

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT *
 BUILDING THE FUTURE

From Pastor Kris

As we say thank you to those going off of Consistory and welcome our newest leaders, it's a good time to renew our commitment to the **Covenant for Christian Leadership and Faith Community Behaviors** that Consistory adopted. Maybe we be the body of Christ, God's church, in this time and place in faithful and life giving ways.

Giving Thanks to Consistory Members Finishing Their Service:

Ardith Kuhns, Eric Minnich, Deb Sanek, Jim Ondrey, Leslie Thompson-Strack

Giving thanks for those returning for a second term:

Frank Sorg, Phil Wehr, Cheryl Yenko, Carol James

Giving thanks for those starting their first term:

Larry Todd, Jim Lane, Ron Pope, Jason Klinger, Al Stubbmann

Relying on the grace of God, we will do our best to...[repeated prior to each covenantal statement]

1... live the fruits of the spirit... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control [Galatians 5:22-23a], remembering that...

this is Christ's church founded as a spiritual community over 250 years ago. We are His servants and stewards and our words and our behaviors communicate many things.

2... recognize the gifts and graces each of us brings to the table, remaining aware that healthy church leadership requires a variety of gifts and we have all been blessed in different ways [1st Corinthians 12]

3... share our part in our mutual accountability for success, by actively participating in the discussion and decision-making process

4... keep an open mind as we listen to, invite and encourage other points of view and we will believe everyone is trying their best to have this church bring glory to God

5...respectfully ask questions for clarification, without intentionally offending others

6... feel free to respectfully disagree with issues and methods but will restate what we are disagreeing with first, without fear of ridicule

7... not knowingly participate in negative or derogatory conversations about others and will remind any brothers or sisters who try to engage us in these conversations that we do not do that as people of faith [Galatians 5:19-21]

8... try to avoid defensive reactions and will speak only for ourselves unless being asked to bring an issue to leadership on behalf of another person or group

9... discuss privately with someone we may have offended, or who may have offended us, and not talk to anyone else about it unless we have agreed to ask a witness to be present; when we do make mistakes we will admit them and make amends [Matthew 5:21-24, Matthew 18:15-20]

10... address behaviors that are non-productive, disruptive, unhealthy and/or destructive



April 1 Easter Sunday with Communion

6:30am Cemetery, 8am and
 10:30am Sanctuary

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)

From the Desk of Pastor Kayli

I know that it seems like such a far time away, but I wanted to make sure that I put a thank you out to everyone who made my installation service such a special day for me. It's truly a blessing to be part of such a warm and welcoming community...or should I say family! Everything went so well, from worship to fellowship. Thank you to everyone who helped set up the reception, donated baked goods and food, and welcomed everyone in. Thank you to all of those who came out to celebrate and support me that day! I am proud to say that I am not only the associate pastor here, but I am a member of Union UCC family.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Pastor Kayli

Family Promise Update

Pastor Kris and the Mission Committee

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

Contact Pastor Kris if you are interested in helping with this effort.



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, March 19, 2018, by President Aften Hamm.

The Treasurer's Report and the February 19 – March 16 bills were presented and approved.

Property and Maintenance Committee - 13 volunteers changed bulbs in the sanctuary to new LED bulbs and also cleaned pews, woodwork and polished brass. A maple tree which fell in the grove during the March 2 windstorm was removed. There was no damage to any grove buildings; a new tree will be planted in the same location in the Spring. Upgrades to the security camera system have been completed. A cleaning service is filling in to clean the property while Ori is healing from his hip operation. Maria and AJ are doing extra duties during this time. Everything else is in good shape, preparing for Easter, and then a Saturday spring outdoor cleanup day. Look for emails to help.

Christian Education Committee - hosted the Messy Lent workshops and are planning Vacation Bible School.

Mission Committee - Lenten Offering will be split equally between the Bethany Children's Home and Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley. Pint-for-Pint blood drive and soup sale will

be benefitting Miller-Keystone Blood Center. Family Promise is still working to secure a day center. May collection of items will go to Nurse-Family Partnership of St. Luke's University Health Network. Pastor Kris received a letter stating that the Sixth Street Shelter, the only shelter that keeps families together, is very close to running out of funding and closing. One Great Hour of Sharing will be in May. Offering envelopes have changed the wording from "Benevolence" to "Mission".

