

**Sundays 8:00 am and 10:30am in the Sanctuary**  
**and Livestream on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs> **or on Facebook and**  
**Youtube** <https://www.youtube.com/c/UnionUnitedChurchofChristNeffsPA>

## Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 1	NO 8AM WORSHIP, 1030 WORSHIP ONLY
Sunday, January 8	8AM AND 10:30 WORSHIP. COMMUNION, LED BY OUR YOUNG ADULTS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS
Sunday, January 15	10:30 BAPTISM
Sunday, January 22	OUR MONEY STORY: RELEASE, 10:30 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 29	5TH SUNDAY

## Looking Ahead

Feb 12	Confirmation Class leads Worship! Souper Bowl Sunday & Tailgate Lunch
Feb 19	Communion Sunday, Healing Service (Pray with a Pastor)
Feb 21	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday with Communion
Apr 9	Easter Sunday



## GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS\*

Returns Wednesday, Feb 1

5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper Menu: Coming soon!

6:00-6:30 Children's Choir with Blake (All kids are welcome but not required.)

6:30-7:30 Kids with Ms. Tiffany (Parents can join or go with adults.)

Middle and High School Youth with Pastor Kayli (no Parents ha!)

Adults with Pastor Kris

Signup here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-godfirst>

Or email or text a staff member.

Do your best to sign up - but if you miss it, just come.

**Future Dates: March 1, April 5, May 3**  
**Putting God First on First Wednesdays**

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**Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 22**  
**Following 10:30 Worship**

Fellow Members of Union UCC,

It is that time of year where we come together as a congregation to review the work of our Church family. At this semi-annual meeting we will be reviewing the finances to date, reviewing our semi-annual audit and taking / 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 on Sunday, January 22, 2023 following the 10:30 service.

As we emerge into a post pandemic world, it is more important than ever that we as members engage with our church's mission and activities to ensure a healthy and vibrant future. I encourage you to attend this important meeting and help lead Union UCC into 2023 and beyond. The meeting will be held in person and there will also be a Zoom option for anyone who cannot join us in person.

I thank you all for your commitment and dedication throughout the past year and look forward to our collective service to God and our community in 2023.

May God continue to bless our church family and those we serve.

Respectfully,  
Eric Minnich  
Consistory President

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81918906059?pwd=TkZxdThSbFdUks3Q2pacUNRRitKUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 1890 6059

Passcode: 785369

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,81918906059#,,,,\*785369# US

+13092053325,,81918906059#,,,,\*785369# US

# Staff Update from Pastor Kris

*Thank you to Susan Glosan and Carrie Beleno for serving as our Interim Pastors of Visitation for the last year. You have done a wonderful job at caring for our church family and continuing this important ministry. Susan ended her responsibilities at the end of December and will continue her seminary training.*



***As of January 1, Carrie Beleno will start as our permanent Pastor of Visitation.*** She will be the primary pastor who visits our members and follows up with care. Her primary responsibility is caring for those on our visitation list. She will also share hospital visits with Pastor Kayli. Pastors Kris, Kayli, and Carrie rotate sharing calls and visits with a variety of other lists of members. Carrie will continue to organize our Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers, Golden Times, and support our current adult offerings. We plan to create new ministry opportunities and programming for adults too.

*Here's a little more info about Carrie:*

*Carrie was previously an elementary teacher, principal, and reiki master/teacher and spiritual life coach, owning her own healing center in Bethlehem. She has a M.Ed. in Educational Development and Strategies. She is also currently a hospital chaplain for St. Luke's University Hospital Network. Carrie lives in Washington Township with her husband Tony and three rescue cats. They have a son Marc who lives in NYC and a daughter Gianna and her husband Bill who live in Schnecksville with their adorable twin boys Billy and Albie. They keep her spare time busy! She just finished up several years of working as a reiki/meditation teacher at the Cancer Support Community and continues to direct plays at Pennsylvania Playhouse.*

*This calling has been cultivated for years and she is excited and blessed to share the next chapter of ministry with the congregation and staff at Union UCC!*

*You can reach Carrie at this email: [vispastor@unionucc.org](mailto:vispastor@unionucc.org)*

## **Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris**

Talks Under the Tiki Hut: The Sharing of Life, Faith, and Family Beverly Reinhard Fekula  
We all have stories to share. We'll get to meet the author who shares her personal stories of life and faith.

Fridays 9:30-11am, Room 5  
January 6, 13, 20 (No Class Jan 27)  
Sundays 9:15-10:15am, Room 5  
Jan 8, 15, 22 (No Class Jan 29)

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.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE FROM PHIL WEHR

Once again, December brought us a beautifully decorated sanctuary for everyone to enjoy for the Advent and Christmas season. The entranceways were decorated, and the manger scene greeted everyone who passed by our church. Once again, the Lights in the Grove brought Love and Joy to the community each night. Mr & Mrs Santa Clause also paid a visit to welcome everyone to the church grove and enjoy the nightly lighting.

