

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT *
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

Advent & Christmas Eve

From Bah! Humbug! To a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas

During Advent, we will go on a journey that looks at our how God blesses each and every one of us with the ability to be transformed and renewed. We will look at the Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*, and learn from Ebenezer Scrooge. Discover how to live with and for others in a world blessed by the birth of Christ.

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!" – Charles Dickens

Sunday, December 4 Jazz Ensemble
Advent Brunch after 10:30 Worship

Sunday, December 11

10:30am Children's Choirs Present the Christmas Message in Story & Song

7pm The Parkland High School Chorale Concert

This holiday concert in our beautifully-decorated sanctuary is always the perfect way to catch the Christmas spirit. It's Free, an offering is collected to support the Chorale. Refreshments are served after the concert.

Sunday, December 18 Lessons and Carols

Special Music by the Heritage, Horizon, Unity and Chime Choirs and Soloists

Church-Wide Christmas Caroling 1-4pm

The youth group enjoyed visiting our church members during caroling last year. They'd like to organize a church-wide caroling time. If you, your family, or a group you're a part of would like to join us, please contact Pastor Allan by calling the church or emailing him at interimpastor@unionucc.org.

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

3pm Candlelight, Communion, Special Music

5pm Candlelight, Children's Choirs, Special Music

8pm Candlelight, Communion, High School and Adult Choirs, Special Music

11pm Candlelight, Communion, Special Music

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

NO 8am Worship

10:30am Worship Only – WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS OR FAVORITE SLIPPERS

TO CHURCH.

"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself." – Charles Dickens

Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day—NO 8am Worship, 10:30Worship Only

"God bless us, every one!" – Charles Dickens

Merry Christmas from the Pastors and Staff of Union UCC



Inside this issue

From the Pastors.....	2
Children's Programs.....	5
Youth Group.....	6
Worship.....	14
Calendar.....	15

Sunday Sponsors

**Flower Basket (\$30),
 Adult & Children's Bulletin (\$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)**

From the Interim Pastor

"Advent Musings..."

The Season of Advent is one of hope and expectation. Yet, how often we get so busy preparing food, shopping, addressing cards, practicing music for the Christmas Eve service, that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, stress... the list goes on and on... so that we are blinded to the very birth that we await.

This year we have the added stress of trying to heal our nation after a contentious presidential election.

From Your New Senior Pastor

Yes, it's odd for me to think of myself as your new pastor when I've been here for 20 years. In fact, November 1st was my 20th anniversary as one of your pastors. Hardly new. And, some would say, old, ha.

Some of you have asked me how do I like it so far or you have wondered what has changed so far. Actually, not much has changed, yet. For the past 2 years, since Pastor Tom has retired, I have been doing most of the work of the Senior Pastor's job description. The focus of my time has been primarily on worship, staff, administration, stewardship, mission, and adult education. I still do about half of my previous job as your associate in confirmation, youth, young adults, contemporary worship, and assisting with some of my previous groups. So in many ways, I have one foot in each job for now.

I don't think much will change for me in terms of my responsibilities and 'how it feels to be Senior Pastor' until we call a permanent Associate Pastor. I look forward to that next shift for myself and for our church. We don't know what God has planned for us yet, but I trust that God does have a plan and that we will discover it.

At the November Consistory meeting the following people were approved to serve on the Associate Pastor Search Committee: **Dave Fleming (Co-Chair), Donna Christman, Aften Hamm, Ardith Kuhns, Sue Ondrey, Carrington Smith, Phil Wehr.** These members were also on the Senior Pastor Search Committee, we're grateful for the expertise they

How can we open our hearts and minds to the coming of our Savior!

I encourage you to set aside some time to be quiet... to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations... in the very midst of our conflicted feelings, Christ is being reborn outside the inn, in the manglers of our homes and our daily lives.

Go easy. Go gently. Go in peace.

Pastor Allan

bring. **Teresa Dalrymple**, is serving as part of her Church and Ministry responsibility. We're adding youth **Natalie Ondrey and Mollie Jarrett**, and young adults **Jason Klinger, Ashley and Ben Anderson. I will co-chair with Dave.** We hope to meet in December to start the process and will keep you informed as we move through it.

