

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT *
 BUILDING THE FUTURE



The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.

December 3rd - 1st Sunday of Advent, Communion at 8 and 10:30am

Our new Associate Pastor, Kayli Freeman will be preaching today. Advent Brunch after worship

December 10th - 8am Christmas Music and Readings by our Adult Choirs

10:30am Christmas Music and Readings by our Adult, Youth, and Children's Choirs

2pm Pastor Kayli's Ordination Service at St. John's UCC, Emmaus. Everyone is welcome.

December 10th 7pm The Parkland High School Chorale Concert

A spectacular concert filled with holiday cheer and refreshments. An offering collected supports the chorale.

December 17th 8 and 10:30am Worship

Lessons and Carols with Chimes, the Unity Choir, and Special Music

12:30-3:30pm Church-Wide Christmas Caroling (Lunch after Church 11:30-12:30)

If you, your family, or a group you're a part of would like to join us, please contact Pastor Kris, Rev. Patience or Pastor Kayli. We hope to have several groups visiting our members.

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve NOTE: No Morning Services at 8am and 10:30am

3pm Communion, Candlelight

5pm Family Service, Children and Youth Choirs, Candlelight

8pm Communion, Candlelight

11pm Communion, Candlelight

Sunday, December 31 NOTE: No 8am Worship, 10:30am Worship Only

Young Adults and College Student Sunday with Pastor Kayli

Sunday, January 7th New Year Communion, Faith Commitment Card Sunday and Brunch during Coffee Hour after both services (See page 11 for more information.)



"Do not be afraid." - The Angels

Welcome Pastor Kayli!

Pastor Kayli's first Sunday as Union's Associate Pastor will be December 3rd. Please be sure to give her a warm Union UCC welcome. She will announce her office hours soon.

Her ordination service will be held on Sunday, December 10th at 2pm at St. John's UCC, Emmaus, her home church. Everyone is invited.



Pastor Kayli L. Freeman,
Associate Pastor

Photo Credit: Kevin Richter

Consistory By Deidre Bilger Subject to Approval

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, Nov. 20, 2017, by Vice President Aften Hamm.

The Treasurer's Report and the October – November 2017 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee - the replacement of the brick chimney was completed, many of the old bricks were loose and crumbling. Selig Electric fixed the electric baseboard heat in the Memory Room. The new food stand construction in the grove is moving along, ahead of schedule. Phil Wehr and Rick Simock met with the township over a plan to pave a small area in front of the building to the roadway, to allow parking for three to four cars, and to install two new drains and 80 feet of pipe underground along the road for water drainage. The meeting was positive, the township manager felt that this plan would pass regulations. The cost for this project is estimated at \$13,000. The Financial Leadership team and then Consistory approved this project with funding from FOLG, with a \$3,000 deposit in 2017 and the balance of \$10,000 for 2018.

Christian Education Committee - the Reverse Advent and Holiday Hope Chest Missions are underway. There is a Messy Church Workshop planned for December 3. The Trunk or Treat event had over 200 children participating.

Mission Committee - Wally Frisch from Family Promise will be speaking at both worship services on December 3. We are beginning to form a Steering Committee to handle the logistics of Family Promise at our church. We will host the monthly meeting for Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley on January 16 at 7pm in Memorial Hall. Please attend if you are available. The Holy Joe's Café donations from coffee hour for the month of October, totaling \$222.09 were sent to the Holy Joe's Café group in CT. 320 hygiene kits and 24 emergency buckets were delivered to CWS. Union UCC members worked at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank on

three Thursdays and one Saturday in November. The church purchased potatoes for the Thanksgiving meal kit that is offered at the food bank. 120 families picked up meal kits and 40 more were delivered to home-bound clients. The Salvation Army Tree is set up in Memorial Hall with 75 tags. This mission will run until mid-December and will be followed by the Mitten Tree.

Welcoming Committee - the annual Souper Bowl Tailgate celebration is being organized for February 4, 2018. The committee has implemented Google Ads for our church and will begin analyzing data received to assist with our efforts to increase membership.

Stewardship Committee - the committee met on November 8 to review Stewardship Sunday, the plan for the year as well as stewardship mailings.

Fellowship Committee - the basket social raised \$3,529.34. The Advent Brunch will be held December 3. The committee is sponsoring two families for the holidays, and also bought two back packs supporting the Mission Committee.

Worship Committee - they will be decorating the sanctuary on Saturday, December 2. The Advent seasonal music is Angels Among Us and is coming along nicely. There are four Christmas Eve Services at 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm and 11:00pm. All services except the 5:00pm service will include communion and the balcony will be open for all services except 11:00pm. Consistory approved supplying battery operated candles for children during these services.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, December 18, in Room 101.

Mission Committee

On Nov 5, Union UCC members of all ages prepared 320 hygiene kits, and 24 emergency clean up buckets for Church World Services and their efforts for disaster relief to help families after natural disasters. A \$1,500 donation was also provided to Church World Services to help families affected by the recent hurricanes.

Thank you to Union UCC's Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund for supporting this church mission project. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the kits and buckets on Nov 5. The finished kits and buckets have been transported to the CWS warehouse in Maryland, where they will be distributed as needed in the future.

Thank you from Church World Services.

Your \$1,500 donation is making an efficient and effective response to help families and communities affected by the recent hurricanes. Thank you for equipping families with the tools they need to move forward and rebuild. God bless you for your support.

Thank you from the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Your donation of 250 five pound bags of potatoes for our annual Thanksgiving food distribution was greatly appreciated by our clients. Your support allows us to provide a special dinner for local families, we give thanks to everyone.

From United Church of Christ Disaster Relief

Thank you for your additional gifts totaling \$400 for disaster relief efforts from Hurricane Harvey. Your donation will help address the emergency now, as well as the long-term recovery that will be needed to get communities restored and people back into their homes. Thank you for being inspired by God's grace.

Women's Retreat 2018

Union UCC Women's Retreat Weekend April 27-29, 2018

Trout Lake Retreats,
Stroudsburg
\$135, Collecting \$75
Deposit Now through
January 8 to hold your
spot.

Balance \$60 Due April 8.
Payment plans and financial assistance available.
Checks to Union UCC,
Memo Line –
Women's Retreat

Friends and Family
members are welcome too.
Questions or More Info:
Pastor Kris

Christmas & the New Year – a time to reconnect to your church.

From Pastor Kris

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 Christmas Eve at 3pm, 8pm, 11pm and January 7th 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 home.**



Where School Memories Begin By Annette Wilcox

The Preschool is charging full-steam into the Holiday season. Our three-year-old class just completed a month learning about Native Americans and Pilgrims which culminated in a Thanksgiving Feast. We learned traditional Native American songs, were able to feel what it would be like to live and play in a teepee, and discussed thankfulness. The four-year-old class worked on manners, and talked about emotions and how to be a good friend; while the Pre-K class learned all about our solar system.

As we prepare for the holiday season ahead, the Preschool would like to express **how THANKFUL we are to Neffs Union UCC Church for all of the support you give all year around.** Thanks to the generosity of our preschool families and church members, we were **able to send a \$500 check to Trinity by the Sea Day School in Port Aransas, TX** that was destroyed during Hurricane Harvey. The Director and staff there are extremely grateful for the financial support and sent the following update:

“With the help of many wonderful volunteers we were able to open on October 16th. The families were glad to be back at Trinity Day School. We provided free childcare at an alternate location previous to this opening. We are providing scholarships for about half our students through January. Most of the families suffered terrible house damage and many had their place of employment destroyed. It is a long process to rebuild and we have been blessed to help these families with child care. We are collecting donations to help offset the loss of tuition so we can continue to pay our wonderful teachers.

Thank you for your care and concern about our little school. Looking forward to hearing more from you.”

