepherd. Let us all pray that we will discern God’s will for our faith community

David Fleming, Chair

## **Regarding Requests for Pastor Thomas** – From Dave Fleming and the Church and Ministry Committee

As we continue to be in transition after Pastor Thomas’s retirement, the Church and Ministry Committee would like to remind church members that as part of our agreement with Pastor Tom when he retired and our agreement with our current and future pastors, it is practice and policy that church members not invite or request him to return to officiate or assist at weddings, funerals, or baptisms or to participate in other church related events.

As Pastor Emeritus, Pastor Tom will be invited back by the pastors or leaders to worship and to church events at some point. We all look forward to seeing him then.

## **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 **April 3, 10, & 17 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, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the 8am or 10:30am worship service.**

**Contact Pastor Kris if you have questions. [assocpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:assocpastor@unionucc.org) 610-767-6961**

# Children's Programs

## Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

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

### March CIA Event (K- 6th Grade) **Candy Bingo**

March 11

**Bring your favorite candy bar!**  
**Hot dogs and Bingo**  
**6-8pm in Fellowship Hall**  
**RSVP: [NeffsCIA@gmail.com](mailto:NeffsCIA@gmail.com)**



### Children's Church Calendar

Mar. 6 The Prodigal Son Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mar. 13 Mary Anoints Jesus John 12:1-8

Mar. 20 Luke's Holy Week Luke 22:14-23:56

Mar. 27 EASTER SUNDAY Church Family Worship

### First Communion Preparation

**First Communion Preparation Class** is scheduled for **Sunday, March 13th**, after the 10:30 service. The class is open to all first graders and any other students (2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade) who have not previously attended the class and would like to participate in communion. The children and parents will join Mrs. Bonsell and Pastor Kris after church. We hope to conclude the session by 12:30pm. The children will receive their **first communion** on **Thursday, March 24th** during the Maundy Thursday evening service. The children will then be prepared to take communion on Easter Sunday. Information flyers will be handed out in Sunday School and Children's Church. Please register with **Kathy Bonsell** before **March 20th** or contact Kathy at 610-434-1169 or at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org).

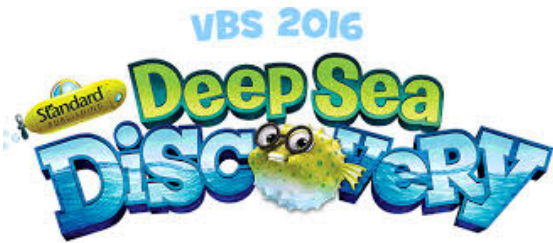


### VBS 2016 – June 27-July 1

This summer Union UCC is diving into Deep Sea Discovery! We will have a great time with lively songs, humorous skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks....all of the things that make VBS so much fun for children (and adults). This year's program is scheduled for June 27th through July 1st, 9:00am to noon daily. We hope you can join us for a week of fun and adventure!

**We are still in need of adults and youth to lead this year's adventure.**

**Registration Forms are located in Memorial Hall. Due by May 15th.**



**DESIGN LAB**—Help with this year's VBS planning and decorations on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 10am-2pm. We will meet in Room 5. Bring your lunch!



### Holy Week & Easter

### A WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK MARCH 20th—Education Hour (9:15-10:15)

All Education Hour participants will experience Jesus' last week as we physically walk from Palm Sunday to the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane to Good Friday and finally to Easter Sunday. The children will experience each day through skits and special mementos.





# 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/YouthGroup)  
 Anyone who is in grades 6-12 is considered a member of youth group. Adults and parents who meet our safe child guidelines are welcome as chaperones, drivers and team members. Friends and families are always invited (unless noted).

## Sunday, March 6 is Youth Sunday!

T-shirts are \$5. Come to support each other and to celebrate Love Your Selfie Day!

## Saturday, May 7 Church-wide Yard Sale 9am-2pm

Sign up to help serve drinks and to assist in the kitchen area.

