



# 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 good with Jesus.

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.

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**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.




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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. Lots of great music in worship this day too with our Festival Choir directed by Matt Gerry with Blake Hoppes.

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](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org)  
 You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, whatever your schedule allows.



**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/5080E4CAB823A7FA7-47084384-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**



**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



**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



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Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

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

Sundays from 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).



SAVE THE DATE for our NEXT Labyrinth Retreat

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

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

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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.

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## 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.

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## From the Maui Food Bank

Aloha Friends at Union UCC in Neffs,

This holiday season, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support that our community has demonstrated in the face of adversity.

Before the Lahaina fires, one in 10 people in Maui County were food insecure, and an alarming one in four children were at risk of going hungry. In the months following the fires in August, the Maui Food Bank and our partner agencies have become beacons of hope for those in need. We served 27,163 people in August, 30,577 people in September, and over 40,000 individuals in October.

Over 4 million pounds of food has been distributed since the fires, including 600,000 pounds of fresh produce. For comparison, we typically distribute 3.25 million pounds of food during the whole year.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey, and for letting us continue to build a community where the spirit of giving and caring for one another prevails.



**FAITH  
FORMATION**  
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh  
Email: [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)



**VBS 2024**  
**JUNE 24TH-28TH 6-8PM**  
**DINNER AVAILABLE AT 5:30PM**  
VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS CAN SIGN UP AT  
[HTTPS://VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/EVENTS/UNIONUCC](https://vbspro.events/p/events/unionucc)

## KIDS EASTER PROGRAM

**THIS YEAR, OUR KIDS WILL HAVE A SHORT EASTER PROGRAM THAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH AT 9:15AM IN MEMORIAL HALL.**

**THIS PROGRAM DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL PRACTICES. KIDS JUST NEED TO SHOW UP READY TO HAVE FUN.**



### Church Family Worship

March 17th

\*We will have worship bags for the kids.\*



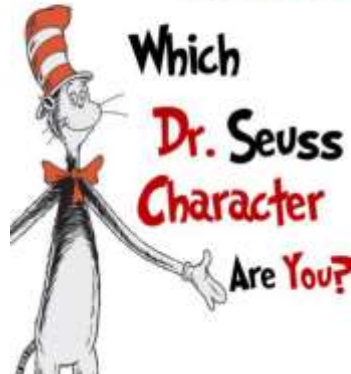
**Help support VBS and Christian Education by purchasing some delicious Butter Braids!**  
Each Butter Braid is \$15.

**This fundraiser will take place March 23rd-April 7th.**

**Pick up will be Tuesday, April 23rd, 5-7pm.**

**If there are any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Tiffany at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org).**

## DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION MARCH 3RD AT 9:15AM



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

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

**Panera  
FUNDRAISING**

*Help support us!*

# UNION UCC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**25%  
OF SALES  
WILL BE  
DONATED**

**MARCH 15, 2024  
4:00 PM TO 8:00 PM EDT  
2669 MACARTHUR RD, WHITEHALL, PA**

**Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.\***

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.\*\* Learn more at [fundraising.panerabread.com](http://fundraising.panerabread.com)

\*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. \*\*Services vary by cafe.

# Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

happy March



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



March 2024 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

## 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/>

## Holy Grounds Coffee Hour!

Youth are asked to bring goodies and host coffee hour on March 17, 2024

Sport your Youth Group Shirt and hang out with your church family

Sign up for coffee hour here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-youth2#/>



## Spring Into Youth Group

When: April 20, 2024

Time: 1pm-3pm

Join us for a laid back day of fun and food. Bring your favorite snack or sweet treat to share with everyone!

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-47783434-spring>





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](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)) or Pastor Kayli ([pastorkayli@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkayli@unionucc.org))*

From John Harting and the Financial Leadership Team

I know I don't have to tell you that the cost of running a household has increased over the last couple of years, as has the cost of running this church.

How has our congregation been doing in this environment of increasing prices? During the first six months of our current fiscal year (from July through the end of last year) income from offering envelopes is \$15,600 below our budget for the same six-month period. At a time when building maintenance expenses, salaries, program expenses and the needs of the benevolent organizations outside of this church that we support are expanding, our members' contributions to all that is our program are not keeping up with what it takes to fully fund our mission.

We need to remember that our church changes lives. It changes those lives because of you. And it changes lives beyond these four walls. Consider that last year we provided donations of over \$68,000 to about 30 organizations or programs in our community and beyond. The entire list was in our annual report.

Because of you our church also changes lives right here amongst our own people – members and friends of Union UCC. Our dedicated and competent staff fulfill their ministry to us, largely because your dollars provide for their salaries and the resource tools they need to do their jobs. Without your gifts we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry, and worship experiences that define our community life.

When is the last time you increased your giving here? You might find it enlightening to look at your annual or monthly income to calculate what percentage of your income finds its way to Union UCC. If our members increased their financial commitment by just 1% - that would be transformative to our budget and ministries. Might that be a challenge you would be willing to accept? If you are an e-giver giving a set amount on a repetitive schedule, might you consider getting back into the portal to tick up your giving amount if you haven't done so recently?

Our Financial Leadership Team meets monthly, and when we do I come away inspired by the diligence with which we collaborate to make sure that the budget we prepare maximizes the impact of the gifts this church receives. You rightly expect your contributions be used wisely for **God's work, and we feel the weight of that burden.** Our task to determine spending priorities is harder when our congregation falls short of budget targets. And so, as we begin a new year, our Team asks you to prayerfully consider the financial commitment you will make in 2024 to this wonderful place we call our spiritual home.





## 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](mailto: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](http://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!**



## EASTER EGG HUNT 2024!

Join us on March 23, 2024 (rain date March 24) for our  
 annual Easter Egg Hunt

All kiddos from infant thru age 10 are welcomed to  
 participate

Please pre-register your children via the Google Form:  
<https://forms.gle/SeFVfSjiAPbri1Qk9>

OR the registration form in your weekly bulletins

Please register no later than March 17, 2024

**\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED\***

## 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



February 19, 2024, Consistory Actions:

These notes reflect items that needed action and approval by Consistory. Standing and routine items are reported by Committees and Staff throughout the newsletter. A complete copy of the Consistory minutes can be found in the church office.

Requested approvals:

- Church & Ministry requested Sabbatical time for Pastor Kayli from 5/12/24 - 6/10/24 and 7/1/24 - 7/29/24 and Sabbatical time for Pastor Kris from 5/6/24 - 5/13/24 and vacation from 6/17/24 - 6/24/24
- Request for funds from FOLG for participants to attend the statewide Conference meeting in State College from 6/7 - 6/9.
- Consistory officers were elected for the year: President-Eric Minnich, Vice President-Don Penrod, Secretary-Janice Metzger, Treasurer-Marianne Kitzmiller
- New members were approved - C. Scott Boyer, Kasey and Carl Neubert-Mason, Carson & Everly, and Janice Kay Williams

All of the above were approved unanimously.

# 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





## Faith on Tap

**Korny's Tavern**  
**at Kornfeind's Market**  
**2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay**

**Wednesday, March 20 6:30-8:30pm**



### God. Conversation. Food & Drink. Not in a church.

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/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47982243-fotmarch2024>



"A great place to share questions and meet others who want to talk about faith."

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!*

## 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:

- March 3– Mission Committee
- March 10– No Coffee Hour
- March 17– Youth Group
- March 24– Fellowship Committee
- March 31– Easter Crew!

### 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 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.



### 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.)
- 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.

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.



Vanco



Vanco Mobile



Venmo



Stephen Kareha  
@Stephen-Kareha



**venmo**

## 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!

### 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 26<sup>th</sup>. At that point to signup online:

1. Visit [www.FMSC.org](http://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 at (610) 844-8327 or [Eliot5779@gmail.com](mailto:Eliot5779@gmail.com).



## 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](http://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](mailto: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

At our February God First adult faith time, I shared two children's books on emotional well-being:

**"Are You Mad At Me?"** by Tyler and Cody Feder and **"Lawrence and Sophia"** by Doreen and Brian Cronin.

Both of these books sparked heartfelt discussion among the adults, particularly how we can assist children in expressing their emotions and how the world is so much different than "when we were kids."

"Lawrence and Sophia" introduced feelings of anxiety about trying something new or going into unfamiliar territory alone. The world can be scary for us all, not just children!

Opening up our lives to new experiences, especially with a friend, can help us feel less isolated, lonely, or stagnant. A new goal or dream or new experience can help us feel alive and energized.

There are lots of great literature resources for children and teens emerging right now. If you have children in your life, I encourage you to look them up!

Carrie Beleno  
Pastor of Visitation  
Neffs Union UCC

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!



**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 funds. Contact the church office if you'd like to receive post card mailing reminders. We also collect monthly items for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.*

**March 5 : Strolling Strings**

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



## 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

# New Members



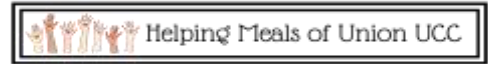
**Kasey and Carl Neubert with  
Mason, Carson, and Everly**

**Janice  
Williams**



**Not pictured: C. Scott Boyer**

## 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

Rev. Kris P. Snyder  
Senior Pastor  
Cell Phone: 610-657-6007  
pastorkris@unionucc.org

Marissa Haney  
Church Administrator  
administrator@unionucc.org

Church Office:  
610-767-6961  
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Church Telephone  
Extension Directory  
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Rev. Kayli Freeman  
Associate Pastor  
pastorkayli@unionucc.org

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

Carrie Beleno  
Pastor of Visitation  
vispastor@unionucc.org

Ori Handwerk  
Facility Caretaker  
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Preschool Office:  
610-767-5327  
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Director: Annette Wilcox

Tiffany Lakatosh  
Faith Formation Minister for  
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Barbara Carinci  
Financial Manager  
financialmanager@unionucc.org



[www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://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	\$313,114.00	\$30,560.00	\$343,674.00
Expenses	\$280,527.00	\$44,033.00	\$324,560.00
1-31-2024	\$27,905.00	\$26,377.00	\$54,282.00

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.