



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 7 DECEMBER 2020

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**ENJOY THE LIGHTS IN THE GROVE THROUGHOUT DECEMBER.
THEY WILL BE ON EVERY NIGHT.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLY ONLINE FOR DEC 6, 13, 20 & 27

Look for us in the sanctuary and enjoy this year's decorations. Log in on our website/ YouTube Channel or Facebook page or call in by phone to listen 610-410-9595. Contact the office if you need help.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH ALATHEA SHARES THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WITH US!

Back for their 7th time, Mande and Cristi join us from their studio in Tennessee to help us capture all of the gifts of the season that fill up our spirits and senses. www.alathea.com

CHRISTMAS SANCTUARY OPEN HOUSE *WATCH FACEBOOK & WEEKLY EMAILS FOR COVID UPDATES.

SUNDAY DEC 20 AT 1PM

TUESDAY DEC 22 AT 7PM

WEDNESDAY DEC 23 AT 7PM

Visit our beautifully decorated sanctuary for a 30 minute worship service with communion, scripture, candles, prayer and song. Masks and social distancing required. Doors open 30 minutes prior. You must register to attend. Attendance is limited to 75. Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4ca8a823a7fa7-sanctuary1> or call the church office 610-767-6961.

**CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE GROVE
4PM AND 6PM**

Christmas Story with Candlelight, Communion and Carols

You must register to attend. Pre-register online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4ca8a823a7fa7-christmas> or call the church office 610-767-6961. Bring a chair, mask and blanket. We're hoping to have an FM radio system in place so that you can stay in your car to listen, watch for updates.

If you are not able to go online, we are glad to mail you a paper bulletin of the service each week, this includes weekly announcements. Contact Marissa in the office if you'd like to receive the bulletin in the mail or receive our weekly emails. 610-767-6961 administrator@unionucc.org

You can listen to our worship service by phone by calling 610-410-9595.



UNION UCC IN NEFFS PRESENTS

LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

3-5PM

RAINDATE SUNDAY, DEC 6TH 3-5PM

FREE admission

Donate new hats, gloves or scarves for the 6th St Shelter.

- ◆ Live Christmas Music by
Bobby Siegfried & Hillary Speck, Blake Hoppes
- ◆ Lights by Christmas Decor
- ◆ Crafts for everyone, assemble here or take home.
- ◆ Hot Chocolate and Snacks to Go
- ◆ Santa! Bring your letter or write one here to
deliver to him today.

Lights will be on every night in December!

Sponsors: Larry Wehr in Memory of Carlton and Velma Wehr
Phil and Julie Wehr in Celebration of Christmas at Union UCC

www.unionucc.org 5550 Route 873 Neffs

Wear a mask, bring a chair, and practice safe distancing.

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE BY PHIL WEHR

Looking in the past, many improvements and upgrades were made to the property here at Union UCC during 2020. The exterior of Memorial Hall was painted, the front steps were repaired, the parking lot sealed, a preschool room and hallway was painted, more painting to two grove buildings, and much more. Thanks to the Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund for funding these projects. We are blessed to be able to maintain and upgrade our church property for current and future members, and the community to use and enjoy. Give Praise.

Looking ahead, the month of December will bring some excitement and color to our Church Grove. Neffs Church Grove will "LIGHT UP" every night, beginning with a special musical event in the grove on Saturday December 5. The Christmas Spirit will be alive throughout the grove, please drive by between December 5 and January 5, 2021 to enjoy the sights, the lights will be lit from 4:30 - 11 pm.

Christmas Decor , a local Lehigh Valley firm provided the installation of the lights to the trees and the buildings. Lights in the Grove is sponsored by Larry Wehr in Memory of Carlton and Velma Wehr, and Phil & Julie Wehr in Celebration of Christmas at Union UCC.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

MISSION DONATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE FUNDS OF LASTING GIFTS

The consistory and trustees of the Funds of Lasting Gifts have approved for the following mission donations to the following mission agencies.