And/or Youth Group sells Walking Tacos, Root Beer floats, Pretzels.

## Sunday, May 15 Confirmation Day at 10:30am Worship

## Sunday, June 5 Graduate Sunday at 8am and/or 10:30am Worship

Build Your Own Sundae Sunday Picnic in the Grove

## Seniors—start sending Pastor Kris your graduation information.

A fun time and great way to start summer. Moon bounce, rock wall, tattoos and face painting. We'll be looking for help and veggies/dip and snack donations.



### **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)

## 2016 National Youth Event of the United Church of Christ July 26-31, 2016 \* Disney World, Florida

THERE ARE 17 YOUTH AND 5 ADULTS GOING ON AN ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME. OUR 22  
 PEOPLE WILL JOIN OVER 100 YOUTH AND ADULTS FROM THE PENN NORTHEAST CONFER-  
 ENCE WHO WILL JOIN OVER 4,000 UCC YOUTH FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO GATHER

FOR WORSHIP, WORKSHOPS.

SERVICE, FAITH, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP.

AND, IT'S AT DISNEY WORLD!

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING OUR TRIP WITH A FINANCIAL GIFT.**

Make checks payable to Union UCC Youth Group.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Envelope #\_\_\_\_\_

*Now faith is the confidence that what we believe will actually  
 happen; It gives us assurance about things we cannot see."*

*Hebrews 11:1*

## 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, April 3 at 10:30 Worship**

## Golden Times

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

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

**Program:** "Cyber Seniors" Video and discussion of Seniors, Computers and Social Media

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

Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

**An informal sharing of Holy Communion is offered at the end of our time together for those who are interested.**

## Important Safe Child Reminder for Our Volunteers

Protecting our children from child abuse is a community responsibility.

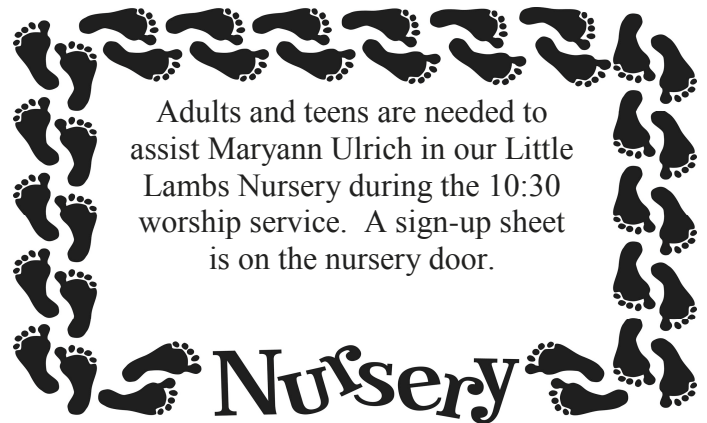
On October 22, 2014 House Bill 435 was signed into law becoming Act 153 of 2014. This PA law requires comprehensive criminal and child abuse background checks for all paid employees and volunteers who work with or around children.

**All staff** will be required to view an online video, Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse, complete a PA criminal record check, complete a PA child abuse history check, and complete a fingerprint record check.

**All volunteers** will be required to view the online video, the criminal record check, and the child abuse history check. (A fingerprint record check is only required if the volunteer has not lived in PA for the last 10 years.) These checks are FREE for volunteers.

Barb Korastinsky is our Safe Child Coordinator. Instructions are on our website. If you have any questions about the legislation or the process, please contact Barb at 610-767-1993 or bjs140@juno.com.

Thank you for helping our church grow and be a safe place for our most precious children.



Adults and teens are needed to assist Maryann Ulrich in our Little Lambs Nursery during the 10:30 worship service. A sign-up sheet is on the nursery door.

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 Bonsell for an order form.  
(Tickets must be ordered by March 6th!)



