

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



**January 7<sup>th</sup> at 8am and 10:30am Worship**  
**Faith Commitment Card Sunday, Communion and**  
**Brunch during Coffee Hour**

Kick off the New Year with Holy Communion and recommitting your life to the mission and ministry of Jesus here at Union UCC. 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.

Walk the Journey to Generosity together.



## Semi-Annual Meeting

### January 28 following 10:30am worship

As we look forward to a future full of hope, please plan to attend and participate in our semi-annual meeting which will be held on Sunday January 28, 2018, following the 10:30am worship service.

We will be reviewing our mid-year financial position and also reviewing our Stewardship Campaign.

We are also pleased to be sharing five individuals that have been nominated to serve a first three-year term on Consistory: Al Stubbmann, Ron Pope, Jason Klinger, Larry Todd, and Jim Lane. Four additional persons, Frank Sorg, Phil Wehr, Cheryl Yenko, and Carol James have been nominated to serve a second consecutive three year term on Consistory.

May God always be with you, and may your New Year be full of good cheer!

Respectfully,  
 Brad Hackett, Consistory President

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#### 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)

# Meet Your New Associate Pastor

Greetings everyone! Just a little note from your new Associate Pastor to say 'Hello!' I have been at Union UCC for my first full month and I have to say ....I AM SO HAPPY TO BE A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY. Everyone has welcomed me with open arms and have made my transition much easier on me.

A lot has happened in this first month as your Associate Pastor. I have moved into my office, gotten accustomed to meetings, had guests drop by, and most importantly I got ordained into the United Church of Christ. December 10, 2017 was one of the best days of my life. Being surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues was the perfect way to celebrate this new adventure in my journey! Thank you to all of those from Union who were able to attend and be a part of my special day. I'd also like to thank Union UCC for the lovely gift of stoles for my ordination. They are beautiful, and I will get lot of use out of them. If you see me wearing my white or purple stole, that's from you! It was truly the best way to kick off my journey here with everyone!



I am finally getting in the groove of things and with each day I get more and more excited to be here. I look forward to so many things while I am here at Union. Everything from planning youth group events, faith formation with our confirmands and young adults, service/mission work, and so much more.

We are just getting started! I look forward to learning, growing, and praising Christ here with all of you. A special fun fact might be if you want to stop by and say hello, I am in the office Monday -Wednesday & Fridays all day/afternoon. Sometimes there are meetings and other events, so if you would like to schedule a time to meet and talk with me, please do not hesitate to email me ([pastorkayli@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkayli@unionucc.org)) or call the church office!

**HERE'S TO A GREAT YEAR AND A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ALL OF US AT UNION UCC**

*Pastor Kayli*



# Mission Committee

## Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 4, 2018

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

The soup pots will be out early in mid January to start collecting soup for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Help TACKLE HUNGER by buying a six pack of soup, or head for the goal line with a case of 12 or 24 cans.

The Mission Committee encourages all members to get off the sidelines, get in the game and donate canned soup to feed families in the community. We need YOUR help to meet our GOAL to collect over 600 cans of soup. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Join in the fun on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 4, 2018 and join Union UCC and thousands of churches around the country as we celebrate SOUPER Bowl Sunday.

Thank you for fighting hunger and being on the winning SOUPER Bowl team.

## Thank You

Thank you from the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Your donation of 250 five pound bags of potatoes for our annual Christmas 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.

Thank you from Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Thank you for your gift in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary.

The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the doors for our student's education, opens their minds to learning, and opens their hearts to serving.

## Blanket Sunday

You're changing lives around the World !! Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency.



Thank you for your support of the upcoming **Blanket Sunday in February 2018**. You are helping to spread God's love to many families around the country and the world.

## 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.

Theme: The Sweet Life  
Café A weekend experience that allows us to slow down and savor time with God and each other. A cozy time to rest, laugh, share stories, and grow closer to each other and God.

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." —John 6:35

Leader and More Info: See Pastor Kris

## 2018 Envelope Packets

Envelope packets for 2018 are available for pickup. 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.

