

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT *
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

Lenten Journey

Lent starts on Valentine's Day this year and ends with our Easter celebration on April Fool's Day, April 1. What a journey!

Bring your friends, family and neighbors to these worship experiences and programs.

Ash Wednesday, February 14th

Worship at 12noon-12:30 and 7pm-7:30

A quiet time of prayer, communion and ashes in the sanctuary.

Drive-by Ashes 8-8:30am and 5:30-6pm

Stop by in one of our parking lots for ashes and prayer with a pastor.

Listen on Wednesday Nights: learning new ways to pray and talk to God.

February 21 and 28, March 7 and 14

5:30pm-7pm

5:30-6 pm Activities, Crafts and Fun based on the scripture and prayer. **Fellowship Hall/Basement**

6-6:30pm Food and Supper Provided, you're welcome to bring a dessert to share.

6:30-7pm Worship in the Sanctuary

Listen on Sunday Mornings: February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

"Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you. I'll reveal my words to you." -Wisdom (from Proverbs)

Have you ever misplaced your phone—which is on vibrate of course—and then asked someone to call it? We get really still and really quiet. Our ears perk up in all directions in order to be ready to hear that little buzz. It is a quieting down and high alert all at the same time. This Lent we will quiet things down and heighten our attention to the "still, small voice" of God and our own True Self. Listening through prayer as well as meditation on holy texts is an ancient Lenten practice. Come and rest, come and listen.

March 25th Palm Sunday 8am and 10:30am Worship

March 29th Maundy Thursday, 6pm Potluck Supper and Worship

March 30th 7pm Good Friday Worship, Communion

April 1st Easter Sunday

6:30am Easter Sunrise in the Cemetery

8am and 10:30am Easter Worship



Inside this issue

Consistory	2
Children's Programs	5
Youth Group	6
Worship	14
Calendar	16

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)

Pastor Kayli's Installation Service

Please join us on Sunday **February 25, 2018 at 3pm** at Union UCC to celebrate Union UCC's installing of Rev. Kayli Freeman as our new Associate Pastor. There will be a worship service followed by a time of fellowship with food and beverages provided. Everyone is welcome to this time of celebration as we welcome Pastor Kayli fully into Union UCC. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kayli or Pastor Kris.



Attention High School Seniors!

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

Consistory

By Deb Wenner Subject to Approval

The monthly meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting was called to order on Monday, January 15, 2018 by President Brad Hackett.

The Treasurer's Report and the December 2017- January 2018 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee is requesting from FOLG for the following annual requests: \$2,000 for care & maintenance of the elevator, \$1,000 for gutter cleaning & slate repair, & \$6,000 for miscellaneous property repairs or upgrades as needed for 2018. Also FOLG for the following projects: \$10,000 for paving & drainage near the food stand in the grove, & \$15,000 for the grove project, to include costs of the holding tank, sidewalks, and electrical upgrades to the exterior lighting.

Christian Education Committee ran 3 missions for the Christmas season: Holiday Hope Chest Boxes, the Be a Hero program, and Reverse Advent baskets. The Advent workshop & brunch went very well. They will be holding Lent Messy Church Workshops Wednesday nights 2/21-3/14. There will be a selection of themed crafts each week, dinner and a short reflection/devotional time..

Mission Committee - 2017 mission giving totaled \$68,031, an increase of over \$12,600 from 2016. Over 30 baskets were filled for the reverse Advent mission, gifts were purchased for 75 children served by Bethlehem Salvation Army, & 298 cold weather accessories, were delivered to The 6th St. Shelter. Family Promise meeting on Sun., March 4th @ 11:45 we will have our own organizational meeting on Family Promise. Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 4th. Money collected will go to L.V. Conference of Churches and the canned soup to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. The Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens will preach that

day. Blanket Sunday is Feb. 25th. Pint for Pint Blood Drive & soup sale is tentatively scheduled for March 25th. Lenten Self Denial offering will go to Bethany Children's Home & Lehigh County Meals on Wheels.

Church and Ministry - Pastor Patience may be needing some time off. We intend to continue to pay her during that time. Dave DiPalantonio program year paid ½ year by church & ½ year by Youth Group Fund. Youth Group will fund the rest of this year, & they will reevaluate in the future. \$3,000 was requested from FOLG for worship guests.