Church and Ministry -Jeffrey Mensendiek, on mission work supporting Christianity in Japan, will be joining PNEC and Union UCC. Due to his mission work and time abroad, a motion to accept Mr. Mensendiek as a member was presented and approved.

Welcoming Committee - discussed the work of the Committee, a recent Penn Southeast Conference workshop, an article and the success of the recent Souper Bowl Tailgate celebration.

Worship Committee - while it did not meet, the committee expressed thanks in advance for their service for Union Easter Services.

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, April 16, in Room 101.

Mission Committee

Easter Mission Offerings

The Mission Committee has selected **Meals on Wheels** of the Lehigh County, and **Bethany Children's Home** in Womelsdorf, PA to receive this year's Easter Mission Offerings. Please use the special envelope in your envelope packet to support their missions, or place your donation in any envelope and mark "Easter Mission." You are truly making a difference in the lives of people in the local community.

Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh County

Their mission is to serve seniors or adults with disabilities who are primarily homebound and unable to cook or shop for themselves. Their services include meal delivery, well-being checks, friendly visits, grocery shopping, and linking clients to other services to help them live independently and stay healthy in their own homes.

Sixty six volunteers deliver meals and smiles to 465 clients each week-day. Volunteers are so important, 69% of clients state that the volunteer is the only person they see all day, 36% state that the volunteer is the only person they see all week.

Last year, over 165,000 meals were delivered by over 850 volunteers. New delivery volunteers are always needed - call Dawn at 610-398-2536.

Bethany Children's Home

Located on a beautiful campus in Womelsdorf, PA, Bethany Children's Home helps children and youth reclaim their lives from trauma, abuse, and neglect. In 2017, they helped close to 300 children, coming from 20 counties in Pennsylvania.

Their mission is to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid their residents in their self understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter future. Founded in 1863, Bethany Children's Home provides a home to youth to gain an education, to have a place for music therapy, arts & recreation, spiritual services, social services and more.

Their mission is active and vibrant all year long in improving the lives of children and youth from age 7 - 20, a true blessing to brighten their future.

Adult Study

Friday Morning Adult Class 9:30am-11am – Room 5 (Basement)

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

April 6 – No Class, Serve Breakfast at Jubilee Ministry

April 13 & 20 – Accidental Saints Nadia Bolz-Weber

April 27 – No Class, Women's Retreat Weekend

Sunday Morning Adult Class

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

April 1 – No Class, Easter

April 8, 15, 22 with Pastor Kris: What Makes a Hero? A series by Matt Rawle that offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at the heroes of pop culture through the lens of faith we'll see how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head.

April 29 with Rev. Patience

Blanket Sunday Results.

Donations for Blanket Sunday this year totals \$1,875 for Church World Services. Thank you for supporting this yearly event to provide warmth, comfort, and love to people around the world when disasters strike. During 2017, Church World Services provided over 4,400 blankets to families around the United States, many after the hurricanes in Texas and Florida. Over 5,000 blankets were distributed to families in various countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean Islands and Europe.

Elizabeth Frank, from CWS, states "Church World Service was only able to respond quickly to recent hurricanes and natural disasters because of generous congregations and groups who help to provide resources for blankets, and CWS kits. People come together to help families in need. This outpouring of love was inspiring".

Union UCC's recent support during Blanket Sunday will

Union UCC Night at the Iron Pigs

Saturday, June 16th,
6:35 p.m. game time
Opponent: Pawtucket Red Sox
25 seats available, Section 118, just
beyond third base. The sun will be
behind us.

\$11. per ticket. Each ticket includes a
\$2. food voucher.

Please call John Snyder-Samuelson to
reserve your tickets: 484-809-3815.

Thank You

Thank You to the **thirteen volunteers** who helped to change all of the light bulbs in the sanctuary with new LED bulbs, and who also spent time cleaning the pews, the woodwork, and the brass items.

Thank You to the volunteers **who cut up and removed the fallen maple tree** in the grove after the March 2 windstorm. The tree was half hollow and previously broken at the top, and caused no damage to the grove buildings when it fell. A new tree will be planted in the same location in the spring.

