



Holy Week Schedule

Saturday, April 8— Easter Egg Hunt

at 2:00 p.m. (children must sign up before March 26)

Sunday, April 9 Passion / Palm Sunday

8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship

Thursday, April 13 Maundy Thursday 6-8pm

We start with a discipleship meal and potluck in Fellowship Hall (basement) and end with Communion. We move to the sanctuary to make it bare for Good Friday. Everyone is welcome. Bring a casserole, side dish or dessert to share.

Friday, April 14 Good Friday

The Sanctuary will be open for prayer during the day, stop by anytime.

7:00pm Worship with Communion and a Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness" and is a Christian religious service celebrated during Holy Week, before Easter. Tenebrae is distinctive for its gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of scriptures are read. The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the passion of Christ, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day.

Sunday, April 16 Easter

***6:15 am** Sunrise Worship in the Cemetery with Communion

*Note: the time is based on the time of sunrise.

8:00 am Worship with Communion, Adult Choir, Brass

10:30 am Worship with Communion, Adult Choir, Brass, Children's Choirs, High School Choir

Inside this issue

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

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

Mark your Calendars:

Pastor Allan's Last Sunday is June 4th

Pastor Allan has graciously served here with us for 2 ½ years during this interim time. He has been a wonderful pastor, colleague, servant and leader among us. We have been blessed by his presence and ministry. He has decided that he'd like to return to retirement and that his last Sunday with us will be June 4th.

Please plan to attend worship that day. He'll be preaching and we'll share in Holy Communion at both 8am and 10:30am worship. After each service there will be a time to greet him during the coffee hour where we'll have extra snacks and refreshments.

If you'd like to send a card and/or gift to thank him, please make your check out to **"Union UCC" and place it in the Church and Ministry mailbox here at church or mail to: Teresa Dalrymple at 7902 Autumn Road, New Tripoli, PA 18066.**

Money collected will be made as a special gift to Phoebe Home in his honor. Other gifts will be presented to him as well. But don't tell him. :)

"Spring Flowers"

Its customary to celebrate Easter with flowers: lilies, hyacinths, tulips... and by Easter Sunday this year the grove will most likely be blooming with daffodils. Spring flowers remind us of new life, beauty, and the goodness of creation.

During this Lenten Season I've had the opportunity to experience the beauty and goodness of creation through several occasions in the life of our congregation.

- One of the members of the congregation took it upon himself to get a few folks together to renew an old tradition of baking "raised cakes," and baked 65 raised cakes to benefit the church, including taking a few of the cakes to older members who used to help bake these cakes but can no longer help;
- Another of our members won a catered meal for 20 people and donated the entire catered meal to the Daybreak program and fed 30 handicapped individuals in inner city Allentown;
- One Sunday during worship four of our high school seniors told stories about how Union UCC was an important part of their lives, while other youth sang, danced, and led us in prayer;
- Another Sunday the members of Union UCC donated 34 pints of blood and \$600 to the Miller Memorial Blood Bank.

Each of these events was beautiful in its own way. Each one was a reminder of the new life, beauty, and goodness of creation. Each one was as lovely as an Easter flower. I wonder what other spring flowers might grow here at Union UCC during this Easter Season!

Pastor Allan

Consistory Minutes

By Deidre Bilger, subject to approval

President Brad Hackett called the monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting to order on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:47 p.m.

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

Property and Maintenance Committee - The elevator and organ were serviced. Work pending: Oil burner cleaning, scaffolding to be built for chimney work in March/April, outside basement stairs to be completed at when pre-school is over for this year, April 1 will be spring cleanup day, May 13 - Men's Group cleanup day, Phil Wehr presented plans for new food stand in grove.

Christian Education Committee - Gertrude Hawk fundraiser and pierogi enabled purchase of Children's Bibles, support bus trips, and helped purchase supplies for Lent Celebration. There is no Sunday School on Easter. The Lenten Workshop had attendance of about 80 people, and a great mix of adults, children and families.