***Ruth Ruch is our Catch the Spirit recipient for March.  
She will be recognized on March 13, 2016 at the 10:30 am worship service.***

Ruth is a life-long member of Union UCC. "I have been a member all my life at UCC." She was baptized May 5, 1957 and confirmed in May of 1969 by Pastor Urffer. Pastor Goguts married her and husband, Frederick on September 27, 1980. Pastor Tom baptized their two sons (in 1985 and 1986), who were confirmed by Pastor Kris in May of 1999 and 2001.

Ruth is in her 34th year of teaching at Allentown Central Catholic High School. She has also been a professor at Northampton Community College, for the last 11 years. She teaches Accounting and Information Technology both on the high school and collegiate level. Ruth is the moderator of SADD (Students Against Destruction Decisions), loves boating, spending time with her family, reading romance novels, and watching romance movies. She has been married to Fred for 35 years, and her sons are grown. Frederick is 30 and lives in Lakeland, FL, while Jonathan, 29, is married and lives in Jersey City, NJ.

Some of the activities Ruth has participated in here at Union UCC in the past were, youth group advisor, three years on Consistory, confirmation mentor, and lay reader. Some of her current roles include, usher, mission committee member, children's church teacher.

Ruth shared her favorite church memory, "Getting married and having our sons baptized and confirmed are my fondest memories. I also have great memories helping with Blues Nite Out and Soup Night."

Ruth loves Union UCC "... because my church creates an atmosphere of vibrant and meaningful worship, promotes genuine care and concern among the Body of Christ, and fosters church growth."

Thank you, Ruth for being a part of our vibrant church.

## Flower Plants for the Home Visitation Members and for the Sanctuary



This year we are pleased to offer Easter Lilies (\$8.75 each), 6 bloom Tulips and 3 bloom Hyacinths (\$7 each).

Please help by sponsoring a Flowering Plant for the Sanctuary.

You may pick this up after the 10:30 a.m. Easter Service on March 27th.

Let us share this Joy of the Easter season with our Home Visitation Members. Sponsor a Flowering Plant and assure them that we include them within our Church Family.

Please **print** your information on the form, enter the number of plants you are ordering, and place in the offering plate, with your payment (checks payable to Union U.C.C.) or mail to the **church office by Sunday, March 6, 2016.**



I would like to sponsor Flowering Plant(s)

### FOR SANCTUARY

Lily (\$8.75) \_\_\_\_ Tulip (\$7.00) \_\_\_\_ Hyacinth (\$7.00) \_\_\_\_

FOR VISITATION MEMBER(S) Lily (\$8.75) \_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my plants after the 10:30am Easter worship service on March 27, 2016:

(Please circle one) YES NO

## Men's Group

### Men's Group Bean Bag Tournament

Union UCC's Bean Bag Tournament will be re-turning to the church grove this summer. This year's event will be held on **Thursday June 23** for men of all ages, friends are welcome too. Warm up your throwing arms, a fun night in the grove for the Men's Group is being planned.

Look for more information in future newsletters.



### "Grove Cleanup" Scheduled for May 14

"Grove Cleanup" Scheduled for May 14

The men of the Church are invited to join us for a "Grove Cleanup" on Saturday, May 14, 8:30 am – 11 am.. Pizza and beer will be served following the cleanup. (as in.... Root Beer)

## Thank You

My family and I appreciate the many expressions of sympathy shared after the church's February newsletter reported my mother's death. After a long, active, and loving life, she died suddenly. While we miss her, we rejoice as we remember her as God's gift to us. Blessings to you all.

**Tom Thomas, Pastor Emeritus**

## Sunday Sponsors:

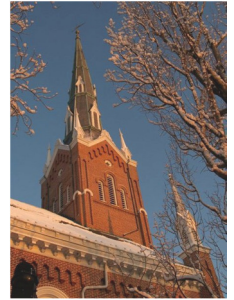
**Flower Basket (\$30), Adult & Children's Bulletins (\$20, \$8)** contact Phyllis Hamm at 610-349-0324 (leave a message or text).

