

Stewardship is about money; but not only about money. Its many facets include, among other things, the sharing of our faith. In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes that we are “stewards of the mysteries of God.” As people who know the nature of our God and the love that God has for all of us, we are called



to share this story. As faithful stewards, we are invited to think both about our priorities and how well we have shared with others the real treasure we have in the story of our faith. How are you practicing this kind of stewardship? With whom can you tell about and share God’s unconditional love?

**What Shall We Bring? November 18th Stewardship Sunday
January 6th Faith Commitment Sunday and Brunch**



Christmas Eve Yard Signs from the Welcoming Committee

Yard Signs are available for you to pick up on Sundays during November. If you already have a yard sign, please use it if it’s in good shape. We ask that you place them in your yard or at important corners near your home to help us share the hope of the Christmas season with your neighbors and invite them to our church. Please hold onto signs for next year.

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**A Song and A Promise
CONCERT**

**Sunday, November 18th
at 3pm**

Union UCC, Neffs

**Featuring Ben Anderson, Blake Hoppes and our own In-House Talent
FREE with Reception at Intermission
Donations Support Family Promise**



Family Promise Update: The Day Center is scheduled to open in November and churches and groups will begin to host families. We hope to begin hosting in the New Year.

If you haven’t already signed up to volunteer with donating food, preparing and serving meals, visiting with children and families in the evening or staying overnight at the church please let Pastor Kris know that you would like to support this important ministry to help families that are homeless.

The monthly meeting of the **Union United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting** was called to order on Monday, October 15, 2018, by President Aften Hamm.

October 2018 Consistory Actions

These notes reflect items that needed action and approval by Consistory. Standing and routine items are reported by Committees and Staff throughout the newsletter. A complete copy of the Consistory minutes can be found in the church office.

Approval for funding to cover a new commercial Frigidaire freezer from Kleckner's Appliances, from Memorial Fund - *Property & Maintenance Committee*

Approval for funding to cover any upcoming repair or replacement costs of smoke detectors by Protect Alarm, from Funds of Lasting Gifts (FOLG) - *Property & Maintenance Committee*

The next regular meeting of the Union United Church of Christ Consistory will be held Monday, November 19 in Room 101.

From the Property Committee By Phil Wehr

Fall is here, Thanksgiving is coming, and Union UCC is blessed with a beautiful church and property. Every year we continue to maintain, improve, and modernize our church sanctuary, the 1957 Parish House addition, the 2003 New Beginning Addition, and our church grove. Our church property is large and takes a community to manage its care.

Union UCC is grateful for your financial support as church members for the monthly and yearly expenses for the general operation and basic maintenance of the church. We are grateful of your support during large or small capital campaigns for larger, long term projects. We are truly blessed and grateful for Union UCC's endowment fund, The Fund of Lasting Gifts, for the financial support the fund provides for minor and major repairs, upgrades, and improvements to the church property on a yearly basis. Together we have accomplished major projects to bring beauty to our church

We are also blessed with our dedicated staff and with many local contractors who specialize in the many different trades that are needed to maintain our property. From plumbers to electricians, from carpenters to gutter cleaners, from snow removers to grass cutters, we count on these and many other pros to get the job done. Thanks are in order to all who share their skills and talents with our church property.

Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Building for the Future

Happy Thanksgiving - Give Thanks and Praise - We are Blessed

Church Directory In order to have your information included in the directory, you need to respond and opt into having it published. **Please complete the form below and return it to the church office ASAP. You can return this information in several ways:**

1. Complete a paper copy, place it in the offering plate on Sunday, drop it off or mail it to the church office.

3. Email or scan the form to our office at officeassistant@unionucc.org.

4. Complete online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcB0EuhwCTmEwhNQNSEY-SiuQ9WNWX4Riql1BeJhTudeCnnA/viewform?usp=sf_link

If we don't hear from you that you'd like to have your contact information included in the church directory, we will not be able to include it. **Please respond and turn this information ASAP –LAST CHANCE.** Note: you can have your information included even if you didn't have your picture taken but you need to opt in.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

I am opting in to have my contact information appear in the church directory.

From our Member and UCC Missionary in Japan, Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek

One thing I like about late September in Japan are the Kin-moku-sei trees (osmanthus) in blossom. The flowers are small and hardly visible hidden amidst the dark green leaves. But the fragrance is so special that I find myself taking a deep breath to catch more of this seasonal blessing. I scan the surroundings to find where the fragrance is coming from. It is hard to locate the source, though I know the tree is near. As I continue walking, I find that I have passed beyond its reach. When I have the time I retrace my steps to be blessed once again by the unimposing and yet life renewing fragrance. This Kin-moku-sei blessing is a symbol for how I see the church involved in Japanese society today.

