5550 RTE 873 PO Box 66 Neffs, PA 18065

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sunday, December 3, 2023

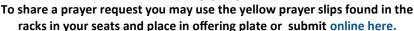
Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor Tiffany Lakatosh, Faith Formation Minister of Children Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation Mr. Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music Marissa Haney, Church Administrator Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager Payge Haydt Sunday Set-up 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



### 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

## 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, Suzanne, Carrie, and Annie on the passing of Russ, Ryan & family, Katherine & family, Sheila, Matt, Sharon, blessing on birth of grandson Drew Michael, safe travels,

Congratulations and blessings on the birth of Drew Michael Lerch to Andrea(Nuschke) and Alex Lerch on November 19, 2023. Grandparents are Karen and Jack Nuschke.

# 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 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.

# 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.

Next date: 12/5

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# 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? pwd=QmoxYWJFemjOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09 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/811881274837 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.

<u>Note</u>: 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).

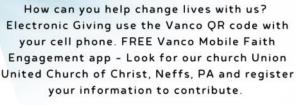
<u>Have you wanted to learn about other religions?</u> Pastor Kris is organizing various trips to visit other places of worship. RSVP to her if you are interested in joining her, everyone is welcome. Watch for additional dates and places.

**Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> Congregation Keneseth Israel** (A Jewish Community) 2227 W Chew St. Allentown, PA 18104 (near Muhlenberg) <a href="https://www.kilv.org/">https://www.kilv.org/</a>

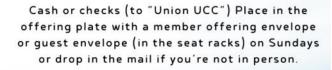
Arrive there at 6:15 for an introduction to Judaism and to learn about the service, 7:30 service, followed by snacks.

RSPV to Pastor Kris no later than Sunday, Dec 3.





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



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.



## **Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree is up in Memorial Hall and filled with gift tags to support the Bethlehem Salvation Army children's gift program.

Please bring unwrapped gifts back to Memorial Hall, with tags attached, by Sunday Dec 10. Thank you, the Mission Committee.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT MARCH 8-10, 2024

WAWA GIFT CARDS FUNDRAISER IN THE LOBBY



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	





# 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#/



# 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/10C0F4DACA723A 7FC1-45155267-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.



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



# 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



### YAT Christmas Lunch December 10, 2022 11:30am-1:30pm

Join us for lunch, some planning, and some festive activities

Sign Up here: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/">https://www.signupgenius.com/</a> qo/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-yat1

## **Open Sunday School**

Join us for the final gatherings for 2023! All youth grades 8th thru 12th are invited to join Pastor Kayli in the Youth Room during Education Hour (9:15am-10:15am) for a

low-key time just for them!

No Sign-Up needed...just show up!

Date: December 10





# 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: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-q/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-q/viewform</a>

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.

### **UNION UCC STAFF**

### Rev. Kris P. Snyder

Senior Pastor Cell Phone: 610-657-6007 pastorkris@unionucc.org Ext. 24

### Rev. Kayli Freeman

Associate Pastor pastorkayli@unionucc.org Ext. 25

#### Carrie Beleno

Pastor of Visitation vispastor@unionucc.org

#### Tiffany Lakatosh

Faith Formation Minister for Children & Families dired@unionucc.org Ext. 27

### **Marissa Haney**

Church Administrator administrator@unionucc.org Ext. 21

#### LAC. ZI

Blake Hoppes
Minister of Music
Blake.charger@gmail.com
Ext. 26

### Ori Handwerk

Facility Caretaker Caretaker@unionucc.org

#### **Barbara Carinci**

Financial Manager financialmanager@unionucc.org Ext. 32

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



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