

10:30 AM Sunday Worship At church and online



10:30 am Worship on Sunday - in church and livestream. July 6 American Heritage Sunday

- · July 13 Blessing of Animals In the Grove Bring your pet. a picture, or a stuffed animal for a blessing.
- July 20 Baptism
- · July 27 Christmas in July In the Grove August 3 Communion

August 10 (Church Picnic) – In the Grove

August 17 Pray with a Pastor · August 24 - Last time in the grove!

August 31 Labor Sunday

 Outdoor Worship in the Grove -Bring your favorite chair or blanket or enjoy a bench under the trees or a table under the pavilion.

Note: Grove Sundays are also online, but the streaming quality is different.

Faith and Food Trucks Invite your friends and neighbors! Thanks to everyone for your help and support of our new grove events this summer. See Pastor Kris to sign up to help with our July and August events.



The Iron Grille & The Udder Bar 4:30-8pm

Steel Creek 5:30-8pm *Free Kids Activities and playground

*Prayer and a Message *Hot Dogs & Treats for Sale *Bring a chair or blanket or enjoy our covered picnic area

KIDVENTURE

SUMMER

Every Sunday through

August 31st

During the 10:30am worship service, children are

warmly invited to join Ms. Tiffany and friends on

an inspiring adventure to discover the wonderful

teachings of God and Jesus.

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*Free Kids Activities and playground *Prayer and a Message *Cool Dessert Treats for sale *Bring a chair or blanket or enjoy our covered picnic area Union UCC Grove * 5550 Route 873 * Neffs

Grumpy's BBQ 4:30-8pm



Special thanks to the Mattern Music Fund of the Funds of Lasting Gifts for making these events possible.



What's a Chemo Port Pillow?

A chemo port pillow is a small pillow that a patient can Velcro around a car seatbelt or other shoulder strap to cushion and protect the port, typically implanted on the upper chest, used to deliver chemotherapy drugs.

In the lobby, there is a tote collecting these port pillows for anyone who is interested in helping out this cause. These will be added into "Bags of Hope" provided from The Chemo Bag, given to chemotherapy patients around the Lehigh Valley.

If you're interested in participating grab a packet of instructions in the lobby. Don't sew? No problem! We're always looking for donations of supplies which can be found in the directions. Got Questions? Contact Dawn Dengler (dawndengler@gmail.com



Next group gathering to assemble port pillows together: July 20 after 10:30am worship in the Youth Room. No

experience or sewing ability necessary.

Can't make this one? There will be other opportunities in the future, just contact Dawn!





Sight & Sound Theatre - NOAH Saturday November 1st 7:00 PM by Perkiomen Tours Departure Time: 2:00 pm at Union UCC, Neffs Return Time: 11:30 pm at Union UCC, Neffs Dinner at Hometown Kitchen, Quarryville, 1 hr. and 45 min to eat before the show departure at 5:45.

Cost: \$170.00 (adults) and \$130.00 children 12 and under, includes motorcoach transportation, family style lunch (Choice of One Salad, Two Meats, Three Vegetables, two Desserts Served with Vanilla Ice Cream, and Beverages), tax and gratuity for lunch and show. Includes Perkiomen Driver gratuity.

Money due 7/22/25 - Need Minimum of 30 to have the trip. Checks should be made out to "Union UCC" or paid to the church venmo. Payment can be placed in Ron's mailbox across from pastors offices or given to the church office marked "Noah."

Questions and more details please contact Ron Pope - ron.v.76@gmail.com or 484-695-9988



VENMO @unionuccneffs



Calling All 8th Graders

The time has come! We will be forming our 2025-2026 Confirmation Class beginning in July and August.

Every student entering 8th grade should/ will receive a letter in the mail in early August with all the confirmation information! Keep your eyes peeled on the mail!

If you do not, please reach out to Pastor Kayli

Tai Chi in the Grove

Wednesdays in July (July 9, 16, 23, 30) 6-7pm \$15 drop-in

Union UCC Grove Cash/check/venmo to instructor: Alice Perry

10 Dalas



Summer Coffee Hour

Sundays after 10:30 worship. Stop by the lobby (Grove on Outdoor Worship Sundays) 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!