Welcoming Committee - Souper Bowl Sunday luncheon will be held Feb. 4th after the 10:30 service. New member sessions will be held Feb. 11th and Feb. 18th at 9:15 in the Memory Room.

Stewardship Committee is requesting \$1500 for Golden Times, \$2000 for welcoming outreach & publicity, & \$1000 for continuing education for Pastor Kayli & Kathy Bonsell from the FOLG.

Estate gifts were given by the George family, Baer family, & Lillian Casselberry. Using these gifts to replace the rug, paint, & touch up the pews in the Sanctuary were discussed.

Fellowship Committee - will meet on Feb. 12th to prepare for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which is being held on Tues., Feb. 13th. They will begin Easter Egg Hunt preparation in March.

The next regular meeting of the Consistory will take place Monday, February 19 at 6:45pm in Memorial Hall.

Mission Committee

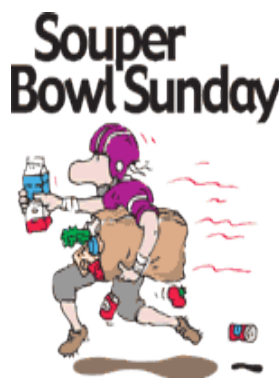
Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 4, 2018

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 - God's Team.



Blanket Sunday

Sunday Feb 25, 2018

You're changing lives around the World !! Between July 2017 and October 2017, four months of the whole year, Church World Services provided 2,755 blankets

to families in the United States, many affected by the hurricanes in Florida and Texas. During the other months, blankets were provided to people in California, Kentucky, Michigan, and dozens of other countries around the world.

Once again, Union UCC will celebrate Blanket Sunday on Feb 25, 2018. **Donations of \$10 per blanket will be accepted Feb 11, 17 & 25**, stop by in the foyer, or check your bulletins for donation forms. The larger the donation, the more blankets purchased, the more people to keep warm.

A note from CWS:

Thank you for your dedication to providing Blankets for Church World Service. Last year, Union UCC helped to provide CWS Blankets to people throughout the world. Thanks to you, families in emergency shelters across the country received blankets when they arrived. You helped them stay warm in their time of need. You have shared God's grace with people and have made a difference in their lives.

Women's Retreat 2018

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

Trout Lake Retreats,
Stroudsburg
\$135, Collecting \$75 Deposit
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

Thank You

From the Bethlehem Salvation Army:

Dear Union UCC,
Thanks so much for purchasing gifts for 75 children this past Christmas! The kids were thrilled with their gifts, and the parents so grateful for your generosity. You certainly made Christmas special for them.

May God bless you and meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Lenten Mission Collection:

This year's Lenten Mission Collection will be provided to **Meals on Wheels** of the Lehigh Valley and **Bethany Children's Home** in Womelsdorf, PA. Please use the special Lenten Mission envelope in your envelope packet to support these two important mission agencies, or write "Lenten Mission" on any envelope.

Both agencies provide vital care and services to people and families in the local areas. More information on their missions will be included in the March Newsletter.

From Lehigh Conference of Churches:

Thank you for your participation in the Christmas Hero program. The presents donated truly make a difference during the Christmas Holidays to a family in the Lehigh Valley.



Follow us on
Instagram

www.instagram.com/unionuccneffs/

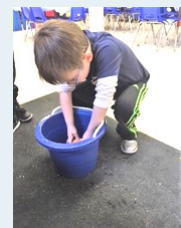


Where School Memories Begin

By Annette Wilcox

January was all about animals in the Preschool. The students explored different habitats through crafts, books, lessons and play. The dramatic play room held an Arctic area, a jungle, and an area to play under the sea. The 3's experimented to see how whale blubber keeps them warm in cold water. A favorite activity for all of the students was playing with animals in both ice and sand tables. For an up to date look at what is happening in the Preschool, check us out on Facebook or Instagram.

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year begins with an Informational Open House on February 6th 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 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

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

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US on Wednesday Nights for **MESSY LENT**

Feb. 21, Feb. 28, Mar. 7, Mar. 14

5:30-6 FUN (crafts) 6-6:30 FOOD 6:30-7:00 Worship

Invite your friends, neighbors, relatives. Let's experience LENT together!



