



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8am and 10:30am at church and online

February

Feb. 2: Blanket Sunday/ Boy Scout Sunday

Feb. 9: Souper Bowl Sunday/ Tailgate Lunch

Feb. 16: Confirmation Class Leads Worship

Feb. 23: New Members Received

March

Mar. 2: Communion Save the Date! 3pm Organ Concert

Mar. 4: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday Worship at 7

Mar. 9: Lent 1

Mar. 16: Youth Sunday

Mar. 23: Lent 3

Mar. 30: 10:30 Baptism

April

Apr. 6: Lent 5

Apr. 13: Palm Sunday

Apr. 17: Maundy Thursday 6pm Potluck Supper with Worship/ Communion

Apr. 18: 7pm Good Friday Worship with Communion

Apr. 20: Easter at 6am (Cemetery), 8am, and 10:30 am

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God 1st Wednesday and Wednesdays at Union in February:

- 2/5: Modern parenting & grandparenting: Key issues facing today's families
- 2/12: Avoid Getting Crispy: Burnout/Trauma/Stress
- 2/19: Sleep/Health/Community: How these topics intersect & brief discussion of diagnosis & treatments for sleep disorders
- 2/26: Managing Anxiety and Depression in the Winter Months

Seminars led by St. Luke's Clinical Therapy Services

1st Wednesday: 5:30-6pm Supper, 6-7:15 pm Kids Choir & Adult seminars, 7:15-7:30pm Closing Worship

All other Wednesdays: Adults 6-730

January NO God First or Wednesdays at Union



Join us as we welcome our newest members to our team!
Menu: Sandwiches, pizza, wings, snacks, water.

Please bring a dessert to share
(Gluten Free options available)

Make it a SOUPER BOWL OF CARING by bringing a can(s) of soup or cash donation for area food banks.

Welcome Home TO UNION UCC



Are you looking for a family of faith? Do you want to know the love and grace of Jesus more fully? What are your questions? We would love to welcome you on this journey.

Our next new member gathering is on Sunday, February 16th at 11:45-12:45 at Coffee Hour.

Your welcome Sunday is February 23rd at 8am or 10:30am or virtually.

Contact me if you would like to talk, sign up, or if you'd like a different date.
Pastor Kris pastorkris@unionucc.org

Our leaders have been writing their elevator pitches for their faith or our church.

Here's Pastor Kris's: Our kids and youth love growing up here. They say that the building is like a second home and the people are a second family. It's a safe place to ask questions and a great place to learn how to love and serve God. Adults tell us that coming to worship is fun, surprising, and gives them what they need to get through the week. They feel nurtured here, as well as challenged and inspired to live out their faith. Guests and new members say that they love that we say and embrace the United Church of Christ motto: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Some have said it is the best thing they have heard a pastor say and they are grateful for a place that models what it looks like to be followers of Jesus when we disagree or are different. It is this extravagant welcome that is often the reason they join us as members.

Meditation and Prayer Gatherings by Zoom with Pastor Kris Snyder from Union UCC, Friends, and Penn Northeast Conference Community

**Tuesdays 7-8pm
Feb 4, March 18, April 22, May 6**

**Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09)
[pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09)
Meeting ID: 876 8037 8046 Passcode: 954906**

Share in readings, scripture, prayer practices like breath prayer and centering prayer, and meditation practices from the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, Buddhist, and Christian traditions.

Sign up with me at PastorKris@unionucc.org.

You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, whatever your schedule allows.



Adult Faith Formation
Classes with Pastor Kris and
Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am Feb 7, 14, 21, and 28

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am Feb 9, 16, 23, and March 2

In 1945 an Egyptian peasant unearthed what proved to be the Gnostic Gospels, the sacred books of one of the earliest Christian sects. The landmark study exploring alternative perspectives of early Christianity as revealed through the Nag Hammadi texts that could have shaped the religion differently if included in the Christian canon. Join us for *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels.

