



UNION UCC IN NEFFS PRESENTS

## LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

3-5PM

RAINDATE SUNDAY, DEC 5TH 3-5PM

**FREE admission**

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

- ◆ Live Christmas Music by 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.

**Enjoy the lights! They 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](http://www.unionucc.org) 5550 Route 873 Neffs

Bring a chair, masks optional, practice safe distancing.



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## PARKLAND CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Free - Donations Accepted to Support the Chorale

Masks for All Audience Members Required

Chorale Will Be Masked

Limited Seating: Tickets Required

Contact the Church Office to Reserve Your

Ticket 610-767-6961



**Masks Required in Sanctuary and Building**  
**Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am in the Sanctuary**  
**December 5 Rev. Patience Retirement Celebration and Coffee Hour,**  
 Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, PNEC Minister  
**December 12 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 12 at 7pm Parkland Chorale Holiday Concert**  
 Seating is limited, tickets required - contact church office to reserve.  
**December 19 Lessons and Carols by**  
**Interrupted Silence & Community Choir**

**CHRISTMAS EVE in the Sanctuary**  
 Masks Required, Registration Required, Limited Seating (200 max)  
 Overflow seating in Memorial Hall with Screens (40 max)  
 FM Radio Station Available in your car in the parking lot  
 Everyone who requires a seat needs to be registered.  
**Use this link to register:**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-christmas2>

If you need assistance contact the church office.

**Wednesday, December 22 at 7pm** Christmas Eve Service,  
 Candlelight and Communion, Special Music  
**Thursday, December 23 at 7pm** Christmas Eve Service,  
 Candlelight and Communion, Special Music  
**Friday, December 24 at 3pm, 5pm, and 8pm** Christmas Eve Service,  
 Candlelight and Communion, Special Music  
 Interrupted Silence Ensemble at 3pm and 5pm  
**December 26 -No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship**  
**January 2 – No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship**  
**January 9 – 8am and 10:30 Worship, Communion, 401G Sunday**





## 401G Faith Commitment Card

I/We make the faith-promise to support God's ministry and mission at Union UCC, in my/our life, and in the world by creating a diverse spiritual portfolio of discipleship and faithful living.

In a 401K one invests resources for the future and retirement.

In a 401G (G=God) we are investing in our spiritual lives hoping for short and long term returns, on earth as in heaven. What G's will be the focus of your investment of your time, energy, love, schedule, finances, resources in the next quarter? What do you need to invest in more deeply to create a more complete, diverse, balanced discipleship portfolio?

Pick 1 or 2 areas to commit to in reflection, prayer, and practice.

See key for some questions and definitions. \*

\_\_\_ G = Good    \_\_\_ G=Generosity    \_\_\_ G=Gifts    \_\_\_ G= Grace    \_\_\_ G= Gold  
\_\_\_ G= Grit & Grind    \_\_\_ G= Gratitude    \_\_\_ G=Goals    \_\_\_ G= God

\_\_\_ Please contact me about signing up for E-giving.

\_\_\_ I would like to talk with someone about a planned gift or including the church in my will.

\_\_\_ I have a question or concern, please have a pastor call me.

**This card is for you. If you'd like a pastor or someone from the Financial Leadership Team to respond to you, please return it to the offering bin or the church office.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



**For where your treasure is,  
your heart will be also. Matt 6: 21**



### **\*401G Key to Investing in Loving God, Neighbor, & Self Wholeheartedly:**

G= Good - do good/serve, create goodness, notice goodness.

G = Grace - receive and share God's grace.

G= Gratitude - express gratitude to God and others.

G= Generosity - give and love with your whole heart and life.

G= Gold - money, resources, treasures, material goods.

G= Goals - hopes and dreams, God's dream and mission.

G= Gifts—talents, friendship, compassion, kindness, love, fruits of the spirit, your passions and the world's needs intersect.

G = Grit and Grind - perseverance, patience, hope, trust, courage, strength, growth, meaning, purpose.

G=God - worship, prayer, meditation, study, relationship.

· Look at your calendar, bank statements, credit card bills—  
what do they reveal about your investments?

· Where are the incomes and debits in your life?



Pastor Kris and the Financial Leadership Team: Don Penrod, Marianne Kitzmiller, John Harting, Rick Klingensmith, Larry Todd, Aften Hamm, Phil Wehr

## Christmas Mission Offerings.

This year the Christmas Mission Offerings will be divided to The Allentown Warming Station at the YMCA and Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry. Please support these two mission organizations by using the Christmas Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Christmas Mission. Thank you, the Mission Committee.

### The Allentown Warming Station at the YMCA

The Warming Station provides shelter, food, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness in the community. They are open to welcome guests Nov 1 - April 30. The guests are greeted with kindness, and provide a safe place to sleep and a dignified sense of community for neighbors in need. The doors are open each night from 7 pm - 7 am. The YMCA also provides meals Mondays through Fridays.

### Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry

Parkland C.A.R.E.S. strives to feed and serve every member of the community affected by and suffering from hunger. Established in 2019 in the Kernsville area of Parkland School District, the pantry initially served 12 families. Fast forward to today, the food pantry serves over 130 families who are provided with a variety of food items each month.. Parkland C.A.R.E.S. is proud to serve families in the Parkland community.

## 2022 ENVELOPE PACKETS

Envelope packets for 2022 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. Memorial Hall will be open every Sunday in November and December, and the Christmas Eve dates,

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2022, 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.



## STAFF NEWS FROM PASTOR KRIS

### Search Committee for the Pastor of Visitation

The position has been posted and we are receiving resumes. We hope to do interviews in the new year. Committee members: Donna Christman, Ardith Kuhns, Teresa Dalrymple, Eric Minnich, Aften Hamm, Rev. Bill Metzger, Dan Topp, Phil Wehr, Carrington Smith, Pastor Kayli, and Pastor Kris.

**Ori Handwerk**, our custodian, had hip replacement surgery in October. He is doing well and mending well. Keep him in your prayers.

Thank you **Wes Beltz** for helping to cover the custodian responsibilities with your supervisor/ wife **Maria Beltz**, our other custodian. Grateful for both of you!

### *From the Property Committee*

It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas !!

All around the church.

Garland is hanging inside and out,  
Red Bows tied at the windows and doors.

It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas !!

All around the church.

The manger scene tells the story,  
Of the birth of Jesus Christ

It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas !!

All around the church.

The grove is lit up every night,  
The lights are so sparkly and bright.

It's Beginning to Sound a lot like Christmas !!

All around the church.

The carillon bells are playing Christmas tunes,  
So stand outside and sing along.

It's Beginning to Sound a lot like Christmas !!

All around the church.

The singers are singing,  
The musicians are performing  
The pastors are preaching

Oh, What a wonderful time of the year.  
The Advent and Christmas Season is here.  
Celebrate the birth of Jesus at Union UCC.



## DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT MITCHELL ROTH, OUR 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](mailto:MQROTH2005@GMAIL.COM)

(484) 633-1152



# Christian Education

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)

THE POLAR EXPRESS



## **Sunday School's Polar Express Christmas Celebration December 19th at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall**

Children age 3-7th grade are welcome to attend our Polar Express Christmas Celebration.

Children are encouraged to wear their pajama's, enjoy a reading of The Polar Express, games, and some very special surprises.

Please let us know if your child will be attending by signing up online by December 12th at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4daca723a7fc1-polar>.

## **Awesome Advent Sundays**

This year to celebrate each Sunday of Advent, we will have a special theme Sundays that the children are encouraged to take part in.

**November 28th - Colorful Sock Day**

**December 5th - Favorite Character Shirt Day**

**December 12th - Christmas Shirt or Christmas Colors Day**

**December 19th - Pajama Day**



## **Tales with Ms. Tiffany December 29th 6:30-7pm**



This online Zoom event is for ages 3-8 and will include a story, creative movement, and more. The zoom link for this event is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87526472962>.