My office hours will remain the same. Tuesday through Fridays I'm generally in the office every morning and most afternoons. I'm here for evening meetings, which vary from week to week. And of course, I'm here on Sundays. When I'm not here, I check my cell phone and email regularly. If you want to talk or meet, I'm always glad to do that. I'd just appreciate a call or an email first, so that I can be sure that I'm available for you and that it's not a bad time for me.

I'm still "Pastor Kris", "PK", or "Kris". No new name necessary, unless you're looking for or need extra points. My contact information is still the same as well. The church phone 610-767-6961, my cell 610-657-6007 and my email assocpastor@unionucc.org. I will change the email eventually and will let you know when that happens.

I ask that you continue to keep the pastors and staff, the leaders and Search Committee in your prayers. You are certainly in our prayers.

Blessings! *Pastor Kris*

P.S. Thank you for a wonderful celebration at my Installation on November 20th.

Hunger Banquet Thanks

By Susan Smith

Thank you to all the brave participants of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet on Nov. 6. You came to learn about the more than 2.2 billion people living in poverty, the nearly 795 million people suffering from chronic hunger, and the more than 8,000 children that die from malnutrition or a related, preventable illness each day. You were willing to open your hearts to the pain and distress that the knowledge of poverty imparts.

Thank you to all the brave participants of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet. You may have thought hunger was about too many people and too little food. You discovered that is not the case. Our rich and bountiful planet produces enough food to feed every woman, man, and child on earth. You now know that hunger is about power. Its roots lie in inequalities in access to resources.

Thank you to all the brave participants of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet. You experienced the reality that some of us are born into relative prosperity and security, while millions—through no choice of our own—are born into poverty. When you got your tickets, you drew your lot at random. Twelve of you experienced the fortune or misfortune of gaining or losing your socioeconomic status. A few of you enjoyed a filling, nutritious meal of Caribbean chicken stew, mixed vegetables and coconut rice with red beans. More of you ate rice with beans, a meal with a complete protein profile, but simple in palatability. Most of you had plain rice, an incomplete and bland meal, while seated on the floor.

Thank you to all the brave participants of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet. You were a group of almost 40 members who were willing to walk with the Mission Committee through a moving and meaningful representation of economic disparity. **You raised nearly \$400 to benefit Oxfam America,** a global movement of people working together to end the injustice of poverty. With 70 years of experience in more than 90 countries, Oxfam helps people save lives in disasters, build stronger futures for themselves, and hold the powerful accountable.

Thank you to all the brave participants of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet. YOU ROCK!



Accessory Collection

This year the Mission Committee will be collecting cold weather accessories for local families living at the 6th St. Shelter in Allentown. We are asking for donations of new hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks in men's, women's, and children's sizes.

The collection will begin the Sunday, December 11th and will run through January 1st. This will assure that the shelter will receive them in time for the colder winter months ahead.

Count your blessings. Help us to spread the warmth by helping to warm the hearts, heads, hands, and feet of our less fortunate neighbors this holiday season. Donations can be put in the collection boxes under the mission tree in Memorial Hall.

Since 1984, the Shelter has been providing temporary housing for Lehigh Valley homeless families with children. Today the Sixth Street Shelter proudly offers 19 individual family apartments. It is the only shelter in the Valley to offer homeless families the privacy and security of a furnished apartment with a complete kitchen. The philosophy of the Sixth Street Shelter, in keeping with the broader mission of the ACLV, encourages those it serves to accept responsibility for themselves.

Year End Donations

For donations to be credited in 2016 all donations need to be into the church office by **December 29, 2016.** Any donations received after December 29, 2016 will be credited for giving year 2017. Any questions please call the church office.



Where School Memories Begin

With all of the beautiful weather we have been having it is hard to tell that winter is right around the corner. Even with flowers still in bloom outside, it looked like Fall in the Pre-school classrooms. Our three-year-old class just completed a month learning about Native Americans and Pilgrims which culminated in a Thanksgiving Feast. We were visited by the Museum of Indian Culture who presented an educational program for all of our families. The four-year-old class worked on manners and talked about how to be a good friend, while the Pre-K class learned all about our 5 senses.

As we prepare for the holiday season ahead, the Preschool would like to express how THANKFUL we are for the support of Neffs UCC Church for all of the support you give all year around. Especially to all who helped fill the Recycle Local truck during our recent fundraiser.

Annette Wilcox, Preschool 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

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

All committees and groups must complete a use of facility form to schedule events or activities.

Please contact Barbara, in the church office at
 610-767-6961

or administrator@unionucc.org for forms and room availability. Thank You!

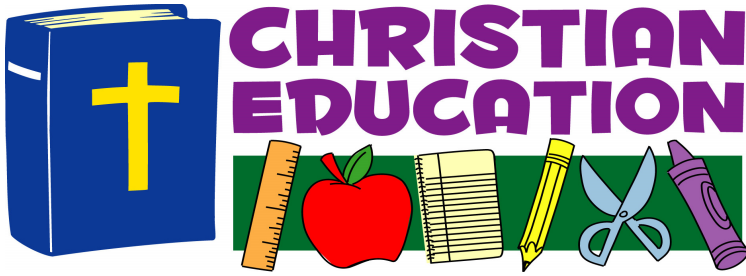
Thank You!

Thank you to the Pastors and Members of Union UCC for your prayers, cards, and concern during my surgery and recovery. I am getting better every day. *Linda Romig*



*A Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas
 and a Happy New Year to you from
 the Pastors and Church Staff*

*Pastors Kris, Allan, Patience,
 Kathy Bonsell, Barbara Carinci, Tara
 Henninger, Mike Baer, Blake Hoppes,
 Maria Beltz, Ron Kneller,
 Dave DiPaolantonio, AJ DiPaolantonio,
 Natalie Ondrey*



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

ADULT Bible Study WORKSHOP

We will be studying scripture and enhancing our understanding of the verses with design and color. We will begin with Illuminated Bible Journaling videos and together we will share ideas and techniques. Participants need a journal Bible. We will provide art supplies. Our workshops are stress-free and we will focus on the positive!

Our January dates are **January 12 & 26, 9:30-11:30**, in the Youth Room.



SAVE YOUR SILVER CHANGE!

The children who attend Sunday School and Children's Church are collecting silver change until May in order to BUY ANIMALS through Heifer International. We will be talking about this mission in Children's Church the first Sunday of each month. Look for the animal banks!

THANK YOU to everyone who took a Reverse Advent Calendar Basket. Please bring your filled baskets to church anytime between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.



Reverse Advent Basket

Sunday School 's 5th Annual

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - DEC. 18

Please arrive by 9:15, when breakfast will be served by your Sunday School teachers, in their PAJAMAS! You are also invited to wear your pajamas to church. We will also have games and a very special visitor.

PARENTS: We could use your help with dessert. Please bring one dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to Fellowship Hall.



All Christian Education Volunteers:



Sunday School, Children's Church, VBS, CIA, Little Lambs Nursery, and the CE Committee

DECEMBER

Children's Church Calendar

- Dec. 4** Animal Crackers
- Dec. 11** Church Family Worship
- Dec. 18** Matthew 1:18-24
- Dec. 25** Church Family Worship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Still looking for the perfect Christmas gift?

Shop Union UCC's Christmas Clearance Shoppe

Dec. 4 and Dec. 11

Cookbooks, Beitler church prints (large and small), Beitler flower notecards, polo shirts, glass mugs, afghans, Rev. Urffer books written and signed by Pastor Thomas, church magnets, and more! **PRICES are slashed!**

Youth Group News Grades 6-12

For more information contact:

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

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

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

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



Sunday, Dec 18 11:45-1 Advisory Team Meeting and Lunch 1-4 pm Caroling for everyone!

Join us for a church-wide afternoon of caroling bringing Christmas cheer to our friends and members. Parents, sign up to help drive, please.

Sunday, Jan 22 Suds and Spuds Lunch 11:30am-1pm

Baked Potato Lunch with over 15 toppings!

\$5 per person for 1 potato and beverage.

Sign up to help 9am-2pm and/or to donate a topping or come to eat.



Jan 29 Snow Tubing—watch for more info.

Feb 11-12 Confirmation Class Sleepover and Leading Worship

If you have been confirmed and you'd like to join us, contact Pastor Kris.



Tues Feb 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Help serve supper to our church family from 6-7pm and enjoy a yummy meal together.

March 5 Youth Sunday

Mark your calendars and start thinking of how you want to participate.

Sign up to greet, take the offering, read, preach (Seniors!), sing, dance and smile.

Sunday Mornings
9:15-10:15 AM

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.

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

March 31– April 2

Service Weekend in Philadelphia

This weekend trip is for youth in grades 9-12 only.

Space is limited.



You will have a chance to visit the city, learn more about urban challenges, and serve and care for people in the community.

Sign up with Pastor Kris ASAP to get more info and to save your spot.

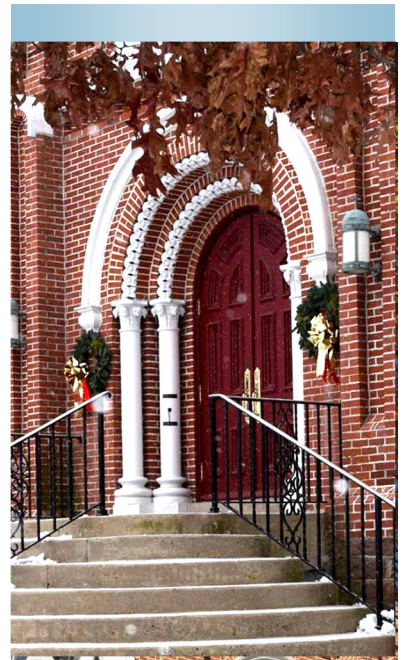
Property Committee by Phil Wehr

December is the most wonderful time of the year to visit Union United Church of Christ. The Christmas spirit fills the air, beautiful Christmas decorations adorn the sanctuary, Christmas festivities fill the rooms with children, adults, and families all celebrating the birth of Christ.

Thank you to the many people who help to transform our church property for the Christmas season. Everyone is invited to join in the Christmas festivities, please check the church calendar, there is something special going on each week. Join your church family during this most wonderful time of the year.

This year on Christmas Eve there are four services to choose from, please arrive early giving ample time to find a parking spot and seating in the sanctuary. The grove parking lot will be fully lit and available for all to safely park. Prelude music will be starting before the services, so plan to come early and enjoy our church members sharing their talents of music and song. Let the celebration begin.

Merry Christmas to all.



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS - In the tradition of giving gifts to friends and loved ones, we as a congregation have traditionally expressed our love and appreciation for our hard-working pastors and staff by presenting each with a monetary gift. If you'd like to share in this gift, please send a check payable to Susan Ondrey, 2901 Strohl Rd, Allentown, PA 18104 no later than Sunday, Dec 18. Any questions, email Sue at ondrey@ptd.net.

2017 Envelope packets

Envelope packets for 2017 will be ready for pickup after Thanksgiving. Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs.

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2017, everyone gets new numbers each year. Thank you, The Stewardship Committee

Christmas Eve Yard Signs

Yard Signs are available for you to pick up in November on Sundays or during the week. If you already have a yard sign, please use it if it's in good shape. We ask that you place them in your yard or at important corners near your home to help us share the hope of Christmas with your neighbors and invite them to our church. Please hold onto signs for next year. New signs are available with all 4 services listed: 3pm, 5pm, 8pm and 11pm.

Thank you for your gifts to the **Spread the Good News Fund** to help with this cost.

Thank you to **Grant Mertz and Mertz Signs** for their work and contribution.

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!

Madeline Bingell,
Eunice Diehl,
Teresa Dalrymple, Larry
Frantz,
Phyllis Hamm, Judy
Hoffman, Eleanor & Ron
Kleckner, Linda Migliori,
Barbara Panner, Linda &
Wilbur Romig, Jill
Schlosser

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

Sunday Morning Alive

Sunday Morning Alive
leads worship on Sun-
days at 10:30 for about
six Sundays throughout
the year. We have a
worship team that in-
cludes a group of sing-
ers, guitar players, key-
boards and drums.
We play traditional and
favorite hymns as well
as contemporary and
alternative worship
music.

**Next Sunday
Morning Alive:
in the New
Year at
10:30am
Worship**



New Member Sessions

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

Pastor Kris and our church leaders invite you to two gatherings on **February 12 and 19 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, February 26th at the 8am or 10:30am worship service**. Contact **Pastor Kris at 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.**

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, November 21, 2016, by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and the October – November 2016 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee: cleaning, repairs and painting have been made to the outside stairwell leading to the basement kitchen entrance. Koren plumbers have cleaned the grease traps, opened up the drain line from the basement door and repaired two toilets. Approval was obtained to accept a donation from the Wehr Family to provide funds for the replacement of the food stand in the grove. Approvals were obtained from Consistory for several other projects including additional plumbing expenses, grove expenses, and replacement of the church brick chimney.

Christian Education Committee: the Children's Church Heifer Project mission curriculum started in November and will be the first Sunday of each month. A Bible journaling class has started and we are hopeful the class grows in size. Trunk or Treat and the annual hoagie sale were successful; the hoagie sale tithed \$50 to the General Fund. The committee will be sponsoring two Pathways families this Christmas.

Church and Ministry Committee: the Associate Pastor Search Committee has been identified and includes two young adults and two youth to participate on the committee.

Welcoming Committee: a new marketing strategy will be initiated for increasing membership. The request for funds for these outreach opportunities was presented and approved by Consistory. The committee is arranging to distribute Christmas Eve Services signs, and planning for the annual "Souper" Bowl party on February 5, 2017.

Fellowship Committee: the Advent luncheon will be held December 4, and the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held on February 28.

Worship Committee: upcoming opportunities to worship include: November 27 Communion, December 4 Jazz ensemble, December 11 Children's music program and Christmas carols on December 18. The sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday, November 26.

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



Sherry Penrod is our Catch the Spirit recipient for December. She was nominated by Stewardship Committee. She will be recognized December 4, 2016 at 10:30am worship.

Sherry has attended Union UCC since she was a little girl. "My Mom took my siblings and I to Sunday School at Neffs." Pastor Goguts confirmed Sherry and she often attended Youth Group events. Sherry was a choir member for many years with her mom, has taught Sunday School and Children's Church, and has been a Youth Group advisor, all at Union UCC. She has also taught Vacation Bible School for many years and is pleased that Brooke is also a helper there now too. Sherry's grandmother was also a Sunday School teacher and Sherry is proud to carry on her grandma's legacy.

Sherry has been married to Don for 19 years. They were married at Union UCC by Pastor Kris. They have two daughters, Brianna who is an R.N. at LVH in the NICU and Brooke who is a sophomore at Parkland High School. Sherry worked at PPL for 21 years but decided to become a stay-at-home mom when Brooke was born. Presently, she is a substitute teacher's assistant at Parkland School District and she particularly enjoys working with students who have special needs. Her hobbies include baking, reading, walking, and taking Zumba classes with Brooke. She also enjoys watching Brooke play soccer.

Sherry says that, "Church is like a second home to me. I am very proud that Don has become so active in our church, and Brooke also loves helping out in the nursery." She has many happy church memories but believes the ones of Youth Group sleepovers and dances, Bible School programs and Christmas Eve services are among her favorites. Sherry loves Union UCC because, "It doesn't feel like a Sunday if we don't go to church. It is also extra special since my entire extended family comes and we worship together. It always helps to prepare me for what lies ahead in the coming week."

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Anna Lord - Dec. 2
5244 Grange Drive
Schnecksville, PA 18078-2249

Marian Supp—Dec. 28
2642 Old Post Rd.
Coplay, PA 18037-2306

Curtis Frantz—Dec. 11
526 Freemason Dr.
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Janet Bachman—Dec 31
324 Fellowship Villa
3020 Fellowship Dr.
Whitehall PA 18052

Ronald Sechler—Dec. 16
4615 Daisy Ave.
Orefield, PA 18069

Ferne Strauss - Dec. 18
6334 Lamar Ct
Slatington, PA 18080-3022



Join the Choir! Practice Schedules:

**Tuesday Nights—Youth
Cherubs (age 4-1st grade)— 6pm
Juniors/Middlers (2nd-8th)-6:30
Unity Choir—7:30pm**

**High School (9th-12th)-
Wednesdays @6pm**

**Sunday Mornings—Adults
Heritage Choir-7:15am
Horizon Choir-9:15am**

Adult Study



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Women's Lunch

Women's Lunch Date
Saturday, December
17th at 1-3pm

Take a break and sneak
away for some time with
us.

Starlite Diner

233 Pennsylvania Route
100, Allentown

Lunch – choose from the
menu, pay your own.

RSVP to Aften Hamm by
Friday, Dec 10

at Unycorn12@msn.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 Janu-
ary 1. \$65 Balance by
March 5, 2017.

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

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

Dec 2 "The Many Colors of Advent" The Rev. Tom Adil, an ordained UCC pastor and art therapist, will invite us to explore Advent and Christmas Bible passages using several art media, including drawing, painting and clay. All are invited and no art talent or expertise are required.

Dec 9 "Christmas is Closer Than You Think!"

Simple. Quick. Elegant. Fun. Delicious. Did Christmas creep up too quickly? Do you still want suggestions to liven up your celebrations? Join **Deb and Dan Topp** for an idea session for Christmas help.

Dec 16 "Keeping Your Heart Calm During Christmas" with Jane Schappell.

HeartMath is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1991 by Doc Children. The HeartMath system is a set of practical heart-based techniques and strategies that anyone can use to reduce stress, increase resilience, improve performance, and enhance health and well-being. Their self-regulation techniques provide simple and effective ways to shift into coherence, a state in which the heart, brain, and nervous system are in alignment.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

December 4 - "Religious Holidays--Ramadan"

Pastor Allan will lead a discussion of this Moslem holiday.

December 11 - "Religious Holidays--Hanukkah"

Pastor Allan will lead a discussion of this Jewish holiday.

December 18 - "Religious Holidays--Kwanza"

Pastor Allan will lead a discussion of this African- American holiday.

December 25 Christmas Day -- no class

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday 7-8:30PM room 5.



We are studying the four Gospels starting with John. You are invited to come learn new things and grow in faith. Led by Jay Lenhouse.



The Good Samaritan is our inspiration for how to live and give as Christians. When Jesus tells the story of how this person helped a stranger who was beaten and robbed, he ends by saying:
Go and do the same.
Be the Good Samaritan.

FAITH COMMITMENT CARD I/We have made the faith-promise to God to assist our church in the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ at Union UCC by promising to INCREASE my/our financial support starting in the year 2017 : \$ _____ a week or \$ _____ a month or \$ _____ as a one time gift.

I/We would like to increase the sharing of my time and talents through the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ at Union UCC in the following ways:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping Meals (make meal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up/clean up for church events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greet or Usher (offering) for Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a Committee _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping Hearts (deliver flowers to those on our visitation list) | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with an event _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work with children or youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning projects inside |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donate Baked Goods | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean up projects outside |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on governing board -Consistory | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing on choir/share music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not able to increase my time, talent or treasure gifts at this time. But I will continue to pray for Union UCC. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a need, idea or concern to share. Please have a Pastor contact me. | |

Name/s _____

Please bring this commitment card to worship on January 8th where they will be received and blessed.
Or mail to the church or place in the offering plate on any Sunday prior to January 8, 2017.

OUR ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS

Union United Church of Christ, Neffs PA To be continued next month

Pvt Zachary Glosan,

age 19, US Army, stationed at Fort Drum, NY. Light machine gunner in a line squad. Graduated Basic Training in January 2016, plans one or two reenlistments. Currently training to go through the selection process to enter a ranger battalion.



CPL Darien Middaugh,

2nd CEB (Combat Engineer Battalion) 3 years and 2 months in the U.S. Marines, stationed at Camp Lejuene, NC.



Richard Arnold is stationed at McGuire Air Force. He is currently in his seventh year of service.

Helping Meals

Thank you Lisa Rex!

Lisa has been the coordinator of our Helping Meals ministry for many, many years. She felt called to do this after she had an accident that left her in need of help from others. She has been the voice and face of this important ministry and has always done an excellent job coordinating volunteers and the needs of our members. She has decided to step down from this work. We cannot thank her enough for her devotion and care. **Lisa, thank you for being a blessing to us during some of our hardest times in life.**

Welcome to Amy McCoy!

She will be our new coordinator. Please contact her if you'd like to be added to the list to help cook and deliver meals. realmacs@ptd.net 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 are in need of meals, please contact Rev. Patience. 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.

Willard Ruch was born on December 16, 1912 to Francis and Lottie (Bertch) Ruch at home in Ruchsville, PA. The town of Ruchsville was named after Willard's grandfather, Jacob Ruch. Willard had 3 older brothers, Allen, Harold and Clarence, one younger brother Stanley, and a younger sister, Arlene. At 103, Willard is the only member of his generation still living.

Willard was raised in the Lutheran church in Egypt until his marriage, when he joined Union UCC. Willard married Marie Hoffman on June 6, 1936 at Union UCC. Marie and Willard had two children, Dorothy Ruch Lakatosh and Ernest Ruch. Willard has 6 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 5 great great-grandchildren. Willard loved his wife, and appreciated her loving ways and great cooking. Marie made sure that Willard knew how to cook, teaching him many recipes once she was diagnosed with cancer. Willard and Marie had been married over 65 years when Marie died of cancer in 2001. Marie's legacy lives on, as Willard does the majority of his own cooking to this day. He certainly appreciates his daughter Dorothy's weekly cakes she bakes for him.

While Willard had to give up his driver's license this past summer, he still

drives his tractor and mows his own grass and rides his bicycle! (He showed me a picture his neighbor took of him riding his bike this summer.) He's looking forward to the battery powered chair that should arrive around Thanksgiving that will allow him to be more mobile in his neighborhood. Get ready, Egypt!

Willard worked at Mack Trucks from 11/14/1940 to 1972. He became indispensable to the government during WWII because of his work on vehicles manufactured by Mack Trucks for use by the military. He was a very hard worker, arriving by 7 a.m. in the morning to prepare to start his shift at 8 a.m.. He remembers his work at Mack Trucks fondly.

Willard used to sharpen blades and repair lawnmowers for his neighbors as a hobby. He enjoyed many seasons at a cabin in Pike County. He has fond memories of teaching his grandchildren to fish at the nearby lake.

I had the privilege and pleasure of interviewing Willard for this article just days before his death. We will miss you, Willard!



Golden Times

For those wise in years and young at heart.

Our next gathering will be

Tuesday, December 6th

12 noon – 1:30pm

FREE

Program: Carols by "Carols and the Kettle Band"

Homemade soup and sandwiches are served for lunch.

Programs offered are fun, informative and entertaining.

Bring a dessert to share.

Monthly Food Donation: Cake/Brownie Mix

NO GOLDEN TIMES IN JANUARY

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

Mission Committee

By Vicki Mayk

The Mission Committee has chosen Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh County Conference of Churches to be the recipients of this year's Advent self-denial offerings. Representatives of these organizations will speak at services during December.

Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley states that its mission is to transform lives and promote positive and lasting change within the community by improving the housing conditions of a significant number of households in a number of communities in the Lehigh Valley. One of the ways they accomplish this is by bringing volunteers together to build homes and help families be able to access affordable housing. Since its founding, the Lehigh Valley organization has grown to a full-time home building operation that has completed over 90 in Easton, Bethlehem and Allentown, assisting families in need of safe, affordable and decent housing. Habitat is a faith-based organization and its Web site states it was "founded on bridging theological differences by putting love into action. Everyone can use a hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love."

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches unites Christians through community service, ecumenical ministry, and advocacy for social justice issues, while administering programs that meet basic human needs and provide a path to stability for the Lehigh Valley's most vulnerable residents. Programs touch the lives of more than 14,000 individuals each year. These programs include:

- the **Ecumenical Soup Kitchen**, which serves 36,000 meals per year – 1,500 of them to children,
- The **Daybreak** Drop-in Center, which serves more than 300 people struggling with mental health issues. The center serves 25,000 hot meals and 500 health screenings annually, among other services.
- **Pathways** Housing Services, which helps to find shelter for 2,200 individuals facing homelessness each year, and
- **Hope Program**, which helps 30 individuals struggling with the dual impacts of homelessness and mental illness.

Mark your Calendars!

The Parkland High School Chorale returns to Union UCC

Sunday, December 11th at 7pm

This holiday concert in our beautifully-decorated sanctuary is always the perfect way to catch the Christmas spirit. It's Free, an offering is collected to support the Chorale. Refreshments are served after the concert.

Look for our own **Natalie Ondrey** in the group.

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 December 8.**



amazon smile
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.



Sunday, December 4, 2016

2nd Sunday of Advent

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Romans 15:4-13

Message: The Human Library Project

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00— Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

Greeters: Claire Kern, Gene and Christina Thrash

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30AM - Karson Schaedel

Sunday, December 11, 2016

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Heritage Service

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson

10:30am Horizon Service-Children's Musical

"A Christmas Lesson" by Tom Krause

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Doug Albert

Greeters: Dennis and Debbie DeFrain, Jen Haley

Acolytes: 8AM - Trevor Amorim

10:30AM - Coral Shivok, Brett Misera

Sunday, December 18, 2016

4th Sunday of Advent/Lessons and Carols

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Message: *The Redemption of Scrooge* based on Matt Rawle's book

Sermon: Rev. Kris & Pastor Allan

Lay Readers: 8:00 - Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Claire Kern

Greeters: Mary & Lou Burdick, Dave & Karen Fleming

Acolytes: 8AM -

10:30AM - Kaden Haley

Christmas Eve –Saturday, December 24, 2016

3pm Family Service - Candlelight, Communion,

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Reader: Claire Kern

Acolytes: Riley Schlosser, Connor McCoy

5pm Family Service - Candlelight, Children's Choirs,

Text: Luke 2:1-7

Message: A Christmas Tale

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Reader: Youth

Acolytes: Brett Misera, Kaden Haley

8pm - Communion & Candle Lighting, High School Adult Choir

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Reader: Harry Burger

Acolytes: Samantha Ritchie

11pm - Communion & Candle Lighting

Text: Luke 2:1-20

Message: Outside of the Inn

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Reader: Dave Fleming, Claire Kern

Acolytes:

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Christmas Day

NO 8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PAJAMAS OR SLIPPERS TO CHURCH

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Reader: 10:30 - Donna Christman

**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:

December 4— Advent Brunch

December 11— Consistory

December 18— Confirmation

December 25— None

Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
7-1-2016	\$ 9,644.00	\$18,753.00	\$28,397.00
Income	\$131,919.00	\$22,066.00	\$153,985.00
Expenses	\$126,763.00	\$16,154.00	\$142,917.00
10-31-2016	\$14,800.00	\$24,665.00	\$39,465.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
October 2	N/A	437	CFW	437
October 9	59	111	41	211
October 16	55	150	35	240
October 23	57	161	28	246
October 30	68	165	CFW	233

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

Deaths

Beatrice Moyer passed away on October 24, 2016 and was laid to rest at Cedar Hill Memorial Park on October 28, 2016.

Willard Ruch passed away on November 19, 2016 and was laid to rest at Union Church Cemetery on November 25, 2016.

Memorials

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of **Beatrice (Kern) Moyer**:

David & Lucille Hamm
Curtis & Janet Hoffman
Dennis & Denise Rothrock

TOTAL ATTENDANCE	
<u>October 2015</u> –1,573	<u>October 2016</u> – 1,367
AVG ATTENDANCE	
<u>October 2015</u> –315	<u>October 2016</u> - 273

Carol L. Beers
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Dreitz
Paul & Janet Creitz
Mel & Sondra Mertz
Richard & Madeline Bingell
Harley & Olive Wenninger
John & Gloria Simock
Ruth L. Lewis Family
Sybil R. Mohr
Doug & Claire Kern
Don & Marlene Steffy
Don & Kathy Hilbert

The Robert Schneck Family
Stephen & Lisa Everett
Alta R. Dietrich

UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels
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

December 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm Chime Choir	2 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	3
5 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Fellowship	6 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior Choir 7pm Middler Choir; Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	7 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry	8 7pm Chime Choir; Helping Hearts	9 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	10
12 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	13 6-7:30pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	14 9:30am Busy Bee s 10am Knitwits; Preschool Board 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm FLT	15 7pm Chime Choir	16 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	17
19 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 6:45 pm Consistory 7pm Evangelism	20 9am Staff Mtg 10am Program Staff 6-7:30pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	21 9:30am Busy Bee Quilt 10am Knitwits; Preschool Board 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	22 7pm Chime Choir	23 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve Worship at 3, 5, 8, 11pm
26 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	27 9am Newsletter Mailing 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	28 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	29 7pm Chime Choir	30 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	31
SUNDAYS					
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds Advent Lunch	11 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service/Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds 7pm Parkland Chorale	18 Lessons and Carols 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds YG Advisory	25 Christmas Day NO 8 AM WORSHIP 10:30am Horizon Service/Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds		