

S'mores in the Grove

Join Pastors Kris and Kayli for this church-wide event! Everyone is invited!

Hotdogs, snacks, beverages,
S'mores Bar, and a camp fire
Veg and GF Options

Sunday, October 17, 2021
5pm-7pm

RSVP to one of
the pastors by Oct
15 or just show up!

Free!

Bring a chair or blanket.
Tell your church friends
you'll be there.



WHERE - Neffs UNION UCC GROVE PARKING LOT
and UNION LUTHERAN PARKING LOT

WHEN - SATURDAY, October 23rd (rain or shine)
1:00-3:00pm

WHAT - A safe FAMILY trick or treating event

- Wear a Costume!
- Trunk or treat with your family from car to car
- No Pets, please!
- Have a ton of fun!

If you are interested in decorating your car and handing out treats, sign up at
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-trunk> or email Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASSES WITH PASTOR KRIS

Love Is the Way – Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael Curry

Fridays 9:30-11am, Youth Room

Oct 1, 8, 15, and 22 (No class Oct 29)

Sundays 9:15-10:15 Room 5

Oct 3, 10, 17, 24

Oct 31 and Nov 7 with Rev. Patience

Please contact Pastor Kris if you'd like to join us virtually by zoom

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Sanctuary Guidelines Worship Fall 2021

We will open the church at 7am, with worship services at 8am and 10:30am. Please go to the welcome tables at each door for your bulletin and to share your offering (and to pick up Communion) before entering the sanctuary.

Masks are required for worship on Sundays, church group meetings, and all events and gatherings inside the building for everyone over the age of 3 regardless of vaccination status.

Pews will be marked to allow for 3 feet of distancing.

Please sit in open areas only. The balcony will be open.

On Communion Sundays, we will continue to use the prefilled communion cups of grape juice and a gluten free cracker. Please use the ziploc bag to take your garbage with you.

For now, there will not be congregational singing. Music will be provided by soloists and instrumentalists.

Please gather with others for conversation outside of the building. The pastors will greet you outside on the porches. We hope to evaluate and edit these precautions when vaccination rates continue to increase, COVID (and variant) numbers continue to decrease, and guidelines are updated for churches and our region. There is no guarantee of complete safety from transmission of the COVID-19 virus, but we will continue to do our best to keep our members, friends, and families as safe as possible.

We are grateful for the love of this church family and
for God's love which sustains and carries us
during this challenging time.

~ The Pastors and Consistory of Union UCC

The focus is on opening for Sunday Worship, Sunday programming (Education Hour, Confirmation, High School, Adults) and Neffs Preschool (Weekday) , Funerals (Luncheons, as schedule and volunteers allow) and Weddings Resume, Open Building to Church Groups and Committees, Resume with Zoom option

The plan at this time is to keep the building locked during the week, probably through the Fall, with a long term goal of upgrading our security system to enable visitors to communicate from the door.

October 3 8am and 10:30am Worship, Worldwide Communion, Children's Church Resumes at 10:30

October 10 8am and 10:30am Worship, CROP Walk for Hunger and Sneaker Stroll

October 17 8am and 10:30am Worship, Healing Service/Pray with a Pastor

October 24 8am and 10:30am Worship

October 31 8am and 10:30am Worship, **All Saints Sunday** We will remember and give thanks for those church members who have passed away this year since November 1st, 2020 and those for whom our pastors presided over funerals. A flower will be placed on the altar for family members to receive.

November 7 Active Duty Military and Veterans Honored: **VETERANS DAY RECOGNITION** will be at both worship services on **November 7th**. 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 October 31st. 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 bin or email Marissa at administrator@unionucc.org.

Please help us collect the names of all our members who are currently serving in the military, as well as, those who are inactive, retired, and veterans.



BABY BLUES NITE OUT

8/29/2021

Pictures from Kevin Richter

STAFF NEWS FROM PASTOR KRIS

Rev. Patience Announces Her Retirement Rev. Patience is turning that certain age in October and has announced her retirement as our Pastor of Visitation. We are very happy for her as she anticipates this next chapter in her life. But, we are sad to see her leave us. She has faithfully served as our first Pastor of Visitation for the last 15 years.