Mission Committee reported - Pint for Pint Blood Drive was a success with 34 people donating blood, \$600 to Miller Keystone. Two lunches are being offered to members of Daybreak through the Mission Discretionary Fund. Winston's

Restaurant in Allentown matched that donation.

Church and Ministry Committee - they have completed a revised Union UCC Policy and Procedures Manual and Dave Fleming presented it to Consistory for discussion and review, it will be voted on for approval at the April Consistory.

Welcoming Committee - Three ideas were presented to spread the word of Union UCC.: Facebook "check-ins" at Worship, magnets, advertising on Google and Bing.

Stewardship Committee - they reviewed the budget at their last meeting.

Fellowship Committee - Shrove Tuesday was a success with approximately 150 people attending, and \$197 in donations. Easter Egg Hunt is planned for April 8, donations will be in the foyer.

Worship Committee reported that the following dates are on the calendar for Worship: 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, April 17, 2017, in Room 101.

Mission Committee By Phil Wehr

Union UCC Mission Support-2016

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to everyone who supported Union UCC's many and varied mission projects during 2016. The following list shows all of the mission agencies that were supported in 2016 by YOU. With your generosity, Union UCC has spread love and hope around the local community, around the country, and around the world. We have made a difference in the lives of individuals and families every-day.

Thank you, The Mission Committee

General Budget

Our Church's Wider Mission	\$7,400	
Phoebe Home	\$4,770	
Lancaster Seminary	\$1,075	
Bethany Home	\$ 240	
Lehigh Conf of Churches	\$1,200	
Discretionary	\$2,100	
NL Food Bank	\$ 700	
Lenten Self Denial	\$1,218	Meals on Wheels
	\$1,218	Turning Point
Advent Self Denial	\$1,216	Lehigh Conf of Churches
	\$1,216	Habitat for Humanity
Blanket Sunday	\$1,600	
Miller Blood Center	\$ 500	
Mother's Day	\$ 891	Phoebe Home
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,072	
Neighbors In Need	\$ 633	
Crop Walk for Hunger	\$1,370	
VBS donation	\$1,000	Bethany Home
NE Ministry Camp	\$ 100	
Neffs Fire Co	\$ 250	Country Sale donation
NL Food Bank	\$ 500	Blues Nite Out donation
Agape Food Bank	\$ 250	
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$5,000	FOLG approved donation
Urffter Fund	\$ 660	Global Ministries- sponsor 2 children
Urffter Fund	\$ 1,000	Valley Youth House
	\$ 585	El Sistema of LV
Holy Joe's Café for Veterans	\$ 185	
Oxfam Hunger	\$ 500	
Salvation Army Angel Tree	\$2,250	approx. value of 75 gifts
Sixth St Shelter	\$ 300	approx. value of hats & glove collection
Homeless Youth	\$ 500	Youth Group sleep out (UCC portion)
NL Food Bank	\$7,000	approx value of 9,000 lbs groceries
Allentown Food Bank	\$ 300	approx value of 500 lbs of groceries - Harvest Home
Lehigh Co of Churches	\$2,500	approx value of toiletries collection
NL Food Bank	\$ 500	approx. value of school supplies collection
Christmas Hero - CE	\$ 950	
Backpack Blitz	\$ 449	
CWS Kits	\$ 920	
Thomas Family Fund	\$ 785	CWS Kits
	\$ 225	PNEC Disaster relief
	\$ 225	Jubilee Breakfast Ministries
Total	\$ 55,353	plus other small mission projects not listed

Blanket Sunday Results

Donations for Blanket Sunday this year totals

\$1,530 for Church World Services. Thank you for supporting this yearly event to provide warmth, comfort, and love to people around the world when disasters strike.

Union UCC is one of over 8,000 congregations across the U.S. which holds a CWS Blankets event.

For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home.
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water.

During 2016, CWS services provided over 4,500 blankets in 17 US states, including 250 blankets in Pennsylvania, to help families after disasters or to protect the homeless. Over 5,000 blankets were provided to communities in Central America, Serbia, Africa and countries around the world.



