

September Worship SCHEDULE

SUN 03 SEPT	10:30 AM WORSHIP ONLY Labor Sunday
SUN 10 SEPT	8 AM & 10:30AM WORSHIP 9:15 Education Hour Returns
SUN 17 SEPT	8AM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP 10:30 Baptism, Children's Church
SUN 24 SEPT	8AM & 10:30AM WORSHIP Harvest Home
SUN 01 OCT	8AM & 10:30AM WORSHIP Holy Communion

All worship services are in person and streamed online.



Our new worship series, "Come to the Table," will invite us to dine with Jesus. But not just for the sake of eating, or even Holy Communion, but to come to a table where he fed people as well as challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God's way of love, peace, grace, and joy. Welcome to the table!

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PIG OUT at Union UCC's
Backyard BBQ Bash
September 23, 2023 4-8:30 pm
Free Admission



NEFFS CHURCH GROVE
UNION UCC, 5550 ROUTE 873, NEFFS, PA 18065 610-767-6961

LIVE MUSIC BY TIMEWHYS (5:30-8:30)
Music of the 60's and 70's

LORAH'S PIG ROASTERS AND CHICKEN DINNERS
\$11, includes Fries, Cole Slaw, & Drink

Band Sponsored by Heintzelman Funeral Home

Sanctuary Updates to Sound and Video This has been a big year of upgrades.

- We added a new camera in the sanctuary for our online worship experience. It's been a huge improvement both in sound and video quality.
- The sanctuary sound system was also reviewed and refreshed, adding a new wireless microphone system.
- The outdoor portable system for the grove was overhauled with new speakers and a new mixer. The old sanctuary wireless microphone system will be used for outdoor worship.
- In October two flat screens will be installed in the sanctuary so that we can add to all that we do to make worship creative, relevant, and meaningful. This will allow us to project announcements, pictures, videos, and to interact with our online community in new ways.

We couldn't do these things without the support of the Larry Wotring Estate, the Memorial Fund – in memory of Larry Pruneski, Phil & Julie Wehr Music Gift, Selig Electric, Entertainment Services Group (Mike and Nate), Jeff and Ronnie Herbine, Ed Normann, Phil Wehr, Pastor Kayli, and our Sound Team. THANK YOU!

See Pastor Kris or Pastor Kayli if you are interested in being a Digital Host on Sunday mornings. You'll get to help with the camera and interact with our online community during worship.



UNION UCC: ENGAGED, RELEVANT, GROWING

Our Steering Without Oars group has been meeting since May 2022. They were the first to step into our boat! In October 2022 we invited 40 more leaders in our church to join us and formed the Leadership Planning Team. We have been meeting almost monthly looking at and creating a vision for God's ministry and mission at Union. In June 2023 we presented all of our work to Consistory who agreed to partner with us in our next steps.

We invite you, beloved church community, to get into the boat with us.

Join us for a congregational forum and special coffee hour on:

Sunday, September 24th at 9:15-10:15am or 11:30am-12:30pm In Memorial Hall

OR Sunday, October 1 at 9:15-10:15am or 11:30am-12:30pm In Memorial Hall

In Mathew 14: 22-31 a storm comes when the disciples are in a boat. Jesus walks on the water toward them and tells them to take heart and not be afraid. Peter challenged Jesus and Jesus invites Peter to walk on water too. Peter got scared and when he began to sink, he asks Jesus to save him and Jesus didn't hesitate. Jesus reached down and grabbed Peter's hand.

This is an exciting time for Union!

It's time to grab Jesus' hand and step out of the boat, together.

We can't wait!

Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller and the LPT/Consistory



PLEASE RETURN THE INFORMATION FORM AND SURVEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

In June members received a letter asking you to complete an information form and survey. If **you haven't returned your form to the church office yet, please do so.**

Your response is important to us. WE NEED EVERYONE TO RESPOND and COMPLETE THE INFORMATION FORM and SURVEY.

Here's the online link to complete it: <https://forms.gle/JEZM4v4EcZ29EktMA>

Or you can contact the church office for additional paper copies to be mailed to you.

