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Union
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
 Neffs, Pennsylvania

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT * BUILDING THE FUTURE

Semi-Annual Meeting

On June 12, 2016, after the 10:30 a.m. service, we will hold our **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting**. The focus of this meeting will be the proposed fiscal 2016-2017 General Budget (covering July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017)

Regarding the budget, an informal information session will be held prior to the June 12 formal meeting so that congregation members can get more information or ask questions in advance. **This information session will be held at 9:15AM during education hour in the conference room on Sunday, June 5** for those requiring a deeper examination of the budget details. Members of the Budget Committee, which spends a great deal of time preparing the budget proposal, and Consistory will be available to answer your questions. A copy of the proposed budget is also available in the church office. As our church continues to grow, it is very helpful for all of us to continue to be supportive in as many ways as possible. In order to maintain our programs, activities, and our beautiful building and grounds, we need a continuous flow of time, talent and treasure! We, the members, are the heart of this Church, and with everyone's help, we will continue to grow and thrive!

Please plan to attend this semi-annual meeting on June 12 and be supportive of the budget, and let's continue to keep Union United Church of Christ moving forward.

Brad Hackett, Consistory President





From the Interim Pastor

Spread the Word: We are a Welcoming Church

At our service on April 24 several church members shared reflections about the welcoming presence they find here at Union UCC. Here are a few of their reflections:

I can honestly say that this is one of the most welcoming congregations I've ever seen. Here at Union UCC, we don't judge anyone by their appearance or background. We start off every service with the words "Whoever you are or wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." That single sentence sums up who we are as a church and what we are called to do as God's children... Jacob Roth

I am a skeptical, out-spoken, opinionated, ex-Catholic, mixed-race, first-generation American, born below the Mason-Dixon Line. I am an outsider on many accounts. If I can feel at home among families who count found-

ing members of this church as their blood relatives, then I know that this church welcomes everyone who wants a relationship with God... Susan Smith

Back in 1958 my dad, Willard Hankee, was a line-man for PPL. He and his crew were called out one snowy winter night. Because the storm was so bad, he was out for several days. Union UCC opened its doors to these men and other people like the president of the Morning Call and a family with small children, so they could have a warm place to sleep until they could be shoveled out. So you see you truly are a welcoming church. Thank you for opening your doors, not only for me and my family, but also for my father... Debbie Romig

So spread the word: We are a Welcoming Church!

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, May 16, 2016 by Vice President Aften Hamm.

The Treasurer's Report and April/May 2016 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that at present everything is in good working order and several maintenance projects are in progress. The May 7 Country Sale went very well, despite a morning shower. A huge crowd explored the whole property and grove.

Christian Education Committee reported that Children's Church and Sunday School have ended for the year. Teachers are always needed. The Safe Child Policy continues to be improved and updated. Beginning next year Pre-school teachers, but not aides, will be required to have an associate's degree or higher. Approval obtained for \$800 to be used from the Thomas Family Fund to purchase personal hygiene supplies in preparation for the Church World Service bus trip to Maryland in August. A VBS painting day is planned for Saturday, June 4.

Mission Committee reported that there is a new mission underway for repurposing pill containers. A \$300 donation went to Northern Lehigh Food Bank. There are 6-8 Church members attending the CWS Aug. 12 bus trip at no cost, for a day of service.

Church and Ministry Committee reported that Natalie Ondrey is new Setup Person for Coffee Hour with AJ DiPaolantonio serving as the substitute.

Welcoming Committee reported that they are preparing for the Build Your Own Sundae on Sunday, June 5 after worship. \$100 profit was made from the geranium sales at the Country Sale.

Stewardship Committee reported that they met on May 11 to discuss the proposed budget.

Fellowship Committee reported that the next event is the Church Family Picnic in August.

Worship Committee reported that discussion was held on how well our new services have been received. Three outdoor services on June 26, July 17 and August 14. Communion will also be held on August 7th. The committee is seeking additional youth to train and serve as acolytes.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, June 20 at 6:45 p.m. in Room 101.

Hall and Room Use Policy for Church Members



We often have requests for members to use the church building for things like birthday parties or anniversaries. The Consistory has approved an updated policy for this purpose in order to cover our expenses.

The suggested fees for using the church for personal or family events are listed below:

Fellowship Hall and Kitchen	\$60 Usage	\$25 Cleaning Fee
Memorial Hall	\$60 Usage	\$25 Cleaning Fee
Youth Room	\$60 Usage	\$25 Cleaning Fee
Grove	\$60 Usage	

Please contact the church office for a full copy of the policy in order to request space.

