

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor
Tiffany Lakatos, 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

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, husband facing surgery, Edie with a broken wrist, Pop in rehab following a fall, Susie who fell, Violet and Randy, Dad with Parkinson's, Robin for good medical news, Brad cancer, Rob Brad's Caregiver, MaryKate

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, Donna, Rachel, Bella, Dean, Irene's 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.



Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am in church and online

what r u up 2? this Lent, Holy week, and Easter?
Get up to something with Jesus instead of giving something up
this Lent.

SUNDAY
MARCH 3

Lent 3,
Baptism

SUNDAY
MARCH 10

Lent 4, Festival
Community Choir
directed by Matt
Gerry and Blake
Hoppes and FMSC
Event Weekend

SUNDAY
MARCH 17

Lent 5, Youth
Group Leads
Worship, Do You
Love Your
Neighbor?

SUNDAY
MARCH 24

Lent 6,
Palm Sunday

THURSDAY
MARCH 28

6-8pm Pot Luck
Meal (Basement),
Worship with
Communion

Bring a casserole, side
dish, or dessert to share.
Note: no online option

FRIDAY
MARCH 29

7pm Good
Friday,
Communion

SUNDAY
MARCH 31



Easter Sunday
6:30am Sunrise in
the Grove
8am & 10:30am
Worship with
Communion

SUNDAY
APRIL 7

Easter Joy
Continues with
music by Stacy
Gabel



EASTER MIMOSAS with the Easter Bunny on the LAWN

Join us after 8am and 10:30am worship on the front lawn of the church for a celebratory mimosa, orange juice, and snacks.

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.

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 may 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 also have a TV in the room for parents and caregivers to enjoy worship service while caring for their little one.

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.

Easter Flowers

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 [here](#).

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

HOME VISITATION MEMBER(S) SANCTUARY*

Sponsor's Name: _____

Homebound Tulips _____ Display Tulips _____ Display Lilies _____ Display Hyacinths _____
 Display Daffodils _____ Total Number of Plants _____ Total amount enclosed is \$ _____

Envelope # _____ Phone/Cell Number: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

*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

Sunday, 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



GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS
Wednesday, March 6 (NO April)
5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper
Menu: Pizza, Salad, Ice Cream

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 Pastors Kris & Carrie

7:15-7:30 Worship together

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47984384-godfirst>
Or email/text a staff member. Do your best to sign up - but if you miss signing up, just come.

Future Dates: Last One! May 1
'Putting God First on First Wednesdays

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 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).

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
March 19, April 23, May 21

Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?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.





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 @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.



Venmo

Union UCC: Relevant, Engaged, and Growing...Because of YOU!

UCC Night at the Iron Pigs



In the Picnic Pavilion with all-you-can-eat Buffet!

Friday, July 19 7:05 pm

Doors open at 5:45 pm

Only \$30/person!

TO ORDER TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFO PLEASE
CONTACT STEVE KAREHA.

717-514-8881 or s.kareha@gmail.com

ORDERS can be emailed or dropped at the church office or in
the offering plate but **MUST** be in an envelope
marked **Iron Pigs Tickets.**

Payments can be made by Cash, Check, or Venmo
(Make Checks Payable to Steve Kareha)

Bring your friends and family!





The Red Tomato

GOURMET PIZZA • SALADS • PANINIS

**THE RED TOMATO IS FIGHTING HUNGER
AND YOU CAN HELP!
MARCH 8-10, 2024
TO ORDER CALL: 610-398-8999**

5% of all sales will go to feeding children in need.

***Does not include orders made through Grub Hub, Door Dash, or Slice.**

For every \$6 spent a child will be fed for a whole day! The meals will be packed by Feed My Starving Children of the Lehigh Valley on March 8-10 at Union UCC 5550 PA-873 in Neffs.

Red Tomato Pizzeria
& Feed My Starving Children of
the Lehigh Valley



For more information on Feed
My Starving Children
FMSCEvent@gmail.com
Eliot Lightner 610-844-8327

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. They are also holding weekly Bible study on Wednesdays during Lent at 7 PM. The dates and topics are:

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@pniec.org, to receive the link for the study.

All PA Conferences joint meeting June 7-9, 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.



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!

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 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 10– No Coffee Hour

March 24– Fellowship Committee

March 17– Youth Group

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#/>



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
Union UCC, Neffs Grove

- 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.

**Rain or Shine
*Breakfast, Lunch and
Baked Goods will be Sold
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-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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prechool@unionucc.org
Director: Annette Wilcox



www.facebook.com/unionneffs