Thanks!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Eve - Friday, December 22 at 7pm, Candlelight, Carols, and Communion

Sunday, December 24 – No morning services at 8am or 10:30am

Christmas Eve at 3pm, 5pm, and 8pm Candlelight and Carols, Communion at 3pm and 8pm

Sunday, Dec 31, No 8am worship, 10:30am Worship

Sunday, Jan 7 8am and 10:30 Worship, Communion



HARVEST HOME

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023



Please bring your garden gifts on Sunday morning before either church service. These items will be for our display and then given to people served by the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Suggestions:

Squash
Peppers
Apples

Pumpkins
Tomatoes
Corn

Beets
Potatoes
Pears

Fill up your paper bag with donations to bring anytime before September 24th. Items will go to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Bags will be available at services on 9/10 & 9/17.

Suggestions:

Cereals: Raisin Bran, Cheerios, Wheaties

Pastas: Spaghetti, Penne, Macaroni

Canned Vegetables: Corn, Baked Beans, Olives

Canned Soup: Chicken Noodle, Tomato, Broccoli

Canned Fruit: Peaches, Pears, Baby Formula

Good Stuff: Peanut Butter, Jam, Jello mix

Bakery: Cake Mixes, Brownie Mixes



THANK YOU GOD FOR GIFTS TO ENJOY AND SHARE!

MUM ORDER FORM

Sponsor the purchase of Mums for display. Please an order by filling out the form below. Make checks payable to Union UCC or order on our website under "Give Online" or by clicking [here](#).

Deadline to sponsor is **September 10th**.

- I would like to sponsor # _____ potted Mum(s) for a **HOMEBOUND MEMBER**.
- I would like to sponsor # _____ potted Mum(s) for **DISPLAY**. (You may pick up mums after the 9/24 10:30am service.

I will pick up my mums following the service ☐ YES ☐ NO

Giver
(envelope) # _____

Sponsor's
Name: _____

Total # of Mums _____

x \$7 per Mum =
Total \$ _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Staff Update from Pastor Kris

Congratulations to Carrie, our Pastor of Visitation, for taking the first (big) step of authorization from the Penn Northeast Conference of the UCC!

She has been working hard on writing papers, sermons, and submitting material for the PNEC committee to review and this summer she received approval for lay ministerial standing. She can celebrate the sacraments of baptism and communion without another authorized minister present. More importantly, this is a huge affirmation of her gifts and leadership, which we have the privilege of seeing first hand here.

The next step, to be licensed here and with her position at St. Luke's, will take some more work which she's doing. At her recent PNEC meeting they affirmed her gifts by challenging her to consider the ordination (lay) track as well, which involves more work, but after being licensed she'd be more than half way there. AND, she said, 'yes!'.

Celebrate with her and continue to keep her in your prayers as she serves God here and discerns her call among us. She's doing wonderful work and is an important part of our team here. Thanks Carrie!

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr
Father Rohr offers a new paradigm for understanding one of the most profound of life's mysteries: how our failings can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth. He explores the two halves of life to show that those who have fallen, failed, or gone down are the only ones who understand "up." How do we grow spiritually and know spiritual joys in the midst of it all?

Sessions Fridays from 9:30 to 11am, September 8 and 15, October 6 and 13
Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am, September 10 and 17, October 8 and 15

If you're unable to join us but want to read the books, there are copies available on the table in the lobby or contact Pastor Kris.

Note: In addition to these gatherings there is an adult group that meets on God First Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of the month. The night starts with supper (you can join or skip) at 5:30 with small groups starting at 6:30-7:30pm. See more detailed post. Dates: Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6.

A poster for "GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS" featuring a silhouette of a person with arms raised against a sunset background. The text provides details for the October 4th event, including a timeline of activities from 5:30 to 7:30pm, a sign-up link, and future dates.

GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS
October 4 5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper
6:00-6:30 Children's Choir with Blake
(All kids are welcome but not required.) Non Choir kids hang with Ms. Tiffany and families.
6:30-7:15 Kids with Ms. Tiffany (Parents can join or go with adults.)
Youth Group with Pastor Kayli
Adults with Pastor Kris
7:15-7:30 Worship together

Signup here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-godfirst2>
Or email/text a staff member. Do your best to sign up - but if you miss signing up, just come.

