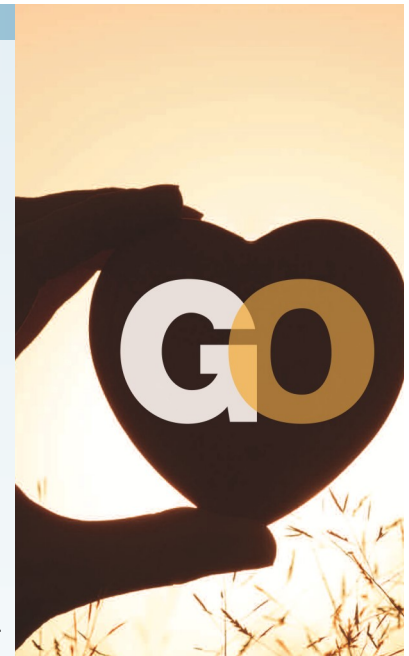


HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT *
BUILDING THE FUTURE

From Pastor Kris



Blessings on your New Year! I always have mixed feelings when I start a New Year. There are things from the past year that I'll miss, and things I'll be glad are behind me. Whether we make New Year's resolutions or not, I think we all find ourselves taking time to look back and look ahead at this time of the year.

That's true of our church too. It's an exciting time for our church as we've completed the search for a Senior Pastor and we begin the search for our next Associate Pastor. How good it was to install the Search Committee on January 8th so that we can begin our work.

The Search Committee and our Consistory are reading a book written by the President of the UCC, John Dorhauer, called [Beyond Resistance](#). It will be helpful in our decision making about not only our Associate Pastor search, but also in developing a vision for Union's future. If you'd like a copy to read along with us, let me know.

Also in worship on January 8th we asked you to renew your faith commitment to God and God's church by using a Faith Commitment Card. Thank you for continuing to give faithfully of yourselves in so many ways.

In this transition time of pastors, we haven't had to pay for full-time pastoral expenses as we did previously. We've saved money the last two years. But now we're ready to embark on filling our pastoral staff again. The Search Committee and Consistory will need to decide how to maintain what is meaningful and important that we currently do as well as how to grow into the future. We need to know that your support is there not only to cover our bills, but especially to continue to make a difference in people's lives with God's grace and love for our members, our guests, our community, our world.

Like everyone everywhere, our church's bills and expenses are real and increase all the time. And, so does our desire to do and offer more as a church. We want to do more to nurture, teach and care for each other in the journey of life and faith. We want more people to know what we know about God's grace. Our passion to help others also increases as we try to make sure that those around us have food, shelter, and life's necessities. And, that's why we ask you to give more – to increase your giving of money and volunteer time and skills.

Church members have been introducing the offering and sharing how they think our church is making a difference in their lives and in the lives of others. When I ask someone to speak, or when they offer to speak, they are nervous to share something so personal and so important to them. And yet, each of them says something that has touched our hearts and spirits. Each of them says something that affirms that what we are doing here together as Union UCC in Neffs matters. In their words and in their lives, we are seeing their commitment to their faith and to their church. As they speak, we are reflecting on our own faith commitment and how we live out our call to love and serve God and others.

When I was called here as Senior Pastor my salary increased, but so did my faith commitment. My contribution to health insurance increased and so did my offering and tithes that I give back to the church through our family's offering. I support Union UCC because I love God and want to serve God with all that I have. Like you, I could spend or give my money elsewhere. I do this because I believe our church has an important ministry and mission and every day I see how hearts and lives are changed.

This year's Faith Commitment Card asked for increased financial giving like last year, and it asked for increased giving of yourself in time and talent. We know that you are prayerfully considering all of this. Many of you have accepted the challenge to increase your commitments and others will continue to find ways to do so. Many of you have also reaffirmed your commitment to do what you've already been doing. Some of you have said you can't increase your gifts right now, but that you will continue to pray for and support our ministry and mission. All of these are good and important offerings and gifts to God and God's church.

Your gifts are a blessing and they make a difference. I pray, that in your giving you are blessed as well.

From the Interim Pastor

Winter Thoughts

Winter's metaphors often include its stillness, its sense of silence and darkness, falling snow, a season of hibernation, a season where everything dies a little, and the lyrics from Gordon Mills' song "The Rose" made famous by Bette Midler:

*Just remember in the winter,
far beneath the bitter snow
Lies the seed, that with the sun's love
in the spring becomes the rose.*

So much of our lives are like seeds beneath the snow, waiting to be warmed by love. As Christians, we are called to be agents of God's love; and as such, we are called to bring to flower the good seeds of humankind.

We human beings are created with the potential to do great good or great harm. We are full of good seed

and bad seed. Love warms the good seed within us and brings to flower our ability to love one another, care for one another and serve one another.

But the good seed often gets choked out by the bad seed within us... jealousy, greed, selfishness. Jesus Christ comes to us as a flower of hope, showing us how to love and care and serve. So let us re-write the words to Gordon Mills' song as follows:

*Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snow
Lies the seed, that with the Son's love
In the Spring becomes the rose.*

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, January 16, 2017, by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and the December 2016 - January 2017 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that necessary repairs were made to the oil burner since the units had stopped working twice. Repairs were also made to the one sanctuary chandelier ceiling light. All of the light bulbs will need to be replaced soon in the sanctuary. Consistory approved the Property Committee's request for funding from the Funds of Lasting Gifts for the following annual requests: \$2,000 maintenance of the elevator, \$2,000 annual gutter cleaning and slate repair, and \$5,000 for miscellaneous property repairs as needed. Consistory approved the Property Committee's request for funding from the Funds of Lasting Gifts for the following: \$12,000, second installment for rebuilding the chimney, \$2,000 to repair basement stairway to kitchen, and \$2,000 for oil burner repairs.

Christian Education Committee reported that there will be holding a Gertrude Hawk fundraiser and a new Pierogi fundraiser in February. Supporters of the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser will have the opportunity to buy Smidgens boxes to donate, this year they will go to KidsPeace. The pierogi come in 3 varieties - potato, sauerkraut, and apple, and will be \$8 per dozen. We will be holding a Lent workshop on March 12 right after 10:30 worship. More information and flyers will be coming in the beginning of February. Linda Romig will be retiring from running the Cradle Roll; we decided to continue running it as a committee in the future. Consistory approved two Committee requests for funding from the Funds of Lasting Gifts: to use all monies available this year from the Thomas Family Fund to fund the Youth Service trip to Philadelphia March

31-April 2; and, to use all monies available from the Christian Enrichment Fund this year as needed to offset costs for the Women's Retreat March 31-April 2.

Mission Committee reported that the Advent Self-Denial offering was a little over \$2,400 and benefits the Lehigh County Conference of Churches and Habitat for Humanity. Five large shopping bags of hats, scarves and mittens were delivered to the Sixth Street Shelter from the Mitten Tree. The pill bottle ministry will be discontinued at the end of January. Souper Bowl Sunday is February 5th and collections of canned soup will be accepted at the annual Souper Bowl Tailgate event. Blanket Sunday is February 19 and we will be selling hearts on February 5, 12 and 19. The Pint for Pint Blood Drive will take place on March 19. The Lenten Self-Denial offering will benefit the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and the Allentown Rescue Mission.

Church and Ministry Committee reported that the Associate Pastor Search Committee was installed on January 8th and the Committee has met twice.

Welcoming Committee reported that the plans have been finalized for hosting the annual Souper Bowl Tailgate party on February 5, 2017. Consistory approved a request for \$2,000 funding from the Funds of Lasting Gifts for community outreach efforts for 2017. New members meetings will be held at 9:15am on February 12 and 19.

Stewardship Committee reported that a one-year review of the e-Giving Campaign has been completed and details of the Commitment Cards will be presented in spreadsheet form after the next Committee meeting on February 15.

Worship Committee requested that funding of \$3,000 from the Funds of Lasting Gifts for special guests during worship services during this year. Consistory approved the request.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, February 20, in Room 101.

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. We will be collecting donations on **Sundays Feb 5, 12 and 19**, or by mail to the church office. **Blankets cost \$5 each.** Warm blessings to all.



Mission Thank You's

Bethlehem Salvation Army for Christmas donations for 75 children, part of our annual angel tree program, your generosity is a blessing to our many local families.

Northern Lehigh Food bank for the donation of 250 five pound bags of potatoes for our Christmas food distribution, and the weekly donations of food, groceries and toiletries for our clients.

Sixth Street Shelter for the donation of hats, scarves, mittens, socks and other items for the women, men and children living in our Allentown apartments.

Lehigh Conference of Churches for the boxes and boxes of toiletries provided to us from your Reverse Advent collections. A great gift to provide cleanliness and hope to the many families we serve in our mission.

Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 5, 2017

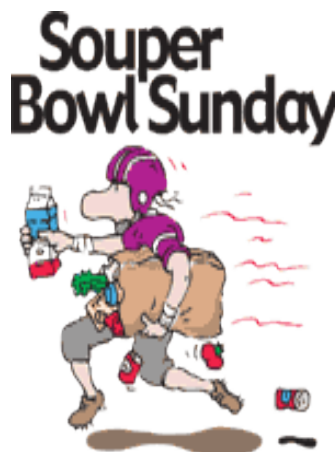
Let's get ready for some football during the Super Bowl. Let's get ready to donate canned soup during our annual SOUPER Bowl celebration.

The soup pots are ready 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.





Where School Memories Begin

January was an adventurous month in the Preschool. The students explored different habitats through crafts, books, lessons and play. The dramatic play room held an Arctic area, a jungle, and an area to play under the sea. A favorite activity for the 3-year-olds was playing with Arctic and Antarctic animals in ice tables.

The Preschool began offering a Lunch Bunch program this month as well, and the first session filled up in less than 48 hours! Students in the 4-year-old and Pre-K classes have an opportunity to stay for an extra hour to eat lunch with friends and play. With many local districts going to a full-day kindergarten format, Lunch Bunch will familiarize the students with eating lunch at school so they are prepared for the change when they move on next year.

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

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

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!

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

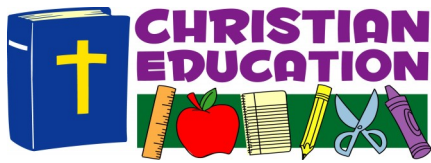
DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card Go to www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/ and click on **GIVE ONLINE** button.

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.



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

LENT CELEBRATION – SUNDAY, MARCH 12 (after the 10:30 service)

Join us for pizza and a craft. You will have a choice between two LENT crafts: a wall hanging or a centerpiece. Look for samples, registration forms, and cost in the foyer during the month of February.

Please register for this event by Feb. 26.



Lent Celebration

February

Children's Church

- Feb. 5 ANIMAL CRACKERS
- Feb. 12 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Feb. 19 Matthew 5:38-48
BLANKET SUNDAY
- Feb. 26 Exodus 24:12-18

ADULT Bible Study WORKSHOP



Study scripture and enhance your understanding of the verses with design and color. We begin with Bible Journaling videos and together we will share ideas and techniques. Participants need a journal Bible. We will provide art supplies. Our Feb. dates are Feb. 7 and Feb. 21, 9:30-11, in Room 5.

THANK YOU,

Linda Romig!

Linda has been sending birthday cards to our littlest members for 31 years, for their first through their fifth birthdays. She has decided it is time to retire from this wonderful Cradle Roll Ministry. Union UCC wants to thank Linda for her time and dedication. She blessed many, many children with her birthday greetings!



Gertrude Hawk Candy

The children will receive order forms on Feb. 5. Orders are due Feb. 26 and will be delivered in time for Easter.



SPONSOR a LIL SMIDGEN for KIDSPEACE
Buy a box of candy for \$7.
We will send it to the children for Easter.

Don't miss out on UNCLE PAUL'S

PIEROGIES!

Potato w/cheese, weinkraut, or apple (yummy dessert)

The children will be taking orders Feb. 5-26.

PICK UP—March 12

BLANKET SUNDAY

Let's hug our neighbors with a nice, warm blanket. Church World Service provides blankets to victims of natural disasters in the United States and around the world. **ONLY \$5.00** buys a blanket! We will be collecting BLANKET SUNDAY envelopes in Children's Church on Feb. 19th.



VBS 2017

Planning Meeting—FEB 21, 1:00pm

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!**



REGISTRATION forms will be available March 5!

Youth Group News Grades 6-12

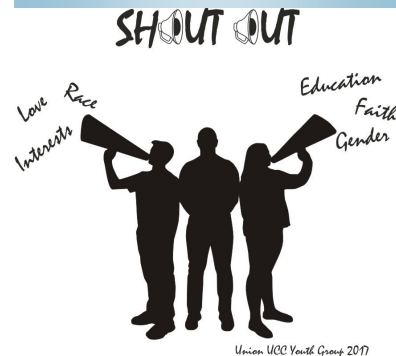
For more information contact:

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).



Feb 11-12 Confirmation Class Sleepover and Leading Worship

If you have been confirmed and you'd like to join the confirmation class for the sleepover and to help lead worship, 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. Sign up with Pastor Kris.



March 5 Youth Sunday Mark your calendars and help to greet, take the offering, read, preach (Seniors!), sing, dance and smile.



Tshirts for Youth Sunday designed by Mollie Jarrett and Natalie Ondrey. The cost is \$6—please put your money (cash or check to Union UCC Youth Group) in an envelope and put it in Dave's mailbox ASAP. Give us your name and size (adult sizes SMLXL2X3X)

March 31– April 2 Service Weekend in Philadelphia

Pray for our group and the work they will be doing.

Saturday, May 6 Country Sale 9am-2pm

Sell Rootbeer Floats, Walking Tacos and Pretzels

Sunday, May 21 Confirmation Day at 10:30 Worship

Sunday, June 4 Graduate Sunday

We will celebrate our grads at both services.



Thank you to everyone who supported our Suds and Spuds lunch! Money raised will support our service weekend to Philadelphia.

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

Here we are in the middle of winter experiencing cold days, warm days, snowy days and rainy days. We are grateful for our church, our offices, our classrooms, our kitchen and all of our indoor warm spaces to serve God during the week. Until the oil burner shuts down and temperatures start dropping.

Within hours, the oil burner technicians are down in the boiler room making repairs to get our oil burner up and running to heat up the church building. We are blessed with great service from our oil supplier during times of breakdowns.

This is an example of just one “emergency” repair that happens around the church property, and is often unseen. During the past year, “emergency” repairs were made to the elevator, air conditioner units, drain lines and plumbing fixtures, indoor and outdoor light fixtures, the organ, and exterior door hardware. With the help of repair technicians in many trades, whose work is often unseen, and who will provide quick service in times of emergency, our church property stays in good shape.

Give Praise to all who share their talents and skills here at Union UCC.



Announcement from Alan Miller, Conference Minister, Penn Northeast Conference, United Church of Christ

Rev. Miller will be our guest preacher on Sunday, February 19

Dear Friends,

Thinking back over the past forty-one years in ministry, I cannot remember writing a letter that has been as personally difficult as this one to write.

Having said that, I am writing the Board of Directors of the Penn Northeast Conference to **formally announce my retirement as of August 31, 2017.**

When I was re-elected for a third term as your Conference Minister, I told the members of the Conference that I would serve somewhere between three and four years of the six year term. August 1, 2017 will be the beginning of the fourth year of this term.

The unpredictability of my Thymic Carcinoma and some new health issues in Candy's life have led us to jointly make this decision as we look towards some hopes and dreams for retirement.

I don't know what to say to all of you other than "Thank you!" I don't know why God has led me to and allowed me to participate in this ministry, but I do know that I am deeply grateful. I am grateful for the wonderful and lasting relationships we have enjoyed as together we have sought to be the United Church of Christ in this corner of God's creation.

From the Staff, to the many members of the Boards and Committees and Teams over the years, to the pastors and members of our local congregations I have been privileged to be a part of friendships and experiences that I will cherish forever.

At this point we are planning to retire in North Carolina, but regardless of where we retire, always know that if you happen to be passing through our neck of the woods, there will always be a place for you at our table.

Thank you!

Peace,

Alan Miller

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.**

Pint For Pint: Blood Drive and Soup Sale

Take care of others and we will take care of you. You donate a pint to the Mil-
ler-Keystone Blood Center and well give you a pint of delicious homemade
soup. Sponsored by the Mission Committee, the Miller-Keystone Blood Cen-
ter will be here on **Sunday, March 19** to take blood donations for use
throughout the 21 local hospitals served by them. Our goal for Miller-
Keystone is to get 30 blood donors in their five-hour visit (**8am to 1pm**).
With a great worship attendance, dedicated church members, and communi-
ty participation, Union UCC should be able to collect the maximum 42 blood
donations, not just the 30 that are planned. In coordination, we are offering
a Soup Sale on that same day. Soup sales are for take-out only and are open
to all. There will be many varieties from which to chose. **Quarts are \$6 and
pints are \$4**. Soup Sale proceeds and monetary donations will benefit
Miller-Keystone Blood Center.

To make this a great event, please participate in any of the many ways possi-
ble: sign up to donate blood if you are able (visit giveapint.org to see if you
qualify as a donor), buy a soup, or educate yourself on the life-saving gift of
blood donation. Call Susan Smith at (610) 366-7284 to sign up. Blood collec-
tion will be in Memorial Hall from 8 am until 1 pm, with appointments every
15 minutes. If you are a regular blood donor, keep Sunday, March 19 in mind
so that you can be eligible to donate here at Union UCC.

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 Ja-
net Creitz to find out how you can own your own Busy Bee Quilt!



Aften Hamm is our Catch the Spirit recipient for February. She was nominated by Consistory. She will be recognized February 19, 2017 at 10:30am worship.

By Aften Hamm

Being a part of our church is a piece of my life, its like an Arm... Pretty necessary. I can't say that it has changed my life because I was never without it. This church has added value to my life by being supportive especially in times of struggle. I was away while at college and the open arms I came home to was a reminder of the love we have for each other in this church. When I went through two major love losses in one day (January 31, 2015)- the outpouring of love and support from this church carried me.

I have been involved in: Confirmation, Youth Group, Fellowship Committee, Consistory, Financial Leadership Team, LPT, Senior Pastor Search, and the Women's Group. I am currently the Vice President of Consistory, a member of: Associate Pastor Search, Financial Leadership Team, and the Women's Group.

My great-grandmother (Mabel Kern) was born and raised in this church, and passed on the love of our church to my grandmother, my mom and myself. My family has remained involved throughout the years. I was born and raised at Union UCC. I was involved in children's church, VBS, Confirmation, and Youth Group. After I went through the children's program, I helped mainly with Confirmation and Youth Group. I've gone on service trips to Philadelphia and Youth Events out of state, like Tennessee.

I work as a purchasing coordinator for a construction company and for H&R Block during tax season. In addition to that, I sell Pampered Chef (high quality kitchen tools) and Norwex (cleaning supplies that reduce chemicals in our homes creating safe environments for our family). I enjoy spending time with family and friends in my free time. My goal is to make people smile, even if it means I have to be a goof ball to make it happen. I love my church family as much as my core family.

Why do I love my church? I love my church because of the love support and care we offer the members. WE ARE.... UNION UCC!

Memorials

The following donation was received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Robert G. Herzog, Sr.:

Stanley & Beatrice Christoff

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Ruth E. (Lilly) Roberts:

Richard D. Gogle

Dallas & Cynthia Miller

Carolyn George

David & Cynthia Kish

Edgar & Estella Tyson

Mary Jane Sheckler & Family

Richard & Doris Focht

Daniel & Deb Topp

The following donations were received into the Youth Group Fund in memory of Donald G. Bachman:

Carolyn M. George

Ralph & Doris Pidcock

Wilbur & Linda Romig

Harry & Flora Lichtenwalner

Dennis G. Ziegler

Leon & Althea Grim

Charlotte A. Martin

Dennis & Denise Rothrock

Ronald & Eleanor Kleckner

Marguerite E. MacBurney

Jeanne E. Krause

Joyce A. Schelly

Warren & Joyce Kuntz

Mel & Sondra Mertz

James T. Mulqueen

Builders Door & Hardware

Kevin & Diane Richter

Donald & Susan Rumble

Alton & Shirley Bachman

Roy & Annie Kern

Elmer & Lois Shaffer

Ruth M. Miller

Jordan Lodge #192 Inc.

Dennis & Denise Rothrock

Mrs. Roberta H. Nixon



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Year End Statements

Financial statements for those that have given \$200 or more for 2016 will be mailed out by January 31, 2017. If you do not receive your statement or wish to have a statement that is for less than \$200 in giving please contact Barbara in 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

\$65 Balance by March 5,
2017.

Questions or More Info:
Ask Pastor Kris, Aften
Hamm, or Sue Ondrey

Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am - Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

Pastor Kris leads Fridays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24.

Hollywood Jesus

Pastor and author Matt Rawle is on a mission. He sees Christ all around him—in books, movies, TV shows, rock music—and he wants to share what he sees. As Matt says, "God offers the raw ingredients, and 'culture' is whatever we cook up."

Hollywood Jesus is a study of Jesus and Christ figures in films including *Cool Hand Luke*, *The Lion King*, *The Truman Show*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Explore what happens when script meets Scripture, when pop culture encounters the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 led by Pastor Patience

What Does it mean to be a People of Prophecy?

We will take a look at our message as modern prophets, not of judgement and condemnation, but of challenging our communities to "Wake Up!" We will study some modern day "prophets" and explore what it means to be a prophet in contemporary times.

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.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 28, 2017 ~ 6PM Supper

Menu: Pancakes (Gluten Free available), sausage, applesauce, and fastnachts.
FREE! - Donations accepted.



Hosted by: Fellowship Committee
Served by: Youth Group

Make your reservation by February 26th!
Return the bottom portion to the office
or call 610-767-6961.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Name _____

#Adults _____ #Children _____

#People Ordering Gluten Free Pancakes _____

Phone/Cell No. _____

◇ I will donate one dozen fastnachts/doughnuts!

Country Sale-May 6th

It's time to start thinking about spring and yard sales again. Why not sell your items at our Country Sale!

Cost: \$20 donation per indoor/outdoor space

Registration: Contact Linda Migliori 610-799-6160

We will be collecting donations of book, videos, puzzles to dropped on stage starting April 18 on the stage in Memorial Hall. Please do not drop off before that date.

Donate, Recycle and Help Your Church \$3,100!!!

You helped the church raise \$3,100 this year with your donations of clothing and household items.

As you are cleaning out closets and cabinets, be sure to keep Union UCC in mind. Bring your donations at any time to the bin in our grove.

The church receives a certain amount of money for each pound that is donated. Items that are usable are resold or recycled. You are also helping to save the amount of things that end up in a landfill by donating your items this way. Recycle Local's goal is to help agencies have 0% waste.

Items accepted include: clean and dry clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, towels, drapes, pillow cases and stuffed animals. Place all items in plastic bags. NO furniture, rags, pillows, toys, or household goods.

Another way to give to and support the mission and ministry of Union UCC. Thank you.

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Priscilla Greiss—February 4

3010 Fellowship Dr.
Terrace Room 252
Whitehall, PA 18052

Naomi Follweiler—February 15

4501 Homestead Dr.
Coplay, PA 18037

Verna Traube - February 9

4740 Terrace Rd
Orefield, PA 18069

Franklin Strauss - February 15

6334 Lamar Court
Slatington, PA 18080-3022

Muriel Hughes—February 10

Fellowship Manor/Room 215B
3000 Fellowship Dr.
Whitehall, PA 18052

Fay Cornell - February 29

Gracedale Nursing Home, Room 9
2 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064



Tales from the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Helping Meals

Amy McCoy is our coordinator. Please contact her if you'd like to be added to the list to help cook and deliver meals. real-macs@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.**

Margie (Harry) Hoffman was born in Danielsville and went to elementary school in Walnutport in a four room school house which included six grades. She went to middle and high school in Slatington.

Mark Hoffman was born in Neffs, and went to Ironton Elementary and then to Troxell Middle School. He quit school at 16 to help on the family farm. The Hoffmans grew corn, wheat, potatoes and flowers on the family farm, Prolific Farm, on Scheidys Road. Mark helped his parents, Clair and Florence Hoffman, on the farm. His work on the farm was considered so important to the community that he was exempt from serving in the military during the war.

Margie and Mark met on a Sunday School bus trip to the *Disney on Ice* show at the Hershey Arena when Margie was 15. Their first date was a double date to the high school play in

Slatington. Mark and Margie dated for several months. Mark gave Margie an engagement ring on January 3, 1958. Mark and Margie were married by Rev. Urffer on May 31st, 1958 at Union UCC. They honeymooned in October after the harvest was over. They lived with Mark's parents for 1 ½ years while their home was being built. They have been happily married for 58 ½ years.

Mark worked for many years for NKI making siding and cabinets in the Lehigh Valley. Margie was happy having babies and perfecting her cooking. They have three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

They both served Union UCC in a variety of ways. Mark served on consistory and as an usher. Margie managed the bulletin sponsorship for 9 years. Margie also taught Sunday school at Scheidys Sunday School for many years.

Golden Times

For those wise in years and young at heart.

Our next gathering will be
Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Program: Cards, Bingo, 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.

Coming March 7, 2017: Senior Scams



Sunday, February 5, 2016

5th Sunday after Epiphany/SouperBowl Sunday/
Installation of Consistory Members

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 5:13-20

Message: Season and Shine

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels

Lay Readers: 8:00— Michael Roth

10:30 - Don Penrod

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Nancy Jones,
Eric Minnich

Acolytes: 8:00AM-

10:30AM - Karson Schaedel

Sunday, February 19, 2016

7th Sunday after Epiphany/Blanket Sunday/Installation of
Consistory Members

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

**Guest Preacher: Rev. Alan Miller, Conference Minister
of the Penn Northeast**

Conference, United Church of Christ

Lay Readers: 8:00— Carol Pope

10:30 —Jim Ondrey

Greeters: Jeff and Marcey Kroll , Jim & Leanna Lane

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30AM - Kaden Haley, Brett Misera

Sunday, February 12, 2016

6th Sunday after Epiphany/Confirmation Leads

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 5:21–37

Message: Take Care of Your Heart

Sermon: Confirmation Class, Teaching Team and
Pastor Kris

Lay Readers: 8:00— Confirmands

10:30 - Confirmands

Greeters: Doug & Angie Kuntz, SueAnn Hregician

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM -

Sunday, February 26, 2016

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Communion/New Members

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Matthew 17:1-9

Message: Mid Life Crises

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00— Susan Rumble

10:30 - Donna Christman

Greeters: Todd and Amy McCoy , Jane Schappell, Karen
Wonderly

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM - Riley Schlosser

March 12 Guest Speaker Rayna DuBose

Rayna will speak at both 8am and 10:30am worship and will meet with our youth at Munch Bunch and Breakfast Club at 9:15.

"In many ways it is hard for people to understand, but being an amputee is a great thing, because it has presented me with so many opportunities in my "new life". I say new, because I always thought I would play professional basketball, so I never took the time to find things I had a passion for. I now know that God's plan for me is to be an inspiration and motivation to others." www.raynadubose.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 be-
tween 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:

February 5— Tailgate Lunch

February 12— Confirmation
Class

February 19— No Committee

February 26— Fellowship Com-
mittee

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	\$241,600.00	\$28,948.00	\$270,548.00
Expenses	\$205,737.00	\$20,480.00	\$226,217.00
12-31-2016	\$45,507.00	\$27,221.00	\$72,728.00

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

Deaths

Donald Bachman, Sr. passed away December 24, 2016 and was laid to rest in Union Church Cemetery on December 30, 2016.

Kathy Klimek passed away on January 6, 2017 and was laid to rest in Woodlawn Memorial Park on January 11, 2017.

Sandra Simock passed away on January 13, 2017 and was laid to rest January 18, 2017.

Caroline Schillinger passed away on January 15, 2017 and was laid to rest on January 20, 2017.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
December 4	72	154	35	261
December 11	83	233	CFW	316
December 18	90	158	38	286
Christmas Eve	3pm-356	5pm-359	8pm-355	11pm-254
December 25	N/A	50	CFW	50

TOTAL ATTENDANCE	
<u>December 2015</u> –2,543 <u>December 2016</u> – 2,237	
AVG ATTENDANCE	
<u>December 2015</u> –288 <u>December 2016</u> - 228	

March 1 Ash Wednesday
Stop by for a quiet time of prayer, communion and ashes in the sanctuary.
 12noon-12:30
 and
 7-7:30pm
OR drive by for just ashes and a prayer in the parking lot.
At 8am
And 5:30pm

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
 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

February 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		19:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry; FOLG	2 7pm Chime Choir; Christian Ed	3 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	4
6 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Fellowship; FOLG	7 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior Choir 7pm Middler Choir; Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir; Worship committee	8 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits; Preschool Board 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Search Committee	9 1:00pm Property 7pm Chime Choir	10 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	11 Confirmation Sleepover
13 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Welcoming Committee	14 9:15am Staff Mtg 10:30am Program Staff 6-7:30pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	15 9:30am Busy Bee s 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm FLT	16 7pm Chime Choir; Search Committee	17 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	18
20 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 6:45 pm Consistory	21 6-7:30pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	22 9:30am Busy Bee Quilt 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Search Committee	23 9:30am Bible Journaling 7pm Chime Choir	24 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	25
27 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	28 9:15am Staff Mtg 9am Newsletter Mailing 10:30am Program Staff 7pm Shrove Tuesday 7:30pm Unity Choir	MARCH 1 7pm Ash Wednesday Service			

SUNDAYS

5 Souper Bowl Sunday 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 Tailgate Party	12 Confirmation Leads 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers New Members 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	19 Blanket Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers New Members 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	26 Communion 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
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