



June 2017
Volume 6, Issue 41

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT *
BUILDING THE FUTURE

Semi-Annual Meeting

On June 11, 2017, after the 10:30 a.m. service, we will hold our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. The focus of this meeting will be the proposed fiscal 2017-2018 General Budget.

As our church continues to grow, it is very helpful for all of us to continue to be supportive in as many ways as possible. In order to maintain our programs, activities, and our beautiful building and grounds, we need a continuous flow of time, talent and treasure! We, the members, are the heart of this Church, and with everyone's help, we will continue to grow and thrive!

Please plan to attend this semi-annual meeting on June 11 and be supportive of the budget, and let's continue to keep Union United Church of Christ moving forward.



Brad Hackett, Consistory President

Jesus is Everywhere this Summer! Get your Flat Jesus now!

We're using an idea that other churches have been doing during the summer called **Flat Jesus**. Flat Jesus is a paper doll traveling throughout Neffs and the world this summer courtesy of Union UCC. The original "flat" character was **Flat Stanley**, star of a book by Jeff Brown in which a boy has remarkable adventures after waking up one day to discover he is flattened and is able to be mailed to different places.

Flat Jesus is a way to keep our church family connected during the summer. Take him wherever you go (at home, at work, gardening, camp, a family reunion, vacation, church) and take a picture with him and text it to Kathy Bonsell at 610-509-3324 with your name and describing where you are. You can also post your picture on the **Union UCC facebook page** at: www.facebook.com/unionneffs Or you can print a picture and bring it to church for a **bulletin board**.

We'll be handing Flat Jesus cut outs on Sundays in June and throughout the summer. Or you can find one on our website at: www.unionucc.org

It's a great way to share our summer with each other and to help us remember that Jesus is always with us wherever we go.



From the Interim Pastor

The Four Things that Matter Most

Dr Ira Byock is a palliative care physician who has cared for many patients during the last days of their lives. In his book, *The Four Things that Matter Most*, he discusses the importance of telling those we love just how we feel about them in four simple statements:

Forgive me; I forgive you; Thank you; I love you.

As I conclude my time with you here at Union UCC, I can think of no better way to express my gratitude and appreciation for my time with you as your Interim Assistant Pastor, than by saying these four things:

Forgive me—for the things I may have said or done that hurt you or caused you pain;

I forgive you—for the times when you may have misunderstood me or hurt me;

Thank you—for the opportunity to experience God's love through the life of your congregation;

I love you—you are more than a "welcoming congregation;" you are a "loving congregation," the body of Christ, and an agent of God's love in the world around you, and I have been blessed to be the recipient of your love.

God's blessing be upon you as you look forward to calling a new, full time Associate Pastor.

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, May 15, 2017, by Vice President Aften Hamm.

The Treasurer's Report and the April – May 2017 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee reported that gutters were cleaned around the church and Memorial Hall, along with slate repairs as needed. The copper gutters around Memorial Hall will soon need to be replaced after 60 years. More information on the copper gutters to follow. The oil burner is being cleaned May 16. With the mild winter, we saw savings on gallons of oil used. The air conditioning units in the New Beginning addition are being serviced May 16. Chimney work will be done this summer.

Mission Committee reported that the Strong Foundation mission is underway. The Committee is accepting donations of new undergarments for men and women to be donated to area shelters. John Snyder-Samuelson will be speaking during the services on One Great Hour of Sharing. Those donations will be accepted through May 21. The Lenten Self-Denial offering brought in over \$2,000, half of which will go to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and half will go to the Allentown Rescue Mission. The Committee is co-

sponsoring a mission with Vacation Bible School this June. Hygiene kits will be assembled by the children attending VBS and the kits will go to the Allentown Rescue Mission. The Committee is continuing to research a mission project called Family Promise, which benefits homeless families and houses them for one week. An additional blood drive is scheduled with Miller-Keystone Blood Center for November 12.