Future Dates: Nov 1, Dec 6, Feb 7, March 6, April 3, May 1
Putting God First on First Wednesdays

Roni Fabian Memorial Fundraiser

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

12:30-2:30



Roni was a beloved member of Union UCC and gave of herself generously to our church community. She fought a courageous battle against breast cancer and now her family and friends are inviting us to participate in a fundraiser in her memory.

With the help of The CHEMO Bag (www.thechemobag.org) we will be assembling CHEMO bags for ADULTS undergoing treatment.

Here's how you can help:

- Donate these items (for Adults) and place them in the box in the lobby: Adult coloring books, Crayons, Bottled water (8 oz.), Ginger, green and peppermint tea, Hard candy and chewing gum, Journal, Knitted (cotton or acrylic) beanie hats, Lap blanket 50" x 60" (adult-type patterns only), Lip balm, Nail Files, Pens, Puzzle Books, Selection of notecards, Thick soft socks, Travel-size hand and body creams, Travel-size hand sanitizer, Travel/purse size tissue.
- Donate financial gifts - checks to "Union UCC" memo line "Roni Fabian." Money will be used by The CHEMO Bag to purchase more supplies in bulk.
- Help assemble the bags on October 15th at church 12:30-2:30.

Sign up here if you'd like to volunteer on Oct 15:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-roni>

**ALL SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS ARE DUE
no later than OCTOBER 1.**

Thank you for helping us celebrate Roni and support others.

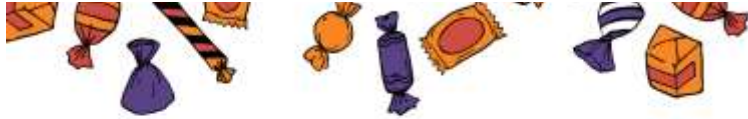


UNION UCC, NEFFS (MEMORIAL HALL)



FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh
Email: dired@unionucc.org



UNION UCC TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN EVENT!

OCTOBER 21, 2023

1 PM - 3 PM

AT UNION UCC GROVE PARKING LOT

JOIN US AND UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHICH IS JUST A SHORT WALK AWAY, FOR A SAFE FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION!

WOULD YOU, YOUR BUSINESS, OR AN ORGANIZATION YOU ARE ASSOCIATED WITH LIKE TO DECORATE A CAR AND BE PART OF THE HALLOWEEN FUN?

REGISTER AT

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10COF4DACA723A7FC1-TRUNK2#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF4DACA723A7FC1-TRUNK2#/)



Back to School Blessing

8/20, 8/27, 9/3 & 9/10

All students, educators, and school employees are invited to bring their backpacks, tote bags, laptop bags, and tool belts to worship for a special blessing to begin the new school year.



SNEAKER STROLL

We will be having our annual Sneaker Stroll to raise money for the local Crop Walk on October 22nd during Sunday School and Children's Church.

Please remember to wear sneakers.

A donation would be greatly appreciated and can be put in an envelope marked Sneaker Stroll.

WALK TO FIGHT HUNGER IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY AND AROUND THE WORLD!

School Supply Drive

We will be collecting school supplies for local students from now until the end of September.

Donations can be dropped off at the church. If you would like to donate using our Target registry (<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/schoolsuppliesneffs>) any items can be delivered directly to the church.

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



JOIN US FOR
OUR SUNDAY
SCHOOL
BLASTOFF
EVENT ON
SEPTEMBER 10TH
AT 9:15AM IN
FELLOWSHIP
HALL

CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED



DO YOU LIKE HAVING FUN?

DO YOU ENJOY INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN?

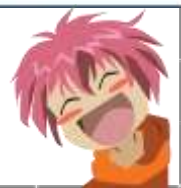
JOIN US!

EMAIL TIFFANY AT [DIRE@UNIONUCC.ORG](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)
TO JOIN THE FUN!

Jokes of the Month

What animal could Noah not trust? Answer: Cheetah

Why did the sponge go to church? Answer: Because it was holy!



Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of someone else." – Judy Garland



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



Back to School!!

Sending love and blessings to all of our students, teachers, custodians, bus drivers, and all school workers and they enter into another year of learning, fun, and friends.

