



UNION UCC IN NEFFS



# EASTER IN THE GROVE

**Saturday, March 27 2-4pm**

**Rain/snow date Sunday, March 28 2-4pm**

**FREE ADMISSION - BRING A DONATION FOR PARKLAND CARES FOOD PANTRY**  
MOST NEEDED: PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP, GRANOLA BARS (REGULAR SIZE BOXES), CANNED MEAT, PASTA, OR VEGGIES

CRAFTS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS TO MAKE OR TAKE HOME.

SNACKS TO GO

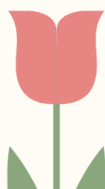
EGG HUNT PRIZES AND EASTER BUNNY!

MUSIC, DANCING AND THOUSANDS OF DAFFODILS

GET YOUR PALM SUNDAY PALMS

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

**[www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) 5550 Route 873 Neffs**



**March, Holy Week and Easter Worship**

**March & April Sunday Worship Will Continue Online and by Phone**

Online worship can be through Facebook, our website, and Youtube. Please join us there every Sunday. The service is posted by 8am. Log in any time after 8am that day or another time during the week. Bulletins and announcements are posted through links on these pages too.

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

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. You can also join our weekly email list. This is the best place to get the Sunday bulletin and announcements, weekly updates and zoom info. Contact Marissa if you'd like to be added to any of these lists at 610-767-6961 [administrator@unionucc.org](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org)

See page 2 for Sanctuary quiet times, Worship, and Easter Sunday info

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### **Sanctuary Quiet Times - Do you miss being in the sanctuary?**

Come and sit in the sanctuary for some quiet time and prayer. Stay for a few minutes or the whole hour. Doors will only be open for this hour. Attendance limited to 25. Sign up using the Sign Up Genius Link or call the office.

**Wednesdays at 12noon – 1pm March 3, 10, 17, 24**

**Good Friday, April 2 12noon – 1pm**

**Sundays at 12 noon – 1pm March 14, 21, 28 with Music by Blake**

Enter using the north or south doors, the front doors will be locked. You will need to sign in, wear a mask and socially distance. Pastors will be here to greet you and say a prayer with you if you'd like.

### **Holy Week Open House Worship in the Sanctuary and Parking Lot**

Join us for a 30-minute worship service in the sanctuary (Attendance limited to 40) or the parking lot (using your FM Radio). Communion included. You will need to sign in, wear a mask, and social distance.

**April 1 Maundy Thursday at 7pm**

**April 2 at 7pm Good Friday at 7pm**

**Spring in the Grove Event Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm (Rain/snow date Sunday, March 28 2-4pm)**

Free Admission - bring a donation For Parkland Cares food Pantry. Most needed: Canned meat (tuna, chicken), Canned Pasta (ravioli, Spaghetios), Canned Vegetables Crafts for kids and adults to make or take home. Snacks to Go. Egg Hunt Prizes and Easter Bunny! Music, dancing and Thousands of Daffodils. Get your Palm Sunday Palms . Wear a mask, bring a chair, practice safe distancing.

### **Sign Up Links and Information for Worship Opportunities**

#### **Sanctuary Quiet Times**

Sign up Here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4ca8a823a7fa7-sanctuary2>

#### **Holy Week Worship in the Sanctuary or the Parking Lot**

Sign up Here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-holy>

#### **Easter Sunday Worship in the Grove and Parking Lot**

Sign up Here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-easter>

Or call the Church Office 610-767-6961



UNION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEFFS

# HOLY VESSELS

A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY



WORSHIP  
DESIGN STUDIO  
WDS

[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/vessels](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/vessels)

## FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE BY PHIL WEHR

Welcome to Winter. We survived the 27" snow storm, the following 2" storm, then the 3" storm, and another 2" storm, and who know what comes until you read this newsletter. We give thanks to Team Dash, our paid snow removal crew who take care of the parking lots, along with volunteer efforts from Phil Wehr, for their services to the church.

We give thanks to caretaker Ori Handwerk for cleaning and salting the sidewalks and steps around the property, and to the volunteer crew of Karl Schmidt Sr. and sons Karl Jr and Nick, along with Todd McCoy and son Conner. Teamwork was truly needed after the 27" snow storm, and was greatly appreciated.

Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, snow removal is still an important service to the church, allowing our staff, members and guests to enter our church building safely. This will be a year that we will be going over budget in snow removal costs, but is a necessity in regards to the safety to all who visit Union UCC.

Spring is coming, and so will the daffodils. Stay tuned and Peace to all.

## OPERATION PROJECT FOOD BANK

Greetings to all participating churches of the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, Pastors, Board Members and Volunteers. Happy New Year to everyone. Current food bank Director Dale Breyfogle will be retiring at the end of March. Her years of service of feeding families in the community have been such a value to us all. Her leadership over the years has grown the food bank into what we all see today. A fully stocked food bank that provides a generous number of groceries, toiletries, fresh fruit, and vegetables, baked goods, milk, bread, eggs, frozen meats, and more to over 220 families a month.

We encourage everyone to send her "cards of well wishes" for her upcoming retirement and "tons of thanks" for her years of service to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Gift cards to local restaurants, businesses, food stores, or visa cards make good gifts to add to these cards. Cards should be sent to: The Northern Lehigh Food Bank

c/o Dale Breyfogle  
PO Box 255  
7884 Center Street  
Slatington, PA 18080

We would normally have given Dale a special send-off party but due to the pandemic, our plans had to be altered. We hope everyone will send a card of thanks to Dale starting March 15 - March 31, 2021.

An update on the search process: Advertisements for the position have been posted in several newspapers. Interviews have taken place, and a decision on the new director will be approved in early March.

Peace to all, The Search Committee  
Phil, Julie, Karlene, Pastor Jim, Pastor Monte

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## EASTER MISSION OFFERING FROM SUSAN SMITH

As the days begin to lengthen, but the snow continues to fall on the valley, we are reminded that before we can enjoy the spring flowers, we must wait through a time of winter's rites. For our many neighbors who rely on food banks and soup kitchens, we will help them face these uncertain times through our Easter offerings to **Lehigh Conference of Churches and Parkland CARES Food Pantry.**

For sixty years, Lehigh Conference of Churches assists those most in need in the whole of Lehigh Valley through programs directed to the homeless, the hungry, and people with mental health concerns. Each year, the Lehigh Conference of Churches links 7,000 people in crisis to community resources through various programs, such as the Ecumenical Soup Kitchen, where they serve 36,000 meals – 1500 to children. In addition, their Daybreak Drop-In Center provides 25,000 hot meals to 300 community members dealing with mental illness.

Parkland CARES (Community Aid Reaching Every Student) Food Pantry began in 2018 as a supplemental food source for families within the Parkland School District. It began with 12 client families, and by the end of 2019, 100 families were being served. It has grown to serve food insecure families who reside within Lehigh County. Your generous donations will provide the much-needed help our neighbors seek. As we give to the least, we give to God.

Check donations may be made through the "Easter Mission" envelope in your envelop pack or in any envelope marked Easter Mission. Checks to "Union UCC" and mail them to church. Give online at <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> for Easter Mission.

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### **THANK YOU FAWN ALBERT FOR HELPING US HELP HAYS ELEMENTARY!**

From Fawn: Thank you to the Mission Committee of Union UCC – Neffs, PA for providing our students with tools to help them work more efficiently during virtual learning! Many teachers have wanted their students to have these since day one but did not have the means for purchasing them for the entire class. Now, thanks to your generosity and kindness we have provided them for many classrooms. It is HARD to teach a student to write without paper and pencil and being able to see what they are doing. With the stylus pens purchased, children with iPads can draw on their screens more accurately and begin to develop a more proper pencil grip than just by using fingers. And for the children with computers, but who didn't have a mouse for it – WOW! What a difference a simple \$1.00 item can make in a student's learning. Please know how much our students and teachers appreciate your help! Here are some quotes from the folks at Hays Elementary in Allentown, PA!

