

Sunday Worship in church and online

MAY 5 8 & 10:30AM Confirmation Day	MAY 12 8 & 10:30 AM Mother's Day, Last day of Education Hour & Children's Church	MAY 19 8 & 10:30 AM Pentecost, 10:30 Baptism, Guest Preacher: Brad Hackett	MAY 26 8 & 10:30 AM Memorial Sunday and Mental Health Sunday
JUNE 2 8 & 10:30 AM Communion Last 8am Worship for the Summer	JUNE 9 10:30am Worship Only	JUNE 16 10:30AM Confirmation Day, Father's Day, Graduate Sunday	JUNE 23 10:30AM 10:30 Semi-Annual Meeting

JUNE 30
10:30 Worship in the Grove, Build Your Own Sundae Sunday Picnic
Guest Preacher: Geoffrey Brace

Congratulations Confirmation Class 2024

Confirmands	Parents	God-Guides
Grayson Christman	Greg & Wendy Christman	Ardith Kuhns
Madison Eckhart	Amanda & J.R. Roth	Ron Pope
Jocelyn Kareha	Steve & Jen Kareha	Deana Correll
Kendall Miller	Jarrad & Tiffany Miller	Hannah Minnich
Noah Roth	Amanda & J.R. Roth	Edie Fella




Faith on Tap

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

Watch for a May date in Sunday's bulletin and on Facebook!

God. Conversation. Food & Drink.

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/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-49334413-fotmay2024>

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!



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

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

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.

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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
May 21 (watch for new dates in the Fall)

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?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.



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
Watch for new dates in the Fall!



Country Sale BAKE SALE HELPERS AND BAKERS

Saturday, June 1

Church and Community-Wide Yard Sale

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.

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>

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

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.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 1st!



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.

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.



Graduating in 2024?

Let us celebrate your accomplishments!

If you’re graduating from High School, College, Grad School, or BEYOND...we want to celebrate you! Submit your information via the Google form below or the information form in your bulletin.

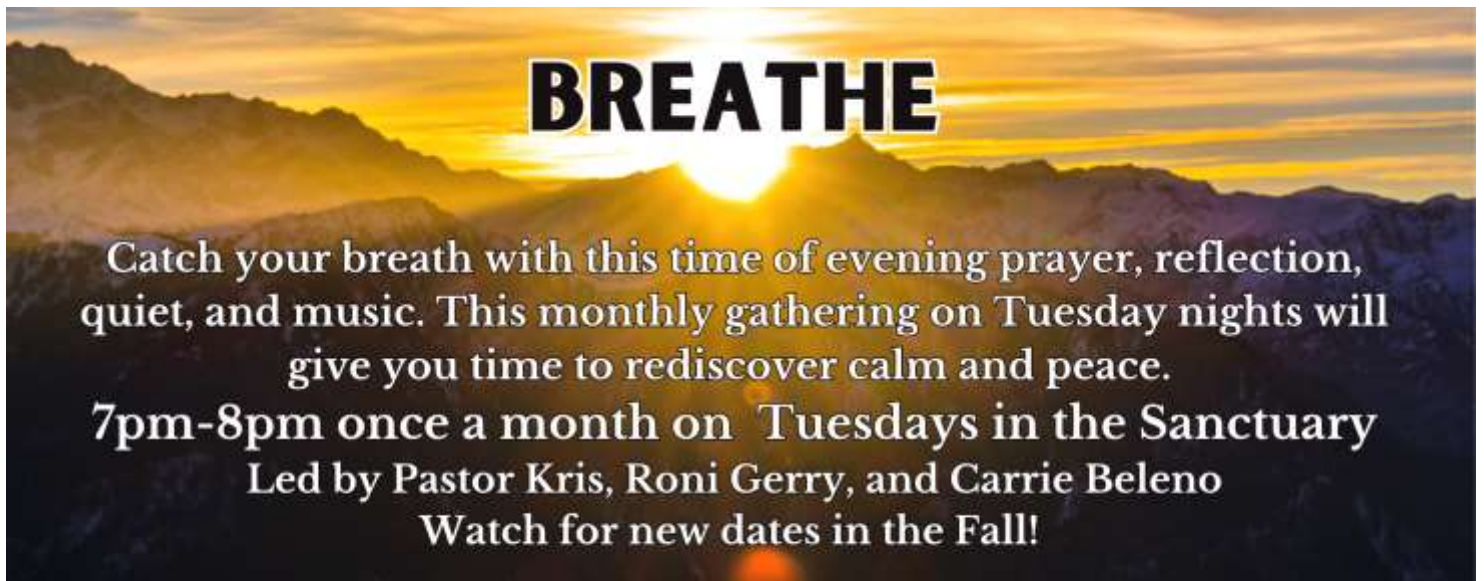
Then join us in worship on June 16, 2024 to honor you!

