

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 10, 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, continued recovery for mom, a coach and dad battling brain cancer, a friend with a brain tumor, baby Joseph, Jocelyn's speedy recovery, Beth and family as she fights cancer, a friend on hospice, Deb surgery, Joyce, Joe, Ian, Beverly, Donna, Jerry and Michele going through treatment, good results for mom Elaine, Tony, Lucy, Darlene and Dennis, Ronnie, Jack, Logan, Brad, Sharon with spinal surgery, Logan for a full Recover, Audrey in hospice, mom having surgery, good test results for a son

General

Josh in the Air Force training, Dylan in the Navy, Gabe in the Army, Aaron & Steph for God's light, blessings to the girls, for patience with my students, Parents health, answered prayers, peace and comfort received, Landon, Elaine, for peace on earth, mom and dads health, sister for healing and strength, depression, anxiety, and illness in my family, positive results for Abby and kids, Ryan & family, Katherine & family, Sheila, Matt, Sharon, blessing on birth of grandson Drew Michael, safe travels, Suzanne and family on the loss of Russ, Ryan's family grieving his passing, prayers for all with mental health challenges, brother-in-law and family and neighbor on the loss of their spouses during the holiday, prayers and healing for family member who lost their way, students taking exams and complete their master's degrees, family friend who recently lost his mother, Rose, Jack

December and Christmas Eve Worship at Union UCC

The gift of being present...

Sunday Worship 8am and 10:30am in church and online

December 3 Communion, 1st Sunday of Advent

December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

Parkland Chorale Concert Sunday, December 10 at 7pm

December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

Friday, Dec 22 Christmas Eve Eve Eve Worship at 7pm

Carols, Candles, Communion

December 24 - No Morning Services

Sunday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship

3pm Carols, Candles, & Communion

5pm Carols & Candles

8pm Carols, Candles, & Communion

December 31 10:30am Worship Only

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

IN THE TRADITION OF GIVING GIFTS OUR CHURCH HAS TRADITIONALLY EXPRESSED OUR LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR PASTORS AND STAFF BY PRESENTING THEM WITH A GIFT AT CHRISTMAS.

IF YOU'D SHARE IN THIS GIFT, PLEASE SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO DONNA CHRISTMAN AT 5820 PA RTE 873 SLATINGTON, PA 18080 AND MAIL BY DEC 17.

OR PLACE IT IN THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY MAILBOX AT CHURCH. THANK YOU!

DONNA CHRISTMAN @DEC12221@HOTMAIL.COM

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
December 19**

Led by Pastor Kris, Roni Gerry, and Carrie Beleno

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=QmozYWJFemJlOVENCdWJ8bzRpbDVIUT09)

[pwd=QmozYWJFemJlOVENCdWJ8bzRpbDVIUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJlOVENCdWJ8bzRpbDVIUT09)

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=TzdmTFplaxVtMjRQSHY1K1hOdkV2dz09)

[pwd=TzdmTFplaxVtMjRQSHY1K1hOdkV2dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81188127483?pwd=TzdmTFplaxVtMjRQSHY1K1hOdkV2dz09)

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.

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am- Dec 1, 8, 15

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am – Dec 3, 10, 17

No Class Dec 22/24, Dec 29/31, Jan 5/7

Right Here, Right Now by Amy G. Oden – This book will compliment the worship theme on Sundays for advent as we look at the gift of being present. We will learn about the practice of Christian mindfulness as well as develop our own practices. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

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: Dec 6, Feb 7, March 6, May 1 (No Jan or April).

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.



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.

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



Venmo

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



Contributions that are to be credited for 2023 MUST BE RECEIVED at the church office by December 31, 2023. Contributions received after that date will be credited to 2024.

2024 Envelope packets may be picked up in Memorial Hall, please pick up packets for family and friends, do not use envelopes until 2024.

Thank you.



Wawa Shorti (six-inch sandwich) gift cards will be sold after each service in December. They are \$6.00 a piece and make great stocking stuffers! Each gift card sold raises enough money to feed a child for a week.

To support our event by check be sure to include our event number **2403-043MI**. You can also give online at <https://give.fmssc.org/campaign/2403-049mi-neffs-pa-lehigh-valley/c508364>. With enough support we will be packing meals March 8-10th! Please contact Eliot Lightner with any questions. (610) 844-8327

Poinsettia Order Form

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023
\$8.00 EACH

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____ PLANTS FOR THE HOME BOUND

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____ PLANTS FOR THE SANCTUARY.

I WILL PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
_____ YES _____ NO

ENVELOPE NUMBER _____

SPONSOR'S NAME _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

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>



Open Sunday School 2024 Schedule!

All Youth (8th thru 12th grade) are invited to join us
During education hour (9:15am-10:15am) for a time
dedicated just to them! Snacks, beverages, and fun!

**January 14, February 11, February 25, March 10, April 14, April
28**

Join us on any or all of the above dates in the Youth Room
(rm 15, basement)

High School Happy Hour

All Youth (9th thru 12th grade) are invited to join us 2 times a
month for our gathering of high schoolers. We meet after
10:30am worship in the Youth room (or on Zoom). Join us for
conversation, fellowship, and a TON of laughter!

All are welcome!

Upcoming Dates (2024):

**January 7, January 21, February 4, February 18, March 3,
March 24, April 7, April 21, May 12 (final gathering/lunch)**



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)



LOOKING FOR THE *Perfect Christmas Gift?*

Shop at church on December 3, 10, and 17 after worship and purchase a “Welcome Home” to Union UCC coffee mug for \$10 or canvas shopping bag for \$5 or 4 for \$15.

It's a great way to share your church spirit and pride!

Look for the table in the lobby. Profits benefit our church's mission and ministry.

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!



Country Sale

NEW DATE!! Saturday, June 1, 2024 * 8am -1pm
Union UCC, Neffs
Yard Sale * Food * Baked Goods

Contact someone on the team or the church office if you'd like to help us host this event. (1-4 hour shifts)

- Food prep Thursday & Friday (days and eves)
- Kitchen help, serving
- Bakers and Bake Sale
- Parking Attendants 7am to 10:30am
- Grill Guys - hot dogs and burgers
- Tear down and clean up (12-2pm)

**Watch for information
on how to reserve
your yard sale space
in the New Year!**

Vicki Sorg, Diane Schaller, Claire Kern, Kathy Bonsell, Sheila Nagle, Sherry Penrod, Maryann Puia, Miranda Perloff, Phil Wehr, Pam Minnich, 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.

Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next date is **Jan 14, 2024 and March 3**. 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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