To help offset the cost of the printing and shipping costs, we encourage members to use the first initial offering envelope. Weekly envelopes provide for the ongoing mission of the church, please use your envelopes regularly in the collection plate or mail to the church office.

There are other opportunities in your packet to give. Special envelopes are directed to special ministries within the church, like Mission & Outreach, Improvement, and special designated mission offerings. Please support these efforts as you are able.

Keep God's mission strong here at Union UCC, show your support and give generously and regularly.

Thank you, The Stewardship Committee.



Find us on  
Facebook

[www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)



## Where School Memories Begin

By Annette Wilcox

We blinked and the end of another calendar year has already come. What a whirlwind end to the year we have had in the Preschool. Santa's elves turned our Dramatic Play classroom into Santa's workshop overnight, allowing the students to play in a gingerbread house, decorate a Christmas tree and help Santa build toys. On the learning end, our 3-year-olds had "Dinosaur December", complete with dinosaur facts, excavating for dinosaur bones, and lots of pretend. The 4's enjoyed hands-on fun with a month-long science lab learning about states of matter. They experimented with different forms of matter, weighed and measured objects, and watched as solid and liquid ingredients combined to form a different item- cookie dough! The best part was cooking and eating the cookies at the end. Our Pre-K class took a tour through various holiday traditions, with plenty of art projects along the way, culminating in creating Christmas ornaments from apple sauce and cinnamon. Of course, what December would be complete without a Christmas party and a visit from Santa himself!

**Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year begins with an Informational Open House on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** We will continue to take applications until our classes are full. If you, your family, or your friends are interested in enrolling a child and would like more information or a registration form, please email [preschool@unionucc.org](mailto:preschool@unionucc.org) or call the Preschool office at 610-767-5327.

Check us out on Facebook— or on our website—  
**Neffs UCC Preschool** [www.unionucc.org/preschool](http://www.unionucc.org/preschool)

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.

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





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

## CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

**Thank you to all who donated money and food bank items and filled shoeboxes for this year's Christian Ed Christmas Missions.**

- We were able to buy Christmas presents for a family of four who are working with Lehigh County Conference of Churches' Pathways program. Thanks to Claire Kern for helping me shop, wrap, and deliver the gifts.
- We delivered 44 filled "Holiday Hope Chests" to Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. The shoeboxes were distributed to children throughout the Lehigh Valley.
- We had over 32 families participate in our Reverse Advent Basket, where each day they put something IN the basket for our local food bank and agencies.



**THANK YOU for sharing the Christmas Spirit with our neighbors!**

## January Children's Church

Jan. 7 Genesis 1:1-5  
Jan. 14 1 Samuel 3:1-20  
Jan. 21 Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Jan. 28 Mark 1:21-28

### You surprised me!

A heartfelt **Thank You** to Consistory, Staff, Church and Ministry, CE Committee and the Congregation for recognizing my twenty years here at Union UCC. Talk about time flying by when you are having fun! The kind words and the gifts were truly appreciated. Rick and I will certainly enjoy using the restaurant gift cards. (We have already taken care of the chocolates and "communion drink.") I am so blessed to work with such a wonderful church family. Thank You! Love, Kathy

## VBS 2018

Planning Meeting—Jan. 23, 10am

It's that time of year again!  
Time to start planning for another exciting Vacation Bible School at Union UCC!  
We need your help to make this summer's program the best it can be. Be part of the fun and excitement of **SHIPWRECKED!**



## 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 January dates are **Jan. 4th and 18th, 9:30-11:30, in the Room 5.**



## 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

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

**\$50 Deposit for Regional Youth Event due now, we're still accepting sign ups.**

### **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 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 North Summit, Wind Gap**

Meet at church at 1:45pm. Climb 3-5:15 pm. Home around 6:30.

Cost \$12 includes climbing, snacks and drinks.

Go to <http://www.northsummitclimbing.com/files/waiver.pdf>

**Print the waiver form and return it with your \$12 to Pastor Kayli's or Dave D's mailbox no later than January 21.**

If you are interested in training to become a belayer contact Pastor Kayli or Dave ASAP.