From the Non - Designated Fund and Holben Funds

\$5,000 - OCWM - Our Church's Wider Mission

\$3,000 - Northern Lehigh Food Bank

\$3,000 - Feed my Starving Children

Blessings are in order to the donors and trustees of our church endowment fund to allow for financial support to these agencies, who will be able to help families locally and around the world.

FOOD AND TOILETRY COLLECTIONS

To help support the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Lehigh Conference of Churches, we will continue to collect food and toiletries each weekend. Please drive to the large north side parking lot, and drop off your donations in the large boxes under the porch entranceway. Collections will take place every Sat. and Sun. from 8 - 4, just drive by and drop off, the Mission Committee will deliver to both agencies on a regular basis. Items needed include: cereals, cake & brownie mixes, jelly, condiments, hand soap, toothpaste and toilet paper.

Local families continue to be served by both agencies, your donations continue to make a difference in their lives.

THANK YOU FROM THE NORTHERN LEHIGH FOOD BANK



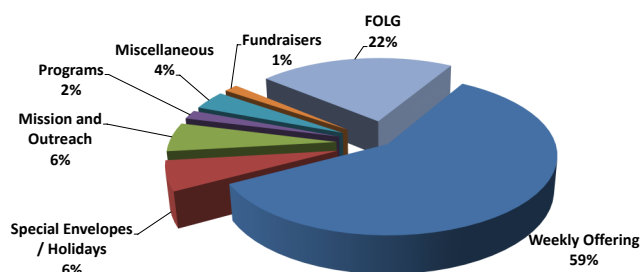
Your donation of 200 five pound bags of potatoes for our annual Thanksgiving food distribution was greatly appreciated by our clients. Your support allows us to provide a special dinner for local families, we give thanks to everyone.

During the covid-19 pandemic, the NLFB has continued to serve over 240 families in the Northern Lehigh area. While our operation has changed since last March, the mission of providing food to families stays the same. We are grateful to the dedicated regular group of volunteers who are handling the incoming and outgoing of food each week, each month, and are staying safe while doing so.

Union United Church of Christ – Narrative Budget

The following is a summary of the church's total income and expenses for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Contributions, Special Offerings and Gifts



Regular **Weekly Offering** are gifts received through envelopes and plate offerings and comprise the majority of our income (59%)

Allocations from the **Funds of Lasting Gifts** (FOLG) target specific program, education, and evangelism needs per bequest guidelines and comprise an important portion of the church's total overall income (22%)

Special Envelopes, including holiday giving, comprise 6% of our income while gifts received through the special **Mission and Outreach** and other mission envelopes and activities are about 6% of our income

Miscellaneous contributions include building rent and donations, interest earnings, and other gifts and comprise 4% of our income

Program giving includes gifts from our education programs such as Sunday School and Preschool (2%)

Fundraisers, although a small percentage (1%), are an important component of our income bequest guidelines and comprise an important portion of the church's total overall income (22%)

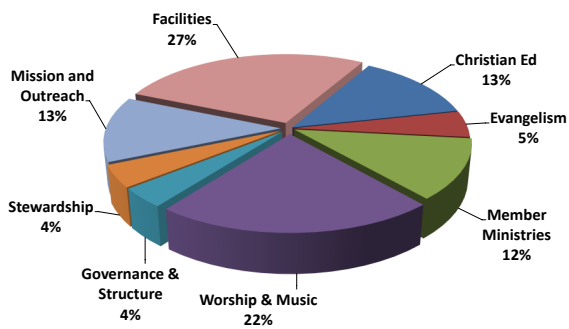
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WHERE OUR STEWARDSHIP GIVING GOES



Worship and Music in our weekly and special services comprise a significant portion of overall spending (22%)

Christian Education provides a variety of educational programs, events and activities for all ages to learn about Christian faith and comprises 13% of overall spending

Our **Mission and Outreach** giving is focused on helping those in need, both in the local community and the world. Our support includes OCWM, local mission agencies and food banks, and other mission projects (13%)

Our **Member Ministries** seeks to nurture, support and connect members in a variety of programs and ministries through numerous groups and committees (12%)

Evangelism is focused on sharing the good news of the Gospel and comprises 5% of our spending

Stewardship includes staff time and programs focused on how best we can use our time, talent, and resources in giving back to God and the Church (4%)

Governance and Structure includes managing our staff and participating in the PNEC (4%)

Spending on **Facilities**, the church building and property, is significant at 27% of overall spending but is critical in maintaining the church, its properties, and physical possessions, along with providing for the weekly/monthly operational costs.