Thank you,
Nana Ward

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

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In the tradition of giving gifts to friends and loved ones, our church has traditionally expressed our love and appreciation for our hard-working pastors and staff by presenting each with a monetary gift. If you'd like to share in this gift, please send a check payable to Donna Christman at 5820 PA Rte 873, Slatington, PA 18080 and mail to her at **no later than Sunday, Dec 17.** You may also place it in the Church and Ministry mailbox near the church office. Any questions, email Donna at dec12221@hotmail.com.

Thank you.

Join the Choir! **Practice Schedules:** **Tuesday Nights—Youth**

Cherubs (age 4-1st grade)—
6pm

Juniors (2nd-5th grades)
Middlers (6th-8th grades)
6:30pm

Unity Choir—7:30pm

High School (9th-12th)-
Wednesdays @6pm

Sunday Mornings—Adults
Heritage Choir-7:15am
Horizon Choir-9:15am

Contact: Blake Hoppes
Blake.charger@gmail.com



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

BIBLE JOURNALING

We will be studying scripture and enhancing our understanding of the verses with design and color. Participants need a journal Bible. We will provide art supplies, ideas and techniques. Our December dates are Dec. 7 and 21, 9:30-11:30, in the Room 5.



We will be handing out **GIFT BIBLES** on December 3rd to 3rd Graders and above who have attended at least five Sundays since September.

THANK YOU to everyone who took a *Reverse Advent Calendar Basket*. Please bring your filled baskets to church anytime between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Another **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who filled *HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS* for local children. This project is organized by the Volunteers of the Lehigh Valley.



Reverse Advent Basket

One more **THANK YOU** to all who contributed to our *Christmas Hero* project. We purchased and wrapped gifts for a needy mom and her three children.

Sunday School 's 6th Annual

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - DEC. 17

Please arrive by 9:15, when breakfast will be served by your Sunday School teachers, in their PAJAMAS or UGLY SWEATER! You are also invited to wear your pajamas to church. We will also have games and a very special visitor.

PARENTS: We could use your help with dessert. Please bring one dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to Fellowship Hall.



All Christian Education Volunteers:

Sunday School, Children's Church, VBS, Little Lambs Nursery, and the CE Committee



DECEMBER

Children's Church Calendar

Dec. 3 Mark 13:24-37
Dec. 10 Church Family Worship
Dec. 17 Isaiah 1:1-4, 8-11
Dec. 24 NO AM Services

Holiday Schedule

Since Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on a Sunday this year,

SUNDAY SCHOOL and CHILDREN'S CHURCH will be on a Holiday Break

Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st!

We hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you on Jan. 7th!

Youth Group News Grades 6-12

For more information contact:

Pastor Kayli PastorKayli@unionucc.org

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).

SHOUT OUT



Union UCC Youth Group 2017

Sunday, Dec 17 Lunch for Advisory Team and anyone caroling (Brief meeting) 11:45-12:30

Church-Wide Christmas Caroling 12:30-3:30 Bring some cheer and Christmas spirit to our members who are on our visitation list.

CHURCH MEMBERS: EVERYONE is invited to go caroling, contact any pastor to sign up.



\$50 Deposit for Regional Youth Event due DEC 17.

Regional Youth Event 2018

Join other UCC youth from PA, MD, NJ, NY and DE at California University, PA (near Pittsburgh) **July 19-22, 2018.** Talk to Dave or Pastor Kayli with your questions.

Sunday, Jan 21 Suds and Spuds Lunch 11:30am-1pm

Baked Potato Lunch with over 15 toppings! 5 per person for 1 potato and beverage, dessert.

Sign up to help 9am-2pm and/or to donate a topping, dessert or come to eat.

Sunday, Jan 28 – Indoor Rock Climbing—watch for more info.

Feb 10-11 – Confirmation Class Sleepover and Leading Worship

If you have been confirmed and you'd like to join us, contact Pastor Kayli.

Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Help serve supper to our church family from 6-7pm and enjoy a yummy meal together.

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) Confirmants can go to The Break-
fast Club when there is no class.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB (9th- 12th grade
Room 4)

March 4 Youth Sunday

Mark your calendars and start thinking of how you want to participate. Sign up to greet, take the offering, read, preach (Seniors!), sing, dance and smile.



Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

Blast from the Past

Fifteen years ago, many contractors were working on building our New Beginning Addition. During the first week of December, 2002, the trusses were set on the addition and the plywood installed. Then on Dec 5, 2002, we experienced a five inch snowfall. Construction continued with masons finishing the installation of block walls, and then starting on the exterior brick walls. Eight inches of snow fell on our building project on Christmas Day 2002. Oh the memories.

Onto the Present

The spirit of Christmas once again takes over Union UCC's church property during all of December. Now is the time to attend the many special services every Sunday and Christmas Eve. Our beautifully decorated sanctuary welcomes all during this special time. Thanks to everyone who helps to transform Union UCC to celebrate the birth of Christ.



Looking to the Future

The construction crews building the new grove food stand have been working steadily since the last week of August. The main building is finished, with work continuing on the exterior and the interior. The contractors will then take a break, and continue in the new year. Give praise to all who work to build our future in the grove. Hot dogs will be cooking soon, stay tuned.

Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22

Handel's *Messiah* is a well-loved piece of music that is often sung at Christmas and Easter. We will look at the Biblical texts for the Christmas sections as well as listen to the music. A perfect way to dig deeper into this life-changing story as well as be lifted through the season.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

Advent is the season when we wait and prepare ourselves to receive God's gift of Jesus. Each week the class will spotlight words, activities and devotions representing the four advent candles on the advent wreath.

- Dec 3, 2017 focuses on Hope with Romans 15: 12-13 while creating a prayer chain and take-home ornament.
- Dec 10, 2017 highlights Peace and Love with Luke 3: 4-6 and John 1:29. Activities include a Distraction Box and Bethlehem Bread.
- Dec 17, 2017 emphasizes Joy with Luke 2: 7-15 while making a blessing jar and take-home luminary.

Classes will be taught by Dixie Gross, retired high school guidance counselor and teacher, and Debra Topp, also a retired secondary teacher. Both have been good friends and school colleagues for many years.

Thanks to our Office Helpers!

Madeline Bingell, Teresa Dalrymple,
Eunice Diehl, Larry Frantz, Phyllis Hamm,
Bonnie Herzog, 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.

**Look for us
in 2018 at
10:30am
worship!**



Did you know that the largest percentage of people that are homeless are children and that EVERY school district in our area has several families that are homeless?

Our pastors meet with families in need and/or who are homeless almost every week.

Now's our chance to make a difference in another important way.

Our Mission Committee and Consistory has said yes to a new opportunity called Family Promise. Family Promise enables communities to work together to address the needs of homeless families by securing temporary shelter through host congregations, providing meals donated by host congregations, and comprehensive services offered through local governmental and privately funded aid groups.

We are 1 of 13 churches and groups that has offered to host families for 4 weeks over the course of a year. During the weeks that families are here, families will go to work, school and the Family Promise services during the day and return to our church in the evening for a safe, warm and friendly place to stay. We will share making supper together and preparing breakfast. We might provide homework help or play a card game together.

The Mission Committee and Consistory will help to organize this effort but we will need everyone's help. We're looking for a Steering Committee to oversee things like volunteers, meals, donations and building use. We're looking for volunteers to help make or donate food for meals. We're looking for volunteers to come for a few hours in the evening to visit with the families and for other volunteers to stay overnight.

We are known for being a welcoming church. I'm excited that God is calling us to open our arms a little bit wider. I'm certain that the people of Union will find many more ways to care for these families who are homeless while they are with us.

Let Pastor Kris, the Mission Committee or the Consistory members know that you are praying for this important effort and how you might be able to volunteer to help or donate funds and resources.