Google form: <https://forms.gle/n8A4zXhEUvyjW4Cv6>

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Watch for new dates in the Fall!

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.



BREATHE

Catch your breath with this 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 once a month on Tuesdays in the Sanctuary
Led by Pastor Kris, Roni Gerry, and Carrie Beleno
Watch for new dates in the Fall!

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



May Missions - Cereal - Cereal - Cereal

The special mission project for the whole month of May is to collect boxed cereals for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Every Summer, the food bank provides extra kid's packs to the children of local food bank families, stuffed with peanut butter, jelly, soup, canned fruit, and lots of extra goodies. Each supporting church of the food bank provides certain goodies to make over 120 kid's pack.

This year, in addition to our normal goodies, Union UCC will be providing 1 or 2 extra boxes of cereal to each child. Our challenge to you is fill the shopping cart and the foyer area of the church with CEREAL, all brands, all flavors, all box sizes. Our goal is to collect a minimum of 300 boxes of CEREAL, can we do this? YES, we can. Start shopping now, and bring to church the whole month of May.

Each box of cereal goes along way in providing nutrition to children during the summer months. You do make a difference. Thank you, the Mission Committee.

Mission Thank You Notes



Cay Galgon Life House in Bethlehem, PA

Thank you for your \$500 contribution to Cay Galgon Life House which supports pregnant women, mothers of infants and babies on their journey to establish a more stable future. One of our residential moms wanted to share this message to our donors as an example of the impact your support can make.

"Throughout my stay at the Life House, I gave birth to a healthy baby girl, received my certification to become a peer specialist, obtained my drivers permit, and more. I am looking forward to what the future holds for us. I am incredibly grateful for the support I've received at the Life House."

With heartfelt appreciation

Cancer Support Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley

On behalf of everyone at the Cancer Support Community, and the individuals and families we are privileged to serve, thank you for the \$1,000 donation.

Our cancer support groups, education programs, and healthy activities help participants regain control in managing their health, reduce stress and isolation, and restore a sense of hope for an improved quality of life during treatment. Hope can move mountains. Each patient and loved one in our community is filled with gratitude. They are taking care of themselves because they are grateful for the Cancer Support Community and we exist because of your support. Thank you.

World Central Kitchen

On behalf of World Central Kitchen, I want to thank you for your donation of \$1,150 in support of our work around the globe. We are grateful for your support.

WCK is truly a people-powered organization. WCK has provided more than 350 million meals since 2010 in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises across the world. We are dedicated to being first to the frontlines with a fresh plate of food, wherever we are needed.

Our founder Jose Andres says, "World Central Kitchen was born from the simple idea that food has the power to create a better world. A plate of food is a plate of hope, it is the fastest way to rebuild life and communities."

Thank you for your belief and trust in our mission.





FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh
Email: dired@unionucc.org



Church Family Worship

May 5th & 19th



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)**

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH AT 11:45
IN THE YOUTH ROOM**



Adults and teens (currently in 8th grade or older) planning to volunteer for VBS are invited to attend our meeting.

Contact Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org with any questions.

MAY 12TH AT 9:15AM
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Family Fun Day

Families are invited to join us for our last morning of Sunday School where we will have snacks, crafts, and family fun.