Note: In addition to these gatherings there is an adult group that meets on God First Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of the month and also every Wednesday of the month. God First starts with supper (you can join or skip) at 5:30 with small groups starting at 6:00-7:30pm. See more detailed info.



BREATHE

TUESDAYS
ONCE A MONTH
IN THE SANCTUARY

FEBRUARY 11 AT 7PM

MARCH 11 AT 7PM

APRIL 8 AT 7PM

MAY 1 AT 7PM



*Catch your Breath
...with God*

*Prayer * Meditation * Music * Communion*

*Led by Rani Gerry, Pastor Carrie,
and Pastor Kris*

Knitters and crocheters:

We are looking for folks to make baby blankets to share with our families when they have a child baptized. Size around 32" by 32" and gender neutral colors like sage, white, yellow, and multi colors and must be soft. We also need a few larger ones every year for older children.

Contact Pastor Kris if you are able to help with this ministry of wrapping our kids in

Union UCC love!



Faith on Tap

**Wednesday, February 25
6:30-8:30pm**

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

God. Conversation. Food & Drink.

Park in the back of the store and enter from there.

Cost: Your drink (alcohol and non-alcohol options)

Complimentary Kornfeind's Food. Sign up if you can, or just join us.

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://bit.ly/4g9fE6l>

*Thanks
Kornfeind's
Market!*

Hosted by **Kris Snyder**, Senior Pastor, Union UCC, Neffs and **Joe Kornfeind**, Kornfeind's Market and Business Professor, with other guests.



Presented by: C.R.E.W

Connection-Resources-Education-Wellness

Join us for a special viewing and Q & A of
"This Is My Son, This Is My Daughter."

presented by Bill Tonkin. It is an emotionally candid look at the impact of addiction on individuals and families, resources and hope.

February 2, 2025

11:30-1:30pm

All adults and teens are encouraged to attend but is not intended for children under 12. Pizza lunch provided.

RSVP by January 29.



Holy Grounds
Coffee hour

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

Upcoming hosts:

- Feb. 2 Boy Scouts**
- Feb. 9 Souperbowl Tailgate Lunch**
- Feb. 16 Confirmation Class**
- Feb. 23 Fellowship Committee**



UNION UCC NIGHT WITH THE PHANTOMS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND

7:05PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM)

Tickets: \$27.00 each

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

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

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

Cash, Check, or Venmo

(Make checks payable to Steve Kareha)

Bring your friends and family!

Presented by Union UCC Men's Group



25th Anniversary Basket Social
March 29-March 30, 2025

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee

Tickets on sale beginning in January
After worship & online

Questions?
Contact Maria Beltz (wesmar92@icloud.com)
or Debbie Romig (dromig180@gmail.com)

BASKET SOCIAL 2025

Tickets are on sale.

After worship services & Online

\$5 per sheet (25 tickets)

\$20 for 5 sheets

To purchase online & pay via Venmo visit: <https://forms.gle/p5CAcpY3N9jhdubo6>

See page 9 for donation needs.

Monday, January 20, 2025, 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 for funds from FOLG from:

Property for elevator maintenance, gutter cleaning & slate repair, miscellaneous property repairs & maintenance and for the balance of the cost of replacing old windows in Room 100 and the Nursery.

Christian Ed for Christian Enrichment for Women's Retreat and events

Mission for Union UCC to be a sponsor for the upcoming Family Promise Homecoming Event

FLT for Golden Times and special mailings

Worship for guest preachers & worship music guests

Marketing for upcoming marketing purposes

Request from Church and Ministry for Pastor Kayli's vacation from 2/17/25 - 2/23/25 & 5/5/25 - 5/12/25

All of the above requests were approved unanimously.



From the Mission Committee

From the Allentown Rescue Mission

On behalf of all our guests here at the Allentown Rescue Mission, I want to thank you for your recent donation of hats, gloves, shirts, and underwear. As the air grows cold, the changing season reminds me of the ongoing transformations in the lives of the men we serve.