Where School Memories Begin

Happy Spring from the Preschool. In March we held our annual Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser for all of the age levels. The children had a blast aiming for a perfect strike. In the classroom our 4 year-olds began studying Fine Arts and have created their own Masterpieces modeled after Van Gogh and Andy Warhol. The Pre-K classes have started learning about the -at, -ad, and -an word families; watching them realize they can “read” for the first time is always an exciting moment for the teachers. They are taking a Road Trip Across America hitting major historical and geographical landmarks along the way. Our 3 year-olds continued to wrap up exposure to letters and letter sounds within the theme of weather and Spring.

WHERE SCHOOL MEMORIES BEGIN!

Registration is in full swing for the 2017-2018 school year. If you have a child or know of one who would enjoy learning in our fun and caring environment, registration information can be found on our website or by calling the Preschool directly.

-Annette Wilcox, Director

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

Check us out on Facebook—
Neffs UCC Preschool
or on our website—
www.unionucc.org/preschool

Preschool Scholarship

The Neffs Preschool Board of Directors is pleased to announce their 2017 scholarship winner. This \$250 scholarship is given every year to a high school senior who is planning on higher education and started their educational career at Neffs Preschool. The applicants are required to complete a 500 word essay in which they discuss themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory. Congratulations to Jacqueline Katz, a senior at Parkland High School, who plans on pursuing a degree in Finance.

Blues Nite Out

Winter Blues got you down? Well an early spring will be a quick cure. Then start thinking about Blues Nite Out this summer. Mark your calendars now - **Friday August 25 with the Bryant Brothers and Saturday August 26 starting with Bev Conklin** making a return performance in the grove, with BC's Combo Band, then headliner and local favorite, The **Sarah Ayers Band**.

Neffs Church Grove's seating pavilion will be welcoming everyone this year. See you then for food, fun and fellowship in our church grove.

Spring and Easter is a good time to reconnect with your church family and renew your faith commitment with God.

Our pastors, staff and leaders want to thank everyone for all that they do: attend worship, support an event, join a group or committee, share in leadership, pray for our church, or give donations of money. Thank you, and thank you, God!

We realize that there are times when attending church, participating in events, or contributing financially to our church's mission and ministry is not always possible. Know that we are always praying for everyone and are always glad to support you in these times. We also want to remind you that we take the commitment to membership here seriously. As our staff and leaders do all that they can to provide you with meaningful opportunities and pastoral care, we need you to do all that you can do to stay connected as well.

The minimal requirements to be a member here and to maintain membership here are to take communion and contribute financially each year. We will reach out to you if we see this isn't happening and offer support and a chance to reconnect. We hope that you will reach out to us to let us know when your life circumstances have changed, if there's a way that we can care for you, or if there is a reason you are no longer staying connected to our church family as a member.

Please contact a pastor or the church office if you have questions about your church membership.

Our next worship services with Holy Communion are on Maundy Thursday April 13 at 6pm (see details about potluck), Good Friday, April 14 at 7pm, and Easter Sunday at 6:15am (Cemetery), and at 8am and 10:30am. If you can't make these dates, we understand. Come any Sunday and let us know that this is still your church.



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



Children's Church

April 2 Animal Crackers
April 9 Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14-27
April 16 Church Family Worship
April 23 John 20:19-31
April 30 Church Family Worship

SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

We are currently looking for volunteers to lead the summer video series. We will begin June 4 and continue through Aug. 27. We do not show a video on Outdoor Worship Sundays.

Job description: *Take the children down to Room 15, start the DVD player, provide snack (optional), stay with the children until their parents pick them up. Have fun!*

A sign up sheet is on Kathy Bonsell's door. We need two adults each Sunday. Find a friend and enjoy some time with our children!

Sunday School News

Join us on APRIL 9th for a special WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK! We will begin promptly at 9:15! We will NOT be having Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 16th.



Summer Camp Opportunities

The Hartman Center in Milroy, PA offers wonderful summer camping adventures for campers of all ages, including men, women and families. Check out the many opportunities at www.hartmancenter.com. Camp brochures are available in the church office.

2016 COIN EXCHANGE

The children will receive coin exchange order forms in Sunday School and Children's Church after Easter. The coins can be exchanged for gift certificates, ranging from \$1 to \$10. Please return your order form by May 14th.



VBS 2017 June 26-30 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Forms are available in the church office and in the foyer.
Registration closes May 14th.

2017 CREW: We are still looking for helpers of all kinds. We need age-level leaders and helpers, recreation help, "crafters", nursery attendants, and youth helpers (8th grade and older). Please fill out a volunteer form. All helpers need Safe Child Clearances.

DESIGN LAB—Help with this year's VBS decorations on APRIL 11 and APRIL 25, 10am-2pm. We will meet in Room 5. Bring your lunch!

Congratulations
to the following children for
earning BIBLES:

*Miranda Brown
Lillie Eberly
Madison Eckhart
Emily Glosan
Claire Puia*



MISSION UPDATES

- Thank you to everyone who donated items for our BLESSING BAGS. We received over 525 items. Thanks to Judy Stubbman for organizing and delivering the items to Desales Free Clinic and LVHN Street Medicine Program.
- On Feb. 26, the children collected change (and bills) for Heifer International. We collected well over \$500! We will continue to collect silver change for another month. Let's see how many more animals we can buy! Please feed the animal banks found around the church.

Youth Group News Grades 6-12

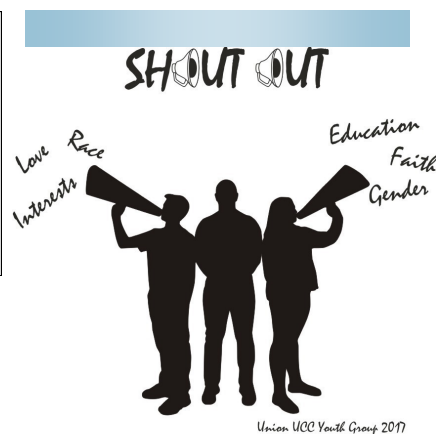
For more information contact:

Pastor Kris pastorkris@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).



Union UCC Youth Group 2017

Youth Sunday T-Shirts—we still have shirts for sale for \$6. See Dave D.

Thank you for another inspiring Youth Sunday on March 5th.

And thank you to: Union UCC, who makes sure our youth know they can call this church their home. Your support and love means the world to us.

* **Mollie Jarrett, AJ DiPaolantonio, Natalie Ondrey** for the Tshirt Design

* **Parents and Families** for making church, God, and Youth Group an important part of your family life and thank you for all of your support and help.

* **Dave DiPaolantonio** – our awesome youth leader!

* **Our Advisory Team and Adult Leaders**

* **Our Seniors:** Natalie Ondrey, Stewart Albert, Justin Evans, Jake Puia, Brittany Gelb



THINK SPRING!

Saturday, May 6 Country Sale 9am-2pm

Sell Rootbeer 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 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)

Sunday, June 4 Graduate Sunday We will celebrate our grads at both services. Graduates of high school and college please send Tara your information (Name, School, future plans) at secretary@unionucc.org.

Watch for the summer calendar!

Where to serve and help:

- ◆ In the Nursery on Sundays at 10:30 worship. (Sign up on the door.)
- ◆ Parents and Youth can co-lead a monthly children's church team. See Mrs. Bonsell
- ◆ Vacation Bible School June 26-30 (teacher helper, crafts, music, recreation). See Mrs. Bonsell
- ◆ Bring the following donations to church anytime: food and toiletries for the food bank, clothing donations to the recycling shed.
- ◆ Church-wide events—see the calendar.

Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

Sitting here writing this April newsletter article on March 10, I look out the window seeing sunshine. Yet the ten day forecast calls for a mix of sun, snow, wind, the usual end of winter surprises. Overall, we had a relatively mild winter, full of ups and downs in the temperature department. A few warm days too early in the season, and then a few bitter cold days, along with some snow, will affect the flowers and blooming trees as spring progresses.

Currently many of us are preparing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. The Easter Bunny is making plans for a grand appearance in the grove for children and friends to enjoy. Come and enjoy all that Union UCC has to offer.

Spring is now here, so remember to stop on over in the church grove to witness the daffodils, primrose, azaleas, and other flowers and trees in full bloom. God's beauty arrives each year in our church grove and woods. Take a walk and enjoy nature, bring your children for some playtime on the swings, or have a picnic lunch under our pavilions. Union UCC's grove and woods are here for everyone to enjoy.

On Tuesday, March 14, Winter Storm Stella dropped 14 - 16 inches of snow in Neffs, cost to clean and salt the church parking lots and sidewalks - \$1,450. Our church was back open mid-day Wednesday. So glad Spring arrived on March 20 with sunshine to keep melting the rest of the snow.



Director of Music Search Committee Update

As we shared last month, Mike Baer has offered his resignation as our Director of Music. He's agreed to help us through this season. His last Sunday and our Sunday to thank him will be on **June 25th**. Watch for more information in the bulletin and newsletter for details.

The following people have been approved to serve on the search committee: **Sue Ondrey, Teresa Dalrymple, Donna Christman, Dave DiPaolantonio, Judy Stubbmann, and Pastor Kris.**

We are talking to our current staff and volunteers now to hear feedback from them about their current work and future hopes for our music ministry. We are also working on a job description as well as a process for us to follow in this search.

Associate Search Committee Update

Thank you to everyone from the Leadership Planning Team and the congregation who came to our meetings in March to discuss the plan for ministry and mission of God's church at Union as we discern calling our next Associate Pastor. We will continue to share more information in April and May about a final plan and hopefully begin to advertise for the position and start interviewing candidates.

Pastor Kris and Dave Fleming, Co-Chairs

Search Committee: David Fleming, Donna Christman, Aften Hamm, Ardith Kuhns, Sue Ondrey, Carrington Smith, Phil Wehr, Teresa Dalrymple, Natalie Ondrey, Mollie Jarrett, Jason Klinger, Ashley and Ben Anderson, Pastor Kris.

Ash Wednesday Report by Pastor Kris

We tried a new way of observing Ash Wednesday this year. In the past we would have a worship service at 7pm. This year we added a worship service at 12noon, which was attended by 12 people and we still had a worship service at 7pm, which was attended by 36 people. Both services included scripture, prayer, ashes and communion.

We also added 'drive by' ashes. At 8-8:30am Rev. Patience and I each stood in one of our parking lots. We put a sign up that said "Free ashes, Free Prayer." We had 5 people come by at 8am. At 5:30-6:30pm Pastor Allan helped me repeat this. We had about 30 people come by during that time. Several members of our church and community said how much this offering meant to them, especially if they weren't able to attend one of the worship services.

Our pastors and staff will continue to make worship meaningful and relevant on Sundays and by adding more worship experiences and styles. Our hope is that you will find God's spirit of hope and renewal by sharing in a favorite worship tradition or a new time or style or worship.

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



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 and support the mission and ministry of Union UCC. 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.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com to make your purchase; .5% of your order will be donated to Union UCC, as a charitable organization. Don't forget to use zip code 18065 to select Union United Church of Christ, Neffs as your charity.

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.



Ruth Miller is our Catch the Spirit recipient for April. She was nominated by the Helping Hearts. She will be recognized April 9, 2017 at 10:30am worship.

By Suzanne Schneider

Ruth was born June 16, 1924 in Egypt and grew up in a large family. As a family of nine, two parents, four boys and three girls, they had family prayers when "the whole clan" was together. They said grace before meals and all went to church. Ruth's mother said "You go to church on Sunday. First Sunday School, then church." They caught the trolley in Egypt and were taken to Neffs to church. Once married, each of the children's spouses also went to church. Ruth's older sister, Irene, was a member of the Union Lutheran church, and drove Ruth to church every Sunday before she went to the Lutheran services. Ruth's father worked at Mack Trucks. The family always had large family picnics in the summer, and walked to the movies in Northampton for an 'outing.'"