If you have any questions contact Tiffany at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org).

## **Sunday School and Children's Church will be on a Holiday Break**

**DECEMBER 26th & JANUARY 2ND**

We hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**See you on Jan. 9th!**

## **The Present of Joy Prayer**

Dear Lord, Thank You for Your gift of true love. Teach me how to unwrap the joy of Your presence at Christmastime and always. Amen.



# Youth Group News

December 2021 Edition

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



**One  
Night  
Without  
A  
Home  
11/13/21**



On November 13, 2021, 9 of our youth, and youth from 4 other UCC Congregations joined together in the grove to raise awareness for the problem that is homelessness. They were taken out of the comforts of their own homes and spent the night cold, damp, and hungry. These 5 congregations, and 3 others from the PNEC raised over \$1,000 for the Lehigh Conference of Churches and their outreach programs for homeless in our area. I am so proud of all youth who participated!

## **Friends:**

It is hard to believe that 2021 is coming to a quick close, especially because it feels as if it just started. As we look forward to 2022, I want us to look forward with hope and dreams. Dreams not only for our individual lives, but what we can do and accomplish as a Youth group! You all are so amazing, and I can't wait to plan some great fun for us! Continue to watch your emails, see newsletter articles, and all other forms of announcements of what is to come! Love and prayers for 2022!

~ Pastor Kayli







As the time for my retirement from Union UCC approaches I'm filled with many rich memories and reflections. I'm grateful for the fifteen years of ministry together. You have graciously invited me into your homes and your hearts. I cherish the relationships we have built over the years.

We have shared times of worship and prayer, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. We've enjoyed the fun of Golden Times programs from an Elvis Presley impersonator, the Boombahs, Parkland Strolling Strings and recently a demonstration of Sheep to Shawl. I've enjoyed times of learning with the Adult Education class and the Green Team challenging each other to better stewardship of God's gift of creation. I treasure the opportunities I've had to sit with you during times of illness or recovery from surgery, reminiscing with you about the life of a loved one and saying goodbye to them together at a Memorial service or a graveside. I will miss being part of a fun and creative staff team. Each one of you have made my years here at Union UCC rich and meaningful.

As the Apostle Paul once said, "My time to go has come." After December 31, 2021 I will no longer be the Pastor of Visitation at Union United Church of Christ. In a sense leaving this special relationship is a little death to so much that has given my life meaning over the past 15 years. But as Christians we know that the rhythm of our faith includes death and resurrection. I leave with many happy memories and knowledge of God's continued care for you.

I will no longer be available for pastoral services such as home or hospital visits, sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion or funeral services. This will be hard, but pastoral ethics rightly require that a retiring pastor step out of the way and that a new Pastor of Visitation be recognized.

I have every confidence that Union UCC has a great future of service in Christ's name. Thank you for all that you have been to me and are. May God bless you richly.







Strolling Strings will be coming December 14th!

We will meet in Memorial Hall at 11am. There will be a bagged lunch to go.

Food Bank donation: soup, crackers, cake or brownie mixes

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASSES WITH PASTOR KRIS

Fridays 9:30-11am, Room 5

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch Matt Rawle

Dec 3, 10, and 17 (No Class Dec 24 and 31)

Sundays 9:15-10:15 Room 5

Dec 5, 12, and 19 (No Class Dec 26 and Jan 2)

Note: Both Classes will return to The Difficult Words of Jesus Study on Jan 7 Friday and Jan 9 Sunday.

Please contact Pastor Kris if you'd like to join us in person or virtually by zoom or if you'd like a copy of the book if you can't join us.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND APRIL 22-24, 2022



Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg

Cost: \$145 \$70 Deposit due January 9, \$75 Balance due April 3

Payment plans and financial assistance available.

Checks to Union UCC, Memo Line – Women's Retreat

Friends and family members are welcome.