February Children's Church

Feb. 4 **MARK 1:29-39**

Feb. 11 **2 KINGS 2:1-12**

Feb. 18 **GENESIS 9:8-17**

BLANKET SUNDAY

Feb. 25 **ROMANS 4:13-25**

BIBLE JOURNALING



Join us on Feb. 1st and 15th to study the Bible in new and creative ways. You provide a journaling Bible. We provide art supplies, techniques, and ideas.

The Christian Ed Committee

Is always looking for help, whether it's helping with one event or coming to every meeting and activity. If interested or you have questions, talk to Kathy.

**Trunk or Treat~ Advent Celebration
Hoagie Sales ~Gertrude Hawk
Bus Trips~Wed Night Messy Lent**

Gertrude Hawk Candy

The children received order forms on Jan. 28. Place your orders with a child, in the foyer, or online.

Orders are due Feb. 25 and will be delivered in time for Easter.

SPONSOR a LIL SMIDGEN for KIDSPEACE

Buy a box of candy for \$7.

We will send it to the children for Easter.



**Our 3rd/4th/5th Grade
Sunday School children are
learning about area homeless.
They are working on "earning"
products for Blessing Bags that
will be handed out to homeless
in the Lehigh Valley.**

BLANKET SUNDAY

Let's hug our neighbors with a nice, warm blanket. Church World Service provides blankets to victims of natural disasters in the United States and around the world. **ONLY \$10.00** buys a blanket! We will be collecting BLANKET SUNDAY envelopes in Children's Church on Feb. 18th.



VBS 2018

Planning Meeting—FEB 20, 10:00am

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!**

REGISTRATION forms will be available March 4!



Youth Group News Grades 6-12

For more information contact:

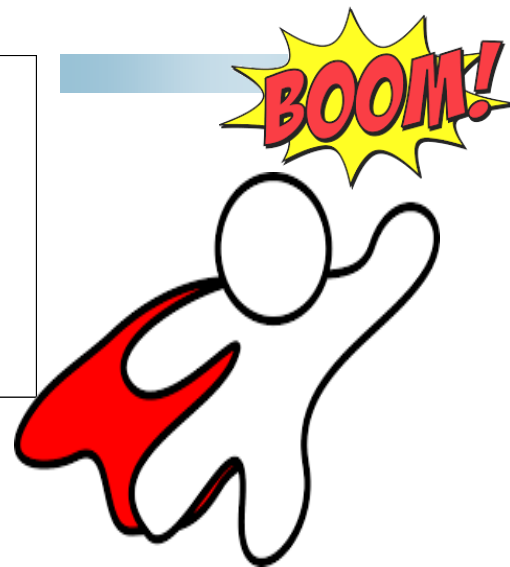
Pastor Kayli PastorKayli@unionucc.org

Or Dave DiPaolantonio at 610-349-9162 and youthgroup@unionucc.org.

Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group

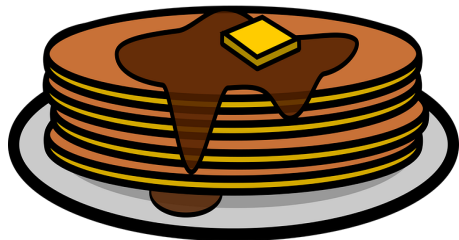
www.unionucc.org/christian-education/youth-group/

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).



Feb 10-11 – Confirmation Class Sleepover and Leading Worship

Already confirmed? Come be a helper! Let Pastor Kayli know if you'd like to join us.



Tuesday, Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Youth Group helps serve supper to our church family from 6-7pm, and enjoy a yummy dinner together

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15am

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)

****MARK YOUR CALENDARS****

YOUTH SUNDAY

March 4, 2018

Theme: Jesus is our Super Hero

How do you want to participate? Singing?

Greeting? Reading? Preaching? (SENIORS)

Look for sign-ups or let Pastor Kayli know what you'd like to do!

TAILGATE PARTY

FEBRUARY 4, 2018 11:30 - 12:30PM

Welcome New Church Members to our Team!