Once again, the Mission and Christian Education committees organized many and varied missions to provide Love and Joy to families in the local communities. The Christmas spirit was shared to many people, thanks to YOU.

Once again, the Christmas message was spread through words, prayer, songs, and music. Christ is coming, Christ is born, Joy to the World.

Once again, special musical concerts were held for the community in our sanctuary. The power of music and song is strong during the Christmas season, such a joy to hear the voices and talents of all of the musicians.

Once again, let's give Thanks to all who shared their time, talents, and treasures to make the Christmas Season so special at Union UCC.

Peace to all in 2023.



## MISSION COMMITTEE FROM PHIL WEHR

### 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, all month long. You are helping to spread God's love to many families around the country and the world.

### Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 12, 2023

Let's get ready for some football during the Super Bowl. Let's get ready to buy and donate canned soup during our annual SOUPER Bowl celebration. Let's start this new year with a huge donation of SOUP for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, start shopping NOW, God's team is counting on YOU.

Thank you for fighting hunger and being on the winning SOUPER Bowl team.

### 2023 Envelopes

The 2023 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.

### 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.

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## CONSISTORY NEWS

The following actions were taken by Consistory :

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.

### **November 21, 2022, Consistory Actions:**

- Approved supporting Carrie Beleno in her process of pursuing licensing or ordination
- Approved receiving [9] new members to our Union UCC congregation
- Approved the recommendation of offering the permanent position of Pastor of Visitation to Carrie Beleno to begin January 1, 2023

The above were approved unanimously.

### **December 20, 2022, Consistory Actions:**

- Approved: Additional funding from FOLG for the 150th Anniversary celebration
- Funds from FOLG for the required MID psychological evaluation for Carrie Beleno
- The following Consistory members: Donna Christman, Eric Minnich, Jason Klinger and Kerry Snyder for a second term and Ron Pope for a new term beginning 2/2023
- Carrington Smith for a second term on the Funds Of Lasting Gifts committee

The above were approved unanimously.

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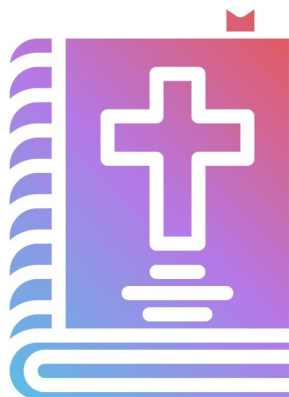
## THANK YOU LETTERS

*Thank you so very much for your generous gift. We are truly bless by your kindness. Your belief in our mission is very much appreciated!*

-Parkland Cares Food Pantry

*Thanks to your generosity we will be able to continue serving people in our area.*

-Northern Lehigh Food Bank



# FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

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



UNION UCC VBS 2023

JUNE 26TH-30TH 6-8PM

CHILDREN AGE 3 TO 7TH GRADE ARE

WELCOME TO ATTEND!

PLEASE SCAN THE CODE BELOW TO REGISTER.



## CREATIVE ART CHALLENGE

Join us for a Creative Art Challenge!

For this challenge you can pick up a mystery bag any Sunday in the month of January.

In the mystery bag you will have several items that you need to use to make a creative piece of art. You may use additional items to make the art too, but all of the items in the bag must be used. Please finish your piece of art and send a picture of it to Tiffany at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org) by

**February 12th.**

Pictures of the art will be posted on the church Facebook page and be voted on February 13th-17th. The winner will be announced on Facebook on **February 19th.**

The winner will receive a special prize!

**Psalm 96: 1-3**

**At the dawn of the new year I'm filled with hope for what is to come, and I have thankfulness in my heart for what has already passed. I pray that I will keep my focus where it needs to be this year and that we'll all have a year filled with joy, love and happiness.**



## Mary Poppins Family Event

January 28th

5:00pm-8:45pm

Everyone is invited to join us for this fun Mary Poppins event! We will have snacks, drinks, Mary Poppins trivia, crafts, and watch the Mary Poppins movie.

Register online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4daca723a7fc1-mary>



## MR. PASTIE FUNDRAISER

**Orders Due February 5th**

**Pickup February 24th**

The Pasties come in a variety of flavors to choose from. Pasties will come frozen and can be warmed in the oven whenever you would like a quick and easy meal. Each Pastie is 12oz. The price is \$8 per Pastie. Order forms will be available soon. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help us purchase supplies for the kids, support our birthday ministry for Bethany Home, and so much more!