Since April I have been teaching at J.F. Oberlin University in Tokyo. I face 450 students each week. My subject is “Introduction to Christianity.” It is a required course for all incoming freshmen. My audience has had almost no experience with the subject. They are a bit uneasy because they are asking themselves, “Why do I have to take this course? I wish it wasn’t required. I have no interest in the subject. What am I to expect from the class?” I can sense their ambivalent feelings. My job is to help them understand the legacy of the Christian church with all of its complexities and contradictions, and to connect that history with the founding of the Christian institution where they now study. Another role I play is to dialogue with them and to relieve their fear and anxiety.

J.F. Oberlin University was founded by a remarkable Christian named Yasuzo Shimizu. In 1917 Shimizu went to China and started a school for slum girls in Beijing. He committed himself to educating the poorest and most vulnerable children, not only teaching them how to read, but also helping them to gain skills for income generation. He managed the school, even as conflict grew between Japan and China and finally erupted into war. The Chinese, Korean and Japanese children at his school were treated equally. He had a special heart for the Korean children who, at the time, were without a homeland. He called them by their Korean names, and encouraged them to take pride in their ethnic identity. Shimizu stayed in Beijing until 1945 when Japan lost the war, and all facilities in China were placed under Chinese government control. Shimizu returned empty handed to Japan, but



within five days he had secured land outside of Tokyo to build a new school and church. For the first three sessions in class I tell Shimizu’s story. Many of my students are captivated and glad to learn that J.F. Oberlin was founded by a Japanese who had a good heart for children in east Asia. I am particularly happy to be able to introduce

Christianity through this living example of a Japanese man who lived out his faith in the context of East Asia.

Japanese young people for the most part are ignorant of Christianity, and want nothing to do with it. My students are afraid that I will try to brainwash them with Christian values. I acknowledge their feelings, but also remind them that ignorance breeds fear. Maybe some students have had unpleasant experiences with religious groups that push their brand of religion. I tell them however, that university is a place where they can engage the world with a critical eye, and learn about different cultures and religions. Shimizu’s life story is a compelling and non-threatening way to get them thinking about how they want to live their lives. My hope is that the witness of Christians like Shimizu can help my students gain a deeper understanding of the Christian principles that are at the heart of this Christian institution. I also hope that their learning will open new horizons such that “the truth will set them free.”

Christianity in Japan is like a fragrant flower. My students will pass through this institution and in several years will enter the work place. Most of them may not have any further encounter with Christianity. My hope is that their learning here at J.F. Oberlin will be like the gentle blessing of the Kin-moku-sei . I call it the fragrance of Christ. They were touched by it, blessed by it, and thankful for the brief encounter. It’s up to them whether they want to retrace their steps and allow for a more intentional encounter – an encounter that I hope is life giving and refreshing.

PS: You might be wondering how the university got its name. Shimizu studied at Oberlin College in Ohio for two years. He was inspired by the French Lutheran pastor and educator Jean Frederic Oberlin who’s motto was “Learning and Labor.”

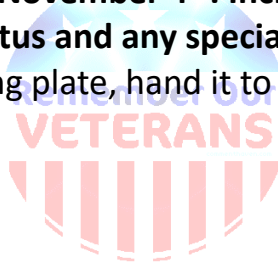


Veteran's Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans. Join the Mission Committee on [Sunday, November 11](#), Veteran's Day, for our second blood drive of the year. (There are no soup sales this time around. The Pint for Pint drive will return in Spring 2019.)

Sign up online at giveapint.org or contact Susan Smith at susancarrington@hotmail.com or [\(610\) 366-7284](tel:6103667284). Honor a veteran by continuing the tradition of saving lives:

donate blood to the **MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER**.

VETERANS DAY RECOGNITION will be at both worship services on **November 11th**. We have kept the names that have been submitted through the years and will recognize that list during worship. We will have special music and brass in your honor. **If you have never given us your information, please do so by November 4th**. **Include your Rank/Title and Name, Branch of the Military, Current Status and any special honors you'd like included.** You can place this information in the offering plate, hand it to a pastor, or email Tricia at officeassistant@unionucc.org



From Our Seminarian:

Dear Union UCC church family,

Happy Fall! Many of you know that I've just started my first semester as a Master of Divinity student at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. It's taken me a few weeks to settle back into the groove of school again after working for a few years, but I'm starting to find my way here. This semester, I'm taking introductory classes in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, pastoral care and counseling, interreligious engagement, and Zen meditation. I'm also starting to visit UCC churches in the city to scope out potential field work internship sites for the 2019-2020 school year. I'm already so inspired by the dynamic, prayerful, and creative communities I'm finding here at UTS, and I feel very lucky to be here in this chapter of my life.

In the UCC, folks who are interested in pursuing ordination must apply to become a Member in Discernment in order to receive guidance and support from their home conference (Penn Northeast, for me) throughout their journey. I'm grateful to have met with Pastor Kayli and our Church and Ministry Committee in August to kick off this application process. I look forward to many more conversations with Pastor Kayli, Church and Ministry, and with the rest of you, as I try to figure out where God is leading me over the next three years at UTS. I can't wait to come back and reconnect with you in person during my break this Winter.

Would you hold me in your prayers as I start this new adventure?

See you soon,
Hannah Snyder-Samuels



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

*Union UCC's HOLIDAY challenge—
 Reverse Advent Calendar*

For the third year, we will be handing out baskets and advent calendars to interested families. The idea is to put something **IN** the basket each day of Advent. Bring the filled basket back to church between Christmas Eve and New Years Day and we will deliver your Holiday donation to the **FOOD BANK**. Help your family give to others every day of Advent. Baskets will be handed out 11/18 and 11/25.

(Item Ideas: canned goods, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pasta, condiments, cake and brownie mixes, Jello, cereal, socks, mittens, toilet paper)



Reverse Advent Basket

You are invited to our **Messy Church Workshop** Wednesday, NOVEMBER 14th 5:30-6:45
 The night's theme will be **THANKFULNESS**
 Crafts and Activities/ Dinner/Worship



You are also invited to our annual **Advent Celebration**— Sunday, DEC 2nd
 Join us for lunch and an advent candle craft.
 See display in foyer.

Bible Journaling WORKSHOP

We will be studying scripture and enhancing our understanding of the verses with design and color. We share ideas and techniques. Participants need a journal Bible. We will provide art supplies. Our November dates are Nov. 1 and 15, 9:30-11:30, in Room 5.



WHOOOO knows? Our Sunday School children are currently memorizing **The Lord's Prayer** and **John 6:35**. Check out the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall to see what our amazing children are doing! All children who complete this challenge will receive coins for the end of the year coin exchange.

The children participated in our annual **SNEAKER STROLL** during Sunday School and Children's Church on Oct. 14th. They collected **\$128** in sponsor money to donate to our local Crop Walk. **YAY!**

November



Children's Church Calendar

- Nov. 4** Mark 12:28-34
- Nov. 11** Mark 12: 38-44
- Nov. 18** Mark 13:1-8
- Nov. 25** Church Family Worship

We have a **GIFT BIBLE PROGRAM** which is sponsored by the CE Committee and Funds of Lasting Gifts. We will present BIBLES the first Sunday of Advent to those children who are in 3rd grade or older and have attended at least five Sunday School or Children's Church classes. We will be presenting WHIRL NRSV Bibles.



HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS for local children (through the *Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley*) Fill a wrapped shoebox with suggested items and bring to church by Nov. 25th. See the table in the foyer for gift suggestion sheets and nametags on Nov. 4 and Nov. 11.

Youth Group News

NOVEMBER 3: Sandwich Sale Prep

Meet at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall to prepare bagged lunches for the Youth Group Sandwich Sale! The more people who are there, the quicker it will go!

NOVEMBER 4: YOUTH GROUP SANDWICH SALE!

Youth Group will be selling the bagged lunches during coffee hour!

NOVEMBER 16-18: CONFIRMATION RETREAT

@Camp Ichthus

Youth grades 9-12 welcome to join in on the weekend of fun.

See Pastor Kayli for Forms!

Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in the Sleep Out for Homelessness! It may have been cold, but we were able to raise over \$400 from Union UCC!



Education Hour Opportunities!

6th-7th Grade: Munch Bunch

(Upstairs room 203)

8th Grade: Confirmation

(Youth Room (15), Confirmands can go to Breakfast Club when there is no confirmation)

9th-12 Grade: Breakfast Club

(Basement, room 4)

Check out one of these groups from 9:15am-10:15am Sunday mornings!

Have Questions? I 'might' have answers!

