



► INTERIM PASTOR 2

○ Issue 4

○ Vol. 40

○ April 2016



► CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



► YOUTH GROUP.....5

Union UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT * BUILDING THE FUTURE

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

** 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 7th 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!



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. *We are no longer accepting Christmas decoration donations. Watch for future collection dates.*

Look for the Book Sale and Santa's Attic in Memorial Hall this year.



From the Interim Pastor

“Living in Light of the Resurrection”

For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6.5

The Greek philosopher Plato tells an interesting story about three prisoners who are chained to a wall in a cave for their entire lives. Behind them burns a fire and all they are able to see are their own shadows on the opposite wall of the cave.

By chance, one of the men escapes and makes his way out of the cave and into the sunlight for the first time. At first he is blinded, but eventually he begins to see things as they really are.

Inspired by what he sees, he returns to the cave to tell the other prisoners that what they perceive as reality are really only their own shadows. However, the two remaining prisoners have never seen anything other than their shadows, so they refuse to believe him.

Plato tells this story to describe the nature of philosophy. He believes that most persons never discover the truth because they are chained to their own shadows and illusions. Only true philosophers understand the truth.

This story can be an analogy of our Christian faith, as well. As Christians, we experience the truth of God's love, as portrayed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. and we see the world in a different light. The world isn't the same anymore. The principalities and powers of this world become mere shadows in the light of God's love. Like the prisoner who was freed from bondage in the cave, once we experience the love of God, we are set free from our own projections and illusions to live in the light of his love and to share this love with others. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Allan

Consistory

by Deidre Bilger (subject to approval)

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, March 21, 2016 by President Brad Hackett.

Due to a February snow storm, the Treasurer's Report and January/February and February/March 2016 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that at present everything is in good working order and annual maintenance projects are being lined up. The hearing assisting devices are going to be installed and tested soon. We are obtaining quotes for painting projects around the church, and the replacement of the hallway rug by the main offices. That information will be presented next meeting. Daffodils are in bloom in the grove, and a memorial garden has been installed in the upper section of the grove. Check it out. Consistory approved to begin working on plans for a new food stand in the grove.

Mission Committee reported that the Pint for Pint Blood Drive on Sunday, March 13, was a huge success. 48 people were processed with 36 able to donate 4 ½ gallons of blood. Also donated \$500 to Miller-Keystone Blood Center. Union UCC donated 250 five-pound bags of potatoes to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank for the Easter distribution. Blanket Sunday donations were \$1,780. Lenten Self-Denial collections are going well.

Church and Ministry Committee reported the Policy and Procedure Manual is being organized and a review of the Constitution is under way. Consistory approved Natalie Ondrey serving as our new Setup Person for Coffee Hour.

Evangelism/Welcoming Committee reported that new member meetings will be held April 3, 10, and 17. Recent new members are being contacted to see where they might be interested in volunteering at our church. Welcoming Committee will have a table at the Country Fair to sell geraniums.

Stewardship Committee reported that two letters are being sent regarding Faith Commitment, one to thank those who have committed to increased giving and one to follow up with those who have not yet responded.

Fellowship Committee reported the Easter Egg Hunt held on Saturday, March 19 was successful.

Worship Committee reported on Easter worship opportunities as well as plans to hold four Christmas Eve services again this year. Consistory approved discontinuing the joint Lutheran/UCC Thanksgiving Eve service due to lack of attendance.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, April 18 at 6:45 p.m. in Room 101.

A Good Time to Reconnect with Your Church Family



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.

FYI our next worship services with Holy Communion are on May 22nd at 8am and 10:30am.

We look forward to having Moe Jerant in worship on Sunday May 8.

Maureen 'Moe' Jerant is a drummer and percussionist from the Lehigh Valley, Pa. Along with years of live and studio experience Moe holds a BA in Fine Arts/Music from East Stroudsburg University and is an endorsed Remo HealthRHYTHMS drum circle facilitator.