All of the favorite foods will be back!

Bands sponsored by: Henry Lumber Co The Law Offices of Steckel and Stop

Join your church family on Sunday August 10, 2025 after 10:30am worship in the grove for a time of food, fun, and fellowship.



Hot dogs, turkey barbecue, snacks and beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Gluten free and vegetarian options available.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! Donations of cakes, cake mixes, cantaloupes, watermelons, and anything you feel is appropriate for the Cake Walk will be gratefully received. (Please label the item for the Cake Walk.)

Also remember prizes for BINGO!

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Thank you Marissa Haney, Office Administrator:

We are sad to announce that Marissa, our office administrator has resigned. She has accepted a job at another company. We hate to see her leave us. She has been an awesome part of our staff and team for 6 years. But we wish her all the best in this new chapter of her career. She's also going to became a Grandmother in June!

We thanked her in worship on Sunday, May 18th. Congratulations and blessings, Marissa!

Marissa has graciously agreed to continue to help us during the transition while we do interviews. She will not be in the office during the day. We ask for your patience and prayers for the staff and our leaders as we move through this time of change. The job will be posted on Indeed.com. Please pray for our search and the person God calls to serve as our next team member too.

We hope to have an update soon about filling this position.

Tiffany Lakatosh, Faith Formation Minister, has resigned.



We are sad to hear this news that Ms. Tiffany is leaving us. She has been called to serve in a similar capacity at another church in Kunkletown.

We wish her all the best and appreciate all that she has done the last 4 years. She will lead us through Vacation Bible School, our summer grove events, organize our Sunday KidVenture 10:30 worship kid program, as well as help train her successor.

Her last Sunday will be June 29 which is when we will thank her and celebrate her at 10:30 worship.

Let's be sure to shower her with our gratitude between now and June 29th, thanks Ms. Tiffany!

Yoga in the Gro

AN OUTDOOR YOGA SESSION TO LET YOU CONNECT WITH NATURE

Yoga is a beautiful mind-body practice to ease stress and find balance on and off the mat. Learn how to "move" better in your body. This all level class will be held outside in the beautiful grove of Union UCC

Dates: Thursdays June 5th through September 25 Time: 6-7pm

Things to bring: yoga mat, a beach towel, water, strap and blocks(optional)

Payment: \$8 drop in (with a portion of proceeds given back to the church)

Preferred payment links: Venmo: sharon-schnyder OR PayPal: paypal.me/sharonschnyder however cash or check will be accepted as well.

Classes will be held rain or shine as we have access to the covered pavilion. I will however notify you on my blog

(1asanamama.blogspot.com) and Facebook page if I need to cancel class for any reason.



From the Cemetery Commission

Part-time employment opportunities are available for caring for the Union Church Cemetery. Duties include the mowing of the cemetery property, weed eating around the memorials, preparing for and oversight of burials and cremations, prepare foundations for memorials, and general maintenance of cemetery grounds and property.

Candidates shall enjoy working outdoors, in all weather conditions, be familiar with lawn mowing equipment, be able to lift 50 pounds and perform light digging and raking of ground. Please contact Union Church Cemetery secretary/ treasurer Phil Wehr at 610-767-3657 for more information.

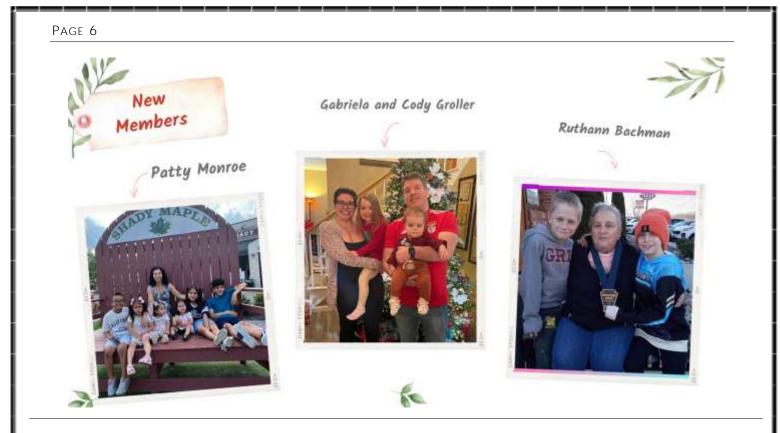


Relevant • Engaged • Growing

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.