Pastor Kris and the Mission Committee
pastorkris@unionucc.org





*A Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year to you from
the Pastors and Church Staff*

*Pastors Kris, Kayli, Patience,
Kathy Bonsell, Barbara Carinci, Tara
Henninger, Blake Hoppes,
Maria Beltz, Ori Handwerk,
Dave DiPaolantonio, AJ DiPaolantonio,
Ryan Correll*

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.

Church Directory

SMILE! New Church directory pictures are coming! Please visit the sign-up table in the foyer [after the 8am and 10:30 services] to schedule your photography session and receive additional information about this exciting event. All members, families, friends and neighbors are encouraged to have their pictures taken. Appointments are currently being scheduled for

Friday, December 1 from 2 – 9pm

Saturday, December 2 from 10am – 5pm

Sunday, December 3 from 1 – 8pm

Monday, December 4 from 2 – 9pm

Tuesday, December 5 from 2 – 9pm

Wednesday, December 6 from 2 – 9pm

Thursday, December 7 from 2 – 9pm

Sign up online at: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y1cp686y/>.

Bring a non-perishable item to your sitting and get \$5 off your order

Christmas Eve Yard Signs

Yard Signs are available for you to pick up on Sundays or during the week at the end of November. If you already have a yard sign with the 3pm service added, please use it if it's in good shape. We ask that you place them in your yard or at important corners near your home to help us share the hope of Christmas with your neighbors and invite them to our church. Please hold onto signs for next year. New signs are available with all 4 services listed: 3pm, 5pm, 8pm and 11pm.

Thank you for your gifts to the **Spread the Good News Fund** to help with this cost.

Thank you to **Grant Mertz and Mertz Signs** for their work and contribution.

2018 Envelope packets

Envelope packets for 2018 will be ready for pickup after Thanksgiving. Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs. **Please do not use the new envelopes until 2018**, everyone gets new numbers each year.

Thank you, The Stewardship Committee.

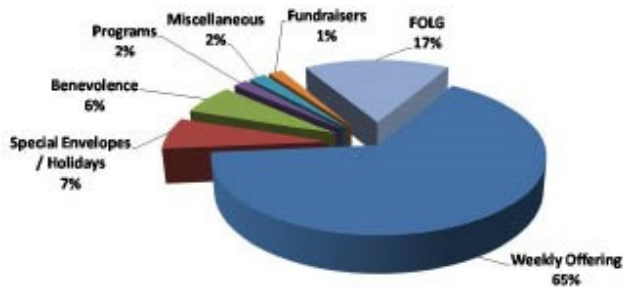
Year End Donations

For donations to be credited in 2017 all donations need to be into the church office by **December 29, 2017**. Any donations received after December 29, 2017 will be credited for giving year 2018. Any questions please call the church office.

Union United Church of Christ – Narrative Budget

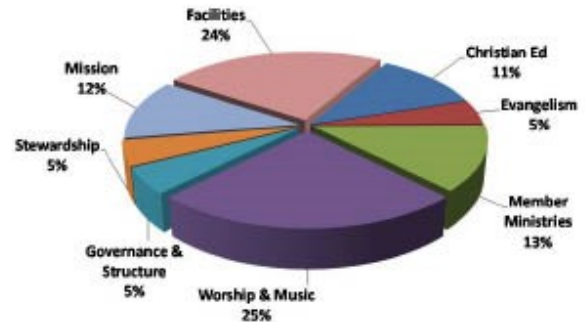
The following is a summary of the church's total income and expenses for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Contributions, Special Offerings and Gifts