Welcoming Committee reported that at the Country Sale all the geraniums were sold. The Committee is planning the Make Your Own Sundae Sunday on June 25, which will also have hot dogs in addition to sundaes. The Committee is working with a vendor to design car magnets and is anticipating a sample magnet shortly. The Committee welcomed two new Committee members, and thanked Pastor Allan for leading us in all our endeavors since his arrival at Union UCC.

Fellowship Committee reported that while the Committee had its last meeting for the summer, it will be helping with several church functions.

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

Mark your Calendars: Pastor Allan's Last Sunday is 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.



Mission Committee

By Vicki Mayk

The Urffer Fund of the Fund of Lasting Gifts was established to support children's mission and programming benefiting children and youth in the community. This year, the mission committee has determined the beneficiaries of the fund this year.

- Union United Church of Christ will again sponsor two children from Zimbabwe through the **Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program**, each receiving \$330 or total of \$660).
- Northeast Ministry serves the individuals and families of the **Marvine-Pembroke communities of Bethlehem**. Union UCC will contribute \$1,000 for its Summer Camp program. The camp runs for 7 weeks beginning in June through early August, and provides a safe, supervised environment with fun and enriching activities for children, ages 6 through 12. Children who attend live in the Marvine-Pembroke community and other low-income neighborhoods. In 2014, Summer Camp enrollment was 85 children.
- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center launched its professionally-staffed youth program, Project SILK Lehigh Valley, in early 2017 as a collaborative program in partnership with Valley Youth House. Our church will contribute \$500 to this program. LGBT youth face far more social and academic challenges than their non-LGBT peers. **Project SILK Lehigh Valley** empowers a vulnerable population and provides them with the support they need to learn important leadership skills and life-skills, as well as provides academic, creative, and artistic enrichment opportunities.

Clothing Collection

By Deb Wenner

Honor your Mother & Father, for they have provided you with a "Strong Foundation."

This year the Mission Committee will be collecting new undergarments for men in need. We will be doing this in conjunction with Father's Day.

The month of June, we will collect men's underwear & socks. All sizes are needed, but they must be new & unworn.

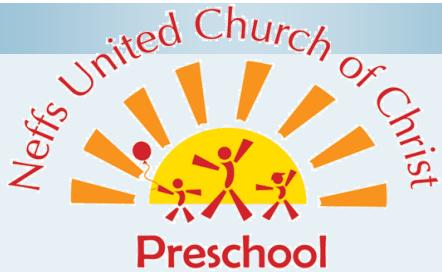
Undergarments will be distributed to local shelters. Let's provide a "Strong Foundation" for our neighbors in need.

Summertime...vacation time ... travel time MISSION time. While you are off traveling this summer on family vacations, take a minute to think about folks at home that may need some extra help.

During your stay at a hotel or resort, check your bathroom each morning for full bottles of shampoo, shower gels, or hand soap and pack them in your suitcase. The hotel staff will bring you new toiletries each day and restock your bathroom. At the end of the week you will have a nice little bag of toiletries to bring back home and donate to the church to help others in the Lehigh Valley.

We thank the many of you who are already practicing this Mission technique, and encourage all travelers to bring home unused toiletries from your travels all year long. Toiletries will help families through the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, or through Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

Each small bottle of shampoo or bar of soap will bring a smile of hope to a mother, father, child, or grandparent. **Please drop off toiletries in the blue barrel in Memorial Hall.** Thank you to all.



Where School Memories Begin

And.....it's a wrap. The end of another school year has come again; it seems like time flies faster and faster each year. Looking back over the past 9 months we are amazed by all that our students have learned and we marvel at the personalities they are developing- they truly are becoming their own person. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and members of Neffs UCC Church for all of the kind words and support throughout the school year. In addition, we would like to give a big shout out to those church members to take the time out of their busy lives to share their talents and support as members of our Preschool School Board. We could not do what we do with out them- THANK YOU!