Time with Ms. Tiffany & Friends



Summer of the Spirit

MAY 26TH-AUGUST 25TH DURING 10:30AM SERVICE



CHILDREN WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL IN FUN AND CREATIVE WAYS.

Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

Worthiness doesn't have prerequisites.
— Brene Brown



May 2024 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Congratulations to the 2024 Confirmation Class!

These 5 amazing youth are being confirmed on May 5, 2024!

- Grayson Christman
- Madison Eckhart
- Jocelyn Kareha
- Kendall Miller
- Noah Roth



Got Plans This Summer?

Be sure to join us for some fun times this summer!

June 12—Kick off Summer Game & Rita's Night (6pm-8:30pm)

July 9 & July 23— Summer Grove Hang-Out Nights (6pm-8pm)

August 17—Movies & Sundaes (6pm-9pm)

be sure to always watch your emails for the most up to date information on what's going on, and impromptu hang-outs!



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>

REMINDER: Pastor Kayli will be on Sabbatical
May 13-June 9.
You'll be missed!!



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.

From the Property Committee

Over the past twenty years, the property committee has overseen many large repairs and improvements to the church property, usually one large project a year. Some projects are very visible to everyone, examples are the new rug in the sanctuary, the exterior painting of the church, a new slate roof to the church, and painting of classrooms. Some projects may not be so visible, but are just as important to the operation of the church property, examples are upgrades to the security system, upgrades to the chimney, upgrades to the air conditioning units.

The major project for this year is not visible, but very important to the church property. The 6,000 gallon underground oil tank, which is over 65 years old, is being refurbished to provide the church many more decades of useful service.

The property committee has been working on this project for the past two years. Boyko Petroleum of Whitehall is overseeing the project, with WCC Tank Technology Company of NY coming in to clean out the interior of the tank which includes sand blasting to clean the metal interior. After all is clean, they will spray a Polyester Blend Resin to the interior of the tank, creating a new rust free interior liner to prevent any future leaks.

Once completed, Boyko Petroleum will cover up the tank with existing ground, re-install the sidewalks, and refill the tank with oil. A three day project completed by professionals, with months of planning ahead of the project. Truly a "Dirty Job", too bad Mike Rowe could not stop for a visit.

This project is a very proactive improvement to our church property to allow for the safe storage of oil in an underground tank. The oil tank project was funded by the Funds of Lasting Gifts Endowment Fund. Thank you to the FOLG trustees and all donor families to the Funds of Lasting Gifts. We are blessed to be able to use earnings from the endowment fund to make important upgrades to the church property which will last years and decades into the future.

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.

Looking to the work of the Keystone Working group, the following is an excerpt from PNEC's 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, thank you Bill & Janice Metzger! But anyone can attend as a guest. Thanks Doug Brace for attending as a guest. Pastor Kris is also going. If you are interested in more info or would like to register, as a guest, for this shared meeting, contact Patty at patty@pniec.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.

April 15, 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:

Christian Ed request for FOLG fund: Semmel Fund– for VBS recreation expenses.

Request to approve folks joining Union on 4/21/2024:

Mike and Cindy Basta, Pablo Coella and Cozette El-kik

All of the above were approved unanimously.

PRESCHOOL



It is hard to believe that I am entering my final month as the preschool director. This school year has flown fast as the list of completed “lasts” is now much longer than my “to do” list. I feel like a senior in high school all over again, feeling nostalgic while knowing a new chapter of “firsts” awaits both me and the preschool under its new director.

The students and staff alike have enjoy the return of warmer weather and the ability to bring the classroom outside with nature walks and discussions about the changes we see during spring. Of course time on the playground remains a favorite outside activity. We encourage all families to take time to let children play outside, whether on a playground, a back yard, or a sports field. Besides helping build gross motor skills, physical strength, and coordination, outdoor play helps build multiple skills needed for adulthood: decision making, communication, collaboration, and the setting of boundaries. As adults we can all use opportunities to strengthen these skills, so get out there and play with your kids when the opportunity arises. If you do not have children, find a park or playground and let yourself relive your youth. I find the view from a swing as you pump higher is sure to brighten a day and bring a smile to your face.



