

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

## Save the Dates!

### INSPIRING WORSHIP

**Sunday, March 12 at 8am and 10:30am Worship**

**Guest Speaker: Rayna DuBose**

**Rayna will also meet with our Confirmation Class,  
 Munch Bunch and Breakfast Club at 9:15 in the Youth Room.**

"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](http://www.raynadubose.org)

### **LEADERSHIP PLANNING TEAM (LPT) and CONSISTORY MEETING** **Tuesday, March 21 at 7-9pm Memorial Hall**

The Associate Pastor Search Committee is reconvening the LPT (that worked with Pastor Bill) for a meeting to share information and gain guidance for the search process.

We hope everyone on the LPT and Consistory can join us in this important planning session.

### **CONGREGATIONAL FORUM**

**Sunday, March 26 at 9:15am-10:15 and 11:30am-12:30pm**  
**Memorial Hall**

The Associate Pastor Search Committee invites everyone in our church to be a part of planning the future of Union UCC's mission and ministry as it prepares to call our next Associate Pastor.

Come to one of these gatherings to hear where we are at in the process and to share your feedback and support.



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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-610-767-6961  
 (secretary@unionucc.org)

## From the Interim Pastor

"What do the ashes mean to you this year?"

I am at the point in my life where I believe that the best spiritual insights come not from doctrine or dogma. The best spiritual insights come from asking the right questions.

A student once asked his teacher, "Why do you rabbis always answer a question with another question?"

The rabbi replied, "What's wrong with a question?"

Perhaps the really important questions in life don't have answers. Or, as the poet, Rainer Maria Rilke writes:

*"...be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... they are like locked rooms or books waiting to be read." (Letters to a Young Poet)*

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes and placing them on the heads of participants while the pastor/priest proclaims: "Repent and believe" or "Remember that you are dust

and to dust you shall return..."

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season, a season in which Christians prepare for Easter in a variety of ways:

- Spiritual disciplines and special religious services;
- Bible Study and prayer;
- Repentance and asking for forgiveness;
- Etc., etc., etc.

Many Protestants, including our German Reformed ancestors, object to the ritual of ashes because they believe it is "too Catholic."

It is only in the last 25 years or so that we UCC folk have observed the distribution of ashes. The pastors here at Union UCC will be offering ashes in a variety of ways this year.

The question I leave with you:

"What do ashes mean to you this 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, February 20, 2017, by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and the January – February 2017 bills were presented and approved.

**Property and Maintenance Committee reported** repairs are completed and everything is being maintained and is operating smoothly.

**Christian Education Committee reported** the Gertrude Hawk and pierogie fundraisers are going well. Supporters have the opportunity to buy Smidgens boxes to donate to KidsPeace. The Lent workshop will be held on March 12.

**Mission Committee reported** Souper Bowl donations collected 350 cans of soup for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and \$130 for the Lehigh Conference of Churches. Blanket Sunday has collected over \$1,200 and is anticipating reaching their goal of \$1,500. The Pint for Pint Blood Drive will take place on March 19 from 8am to 1pm in Memorial Hall. The Lenten Self-Denial offering will be split between the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and the Allentown Rescue Mission. The Urffer Fund, which is expressly for youth, will go to sponsoring two children in Africa. All 2016 mission donations were tallied and totaled \$55,353 which was an increase of over \$7,000 from 2015. Thank you to our generous Congregation!

**Church and Ministry Committee reported** they are working on completing the Union UCC Policy and Procedures manual and will present it to Consistory at the March meeting for review and approval. Consistory has accepted Mike Baer's resignation after 10 years of service with us.

Consistory approved a search committee seeking his replacement.

**Welcoming Committee reported** the annual Souper Bowl Tailgate party was a success; the committee reviewed the event and discussed potential improvements for next year. The meeting was attended by several Confirmands.

**Stewardship Committee reported** the review of the 2016 e-Giving Campaign has been completed, and we experienced a \$23,000 increase through the Faith Commitment Cards. They continue to review current e-Giving Campaign.

**Fellowship Committee reported** they donated \$342 to a family in need for Christmas; this effort will continue again next year. The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 28 at 6:00pm. The annual Easter Egg Hunt is being planned for April 8. The Committee is looking to add to its membership; please feel free to join.

**Worship Committee reported** upcoming opportunities for worship: Communion on February 26, Ash Wednesday on March 1. In addition to services at noon and 7pm on March 1, ashes and prayer will be available in our parking lot at 8am and 5:30pm. Other worship opportunities include: March 5 for the first Sunday in Lent; March 12, guest speaker Rayna DuBose; April 2, Healing Service; April 9, Palm Sunday; April 13, Maundy Thursday; April 14, Good Friday and April 16, Easter.