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

Blues Nite Out

Summer is coming, start planning for graduations, picnics, reunions, concerts, amusement parks, beach fun, and more. Then start thinking about Blues Nite Out this August. Mark your calendars now - **Friday August 25** for a fun night with the **Bryant Brothers** and **Saturday August 26** starting with **Bev Conklin**, who will be making a return performance in the grove, with BC's Combo Band, then headliner and local favorite, The **Sarah Ayers Band**. Always two great nights of music for all to enjoy.



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

Quilters, Knitters and Crocheters

If you'd like to learn or share your gifts while visiting with others join us on Wednesdays.

The quilters (The Busy Bees) start at 9am and work until about noon.

The knitters and crocheters (The Knit Wits) start at 10am and work until about noon.

Each group works on projects that support the church's ministry with quilt raffles and lap robes and baptism blankets for our members. Come for the whole time or as long as your schedule allows.



Busy Bees are selling quilts!

Stop by on a Wednesday or contact Janet Creitz to find out how you can own your own Busy Bee Quilt!

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 assocpastor@unionucc.org if you have questions or contact the church office to sign up with Tara at 610-767-6961 or secretary@unionucc.org.



Wanted: Sunday School and Children's Church volunteers for the 2017-18 session. Sign up sheets are located on Kathy Bonsell's door.

Please contact Kathy if you have any questions at dired@unionucc.org.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

We are still in need of 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!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL... are officially on vacation until Sept. 10th (mark your

calendar). A tremendous thanks to all the teachers, helpers, parents and children for another wonderful year. Your support, participation and cooperation all contributed to this year's success. What a great team!! Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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

2017 COIN EXCHANGE

The children can return their coins and coin exchange order forms until June 30th. Please include your phone number so you can be contacted when the order is filled. The coins can be exchanged for gift certificates, ranging from \$1 to \$10.



VBS 2017

June 26-30



We're off on another adventure! Registered children will receive a packet of information by June 20th. (We still have some room if you haven't already registered!) Our **summer adventure** will begin on Monday, June 26th at 9:00am. Our VBS STAFF will be ready

with games, songs, snacks, skits, crafts, Bible stories and a whole lot of fun! We will have our **closing Program** on Friday evening, June 30th. You are all invited to join us at 7:00 in the grove for entertainment and refreshments.

VBS Volunteer Meetings: JUNE 4 @ 9:30am
JUNE 25 @ 11:30am in Memorial Hall

WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE?

Join us on **JUNE 1** and **JUNE 15**, 9:30-11:30, for **BIBLE JOURNALING!** We study scripture and then share techniques to illustrate a scripture or lesson we want to remember. Participants need to provide a Journal Bible. We provide art supplies.



MISSION UPDATES



HEIFER PROJECT UPDATE
We took the heavy bag of coins to the bank and we are thrilled to announce that we collected....

\$850

An enormous thank you to all who contributed throughout the year. We will send our money to HEIFER INTERNATIONAL for animals and training throughout the world.



Summer Nursery: The Little Lambs Nursery will be unstaffed for the summer. Parents/caregivers are welcome to use the room during the 10:30 service. The service is broadcast into the nursery room. We would appreciate it if you would clean up the toys before you leave. Marianne Ulrich, our nursery attendant volunteer, will be on vacation and resting up for next year! She will return on Sept. 10th and need a partner every Sunday for the 2017-2018 session.

Youth Group News Grades 6-12

For more information contact:

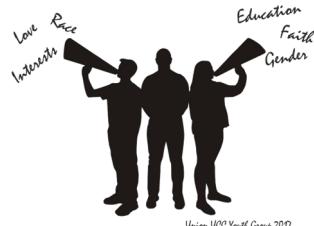
Pastor Kris pastorkris@unionucc.org 610-657-6007 Cell

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/Youth%20Group)

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).

SHOUT OUT



Union UCC Youth Group 2017

Hang Out Nights

Tuesdays June 27th, July 11th, July 25th, August 8th, August 22nd

6pm-9pm in the grove (weather permitting or we will move inside)

Games: Volleyball, Kickball, Flag Football, Ping Pong, Candy Bingo, Board games

Food and Drinks: Rita's, BBQ, Root Beer Floats, Pizza, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Snacks

Come and join your church friends on a Tuesday night for some fun during the summer.