The form can also be found on our website at www.unionucc.org/resources.

We do not rent space to non-members.

Sunday Set-Up Position

Rachel DiPaolantonio has been our Sunday Set-Up Person for the last year. She is graduating and heading to Rhode Island for college. We will recognize her in worship on August 7th.

Natalie Ondrey has been the substitute for the last year and has agreed to take on the full position.

AJ DiPaolantonio has agreed to serve as the new substitute for next year.

We are grateful for their hard work and dedication to serving God here at Union!

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 presale beginning in August.

Save the Date!

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

Women's Retreat 2017

Union UCC Women's Retreat
March 31-April 2, 2017
Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg
Mark your calendar!

Children's Programs

Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961

Email: dired@unionucc.org



CONGRATULATIONS!

The following children earned Bibles by attending at least 10 sessions of Children's Church or Sunday School:

Carter Christman, Talor and Briana Everk, Isabelle Fekula, Adrianna Danyluk, Joshua Dimler, Eve Horvath, Zane Roth, Grace Liersaph, Emily Mericle, Brayden Peters, Sophia Ricketts, and Ethan Solderich



2016 COIN EXCHANGE

The children can return their coins and coin exchange order forms until June 30th. Please include your phone number so you can be contacted when the order is filled. The coins can be exchanged for gift certificates, ranging from \$1 to \$10.

VBS 2016 – June 27-July 1



We're off on another adventure! Registered children will receive a packet of information by June 20th. (Our registration is now closed for this year's program.) Our **summer adventure** will begin on Monday, June 27th at 9:00am. Our volunteer "DIVE TEAM" is ready with games, songs, snacks, skits, crafts, Bible stories and a whole lot of fun! We will have our **closing Program** on Friday evening, July 1st. You are all invited to join us at 7:00 in the grove for entertainment and refreshments.

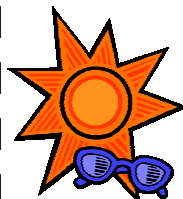
**VBS Volunteer Meetings: JUNE 5 @ 9:30am
JUNE 26 @ 11:30am in Memorial Hall**

SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

Our summer video series begins on June 5 and will continue through Aug. 28. We do not show a video on Outdoor Worship Sundays.

We still need some volunteers to run the show each week. We will not be able to offer this to our children without two adult leaders each Sunday. The sign up sheet is on Kathy's door.

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!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL...are officially on vacation until Sept. 11th (mark your calendar). A tremendous thanks to all the teachers, helpers, parents and children for another wonderful year. Your support, participation and cooperation all contributed to this year's success. What a great team!! Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

CIA

A huge thanks to **Tammy Lorah-Haydt** (and her family) and **Kathy Milander** for a wonderful year of CIA events and projects (bamboo windchimes, suet logs, candy BINGO, life size Jenga and Connect 4...to name a few). Thanks again, Tammy and Kathy! We so appreciate the time and effort you put into this program.

Summer Nursery: The Little Lambs Nursery will be unstaffed for the summer. Parents/caregivers are welcome to use the room during the 10:30 service. The service is broadcast into the nursery room. We would appreciate it if you would clean up the toys before you leave. Marianne Ulrich, our nursery attendant volunteer, will be on vacation and resting up for next year! She will return on Sept. 11th and need a partner every Sunday for the 2016-2017 session. Please contact Kathy Bonsell if you have any questions or would like to help with this very important ministry.



Wanted: Sunday School and Children's Church volunteers for the 2016-17 session. Sign up sheets are located on Kathy Bonsell's door. Please contact Kathy if you have any questions at dired@unionucc.org. **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.**



Youth Group News 6th-12th Grades



YOUTH GROUP NEWS 6th-12th Grade

For more information contact:

Pastor Kris assocpastor@unionucc.org 610-657-6007 Cell

Or Dave DiPaolantonio at 610-349-9162 and youth_group@unionucc.org.

Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group www.unionucc.org/Ministries/Youth_Group

Anyone who is in grades 6-12 is considered a member of youth group. 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).

Blessings on our Confirmands and their families and God Guides. Here's a sampling of their Faith Statements that they each wrote.