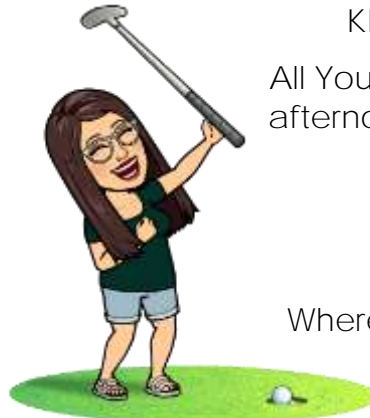


PNEC SLEEP OUT FOR
HOMELESSNESS

When: October 14-15, 2023

Where: UCC Greenawalds,
Allentown

More information to come!
Let Pastor Kayli know if you
are interested



KICK OFF FALL MINI GOLF AND ICE CREAM!

All Youth grades 6th-12th are invited to join us for an afternoon of mini golf and ice cream! Meet us there, play a round, enjoy a treat!

When: September 16, 2023

Time: 2:00pm

Where: Rolling Hills Recreation (4565 Spring Hill Dr,
Schnecksville, PA 18078)

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

Y.A.T. LUNCH AND FUN

All youth are invited to the YAT Lunch and fun! We'll eat yummy food, plan some fun things, and spend time together

When: September 24, 2023

Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

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



**LET'S DO
LUNCH**

SAVE THE DATE

From The Sabbatical Trails

Hi there friends! I have returned from my 4 weeks of Sabbatical rest and I am ready to jump back in! While I was away I had the chance to spend some overdue quality time with my friends and family. I was also able to get to some much overdue reading (I like to collect/buy books and tend to forget about them). I am



grateful for the time to be away and to rejuvenate my soul and spirit. Having the time to be away has helped my mental health and cleared out the cobwebs to bring fresh energy to my ministry here! Words can not express how blessed I feel to be a part of such a wonderful community that allows for their pastors the chance to have times of rest and renewal. Thanks to Pastors Kris and Carrie for holding down the fort, and keeping me in the loop, while I was away. Special thanks to Deana Correll and Eric Minnich for covering our youth gatherings while I was gone as well. Let's get ready for another amazing year of ministry together!

Love and prayers,

Pastor Kayli

From the Mission Committee

Thank you to all who supported the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Neighbors in Need collections this summer. These are annual collections that Union UCC supports every year through OCWM, Our Church's Wider Mission.

Thank you to the Vacation Bible School families who supported the food and toiletries collection. The Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Lehigh Conference of Churches were so grateful for these much-needed donations of peanut butter, jelly, cereal, toothpaste and brushes, soap, and toilet paper. Great job everyone.

Thank you to all who supported the collection of underwear as part of Christmas in July. The variety of underwear for children, teens, and adults was outstanding. Four large boxes of men's socks and underwear were delivered to the Allentown Rescue Mission. Five large boxes of socks and underwear for children and adults for any gender were delivered to the 6th Street Shelter in Allentown. The delivery also included toilet paper, soap, and toothpaste. Both missions were very impressed with our generosity during the summer months.

Thank you from the Northern Lehigh Food Bank for providing various food items for their Summer Kid's Pack program. 120 bags of food were prepared with 25 various food items including soup, cereal, apple sauce, crackers, cookies, mac and cheese, and more. These bags were distributed to children during the month of July.

Toiletries needed

Toiletries are desperately needed for our local mission agencies, every week of the year. Please bring soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper or any toiletries to church and drop off in the shopping cart, or in the blue bin in Memorial Hall. Toiletry items are provided to the NL Food Bank, Lehigh Conference of Churches, 6th Street Shelter and others. Your donations make a difference in the lives of local families.

Pastor Carrie's Corner

Each newsletter I hope to share a thought-provoking or inspirational message to enrich your spiritual journey. Enjoy!

One morning recently, I woke up with this poem in my head. Perhaps you remember it?

Monday's child is fair of face,
 Tuesday's child is full of grace,
 Wednesday's child is full of woe,
 Thursday's child has far to go,
 Friday's child is loving and giving,
 Saturday's child must work for a living,
 But the child that's born on the Sabbath day,
 Is fair and wise and good and gay.

I was born on a Friday. After reading the whole poem, I had a sigh of relief that I wasn't "full of woe," followed by a bit of remorse~ for I can't say my life has been entirely led by "loving and giving." In fact, our minds tend to remember the ugly far quicker than the loving and giving. Regret can be our default I'm afraid, if we aren't careful.

But I give myself grace (as I hope you do for yourselves), for I recognize that I've done the best I could with what I've had to work with and that each new day brings with it the opportunity to make a difference in the world, especially our own.

Those children are *still* a part of us. We've just buried them with all sorts of life drama and trauma. I encourage you to uncover that child. Find your fun, your joy. Laugh out loud. Accept everyone for who they are and what games they bring to life. Be fearless. Embrace the challenges and dive head-first into life. Hug everyone.

And live in love.
Pastor Carrie

Helping Hearts is a group of volunteers who visits with our senior folks who often cannot attend worship or church events. We are always looking for new helpers! It entails visiting 3-4 times a year and delivering flowers and treats provided by the church. We also meet for about an hour prior to each delivery. Would you like to join us? Contact Pastor Carrie, vispas@unionucc.org or 610-297-6569.



Helping Hearts
 Communion Ministers

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.

While everyone's response to loss is unique, people facing loss and grief will experience many of the same challenges. The weekly GriefShare topics address these common struggles—providing valuable tips, encouragement, and direction: loneliness, fear, anger, regret, relationships, hope and much more.

Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation at Union UCC, Neffs and Bob Gutekunst, Pastor of Grace UCC are beginning a GriefShare group on Mondays, September 11-December 11 (no Nov. 27) from 6:30-8pm in the Memory Room on the 2nd floor at Union UCC.

Cost is \$5 at the first meeting. Space is limited so please register early:

<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/172660/registrations/new>

or email Carrie at vispastor@unionucc.org

We look forward to sharing this special ministry with our congregations and the community!

Union UCC 5550 Route 873 Neffs, PA 18065
610-767-6961 www.unionucc.org



Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

From the Property Committee

Where has the Summer gone? Time sure flies by, especially when staying busy, even around the church property. Summer always brings much activity around the property as scheduled repairs, maintenance and upgrades occur.

The annual cleaning of the gutters and inspection and repairs to the slate roof was done in June. The lawn maintenance crew makes a weekly appearance to mow the lawn. around the church. The elevator receives maintenance on a quarterly basis.

Inside the building, our caretakers Ori and Shelly Handwerk have been busy all summer in cleaning all of the rooms, moving all the chairs, tables, and other furniture and then waxing the floors or deep cleaning the rugs. Nice shiny floors and clean rugs are ready for everyone to use this fall, and ultimately make dirty. Thanks of gratitude are in order to Ori and Shelly for their dedication in keeping our building clean.

Outside the building, the painting crews have been busy this past July and August. They are painting the exterior of the sanctuary, bell tower, and corner spires. They are also giving all of the metal railings along the stairs a thorough sanding, then painting with a primer coat and final black coat. The finished railings are looking great. This project is being funded through the Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund.

Finally, five new insulated Pella Windows are being installed in the lower level preschool hallway. This small project is a much-needed upgrade in this area of the building. Well, that's the summer highlights of upgrades and repairs around the Union UCC church property.

Music Opportunities at Union

Matt, Mitchell and I are all resounding with excitement for this upcoming musical season! There are many musical opportunities here at Neffs Union UCC and we need your voices, instruments, and energy to honor God and make our worship more meaningful.

Mitchell Roth is reprising his role again and will be leading and organizing our student musicians on holidays and playing in worship with our choirs, Jazz Ensemble, and for special music.

Our new addition to the musical program is Matt Gerry and in addition to his volunteer work with the Horizon Choir and Jazz Ensemble, as a staff person Matt will lead small group ensembles on holidays and organize our leader musicians.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule:

Kids Choir: Wednesday's @ 6pm (choir rehearsals begin on September 20th)

The following choirs rehearse every Sunday and the rehearsals for each group will begin on September 17th:

Heritage Choir @ 7:15am

Horizon Choir @ 9:15am

High School Choir (8th thru 12th grade) - after the 10:30 service

The Festival Choir will be directed by Matt Gerry and is a special opportunity to join with both vocalists and instrumentalists from the congregation and surrounding community.