Feel free to bring other games you would like to play or **contact Dave to help plan activities.**

Parents, we'll need your help as chaperones.

Your friends are also invited to attend. Cost is FREE.

Bike and Canoe trip through the Wildlands Conservancy

Sunday August 6th 2017 Leave Neffs Church 12:30pm, Arrive in Bethlehem @ 1pm

This trip is intergenerational and open to all church youth and adults (Minimum age is 10). We start at Sand Island in Bethlehem where you ride their bikes down the river bike path to Canal Park in Allentown. We stop along the way to eat your packed lunch that you bring. We continue down the Lehigh River by canoe. Enjoy some great exercise, leisurely riding and canoeing with your church family. Friends and family are welcome to attend. Everyone must prepay to attend this event. **We must have your RSVP and payment (payable to Union UCC youth group) as soon as possible, no later than Sunday July 30th. Cost - \$35 per person (space is limited)**

We have gone in this trip in the past and have had a lot of fun. Enjoy some fun in the sun after a day at church. For more information please visit <http://www.wildlandspa.org/education-and-recreation/bike-boat-adventures>

Day trip to Knoebels Amusement Park Spend an entire day at Knoebels for some fun.

Friday August 18th 2017 9:30am - 10:30pm

Leave Church @ 9:30am, Arrive @ 11am, Leave @ 9:00pm, Back to Church @ 10:30pm

Multiple adult drivers will be needed, Youth Group will pay for your ticket or toward your gas.

Cost - All day ride pass (above 48") includes roller coasters \$42 per person (pre-paid)

All day ride pass (above 48") without roller coasters \$34 per person (pre-paid)

Above costs are a discounted rate for tickets through Wegmans. Admission to the park is free. The Youth group will provide lunch for our group in the picnic grove. Please bring extra money for dinner in the park as well as snacks and souvenirs. Your friends and family are also welcome to attend. **RSVP to Dave and Payment (payable to Union UCC Youth Group) is due as soon as possible and no later than Sunday August 13th.**

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:15-10:15am Resumes in September

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)

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.



Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

Springtime and Summertime bring annual chores to your home, and also to the church and the church property. In the past few weeks the church has had the gutters cleaned, some roof slates repaired, the oil burner cleaned, the air conditioning units serviced, the elevator serviced, the garden beds cleaned, the lawn fertilized and more.

Over in the grove, the food stand has been cleaned, mulch has been spread, fertilizer applied, picnic tables stained, even the outdoor facilities were cleaned, and believe it or not, they are used and attended to regularly. A few new trees have been planted in the grove to provide shade and beauty for many years to come.

Like your home, God's home, our church home here in Neffs needs constant and continued care and maintenance for our staff, for our members and to all who walk through the doors and around the property.

Give Praise to all who care and share to make our church property beautiful, a beacon of hope to the community.



Associate Search Committee Update

At April's Consistory meeting the job description and financial package for the Associate Pastor was approved. We began to advertise the position on the UCC Ministerial Openings page and have been working with Rev. Alan Miller from the Penn Northeast Conference to kick off the interview process. Please continue to keep the committee and the process in your prayers.

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

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**.

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 will share more information about our progress soon. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Summer Worship Theme: Bless to Me – Starting June 11

The tradition of blessing prayers has endured through centuries among the people called "Celts." These blessings reveal a sense of the holy in every moment, in every thing, in every person. This is a way of living—of observing and celebrating, blessing and being blessed by the ordinary acts and encounters of life. Inspired by this tradition of Celtic spirituality and featuring the blessing poems of Beth A. Richardson (Christ Besides Me, Christ Within Me: Celtic Blessings), we will spend time this summer steeping in the blessings that surround us and live within us.