She will continue to serve here through December 31st, 2021. We plan to celebrate and thank her on Sunday, December 5th at 8am and 10:30am Worship. Please participate in a card and gift shower to honor her ministry among us by sending your card and gift to Donna Christman at 5820 PA Rte 873, Slatington, PA 18080 by November 1st. Checks made to "Donna Christman." You are also invited to drop off your cards and gifts on Sundays in the offering plate as long as they are clearly marked for Donna Christman/Rev. Patience.

Please take this time to thank Rev. Patience with best wishes, words of gratitude, and stories about how her ministry has been meaningful to you and your family. We have been blessed by her presence of leadership as a pastor and we look forward to receiving your words of appreciation as well as the chance to celebrate her work here.

History of the Pastor Of Visitation Position

When Pastor Thomas Thomas was called here as pastor in 1984 he was the only pastor on staff for this large church. A few years later he and the church leaders realized that an Associate Pastor position needed to be created in order to cover all of the pastoral responsibilities for this growing and healthy congregation. Union UCC called a few part-time associates in the transition and then called Janice Dey as the first full-time Associate. She served here for nine years. In this interim several part-time pastors helped Pastor Thomas who focused on pastoral care. After a 2-year interim, Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels was called as the Associate Pastor.

Shortly after she began her work here, she and Pastor Tom realized that the church had grown in its focus on children and youth ministries and now needed to focus on their ministries with older adults. They created the Pastor of Visitation position to help meet those needs and Pastor Kris created the Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers groups to support the position and the care being provided to our adults.

In September of 2006 Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson was called as our first Pastor of Visitation. She has been serving in a variety of ways averaging 10 hours a week with a focus on caring for our members on our visitation list, supporting and organizing our Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers, leading our Golden Times monthly senior adult gathering, sharing hospital visits and general member care with the other pastors, officiating at funerals, assisting in worship monthly, and preaching quarterly. She also helped to organize our Green Team and our care for God's creation efforts. We look forward to building on the wonderful foundation of pastoral care, programming, and spiritual nourishment that Rev. Patience has provided to so many of us.

Search Committee for the Pastor of Visitation

The Consistory has called the following people to serve on the Search Committee: those from Church and Ministry – Donna Christman, Ardith Kuhns, Teresa Dalrymple, Eric Minnich, Aften Hamm and additional members – Rev. Bill Metzger, Dan Topp, Phil Wehr, Carrington Smith, Pastor Kayli, and Pastor Kris.

We will keep you posted on the timeline and progress of our process.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: dired@unionucc.org



Our Sunday School has started! Another year of fun and learning. We have a wonderful team excited to share their faith with your children every Sunday during the Education Hour (9:15-10:15). **Start anytime!**

We are still in need of volunteers for Sunday School and Children's Church. You do not need to volunteer every week!

If you would like to share your faith with the children of the church email Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org.



Union UCC and Union Evangelical Lutheran would like to invite all children to our annual **TRUNK-OR-TREAT** on Saturday, October 23rd, 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

We will be in both our grove parking lot and the Lutheran lot with a short cemetery walk in between.

Wear your costume and pick up treats at each participating decorated vehicle. Hope you can join us at this fun and safe event!

We are still looking for families, groups and/or organizations to decorate vehicles and hand out candy. If your family, committee, friends, community group, etc., are interested, please email Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org.



Trunk or Treat



In order to create the safest environment possible, we kindly ask that those ages 2+ wear a mask or shield when attending Sunday School and Children's Church. Thank you for understanding.

Any questions, contact Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org.

SNEAKER STROLL

(our version of the CROP WALK)

October 10th during Sunday School AND Children's Church. Wear your sneakers or crocs and don't forget your donation!



Pumpkin Prayer

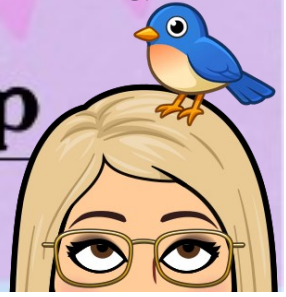


Dear God,
As I carve my pumpkin, help me say this prayer:
Open my mind so I can learn about You;
(Cut the top of the pumpkin)
Forgive me for the wrong things I do;
(Clean out the inside)
Open my eyes so I will see Your Love;
(Cut the eyes)
I'm sorry for turning my nose up to the blessings You have given me;
(Cut the nose)
Open my ears so I can hear Your Word;
(Cut ears)
Open my mouth so I can tell others about You;
(Cut a mouth)
Let Your Light shine in all I say and do! Amen.
(Place light in the pumpkin)

Questions? Comments? Ideas? Contact Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Union UCC Youth Group

Be In The Know
October 2021 Edition



Trunk Or Treat!

