

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor
Tiffany Lakatos, Faith Formation Minister of Children
Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation
Mr. Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music

Marissa Haney, Church Administrator
Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager
Payge Haydt Sunday Set-up
Hannah and Ryleigh Minnich Sunday Set-up
Bryce and Luke Thrash, Night Lock-up
Shelly & Ori Handwerk, Facility Caretakers

CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President: Eric Minnich, VP: Don Penrod, Secretary: Janice Metzger, Treasurer: Marianne Kitzmiller

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

To share a prayer request you may use the yellow prayer slips found in the racks in your seats and place in offering plate or submit [online here](#).

Medical

Barbara, Diane, Jamie, Marlene, Dorothy, Susie, Linda, Maria, mother with dementia, Elaine, continued recovery for mom, Jerry for healing with cancer, a coach and dad battling brain cancer, a friend with a brain tumor, baby Joseph, Elaine, Jocelyn's speedy recovery, Beth and family as she fights cancer, a friend on hospice, Deb surgery, Joyce, Joe, Ian, Beverly, Donna

General

Josh in the Air Force training, Dylan in the Navy, Gabe in the Army, God's help to not let our disadvantages overpower our Advantages, Aaron & Steph for God's light, blessings to the girls, safe travels for my son & daughter-in-law moving to FL, sister for trust and faith, Abby, Stella, and Lucas for healing and strength, the Liscka Family, for patience with my students, Parents health, answered prayers, peace and comfort received, Landon, Elaine

If you are in the hospital, please notify a pastor or church office, or ask a family member to do so. Please be sure to give the hospital our church code (511). If we missed you during your hospital stay, let us know 610-767-6961.

November Worship

Worship on Sundays is at 8am and 10:30 am
All worship services are in person and streamed online.

NOV 5 **Festival Choir, Organ, Brass, Timpani and More!** Matt Gerry and Blake Hoppes will be leading our choir, a community choir and several other musicians to fill the sanctuary with music today. It will fill your spirit with joy and hope, don't miss it.

NOV 12 **Veterans Sunday, 10:30 Baptism** Today we remember and celebrate our Veterans as well as those in active duty. A medley of songs from each branch of the military will be played to honor your service. We will invite you to stand during your song, or family members can stand on your behalf. Names have been collected through the years, if you are new and would like to be added, please contact the church office.

NOV 19 **Stewardship Sunday with the Financial Leadership Team**

NOV 26 **Thanksgiving Sunday**

DEC 3 **First Sunday of Advent, Communion**



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS In the tradition of giving gifts to friends and loved ones, our church has traditionally expressed our love and appreciation for our hard-working pastors and staff by presenting each with a monetary gift. If you'd like to share in this gift, please send a check payable to Donna Christman at 5820 PA Rte 873, Slatington, PA 18080 and mail to her at **no later than Sunday, Dec 17**. You may also place it in the Church and Ministry mailbox near the church office. Any questions, email Donna at dec12221@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Meditation and Prayer Gatherings with Pastor Kris
Looking for some peace and ways to decompress?
We meet by zoom monthly for meditation and prayer.

Union UCC Community

Tuesdays 7-8pm

September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12

Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJlOVENCdWJlBzRpb0VlUT09)

pwd=QmozYWJFemJlOVENCdWJlBzRpb0VlUT09

Meeting ID: 876 8037 8046 Passcode: 954906

OR

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/81188127483?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81188127483?pwd=TzdmTFp1aXVlMjRlQm91K1hOdKv2dz09)

pwd=TzdmTFp1aXVlMjRlQm91K1hOdKv2dz09

Meeting ID: 811 8812 7483 Passcode: 348630

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.

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

Upcoming dates: 11/7 & 12/5

BREATHE

Catch your breath with this new and unique time of evening prayer, reflection, quiet, and music. This monthly gathering on Tuesday nights will give you time to rediscover calm and peace.

7pm-8pm on Tuesdays in the Sanctuary
November 21, December 19
Led by Pastor Kris, Roni Gerry, and Carrie Beleno

Christmas in Neffs

Lights in the Grove Saturday, Dec 2 3-5pm

Free - donations of hats and gloves for agencies accepted. Crafts, Snacks and Hot Chocolate, Letter and Picture with Santa Drive by, walk around, enjoy the lights all season!

Parkland Chorale Concert Sunday, December 10 at 7pm

Friday, Dec 22 Christmas Eve Eve Worship at 7pm
Sunday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 3pm, 5pm, & 8pm
Carols, Candles, & Communion

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? Brian D. McLaren. In looking at other religions McLaren proposes ways to create benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility going beyond tolerance by encouraging vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with others.