USED BOOKS AND SANTA'S ATTIC

NO collections of books or gently used holiday decorations will happen this winter. Please do not drop off any books, decorations, or household items to the church. Thank you for your past support.

CROP WALK

The Allentown CROP Walk followed a different format this year, but it continued to be a successful fundraiser to help fight hunger in our area. The traditional six-mile, mid-October Sunday walk through Allentown was held as a do-at-you-own-pace-and-place event. Three of our very own die-hard walkers, Teresa Dalrymple, Dion Henninger, and John Snyder-Samuelson, completed their own routes and helped raise \$1190 from the congregation. Plan to walk next October with Teresa, Dion, and John!

2021 ENVELOPE PACKETS

Envelope packets for 2021 are ready for pick up. Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs.

Special dates and times that the building will be open for you to enter Memorial Hall from the North side, large parking lot doors.

Sunday Nov 22	10-12 pm
Sunday Nov 29	12 - 2 pm
Sat & Sun Dec 5 & 6	12 - 2 pm
Sat & Sun Dec 12 & 13	12 - 2 pm
* Sunday Dec 20	12:30 - 2 pm
* Tuesday Dec 22	6:30 - 8 pm
* Wed Dec 23	6:30 - 8 pm
Thursday Dec 24	3 - 7 pm
Sunday Dec 27	12 - 2 pm
Wed Dec 30	5 - 7 pm

* see other info for open house registrations

Envelopes not picked up in 2020 will be mailed out the first week of January 2021.

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2021, everyone gets new numbers each year. Members who use the e-giving program do not receive envelope packets.

Thank you for your continued support by mailing in your envelopes to the church office during this special time. Your financial support is greatly appreciated to continue the many and varied missions and ministries of Union UCC.

The Stewardship Committee.

If you need something from our office, staff, or pastors please do not stop by but call or email us instead.

Church Office 610-767-6961

Pastor Kris pastorkris@unionucc.org 610-657-6007

Pastor Kayli pastorkayli@unionucc.org 610-390-8768

Rev. Patience vispastor@unionucc.org 610-248-5587

Maryann Puia dired@unionucc.org

Office Administrator – Marissa Haney administrator@unionucc.org

Financial Manager – Barbara Carinci financialmanager@unionucc.org



Food Assistance

If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance during this time, please contact the Northern Lehigh Food Bank or the Parkland Cares Food Pantry. If you need help with this, please contact a pastor and we'll help you

Youth Group News

PAGE 7

December 2020

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)



YOUTH GROUP VIRTUAL HANG OUT

When: December 4, 2020

Time: 7pm-9pm

6th-8th grade: 7pm-8pm

9th-12th Grade: 8pm-9pm

Join us for a time of fun, games, and being together

See emails for Zoom Link



LET'S GET BAKING!

Join us as we gather and bake/decorate Christmas cookies together.

December 19, 2020

1:30pm-3pm

masks and distancing required

Every youth/family will get their own sugar cookie dough and icing bags, sprinkles/decorations.

Please provide cookie cutters if you want shapes

Hand Sanitizer will be provided

Sign-up required. Please preregister by December 12.