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

# Mission Committee

## Lenten Self-Denial

By Phil Wehr and Vicki Mayk

**The Northern Lehigh Food Bank is the recipient of one half of this year's Lenten Self-Denial offerings.** The NLFB was organized many years ago by the many local churches in the Northern Lehigh area, Union UCC is one of those churches (Union Lutheran is also a member). The food bank serves families in the Northern Lehigh area, and also members of the member churches, who may live outside the designated area.

The NL Food Bank currently **serves over 200 families**, which includes children, adults, and seniors, some may be your friends or neighbors. Qualified clients visit the food bank once a month, on their designated day, to shop for food to supplement their monthly food needs, based on their family size.

Members of **Union UCC provide over 10,000 pounds** of food yearly to the food bank, yet this only represents a small percentage of what is needed to provide food to over 200 families a month. The food bank also receives food from other churches, service organizations, scout troops, and private food drives. Yet these donations still do not provide enough.

Monetary donations to the NL food bank are necessary to fill that gap to provide enough food to those 200 families each month.

**Monetary donations provide funds** to purchase additional bulk food through Second Harvest Food Bank, to provide for operating expenses to continue the ministry of the food bank, to provide for repairs and upkeep for the walk in cooler, walk in fridge, and other smaller freezer units and more.

Your gifts to the Lenten Self Denial offering will greatly improve the ministry of the food bank, and make a difference to the lives to all who are served.

**The Mission Committee has designated the Allentown Rescue Mission to be the recipient of the Lenten self-denial offering.** Using a Christ-centered approach, the mission works to tackle the root causes of homelessness. Since 1961, the mission has been located at 355 Hamilton Street near center-city Allentown. On the average, more than 800 individuals are served annually. It offers services to homeless men through several programs. They include:

**The Gateway Center:** This 48-bed facility is an emergency shelter. Stays are limited to 14 days and it is considered a gateway to other services for the homeless.

**The Christian Living and Values Program:** This residential program works to restore homeless men to God and the community. It includes transitional housing and housing assistance, meals and clothing and life skills education. Daily Bible study and pastoral counseling addresses spiritual issues.

**The Life Recovery and Treatment Program:** The state Department of Health has licensed this program as a medically monitored drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. Emphasizing spirituality in recovery, the program offers traditional drug and alcohol 12-step meetings, psychiatric services, anger management and relapse prevention. The mission helps men who complete the program to move forward with paid employment and low-cost housing.

**Clean Team:** Men can find paid employment on the mission's team that provides clean-up services for businesses ranging from sports facilities and malls to offices.

## Pint For Pint: Blood Drive and Soup Sale

You donate a pint to the Miller-Keystone Blood Center and well give you a pint of delicious homemade soup. Miller-Keystone Blood Center will be here on **Sunday, March 19 (8am to 1pm)**. We are offering a Soup Sale **Quarts are \$6 and pints are \$4**. Call Susan Smith at (610) 366-7284 to sign up.

## SOUPER Bowl Sunday Results

Union UCC is part of the God's winning TEAM in fighting HUNGER through our collections of over 350 cans of soup to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and cash donations of \$130 for Lehigh Conference of Churches. Thank you to all who participated in this yearly event.

We truly make a difference in the lives of local families. While we highlight our annual soup drive during Super Bowl week, the fight for HUNGER continues every week for children, parents, and seniors through out the local community, some may even be your friends or neighbors.

Soup, cereal, canned goods, toilet paper and other toiletries are needed each and every week at the food bank. Please help us fight HUNGER all year long.

Thank you,  
The Mission Committee



Where School Memories Begin

February finally brought our first snow day of the school year; the kids were excited to come back and tell us all about the snowmen they built. In the classroom, we have moved away from winter activities and starting learning about Health and Wellness with the threes, complete with our annual Teddy Bear clinic. The students love seeing the inside of the ambulance and practicing good hygiene with the Glitter Bug program. Our fours began learning all about Growing, both plants and animals, and our Pre-K class blasted off to study Outer Space. All of the themes lead to fun science activities and art projects, which you can see samples of if you happen to walk through the Preschool halls.

Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year began with an Informational Open House earlier this month. The rooms were packed with families coming to learn more about our programing and lots of children having fun making new friends. 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, Director

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

Check us out on Facebook—  
**Neffs UCC Preschool**

## Attention High School Seniors!

The Neffs UCC Preschool is offering a \$250 Scholarship to a graduating senior who plans on continuing their education. The senior must be a graduate of the preschool and submit an essay by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The essay should be 500 words or less in which the applicant tells about themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory. Application forms are available in the church office, preschool office, and online at unionucc.org and follow the Neffs Preschool link.



