

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor
Tiffany Lakatosh, Faith Formation Minister of Children
Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation
Mr. Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music

Marissa Haney, Church Administrator
Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager
Payge Haydt Sunday Set-up
Hannah and Ryleigh Minnich Sunday Set-up
Bryce and Luke Thrash, Night Lock-up
Shelly & Ori Handwerk, Facility Caretakers

CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President: Eric Minnich, VP: Don Penrod, Secretary: Janice Metzger, Treasurer: Marianne Kitzmiller

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

To share a prayer request you may use the yellow prayer slips found in the racks in your seats and place in offering plate or submit [online here](#).

Medical

Liam, Sophia, Jason with cancer, Albert to gain strength, good test results for a grand-daughter, Paulette with cancer, Mark, Amanda's dad, Barbara with her surgery, Dolly with broken arm, Parents with covid, Ruth and her family, Chuck fighting cancer, Susie healing after surgery, Janine fighting cancer that has spread to her liver, MaryKate, Joe, Doug, Maria, Ardith, Liz, Donna and Jan, Brad and Rob

General

Josh in the Air Force training, Dylan in the Navy, Gabe in the Army, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, return of the hostages, peace in the world, prayers for Roma and family, Dean, Irene's Family, a Nana, health and safety for Kait & her baby, sister for healing and strength, Lucas and Stella, sister for strength and courage, Violet and Randy, Dorothy, Rusty, Diane, Rob and Brad, Thank you for the pastors and music minister for all their extra ministry this week, Mike and Donna, the Purner Family

Thoughts and Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Ruth Purner who passed on April 4, 2024. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

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



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

In April we'll be looking at Resurrection Stories and how God's love and grace unlocks our own rising up.



Sunday, April 7- Easter Joy Continues with music by Stacy Gabel

Stacy is an accomplished performer with a passion for writing songs with catchy lyrics and memorable melodies. When not in the studio recording, Stacy can be seen performing at festivals, wineries, resorts and theatres. She enjoys connecting with her audience, leaving each show with new friends and putting a smile on everyone's face.

At 10:30 worship kids will stay in church to learn her original song "At the Zoo-oo-oo."

Sunday, April 14- Pastor Carrie Beleno's Installation as our Pastor of Visitation!

Sunday, April 21- New Members Received

Sunday, April 28- Women's Retreat Weekend

May 5- Confirmation Day

June 2- Communion

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

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

Upcoming Hosts:

April 14- Fellowship Committee

April 21- FLT

April 28- Worship Committee



**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.



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.

GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, May 1
5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper

Menu: Chicken fingers, fries, brownies.

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/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-48527326-godfirst>

Or email/text a staff member. Do your best to sign up - but if you miss signing up, just come.

Putting God First on First Wednesdays

Country Sale BAKE SALE HELPERS AND BAKERS Saturday, June 1

This event will be outside in the grove and baked goods will be sold in the grove stand.

We're looking for bakers who will help us provide tasty treats for our Country Sale.

Some items will be sold whole and others will be cut for single serving sale. Please bring your items in disposable pans. We will cut and portion them.

We need pies, cakes, cupcakes, cookies, apple dumplings, muffins, brownies, fudge, bar cookies, snack mixes.

We prefer items that don't need to be refrigerated.

We can always use sugar free and gluten free options.

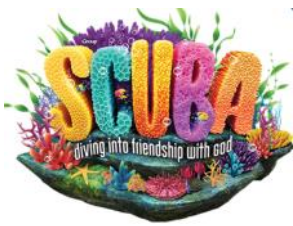
Please drop off your baked goods on Friday at the church 9am-2pm or on Saturday in the grove by 9am.

Use this link to sign up or email Sherry Penrod at slpbakes19@gmail.com or contact the church office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-48528445-baked>

We also need volunteers to work shifts (1-4 hrs.) at the bake sale 8am-1pm.

Please reach out to Sherry Penrod at slpbakes19@gmail.com if you'd like to help out or with any questions.



VBS 2024

June 24-28 6-8PM

Dinner available at 5:30pm

Volunteers and participants can sign up at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/unionucc>



Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am- April 5, (NO April 12), 19, 26
Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am – April 7, (NO April 14), 21, 28.

Study of Acts 1-6 with Pastor Carrie Acts is the perfect book for a God-is-still-speaking church, as many issues in Acts are important for us in the church today: leadership and conflict, cultural diversity and inclusiveness, the use of wealth, and the relationship between church and state, to name just a few. Beyond that, Acts is full of rollicking good stories and adventures. Wouldn't it be great if the Book of Acts helped churches today recapture the excitement and adventure of following Jesus? Watch out -- it could happen.

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.
Date: May 1



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.

We met in March and worked with our marketing designer, Rev. Nicole Pickens.

Watch for her work soon, very exciting!

These teams created more questions and drafts for: Architect interviews and design process, Capital Campaign and Financial pieces, and Purpose and Why of Renovating Memorial Hall.

We will be meeting at Consistory meetings in April and May.

We're looking for some more folks to join us with these new ideas (contact a Pastor to sign up):

Mental Health and Wellness Initiative Team

Summer 2025 Grove Event Idea Team

Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller and the LPT/Consistory



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR INSTALLATION ON APRIL 14, 2024

PASTOR CARRIE BELENO

Pastor Carrie grew up in Easton in the Lutheran faith, having active involvement in youth group and choirs, was the children's pageant coordinator, and was a VBS and Sunday School teacher and superintendent. In 2004, she and her family moved to Slatington and joined Union where she was active with the youth, dance and praise worship and women's retreats.



She has a M.Ed. in Educational Development and Strategies, an Administrative Certificate and had previously been an elementary teacher, math specialist and elementary principal.

In 2001, Carrie became a reiki master/teacher and participated with the pastor of her previous Lutheran church offering healing services. She owned her own reiki practice until 2022 as well as a spiritual healing center in downtown Bethlehem. Today, Carrie shares her healing gifts during "Prayers with a Pastor" Sundays, meditations and retreats and visitation.

In addition to visiting our homebound and hospitalized members, she organizes Golden Times and Helping Hearts/Meals and assists with worship, preaching, communion and funerals. She works about 20 hours a week at Union where her hours were recently increased to add GriefShare groups, faith formation, Breathe services, and serves on the Leadership Planning Team. She also has a focus on mental health awareness, is certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid and is leading the congregation in widening their reach in the community regarding wellness. She is also currently a hospital chaplain for St. Luke's University Hospital Network.

Spare time is spent with her husband, children and grandchildren as well as traveling and golfing. She is licensed through the Penn Northeast Conference and is excited and blessed to continue to grow with the congregation at Neffs and to offer her support, love, insights and ministry.



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.



Vanco

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



Electronic Giving

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!



All youth grades 6th thru 12th are invited to join us for a day of fun and food in the Youth Room!

When: April 20, 2024

Time: 1pm-3pm

bring your favorite snack/ dessert to share with everyone

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



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!

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):

April 7, April 21, May 12 (final gathering/lunch)



Youth Group Summer Plans!

All youth grades 6th thru 12th are encouraged to join us! Bring your friends too!

June 12, 2024 (6pm-8:30pm) "Kick Off Summer Game & Rita's Night"

July 9 & July 23, 2024 (6pm-8pm) "Grove Hang-Out Nights"

August 17, 2024 (6pm-9pm) "Movies & Sundaes Night"

Make sure to get on our email list to get the most up-to-date information on Youth Group Activities.

PNEC Ambassador Corner- One of Union's initiatives coming out of the LPT work is mental health/wellness. During our worship services on Sunday, May 26th we will be lifting up mental health. Please plan to be in worship as we acknowledge this important facet of our lives. Also, in October, Union will be hosting a Mental Health workshop, put on by the PNEConference.

This Week in PNEC, April 4, 2024: **2024 Summer Conference Meeting**

"For the first time, all four Pennsylvania conferences of the UCC will be gathering for a **shared Meeting on June 7-9, 2024 at The Penn Stater in State College, PA**. We will have shared worship, workshops, meals and meetings as well as each conference's separate business meeting.

Below is a letter from the four PA UCC Conference Ministers about this year's Summer Meeting: *The planning committee for the Keystone State UCC Conference Summer Meeting has been working diligently to prepare for our June 7-9 meeting. The Keystone Working Group in collaboration with the Conference Ministers have been seeking grants and additional funding to assist with the costs of the meeting.*

*We want you to know that **YOUR** attendance is vitally important to us. **We need you** to help us plan for the future of our conferences. Our General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson will be with us on Saturday and Sunday, **and we hope you will be with us to meet her and worship with her on Sunday.***

The costs for this meeting will be significantly higher than our usual conference meetings. For one thing, this is a 3-day meeting and incorporates the extensive use of technology and the Penn Stater multiple room assignments for our gathering. We do not want the cost of the event to prevent anyone from attending.

Therefore, we are increasing our scholarship funds to cover ½ the cost of the registration. The registration materials (which are forthcoming) include some links for additional hotel locations, should you choose to utilize them.

Also, we want you to know that our meetings as a Keystone Conference will likely be shorter and less costly. Please make plans to join us in State College in June and celebrate the work we are doing together, because we believe "Together We Are Stronger."

Union has two delegates who will be attending, but anyone can attend as a guest. If you are interested in more info or would like to register, as a guest, for this shared meeting, contact Patty at patty@pnecon.org or reach out to the PNEConference office, 610-826-5464. If you have any general Conference 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.

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
April 23, May 21

Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBzRpbDVIUT09)
pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBzRpbDVIUT09
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.

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.

Walking Tacos at the Country Sale
June 1, 2024
8:00am-1:00pm (set up at 7am)

Join us as we serve the community our famous walking tacos with proceeds benefitting future youth group shenanigans!



Sign up below to help and/or donate items! Everyone's help is greatly appreciated!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-48976205-country>



Pastor Kayli's Sabbatical Journey

Every five years, our pastoral staff is allowed the opportunity to get 12 weeks of sabbatical time. This is a time of rest and spiritual rejuvenation. Last summer, I took my first 4 weeks of sabbatical, and this May & July I will finish out my time. During my time away (**May 13-June 9 & July 1-July 28**) I plan to find ways to reconnect to my spiritual growth and journey. I'm hopeful to find creative outlets that will connect my desire for creativity with my spiritual well being. I'm grateful for the opportunity to rest my body, mind, and soul to be able to better serve the wonderful people of Union UCC.



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!

Stephen Kareha
@Stephen-Kareha



venmo

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!



Faith on Tap

**Korny's Tavern
at Kornfeind's
Market**

Wednesday, April 24

6:30-8:30pm

God. Conversation.

Food & Drink. At Korny's.

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
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

**Rain or Shine
*Breakfast, Lunch and
Baked Goods will be Sold
Everyone is welcome!

- 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.



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 **May 19**. There is a pre-baptism zoom session with the pastor the week before. Sign up by calling the church office at 610-767-6961 or emailing Marissa Haney at administrator@unionucc.org. The pastors will work with you if the scheduled dates are a conflict.

Hearing Assistance System: We have a wireless system on a table, as you enter from the lobby foyer. Please see an usher or a sound team person to assist you. You will need a receiver pack (turn it on) and ear piece (if you don't have a hearing aid) or a t-coil cord (if you have a hearing aid that is t-coil compatible.) Plug this into the receiver. At the end of worship, please return both pieces to the table and place the receiver back into the charger. Thank you to the Schlosser Family & Funds of Lasting Gifts for supporting this effort.

Food and Toiletry Donations: You're invited to bring non perishable food and toiletry donations at anytime to help our local food bank. Place items in the shopping cart in the lobby. Needed items: cereal, soup, pasta/sauce, peanut butter/jelly, vegetables, fruit, toothpaste/brush, shampoo, deodorant, soap, baby items. Thanks!

UNION UCC STAFF

Rev. Kris P. Snyder
Senior Pastor
Cell Phone: 610-657-6007
pastorkris@unionucc.org
Ext. 24

Rev. Kayli Freeman
Associate Pastor
pastorkayli@unionucc.org
Ext. 25

Carrie Beleno
Pastor of Visitation
vispastor@unionucc.org

Tiffany Lakatosh
Faith Formation Minister for
Children & Families
dired@unionucc.org
Ext. 27

Marissa Haney
Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org
Ext. 21

Blake Hoppes
Minister of Music
Blake.charger@gmail.com
Ext. 26

Ori Handwerk
Facility Caretaker
Caretaker@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci
Financial Manager
financialmanager@unionucc.org
Ext. 32

Church Office:
610-767-6961
Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66,
5550 Route 873
Neffs PA 18065-0066
www.unionucc.org

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



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