- Regular **Weekly Offering** are gifts received through envelopes and plate offerings and comprise the majority of our income (65%)
- Interest and dividend earnings from the **Funds of Lasting Gifts (FOLG)** target specific needs per bequest guidelines and comprise an important portion of the church's total overall income (17%)
- **Special Envelopes**, including holiday giving, comprise 7% of our income while gifts received through the special **Benevolence** and other mission envelopes and other mission activities are about 6% of our income
- **Miscellaneous** contributions include building rent and donations, interest earnings, and other gifts and comprise 2% of our income
- **Program** giving includes gifts from our education programs such as Sunday School and Preschool (2%)
- **Fundraisers**, although a small percentage (1%), are an important component of our income

Where our Stewardship Giving Goes



- **Worship and Music** in our weekly and special services comprise a significant portion of overall spending (25%)
- Our **Member Ministries** seeks to nurture, support and connect members in a variety of programs and ministries through numerous groups and committees (13%)
- **Christian Education** provides a variety of educational programs, events and activities for all ages to learn about Christian faith and comprises 11% of overall spending
- Our **Mission** giving is focused on helping those in need, both in the local community and the world. Our support includes OCWM, local mission agencies and food banks, and other mission projects (12%)
- **Governance and Structure** includes managing our staff and participating in the PNEC (5%)
- **Evangelism** is focused on sharing the good news of the Gospel and comprises 5% of our spending
- **Stewardship** includes staff time and programs focused on how best we can use our time, talent, and resources in giving back to God and the Church (5%)
- Spending on Facilities, the church building and property, is significant at 24% of overall spending but is critical in maintaining and upgrading the church, its properties, and physical possessions, along with providing for the weekly/monthly operational costs.



Stewardship from the Financial Leadership Team

Pastor Kris

Journey to Generosity: The Way of Jesus.

By now you have received letters inviting you on this Journey to Generosity. Stewardship Sunday was November 19th. Our Financial Leadership Team members Phil Wehr, Frank Sorg and Don Penrod shared a message that lifted up our church's commitment to tithe 10% to outreach, missions and helping others. We were reminded through the narrative budget that our budget at Union is not just a bunch of numbers, but it represents all of the many gifts everyone gives to make this a busy and spirit-filled church of Christ's grace and love. Every dollar, every hour, every prayer, every song, every donation of food, every offering of our lives is a blessing to God and to our members and guests, the community and the world. This is where people say they get filled up in worship and service in order to meet life head on each week. Here, we gather together to receive and share God's generosity. Yes, we need donations of money, time and skills to make a church do all that it needs to do. Thank you for your gifts. We also the spirit of generosity to be our guide in all we do so that our gifts go even further and deeper to touch our lives and the lives of others with God's love. Thank you for being God's church here in this time and place.

January 7th at 8am and 10:30am Worship

Faith Commitment Card Sunday and Brunch during Coffee Hour

Kick off the New Year with Holy Communion and recommitting your life to the mission and ministry of Jesus. Bring your Faith Commitment Card with you (or drop it off anytime between now and then).

Our cards and commitments will be offered to God and prayed over during worship.

Coffee Hour after both services will be a light brunch to celebrate another year of faithful living.

Be sure to stop by as we walk the Journey to Generosity.

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 11 envelopes in the rack in your seat at church for the offering plate or mail your offering by postal mail.

New Member Sessions

Pastor Kris and our church leaders invite you to gatherings on **February 11th and February 18th at 9:15am-10:15am**. We will meet in the Memory Room (Room 200) on the second floor. This is 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, February 25th at the 8am or 10:30am worship service**.

For more info: Pastor Kris PastorKris@unionucc.org

To sign up: Call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Tara secretary@unionucc.org or Barbara administrator@unionucc.org

Baptism

We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Upcoming dates are **January 14 and March 18**. There is a pre-baptism session for families typically held after church the Sunday before the baptism. To sign up: Call the church office at 610-767-6961 and speak to Tara secretary@unionucc.org or Barbara administrator@unionucc.org

Weddings

To begin the process of scheduling your pre-marriage sessions and wedding at church/a venue and/or with one of the pastors: Barbara Carinci at 610-767-6961 administrator@unionucc.org

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Don't forget Union UCC when you are doing your holiday shopping on AMAZON.