When: October 23, 2021

Time: 1pm-3pm

Rain or Shine

Help Pastor Kayli decorate her car and hand out candy.

Show up by 12:00pm to help.

Let Pastor Kayli know, or sign up with the link if you want to help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/>

SLEEP OUT FOR HOMELESSNESS

When: November 13-November 14

Time: 7pm-7am

Where: Union UCC Grove

Youth grades 7th-12th can join us for an over night adventure of learning about/experiencing what homelessness is with youth from churches in our conference.



Participants are asked to raise \$25 to be donated to The Lehigh Conference of Churches

Please sign up with Pastor Kayli and get the forms by November 7, 2021

SUNDAY FUNSIES

MUNCH BUNCH

Grades: 5th—7th

Time: 9:15am-10:15am

Where: 2nd Floor

CONFIRMATION

Grades: 8th (or higher)

Time: 9:15am-10:15am

Where: Youth Room
(basement)

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPY HOUR

Grades: 9th—12th

Time: TBD

Where: Youth Room
(basement)

All Youth are invited, welcomed, and encouraged to join us on Sundays for a time just for them! Join us Sundays, beginning October 3, during education hour (or another time) to grow in your faith.

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee has approved donations to be made to the following mission agencies.

From the Thomas Family Fund of the Funds of Lasting Gifts

\$500 to Allentown Crop Walk

\$500 to Union UCC Youth Group

\$800 to Heifer International Project

From the Marilyn Peters Estate Gift

\$1,000 to Direct Relief International

\$1,000 to Lehigh Valley Zoo

\$1,000 to Northeast Community Center in Bethlehem

“Sharing God’s Love to the World”

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Fall greetings to everyone. The indoor church property is coming alive again. Church services have started, along with confirmation classes, education classes, and the Preschool kids are back during the weekdays. How exciting to see and hear everyone in person again. How wonderful to be able to share God’s love inside our church buildings.

Our church grove is also still active with private parties, preschool activities, the upcoming Trunk or Treat event, and more happenings as the months go by. We are blessed with a beautiful property for our staff, our church family and the community to use and enjoy.

Peace to all.



MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD DRIVE

We look forward to supporting Miller-Keystone Blood Center in November. However, due to staffing shortages, Miller-Keystone must limit their mobile blood drives. But we can still participate in providing life-saving blood donations through Adopt-A -"Day" events at the area donation centers. While it's not as convenient to come to church, there are 2 advantages to this type of blood drive: you can donate at either the Bethlehem or Allentown sites and you can schedule an appointment during the week-long event. Signs with more details will be in the church common areas in October. Tentative dates are November 15-20.

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

During the past year and a half, Family Promise used grant money and funds raised from various sources to house clients in two area hotels. It was a costly stopgap that allowed Family Promise to continue to serve homeless families during a time of closed churches, schools, and businesses. This led to few, if any, face-to-face interactions between volunteers and families in the program. The vaccine has allowed churches, including ours, to re-open their buildings to these families again.

We originally were scheduled to host families in our church November 14-21, but will continue to sponsor them in a hotel, due to a scheduling conflict. Our first in-house hosting will be in 2022. With that in mind, we will try to hybridize our November hosting by providing dinner each night and groceries for the week to cover breakfast and lunch. Therefore, we are looking for volunteer cooks, delivery drivers, grocery shoppers, and grocery gift card donors. If you are ready to return to the mission of volunteering with Family Promise, please contact Susan Smith via phone or text message at (610) 366-7284, or email at susancarrington@hotmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 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 FOLG for Protect Alarms to upgrade security and safety at the two entrance doors, locks, buzzer system, two cameras.
- Approval of FOLG for miscellaneous property repairs for the remainder of 2021
- Approval of FOLG for OCWM standard yearly donation
- Approval of funding from the SR Pastor Call Process Fund of the Reserve fund for the Pastor of Visitation Search Approval of the Pastor of Visitation Job description and employee package.



GOLDEN TIMES IS BACK!