Your generous gift has played a crucial role in the process of helping to meet the urgent need of our weary neighbors and to provide comfort and care to all of our guests. Every gift makes a significant impact, and we are deeply thankful.

Ben F., one of our guests, writes "If I hadn't come to the Allentown Rescue Mission, I would be living in my truck or on the streets with no plans, goals, or direction. I am thankful for their help because I am back on my feet and walking a new path with God in my life"

From Lehigh Conference of Churches

Thank you for your decent donation to LCC to support our neighbors in need. For over 70 years, we have brought together area faith organizations to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable while building partnerships and fostering unity. With you, we carry out the work of God well beyond our collective walls, providing housing, hope and healing to those who need it the most. This most generous gift allows us to continue our work with more than 14,000 individuals and families in the Lehigh Valley living in poverty.



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

Join us for God
First on
February 5th
at 5:30pm.

FLANNEL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9TH



GOD IN HEAVEN HEAR MY PRAYER,
KEEP ME IN THY LOVING CARE.
BE MY GUIDE IN ALL I DO,
BLESS ALL THOSE
WHO LOVE ME TOO.
AMEN.

WEAR YOUR
FAVORITE
FLANNEL
OUTFIT TO
CHURCH. THE
MOST CREATIVE
OUTFIT WILL
GET A SPECIAL
SURPRISE.



VBS 2025

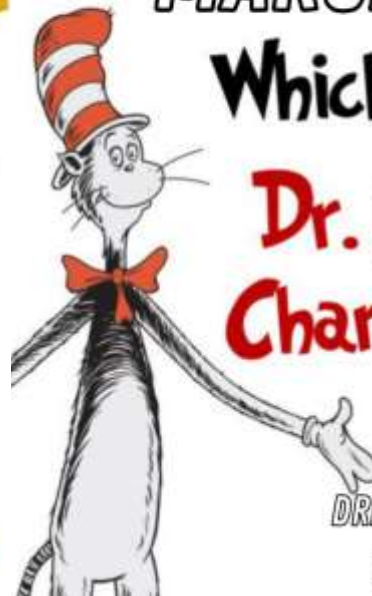
June 23-27 6pm-8pm



Volunteers and participants can register online at <https://vbspro.eventbrite.com/p/unionucc>



DR. SEUSS SUNDAY MARCH 2ND



Which
**Dr. Seuss
Character**
Are You?

DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE
DR. SEUSS CHARACTER

Those interested in volunteering and those signed up to volunteer are invited to join us for a meeting on March 9th after the 10:30 service in the Youth Room.

Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt

February 2025 Edition
Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Confirmation Retreat 2024

Date: February 15, 2025

Time: 10am-3:30pm

Where: Church

Theme: Viewing Faith Through a Secular Lens

All Youth (9th thru 12th grade) are invited to help Pastor Kayli and the confirmation teaching team lead the confirmation winter retreat! You'll be fed during the time of fun and learning.



Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-54331333-confirmation>

Open Sunday School

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

Upcoming Dates: February 9, February 23, March 9, March 23, April 6, April 20, May 18

9:15am—10:15am

Youth Room



High School Happy Hour

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

11:30am-12:30pm

Youth Room

Upcoming dates: February 2, February 16, March 2, March 30, April 13, April 27, May 18

Youth Sunday 2025
March 16, 2025

iBelong
Everyone has a home here

All youth (grades 6th-12th) encouraged to participate!

Sign up to participate here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-54370741-youth>

Blanket Sunday

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

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

You're changing lives around the World !! Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency. Please support this important annual mission project, our yearly goal is to collect over \$2,000.

Thank you, the Mission Committee

Souper Bowl Sunday - Feb 9, 2025

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

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

Cash donations may be made through the special envelope in this newsletter, marked "Souper Bowl Sunday" and "Blanket Sunday " Please mark your donations accordingly and mail to the church, or drop in the collection plates. E-Gifts may also be made, please designate "Souper Bowl". Cash donations will support the mission of Lehigh Conference of Churches in Allentown.