Thank You to the **snow plowing crew and the snow shoveling crew** who work diligently to clear the parking lots, sidewalks, and entrance ways around the church after each snowfall.



Follow us on
Instagram

www.instagram.com/unionuccneffs/



Where School Memories Begin

By Annette Wilcox

Happy spring from the Preschool, although Mother Nature is making it feel more like the heart of winter. This month we continued our Preschool tradition of holding a Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser for all of the age levels. The generous donations from the sponsors helps fund our spring activities and outings and the children have a blast aiming for a perfect strike. In the classroom, our 3 year-olds continued to wrap up exposure to letters and letter sounds within the theme of weather and Spring. Making clouds out shaving cream and food coloring was a hit with all! The 4 year-olds studied how things grow, starting with plants, moving onto animals and even themselves. The Pre-K classes have started learning about the -at, -ad, and -an word families; watching them realize they can “read” for the first time is always an exciting moment for the teachers. They are taking a Road Trip Across America hitting major historical and geographical landmarks along the way. In between all of the curriculum pieces we were able to squeeze in St. Patrick’s Day fun and our annual Easter Bonnet Parade and family egg hunt. The teachers deserve a round of applause for making it through such a busy, active month with smiles on their faces while juggling last minute schedule changes due to bomb cyclones and nor’easters.

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



First Communion

Congratulations to Carter Christman, Grayson Christman, Lucas Maxwell, and Kendall Miller for completing the first communion class!

APRIL

Children's Church

April 1 Church Family Worship
EASTER SUNDAY

April 8 Acts 4: 32-35

April 15 Luke 24:36b-48

April 22 John 10:11-18

April 29 Church Family Worship

Bible Journaling



Join us on April 5th and 19th to study the Bible in new and creative ways. You provide a journaling Bible. We provide art supplies, techniques, and ideas.



The Little Lambs Nursery is open during the 10:30 worship service for all children under three years old. Maryann and her helpers are looking forward to playing with your little one!

VBS 2018

June 25-29



This summer Union UCC will be SHIPWRECKED!! We will have a great time with lively songs, humorous skits, creative experiments, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks....all of the things that

make VBS so much fun for children (and adults). This year's program is scheduled for June 25th through the 29th, 9:00am to noon daily. We hope you can join us for a week of fun and adventure...and meet a sloth!

Registration Forms are located in Memorial Hall. Due by May 14th. We still need adults and youth to lead this year's VBS.

VBS DESIGN LAB

Help with this year's VBS! We will work on decorations April 17th, 10- 2 (bring your lunch). We will meet in Room 5.



THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class for making butterfly plant stakes for our home-bound members and bunny magnets for Meals on Wheels clients.
Thanks for caring for others!

GIFT BIBLES

Congratulations to Grayson Christman, Lila Cygan, Jocelyn Kareha, Everette Lightner, Kendall Miller, Noah Roth and Andrew Solderich for earning their WHIRL NRSV Bible.

Youth Group News Grades 6-12

For more information contact:

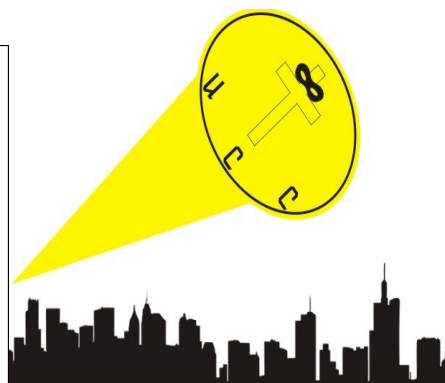
Pastor Kayli PastorKayli@unionucc.org

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).



Union UCC Youth Group 2018

THANK YOU!

To all those who helped make Youth Sunday, March 4, such a wonderful day of celebration!

Special thanks to Dylan Kuntz and Mollie Jarrett for the t-shirt design

Thank you Seniors: Alexia DeNardo, AJ DiPaolantonio, Alex Hill, Mollie Jarrett, Madison Laufer, Justin Solt for sharing your stories and love for Union UCC

Thanks to all the Super Heroes in our congregation, families, and friends!



**T-SHIRTS STILL
AVAILABLE \$5**

**See Dave D. or
Pastor Kayli**

**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)

Saturday May 5, 2018

Country Sale!

9am-2pm

Sign up to help for an hour or more and/
or donate items!

Root beer Floats, Walking Tacos, Soft
pretzels

Fun, Food, Fellowship!

Save the Date:

May 6, 2018: Confirmation Sunday @ 10:30am

June 3, 2018: Graduate Sunday

Graduating from High School or College? Email
Tara(secretary@unionucc.org) your information [Name,
school, future plans]

Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek

Dear members of Union UCC. Greetings from Japan, where I have been working for the past 28 years as a mission coworker for our UCC Common Global Ministries. The Penn Northeast Conference is one of the conferences that I visit while back on home assignment once every four years. When on home assignment I usually introduce the witness of our partner church in Japan (known as the Kyodan), and share perspectives of God's mission as seen in the context of East Asia. Five years ago I had the pleasure of visiting your church for a small group gathering. As of this spring, I have asked that my clergy standing be transferred to Penn Northeast Conference, and after consulting with both Rev. Tom Thomas and Pastor Kris, have decided to seek membership at Union UCC.



You might wonder what it means for me to seek membership at a local church such as Union. One of the standing requirements in the UCC is that clergy who work in non-parish settings enter into a four-way covenantal relationship (known as "A Four-Way Ministry Covenant") between the ordained minister, the calling body, the local UCC conference and the local church where the ordained minister is a member. This implies an intentional relationship between the four parties that will strengthen, support and sustain the ministries of all the partners that share in this covenant. This is one way in which the conference and local church can provide spiritual support for a person such as myself working overseas. Though I have spent most of my life outside of the United States, I hope that my connections to both PNEC and Union UCC will be an enriching one for us all.

My ties to Pennsylvania run deep. My mother grew up in Lancaster PA, and my uncle, Stan Dunn, was a pastor in the Allentown area for many years. I grew up as a son of missionaries in Sendai, Japan, which was the place where many graduates of Lancaster Theological Seminary focused their mission efforts starting in the mid-1880s. Our partners in the Sendai area know the UCC, and are particularly grateful for the ties that we have enjoyed for over 130 years. Seven years ago when the great earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster rocked the whole nation of Japan, I was working in Sendai and was blessed to be able to live through that experience with our partners. In a time of crisis, our relationship made all the difference. As churches around the world reached out to support the survivors and find ways to monitor the dangers of the nuclear disaster, I was honored to be able to work alongside our partners in their relief efforts. I saw firsthand how our OGHS dollars made a direct impact on the lives of the survivors. I continue to update the situation in northeastern Japan through my personal blog: (<http://jeffreyfromjapan.blogspot.com/>)

From April of this year I will be working as chaplain and associate professor at Oberlin University in Tokyo (a UCC related school whose founder was educated at Oberlin College in Ohio). My basic role will be to teach introductory classes to Christianity to incoming freshman, to lead chapel services, and to work to maintain the Christian identity of the university. Christians in Japan are 1% of the population. Though Oberlin is a Christian institution, most students have had no contact with Christianity. It will be my role to help them understand Christianity, and through the Christian emphasis on campus to open their horizons to their neighbor, society and the world. I also hope to make periodic visits to the Sendai area, to visit friends and churches, and to keep the relationship alive between the Kyodan, UCC and Disciples churches in the US.

I am married to Kazuko Ikawa from Kyoto, Japan. We have three children; Hana (daughter, 18), Tomo (son, 16) and Stella (daughter, 11). I was born in Buffalo, NY, and went to Japan at the age of two. I graduated from Bucknell University, Received a master's degree from the Pacific School of Religion, and was ordained at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. My calling is to be a bridge between cultures, and to be a sign of God's love and healing presence in this broken and divided world.

Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

BYE, BYE Winter, bring on Spring, bring on sunshine, bring on blooming flowers, bring on the finishing touches to the new food stand in our church grove. The food stand building is finished, and is looking great, and will be ready for service this summer.

But more work continues this month as sidewalks will be installed around the whole building, two new light poles will be installed in the grove to hook up the previous string lights, new drainage to be installed along the road, and a small driveway installed to the new entrance door. By the first week of May, the ground will be graded around the whole building site, and grass planted. Then we watch it grow.

