



GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, March 1

5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper Menu: Pizza, salad, ice cream.

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

6:30-7:15 Kids with Ms. Tiffany (Parents can join or go with adults.)

Youth and Adult Group with Pastors Kayli and Kris

7:15-7:30 Worship together

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:

**No April 5. Join us Thursday April 6 at 6pm for Maundy Thursday
Potluck and Worship.**

May 3

Putting God First on First Wednesdays

March Worship

SUNDAY
MARCH

5

LENT 2

Baptism at 10:30am,
Girl Scout Cookies!

SUNDAY
MARCH

12

LENT 3

Special Music by
Interrupted Silence,
Daylight Savings

SUNDAY
MARCH

19

LENT 4

Youth Sunday

SUNDAY
MARCH

26

LENT 5

New Members
Received

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/UnionUnitedChurchof
ChristNeffsPA](https://www.youtube.com/c/UnionUnitedChurchofChristNeffsPA)

anytime during the week

Youth Sunday 2023



! It's time to !

BeReal!

Join us

March 19, 2023

Questions? Or to Sign-Up
Email Pastor Kayli
(pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Lent Study Opportunities

We are offering 2 different studies for you to work on independently.

Copies of the Journal and Book can be picked up at church on Sundays in the lobby or in the plastic bin on the South entrance porch during the week.

Our Facebook page will also post each week's discussion questions.

Or sign up for weekly emails at administrator@unionucc.org



Guided Journal - based on our worship theme - Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

Each week includes scriptures and questions to think or write about.

Book - You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit James K.A. Smith

This book tackles the subject of how our culture shapes us and how our faith practices can help us transform our lives for the better.

Study on your own or join one of our groups:

Fridays 9:30-11am, Room 5
and Zoom - Feb 24 - March 31

Sundays 9:15-10:15am, Room 5
Feb 26 - April 2



Pastor Kris
pastorkris@unionucc.org

Holy Week and Easter Worship



April 2 Palm Sunday 8:00 and 10:30am
(No God First Wednesday on April 5)

April 6 6pm Maundy Thursday in Memorial Hall,
Potluck Meal, Worship, Communion.
Bring a casserole, side dish, or dessert to share.

Note: NO Online Option.

April 7 7pm Good Friday Worship in the
Sanctuary with Communion

April 9 Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise in
cemetery, 8am and 10:30am in church



EASTER MIMOSAS and SNACKS on the LAWN
Join us after 8am and 10:30am worship on the
front lawn of the church for a celebratory
mimosa, orange juice, and snack.

The Easter Bunny will be
joining us!



EASTER EGG HUNT 2023!

This is no joke!

Join us on April 1, 2023 (rain date April 2) for our annual
Easter Egg Hunt

All kiddos from infant thru age 10 are welcomed to
participate

Please pre-register your children via the Google Form:
<https://forms.gle/8rnAbJ49evv9PnZ99> OR the registration
form in your weekly bulletins

Please register no later than March 26, 2023.



Easter Egg Hunt Donations!

Fellowship Committee can't do the egg hunt without your help.

Please consider donating pre-wrapped candy to be put in plastic eggs.

NO PLASTIC EGG DONATIONS PLEASE!!

All donations needed by Sunday, March 26, 2023.



SUMMER WORSHIP PLAN

At Consistory's meeting in February they decided on this plan for Summer worship.

There will only be a 10:30am worship service starting on June 11 until September 3rd.

There will NOT be 8am worship starting on June 11 through September 3rd

We will have outdoor worship in the grove at 10:30am on the following Sundays:

June 25, July 9, July 30, August 13, and August 27.

We will worship in the church if the weather does not cooperate on these Sundays.

Welcome to Carrie Beleno as our 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 and through her cell at 610-297-6569 or through the church office.

MISSION COMMITTEE FROM PHIL WEHR

Easter Mission Offerings

This year the Easter Mission Offerings will be divided between Habitat of Humanity of the Lehigh Valley and the Jubilee Breakfast program in Allentown. Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Easter Mission, or online through the e-giving program. Thank you, the Mission Committee.

Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley

The mission of Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley is to provide hardworking families with simple, decent, affordable housing. Their mission is not a hand out, it is a hand up. They work in partnership with families to help them secure a better place to live and raise their families.

Families partner with Habitat by contributing at least 250 hours of sweat equity during the building of their home, or another Habitat home. Habitat families work side by side with local volunteers in all the trades needed during the construction of their home. Once settled into their home, they pay an affordable mortgage and take responsibility of their home.

