

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT *
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

Semi-Annual Meeting

As we look forward to a future full of hope, please plan to attend and participate in our semi-annual meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

The primary order of business for this meeting will be to approve several changes to the constitution. Last spring Consistory approved a constitutional review committee. This committee has worked long and hard to essentially "house clean" the constitution. Copies of the suggested changes can be found in the church office and on the table as you enter the Sanctuary.

In addition we will be reviewing our mid-year financial position and announcing the results of our Stewardship Campaign.

We are also pleased to be sharing three **individuals that have been nominated to serve** a first three-year term on Consistory: Jeff Herbine, Jim Ondrey and Don Wingate. Four additional persons, Susan Neal, Suzanne Schneider, Dede Bilger and Edie Fella have been nominated to serve a second consecutive three-year term on Consistory.

May God always be with you, and may your New Year be full of good cheer!

Respectfully,
Brad Hackett
 Consistory President



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Sunday Sponsors

**Flower Basket (\$30),
 Adult & Children's Bulle-
 tins (\$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

“Looking Forward to a New Year...”

Well, 2016 was quite a year! I received a new heart valve; we elected a new senior pastor here at Union UCC; and the country survived a divisive presidential election. Let the New Year begin!

Serving as a chaplain in a nursing home, I soon learned that frail, older persons have great ambivalence about a new year. Many frail, older persons wonder if this will be their year to pass on to the next life; some even hope for it.

But for those of us who aren't quite there yet, the beginning of a new year is a time of anticipation and expectation. What challenges will the new year bring? Will this be the year that brings us together as a nation or will our differences accelerate and lead to greater dysfunction? Will our health continue or will we suffer unexpected physical and/or emotional illness? How will you celebrate the New Year?

Our ancestors may not have had all the technological advantages that we enjoy, but they encountered many of the same challenges and uncertainties that we experience: life, death, lifestyle, companionship, parenting, child rearing, vocation...

In the midst of their uncertain lives, our spiritual ancestors trusted in God and proclaimed:

*For everything there is a season,
a time for every matter under heaven...
God has made everything suitable
for its time. Ecclesiastes 3:1;11*

May you grow in faith and experience God's presence in your life through the joys and sorrows of the new year.

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, December 19, 2016, by President Brad Hackett.

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

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that we have already had two winter weather events requiring plowing of the parking lots, the expense so far will be about \$700. Plumbing repairs in the Men's downstairs bathroom have been completed through funds from FOLG. The property and grounds are ready for Christmas.

Mission Committee reported that a donation of \$500 was provided to the Oxfam Hunger program. A donation of \$250 was provided to the Agape Food Bank in Schnecksville. The Church supplied 250 five pound bags of potatoes to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. A few members are becoming new regular helpers at the food bank, more volunteers are always welcome. Please see Phil Wehr for more information. The Committee delivered gifts for 75 children to the Bethlehem Salvation Army for their Angel Tree program. Collections are underway for Advent Self Denial benefitting the Lehigh County Conference of Churches and Habitat for Humanity. Collections are underway for hats, scarves and mittens for the Sixth Street Shelter. The congregation continues to show generosity to the mission efforts of the church

Church and Ministry Committee reported that the committee has had an introductory meeting and outlined their next steps.

Welcoming Committee reported that the next meeting will be January 9 to finalize plans for the annual "Souper" Bowl party on February 5, 2017.

Stewardship Committee reported that the Giving Campaign was discussed in their meeting and provided Consistory with member response details – 105 responded to initial ask, 29 increased monthly giving, reaching out to 20-30 with postcards. Stewardship Sunday was November 13 and was successful at conveying new ways of giving to our church. Ongoing Sunday testimony is going well and compliments are being received.

Fellowship Committee reported that the Advent Workshop and luncheon was held on December 11 and was attended by 50 people. The annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held on February 28.

Worship Committee reported that the sanctuary is decorated for Christmas, and looking forward to the Christmas Eve services.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, January 16, in Room 101.

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.

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.



WAYS TO GIVE and SUPPORT UNION UCC'S Ministry and Mission

DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card Go to www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/ and click on **GIVE ONLINE** button.

TEXT TO GIVE Send a text to 610-857-7023 with the amount you would like to contribute. Include the \$ sign. You'll be sent a text with directions to register.

ELECTRONIC GIVING you can designate an automatic weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out the form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and return it to the church office.