Performance Date: November 5th (rehearsals TBD)

If you sing or play an instrument at any level (kids or adults) please feel free to contact our leaders to participate in any of our musical programs.

Contact Info:

Blake Hoppes - Minister of Music (blake.charger@gmail.com)

Matt Gerry - Instrumental Director (mattroni@yahoo.com)

Mitchell Roth - Assistant Instrumental Director (mgroth2005@gmail.com)

Chime choir is also resuming. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Edie Fella at edie.fella@gmail.com.

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 events and luncheon.

Contact the church office if you'd like to receive postcard mailing reminders.

We also collect monthly items for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Oct. 3 is an art project with Rev. Jamison Baxter from Phoebe Ministries.

Future dates: 10/3, 11/7, 12/5

Country Sale?

Save the Date!

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to be on the team!
Here's where we still need your help in making this an awesome day for our church and community.

- Kitchen helpers to prep for the event on Thursday & Friday (days and eves)
- Kitchen helpers at the event on Saturday (7am-2pm, 2-4 hour shifts)
- Bake Sale helpers at the event on Saturday
- Parking Attendants and greeters day of sale 7am to 10:30am (4 people)
- Grill guys (hot dogs and burgers)
- Organize some type of raffle
- Bakers - if you're not already on Pastor Kris's email list, contact her.
- Helpers at conclusion of the event, tear down, trash cans, clean up

Vicki Sorg, Diane Schaller, Claire Kern, Kathy Bonsell, Sheila Nagle, Sherry Penrod, Maryann Puia, Miranda Perloff, Dan & Deb Topp, Phil Wehr, Pam Minnich, Pastor Kris

Women's Pot-Luck Brunch Saturday, October 7th 9am-11am at church, bring a food item to share.

Is anyone interested in helping Pastor Kris host this event? Contact her.

Come to share your work or hobbies and network and connect with each other.

Let's catch up and decompress together.

We'll also talk about some ideas for future events.

Sign up here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-womens2>

or email pastorkris@unionucc.org.

Women's Retreat Weekend

April 12-14, 2024

Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg

Cost: \$175. \$88 deposit due now/before January 1. \$87 balance due March 3.

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 needed of 25 people.

Leader and more Info: Pastor Kris



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN LEHIGH VALLEY MOBILEPACK EVENT MARCH 8-10, 2024



Do you want to help make a difference to children in other parts of the world who don't have enough to eat every day? This meal packing event makes a huge impact.

This is what we need to help make this event happen:

- Help with Financial donations - we need to raise \$30,000 - and most of that we need to raise by the end of December in order to commit to this event. That amount will help us pack 100,000 meals. Can you or someone you know make a donation now? Our event number is 2403-049MI. <https://give.fmssc.org/campaign/2403-049mi-neffs-pa-lehigh-valley/c508364>
- Help with set up and clean before, during and after the event.
- Help with organizing volunteer sign ups and teams.
- Help with keeping track of financial donations and follow up thank you efforts.
- Help with providing meals for the FMSC staff while they are here.
- Help with packing at the event - it's fun, inspiring, and hope-filled.

Here's the team - join us! Hannah Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Eric Minnich, Ron Snyder, Ann Koren, Everett and Eliot Lightner, and Pastor Kris

Contact Eliot Lightner 610-844-8327 FMSCEvent@gmail.com
or Pastor Kris to serve on one of the teams or to make a donation.

UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 3



serving children and families experiencing homelessness

Every child deserves a home.

We need your help hosting families in our church building 4 weeks a year.

- Help with set up and tear down.
- Cook and deliver a supper one night during the week. (5:30-6pm)
- Visit with families, serve supper, and clean up. (5:30-9pm)
- Host overnight (In your own area 8:45pm-6:30am).
- Assist with food shopping during the week.
- Offer financial support through your church donations marked "Family Promise."



Why do I volunteer?

It is a good feeling to know that you have helped to make someone's days a little brighter and lifted their spirits during a challenging time in their lives. - Deb & Fred Sanek

Please contact Kerry Snyder (610) 737-7768 or Rosalie Snyder (610) 597-9302 with questions and to sign up.