Everyone welcome

Menu includes: Subs, pizza, wings, chili, salads, snacks, birch beer, soda, please bring a dessert. The cost to attend is FREE.

Be sure to help the Mission Committee with their effort to help others by bringing a can of soup or cash donation.

Please make your lunch reservation by calling the office (610-767-6961) or emailing secretary@unionucc.org.

During Worship-

Guest Preacher: Rev. Larry Pickens,
Ecumenical Director at the Lehigh Conference of Churches

Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens joined the Lehigh Conference of Churches in 2015. He is a graduate of North Park University and holds a master of theology and a master of divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a doctorate in ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary, and a Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law. Dr. Pickens is the former general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church and has significant accomplishments in ecumenical and interfaith events across the globe. Dr. Pickens leads the LCC's efforts to unite communities of faith in the Lehigh Valley, affirm an ecumenical Christian witness, and foster the greatest cooperation possible among diverse religious perspectives.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 13, 2018 ~ 6PM Supper

Menu: Pancakes (Gluten Free available), sausage, applesauce, and fastnachts.
FREE! - Donations accepted.



Hosted by: Fellowship Committee
Served by: Youth Group

Make your reservation by February 11th!
Return the bottom portion to the office
or call 610-767-6961.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Name _____

#Adults _____ #Children _____

#People Ordering Gluten Free Pancakes _____

Phone/Cell No. _____

♦ I will donate one dozen fastnachts/doughnuts!

Country Sale-May 5th

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

Cost: \$20 donation per indoor/outdoor space

Registration: Church Office 610-+767-6961

We will be collecting donations of books, videos, puzzles to be dropped on the stage starting April 18 on the stage in Memorial Hall. Please do not drop off before that date.

Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

Blast From the Past

February 2003, fifteen years ago, the construction of the New Beginning Addition was in full swing. Mason's were working on the brick facade, roofers were installing shingles and slate, electricians were running wires inside, carpenters were building interior walls. Until things stopped for two days beginning on Monday Feb 17, 2002, when 24 inches of snow fell to the ground in Neffs.

Two days later, drywall and insulation was delivered and the crews were back at work. The deadline to the completion was on. Ohh the memories

Onto the Present

Christmas is over, winter is here, the snow plow and shoveling crews are on call and ready. Union UCC's property is busy on a daily basis serving God and providing pastoral care to the community and the world through worship, Christian education, fellowship, mission and more.



Looking to the Future

Construction of the food stand in the grove progressed extremely well during December. The exterior of the building was completed on Dec 20, 2017 as PPL installed the new underground electric line to the new meter of the building. To celebrate the achievement, the fry pan sitting on a new counter inside the food stand was cooking hot dogs. Phil & Julie Wehr, and carpenters Rick and Jay Simock enjoyed those first hot dogs and look forward to inviting everyone to the grove this summer to enjoy lots of food and refreshments. Stay tuned.

Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class

9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement) Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

- Feb 2 Serving Breakfast with the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry at Zion UCC, Allentown
- Feb 9, 16, 23 , March 2 The Bible and Handel's Messiah, the Kerygma Program

We loved studying the Advent and Christmas songs in December and now we will turn to some of the Lent and Easter music of Handel's *Messiah*.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

9:15-10:15 - Room 5 (Basement) Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

February 4	Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Ecumenical Director, Lehigh Conference of Churches Dr. Pickens will share the vision and ministries of the Lehigh Conference of Churches with us
February 11	Introduction to Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, who will be the guest speaker at Lehigh Conference of Churches Robert K. Campbell Memorial Lecture on Christian Unity on Thursday, March 22 and Friday, March 23. Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado and author of New York Times Best seller, <i>Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People</i> .
February 18	Marla Sell, Director, Bethany Christian Services, will share about BCS's ministry to resettle refugees in the Lehigh Valley. Marla has been working in the field of refugee resettlement since 2000. In April 2016, Marla was hired by Bethany Christian Services to be Site Director for Refugee Resettlement in Allentown.
February 25	<i>Podcast for a Just World: Art, Revelation and Cultural Work</i> with Brian McCrory. An introduction to a resource available through the UCC.

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**

Year End Statements

Financial statements for those that have given \$200 or more for 2016 will be mailed out by January 31, 2017. If you do not receive your statement or wish to have a statement that is for less than \$200 in giving please contact Barbara in the church office.

