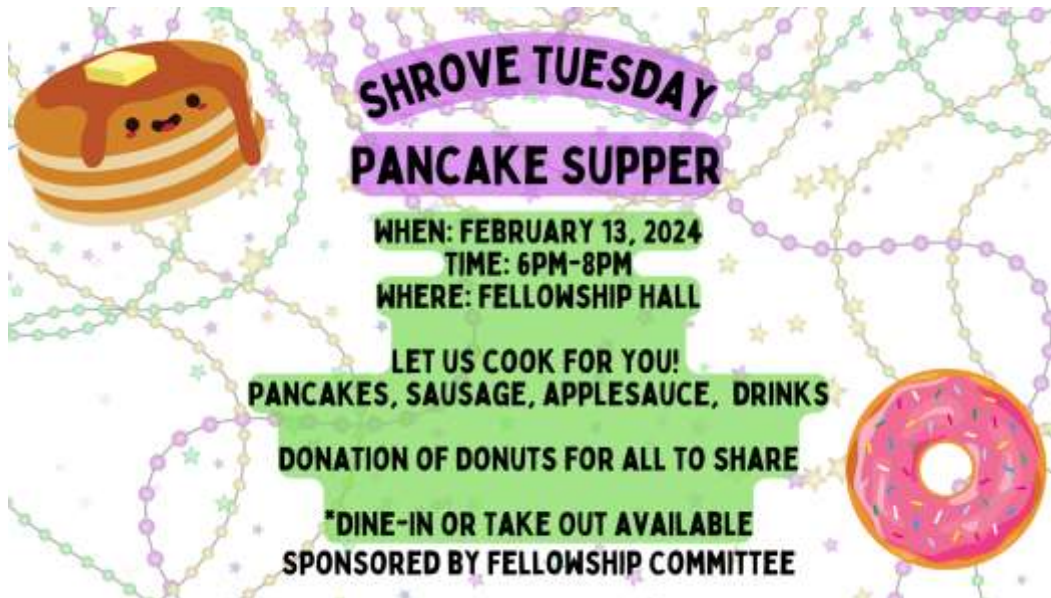


FEBRUARY WORSHIP

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.

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**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**



SOUPER BOWL TAILGATE LUNCH

**FEBRUARY 11, 2024
MEMORIAL HALL
AFTER 10:30AM WORSHIP**

HOSTED BY THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Join us as we welcome our newest members to our team!
Menu: Sandwiches, pizza, wings, snacks, water.
Please bring a dessert to share
(Gluten Free options available)
Make it a SOUPER BOWL OF CARING by
bringing a can(s) of soup or cash donation for
area food banks.

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.

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 to 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

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.

See Carrie's message on page 13.



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/5080E4CA8A823A7A7-46862989-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

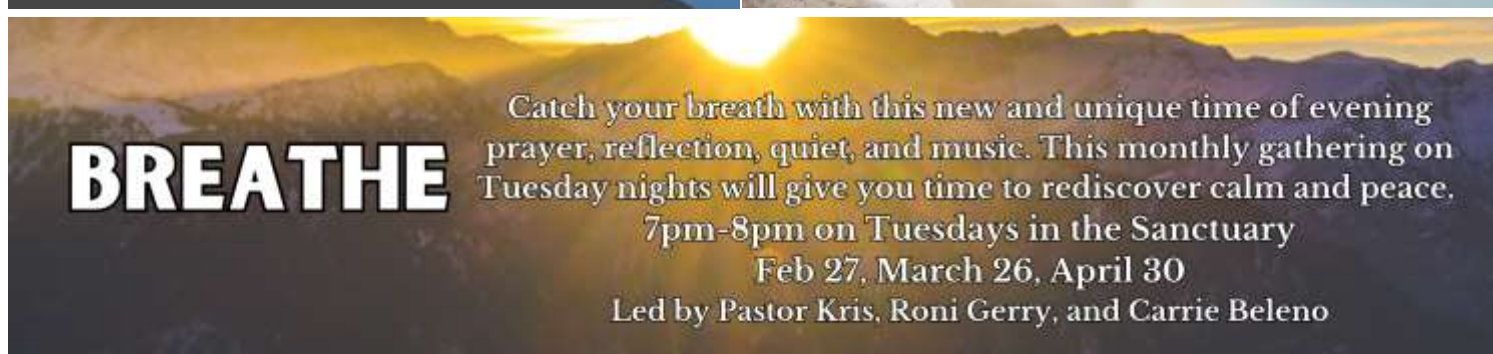
Meditation and Prayer Gatherings with Pastor Kris
 Looking for some peace and ways to decompress?
 We meet by zoom monthly for meditation and prayer.

Union UCC and Community
 Tuesdays 7-8pm
 Feb 20, March 19, April 23, May 21

Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87688378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87688378046?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
 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



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



Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am- Feb 16, 23, March 1, 8, March 15, March 22.

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am – Feb 18, 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).

INFORMATION FORM AND SURVEY

Members if you haven't yet completed the information form and survey that was sent to you, please do so as soon as possible. This form includes letting us know about your membership status and offers a chance for you to participate in a survey.

Please complete the form either by using the online link provided or by completing a paper copy and returning it to the church.

If you do not want to complete the survey portion **that's fine, but please complete the information part** of the form and check off your membership status.

Here's the online link to complete it: <https://forms.gle/JEZM4v4EcZ29EktMA>

Paper copies are available in the lobby on Sundays or you can contact the church office for additional paper copies to be mailed to you.

Thank you for your help.

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!

gs-

[b7a3cd55a8e6e39d36ed121a28b9cd1e7a76769fd5708a2a4b8f6f31aad59e89](https://forms.gle/b7a3cd55a8e6e39d36ed121a28b9cd1e7a76769fd5708a2a4b8f6f31aad59e89)

GriefShare

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

Easter Mission Offerings

Lent and Easter are early this year, so we are thinking early about Easter Mission.

This year the Easter Mission Offerings will be divided between The YMCA Warming Hut program in Allentown and Parkland C.A.R.E.S.. Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Easter Mission, or online through the e-giving program. Thank you, the Mission Committee.

The Allentown Warming Station at the YMCA

The Warming Station provides shelter, food, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness in the community. They are open to welcome guests Nov 1 - April 15. The guests are greeted with kindness and provide a safe place to sleep and a dignified sense of community for neighbors in need. The doors are open each night from 7 pm - 7 am. The YMCA also provides healthy dinner time meals seven days a week.

Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry

Parkland C.A.R.E.S. strives to feed and serve every member of the community affected by and suffering from hunger. Established in 2019 in the Kernsville area of Parkland School District, the pantry initially served 12 families. Fast forward to today, the food pantry serves over 130 families who are provided with a variety of food items each month. Parkland C.A.R.E.S. is proud to serve families in the Parkland community.

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday at Union UCC is usually held around Valentine's Day, to spread our Love, and God's Love to the World. Once again, this year we will celebrate Blanket Sunday all of February.

Donations of cash or check may be made through the special envelope included with this newsletter, marked "Blanket Sunday", and "Souper Bowl Sunday ". Please mark your donations accordingly and mail to the church or drop in the collection plate on Sundays. E-Gifts may also be made, please designate "Blanket Sunday". Blankets cost \$10 each, you may support one blanket, or many blankets, all up to you.

You're changing lives around the World !! Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency.

Please support this important annual mission project, our yearly goal is to collect over \$2,000. Thank you, the Mission Committee

Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 11, 2024

The Super Bowl is back, which team will be playing this year for a big trophy? So will our annual SOUPER Bowl collection of canned soup and cash donations. YOU can help TACKLE HUNGER and help feed local families.

Canned soup may be dropped off in the foyer every Sunday during February. All soup donations will be provided to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Cash donations may be made through the special envelope in this newsletter, marked "Souper Bowl Sunday" and "Blanket 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.



FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: dired@unionucc.org

STORYTIME WITH
MS. TIFFANY



TUESDAYS AT 8PM ON ZOOM

MEETING ID: 851 6440 6721

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.

ON FEBRUARY 11TH WE
WILL BE CELEBRATING
VALENTINE'S DAY.

EVERYONE IS INVITED
TO WEAR PURPLE,
PINK, RED, AND/OR
WHITE.



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.



VBS VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MEETING

Adults and teens (currently in 8th grade or older) interested in volunteering for VBS are invited to attend our meeting. Contact Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org with any questions.

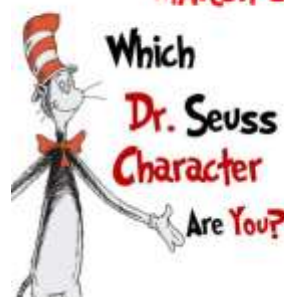
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH AT 11:45
IN THE YOUTH ROOM

ALL AGES PIZZA AND PAINT

FEBRUARY 25TH
11:45-3:30PM
IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Register at
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BAC-A723A7FC1-allages1>

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.

Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group



"If you are always trying to be normal, you'll never know how amazing you can be." –Maya Angelou

February 2024 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Confirmation Retreat 2024

Date: February 17, 2024

Time: 11am-6pm

Where: Church

Theme: Viewing Faith Through a Secular Lens

All Youth (9th thru 12th grade) are invited to help Pastor Kayli and the confirmation teaching team lead the confirmation winter

retreat! You'll be fed dinner during the time of fun and learning.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-47114337-confirmation>



SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH SUNDAY!

MARCH 17, 2024

All youth are encouraged to participate: singing, dancing, reading, collecting offering...you name it, you can do it!

HS SENIORS: IT'S YOUR TURN TO PREACH!

Theme: Do You Love Your Neighbor?

Watch for emails to sign up and for more information coming soon



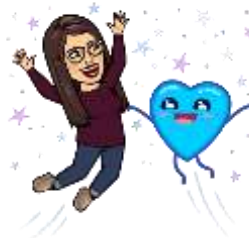
Open Sunday School

Youth (8th thru 12th grades) are invited to a time to hang out and enjoy time together

Upcoming Dates: February 11, February 25, March 10, April 14, April 28

9:15am—10:15am

Youth Room



High School Happy Hour

A gathering for youth (9th thru 12th grade)! Join us 2 times a month where we laugh, grow in faith, and solve all the world's problems.

11:30am-12:30pm

Youth Room & Zoom

Upcoming dates: February 4, February 21, March 3, March 24, April 7, April 21, May 12

PNEC Ambassador Corner

Just wanting to keep the work of the Keystone Study/Work Group [KSWG] in the forefront while they discern the future direction of the 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

Please keep the process in your prayers as the KSWG moves forward. If you would like further information, you may access the Keystone website <https://psec.org/keystone/> where you will find a summary of the group's work and meeting reports. If you have specific questions, you may email the group directly at Keystone.Conference.project@gmail.com or reach out to the PNEC Conference office, 610-826-5464.

If you have any general 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.

January 15, 2024, Consistory Actions:

These notes reflect items that needed action and approval by Consistory. A complete copy of the Consistory minutes can be found in the church office.

Requested approvals:

- Property Committee requested annual expenses from FOLG for elevator maintenance, gutter cleaning & slate repair, miscellaneous property repairs. They also requested funds for upgrading the underground oil tank.
- Christian Ed, pending CE approval, requested funds from FOLG Christian Enrichment fund for Women's Retreat/programming (annual request).
- Mission Committee requested funds from FOLG for their annual donation to the Family Promise fundraising event.
- Church & Ministry requested vacation for Pastor Kayli from 2/19/24 - 2/26/24.
- Financial Leadership Team requested funds from FOLG for continuing ed, guest preachers, Golden Times, mailings, and marketing program.

Nominating Committee put forth the following slate of candidates for the semi-annual meeting: CONSISTORY - Lorie Hackett to fill the vacant opening in the Class of 2026; Carolyn Seyler, Andy Dyszel and Ashleigh Albert for a first term and Don Penrod, Dixie Gross, Brian Horwith and Janice Metzger for a second term for the Class of 2027. FUNDS OF LASTING GIFTS - Doug Albert as Trustee

All of the above were approved unanimously.



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!



From the Property Committee,

Happy New Year to everyone. With a new year comes a new look to the Room 100 Classroom located on the first floor. During the three-week period starting right before Christmas, work began on giving Room 100 a major facelift.

The Landmark Painting crew came in and applied a nice new color of fresh paint to the room, goodbye to the old green paint, hello to a nice light gray color. Then Selig Electricians arrived to remove the old ceiling lights from 1957 and put up some temporary lighting. The next step involved R.L. Reppert from Emmaus to install a new dropped ceiling. Selig Electricians returned to install new LED lights into the new ceiling.

The finishing touches were provided by Ori and Shelly Handwerk. Shelly cleaned and ironed the curtains and hung them on their curtain rods. Ori gave the floors a good cleaning, three coats of wax, and returned the rug and furniture into the room.

Three weeks later, the finished room looks beautiful and much more inviting to all those who will use this room in the future. The old windows still need to be replaced, but that is for another project in the future.

Funding for this project was provided by the Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund, and a special gift from Phil and Julie Wehr.

Snow season and winter weather has arrived. Please take care driving while coming to and leaving the church. Please take care walking around the church property as ice can develop quickly and sidewalks, steps, and the parking lot may become slippery. Enjoy the snow, and also stay safe.

Preschool News

It is hard to believe that we are half-way through our school year already, it seems to be flying by extra quickly this year, and from this point on we are packed with activity after activity right through May. Our students returned from Christmas break excited to be back and share with us all of the amazing gifts they received. We have had fun exploring this month's themes, which all revolve around animals (arctic, land and ocean) through art, play, science experiments and music. Ask our PreK class to list off the 5 oceans and I guarantee they will do a better job than many adults. The 3-year-olds can tell you all about narwhals and polar bears, and the 4's can explain to you which animals hibernate and which migrate.



The preschool will be holding a registration kick-off event on Monday, February 5 from 6:30-7:30. For more information, email preschool@unionucc.org or call 610-767-5327.

A sampling of this month's art work:



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.

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

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

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

Upcoming hosts include:

Feb 4– Boy Scouts

Feb 11– SouperBowl Lunch

Feb 18– Confirmation Class

Feb 25– Church & Ministry

Because of YOU our church changes lives....

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

- ELECTRONIC GIVING <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)



Vanco

- Venmo @unionuccneffs Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"

- Mobile Giving Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app

- **Cash or checks (to "Union UCC")** Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person.



Venmo

- Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.

Let's Build A Team

**We need a team of dedicated people
to help us run the projection
system.**

**If you want to join this team and
learn the projection system
contact Pastor Kayli or Pastor Kris.
Teamwork makes the dreamwork!**



Thank you from the Staff!

Thank you for all of the ways
that you support the staff of
Union UCC. The work we do
together being God's church is
a wonderful gift.



Thank you also for your financial gift to us at
Christmas. Your care and encouragement is
one of the best gifts of the season.
New Year blessings to you!

Pastors Kris, Kayli, and Carrie
Marissa, Barbara, Tiffany, Blake, Ori, Shelly,
Matt, Mitchell, Payge, Hannah, Ryleigh, Luke
and Bryce



Country Sale

Community-Wide yard Sale in our Grove

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



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN LEHIGH VALLEY MOBILEPACK EVENT MARCH 8-10, 2024

More than 500 volunteers are needed to pack
our goal of more than 100,000 meals!

Online registration starts Jan 26!

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 Lightner.



Contact Eliot Lightner 610-844-8327 FMSCEvent@gmail.com

Hannah Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Eric Minnich, Ron Snyder, Ann Koren, Everett
and Eliot Lightner, and Pastor Kris

Friday	Unload	230-330p	4 people
Friday	set up	330-530p	10 people
Friday	meal pack 1	630-830p	80 people
Saturday	meal pack 2	9-11a	80 people
Saturday	meal pack 3	12-2p	80 people
Saturday	meal pack 4	230-430p	80 people
Saturday	meal pack 5	530-730p	80 people
Sunday	meal pack 6	12-2p	80 people
Sunday	clean up	2-5p	10 people

Pastor Carrie's Corner

I am honored to be hosting another round of GriefShare sessions for our members and the community. One of the questions that surfaces often is how to help someone who is grieving or had a significant loss. Here are some suggestions:

~Instead of asking, "What do you need?" or "What can I do?" try a more specific suggestion: "What can I pick up at the grocery store for you?" Or, "May I come over and mow your lawn?" Often people don't know what they need until we make the suggestion.

~Instead of asking, "How are you?" just ask if there is anything they'd like to talk about, or perhaps, "Do you need a hug?" Asking "How are you?" can often be an impossible question to answer.

~Try to avoid using blanket "comfort" statements like, "Everything happens for a reason" or "God needed an angel." These often are not comforting. Instead, just offer to listen if they want to talk, or pray with them.

~And finally, avoid using "I know how you feel." We can never know exactly how a person feels because each person grieves differently. We can *imagine* how someone feels, but that isn't the same thing. So try to avoid comparing your losses to the person's you are supporting and simply say, "I'm sorry for your loss (or what you are going through) and I'm here for you."

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one (friend or family member), consider joining our next GriefShare group beginning February 4. It is a faith-based, scripted series, offering practical advice from experts and those who have been through the program. There is also time to voluntarily share and support each other. Follow this link: <http://www.GriefShare.org>, and type in our zip code 18065 in the "Find a Group Near You" box. And as always, if you need any support, feel free to reach out to me: vispastor@unionucc.org or give the church a call.

Much love,

Pastor Carrie

My Installation Service on April 14th

Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to share so many life moments with our congregation and community. I visited those who are hospitalized, ill, or experiencing grief or life challenges; participated in funerals and baptisms; created and led GriefShare; and organized and led Helping Hearts, Helping Meals, and Golden Times groups as well as our Breathe and Prayers with a Pastor services, just to name a few. This work will continue, but looking forward I am excited to be working with the LPT in envisioning where our church and congregation is headed, as well as creating new groups and opportunities for folks to connect, learn and grow~spiritually, emotionally and faithfully, and expanding my preaching opportunities. Thank you all for your support as I continue to grow as a part of our ministry 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 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.

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UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: May 12-19, 2024

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



 Helping Meals of Union UCC

Helping Meals

This fall we brought back our Helping Meals ministry! Our team will be delivering a baked good with the option of a casserole or soup, if requested, for those who are in need of a bit of support due to a life change like a hospitalization, birth or death of a loved one.

To request a visit from the Helping Meals or to volunteer to bake, cook and deliver, please reach out to Pastor Carrie. If you would like to assist in coordinating the team via text and a google doc, please let her know. It's an easy way to continue to support this ministry and we'd love to have you join our team.

Union UCC Staff

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610-767-5327
prechool@unionucc.org
Director: Annette Wilcox

Church Telephone
Extension Directory
610-767-6961

Pastor Kris	ext. 24
Pastor Kayli	ext. 25
Marissa Haney	ext. 21
Tiffany Lakatos	ext. 27
Barbara Carinci	ext. 32
Music Office	ext. 26



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2023	(\$4,682.00)	\$39,850.00	\$35,168.00
Income	\$195,119.00	\$20,511.00	\$215,710.00
Expenses	\$184,469.00	\$33,975.00	\$218,444.00
11-30-2023	\$6,048.00	\$26,386.00	\$32,434.00

Designated Funds category includes offerings for NIN, Mother's Day, OGHS, Lenten, Advent, Improvement Fund, Flowers, Directory, Bulletins, Phoebe Campaign, & special gifts.

Donate, Recycle and Help Your Church

As you are cleaning out closets and cabinets be sure to keep Union UCC in mind. Bring your donations at any time to the bin in our grove. The church receives a certain amount of money for each pound that is donated. Items that are usable are resold or recycled. You are also helping to save the amount of things that end up in a landfill by donating your items this way. Recycle Local's goal is to help agencies have 0% waste.

Items accepted include: clean and dry clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, towels, drapes, pillow cases and stuffed animals. Place all items in plastic bags. NO furniture, rags, pillows, toys, or household goods.

This is one more way to give and support the mission and ministry of God's church at Union UCC. Thank you.

New Member Sessions We encourage you to make a deeper commitment to your faith by joining us as a member. Contact Pastor Kris PastorKris@unionucc.org to sign up. See page 14 for more information.

Dual Member Status Dual membership is available to people who wish to join our church but who want to also maintain membership at another church. Dual members will have the same rights and duties as a member. According to our Constitution members are required to commune and donate yearly. We look forward to continuing to welcome new members into the Christian journey with our faith family here at Union UCC.

Baptism We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next dates are **Sunday, March 3, 2024 and May 19**. There is a pre-baptism zoom session with a 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.

Weddings To begin the process of scheduling your pre-marriage sessions and wedding at church/a venue and/or with one of the pastors call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Marissa Haney at administrator@unionucc.org.

There is information on our website, forms to complete are downloadable. More information on the site: <http://www.unionucc.org/resources> for New Member, Baptism, and Wedding forms.

Room or Hall Use for Members Members are now able to reserve the use of rooms in the church again. Contact Marissa in the office to see if your date is available, to complete the necessary forms, to learn the guidelines and process, and to pay the fees. One time use fees are \$60 plus a \$25 cleaning fee. We do not offer room use to non-members.