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

*Please note: we have discontinued Sign-Up Genius*

## Property Committee

By Phil Wehr



El Nino, La Nina, Polar Vortex, Winter Storm Jonah, whatever you want to call a snowstorm these days, the storm on Saturday January 23, 2016 brought a record breaking thirty-one inches of snow to Neffs, PA. Near blizzard conditions brought the Lehigh Valley to a halt for two days, including church activities for Saturday and Sunday. For the first time in decades, Union UCC's two Sunday services were cancelled, along with postponing the semi-annual meeting.

The snow cleanup crews and volunteers were here on both Saturday and Sunday, and with the help of the sun and warm days, the church property was open and ready for business on Monday. Thank you to all who helped.

The groundhog has predicted an early spring, but we still may get another big winter blast. The one thing that is certain, the church calendar shows an early **Easter on March 27**. Plans are underway for many Easter activities here at Union UCC. We hope you can attend our special services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, plus the Easter Bunny will be hopping around the grove for families to enjoy.

Give Praise and join your church family this Easter Season, here at Union UCC.

### New Hospital Stay Info:

The pastors try to do hospital visits on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays/Saturdays hoping they will see any of our members during a hospital admission.

***If you are in the hospital, please ask a family member or friend to call one of our pastors or the church office to be sure we know you are there. 610-767-6961***

It would also be helpful to tell the staff during admissions that your **church code is 511**. If you are not sure that we know of your stay, you can also call the hospital chaplain's office and ask them to list you under our **church code 511**.

**We are more than glad to visit, to pray with you and to ask the congregation to pray for you and care for you, so please don't hesitate to call on us.**





# Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

## Did You Know?

Did you know that one of our long time members, Curtis Frantz, was at one time passed over for a position on the Consistory at Union UCC because he was unmarried? Although Curtis was baptized and confirmed at Union UCC, one of the qualifications to serve on the Consistory at that time was that he had to be married. One of Curtis' brothers was rotating off Consistory and needed to select his own successor and would have happily chosen Curtis. While Curtis was not able to serve on Consistory at that time he did go on to serve at a later time for four and a half years as President of Consistory. Curtis also served as President and Superintendent of the Union UCC Sunday School, where he selected and trained teachers and conducted meetings.

Curtis has fond memories of Sunday School lessons of his youth in the old two-room schoolhouse that used to be located on the western edge of what is now the North parking lot. He remembers fun summer outings with his classmates from the Sunday School.

Curtis worked at Bethlehem Steel for one and a half years following his graduation from high school. He was drafted into the Army on his twenty-first birthday and served for eighteen months in Tokyo, Japan.

When Curtis returned from his tour of duty he was introduced to his wife, Elaine Kuhns Frantz, by a fellow Union UCC member, Ken Clauser. They all attended Christian Endeavor meetings at the Egypt Church. (These were the Youth Group meetings of Curtis' youth.)

Curtis and Elaine raised two daughters and are enjoying two grandchildren. Curtis went into business for himself as a financial planner for 58 years, retiring in 2013.

Curtis and Elaine are currently living in Egypt, where Curtis raised his family and ran his business. He would love to hear from you:

Curtis Frantz  
4403 Main Street  
Egypt, PA 18052-1525



By Annette Wilcox

Check us out on Facebook—  
**[facebook.com/neffspreschool](https://facebook.com/neffspreschool)**

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

In February the students and teachers blasted off to learn about our solar system: the sun, stars, planets and gravity. In Chapel we talked about love, tying into the theme of Valentine's Day. Classes made time to talk about some of our greatest presidents as we celebrated President's Day and discussed what makes a shadow, as the groundhog predicted an early spring. In addition, the Preschool completed its first ever Mid-Year Parent Satisfaction Survey to help us better plan to meet the changes within the education system.

Planning has begun for the 2016-2017 school year, and **registration in now open**. Registration forms and information can be found on our website or by contacting the Preschool directly at 610-767-5327.