As a musician, educator, and service provider you'll find Moe playing with 60's band The Large Flowerheads, teaching African drumming and leading the Lehigh Valley Drum Circle Ensemble, working with students in after school programs, working with folks who have cognitive disabilities, dementia, Alzheimers and leading health and wellness drum programs like Healing Rhythms a program designed to help individuals move beyond the grief and loss of a loved one. Moe also collaborates with arts groups and artists like Sarah Carlson and DanceLink.



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

Pastor Kris and our church leaders invite you to three gatherings on **April 3, 10, and 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 17th at the 8am or 10:30am worship service.** Contact Pastor Kris if you have questions at assocpastor@unionucc.org or 610-767-6961.

Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

Email: dired@unionucc.org



April 3 Revelation 1:4-8
 April 10 Church Family Worship
 "BONES"
 April 17 Acts 9:36-43
 April 24 Revelation 21:1-6

SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

We are currently looking for volunteers to lead the summer video series. We will begin June 5 and continue through Aug. 28. We do not show a video on Outdoor Worship Sundays.

Job description: *Take the children down to Room 15, start the DVD player, provide snack (optional), stay with the children until their parents pick them up. Have fun!*

A sign up sheet is on Kathy Bonsell's door. We need two adults each Sunday. Find a friend and enjoy some time with our children!

SUNDAY SCHOOL Reminders!

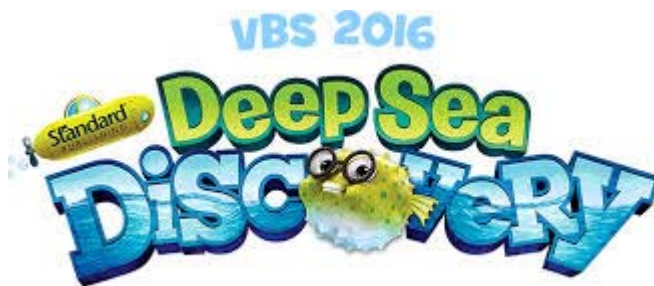
Sunday School begins at 9:15. Drop off begins at 9:10. Please do not leave your children in the classroom without adult supervision. Also, please be prompt in picking your children up at 10:15. Thanks!

2016 COIN EXCHANGE

The children will receive coin exchange order forms in Sunday School and Children's Church. This year, the coins can only be exchanged for gift certificates, ranging from \$1 to \$10. Please return your order form by May 15th.



VBS 2016 – June 27-July 1



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Forms are available in the church office and in Memorial Hall. Registration closes May 15th.

2016 DIVE TEAM: We are still looking for helpers of all kinds. We need age-level leaders and helpers, recreation help, "crafters", nursery attendants, and youth helpers (8th grade and older).

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

Congratulations

to the following children for attending
 our FIRST COMMUNION class:

*Brady Schlosser
 Madison Eckhart
 Zane Roth
 Miranda Brown
 Owen Dimler
 Josh Dimler
 Brayden Peters*

APRIL CIA

Saturday, APRIL 16th
 6:00 pm

GAME NIGHT

Life Size Board Games

Fun for the entire family!

RSVP to
 NeffsCIA@gmail.com



Youth Group News 6th-12th Grades



For more information contact:

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

Quotes from Youth Sunday about Loving Your Selfie:

I might be bossy, but I've also come to realize that I'm also confident. For a teenage girl to admit that is rare. I wouldn't be who I am without my parents, siblings, friends, pets, teachers, mentors and God. Thank you for helping me become me. ~ **Kimi Bath, Senior**

Soccer was my passion. Then I suffered an injury that didn't allow me to play. I didn't want never being able to play again to govern my attitude and decisions. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise. ~ **Rachel DiPaolantonio, Senior**

"God wouldn't put you to it if he wouldn't bring you through it." This quote not only taught me to love my selfie, but also taught me to love my journey. ~ **Jillian Krempasky, Senior**

I didn't always like what other boys my age liked. I'm good at engineering, criminal justice, and being a firefighter. I hope to continue to touch other's lives. ~ **Zach Bath, Senior**

Love your selfie, no matter who you are or what your interests are, or what your challenges are. Do whatever makes you happy, that's your purpose. I love physics. ~ **Zach Rex, Senior**

Church was the beginning of my love of music, it's a home away from home and it's a place that "God moments" happen for me. Talking to members of this congregation is one of my favorite things to do. ~ **Abby Kern, Senior**

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 A fun time and great way to start summer. Moon bounce, rock wall, tattoos and face painting. Help and donate Veggies/dip & snacks.