Dedication is planned for Sunday June 24, during the first outdoor service in the grove. Come and enjoy.

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



Spring and Easter: A time to reconnect to God and 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, participate in an event, share in leadership, pray for our church, and the many ways that you support the mission and ministry of Union. 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're here for you.

We also want to remind you that we take the commitment to membership here seriously. Your spiritual well-being is important to us. 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 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. We will also do all that we can to reach out to you if we see this isn't happening and offer support and a chance to reconnect.

Please contact a pastor or the church office if you have questions about your church membership or your walk with God here at Union.

Our next worship services with Holy Communion are on Easter at 6:30am, 8am and 10:30am and then again on June 3rd and 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.

TURN YOUR TRASH INTO CASH

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

DATE: Saturday, May 5th, 9-2

COST: \$20 donation per
indoor/outdoor space

REGISTRATION: Contact Dan &
Deb Topp or
download contract at
unionucc.org

**** All unsold items can be placed in a
truck for donations for Recycle Local.
This is a fundraiser for our Preschool.**



HOW CAN I HELP???

- **Reserve a table , \$20 donation**
Dan/Deb Topp 610-767-3384
- **Bake...Bring items to the church on**
Friday, May 4th 12-8 or Saturday, May
5th after 7am
- **Kitchen Help** serving, preparing, clean
-up *Vicki Sorg 610-261-1242*
- **Book Collection**, No earlier than April
17, drop off on stage
- **Greeters/Runners/Set-up/Clean-up/
General Help/Traffic Control**
 - **Advertise** pick up a flyer to hang in
your business or local store
Maryann Puia 610-767-9318

To volunteer, contact name listed
above or contact the church office.
Hope to see you there!

Feed My Starving Children by Eliot Lightner

Last October my son Everett and I took part in a Feed My Starving Children mobile meal packing event. My hope was to show him the importance of giving back as well as to help him appreciate how lucky we are for all that we have. I had no idea of the impact the event would have on me.

Before the meal packing began, we were told that on average 6,200 children die each day from hunger related causes. That is one every 14 seconds. Each one of these deaths is preventable because there is plenty of food it is just not where it is needed most. FMSC is a Christian nonprofit organization working to feed the children most in need. Every meal is packed, paid for, and distributed by volunteers. After hearing this, we were all ready to get started.

Packing a meal involves placing scoops of rice, soy, vitamins and minerals, and dried vegetables into a funnel. A bag at the base of the funnel collects the ingredients and then is heat sealed. This scientifically developed formula helps to treat and prevent malnutrition. There were several of these work stations trying to pack as many meals as possible. Before I knew it we were told time was up. After a brief cleanup we came together to hear the results. We packed over 67,000 meals! That is enough to feed 184 children for a year.

After the event I could not stop thinking about it. Never have I felt like I was part of something that made such an impact in the lives of those in need. I wanted to bring my experience to others so I started to tell people about my experience and my desire to bring an event to the Lehigh Valley. Everyone was very supportive so I contacted FMSC to see if it would be possible. It makes me so proud to say that on **the weekend of October 12th of this year we at Union UCC will be hosting the first ever FMSC mobile pack event in the Lehigh Valley.** Please consider getting involved. Together we will turn hunger into hope for children in need.

SAVE THE DATE: October 10-12 – Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event at Union UCC

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
April 8, 2018
at 10:30am
worship!**



Blues Nite Out

Winter Blues got you down? Well an early spring will be a quick cure. Then start thinking about Blues Nite Out this summer. Mark your calendars now - Friday August 24 with the return of Jake Kaligis and his band and Saturday August 25, starting with Bev Conklin making a return performance in the grove, with BC's Combo Band, then headliner and local favorite, The Sarah Ayers Band.

The new food stand in Neffs Church Grove will be welcoming everyone this year. See you then for food, fun and fellowship in our church grove.



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.



Michael, Jennifer, Mitchell, and Jacob Roth and Eileen Meyer are our Catch the Spirit recipients for April 2018. They were nominated by the Fellowship Committee. They will be recognized April 8th at 8:00am worship service.

Eileen (Peters) Meyer: I was confirmed at Union Church, Neffs, as was my father, Norman Peters, and several generations of my father's family. My husband, Donald, to whom I am married 52 years, is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Allentown, where we were married. We have two daughters and three teenage grandsons. I was employed at PPL for several years before staying home to raise my children. Later, I joined the staff at Parkland Community Library until retirement. A few of my favorite pastimes include spending time with my family, gardening and collecting cookbooks.

My time served with the senior choir for over 30 years was very enjoyable; especially our fun times at rehearsals and monthly socials. Co-chairing the worship committee was enjoyable and meaningful, as well. I love Union UCC because it has always been a part of my family, and I made many lasting friendships along the way.

Michael, Jennifer (Meyer), Jacob and Mitchell Roth: Michael and I both grew up in Christian homes and went to church every week. We were married at Union UCC nearly 21 years ago. We have two boys. Jacob is 16 and attends Parkland High School. Mitchell is 13 and attends Springhouse Middle School. Michael was formerly the VP of Professional Development for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Currently he is the Assistant Superintendent for the Southern Lehigh School District. Jennifer was a 4th grade teacher in the Parkland School District for 10 years. After taking some time off to raise her children, she is currently an ESL Program Specialist for the Salisbury Township School District.

Our favorite pastime is spending time with family. We also like to travel, camp, attend local music concerts, and Mitchell has made us football fans!

At Michael's former church, he was a member of the Education Committee, frequently gave children's sermons and was a lay reader. Currently at Union UCC, he is a lay reader and occasional member of the brass ensemble. Jennifer was a Children's Church teacher, VBS teacher, occasionally shared a children's sermon, and is a vocal soloist. Jacob is a substitute organist and children's choir accompanist. He was an acolyte and participated in both Sunday School and Confirmation. Mitchell is currently an acolyte, a member of the brass ensemble, attends Sunday School and will join the Confirmation class this fall.

Church has always been a part of our lives. There are many wonderful memories here at Union UCC including; VBS, Easter egg hunts and Christmas Eve candlelight services, but I think our favorite memories are our wedding day and the days our boys were baptized.

We love that our church extends beyond its doors and walls and reaches out into our community, nation and world. Our church is supportive, kind, compassionate and welcoming.

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

Golden Times

For those wise in years and young at heart.

Our next gathering will be
Tuesday, April 3 2018

Program: Steve Strack,
Esquire
Estate Planning
Rev. Dianne Kareha
The Five Wishes: A Guide
to Your Wishes for Medical
Care

Programs offered are fun,
informative & entertaining.
Bring a dessert to share.
12 noon - 1:30pm
FREE

Food Bank Donation:

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



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Tales from the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Many thanks for your many kind prayers, thoughts, cards and words of encouragement. I saw the doctor and he is pleased with my progress. I have my first outpatient physical therapy appointment today and hope to continue moving forward every day.

Staff Updates from Pastor Kris

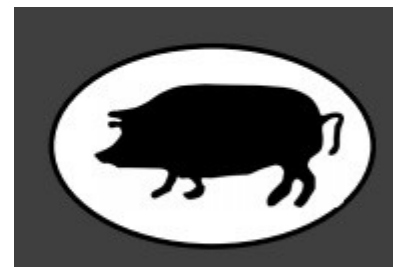
Rev. Patience Update Her March 6th hip surgery went well and she is working hard on physical therapy. At the time of writing this, we are uncertain as to her return to work since she is not allowed to drive for another 4-6 weeks. We will keep you posted. Please continue to keep her in your prayers. If you'd like to send a card: 1216 Pennsylvania Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018. If you'd like to help with meals, please contact Amy McCoy at 484-358-6125. Please contact the church office if you or a church friend or family member needs assistance from a pastor during this time.

Ori Handwerk, Our Custodian Needs Surgery too! Ori's March 13th hip surgery went well and he's working hard to return to work on April 10th. Please keep Ori and his family in your prayers too. Other staff and volunteers will help in his absence with building needs

The Search Committee and Consistory have called **Amanda Sweeting** to the position of Office Administrator. Amanda impressed us with her energy, enthusiasm, and love for numbers. She has previously worked for companies where she has handled marketing, payroll and accounts payable. She also has experience in life insurance and as a youth worker at a church. While at home with her son for the last few years she created an ecommerce business reselling women and children's clothing. Amanda and her husband and son live in Germansville.

Backyard BBQ Bash

Get ready for the third annual Backyard BBQ Bash, featuring Lorah Farm's Pig Roast and Chicken Dinners. Mark your calendars now - Saturday Sept 15. Musical entertainment to be provided by TimeWhy's band, featuring music of the 60's and 70's. Get out your tie-dyed shirts and visit Neffs Church Grove for great food and music. More information to follow in coming months.



New Member Sessions

Pastor Kris and our church leaders invite you to gatherings on **April 8th and April 15th 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, April 22nd 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 Amanda administrator@unionucc.org

Baptism

We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Upcoming dates are **May 20th and July 8th**. 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 Amanda 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: Amanda Sweeting at 610-767-6961 administrator@unionucc.org

Acolytes

Attention Acolytes - Prospective and Currently Serving

Sixth graders, you are invited to attend NEW acolyte training on Sunday, May 20 from 11:45AM-12:15PM in the sanctuary. You will then be able to serve as acolytes on various Sundays and holidays throughout the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to help prepare yourself for your Confirmation year.

Acolytes that are completing their service this year will be **recognized at the 10:30 AM service on May 6**. After worship, you and your families are invited to gather at DiFiores for a pizza lunch hosted by the Worship Committee.

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

Thanks to our 2017-2018 acolytes!

Cameron Kuntz, Nickolaus Schmidt, Grace Baer, Andrew Hill, Katherine Schaedel, Justin Solt, Mitchell Roth, Marissa Christman, Josh Baron

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

All committees and groups must complete a use of facility form to schedule events or activities. Please contact Amanda, in the church office at 610-767-6961 or administrator@unionucc.org for forms and room availability.

Quilters

Busy Bees are selling quilts! We are updating our list of people interested in having a quilt compiled. If someone has a quilt in need of being done contact Janet Creitz at 610-767-6710 or the church office at 610-767-6961.

Women's Retreat 2018

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

Trout Lake Retreats,
Stroudsburg
Balance of \$60 payment due April 8.
Leader: Pastor Kris



Worship Opportunities

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise Service in Cemetery

Text: John 20:1-18

Message: Mary Magdalene's Faith

Preacher: Pastor Kayli

8:00am Heritage Service

Text: John 20:1-18

Message: Love Comes to Life

Preacher: Pastor Kris

10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship

Text: John 20:1-18

Message: O Happy Day

Lay Readers: 8:00- Brad Hackett,

10:30 - Fawn Albert

Greeters: Jim & Edie Fella, Karl & Cathy Schmidt

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30 AM—Katherine Schaedel, Jacob Solt

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Holy Humor and Red Nose Sunday

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: John 20:19-31

Message: Don't Be A Thomas

Preacher: Rev. Kayli Freeman

Lay Readers: 8:00—Sue Steinmann

10:30—Vicki Mayk

Greeters: Doug & Angie Kuntz, Malcolm & Margie Mackenzie

Acolytes: 8:00AM -Marissa Christman

10:30AM- Cameron Kuntz

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Healing Worship

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Luke 24:36b-48

Message: Love Means Showing Up

Preacher: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00- Suzanne Schneider

10:30 - Don Penrod

Greeters: Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Greg & Johanna Zellner

Acolytes: 8:00AM -Mitchell Roth

10:30AM- Katherine Schaedel

Sunday, April 22, 2018

New Members

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: John 10:11-18, Psalm 23

Message: Love in Truth and Action

Preacher: Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Lay Readers: 8:00- Lucille Kuhns

10:30 - Harry Burger

Greeters: John & Debbie Romig, Marcey Kroll

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30AM-

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Easter

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson

Lay Readers: 8:00- Michael Roth

10:30 - Donna Christman

Greeters: Gene & Christina Thrash, Haley Family

Acolytes: 8:00AM -

10:30AM-

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

**Every Sunday
9:15-10:15 &
11:30-12:00**



Continues on Sundays after 8am and 10:30 Worship Services and in between the services in Memorial Hall (on the same level as the sanctuary). Stop by for snack or drink, to say hello to a friend, or learn about something new about a committee.

Thank you to our hosting committees:

April 1-None

April 8-Church & Ministry

April 15-Christian Ed

April 22-Sandwich Sale

April 29-Fellowship

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	\$315,553.00	\$32,708.00	\$348,261.00
Expenses	\$266,301.00	\$37,560.00	\$303,861.00
2-28-2018	\$58,896.00	\$27,113.00	\$86,009.00

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u> 8AM 10:30AM		<u>CC/ Video/ Nursery</u>	<u>Total</u>
February 4	51	162	26	239
February 11	93	182	33	308
Ash Wed.				46
February 18	N/A	152	4	156
February 25	72	149	25	246

Memorials

The following donations have been received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Gordon R. Rothrock:

Clair & Grace Schneck

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
February 2017–1,045 February 2018– 995

AVG ATTENDANCE
February 2017–261 February 2018– 237

The following donations have been received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Lorraine Hunsicker:

John & Nancy Remaley
Carolyn George
Dorothy Best
Grace & Clair Schneck
John & Nancy Remaley
Ben & Elly Remaley
Richard Remaley
Rich Haberern
Mel & Sondra Mertz

M/M Robert W. Roth
Elmer & Lois Shaffer
Bruce & Sue Steigerwalt
Charles & Carol Mesics
Dean & Diane Schaller
Daniel Schaller
Sharon K. Haberern
Melvyn L. Bollinger
Oliver & Althea Blose

Donna E. Christman
Garry Remaley & Family
David Remaley & Family
Janice Liscka
Catherine Haberern
Dane E. Clark
Diane Pesola
Dennis & Kathleen Foster
Kathy Rader & Family
Roberta Frey

The following donations have been received into the Memorial Fund in memory of Roy C. Kern:

Janice Liscka
Robert B. Kern
Lois K. Dilliard
Eileen M. Kern
Lehigh County Agricultural Society
Gertrude Sell

Shirley L. Swartz
Slatington Lodge #440
F&AM

In memory of Robert McCray:
John & Pamela Evans

In memory of Irmgard Roberts:
John & Pamela Evans

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

Amanda Sweeting
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
Amanda Sweeting	ext. 21
Tara Henninger	ext. 22
Kathy Bonsell	ext. 27
Music Office	ext. 26
Kitchen	ext. 30

April 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30am Adv. Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	3 12pm Golden Times 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Junior/Middler Choir 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	4 9am Busy Bee Quilters 9:30am Int. Tai Chi 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Budget Committee	5 9:30am Bible Journaling 7pm Chime Choir; Christian Ed	6 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Adult Study	7
9 9:30am Adv. Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	10 9am Staff Meeting 12pm Program Staff 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Junior/Middler Choir 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	11 9am Busy Bee Quilters 9:30am Int. Tai Chi 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Budget Committee	12 10am Preschool Board 7pm Chime Choir NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Adult Study 12pm PNEC Set-up	14 9am PNEC
16 9:30am Adv. Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 6:45pm Consistory	17 6:30pm Junior/Middler Choir 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	18 9am Busy Bee Quilters 9:30am Int. Tai Chi 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir; 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	19 9:30am Bible Journaling 7pm Chime Choir	20 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Adult Study	21
23 9:30am Adv. Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	24 9am Newsletter; Staff Meeting 10am Program Staff 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Junior/Middler Choir 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Unity Choir	25 9am Busy Bee Quilters 9:30am Int. Tai Chi 10am Knitwits 6pm High School Choir 6:30pm Spiritually Fit	26 7pm Chime Choir	27 9am Bulletin Prep 9:30am Adult Study	28
30 9:30am Adv. Tai Chi 6:30pm Spiritually Fit					

SUNDAYS

1 Easter Sunday 6:30 am Sunrise Service in Cemetery weather permitting 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service/Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds	8 Holy Humor and Red Nose Sunday 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers Tech Committee New Members 10:30am Horizon Service/Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds Mission Committee	15 Healing Service 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers New Members 10:30am Horizon Service-Children's Church-Baptism 11:30am Holy Grounds	22 New Members Received 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service-Children's Church 11:30am Holy Grounds	29 8am Heritage Service 9:15 - 10:15 am Holy Grounds Education Hour Bible Study Horizon Singers 10:30am Horizon Service-Church Family Worship 11:30am Holy Grounds
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