God is Mother and Father and cares about all people. **Brandon Zellner** God is someone I trust and who watches over us in times of need. **Sebastian Knerr** God is someone I can talk to in the worst and best times of my life. **Danyel Rex** I know that Jesus loves everyone. **Kyleigh O'Neill** I know that Jesus is my heavenly brother and that he died for us to be saved. **Tegan Haley** The Holy Spirit is with us every day, every minute and every second. **Chris Bath** I believe the Bible helps people understand God's love and how one can rely on God. **Maddie Kohler** We pray to God for his help or just to talk. **Rachael Bath** I think prayer let's God help you on your journey. **Jason Check** Being a Christian means you should follow in the footsteps of Christ. **Jake Klinger** Faith means I trust God even though I may not understand. **Nick Beers** My faith in God is strong and always has been. **Jake Gladish** My faith is part of everything I do in life, I am proud to be a Christian. **Dylan Kuntz** I know God put me here for a reason, I just need to find my way. **Gabriel Horvath** My faith is always there and it helps me get through my everyday life. **Tia Horack** I will live out my faith by doing good things and helping other people. **Ian Schory** As Christians, we are called to fulfill God's work in our everyday lives. **Jacob Roth** Church is very important in my life and has become like a second home. **Abby Hill** Church is a place where everyone can feel safe. **Rebekah Lorah** Church is a place where I can be myself and live out my faith. **Madison Amorim** Church is a peaceful place where I can be free. **Katie Mericle** I am happy to be a part of a loving church that doesn't give up on me. **Madison Milander**

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. Bring your family and friends. Hot Dogs (Veggie and GF too!), veggies, snacks and ICE CREAM! Moon bounce, rock wall, tattoos and face painting.



SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15am
These groups resume in September.

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS (8th 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 (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, June 7**
12 noon – 1:30pm

Program: Program Gwenevere Marx, Animal Behaviorist,
Lehigh Valley Dog Training:
"Animals as Resources as we Age"

Please note: For those with allergies to dogs - there will be dogs present!

This Month: Potluck – Bring a salad, side dish, casserole, or dessert to share. We will provide hot dogs, ice cream and beverages.

Blues Night Out

Summer is coming, vacations are being planned, picnics and family gatherings are happening, trips to the amusement parks and concert festivals are annual rituals.

As the summer ends, we also start thinking about Union UCC's annual Blues Nite Out in the church grove. 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 in our church grove for food, fun and fellowship with your church family and the community.



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, year round.

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.



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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.



***Abigail Kern and Jillian Krempasky are our Catch the Spirit recipients for June.
They will be recognized on June 5, 2016 at the 10:30 am worship service.***

Jillian Krempasky

I have gone to church for as long as I can remember; my faith in God has always been a crucial part of my life. I grew up knowing that God was always with me. He was there to help, to listen, and to guide. I know that God is still with me today and continues to guide me through every challenge, obstacle, and experience that I face. I am constantly thankful to Him for never leaving my side.

I am the oldest child of Dave and Kim Krempasky. I have twin sisters, Chloe and Vanessa, who are freshmen at Parkland High School. We also have a dog named Coco. I am a senior at Parkland High School, and will be attending Westminster Choir College of Rider University in the fall to major in Music Education. In addition to going to school, I work at FreySmiles Orthodontics and am a secretary that assists with Patient Services. I love singing and have taken voice lessons at Gerry Music Studio for the past nine years. I have been a piano student of Blake Hoppes for several years as well. Finally, I was heavily involved in Parkland's choral and theatre department.

I am a graduate of the 2011-2012 Union UCC confirmation class, and have participated in Youth Group, Breakfast Club, Children's Church, and Vacation Bible School. I have been a member of many of the choirs that our church has to offer. I also have used my voice in the church's Sunday Morning Alive music group, and I sign up to sing solo pieces during various church services throughout the year.

I love my church because of its welcoming atmosphere. There is nothing better than waking up early on a Sunday morning to attend a place where I feel like I belong. I like how everyone knows each other; new members are constantly welcome. I am grateful to my church family, and proud to call Union UCC my church.

Abby Kern

I have been a UCC Christian my whole life as well as been a member of this church. My father went to this church so when my parents had kids naturally this is where we would grow up. I went to preschool here, so my roots sprout from Union UCC.