## 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**

## Book and Puzzle Donations Wanted



The Country Sale Committee is looking for donations of 'gently' used books and puzzles for our Book Room Sale. Starting April 20th place on stage in Memorial Hall. All donations can be taken to Room 4 AFTER April 27th. *We are no longer accepting Christmas decoration donations. Watch for future collection dates.*



## Mission Committee

By Vicki Mayk

The **Lenten Self-Denial Offering** provides another chance to honor our Lord and make helping others part of your Lenten observance. This year the Mission Committee has chosen two community organizations to share the offering. Representatives from each will speak during services during Lent.

### Meals on Wheels of Lehigh Country

Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County delivers nutritious meals and provides social visits to over 400 clients each weekday on 33 delivery routes throughout the Lehigh Valley. More than 1,000 individual and group volunteers deliver almost 160,000 meals each year. Clients are seniors or adults with disabilities who are primarily homebound and unable to manage meal preparation. The organization also provides grocery shopping, pet food for clients with pets, and emergency meals for use when meals can be delivered due to bad weather.

### Turning Point

Turning Point provides services in Lehigh and Northampton counties to victims of domestic abuse and their children. The organization reaches nearly 4,000 people a year through its programs and services. Services include a 24-hour Helpline, safe house, counseling, support groups, court advocacy, community outreach, prevention education, and medical advocacy.

Thank you, The Mission Committee

### SOUPER Bowl Sunday Results

Union UCC is part of the God's winning TEAM in fighting HUNGER through our collections of **over 350 cans** of soup to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and cash donations of **\$107 for Lehigh Conference of Churches**. Thank you to all who participated in this yearly event.

We truly make a difference in the lives of local families. While we highlight our annual soup drive during Super Bowl week, the fight for HUNGER continues every week for children, parents, and seniors throughout the local community, some may even be your friends or neighbors.

Soup, cereal, canned goods, toilet paper and other toiletries are needed each and every week at the food bank. **Please help us fight HUNGER all year long.**

## Global Ministries Sponsored Children

Updates from our sponsored children in Zimbabwe, Africa

Tendai Magidhi Age 10, 5th Grade

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

My birthday is December 1, and I am ten years old. I am staying with my grandmother, who is a farmer. I always help her after school digging the land.

I walk to school daily, our church is also located near the school yard. I like to give praise and worship in the church. At school my favorite subject is Math and English. I like to read novels to improve my English, and visit with friends to watch television since my grandmother does not own one.

Thank you for sponsoring me, I hope to be a lawyer when I grow up.

Yours Faithfully, Tendai

Elizabeth Magidhi Age 15, High School

Dear Friends,

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you, I hope everything over there is OK. I am staying with my grandmother. I am learning at Queen Elizabeth Girls High. My favorite subject is French.

At school I play netball and am in the drama club. When I grow up I want to be a French journalist. I also walk to school and go to church at Harare City Central UCC. At our church I like the preaching and above all to give praise and worship. I like when people are dancing, singing, and clapping to the Lord.

Pass my greetings to your families and church members.

Your loving friend, Elizabeth



# Adult Study

## Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

**March 4** Pastor Allan will lead Bible study  
*"The Authority of Scripture"* using  
 Bart Ehrman's *"Making of the New Testament Canon"*

**March 11** Pastor Allan will lead Bible study  
*"Interpreting the Scriptures"* using Bart  
 Ehrman's *"Making of the New Testament Canon"*

**March 18** Pastor Allan will lead Bible study  
*"When Did the Canon Get Finalized?"*  
 Using Bart Ehrman's *Making of the New Testament Canon*

## Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

**March 6** Pastor Patience will continue the Lenten study/discussion/DVD series. The Gift of Misfits

**March 13** Pastor Patience will continue the Lenten study/discussion/DVD series. The Gift of Misfits Part 2 with Lilian Daniels

**March 20** The adult class will join Director of Christian Education, Kathy Bonsell, and the entire Sunday School as they "Walk Through Holy Week"

## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday 7-8:30PM room 5.