Let's take a spiritual vacation together and be renewed by God's blessings.

c.Worship Design Studio

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

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

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

Sunday Morning Alive

Sunday Morning Alive leads worship on Sundays at 10:30 for about six Sundays throughout the year. We have a worship team that includes a group of singers, guitar players, keyboards 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



Build Your Own Sundae Sunday Sunday, June 25th

**Worship at 8am (Sanctuary) and
10:30am (Outside in the Grove)**

Guest Musician: Sarah Ayers

Picnic in our Grove 11:30am -1pm

Hot dogs, snacks, drinks, and **ICE CREAM with toppings**
(Vegetarian hot dogs and gluten-free rolls available.)

Bring your favorite chair or blanket.

Hosted by the Welcoming Committee with Financial Support from the Country Sale

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.

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.



*Ben Anderson is our Catch the Spirit recipient for June.
He was nominated by the Fellowship Committee. He will be
recognized June 25, 2017 at 8:00am worship.*

Ben was born and raised in Belvidere, NJ and attended a small school with a graduating high school class of 150 students. He was baptized and confirmed in his hometown Catholic church and also attended Catholic school for two years. I first became involved in music at the early age of 5 when the cantor at my Catholic church heard me singing and was looking for a young boy to play the part of Amahl in the opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" - a story about the three wise men stopping at a small inn on their way to see baby Jesus. Ben would continue to study piano and voice all the way through college. He attended SUNY Albany and graduated with a B.A. in Music Technology.

Ben married Ashley Anderson here at Neffs Union UCC in October 2014, and together they have a beautiful 18-month old daughter Lillian, two dogs, three cats, and several fish. He works for Merck, as a domain administrator handling the company's internet properties. When he's not spending time with family or playing music, he enjoys spending time with friends, watching movies, or playing golf. He actively participates in church by presenting musical offerings during our worship services. He is currently part of the Associate Pastor Search Committee along with wife, Ashley.

"Growing up Catholic, my faith wandered for many years while in high school and college. I was always a believer, but lost faith in the Catholic church and the religious community as a whole, because of what I believed was an overarching theme of exclusivity. I felt the church was stuck in the past and was unable to adapt to our ever-changing society. Once I started attending Neffs, my faith was restored. I can never thank Ashley enough for bringing me here." Ben's favorite church memory is of attending his first Christmas Eve service here, "The music and the church itself were both absolutely beautiful."

"I love Neffs because of how accepting and loving our church is. For the first time I found a religious setting that was inviting and inclusive, and this can be said of not only the pastoral members of the church but of our entire congregation."

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

Ruth Miller - June 16

701 Main St, Apt 611
Bethlehem, PA 18018



We are no longer accepting donations for Santa's attic or books at this time. Stay tuned for next year's announcement and thank you for your generosity.



Next meeting June 27,
6:30pm, Memory Room.
We will be reading
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi.

Led by Kathi Charles
610-462-5551,
kac4b@hotmail.com.

Thank You

From Pastor Kris, John and Hannah

Thank you for your support on the passing of my mother Irmgard Snyder Roberts on May 5th. Your shower of cards, messages, gifts and prayers continues to carry my family through this time. My mother lived to be 89 years old and had a full life. The last few months were very challenging for her so we are grateful that that part of her struggle is over and that she is free.

Thank you to Union for allowing us to host her luncheon here. Our organizers and hosts did a wonderful job. Thank you to our leaders and staff for their help. A special thank you to Pastor Allan and Rev. Patience for covering for me in my absence and for their care for my family.

It is never easy to lose a loved one. Like when you have lost someone, we are moving through the usual stages of grief. We are doing well and thankfully we have our faith in God to sustain, comfort and guide us. We give God thanks for our church family that walks with us through all of life's mountain tops and valleys.