### **Feb 10-11 – Confirmation Class Sleepover and Leading Worship**

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

### **Tuesday, Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

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

### **Sunday, Feb 25 Advisory Team Lunch and Meeting 11:30-12:30**

#### **SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15am**

##### **THE MUNCH BUNCH**

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

##### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

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

##### **THE BREAKFAST CLUB**

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



### **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.

## New Members



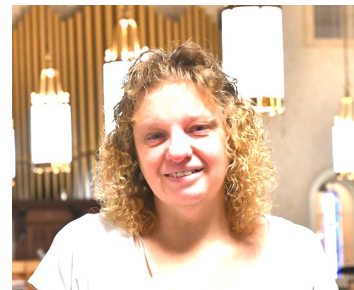
**Andrew and Whitney Kern**



**Daniel and Andrea Kushnir**



**Jessica Micocci, and children,  
Isabella & Michael**



**Jacqueline Protsman**



**Meslissa Alloggio,  
Rob Fetherman**

## Baptisms



**Mack Ellington Messer** son  
of Brooke Horwith and  
Todd Messer on October 8,  
2017.

**Anthony Carson Dayoub**  
son of Sarah Stoner and  
Danny Dayoub on Septem-  
ber 17, 2017  
Not Pictured.



**Chevelle Christine Humanick**  
daughter of Brandon and  
Jodee (Kuhns) Humanick on  
December 10, 2017



**Elliott Kate Lerch** daughter of Alex  
and Andrea (Nuschke) Lerch on  
November 12, 2017.



**Michael Stephan Strack** son of  
Stephen and Leslie (Thompson)  
Strack on November 12, 2017.



# Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

Happy New Year to all. Union UCC is ready for another year of serving God in the Neffs community and the World. Our property continues to be one busy place on a daily and weekly basis. We are blessed to have a beautiful, welcoming building and property to call our home away from home.

We take great pride in seeing the sanctuary full of members and guests all Christmas season and the parking lots filled to capacity. Mission opportunities were happening everywhere, along with increased activities in the Music and Education departments.

Community and church sponsored groups are active all week long. The Neffs UCC Preschool is active everyday of the week, preparing young children for a life of learning.

A busy, active place like Union UCC makes for a vibrant, energized church. We are blessed. Let's keep that spirit alive all year long, there are so many opportunities throughout the coming months to join your church family in worship, mission, music, education, fellowship, and more.

See you soon. Peace to all.



## Adult Study

### Friday Morning Adult Class

**9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)**

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

**January 5, 12, 19 and 26 *All Saints***

We will watch the movie *All Saints*. It is based on the inspiring true story of salesman-turned-pastor Michael Spurlock (John Corbett), the tiny church he was ordered to shut down, and a group of refugees from Southeast Asia. Together, they risked everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all. *All Saints* is a story of how following God's plan is a risky step of faith, one that ultimately leads to the transformation of both individuals and communities.

### Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

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

**January 7, 14, 21, and 28 *Anxious for Nothing, Max Lucado with Pastor Kris***

According the National Institute of Mental Health, anxiety disorders are reaching epidemic proportions. In a given year, 17% of Americans will feel the effects of a panic attack. Anxiety-related issues are the number one mental health problem among women and are second only to alcohol and drug abuse among men. Between 1997 and 2004, Americans more than doubled their spending on anti-anxiety medications from \$900 million to \$2.1 billion.

We are tense. Why? Change is one reason. Sociologists speculate the world has changed more in the last thirty years than it has in the last three hundred Every day seems to bring new change and threats. We also face personal challenges--job loss, cancer, divorce, addiction, bankruptcy. Add to personal challenges those of a global nature imported into our lives every few seconds thanks to smart phones, TVs, and computer screens. In our parents' day, the nightly news caught them up on world events. Now it is a matter of minutes.

Anxiety just comes with life. However, as God's word reveals, it doesn't have to *dominate* life. In this video-based Bible study, bestselling author Max Lucado looks at Philippians 4:4-8 that leads us to: "The peace of God which surpasses all understanding." We *can* be anxious for nothing, and discover true peace from God that surpasses all human understanding.