We receive about \$75-\$100 per quarter as a result of your choosing us as your Amazon Smile charity. 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.

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.

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.

Home Visitation Members Birthdays



Anna Lord - Dec. 2

5244 Grange Drive
Schnecksville, PA 18078-2249

Curtis Frantz—Dec. 11

526 Freemason Dr.
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Ronald Sechler—Dec. 16

4615 Daisy Ave.
Orefield, PA 18069

Ferne Strauss - Dec. 18

6334 Lamar Ct
Slatington, PA 18080-3022

Janet Bachman—Dec 31

253 Fellowship Terrace
3020 Fellowship Dr.
Whitehall PA 18052

Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be
**Tuesday, December 5,
2017**

Program: Old Towne Carolers
Piano Duo

January: No meeting

Programs offered are fun, in-
formative & entertaining. Bring
a dessert to share.

**12 noon – 1:30pm
FREE**

Food Bank Donation:
Toiletries

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

Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers

Our Helping Hearts group
cares for our members on
our visitation list by deliv-
ering flowers sponsored
by church members and
by visiting, sharing pray-
ers and Christian friend-
ship. Our Communion
Ministers also share in this
ministry by delivering
communion. **Our next
meeting will be
December 7 at 7pm.**

A Fresh Look at Grief

As a congregation we are pretty good at supporting one another in the face of grief. When someone we know loses a loved one we send cards or make donations to the church or the charity of the family's choice. We might make soup or a casserole or bake a cake to help the family feed the visitors that come to support them. We will often attend the funeral of the loved one.

Are there other ways we can support one another? Sometimes we are uncomfortable in the face of death. We don't know what to say to someone who has lost a loved one, or how to support them after the initial loss. Sometimes our own discomfort can make us avoid those who have recently suffered a loss. I would like to encourage you to stretch your "supporting" muscles a little more and put your own discomfort on the back burner.

Rather than asking the generic, "How are you?" try asking, "How are you feeling *today*?" Instead of saying, "Call me if you need anything," offer something specific, such as, "What can I do for you *today*?" or "Can I drive your kids to basketball practice this week?" or "I'm going to Weis market tomorrow. Can I pick something up for you?"

One thing that we all need after a loss is the presence of people who care about us. Instead of avoiding those who've recently suffered a loss, offer to spend time with them. "I'd like to come to see you. Could I come tomorrow and bring soup for lunch?" Often when a spouse dies the couples you used to socialize with find it awkward to continue to include you in their circles. Please be mindful of this tendency and remember to include the recently bereaved in your social gatherings.

I will always remember my mother-in-law sharing with me how difficult it was to lose the social connections she had with other couples after her husband died. She was very courageous and sought out other single and widowed friends and found several rich volunteer opportunities within weeks of losing her husband. Because of her tireless efforts she soon found a new group of friends to travel and socialize with and enrichment through her volunteer work. I do think her journey through grief could have been made somewhat easier had her married friends been more inclusive in their activities.

As a congregation we do a great job supporting one another in the face of grief and loss. Let's try to stretch ourselves as we grow in caring for one another by overcoming our own discomfort, reaching out to others with more specific offers for ways to support them in the face of loss and remembering to include them in our social gatherings and activities.



Sunday, December 3, 2017

1st Sunday of Advent/Communion

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Preacher: Rev. Kayli Freeman

Lay Readers: 8:00– Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Dan Topp

Greeters: Karen & Karl Imdorf, Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM– Jacob Solt

Sunday, December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Heritage Service-Christmas Music

10:30am Horizon Service-Choir Musical

Lay Readers: 8:00– Carol Pope

10:30 - SueAnn Hregician

Greeters: Jim & Leanna Lane, George & Naomi De-Nardo

Acolytes: 8:00AM –Mitchell Roth

10:30AM– Katherine Schaedel, Marissa Christman

Sunday, December 17, 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent/Lessons and Carols