Confirmation Class 2017

FAITH STATEMENT

I believe God is a mentor guiding us through our journeys. (Jasmine Garris)

I believe God is watching everyone. (Brett Cipolla)

I believe that God accepts and loves everyone. (Will Filipovits)

I will forever recognize and cherish the works of God because He makes life beautiful. (Breanna Hoppes)

God loves all of us and has a plan for everyone. (Amanda Lane)

Being a Christian means I accept the Lord Jesus in my heart. (Garrett Fitzgerald)

Jesus was sent by God to spread God's word and to help us believe and follow. (Sonya Shivok)

The Holy Spirit is always with me at my best and worst times. (George DeNardo)

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of kindness. (Ian Henninger)

The Holy Spirit helps me make the right decisions in life. (Justin Trexler)

Prayer is a way to communicate with God and ask for help and support and is the most important thing in being a Christian. (Chase Misera)

I believe my faith in God saved me many times. (Mikayla Woodring)

Church helps me feel whole and gives me a sense of peace for the week ahead. (Matt Geroulo)

Church is our spiritual home where we gather to learn, to heal, to forgive, to ask, and to share life's journey with others. (Karl Schmidt, Jr.)

I am grateful that my church is very welcoming to anyone and everyone. (Peyton Schlosser)

I will live out my faith by praying more often to thank God. (Morgan Janotka)

I can live out my faith by giving my time and talent to the church through volunteering, donations, and worshipping God through dance. (Hannah Horvath)

UNION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Anticipated Income for July 2017 thru June 2018

	Income Budget	
	2016/2017 fcst	2017/2018
Contributions, Current and Benevolent:		
General (Weekly Envelopes and Plate)	\$360,710	\$368,000
Improvement Fund	\$7,460	\$7,500
Communion	\$10,560	\$8,700
Mission and Outreach	\$11,600	\$7,500
Lent and Good Friday	\$2,330	\$2,400
Visitation Pastor and Music / Education Program	\$4,890	\$2,500
Harvest Home, Thanksgiving and Christmas	\$19,540	\$19,300
Funds of Lasting Gifts	\$0	\$30,900
Special Gifts	\$2,370	\$4,000
Program Income	\$10,820	\$10,200
Miscellaneous (Building Donations, Interest)	\$6,200	\$6,300
Fundraisers	\$11,020	\$9,700
Preschool Contribution	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total Income Budget	\$449,000	\$478,500
		<u>\$478,500</u>

Anticipated Expenses for July 2017 thru June 2018

	Expense Budget	
	2016/2017 fcst	2017/2018
<u>Facilities and Office Equipment</u>		
Church Building / Property	\$50,980	\$55,270
Office Equipment	\$5,270	<u>\$6,750</u>
		\$62,020
<u>Employee Salaries</u>		
Pastor	\$42,000	\$84,840
Interim Pastor	\$35,180	\$0
Associate Pastor	\$32,680	\$70,000
Visitation Pastor	\$18,350	\$12,481
Church Administrator / Office Assistants	\$21,465	\$21,823
Director of Christian Education	\$25,190	\$25,691
Organist/Accompanist	\$17,140	\$19,002
Director of Music	\$8,690	\$8,861
Communications Coordinator	\$18,480	\$18,778
Facility Caretakers	\$27,700	<u>\$29,163</u>
		\$290,639
<u>Employee Expenses</u>		
Insurance (net of Pastor's contributions)	\$22,710	\$23,424
FICA	\$17,760	\$23,070
Pension Dues	\$14,020	\$14,832
Miscellaneous	\$4,740	<u>\$5,180</u>
		\$66,506
<u>Mission and Outreach</u>		
OCWM	\$7,400	\$7,400
Phoebe	\$4,770	\$4,770
Lancaster Seminary	\$1,075	\$1,075
Bethany	\$240	\$240
Lehigh Co. Conf. of Churches	\$1,200	\$1,200
Northern Lehigh Food Bank	\$1,500	\$1,500
Mission Discretionary	\$4,700	<u>\$600</u>
		\$16,785
<u>Leadership</u>		
Gifts / Materials / Golden Times	\$1,830	<u>\$3,250</u>
		\$3,250
<u>Programs</u>		
Worship	\$10,810	\$6,360
Education	\$13,740	\$13,550
Fellowship	\$2,480	\$2,500
Flowers / Bulletins	\$5,230	<u>\$5,150</u>
		\$27,560
<u>Office Expenses</u>	<u>\$12,320</u>	<u>\$11,740</u>
		<u>\$11,740</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$429,650	\$478,500
		<u>\$478,500</u>

Golden Times

For those wise in years and young at heart.