The schoolhouse was across the street from their home and the children attended school until 8th or 9th grade, some went on to attend Whitehall High School. Ruth liked sewing and crafts, but she did not like math or geography. After her schooling was finished, Ruth worked in a sewing factory. She even made her own bridal gown and all the bridesmaid's dresses. In Ruth's young adult life, she taught Sunday School to the younger children. Ruth's parents were always faithful and generous stewards in their giving at church and Ruth continues that family tradition today.

Ruth's favorite hymn is "Bringing in the Sheaves," and one of her favorite memories is people carrying in the sheaves as they walked from the back of the church to the chancel rail. Another favorite memory is going to church with her parents and siblings—one time, as a young child, her sister, Irene, was running back and forth in the aisle, and her mother said, "No" but Irene kept running. Her mother had to take Irene into the hallway to discipline her.

Ruth says she felt God's strength and approval as she cared for her husband until his death, and afterwards the church's steadfastness gave her comfort and peace. She loves her church because it is the only church she has ever known; she knows she is loved when she is there. After hearing the sermons, she always feels her faith is strengthened, despite knowing her faith has always been strong.

She leaves us with her words of wisdom, "Praise the Lord and go to church."

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.

Home Visitation Members Birthdays

Sandra Grim - April 14
2815 Willow Street
Coplay, PA 18037-2014



Lenten Self Denial Offerings

This year's Lenten Self Denial Offerings will be divided between **The Northern Lehigh Food Bank, and The Allentown Salvation Army.** Please give generously to support the work of these two important mission agencies who help to improve the lives of local families.

Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

April 7 Pastor Allan will conclude the series "The Letters of Paul" by discussing Paul's Letter to the Philippians

April 21, 28, May 5, May 12 with Pastor Kris

We'll be watching the movie, *A Man Called Ove*. Meet a grumpy old man whose new neighbors, a young and energetic family, will challenge his understandings and change his life. In their relationships we'll look at how to build community and celebrate cultural diversity.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

April 2 Jim Byrnes, President and CEO of the Allentown Rescue Mission will join us to discuss his ministry in center city Allentown.

April 9 – Walk through Holy Week with the Sunday School

April 16 – No Class, Easter

April 23 – Rev. Patience and Guest Rabbi Daniel Swartz: Climate Justice for our Common Home: Teachings from the Pope and Jewish Sages

April 30– Pastor Allan

March 5 – Pastor Allan

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

TURN YOUR TRASH INTO CASH

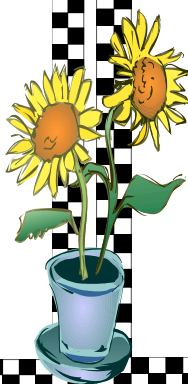
It's time to start thinking about spring and yard sales again. Why not sell your items at our Country Sale!

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

** 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!

Acolytes

Attention Acolytes - Prospective and Currently Serving

Sixth graders, you are invited to attend NEW acolyte training on Sunday, April 30 from 11:45AM-12:15PM in the sanctuary. You will then be able to serve as acolytes on various Sundays and holidays throughout the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to help prepare yourself for your Confirmation year.

Acolytes that are completing their service this year will be recognized at the 10:30 AM service on May 21. After worship, you and your families are invited to gather at DiFiores for a pizza lunch hosted by the Worship Committee.

For more information, contact the office, acolyte coordinator Susan Glosan, or Pastor Kris.

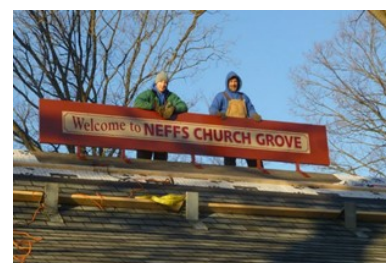
Thanks to our 2016-2017 acolytes!

Trevor Amorim, Connor McCoy, Kaden Haley, Brett Misera, Samantha Ritchie, Karson Schaedel, Riley Schlosser, Coral Shivok, Graham Smith

Men's Fellowship Annual Grove Cleanup

Saturday, May 13
9:00 am – Noon

Men of the church are invited to join us for our Annual Grove Cleanup on Saturday, May 13. Meet at the pavilion at 9:00 am for assignments. Following our work assignments, we'll share some pizza and sodas for lunch. RSVP to Phil Wehr or Pastor Allan.