Seniors—start sending Pastor Kris your graduation information.

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-

10:15am

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS (8th grade Youth Room) Confirm-ands can go to The Breakfast Club when there is no class. **Confirm-ands can go to Breakfast Club when there isn't class.**

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



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

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, April 5**
12 noon – 1:30pm

Program: Ken Clauser and the Dixieland 5
Friendship, homemade soup, lunch, dessert and a program ~ Free!

Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

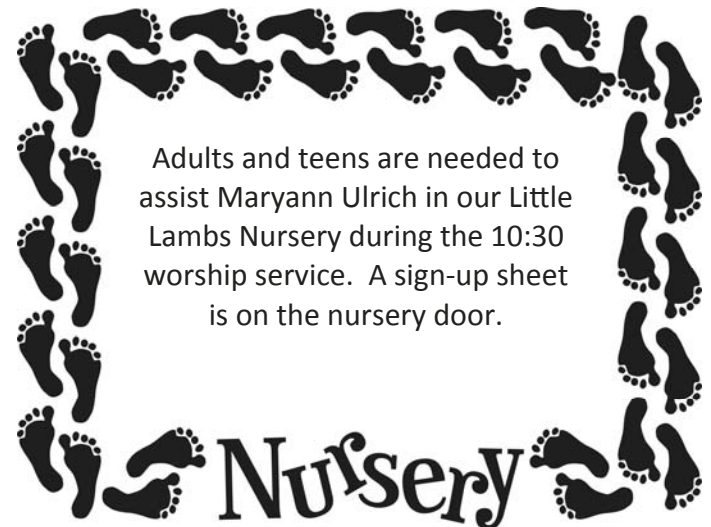
An informal sharing of Holy Communion is offered at the end of our time together for those who are interested.

Blues Night Out

Winter Blues got you down? Well an early spring will be a quick cure. Then start thinking about Blues Nite Out this summer. Mark your calendars now - **Friday August 26 with the Bryant Brothers and Saturday August 27 starting with Bev Conklin** making her debut performance in the grove, with BC's Combo Band, then headliner and local favorite, **The Sarah Ayers Band.**



Neffs Church Grove's new seating pavilion will be welcoming everyone this year. See you then for food, fun and fellowship in our church grove.



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.

Card Shower for Curtis and Elaine Frantz

Their family has asked that you help to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on April 14th by sending a card to them at:

Curtis and Elaine Frantz
4403 Main Street – Egypt
Whitehall, Pa 18052-1525
Thank you!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at Amazon, go to 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.



Beth Dymond is our Catch the Spirit recipient for April.

She will be recognized on April 10, 2016 at the 8:00 am worship service.

Beth is a life-long learner and teacher. She has been leading Tai Chi and Chi Gong classes here at Union UCC for several years. She now has four classes that she leads each week. She learned Tai Chi from a Taiwanese man and has been teaching for over 20 years.

Beth grew up in Philadelphia as an only child and as a descendant of a 'family of Osteopaths.' Her parents' dream for her was to become a doctor, as well. She recalled she knew it was not her calling when she felt ill while assisting her mom perform a surgical procedure. Instead, she graduated from Penn State with a degree in horticulture. She then went on to receive her master's degree in teaching from Rutgers University. She retired from formal teaching in 1991 from Northwestern Lehigh. She spent 25 years teaching at several local school districts. Even after retirement, she continued to tutor students and volunteered with the Adult Literacy Center and Meals on Wheels.

Beth met her husband, Lee, while attending Penn State. They both were raised in the Methodist church and Lee later went to Methodist Seminary but became a minister while the UCC was forming from the merging of Reformed and Congregational churches. He was the minister at Friedens UCC and also retired from teaching at Di-ruff high school in 1991. During retirement they traveled to 43 states in their motor home until Lee's death in 1999. Beth has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Beth has been a member of Union UCC since 2000. While here she continues to teach Tai Chi and tries to attend Golden Times each month, as her busy schedule allows. She says the best part of Union UCC is all of the opportunities to join many different activities here. She is already planning how to fit more groups into her life. Beth says her favorite church memory is of when Pastor Tom was playing his boomba with the Boombadeers at Golden Times. She also really enjoyed his farewell picnic. One of her favorite things to do is attend church celebrations.

Thank you, Beth, for sharing your talents with us in your generous ways.

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!

TAI CHI

Beginning Tai Chi 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.



Men's Group

Bean Bag Tournament June 23, at 6pm

Union UCC's Bean Bag Tournament will be returning to the church grove this summer. This event is for of all ages, fathers, sons, grandfathers, cousins, in-laws, friends are welcome too. Beginning at 6 pm a picnic supper of hot dogs, ice cream, water and soda will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a salad, side dish, desert or snack to share. Warm up your throwing arm and join us for a fun night in the grove.

Contact Pastor Allan or Phil Wehr to help with the event. Look for more information in future newsletters.



Men's Breakfast and Grove Cleanup May 14, 8:30am-12noon

The men of the Church are invited to join us for Breakfast and a "Grove Cleanup" on Saturday, May 14. Ed Norman and his crew will serve breakfast at 8:00 am and we will begin the Grove Cleanup at 9:00 am. Men of all ages are invited to help out. Please RSVP to Pastor Allan at interimpastor@unionucc.org.

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

Sitting here writing this April newsletter article on March 10, I look out the window seeing sunshine and people in t-shirts and shorts. The ten day forecast calls for mild to warm temperatures, maybe the groundhog was right this year, and early spring is here. A late snow storm or cold snap may still come, but anyway you look at this, we had a relatively mild winter, and a change to a spring season is coming.

Currently many of us are preparing for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter, which will all be past memories as you read this article. Thanks to all who helped during this special time, and hopefully the Easter Bunny made a grand appearance in the grove for children and friends to enjoy.

Spring is now in full swing, stop on over in the church grove to witness the daffodils, primrose, azaleas, and other flowers and trees in full bloom. God's beauty arrives each year in our church grove and woods. Take a walk and enjoy nature, bring your children for some playtime on the swings, or have a picnic lunch under our pavilions. Union UCC's grove and woods are here for everyone to enjoy.

Give Praise



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?

Ferne and Franklin Strauss have a rich heritage in local Reformed and UCC congregations. Ferne was baptized at Dubbs Memorial UCC in Allentown, while Franklin was baptized at home by the pastor of Trinity UCC, Pleasant Valley. Franklin was the youngest of thirteen children, so it would have been difficult to get the entire family to the church for a baptism.

Both Ferne and Franklin moved to the Reformed congregation of Friedensville Union Church in Friedensville, Pa, and were confirmed there by Rev. Grant Harritty. They were married by Rev. Harritty at Sunberry UCC (West of Bloomsburg). During their years at Friedensville Union Church Ferne was a Sunday School assistant (at age 12), in the choir, and served on consistory. In 1965 Friedensville Union Church dissolved the union. Ferne then became Sunday School Superintendent for the new church, Faith United Church of Christ in Center Valley.

Franklin and Ferne lived in Center Valley until 1978 when both of their two children had graduated from high school. They moved to Slatington and joined Union UCC in 1983. Ferne was President of Consistory during the time when the union with Union Lutheran Church was dissolved. She also served on the Church and Ministry committee, worship committee and Pastor Kris's search committee.

Franklin grew up working on his brother's farm in Springtown and Pleasant Valley. He helped his brother after school and summers from second grade through high school graduation. Following high school graduation Franklin worked for 31 years at Bethlehem Steel in addition to a landscaping and lawn mower repair business.

Ferne and Franklin would love to hear from you or see you in person. Their current contact information is:
6334 Lamar Court, Slatington, PA 18080
Phone Number: 484-632-7371



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs



By Annette Wilcox

Happy Easter from the Preschool. Our students celebrated the season with an Easter hat parade followed by some Easter songs and an egg hunt. In addition to Easter fun this month, the Preschool held its annual Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser for all of the age levels. The children had a blast aiming for a perfect strike. In the classroom our 4 year-olds began reading sentences using sight words and pictures. Watching them realize they can "read" for the first time is always an exciting moment for the teachers. Our 3 year-olds continued wrapping up exposure to letters and letter sounds, while our Pre-K focused on word families, adding many new words to their sight word vocabulary. Our lessons centered around the theme of transportation as students learned about why boats float instead of sink, and counted boulders as they loaded them into dump trucks to drive away.

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

PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The Neffs Preschool Board of Directors is pleased to announce their 2016 scholarship winner. This \$250 scholarship is given every year to a high school senior who is planning on higher education and started their educational career at Neffs Preschool. The applicants are required to complete a 500 word essay in which they discuss themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory. Congratulations to Rachel DiPaolantonio, a senior at Parkland High School, who plans on pursuing a degree in Pharmacy.



Mission Committee

Blanket Sunday Results.

Donations for Blanket Sunday this year totaled **\$1,780** for Church World Services. Thank you for supporting this yearly event to provide warmth, comfort, and love to people around the world when disasters strike.

Union UCC is one of over 8,000 congregations across the U.S. which holds a CWS Blankets event.

For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home.
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water.

During 2015, CWS services provided over 4,500 blankets in 17 US states, including 250 blankets in Pennsylvania, to help families after disasters or to protect the homeless. Over 5,000 blankets were provided to communities in Central America, Serbia, Africa and countries around the world.

Acolytes

Attention Acolytes - Prospective and Currently Serving

Sixth graders, you are invited to attend NEW acolyte training on Sunday, May 8 from 9:15AM-10:15AM in the sanctuary. You will then be able to serve as acolytes on various Sundays and holidays throughout the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to help prepare yourself for your Confirmation year.

Acolytes that are completing their service this year will be **recognized at the 10:30 AM service on May 15.** After worship, you and your families are invited to gather at DiFiore for a pizza lunch hosted by the Worship Committee.

For more information, contact the office or acolyte coordinator, Mrs. Glosan or Pastor Kris.

Thanks to our 2016-2017 acolytes!

Will Filipovits, Garrett Fitzgerald, Ian Henninger, Hannah Horvath, Amanda Lane, Chase Misera, Peyton Schlosser, Karl Schmidt, Sonya Shivok, Olivia Schuster, Justin Trexler

Penn Northeast Conference Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 9—8:00am-4:00 pm

Northampton Memorial Community Center

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Penn Northeast Conference of the UCC will meet to discuss what it means to: ***"Be the Church"***

Clergy and delegates from the 135 UCC congregations in Northeastern PA. will gather to worship, discuss, and conduct the business of the Conference.



Leslie and Steve Strack will attend the conference as lay delegates from our congregation.



Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 with Pastor Kris

Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening

By Diana Butler Bass

Is Christianity dying? Is the Christian church dying? How do we respond to surveys that say that most Americans describe themselves as “other” or as “spiritual but not religious”? Let’s discover Butler Bass’s hope-filled vision for a renewed faith that stays true to the real message of Jesus.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

April 3 Steve Strack will offer a presentation “Estate Planning”

April 10 Pastor Patience will lead a 4 week discussion on our Christian responsibility to the environment using a DVD series, *Earth - The Operator’s Manual*

April 17 Pastor Patience will continue the series using *Earth – The Operator’s Manual*

April 24 Pastor Patience will continue the series using *Earth – The Operator’s Manual*

May 1 Pastor Patience will conclude the series using *Earth - The Operator’s Manual*, including some practical ways we can care more responsibly for our environment.

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

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 in September.**

Estate Planning and End of Life Workshop to be Offered

Pastor Allan will be offering two workshops as a follow up to his sermon, *“What If Lazarus Had Had a Living Will?”*

Sunday, April 3 @ 9:15 am

During a regularly scheduled Adult Sunday School Class Steve Strack, will offer a brief presentation regarding basic estate planning techniques, including the function and purpose of a Living Will.

Monday, April 25 @ 7 pm

Pastor Allan will present **the Five Wishes**, an outline for persons to begin discussing end of life issues with family members and loved ones. Topics will include:

The Person I Want to Make Decisions for Me;
How I want People to Treat Me;
What I Want my Loved Ones to Know;
How Does My Faith Inform My Decision-Making at the End of Life



Church Member Business Directory

from Chris Hamm, Tara Henninger and Pastor Kris

We have a Business Directory with names of members who have church businesses or services to offer. The Business Directory can now be found on our website at www.unionucc.org and will be given out to new members as well as made available to all members.

We know that many of you like to support local businesses or our members if you have the chance. The church is not endorsing any of these businesses, we are merely making the information available to you. These are for paid services.

If your business or service has been missed and you would like to be added please contact the church office. It's another way to support each other through our work and life and faith journey.

Guest Musicians: Trio Jolie

*Robin Lilarose, Flute; Kirstin Myers, Oboe;
Crystal Jordan, Cello*

Sunday, April 17 at 8am and 10:30 Worship

Trio Jolie, www.triojolie.com, founded in 2008, performs primarily in the greater Philadelphia, Reading, and Lancaster areas.

Their appearance in worship is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts and your Special Offerings given today. Thank you for your support.



Did You Know?

- You can get **weekly emails** updating you on the events and Sunday services at church?
- You can get your monthly **newsletter online**?
- We have a **Facebook** page: [Facebook.com/unionneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)
- You can sign up for **E-giving** at no cost to you?
- You can sign up for Amazon Smile and a portion of your Amazon.com purchases will be donated to the church?

To sign up to get emails/e-newsletter, or for E-giving visit our website: **WWW.UNIONUCC.ORG** and click on the **RESOURCES** tab or send an email to:

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

**Sunday, April 3, 2016**

2nd Sunday of Easter

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service-Sunday Morning Alive****Holy Humor Sunday (Red Nose Sunday)**

We can laugh and be filled with joy on this Sunday after Easter. Death did not have the last word, love wins.

Prizes and fun for everyone. Tootsee the Clown joins us for both services.

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Doug Albert

10:30 - Don Penrod

Greeters: Carol Pope, Ronnie Pope, Greg & Johanna Zellner**Acolytes:** 8AM - Karl Schmidt, Jr.**Sunday, April 17, 2016**

4th Sunday of Easter/New Members Received/Healing Prayer, A Time to Pray with a Pastor

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Susan Rumble

10:30 - Chrissy Shivok

Greeters: Cliff & Carol James, Jim & Leanna Lane**Acolytes:** 8AM - Sonya Shivok

10:30AM - Ian Henninger, Justin Trexler

Sunday, April 10, 2016

3rd Sunday of Easter

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

Children's Choir Musical "Bones"

Text: Mark 8:27-30**Message:** "Who Do You Say that I Am?"**Sermon:** The Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack**Greeters:** Ron Snyder, SueAnn Hregician**Acolytes:** 8AM - Garrett Fitzgerald

10:30AM - Amanda Lane, Chase Misera

Sunday, April 24, 2016

5th Sunday of Easter/Welcoming Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service**10:30am Horizon Service****Text:** Matthew 28:16-20

Message: "Welcoming Sunday"—The Welcoming Committee invites you to bring a friend to church and share your ideas about how we can become a more "welcoming" church.

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Carol Pope

10:30 - Vicki Mayk

Greeters: Karl & Lynne Klinger, Jim & Edie Fella**Acolytes:** 8AM -

10:30AM - Olivia Schuster

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:

April 3—No Committee

April 10—Church & Ministry

April 17—Welcoming Committee

April 24—Consistory



Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

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

Book Club

Next book: "Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee.
We will meet April 5 at 6:30pm in the Memory Room. For more info contact Kathi Charles
kac4b@hotmail.com or
610-462-5551.



Home Visitation Members' Birthdays

Sandra Grim - April 14
2815 Willow Street
Coplay, PA 18037-2014

Beatrice Moyer - April 30
4638 Sieger Road
Orefield, PA 18069-9636



Pint for Pint: Blood Drive and Soup Sale

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Attributed to Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew [NRSV 25:40], this passage fully embraces the love and compassion shared by 48 people who came ready to donate blood during the Mission Committee's blood drive.

We had first-time donors and seasoned givers working on another gallon. Others who attended worship services on March 13 participated by purchasing some of the 15 varieties of homemade soups cooked by generous and talented chefs.

Our congregation should be proud of the **42 pints of blood collected and the \$500 donation** (earned from the Soup Sale) for Miller-Keystone Blood Center. Thirty-six people signed up prior to the event, and an additional 12 people walked-in to donate on the day of the Pint-for-Pint event. Everyone that signed up, showed up. According to the staff that took such good care of us, that is a great and impressive accomplishment in itself! We far exceeded their goal of 23 pints. And we used the maximum collection materials the blood center brought for its use. We are a blessing to "the least of these:" surgical patients, cancer patients, organ and marrow transplant recipients and those being treated for inherited blood disorders.

Based on the huge success of this event, the continued need for blood donations, and our own need and desire to serve the community, we hope that this can become an annual offering. Applying one of Paul's letters to our current mission, we are reminded that as able-bodied givers, whether from our arms or our wallets, we are filled with God's grace when we give cheerfully:

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work... Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

[2 Corinthians 9:8, 13-15]





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	\$302,447.00	\$44,164.00	\$346,611.00
Expenses	\$259,240.00	\$48,844.00	\$308,084.00
2-29-2016	\$52,851.00	\$20,955.00	\$73,806.00

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	8AM	10:30AM		
February 7	96	261	47	404
February 10	Ash	Wed.		45
February 14	32	116	29	177
February 21	83	212	47	342
February 28	88	210	54	352

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

February 2015– 1,122 February 2016 – 1,320

AVG ATTENDANCE

February 2015–268 February 2016 - 319

Death

Althea E. Schiffer passed away on March 20, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on March 24, 2016

Memorials

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Ann M. (Silliman) Stoss**:

Phil & Julie Wehr
Donald & Susan Rumble
Brian & Karen Selig

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your precious gifts to our family on Ann's passing. Everyone has been so thoughtful and kind. Your support has helped carry us through this difficult time.
Frank, Tyler and Kelsey Stoss

Welcoming Committee will meet next on April 11 at 7 pm and again on May 9 at 7pm. The committee will not meet in June, July and August. We will start up again in September. Thank you, The Welcoming Committee

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

April 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	2
4 <u>9am</u> Beginner Tai Chi <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <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; Book Club <u>7pm</u> Middler Choir; Bible Study; Search committee <u>7:30pm</u> HS Choir	6 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry Committee	7 <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Christian Ed Committee	8 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	9
11 <u>9am</u> Beginner Tai Chi <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Welcoming Committee	12 <u>10am</u> Helping Hands; VBS Planning <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7pm</u> Financial Leaders; Bible Study; <u>7:30pm</u> Worship Committee	13 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	14 <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	15 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	16
18 <u>9am</u> Beginner Tai Chi <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>6:45pm</u> Consistory	19 <u>9am</u> Staff Mtg <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	20 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilt <u>10am</u> Knitwits; Preschool Board <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	21 <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	22 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	23
25 <u>9am</u> Beginner Tai Chi <u>10am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Living Will Workshop	26 <u>9am</u> Newsletter Mailing <u>10am</u> VBS Planning <u>6-8pm</u> Youth Choirs <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	27 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilt <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	28 <u>9am</u> Preschool Board <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	29 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Bible Study	30 <u>10am</u> Private Party

SUNDAYS

3 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class New Members <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service- Sunday Morning Alive <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	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 New Members <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/Church Family Worship <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	17 New Members <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	24 <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
--	---	--	---