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Preacher: Rev. Kayli Freeman/Rev. Patience Stevenson

Lay Readers: 8:00– Doug Albert

10:30 - Donna Christman

Greeters: Chris & Abby Bastidas, Karen & Scott Misera

Acolytes: 8:00AM –Nickolaus Schmidt

10:30AM– Grace Baer

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve/No Morning Services

3pm Family Service - Candlelight, Communion,

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Reader: Chrissy Shivok

Acolytes: Nickolaus Schmidt

5pm Family Service - Candlelight, Children's Choirs,

Sermon: Rev. Kayli Freeman

Lay Reader: Michael Roth

Acolytes: Katherine Schaedel, Marissa Christman

8pm - Communion & Candle Lighting, High School Adult Choir

Sermon: Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Reader: Harry Burger

Acolytes: Cameron Kuntz

11pm - Communion & Candle Lighting

Sermon: Rev. Kayli Freeman

Lay Reader: Claire Kern

Acolytes:

Sunday, December 31, 2017

New Year's Eve 10:30am Worship Only

10:30am Horizon Service-

Church Family Worship;

Preacher: Rev. Kayli Freeman

Lay Readers: 10:30 - Young Adult

Greeters: Ruth Ensley, Ron Snyder

Acolytes: 10:30AM– Nickolaus Schmidt

**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:

December 3—Advent Brunch

December 10—Consistory

December 17—Confirmation Class

December 24—No Committee

December 31—No Committee

Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
7-1-2017	\$9,644.00	\$31,965.00	\$41,609.00
Income	\$141,226.00	\$18,459.00	\$159,685.00
Expenses	\$113,248.00	\$19,972.00	\$133,220.00
10-31-2017	\$37,622.00	\$30,452.00	\$68,074.00

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>		
October 1	103	173	32	308
October 8	48	162	34	244
October 15	73	152	27	252
October 22	50	147	30	227
October 29	N/A	287	CFW	287

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
October 2016–1,367 October 2017– 1,318

AVG ATTENDANCE
October 2016–273 October 2017– 264

Deaths

Richard G. Schlosser passed away on November 10, 2017 and was laid to rest on November 15, 2017.

Perma V. Boyer passed away on November 16, 2017 and was laid to rest on November 20, 2017.

Mary G. Christ passed away on November 17, 2017 and was laid to rest on November 21, 2017.

Weddings

Sarah Bademan and Jeffrey Bilger were united in marriage on November 18, 2017

UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor Kris	ext. 24
Pastor Kayli	ext. 25
Pastor Patience	ext. 31
Barbara Carinci	ext. 21
Tara Henninger	ext. 22
Kathy Bonsell	ext. 27
Music Office	ext. 26
Kitchen	ext. 30

December 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>8am</u> Photo Directory <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	2 <u>8am</u> Photo Directory
4 <u>8am</u> Photo Directory <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	5 <u>8am</u> Photo Directory <u>12pm</u> Golden Times <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Junior/Middler Choir <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	6 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	7 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Christian Ed; Helping Hearts	8 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	9
11 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	12 <u>9am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Junior/Middler Choir <u>7pm</u> Bible Study <u>7:30pm</u> Unity Choir	13 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	14 <u>1:30pm</u> Property <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	15 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	16
18 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>6:45pm</u> Consistory	19 <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Junior/Middler Choir <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	20 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	21	22 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	23
25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	28 <u>9am</u> Newsletter Mailing	29 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	30
SUNDAYS					
3 Communion <u>8am</u> Heritage Service Photo Directory <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Advent Brunch	10 <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Tech Committee <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Mission Committee <u>7pm</u> Parkland Chorale	17 <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- Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	24 Christman Eve <u>3pm</u> Candlelight, Communion <u>5pm</u> Candlelight, Family Service <u>8pm</u> Candlelight, Communion <u>11pm</u> Candlelight, Com- munion <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	31 <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service- Church Family Worship <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	