



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 10, 2025

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

Sarah Stoll, Church Administrator
Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager
Hannah and Ryleigh Minnich, Sunday Set-up
Claire Puia, Miranda Brown Sunday Set-up
Bryce and Luke Thrash, Night Lock-up
Shelly & Ori Handwerk, Facility Caretakers

CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President: Eric Minnich, VP: Ron Pope, Secretary: Janice Metzger, Treasurer: Marianne Kitzmiller

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

To share a prayer request you may use the yellow prayer slips found in the racks in your seats and place in the Offering plate.

Peace and love for each and every person and the world, Jillian, Lorrie for a successful hip replacement, military personnel stationed in the states and overseas, sister for good test results, daughter for strength and healing, Lucas and Stella, Joyce with cancer, Rich, Judy, Joe, Connie, Gladys Kuhns, Donna for the loss of her precious dog, Ruth and her family to find peace, our new office administrator Sarah, for daughter Sherry for a swift recovery, Brad having cancer treatments, Suzanne, Suzanne and Annie, Healing for Bruce
Thanksgiving for all of the donations of socks and underwear this summer and for the medical debt fundraiser donations!

Prayers and Blessings

To the family and friends of **Dave Mulcahy** who passed away.
Services will be held on Wednesday, August 20th.

Hospital Information for the Pastors

The hospitals no longer use the code system to notify us if you are in the hospital. If you are in the hospital and would like a pastor to visit you, call you, or pray with you please contact the church office or a pastor directly or ask a family member or friend to do so. We are grateful when we have a chance to support you through life's challenges.

Church Office 610-767-6961 Pastor Kris Snyder 610-657-6007

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT CHURCH AND ONLINE

June 1 will be the last 8am worship service for the summer. Starting June 8 we will only have 10:30 worship. 8am returns on September 7. Outside Worship in the Grove is at 10:30am on June 29 (Build Your Own Sundae Sunday), July 13 (Blessing of the Animals), July 27 (Christmas in July), August 10 (Church Picnic), August 24 (Last one!). Bring your favorite chair or blanket or enjoy a bench under the trees or a table under the pavilion.

June 1- Communion
June 8- Graduate Sunday
June 15- Father's Day
June 22- 10:30 Semi-Annual Meeting
June 29- 10:30 Outdoor Worship in the Grove *Build Your Own Sundae Sunday * ONA Sunday



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!



Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

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



Upcoming Hosts:
Sep 7 and 14 - Sunday Staff
Sep 21 - Fellowship Committee
Sep 28 - Consistory



The Chemo Bag Project:

On Sunday, July 20, 2025, a group of sixteen church members, neighbors and friends worked together to **complete 67 port pillows onsite in about 3 hours**. Plus, some participants took home to finish **dozens more** pieces that were cut or ready to stuff or ready to sew shut. **125 additional pillows** that people made at home were also dropped off in the church lobby. All of the pillows made at and donated via our church get included with other comfort and care items in the hundreds of Bag of Hope totes that The Chemo Bag delivers monthly to infusion centers throughout the Greater Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, there is that much ongoing need, just in our area.

Thanks, Deb, for explaining to us the benefit these pillows provide to patients with implanted chemotherapy ports and for teaching us to make the pillows. **Thank you** to the **non-sewers** who suggested that we organize group sessions in which they could help by cutting and prepping materials and bagging and tagging completed pillows! **Thank you** to all the **home sewers** and the **group session sewers** for providing your tools, materials, skills and time! **Thank you** to **everyone who donated** fabric, Velcro, thread, stuffing, baggies and printed paper inserts to supply our pillow making!

Whether or not you can sew, you're welcome to help at the next Group Chemo Port Pillow Making Session at Neffs Union UCC, after services, about 12noon - 3 pm on Sunday, September 7th in Fellowship Hall.





MOBILEPACK™

Are you ready to join the fight against hunger?

If so join us in October as we pack more than 100,000 meals!

Our 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.fmssc.org/lehigh> Make checks out to FMSC and include our event number 2510-090MI, or make checks to "Union, UCC" and put FMSC in the memo.