My family is my everything. Not only do they help me to grow everyday as a person, but in my faith as well. I have an amazing support system of my mom and dad, Claire and Doug Kern. I've also been blessed with an amazing role model, my brother Nate Kern. They show me everyday how to be a good Christian and I try to do the same. I'm involved in anything musical at Parkland High School. The theatre program, chorale, chorus, chorus president, district and regional festivals. However I am interested in the opposite side of the spectrum too, sports. During the school year I'm on the stage and in the summer I'm on the field. Softball is another one of my passions I try to balance and fulfill.

At church I used to be involved in the choirs (cherub, mid- dlers, junior, and high school), but now I am in Sunday Morning Alive and sing solos in church. I was confirmed here and went to preschool here. I have been a helper at Vacation Bible School for the past few years.

I have received an extended family by worshipping here. I have met so many people that I will cherish forever. I try to live my life how any good Christian would. The church has inspired in me a lifestyle of respect and humbleness. At the same time, our church I think is more of a modern church right now and sometimes PK or Pastor Allen crack a joke in their sermons. This has showed me that sometimes it's okay to have a good time with a serious subject. Life doesn't always have to be a serious, solemn, focused thing. It's okay to laugh, just as long as that laughter leads you down the right way and leads you to understanding. The church has given me a place of respite, a place of laughter, a place of shelter, and a place where I can meet with God even closer. I don't know how those things can't change your life because they have certainly changed mine.

Mission Committee By Vicki Mayk

The Urffer Fund of the Fund of Lasting Gifts provides money to support mission and programming benefiting children and youth outside of Union United Church of Christ.

Part of the Urffer Fund interest is used annually to sponsor two children from Zimbabwe - Elizabeth Magidhi and her sister, Tendai Magidhi - through the **Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program**. Each receives \$330 (total of \$660)

The Mission Committee has announced that the remainder of funds available this year will benefit Valley Youth House and El Sistema in the Allentown School District. Valley Youth House will receive \$1,000 and El Sistema will receive \$585.

Valley Youth House

Valley Youth House supports at-risk youth with no place to go because of homelessness, abandonment or juvenile justice issues. It provides help through a variety of programs in the Lehigh Valley and Bucks County. Services include an emergency shelter with counseling and crisis intervention services, life skills programs to help youth transition from foster care or juvenile probation, and in-school programs, including short-term mental health counseling and truancy intervention programs. Valley Youth House also operates Camp Fowler in Orefield, which offers young people therapeutic and challenge-based outdoor experiences. In addition, it operates the Pride Program, which offers housing, case management and rental assistance to LGBTQIA youth who are homeless. The Synergy Project is a street outreach program for homeless and runaway street youth. Vocational mentoring programs also are provided.

El Sistema Lehigh Valley

El Sistema Lehigh Valley (ESLV) is held at Roosevelt Elementary School and South Mountain Middle School in the Allentown School District. It is a free music education program made possible through the Allentown Symphony Association's collaboration with the school District. ESLV provides all participating students with intensive after-school orchestral instrumental instruction, choir instruction, academic tutoring, and an after-school snack. Participation and use of musical instruments is free to all students. The El Sistema concept was developed in 1975 by Venezuelan educator, musician and activist Jose Antonio Abreu. Its motto is Social Action for Music.

Summertime . . . vacation time . . . travel time . . . MISSION time. While you are off traveling this summer on family vacations, take a minute to think about folks at home that may need some extra help.

During your stay at a hotel or resort, check your bathroom each morning for full bottles of shampoo, shower gels, or hand soap and pack them in your suitcase. The hotel staff will bring you new toiletries each day and restock your bathroom. At the end of the week you will have a nice little bag of toiletries to bring back home and donate to the church to help others in the Lehigh Valley.

We thank the many of you who are already practicing this Mission technique, and encourage all travelers to bring home unused toiletries from your travels all year long. Toiletries will help families through the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, or through Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

Each small bottle of shampoo or bar of soap will bring a smile of hope to a mother, father, child, or grandparent. Please drop off toiletries in the blue barrel in Memorial Hall. Thank you to all.

Property Committee

By Phil Wehr



Summer projects have already begun around the church property. Numerous painting projects are planned for the interior and exterior of the church. With the rainy weather in May, the painters arrived early and painted some walls in the Youth Room, the stair tower, and Memorial Hall. They also began working on painting the sides of the pews, and other areas on the main level of the sanctuary.

As time permits, they will continue to finish the sanctuary interior work, the first floor hallway walls in the New Beginning Addition, and some of the exterior wood work of the New Beginning Addition, including the entrance and window sills.

The second summer project will be the replacing of the rug in the first floor hallway of the New Beginning Addition. All projects are planned to be finished by September.

Funding for both projects is being provided by interest earnings from the Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund. Blessings to our trustees and initial member donors for providing resources to provide for the continued and future care, maintenance, and upgrading to our church property. Give Praise.

From the Church Grove

Three new trees were recently planted in the church grove, along with other flowers and plants. Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to help to beautify Union UCC's church grove and planning for shade and beauty for future generations.

Phil & Julie Wehr
Larry Wehr
Mary Ann Wagner
John & Gloria Simock
Blues Nite Out

Union UCC's church grove is available to church members for picnics, graduation parties, family gatherings and reunions, or special events. Please contact Barbara Carinci in the church office to schedule an event. A donation is required at the time of booking the grove. Enjoy and respect our church grove all summer long.



Tales From the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Naomi Follweiler was born at her parents' home in Schnecksville in 1929. She has many fond memories of life with her parents and brother. She grew up next door to her mother's parents and an aunt and uncle. Her father's grandparents lived with her family in their home when they were no longer able to care for themselves.

Naomi's parents ran a tourist home (before the days of motels). Over the years Naomi's family hosted many interesting people from many parts of the world. Many of these guests became family friends.

Naomi has fond memories of helping her grandmother with her truck patch. Naomi would help pick produce and deliver it to local relatives and stores in Allentown. In the spring Naomi would join her family in picking dandelions, which they would sell to the same stores in Allentown for the Pennsylvania Dutch favorite, Dandelion Salad.

Naomi was baptized, confirmed and married under the care of Union UCC, where she faithfully attended until she moved to Florida. Naomi recalls assisting with Vacation Bible School.

Another way in which Naomi helped her community was to bake Fastnachts with her mother, grandmother, friends and neighbors as a fundraiser for the Schnecksville Sunday School. Naomi's mother set up a baking area in her basement where they produced many delicious Fastnachts. The Schnecksville Sunday School was part of the Sunday routine in the Kern household. The family would first go to Sunday School, then drive up the street to worship at Union UCC.

Naomi married Warren Follweiler in 1947. They were married for 59 years. Naomi and Warren raised 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren.

Naomi returned from living for 9 years in Florida and now resides in Schnecksville where she can be close to her daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



By Annette Wilcox

Hard to believe, but the end of our Preschool year has arrived. We have been busy with last minute projects for Mother's Day and Father's Day as well as enjoying the warmer temperatures outside participating in a variety of games on Field Day. The students and teachers are busy preparing for our closing ceremonies and Graduation for those students moving on to kindergarten. The children have grown and learned so much since they arrived at our doors in September, grasping tightly to the hand of a parent. Now they eagerly and independently head into school chatting with the friends they have made throughout the year. We could not have had such a successful school year with out the support of the staff and members of Neffs Union UCC – THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped us stuff the recycling truck; we gathered 6250 pounds of items and earned \$500 for the Preschool!

Enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year is in full swing, and we will continue to take applications until our classes are full. If you, your family, or your friends are interested in enrolling a child and would like more information or a registration form, please stop by or call the Preschool office at 610-767-5327. Registration forms can also be downloaded from our website at www.unionucc.org/preschool/.

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

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.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs



Pill Bottle Collection

Sponsored by the Mission Committee

For details visit: <http://m25m.org/pillbottles/>

We want your old, empty and cleaned pill bottles! They will be used by Matthew 25: Ministries (M25M), a four-star rated charity located in Ohio, which sends them on to developing countries for use by medical teams. While M25M accepts all plastic medicine/supplement bottles, we ask that you include only bottles with the following criteria, appropriately prepared for shipment. As you soak, wash, scrape the last traces of labels and adhesives, and dry your bottles, prayerfully reflect about whom may be at the receiving end of your good and simple deed. Look for the collection bin in the foyer and during Golden Times.

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. (Galatians 6:10, NRSV)

Matthew 25: Ministries accepts donations of empty plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

Acceptable collection items include:

- Empty prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child resistant)
- Bottles must be empty.
- Bottles must have an all plastic lid.
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.
- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.
- Place clean, recapped bottles in large ziplock bags marked "Clean Bottles."



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.



God's Garden Gifts

Our vegetable exchange and food bank offering will start on July 1st. Home gardeners are invited to bring in their gifts from their gardens and worshippers are invited to take the vegetables they need and in exchange can make a cash donation to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. The Mission Committee will organize the collection and delivery of cash donations and remaining produce to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.