AMAZON SMILE Earn money for Union UCC while you shop at Amazon by signing up at <https://smile.amazon.com>. Set Union United Church of Christ as your charity and 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to the church. Search charities by zip code 18065.

OFFERING ENVELOPES in person or by mail Packets are given to members and friends in December for the new year. Place your envelope in the offering plate on Sundays, use the envelopes in the rack in your seat at church for the offering plate or mail your offering by postal mail.

2017 Envelope Packets

Envelope packets are available for pickup in Memorial Hall.

Please pick up envelopes for family members, neighbors or friends to help save on postage costs.

We encourage members to use the first initial offering envelope to help offset the printing and shipping costs. Weekly envelopes provide for the ongoing mission of the church, please use your envelopes regularly in the collection plate or mail to the church office.

Special envelopes are directed to special ministries within the church, like Benevolence, Improvement, Music and Education, Pastor of Visitation or other special mission offerings. Please support these efforts as you are able.

Keep God's mission strong here at Union UCC, show your support and give generously and regularly.

Thank you,
The Stewardship Committee.



Where School Memories Begin

We blinked and the end of another calendar year has already come. What a whirlwind end to the year we have had in the Preschool. Santa's elves turned our Dramatic Play classroom into Santa's workshop overnight, allowing the students to color and build a gingerbread house, decorate a Christmas tree and help Santa build toys. Check out our Facebook page to see a video sampling the activities. On the learning end, our 3-year-olds had "Dinosaur December", complete with dinosaur facts, excavating for dinosaur bones, and lots of pretend. The 4's enjoyed hands-on fun with a month--long science lab learning about states of matter. They experimented with different forms of matter, weighed and measured objects, and watched as solid and liquid ingredients combined to form a different item- cookie dough! The best part was cooking and eating the cookies at the end. Our Pre-K class took a tour through various holiday traditions, with plenty of art projects along the way, culminating in creating Christmas ornaments from apple sauce and cinnamon. Of course, what December would be complete without a Christmas party and a visit from Santa himself!

Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year begins with an Informational **Open House on February 7th at 6:30 p.m.** If you, your family, or your friends are interested in enrolling a child and would like more information or a registration form, please email preschool@unionucc.org or call the Preschool office at 610-767-5327.

Annette Wilcox, Preschool Director

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!

Blanket Sunday



You're changing lives around the World !! Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency.

Thank you for your support of the upcoming **Blanket Sunday in February 2017**. You are helping to spread God's love to many families around the country and the world.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Contact: Kathy Bonsell

Phone: 610-767-6961

Email: dired@unionucc.org

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

Thank you to all who donated money, food bank items and time to this year's Christian Ed Christmas Missions.

We collected almost \$1000 for our **Christmas Hero** and **KidsPeace Party** projects.



- We were able to buy Christmas presents for all the members of two families (7 children and 2 moms) who are working with Lehigh County Conference of Churches' Pathways program. Thanks to Claire Kern for helping me shop and wrap the gifts.
- We were able to provide a Christmas Party for a "house" at KidsPeace. This included supplies to make and decorate cupcakes, snacks, and prizes for games. A huge thanks to Jana and Abby Hill for arranging this project, shopping and delivering. This project was sponsored by your Sunday School leaders.
- We had over 32 families participate in our Reverse Advent Basket, where each day they put something IN the basket for our local food bank and agencies.

THANK YOU for sharing the Christmas Spirit with our neighbors!

January

Children's Church

Jan. 1 CHURCH FAMILY WORSHIP

Jan. 8 Ephesians 1:3-14

Jan. 15 Isaiah 42: 1-9

Jan. 22 John 1:29-42

Jan. 29 CHURCH FAMILY WORSHIP

VBS 2017

Planning Meeting—

Jan. 31, 10am

It's that time of year again!
Time to start planning for another exciting Vacation Bible School at Union UCC!

We need your help to make this summer's program the best it can be. Be part of the fun and excitement of

MAKER FUN FACTORY!



BLESSING BAGS

The Sunday School is packing Blessing Bags for the homeless through DeSales Free Clinic and LVHN Street Medicine Program. We are looking for donations of the following items. Please place donations in the BLESSING BAG box in the foyer

Toothpaste

Travel toothbrush

Small Comb

Hand/foot warmers

Burn Blankets (foil type)

Socks

Hats

Gloves

Small packages of baby wipes

Small packages of

Clorox Wipes

Feminine Wipes

Tampons

Hand Sanitizer

Travel Deodorant

Granola

Bars

Dried

Fruit



Youth Group News Grades 6-12

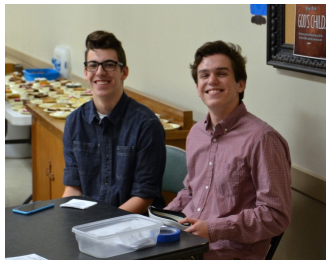
For more information contact:

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, 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 Meet at church at 5pm, tubing from 6-8:30pm, home by 9pm. \$25 Money due to PK or Dave by Jan 22. Food and snacks provided.



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 6pm

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.

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.

\$25 DUE NOW to save your spot.



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)

Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

Happy New Year to all. The Christmas Season has come and gone here at Union UCC. A big thank you to all who helped to make Christmas festive and meaningful to all who passed through the church doors and entranceways all month long.

The Christmas theme of Dickens' Christmas Carol mirrors the work of caring for the property, honoring the past, celebrating the present, building for the future.

For decades, we have been good stewards of our church grounds and property, which has been provided to us by previous generations of faithful members. From this setting, all of our missions and ministries begin. We worship here, we teach here, we sing here, we do mission work here, we have fellowship here, we greet and welcome the community here. We serve God here seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year. With your support, we take careful responsibility to maintain, improve and grow our church property for future generations to serve God.

We are blessed with a congregation of good stewards here at Union UCC. We are blessed with good stewards who manage the church finances. We are blessed with our endowment fund, grateful for the many initial donors and thankful for the leadership of the trustees of the Funds of Lasting Gifts, which provides for many large building projects yearly.

We are blessed with a wonderful church to serve God.

Peace and Joy in 2017

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!



Thank you to the congregation and our church leaders for the Christmas gift given to the staff on Christmas Eve. Your generosity and support means the world to us. We are also grateful for the many cards and goodies that reflected your Christmas spirit to us. We are blessed to be part of this family of faith.

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

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:
March 12 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 ques-
tions. Attendance is not required to join.

You will be welcomed as members in worship on **Sunday, Feb-
ruary 26th at the 8am or 10:30am worship service**. Contact **Pas-
tor 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.**

Men's Group Breakfast January 28

8:00 am- 10:00 am

The men of the church are invited to join us for breakfast on Saturday,
January 28. Ed Norman and his gang will be preparing the menu. Men
are invited to share an interest, hobby, favorite recreational activity,
family adventure, etc. Please RSVP to Pastor Allan by January 15 by
calling the church office or emailing him at:
interimpastor@unionucc.org.

Pill Bottle Collection

By Susan Smith

Thanks to everyone for making the Pill Bottle Collection
such a successful mission. By recycling your cleaned plastic
medicine and supplement bottles, we've provided a needed re-
source for Matthew 25: Ministries. Their pill bottle program ful-
fills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing
countries and caring for our environment. **Our project has now
concluded** and we will no longer be collecting pill bottles
here at Union UCC. If you are interested in continuing this mis-
sion on your own, check out their website at m25m.org.

Baptisms

September 25, 2016

Cody Ervin Eberly

son of Shawn and Heather (Rohr) Eberly

Nico Henry George

son of Stephen and Taylor (Boyer) George

November 20, 2016

Harper Louise Evans

daughter of Barry Evans and Rebecca Ciciliot

Grace Elizabeth Marlatt

daughter of Ryan and Ashley (Cole) Marlatt

Blake Thomas Simock

son of Bobby and Margo (White) Simock

Benjamin Nicholas Williams

son of Matthew and Katelyn (Christy)
Williams

New Members

September 25, 2016

Lucy Boyer

Whitney and Randy Lauffer

Melissa Lorah

Michael Roth

Robert and Tandy Smith

November 20, 2016

Kelly Ciciliot

JD & Teri Fekula
children Jacquelyn and Isabelle

Dixie Gross

Sharon Hader

Tami Wassum

DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED DECORATIONS/USED BOOKS?

It's that time of the year when you are decorating and un-decorating for the holidays. How many items do you keep in your holiday bin that you don't even use anymore?

We are looking for those unwanted decorations and gently used books for the Country Sale. Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween.....even Easter decorations are welcome! Bring your "gently used" donations to Memorial Hall and place them in the marked box on the stage during **January**.

**GO GREEN for the HOLIDAYS....
let's reduce, reuse and recycle !**

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/unionneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)
- You can sign up for **E-giving** at no cost to you?
- **Text to give**? See page 3 for details.
- You can sign up for **Amazon Smile** and a portion of your Amazon.com purchases will be donated to the church?

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

Adult Study



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

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.

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 NOW,
by January 22.**
\$65 Balance by March 5,
2017.

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.

"Paul's Vision of a New Creation"

During the month of January, Pastor Allan will use N.T. Wright's book, Paul and the Faithfulness of God (2013), to discuss the Apostle Paul's theology.

January 6 Paul answers the question, "Who is God?"

January 13 Paul answers the question, "Who are the people of God?"

January 20 Paul describes God's intentions for the people of God and all creation.

January 27 The Apostle Paul's relevance for today

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

January 1 No Class

January 8 Intergenerational Discussion with 6th and 7th grade class

January 15 "The Ministry of the Penn Northeast Conference" The Rev. Gilberto Rodriguez will join us to discuss the Ministry of the PNEC.

January 22 Great Religions of the World. We will begin a discussion series of different world religions. This week we will discuss Buddhism.

January 29 "The Ministry of the Lehigh Conference of Churches" The Rev Larry Pickens will join us to discuss the ministry of the Lehigh Conference of Churches.

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.

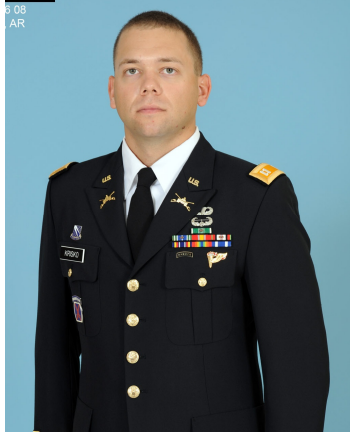
OUR ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS

Union United Church of Christ, Neffs PA

Army Captain Jonathon Krisko

is stationed at Fort Sill, OK serving as an instructor.

As an Armor officer he has deployed twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom Sentinel. Currently he is an instructor / team leader for the Army Medical Department's Direct Commissioning Course (AMEDD DCC) he is responsible for the initial entry training of newly commissioned medical professionals as they begin their career as officers in the United States Army. Working with a team of non-commissioned officers, as well as other instructor groups, the AMEDD DCC strives to lay a strong foundation for these medical leaders and set them up for success in their new profession. This instruction runs the gamut from customs and courtesies, land navigation, firearms training, professional conduct, ethics, and a broad range of other skills necessary for them to operate effectively in the military.



A1C Daulton M. Charles

Presently I am attending technical training at the Tactical Air Control Party Specialist Schoolhouse, TACP Schoolhouse, located in San Antonio, Texas. I'm honored to be a part of the United States Air Force while serving our country. Thank you for thinking and praying for our service men and women. I am hoping to be home for Christmas and seeing you all at church.



Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Betty McGee—January 6

Phoebe Bridgeways
Room 374A
1925 Turner St.
Allentown, PA 18104

Arlene Olenwine—January 26

3345 Fairland Dr.
Schnecksville, PA 18078

Marilyn Sechler—January 26

4615 Daisy Ave.
Orefield, PA 18069

Russell Rader—January 29

1654 Clearview Rd.
Coplay, PA 18037

Clara Hoster—January 30

Above and Beyond
2232 29th St.
Allentown, PA 18103



Tales from the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Helping Meals

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.

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 April 6, 2017.**

Happy 100th Birthday, Clara!!!

Clara Hoster will be 100 on January 30th! Clara was baptized, confirmed and married at Union UCC. She remembers attending Union UCC faithfully for 100 most of her life. Clara lived independently, aided by a faithful Union UCC member, until recently when her health required her to be moved to a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Allentown. Clara fondly remembers her father's years as a lockmaster in Northampton. She used to run down the towpath to meet the mules and ride them back up to the lockmaster's house and stable. Clara would help her father feed, water and stable the mules. Sometimes she would travel with

families who transported goods in their barges along the canal. Clara was married for many years to Benjamin Hoster. Following his death she shared her home with longtime friend, Geri Schafer. Clara and her cat, Lily, now live at Above and Beyond in Allentown.

When reflecting on her life Clara said, "I've had a good life. But it's lonely. All my friends and relatives have died. But I've had a good life."

Let's send Clara a card shower at:
Clara Hoster
Above and Beyond, Room 427
2232 29th Street
Allentown, Pa 18103-7165

Golden Times

For those wise in years and young at heart.

NO GOLDEN TIMES IN JANUARY

Our next gathering will be

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Program: Cards, Games, and Bean Bags

Homemade soup and sandwiches are served for lunch.

Programs offered are fun, informative and entertaining.

Bring a dessert to share.

12 noon – 1:30pm

FREE

Monthly Food Donation: Canned Soup

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

Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 5, 2017

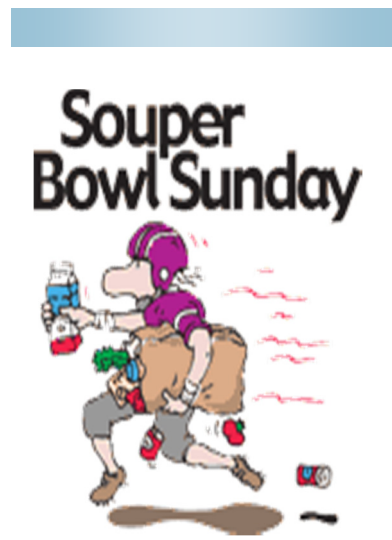
Let's get ready for some football during the Super Bowl. Let's get ready to buy and donate canned soup during our annual SOUPER Bowl celebration.

The soup pots will be out early in mid January to start **collecting soup for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank**. Help TACKLE HUNGER by buying a six pack of soup, or head for the goal line with a case of 12 or 24 cans.

The Mission Committee encourages all members to get off the sidelines, get in the game and donate canned soup to feed families in the community. We need YOUR help to meet our GOAL to collect over 600 cans of soup. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Join in the fun on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 5, 2017 and join Union UCC and thousands of churches around the country as we celebrate SOUPER Bowl Sunday.

Thank you for fighting hunger and being on the winning SOUPER Bowl team.



Souper Bowl Tailgate Party

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

11:30 - 12:30PM

Welcome New Church Members to our Team!

Everyone is invited!

Menu includes: Subs, pizza, wings, chili, salads, snacks, birch beer, soda, desserts.

The cost to attend is FREE.

Be sure to help the Mission Committee with their effort to help others by bringing a can(s) of soup or cash donation.

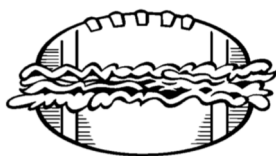
Please make your lunch reservation by calling the office (610-767-6961) or filling out the form below by January 29th.

TAILGATE PARTY

Name _____

#Adults _____

#Children _____



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Worship Opportunities

Sunday, January 1, 2016

Epiphany

NO 8:00 AM WORSHIP

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Message: Spiritual Inventories

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers:

10:30 - Carol Pope

Greeters: Carol Pope

Acolytes:

10:30AM - Garrett Fitzgerald, Will Filipovits

Sunday, January 8, 2016

1st Sunday after Epiphany

Begin 2017 with a time of Holy Communion and renewing your faith promises to God and to Union UCC. Bring your Faith Commitment Card with you to be blessed as we begin another year of ministry and mission as God's church.

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 3:13-17

Message: Drink Up!

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00— Michael Roth

10:30 - Chrissy Shivok

Greeters: Dennis & Debbie DeFrain, Cliff & Carol James

Acolytes: 8:00AM—Chase Misera

10:30AM - Karson Schaedel, George DeNardo

Sunday, January 15, 2016

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Baptism

Guest Minister- The Reverend Gilberto Garcia-Rodriguez, Penn Northeast Conference Associate Conference Minister for Outreach & New Church Starts

Lay Readers: 8:00— Liz Normann

10:30 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

Greeters: Karl & Karen Imdorf, Vicki Mayk

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30AM - Coral Shivok

Sunday, January 22, 2016

3rd Sunday after Epiphany/Healing Service

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: I Corinthians 1.18-25

Message: The Foolishness of God

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00— Susan Rumble

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

Greeters: Ruth Ensley, Jim & Edie Fella

Acolytes: 8:00AM—George DeNardo

10:30AM - Riley Schlosser, Samantha Ritchie

Sunday, January 29, 2016

4th Sunday after Epiphany

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Semi-Annual Meeting

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Ecumenical Director of the Lehigh Conference of Churches

Lay Readers: 8:00— Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Vicki Mayk

Greeters: John & Debbie Romig, Chris & Abby Bastidas

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30AM - Kaden Haley

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:

January 1— No Committee
January 8— Fellowship Committee
January 15— Christian Education
January 22— Consistory
January 29—Mission Committee

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	\$166,820.00	\$23,959.00	\$190,779.00
Expenses	\$161,084.00	\$18,151.00	\$179,235.00
11-30-2016	\$15,380.00	\$24,561.00	\$39,941.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
November 6	90	198	36	324
November 13	84	171	44	299
November 20	53	196	24	273
Installation				312
November 27	94	200	CFW	294

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

Deaths

Ruth (Lilly) Roberts passed away on December 2, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on December 10, 2016

Marian (Wieand) Supp passed away on December 4, 2016 and was laid to rest in Egypt Cemetery on December 8, 2016

Memorials

The following donation was received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Beatrice (Kern) Moyer:

Clarice M. Stulpin

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Willard G. Ruch:

Frances R. Worman

Robert Frey

Leonard & Judith Ruch

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

November 2015–1,287 November 2016– 1,502

AVG ATTENDANCE

November 2015–322 November 2016 - 298

Nellie B. Ruch

Dale & Eleanor Lakatosh

Curtis & Janet Hoffman

Eleanor M. Kressley & Family

David & Dorothy Lakatosh

Adam & Kristina Kochmaruk

The following donations were

received into the Memorial

Fund in memory of

Robert G. Herzog, Sr.:

Donald & Bonnie Herzog

John & Veronica Fabian

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of

Ruth E. (Lilly) Roberts:

Robert & Kim Hughes

Linda Kay & Wilbur Romig

Dan & Debra Topp

Richard D. Gogle

Carolyn George

David & Cynthia Kish

Mary Jane Sheckler & Fam.

Dallas & Cynthia Miller

UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

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

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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

January 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p>	<p>36pm Cherub Choir</p> <p>6:30 Junior Choir</p> <p>7pm Middler Choir; Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Unity Choir</p>	<p>49:30am Busy Bee Quilters</p> <p>10am Knitwits</p> <p>6pm High School Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p> <p>7pm Church & Ministry</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm Chime Choir; Christian Ed</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am Bulletin Prep</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p> <p>7pm Evangelism</p>	<p>10 9:15am Staff Mtg</p> <p>10:30am Program Staff</p> <p>6pm Cherub Choir</p> <p>6:30 Junior Choir</p> <p>7pm Middler Choir; Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Unity Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Busy Bee Quilters</p> <p>10am Knitwits; Preschool Board</p> <p>6pm High School Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p> <p>7pm FLT</p>	<p>12 9:30am Bible Journaling</p> <p>7pm Chime Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am Bulletin Prep</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>16</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6-7:30pm Youth Choirs</p> <p>7pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Unity Choir</p>	<p>18 9:30am Busy Bee s</p> <p>10am Knitwits</p> <p>6pm High School Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p> <p>7pm Union Board</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7pm Chime Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am Bulletin Prep</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p> <p>6:45 pm Consistory</p> <p>7pm Evangelism</p>	<p>24 9:15am Staff Mtg</p> <p>10:30am Program Staff</p> <p>6-7:30pm Youth Choirs</p> <p>7pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Unity Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Busy Bee Quilt</p> <p>10am Knitwits; Preschool Board</p> <p>6pm High School Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p>	<p>26 9:30am Bible Journaling</p> <p>7pm Chime Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am Bulletin Prep</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8am Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>30</p> <p>6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am Newsletter Mailing</p> <p>10am VBS Planning</p> <p>6-7:30pm Youth Choirs</p> <p>7pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Unity Choir</p>				
SUNDAYS					
<p>1</p> <p>10:30am Horizon Service/ Church Family Worship</p> <p>11:30am Holy Grounds</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8am Heritage Service</p> <p>9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers</p> <p>10:30am Horizon Service</p> <p>11:30am Holy Grounds Pre-Baptism</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8am Heritage Service</p> <p>9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers</p> <p>10:30am Horizon Service/ Baptism/Children's Church</p> <p>11:30am Holy Grounds</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8am Heritage Service</p> <p>9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers</p> <p>10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church</p> <p>11:30am Holy Grounds</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8am Heritage Service</p> <p>9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers</p> <p>10:30am Horizon Service/ Church Family Worship</p> <p>11:30am Holy Grounds</p>	