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.**

April 23 Guest Preacher and Adult Ed teacher: Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Please be sure to join us during the Adult Education hour for our guest speaker, Rabbi Daniel Swartz. Rabbi Daniel Swartz will share with us some scriptural and practical guidelines for our care for the planet. **Please join us from 9:15-10:15 on Sunday, April 23rd in Room 5 in the basement level of the church.**

Rabbi Daniel Swartz is the current President of the Board of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Interfaith Power and Light. The mission of Interfaith Power & Light is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. This campaign intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard the

health of all Creation, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all.

Rabbi Swartz is also the spiritual leader of Temple Hessed in Scranton, PA. Before becoming the spiritual leader of Temple Hessed, Rabbi Daniel Swartz was the coordinator of Greater Washington IP&L, executive director of the Children's Environmental Health Network, Associate Director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, and Congregational Relations Director for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, where he was the lead author of *To Till and to Tend: a Guide to Jewish Environmental Study and Action*.

Rabbi Swartz will also preach during worship on Sunday, April 23rd.

Golden Times

For those wise in years and young at heart.

Our next gathering will be

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Program: Parkland High School Strolling Strings

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: Cereal

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

Coming May 2, 2017 Lois Heffner & Good Vibrations Choir

PIG OUT at Union UCC's

BACKYARD BBQ BASH

Saturday, June 10, 2017

Scott Marshall and Marshall's Highway

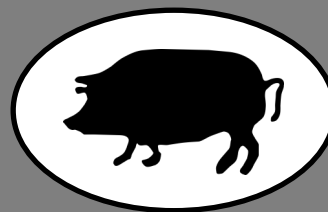
Winner of 12 Lehigh Valley Music Awards, 5:30-8:30

Music sponsored by Heintzelman Funeral Home

**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!



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 a gathering on **June 11th at 9:15am-10:15am**. We will meet in the Memory Room (Room 200) on the second floor.

This an informal time to get to know each other and ask questions. Attendance is not required to join.

You will be welcomed as members in worship on **Sunday, June 18th at the 8am or 10:30am worship service**. Contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@unionucc.org if you have questions or contact the church office to sign up with Tara at 610-767-6961 or secretary@unionucc.org.

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!

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 3rd 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.



Sunday, April 2, 2017

5th Sunday in Lent/Healing Service

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson

Lay Readers: 8:00— Michael Roth

10:30 - Chrissy Shivok

Greeters: Cliff & Carol James, Karen & Karl Imdorf

Acolytes: 8:00AM— Graham Smith

10:30AM - Connor McCoy, Hannah Horvath

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Texts: Matthew 26:31-35; 69-75

Message: Brother Peter, Where Art Thou?

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00— Liza Normann

10:30 - Leslie Thompson-Strack

Greeters: Gene & Christina Thrash, Greg & Johanna Zellner

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM-Trevor Amorim, Samantha Ritchie

Thursday, April 13, 2017- Maundy Thursday

6PM First Communion Celebration

Discipleship Meal

Friday, April 14, 2017

Good Friday Worship 7PM

Tenebrae and Altar Communion

Text: John 18:1-19:47

Message: How do the things we say and do proclaim the love of Jesus in our world?

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Readers: Donna Christman, Don Penrod, Dan Topp, Jim

Ondrey, Leslie Thompson-Strack, Michael Roth, Fawn Albert

Acolytes:

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday

6:40am Sunrise Service

Text/Message: Matthew 28:1-10, Where Do We Go from Here?

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

8:00am Heritage Service

Text/Message: John 20:1-18 Yes!

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

10:30am Horizon Service

Text/Message: Matthew 28: 1-10 Alleluias Everywhere!

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00— Susan Rumble

10:30 –Elena Steidinger

Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, John & Debbie Romig

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30AM - Connor McCoy, Kaden Haley

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Second Sunday of Easter/Jazz Ensemble

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Message: Creation Care Beyond Blue or Red

Guest Preacher: Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Lay Readers: 8:00— Carol Pope

10:30 - Jim Ondrey

Greeters: Doug & Angie Kuntz, Carol Pope, Ronnie Pope

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM - Graham Smith, Karson Schaedel

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Third Sunday of Easter/Red Nose Sunday

This is also called "Bright Sunday." Wear your brightest colors, hat, tie or craziest outfit.

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship

Sermon: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00— Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Vicki Mayk

Greeters: Haley and Puia Families

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM - Brett Misera

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:

April 2—Christian Education

April 9—Church & Ministry

April 16—No Committee

April 23—Consistory

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	\$309,438.00	\$35,192.00	\$344,630.00
Expenses	\$267,162.00	\$27,392.00	\$294,554.00
2-28-2017	\$51,920.00	\$26,553.00	\$78,473.00

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> 8AM 10:30AM		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
February 5	58	183	21	362
February 12	73	119	29	221
February 19	80	125	28	233
February 26	92	200	37	329

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
February 2016–1,320 February 2017– 1,045
AVG ATTENDANCE
February 2016–319 February 2017 - 261

Deaths

Benjamin F. Hess passed away on March 3, 2017 and was laid to rest at Union Church Cemetery on March 8, 2017.

Memorials

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Elaine R. Brosious-Domitrovits:

Dennis & Denise Rothrock
 Phil & Julie Wehr
 Eunice M. Diehl
 Lloyd & Ardith Kuhns
 CLIU21 CLAS Program
 Ellen & Jack James
 Casmier & Deborah Pelc

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Donald J. Herzog:

Fellowship Committee

Carol & Ronald Pope
 Barbara & Richard Carinci
 Cole Family
 Linda & Leo Majeski
 Linda Bartoni
 Michelle & Art Steward
 Doug & Barbara Green
 Gwen Herzog
 Larry & Susan Christoff
 Bonnie Herzog
 Daniel & Gail Herzog
 Tami & Donald Wassum

Janice Herzog
 JoAnn & Thomas Koehler
 Larry & Marge Oberly, Duane
 & Stacey & family
 Cynthia & Larry Hertzog
 Lehigh Valley IronPigs

The following donation was accepted into the Memorial Fund in memory of Benjamin F Hess:
 Robert & Dolores Lessel

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

April 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1
3 9am Beginner Tai Chi 9:30am Advanced Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Fellowship; Budget	4 10am VBS Planning 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30 Junior Choir 7pm Middler Choir; Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	5 9:30am Busy Bee Quilters 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Church & Ministry	6 6pm Tai Chi 7pm Chime Choir; Helping Hearts; Christian Ed	7 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	8 2pm Egg Hunt
10 9am Beginner Tai Chi 9:30am Advanced Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Welcoming Committee	11 9:15am Staff Mtg 10:30am Program Staff 6-7:30pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	12 9:30am Busy Bees 10am Knitwits; Preschool Board 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Budget Committee NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 6pm Maundy Thursday Meal and First Communion 7pm Chime Choir	14 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study 7pm Good Friday Ten-ebrae Service	15
17 9am Beginner Tai Chi 9:30am Advanced Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 6:45 pm Consistory	18 6-7:30pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	19 9:30am Busy Bees 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	20 6pm Tai Chi 7pm Chime Choir	21 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	22
24 9am Beginner Tai Chi 9:30am Advanced Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	25 9am Newsletter 9:15am Staff Mtg 10:30am Program Staff 6-7:30pm Youth Choirs 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	26 9:30am Busy Bees 10am Knitwits 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Budget Committee	27 6pm Tai Chi 7pm Chime Choir	28 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Bible Study	29
SUNDAYS					
2 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	9 Palm 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	16 Easter Sunday 6:15am Sunrise Service-Cemetery 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds NO Sunday School Bible Study Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church/ 11:30am Holy Grounds	23 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	30 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service/Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds 11:45am Acolyte Training; Pre-Baptism	