We are looking forward to beginning our Golden Times program in October. Our current plan is to meet in Memorial Hall at 11:00 a.m. for a program and send everyone home with a bag lunch. If the church policy changes due to the virus we will keep you informed.

October 5 - A time of fellowship

November 2 - Sheep to Shawl (Donna Panner, Barbara Panner's daughter)

December 7 - Christmas!

The Preschool is once again up and running, as students fill the classrooms with laughter, chatter and the joy of learning. This time of year always brings the excitement of new supplies, new learning themes, and endless possibilities of the fun to come. This September has been extra exciting as we returned to in-person learning for the first time since March of 2020. The students and families have done an excellent job adjusting to our new drop off and pick-up procedures, as well as the wearing of masks in the building. The focus of our lessons in September is all about our students: themselves, their families, their school, and their communities. We have 1 spot remaining in our 4-year-old program if you know of anyone still looking for a program.



WHERE SCHOOL MEMORIES BEGIN!

If you have a child or know of one who would enjoy learning in our fun and caring environment, registration information can be found on our website or by calling the Preschool directly.

Curriculum aligned with Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards
Whole child focused: academic, social and emotional

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram—**Neffs UCC Preschool** or on our website— www.unionucc.org/preschool



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

Gary L. Kern passed on September 16, 2021. A private graveside service was held on September 22, 2021 at Union Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions were made by Barbara and Richard Carinci, Daniel and Debra Topp

Memorial contributions were made in memory of Leaona Baer by Craig and Kendra Schafer, Lorraine Kehm, Marguerite Reinhard, Ed and Amy Rabenold, Robert and Bonita Krause, Donald and Marlene Steffy, Sharon and Andrew Dalrymple, Linda Roth, Donald and Susan Rumble, Larry and Teresa Dalrymple, Veronica Galm



Emily and Andrew Geiger



Celebrate our Seminary Graduate Ashley Werkheiser!

She has been called to Christ UCC Schoenersville and will be ordained and installed there on October 2, 2021 at 1:00PM.

The church is located at 5050 Airport Rd., Allentown. Please join in the celebration.

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

Tiffany Lakatosh
Faith Formation Minister for Children & Families
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
Director: Annette Wilcox

Church Telephone
Extension Directory
610-767-6961

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



www.facebook.com/unionneffs

HELPING MEALS MINISTRY



Pam Minnich (Pjp.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 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.**

CHOIR INFO– FALL 2021 FROM BLAKE HOPPES

We are planning to resume in-person rehearsals and performances for all choirs in October! Please be on the lookout for details in the upcoming weeks about rehearsal times & dates, performances, etc. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at blake.charger@gmail.com.

Heritage Choir (8am Service)
Horizon Choir (10:30 Service)
High School Choir
Kids Choirs

Chime Choir (Directed by Edie Fella - edie.fella@gmail.com)

SOUND TEAM OR VIDEO TEAM

Our sound team continues to do a great job supporting worship. They have been especially helpful this year when we've added things like the FM transmitter so folks can listen to worship from their cars and when we've worshipped outside in the grove every Sunday.



Thank you sound team! **Karl Klinger, Mike Baer, Pat Sorg, Doug Albert, Dawn Dengler, and Blake Hoppes.**

Would you like to help the sound team? Or assist us in our current video production for livestreaming and recording as well as for future plans?

If you are interested in learning more, please contact me.

Thanks, Pastor Kris

Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2021	(\$4,682.00)	\$22,859.00	\$18,177.00
Income	\$80,515.00	\$8,768.00	\$89,283.00
Expenses	\$66,058.00	\$5,580.00	\$71,638.00
8-31-2021	\$9,775.00	\$26,047.00	\$35,822.00

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

FROM THE FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

United Way has kicked off it's campaigns and it is time to make your designations. If your company matches funds, this is a great time to add Union UCC to your giving. Please work with your HR or Personnel departments to include us in this year's campaign. Thanks in advance for your generous support!!

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 Our next new member sessions will be on October 31 and November 7 at 9:15-10:15 in Memorial Hall (1st Floor). Contact the office if you plan to attend. 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. Our next dates are Sunday, November 7 and January 9, 2022. Families can sign up to have their children baptized during the worship service in the sanctuary or in a private service with family and pastors.

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

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>.