Our next gathering will be
Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Program: Janet Creitz will share the History of Quilting

Annual Potluck – Bring a salad, side dish, casserole, or dessert to share. We will provide hot dogs, ice cream and beverages.

Programs offered are fun, informative and entertaining.

Bring a dessert to share.

12 noon – 1:30pm

FREE

Monthly Food Donation:
Hand soap

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

Have a great summer! See you in the fall!



On April twenty-third Rabbi Daniel Swartz challenged us through his sermon and class presentation to see climate change as a moral issue. He encouraged us to become involved through advocacy, energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable energy. Many of our members are already doing many things to care for our creation:

- Using a cup of water to brush your teeth instead of letting the water run
- Using a reusable water bottle instead of generating more plastic by purchasing bottled water
- Taking shorter showers
- Installing water efficient showerheads
- Using reusable lunch containers and lunch bags and using cloth napkins instead of paper napkins
- Donating used household goods to the church's semiannual drives or to local charities
- Using rain barrels to catch water for garden use
- Composting vegetable and fruit scraps and shredded leaves
- Providing habitats for native birds and animals in our backyards and our beautiful church grove
- Using municipal recycling to recycle plastics, metal, paper, cardboard, Styrofoam and fabric
- Using technology such as "Nest" or "Ohm Connect" to reset appliances and heating and cooling systems from your smart phone (even remotely)
- Installing energy efficient lightbulbs, lighting systems, windows and insulation (also done in our church building)
- Using Recycle Local Shed (located just across Unionville Street on the south side of the grove) to recycle fabric, shoes, belts and purses and using their semi-annual electronics recycling
- Installing solar panels
- Choosing renewable energy from your electricity supplier
- Choosing a hybrid, electric or more fuel efficient car,
- Walking or biking instead of using your car
- Reducing meat consumption

A special thank you to Regan Haley for her inspirational work in caring for God's creation! Ask Regan about some of her strategies to help the environment when you see her next.

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

(sponsored by Heintzelman Funeral Home)

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

**TICKETS ON SALE SUNDAY
and at THE EVENT**

CHICKEN and PORK DINNERS

\$10 meal (includes fries,
coleslaw and drink)

BBQ RAFFLE (AWESOME prizes!)

\$5 each or 3 for \$10

FREE Admission!



During 10:30 Worship we will worship in the Grove on these dates. Bring a comfy chair.

June 25

July 16

August 13/Picnic

Sunday Sponsors:

Flower Basket (\$30), Adult & Children's Bulletins (\$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).

SAVE THE DATE! MOVIE NIGHT in the GROVE

Friday, August 18th

FREE

Arrive any time after 7pm
Movie Starts @ 8pm
Bring chairs and blankets.
Popcorn, candy and drinks
provided.

We'll be showing a family friendly, all ages, recently released movie.
Watch for more info!
Invite your friends and neighbors.

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!



Sunday, June 4, 2017

Pentecost Sunday/Graduate Sunday/Communion

Pastor Allan's Last Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Sunday Morning Alive

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Message: For Everything There is a Season

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Lay Readers: 8:00– Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Jim Ondrey

Greeters: Jeff & Marcey Kroll, Jim & Leanna Lane

Acolytes: 8:00AM–

10:30AM - Andrew Hill, Cameron Kuntz

Sunday, June 11, 2017

Trinity Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Semi-Annual Meeting

Texts: Psalm 113, Matthew 6:11

Message: Through the Day: Celebrating God's Presence in Each Moment

Preacher: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00– Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Don Penrod

Greeters: Dennis & Debbie DeFrain, Connie Gioielli

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM-Mitchell Roth, Jacob Solt

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Second Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day

New Member's Received/Confirmation Day #2

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Preacher: Guest Preacher Rev. Ernie Schaffer

Lay Readers: 8:00AM –Doug Albert

10:30AM - David Fleming

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

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM - Josh Baron, Marissa Christman

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Mike Baer's Last Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Outdoor Worship/Build Your Own Sundae Following Worship

Guest Musician: Sarah Ayers

Guest Preacher: Becky Ensley- Candidate for Ordination in the Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Presbytery, From First Presbyterian Allentown, Princeton Seminary, Granddaughter to member Ruth Ensley

Lay Readers: 8:00– Susan Rumble

10:30 - Fawn Albert

Greeters: Vicki Mayk, Chris & Abby Bastidas

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM -

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 the committees and groups that host our Holy Grounds Coffee Hour from September to May.