# Shhh...They're Sleeping

During the winter flower bulbs are sleeping, resting and preparing to pop and blossom in the Spring. That's the promise of Spring. We thank **Glenn and Susan Mattern** for donating 1000's of new flower bulbs to our grove and also planting them this Fall so that we can enjoy them when winter is over. Watch for them. What a generous gift of hope and new life.

## 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!

### 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**



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

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

**TEXT TO GIVE** Send a text to **610-857-7023** with the amount you would like to contribute. Include the \$ sign. You'll be sent a text with directions to register.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** you can designate an automatic weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out the form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and return it to the church office.

**AMAZON SMILE** Earn money for Union UCC while you shop at Amazon by signing up at <https://smile.amazon.com>. Set Union United Church of Christ as your charity and 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to the church. Search charities by zip code 18065.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES in person or by mail** Packets are given to members and friends in December for the new year. Place your envelope in the offering plate on Sundays, use the 9 envelopes in the rack in your seat at church for the offering plate or mail your offering by postal mail.

### Thanks to our Office Helpers!

Tom & Linda Anderson,  
Madeline & Dick Bingell,  
Teresa Dalrymple,  
Larry Frantz, Phyllis  
Hamm, Bonnie Herzog,  
Judy Hoffman, Marjorie  
Hoffman, Eleanor & Ron  
Kleckner, Linda Migliori,  
Barbara Panner, Linda &  
Wilbur Romig

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.

Look for us  
February 4,  
2018 at  
10:30am  
worship!



## Donate, Recycle and Help Your Church

**You helped the church raise over \$3,000 this year with your donations of clothing.**

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.

### Did You Know?

- You can get **weekly emails** updating you on the events and Sunday services at church?
- You can get your monthly **newsletter online**? Simply text UNIONUCC to 22828 to join the list.
- We have a **Facebook** page: [Facebook.com/unionneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)
- You can sign up for **E-giving** at no cost to you?
- **Text to give**? See page 8 for details.
- You can sign up for **Amazon Smile** and a portion of your Amazon.com purchases will be donated to the church?

To sign up to get emails/e-newsletter, or for E-giving visit our website: **WWW.UNIONUCC.ORG** and click on the **RESOURCES** tab or send an email to: [secretary@unionucc.org](mailto:secretary@unionucc.org)

**amazon**smile  
  
**You shop. Amazon gives.**

**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](https://smile.amazon.com) to make your purchase; .5% of your order will be donated to Union UCC, as a charitable organization. Don't forget to use zip code 18065 to select Union United Church of Christ, Neffs as your charity.

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



*Karl and Cathy Schmidt are our Catch the Spirit recipients for January. They were nominated by the Mission Committee. They will be recognized in January during 10:30 am worship.*

By Karl Schmidt

I am a lifelong member of Union United Church of Christ here at Neffs—baptized and confirmed by Reverend Robert Urffer. Cathy and I were married here by Reverend Thomas N. Thomas and we have three children. Holly is married with a daughter, Isabella, and a two month-old son, Blake. Karl Jr. is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Parkland High School and Nickolaus is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Orefield Middle School. They all were and are active in the church.

Through the years with the church we have been involved with Consistory, Board of Governors, Girls Scouts, Neffs Pre-School, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Acolytes, Confirmation class, Youth group, Northern Lehigh Food Bank, Blues Night Out, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. I am currently the Scoutmaster for Troop #57 here at Neffs with about 40 young men participating in our program.

I am a Realtor with Remax Unlimited Real Estate selling homes, land and farms for over 30 yrs. Cathy keeps all of us in line and presentable. In her spare time she loves to bake. Being a part of Neffs Union UCC has helped us develop and form the foundations for all of us to live by.

Memories? Who can forget the “old time” picnics in the grove with the milk bottle throw, the food, A-Treat soda & candy stand? Also the Christmas programs with an orange and a box of candy afterwards?

All of the programs and activities here at Neffs are memorable and rewarding. Everyone has a busy schedule but we encourage everyone to get involved with something. Neffs Union UCC is an active and vibrant church that really does have something for everyone from participating to volunteering!

“No matter who you are or where you are in Life’s Journey, you are welcome here.”

**Thank you to the congregation and our church leaders** for the Christmas gift given to the staff on Christmas Eve. Your generosity and support means the world to us. We are also grateful for the many cards and goodies that reflected your Christmas spirit to us. We are blessed to be part of this family of faith.