Leader and more Info: Pastor Kris

**NOTE: If you already paid for this retreat in 2019, your spot is reserved, but still confirm with Kris. If you are no longer able to attend, we can only give a refund if someone new signs up to fill your spot.**



## WE ARE THANKFUL!

As we enter the holiday season and focus on the important people in our lives, the preschool would like to recognize the caring members of Union United Church of Christ and thank you for your support. The past year and a half have been “uniquely” challenging for schools, and we would not have been able to stay open and operating if it were not for the overwhelming support we have received.

In the classrooms, the students kept busy with our November curriculum themes. The 3-year-olds studied nursery rhymes, the 4-year-olds learned about manners and friendship, while the Pre-K completed an author/illustrator study, complete with popular children’s authors such as Eric Carle and Jan Brett.



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### CONSISTORY ACTIONS

#### October 2021 Consistory Actions:

- Approval of paid time off for Ori due to medical leave
- Approval of coverage for Ori while recovering from surgery
- Approval of funds from FOLG for FLT mailings

#### November 2021 Consistory Actions:

- \* Will be provided in the next newsletter

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.





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

**Eleanor R. Kistler** who passed on October 26, 2021. Services were held on October 30, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc. Donations were made in her memory by Cheryl Frey, Barbara Best, Larry Hertzog, Randy and Jane Schaeffer, Rich and Deana Correll, Dorthy Best, Cindy, Mike and Scott Best, Eric and Paula Best, Richard Buehler, Frances A. Correll, Chris and Cheryl Gaydos, Donald Schumaker, Freda Frova, Larry Kistler, Seth Kaplan, Jane and Arthur Kaplan, Brian and Karen Selig, Annie Kern

**Dorothy A. George** who passed on October 27, 2021. Services were held on November 2, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

**Catherine C. Haberern** who passed on November 5, 2021. Services were held on November 10, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

**Roy H. Becker** who passed on November 7, 2021. Services were held on November 13, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

Contributions to Funds of Lasting Gives in Memory of **Lawrence Pruneski** were made by Steve and Robin Wieder, John and Deborah Romig, Charles and Carol Gehring, George and Leoma Kern , Dennis and Kathleen Foster, Hal and Mary Thomas, APCI Golf League, Marilyn and John Yanek, Andrew and Janet Dyszel, John and Vicki Turner, David and Fay Pisko, Tom and Marsha Hersh, Glenn and Susan Mattern, Ricky and Mary Rasley, Gregory Snyder, Annie Kern, Charles and Carol Mesics, Sheldon and Judy Ehret, Larry and Ardemes Praetorius, Joseph Pramik, Rev. Janis Dey and Byron Dey, Phil and Julie Wehr, Katie and Jason Halloran, Rainey Hayne, Judith Miller, Deb and Daniel Topp, Norm and Nancy Lucas, Peggy Alsup, Douglas Varney, Prudence Barton, Elaine and Gus Kuhn

**December Birthdays**

12/8

Larry Frantz  
100 Freemanson Dr. #3542  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

12/18

Ferne Strauss  
6334 Lamar Ct.  
Slatington, PA 18080



Calla Tamsin Brandle pictured with parents, Sarah and Sean Brandle and sister, Marilyn



Cooper Wade Selig pictured with parents, Tara and Justin Selig



**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

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Facility Caretaker  
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**Barbara Carinci**  
Financial Manager  
financialmanager@unionucc.org

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Fax: 610-767-7128

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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



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www.facebook.com/unionneffs

# 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	\$145,096	\$18,799	\$49,916
Expenses	\$134,458	\$17,771	\$152,229
10-31-2021	\$5,956	\$23,887	\$29,843

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

**Start with a Smile at smile. Amazon.com this Holiday Season**

Support us and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more.

You shop. Amazon gives.

\*Also available on the Amazon app.



**Dual Member Status** 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. Our next dates are Sunday, January 16, 2022 and March 6, 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. To sign up: Call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Marissa Haney at [administrator@unionucc.org](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org) **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>.