Since 1989, Habitat has built 131 homes for families in the Lehigh Valley

Jubilee Breakfast program

The Jubilee Breakfast Ministry at Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown serves about 65 breakfasts to those who need a meal each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the coldest months of the year, November through April. This is a shared mission with several churches and community organizations. Donations are an important part of being able to provide a hot and hearty breakfast with warm hospitality. With the increased cost of for supplies and ingredients your donation is more important than ever and allows the organizers to buy food in bulk and to buy the items most needed.

First Communion Class

When: March 26, 2023

Time: 11:30am-12:30pm



Calling All 1st Graders

(or 2nd thru 7th graders who haven't participated yet)

You are invited to join Ms. Tiffany and Pastor Kayli for our First Communion Class!

Sunday March 26, 2023

11:30am-12:30pm

We will gather in Fellowship Hall to begin our time

Please use the Google Form to register

RSVP no later than March 19, 2023

Sign Up Here: <https://forms.gle/nXTZ1VFetG8temz98>

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

BLANKET SUNDAY/SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who supported the month long mission collections for Blanket Sunday and Souper Bowl Sunday. 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 along way in bringing comfort and warmth to families in need after a natural disaster, or other circumstances. Church World Services provided over 70,000 blankets around the world in 2022.

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 last all year long. We continue to bless them for their wonderful mission in serving families around the Lehigh Valley and the World.

DRINK. DINE. DONATE.

TELL YOUR SERVER
YOU'RE WITH
UNION UCC

DINE IN
OR
TAKE OUT


11AM-10PM



**FUNDRAISER FOR
UNION UCC, NEFFS
TUESDAY, MARCH 21**

HELP US EARN **15%** BACK AT PJ'S

★ ALL TOWN ★

P.J. WHELIHAN'S
PUB + RESTAURANT



4595 Broadway, Allentown PA www.PJsPub.com STAY CONNECTED   #PJsGivesBack

Broadway/ Allentown location

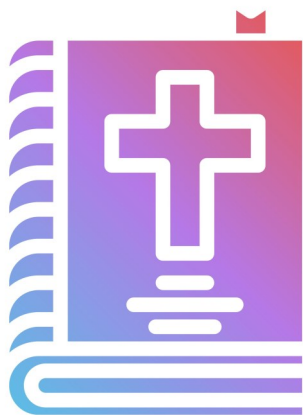


Steering Without Oars Leadership Planning Team from Pastor Kris

We met on January 21 to work on this question: If we could walk over to the light switch on the wall, and instantaneously flip the switch and a miracle would occur at Union where our dreams and God's dreams would come true for God's church here what task, initiative, or program should we be doing for the next 1-3 years? (No Limitations – the sky's the limit!) How would you answer this question? Share your answers with someone on the team.

Steering Without Oars Leadership Planning

Team: Fawn and Doug Albert, Maria Beltz, Max Bilger, Val Borman, Brynn Buskirk, Donna Christman, Deana Correll, Teresa Dalrymple, AJ DiPaolantonio, Dave DiPaolantonio, Jan and Andy Dyszel, Dennis Foster, Edie Fella, Dixie Gross, Brad and Lorie Hackett, Dan Haftl, Aften Hamm, Marissa Haney, Brian Horwith, Carol and Cliff James, Steve Kareha, Marianne Kitzmiller, Jason Klinger, Karl Klinger, Laura Kohler, Devon Kuharik, Darla Lakatos, Tiffany Lakatos, Vicki Mayk, Janice Metzger, Eric Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Hannah Minnich, Carol Pope, Ronie Pope, Don Penrod, Sherry Penrod, Maryann Puia, Deb Romig, Amanda Roth, Deb and Fred Sanek, Diane Schaller, Carrington Smith, Susan Smith, Kerry Snyder, Sue Steinmann, Carol Stout, Sue Todd, Gloria Toner, Dan and Deb Topp, Deb Wenner, Phil Wehr, Julie Wehr, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Kris, Joe Kornfeind



FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: dired@unionucc.org



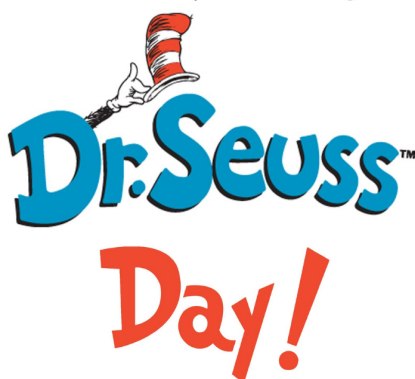
Join us for VBS 2023 June 26th-30th from 6-8pm where we will learn how to SHINE JESUS' LIGHT! Children age Preschool to 7th grade are invited to attend. A meal will be available at 5:30pm. Registration is \$5 per child.



Register at



<https://forms.gle/xcAGfFpuoH17wt3v5>



CHILDREN AGED 3 TO 7TH GRADE (AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS) ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON MARCH 5TH IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:15 AM FOR A DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION. THERE WILL BE CRAFTS, GAMES, AND MORE.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO DRESS UP AS THEIR FAVORITE DR. SEUSS CHARACTER.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need your help to make Union UCC

VBS 2023 STELLAR!



Sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-vbsvolunteer>



Union UCC Dance Group

We are currently looking for children and youth that enjoy dancing that would like to perform periodically at church services and events.

If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please contact Ms. Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org.

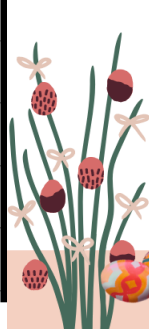


Church Family Worship March 19th

Activity bags will be available at both entrances of the sanctuary.

PALM SUNDAY EASTER CELEBRATION

Children and parents/guardians are invited to join us for an Easter celebration on April 2nd at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall. This will be a fun morning for all who attend.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT MARCH 25TH 5-8 PM



PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SAFETY GOGGLES AND A NACHO TOPPING FOR OUR NACHO BAR.

Register Online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-nerf>

Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

"No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world." - Robin Williams

March 2023 Edition
Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

BeReal With Jesus!

Youth Sunday is a chance for all youth to be celebrated and have a Sunday worship time dedicated to them! High School seniors are encouraged to preach the message that day and all other youth encouraged to participate!

⇒ You can sing/play and instrument

⇒ Read scripture

⇒ Lead liturgy

⇒ Collect offering...

You name it, you can do it!

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f48aead2ba2fe3-youth8#/>

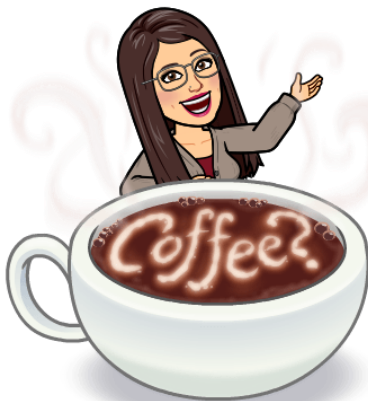


Youth Sunday 2023

CALLING ALL YOUTH!
WE NEED YOU!

When: March 19, 2023
Theme: BeReal with Jesus

Sign Up to make Youth Sunday Amazing!



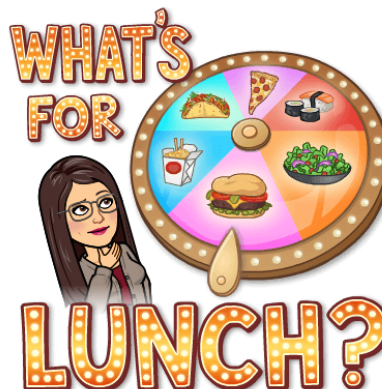
Holy Grounds Coffee Hour!

Youth are asked to bring goodies and host coffee hour on

March 18, 2023

Sport your Youth Group Shirt and hang out with your church family

Sign up for coffee hour here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f48aead2ba2fe3-youth2#/>



Got some good ideas?

Places to go?

People to see?

Adventures you want to go on?

We wanna hear them!

Join us for our next Y.A.T. meeting April 23, 2023

11:30am-1pm

Youth Room

Sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f48aead2ba2fe3-yat1>



Preschool News

February was a whirlwind in the preschool. We started the month with an Informational Open House to kick-off registration for the 2023/24 school year and are excited to announce everyone who attended registered that evening! Mid-month brought Valentine's Day parties and the return of our annual bowl-a-thon for all families. After a three-year hiatus, we were happy to be back at Jordan Lanes to let the kids experience, which for most, was a first-time bowling. We even had a strike and some spares. As soon as we returned from the President's Day weekend break, we had our annual Teddy Bear Clinic in the 3's class. Cetronia Ambulance Corp came once again to talk about how and when to call 911 and to familiarize our students with the inside of an ambulance in an effort to take away the fear factor should they ever encounter an emergency and require an ambulance. The students then had a chance to turn the table and become the doctors by giving a special stuffed friend a checkup. The PreK students spent February learning and experimenting with the five senses. The 4's, meanwhile, embarked on a journey through the fine arts while having a chance to create their own versions of some famous masterpieces. If you would like to check these pieces out along with other amazing artwork by all of our students, please feel free to stop by our Art Show on March 8th from 6:00-7:30 in Memorial Hall.

Care Patrol

CarePatrol Info Session for families seeking answers for care for senior adults.

Sunday, March 26th at 11:45am, immediately following 10:30 worship. Youth Room/Basement. CarePatrol is a team of Certified Senior Advisors who help families find safe, quality independent living, assisted living, memory care and in-home care as well as adult day programs. We meet with families personally to consult, educate and advocate as they explore care options. We tour with our clients to senior care communities and review care and violation histories of the communities we recommend. Our service is FREE to families.