We are studying the life of Moses and the book of Exodus. You are invited to come learn new things and grow in faith. Contact Harry B. Burger 610-767-5344.

# 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.**

# Notes from Friday Bible Studies

Wonderful inspirations continue to come out of our Friday Bible Studies. Here are two:

- Kathy Bonsell and Claire Kern shared their excitement about a new way of doing Bible Study: *"Illuminated Bible Journaling..."* Jann Gray recently presented a workshop at Hackman's in which she invited participants to use drawings and artwork to explore Bible passages in new ways.
- Susan Glosan shared an insight into her understanding of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: She said,  
 "I pray to God..."  
 "I talk to Jesus..."  
 "I feel the Holy Spirit."

**Everyone is invited to join us Friday mornings from 9:30 – 11 am.**

## TURN YOUR TRASH INTO CASH

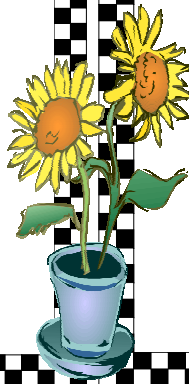
It's time to start thinking about spring and yard sales again. Why not sell your items at our Country Sale!

**DATE:** Saturday, May 7th, 9-2

**COST:** \$20 donation per indoor/outdoor space

**REGISTRATION:** Contact Linda Migliori 610-799-6160 or download contract at [unionucc.org](http://unionucc.org)

\*\* All unsold items can be placed in a truck for donations for Recycle Local. This is a fundraiser for our Preschool. \* \*



## HOW CAN I HELP???

- **Reserve a table** , \$20 donation  
*Linda Migliori 610-799-6160*
- **Bake...** Bring items to the church on Friday, May 2nd 12-8 or Saturday, May 3rd after 7am
- **Kitchen Help** serving, preparing, clean-up  
*Vicki Sorg 610-261-1242*
- **Book Collection**, No earlier than April 17, drop off on stage
- **Greeters/Runners/Set-up/Clean-up/General Help/Traffic Control**
- **Advertise** pick up a flyer to hang in your business or local store  
*Maryann Puia 610-767-9318*

To volunteer, contact name listed above or contact the church office. Hope to see you there!

## Pint for Pint: Blood Drive and Soup Sale

Did you know that only about 3% of the American population donates blood? And that victims of an auto accident can require as much as 50 donors' blood? On Sunday, **March 13, from 8 am until 1 pm**, you'll have the opportunity to donate blood, which could be a life-saving action. The Mission Committee will host the Miller-Keystone Blood Center in Memorial Hall. Please call Susan Smith at (610) 366-7284, Barbara Carinci in the office at (610) 767-6961, or go online at [giveapint.org](http://giveapint.org) (Sponsor code 0550) to sign up for one of the many available time slots. More information on donor eligibility can be found online at [giveapint.org](http://giveapint.org).

In addition to the blood drive, there will be a **Soup Sale Fundraiser** for Miller-Keystone. Quarts at \$6 and pints at \$4 make a great lunch or light dinner. This is a take-out only event. All donors will receive a pint of soup as a small token of thanks for showing this gesture of love and humanity. The Mission Committee thanks you in advance for supporting this essential local mission anyway you are able.





**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

4th Sunday in Lent/Youth Sunday

**8:00am Heritage Service****10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship**

**"Love Your Selfie"** Worship will be led by our High School Seniors and our Youth Group.

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

**Greeters:** Youth Group**Acolytes:** 8AM - Garrett Fitzgerald

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

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

5th Sunday in Lent

**8:00am Heritage Service****10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism****Text:** John 12:1-8**Message:** "What if Lazarus Had a Living Will?"**Sermon:** The Rev Dr Allan Kramer-Moyer

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns  
10:30 - Fawn Albert

**Greeters:** Glenn & Susan Mattern, Lou & Mary Burdick

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

**Sunday, March 20, 2016**

Palm Sunday

**8:00am Heritage Service****10:30am Horizon Service****Text:** John 12:1-8**Message:****Sermon:** Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider  
10:30 - Claire Kern

**Greeters:** Jane Schappell, Karen & Dave Fleming

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Will Filipovits  
10:30AM - Peyton Schlosser, Justin Trexler

**Thursday, March 24, 2016 - Maundy Thursday****6PM** First Communion Celebration

Discipleship Meal

**Friday, March 25, 2016**

Good Friday Worship 7PM

Tenebrae and Altar Communion

**Text:** Psalm 22**Message:** "Bad Friday"**Sermon:** Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

**Readers:** Harry Burger, Claire Kern, Donna Christman,  
Dan Topp, Don Penrod, Jim Ondrey, Leslie Thompson-  
Strack, Dave Fleming

**Greeters:** Claire Kern, Dana Krisko**Acolytes:** Olivia Schuster, Ian Henninger**Sunday, March 27, 2016**

Easter Sunday/Communion

**6:40am Sunrise Service****Text:** John 20:11-18**Message:** "I Have Seen the Lord"**Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer**8:00am Heritage Service****Text:** John 20:1-18**Message:** "A New Day"**Sermon:** Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson**10:30am Horizon Service****Text:** Luke 24: 1-12**Message:** "Signs of New Life"**Sermon:** Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Susan Rumble

10:30 - Jim Ondrey

**Greeters:** Kim Krempasky, Gene & Christina Thrash**Acolytes:** 8AM -

10:30AM - Hannah Horvath, Sonya Shivok

**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:**

March 6—Youth Group

March 13—Christian Ed

March 20—Worship Committee

March 27—No Committee



## Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

**Every Sunday****9:15-10:15 & 11:30-12:00**

## Lent and Easter are a Good Time to Reconnect with Your Church Family

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.

## Home Visitation Members' Birthdays

**Lorraine Hunsicker—March 19**

3178 Masters Hill Rd.

Fogelsville, PA 18051-2133

**Althea Schiffer - March 29**

Fellowship Manor room 228

3010 Fellowship Drive

Whitehall, PA 18052-3343



# amazon smile

## You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make your purchase; 5% of your order will be donated to Union UCC, as a charitable organization. Don't forget to set Union United Church of Christ, Neffs as your charity.

## Saturday, March 19 at 2PM

In the Church's grove, weather permitting. If not, Memorial Hall. Ages 0-10  
Bring a basket or container to collect eggs!



**Please register your child  
no later than  
Sunday, March 5!**

SPONSORED BY  
THE FELLOWSHIP  
COMMITTEE

### EASTER BUNNY VISIT / EGG HUNT Registration Form

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Parent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donations needed for Easter Bunny's Visit:

**Wrapped candy. Examples:** Wrapped kisses, chocolate/white Easter candy, etc.

**Prizes for "lucky eggs." Examples:** Books, coloring book, larger pieces of wrapped chocolate, pencils, chalk, stuffed toys...

Please bring donations before March 13th and place them in the containers at the church entrances.



# 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>	\$270,467.00	\$37,039.00	\$307,506.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$230,875.00	\$32,976.00	\$263,851.00
<b>1-31-2016</b>	\$49,236.00	\$29,698.00	\$78,934.00

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

**TAI CHI** Beginning Tai Chi starts Monday 3/7, 9-9:40, Choir Room  
Tai Chi starts Monday 3/7, 10-11, Choir Room

Tai Chi, Thursdays, 6-7 pm, Room 100

**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		
January 3	77	202	31	310
January 10	52	156	41	249
January 17	63	233	48	344
January 24	0	0	0	0
January 31	79	192	CFW	271

## TOTAL ATTENDANCE

January 2015– 1,096 January 2016 – 1,170

## AVG ATTENDANCE

January 2015–274 January 2016 - 293

## Clothing Shed

The church received \$2,347.00 from the clothing shed collections for the full 2015 year (close to 30,000 pounds collected). The shed gets filled once a month and when it is full, Recycle Local picks it up.