Pastor Carrie Beleno, Visitation Pastor Resigns

Pastor Carrie has always worked as a chaplain at a hospital while she worked with us. About a month ago she was offered a full-time position at Lehigh Valley Hospital. She had hoped to continue with us too but developed some health issues with long covid symptoms and after a month on leave from our church has decided she needs to focus on her new job, her health, and her family and has resigned from Union UCC. She will continue to help us with hospital visits for the next month through the end of August but all other responsibilities have ended. Please keep her in your prayers.

We are so very grateful for her ministry, presence, and leadership with us the last three and a half years. She has been a blessing to all of us in so many ways. **In the meantime, if you'd would like to send her a card or a financial gift you can send that to Pastor Kris's attention at church Union UCC 5550 Route 873 PO Box 66 Neffs, PA 18065. Or you can drop it in my mailbox (not hers). Checks made to Carrie Beleno. Please get them to me by August 31.** I will gather them and present them to her when that time comes.

A search committee has been formed to begin looking for her successor. We will keep you posted.



**Sight & Sound
NOAH
Saturday
November 1st
7:00 PM
by Perkiomen Tours**

We only have 5 seats still available - contact Ron ASAP

Departure Time: 2:00 pm at Neffs UCC Return Time: 11:30 pm at Neffs UCC
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.

Pay to "Union UCC" by mail or to office or by Venmo@unionuccneffs

Questions and more details please contact

Ron Pope - ron.v.76@gmail.com or 484-695-9988

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.



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.

Look for these opportunities to return 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 for Senior Adults

Sunday School during Education Hour on Sundays at 9:15 for all ages

Confirmation Class

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.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ Douglass Brace - doug@dougbrace.com ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥



BLUES NITE OUT

Saturday, August 23

4-10pm

Union UCC Grove, Neffs

All of the favorite foods will be back!

Bands sponsored by:

Henry Lumber Co

The Law Offices of Steckel and Stop

4-6:30 pm

Becky
and the
Beasts

7-10 pm

Sarah
Ayers

& James
Supra

Bakers Needed for Blues Night Out Saturday, August 23:
Please bake: cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, fudge, rice krispie treats, cheesecake cupcakes, chocolate cream cheese cupcakes, bar cookies. No pies, please. (Hand pies are ok). We always like to have 1 sugar free option and 1 Gluten Free option.

Please deliver to the grove stand on Saturday 12-4pm.
Please do not precut. Our volunteers will take care of that.
Please use a disposable tray.

Here's the link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-57592769-baked>
or email Pastor Kris

Spread the Good News

Your support is especially important now as we work to provide spiritual care and connection for members and the community both online and in person.

Good News Sponsor- for \$20 help us cover the costs of advertising on social media, mailings, and local papers.

Children's Bulletin Sponsor- for \$8 cover the cost of bulletins for children. Send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or Children's Bulletin.

Contact us to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.



Faith and Food Trucks
Sunday, August 17
4:30-8pm Free Admission

Grumpy's BBQ
4:30-8pm

Woodside Avenue
5:30-8pm

*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



From Dan Haffl, our new Weekday Lock Up Staff

I came to Union UCC in 2016 and have found our church family to practice what we preach, that whoever you are, whatever part of life's journey you're on, you're welcome here. I am grateful that this is a safe space for all, including the LGBTQ+ community. During my time here at Union UCC I have been on consistory, and most currently usher at 8Am with my husband Michael and am on the chime choir. In September 2020 PK married myself and my husband Michael in the church grove. We are thrilled to celebrate our 5th wedding anniversary in September of this year. Michael works part time for St Lukes and is going to LCCC full time for medical billing and coding, and LOVES to bake for events at church. I work Full-time for LVHN and am per-Diem for St Lukes. Together we enjoy simple country life, gardening, chicken tending, and mild homesteading. We have 13 chickens, three dogs, and two cats. needless to say, we love animals. We have a 9yo Beagle named Tanner, a lab Shepard mix named Nora who's about 6yo, and Blaze, a Golden Retriever who was born Christmas day 2024. Our two cats are Leo and Willow. In addition to our passion for animals, including fostering animals, a surprising fact is I have a deep passion for cars, including classic cars. I want to thank everyone for always being welcomed into Union UCC and for the opportunity to be the "lock up dude".