Anticipated Income for July 2016 thru June 2017

	<u>2015/2016 fcst</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>	
Contributions, Current and Benevolent:			
General (Weekly Envelopes and Plate)	\$338,700	\$338,700	
Improvement Fund	\$6,690	\$7,000	
Communion	\$10,520	\$8,700	
Benevolence	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Lent and Good Friday	\$2,070	\$2,400	
Visitation Pastor and Music / Education Program	\$5,890	\$6,500	
Harvest Home, Thanksgiving and Christmas	\$23,670	\$19,300	
Special Gifts	\$13,800	\$5,500	
Program Income	\$11,710	\$11,200	
Miscellaneous (Building Donations, Interest)	\$5,250	\$6,500	
Fundraisers	\$8,500	\$9,700	
Preschool Contribution	\$1,500	\$1,500	
Total Anticipated Contributions			\$424,500
Faith Commitment Contributions	incl. above	\$42,000	
<i>Additional gifts needed to fund Plan for Ministry</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$39,500</i>	
Total Income Budget	\$435,800	\$506,000	<u>\$506,000</u>

Anticipated Expenses for July 2016 thru June 2017

	<u>2015/2016 fcst</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>	
Expense Budget			
Facilities and Office Equipment			
Church Building / Property	\$50,115	\$53,630	
Office Equipment	\$7,000	\$6,400	\$60,030
Employee Salaries			
Pastor	\$0	\$84,910	
Interim Pastor	\$34,820	\$0	
Associate Pastor	\$64,720	\$64,524	
Visitation Pastor	\$17,830	\$12,236	
Church Administrator	\$20,970	\$21,395	
Director of Christian Education	\$24,690	\$25,187	
Organist/Accompanist	\$16,810	\$17,144	
Director of Music	\$8,520	\$8,688	
Communications Coordinator	\$18,050	\$18,410	
Facility Caretakers	\$27,360	\$28,591	\$281,085
Employee Expenses			
Insurance (net of Pastor's contributions)	\$21,490	\$43,435	
FICA	\$17,440	\$22,343	
Pension Dues	\$11,590	\$23,817	
Sr. Pastor Call Process	\$30,660	\$0	
Miscellaneous	\$4,790	\$5,245	\$94,840
Benevolence			
OCWM	\$7,400	\$7,400	
Phoebe	\$4,770	\$4,770	
Lancaster Seminary	\$1,075	\$1,075	
Bethany	\$240	\$240	
Lehigh Co. Conf. of Churches	\$1,200	\$1,200	
Northern Lehigh Food Bank	\$600	\$1,500	
Mission Discretionary	\$1,500	\$8,600	\$24,785
Leadership			
Gifts / Materials / Golden Times	\$320	\$3,250	\$3,250
Programs			
Worship	\$8,310	\$6,560	
Education	\$13,980	\$15,850	
Fellowship	\$3,200	\$3,000	
Flowers / Bulletins	\$4,850	\$5,150	\$30,560
Office Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,450	\$11,450
Total Operating Expenses	\$435,800	\$506,000	<u>\$506,000</u>
Total Income less Expenses	\$0	\$0	



CWS Kits - Summer Mission Collection

During the month of July, Union UCC's Mission Committee will be organizing a new Mission Project to support Church World Services (CWS). **This new project will support CWS's Kits program. CWS kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to families and communities around the world.**

Union UCC plans to assemble **hygiene kits, school kits, and emergency bucket kits.** Each kit has specific items and quantities to provide for use by children, adults, and families in desperate times.

In July, donations of cash will be accepted by the congregation, allowing the Mission Committee to purchase needed supplies, and then pack them as requested. **On August 12, a group of Union UCC members will be traveling by bus with volunteers from other local UCC churches to the CWS campus in New Windsor, Maryland.**

All of the kits made from our church, through your donations, and kits from the other churches will be taken along on the bus. The bus load of volunteers will give a day's worth of labor to make more kits, and prepare them for shipping around the world.

Your support of the CWS Kit program makes a tremendous difference in the lives of so many people both here at home and around the world. Each Kit represents a person whose life will be changed because of the simple items contained within. Look for more information in the July Newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

Church World Services also oversees and organizes the Blanket Sunday program and the Crop Walk. More information can be found on their website - <http://cwskits.org/>

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

Thanks, Thanks, and More Thanks

As we begin to wind down our fiscal year and move through our second calendar quarter, our team is writing to express our grateful thanks for your continued generous support toward God's mission and ministry here at Union UCC through your regular giving. On top of that, many of you have pledged through your FAITH COMMITMENT CARD to increase your giving or to provide a one-time gift to the Union UCC. This helps to secure our financial future with the needed resources for our plans for the coming year. Please accept our warm and grateful thanks for your part in this wonderful commitment. Your prompt response to this challenge, plus your support, concern, prayers and practical action are a real inspiration to us and will encourage others in our church as they make their own response.

So far, 105 individuals or households have responded to our letter in October. When all of our commitments have been totaled, we will have an additional \$808 per week, that's about \$42,000 per year. We are delighted by this response and we give thanks to God and to you!

This increased giving will do so much more than balance our budget for the coming year. It helps us to be able to grow both new and existing areas of ministry and mission. For example, we can continue to support our visiting pastor ministry, increase our mission activities to the community, enhance our vibrant children's programming in education and music, and we can continue our yearly Vacation Bible School program, and more. You can be very confident that your giving is making a real difference to people's lives here, in the community and beyond. ***Please do all that you can to honor your pledge and to continue your support at this level. We still need to reach our goal of \$80,000.***

We work hard to do God's work and to share God's spirit. Please invite a neighbor or friend to worship on Sundays or to attend one of our many church events. It is not only important to attract new members of all ages to help keep Union UCC healthy and strong, but it is also our call as disciples to share God's love and grace with others and to be God's love and grace for others. We want everyone to know the joy of loving and serving God here.

We look forward to seeing you at the semi-annual meeting on June 12th. This is when we will share with you how all of the planning and work has come together. Let's remember that we are ALL on a journey. "(TOGETHER) we will walk hand in hand, And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land..." Scholtes, Peter. "They will know we are Christians."

Once again thank you for your generosity, support, encouragement and partnership in God's ministry and mission. It is greatly appreciated, never taken for granted and will help our church continue to be a strong and life-changing presence for our members and guests.

Sincerely,
The Financial Leadership Team



**Sunday, June 5, 2016**

3rd Sunday after Pentecost/Graduate Sunday/Make Your Own Sundae

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Sunday Morning Alive

Text: Luke 15.11-32

Message: "The Return of the Prodigal"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

Greeters: Claire Kern, Gene & Christina Thrash

Acolytes: 8AM - Trevor Amorim

Sunday, June 19, 2016

5th Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: 1 Kings 19: 1-4, 5-7, 8-15a

Message: "Wilderness Bathing"

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Fawn Albert

Greeters: Glenn & Susan Mattern, Mary & Lou Burdick

Acolytes: 8AM -

10:30AM - Riley Schlosser

Sunday, June 12, 2016

4th Sunday after Pentecost/Semi-Annual Meeting

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Message: "On Earth as it is in Heaven"

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Sandra Craig

10:30 - James Ondrey

Greeters: Kim Krempasky, Russ and Deirdre Todd

Acolytes: 8AM - Brett Misera

10:30AM - Samantha Ritchie, Kaden Haley

Sunday, June 26, 2016

6th Sunday after Pentecost/Jazz Ensemble

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Outdoor Worship

Text: Galatians 5:1, 13-25 (Fruits of the Spirit)

Message: "Faith Filled Fruit (or Fruit Loops?)"

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Claire Kern

Greeters: Vicki Mayk, Karen Wonderly

Acolytes: 8AM -

Pastor Allan Celebrates 45 Years of Ordained Ministry

Join us on June 12th in worship to celebrate this anniversary for Pastor Allan.


Holy Grounds Coffee Hour Every Sunday 9:15-10:15 & 11:30-12:00

Thank you to the committees and groups that host our Holy Grounds Coffee Hour from September to May.

If you or your family and church friends would like to host a Sunday during the summer just pitch in or bring food to share on the Sundays that you are here.

Food ideas: baked goods, fruit, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, snacks.

It's a great time to catch up with friends, share our joys and concerns, and enjoy a snack together.



During 10:30 Worship we will worship in the Grove on these dates. Bring a comfy chair.

June 26
July 17
August 14/Picnic

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.



Build Your Own Sundae Sunday-June 5th

Worship at 8am and 10:30am ~ 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*

Our Seminarian: Ashley Werkheiser

On May 14th, Ashley graduated and received a Masters of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts.

In recognition of her superior academic achievement, high moral character, and promise of leadership she was also awarded membership in the Jonathan Edwards Society, a certificate in Spiritual and Pastoral Care and an Award in Excellence for Worship, Theology and the Arts.

Ashley will be moving back to PA to work on the last of her ordination requirements.

Congratulations and Blessings, Ashley!

Our Church Family in the News...

Robert Heintzelman - Congratulations for being chosen to the Parkland Education Association Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor at Parkland High School.

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)

Search Committee Update

To date, the Sr. Pastor Search Committee has received, reviewed and ranked over two dozen ministerial profiles from pastors from across the United Church of Christ. We are in the process of selecting candidates for initial interviews and will be checking references and reviewing other documents such as sermon transcripts, video and audio tapes and CDs of worship services, visiting church websites, talking with Conference Ministers and perhaps visiting finalists at neutral pulpits, if necessary.

Once a final candidate is selected by our committee (one only) we will be recommending that person to Consistory. Consistory will then

vote to approve the recommendation. Subsequently the Consistory will 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 have met eleven times since January and have four meetings scheduled in the upcoming weeks to conduct interviews. We do believe we see the end of our search in sight.

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



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	\$370,775.00	\$51,599.00	\$422,374.00
Expenses	\$325,665.00	\$59,283.00	\$384,948.00
4-30-2016	\$54,754.00	\$17,951.00	\$72,705.00

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>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
April 3	54	156	35	245
April 10	67	224	CFW	291
April 17	85	130	31	246
April 24	71	125	32	228

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
<u>April 2015</u> – 1,942 <u>April 2016</u> – 1,010
AVG ATTENDANCE
<u>April 2015</u> –366 <u>April 2016</u> - 253

Memorials

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Daniel M. Koren:

- Tim & Marlene Baer
- Doug & Linda Houser
- Richard & Deana Correll
- Linda L. Moyer
- Barbara M. Matthias
- Randy & AnnaLou Fritzing
- Tom & Marilyn Tate
- Ron & Phyllis Derksen
- Richard & Deborah Wenner
- David & Jane Borbe
- Grace Conti & Ann's Zumba Class
- George & Diane Karetsky
- Mark Liscka
- Dennis & Kathleen Foster

- Yorgey Supply
- Ernest & Susan Colarusso
- Luther & Martha Lutz
- Frank & Connie Reed
- Carolyn George
- Philip & Julie Wehr
- Arthur J. Henry Lumber Co.
- Cliff & Carol James
- Vicki & Tom Shuffelbottom & Family
- Christy Troiano & Family
- Russ & Linda Samilo
- Sherwood & Brenda Eckhart
- Barbara M. Kleppinger
- John & Gloria Simock
- Sonny & Joanie Ebert

- Daniel & Debra Topp
- Douglas & Margaret Clark
- Randall & Gail Skeath
- Robert & Carla Hahn

Home Visitation Members' Birthdays

Ruth Miller - June 16
701 Main St, Apt 611
Bethlehem, PA 18018



UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

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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

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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 |

June 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry Committee	2 6pm Tai Chi	3 9am Bulletin Prep	4 9am VBS Painting Party 5pm SMA rehearsal
6 10am Tai Chi Picnic 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	7 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 12pm Golden Times 7pm Bible Study	8 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits; Preschool Board 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	9	10 9am Bulletin Prep	11
13 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	14 10am Helping Hands 7pm Bible Study	15 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 1pm BBQ Planning 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	16 7pm Communion Minister Training	17 9am Bulletin Prep	18
20 6:45 pm Consistory	21 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 7:30pm Worship Committee	22 9:30am Busy Bee Quilt 10am Knitwits	23 5pm Men's Group	24 9am Bulletin Prep	25
27 9am-12pm VBS	28 9am-12pm VBS 1pm Newsletter Mailing	29 9am-12pm VBS	30 9am-12pm VBS	July 1 9am-12pm VBS 9am Bulletin Prep 7pm VBS Closing	

SUNDAYS

5 Graduate Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Budget Information Meeting 10:30am Horizon Service Children's Video 11:30am Holy Grounds Build Your Own Sundae	12 Semi-Annual Meeting 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Video 11:30am Holy Grounds	19 Father's Day 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 10:30am Horizon Service-Children's Video 11:30am Holy Grounds	26 Jazz Ensemble 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds 9:30am Pre-Baptism 10:30am Horizon Service-Outdoor Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds
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