The preschool received \$1,458 from their spring and fall clothing truck drives. This project has truly been successful, and we are off to a good start in 2016. Please continue to use the shed for your used clothing donations.

## Death

**Ann M. Stoss (Silliman)** passed away on February 18, 2016 and was laid to rest on February 22, 2016 in Union Church Cemetery.

## UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson**  
Acting Senior Pastor  
Cell Phone: 610-657-6007  
assocpastor@unionucc.org

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

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

**Rev. Thomas N. Thomas**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Kathy L. Bonsell**  
Director of Christian Education  
dired@unionucc.org

**Barbara Carinci**  
Church Administrator  
administrator@unionucc.org

**Tara Henninger**  
Communications Coordinator  
secretary@unionucc.org

**Mike Baer**  
Music Coordinator  
dirmusic@unionucc.org

**Blake Hoppes**  
Organist/Accompanist  
Blake.charger@gmail.com

Church Office:  
610-767-6961  
Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66,  
5550 Route 873  
Neffs PA 18065-0066

www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:  
610-767-5327

**Ronald Kneller**  
Facility Caretaker  
caretaker@unionucc.org

## Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

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

# March 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1 9am</b> Staff Mtg <b>10am</b> Program Staff <b>12pm</b> Golden Times <b>6pm</b> Cherub Choir <b>6:30</b> Junior Choir <b>7pm</b> Middler Choir; Bible Study <b>7:30pm</b> High School	<b>2</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilters <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>6:15 pm</b> Lent Dinner <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit <b>7pm</b> Church & Ministry	<b>3</b> <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir	<b>4</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study	<b>5</b> <b>10am</b> Hoagie pick up <b>12pm</b> Private Party
<b>7</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi <b>10am</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit <b>7:00pm</b> Fellowship	<b>8</b> <b>10am</b> Helping Hands <b>6-8pm</b> Youth Choirs <b>7pm</b> Bible Study	<b>9</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilters <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>6:15 pm</b> Lent Dinner <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>10</b> <b>6pm</b> Tai Chi <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir; Finance Committee; Helping Hearts	<b>11</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study <b>5:30pm</b> CIA	<b>12</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi <b>10am</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit <b>7pm</b> Welcoming Committee	<b>15 9am</b> Staff Mtg <b>10am</b> Program Staff <b>1pm</b> Property <b>6-8pm</b> Youth Choirs <b>7pm</b> Financial Leaders; Bible Study;	<b>16</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilters <b>10am</b> Knitwits; Preschool Board <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>17</b> <b>6pm</b> Tai Chi <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir	<b>18</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study	<b>19</b> <b>2pm</b> Easter Egg Hunt
<b>21</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi <b>10am</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit <b>6:45pm</b> Consistory	<b>22</b> <b>6-8pm</b> Youth Choirs <b>7pm</b> Bible Study	<b>23</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilt <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>24</b> <b>6pm</b> Tai Chi <b>6pm</b> Maundy Thursday Discipleship Meal	<b>25</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study <b>7pm</b> Good Friday Tenebrae	<b>26</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi <b>10am</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>29</b> <b>9am</b> Newsletter Mailing <b>6-8pm</b> Youth Choirs <b>7pm</b> Bible Study	<b>30</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilt <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>31</b> <b>6pm</b> Tai Chi <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir		
SUNDAYS					
<b>6 Youth Sunday</b> <b>8am</b> Heritage Service <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service-Church Family Worship <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds	<b>13 8am-1pm Blood Donations</b> <b>8am</b> Heritage Service <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class Tech Committee <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Baptism Children's Church <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds	<b>20 Palm Sunday</b> <b>8am</b> Heritage Service <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service-Children's Church <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds	<b>27 Easter Sunday</b> <b>6:40 am</b> Sunrise Service Cemetery <b>8am</b> Heritage Service <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Church Family Worship <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds		