



► INTERIM PASTOR 2

○ Issue 5

○ Vol. 40

○ May 2016



► CHILDREN'S NEWS 4



► YOUTH GROUP 5

Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT * BUILDING

Country Sale
Union United Church of Christ
May 7th 9-2pm
Flea Market · Delicious Food · Book Sale

Our parking lots will be full with members, friends, neighbors and vendors selling their treasures. It's always a great day for a bargain at this church and community-wide yard sale.

Enjoy delicious soups, lunch items and baked goods made by our church. Our youth will be selling walking tacos, root beer floats and soft pretzels for their summer mission trips. We can't wait to see you!





From the Interim Pastor

I'm always amazed where the Spirit leads me on my spiritual journey. This year during the Lenten Season, the lectionary called me to preach a sermon entitled, "What If Lazarus Had Had a Living Will." This led to some serious discussions among our members about Estate Planning and end of life issues.

As a result, I found myself reading *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. Dr. Gawande is a practicing surgeon who examines the limitations of medicalizing our understandings of aging, frailty, and death. He concludes that our mortality consists of more than just clinical problems to be overcome. Rather, the goal of life is to find meaning and live as rich and full as possible, given the circumstances of our mortality.

Discussions are never easy about mortality, aging, and the reality that most of us will experience significant physical and mental decline as we age. Nevertheless, our Christian faith can serve as an important resource for us to face these realities. The Apostle Paul had it right when he wrote:

"Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is renewed day by day."

II Corinthians 4:16

My years of ministry in a nursing home setting taught me much about the importance of spiritual growth during the last years of our lives on this earth. I had countless spiritual elders who taught me over and over again that our ultimate goal is not to live on this earth forever. Our ultimate goal is to live in full communion with God. If we can learn this message, as difficult as it might be, then we can live rich and full lives right to the very end. 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, April 18, 2016 by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report for the March/April 2016 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that the gutters were cleaned, along with minor slate repairs, and the sanctuary AC units were cleaned. Two requests were presented and approved by Consistory. One, a request for funding from Funds of Lasting Gifts for replacing rug in the main hallway of the New Beginning addition, at an estimated \$3,000. Two, a request for funding from Funds of Lasting Gifts for five small painting project around the church, at an estimated \$8,000. Consistory approved funding for both projects. Additionally, Hall and Room Usage policy was presented and approved by Consistory.

Christian Education Committee reported on the recent hoagie and Gertrude Hawk candy sales. Candy donations were made to Bethany Children's Home in support of the Boys' and Girls' Cottages. Vacation Bible School is being planned and the curriculum is entitled Deep Sea Discovery.

Mission Committee reported that the Lenten Self-Denial collection totaled \$2,433, half of these donations were sent to Meals on Wheels and half to Turning Point. Toiletries for

Tots donations are continuing through May. Sunday, May 1 is the Hunger Walk to benefit the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Church and Ministry Committee reported that the review of the Policy and Procedure Manual continues. Natalie Ondrey accepted the position as our new Setup Person for Coffee Hour. The Committee recommended additional vacation time be allotted to Pastor Patience and Ron based on seniority and past church practice.

Evangelism/Welcoming Committee reported that they will be promoting a new tag line: Spread the Word – We are a Welcoming Church. The videos posted to Facebook have been a huge success. Sunday, April 24 will be a Welcoming Service. The Committee will have a table at the Country Fair to sell geraniums.

Stewardship Committee reported that work continues on the Faith Commitment letters that are being sent out.

Fellowship Committee reported that some of this year's Confirmants attended the April meeting. Their year-end dinner will be discussed at the next meeting.

Worship Committee did not meet.

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

Seed & Soil Sunday

May 1 at 8am and 10:30am Worship

Bring your seed packets and seedlings with your names written on them as we ask God to bless our growing season. After worship, take your blessed items home to your gardens.

Throughout the summer gardeners are invited to share your bounty with others on the God's Garden Gifts table. Cash donations given for these items and remaining items are given to the food bank.

Then, in September we will celebrate Harvest Home and we will remember the summer's harvest, our church's ancestors and our farming heritage with a beautiful display of food which will again be given to the food bank and Phoebe Home. Psalm 65 which is on the arch in our church says, "Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion." This farmer's song gives thanks to God, "You visit the earth and water it... the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they should and sing together for joy." Thank you, God, for your creation!



A Good Time to Reconnect with Your Church Family

From
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.

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



Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

Email: dired@unionucc.org



May 1 John 14:23-29

May 8 Acts 16: 16-34

Last Sunday of Children's Church

May 15, 22, 29 Church Family Worship

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!

MAY CIA

Family Picnic (Potluck)
And a Movie!

Saturday May 28th, begins at 6pm, in our beautiful grove!

RSVP to NeffsCIA@gmail.com

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 8th.



VBS 2016 – June 27-July 1



REGISTRATION CLOSES MAY 15th

Forms are available in the church office and in Memorial Hall.

2016 DIVE TEAM: We are still looking for helpers of all kinds. We need age-level leaders and helpers, recreation help, "crafters", nursery attendants, kitchen help, 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!

Summer Camp Opportunities

The Hartman Center in Milroy, PA offers wonderful summer camping adventures for campers of all ages, including men, women and families. Check out the many opportunities at www.hartmancenter.com. Camp brochures are available in the church office.

SAFE CHILD POLICY

ALL VOLUNTEERS and STAFF who work with children (Sunday School, Munch Bunch, Children's Church, Nursery, VBS, CIA, Confirmation, Choirs, Breakfast Club, Youth Group, and Preschool) need to complete **a Criminal Check and a Childline Check** BEFORE working in any of the above mentioned activities. This is now PA State law. Information is on our website. These checks are FREE for volunteers and last for five years. Any questions, please contact Barb Korastinsky at bjs140@juno.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).

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

Show this year's class of 22 students your love and support as they confirm their faith.

Confirmation Class: Madison Amorim, Christopher Bath, Rachael Bath, Nicholas Beers, Jason Check, Jacob Gladish, Tegan Haley, Abigail Hill, Gabriel Horvath, Jacob Klinger, Sebastian Knerr, Madelyn Kohler, Dylan Kuntz, Rebekah Lorah, Kaitlyn Mericle, Madison Milander, Kyleigh O'Neill, Danyel Rex, Jacob Roth, Ian Schory, Brandon Zellner

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



Build Your Own Sundae Sunday Picnic in the Grove

A fun time and great way to start summer.

Sign up for a half hour shift for the: Moon bounce, rock wall, tattoos and face painting. Donate Veggies/dip & snacks.

Graduates—send your graduation information to Tara secretary@unionucc.org by May 22, please.

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, June 5 at 10:30 Worship

Golden Times

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

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

Program: Presentation by "Phoebe Pathstones" 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.

Quilters, Knitters and Crocheters

If you'd like to learn or share your gifts while visiting with others join us on Wednesdays.

The quilters (The Busy Bees) start at 9am and work until about noon.

The knitters and crocheters (The Knit Wits) start at 10am and work until about noon.

Each group works on projects that support the church's ministry with quilt raffles and lap robes and baptism blankets for our members. Come for the whole time or as long as your schedule allows. We meet September – June.

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 use zip code 18065 to select Union United Church of Christ, Neffs as your charity.





***Izzy Andres is our Catch the Spirit recipient for May.
She will be recognized on May 8, 2016 at the 10:30 am
worship service.***



Izzy is always busy helping out wherever she can. When her children were younger, Izzy helped with Sunday School, Preschool, and vacation Bible School. She still helps out in a variety of ways with bazaars, bulletins, and newsletters. She is very involved with the Knit Wits; crocheting over 100 baby hats for CHOP, lap robes, prayer shawls, and afghans for our church members. Izzy also enjoys participating in the women's retreats and Golden Times. She also was an organizer for the Saturday Night Alive service coffee hour.

Izzy married her Parkland High School sweetheart, Colin. They were married by Rev. Harper Schneck at Faith UCC in Allentown. They spent four years in Maine while Colin was in the service. They eventually settled in Neffs in 1975. They have two grown sons. Kelly and his wife, Heather live in Harrisburg with their sons, Mason and Kayleb. Dan and his wife, Stacey have a son, Trey, and they are living in Colorado.

Izzy originally worked as the first small appliance demonstrators at Hess's. Later, she worked in various secretarial support positions at LCCC, retiring in 2012 after 23 years of service.

Some of Izzy's hobbies include, taking pictures, being with family, kayaking, crocheting, crafts, gardening and walking her dog. By far her favorite pastime is helping people. Beyond volunteering at church she has been involved with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts as a leader, fundraiser, and coordinator. She has helped at the Neffs Fire Company for 18 years as fire police and instructor, and with breakfasts and fundraisers. She says they are a fire-fighting family. Colin served as chief at Neffs, and both sons are firefighters. Kelly is still a firefighter at the Chambersburg Army Depot and also is a paramedic trained in HAZMAT and rescue. Izzy says she helps with the fire service because, "I would want help as quickly as possible, if I had a fire or needed medical services."

Izzy loves Union UCC because, "the statement 'Everyone is welcome' is so true. It is such a warm and open congregation." She says she feels closer to God and loves that the congregation is a true part of the church. Some of Izzy's favorite memories here involve the congregational singing and participation in the Saturday Night Alive worship services and being in the church grove.

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.

Home Visitation Members' Birthdays

Geraldine M. Schafer—May 4
Above and Beyond
2232 29th St.
Allentown, PA 18103

Terrance Rohr—May 8
4952 Hoffmansville Rd
Orefield PA 18069



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.



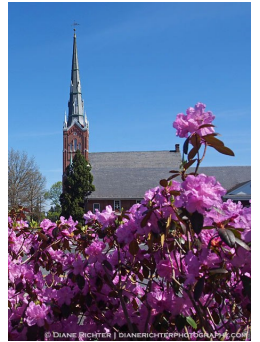
Men's Breakfast and Grove Cleanup May 14, 8:30am-12noon

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.

Property Committee

By Phil Wehr

Union UCC's annual BIG yard sale will be in full swing on Saturday May 7. Will you come and join in the excitement? Will you participate and support the church in this yearly community fund raiser? There are lots of opportunities to help, please contact the church, we are always looking for extra hands.



Stop in for some great deals in the varied booths, or our used book sale and Santa's Attic. Stop by for great food, desserts, and baked goods, or visit the youth group's walking taco stand. Take a chance to win a quilt or other prizes. Stop by for fun and fellowship as this event uses all of the church property, inside, outside, in the grove and all the parking lots.

Union UCC is blessed with a wonderful property to host big community events like the Yard Sale, Blues Nite Out, Vacation Bible School and more. We are blessed to be able to have space for committee and community meetings and events, a space for music, a space for education. We are blessed to have space for the Neffs UCC Preschool to call home.

We gather together on Sundays for worship, but there is more to Union UCC's mission. The church property comes alive everyday of the week and most evenings with lots of energy supplied by our church members, our staff, and the community.

Catch the spirit and join in the fun and excitement in the many and varied missions and ministries that make Union UCC a great place to call home.

Pig Out at Union UCC's

Backyard BBQ Bash

Saturday, September 10th, 3:30-9pm

We are so excited about our new community event which will be held in our beautiful grove. The event will feature Scott Marshall and Marshall's Highway, recent winner of eight Lehigh Valley Music Awards including best male artist, vocalist, songwriter, and all around performer from 530 to 830. In addition to this free music event, there will be a pig roast and BBQ chicken dinners available for purchase from Lorah's Pig Roasters. There will also be hot dogs, homemade side dishes, desserts, ice cream, and so much more. Tickets will be available for pre-sale beginning in August.



Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Anna Lord turned 94 on December 2, 2015! Anna was born in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. At the age of 2 her family moved to Mahanoy City, where she attended St. Paul's Reformed Church. Anna was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Paul's.

Anna was a Bell Telephone operator for a number of years until they went "dial" and no longer needed switchboard operators. In 1946 Anna married Charles "Buddy" Lord. Together Anna and Buddy had four children. In 1948 Anna and Buddy moved to Hometown and then to West Penn. During those years they attended Trinity Reformed Church in Tamaqua. All of the children were baptized and confirmed in this church. For many years Anna and Buddy owned and operated Lord's Gulf Service Station in Tamaqua (across from the famous Leiby's Ice Cream Store in West Penn.) Anna also worked as a Teacher's Aide in the Tamaqua School District for a number of years.

After retirement Anna and Buddy moved to Walnutport. Shortly following the death of her husband, Buddy, Anna moved to Schnecksville to live with her daughter, Edie Fella (our Chime Choir Director.) Anna now resides at Phoebe Berks near her son, Dr. Ken Lord. She has 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. (?)

Anna would love to hear from you or have you visit. Her address is Phoebe Berks Health Center, Room 147, 1 Reading Drive, Wernersville, PA 19565

News from the Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee has adopted a new tag line:

**"Spread the Word:
We are a Welcoming Church."**

Pastor Allan has interviewed and videoed several of our members telling Union UCC stories. Look for them on our Facebook page, share them on your Facebook Wall and send them out to your friends, inviting them to come to Sunday worship and catch the Spirit!

Look for the Welcome Table at our **Country Sale on May 7**. We will be selling geranium plants and distributing postcards describing the mission and ministry of Union UCC.



By Annette Wilcox

It is hard to believe that we are entering our final month of the Preschool year. The time has flown by fast. During April the teachers and students took a look at things that grow: from animals to plants to themselves. We have been watching our batch of caterpillars eat, grow and form chrysalides, and are eagerly awaiting the transformation into butterflies. In addition, we enjoyed a visit from the Carbon County Environmental Education Center, took a trip to the Lehigh Valley Zoo, and held our annual Teddy Bear clinic where the students learned all about health and wellness while getting the opportunity to provide medical care for their stuffed friends. It is not too late to register for next year's Preschool 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

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

or on our website—
www.unionucc.org/preschool



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs



Mission Committee

To celebrate Mother's Day this year, the Mission Committee is holding a special collection drive to help local mothers who may need extra help in the caring of their babies. There is a great need for baby supplies around the Lehigh Valley.



The items we will be collecting are as follows : baby food, wipes, diapers, baby lotions, soaps, powders, oils, and any other new toiletries for newborn and young babies.

Collections of these items will end on Mother's Day, May 8. Please bring your items to church and drop off in the specially designated areas. All items will be divided and donated to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

Please celebrate Mother's Day and honor your mother with a donation to this special collection drive to help the life of local mothers and their families. Your life and those you help will be truly enriched. Thank you for sharing your

Operation Project Food Bank

Fighting HUNGER is a full time job for food banks all around the country. **Union UCC plays an important part in serving the Northern Lehigh Food Bank**, located in Emerald, directly across the street from the Washington Township Municipal Building.

Every week food bank volunteers spend time working at the food bank, stocking shelves, unloading trucks, organizing donated fruits and vegetables, picking up food donations from local warehouses, performing office work, and ultimately helping families gather food on distribution days.

Sounds like a lot of work. Well it is. There is much work needed to help Food Bank Director Dale Bryfogle in the daily and weekly operation to provide food to over 300 local families each month, over 1,000 people of all ages.

Union UCC is responsible for helping on distribution days every November, but there are opportunities to help year round. **Volunteers are welcome** every Tuesday from 9-12 noon to help stock shelves, every Sunday from 2:30 - 5:00 to organize fruits and vegetables and stock shelves, the first three Thursdays from 3:45 - 7:00 and the last Saturday from 9 - 12 noon to help distribute food to local families.

Currently eight to ten Union UCC members help year round at various times during the week, and are hoping for more members to help. Everyone has a great time working together for a common goal. **Please consider volunteering as your schedule permits, contact Phil Wehr or Wilbur Romig for more information.**

Mission Work Is Alive at Union UCC

People helping people, people helping families, people spreading God's love to the community and the world. We are God's people here at Union UCC and we are making a difference. In only the past two months of 2016, the Mission Committee has made a substantial impact on many local individuals and families in need.

Thanks to YOU, our successful blood drive will support the mission of the **Miller-Keystone Blood Center** and help save a life.

Thanks to YOU, our Lenten Self Denial collection will help feed local people served by **Meals on Wheels** of Lehigh Valley, and will help victims of domestic violence who turn to **Turning Point** of Lehigh Valley to improve their lives.

Thanks to YOU, our donation of 250 five pound bags of potatoes to the **Northern Lehigh Food Bank** provided extra nourishment to families during Easter.

Thanks to YOU, our mini Toilet Paper collection provided comfort to families under the care of **Lehigh Conference of Churches**.

Thanks to YOU, Union UCC's mission work is ALIVE. THANK YOU for sharing your love and spirit to help God's people everywhere.

Please continue to support Union UCC's year round mission efforts with donations to the monthly Benevolence Envelopes in your envelope packet. Every gift counts. Blessings to All.

The Mission Committee

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



Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

May 6 No Class—set up for Country Fair

May 13 Pastor Allan will lead class and explore different spiritual exercises for Bible Study.

May 20 Pastor Allan will lead class and explore different spiritual exercises for Bible Study.

May 20 will be last Friday Bible Study until the Fall.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

May 1 Rev. Patience Stevenson

May 8 Spread the Word: We are a Welcoming Church

Pastor Allan will show video clips and discuss the Welcoming Committee's plan to promote the mission and ministry of Union UCC.

May 15 Estate Planning Session 2

Steve Strack will continue his presentation about Estate Planning with an emphasis on "How to Include Union UCC in Your Will." Members of Funds of Lasting Gifts and Stewardship committees will join in the discussion.

May 15 Adult Class will be last class until the Fall.

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.

PNEC Annual Meeting

Leslie and Steve Strack represented Union UCC at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Penn Northeast Conference (PNEC) on Saturday, April 9th in Northampton, PA. Rev Kris Snyder-Samuels, Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer, and Phyllis Hamm were also in attendance. The theme of this year's meeting was "Be the Church." Each UCC church in the Conference designates delegates each year to attend and represent them at the Conference.

The purpose and function of the PNEC can be summarized as follows:

- assists member congregations with locating and selecting pastors on a permanent, interim, or supply basis
- provides conflict resolution resources for member churches
- provides support and guidance for the development of seminary students and newly licensed pastors
- functions as a conduit for member church contributions to the OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) missions and ministry

There were presentations given on two major Conference level ministries that OCWM supports:

- Planning and construction of a medical clinic in Guatemala - They have collected about \$90,000 and need \$30,000 more. Once built, they will be sending medical teams there about once a year. If any healthcare professionals are interested in medical missions, visit the PNEC website for more information.
- PNEC Disaster Response Ministry team - Two new tool trailers were purchased and filled with \$22,000 worth of hand tools and power equipment. These trailers will travel to locations needing disaster relief/recovery on the East Coast. They traveled to Columbia, SC in January. In addition, the 2017 PNEC Budget was voted on, and there was also a vote on the Clergy, Youth, and Lay delegates for the General Synod. Pastor Kris gave a good presentation on our own church's Youth Sleep-Out for Homelessness."

2016 Financial Statements: In an effort to save on our mailing costs, the office will be emailing the second and third quarter statements to those families that have donated \$200 or more. You will still receive the fourth quarter statement in the mail. Please be sure the office has your email so you can receive your statements. If you do not wish to receive your statements by email, please let the office know this as well. You can email Barbara at administrator@unionucc.org.



One Great Hour of Sharing, part of our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. **Our church will observe One Great Hour of Sharing with a collection on May 22.** Envelopes will be distributed in the bulletin on May 15 and 22 and a speaker will share information about the great work funded by One Great Hour of Sharing at services on May 22.

The United Church of Christ is one of eight Christian Denominations who partner, together with the Church World Service, to develop materials and share costs associated with raising funds. Sharing the cost of these kinds of thing keeps administrative costs down. Ninety cents out of every dollar raised is used directly for mission programming. Each denomination receives its own funds.

Under One Great Hour of Sharing, 138 countries receive aid from the United Church of Christ for disaster assistance, development and refugee needs. That includes the United States, where aid goes to people touched by disaster or in need of a helping hand for a better life.

Book Club

Next book: "The House On Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros May 17th at 6:30pm in the Conference Room. For more info contact Kathi Charles kac4b@hotmail.com or 610-462-5551.



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.**

Interested in a unique ministry opportunity?

Almost fifty of our most faithful members would love to attend worship, but are unable to at this time. Sharing Holy Communion with them is one way our church continues to stay connected with these wonderful people. Join us on **Thursday, June 16** in Room 5 (Basement) for a Communion Ministers Training. Please contact Pastor Patience at vispastor@unionucc.org or 610-248-5587 to register.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee participated in a "mock" or practice interview with a local UCC pastor recently which helped us prepare for the actual interviews and we have met with our Conference Minister who brought us our first group of ministerial profiles.

Ministerial profiles from the entire UCC denomination are now coming in (nearly a dozen thus far). We have begun screening, reviewing and ranking them 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 ministerial profiles are selected for further consideration, 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.

We will work as quickly and prayerfully as we can. It is not known how long this process might take. We will search and interview as long as needed until we find the best candidate whom we feel God is calling to be our next Sr. Pastor.

Let us all continue to pray that we will discern God's will for our faith community.

David Fleming, Chair



Sunday, May 1, 2016

6th Sunday of Easter/Blessing of Seed and Soil

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism

Text: Acts 16:9-15

Message: Shared Ministry

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsan

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Fawn Albert

Greeters: John & Debbie Romig, Abby & Chris Bastidas

Acolytes: 8AM - Will Filipovits

10:30AM - Ian Henninger, Karl Schmidt, Jr.

Sunday, May 8 2016

7th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Message: "Drumming to the Heartbeat of God"—

Mo Jerant will assist Pastors Patience and Allan in using rhythmic drumming for worship.

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Susan Rumble

10:30 - David Fleming

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Dave & Karen Fleming

Acolytes: 8AM -

10:30AM - Chase Misera, Peyton Schlosser

[We are looking forward to celebrating Mother's Day on May 8 with a special guest, Moe Jerant.](#)

"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."

Sunday, May 15, 2016

Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation/Acolyte Recognition

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship

Text: Acts 2:1-21

Message: Love Your Selfie, Love Your Church

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsan

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Doug Albert

10:30 - Dan Topp

Greeters: James & Steph Ricketts, Jeff & Marcey Kroll

Acolytes: 8AM -

10:30AM - Olivia Schuster, Amanda Lane

Sunday, May 22, 2016

1st Sunday after Pentecost/Communion/Choir Recognition

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Psalm 1

Message: "Psalms—the Prayer Book of the Bible"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Harry Burger

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Karl & Karen Imdorf

Acolytes: 8AM - Will Filipovits

10:30AM - Justin Trexler

Sunday, May 29, 2016

2nd Sunday after Easter/Memorial Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Psalm 96

Message: Sing A New Song

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsan

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

10:30 - Donna Christman

Greeters: Ruth Ensley, Jane Schappell

Acolytes: 8AM -

10:30AM - Olivia Schuster

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:

May 1—Fellowship

May 8—Helping Hands



Build Your Own Sundae Sunday-June 5th

Worship at 8am and 11:30am ~ Celebrating Our Graduates

Picnic in our Grove 11:30am -1pm

Hot dogs, snacks, veggies, drinks, and **LOTS of ICE CREAM**

(Vegetarian hot dogs and gluten-free rolls available.)

Moon bounce, rock wall, tattoos, and face painting.



**Celebrate the start of summer with us.
Bring your favorite chair or blanket ~ event is held
rain or shine.**

*Hosted by the Welcoming Committee and the Youth Group
Financial Support from the Country Sale*

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

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!

Remembering Those Who Served

Please help us collect the names of those who lost their lives while serving their country. We will collect names separately for all veterans for Veterans Day in November. We will make a display board as well as recognize these individuals on **Memorial Day worship at 8:00 & 10:30 services (May 29th)**. Please complete the following info and **submit it to the church office by May 22nd**.

Rank/Title and Name: _____

Branch of the Military: _____

Died during which Conflict: _____

Date of Death _____

Special Honors: _____





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	\$343,535.00	\$49,442.00	\$392,977.00
Expenses	\$299,588.00	\$50,144.00	\$349,732.00
2-29-2016	\$53,591.00	\$24,933.00	\$78,524.00

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		
March 6	77	225	6	308
March 13	83	188	37	308
March 20	92	261	37	390
March 24	Maundy	Thurs	83	83
March 25	Good	Friday	95	95
March 27	173	482	6am 100	755

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

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Perma F. (Dornblaser) Hallman:**

Joyce & Warren Kuntz
Richard Gogle
Len & Pat Smith
Carolyn George
Paul A. Fichter

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Althea E. Schiffer:**

David & Sandra Schiffer
Carl L. Heintzelman
Oliver & Althea Blose
H. O. Schiffer & Sons
Susan J. Guth
Carolyn George
David & Karen Frankenfield

The following donation was received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Daniel M. Koren:**
Dennis & Denise Rothrock

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
March 2015– 1,992 March 2016 – 1,969
AVG ATTENDANCE
March 2015–398 March 2016 - 440

Deaths

Perma Hallman passed away on March 24, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on March 30, 2016.

Daniel Koren passed away on April 7, 2016 and a memorial service was held April 16, 2016.

UNION UCC CHURCH

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
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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

May 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9am Beginner Tai Chi 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7:00pm FOLG	3 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior Choir 7pm Middler Choir; Bible Study 7:30pm HS Choir	4 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry Committee	5 6pm Tai Chi 7pm Christian Ed Committee	6 9am Bulletin Prep	7 9am Country Sale
9 9am Beginner Tai Chi 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Welcoming Committee	10 10am Helping Hands; 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	11 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Worship Committee	12 6pm Tai Chi	13 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	14 9am Men's Group
16 9am Beginner Tai Chi 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 6:45 pm Consistory	17 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Worship Committee	18 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits; Preschool Bboard 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	19 6pm Tai Chi	20 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	21
23 9am Beginner Tai Chi 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	24 6-8pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study	25 9:30am Busy Bee Quilt 10am Knitwits 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	26 6pm Tai Chi	27 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	28
30 9am Beginner Tai Chi 10am Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	31 9am Newsletter Mailing 7pm Bible Study				
SUNDAYS					
1 Seed and Soil Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism/Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	8 Mother's Day 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Confirmation Class 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	15 Confirmation 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds	22 Communion 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service/Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds	29 Memorial Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service/Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds	