

Good Enough Lent and Easter Theme

We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility— climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-morelikable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do “the right thing.” But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, *regardless*, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey

"Blessed are you who realize there is simply not enough—time, money, resources.

Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw effort is the secret to perfection.

It's not. And you know that now.

Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that even now, even today,

God is here, and somehow, that is good enough."

from **Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection** by **Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.**

We will be using the book Good Enough in worship and in our Adult Classes on Friday and Sunday. We encourage you to purchase one for your own journey to Easter. We also have some copies available, contact Pastor Kris or Kayli.

The Long Haul on Wednesdays at 7-7:30pm

PRAYER, MEDITATION, QUIET, AND MUSIC

DATES: MARCH 9, 16, 23, 30, APRIL 6

Will we make it? Do you feel like you're gazing at a long, long road -- a long road with lane changes and harrowing turns and an uncertain destination?

You're not alone. Not now, and not along the journey. And in this spiritual Lenten journey on which God invites us, you have everything required to reach your destination.

Take a breath and join us on the journey. Stay with it for the long haul. Seek out and encourage your companions for the trip. Know that God is with you.

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER

Tuesday, March 1st Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7pm in Memorial Hall: The event is free, but donations welcome. Tickets available after worship in the lobby.

Wednesday, March 2nd Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion 12noon and 7pm

Holy Week

Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursday Worship at 7pm

Friday, April 15 Good Friday Worship at 7pm

Sunday, April 17 Easter 6:15am Sunrise Worship in the Grove, 8am and 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

*All worship services are in person in the Sanctuary or join us online live on Facebook or later on YouTube or Facebook.

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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.

MARCH WORSHIP

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

March 6 Lent 1, Install Consistory

March 13 Lent 2, Baptism

March 20 Lent 3, Youth Sunday

March 27 Lent 4, 401(G) Moment, Baptism

EASTER MISSION OFFERINGS

This year the Easter Mission Offerings will be divided between the Miller-Keystone Blood Center and Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley. Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Easter Mission. Thank you, the Mission Committee.

Miller-Keystone Blood Center



**MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER**

The mission of Miller-Keystone Blood Center is to save lives by partnering with the community to provide a continuous supply of blood products and services. Founded in 1971, they serve as the sole blood provider for 29 hospitals in eastern PA and western NJ. Donations to Miller-Keystone help to provide needed medical equipment and supplies to continue their mission of collecting blood at their locations, or during a local blood drive.

In addition to providing a financial donation this year, please consider making an appointment at one of the locations and donate blood, it helps to save lives to a neighbor in the community.

Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley



This organization cares for and supports some of the most important people in our Lehigh Valley community. They provide homebound senior citizens and adults with disabilities with home-delivered meals, grocery shopping, and other services. Most importantly, they provide them with kindness and respect that they deserve.

Over 1,500 people in the Lehigh Valley depend on Meals on Wheels to drop off customized healthy meals to their home or senior center. Please support this mission with your financial donations to provide food and supplies to continue their mission.

WEATHER ALERT BOXES FROM LEHIGH CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES FEED HOMELESS COMMUNITY

Severe inclement weather may force various services in the Lehigh Valley to cease and providers to close. To still provide services to the unsheltered, and encourage the unsheltered to prepare for such weather, the Lehigh Conference of Churches is enhancing their outreach efforts.

When inclement weather is forecasted, the Street Outreach Team will visit the encampments in the area to warn about the weather and encourage the encampment residents to seek temporary housing in one of the area shelters.

The team will also provide them with a “Weather Alert Box” that includes shelf-stable food, such as read-to-eat tuna or chicken packets, fruit cups, juice boxes, bottled water, beef jerky, granola bars, etc.

If the Conference Kitchen should have to close due to weather, the boxes will also be handed out prior. **On behalf of the Conference, we will be collecting shelf-stable foods throughout the Winter.**

We could use the following for the Weather Alert Boxes:

- Beef jerky
- Bottled water
- Candy bars
- Dry cereal
- Fruit cups
- Granola bars / protein bars
- Individual bags of chips
- Instant coffee
- Juice boxes
- Powdered milk
- Ready-to-eat tuna and chicken packets
- Soup with a pop-top lid
- Trail mix
- Wrapped pastries
- Other shelf-stable items



WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND APRIL 22-24, 2022

Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg



Cost: \$145 \$75 Deposit due now, \$70 Balance due March 27 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.

Easter Flowers

FOR THE HOME VISITATION MEMBERS AND SANCTUARY

share the Joy of Easter with our Home Visitation Members. Sponsor a flower that will be delivered by volunteers for \$9.00 per plant.

You may also purchase flowers for our Sanctuary on Easter morning "In honor of" or "In memory of" someone - you may pick it up after the Easter Service on April 17.

Please print and return your information on the form below with your payment (checks payable to Union U.C.C.) and drop in offering bins or mail to the church office no later than Sunday, March 13, 2022. Flowers may also be ordered on our website under online donations or by [clicking here](#).

I would like to sponsor an Easter flower for (please mark your choices):

- HOME VISITATION MEMBER(S) SANCTUARY*

Sponsor's Name: _____

Homebound Tulips _____ Display Lilies _____

Display Tulips _____ Display Hyacinths _____

Display Daffodils _____

Total Number of Plants _____ Total amount enclosed is \$ _____

Envelope # _____

Phone/Cell Number: _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

*I will pick up my flower after worship service on Easter Sunday.

(Please circle one) YES NO



A letter from Ori Handwerk, Church Custodian

Hi a lot of you haven't met me yet, but my name is Ori, I'm the church custodian. Many of you might remember me from working at Parkland for many years.



Wow it's been a real tough year with this Covid and all. First I'd like to thank you all for the support and prayers while I was in the hospital with this terrible virus. All in all I was still able to maintain the church at a much slower pace while we were on lockdown. I missed seeing some faces, and the church was really quiet. On certain days the only thing you could hear was a church mouse here and there lol

I'm so glad to be back to a more normal routine, and I look forward to many more years being your church custodian . I also like to thank you all for you support while I was out for hip surgery back in October.

A letter from Maria Beltz, Custodian:



Life sure is different. When our State shut down in March 2020, I too slowed down and it felt good! I decluttered and organized my drawers, closets in my home. Once it warmed up I spent time outside enjoying nature and the beauty of our earth. My eye in the sky looking for Eagles. Once our State slowly started opening Pastor Kris sent an email that I could start doing some cleaning. Light vacuuming, bathrooms, sanitizing doorknobs, light switches etc. (getting the cobwebs). She even put me to work helping with the mailings. My hours weren't what I normally put in but sure felt good to get out. I was happy but then sad at the same time. It just felt different going back into the church building for the first time. I missed seeing my co-workers and my church family, the activity we once had. I must admit sure was nice being at home and not always going but now I needed to get myself back into a routine again. I am Thankful and Blessed to be part of this staff and that I was able to be inside our building while our doors were locked. After I was done with my work I'd go into our sanctuary and pray. This is where I really was Thankful and felt Blessed. Even though we need to wear masks it sure is nice to see staff, Preschool teachers and students in the hall during the week. With prayer from all of us, I am looking forward to when things can get back to our new normal (whatever that may be). We are slowly getting there. Union UCC is not only a place of employment for me but it's my Church Family.

Sing Your Way Home
Choral Concert

March 19, 2022 7pm

Union UCC

Neffs, PA

\$10 Tickets

wayhome.eventbrite.com



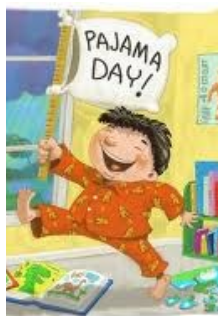
Christian Education

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: dired@unionucc.org

Pop-Tarts and Pajamas

March 13, 2022



Everyone is encouraged to wear pajamas to church and to bring a food item that starts with the letter P to donate to the local food bank, to help our community.

All Sunday School classes will meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:15am to enjoy a morning of fun!

*Each child will get a pack of Pop-Tarts to take home and enjoy.



Tales with Ms. Tiffany

7-7:30pm
March 2nd
March 25th

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.

If you have any questions contact
Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org



VBS

June 20-24

JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH!

This summer Union UCC will be on a train, powering through the Rocky Mountains! We will have a great time with lively songs, crafts, and Bible stories.

This year's VBS is scheduled for **June 20th -24th, daily 6:30pm -8:30pm.**

We are still in need of volunteers and teen helpers to make this VBS the best one yet!

Don't have time to eat before VBS? No worries! We will offer a family friendly meal for volunteers/helpers and children registered for VBS each day of VBS at 6pm.

Registration forms will be available starting March 27. Please register by June 5th.


Library Egg Hunt



EASTER is just around the corner, so let's have some fun with a **LIBRARY EGG HUNT!**

One (flat) egg will be hidden in the children's book section each Sunday during the month of March. Redeem the egg for prizes (see Tiffany).

Please take good care of our library!



Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

←.....→
"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

Albert Einstein

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

March 2022 Edition

Youth Sunday! March 20, 2022

CALLING ALL YOUTH

GRADES 6TH-12TH!!!

It is that time of year where we celebrate and honor our youth with a Sunday dedicated specifically to YOU! We need your help to make this day great!

Sign up to read, play music, preach (12th grade only), and so much more! THIS YEAR IS IN-PERSON

Use the link below to sign-up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-youth8>



**SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE COOKIE DECORATING
HERE!**

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

March 19, 2022

12pm-3pm

**Cookie Decorating
Competition**

**Youth Sunday
Sanctuary
Decorating**





FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

SUNDAY APRIL 3, 2022

11:30AM-12:30PM
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 Ms. Tiffany for our First Communion Class

**Sunday, April 3, 2022
11:30am-12:30pm.**

We are offering an in-person option as well as a Zoom option. We will gather in the Youth Room after 10:30am worship.

All in-person participants are required to wear a mask

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

RSVP No Later than March 27, 2022

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSds6HBTNaYqExbICJgflA-ggV-livbxFxDgSc_Hx2ocOclHw/viewform?usp=pp_url

Families and children are encouraged to partake in their first communion at our Maundy Thursday worship opportunity. If you have any questions, email Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org) or Ms. Tiffany (dired@unionucc.org)

Join us for a day of fun for the whole family!

We'll have crafts, snacks, and the return of our Easter Egg Hunt!

Egg hunt will begin at 2pm

Egg hunt is available for children/youth thru 10 years of age. Please pre-register your kid(s) for the egg hunt using the google form, or form below.

Registration cut-off March 27, 2022

We can't wait to see you at our Easter In The Grove!



Parent's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age group (Please circle one) : 0-12-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____ Age group (Please circle one) : 0-12-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____ Age group (Please circle one) : 0-12-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____ Age group (Please circle one) : 0-12-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Staff Updates From Pastor Kris, Consistory, and Church and Ministry Interim (Temporary) Plan for Pastor of Visitation Ministry

The Pastor of Visitation Committee made this recommendation which Church and Ministry and Consistory approved at their meetings in February. Since posting the Pastor of Visitation position in November, we have not received any appropriate resumes of applicants. Pastor Kris and the search committee created an interim plan for 6 months starting Feb 6 (with 30 days' notice given by either party) while they reinvest in reaching out to potential permanent candidates. **She has approached members Carrie Beleno and Susan Glosan to serve in the following ways:**



Carrie Beleno – previous educator and school principal, Reiki Master, owner of healing center. Has led women's retreat days and meditation sessions here. Currently on Helping Hearts as a volunteer. Currently doing Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at St. Luke's starting in January (training required for chaplains and those seeking ordination). She's Interested in getting more experience and helping the church. 4-6 hours/week

Focus on Visitation list, hospitals/follow up, call list – shared with other pastors and other interim.
 Special focus – organizing Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers for Easter Flower and Communion and coordinate
 Golden Times program in May and June
 Emergency assistance as needed/negotiated with other Pastors
 Funerals – assist for experience, cover only as needed/negotiated with other pastors
 Assisting in worship as time allows.



Susan Glosan – currently Moravian Seminary student, chaplaincy program. Needs to fulfill some pastoral care visits for classwork this semester. Has been active here in a variety of ways as musician, acolyte coordinator, and preacher. Interested in getting more experience and helping the church. 4-6 hours/week

Focus on Visitation list, hospitals/follow up, call list – shared with other pastors and interim
 Special focus – preaching 3 times/once a month (April, May, June)
 Emergency assistance as needed/negotiated with other Pastors
 Funerals – assist for experience, cover as needed/negotiated with other pastors
 Assisting in worship as time allows.