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.

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, Jill
Schlosser, Linda & Wil-
bur 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!



The Financial Leadership Team Gives God Thanks for You

Thank you for your faith commitments to God and God's church.
We're grateful to those of you who submitted a Faith Commitment
Card prior to Jan 7th and since then.

You are still welcome to hand one in. We know that many of you
renewed your commitments to God privately as well. We pray that as
you move through 2018 that your faith commitments will be a
blessing to you and to those under the care of God's church at Union.

From Pastor Kris's sermon on January 7th:

"Jesus says, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your
heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first
and greatest commandment and the second is like it: 'You shall love
your neighbor as yourself.'"

Yes, Stewardship and Commitment Sundays are about raising
money for the budget, but they're much more than that. The deeper
idea of Christian stewardship has to do with what we do with all of
our lives – our time, talent, money, energy, spirit, schedules, relation-
ships, work, free time – all of our lives.

What we are asking – and what God is asking of us – is to
make a commitment of our total life to God's purposes – loving and
serving God in all that we do and say.

Stewardship – and our Faith Commitment – is much more
than money. It involves how we manage all of our life individually, as
families, as a church and as a community, a nation and a world.

What is stewardship? Loving God, loving neighbor, loving self.
And, doing that with all our heart, soul and mind and strength. What
is Faith Commitment Sunday? An opportunity to make commit-
ments—both material and symbolic—to help this congregation love
God and love neighbor, love ourselves and love each other in the
days, weeks, months, and year ahead with everything we have."

Thank you for walking this Journey to Generosity together.

Pastor Kris and the Financial Leadership Team





Matt, Roni and Sammy Gerry are our Catch the Spirit recipients from December 2017. They were nominated by the Stewardship Committee. They will be recognized February 11th at 10:30am during worship.

Matt grew up Catholic and Roni went to a Lutheran church, while Sammy has spent most of his time here at Neffs Union UCC.

The Gerrys own and operate a studio where they teach private music lessons. Sammy is currently a Junior at Parkland High School. Roni leads the Unity Choir, and both Matt and Roni sing in the choir. Sammy plays the drums during Sunday Morning Alive and Jazz services. Matt used to play trumpet for the jazz services but plays less due to pain.

Why do the Gerrys love our church? “We love this church because it welcomes everyone without prejudice and because the pastors are very present in our lives to help us through times of difficulty. Pastor Kris was the first visitor I had in the intensive care unit when Matt got sick in 2014. She was also a tremendous source of comfort when we lost loved ones.”

Roy and Lori Middaugh are our Catch the Spirit recipients for February 2018. They were nominated by the Consistory. They will be recognized in February 11th during 10:30 am worship.

Roy is an Applications Engineer at Bell and Howell while Lori teaches 4th Grade at Slatington Elementary. They have two children; Darien who was in the Marines for 4 years and is currently attending Pennsylvania College of Technology for a Bachelor’s degree in Welding and Material Fabrication. Daughter, Alexis is attending Temple University for a Bachelor’s in Marketing. Roy’s hobbies include golf, wood-working, and home projects. Lori enjoys gardening, golf, tennis, and swimming.

Their activities at Union UCC are many. Lori teaches Children’s Church, is on the Unity Choir, helps with ushering, and Blues Night Out. Roy is on Consistory, helped with the Directory Committee, ushering, Blues Night Out, the Food Bank, and Bean Bag Tournament. Lastly he includes, “... whatever Phil asks!”

Their comments on why they love Union UC: “The church has made us feel a part of the community. We moved from out of state and have no relatives in PA. Our church family is truly warm, compassionate, and welcoming.” Their favorite memories are “Watching our kids grow up and be confirmed at Union UCC and attending Blues Night Out every year.”

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

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 together
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
March 15, 2018, 7pm.**

New Years Resolutions, Anyone?