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



### Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be  
**Tuesday, February 6,  
2017**

**Program:** Center for Vision  
Loss

**January:** No meeting

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

**12 noon – 1:30pm  
FREE**

**Food Bank Donation:**  
Condiments

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  
in the spring.**

Thank you, Becky Ensley Dobitsch! We are very grateful for the wonder-  
ful work that Becky Ensley (now Dobitsch!) shared with us from June  
through November. Becky is a recent seminary graduate and grand-  
daughter to one of our members, Ruth Ensley. She was looking to gain  
more church experience and asked if she could serve here. Becky shared  
numerous hospital, home and nursing home visits with me. Becky was  
very warm, gracious and kind in her visits to our members. In addition to  
visitation, Becky also preached an excellent sermon on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Becky was married to Chris Dobitsch on November 4<sup>th</sup> and is in the pro-  
cess of applying for a ministry position with the Lehigh Presbytery. Our  
thoughts and prayers go with Becky as she begins her married life with  
Chris and pursues a pastoral ministry position.

Dear Union UCC,

These are some photos of Lehigh chapter PASR delivering the prayer cards  
to Keystone Military Families. About 15 members worked from 10:00 un-  
til 1:00 preparing bags of goodies and stuffing stockings which will be sent  
to troops serving in harms way.

Special thanks to the Knit-Wits for adding your special message to the  
stockings we filled!

Carol Rieder

Community Service Chair / Lehigh chapter

The pictures show members putting your prayers into the stockings. We  
prepared bags of snacks, candy, breakfast items, and personal items which  
were then stuffed into hundreds of stockings yesterday. Thanks again for  
helping brighten the days of our troops!



## New Member Sessions

Pastor Kris and our church leaders invite you to gatherings on **February 11<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> at the 8am or 10:30am worship service**.

For more info: Pastor Kris [PastorKris@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org)

To sign up: Call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Tara [secretary@unionucc.org](mailto:secretary@unionucc.org) or Barbara [administrator@unionucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@unionucc.org) or Barbara [administrator@unionucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:administrator@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](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org) for forms and room availability.

## Home Visitation Members Birthdays



**Betty McGee—**

**January 6**

Phoebe Bridgeways

Room 374A

1925 Turner St.

Allentown, PA 18104

**Jill Schlosser—January 25**

4927 Spruce St.

Schnecksville PA 18078

**Arlene Olenwine—January 26**

3345 Fairland Dr.

Schnecksville, PA 18078

**Marilyn Sechler—January 26**

4615 Daisy Ave.

Orefield, PA 18069

**Clara Hoster—January 30**

Above and Beyond

2232 29th St.

Allentown, PA 18103

## Kathy Bonsell's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Union UCC

In August, Kathy marked her 20<sup>th</sup> year as our Director of Christian Education. We recognized her on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in worship. The children created bookmarks for her Journal Bible and the Consistory, Church and Ministry and Staff presented her with gift of chocolate, wine, and restaurant gift cards.

Thank you, Kathy, for your dedication to faith formation for our children and families and for your many gifts of time and talent that you share with us so generously. You have shared God's love with us in important and life changing ways. We give God thanks for you!





### **Sunday, January 7, 2018**

Brunch/Communion/Faith Commitment

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** Matthew 22:34-46

**Message:** The Journey to Generosity: Love God, Love Neighbor

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

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Brad Hackett

10:30 - Don Penrod

**Greeters:** Jim & Edie Fella, Karl & Cathy Schmidt

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –

10:30AM– Mitchell Roth, Cameron Kuntz

### **Sunday, January 14, 2018**

Second Sunday after Epiphany

**8:00am Heritage Service–**

**10:30am Horizon Service—Baptism**

**Text:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10

**Message:** Here I Am...Where Are You?"

**Preacher:** Rev. Kayli Freeman

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Susan Steinmann

10:30 - Chrissy Shivok

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

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –

10:30AM– Katherine Schaedel, Marissa Christman

### **Sunday, January 21, 2018**

Third Sunday after Epiphany/Healing Service

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service-Unity Choir**

**Text:** Genesis 37:17b-27

**Message:** Dream God's Dream

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

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

10:30 - Tami Wassum

**Greeters:** Doug & Angie Kuntz, Malcolm & Margie MacKenzie

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –Suzanne Schneider

10:30AM– Tami Wassum

### **Sunday, January 28, 2018**

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service-Semi-Annual Meeting/Youth Choirs**