Other Steering Team members: Ralph and Connie Gioelli, Dennis Foster, Phil and Julie Wehr, Susan Glosan

Meditation and Prayer Gatherings with Kris Snyder

Looking for some peace and ways to decompress?

We meet by zoom monthly for meditation and prayer.

**Penn Northeast Conference Community
Thursdays at 12noon**

**September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26,
November 9 and 30**

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/811881274837>

pwd=TzdmTFplaXVtMjRQSHY1K1hOdkV2dz09

Meeting ID: 811 8812 7483 Passcode: 348630

NOTE: You can count this as continuing education credits.

OR

Union UCC Community

Tuesdays 7-8pm

September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/876803780467>

pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09

Meeting ID: 876 8037 8046 Passcode: 954906

I'll lead us in various readings, scripture, and prayer practices like breath prayer and centering prayer, as well as meditation practices from the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, Buddhist, and Christian traditions.

Sign up at PastorKris@unionucc.org

You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, whatever your schedule allows.



"A great place to share questions and meet others while I'm working on my relationship with the church."

Faith on Tap

God, Beer, and Conversation

**Korny's Tavern at Kornfeind's Market
2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay**

Watch for the schedule on the Facebook page of our church or Kornfeind's or in Sunday's worship bulletin.

**Cost: Your drink (Beer, Wine, Iced Tea, Water),
FREE Admission Space is limited.**

Led by Joe Kornfeind, the owner of Kornfeind's Market and Business Professor, and Kris Snyder, Senior Pastor at Union UCC in Neffs.



*"What a good night out!
No kids!! And food for the soul."*



"The 401G idea really has me thinking about my spiritual portfolio."

"Thanks for FOT, it's an interesting concept you are exploring."

PNEC Ambassador Corner

PNEC news: Keystone Working Group* – Communications Summary

With the grace of God, we recognize that Together We Are Stronger, The Keystone Conference.

The seventh meeting of the Keystone Working Group* took place Friday, July 14, 2023. Guided by the Spirit, we realized that our **work has moved from being a “study group” to a “working group” as we build a vision of what a Keystone Conference can be.** We have now identified essential functions of a Keystone Conference to support mission, ministry and authorized ministers in diverse settings. These ministry functions are:

Faith Formation	Leadership Training for Pastors and Lay Leaders
Mission	Disaster Ministries
Generosity and Stewardship	Ecumenism
Search and Call	Spiritual Revival
Digital Ministry/Technology Communication	UCC Identity
Congregational Futures	Administrative/Legal/Fiscal Oversight

Together we created a vision for new and stronger ministry. We are now preparing how to engage leaders and congregations in our four conferences this Fall. We will share WHY we are proposing the new Conference and explore WHAT functions we believe will **most enhance our churches’ mission and ministries.** We want to know how **“Together We are Stronger, the Keystone Conference”** rests in our hearts. We also seek your thoughts about the proposed functions.

We invite everyone to visit the Keystone Conference Project website hosted by PSEC. You can read how this project came about, our study information and the summaries for each meeting. <https://psec.org/keystone/>.

We do not have answers for everything. Our work has focused on the WHY and WHAT. We have not yet detailed “HOW will this work?” And there are certainly “What about. . .” issues to consider. So we are counting on your questions and comments in our fall gatherings to strengthen the project. With the grace of God, we will discern next steps affirming, **“Together We Are Stronger, The Keystone Conference.”**

You are invited to connect with us by email, at Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com. You may also use the postal service and direct mailing the Keystone Working Group through your own area Conference Office.

Conversations in Fall 2023 and Winter/Spring 2024 will guide us to a “Mini Synod” of our four conferences, June 6-9, 2024. Save the date for this magnificent opportunity to share, learn and experience what God is doing in and through us all. Outstanding national and regional speakers and leaders will be with us. **We will also provide for video sharing of this “unity conference.” At this gathering we will determine if we stand in agreement to move forward toward being a unified conference in our boundaries and structure.** Our goal is to work toward a resolution for becoming ONE Keystone Conference at the Fall 2024 Conferences. We will share more soon. We recognize through each phase of our work that God is still speaking. We rely on the grace of God in the next steps of our journey in the assurance that **“Together We Are Stronger! The Keystone Conference.”**

*A study, discernment and working group of the 4 PA area UCC Conferences – Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, and Pennsylvania SE. Pastor Kris is a member of this working group.

