5550 RTE 873 PO Box 66 Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 25, 2024

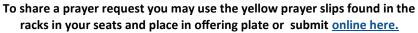
Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor Tiffany Lakatosh, Faith Formation Minister of Children Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation Mr. Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music Marissa Haney, Church Administrator Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager Payge Haydt Sunday Set-up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



Medical

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, husband facing surgery

General

Josh in the Air Force training, Dylan in the Navy, Gabe in the Army, grateful for this church and leaders, blessings for Kate's prognosis and Jack's recovery, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, 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, Irene and family, Rob, strength for adult children facing Challenges, sister's broken family

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.



Kick off Blanket Sunday Month, Boy Scout Sunday
Communion, Souper Bowl Sunday and Tailgate Lunch, Receive New Members
7pm Ash Wednesday, Communion, In Church and Online
First Sunday of Lent, Confirmation Class leads worship
2nd Sunday of Lent
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.



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/6ipaKcq4YU6ipfY98

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.

The following statement was approved and celebrated by our Consistory on February 20, 2024.

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.



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





OUR NURSERY IS OPEN



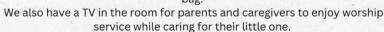




Parents and caregivers are welcome to use our nursery for little ones who many need a little break from the worship service to eat or just need to get out some wiggles and energy.

We kindly ask that you sign in, to let us know that you used the space, and place any toys that your child played with in the green bin for cleaning.

We have a Nursery Nook area that is great for feeding and changing little ones. In that area we have diapers and wipes, in case you forgot to restock the diaper bag



We do not have an attendant at this time, therefore, a parent/caregiver is required to

stay with the child(ren) when they are in the nursery. We hope that you enjoy our nursery.













FOR THE HOME VISITATION MEMBERS AND SANCTUARY

share the Joy of Easter with our Home Visitation Members. Sponsor a flower that will be delivered by volunteers for \$10.00 per plant.

You may also purchase flowers for our Sanctuary on Easter morning "In honor of" or "In memory of" someone - you may pick it up after the Easter Service on March 31.

Please print and return your information on the form below with your payment (checks payable to Union U.C.C.) and drop in offering bins or mail to the church office no later than **Sunday**, **March 10**, **2024**. Flowers may also be ordered on our website under online donations or by clicking <u>here</u>.

I would like to sponsor an Easter flower for (please mark your choices):

HON Spons	ICTUARY*		
			Display Hyacinths
Envelope#	Phone/C	ell Number:	<u> </u>
In Memory	of:		
In Honor o	f:		

*I will pick up my flower after worship service on Easter Sunday. (Please circle one)

YES

NO

SAVE THE DATE for our NEXT Labyrinth Retreat Saturday, April 14th

4pm-7pm at Union UCC, Memorial Hall
Starting with Appetizers and Snacks. Bring a food to share.
Wear cozy clothing, plan to wear socks/take your shoes off.

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.

Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47987849-labyrinth

Pastor Kris, Pastor Carrie, and Roni Gerry





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. <u>Place forms in Fellowship Mailbox.</u>

Registration cut-off March 17, 2024

Rain Date: March 24, 2024



Parent's Name	:					
Phone:		Email:				
		Age 0	iroup	- plea:	se circ	le 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:	NAW.	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-10

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

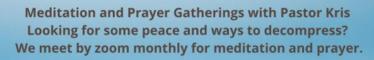
Fridays 9:30 to 11am- Feb 23, March 1, 8, March 15, March 22. Sundays 9:15 to 10:15am – Feb 25, March 3, 10, 17, 24.

Reorganized Religion by Bob Smietana is an in-depth and critical look at why people are leaving American churches and what we lose as a society as it continues. It also accepts the dismantling of what has come before and try to help readers reinvent the path forward.

This will fit in perfectly with our Lent them – What R U Up 2? As we consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name.

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).



Union UCC and Community Tuesdays 7-8pm March 19, April 23, May 21

Zoom Link: 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.

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 January and received updates from our Marketing Team, the Open and Affirming (ONA) process, and Pastor Carrie's input on wellness and mental health initiatives.

Rev. Bonnie Bates, Penn Northeast Conference Minister joined us to help integrate the work we have done and create a plan for for what's next.

Each LPT team member has been asked to serve on 1 of 3 teams: Architect interviews and design process with LPT and congregation, Capital Campaign and Financial piece of next steps, and Purpose and Why of Renovating Memorial Hall.

Our next day long retreat is on Saturday, March 16th.

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





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



Vanco

Venmo

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!



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 signup 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



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 events and luncheon.

Contact the church office if you'd like to receive postcard mailing reminders.

We also collect monthly items for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

March 5: Strolling Strings

Future dates: 4/2, 5/7,6/4



PNEC Ambassador Corner

Lenten Activities offered by your Conference PNEC Lenten Prayer Gatherings

The **4 PA UCC Conference Ministers** and UCC Staff Members will lead weekly prayer gatherings during Lent on Wednesdays from 12:00-12:30pm from now through March 20th.

28—United Church of Christ; **3/6**—Lent in Context; **3/13**—The Priesthood of All Believers; **3/20**—Communion

If you are interested, please email Patty at the Conference office, pattyr@pnec.org, to receive the link for the study.

All PA Conferences joint meeting June7-9, 2024. Communication booklet is being prepared for this event. Be a part of the future of PA United Church of Christ! 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.

SUMMER WORSHIP PLAN

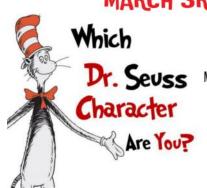
At Consistory's meeting in February they decided on this plan for Summer worship.

There will only be a 10:30am worship service starting on June 9 through September 1.

There will NOT be 8am worship starting on June 9 through September 1. We will have outdoor worship in the grove at 10:30am on the following Sundays:

June 30, July 14 and 28, August 11 and 25. We will worship in the church if the weather does not cooperate on these Sundays.

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.



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):

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:

March 3- Mission Committee
March 10- No Coffee Hour

March 17- Youth Group

March 24- Fellowship Committee

March 31- Easter Crew!

mmittee

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?



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/6080F48AEAD2BA2FE3-youth8#/



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 March 26, April 30 Led by Pastor Kris, Roni Gerry, and Carrie Beleno



Country Sale

New & Improved- Church Wide Yard Sale Saturday, June 1, 2024 8am -1pm *Rain or Shine *Breakfast, Lunch and Union UCC. Neffs Grove Baked Goods will be Sold

- 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.



*Everyone is Welcome!

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, April 14th at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, April 21st 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-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-q/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

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

Blake Hoppes

Minister of Music Blake.charger@gmail.com Fxt. 26

Ori Handwerk

Facility Caretaker Caretaker@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci

Financial Manager financialmanager@unionucc.org Ext. 32

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

Director: Annette Wilcox



www.facebook.com/unionneffs