RSVP by Wednesday, March 22nd to Carrie:
vispastor@unionucc.org OR call the office at 610-767-6961
Bagged lunch provided for those who RSVP by Wednesday,
snacks also available.



Golden Times

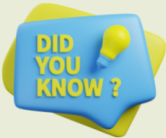
Golden Times is a gathering for our senior adults. Everyone is welcome, including friends. We start at 12noon with lunch (often soup, salad, and a sandwich) and then have a program until about 1:30pm. There is no charge to attend. Your support of the budget and the Funds of Lasting Gifts provides the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

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





- Mission:** to assist families with children experiencing or about to experience homelessness find or retain affordable housing, and gain sustainable, financial stability.
- Partners:** The mission is carried out by a network of 15 host congregations and many other community resources working together to meet the immediate, basic needs of displaced families and assist them to build patterns that will bring long-term stability.
- Motto:** We provide security, stability, and support in a judgment-free environment that recognizes that at any point, any one of us could be in their shoes.
- Impact:** 74% of the families utilizing this program find stable housing after 6 to 8 weeks.



1. **More families experience homelessness in the United States than in any other industrialized nation. (The Bassuk Center on Homeless and Vulnerable Children & Youth)**
2. **84% of families experiencing homelessness consist of a single mother with one or more young children, and a big reason for this is that many family shelters do not accept men into their programs, causing families to separate when they become homeless. (GreenDoors.org)**
3. **More than 2.5 million American children – that's 1 in 30 – experience homelessness every year, and over half are under age five. (The Bassuk Center on Homeless and Vulnerable Children & Youth)**
4. **Family homelessness has become chronic, with families accounting for 37% of the overall homeless population and 50% of the sheltered population. (The Bassuk Center on Homeless and Vulnerable Children & Youth)**
5. **The most cited reason for family homelessness is lack of affordable housing. (FamilyPromise.org)**
6. **Almost 50% of renters pay one-third or more of their incomes on rent, and one in four renters spends more than half their income on rent. (Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies)**
7. **At minimum wage, a family needs to work 2.5 full-time jobs (about 100 hours/week) to afford the average 2-bedroom rental in the U.S. (FamilyPromise.org)**

How Can You Get Involved

- Thru Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley, Union UCC will be hosting up to four families experiencing homelessness in our church the weeks of March 12th, May 14th, and November 26th.
- We need numerous volunteers in the roles of Meal Preparation & Delivery, Dinner Host, and Overnight Host for those weeks.
- You can sign up to volunteer at www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4AA9A72DA1FA7-family.
- Please contact Kerry Snyder (610) 737-7768 or Rosalie Snyder (610) 597-9302 with questions (preferably text message).

Room or Hall Use for Members

Members are now able to reserve the use of rooms in the church again. Contact Marissa in the office to see if your date is available, to complete the necessary forms, to learn the guidelines and process, and to pay the fees. One time use fees are \$60 plus a \$25 cleaning fee. We do not offer room use to non-members.

Nursery Update

We are happy to announce the nursery is back and ready to be used by families with young children!

- Enjoy worship in live time on the newly installed tv
- a quiet & clean space for nursing/feeding small children
- Parents please stay with your child
- Sign in on the clip board
- Just enjoy the space

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tiffany (dired@unionucc.org)

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 \$10.00 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 9.

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 19, 2023**. 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 Tulips _____ Display Lilies _____ 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

PNEC Ambassador Corner
Items of interest from the PNEC:

Congregational Leadership Training
Saturday, March 4 - 9AM to 4PM via zoom

It is a training offered by PNEC committees to help lay leaders **and** youth leaders appreciate and navigate the many roles and responsibilities of leadership in the local church.

An ideal learning opportunity, offered for newly-elected Consistory members, Confirmation students, and even seasoned church Leaders!

If interested, please email Patty Rehrig at the
 Conference Office -
patty@pnec.org

EXTRA NOTE! FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND THOUGHTS:

PA Keystone Project is happening now among the four Pennsylvania UCC Church Conferences (Penn Northeast, Penn Southeast, Penn Central and Penn West.) The purpose is to discern if there is a way forward to consolidate the four UCC Conferences into one UCC Conference for PA, thus bringing more unity, as well as diversity into our areas, partnering more effectively, and furthering more understanding between conference cultures in the process. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at jemrenaissinc@aol.com & please put Union Ambassador in the subject line. I look forward to helping Union members feel more connected to the Conference and the wider church.

UNION UCC STAFF

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pastorkris@unionucc.org

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 Associate Pastor
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 Children & Families
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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



Find us on
Facebook
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 26th.** 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, **March 5, 2023 and May 21, 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

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. 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.