Wider Church news:

The UCC General Synod met in Indiana 6/30-7/4 2023. **This is a gathering of all the UCC’s, in the US and the world, which meets every (2) years to offer up and pass resolutions, elect officers and carry out the business of the wider church.** After 2025, they will meet every (3) years because of a By-laws change that passed by only one vote!

Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson was elected as General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ. Of note is the fact that she is the first woman to be elected to lead the UCC, and not only the first woman, but the first woman of African descent!

Many resolutions were passed including support for public school educators, academic freedom, & equity efforts in schools, taking a stand against book banning, curriculum restrictions, and teacher harassment; Calling on UCC congregations to commit to harm reduction practices & building communities of compassionate care & partnership with people with lived experience of substance abuse. There was an update on the Racial Equity Task Force and the Youth focused on homelessness and food insecurity with hands-on activities. If interested in learning more about the above and other resolutions, etc. you can find info at www.ucc.org/news.

*Excerpted from the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ brochure

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. As your PNEC Ambassador, I want to help Union members feel more connected to the Conference and the wider church.



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

Leonard Chowansky passed on August 12, 2023. Services were held on August 18, 2023 at Harding Funeral Home.

Jeffrey Kuhns passed on August 19, 2023. Services were held on August 26, 2023 at Union Church Cemetery.

The Burdick family wishes to thank our church family for the many cards and kind expressions of sympathy on the passing of our beloved father and husband Lou.

July Baptism



Lyla Lee Seymour pictured with parents, Jillian and Keith Seymour and brother Landon

Dear Members of our Church Family,

As fiscal year 2023 came to a close on June 30, 2023, we are once again humbled to witness the generosity, support and unwavering commitment you have shown to Union UCC for yet another year. Spreading God's love is a great business to be in, and thanks to you, we are able to do just that. It is a comfort knowing that you are partnering with us as we move our church family forward, and step into what God is calling us to do next. With deep and sincere gratitude, we thank you for being you, for being here, for being present, and for supporting our work to come! We can't wait to see where the spirit moves us in the next fiscal year.

Sincerely,

The Financial Leadership Team:

John Harting, Brian Horwith, Marianne Kitzmiller,
Laura Kohler, Don Penrod, Pastor Kris Snyder
Larry Todd, Phil Weir

Union UCC Staff

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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 Lakatos	ext. 27
Barbara Carinci	ext. 32
Music Office	ext. 26



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)	\$39,850.00	\$35,168.00
Income	\$37,413.00	\$4,234.00	\$41,647.00
Expenses	\$32,853.00	\$13,706.00	\$46,559.00
7-31-2023	(\$122.00)	\$30,378.00	\$30,256.00

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

Donate, Recycle and Help Your Church

As you are cleaning out closets and cabinets be sure to keep Union UCC in mind. Bring your donations at any time to the bin in our grove. The church receives a certain amount of money for each pound that is donated. Items that are usable are resold or recycled. You are also helping to save the amount of things that end up in a landfill by donating your items this way. Recycle Local's goal is to help agencies have 0% waste.

Items accepted include: clean and dry clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, towels, drapes, pillow cases and stuffed animals. Place all items in plastic bags. NO furniture, rags, pillows, toys, or household goods.

This is one more way to give and support the mission and ministry of God's church at Union UCC. Thank you.

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. They 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 We encourage you to make a deeper commitment to your faith by joining us as a member. The next new member gatherings are **Thursday, October 12 at 7-8pm OR Sunday, October 15 at 9:15am-10:15am in Memorial Hall (Coffee Hour).** You will be received as a new member on Sunday, October 22 in worship. This time together is a great chance to share your questions and meet some other members. You only need to attend one of the sessions. Contact Pastor Kris PastorKris@unionucc.org to sign up or if you have schedule conflicts.

Baptism We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month when we meet in person. Our next dates are Sunday, **September 17, 2023 and November 12, 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.

Because of YOU our church changes lives....

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

- **ELECTRONIC GIVING** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)
- **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"
- **Mobile Giving** Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
- **Cash or checks (to "Union UCC")** Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person. Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.



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Venmo