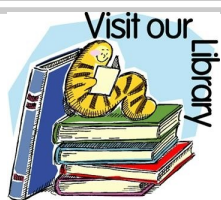
Have you ever questioned why we do something in church? Wondered about bible passages? Been curious about ANYTHING church related? I WANT TO KNOW!!! Write down your questions (which can be anonymous if you want) and put them in Pastor Kayli's mailbox! I'll answer them in weekly bulletins and newsletters! If you have questions, someone else might too!

From our Preschool Director, Annette Wilcox: October leaves are changing colors as we learn about the seasons and the weather in our 4-year-old program. We go “down on the farm” with our 3’s, complete with a trip to the pumpkin patch. The Pre-K students have blasted-off and are taking a trip in space as we learn about astronauts, planets and constellations. The dramatic play room was turned into a space shuttle with areas to conduct space “experiments” and enjoy a “moon dirt” sensory bin. In addition, we had a visit from the Neffs Fire Department for Fire Safety Week. We will wrap up a busy October with our second annual Cemetery Crawl 5k and the traditional Halloween parties and Costume Parade. Check us out on our new website: neffsuccpreschool.org



THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to everyone who sold or ordered hoagies. We made 554 sandwiches in a little over three hours. This year we made 99 extras and we SOLD OUT on Sunday morning. The profits help the Preschool and the Christian Education Committee. We send birthday cards and Target gift cards to the boys and girls in two houses at Bethany Home. We will also be able to offer another **Messy Church (dinner/crafts/worship) on Nov. 14th** thanks to this fundraiser. Hope to see you there as we explore THANKFULNESS.



Have you visited our library lately?

We have a treasure in our church and very few know about it. Union UCC’s library has quite a history and quite a collection. A new committee recently formed to make sure you know about this treasure. They are working on new lighting and an updated digital system to catalog our impressive collection. *(There is a wonderful children’s section with many award winning books!)* The library is located on the second floor behind the Memory Room. To give you a glimpse of the treasures we have, we will be introducing a **LIBRARY ON WHEELS** on November 4th and December 2nd. We will bring some of our books to the foyer on these dates. Come check them out, sign them out and enjoy! When finished, please return your book to the LIBRARY or to the LIBRARY MAILBOX outside the office.

New Member Sessions Pastor Kris and our church leaders invite you to gatherings on **November 4th and 11th (future dates are February 10th and 17th) at 9:15am-10:15am.** We will meet in the Memory Room (Room 200) on the second floor. This is a 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, November 18th (future date: Sunday, February 24th) at the 8am or 10:30am worship service.** For more info: Pastor Kris PastorKris@unionucc.org

Baptism We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Upcoming dates are **January 13th, March 3rd.** There is a pre-baptism session for families typically held after church the Sunday before the baptism.

Weddings To schedule your pre-marriage sessions and wedding at our church or a venue with one of the pastors, please see be in contact with one of the pastors. There is information on our website, forms to complete are downloadable. More information on the site: <http://www.unionucc.org/resources> for New Member, Baptism and Wedding forms. You could also email officeassistant@unionucc.org or administrator@unionucc.org

Adult Studies

FRIDAY MORNING ADULT STUDIES WITH PASTOR KRIS

Everyone is welcome at any time as your schedule allows.

9:30 am-11am Room 5 (Basement)

November 2 and 9, The author of [Kerygma: The Bible in Depth](#) brings deep insight to a very challenging book. Studying Revelation in context clarifies its message to an early church facing severe crisis. Its relevance for today is not in prophetic visions, but in its affirmation of victory and hope.

November 16- No Class Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

November 23 No Class, Happy Thanksgiving

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

with Rev. Patience, Pastor Kris and Lay Leaders

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

November 4 and 11 –with Rev. Patience, November 18 Last Session of Which Way, Lord?

Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul by Rob Fuquay. We will travel with Paul and visit (through DVD) the places where he travelled and ministered as we ask, "What is the purpose of our life?"

November 25th – No Class, Happy Thanksgiving



Sunday Morning Alive leads worship on Sundays at 10:30 for about six Sundays throughout the year. We have a worship team that includes a group of singers, guitar players, keyboards and drums. We play traditional and favorite hymns as well as contemporary and alternative worship music.

Next Sunday Morning Alive: Sunday, December 23rd at 10:30am Worship

Join the Choir!

Practice Schedules:

Tuesday Night:

Youth

6pm Cherubs (age 4-1st grade)

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

Middlers (6th-8th grades)

High School (9th-12th grade)

Sundays at 11:40am

Sunday Mornings—Adults

Heritage Choir 7:15am

Horizon Choir 9:15am

Abby Hill is our Instrumental Assistant Choir Director. Our first performance date is Sunday, November 11th for Veteran's Day.

If you are interested in playing with the group please contact Abby at ap-plepieabby09@gmail.com or Blake Hoppes at

blake.charger@gmail.com. Please contact Abby If you'd like to offer special music on a Sunday or play during the Christmas

season/Christmas eve. Your music blesses our time of worship!

**Horizon Choir
Future Performances:
Nov 4th, Dec. 9th**





Missions
Committee

CROP WALK / SNEAKER STROLL

Crop Walk for Hunger results:

9 walkers - Teresa Dalrymple; Carrington, Susan and Graham Smith; Tara, Dion, Ian and Naomi Henninger; and John Snyder-Samuels and our Sneaker Stroll participants—raised \$880. This includes a donation from Union UCC of \$200 from our Mission Offering Envelopes. 24 congregations from the Lehigh Valley raised a total of \$27, 684 for hunger. Thank you.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN Event results: 400 or more volunteers throughout the weekend packed 504 boxes, 108,864 meals, feeding 298 kids for a year. More info and reflections to come. Thank you, Eliot Lightner and everyone for leading and inspiring us.



OPERATION PROJECT FOOD BANK

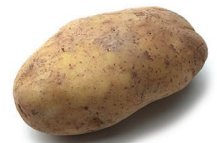
Every November, Union UCC is responsible to provide volunteers to help distribute food at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank in Emerald. **Ten to twelve volunteers are needed on Thursday November 1, 8, and 15 from 3:34 pm - 7:15 pm and on Saturday November 17 from 8:30 am - 12:00 noon.** Please consider providing time to help others, call Phil Wehr 610-767-3657 or Wilbur Romig 610-841-6586

The food bank is located on Center Street in Emerald, directly across from the Washington Township Municipal building. The NL food bank provides food relief to over 250 families in the local area. Director Dale Bryfogle manages the huge task of overseeing the daily operations of the food bank, along

with many volunteers from the community, over twelve participating local churches, and other service organizations. She is always looking for more regular helpers to organize, stock shelves, distribute food and other duties.

Volunteer opportunities are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Please contact Phil or Wilbur for more information.



Thank you for your support of the monthly Mission and Outreach envelope in your envelope packet. Your donations help various agencies through the general budget, with excess donations helping other agencies chosen by the Mission Committee.

Thanks to your generosity, the Mission Committee will provide a special \$400 donation to each of the three following Mission Agencies:

- Jubilee Breakfast Ministry at Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown
 - Holy Joe's Café - providing support to US troops around the world
 - VAST - Valley Against Sex Trafficking - supporting the Lehigh Valley mission
- A donation of \$200 will also be provided to the annual Crop Walk in Allentown.

Thank you for your past and future support of the Mission and Outreach envelope which is in your envelope packet every month. You truly make a difference in the lives of families everywhere when supporting this envelope.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 4, 2018
All Saints' Sunday November 4th
We will remember and give thanks for those church members who have passed away this year since November 1st, 2017 and those for whom our pastors presided over funerals. A flower will be placed on the altar for family members to receive.

Sunday, November 4, 2018

All Saints Sunday, 10:30 Baptism

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Ruth 1:1-18, Mark 12:28-34

Message: The Way of Love

Preacher: Rev Kris Snyder Samuelson

Lay Readers: Michael Roth, Dan Topp

Greeters: Eric Minnich, Nancy Jones

Sunday, November 18, 2018

Stewardship Sunday/New Members

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Micah 1:3-5; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8

Message: What Shall I Bring? What Does God Require?

Preacher: Rev Kris Snyder Samuelson

Lay Readers: Sue Steinmann, Vicki Mayk

Greeters: Todd & Amy McCoy, Malcolm & Margie Mackenzie

Sunday, November 11, 2018

Veteran's Honored, both services

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: John 15:9-17

Message: Those Who Save

Preacher: Rev. Kayli Freeman

Lay Readers: Susan Rumble; Doug Kuntz

Greeters: Doug & Angie Kuntz, SueAnn Hregician

Sunday, November 25, 2018

Thanksgiving Sunday, Church Family Worship 10:30

8:00am Heritage Service

10:30am Horizon Service

Text: Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)

Message: Too Busy For God

Preacher: Rev Kris Snyder Samuelson

Lay Readers: Brad Hackett, Leah Seyler

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Carolyn Seyler

Save the Dates:

Sunday, December 9 at 7pm

Parkland High School Chorale Concert at Union UCC

Enjoy a gorgeous night of music

FREE with a donation to support the Chorale.

Reception following the concert.

Friday, December 21 Worship Service at 7pm with Prayer and Communion

Winter Solstice: Longest Night Service – a service of solace.

This quiet service with music, prayers, and communion will help you get through the holidays.

Monday, December 24th Christmas Eve Services

3pm Candlelight and Communion, Carols and Special Music

5pm Family Service, Candlelight, Carols and Special Music

8pm Candlelight and Communion, Carols and Special Music

11pm Candlelight and Communion, Carols and Special Music



CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARD FOR November 2018 goes to Damon Gelb, he will be recognized in November.

Damon was raised Lutheran, mostly at Nativity Lutheran Church in Allentown, then later at St. Paul's Lutheran (with a helping of Episcopal membership in there for good measure!)

He is married to Kelly for 21 years, who is an RN at Good Shepherd Hospital. They have four daughters - three in college and their youngest is at Orefield Middle School. He is employed as the Technical Director for the Dept of Theatre & Dance at Muhlenberg College. He also designs and builds scenery for many area school and regional theatres, such as Parkland High School, Northampton High School, Cabrini University, Act II Playhouse (Philadelphia) and The Barrow Group (NYC).

Being part of the church has helped him and Kelly to raise their children in the eyes of God - helping them to become the best they can be! Damon's favorite memory as a youth was watching "Jesus Christ Superstar" in youth group

during Jr. High - Initially he heard the description of "Rock Opera" - hearing really only "Opera" and had low expectations, only to be captivated by the film. It became not only his favorite film, but his favorite musical, helping to lead him to his career in theatre. Several years later he had the great privilege to meet and work with Ted Neely, who starred as Jesus in the film and the revival tour.



He has been an active Softball coach in the Parkland Softball League for 15 years, serving as a head coach for every age group at some point (coaching ALL of his daughters as well as several current church members). He also served as League President. He also helped lead the church softball team this past summer. He had a great time with our softball team this summer, not only getting to include his family and church friends, but getting the chance



to meet people from church he did not have the opportunity to spend time with previously. He would like to **recognize and share this award with all of them.**

Spiritually Fit is an exercise/walking group that meets Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in Memorial Hall, or the Youth Room. We exercise to a series of walking videos or if weather permits a walk outside. The routines are easy to learn and are LOW IMPACT with emphasis on cardio boosting, body toning, sculpting with light weights and strengthening of the lower body with floor ABS. This is a fun and easy way to get fit while socializing in the company of friends. For information contact Dan Topp at 610-767-3384 or email at djtoppsr@enter.net

Quilters, Knitters & 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. They meet year round.

WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY Joy...the Door to Peace
Saturday, December 8th at Union UCC
8:30am-12:30pm 8:30 Breakfast, Retreat 9:00 – 12:30

Take time for yourself and each other during this wonderful and difficult season.
Leaders: El Buss and Sylvia Doyle with Pastor Kris \$25 Due by December 2nd

MEN'S GROUP Events from Pastor Kris
Volunteer at Northern Lehigh Food Bank Sat Nov 17 from 9am - 12:30. We only need 10 people. Phil Wehr is the contact for this. PJWehr@aol.com
Sunday, Dec 16th after 10:30 church is over. Church-Wide Caroling to members who are in nursing homes or homebound. Last year we had 2 groups go out and were able to visit about 25 different people, it was great!
Saturday, January 19 at 7:05pm Phantoms Game, (doors open at 6pm), \$21.50. Contact Steve Kareha by Dec 16th for questions or to place your ticket order. 717-514-8881 s.kareha@gmail.com Friends and families welcome!

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2019
Union UCC Women's Retreat Weekend
April 5-7, 2019
Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg
Cost: \$135, Collecting \$75 Deposit anytime now through Jan 13, Balance \$60 Due March 3. Payment plans and financial assistance available.
Checks to Union UCC, Memo Line – Women's Retreat
Friends and Family members are welcome too.
Leader and more Info: Pastor Kris

Golden Times

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

Our next gathering will be

November 6

Program: Dianne Kareha's
summer trip to Malawi

Donation item: **soup**

Programs offered are fun,
informative & entertaining
Bring a dessert to share!

12 noon – 1:30pm

FREE

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

Birthdays:

11/10 Elaine Creitz

11/21 Shirley Knappenberger

Address Change:

Warren Kuntz

St. Luke's Summit

211 N. 12th Street

Palmerton, Pa 18235

Helping Hearts will
meet next on

December 6th



TALES FROM THE ROAD

By Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Did You Know?

Did you know that almost one in five people suffer from some type of mental illness, with anxiety and depression being the most common?

Most people who live with mental illness have at some point been blamed for their condition. They've been called names. Their symptoms have been referred to as "a phase" or something they can control "if they only tried."

Stigma causes people to feel ashamed for something that *is* out of their control. Worst of all, stigma prevents people from seeking the help they need. For a group of people who already carry such a heavy burden, stigma is an unacceptable addition to their pain. And while stigma has reduced in recent years, the pace of progress has not been quick enough.

We can change the way people think about mental illness by talking openly about it, the way we talk about cancer, diabetes and heart disease. We can educate others by sharing our personal stories. If you overhear an unkind remark about someone with a mental illness you can gently intervene and explore how that might make the other person feel.

We can help others understand that mental illness is a physical disease, just like heart disease, cancer or high blood pressure. Instead of being a disease of the heart or pancreas, mental illness is a disease of the brain. In fact it is sometimes called a brain disorder to help us understand this.

Just as we show compassion to our friends, family and fellow parishioners about illnesses such as cancer and heart disease, we can show compassion when they struggle with mental illness.

If you struggle with a mental illness, don't hide from the world in shame, but celebrate that you can be a productive member of society. Get treatment just as you would for cancer or heart disease. Continue to live a meaningful life, engaging in the life of the church, in volunteering, in learning and growing as a person.

Remember that mental illness is not anyone's fault. Support those with mental illness by accepting and supporting them with love and compassion.

Green Tip: Turn off your engine if you're idling longer than 10 seconds. Numerous research efforts have proven that today's fuel injected engines do not need a warm-up period (even in the winter.) Cars idling for over 10 seconds use more gas and create more pollution than simply restarting the engine. Frequent restarts are no longer hard on a car's engine and battery. Next time you're sitting in line waiting to pick up your child at an event, in line at the bank or a drive up restaurant for longer than 10 seconds, turn off your engine. You'll reduce pollution, help the environment and save yourself gas and money.

Financial & Attendance Reports

Date	Worship Service		CC/ Video/ Nursery	Total
	8AM	10:30AM		
Sept 2	65	105		170
Sept 9	58	150		249
Sept 16	58	254	33	345
Sept 23	75	163	27	265
Sept 30	68	152	10	230

	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All
7-1-2018	\$9,644	\$1,453	\$11,097
Income	\$116,605	\$11,172	\$127,777
Expenses	\$114,656	\$16,372	\$131,028
9-30-2018	\$11,593	-\$3,747	\$7,846

Designated Funds category includes offerings for NIN, Mother's Day, OGHS, Country Sale, Family Promise

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
September 2017: 901 September 2018: 1,218

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In the tradition of giving gifts to friends and loved ones, our church has traditionally expressed our love and appreciation for our hard-working pastors and staff by presenting each with a monetary gift. If you'd like to share in this gift, please send a check payable to Donna Christman at 5820 PA Rte 873, Slatington, PA 18080 and mail to her at **no later than Sunday, Dec 16**. You may also place it in the Church and Ministry mailbox near the church office. Any questions, email Donna at dec12221@hotmail.com. Thank you.



THANK YOU TO OUR HOST GROUPS FOR NOVEMBER:

- Nov 4—Youth Group (Pastor Kayli)
- Nov 11—Christian Education (Chrissy Shivok, Kathy Bonsell)
- Nov 18—Stewardship Committee (Don Penrod)
- Nov 25—No Committee



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 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.

WAYS TO GIVE AND SUPPORT UNION UCC'S MINISTRY AND MISSION

DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit card <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click on **GIVE ONLINE** button.

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

You can make a difference
When you shop for back to school supplies at smile.amazon.com Amazon donates.
You shop. Amazon donates.
amazon.com

AMAZON SMILE Don't forget Union UCC when you are doing your **holiday shopping** on AMAZON!

We receive about \$75-\$100 per quarter as a result of your choosing us as your Amazon Smile charity. You can sign up at any time. This is just one more way to help make a difference for God's ministry and mission at Union UCC.

October 3rd was the Fellowship Committee's annual Basket Social

We raised \$4,390.88. We had a record 232 prizes which consisted of baskets and gift certificates. We also had big auction items such as an Air Fryer and Keurig. We donated \$500 to our Feed My Starving Children Event. Thank you to everyone that donated their time to help out with the event. A special thanks to those that donated a basket or gift certificate. And thanks to volunteers who coordinated this, and the youth who helped as well. We could not have done this without all of your help. It was a great night of food, fun and fellowship!



Please mark your calendar for next year's Basket Social which will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM 2018

\$8.25 each

I would like to sponsor _____ plants for the Home Bound
 I would like to sponsor _____ plants for the Sanctuary. I will pick up my Poinsettia after the church service on Dec. 23.
 (Please circle one) YES NO



Envelope Number _____ Total amount enclosed _____

Sponsor's Name _____
 Telephone # _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

MEMORIALS / DEATHS

Fern Franklin Crist Smoker, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018, his daughter is Karen Fleming. Memorial contributions in his name were received from: Grove Park, and Thomas and Lynn Daniels

Further memorials were received for **Lynn Klinger** from: Sharon and John Bartels, Robert and Virginia Jones, Stephen and Beverly Klinger, Carrington and Susan Smith

CHURCH MEMBER BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Do you have a business that you'd like us to share with others? If so, please contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@unionucc.org We know that many of you like to support local businesses or our members if you have the chance. This information will be made available to new members and current members and it will be posted on our website at www.unionucc.org/resources It's another way to support each other through our work and life together.

Note: The church is not endorsing any of these businesses, we are merely making the information available to you. These are for paid services and businesses.

Weddings

Cody Acker and Melinda Walrath were married under our care October 20, 2018. Cody is the son of Betty and Nevin Acker.



**Don't forget to
turn your clocks
back on
November 4th!**

UNION UCC STAFF

Church Telephone Extension Directory

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Pastor of Visitation
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vispastor@unionucc.org

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Preschool Office:
610-767-5327
preschool@unionucc.org

610-767-6961

Pastor Kris	ext. 24
Pastor Kayli	ext. 25
Amanda Sweeting	ext. 21
Patricia Scripture	ext. 22
Kathy Bonsell	ext. 27
Music Office	ext. 26
Kitchen	ext. 30

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**



<p>4 All Saints Sunday/ Baptism 8am Heritage service 9:15 Holy Grounds/ Education Hour/choir pract Youth Group lunches 10:30 Horizon service 11:30 Holy Grounds</p>	<p>5 9am Tai Chi- advanced 9:50am Tai Chi- beginners 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 7pm Welcoming Comm.</p>	<p>6 6pm Choir 6:30pm 4H 6:30pm adult bible study 7pm AI Anon</p>	<p>7 9am Tai Chi-intermediate 10am KnitWits 6pm Daisy GSA 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Brownie & Cadettes 7pm Church & Ministry</p>	<p>8 1pm Class For Balance 7pm Chime Choir</p>	<p>9 8am Bulletin crew 9:30am Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Veterans Honored Blood Drive 8am Heritage service 9:15 Holy Grounds/ Education Hour/choir pract 10:30 Horizon service</p>	<p>12 9am Tai Chi- advanced 9:50am Tai Chi- beginners 6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p>	<p>13 3pm Cub Pack 6pm Choir 6:30pm 4H 6:30pm adult bible study 7pm AI Anon</p>	<p>14 9am Tai Chi-intermediate 9:15am Staff Mtg 10am KnitWits 3pm Messy Church 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Jrs GSA</p>	<p>15 9:30am Bible Journaling 1pm Class For Balance 7pm Chime Choir 7:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>16 8am Bulletin crew 9:30 Adult Bible Study 11:30 Stay and Play pre-school</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Stewardship Sunday / New Members 8am Heritage service 9:15 Holy Grounds/ Education Hour/choir pract 10:30 Horizon service 11:30 Holy Grounds 3pm Family Promise concert</p>	<p>19 9am Tai Chi- advanced 9:50am Tai Chi- beginners 6:30pm Spiritually Fit 6:45pm Consistory</p>	<p>20 6pm Choir 6:30pm 4H 6:30pm adult bible study 7pm AI Anon</p>	<p>21 9am Tai Chi-intermediate 10am KnitWits 6 Daisy GSA 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm Brownies GSA</p>		<p>23 Building Closed</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Thanksgiving Sunday / Church Fam Worship 8am Heritage service 9:15 Holy Grounds/ Education Hour/choir pract 10:30 Horizon service 11:30 Holy Grounds 12:30 Private party</p>	<p>26 9am Tai Chi- advanced 9:50am Tai Chi- beginners 6:30pm Spiritually Fit</p>	<p>27 9am Newsletter crew 6pm Choir 6:30pm 4H 6:30pm adult bible study 7pm AI Anon</p>	<p>28 9am Tai Chi-intermediate 9:15am staff mtg 10am KnitWits 6:30 BSA 6:30 Spiritually Fit 7pm GSA</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	