

**SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23
AT THE END OF 10:30 WORSHIP**

Dear Union UCC,

It is that time of the year where we come together to review the work of our Church Family. At this Semi-Annual congregational meeting, we will be presenting the reviewing the financials to date, reviewing our semi-annual audit and taking and/or presenting nominations for Consistory. This is not possible without your support. **Please plan to attend and participate in our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held January 23, 2022 at the end of 10:30am worship in the church and on zoom.**

We sincerely thank each and every person who has supported our church. Please continue to support us in this time by being in engaged attendance.

May God continue to bless our church family and those we are able to help!

Respectfully,
Aften Hamm
Consistory President

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84305387826?pwd=cWJRR05WZWl6K1hTY3BmcVg0dkU2Zz09>

MEETING ID:
843 0538 7826

PASSCODE:
757559

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING/ WORSHIP SCHEDULE	Pg. 1
401G COMMITMENT CARD	Pg. 2
Souper Bowl/ Blanket Sunday	Pg. 3
STAFF NEWS/ STATEMENTS	Pg. 4
Financial Report	Pg. 5
Christian Education	Pg. 6
Youth Group	Pg. 7
From Pastor Patience	Pg. 8
Reverse Advent Blankets/ Faith Formation Classes/ Women's Retreat	Pg. 9
Preschool/ Consistory	Pg. 10
Memorial/ Weddings	Pg. 11
Church Info	Pg. 12



Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary, livestreaming on our Facebook page, or YouTube channel. Join us Sundays at 8am and 10:30am or anytime during the week. You can also listen to worship by phone by calling: 610-410-9595

The Sunday bulletin and announcements can be emailed or mailed to you each week, please contact the office to sign up.

JANUARY WORSHIP

Masks Required in Sanctuary and Building. Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am in the Sanctuary

January 2 – No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship

January 9 – 8am and 10:30 Worship, Holy Communion, 401G Sunday

January 16 8am and 10:30 Worship, Baptism at 10:30

January 23 8am and 10:30am Worship, Semi-Annual Meeting after 10:30 Worship

January 30 5th Sunday, Church Family Worship at 10:30

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?

Where will you invest this quarter?

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

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

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?

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: _____

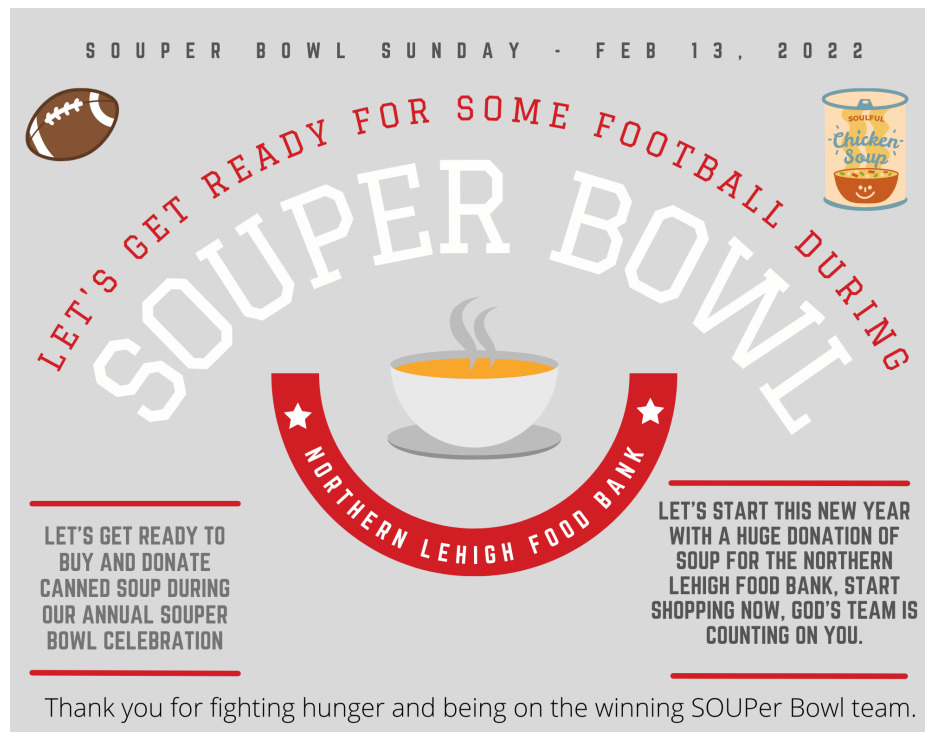
_____ Please contact me about signing up for E-giving.

_____ 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.

ROOTED IN LOVE!

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



2022 ENVELOPES

The 2022 envelope packets will be mailed out in mid January. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office. Members on the e-giving program do not receive envelopes.

Please use the initial envelope in your packet to offset the cost of printing and mailing the envelopes. Please continue to support the mission and ministries of Union UCC by bringing your envelopes to Sunday Services, or by mailing them to the church office. Thank you for sharing your gifts to God.

BLANKET SUNDAY COMING SOON

You're changing lives around the World !!Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency.

Thank you for your support of the upcoming Blanket Sunday in February 2022. You are helping to spread God's love to many families around the country and the world.

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, came back to work the week of Christmas Eve, welcome back Ori!

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

Rev. Patience's Retirement From Church and Ministry

What a wonderful celebration we shared on December 5th to celebrate the 15 years of Rev. Patience's ministry with us as our Pastor of Visitation. Thank you to everyone who shared generously with donations to provide a caricature of her created by artist Linda LaDeu, a bird house, an insect house, a quilt piece by our quilters, almonds, chocolates, gift cards from The Brickhouse Tavern, Crystal Spring Dairy, Randall's Orchard, Amazon, Birds Unlimited, Edge of the Woods, a cash gift, and a lovely coffee hour. Well deserved, Rev. Patience!

A reminder that Rev. Patience will no longer be available for pastoral care here at Union UCC. She can not visit you in the hospital or at home, attend worship or events, or officiate at funerals. This is part of the boundaries established and carried out by the Penn Northeast Conference, the UCC, and the best practices of pastors as they move through these transitions. Appropriate boundaries also preclude her from seeing you as clients in her private practice.

We will all miss her presence and care. And, we wish her all the best in her retirement.

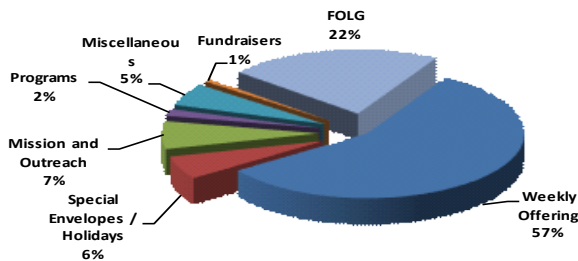
DONATION STATEMENTS

The donation statements will be emailed or mailed by January 31, 2022 for all donors who have given more than \$200 to date. If you have given less than \$200 to date and wish to have a statement sent to you please notify the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager, at financialmanager@unionucc.org.

Union United Church of Christ – Narrative Budget

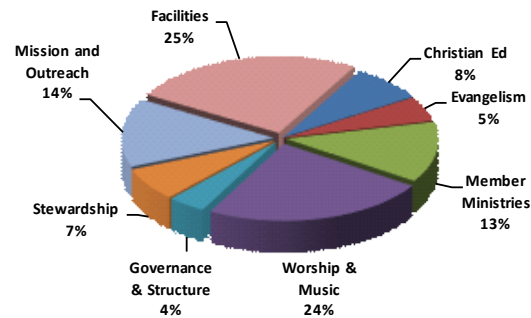
The following is a summary of the church's total income and expenses for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Contributions, Special Offerings and Gifts



- Regular **Weekly Offering** are gifts received through envelopes and plate offerings and comprise the majority of our income (57%)
- 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 7% of our income
- **Miscellaneous** contributions include building rent and donations, interest earnings, and other gifts and comprise 5% 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

WHERE OUR STEWARDSHIP GIVING GOES



- **Worship and Music** in our weekly and special services comprise a significant portion of overall spending (24%)
- **Christian Education** provides a variety of educational programs, events and activities for all ages to learn about Christian faith and comprises 8% 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 (14%)
- Our **Member Ministries** seeks to nurture, support and connect members in a variety of programs and ministries through numerous groups and committees (13%)
- **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 (7%)
- **Governance and Structure** includes managing our staff and participating in the PNEC (4%)
- Spending on **Facilities**, the church building and property, is significant at 25% of overall spending but is critical in maintaining the church, its properties, and physical possessions, along with providing for the weekly/monthly operational costs.

Christian Education

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: dired@unionucc.org

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

Thank you to all who helped with this year's Christian Ed Christmas Missions.

- We delivered 41 filled "Holiday Hope Chests" to Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley.
- We had over 35 families participate in our Reverse Advent Basket, where each day they put something IN the basket for our local food bank and agencies.

THANK YOU for sharing the Christmas Spirit with our neighbors!



Sunday School & Children's Church

All Children **ages 3 to 7th grade** are welcome to attend Sunday School. The rooms are as follows: age 3-Kindergarten in room 100, grades 1-4 in Fellowship Hall, and grades 5-7 upstairs in the old office next to the Memory Room.

All children **age 3 to 5th grade** are welcome to attend Children's Church. This takes place during 10:30am service and children will return to the parent/guardian in the sanctuary before service is finished.

VBS

2022

June 20-24



Vacation Bible School at Union UCC is back! We need your help to make this summer's program the best it can be. Email Tiffany to be part of the fun and excitement of **ROCKY RAILWAY!**

***If you are ready to retire your artificial Christmas tree, we are in need of trees of different sizes to transform our church into the Rocky Mountains.**

All Ages Winter Painting Event

Wednesday, January 26th

In-person & Online

6:30-8:30pm



Participants will be instructed on how to paint a snowflake similar to the one pictured. Please sign up by 1/22/22 at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-allages>

Tales with Ms. Tiffany

January 31. 2022

7-7:30pm

This online Zoom event is for ages 3-8 and will include a story, creative movement, and more. The Zoom number for this event is

875 2647 2962.

