

HONORING THE PAST \* CELEBRATING THE PRESENT \*  
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

## Harvest Home

September 18 at 8 & 10:30am worship

We need everyone's food contributions and support. The wheelbarrow for canned goods and groceries will be available for donations starting Sunday, September 11, in the church foyer. All home gardeners or produce shoppers, please drop off fresh produce for the display during Harvest Home set up time on **Saturday September 11 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

All produce and groceries items will be distributed to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank.

**Let us celebrate God's bounty on this Earth and be thankful for all we have, and share with others.**



### New Member Sessions

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

Pastor Kris and church leaders invite you to gatherings on **September 18 & 25 at 9:15am until 10:15am.** We will meet in the Memory Room (Room 200) on the second floor. This an informal time to get to know each other and ask questions. Attendance is not required to join. You will be welcomed as members in worship on **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at the 8am or 10:30am worship service.** Contact Pastor Kris at [assocpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:assocpastor@unionucc.org) if you have questions or contact the church office to sign up with Tara at 610-767-6961 or [secretary@unionucc.org](mailto:secretary@unionucc.org).

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#### 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](mailto:secretary@unionucc.org))

## From the Interim Pastor

### “Quenching our Spiritual Thirst”

We had several good thunderstorms during the latter part of July this year. They were badly needed because the earth was parched and dry during the early part of the summer. I'm reminded of the first lines of Psalm 42:

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
So my soul longs for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

The Psalmist here reminds us that there are times when our spiritual lives are parched and dry. We thirst for the living water of God's love. Jesus describes God's love as “living water.” (John 4:14)

The theologian John Sanford tells the story of when he was a little boy and his parents vacationed each summer at a farmhouse in Vermont. The farmhouse had no running water, but there was a well with a hand pump outside the kitchen, and that well never went dry.

Sanford tells how he grew up and the family stopped vacationing at this farmhouse. Years later, as an adult, he returned to that farmhouse. By then

the house had inside plumbing and the old well was boarded up and dry. He recalls dropping a pebble down the well shaft, only to hear it rattle on the dry rocks below.

Sanford then went to a geologist and asked him how that well, which never went dry during his childhood, had dried up over the years. The geologist explained how a well is fed by thousands of tiny streams of water. As long as people draw water off the top, the streams flow to refill the reservoir of water. But when people stop drawing water from the well, the rivulets of water dry up.

John Sanford says that our souls work the same way. As long as we pray and practice an active spiritual life, the streams of living water continue to flow through our soul. But when we stop doing our spiritual exercises, these inner streams of living water stop flowing, and our souls get clogged up with sediment and stop working.

Personal devotions and regular church attendance are important spiritual exercises that will help God's living water flow continuously through your soul. Join us this Sunday, and bring a friend!

**Pastor Allan**

## Consistory Minutes

by Deidre Bilger (subject to approval)

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, August 15, 2016 by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and June - August 2016 bills were presented and approved.

**Property and Maintenance Committee reported** that it has been a busy summer with lots of special events in and around the church. The hallway rugs by the offices have been replaced. The painting project will be finished in the next month. Most of these repairs were funded through a previously approved FOLG miscellaneous request, which is now running low. Backyard BBQ Bash is on Saturday September 10. Tickets can be purchased in advance to support a new raffle event; winners to be picked on September 10.

**Mission Committee reported that we** are no longer supporting the Daybreak meal and will begin serving breakfast at Zion UCC Reformed Church. Larry Pickens from Lehigh Valley Conference of Churches will be promoting Mission in January. Pill bottle donations are incredibly successful but will be ending after one year due to shipping costs. Harvest Home is September 18.

**Church and Ministry Committee reported that** a discussion was held with our seminary student, Ashley Werkheiser. She has graduated and is doing well on her path. She will assist in Worship on August 28 and will preach on September 4.

**Welcoming Committee reported that** a list of recent new members was received from Spring and Summer 2016, to connect with them and let them know about our church events coming up. Opportunities for new members to join our church will be increased to four times per year and classes will be held for 2 weeks. The next two opportunities to join our Church family will be in September and November.

**Stewardship Committee reported** discussed the following: E-giving opportunity, Fall kickoff for a financial fundraiser, and plans for follow-up on Faith Commitments.

**Fellowship Committee reported** that their meeting was held August 1st to plan the Church picnic, which was huge success. Next meeting is September 5, to discuss basket social.

**The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, September 19, in Room 101.**

## Music Ministry at Union from Pastor Kris

Here are some of the music opportunities that our staff and leaders are working on for the upcoming church year. You can join any choir at any time of the year. Directors will make every effort to include you even if you cannot attend rehearsals on a regular basis. Thank you to all of our musicians for the many gifts you bring to our worship time.

**8:00am Heritage Choir** – Directed by Blake Hoppes. Begins Sunday, Sept. 11. Adults and high school youth are welcome to join this group for rehearsals at 7:15am each Sunday. This group sings almost every Sunday at 8am worship. They join the Horizon Choir for special programs at the holidays.

**10:30am Horizon Choir** – Directed by Mike Baer. Begins Sunday, Sept. 11. Adults and high school youth are welcome to join this group for rehearsals at 9:15am each Sunday. This group sings about 2-3 times a month at 10:30am worship. They join the Heritage Choir for special programs at the holidays.

**Children and Youth Choirs** – these choirs sing monthly at the 10:30am worship service.

Directed by Mike Baer, Judy Stubbman, and Dave DiPaolantonio. Begins Tuesday, Sept. 13 Weekly rehearsals on **Tuesdays**

**Cherub Choir Ages 3-Grade 2** at 6:00pm.

**Junior Choir Grades 3-5** at 6:30pm

**Middler Choir Grades 6-8** at 7:00pm.

**High School Choir Grades 9-12** Directed by Blake Hoppes. Weekly rehearsals on **Wednesdays** at 6pm. Welcome Blake! Note the change in rehearsal time. This choir will also offer a monthly Sunday rehearsal at 11:45-12:15 for those who miss the weeknight rehearsals.

**Unity Choir** – Directed by Roni Gerry, church member and co-owner of Gerry Music Studios. Weekly rehearsals Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:30. Starting Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. This choir will sing 4-6 times a year. This is a chance for any soprano or alto of any age to participate. We hope to get Teenagers, Grandmas, Moms, & kids singing together.

**Hand Chime Ensemble** – Directed by Edie Fella. Hand chimes rehearse on Thursday nights at 7pm and perform in services about four times a year.

**Brass Ensemble** - Directed by Mike Baer. The group plays on special occasions including Christmas, Easter and Patriotic holidays.

**Men's Choir** - Directed by Mike Baer. We would love to get this group back into our schedule. Men, let Mike know of your interest.

**Special Music** by instrumentalists, singers as soloists or in small groups. Sign up with Mike or Blake to offer your music in worship at the holidays or on any Sunday.

**Sound Crew** operates the sound system in the sanctuary and the portable sound system. Training is provided by experienced members, and the team operates on a rotating schedule.

If you want additional information about these groups or if you'd like to be added to our email list for ongoing information about rehearsals and performance times, please contact Mike Baer at [dirmusic@unionucc.org](mailto:dirmusic@unionucc.org), Blake Hoppes at [blake.charger@gmail.com](mailto:blake.charger@gmail.com) or Roni Gerry at [mattnroni@yahoo.com](mailto:mattnroni@yahoo.com).

## Church World Service Kits Projects

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, thank you to all who supported Union UCC's summer mission project. Over \$1,000 was collected in July to help with costs of supplies and to aid in the shipping of 50 school kits, and 7 emergency buckets. The Thomas Family Fund of the Funds of Lasting Gifts provided \$800 to purchase supplies and to aid in the shipping of 65 hygiene kits.

These kits were assembled by members of the Mission Committee and their families and were delivered to the Church World Service campus on Aug 12. Union UCC members, along with other local UCC congregation members traveled by bus to spend a day volunteering at their campus. More information will follow in the October newsletter.

These finished kits will provide a ray of HOPE, some sunshine of LOVE, and a little HAPPINESS to people around the world. The kits will help them to maintain their health, clean their homes, or provide the tools their children need to go to school.

The Mission Committee







## Where School Memories Begin

Welcome to the start of a new school year. We have just finished up a successful day at our luau themed Preschool in the Park and are eagerly preparing the classrooms for the arrival of our students on September 12th. This summer we have arranged the classrooms into student-focused learning centers. For example we have a dramatic play area, blocks center, writing center, discovery center, music and movement center and so much more. Our new reading center sports beanbag chairs in a cozy nook for some quiet reading time. If you haven't registered for the fall or know someone who may be interested we still have a few available spots. Contact the Preschool at [preschool@unionucc.org](mailto:preschool@unionucc.org) or 610-767-5327.

Annette Wilcox, Director

Curriculum aligned with Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards. Whole child focused: academic, social and emotional

Check us out on Facebook—**Neffs UCC Preschool** or on our website—**[www.unionucc.org/preschool](http://www.unionucc.org/preschool)**

## Hospital Stay Information:

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.**

## Memorials

The following donation was received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Daniel M. Koren:**  
Harry B. Burger

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Irene C. (Hoffman) Hess:**  
Eleanor & Wallace Smith  
James & Margaret Sherlock  
Doris DeLong  
Marlene Hoffmann & Family  
Margaret H. Baer  
Ronald & LaRue Roth  
Wayne M. Hoffman  
Warren & Joyce Kuntz

The following donation was received into the Funds of Lasting Gifts in memory of **Adeline R. (Remaley) Miller:**  
John & Nancy Remaley

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Adeline R. (Remaley) Miller:**  
Dorothy V. Best & Family  
Lorraine & Norman Hunsicker  
Marilyn & Ronald Sechler  
Catherine Haberern  
Arlene & Harold Remaley  
Grace E. Schneck & Family

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Larry P. Follweiler:**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Hoffman  
James & Caol Beers  
Donald & Eileen Meyer  
Michael & Shelly Geiger  
Lee & Jane Meyers

## Men's Group

### October 29—Hike to the Pinnacle.

Meet at the church at 8:30 am to car pool to Hamburg Reservoir to hike to the Pinnacle.

RSVP to Pastor Allan at [interimpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:interimpastor@unionucc.org) or Carrington Smith at [susancarrington@hotmail.com](mailto:susancarrington@hotmail.com).

### November 19 Northern Lehigh Food Bank 8:45 am - Noon

The men of the church are invited to assist in distributing food at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, 7884 Center Street, Emerald, PA 18080. RSVP to Pastor Allan at [interimpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:interimpastor@unionucc.org) or Phil Wehr at [PJWehr@aol.com](mailto:PJWehr@aol.com).

## Children's Programs Nursery to 6th Grade

Contact: Kathy Bonsell 610-767-6961 Email: dired@unionucc.org

### Backpack Sunday

#### SEPTEMBER 11th is BACKPACK SUNDAY!

Bring your backpack to church (*filled with school supplies to donate*) for the 10:30 worship. Start the school year off with a special blessing!



### Backpack Sunday

## SEPTEMBER

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH LESSONS

Sept. 11 Church Family  
Worship

ALATHEA

Backpack Sunday

Sept. 18 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Harvest Home

Sept. 25 Luke 16:19-31

## Children's Church

September 18<sup>th</sup> – Children's Church opens its doors during the 10:30 worship service. Three year olds through sixth grade join us after Children's Time in the sanctuary. 1st-6th Grade move to Room 7 for a large group lesson, songs and prayer and then we move to grade level classrooms for age appropriate activities. Preschoolers and Kindergarteners meet and stay in room 100. Parents meet their children at their classrooms after the worship service. Grade levels are combined to support the "Safe Child" policy and to ensure a sufficient number of volunteers for each classroom.

**Preschool/Kindergarten –  
Room 100**

**1st and 2nd Grade – Room 7**

**3rd and 4th Grade – Room 5**

**5th and 6th Grade – Room 4**

We will use the **WHIRL** curriculum. This curriculum is lectionary and includes videos and leaflets. PARENTS: There are many great ideas in the leaflets to explore during the week. Our Preschool/ K classroom will use 'Lil K, a "Blue's Clues" for Sunday School video program.

### We still need volunteers to help us with this year's Children's Church.

No experience is necessary. Husband/wife teams, parent/child (7th grade and above), best friends, siblings all make great teams. Looking for more men to be a part of our church's Christian Education programs. Join us one Sunday a month! It's only 6-7 Sundays a year! Contact Kathy Bonsell (dired@unionucc.org).

## Sunday School

Join us on Sept. 11th during the Education Hour (9:15-10:15) for

# POKEMON GO

Parents of all age levels are asked to bring their children to FELLOWSHIP HALL at 9:15 for an overview of the year and the directions for this year's "getting to know us" activity. When you finish **Pokemon Go, Sunday School Edition**, please take your child to their grade level classroom.

**Preschool /Kindergarten– Room 100**

**1st and 2nd Grade - Room 7**

**3rd , 4th and 5th Grade – Fellowship Hall**

**6th and 7th Grade (The Munch Bunch) – old office on 2nd floor**

## Youth Group News Grades 6-12

**For more information contact:**

**Pastor Kris** [assocpastor@unionucc.org](mailto:assocpastor@unionucc.org) 610-657-6007 Cell

**Or Dave DiPaolantonio** at 610-349-9162 and [youthgroup@unionucc.org](mailto:youthgroup@unionucc.org).

**Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group** [www.unionucc.org/Ministries/Youth Group](http://www.unionucc.org/Ministries/YouthGroup)

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



**Confirmation Class 2017** Youth in 8th grade were sent a letter this summer inviting them to be a part of the confirmation class. A registration fee of \$50 and forms is due now. ***A required information session for each student and at least 1 parent will be on October 2nd, 9:15-10:15 in the Youth Room (basement.)*** This will be the last day to join the class. If you know someone who is interested in being in the class, please have them contact the church office or watch our website for the forms and information.

**Sunday, September 11th 11:45am-1pm Advisory Team Lunch and Meeting** Youth Room

**SLEEPOUT for HOMELESSNESS September 17-18**

Our event will be at St. John's UCC, Fullerton this year with other youth from area UCC churches joining us. Arrive at 6pm (eat supper at home), participate in various activities from 6pm-12 midnight to learn about homelessness and poverty. Stay outside all night in a cardboard box, weather permitting. Share breakfast and worship in the morning. You're done by 12noon. You'll be asked to raise at least \$25 which will go to a local agency that helps youth and children who are homeless.

***Watch your mail for permission forms/sponsor forms which will be due Sunday, September 11.***

**College Students/Parents**-Send us your school address when you get it or let us know if you're at home. Care packages are involved.

22 of our youth and adults had an awesome experience at the National Youth Event in July.

Here are some words and reflections they shared in worship on August 7th:

"I learned more about my fellow youth group members that I wouldn't have ever known if it wasn't for this experience. Besides all that, of course we had lots of fun. Worship services were always packed with emotion, energy, and enthusiasm."

"I was very inspired by the young speakers that were around my age that spoke at worship. They made me want to do something important to help the world."

"The people of our church showed me how to "Believe" and become more intact with God and the people around me."

"God is with us and watching over us. Sometimes we lose our faith when we see the awful things that are reported on the news but we must stay strong and not become part of the problem but part of the solution."

"It is important for us to demonstrate God's love through our actions and that will make the world a better place."

"It was really inspiring to see kids my age making a difference and doing the things they loved."

Thank you again for supporting our trip to NYE2016 !

**Sunday Mornings**  
**9:15-10:15 AM**

**Resumes September 11**

**THE MUNCH BUNCH**  
(6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade 2nd Floor Room 203)

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**  
(8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Room)  
Confirmands can go to The Breakfast Club when there is no class.

**THE BREAKFAST CLUB**  
(9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade Room 4 Basement)



## Property Committee by Phil Wehr

The Summer months may be over, but the memories made during this time lives on. Union UCC's property was active with regular and outdoor worship services, a full week of Vacation Bible School, a full week for the Girl Scout Summer Camp, the Upper Lehigh Lion's Club Summer Festival in the grove for one weekend, the Blessing of the Animals in the grove, the annual church picnic, and finishing off with Blues Nite Out.

That was just the big stuff, add in communion services, funeral services, graduation, birthday and anniversary parties, quilting, knitting, committee meetings, Preschool in the Park, and more. Union UCC stayed busy and active all summer long, spreading the spirit to the Neffs Community.

September kicks off with a new event in the grove on Sept 10, Union UCC's Backyard BBQ Bash. Then, the full church calendar starts back up again in September with Sunday School, Children's Church, Adult and Children's Choirs, Bible Study, Confirmation Class, Golden Times, Harvest Home, more mission opportunities and other ministries.

Our church property may be the place to fulfill our church ministries, but our staff, members, and guests provide the heart and soul of Union UCC. Worship with your church family on Sunday's, then go out and spread God's word the rest of the week.



## Basket Social

Wednesday, October 5, Fellowship Hall

Doors open at 5:30 pm/Social begins 7 pm

**Tickets are \$5 each with 25 on a sheet and are available from Dolly Mulcahy, 610-262-8696, or the church office. There are only 150 tickets, so secure yours early! Hot dogs & soda served**

Donations of filled baskets (valued about \$10) & door prizes can be brought to the church office at any time, or to Fellowship Hall between noon & 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct 5. Donations of baked goods can be brought to the kitchen on Wednesday evening. If you need a basket, call Dave or Dolly.

**A few ideas of basket themes: Kitchen Basket - Kitchen Towel, Recipes, Utensils, Spices... / Snack Basket - Chips, Pretzels, peanuts... / Bathroom Basket - Soap, Toilet Paper, Hand towel... / Coffee Basket - Creamer, Coffee, Hot Chocolate... / Child's Basket - Silly Putty, Matchbox Cars, Balloons... / Gardener's Basket - Seeds, Pots, Watering Can... / Baking Basket - Mixes, Recipe Cards, Icing, Sprinkles...**

## Thank You!

Thank you for the many cards and well wishes I received during my recent surgery.

-Barbara Panner

## 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.

Busy Bees are selling quilts! Stop by on a Wednesday or contact Janet Creitz to find out how you can own your own Busy Bee Quilt!





### Thanks to our Office Helpers!

Izzy Andres, Dick & Madeline Bingell, Eunice Diehl, Teresa Dalrymple, Phyllis Hamm, Judy Hoffman, Eleanor & Ron Kleckner, Linda Migliori, Barbara Panner, Linda & Wilbur Romig, Jill Schlosser, Jean & Stan Wieand

We always welcome newsletter assembly helpers the last Tuesday of the month at 9am in the Youth Room.

### 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: September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am Worship**



*A **Trunk or Treat** is a Halloween event where people gather and park their cars in a large parking lot. They open their trunks, or the backs of their vehicles, and decorate them. Then they pass out candy from their trunks.*

*The event provides a safe family environment for trick or treaters.*

We will be hosting our **TRUNK OR TREAT** here at Union UCC on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 22nd from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Last year, we had close to 200 trunk-or-treaters. We would love to see more cars this year! If you are interested in participating, please contact Kathy or sign up on her office door. Participating means you will **decorate your trunk** and **provide candy** for the trunk or treaters (costumes are optional). Please sign up by Oct. 9th. Prizes for Best Decorated and Most Creative will be awarded. **Let's provide a safe and fun trick or treating experience for the children of our church and our community!**



## Deep Sea Discovery Union UCC VBS 2016

- Our average daily attendance was 112 children.
- We had 60 teens and adults on the Dive Team.
- The children experienced music, crafts, recreation, snacks, Bible story and classroom time everyday in a three hour time period. The morning went fast!
- Our daily offering totaled \$1524.53. We collected \$762.00 at our Friday evening program for a grand total of \$2286.53! (That's \$.24 more than last year!!)
- We collected 1345 toiletry and food items for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and the Lehigh County Conference of Churches and we donated \$500 worth of gifts to the Bethany Home Children's Home in Womelsdorf, PA.
- Our 6th and 7th graders (Crusty Hermit Crabs) made a capiz shell windchime in crafts and then donated it to the nursing home on Washington Street. The group walked to the home and visited with some of the patients, including our very own Dorothy Rabert.
- We met Noah, Jonah, Peter, John, and Paul and learned about the Deep Sea Discovery of the day from Fish and Bait.
- Deep Sea Discoveries: God KNOWS US! God HEARS US! God STRENGTHENS US! God LOVES US! God SENDS US!
- Great kids! Great volunteers! Great weather!
- We had five awesome dives and learned that GOD IS WITH US WHEREVER WE GO!
- We ended our week with a musical program on Friday evening, guests from Bethany Home, and delicious ice cream sundaes (Thanks to Lisa Blose and Friendly's!). What a YUMMY way to end the week!





*Tom and Linda Anderson are our Catch the Spirit recipients for September. He was nominated by the Mission Committee. They will be recognized September 11, 2016 at 8:00am worship.*

By Linda Anderson

Linda was baptized, confirmed, and married at Jacobs Church in Jacksonville. Tom was confirmed at Good Shepherd UCC in Alburtis. His family moved to Germansville and joined Heidelberg UCC in 1971. Tom and Linda started dating while attending Northwestern Lehigh High School, graduating in 1975. They both went off to college and married in October of 1980.

Shortly after moving to the Neffs area in 1992, they joined Union UCC. Linda enjoyed teaching Children's Church for many years. The strength of the Youth Programs was a primary reason for joining the church. They have two children who were confirmed by Pastor Kris and Pastor Tom. Eric (29) is married and a Structural Engineer in Pittsburgh and Beth (26) is also married and is a 4th grade teacher living in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

Tom and Linda enjoy Union UCC because everyone is truly welcome, the friendliness of the staff and congregation, and the many activities. This church has long been a standing foundation of the Neffs Community. The Andersons assist with newsletter delivery and are greeters and ushers at the 8:00 am service.

Linda is retired after 32 years in the Allentown School District as a Family & Consumer Science teacher. She now serves as a Penn State Extension Food & Wellness Volunteer. She also enjoys quilting, cooking, and traveling. Tom retired two days after Linda, following a 34 year accounting career with various firms in the Lehigh Valley.

Since retiring, fitness has become a top priority for both. Linda enjoys being part of the Spiritually Fit group here at church. Together they log many miles biking and walking on the Rail Trails. They have also done half marathons in Tennessee, Florida, and Pennsylvania. They look forward to becoming grandparents for the first time this Fall.

## Holy Joe's Café: October's Mission Benefitting UCC Military Coffee House

During the entire month of October, **Holy Grounds will serve Equal Exchange coffee, a fair-trade brand of gourmet products.** Equal Exchange, the world's largest worker-owned coffee roaster, has partnered with a sister congregation, the First Congregational Church in Wallingford, CT, to provide coffee to the troops serving overseas. Started by a UCC military chaplain, **Holy Joe's Café offers men and women on active duty a place to come, relax, and talk with chaplains.** This "Coffee House and Café Ministry" provides our military personnel with a place where they can be emotionally and spiritually renewed and have a moment of peace as well as a cup of gourmet coffee. It opens doors to communication and allows troops to begin to heal their concerns and relieve their burdens related to the home front or their deployment.

**By making a donation during Holy Grounds, the Mission Committee will pass those donations on to First Congregational Church so they can ship Equal Exchange coffee to the participating UCC military chaplains.** By purchasing and serving the same coffee that is going to the troops, we here at Union UCC can enjoy a special connection with our active military members. While you enjoy the coffee, we hope you, too, can be emotionally and spiritually renewed within the walls of Union UCC.



**Guest Musicians**

**ALATHEA at 8am and 10:30am Worship on Sept. 11**

*We are overjoyed to be able to welcome Mande and Cristi to Union UCC for the fifth time, they really are family now. Their music and message is heartwarming and spirit lifting.*

**www.alathea.com**

**Women's Retreat 2017**

**Union UCC Women's Retreat Weekend  
March 31-April 2, 2017**

Trout Lake Retreats,  
Stroudsburg  
\$135 Pay to Union UCC.  
Deposit \$70 due by January 1. \$65 Balance by March 5, 2017.

**Mark your calendar!  
Questions or More Info:  
Ask Pastor Kris, Aften Hamm, or Sue Ondrey**

**Home Visitation Members Birthdays**

**Dorothy Reph - Sept. 4**

4540 W. Mt. View Drive  
Walnutport, PA 18088-9449

**Elaine Domitrovits - Sept. 8**

3839 Park Ave, PO Box 85  
Neffs, PA 18065-0085



*PIG OUT at Union UCC's*  
**BACKYARD BBQ BASH**  
*Saturday, September 10, 2016*  
**Scott Marshall and Marshall's Highway**  
*Winner of 8 Lehigh Valley Music Awards,*  
 5:30-8:30  
**Lorah's Pig Roast and Chicken Dinners plus our own delicious sides and desserts (starts at 3:30)**

**TICKETS ON SALE SUNDAY and at THE EVENT**  
**CHICKEN and PORK DINNERS**  
 \$10 meal (includes fries, coleslaw and drink)  
**BBQ RAFFLE (AWESOME prizes!)**  
 \$5 each or 3 for \$10

**FREE Admission!**

## Adult Study

### Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

September 9, 16, 23

*Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott

Leader: Pastor Kris

### Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows, beginning Sept. 11.

Leader: Pastor Patience

### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday 7-8:30PM room 5.

Starting September 20, 2016.

We are studying the four Gospels starting with John. You are invited to come learn new things and grow in faith. Contact Harry B. Burger 610-767-5344.



## From the Financial Leadership Team by Pastor Kris

I'm not a fan of hot weather. However, one of my favorite parts of summer is enjoying all of the fresh vegetables and fruit that our local farmers grow. As my daughter Hannah grows in her farming skills, I have come to appreciate even more the hard work, the challenges and the amount of sweat that goes into farming. I may not like hot weather, but I know that it is one of the things that is necessary to grow a beautiful harvest. Thank you farmers and thank you God.

Each season of the year, and of our lives, brings us things we love and things we might not like or that are maybe challenging. My prayer is that your summer season was one of renewal, rest, and reconnecting to God in new ways. I miss all of you when you take time off in the summer from coming to church. And, I'm hopeful that this time off is good for you – body, mind and spirit. I can't wait to see all of you again in September!

***Thank you for your faithful stewardship throughout the summer. Financial giving has been ahead of budget, and that is a double blessing especially in the summer when folks are away.*** I know that as September arrives many of you are clearing your schedules to make commitments to not only worship regularly, but also to serve here in a variety of ways. I hope that you will continue to see how your gift of time and spirit is a blessing to God's ministry and mission here and how it is a blessing to your own faith journey.

Enjoy the last tastes of summer: the heat, the watermelon, the corn, and the tomatoes. And know that you are making a difference in our church and in the world through your faithful generosity.

## Give by Text by Randy Bilger

As part of our electronic giving program, we are proud to announce, and welcome your donations through any of our electronic giving options, which includes **eGiving, Online Giving and Give by Text** because they're faster and more secure than having checks manually processed.

For our givers accustomed to using smartphones, we now offer Give by Text. With Give by Text, you can conveniently give to the church even when you're away on vacation, or don't have cash or checks on-hand to put in the plate.

In less time than it takes to write a check, **you can make weekly offerings or respond to special appeals** by simply sending a text message from your smartphone.

You can now make a contribution to Union UCC with a quick text message!

Simply send a **text to 610-857-7023** with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount (example: \$25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

It takes just minutes to sign up and support the church. Thank you for supporting our mission.



## Tales from the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

### 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 September 8.**

### Helping Meals

We are always looking for people who can make a meal for our families when they face a challenging time. You would probably only need to help about 4-5 times a year. If you would like to add your name to the list please let Rev. Patience know at [vispastor@unionucc.org](mailto:vispastor@unionucc.org) or by calling the church office.

**You can also donate a Weis or DiFiores Restaurant card and give it to the church office for a pastor to share with a family.**

Robert and Carol Schillinger, residents of The Lutheran Home at Topton, recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. The couple were married Aug. 6, 1949, in Conyngham, Luzerne County, when both were 19.

The Schillingers, high school sweethearts, attended West Hazelton High School.

Carol Schillinger is a graduate of McCann Business School. Robert is a Marine veteran of the Korean War.

Robert, a marksman stationed at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, repaired and sighted guns used during the Korean War, while Carol worked as a legal secretary at a firm along Market Street, Philadelphia.

Robert, a boilermaker by trade, worked his way up to become an erection superintendent for Bethlehem Steel Corp. in the 1960s and '70s and was responsible for repairs to the blast furnaces and basic oxygen furnaces at Bethlehem Steel plants, Bethlehem, and Sparrows Point, Baltimore County, Md.

Carol was a medical secretary for surgeons at the Crippled Children's Hospital based at Hazelton General Hospital.

In 1962, the family moved to Schnecksville, North Whitehall Township, where Carol became a stay-at-home mother raising two children, a son, Chris Schillinger, and a daughter, Lynn Cronomiz.

While the children were in high school, Carol worked at the Village Fashions Dress Shop, Schnecksville.

The couple have seven grandchildren, four great grandchildren and one on the way.

Carol was very active at Union UCC, serving the Evangelism Committee for many years. She still has her notes from committee meetings! Both of her children and two of her grandchildren were confirmed at Union UCC.

Caroline recently moved to the Memory Support Unit at the Lutheran Home at Topton. Bob continues to reside in the apartments at the Lutheran Home at Topton.



## Golden Times

*For those wise in years and young at heart.*

Our next gathering will be

**Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**12 noon – 1:30pm**

**FREE**

**Program: 'RSVP' Retired Senior Volunteer Program**

**Homemade soup and sandwiches are served for lunch.**

**Programs offered are fun, informative and entertaining.**

**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.



## Baptisms

*January 10, 2016*

**Emma Jillian Wagner**, daughter of Dale and Jillian (Kern) Wagner

*March 13, 2016*

**Lillian Margaret Anderson** daughter of Benjamin and Ashley (Kleiner) Anderson



*May 1, 2016*

**Madison and Nathan Geiger**, Children of David and Vicky (Beinlich) Geiger

*July 3, 2016*

**Oliver Burdick**, son of Tim & Katka Burdick

**Samantha Marie Schaller**, daughter of Jeremy Schaller and Kathleen Fix

**Riley Grace McNicholas and Natalie Joy McNicholas** daughters of Justin and Jenna (Kern) McNicholas

**Wyatt, Donald Kolb and Claire Violet Kolb** children of Amanda and Eric Kolb

**Lori Heinly Gannett** and children **Mariah Gannett** and **Mason Gannett**

## New Members

*April 17, 2016*

**Todd and Amy McCoy**, children Brody, Connor, & Tori



**Daniel Gilbert**



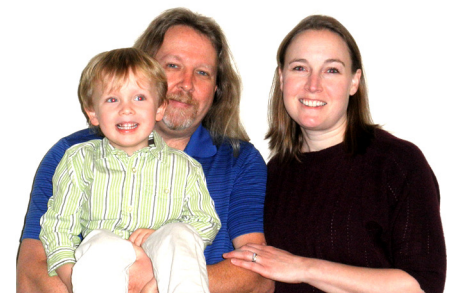
**Eric and Leanne Dimler**, children Owen & Joshua

**Scott and Jennifer McDonald**, son, Aidan.



*July 3, 2016*

**Lori Heinly Gannett** and children **Mariah Gannett** and **Mason Gannett**





**Sunday, September 4, 2016**

16th Sunday after Pentecost/Labor Sunday

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** Jeremiah 18:1-11

**Message:** "Pottery and Other Arts"

**Sermon:** Ashley Werkheiser, Member & Seminary Graduate

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Susan Rumble

10:30 - Donna Christman

**Greeters:** Claire Kern, Gene & Christina Thrash

**Acolytes:** 8AM -

10:30AM -

**Sunday, September 11, 2016**

17th Sunday after Pentecost/Education Programs Resume

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**MUSICAL GUESTS: ALATHEA**

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

**Greeters:** Kim Krempasky, Jen, Tegan, Kaden, & Regan Haley

**Acolytes:** 8AM - Graham Smith

10:30AM - Riley Schlosser, Kaden Haley

**Sunday, September 18, 2016**

18th Sunday after Pentecost/Harvest Home

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** Psalm 29

**Message:** Storm Sunday

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

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Sandra Craig

10:30 - Dave Fleming

**Greeters:** Mary & Lou Burdick, Dave & Karen Fleming

**Acolytes:** 8AM -

10:30AM - Samantha Ritchie

**Sunday, September 25, 2016**

19th Sunday after Pentecost, New Members Received

**8:00am Heritage Service**

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

**Text:** 1 Timothy 6:6-19

**Message:** Life That is Real Life

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

**Lay Readers:** 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Claire Kern

**Greeters:** Vicki Mayk, Karen Wonderly

**Acolytes:** 8AM -

10:30AM - Brett Misera, Trevor Amorim

**Did You Know?**

- You can get **weekly emails** updating you on the events and Sunday services at church?
- You can get your monthly **newsletter online**? Simply text UNIONUCC to 22828 to join the list.
- We have a **Facebook** page: [Facebook.com/unioneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unioneffs)
- You can sign up for **E-giving** at no cost to you?
- **Text to give**? See page 11 for details.
- You can sign up for **Amazon Smile** and a portion of your Amazon.com purchases will be donated to the church? See page 7 for details.

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

**secretary@unionucc.org**

**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:**

Sept. 4— No Committee

Sept. 11— Fellowship

Sept. 18— Church & Ministry

Sept. 25— Consistory

# Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
<b>7-1-2016</b>	\$ 9,644.00	\$18,753.00	\$28,397.00
<b>Income</b>	\$407,611.00	\$61,984.00	\$469,595.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$361,091.00	\$67,673.00	\$428,764.00
<b>7-31-2016</b>	\$56,164.00	\$19,946.00	\$76,110.00

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

## Deaths

**Danielle Beard** passed away on June 23, 2016 and was laid to rest in Leighton Cemetery on June 29, 2016.

**Irene (Hoffman) Hess** passed away on June 30, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery.

**Paul Wotring** passed away on July 16, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on July 21, 2016.

**Adeline (Remaley) Miller** passed away on July 21, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on July 25, 2016.

**Larry Follweiler** passed away on July 26, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on July 30, 2016.

## Weddings

**Colin Hamm and Whitney Fisher** were united in marriage under the care of Union UCC on July 1, 2016.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
June 5	57	210	15	282
June 12	69	105	10	184
June 19	61	121	7	189
June 26	50	140	CFW	190
July 3	56	201	9	266
July 10	51	140	6	197
July 17	54	150	CFW	204
July 24	66	148	21	235
July 31	62	102	11	175

### TOTAL ATTENDANCE

June 2015– 932 June 2016– 845

### AVG ATTENDANCE

June 2015–233 June 2016 - 211

### TOTAL ATTENDANCE

July 2015–778 July 2016– 1,077

### AVG ATTENDANCE

July 2015–195 July 2016 - 215

## UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels**  
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

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

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

www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:  
610-767-5327

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

### Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

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

# September 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>7pm</b> Christian Ed Committee	<b>2</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b> Labor Day Church Office Closed <b>7pm</b> Fellowship Committee	<b>6</b> <b>9am</b> Staff Mtg <b>10am</b> Program Staff <b>7pm</b> Bible Study	<b>7</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilters <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>7pm</b> Church & Ministry	<b>8</b> <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir; Helping Hearts	<b>9</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study	<b>10</b> <b>3:30pm</b> Backyard BBQ
<b>12</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>136pm</b> Cherub Choir <b>6:30</b> Junior Choir <b>7pm</b> Fellowship Committee <b>7pm</b> Middler Choir; Bible Study <b>6pm</b> High School Choir	<b>14</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilters <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>6pm</b> High School Choir <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit <b>7pm</b> FLT Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir	<b>16</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study	<b>17</b>
<b>19</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit <b>6:45 pm</b> Consistory	<b>20</b> <b>9am</b> Staff Mtg <b>10am</b> Program Staff <b>6-7:30pm</b> Youth Choirs <b>7pm</b> Bible Study <b>7:30pm</b> Worship Committee	<b>21</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilt <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>6pm</b> High School Choir <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>22</b> <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir	<b>23</b> <b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study <b>6pm</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>2pm</b> Wedding
<b>26</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>27</b> <b>9am</b> Newsletter Mailing <b>6-8pm</b> Youth Choirs <b>7pm</b> Bible Study	<b>28</b> <b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilt <b>10am</b> Knitwits <b>6pm</b> High School Choir <b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit	<b>29</b> <b>7pm</b> Chime Choir	<b>30</b> <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study	

## SUNDAYS

<b>4 Labor Sunday</b> <b>8am</b> Heritage Service  <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds  <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Church Family Worship  <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds	<b>11 Education Programs Resume</b> <b>8am</b> Heritage Service  <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Tech Committee  <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/CFW  <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds YG Advisory Team Meeting	<b>18 Harvest Home</b> <b>8am</b> Heritage Service  <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers New Members  <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service-Children's Church  <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds Pre-baptism Meeting	<b>25</b> <b>8am</b> Heritage Service  <b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers New Members  <b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Baptism/Children's Church  <b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds
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