Financially this plan fits within the realm of what Consistory already approved for the permanent position in terms of hours and budget. Our main goal is to support Pastors Kris and Kayli in their work as well as continue to provide ongoing pastoral care for our members.

A reminder about boundaries with former pastors:

As a pastor who is no longer serving our congregation, Rev. Patience and all previous pastors serving here, are no longer available for pastoral care at Union UCC. She cannot 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.



WHERE SCHOOL MEMORIES BEGIN!

We have had a few brief tastes of spring the past few weeks, and we are ready for it to take hold full-time. This month the 3's will be taking off to explore the skies, land and water in all forms of transportation. The Pre-K is also on an exploration during our "Road Trip Across America" covering geography and major national landmarks. Our 4's are focusing on the theme of "Growing" covering plants, animals and of course, themselves!

The preschool has been able to reschedule our Chipotle Fundraiser for March 28, at the Lehigh Lifestyle Center in Whitehall from 4-8 pm. Please consider picking up dinner and bring in a physical flyer or by ordering online using the code: BGVTANK

Neffs UCC Preschool

**2022-2023 REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

www.neffsuccpreschool.org
preschool@unionucc.org
 610-767-5327

WE CAN DO THIS! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY
 COMMUNITY STARTS WITH YOU. SO TASTE THE GOOD!
 GOOD NEWS! WE CAN DO THIS! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY
 COMMUNITY STARTS WITH YOU. SO TASTE THE GOOD!

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
NEFFS UCC PRESCHOOL
 33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

MONDAY, MARCH 28TH | 4-8PM
 837 LEHIGH LIFESTYLE CTR, WHITEHALL, PA, 18052

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **BGVTANK**
 OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

CHIPOTLE

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

Country Sale

UPDATE

The committee that normally leads this event has decided not to hold the Country Sale this year.

Thank you to everyone who always made the Country Sale one of the best days of the year.

We look forward to other events for our church and community in the upcoming months and to everyone's participation and support.

LOVE AND MORE LOVE,
KRIS

Blanket Sunday & Souper Bowl Sunday

Thank you to everyone who supported the month-long mission collections for Blanket Sunday and Souper Bowl Sunday during February. Union UCC is on its way to hitting the goal of collecting over \$2,000 for Blanket Sunday through Church World Services. Each donation goes a long way in bringing comfort and warmth to families in need after a natural disaster, or other circumstances. Church World Services provided over 68,000 blankets around the world in 2021.

Souper Bowl collections of over 350 cans of soup were provided to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, and over \$500 was raised for Souper Bowl of Caring through Lehigh Conference of Churches. These donations continue our fight for hunger, providing nourishment and love to local families.

While we highlight these missions during the month of February, the work of these organizations lasts all year long. We continue to bless them for their wonderful mission in serving families around the Lehigh Valley and the World.



Our blessings and prayers go to the friends and families of those who have passed.
Elaine Creitz, who passed on January 28, 2022. A graveside service was held on February 3, 2022 at Union Church Cemetery.

Donations made in memory of:

Dorothea Lacko from: Jerry & Nadine Rauch, Thomas Meyer

Additional donations made in memory of:

Bertha Blose from: Jane Hertzog

Richard Correll from: Barbara & Darrell Merkel, Pat & Jerry Wehr, Jo & Kiric Kressly, Newhard Farms, Lisa & Grace Wright

Harold Remaley from: Jean Heintzelman



March Birthdays

March 22

Jean Wieand

Mrs. Bush's Personal Care
 PO Box 327
 302 Kunkletown Rd.
 Kunkletown, PA 18058

March 26

Janice Herzog
 7308 N. Gate Drive
 Slatington, PA 18080

UNION UCC STAFF

Rev. Kris P. Snyder
 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	\$262,576.00	\$33,839.00	\$296,415.00
Expenses	\$214,599.00	\$26,063.00	\$240,662.00
Balance 12-31-2021	\$43,295.00	\$30,635.00	\$73,930.00

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

Adult Faith Formation Classes with

Pastor Kris

Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

Fridays 9:30-11am, Room 5 March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, April 8

(No Class April 15 or 22)

Sundays 9:15-10:15 Room 5 March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 (No Class April 17 or 24)

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.

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 about our church family 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, March 13, 27 and May 15, 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>.