

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 18, 2024

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

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

Ronnie, Jack, Logan, Sharon with spinal surgery, Audrey in hospice, mom having surgery, Jake, Elaine, for Shanna to accept medical condition, Judy, Carolyn, Nancy, Tammy fighting cancer, friend Linda recovering from a stroke, a niece having health issues, a granddaughter with health issues, Donna and family while she battles cancer, Sophia, Priscilla, friend Holly fighting lung cancer, Rowan, Carolyn, sister with MS, Jerry for healing and good test results, Beth fighting ovarian cancer, mother in law with her recent diagnosis of lung cancer, Brad with cancer and his wife

General

Josh in the Air Force training, Dylan in the Navy, Gabe in the Army, Rose, 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, return of the hostages, peace in the world, parents' health, Barbara, Diane, Dorothy, Sharon, Susie, Rustie, prayers for Roma and family, Abby, the Mitchell family, Mayflower the dog, Linda, Suzanne, Baby Cade, parents and doctors

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.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY, FEB 4	Kick off Blanket Sunday Month, Boy Scout Sunday
SUNDAY, FEB 11	Communion, Souper Bowl Sunday and Tailgate Lunch, Receive New Members
WEDNESDAY, FEB 14	7pm Ash Wednesday, Communion, In Church and Online
SUNDAY, FEB 18	First Sunday of Lent, Confirmation Class leads worship
SUNDAY, FEB 25	2nd Sunday of Lent
FUTURE WORSHIP DATES	Sunday, March 24- Palm Sunday Thursday, March 28- 6pm Pot Luck Meal, Worship with Communion Friday, March 29- Good Friday, Communion March 31- Easter Sunday 6:30am, 8am, 10:30am Worship with Communion
Sunday Worship 8am and 10:30am in church and online.	

First Communion Class

When: March 23, 2024
Time: 11:30am-12:30pm



Calling All 1st Graders

(or 2nd thru 7th graders who haven't participated yet)

You are invited to join Ms. Tiffany and Pastor Kayli for our First Communion Class!

Saturday March 23, 2024

11:30am-12:30pm

We will gather in the Sanctuary

Please use the Google Form to register

RSVP no later than March 17, 2024

Sign Up Here: <https://forms.gle/6ipaKcq4YU6jpfY98>

Families and children are encourage to partake in their first communion at our Maundy Thursday worship opportunity. If you have questions please contact Ms. Tiffany (dired@unionucc.org) or Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Union UCC's Consistory and Leadership Planning Team Affirm Our Mission Statement, Core Values, and Vision Statement by Registering to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church in the United Church of Christ

At their September meeting Church and Ministry voted to ask Consistory to start the Open and Affirming process in our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Consistory agreed to start the process at their November meeting. In January, Consistory and Leadership Planning Team reviewed the following statement to be voted on at the February Consistory meeting.

UNION UCC'S OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Our church is a diverse family of believers, extending extravagant welcome and hospitality to all. We affirm that all people are created in God's image and all are worthy of God's love and grace, treating all people with compassion, respect and dignity.

We inspire dedicated Christian discipleship to include persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical, cognitive, or emotional ability, economic, educational, and social status, and political and cultural background.

We treasure the spiritual gifts of everyone, welcoming all into full membership, leadership, employment, ministry, mission, fellowship, worship, sacraments, rites, responsibilities, and blessings of the life of Union UCC.

As we grow with vitality into the future, we commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We celebrate and honor diverse theological and biblical interpretations as we strive to remain spiritually united in Christ. We will reach out with love to any and all people who enter our doors seeking God with faith in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Cont.

Once this statement is approved by our Consistory, it will be submitted to the United Church of Christ for acceptance and recognition.

A public welcome by an Open and Affirming (ONA) church sends a clear message to LGBTQ+ seekers and all people that they have a home in the United Church of Christ and here at Union.

By adopting an ONA covenant, we are taking seriously St. Paul's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7, NIV)

Teresa Dalrymple, Church and Ministry Chair; Eric Minnich, Consistory President; Don Penrod, Vice-President; Janice Metzger, Secretary; Marianne Kitzmiller, Treasurer. Pastors Kris, Kayli, and Carrie



Faith on Tap
Korny's Tavern
at Kornfeind's Market
2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay



Wednesday, Feb 21 6:30-8:30pm

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

Cost: Your drink (Beer, Wine, Iced Tea, Soda, Water) Complimentary Kornfeind's Food. Sign up if you can, or just join us.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47291592-fotfeb2024#/>

God. Conversation. Food & Drink.



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



Thanks Kornfeind's Market!

Did you know that our church purchased a Labyrinth?

Thanks to the Funds of Lasting Gifts we purchased a canvas labyrinth to use for retreats here. The canvas fits the size of Memorial Hall.

A labyrinth is not a maze. There is only one path to the center and back out. Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many different faiths for spiritual centering, contemplation, and prayer.

Praying with a labyrinth is a form of walking meditation, a **physical expression of the interior journey towards God**. Like a pilgrimage, forms of walking meditation give us **time and space to listen and respond to God's love and grace**.

SAVE THE DATE for our first Labyrinth Retreat

Saturday, February 24th

9am to 12noon at Union UCC, Memorial Hall

Starting with a Breakfast PotLuck at 9am

Bring a food to share.

Wear cozy clothing, plan to wear socks/take your shoes off.

Sign up here: [https://
www.signupgenius.com/
go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47221121-
labyrinth](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47221121-labyrinth)



Pastor Kris, Pastor Carrie, and Roni Gerry

Easter Egg Hunt Donations!

Fellowship Committee can't do the egg hunt without your help.

Please consider donating pre-wrapped candy to be put in plastic eggs.

NO PLASTIC EGG DONATIONS PLEASE!!



All donations needed by Sunday, March 17, 2024

Easter Egg Hunt

In The Grove

March 23, 2024

1pm start time



Egg hunt is available for children/youth thru 10 years of age.

Please pre-register your kid(s) for the egg hunt using the form below. Place forms in Fellowship Mailbox.

Registration cut-off March 17, 2024



Rain Date: March 24, 2024



Parent's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Age Group- please circle one

Child's Name: _____ 0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____ 0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____ 0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____ 0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am-

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am

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
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](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?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
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
Feb 27, March 26, April 30
Led by Pastor Kris, Roni Gerry, and Carrie Beleno



Vanco



Venmo

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.

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!

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Support
Troop 57
Scouts



Calling All Pasta Lovers!!
Help Support Troop 57 BSA

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND | 5 PM - 7:30 PM
NEFFS UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH
5500 ROUTE 873 SCHENCKSVILLE, PA 18078

Adults \$10
Children (10 or younger) \$ 5
Children under 4 are FREE

Menu: Spaghetti with choice of
sauce, Salad, dessert, and drink.

Contact: neffstroop57@gmail.com

Attention High School Seniors!

The Neffs UCC Preschool is offering a \$250 Scholarship to a graduating senior who plans on continuing their education. The senior must be a graduate of the preschool and submit an essay by March 1st. The essay should be 500 words or less in which the applicant tells about themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory. Application forms are available online on the website at neffsuccpreschool.org



Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event March 8-10th.

More than 500 volunteers will be needed to pack our goal of more than 100,000 meals! Online registration will begin on January 26th. At that point to sign up online:

- Visit www.FMSC.org 2. Click "Volunteer" 3. "MobilePack Events"
4. "Pennsylvania" 5. "Lehigh Valley MobilePack 2403-049MI"

To sign up larger groups **before** open registration begins, please contact Eliot Lighter at (610) 844-8327 or Eliot5779@gmail.com.

Day	Date	Shift	Shift Type	Shift Start Time	Shift End Time	Shift Length (Hours)	Max # Funnels	# Vols per Funnel	Max # of Vols.
Friday	8-Mar	Unload		2:30 PM	3:30 PM	1.00			4
Friday	8-Mar	Setup		3:30 PM	5:30 PM	2.00			10
Friday	8-Mar	1		6:30 PM	8:30 PM	2.00	8	10	80
Saturday	9-Mar	2		9:00 AM	11:00 AM	2.00	8	10	80
Saturday	9-Mar	3		12:00 PM	2:00 PM	2.00	8	10	80
Saturday	9-Mar	4		2:30 PM	4:30 PM	2.00	8	10	80
Saturday	9-Mar	5		5:30 PM	7:30 PM	2.00	8	10	80
Sunday	10-Mar	6		12:00 PM	2:00 PM	2.00	8	10	80
Sunday	10-Mar	Orientation for Clean Up				0.00			0
Sunday	10-Mar	Clean Up		2:00 PM	5:00 PM	3.00			10

Blanket Sunday

Donations of cash or check may be made through the special envelope included in February's newsletter and bulletin, marked "Blanket Sunday" and "Souper Bowl Sunday". Please mark your donations accordingly and mail to the church or drop in the collection plates. E-Gifts may also be made, please designate "Souper Bowl". Cash donations will support the mission of Lehigh Conference of Churches in Allentown.

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



PNEC Ambassador Corner

Keeping the work of the Keystone Study/Work Group [KSWG] in the forefront as they discern the future direction of the [4] PA Conferences, specifically to merge into one Conference, the Keystone Conference.

The timeline moving forward involves:

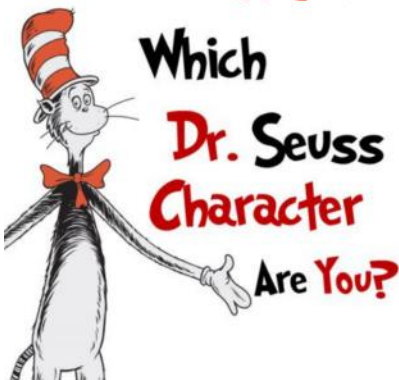
Question/answer sessions within each Conference, Spring meeting of all four PA Conferences together in June to present:

Draft Constitution, Staffing model, Financial information, Legal parameters and a Draft Resolution, State-wide vote, by Conference November 9th, Provisional Resolution for Synod by October 31, 2024, to be presented to General Synod in 2025, [if the vote is No on 11/9/2024, the Resolution to Synod will be pulled and the team's work will be done], and Be functioning as the Keystone Conference by January 1, 2026

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.

DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION

MARCH 3RD AT 9:15AM



CHILDREN AGED 3 TO 7TH GRADE (AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS) ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON MARCH 3RD IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:15 AM FOR A DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION. THERE WILL BE CRAFTS, GAMES, AND MORE.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO DRESS UP AS THEIR FAVORITE DR. SEUSS CHARACTER.



PANERA
2669 MACARTHUR RD
WHITEHALL, PA 18052

FRIDAY
MARCH 15TH
4PM-8PM

- IN CAFE
- DRIVE-THRU
- PICK-UP

Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout.



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!

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):

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



Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

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

Upcoming Hosts:

Feb 25– Church & Ministry

March 17– Youth Group

March 3– Mission Committee

March 24– Fellowship Committee

March 10– Consistory

March 31– Easter Crew!



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!



Do YOU love your neighbor?

Hey! do YOU love your neighbor?

????

CALLING ALL YOUTH!!!

WHEN: MARCH 17, 2024

THEME: DO YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR?

SIGN UP TO MAKE YOUTH SUNDAY AWESOME

Youth Sunday is a chance for all youth to be celebrated and have a Sunday worship time dedicated to them! High School seniors are encouraged to preach the message that day and all other youth encouraged to participate!

- ⇒ You can sing/play and instrument
- ⇒ Read scripture
- ⇒ Lead liturgy
- ⇒ Collect offering...

You name it, you can do it!

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-youth8#/>





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



Country Sale

**New & Improved- Church Wide Yard Sale
Saturday, June 1, 2024 8am -1pm
Union UCC, Neffs Grove**

***Rain or Shine
*Breakfast, Lunch and
Baked Goods will be Sold
*Everyone is welcome!**

- Have stuff that you want to get rid of?
- Purchase a Vendor Space: \$21
- One Space per family - Spaces limited
- Vendors sell and keep profit
- Each space includes an area of 15' wide x 15' deep

Set up: Saturday, June 1 -- 6:30 am – 8:00 am

If you have any questions or are interested in renting a space, please email Sheila Nagle ssnagle@ptd.net or contact the church office, 610-767-6961.

Country Sale Space Reservation contracts may be found on the church web site Unionucc.org, or you may pick one up in the church office.



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.

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 **March 3 and May 19.** 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.

Food and Toiletry Donations: You're invited to bring non perishable food and toiletry donations at anytime to help our local food bank. Place items in the shopping cart in the lobby. Needed items: cereal, soup, pasta/sauce, peanut butter/jelly, vegetables, fruit, toothpaste/brush, shampoo, deodorant, soap, baby items. Thanks!

UNION UCC STAFF

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Director: Annette Wilcox



www.facebook.com/unionneffs