Thank you for fighting hunger and being on the winning SOUPer Bowl team.

Union UCC is holding a 5-session book study: "Grieving with Hope"

**Mondays, monthly, 6-7:30pm
1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12
Memory room, 2nd floor.**

Please RSVP to Pastor Carrie to secure your spot and receive the free book.



Country Sale

Community -Wide yard Sale

**SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, May 31, 2025
8am -1pm
Union UCC Grove**

Watch for information on how to reserve your yard sale space in the New Year!



**Serving and Loving God & Others
At Union**

- Looking for meaning and purpose?
- Wanting to put your faith into action?
- Hoping to make a difference in the lives of others?

Step into serving.

Find opportunities at:
<https://bit.ly/4dfQZvb>
 Or contact a pastor, staff member, or church office.

Basket Raffle
FUNDRAISER

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Fellowship Committee of Union UCC is having their annual 25th Anniversary Basket Social on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, 2025. We would appreciate your consideration in donating a **theme basket, gift card** or whatever you deem appropriate to help sponsor this event. Shopping not your thing? See a member of Fellowship to financially support the event.

Basket Suggestions

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Baking | Game Night | Mystery Box |
| Bath & Body | Gardener | Pet Care |
| Car Care | Golf Lovers Holiday | Relaxation |
| Chocolate | Theme | Spa Day |
| Coffee Lovers | Italian Dinner | Tea Time Lovers |
| Craft Night for Kids | Lottery | Your idea! |
| Day at the Pool | Movie | |

Reach out to Debbie Romig dromig180@gmail.com or Maria Beltz wesmar92@verizon.net if you need an empty basket, we have plenty of sizes at the church.

Thank you and stay tuned for more information in the next Union UCC newsletter.



Our staff and students are so happy to be back in school! We were fortunate to have a nice long winter break, and after the action-packed beginning of the school year, it was timed just right! In December, we had a wonderful time celebrating the holidays together in preschool. We welcomed over 150 students, parents, family members, and guests for our annual Family Christmas party! Santa brought each student and their siblings a gift and graciously took photos with each child or family. We ate delicious Christmas cookies baked by the commercial baking students at LCTI, and drank hot chocolate to help keep us warm! We played games, made ornaments, and mixed up some reindeer food for Christmas Eve! The Grove looked beautiful and we were all very happy to celebrate together, even though it was so cold! I want to extend a huge thank you to our board members for their help in serving all of those hungry, chilly guests. As is one of our favorite traditions here at Neffs Preschool, the Four Year Old Preschool class tried their hand at rolling and decorating their own Christmas cookies! The students have been practicing with playdough all year and have become quite the little bakers! The cookies turned out SO well! I have to give most of the actual baking credit where it's due... we had some wonderful family members who came to help us make sure the cookies were able to be sent home with the students. We appreciate you!



Along with our holiday festivities, we also focused on one of our favorite themes: Dinosaurs! One of the highlights of the month was digging for dinosaur bones! Miss Broadhead created salt dough 'bones' and hid them in our sand table for the students to find! The classes learned about the many types of dinosaurs and created tons of great artwork around the research they did as well!



It is hard to believe that we are halfway through our school year already, it seems to be flying by extra quickly this year! From this point on we are packed with activity after activity right through May. We have jumped right into learning about our new theme Space and Sky! We are looking forward to observing the changing weather, analyzing clouds, discovering what we can see during the day versus at night, and exploring the sun, moon, and planets! Looking ahead, we will start to focus on our annual Art Show. The students have been working on so many great projects all year! We are excited to share all of that hard work. We will be incorporating a basket raffle and art raffle with the event. If anyone would like to donate a basket or art piece we would be grateful!



We would like to have all submissions by February 20th. Please feel free to contact me, a preschool teacher, or one of our board members for information. Thank you!

We will be opening registration for the 2025-2026 school year for new families on February 3rd, 2025. Please feel free to contact me, Rebekah Millroy- Director, at 610-767-5327 or Preschool@unionucc.org



Relevant • Engaged • Growing

Our Leadership Planning Team (LPT) and Consistory continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at Consistory meetings and on Saturday mornings about every other month.