If you or a family member are still looking for a preschool program in the fall we are filling fast. Email preschool@unionucc.org for registration. We have the following spots remaining:

3-year-old class: 2 spots

4-year-old class: 15 spots

PreK: 1 spot



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.

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!

PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The Neffs Preschool Board of Directors is pleased to announce their 2024 scholarship winner. This \$250 scholarship is given every year to a high school senior who is planning on higher education and started their educational career at Neffs

Preschool. The applicants are required to complete a 500 word essay in which they discuss themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory.

Congratulations to Matthew Reiter, a senior at Northampton High School who plans on pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering.

SUMMER
COFFEE HOUR
WILL CONTINUE

Sundays after 10:30 worship.
Stop by in Memorial Hall for some cool lemonade, juice, water, and a snack and visit with friends and pastors.

Anyone is welcome to bring fruit, baked goods, or snacks to share anytime!

First Communion 2024

Congratulations to these youth on their first Communion



Wesley Buskirk, Everly Neubert, Rowan Kuharik, Addison Recker, Bailey Recker, Michael Strack

Pastor Carrie's Corner

As the LPT moves forward in their discussions on how we at Union can best serving our congregation and wider community, my focus has turned to mental health and well-being. I have joined the Penn Northeast Conference's Mental Health Ministry Team and will support their Mental Health Sunday initiative on May 26, I am certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid, and continue to facilitate GreifShare groups as well as community mental health and well-being events.

Here's a tip that may help parents (and all of us!): NYU social psychologist Jonathan Haidt sees anxiety and depressive disorders sharply increased after the introduction of the iPhone and Instagram with an alarming rate of *double* the suicides and self-harm in teens.

He recommends limiting or denying access to smartphones and social media, particularly in middle school. Create phone-free opportunities for social interaction among friends and family (we have lots of opportunities here!).

For younger children, he suggests making a pact with other parents to not purchase smartphones for your children. If their friend group doesn't have them, your child won't feel like the outcast. Those parents are concerned too!

And for us adults, we can be drawn into the spiral of social media just as easily. Shut down the apps, get outside, call a friend, read a book...do anything that allows freedom from the screen. Find the joy in life, not in "likes!"



Thank you, dearest congregation, for the warm reception and loving support on my recent installation. Although I have been the Pastor of Visitation for a few years now, being able to share my recent designation as Licensed Lay Minister with all of you was truly heartwarming. The well-wishes I received affirm that I am in exactly the right place at the right time. Here's to sharing more ministry and miracles together!

Pastor Carrie

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.

May 7- "Fun and Games" (last one until Fall)

Donations: Toiletries

Bring a dessert

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, October 20th at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, October 27th 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



Our blessings and prayers go to the friends and families of those who have passed.

Ruth Purner passed on April 4, 2024. A memorial service will be held 11am, Saturday, May 18, 2024 at Heintzelman Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions were made in memory of Curtis Hoffman by Edwin & Alisha Kase, Jean Kase, Michael & Jennifer Roth, Newhard Farms, Nancy Hoffman, John & Gloria Simock, Patricia McCarthy, Greg, Shelly, Shelby & Abbey Hafler, Terry & Beverly Wertman, Marjorie Hoffman, Matthew Hoffman, Clifford & Carol James, Dale & Lucy Ritter, Richard & Madeline Bingell, James & Carol Beers, Susan Stalcoskie



New Members

**Pablo Coello Jr.
pictured with Rachel
Baringer and
Isabella**

**Cynthia and
Michael Basta**

**Cozette El-Kik
pictured with
Justin Evans**

Union UCC Staff

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Senior Pastor
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Church Administrator
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Minister of Music
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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	\$401,825.00	\$46,162.00	\$447,987.00
Expenses	\$364,527.00	\$55,441.00	\$419,968.00
3-31-2024	\$32,616.00	\$30,571.00	\$63,187.00

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, July 21, 2024 and September 22, 2024**. 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.