Teacher A: Today my student was able to copy and paste her writing ideas to her draft document. In the past this took many steps, but today she was delighted to see how quickly she could copy and paste with her mouse. What a difference! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Teacher B: What a world of difference having a stylus has made for our Kindergarten and first grade students. We can interact virtually much easier and more flawlessly through shared screens. My students are beginning to understand the idea of a proper pencil grip to write! Thank you so very much!

Student A: "Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, I picked up the mouse today and it's so great!"

Student B: "Miss\_\_\_\_\_, I love this mouse! I want to keep it forever!"

Student C: "Thanks for the mouse. I like it."

Student D: "My writing is getting better, don't you think? I am using [sic] this! (picks up the stylus and shows it to the teacher through her zoom camera)"

Student E: "Look how fast I can do my work now!"



# Youth Group News

March 2021 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Youth Sunday March 21, 2021

There Is Space For  
Everyone

Get involved, sign up to participate

## CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 6TH-12TH!!!

Youth Sunday is a bit different this year than it has been in the past.

This year will be virtual (like it was last year), but we still need all the participation we can get!

If you want to read, sing, play an instrument, video a liturgical dance, etc sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f48aead2ba2fe3-2021>

Videos due to Pastor Kayli NO LATER than March 17

**\*Preaching is reserved for High School Seniors\***

We will also have t-shirts available! We will set up pick-up dates/times when the t-shirts come in!

They are **free** to all youth 6th-12th grade!!





# FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 21, 2021**

**10:00AM-11:00AM  
IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM**

All 1st graders (or 2nd thru 7th grader who haven't already participated) are invited to join Pastor Kayli and Mrs. Puia for our First Communion Class

**Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 10:00am-11:00am.**

We are offering an in-person option as well as a Zoom option (for those who are not comfortable in person). All in-person participants are required to wear a mask and maintain physical distance from those not in your household.

Please use the Google Form to sign-up and let us know if/how you'll be attending.

RSVP No Later than March 14, 2021

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIYFbjVBEN2kCI8HPzAhVXMYXa4zInYuivzzXsn3WuyiVvzQ/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIYFbjVBEN2kCI8HPzAhVXMYXa4zInYuivzzXsn3WuyiVvzQ/viewform?usp=pp_url)

Usually children would be encouraged to partake in their first communion at our Maundy Thursday worship opportunity. This year we are encouraging you to participate on Easter Sunday (hopefully in the grove)

If you have any questions, email Pastor Kayli ([pastorkayli@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkayli@unionucc.org)) or Mrs. Puia ([dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org))

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## STAFF UPDATE FROM PASTOR KRIS

The Minister of Faith Formation position has been posted and we are reviewing applicants and will soon start interviews. Keep our candidates and search committee in your prayers.



## CONSISTORY NEWS FROM PASTOR KRIS

Our Consistory does a wonderful job at taking care of the business and spiritual matters of the church on behalf of our members. We are blessed with thoughtful and devoted leaders. This year has been especially unique and challenging. Thank you!

Thank you to those finishing their terms: **Carol James, Cheryl Yenko, Frank Sorg, Phil Wehr**

Welcome to those starting a new term:



**Connie Gioielli**

*I am married and have 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and a cat named "Nellie". I am a retired nurse and enjoy reading, scrapbooking and completing puzzles in my spare time. I've been a member of the church for 5 years.*



**Dixie Gross**

*Devoting my life to my family (my husband and I have 4 children and 9 grandchildren) and career in education, I have enjoyed many blessings. I appreciate this opportunity to use my time and energy to serve my church and community.*



**Brian Horwith**

*I grew up in Schnecksville and in our church, graduated from Penn State, spent 20+ years making a lap around the country working in corporate finance. Now living in North Whitehall Township, married, with two daughters, one son-in-law and a roster of dogs, cats*



**Don Penrod**

*is currently the Financial Leadership Team Chair. He is a lay reader. Don has helped with children's church, pastor search team, as well as the Leadership Planning Team. Don has been a part of Union UCC for 25 years.*

Thank you to those Returning for a second term: **Al Stubbmann, Jim Lane, Larry Todd**

Thank you to other members in other classes include: **Teri Fekula, Dan Haffl, Deb Belles, Deb Wenner, Patricia Warmkessel, Ron Pope, Aften Hamm, Jason Klinger, Donna Christman, Michael Roth, Suzanne Lorah, Todd McCoy, Kerry Snyder,**

Thank you **Rick Klingensmith** for your more than 20 years of service as our church treasurer. We are so grateful for all the ways that you have helped us keep our financing organized. Thank you for always helping us to improve our processes and for being a great teacher. The Consistory and Financial Leadership Team presented Rick with a gift at our last meeting. He will continue to help with this transition as well as serve on the Financial Leadership Team.



Welcome **Marianne Kitzmiller** as our new treasurer. She brings over 20 years of accounting and finance experience, the majority of which is in the nonprofit arena. She has served as Executive Director of Finance and Administration at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, Treasurer for the Lehigh Presbytery, Interim Financial advisor to FPC Bethlehem, Senior manager of accounting at Artsquest and is currently the Director of Finance at Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.



# Women's Retreat Day



**9am-12pm**  
**FREE In the Grove**  
**(Bring any personal drinks/snacks and a folding chair.)**

WE CANCELLED OUR RETREAT WEEKEND AT TROUT LAKE AND HOPE TO RESCHEDULE IT FOR NEXT YEAR. INSTEAD WE ARE OFFERING A RETREAT IN OUR GROVE. IF THE WEATHER DOESN'T COOPERATE, WE WILL MEET IN MEMORIAL HALL AND THE SANCTUARY. ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED TO 30. THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED FOR THE CANCELLED WEEKEND RETREAT MUST REGISTER BY MARCH 14. OTHERS MUST SIGN UP BY MARCH 21. MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED.

## Adult Class Offerings

**Friday Adult Class**  
**9:30am-10:30am**  
**with Pastor Kris**

March 5, 12, 10, and 26 The Passion Play with Rob Fuquay. Travel to Oberammergau, Germany as we learn about Jesus' last days and how this story is presented in this town each year since 634. Contact Pastor Kris for a book and the zoom info.

**If you'd like a copy of any of the books we're doing but can't attend class, please contact Kris.**

**March 9, April 13**

## 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.

MARCH 9, AND APRIL 13

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!

**MARCH 16, AND APRIL 20**

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



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

**Beth Ann Dymond**, who passed on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest. Due to COVID-19 concerns, services will be held at a future date.



To parents Lora and Jeff Frey on the birth of **Rowan Jeffrey Frey** on January 16, 2021. Grandparents are Sharon and Paul Schenkel.

## HOME VISITATION BIRTHDAYS

March 22: Jean Wieand  
Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home  
P.O. Box 327  
Kunkletown, PA 18058

## 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



**Find us on  
Facebook**

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN NEWS FROM ELIOT LIGHTNER AND PASTOR KRIS

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.



**Mark your calendars for next year's event: October 8, 9 and 10.**

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## HELPING MEALS MINISTRY



**Pam Minnich ([Pjp.edrn@gmail.com](mailto:Pjp.edrn@gmail.com)) and Connie Gioielli**

**([c\\_gioielli@yahoo.com](mailto: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 DiFiores 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.**

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## FEBRUARY 2021 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 of funds for pastoral support (guest preachers) while Pastor Kris is on sabbatical
- Approval to accept the Consistory committee officers for this year

# Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2020	\$6,453.	\$17,715.	\$24,168.
Income	\$298,559	\$21,423	\$319,982
Expenses	\$240,137	\$18,081	\$258,218
1/31/2021	\$64,875	\$21,057	\$85,932

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

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](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)  
 610-657-6007  
 Pastor Kayli [pastorkayli@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkayli@unionucc.org)  
 610-390-8768  
 Rev. Patience [vispastor@unionucc.org](mailto:vispastor@unionucc.org)  
 610-248-5587  
 Maryann Puia [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)  
 Office Administrator – Marissa Haney  
[administrator@unionucc.org](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org)  
 Financial Manager – Barbara Carinci  
[financialmanager@unionucc.org](mailto:financialmanager@unionucc.org)

**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](mailto: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, May 16.

**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](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org)

## 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](mailto: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>.