**Text:** Matthew 13:31-32, John 13:34-35, 15:12-17

**Message:** The State of Union UCC

**Preacher:** Kris with Pastors, Staff, and Leaders of Union

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Fawn Albert

**Greeters:** John & Debbie Romig, Marcey Kroll, Ruth Ensley

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –Mitchell Roth

10:30AM–

### **Christmas Eve Yard Signs**

Thank you to everyone who invited others to celebrate Christmas Eve with us by placing a yard sign. Keep your sign for next year.

New Year blessings to you,  
Pastor Kris

### **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:

January 7-Financial Leadership

January 14-Fellowship

January 21-Consistory

January 28-Mission



# Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
<b>7-1-2017</b>	\$9,644.00	\$31,965.00	\$41,609.00
<b>Income</b>	\$174,057.00	\$22,573.00	\$196,630.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$150,326.00	\$23,175.00	\$173,501.00
<b>11-30-2017</b>	\$33,375.00	\$31,363.00	\$64,738.00

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>
	8AM	10:30AM		
November 5	103	157	31	291
November 12	77	187	17	281
November 19	56	147	29	232
November 26	67	139	CFW	206

## TOTAL ATTENDANCE

November 2016–1,190 November 2017– 1,010

## AVG ATTENDANCE

November 2016–298 November 2017– 253

## Memorials

The following donations have been accepted into the Memorial Fund in memory of Richard G. Schlosser:

Susan Fanning	Barbara Panner
Charlotte J. Fritz	Jean S. Wieand
Carolyn M. George	Supp Family
James S. Kuntz, Jr.	Richard & Madeline Bingell
Malene Kokolus & Family	Marion L. Snyder
Shirley A. Schneck	Sharon E. Metzger
Wilbur & Linda Romig	Walter H. Sittler, Jr.
Karen M. Kern	Ruth A. Scheffler
Philip & Julie Wehr	David & Lucille Hamm
Barbara & Richard Carinci	Marlene E. Foulke
Richard & Sandra Bear	Eunice M. Diehl
Ronald & Eleanor Kleckner	

The following donation has been accepted into the Memorial Fund in memory of Robert McCray:

Alan & Tina Knittel

The following donation has been accepted into the Memorial Fund in memory of Robert Schillinger:

Scott R. Sechler

## Weddings

**Judy Hankee and Brian Rubright** were united in marriage on December 26, 2017.

## UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

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

**Rev. Kayli Freeman**  
Associate Pastor  
pastorkayli@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

**Blake Hoppes**  
Minister of Music  
Blake.charger@gmail.com

**Ori Handwerk**  
Custodian  
Caretaker@unionucc.org

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  
preschool@unionucc.org

## Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

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

# January 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry	<b>4</b> <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Christian Ed	<b>5</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Welcoming Cmte	<b>9</b> <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	<b>10</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>11</b> <u>10am</u> Preschool Board <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	<b>12</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	<b>13</b> <u>9:30am</u> Private Party
<b>15</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>6:45pm</u> Consistory	<b>16</b> <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Junior/Middler Choir <u>7pm</u> Bible Study; Family Promise <u>7:30pm</u> Unity Choir	<b>17</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>18</b> <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	<b>19</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	<b>20</b>
<b>22</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>23</b> <u>9am</u> Newsletter <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Junior/Middler Choir <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	<b>24</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>25</b> <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	<b>26</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	<b>27</b>
<b>29</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>30</b> <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	<b>31</b> <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit			
SUNDAYS					
<b>7 Communion</b> <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 Pre-baptism	<b>14</b> <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 –Baptism Service/Children's Church  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Mission Committee	<b>21</b> <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 Suds and Spuds Lunch	<b>28 Semi Annual Meeting</b>  <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		