***Watch the bulletin for dates where we hope to meet with other faith leaders and visit other faith communities. Anyone can join us.**

Sessions Fridays from 9:30 to 11am- Nov 3, Nov 10

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am - Oct 29, Nov 5, 12

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.

Have you wanted to learn about other religions?

Pastor Kris is organizing various trips to visit other places of worship. RSVP to her if you are interested in joining her, everyone is welcome. Watch for additional dates and places.

Friday, December 8th Congregation Keneseth Israel (A Jewish Community)
2227 W Chew St. Allentown, PA 18104 (near Muhlenberg)

<https://www.kilv.org/>

Arrive there at 6:15 for an introduction to Judaism and to learn about the service, 7:30 service, followed by snacks. RSPV to Pastor Kris no later than Sunday, Dec 3.

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and 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.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the congregational gatherings. Your participation and feedback is so helpful as we discern God's path for us here at Union.

We looked at the results from our miracle question: If we could flip a switch and a miracle would occur at Union where our dreams and God's dream would come true for God's church here what task, initiative, or programs should we be doing for the next 1-3 years? No limitations!

We had over 2 pages of response and the 4 top initiatives are:

Memorial Hall Renovation, Mental Health Ministry, Youth Safe Space, Van

Your feedback confirmed our call to work on these initiatives and affirmed our core values of extravagant welcome, spiritual growth, and being open and affirming.

Watch for more info on stepping out of the boat together with Jesus!

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





How can you help change lives with us? Electronic Giving use the Vanco QR code with your cell phone. FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app - Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.

Venmo @unionuccneffs Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?" See QR code.



Vanco

Cash or checks (to "Union UCC") Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) on Sundays or drop in the mail if you're not in person.

Contact the church office or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts.



Venmo

Union UCC: Relevant, Engaged, and Growing...Because of YOU!

PNEC Ambassador Corner

Items of interest from the PNEC:

The Fall meeting of the Penn Northeast Conference took place on 11/4/23. The meeting revolved around the work of the Keystone Study/Work Group. This group has been meeting for the past year to discern the future direction of the four PA Conferences of the United Church of Christ. There are 4-6 members of each Conference who make up the team in addition of the four Conference Ministers. Pastor Kris is one of the members of the team. The discernment has led to the idea and further study of the formation of one PA Conference, the Keystone Conference. Look for more detailed information about this process and the upcoming timeline in December's newsletter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, Janice Metzger, 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.



Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley HOLIDAY HOPE CHEST

Fill a wrapped shoebox with suggested items and bring to church by Nov. 19th. See the table in the foyer for gift suggestion sheets and nametags on Nov. 5th and Nov. 12th. If you are unable to pickup the information you can register for a box at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DAC A723A7FC1-45154949-holiday#/>



Get your
Miracle on 34th
Street tickets now!

DECEMBER 3, 2017
PM
N. WYLLIE PLAZA
K. M. BETHLEHEM

SOLD OUT

Ticket prices
Make checks payable to "Papayhouse" and put them in Carrie's
mailbox with your name, phone, number of tickets, and if you will be
joining us for dinner on the envelope.

Join us on the way home (5:30pm) at Assante Restaurant in
Northampton. Dinner cost not included in ticket price.

Our group tickets have sold out. But you can call the theater directly to see if there are other tickets available.

[https://
www.paplayhouse.org/](https://www.paplayhouse.org/)

If you want to join us for dinner, contact Pastor Carrie.

And feel free to support Carrie by attending another night if Dec 3 doesn't work for you.

Confirmation Fall Retreat 2023

All Youth (grades 9th thru 12th) are invited to join us and help Pastor Kayli lead this year's confirmation class fall retreat! No need to stress...just come, be a leader, and have fun!

Lunch & Snacks provided

When: November 18, 2023

Time: 9:30am-4pm

Where: Grove (unless it rains)

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-confirmation2>



Or Scan the QR code

Reverse Advent Calendar

We will, again, be handing out baskets and advent calendars on 11/12 and 11/19 to interested families. The idea is to put something in the basket each day of Advent. If you are unable to pick up a basket we encourage you to sign up online using the link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-45155267-reverse#/> and use your own basket,

bag, or box and put in items each day of Advent. Please bring the filled basket back to church between Christmas Eve and January 1st and we will deliver your donations to the food bank. .

"Open Sunday School"

Need some place to chill during education hour?

Youth 8th thru 12th grade are invited to join us for a youth dedicated time just for them in the Youth Room

Dates: Nov. 12 & Dec 10





Building a Weis future

Scan here to register!



Help your school earn a share of \$500,000

Do you shop at Weis? You can help the preschool earn funds EVERY time you shop simply by signing up and linking your rewards card. Register online at weis4school.com once registered, the preschool will start earning a share of the \$500,00 Weis donates to participating schools.



Lights in the Grove

Saturday, December 2nd

3-5pm

Raindate, Sunday, December 3rd

FREE ADMISSION

DONATE HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES FOR THE 6TH ST SHELTER

- CRAFTS FOR EVERYONE
- HOT CHOCOLATE AND SNACKS
- CHRISTMAS MUSIC
- SANTA! BRING YOUR LETTER OR WRITE ONE HERE.

ENJOY THE LIGHTS THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Union UCC

5550 Route 873 Neffs

SPONSORS LARRY, PHIL, AND JULIE WEHR LIGHTS BY CHRISTMAS DECOR



Women's Retreat Weekend

New date and location!

April 26-28, 2024

Tuscarora Retreat Center, Mt. Bethel

<https://www.tuscarora.org/>

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.

Only 30 spots available!

It's always a great time away.

Leader: Pastor Kris

Planning Team: Donna Christman, Diane Schaller, Julie

Johnson, Sue Steinmann, Val Borman, Julie Wehr

Grief is harder around the holidays Know how to deal with the challenges

Facing this season while grieving can sometimes feel like taking one step forward and two steps back. This "Surviving the Holidays" event will prepare you to navigate the season's changes.

Offered through the GriefShare program for those who have lost a loved one,

Pastor Carrie will be leading this 2-hour event on

Monday, December 11, 6-8pm OR

<https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/49888/registrations/new>

Tuesday, December 12, 10am-noon

<https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/49902/registrations/new>

Registration is required (only one session) by December 1. Materials fee of \$10 can be paid to Carrie or the church office, or at the event.

(Checks made payable to Union UCC)

Roni Fabian Chemo Bag Event Follow Up and Thank You

Through all of your generous contributions, we raised over \$7,500, collected over 5,000 items, and assembled 400 bags for The CHEMO Bag, Inc. on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Thanks to all of your wonderful support, these bags will be distributed over the next few months to local infusion centers to aid cancer patients going through treatment. My family and I were grateful for the opportunity to put such an event together and honor my mother in a similar way that she always helped others - through giving. Thank you, also, to those of you who donated your time and assisted with the assembly process. You all blew our initial expectations out of the water, and for that we are all filled with gratitude. Many thanks - Shelby Fabian

Let's Build A Team!

Have you seen the newest addition in our sanctuary? These new screens are a great way to enhance our worship experience, as well as special occasions in the sanctuary. In order to have the best possible usage, we need a team of dedicated people to help us run the system. The more people who help, the better used the system will be!

If you want to join this team and learn the projection system contact Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org) or Pastor Kris (pastorkris@unionucc.org).

Teamwork make the dreamwork!



New Members from Pastor Kris

New members come to us with a variety of faith experiences and backgrounds as well as a variety of interests, passions, and schedules. Maybe you have been visiting us or other churches for a long time and are still wondering if this is a fit or the right time to make a commitment to join us formally. Or maybe you visited here a few times and knew right away this is your place.

In our effort to honor this diversity, we'd like to offer you a few options of continuing this conversation.

1. You can join as a member at any time. Complete the information form (attached or use the link) and return it to the office or to me. Reach out to me to schedule a time to meet. We can then welcome you as a new member on whatever Sunday you choose at your convenience.

2. The other option (or in addition to the first option) is to attend a new member gathering. This is a chance to meet with me and with other members and hear why they love their church and love to serve God here.

Watch the Sunday worship bulletin and the monthly newsletter for future new member gathering dates. There is typically one session on a weeknight and one session on a Sunday morning from which to choose.

We hope both options will give you a chance to meet some new friends, get some more information about us, and ask your questions.

To let us know you are interested, please complete this information form by using this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawlmYeZ-g/viewform>

Or you can contact the office for a paper copy.

We want to do whatever we can to support you in your spiritual journey here and in the community.

Please let me know where you are in your discernment and how I can support you. Call or email me anytime.

Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next date is **Jan 14**. There is a pre-baptism zoom session with the pastor the week before. Sign up by calling the church office at 610-767-6961 or emailing Marissa Haney at administrator@unionucc.org. The pastors will work with you if the scheduled dates are a conflict.

Hearing Assistance System: We have a wireless system on a table, as you enter from the lobby foyer. Please see an usher or a sound team person to assist you. You will need a receiver pack (turn it on) and ear piece (if you don't have a hearing aid) or a t-coil cord (if you have a hearing aid that is t-coil compatible.) Plug this into the receiver. At the end of worship, please return both pieces to the table and place the receiver back into the charger. Thank you to the Schlosser Family & Funds of Lasting Gifts for supporting this effort.

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