If you or your family and church friends would like to host a Sunday during the summer just pitch in or bring food to share on the Sundays that you are here.

Food ideas: baked goods, fruit, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, snacks.

It's a great time to catch up with friends, share our joys and concerns, and enjoy a snack together.



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	\$391,900.00	\$44,398.00	\$436,298.00
Expenses	\$339,140.00	\$36,155.00	\$375,295.00
4-30-2017	\$62,404.00	\$26,996.00	\$89,400.00

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>		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>		
April 2	71	163	17	251
April 9	112	244	30	386
April 13	Maundy	Thurs	67	67
April 14	Good	Fri	100	100
April 16	210	436	6am 95	741
April 23	56	128	26	210
April 30	60	137	CFW	197

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

April 2016–1,010 April 2017– 1,952

AVG ATTENDANCE

April 2016–253 April 2017 - 357

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Dorothy A. Rabert:

Robert & Grace Ludwig, Schnecksburg Grange #1684

Jessie & Julie Hanford

The following donation has been received into the Memorial Fund in memory of William George II: Carl Heintzelman

The following donation has been received into the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Irmgard Snyder Roberts:

Phil & Julie Wehr

The following donation has been received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Irmgard Snyder Roberts:

Doug & Claire Kern

Deaths

William George II passed away on April 24, 2017 and was laid to rest in Union Church cemetery on April 29, 2017.

Ziba Berlew passed away on April 26, 2017 and was laid to rest on April 29, 2017.

Memorials

The following donations were received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Jennie I. Hunsicker:

Jean Hamm

Brett & Michele Hunsicker

Allen & Carol Jones

Harry & Ann Bowers

The Bowers Family

Randy & Deb Bowers

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rogers

Denise Knittle

Barbara Weaver

Carolyn George

UNION UCC CHURCH

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
direc@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci
Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org

Tara Henninger
Communications Coordinator
secretary@unionucc.org

Mike Baer
Music Coordinator
dirmusic@unionucc.org

Blake Hoppe
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

June 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling <u>1pm</u> Property <u>7pm</u> Christian Ed	2 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	3
5 <u>9:30am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	6 <u>12pm</u> Golden Times <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	7 <u>9am</u> Tai Chi <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry	8 <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi	9 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	10 <u>3:30pm</u> Backyard BBQ Bash
12 <u>9:30am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Evangelism NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13	14 <u>9am</u> Tai Chi <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits; Preschool Board <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> FLT	15 <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi	16 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	17
19 <u>9:30am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>6:45 pm</u> Consistory	20	21 <u>9am</u> Tai Chi <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>1pm</u> Bazaar Bunch <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	22 <u>6pm</u> Tai Chi	23 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	24
26 <u>9am</u> VBS <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> FOLG	27 <u>9am</u> VBS <u>1pm</u> Staff Mtg <u>1pm</u> Newsletter <u>6pm</u> Youth Group Hangout Night in Grove <u>6:30pm</u> Book Club	28 <u>9am</u> VBS <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	29 <u>9am</u> VBS	30 <u>9am</u> VBS <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>7pm</u> VBS Closing	

SUNDAYS

4 Graduate Sunday/ Communion <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds New members <u>9:30pm</u> VBS Meeting <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/VeggieTales <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	11 Semi Annual Meeting <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/VeggieTales <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	18 Father's Day <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/ VeggieTales <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	25 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service- Outdoor Worship <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Pre-baptism Build Your Own Sundae VBS Meeting
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