2 Corinthians 5:17



When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!

Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

«.....»
The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their
dreams ~Eleanor Roosevelt

January 2022 Edition
Pastor Kayli
(pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Happy New Year 2022

Holy Cow! It's 2022!! It's amazing to think of how far we've come and how far we still have to go! I hope and pray that you all continue to stay safe and healthy. We are trying our best to find ways to keep you connected to not only your faith, but also to your church family that loves you so very much! Continue to read the emails about fun instore for the winter.

Stay safe, Stay healthy, keep washing your hands!

Love and prayers,

Pastor Kayli



Winter Fun will be coming! Watch your emails for dates for: Movie Nights, Hang-outs, a snow art day (assuming we have snow to safely drive in). Winter is a time to be together!!!

Sunday Opportunities for youth 5th-12th

- ♦ **Munch Bunch** (grade 5th-7th)— Every Sunday 9:15am-10:15am—2nd floor
- ♦ **Confirmation** (8th grade)— Every Sunday 9:15am-10:15am — Youth Room
- ♦ **High School Happy Hour** (grades 9th-12th)—Every Other Sunday 11:30am-12:30pm —Youth Room or Zoom (January dates: 9th & 30th)

All youth are welcomed and encouraged to join us on Sundays to grow in their faith no matter where they are on their faith journey.





Dear Members and Friends of Union United Church of Christ,
Thank you for the lovely cards and the thoughtful and generous gifts.
Thank you for the fun portrait, all of the thoughtful gift cards, the Union UCC mug, the bird house and the insect house, the beautiful handmade quilt and the generous cash gift. I am grateful for the opportunity to minister among you for the past fifteen years. I will always hold you in my heart and my prayers.

Pastor Patience Stevenson

A festive birthday banner with a light yellow background. It features several colorful party hats in shades of blue, orange, and teal, some with streamers. The text "January Birthdays!" is written in a large, red, cursive font across the center.

January Birthdays!

January 15
Doug Frantz
5822 Monroe Ct.
Slatington, PA 18080

January 23
Izzy Andres
5636 Route 873
PO Box 117
Neffs, PA 18065

January 26
Marilyn Secchler
At Home at Parkland
4315 Washington Street
Schnecksville, PA 18078

REVERSE ADVENT BASKETS

Thank you to all who filled the Reverse Advent Baskets during the recent Advent and Christmas Season. Your donations of groceries, toiletries, gloves, socks, mittens, children's books & crayons weighed close to 1,000 pounds. All donations have been sorted and distributed to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, Lehigh Conference of Churches, and Sixth Street Shelter.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASSES WITH PASTOR KRIS

Fridays 9:30-11am, Room 5

The Difficult Words of Jesus Amy-Jill Levine, continued
January 7, 14, 21 (No Class Jan 28)

Sundays 9:15-10:15 Room 5

The Difficult Words of Jesus Amy-Jill Levine, continued
January 9, 16, 23 (No Class Jan 30)

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.



Merry Christmas on behalf of the preschool staff and school board members; we wish you a season full of laughter and love. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the preschool switched things up and held an outdoor family Christmas party in the Grove, complete with a visit from Santa Claus. The lights in the Grove and the Christmas music played on the church bells made it a festive night that was enjoyed by all.

After a one-year hiatus, the 4-year-old class resumed our traditional field trip to the Liberty Bell Museum to see Pip the Mouse. It is always fun to watch the faces of the students as they watch the show and respond to the puppets. Now that the 3-year-olds have been in school for a few months, we held our first stay-and-play afternoon with them, giving parents an optional extra hour to get some Christmas shopping (or napping) done. It was a fun and busy month, and we look forward to the students returning in January to begin 2022!



CONSISTORY ACTIONS

December 2021 Consistory Actions:

- Approval of wage increase for Tiffany
- Approval of \$2000 for VBS

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.

Richard Correll, who passed on December 21, 2021. Services were held on December 27, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

Dorothy Lakatosh, who passed on December 10, 2021. A private service was held in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

Harold Remaley, who passed on December 8, 2021. Services were held on December 13, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

Gerald Blose, who passed on December 7, 2021. Services were held on December 10, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

Bertha Blose, who passed on November 20, 2021. Services were held on November 24, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

DECEMBER WEDDINGS

Congratulations and blessings on the marriages of:

Jason Klinger and Cori Rubel married on December 17, 2021

Zach Merkle and Chelsea Harlan married on December 18, 2021

Best Wishes to the

Happy Couples

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

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

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 Our next new member gatherings are Sunday, February 13 and 20 at 9:15-10:15 in Memorial Hall. Joining would happen on Sunday, February 27th at 8am or 10:30am worship. 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, 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 **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>.