**You shop. Amazon gives.**

When you shop at Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

**Thank you for making Union UCC the place to benefit from your shopping on Amazon.**

**We receive about \$75-\$100 per quarter as a result of your choosing us. You can sign up at any time. This is just one more way to help make a difference for God's ministry and mission at Union UCC.**

### 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!

## Hospital Stay Information:

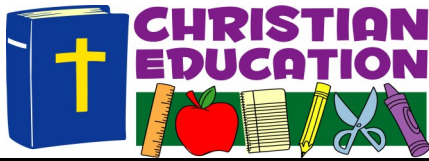
The pastors try to do hospital visits on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays/Saturdays hoping they will see any of our members during a hospital admission.

***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.**





Contact: Kathy Bonsell  
Phone: 610-767-6961  
Email: [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)



### First Communion Preparation

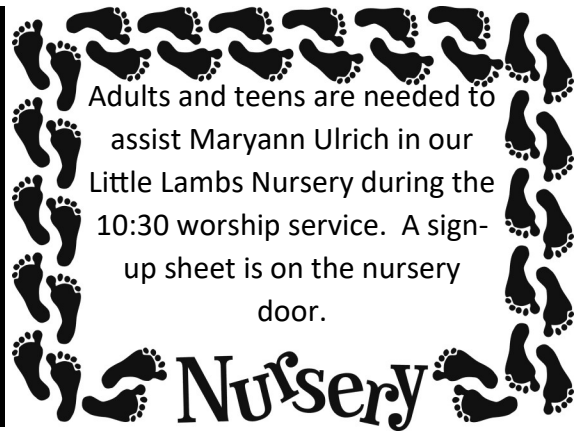
**First Communion Preparation Class** is scheduled for **Sunday, April 2**, after the 10:30 service. The class is open to all first graders and any other students (2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade) who have not previously attended the class and would like to participate in communion. The children and parents will join Mrs. Bonsell and Pastor Kris after church. We hope to conclude the session by 12:30pm. The children will receive their **first communion** on **Thursday, April 13** during the Maundy Thursday evening service. The children will then be prepared to take communion on Easter Sunday. Information flyers will be handed out in Sunday School and Children's Church. Please register with **Kathy Bonsell** before **March 26th** at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org).



Mar. 5 Church Family Worship  
YOUTH WORSHIP  
Mar..12 John 3:1-17  
Mar. 19 John 4: 5-42  
Mar. 26 1 Samuel 16:1-13

### 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 March dates are Mar. 2 and Mar. 16, 9:30-11, in Room 5.



Adults and teens are needed to assist Maryann Ulrich in our Little Lambs Nursery during the 10:30 worship service. A sign-up sheet is on the nursery door.



### VBS 2017 June 26-30

This summer Union UCC will be exploring MAKER FUN FACTORY!! We will have a great time with lively songs, humorous skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks....all of the

things that make VBS so much fun for children (and adults). This year's program is scheduled for June 26th through the 30th, 9:00am to noon daily. We hope you can join us for a week of fun and adventure!

**Registration Forms are located in Memorial Hall.  
Due by May 14th.**

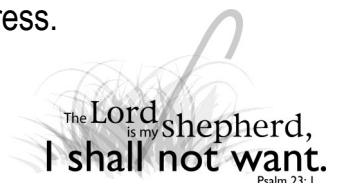
We still need adults and youth to lead this year's VBS.

### VBS DESIGN LAB

Help with this year's VBS! We will meet March 7 for **planning**, 10-12:00 and March 21 for **decorating**, 10-2:00 (bring your lunch). We will meet in Room 5.



Our Sunday School children are memorizing Psalm 23. Check out our "WHOOOO KNOWS" bulletin board to see their progress.



## Youth Group News Grades 6-12

For more information contact:

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

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

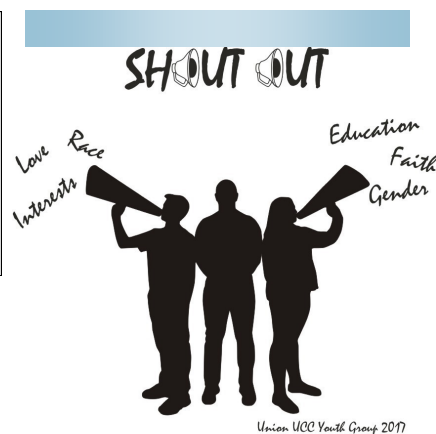
Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group [www.unionucc.org/Ministries/Youth Group](http://www.unionucc.org/Ministries/YouthGroup)

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

### March 5 Youth Sunday at 10:30am Worship (Seniors will also speak at 8am)

Youth participants - Come to rehearsal at 9:15am

**T-shirts for Youth Sunday** designed by Mollie Jarrett and Natalie Ondrey. Bring your \$6.



Union UCC Youth Group 2017



### March 31- April 2 Service Weekend in Philadelphia

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



### THINK SPRING!

#### Saturday, May 6 Country Sale 9am-2pm

Sell Root beer Floats, Walking Tacos and Pretzels

Sign up for an hour or more of help and/or donate food/costs of food.

We're right next to the DJ, so lots of music and fun too!

### Sunday, May 21 Confirmation Day at 10:30 Worship

### Sunday, June 18 2nd Confirmation Day at 10:30 Worship

**Sunday, June 4 Graduate Sunday** We will celebrate our grads at both services.



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

##### THE MUNCH BUNCH

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

##### CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

##### THE BREAKFAST CLUB

(9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade Room 4 Basement)

**THANK YOU** to our Confirmants and their families for their donations of toiletries, blankets and towels that we took to the Catholic Services Soup Kitchen, the Salvation Army and the Lehigh Conference of Churches at our visits on February 12th. **THANK YOU** to our parent drivers, food shoppers, chaperones and teaching team for your help in our visits and sleepover at church. **CONFIRMANTS you were awesome worship leaders!**  
**Thanks Church for your love and support of our youth.**



Thank you to **Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Thomas Family Fund** for the financial support made available to our youth on their Service Weekend in Philadelphia.

The funds helped to pay for the costs of registration and food for our youth as well as for cooking and sharing a meal for the men who are homeless and who sleep at the church and for other donations to this mission.

What a wonderful blessing to our kids and to those they hoped to help.

## Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

Spring is coming and plans are underway for some improvements to our church property. Caring for the three buildings, which make up our whole main church property, and were built in 1872, 1957, and 2003, takes continuous work and planning.

Some years the improvement projects are seen by everyone, while other projects are hidden from view of the public, but necessary in the care and upkeep of our large property. One of the projects this year will be seen daily by many, while the other project will be seen more by birds than people.

Project one will be to finish upgrading the basement stairway entrance to the kitchen and fellowship hall. The concrete steps will be resurfaced with special concrete epoxy products, the front edges striped with yellow paint, and the walls will be given a second coat of paint.

Project two will be to rebuild the brick chimney on the back of the 1872 sanctuary, still in use daily with the oil burners. Scaffolding will be built at the rear of the nursery, and then up the back of the church to reach the chimney. The mason's will tear the old chimney down, and rebuild with new brick, in the same design as the old one.

Both projects will be performed by the Haas Masonry Crew and will "enhance our church property for years to come. Funding for both projects are possible through earnings from the Funds Of Lasting Gifts Endowment Plan. Blessings to all who provide for the continued care and maintenance of our church property.



## Flower Plants for the Home Visitation Members and for the Sanctuary

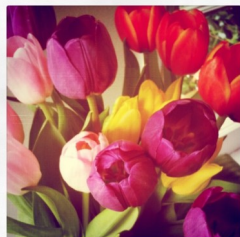
**This year we are pleased to offer Easter Lilies (\$8.75 each), 6 bloom Tulips and 3 bloom Hyacinths (\$7.75 each).**

**Please help by sponsoring a Flowering Plant for the Sanctuary.**

You may pick this up after the 10:30 a.m. Easter Service on April 16th.

**Let us share this Joy of the Easter season with our Home Visitation Members.** Sponsor a Flowering Plant and assure them that we include them within our Church Family.

Please **print** your information on the form, enter the number of plants you are ordering, and place in the offering plate, with your payment (checks payable to Union U.C.C.) or mail to the church office by Sunday, March 26, 2017.



I would like to sponsor Flowering Plant(s)

### FOR SANCTUARY

Lily (\$8.75) \_\_\_\_ Tulip (\$7.75) \_\_\_\_ Hyacinth (\$7.75) \_\_\_\_

**FOR VISITATION MEMBER(S)** Lily (\$8.75) \_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

*I will pick up my plants after the 10:30am Easter worship service on April 16, 2016. (Please circle one)* YES NO

### 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: June 4  
at 10:30am  
Worship**



## 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 web-  
site: **WWW.UNIONUCC.ORG** and click on the **RESOURCES** tab or send  
an email to: **secretary@unionucc.org**

## 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/](http://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.

## 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!





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*Linda Mericle is our Catch the Spirit recipient for March. She was nominated by Christian Education Committee. She will be recognized March 12, 2017 at 10:30am worship.*

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Linda was raised Lutheran and attended Morganland Lutheran church with her family until about age 10, due to her parents' work schedules that did not allow time for transportation to Sunday school. Once in her senior year of high school, when she could drive herself, she went to confirmation class and became a confirmed member there.

Linda is married to Harry and they have three sons, Matthew, Andrew, and Patrick. Matthew is married to Sherri, and they are the parents of Linda's two granddaughters, Katie and Emily. Linda and Harry began attending Greenawalds U.C.C. when their first son was ready for Sunday school. They were members there for 23 years. After first granddaughter, Katie, they made the decision to leave Greenawalds and join here at Union U.C.C. That was nine years ago.

Linda works for the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 as an instructional assistant. She is currently working at Kernsville Elementary school in a multi-disabilities classroom. She has worked for the IU for 26 years. Linda also loves to read, crochet, do crafts and spend time with her granddaughters.

Linda became a Sunday School teacher first at Greenawalds and now at Union. "Because of Katie's disability, I brought her to Sunday school and stayed to assist her which led to my teaching Sunday school." She loves learning along with the children she teaches, "I enjoy teaching the children because I guess since I missed out on a lot of the stories when I was young I get to learn them as an adult. Children have an innocent view of faith and I love to watch their love for God grow."

Linda has also helped at Vacation Bible School for several years and loves to see the enthusiasm of the children. She says it is difficult to pick just one favorite church memory, but seeing babies baptized and watching confirmations are special to her, because of the commitments that are being made to God and church. "I love my church because of the people. When we joined everyone was so welcoming and friendly. It's only been nine years but it seems like I've been here forever."

Thank you Linda for sharing your time and talents with us and for being a part of our church family.

### **PASTOR KRIS HAS A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!**

Some of you have asked when I'll be changing to a new email after being called to the Senior Pastor position. Here it is: **PastorKris@unionucc.org**

Don't forget to change it in your address book. Emails will be forwarded from my old address for about 6 months.

-Pastor Kris

## Home Visitation Members Birthdays

### **Lorraine Hunsicker—March 19**

3178 Masters Hill Rd.  
Fogelsville, PA 18051-2133

### **Janice Herzog—March 26**

7308 N. Gate Drive  
Slatington, PA 18080-2230



## Women's Retreat 2017

**March 31-April 2, 2017**

Trout Lake Retreats,  
Stroudsburg

\$135 Pay to Union UCC.

**\$65 Balance or full  
payment due by March 5,  
2017.**

## Adult Study

### **Friday Morning Adult Class**

**9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)**

**Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.**

During the month of March, Pastor Allan will continue to explore the writings of the Apostle Paul. Sessions will include:

March 3 "An Overview of the Letters of Paul"

March 10 "The Epistle to the Romans"

March 17 "The Epistles to the Corinthians"

March 24 "The Epistle to the Galatians"

March 31 "The Epistle to the Philippians"

### **Sunday Morning Adult Class**

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

**Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.**

March 5 Pastor Allan will lead a discussion of Thich Nhat Hanh's book, "Living Buddha, Living Christ."

March 12, 19, & 26 (Search Congregation Feedback)

April 9 Walk Through Holy Week with Sunday School

### **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.



## Book Club

Will meet next on April 4th @ 6:30 pm in the memory room. We will be reading Faithful by Alice Hoffman, reviewing Out of the Woods by Leslie Chastain, and acknowledging In My Weakness You Are My Strength by Alan C. Miller. Leader: Kathi Charles 610-462-5551 or [kac4b@hotmail.com](mailto:kac4b@hotmail.com)

# TURN YOUR TRASH INTO CASH

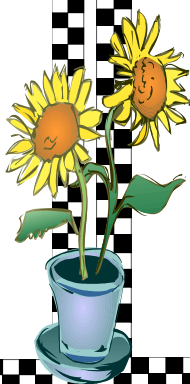
It's time to start thinking about spring and yard sales again. Why not sell your items at our Country Sale!

**DATE:** Saturday, May 6th, 9-2

**COST:** \$20 donation per indoor/outdoor space

**REGISTRATION:** Contact Linda Migliori 610-799-6160 or download contract at [unionucc.org](http://unionucc.org)

\*\* All unsold items can be placed in a truck for donations for Recycle Local. This is a fundraiser for our Preschool. \*\*



## HOW CAN I HELP???

- **Reserve a table** , \$20 donation  
*Linda Migliori 610-799-6160*
- **Bake...** Bring items to the church on Friday, May 2nd 12-8 or Saturday, May 3rd after 7am
- **Kitchen Help** serving, preparing, clean-up  
*Vicki Sorg 610-261-1242*
- **Book Collection**, No earlier than April 17, drop off on stage
- **Greeters/Runners/Set-up/Clean-up/General Help/Traffic Control**
  - **Advertise** pick up a flyer to hang in your business or local store  
*Maryann Puia 610-767-9318*

To volunteer, contact name listed above or contact the church office. Hope to see you there!



## Saturday, April 8 at 2PM

In the Church's grove, weather permitting. If not, Memorial Hall. Ages 0-10  
Bring a basket or container to collect eggs!

Please register your child no later than  
**Sunday, March 26!**

SPONSORED BY  
THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

### EASTER BUNNY VISIT / EGG HUNT Registration Form

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (Boy) (Girl)  
 Parent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Donations needed for Easter Bunny's Visit:

**Wrapped candy. Examples:** Wrapped kisses, chocolate/white Easter candy, etc.

**Prizes for "lucky eggs." Examples:** Books, coloring book, larger pieces of wrapped chocolate, pencils, chalk, stuffed toys... \$5 Gift cards can be left in the offering plate or at the church office.

## 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](mailto: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.**

Emilie Schoener Peters was born at the Allentown Hospital on October 24, 1935. She lived in Allentown until the middle of her 7<sup>th</sup> grade year when she moved to Slatington. She finished high school at Slatington High School. Emilie worked as a Certified Nurses Aid in a variety of agencies and nursing homes as well as a clerk at Leh's Department Store. Emilie was a member of Union Lutheran Church until she married Mervin, when she joined Union UCC. Emilie sang on the church choir, served on the Helping Hands, Helping Hearts, New Members and Mission Committees. Emilie also assisted with VBS and in the nursery while parents attended church meetings.

Mervin Peters was born at home in Egypt on December 17, 1931. He went to Whitehall High School. Mervin was baptized and confirmed at Union UCC. Mervin served on the Consistory.

Emilie and Mervin Peters met as family friends in their early teens. They started dating in 1956 and were married in 1957 during Mervin's leave from the Air Force, where Mervin served for 4 years. He served

in the Air Force in Japan during the Korean War.

Mervin was a carpenter for various businesses, including a contractor that handled Hess's Department Store, where he was on the team responsible for putting up the iconic toy soldiers at Christmas. Mervin says it took 3 people to assemble each soldier and put them up.

Mervin and Emilie have 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. They are currently living in Walnutport.

Feel free to reach out to Mervin and Emilie at:

610-767-8394

WA-4 Walnutport Mobile Court,  
Sandy Drive  
Walnutport, PA 18088

THANK YOU!!!

A big thank you from Clara Hoster for helping her celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! She enjoyed receiving many cards from her church friends and the delicious cookies baked by her Helping Heart.

## Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

**Program:** Senior Scams - Protect Yourself from phone, internet and mail scams." David P. Shallcross, Elder Abuse Unit, Office of Attorney General

**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: Pasta**

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

Coming April 4, 2017: Parkland Strolling String



*PIG OUT at Union UCC's*

## **BACKYARD BBQ BASH**

*Saturday, June 10, 2017*

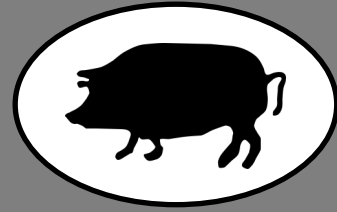
**Scott Marshall and Marshall's Highway**

*Winner of 8 Lehigh Valley Music Awards, 5:30-8:30*

**Lorah's Pig Roast and Chicken Dinners plus our own delicious  
sides and desserts (starts at 3:30)**

*Food and Raffle tickets will be available for presale beginning in May.*

**SAVE THE DATE! FREE Admission!**



From Mike Baer, Music Coordinator

Dear Pastor Kris and members of Neffs Union UCC,

After much thought and prayer I have decided to resign from my staff position as the church's Music Coordinator. At this time I need to step down and spend some extra time with my family. I feel that my time as Music Coordinator has helped me become a better musician as well as a better person. In the future I plan to continue to worship at Neffs and remain active in the music program.

In September 2006, I was hired as the Music Coordinator. My time leading the music department has been a wonderful experience, and it has been an honor to serve my church. It has been amazing hearing all of the musically talented people in our church family through the years. It is my hope that we continue to nurture and support our church's rich musical program, cherishing our traditional music while continuing to explore new styles of worship music.

Thank you!  
Mike Baer

**From Pastor Kris:** We are so grateful for Mike's 10 years of music and service. We will announce the members of the Search Committee soon and keep the congregation informed of the progress. Mike has graciously offered to stay through this season. We will be sure to find a time to thank him and celebrate his ministry among us.

### **June 17 Iron Pigs Night Out**

We have reserved a block of seats at Coca Cola Park for our church family on Saturday, June 17. (Seats are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side so we won't have the sun in our eyes.)

Game begins at 6:30 pm  
and tickets are \$11  
(includes \$2 food voucher).

Reserve your seats ASAP  
by contacting the church  
office or texting  
John Snyder Samuelson at  
484-809-3815.



# Worship Opportunities

**Sunday, March 5, 2017**

1st Sunday in Lent/Youth Sunday

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

Our youth will lead worship today at 10:30 worship. Many of them will speak at 8am as well. They will SHOUT OUT on issues like faith, education, gender, and race.

**Texts:** Psalm 139:14, 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:12 Ephesians 4:15, Micah 6:8, James 3: 1-13

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Youth

10:30 - Youth

**Greeters:** Jen Haley, Tegan, Kaden, Regan

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM–

10:30AM - Karson Schaedel, Samantha Ritchie

**Sunday, March 19, 2017**

3rd Sunday in Lent

**8:00am Heritage Service**

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

**Text:** John 4:7-30

**Message:** Jesus Met the Woman at the Well

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Lucille Kuhns

10:30 –

**Greeters:** Carol Pope, Ronnie Pope, Greg & Johanna Zellner

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM -

10:30AM - Kaden Haley, Brett Misera

**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

2nd Sunday in Lent/Girl Scout Sunday

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Guest Speaker Rayna DuBose**

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

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

10:30 - SueAnn Hregician

**Greeters:** Mary & Lou Burdick

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

4th Sunday in Lent

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** John 9:1–41 and Psalm 23

**Message:** Seeing with Your Heart

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

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Doug Albert

10:30 - Dave Fleming

**Greeters:** Gene & Christina Thrash

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –Trevor Amorim

10:30AM - Riley Schlosser, Graham Smith

## Sundays In Lent Starting March 5<sup>th</sup>: HOLY VESSELS and TUMBLED BEACH GLASS

“The journey to Easter is more about learning about and preparing to “live the Easter life” — living as if death has no hold on us. Each of us is created a precious vessel of God’s love. Each of us has experienced hurt in some way, bringing a sense of brokenness. To move toward healing is to offer the gift of live and wholeness (or wholi-ness). As we begin to see each person as a Holy Vessel, we come to desire that wholeness for all of creation. The image of a vessel in the form of a beautiful glass container and the image of broken glass in the form of tumbled beach glass is a visual metaphor upon which the message of healing our brokenness will [be shared].” (c. Worship Design Studio)



## 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:**

March 5— Youth Group

March 12— Girl Scouts

March 19— Worship Committee

March 26— Fellowship Committee

# Financial & Attendance Reports

|                  | <u>Operating Fund</u> | <u>Designated Funds</u> | <u>Grand Total All Funds</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>7-1-2016</b>  | \$ 9,644.00           | \$18,753.00             | \$28,397.00                  |
| <b>Income</b>    | \$278,631.00          | \$30,353.00             | \$308,984.00                 |
| <b>Expenses</b>  | \$237,805.00          | \$26,396.00             | \$264,201.00                 |
| <b>1-31-2017</b> | \$50,470.00           | \$22,710.00             | \$73,180.00                  |

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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Worship Service</u><br>8AM 10:30AM |     | <u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|--------------|
| January 1   | n/a                                   | 87  | CFW                       | 87           |
| January 8   | 80                                    | 178 | 33                        | 291          |
| January 15  | 39                                    | 155 | 43                        | 237          |
| January 22  | 58                                    | 174 | 30                        | 262          |
| January 29  | 52                                    | 155 | CFW                       | 207          |

## Memorials

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

Stanley & Jean Wieand  
Jean B. Husack  
Dennis & Judy Miller  
Richard & Barbara Carinci

The following donation was received into the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of **Carol W. (Klinger) Schillinger**:  
Scott Sechler

## Deaths

Marion Butz passed away on February 6, 2017.  
Elaine Domitrovits passed away on February 18, 2017 and laid to rest Feb. 23.  
Mark Hoffman passed away on February 20, 2017.  
Donald Herzog passed away on February 22, 2017 and laid to rest Feb. 27.



**TAI CHI** Begins March 1st. Advanced meets Mondays 9:30am room 215, Regular on Thursdays 6pm room 100, and Beginner on Wednesdays at 9am room 215. Contact Beth Dymond at 610-767-5688 or 610-417-8107.

**SPIRITUALLY FIT** Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in Memorial Hall. The program is simple and free and consists of light aerobics, toning weights, floor abs and stretching. It's a way to make exercise fun. Contact Dan Topp at 610-767-3384.

## UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson**  
Senior Pastor  
Cell Phone: 610-657-6007  
pastorkris@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 |

# March 2017

| Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Friday                                                                                             | Saturday                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b> Ash Wednesday<br><b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi<br><b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilters<br><b>10am</b> Knitwits<br><b>6pm</b> High School Choir<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit<br><b>7pm</b> Church & Ministry                                                          | <b>2</b><br><b>9:30am</b> Bible Journaling<br><b>6pm</b> Tai Chi<br><b>7pm</b> Chime Choir; Christian Ed                                                                                                                              | <b>3</b><br><b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep<br><b>9:30am</b> Bible Study                                  | <b>4</b>                           |
| <b>6</b><br><b>9:30am</b> Advanced Tai Chi<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit<br><b>7pm</b> Fellowship                                                                                                                                                  | <b>7</b> <b>10am</b> VBS Planning<br><b>12pm</b> Golden Times<br><b>6pm</b> Cherub Choir<br><b>6:30</b> Junior Choir<br><b>7pm</b> Middler Choir; Bible Study<br><b>7:30pm</b> Unity Choir                                                                                                                                        | <b>8</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi<br><b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilters<br><b>10am</b> Knitwits; Preschool Board<br><b>6pm</b> High School Choir<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit                                                                                          | <b>9</b> <b>1pm</b> Property<br><b>6pm</b> Tai Chi<br><b>7pm</b> Chime Choir                                                                                                                                                          | <b>10</b><br><b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep<br><b>9:30am</b> Bible Study                                 | <b>11</b>                          |
| <b>13</b><br><b>9:30am</b> Advanced Tai Chi<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit<br><b>7pm</b> Welcoming Committee                                                                                                                                        | <b>14</b> <b>9:15am</b> Staff Mtg<br><b>10:30am</b> Program Staff<br><b>6-7:30pm</b> Youth Choirs<br><b>7pm</b> Bible Study<br><b>7:30pm</b> Unity Choir                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>15</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi<br><b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee s<br><b>10am</b> Knitwits<br><b>6pm</b> High School Choir<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit<br><b>7pm</b> Budget Committee                                                                                  | <b>16</b><br><b>9:30am</b> Bible Journaling<br><b>6pm</b> Tai Chi<br><b>7pm</b> Chime Choir;                                                                                                                                          | <b>17</b><br><b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep<br><b>9:30am</b> Bible Study                                 | <b>18</b>                          |
| <b>20</b><br><b>9:30am</b> Advanced Tai Chi<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit<br><b>6:45 pm</b> Consistory                                                                                                                                             | <b>21</b> <b>10am</b> VBS Planning<br><b>6-7:30pm</b> Youth Choirs<br><b>7pm</b> Bible Study<br><b>7:30pm</b> Unity Choir                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>22</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi<br><b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilt<br><b>10am</b> Knitwits<br><b>6pm</b> High School Choir<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit                                                                                                             | <b>23</b> <b>6pm</b> Tai Chi<br><b>7pm</b> Chime Choir                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>24</b><br><b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep<br><b>9:30am</b> Bible Study<br><b>5pm</b> Wedding Rehearsal | <b>25</b><br><b>3:30pm</b> Wedding |
| <b>27</b><br><b>9:30am</b> Advanced Tai Chi<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>28</b> <b>9am</b> Newsletter<br><b>9:15am</b> Staff Mtg<br><b>10:30am</b> Program Staff<br><b>6-7:30pm</b> Youth Choirs<br><b>7pm</b> Bible Study<br><b>7:30pm</b> Unity Choir                                                                                                                                                 | <b>29</b> <b>9am</b> Beginner Tai Chi<br><b>9:30am</b> Busy Bee Quilt<br><b>10am</b> Knitwits<br><b>6:30pm</b> Spiritually Fit<br><b>7pm</b> Budget Committee                                                                                                              | <b>30</b> <b>6pm</b> Tai Chi<br><b>7pm</b> Chime Choir                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>31</b><br><b>9am</b> Bulletin Prep<br><b>9:30am</b> Bible Study                                 |                                    |
| SUNDAYS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                    |                                    |
| <b>5 Youth Sunday</b><br><b>8am</b> Heritage Service<br><br><b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b><br>Holy Grounds<br>Education Hour<br>Bible Study<br>Horizon Singers<br><br><b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Church Family Worship<br><br><b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds | <b>12 Girl Scout Sunday</b><br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b><br><b>8am</b> Heritage Service<br><br><b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b><br>Holy Grounds<br>Education Hour<br>Bible Study<br>Horizon Singers<br><br><b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Children’s Church/<br><br><b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds<br>Lent Celebration<br>Pre-Baptism Meeting | <b>19 Pint for Pint Blood Donation</b><br><b>8am</b> Heritage Service<br><br><b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b><br>Holy Grounds<br>Education Hour<br>Bible Study<br>Horizon Singers<br><br><b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Children’s Church/Baptism<br><br><b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds | <b>26</b><br><b>8am</b> Heritage Service<br><br><b>9:15 - 10:15 am</b><br>Holy Grounds<br>Education Hour<br>Bible Study<br>Horizon Singers<br><br><b>10:30am</b> Horizon Service/Children’s Church<br><br><b>11:30am</b> Holy Grounds |                                                                                                    |                                    |