On February 8th our LPT Team and Consistory will meet to be trained by Jill White to interview our community to discover how they perceive us, what they need from us, and how we might partner together. We look forward to seeing how this input will shape God's ministry and mission here at Union UCC.

The Architect Team continues to work with Alloy 5 our architect firm to help us design a plan for renovating Memorial Hall.

The Marketing Team will start to implement additional outreach and marketing strategies. CREW (Connection, Resources, Education, Wellness) has created an awesome February of mental health and wellness opportunities.

Food trucks and bands are lining up for a great summer 2025 idea in the grove!

Please talk to one of us if you'd like to join one of these teams or to learn more: Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Carrie, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller, and the LPT/Consistory



James Muth pictured with parents Katie Schneckler and Glen Muth



Liam Joseph Granmes pictured with parents Allison and Joseph Granmes

Cade Wyatt Cronrath pictured with parents Alexis and Bret Cronrath and sister Willow



Thank you Union UCC from our Pastors and Staff!

Just wanted to say thank you for the generous Christmas gift. I'm in my 8th year as custodian of this church and I love every minute of it. I wish you all a very Happy New Year! -Ori Handwerk, Custodian

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the staff and congregation of Neffs Church. I have met so many friendly people and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity not only to work here but for all of your generosity, support, and kindness! -Shelly Handwerk, Custodian

I want to thank you for your amazingly generous gift this Christmas season. It is never expected, but always appreciated. It has been my pleasure to be your associate pastor for the past 7 years (CAN WE BELIEVE IT!). I love that I get to journey with not only our youth, but our congregation as a whole, through this thing we call life. I can't wait to see where the future takes us, and to spend many more years being with the folks here. -Pastor Kayli Freeman, Associate Pastor

I love working with Blake and the choir and I treasure the friendships and fellowship that have been created through our work together. Thank you for creating such a wonderful community that appreciates the music and the people who make it. -Matt Gerry, Assistant Music Director

You support the pastors and staff in so many ways, thank you! Thank you for your generous Christmas gift which affirms our partnership as God's people and God's church. I am starting my 29th year as one of your pastors. It's been great growing young together! -Pastor Kris Snyder, Senior Pastor

I truly appreciate the congregation's kindness and feel beyond blessed to be part of this amazing church family. My sister Ryleigh and I unlock the building, prepare it for worship, set up coffee hour, and manage the live stream. What I love most about this job is the conversations and connections I get to have with church members! -Hannah Minnich, Sunday Set Up

I handle all of the financial transactions, record keeping, banking and paying of bills. This is my 15th year doing this and I still love it. The people I work with and members of the congregation are always such a pleasure to see and chat with. Thank you for your generous gift at Christmas. It sincerely touched my heart. -Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generous Christmas gift. I get the opportunity to guide the children in their spiritual growth. It gives me joy to see the children excited to learn about God and their willingness to share their thoughts and feelings about the things they learn. -Tiffany Lakatosh, Faith Formation Minister

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. I am deeply grateful. I have the privilege of creating the weekly bulletin, announcements, and newsletters, as well as other various tasks to keep everything running smoothly. Your thoughtfulness means the world to me and makes my work even more fulfilling. -Marissa Haney, Office Administrator

Thank you so much for this very generous gift! I organize musical performances at larger holidays including Christmas, Easter, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day. My favorite parts about this job are seeing the ensemble's ability to work together as a team and seeing the progress throughout the rehearsals and performances. -Mitchell Roth, Instrumental Director

With the busyness of the holiday season, it's sometimes difficult to get into the Christmas spirit. I sincerely feel that the tastefully decorated and beautifully illuminated sanctuary, the well-rehearsed choirs jubilantly singing from the choir loft, the soloists who willingly gave of their time and talent, the traditional carols sung with organ and brass, and the candlelit singing of Silent Night ushered in the spirit of Christmas. I was honored to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ with each of you. Thank you again for your support and encouragement through this Advent season and for your Christmas gift. -Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift you gave. I really appreciated it. At church, I'm responsible for opening and closing the church, setting up coffee hour, run the PowerPoint and the live stream on Facebook. -Ryleigh Minnich, Sunday Set up