Thank you to our team for finishing our community needs assessment interviews. We learned so much and can't wait to find new ways to be the church in our community! Over the Summer, this information will be reviewed along with the mapping information we received from our consultant and we will work on integrating it with our marketing plan and case statement for visioning and implementing ministry and mission goals. After 2 years of work, we are taking a break from the major pieces of the Leadership Planning Team process for a sabbath rest and to honor the challenging time we are in. We have postponed doing a feasibility study for renovating Memorial Hall from the Fall of 2025 until sometime in 2026. Continue to pray for God's guidance and blessing as we seek to be relevant, engaged, and growing here in Neffs.

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, Ron Pope, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller, and the LPT/Consistory



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Are you ready to join the fight against hunger? If so join us in October as we pack more than 100,000 meals!

MOBILEPACK[™] Out next Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event will take place October 10-12th. To achieve our goal we will need 500 volunteers and will have to

raise \$30,000 to pay for the ingredients. Volunteer registration will begin in September and the fund-raising efforts have already begun. Last year our meals went to support children in Ukraine. To support this event please use the QR Code below, visit https://give.fmsc.org/lehigh or make checks out to FMSC and include our event number 2510-090MI.



Thank you from Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Thank you for the generous donation of over 300 boxes of cereal for our summer Kid's Pack food distribution program. Each summer, food bank volunteers pack 150 bags of assorted food items, all donated by the 12 sponsoring churches. Each bag is filled with over twenty items, including peanut butter, canned fruit, soup, tuna, cookies, crackers, mac and cheese, pudding, and other items. Every child receives one bag starting in July, and will include two boxes of cereal, donated by Union UCC.

Thank you again for providing nourishment to the local children this summer.

PNEC Ambassador Corner

Keystone Conference Resolution to go before the 35th UCC General Synod DATES for this General Synod – July 11-15, 2025 in Kansas City, MO.

WHEREAS the four UCC Conferences in Pennsylvania affirm:
Devotion to our Creator God, to Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit;
Recognize that division and change will create new communities;
Believe a Conference must model unity and healing in response;
Serve, Nurture, and Empower authorized ministers/leaders within it;
Desire to live into Jesus' hope that followers reflect unity... AND
WHEREAS the four Conferences have collectively discerned that their ministry and mission will be stronger together:

BE IT RESOLVED that the 35th General Synod hereby recognize the new Keystone Conference - previously the four PA conferences - GRANT standing as a Conference in the UCC as of January 1, 2026 and APPROVE termination of the previous four PA conferences.

August's newsletter will have the results of the General Synod vote and plans for transitional staffing.

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.

Christmas in July

Share the Christmas spirit! Bring donations of new socks, underwear and t-shirts for men, women and children in July. Drop off on Sundays or at the office door during the week. Donations will support various agencies. Merry Christmas, the Mission Committee.

ngratulations nd Blessings

Allison Fella and Christopher Ignatz were married on June 7, 2025. Parents of the bride are Jim and Edie Fella.

Mollie Jarrett and Maxwell D'Amico will be married on July 12, 2025. Parents of the bride are Tina and Lew Jarrett.

Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney

July & August Edition 2025 Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

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Youth Group Summer Grove Hang-Outs

All Youth (grades 6th thru 12th) are invited to join us for some summer time fun!

We'll play some games

Laugh a lot Enjoy cool summer treats (like Rita's and Ice cream) No need to sign-up! Just show up! Friends are welcome to join!





All Youth (grades 6th thru 12th) are invited to join us for dinner and s'mores night! We'll have some yummy food, and finish the night off with some sticky, yummy s'mores! (both traditional and different flavors).

