

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 31 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*

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, Audrey in hospice, mom having surgery, good test results for a son, Jake, Elaine for Shanna to accept medical condition, Judy, Carolyn, Nancy, Tammy fighting cancer

### *General*

Josh in the Air Force training, Dylan in the Navy, Gabe in the Army, depression, anxiety, and illness in my family, Abby and kids, safe travels, Suzanne and family on the loss of Russ, Ryan's family grieving his passing, prayers for all with mental health challenges, prayers and healing for family member who lost their way, family friend who recently lost his mother, Rose, for peace on earth reuniting of a family, end to wars, grateful for this church and leaders, blessings for Kate's prognosis and Jack's recovery, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, a father struggling with mental stress, Elizabeth for a healthy and safe pregnancy and grandchild is healthy and strong.

**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.

# JANUARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7	Communion
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14	10:30 Baptism
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21	Healing Service/ Pray with a Pastor
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28	Semi-Annual Meeting
FUTURE WORSHIP DATES	Feb 11- Communion Feb 13- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Feb 14- Ash Wednesday, Communion March 31- Easter

**GriefShare is a faith-based grief support group that focuses on discussion questions and video presentations for those who have lost a loved one, a friend or family member. It is scripted, but there is still time to share individual thoughts and questions. (It is not designed for those who are grieving other circumstances, like loss of a job or a divorce)**

February 4 begins our next GriefShare series. It runs Sundays until April 28 from 1-2:30pm here at the church (excluding Easter Sunday).

The cost is \$20 for the mandatory workbook (payable at the first class), but if you are re-using your 4.0 workbook, there is no cost. Please write in the notes when you register whether you need a book or not so I can pre-order.

Participants have found this support group very helpful in their grief journey. Please reach out to Pastor Carrie with any questions!

Sign up for GriefShare

[ga-b7a3cd55a8e6e39d36ed121a28b9cd1e7a76769fd5708a2a4b8f6f31aad59e89.ico](https://www.griefshare.org/ga-b7a3cd55a8e6e39d36ed121a28b9cd1e7a76769fd5708a2a4b8f6f31aad59e89.ico)



Union UCC 5550 Route 873 Neffs, PA 18065  
610-767-6961 [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org)

## Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

**Fridays from 9:30 to 11am- Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9**

**Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am – Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4 and 11**

### **The Gospel of Mark Amy-Jill Levine**

Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus. See Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. We will look at select passages and stories in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.

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

**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 and Community**

**Tuesdays 7-8pm**

**January 16, Feb 20, March 19, April 23, May 21**

**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 with [PastorKris@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org)**

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



# 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**  
**Jan 30, Feb 27, March 26**  
**Led by Pastor Kris, Roni Gerry, and Carrie Beleno**

## GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

**Wednesday, Feb 7**  
**5:30-7:30pm**



5:30-6:30pm Supper

Menu: Grilled Cheese, Soup, Cookies

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/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-46862989-godfirst>  
Or email/text a staff member. Do your best to sign up - but if you miss signing up, just come.

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



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!



### 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.

**Our Leadership Planning Team and Consistory met in October and November and will meet again at the Consistory meeting in January.**

**At November's Consistory meeting we committed to work on a marketing and outreach strategy and to increase Pastor Carrie's hours to support our first steps in offering more opportunities around wellness and mental health initiatives in our church and community.**

**We will share in a day long retreat on Saturday, January 27th to design a plan to implement next steps in our work together.**

**Thank you church for affirming and supporting our core values of extravagant welcome, spiritual growth, and being open and affirming.**

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





Wawa Shorti (six-inch sandwich) gift cards will be sold after each service in December. They are \$6.00 a piece. 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 8-10<sup>th</sup>! Please contact Eliot Lightner with any questions. (610) 844-8327

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

**FUNDRAISING**

»» *Support* ««

**FEEDING MY STARVING CHILDREN LEHIGH VALLEY**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 29**  
**4PM-10PM**

**10% DONATION NIGHT**  
for Feeding My Starving Children Lehigh Valley .  
Present this flyer at the Bethlehem location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **Feeding My Starving Children Lehigh Valley!**

**610-515-0225**  
4463 SOUTHMONT WAY  
EASTON, PA

# KIDS NIGHT OUT

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH



5-8PM

Kids aged 4-10 are invited to a fun evening of food, crafts, and activities.

\*Kids must be fully potty trained.\*

It is \$5 per kid, to help cover the cost of food and supplies.

Email Ms. Tiffany at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org) to register.

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**JANUARY 13, 2024**  
**3PM TO 6PM**

# NERF & NACHOS



All ages are welcome to attend.

\*Attendees under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.\*

**We ask that you bring your own safety goggles, 1 nerf shooter, and 1 nacho topping to add to our nacho bar.**

Register to attend at  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA723A7FC1-46166208-nerf>



## 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

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## 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)



## Best In Bowl 2024

Union UCC Youth Group is sponsoring a fundraiser for FMSC but we need YOUR help! If you make soup, consider donating a crock-pot for our soup tasting. Top 3 tastiest soups will win a prize.

Don't make soup? Buy a ticket and help us crown TOP SOUP MAKER

**Date: January 28, 2024**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**

**Time: After 10:30am Worship**

**Tickets: \$5 for unlimited soup tasting**

Sign up to make soup here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-46786464-best#/>



# Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

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

Upcoming Hosts:

Jan 7 – Sunday Staff

Jan 14 - Fellowship Committee

Jan 21 - Consistory

Jan 28 – Christian Ed



## 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](mailto:pastorkayli@unionucc.org)) or Pastor Kris ([pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto: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



**UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK:  
January 14-21**



**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?**

**Jesus tells us to love God and to love our neighbors. This is a great way to do both while helping families get back on their feet.**

**~Kerry Snyder**

**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**

**Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 11, 2024**



Let's get ready for some football during the Super Bowl. Let's get ready to buy and donate canned soup during our annual SOUPER Bowl celebration. Let's start this new year with a huge donation of SOUP for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, start shopping NOW, God's team is counting on YOU.

Thank you for fighting hunger and being on the winning SOUPER Bowl team.

## **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.

**Our next gathering for new members is on Sunday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, Feb 11 at 8am or 10:30am worship.**

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](mailto: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.

## UNION UCC STAFF

**Rev. Kris P. Snyder**

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Director: Annette Wilcox



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