Thank You for thinking of me at Christmas. I love that my first job also allows me to serve at my Church! -Claire Puia, Sunday Set up

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift dear congregation of Union! I am blessed to be a part of this ministry team and look forward to the support I can continue to provide. I am the Pastor of Visitation, offering visits during illness and recovery and to our visitation folks as well as providing grief support groups, preaching, teaching and leading support teams...and whatever else comes up! -Pastor Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation



Open and Affirming (ONA) Team Update - Early 2025

It is amazing how quickly time goes by. One year ago in February 2024 is when Union became an ONA congregation! Thank you for your support as we take steps to show our community how we are ONA!

A reminder that being ONA is about opening our minds and hearts and including and accepting people that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ), as well as people that are of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status, family structure, physical, cognitive, or emotional abilities, economic, educational, and social statuses, and political or cultural backgrounds. EVERYONE!

The ONA team would like to let everyone know that **Sunday, June 29th** will be **ONA Sunday** at Union. Join us for worship outside in the grove!

The team is also in the beginning stages of scheduling and organizing programming for the Fall and we look forward to sharing information about them as they are ironed out and get closer.

 Douglas Brace - doug@dougbrace.com 



Thank you for your faithful generosity and for all that you do to help our church be
Relevant • Engaged • Growing

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

FREE VANCO MOBILE FAITH ENGAGEMENT APP Look for Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.

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

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.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris for questions or to discuss legacy and estate gifts to Union UCC.



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



venmo

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, February 16th at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, February 23rd 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: February 16-23, 2025

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.

Richard "Dick" Bingell passed on January 19, 2025. Services were held on January 24, 2025.

Donations in memory of Grace E. Schneck were made by: Karen Semonis, Arthur & Susan Schneck, Dorothy Best, Cindy & Michael Best, Paula & Eric Best, Dorothy Hottle, John & Nancy Remaley, Gerald Helfrich, RTI Wealth Management LLC



The Global HOPE team is helping to connect Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ staff, churches, and others affected by the wildfires with immediate resources while also preparing to support long-term recovery efforts. Use this link to learn more: [Your donation will help provide essential services and supplies to those who need it most.](#)

The fires in Los Angeles County are unprecedented in size, speed, and destruction. And as a newscaster said this morning, "Fire does not discriminate." Both rich and poor have lost their homes, possessions, and pets as well as a sense of security and stability. The trauma from such an event is very real and long-lasting. Please respond with generous hearts. Two links are provided here: the UCC national setting link, and the link to World Central Kitchen, since Chef Andres is already in LA and they have started feeding people right away. Please donate freely.

We invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts by donating

UCC's California Wildfires 2025
Appeal:
<https://support.ucc.org/california-wildfires-2025>

World Central Kitchen:
<https://wck.org/relief/california-fires-jan25>

You can also give a check through our church payable to the "United Church of Christ" with the memo "California Wildfires 2025."



Attention all Scouts!

We would love to include you in worship and recognize your work as a Scout. You can part of any troop in order to participate in Scout Sundays this year. Mark your calendars and let Pastor Kris know if you are interested.

Febuary 2nd Boy Scout Sunday
March 9th Girl Scout Sunday

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Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2024	-\$4,682.00	\$29,197.00	\$24,515.00
Income	\$296,340.00	\$50,644.00	\$346,984.00
Expenses	\$242,240.00	\$49,692.00	\$291,932.00
12-31-2024	\$49,418.00	\$30,149.00	\$79,567.00

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

Donate, Recycle and Help Your Church

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

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

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

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

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

Baptism We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next dates are **Sunday, March 30, 2025 and May 18, 2025**. 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.