

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

## Semi-Annual Meeting

**On June 10, 2018, after the 10:30 A.M. service, we will hold our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting.** The focus of this meeting will be the proposed fiscal 2018-2019 General Budget.

We the Church, want to live and grow into the future, we need every part of this body of Christ to be included. It is very helpful for all of us to continue to be supportive in as many ways as possible. In order to maintain our; programs, activities, our building and grounds, we need a continuous flow of time, talent and treasure! We are the Church, and with everyone's help, we will continue to grow and thrive!

Please plan to attend this semi-annual meeting on June 10 and be supportive of the budget, and let's continue to keep Union United Church of Christ moving steadfast into the future.

*Aften Hamm*, Consistory President



Kevin Richter

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**SUNDAY JUNE 24, 2018**

**BUILD YOUR OWN SUNDAE  
SUNDAY**

8am worship (Sanctuary) & 10:30 worship (outside  
in Grove)

Picnic in our Grove 11:30am-1pm

*Hotdogs, snacks, beverages, ICE CREAM with top-  
pings!*

Hosted by the Welcoming Committee

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### Sunday Sponsors

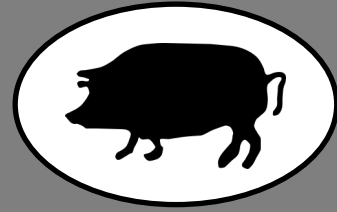
**Flower Basket (\$30), Adult  
& Children's Bulletins (\$20,  
\$8) contact Phyllis Hamm at  
610-349-0324 (leave a mes-  
sage or text).**

**Spread the Good News  
(\$20)**

contact-610-767-6961  
(secretary@unionucc.org)

*PIG OUT at Union UCC's*  
**BACKYARD BBQ BASH**

*Saturday, September 15, 2018*



**TIMEWHY?S** (5:30-8:30)

*Winner of 2017 Reader's Choice Award for Best Local Band*

**Music sponsored by Heintzelman Funeral Home**

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

*Food tickets will be available for presale in August*

**SAVE THE DATE! FREE Admission!**

## Country Sale Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual Country Sale. Our winners are listed below:

Quilt: Brandi Wanamaker

Additional Quilted Pieces: Janet Hoffman

Afghan: James Fortney

Afghan: Lisa Roberts

Needlepoint: Jeff Hoffman

Handcrafted Bench: Suzanne Toto

Candy Basket: Jeanette Turner

Spring Wreath: Violet Andrews

Plant Basket: C. Bostick

Lawn Ornaments: Charmaine Burger

Wreath: Shirely Daley

### **Gift Certificate Winners**

Bakery Nook: Cliff James

Crooked Row Farms: Nina Henritzky

Crystal Springs: Ron Snyder

Happy Feet Nails and Spa: Kim Schmidt

Josh Early Candy: Karen Ensley

Kornfiends Market: Madeline Balliet

Lehigh Valley Zoo: Barb Kisly

Morgan's: Michelle

Salon and Spa 309: Harry Miller

String Thing Bracelet: Carol James

Weis Market: Maria Beltz

# Mission Committee

## From the Mission Committee

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

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

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

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

## Global Ministries by Phil Wehr

Notes from our sponsored children from Zimbabwe, Africa

Tendai Magidhi Age 13

She enjoys - reading novels, playing chess, cooking, and watching TV.  
Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. I am glad to inform you that I passed my grade 7 with flying colors. My studies included Math, English, and Agriculture. I am proceeding to Secondary Education at Chikore Mission High School. My parents are busy buying new uniforms and new text books.

I celebrated my thirteenth birthday on the first of December with my friends and my family. I wish if you were also there.  
Greetings to all, yours sincerely, Tendai Magidhi

Elizabeth Magidhi Age 17

She enjoys - playing softball, reading novels, singing and dancing  
Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. I am glad to inform you that this year I am doing ten subjects at Queen Elizabeth High School, and am preparing for the final ZIMSEC exams in November. Last year I passed with flying colors. I am studying English, Literature, Math, Science, History, and more.

I would like to thank you for paying my school fees. I also wish you a very prosperous new year in 2018.  
Yours faithfully, Elizabeth Magidhi.

## Mission Thanks

Thank you very much for your recent donation to **Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center**. Your \$500 donation is greatly appreciated and will have a major impact on programs and services we provide at no cost to the LGBT community in the Greater Lehigh Valley. Sincere thanks to all at Union United Church of Christ for this incredible support.

The **Miller Keystone Blood Center** expresses their gratitude to the congregation of Union United Church of Christ for the generous donation of \$600 from the proceeds of your soup sale. We also thank the church members for their work to prepare the soup and your community donors for making the blood drive a success.

Miller Keystone's ability to carry out its mission as the only blood provider affects all those in our community. Your contribution not only exemplifies your high level of understanding and support of this mission, but also directly assists us in saving lives . . . one pint at a time. Thank you again.



Tendai (l) and Elizabeth (r)



## Blues Nite Out

Summer is coming, start planning for graduations, picnics, reunions, concerts, amusement parks, beach fun, and more. Then start thinking about Blues Nite Out this August. Mark your calendars now - **Friday August 24 starting at 7pm** for a fun night with the return of **Jake Kaligis** and his band, and Saturday **August 26 starting with Bev Conklin at 4pm**, who will be making a return performance in the grove, with BC's Combo Band, then headliner and local favorite, **The Sarah Ayers Band at 7pm**. Always two great nights of music for all to enjoy.

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



Follow us on  
*Instagram*

[www.instagram.com/unionuccneffs/](http://www.instagram.com/unionuccneffs/)



Where School Memories Begin

By Annette Wilcox

May is a bittersweet month for the Preschool. We are excited and amazed on a daily basis to see how much each child has grown and developed over the past 9 months, but sad that the end of the school year has come and our families are leaving us for the summer. This past month we wrapped up the school year learning nursery rhymes with the 3's, fairy tales with the 4's and preparing for kindergarten with our Pre-K class. Despite the continuous rain we were even able to get in some Field Day fun with each group.

As we end another school year, I would like to thank all of our families, the staff, and the school board members for making this a wonderful year. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child" and in our case it takes a village to create a successful school. Thank you all, I could not do this without you.

Sincerely,

Annette Wilcox-Director



**Registration is in full swing** for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have a child or know of one who would enjoy learning in our fun and caring environment.

Registration information can be found on our website or by calling the Preschool directly.

Curriculum aligned with Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards

Whole child focused: academic, social and emotional  
Check us out on Facebook—**Neffs UCC Preschool**  
or on our website— **[www.unionucc.org/preschool](http://www.unionucc.org/preschool)**





Contact: Kathy Bonsell  
Phone: 610-767-6961  
Email: [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)



Wanted: **Sunday School** and **Children's Church** volunteers for the 2018-19 session. Sign up sheets are located on Kathy Bonsell's door. Please contact Kathy if you have any questions at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org).  
**NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

### SUMMER VIDEO SERIES

We are still in need of volunteers to lead the summer video series. We will begin June 3 and continue through Aug. 26. We do not show a video on Outdoor Worship Sundays.

**Job description:** *Take the children down to Room 15, start the DVD player, provide snack (optional), stay with the children until their parents pick them up. Have fun!*

A sign up sheet is on Kathy Bonsell's door. We need two adults each Sunday. Find a friend and enjoy some time with our children!

### Summer Nursery

The Little Lambs Nursery will be unstaffed for the summer. Parents/caregivers are welcome to use the room during the 10:30 service. The service is broadcast into the nursery room. We would appreciate it if you would clean up the toys before you leave. Marianne Ulrich, our nursery attendant volunteer, will be on vacation and resting up for next year! She will return on Sept. 9th and need a partner every Sunday for the 2018-2019 session.



### 2018 COIN EXCHANGE

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



### VBS 2018

June 25-29



#### We're off on another adventure!

Registered children will receive a packet of information by June 20th. (We still have some room if you haven't already registered!) Our

**summer adventure** will begin on Monday, June 25th at 9:00am. Our VBS STAFF will be ready with games, songs, snacks, skits, crafts, Bible stories and a whole lot of fun! We will have our **closing Program** on Friday evening, June 29th. You are all invited to join us at 7:00 in the grove for entertainment and refreshments.

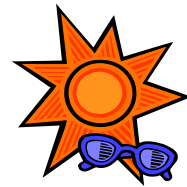
**VBS Volunteer Meeting:**  
**JUNE 24 @ 12 noon in Memorial Hall**

### MISSION NEWS

We are partnering with *Seed Program International* and collecting monetary donations for

### SEEDS FOR HAITI

*Seed Program International* provides drought resistant seeds and farming education for the people of Haiti, who are dealing with decades of drought, deforestation, and hurricanes. You can help fight malnutrition by donating to this mission. For every \$10 collected, we will plant a seed packet in our foyer Mission Garden!



### CHILDREN'S CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL...

are officially on vacation until Sept. 9th (mark your calendar). A tremendous thanks to all the teachers, helpers, parents and children for another wonderful year. Your support, participation and cooperation all contributed to this year's success. What a great team!!

**Have a safe and  
enjoyable summer!**

## Youth Group News Grades 6-12

For more information contact:

Pastor Kayli [PastorKayli@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKayli@unionucc.org)

Or Dave DiPaolantonio at 610-349-9162 and [youthgroup@unionucc.org](mailto:youthgroup@unionucc.org).

Facebook: Union UCC Youth Group [www.unionucc.org/Ministries/Youth Group](http://www.unionucc.org/Ministries/YouthGroup)

Anyone who is in grades 6-12 is considered a member of youth group. Adults and parents who meet our safe child guidelines are welcome as chaperones, drivers and team members. Friends and families are always invited (unless noted).



June 3:

### GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Congratulations to all of our graduates! Best wishes on your future endeavors. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments!

**Thank You!!!**

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped support our Youth Group by donating to and buying from our stand at the Country Sale!

It's through your support that our Youth Group gets to do so many awesome things!

**T-SHIRTS STILL  
AVAILABLE \$5  
See Dave D. or  
Pastor Kayli**

#### SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:15-10:15am

**RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER**

#### **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) Confirmants 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)

JUNE 22

6pm-8pm

### END OF SCHOOL YEAR BASH

Let's kick off Summer and celebrate the end of the never ending school year together!

Food, drinks, fun!

\*watch for more details/sign up genius

so we can get an idea of how  
many to expect

Keep an eye out for more fun activities for this Summer!  
Got an idea? Let Pastor Kayli or Dave D. know about it!!!  
Have a safe and healthy summer!



**UNION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Neffs, Pennsylvania**

**Anticipated Income for July 2018 thru June 2019**

	<b>Income Budget</b>	
	<b>2017/2018 fcst</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>
Contributions, Current and Benevolent:		
General (Weekly Envelopes and Plate)	\$361,260	\$368,000
Improvement Fund	\$6,350	\$6,500
Communion	\$8,770	\$8,800
Mission and Outreach	\$8,750	\$7,500
Lent and Good Friday	\$1,900	\$2,100
Visitation Pastor and Music / Education Program	\$2,640	\$0
Harvest Home, Thanksgiving and Christmas	\$18,970	\$18,800
Funds of Lasting Gifts	\$12,800	\$19,400
Special Gifts	\$0	\$6,500
Program Income	\$10,280	\$9,800
Miscellaneous (Building Donations, Interest)	\$5,250	\$5,500
Fundraisers	\$9,760	\$9,700
Preschool Contribution	\$0	\$900
<b>Total Income Budget</b>	<b>\$446,730</b>	<b>\$463,500</b>

**Anticipated Expenses for July 2018 thru June 2019**

	<b>Expense Budget</b>	
	<b>2017/2018 fcst</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>
<b><u>Facilities and Office Equipment</u></b>		
Church Building / Property	\$60,005	\$59,444
Office Equipment	\$6,840	\$6,760
<b><u>Employee Salaries</u></b>		
Pastor	\$84,840	\$86,965
Associate Pastor	\$26,220	\$41,691
Visitation Pastor	\$17,150	\$12,794
Director of Christian Education	\$25,690	\$26,335
Minister of Music	\$24,240	\$24,847
Instrumental Assistant Choir Director	\$750	\$1,108
Church Administrator	\$23,670	\$21,315
Communications Coordinator / Office Assistants	\$18,785	\$19,249
Facility Caretakers	\$22,030	\$27,006
<b><u>Employee Expenses</u></b>		
Health Insurance (net of Pastor's contributions)	\$29,980	\$31,023
FICA	\$18,010	\$20,678
Pension Dues	\$16,290	\$21,040
Miscellaneous	\$6,035	\$5,170
<b><u>Mission and Outreach</u></b>		
OCWM	\$7,400	\$7,400
Phoebe	\$4,770	\$4,770
Lancaster Seminary	\$1,075	\$1,075
Bethany	\$240	\$240
Lehigh Co. Conf. of Churches	\$1,200	\$1,200
Northern Lehigh Food Bank	\$1,500	\$1,500
Mission Discretionary	\$1,850	\$600
<b><u>Leadership</u></b>		
Gifts / Materials / Golden Times	\$1,490	\$3,600
<b><u>Programs</u></b>		
Worship	\$7,530	\$6,190
Education	\$12,740	\$13,050
Fellowship	\$2,690	\$2,500
Flowers / Bulletins	\$4,320	\$4,900
<b><u>Office Expenses</u></b>	<b>\$13,390</b>	<b>\$11,050</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$440,730</b>	<b>\$463,500</b>
<b>Total Income less Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Property Committee

by Phil Wehr

After nine months of construction, our new baby in the grove has arrived. The food stand was completed by May 1, 2018, then preliminary grading of the ground began May 2nd, then the driveway area was prepped on May 3rd. Finish grading of the ground was done on May 8, with the grass seed hydro sprayed on the whole area on May 9. Watering began soon after, now we wait and watch the grass grow !!! Two layers of pavement will occur soon to finish the driveway area.

A big Thank You to Simock Construction of Neffs for their hard work these past months on building the food stand, and overseeing the various subcontractors who performed many varied tasks. Rick Simock and his son Jason Simock were on the job daily as the construction schedule dictated.

From preparing the foundation, to pouring concrete, to framing and constructing the building, to finishing the inside walls and ceiling, to building the counter tops, to creating and finishing the sidewalks, Rick and Jay performed many varied tasks throughout the construction process, under my watchful eye. I am grateful for their dedication to following through with the many complicated details of the project, and their skills and craftsmanship to provide the church with this beautiful new food stand.

A second Thank You goes to Brian Selig and Selig Electric for their work in all of the wiring and electrical needs of the food stand and the grove. From working with PPL to install a new transformer and underground service, to disconnecting the wiring from the picnic pavilion and then reconnecting, to wiring all of the lights and outlets in the new building, to disconnecting the grove lighting strings and installing two new light poles and reconnecting the grove lights, the electrical needs of the project was huge, and performed to the highest of standards.

There are many others to be thanked, which will be done at the dedication of the food stand during the outdoor worship service on Sunday June 24, 2018. We will celebrate with Build Your Own Sundae Sunday, hot dogs, ice cream, and refreshments, see you there.

Life is Good - Make a Memory in our Church Grove.

## God's Garden Gifts

Our vegetable exchange and food bank offering will start on July 1st. Home gardeners are invited to bring in their gifts from their gardens and worshippers are invited to take the vegetables they need and in exchange can make a cash donation to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. The Mission Committee will organize the collection and delivery of cash donations and remaining produce to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.



## 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 God's church at Union UCC. Thank you.



# 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.

*The group leading this effort continues to work hard doing fundraising and locating a location for the Day Center and offices. We will keep you posted with updates and timelines when we know more information.*

## SPRING AND SUMMER are a good time to reconnect with 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 June 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am and 10:30am. If you can't make these dates, we understand. Come any Sunday and let us know that this is still your church home.**

## Union UCC has a softball team!

We will be playing in the Whitehall-Coplay Church softball League on Sunday nights at 6pm on the Independence Park or Kola-pecha Park. **Come cheer for us on Sunday nights!** Games start at 6pm; Kola-pecha Park =K, Field 1 or 2; Independence Park =I

June 3 I,  
June 10 K1,  
June 17 K2,  
June 24 K1,  
July 1 I,  
July 8 I,  
July 15 K2,  
July 22 K2,  
July 29 K1,  
Aug 5 I,  
Aug 12 K2,  
Aug Tournament

### 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,  
Jill Schlosser, Linda &  
Wilbur Romig, Al  
Stubbman

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  
June 3, 2018  
at 10:30am  
worship!**



## Adult Study

### Friday Morning Adult Class with Pastor Kris

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

### Sunday Morning Adult Class with Rev. Patience, Pastor Kris and Lay Leaders

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

**Both Classes will resume in September. See you then!**

## Celebration of Life

By Jeffrey Mensendiek, Missionary

Teruko's funeral was like no other. She called it a "Celebration of Life" Her dream was to build a "blended community." She wanted to bring people together from all walks of life, and to witness the birthing of something new. She had choreographed her own farewell party. She wanted us to wear bright dazzling colors, instead of the customary black mourning clothes. The rainbow was to be the symbol of our blended-ness. So there we were, all six-hundred of us, crammed into the limited space at the Aoi Church in Kyoto. We were there, not only to celebrate her life, but to celebrate life itself. At one point during the service we joined in a responsive reading called "The Confession of Life." Death will not have the last word. Darkness cannot overcome the brightness of the love that we share. Pain, suffering and loss will not forever cloud the vision of hope that binds us. Together we declared our belief in LIFE, and the enduring power of God's love for all living things.

Teruko was a visionary. Twenty years ago she got together with a few friends (including my sister Martha who is also a CGMB mission co-worker) to start the Bazaar Café, in Kyoto. The Bazaar Café is located on the first floor of an old missionary house owned by Common Global Ministries. It has been a ministry to the marginalized; HIV/AIDS patients, people with a history of drug/alcohol abuse, sexual minorities, and others who are ostracized and downtrodden in society. Migrant women find work cooking in the kitchen three days a week preparing ethnic food for lunch at the café. Young college students work as volunteers to support outreach activities, and various events on weekends have brought people together to learn and share. This ministry has been supported by our church partners in Japan.

Ten years ago Teruko contracted Sjogren's Syndrome, which is an autoimmune disease. This meant that her body slowly deteriorated to the point that she had to spend her final years in a wheelchair. She had to always depend on having oxygen pumped into her lungs. Her physical weakness was increasingly noticeable, and yet her vitality and love for others grew stronger by the day. She gave of herself. She listened and cared. She was able to minister to others through her own struggle and vulnerability. She often spoke of "the wounded healer;" a term that had all the more impact coming from her. Through the Bazaar Café she had been able to bring the wounded and vulnerable together, and to embrace the joy and meaning of life even in the midst of suffering and pain.

At her "Celebration of Life." I had worn black in the traditional Japanese way. Pinned to my chest was a rainbow emblem. I looked out over the sanctuary in amazement, wondering how Teruko had managed to touch such a diverse group of people in such a genuine way. Some were in very dazzling colors. One looked like he had just come from the carnival in Rio de Janeiro. After the service, three friends came forward to share their memories of Teruko. One was a woman now working as manager of the Bazaar Café. Her speech was not polished. Her words were straight to the point. "When I came to Kyoto and met you, I, for the first time, started to believe that life was worth living. I was so happy the day when I was finally able to thank my mother for bringing me into this world. You were the one who enabled me to do that."

The night before, it had rained hard prior to Teruko's wake. Ten minutes before the wake was to begin, the rain cleared. One person called out; "Look, a rainbow!" It was certainly not lost on the crowd assembled that this was an added blessing and promise of God's love for all people.



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*Alex, Abby, Andrew and Garet Hill are our Catch the Spirit recipients for May 2018. They were nominated by the Worship Committee. They will be recognized June 10th at 10:30am worship service.*

By Jana Hill

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For the past 18 years, our parents have been blessed with the opportunity to bring their children to worship at Union UCC. We have all been baptized here, and as far as confirmands, we have 2 down and 2 to go! While our roots began in the Little Lambs Nursery, each one of us has enjoyed years of Sunday School and Children's Church, as well as participating in youth activities when we are able to. As we have gotten older, we have also enjoyed helping lead Sunday School and Breakfast Club classes, as well as volunteer at VBS. By far, however, the contribution we all four enjoy the most is the opportunity to participate in special music offerings here at Union UCC.

Outside of church (between the four of us) we are actively involved in instrumental and choral music programs, theater, dance, soccer, wrestling, ultimate Frisbee and various clubs and organizations within the Parkland community. While these activities are enriching, they frequently conflict with our family's church worship opportunities, but we do our best to have at least some family representation in church as often as possible.

Each of us agrees that our church is a safe haven where we can gather together as a family. We love how there are countless opportunities for involvement regardless of your age. There are always friendly faces to welcome us, and each week we enjoy learning a new aspect of our faith or refreshing an old concept that can inspire us during the upcoming week.

## Staff Updates from Pastor Kris

### **Pastor Kris's Sabbatical from Pastor Kris and Church and Ministry**

Our full-time pastors are blessed with 3 months of sabbatical time for every 5 years of service at Union. This is part of the call agreement between a pastor and a church. Sabbatical time is for spiritual renewal and growth. Most Sabbatical leaves include study, spiritual retreat and rest.

I've postponed this time for the last 2 years in order to do the work needed during the many transitions our church has been going through. I'll be taking one month of my sabbatical this summer starting **June 4<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**. During this time I hope to work on some reading and planning for the next year as well take time for family, travel and spiritual renewal.

I will not be available for church events or pastoral care during this time. Pastors Kayli and Patience will be available to lead and support you.

Thank you for this gift. I trust God will make sure it benefits and blesses our life and ministry together.

**Rev. Patience and Ori Handwerk Update** They're back! Thanks for your prayers and support.



# Tales from the Road

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

## Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be  
**Tuesday, May 1, 2018**  
**Program:** Bingo

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

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

**Food Bank Donation:**  
**Cereal**

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

Have a great summer! See  
you in the fall!

### 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](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org)  
for forms and room  
availability.

Our own Regan Haley is a great advocate for God's wonderful gift of creation. Regan is in fifth grade at Kratzer Elementary School in Parkland. She treated our Adult Education class to a very inspiring lesson on ways to care for the environment, complete with a YouTube video and craft. Regan herself was inspired to make some changes in her life and in the life of her family when PPL brought an "Eco friendly" presentation to her classroom at school. Regan learned how to reduce water and electricity usage in her home and can inspire you to do that too! Regan's family now uses a reduced water flow shower head and a five minute timer in the shower. Regan reminds and encourages her brothers, Tegan and Kaden, to turn off lights and keep their showers short. The family uses ecofriendly products such as Mrs. Meyers line of hand soaps, dish soaps and plans to add Mrs. Myers laundry detergent on their next shopping trip. (You can find Mrs. Myers products at Target, along with a number of other ecofriendly cleaning products.) Regan's family even uses biodegradable dog poop bags for their four footed family members, Rosie and Henry. (They recommend the brand Eco-Clean, which is available on Amazon.) Be sure to unplug all electronics that you are not using, such as toasters, coffeepots, phone, tablet and computer chargers and electric pencil sharpeners.

Regan is on the Green Team at her local elementary school, and ensures that other students put the plastics in their appropriate recycling receptacles when they clean up their lunch trays. One of Regan's ideas is to have a local sculptor (who happens to work as the custodian at the school) design a more creative recycling container to help motivate the kids to recycle more.

Regan inspired us with a great video that demonstrated many ways of repurposing everyday objects. If you're curious try this link, <https://youtu.be/3ETqGos67wQ>. What a lot of fun ways to find new and creative uses for everyday objects.

We had lots of fun filling egg shells with potting soil and planting sunflower, cucumber, petunia and carrot seeds. I can't wait to pop them right in my garden once they sprout.

Our class ended with a brainstorming session about ways we could recycle more items. Did you know you can recycle batteries and many electronics at AERC Recycling Solutions, 2330 Southwest 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, PA 18103 from 9 a.m. -3p.m. the second Friday of every month? Look up their list of acceptable items and prices at [www.aerc.com](http://www.aerc.com) or call 866-447-5177.

You can reduce paper and ink use by signing up to receive your church newsletter via email instead of a paper copy via snail mail. Simply contact our Communications Coordinator, Tara Henninger at [secretary@unionucc.org](mailto:secretary@unionucc.org) to request this change. You can also recycle your bulletins after worship in the small wooden box behind the door as you exit the sanctuary.

Please reach out to Pastor Patience to share other ideas to help all of us take better care of God's gift of creation.

Please email her at [vispastor@unionucc.org](mailto:vispastor@unionucc.org) or call at 610-248-5587.

## New Member Sessions

Pastor Kris and our church leaders invite you to gatherings on **September 9th and 16th 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, September 23 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 Amanda [administrator@unionucc.org](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org)

## Baptism

We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Upcoming dates are **July 8th and September 16th**. 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 Amanda [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: Amanda Sweeting at 610-767-6961 [administrator@unionucc.org](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org)

## 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.

## Summer Special Music

Please talk to Blake Hoppes or sign up at: [signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4daca723a0ff2-neffs2](http://signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4daca723a0ff2-neffs2) to offer music during worship this summer. We are so grateful for the many children, youth and adults who share their musical talents to inspire us in worship.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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

## Home Visitation Members Birthdays

**Ruth Miller - June 16**

723 W. Union St.

Whitehall, PA 18052





# Worship Opportunities

**Sunday, June 3, 2018**

Graduate Sunday/ Communion

**8:00am Heritage Service**

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

**Text:** Jeremiah 29:8-13

**Message:** Oh, The Places You Will Go

**Preacher:** Rev. Kayli Freeman

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Whitney Kern

10:30 - Mollie Jarrett

**Greeters:** Chris & Abby Bastidas, Karen & Scott Misera

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM – Lila Cygan

10:30 AM—Gracie Trexler, Leah Horvath

**Sunday, June 17, 2018**

Father's Day

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** Judges 16:16-19, 27-31

**Message:** Samson, Delilah, And Hercules

**Preacher:** Rev. Kayli Freeman

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Doug Albert

10:30 - Elena Steidinger

**Greeters:** Jim & Leanna Lane, Naomi & George DeNardo

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM – Naomi Henninger

10:30AM– Riley Cordova, Tori McCoy

**Sunday, June 10, 2018**

Semi-Annual Meeting follows 10:30am

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service**

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

**Message:** The Magic in the Ordinary

**Preacher:** Rev. Kayli Freeman

**Lay Readers:** 8:00—Carol Pope

10:30—Dan Topp

**Greeters:** Karen Wonderly, Al Stubbman, Vicki Mayk

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –

10:30AM– Samantha Christman, Riley Cordova

**Sunday, June 24, 2018**

Grove Dedication; Sundae Sunday

**8:00am Heritage Service**

**10:30am Horizon Service-Outdoor Worship**

**Text:** Genesis 1:26-31

**Message:** "Which Way Does a Tree Fall?" - The Lorax

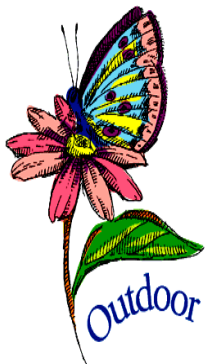
**Preacher:** Rev. Kayli Freeman

**Lay Readers:** 8:00– Sandra Craig

10:30 - Tami Wassum

**Greeters:** Connie & Ralph Gioielli, Dennis & Debbie DeFrain

**Acolytes:** 8:00AM –



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

**June 24/Sundae Sunday  
July 15**

**August 12/Picnic**

*Outdoor Worship*

## 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.



# Financial & Attendance Reports

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Grand Total All Funds</u>
7-1-2017	\$9,644	\$31,965	\$41,609
Income	\$396,177	\$42,268	\$438,445
Expenses	\$389,434	\$59,125	\$448,559
4-30-2018	\$16,387	\$15,108	\$31,495

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		
April 1	199	465	6am: 80	744
April 8	52	162	29	243
April 15	63	129	26	218
April 22	60	166	33	259
April 29	67	120	5	192

## TOTAL ATTENDANCE

April 2017–1,952 April 2018– 1,656

## AVG ATTENDANCE

April 2017–357 April 2018– 331

## Deaths

**Alice M. (Good) Stephen** passed away on May 16, 2018 and was laid to rest at Union Church Cemetery on May 21, 2018.

## Weddings

**Joel Seyler and Leah Petre** were united in marriage under the care of Union UCC on May 19, 2018.

**Robert Fetherman and Melissa Allogio** were united in marriage under the care of Union UCC on May 19, 2018.

## 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  
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**Tara Henninger**  
Communications Coordinator  
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**Blake Hoppes**  
Minister of Music  
Blake.charger@gmail.com

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

Church Office:  
610-767-6961  
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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

# June 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b> <u>9:30am</u> Tai Chi <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>5</b> <u>12pm</u> Golden Times <u>7pm</u> Bible Study	<b>6</b> <u>9am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit <u>7pm</u> Church & Ministry	<b>7</b> <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling	<b>8</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep	<b>9</b>
<b>11</b> <u>9:30am</u> Tai Chi Picnic <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>12</b> <u>9am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>7pm</u> Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>13</b> <u>9am</u> Busy Bee Quilters <u>10am</u> Knitwits <u>6:30pm</u> Spiritually Fit	<b>14</b> <u>10am</u> Preschool Board	<b>15</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>5pm</u> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>16</b> <u>1pm</u> Wedding
<b>18</b> <u>6:45pm</u> Consistory	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <u>9am</u> Busy Bee Quilters; Staff Meeting <u>10am</u> Program Staff <u>10am</u> Knitwits	<b>21</b> <u>9:30am</u> Bible Journaling	<b>22</b> <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>6pm</u> Youth Group Picnic	<b>23</b>
<b>25</b> <u>9am</u> Vacation Bible School	<b>26</b> <u>9am</u> VBS <u>1pm</u> Newsletter Mailing	<b>27</b> <u>9am</u> VBS	<b>28</b> <u>9am</u> VBS	<b>29</b> <u>9am</u> VBS <u>9am</u> Bulletin Prep <u>7:00pm</u> VBS Closing	<b>30</b>
SUNDAYS					
<b>3 Graduate Sunday/ Communion</b>  <u>8am</u> Heritage Service  <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	<b>10</b> <u>8am</u> Heritage Service  <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/Semi-Annual Meeting  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	<b>17 Father's Day</b>  <u>8am</u> Heritage Service  <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds	<b>24</b>  <u>8am</u> Heritage Service  <u>9:15 - 10:15 am</u> Holy Grounds  <u>10:30am</u> Horizon Service/Outdoor Worship  <u>11:30am</u> Holy Grounds Build Your Own Sundae  <u>12pm</u> VBS Meeting		