

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 4, 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, good test results for a son, 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, Prayers for Millie who had a stroke as well as her family, Sophia, Priscilla, friend Holly fighting lung cancer, Rowan, Carolyn

General

Josh in the Air Force training, Dylan in the Navy, Gabe in the Army, 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, Brad and Robbie, Suzanne, return of the hostages, peace in the world, parents' health

Thoughts and Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Janet Hoffman who passed on January 26, 2024. Private services were held on January 31, 2024.



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.

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!

[Griefshare.org/groups](https://griefshare.org/groups) (then enter zip code 18065)



Union UCC 5550 Route 873 Neffs, PA 18065
610-767-6961

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!

Save the Date! We're Installing Pastor Carrie!

Sunday, April 14th at 8am and 10:30am Worship

Please join us to celebrate the completion of her work to be licensed by the Penn Northeast Conference to serve as our Pastor of Visitation and as a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital.

We will recognize her in worship and celebrate her at a special coffee hour.

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>

Pastor Kris, Pastor Carrie, and Roni Gerry



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

Annette Wilcox, our Preschool Director for the last nine years, is retiring at the end of this school year. Her knowledge, dedication, leadership, and innovation has strengthened our preschool, providing an outstanding educational beginning for the children of our community. We thank her for the time she devoted to Neffs UCC Preschool and for sharing her talents with us. She will be missed.

The Preschool Board is currently beginning the search process for her replacement. Please feel free to share the following job post.

Position: Neffs UCC Preschool Director (starting June 1, 2024)

Job duties/ description: The Director is accountable to the Neffs UCC Preschool Board. The

Director will oversee all aspects of the day-to-day operations and administration of the preschool as well as be the face of the preschool. He/she will be responsible for:

- Human Resources
- Finances
- Curriculum/Academics
- Compliance
- Health and Safety
- Publicity/Community Engagement/Communication
- Technology

Requirements: ECE Director Certification or Elementary Principal Certification
Experience in Early Childhood

Please submit a cover letter, a current resume and three letters of recommendation to Kathy Bonsell at bonsellkathy@gmail.com by February 16, 2024.

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am- Feb 2 and 9

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am – Jan 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
Feb 20, March 19, April 23, May 21

Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVlUT09)
pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVlUT09
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
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.

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.

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





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

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.

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.



Spread our love
and God's love
to the World



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 to register.

DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION

MARCH 3RD AT 9:15AM



Which
**Dr. Seuss
Character**
Are You?

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 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 21, February 4, 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 4 – Boy Scouts

Feb 11 – SouperBowl Lunch

Feb 18– Confirmation Class

Feb 25– Church & 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



10 20 30 40 50 40 30 20 10

SOUPER BOWL TAILGATE LUNCH

10 20 30 40 50 40 30 20 10

When: February 11, 2024

Time: 11:30am

(after 10:30am worship)

Where: Memorial Hall

Come enjoy your tailgate favorites:
sandwiches, pizza, wings, snacks, drinks
Bring a dessert to share

**Donations of Soup/Canned goods for the
local food banks appreciated**

Sponsored by Welcoming Committee

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE SUPPER

WHEN: FEBRUARY 13, 2024
TIME: 6PM-8PM
WHERE: FELLOWSHIP HALL

LET US COOK FOR YOU!
PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, APPLESAUCE, DRINKS

DONATION OF DONUTS FOR ALL TO SHARE

***DINE-IN OR TAKE OUT AVAILABLE**
SPONSORED BY FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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 4th 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 **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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www.facebook.com/unionneffs