

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**



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Faith on Tap

Korny's Tavern
at Kornfeind's Market
2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay
Wednesday, Nov 15 6:30-8:30pm

Sign up if you can, or just join us!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-45235836-fotnov>

Park in the back of the store and enter from there.

Cost: Your drink (Beer, Wine, Iced Tea, Soda, Water) Complimentary Kornfeind's Food

God. Conversation. Food & Drink.

Hosted by **Joe Kornfeind**, Owner Kornfeind's Market and Business Professor, and **Kris Snyder**, Senior Pastor, Union UCC, Neffs and other guests.



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 Eve Worship at 7pm

Sunday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 3pm, 5pm, & 8pm

Carols, Candles, & Communion



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





GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, Nov 1
5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper
Menu: Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad

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

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-45236192-godfirst#>

Or email/text a staff member. Do your best to sign up - but if you miss signing up, just come.

Future Dates: Dec 6, Feb 7, March 6, May 1 (No Jan or April)
Putting God First on First Wednesdays

INFORMATION FORM AND SURVEY

Second letters were sent to those who have not yet responded to our information form that was mailed to all members in June. This form includes letting us know about your membership status and offers a chance for you to participate in a survey.

Please respond by November 26, 2023 and complete the form either by using the online link provided or by completing a paper copy and returning it to the church.

If you do not want to complete the survey portion that's fine, but please complete the information part of the form and check off your membership status.

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

Paper copies are available in the lobby on Sundays or you can contact the church office for additional paper copies to be mailed to you. Thank you for your help.

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.



Adult Faith Formation Classes with 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: Nov 1, Dec 6.

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- Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, Nov 10

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am - Oct 22, 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.

From the Northern Lehigh Food Bank

Thank you to everyone at Union United Church of Christ for your generosity in providing food, groceries, financial support, and volunteer support to the food bank on a regular basis all year long. Your church, along with ten other local churches, created the Northern Lehigh Food Bank over thirty years ago, and you continue to lead and oversee our operation. Our goal continues to be to provide food, groceries, toiletries, and more to families in need in the Northern Lehigh area. We currently serve approx. 200 local families each month.

We are grateful for your donations, along with those from all of the churches, scout troops, 4-H clubs, mail carriers, service clubs like the Lion's, & Jaycee's, local businesses and individuals of the community.

The Northern Lehigh Food Bank is a member of Second Harvest Food bank, who provides the majority of the food which we distribute, funded through Federal and State programs.

We are also blessed with weekly donations of food, groceries, toiletries, school supplies and pet supplies from the following local businesses. We thank them for their generosity and support of our mission to nourish local families.

Weis Markets - Schnecksville
Giant Food Stores - Walnutport
Dunkin Donuts - Walnutport
Crystal Spring Farms - Schnecksville
Wawa Stores - Wescosville
Target Store - Cedar Crest
Chic-fil-A - Trexlertown
Whole Foods - Trexlertown
Helping Hands Ministry - Emerald
Egypt Star Bakeries

The families that we serve are grateful for all that we provide to them each month, thanks to a large group of people who work behind the scenes every day, every week, every month.

Blessings to all.

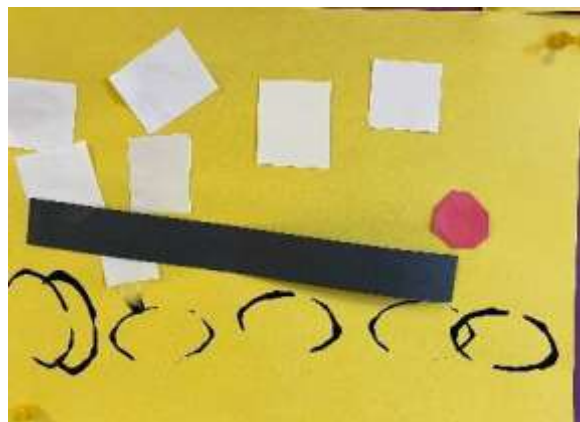
Golden Times

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 (No January)



October leaves are changing colors as we learn about the seasons and the weather in our 4-year-old program. We go “down on the farm” with our 3’s, complete with a trip to Valley Fruits and Veggies. Our Pre-K students took a look to the night skies as we studied the solar system. Mid-month, families joined us for a fun Open House where they had an opportunity to check out art work, learn more about our curriculum and sign-up for parent-teacher conferences. All of our students learned about fire safety as we began practicing fire drills with each class; the students did an amazing job walking “quickly and quietly” out of the building and to our safe space. The teachers had additional safety training as we hosted the Pennsylvania State Police for a review of our safety protocols and an active shooter training. We will wrap up a busy October with our traditional Halloween parties and Costume Parade. A sampling of this month’s art work:





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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.

ALL AGES PIZZA AND PAINT

November 12th
11:45-3:30pm
in Fellowship Hall

Register at
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-allages1>



FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: dired@unionucc.org

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. .

Merry Grinchmas Christmas Celebration December 17th at 9:15am



Children age 3 to 7th grade and their parents/guardians are invited to join us!

Everyone is invited to wear their pajamas to this event.

This will be a great morning of fun, games, snacks, and special surprises.

Please register by 12/10/23

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

Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley Holiday Hope Chest

Fill a wrapped shoebox with gloves, activity books, gift cards, puzzles, and other age-appropriate items. Each box should be valued at \$25. Please bring it 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 pick up the information you can register for a box at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-45154949-holiday>

KIDS NIGHT OUT

DECEMBER 9TH 5-8PM

Kids age 4 to 10 are invited to join Ms. Tiffany and helpers for a fun night of food, crafts, and activities.

There is a \$5 charge per kid to help cover the cost of supplies and food.

Register at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-kids2>
or email Ms. Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org.



IT'S OFFICIAL, OUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 9:15AM IN MEMORIAL HALL.

ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO BE PART OF THIS FUN PROGRAM.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO BE PART OF THE FUN AT

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-44587](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-44587444-CHILDRENS#/)

444-CHILDRENS#/
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-44587444-CHILDRENS#/>



Union UCC, Neff's Youth Group

"You must always have faith in people. And most importantly, you must always have faith in yourself." -Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon). Legally Blonde



November 2023 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

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



SAVE THE DATE!!

Lights In the Grove!

Saturday December 2, 2023

3pm-5pm

(rain date December 3)

Join us for a time to light up the grove and kick off the holiday season!



God First Wednesday

November 1, 2023

5:30pm-7:30pm

Join us for a meal and

fellowship, followed by a time dedicated just for Youth in the Youth room!

"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



PNEC Ambassador Corner

We will celebrate our partnership and covenant with the PNEC on November 19th. Unity is the key to vitality. Please join us then.

The annual Fall meeting of the PNEC is November 4th. All four PA Conferences will be present to discuss the work of the Keystone Study/Work Group which has been meeting to discern if they should merge into one Conference, the Keystone Conference. Watch for a summary of the meeting in next month's newsletter.

All that happens at the Conference level and all that is provided cannot be fully covered here. For those who would like to know more, the PNEC maintains a strong media presence, check them out!

Website: pnec.org

You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@PNEC-ee4fg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Pennnortheast/>

Weekly newsletter: <https://pnec.org/this-week-in-pnec/>

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.

RAISE SOME DOUGH

Help support us!

25% of sales will benefit
Feed My Starving Children of the Lehigh Valley

November 4, 2023
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT
2669 MacArthur Rd, Whitehall, PA

In Cafe • Drive-Thru • Pick-Up • Delivery
Enter promo code FUND4U at online checkout.

Panera
FUNDRAISING



Get your Miracle on 34th Street tickets now!

DECEMBER 3, 2023

3:00 PM

**PENNSYLVANIA PLAYHOUSE
ILICK'S MILL RD. BETHLEHEM**

Ticket price: \$22

Make checks payable to "PA Playhouse" 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.

Carrie Beleno, our Pastor of Visitation, is directing "Miracle on 34th Street" at the Pennsylvania Playhouse on Illick's Mill Rd. in Bethlehem. We have reserved a block of seats for the December 3rd show, 3pm. Discounted tickets are \$22 each. We would like to meet up at Assante Restaurant in Northampton on the way home (5:30pm). Please let us know if you are interest in the show and dinner so we can reserve seating, or just the show. Dinner cost will be on your own. Looking forward to a little Christmas "Miracle" and fellowship!

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



Christmas



MISSION OFFERINGS

from the Mission Committee



THIS YEAR THE CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERINGS WILL BE DIVIDED TO THE SIXTH STREET SHELTER IN ALLENTOWN AND WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN. PLEASE SUPPORT THESE TWO MISSION ORGANIZATIONS BY USING THE CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING ENVELOPE IN YOUR ENVELOPE PACKET, OR BLANK ENVELOPE MARKED - CHRISTMAS MISSION, OR ELECTRONICALLY. THANK YOU.



Sixth Street Shelter



Located in Center City Allentown, Sixth Street Shelter provides safe, short-term housing for families who are experiencing homelessness of any configuration and size, this includes mothers, fathers, girls, boys, multi- generational families, or those from the LGBTQ+ community.

The Sixth Street Shelter is a program of Community Action Lehigh Valley. Their goal is to assist families with secure housing through family-centered services, in-house programming, and referrals to community resources. They help guests grow as an individual and a family unit, increase academic progress, find work, find affordable housing, so they can be successful when they leave.

The property has 25 private apartments, a family resource center, playground, and full-choice food pantry for residents.



World Central Kitchen

World Central Kitchen is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters. Founded in 2010 by chef Jose' Andres, its operation is to be a first responder and then to collaborate and find solutions with local chefs to solve the problem of hunger, immediately following a disaster.

Since its founding, they have organized meals in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Zambia, Peru, Cuba, Uganda, The Bahamas, Cambodia, Ukraine, Puerto

★ Rico, the United States, and most recently Morocco, Turkey, Syria, and Hawaii. In August 2023, World Central Kitchen set up kitchens in Maui in relief of those in Lahaina and West Maui who lost family members, businesses and homes. They provided over 6000 meals per day with the help of volunteers.



Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

Enjoy some coffee, tea, juice, hot chocolate, and snacks on Sundays in Memorial Hall after both worship services.

Upcoming hosts include:

Nov 5– Mission Committee

Nov 12– Consistory

Nov 19– Financial Leadership Team

Nov 26– Sunday Staff

2024 Envelope packets

Envelope packets for 2024 will be ready for pick up starting Sunday Nov 19 .Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs. Memorial Hall will be open every Sunday in November and December, and the Christmas Eve dates.

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2024, everyone gets new numbers each year. Members who use the e-giving program do not receive envelope packets.

Thank you for your continued support by dropping in the collection plates on Sundays or mailing in your envelopes to the church office. Your financial support is greatly appreciated to continue the many and varied missions and ministries of Union UCC.

The Financial Leadership Team

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.



Vanco



Venmo

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 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



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.

Consider volunteering and helping us host these families as they get back on their feet. Please keep Family Promise, the families, and all of the volunteers from all of the hosting faith communities in your prayers.

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/81188127483?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81188127483?pwd=TzdmTFplaXVtMjRQSHY1K1hOdKvZdz09)

pwd=TzdmTFplaXVtMjRQSHY1K1hOdKvZdz09

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/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09)

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.



NOVEMBER 19 is Stewardship Sunday in Worship Led by Pastor Kris and the Financial Leadership Team

Dear Union Community,

The work of our church can happen because of the generous financial and volunteer support of our community. **Because of you, our congregation changes lives.**

My gift to our congregation grows from my appreciation of the lives we touch. Generosity in all its forms comes as my expression of gratitude for this community. I hope you will join me in making a commitment to give this coming year.

While there are many ways to support the congregation, in the coming weeks we ask everyone to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of God's church here at Union. **Please join us on Sunday, November 19 at 8am and 10:30am** as we pray and worship together giving God thanks for the chance to change lives with our generosity and God's spirit.

God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our church and community!

Thank you for walking alongside me as a part of Union UCC, Pastor Kris

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.

October 16, 2023, Consistory Actions:

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.

Approvals:

- Request for funds from FOLG a Labyrinth rug, painting Room 100, Mission, and Marketing campaign
- Request from Pastor Kayli for funds to attend the Youth Forum at Princeton in person
- Request for funds from the Memorial fund to replace the AED
- Approval for new members being received 10/29:
Craig and Betsy Knauss, Doug Brace, Deb Ross, Rob & Sandy Cahill, and Kim & Sean Fleuso, Aubrey & Madison

All of the above were approved unanimously.



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

Janice Liska passed on October 15, 2023. Services were held on October 19, 2023 at Union UCC.



Union UCC Staff

Rev. Kris P. Snyder
Senior Pastor
Cell Phone: 610-657-6007
pastorkris@unionucc.org

Rev. Kayli Freeman
Associate Pastor
pastorkayli@unionucc.org

Carrie Beleno
Pastor of Visitation
vispastor@unionucc.org

Tiffany Lakatos
Faith Formation Minister for
Children & Families
dired@unionucc.org

Marissa Haney
Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org

Blake Hoppes
Minister of Music
Blake.charger@gmail.com

Ori Handwerk
Facility Caretaker
Caretaker@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci
Financial Manager
financialmanager@unionucc.org

Church Office:
610-767-6961
Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66,
5550 Route 873
Neffs PA 18065-0066
www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:
610-767-5327
prechool@unionucc.org
Director: Annette Wilcox

Church Telephone
Extension Directory
610-767-6961

Pastor Kris	ext. 24
Pastor Kayli	ext. 25
Marissa Haney	ext. 21
Tiffany Lakatos	ext. 27
Barbara Carinci	ext. 32
Music Office	ext. 26



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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	\$120,397.00	\$10,567.00	\$130,964.00
Expenses	\$104,928.00	\$24,465.00	\$129,393.00
9-30-2023	\$10,787.00	\$25,952.00	\$36,739.00

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.

New Member Sessions We encourage you to make a deeper commitment to your faith by joining us as a member. Contact Pastor Kris PastorKris@unionucc.org to sign up. See page 14 for more information.

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.

Baptism We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next dates are Sunday, November 12, 2023 and January 14, 2024. There is a pre-baptism zoom session with a 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.

Weddings To begin the process of scheduling your pre-marriage sessions and wedding at church/a venue and/or with one of the pastors call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Marissa Haney at administrator@unionucc.org.

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.

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.