<https://forms.gle/fQQkT764VGtwptSD7>

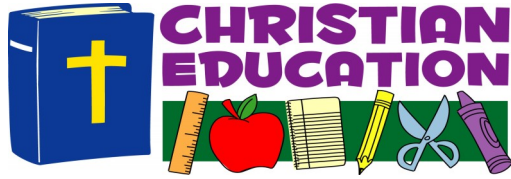


BE SAFE

BE HAPPY

**CREATE GOODNESS EVERYWHERE YOU GO
SEASON'S BLESSINGS**

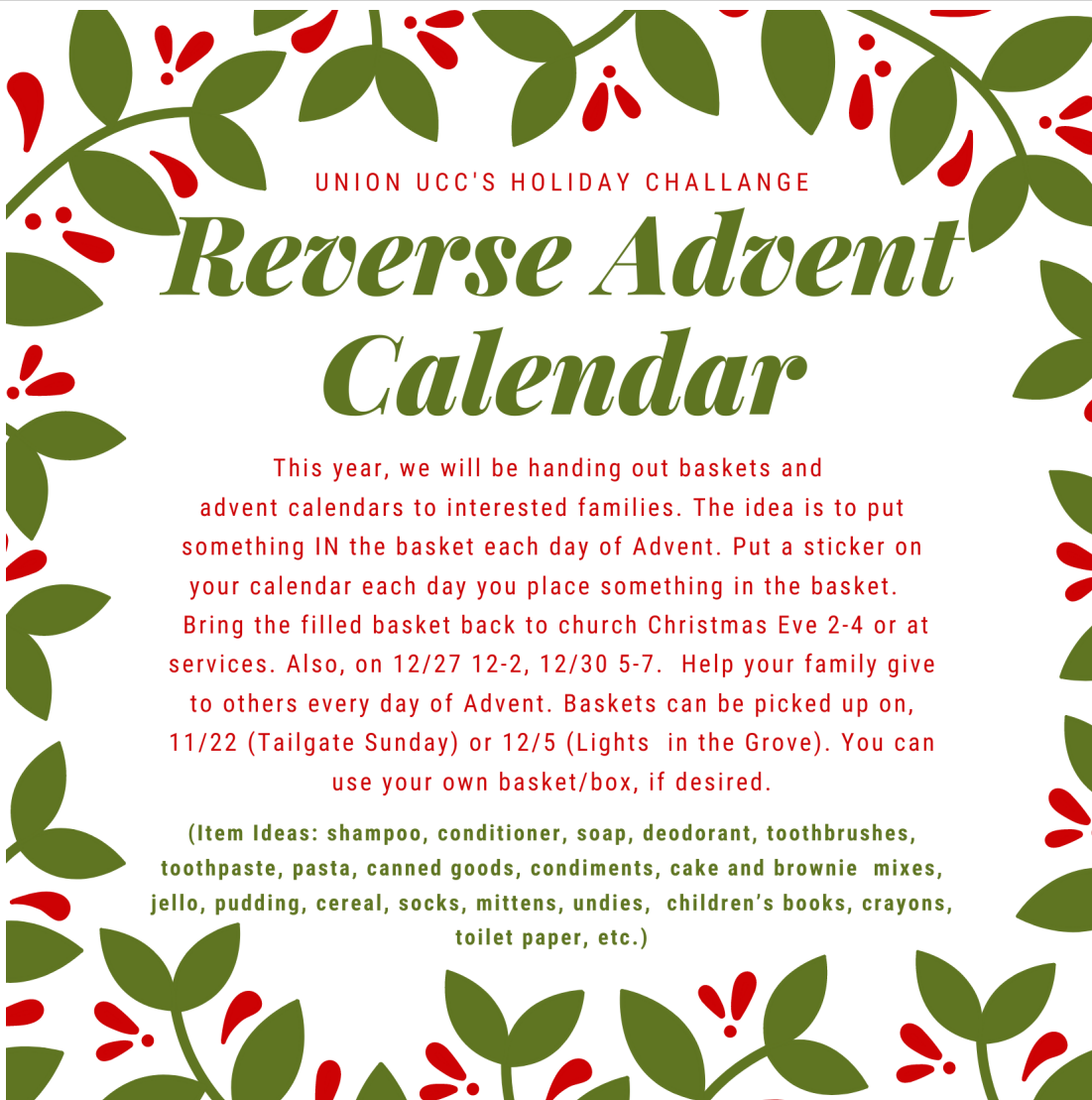
Pastor Kayli



Maryann Puia
dired@unionucc.org



Thank you to all that have
donated to the Holiday Hope Chests!



UNION UCC'S HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

Reverse Advent Calendar

This 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. Put a sticker on your calendar each day you place something in the basket. Bring the filled basket back to church Christmas Eve 2-4 or at services. Also, on 12/27 12-2, 12/30 5-7. Help your family give to others every day of Advent. Baskets can be picked up on, 11/22 (Tailgate Sunday) or 12/5 (Lights in the Grove). You can use your own basket/box, if desired.

(Item Ideas: shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pasta, canned goods, condiments, cake and brownie mixes, jello, pudding, cereal, socks, mittens, undies, children's books, crayons, toilet paper, etc.)



We will be
teaching the sign
language that we
will be using
during worship!
In December we
will be learning
the song This
Little Light of
Mine.



- 5th Grade - 7th Grade - Munch Bunch - Sunday Mornings 9:00-9:30. We usually spend our time discussing student chosen topics
- Preschool- 4th Grade - Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:00. We usually spend this time sharing with each other about ourselves or our week, watching the videos from the Whirl series, reading a short Bible passage and completing one or two of the Whirl activities.

If you would like to receive a reminder email please email Maryann at dired@unionucc.org

NOVEMBER 2020 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 to use \$1000 from FOLG to purchase an electric sprayer for disinfecting sanctuary and other areas as part of Covid cleaning protocols.
 - Approval to use \$500 from FOLG for FM radio receiver and any necessary licenses to broadcast Christmas Eve service.
 - Approval to permit PHS Chorale to meet in the sanctuary and record their holiday concert according to Parkland's covid precautionary protocols.
 - Approval to accept the Ad and updated job description for the Faith Formation Minister (formerly Director of Christian Ed)
 - Approval to have Donna Christman collect contributions towards holiday staff gift.
- Approval to cancel the Sanctuary Open House scheduled for November 29, 2020 at noon.

FAMILY PROMISE

Our church hosted four families through Family Promise Nov. 1-8. While we did not get to interact with the families in our church setting, we provided gift certificates for the families to purchase groceries for the week. Three families are staying at a hotel and one family is staying in an apartment that is owned by the Sixth Street Shelter. All families are cooking their own meals and preferred the grocery cards over any restaurant cards. Several volunteers went the extra mile and baked treats for the families, which were delivered to them as well. We ask for continued prayers for the families that have graduated, and those currently in the program. We will be hosting again Feb. 21-28, 2021, most likely in the same manner (through gift cards). Please continue to make monetary donations to church marked for Family Promise so that we can pass on the grace God has so abundantly given to us.

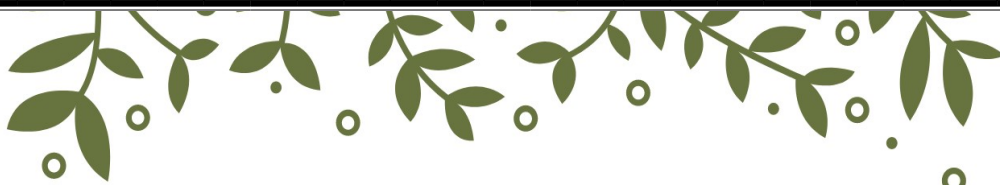
ADVENT OFFERINGS

The Mission Committee is pleased to announce that your Advent Offerings will support Miller-Keystone Blood Center and UCC Disaster Ministries. Our annual November blood drive could not happen this year, so we are providing funds to help our local blood center with funds necessary to assist with their continuing efforts to keep our community hospitals strong. Miller-Keystone is the only blood center that serves the 29 hospitals in our region. They are still collecting blood donations at their three area facilities (Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton) and you are encouraged to visit and donate if you are able.



The UCC Disaster Ministries has been especially busy this year. Urgent need for helping people affected by the terrifyingly prolific hurricane/typhoon and wildfire season, the Iowa derecho, and the devastating battle with Covid-19. In addition to these often-mentioned disasters, the UCC continues to support those around the world who don't make the nightly news.

As we welcome the joy and excitement of Jesus entering the world, we are reminded of the hope and peace everyone of God's children deserves. Through our generous offerings, we can love the world as we are called to do.



FROM THE FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP TEAM- DON PENROD

Because of YOU Our Church Inspires HOPE, FAITH, JOY and GENEROSITY

Today, I will be focusing in on: Because of YOU our Church INSPIRES faith!! My faith has truly supported me during 2020. I was reminded of a quote by Jonathan Edwards that really sums up my faith and my desire to live a full life and one with Jesus in the forefront:

"I resolve to live with all my might while I do live. I resolve never to lose one moment of time and to improve my use of time in the most profitable way I possibly can. I resolve never to do anything I wouldn't do, if it were the last hour of my life."

— Jonathan Edwards

I'm reminded that Jesus' life was never easy, but he never gave up! He pressed on through the good and bad days, until he sacrificed his life for our sins. It would be easy to just give up or coast, but we need to live as if each moment has meaning. This doesn't mean that we need to add drama to our days, but it does mean that we need to follow in Jesus' footsteps: love our neighbors as we want to be loved; spread his love and kindness to those around us; and give of our time, talent, and treasures, so others can learn and grow from God's son.

I would be remiss if I didn't speak of your kindness. My team, the Pastors and the staff want to say thank you. We are so grateful for your generosity. Because of your giving, this church has remained a CHURCH. We continue to worship even if it was in the grove or on Youtube. We have found ways to reach out to our community and our congregation. Our pastors and staff were able to continue sharing God's love.

It has been a very crazy and trying time. 2020 has challenged all of us in some fashion. I'm proud to say that this congregation has risen above it all and taken this pandemic head-on. Many of you have continued your giving, whether through e-giving, or combining envelopes and sending one big check or just not skipping a week. This congregation is at 95% of our giving rate!!! This is wonderful and a true testament to your dedication and to your discipleship.

Let us continue our journey. We have much work to do. TOGETHER, we will rise. Our FAITH will carry us. Let me leave you with the United Church of Christ's Statement of Faith:

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death. God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

HELPING MEALS MINISTRY

Pam Minnich (Pip.edrn@gmail.com) and **Connie Gioielli** (c_gioielli@yahoo.com) are our coordinators of this ministry. We are always looking for people who can make a meal for our families when they face a challenging time. You can also donate a Weis or DiFiore Restaurant card and give it to the church office for a pastor to share with a family. You would probably only need to help about 4-5 times a year. Please contact them if you'd like to be added to the list to help cook and deliver meals.

We are not currently making meals for members however, we are offering delivery of take-out meals or local gift cards. **If you are in need of meals, please contact one of the pastors.**

Do you play an instrument? If so, please contact Mitchell Roth, our new Instrumental Choir Director. He will help to organize players to play special music or hymns and to play on special occasions like Veterans Day and Christmas.

Mitchell Roth mqroth2005@gmail.com (484) 633-1152



Dual Member Status Approved by Consistory Dual membership is available to people who wish to join our church but who want to also maintain membership at another church. Dual members will have the same rights and duties as a member. According to our Constitution members are required to commune and donate yearly. We look forward to continuing to welcome new members into the Christian journey with our faith family here at Union UCC.

New Member Sessions To share your questions and interest in learning more contact Pastor Kris PastorKris@unionucc.org

Baptism We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month when we meet in person. When we are only worshipping virtually, we are offering private baptisms in the sanctuary. Our next date is Sunday, January 10.

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.

To sign up: Call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Marissa Haney at administrator@unionucc.org

Did you know?
Rev. Dr. Patience D. Stevenson, Minister of Visitation

Let me introduce you to the oldest member of our congregation! Doris Brotzman was born on October 12, 1921 in Easton Pennsylvania. Doris attended Asa Packer Elementary School and Schull Junior High School in Easton. She graduated from Easton High School in 1939. Immediately following graduation Doris started work in data processing, using some of the early IBM punch cards. Doris attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Easton, which was within walking distance of her home.

Doris married Earl Robert Brotzman in 1949. Earl and Doris had two children, Linda and Thomas. Doris and Earl moved to Allentown in the early 1960s where Earl opened a sewing machine and vacuum repair shop on 7th Street. After the move to Allentown Earl and Doris moved their church membership to Dubbs Memorial UCC, once again within walking distance of their home.

Doris spent many years at home raising her children and keeping the books for her husband's business. Once the children were old enough Doris went back to work in data processing. Doris retired in 1981. Doris and Earl enjoying traveling, often to the New Jersey shore or to Cape Cod. They also enjoyed bringing the children to places of historical interest such as Philadelphia.

Doris now lives with her daughter, Linda, in Schnecksville. When they moved to the area they looked for a new church and were happy to find a church home at Union UCC. You may not have had the pleasure of meeting Doris due to some health challenges. However, that has not prevented Doris from finding creative ways to help the mission and ministry of our church.

This project was inspired by Earl's mother, "Grandmother Brotzman", who was very involved in crocheting and sewing for mission projects at her church, First Presbyterian Church of Allentown. Doris and Linda have enjoyed making scarves for the needy at Christmas. From 2012-2017 they took a total of 73 scarves over to the 6th St Shelter, Lehigh County Conference of Churches & Union UCC Neffs.



CREATION CARE TIP

Reducing food waste can be very helpful to the environment. Planning our meals and keeping track of what's in our refrigerators and freezers can help to achieve this goal. You may find that you buy less food with these strategies and waste less. If you like to buy in bulk so you can save money, save your bulk buying for paper products that won't spoil! Don't forget to compost. Involve your whole family in this project. Give yourself time to change your habits and behavior. Take a minute to step outside for a few minutes as often as you can.



Our blessings and prayers go to the friends and families of those who have passed.

Shirley McFarland who passed on October 9, 2020 in her home. A private service was held October 16, 2020 at Heidelberg Union Cemetery.

Jean Barone who passed on October 11, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. Services were held on October 17, 2020 in the K.V. Knopp Funeral Home, Inc.

Charles Fink who passed on October 15, 2020 in his home. A private service was held on October 23, 2020 at Union Church Cemetery, Neffs.

Ann Fortney who passed on November 13, 2020 at Fellowship Villa Whitehall. A private service was held November 17, 2020 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.



NOVEMBER 1, 2020 BAPTISM

Hayden Lee Christman, pictured with parents Larysa O'Neill and Sheldon Christman

HOME VISITATION BIRTHDAYS

12/18 Ferne Strauss
6344 Lamar Court
Slatington, PA 18080-3022

12/25 Richard Blose
905 Brookside Rd
Wescosville, PA 18106

UNION UCC 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

Maryann Puia
Interim Director of Christian Education
dired@unionucc.org

Marissa Haney
Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org

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

Ori Handwerk
Facility Caretaker
Caretaker@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci
Financial Manager
financialmanager@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
prechool@unionucc.org

**Church Telephone
Extension Directory
610-767-6961**

Pastor Kris	ext. 24
Pastor Kayli	ext. 25
Marissa Haney	ext. 21
Maryann Puia	ext. 27
Barbara Carinci	ext. 32
Music Office	ext. 26
Kitchen	ext. 30



**Find us on
Facebook**

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

ADULT CLASS OFFERINGS

Friday Adult Class with Pastor Kris

Contact Pastor Kris or the church office for the Zoom Information to Log in or Call in to join us.

TUESDAY CHURCH NIGHTS ON ZOOM

Meditation Gatherings

LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS TO HANDLE STRESS? WANT TO TRY MEDITATION OR WORK ON DEEPENING YOUR PRACTICE?

JOIN US ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 7-8PM.

DECEMBER 8, JANUARY 12, AND FEBRUARY 9

CONTACT PASTOR KRIS OR THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE ZOOM LOG IN/ CALL IN INFORMATION

HAPPY HOUR

FROM 7-8PM ON THE 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

PASTORS KRIS AND KAYLI WILL OFFER A TIME TO CATCH UP, HANG OUT, LAUGH AND RELAX TOGETHER.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN- TRIVIA, JOKES, SINGING, MAYBE EVEN SCRIPTURE AND PRAYING!

DECEMBER 15, JANUARY 19, AND FEBRUARY 16 SHROVE TUESDAY

CONTACT PASTOR KRIS, PASTOR KAYLI, OR THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE ZOOM LOG IN/ CALL IN INFORMATION

STAFF UPDATES FROM PASTOR KRIS

At their November meeting, the Consistory approved an ad and job description for the Search Committee to start publicizing for the Minister of Faith Formation of Children and Families position (formerly the Director of Christian Education).

Union United Church of Christ is looking for a welcoming, enthusiastic, and creative person who is able to engage and encourage our students and families in learning and practicing the Christian faith. This position focuses on serving and leading nursery age through elementary school age children and their families. Together with other staff and committees, the Minister of Faith Formation for Children and Families creates a vision and implements a plan for faith formation throughout all aspects of church and daily life.

We are looking for someone to help us discern how the church can continue to meet the spiritual needs of children and families in meaningful ways as we evaluate our current model and make changes for a future model.

High school diploma or equivalent. College degree preferred. Experience in teaching and/or teacher training is preferred, but relevant experience will be considered. Theological training or passion is a plus.

Hours: Part-time, 18-20 hours/week, on-site office hours required but flexible, hours required for scheduled events on evenings and weekend, Sunday morning hours required. Other meetings required include staff meetings and committee meetings. Compensatory time available for busier and lighter times.

Compensation: Salary commensurate with education and experience.

Contact Senior Pastor, Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson if you are interested in this position. We will receive resumes and applications through the end of December and begin interviews late January.

Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2020	\$6,453	\$17,715	\$24,168
Income	\$46,344	\$4,418	\$50,762
Expenses	\$31,648	\$3,754	\$35,402
10-31-2020	\$21,149	\$18,379	\$39,528

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



Our event has been cancelled for this year. Watch for news here and on the FMSC of the Lehigh Valley Facebook page for news about other area events we can support as well as the rescheduling of our event. The need for food around the world is bigger than ever, we'll find a way to continue to support this important work.

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. Please mail no later than December 16th. You may also contact the church office to drop off or give to Donna at service on December 20th.

Any questions, email Donna at dec12221@hotmail.com
Thank you.



SUPPORT GOD'S MINISTRY AND MISSION AT UNION UCC WITH YOUR DONATIONS.

OFFERING ENVELOPES you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

ELECTRONIC GIVING This is a great time to try e-giving! Choose a 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. financialmanager@unionucc.org

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

AMAZON SMILE Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.



Dear Church Family,

A simple "thank you" seems so inadequate for how I am feeling. I was blown away by the generosity and kindness that I was showered with on September 27th. I should not have been surprised though, knowing the people who make up this congregation. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 23 years, working with hundreds of delightful and energetic children from this church and community and the hundreds of amazing and dedicated volunteers who have helped with Sunday School, Children's Church, VBS, and all the Christian Education Committee activities/events. And let's not forget our very cool staff, especially Pastor Kris and Pastor Kayli, who put their hearts and souls into Union UCC. You have all been my inspiration. It has truly been a privilege and an honor to work with all of you.

I do want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful scrapbook of kind notes and pictures (oh, the memories!), the gift cards and money, the candy and wine, and of course, the very beautiful Butterfly Garden planted in my family's honor. We were all so touched by your generosity and thoughtfulness. It was awesome to have (almost) my entire family present since they all contributed in so many ways for so many years. Yup, I put everybody to work....my Mom was my #1 cutter and craft preparer, Rick was the Children's Church "maestro" (he ran the CD player) and constructed many VBS props, Nick was sound, light and construction engineer, Kelsey and Megan taught, organized, helped me with technology (a lot!), were photographers, and did whatever was needed. Thank you for acknowledging their contributions.

Union UCC was the perfect job for me to raise my family. I was able to do what I loved...to teach and plan and create and I was able to do it in a flexible schedule that allowed me to be at every school, dance, and sporting event my children participated in. I will always advocate that our church is an awesome place for children and adults alike to learn that they are safe and accepted here, to know that God loves them unconditionally, and to learn that we have an obligation as human beings to help those nearby and afar who are suffering or have less than us.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be a part of your faith journey. I will always cherish that Union UCC was a part of mine.

*Many Blessings,
Kathy*