Another new year has begun and like many people I am reflecting on the year behind me and considering things that I could do to make my life better in the year ahead. You know what I'm talking about ... New Year's Resolutions! I've made them before: lose weight, exercise more, save more money, increase my charitable giving, etc. I'm going to encourage you to add making yourself happier to your list of resolutions. It might sound selfish, but I believe God would have us experience more joy in our lives. Also, if we make ourselves happier in general the greater challenges we have in life will become much easier to manage. Recently I read an article in the New York Times entitled *4 Easy(ish) Steps Towards Happiness You Can Take Today*. Let's take a quick look at these steps.

1. Conquer Your Negative Thinking

As human beings we have evolved to focus on the negative. If we overlearn a bad situation, we're more inclined to avoid those situations in the future or react more quickly. But, as we all know, that isn't always helpful in a modern world. When something bad happens, we tend to overanalyze and have trouble getting our mind off it.

The trick to avoiding those spirals and rabbit holes of misery is to acknowledge and challenge our negative thoughts. Rather than try to bury them, we should own those thoughts and ask ourselves a few questions, like, "What is the evidence for this thought?" or "Am I basing this on facts or on feelings?" A little self-investigation can help us get over the thoughts that just we can't get out of our heads.

2. Forgive Yourself

This one is really simple: Go easy on yourself. If you're compassionate and supportive of other people, why shouldn't you give yourself the same luxury?

This can be a difficult concept for those of us who tend to beat ourselves up over perceived failures, so try to for this exercise you can use to practice self-compassion. Write yourself a letter of compassion just as you would to a neighbor or friend who has experienced a hardship. The concept is the same, only the recipient is you.

3. Money Helps, But Only to a Point

An often-cited study from a few years ago boldly named the amount of money at which happiness peaks: \$75,000 per year. Another recent (but less rigorous) examination put that number at \$100 million. Still another study said lottery winners are no happier than the rest of us. Interesting!

The truth is, we're plagued by the constant craving for the next thing. A more helpful way to look at this idea is to find purpose and meaning at work. Rather than focusing on work as a means to earn money, try to find genuine satisfaction and purpose in the work you do. Studies have shown this is possible in every type of work.

4. Buy More Time

If given the choice between buying material things and buying services that save you time, you might want to think about the timesavers.

In two surveys cited in the NYT guide to happiness, researchers found that people who spent money on conveniences like ordering takeout for dinner or getting a cab were happier than those who didn't.

So what does that mean for you? If you can afford it, buy yourself some extra time. (Yes, this is permission to order a pizza for dinner tonight.)

So, these are four steps towards happiness that you might consider taking during 2018. Thank you Tim Herrera of the New York Times!

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 **March 18 and May 20**. 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

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



Kay Wieand-February 2

3020 Fellowship Dr.
Room 303 Fellowship Villa
Whitehall, PA 18052

Verna Traube - February 9

4740 Terrace Rd
Orefield, PA 18069

Melvin Mertz-February 11

5226 Route 873
Schnecksville, PA 18078

Naomi Follweiler—Feb. 15

4501 Homestead Dr.
Coplay, PA 18037

Franklin Strauss - February 15

6334 Lamar Court
Slatington, PA 18080-3022

Fay Cornell - February 29

Gracedale Nursing, Room 9
2 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064

Family Promise Update

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.

Here are some of the ways that we will need help – as we know of now:

- Steering Committee – helping to organize the various pieces needed.
- Donating, Preparing Serving Supper, Breakfast, Bagged lunches
- Hosting families for a few hours in the evening – helping them with directions in the building, visiting with those who want to visit, helping with homework, playing board games, etc.
- Hosting families overnight/Sleeping at the church

We'll have our own organization meeting on **Sunday, March 4th at 11:45-12:15** to continue organizing this effort. **We'll meet in the youth room/basement.**

RSVP to Pastor Kris if you are interested in attending the meeting and/or helping with this effort.

I know this will be a blessing to all involved.

Pastor Kris and the Mission Committee



Sunday, February 4, 2018

Souper Bowl Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

**10:30am Horizon Service-Sunday Morning
Alive**

Preacher: Rev. Larry Pickens

Lay Readers: 8:00– Michael Roth

10:30 - Donna Christman

Greeters: Gene & Christina Thrash, Jen Haley

Acolytes: 8:00AM –Mitchell Roth

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Jazz Ensemble/Communion

8:00am Heritage Service

**10:30am Horizon Service-Confirmation Class
Leads**

Text: Mark 9:2-9

Message: Transfigure-WHAT?

Preacher: Rev. Kayli Freeman

Lay Readers: Confirmands

Greeters: Todd & Amy McCoy, Sueann Hregian

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM– Katherine Schaedel, Marissa Christman

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Shrove Tuesday

6:00 pm Pancake and Sausage Supper

7-8 pm Entertainment

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday/Communion

**Worship at 12noon-12:30 and 7pm-
7:30**

A quiet time of prayer, communion and
ashes in the sanctuary.

**Drive-by Ashes 8-8:30am and 5:30-
6pm**

Stop by in one of our parking lots for
ashes and prayer with a pastor.

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Boy Scout Sunday/1st Sunday Lent/Consistory Installation

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Chimes

Preacher: David Fleming, Union UCC member

Dave has preached at various churches throughout our conference and within the UCC and has held various leadership positions in our conference and denomination. Dave and his wife Karen recently moved to Georgia. We look forward to his return to share a message with us.

Lay Readers: 8:00– Susan Rumble

10:30 - Vicki Mayk

Greeters: Connie & Ralph Gioielli, Dennis & Debbie DeFain

Acolytes: 8:00AM –

10:30AM– Jacob Solt

Sunday, February 25, 2018

New Members/2nd Sunday in Lent/Blanket Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service-Children's Choirs

Text: Romans 8: 26-28; 38-39

Message: Listen

Preacher: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelsan

Lay Readers: 8:00– Brad Hackett

10:30 - Harry Burger

Greeters: Karl & Karen Imdorf, Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Acolytes: 8:00AM – Andy Hill

10:30AM– Grace Baer, Cameron Kuntz

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:

February 4-Tailgate Party

February 11-Confirmation Class

February 18-No Committee

February 25-Welcoming 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	\$256,630.00	\$26,871.00	\$283,501.00
Expenses	\$196,966.00	\$26,280.00	\$223,246.00
12-31-2017	\$69,308.00	\$32,556.00	\$101,864.00

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u> 8AM		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 3	98	212	32	342
December 10	61	281	CFW	342
December 17	100	201	35	336
Christmas Eve 1,285	3pm- 323	5pm- 418	8pm- 344	11pm -200
December 31	N/A	136	CFW	136



TAI CHI

Advanced Tai Chi begins March 5 at 9:30 in choir room
 Beginners Tai Chi begins March 6 at 9:30 in choir room
 Intermediate Tai Chi begins March 7 at 9:30 in choir room

Any questions please call Beth Dymond @ 610-417-8107

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

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

December 2016–2,237 December 2017– 2,441

AVG ATTENDANCE

December 2016–280 December 2017– 305



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

UNION UCC CHURCH STAFF

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 Associate Pastor
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 Pastor of Visitation
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PO Box 66,
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 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

February 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir; Christian Ed	2 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	3
5 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Fellowship Cmte; FOLG	6 <u>12pm</u> Golden Times <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Junior/Middler Choir <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	7 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	8 <u>10am</u> Preschool Board <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	9 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	10 <u>9:30am</u> Private Party
12 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 <u>9am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>6pm</u> Pancake Supper <u>7pm</u> Bible Study <u>7:30pm</u> Unity Choir	14 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Ash Wednesday Service	15 <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	16 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	17 <u>3pm</u> Private Party
19 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>6:45pm</u> Consistory	20 <u>6pm</u> Cherub Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Junior/Middler Choir <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	21 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>5pm</u> Lent Activities <u>6pm</u> High School Choir	22 <u>7pm</u> Chime Choir	23 <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>9:30am</u> Adult Study	24 <u>10am</u> Private Party
26 <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	27 <u>9am</u> Newsletter <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	28 <u>9:30am</u> Busy Bees <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>5pm</u> Lent Activities <u>6pm</u> High School Choir <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit			

SUNDAYS

4 <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 Tailgate Lunch	11 Communion <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers New Members Tech Committee <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	18 Boy Scout Sunday <u>8am</u> Heritage Service <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers New Members <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service-Children's Church <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	25 Blanket Sunday <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 Youth Group Advisory Team <u>3:00pm</u> Pastor Kayli's Installation
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