Please RSVP by August 11 (if possible)

Note any food allergies/preferences

Date: August 16, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-7:30pm

Location: Union UCC, Grove (Youth Room if raining) Sign Up: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/</u> <u>go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-57251675-ygdinner</u>



Make sure you're getting all of the Youth Group emails! Sometimes things change, gatherings are added, and information needs to be shared!

Let Pastor Kayli know if you need to be added!

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is one of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ, and part of Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM). This annual special offering supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry, two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

You can make a difference. Your gifts to NIN provide immediate aid and long-term support to people and families around the United States. Collections for NIN will take place the first two weeks of August, to make a donation, please use the special envelope included in this newsletter. This may be mailed to the church office or dropped into the collection plate. Donations may also be made online.

Thank you for supporting this annual mission collection.

UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: FamilyPromise September 28 - October 5, 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.

of Lehigh Valley

- 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



UNION UCC'S OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) STATEMENT Adopted February 2024

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.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Neffs, Pennsylvania

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







You Belong Here! Welcome home to Union UCC! New Member Information 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 using 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 19th at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, October 26th 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,

To let us know you are interested, please complete this information form by using this link: <u>https://</u> <u>docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-g/</u> <u>viewform</u>

Or you can contact the office for a paper copy.

and ask your questions.

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.*





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

In Our Prayers Robert Yurick passed on June 9, 2025. Services were held on June 16, 2025 at the Heintzelman Funeral Home.

Opportunities to returning in September:

Breathe – a monthly service of prayer, scripture, music, singing bowls, Communion, and a quiet chance to catch your breath. Labyrinth Walks – at various times, open houses to stop by and retreat mornings or evenings.

Faith on Tap – a night of God, Food, and Drink at Kornfeind's Tavern with church and community friends.

God First Wednesdays - the first Wednesday night of the month 5:30-7:30pm is a time to put God first with activities for everyone, includes supper to start and a closing time of worship.

Adult Education Classes on Friday mornings 9:30-11am and Sunday Morning 9:15-10:15am Golden Times Sunday School during Education Hour on Sundays at 9:15 for all ages. Saturday, September 20 Food for Sale - Stand Opens at 4pm Chicken and pork dinners for sale from Lorah's Pig Roasters

Backyar

BBO Bash

Music 5:30-8pm FREE Band TimeWhys Union UCC Grove, Neffs



Band sponsored by: Heintzelman Funeral Home & The Law Offices of Steckel and Stop

Union UCC Staff

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

Rev. Kayli Freeman Associate Pastor pastorkayli@unionucc.org

Carrie Beleno Pastor of Visitation vispastor@unionucc.org

Tiffany Lakatosh Faith Formation Minister for Children & Families dired@unionucc.org Marissa Haney Church Administrator administrator@unionucc.org

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

Ori Handwerk Facility Caretaker Caretaker@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci Financial Manager financialmanager@unionucc.org 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 Church Telephone Extension Directory 610-767-6961

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



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Financial Report

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Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds	
7-1-2024	-\$4,682.00	\$29,197.00	\$24,515.00	
Income	\$453,764.00	\$90,284.00	\$544,048.00	
Expenses	\$429,157.00	\$88,627.00	\$517,784.00	
4-30-2025	\$19,925.00	\$30,854.00	\$50,779.00	

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 <u>PastorKris@unionucc.org</u> to sign up. See page 14 for more information.

<u>Dual Member Status</u> 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 **July 20**, **2025 and September 21**. 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 <u>administrator@unionucc.org</u>. 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 <u>administra-</u> tor@unionucc.org.

There is information on our website, forms to complete are downloadable. More information on the site: <u>http://www.unionucc.org/resources</u> for New Member, Baptism, and Wedding forms.

Room or Hall Use for Members You may reserve church space for personal use like family gatherings by contacting Marissa in the office administrator@unionucc.org to see if your date is available, to complete the necessary forms, to learn the guidelines and process, and to pay the donations needed. One time use donations are \$60 plus a \$25 for cleaning. We do not offer room use to non-members at this time.