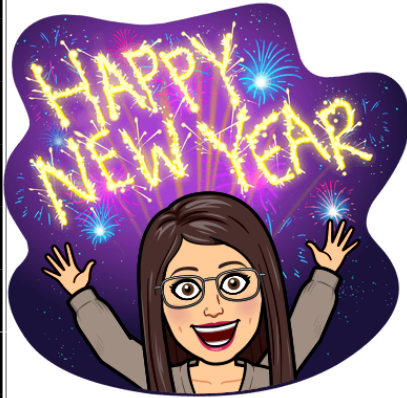
If you have any questions contact Tiffany at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org).

# Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams*  
—Eleanor Roosevelt

January 2023 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)



## Happy New Year!

As we head into 2023, I want to share some fun things we will have going on for all of our youth! We've got ideas for escape rooms, mini-golf, youth hang-outs, redesigning our space, and so much more! We hope that you will join us for all the fun, and help us to plan things that YOU want to do! Let's make 2023 the best year ever!

### **Y.A.T**

#### **(Youth Advisory Team)**

This past fall, we reinstated a Youth Advisory Team, comprised of students from different schools and different grades, as well as parents who support them. These youth are tasked with attending youth gatherings, help plan events, and be Pastor Kayli's right hand! These youth are an integral part of pulling in other friends to join us! A HUGE shout out to: **Cameron Kuntz, Max Bilger, Payge Haydt, Naomi Henninger, Katie Solt, Savannah Kareha, Hannah Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Nolan Buskirk, Parker Haydt, Deana**

**Correll, Steve Kareha, and Ron Snyder**

**YOU'RE ALL AMAZING!**



### **SAVE THE DATE(S)**

**January 28, 2023:** Phantoms Game  
(contact Steve Kareha)

**February 11, 2023:** Confirmation Retreat  
(@Church)

**February 21, 2023:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake  
Supper

**March 19, 2023:** Youth Sunday (theme TBD)



**Have any fun ideas for  
the upcoming year?  
Want to get more  
involved?**

**Let Pastor Kayli know!**

**Email:**

**pastorkayli@unionucc.org**



## Preschool News

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we wrap up December in the classroom, we also begin wrapping up the first half of the school year. The students have settled into the routines of classroom life and have started making friends with their peers as they practice sharing and taking turns. At Neffs UCC Preschool, we focus as much time on teaching self-help skills and social skills as we do early literacy and early math skills. The holidays are an excellent time to help reinforce these skills at home and in the community. If you have a young child in your life, it is never too early to model and reinforce manners such as saying "please" and "thank you". You can have your young child help you "write" a thank-you card for a Christmas present by either drawing a picture for the person or having the child try to sign his/her name at the bottom of a letter you have written and read to the child. Children can help make and wrap gifts for community helpers such as the mail carrier, the fire department, or the teller at the bank. By taking an active part in the gift giving process, children learn to express gratitude and show respect for others in the community whose service often goes without notice. During this busy time when we all have more to do than hours in the day to complete, it is easy to brush past others or let the long lines flare our temper. Remember, the children around you are watching and learning from our action, so slow down, take a deep breath and take to heart the saying "Peace on Earth and Good Will towards Men."

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year begins in February, contact the preschool at [preschool@unionucc.org](mailto:preschool@unionucc.org) if interested.



Union UCC now has Venmo!

You can now make donations, pay for events, and support the church through this platform. Please be sure to include in the "What it's for" line what your Venmo is supporting. You can either search for **@unionuccneffs** or scan the QR-code. If you have any questions, please reach out to Barbara Carinci at [financialmanager@unionucc.org](mailto:financialmanager@unionucc.org). Here's another way to support the church you love and the work we do!



## **Steering Without Oars Leadership Planning Team from Pastor Kris**

What oars have guided your journey?  
What oars are critical for your survival?  
What oars do you need to toss for new oars?

Jesus invites us to step out of the boat with him in faith.  
What adventure is Jesus calling you/us to consider?

Pray for our Leadership Planning Team as they reconvene on  
January 21st..

### **Women's Retreat \* April 28-30, 2023 \* Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg**

Cost: \$150. \$75 deposit due now, \$75 balance due March 5.

Payment plans and financial assistance available.

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

Friends and Family members are welcome too. Help us meet our  
minimum of 25. Leader and more Info: Pastor Kris



**Congratulations to Mitchell Roth on being awarded his Eagle Scout Rank!**

My project included the removal and replacement of two azaleas and two slow growing conifers, and the planting of daffodil bulbs, fall crocuses, and hyacinths in a raised flower bed in the grove. It also included replacing the wooden frame of that raised bed using railroad ties and rebar and mulching it. Over the past couple years, the grove here at Union UCC has undergone continuous revamping. This adds new life to the grove, as passersby see this point of the grove often.

**Thank you, Mitchell, for considering Union UCC for your project. You and your family and scouts did a great job.**



**UNION UCC NIGHT WITH THE PHANTOMS**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**7:05PM**

**(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM)**

**Tickets: \$25.00 each**

**ORDERS** can be emailed or dropped at the church office or in the offering plate but **MUST** be in an envelope marked **Phantoms Tickets.**

TO ORDER TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFO PLEASE

COTACT STEVE KAREHA.

717-514-8881 or s.kareha@gmail.com

Stephen Kareha  
@stephenkareha



venmo

Cash, Check, Venmo or PayPal  
(Make Checks Payable to Steve Kareha)

Stephen Kareha



PayPal

**Bring your friends and family!**

Presented by Union UCC Men's group

# Golden Times

*Golden Times is a gathering for our senior adults. Everyone is welcome, including friends. We start at 12noon with lunch (often soup, salad, and a sandwich) and then have a program until about 1:30pm. There is no charge to attend. Your support of the budget and the Funds of Lasting Gifts provides the funds. Contact the church office if you'd like to receive post card mailing reminders.*

*Upcoming dates: March 7, April 4, May 2.*



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

**Glenn R. George** passed on December 1, 2022. Services were held on December 8, 2022 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home.

The Rev. Alan Miller, remembered by colleagues as a joyful and effective builder of relationships in the ministries of the United Church of Christ, died Dec. 2, in High Point, N.C. He was 70. Memorial services will be held at [Jordan United Church of Christ](#), in Allentown, Pa., on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, at 11 a.m.

### **From Carter (Snyder-Samuelson) Baxter**

Carter (Snyder-Samuelson) Baxter graduated from Union Theological Seminary in May of 2021. He is a Member in Discernment at Union UCC for the licensing/ordination process with the Penn Northeast Conference in the United Church of Christ.

Carter recently moved to Bar Harbor, ME, with his spouse, Kiah, after completing his chaplaincy residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. On December 5 of this year, Carter began work as the Chaplain at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center in Bangor, Maine. In his new role, Carter will provide interfaith spiritual and emotional support to patients and staff, lead chapel services, and facilitate peer support groups among adult patients of all ages.

Alongside chaplaincy work, Carter also continues to work part-time growing veggies at Triple Chick Farm in Bar Harbor. Kiah is the Minister of Faith Formation at Bar Harbor Congregational Church (UCC).

## **UNION UCC STAFF**

**Rev. Kris P. Snyder**  
Senior Pastor  
Cell Phone: 610-657-6007  
[pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)

**Rev. Kayli Freeman**  
Associate Pastor  
[pastorkayli@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

**Tiffany Lakatosh**  
Faith Formation Minister for Children & Families  
[dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)

**Marissa Haney**  
Church Administrator  
[administrator@unionucc.org](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org)

**Blake Hoppes**  
Minister of Music  
[Blake.charger@gmail.com](mailto:Blake.charger@gmail.com)

**Ori Handwerk**  
Facility Caretaker  
[Caretaker@unionucc.org](mailto:Caretaker@unionucc.org)

**Barbara Carinci**  
Financial Manager  
[financialmanager@unionucc.org](mailto:financialmanager@unionucc.org)

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610-767-6961  
Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66,  
5550 Route 873  
Neffs PA 18065-0066  
[www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org)

Preschool Office:  
610-767-5327  
[prechool@unionucc.org](mailto: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



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[www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)

# Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2022	-\$4,682.00	\$35,909.00	\$31,227.00
Income	\$182,850.00	\$47,456.00	\$230,306.00
Expenses	\$172,283.00	\$41,886.00	\$214,169.00
10-31-2022	\$5,885.00	\$41,479.00	\$47,364.00

## LIVE STREAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Are you interested in being a digital host on Sunday mornings?

Do you want to help with the camera and interact with our online community during worship?

SEE PASTOR KRIS OR PASTOR KAYLI TO SIGN UP!

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

**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** Are you thinking about deepening your faith commitment to Union UCC? To share your questions and interest in learning more about our church family contact Pastor Kris. **Next Sessions are March 12 and 19 at 9:15am. We will receive you in worship on March 26<sup>th</sup>.** If you can't make these dates let us know and we will work with your schedule.

**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 15, 2023 and March 5, 2023**. 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.** If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING.** Choose to give a repetitive contribution on a regular basis (i.e weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly), or make single contributions whenever you desire in an amount of your choice. These contributions can be made from a credit/debit card or be deducted from a checking or savings account. Electronic contributions are initiated from Union UCC's website (UnionUCC.org). Click on 'giving', then on 'Ways to Give' and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-398-2654) to answer your questions or demonstrate the process.

**MOBILE GIVING.** If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" and follow the prompts.

**ON SMILE.** Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>