Welcome to Sarah Apollonia Stoll, our new Office Administrator



We are excited to bring Sarah on board to our staff and church community. She comes with experience as a post-production photography assistant for a wedding company and a freelance musician who is a bassist, guitarist, and vocalist. In both of these areas she has created, edited, and designed content for purposes of marketing, branding, communication, and engagement. She impressed us with her energy, ambition, and passion. She's excited to share and broaden her visual designing and writing skills with us and to help us grow into our vision of strengthening how we are a relevant, engaged, and growing church. She also inspired us with her faith and desire to serve God and others through her work. She's been a part of her church's music ministry at the Metropolitan Community Church on Sundays for six years.

On Sunday July 13 Sarah came to worship to meet everyone. That afternoon she had an accident playing soccer and needed surgery that week. She has started to work again remotely from home and she's doing a great job continuing to learn the position. Thank you Sarah and Marissa for helping us in this extended transition time.

Welcome to Nikki Pentland, our new Faith Formation Minister



Nikki currently works at St. Luke's in Human Resources. She has also worked Good Shepherd and Kidspeace as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (her degree from Temple). In her interviews she talked about how being a member here at Union has strengthened her faith and helped her through challenging times and that she'd be honored to help our children and families support their growth and navigate life's ups and downs.

Here she has been a volunteer at Bible School and is helping this Summer on Sunday mornings and says that watching the kids' faces light up when they get a message solidified is why she feels so called to apply for this position. She's had a call to work in a church earlier in her life too.

We asked her to create an event sample for us and she presented a Family Faith and Film Night featuring Beauty and Beast in the grove. Her flier talked about it being a story of with Christian parallels like redemption through love, seeing beyond appearance, transformation of the heart, and sacrificial love. Plus fun food to be served of course.

We asked her to share a lesson with activities on her favorite Bible story. She chose David and Goliath and led us through a fabulous lesson filled with learning the story, reflecting on it, and having discussion and activities to reinforce and apply the story. She closed it with an activity where they named a fear, placed the word on a pyramid of cups, and had a chance to throw a stone at the cups to knock them down and say – "This giant may seem big, but my God is bigger!" A great mantra for all of us to have in life!

Nikki and Kim have been members here since 2022 with their amazing kids Eleanor and Hemley. Nikki loves to hike in her free time. She will continue working at St. Luke's and will add this job to her 'to do' list. We can't wait for our kids and families to work with her and continue learning about God with her here at Union UCC!

BBQ BASH

Saturday, Sept. 20

Another great night of music under the trees in our grove...

Union UCC in Neffs

5550 Route 873 Neffs, PA

Free Admission 5:30-8:30pm

Food: Lorah's Pig Roasters

\$12 1/2 Chicken or

Pulled Pork Sandwich Dinners



Music: TimeWhys



Church food stand opens at 4pm with hot dogs, sides, desserts & ice cream.

Bring a chair or blanket or enjoy our covered picnic area.

Your support helps us support our community ~ Thank you!

Band Sponsors:

Heintzelman Funeral Home &

The Law Offices of Steckel and Stopp



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

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, 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-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-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

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



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!



Have you always
wanted to throw a pie
in your pastor's face?

Or get your favorite
church members
in a dunk tank?

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH
AT THE CHURCH PICNIC



Tickets and Chances for Sale
on Sundays starting July 13
2 chances for \$5, 5 chances for \$10,
12 chances for \$20



A FUNDRAISER
FOR FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Staff Position Still Needed:

Facility Cleaner: Union UCC is looking for someone who is trustworthy, reliable and available weekly and has an interest in caring for our building, keeping it clean and welcoming for everyone who comes here. This job is a 4 hour a week job and includes cleaning the bathrooms, sanctuary, sacristy kitchen, basement kitchen, and additional monthly and seasonal jobs. Hours can be flexible, end of the week is preferred for some items. Additional hours are available and sometimes requested. This position works closely with the Facility Caretaker, our other custodian. Hourly rate is \$17/hour. If you are interested in applying for this position please contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@unionucc.org



KIDVENTURE SUMMER

May 25th to 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.





4th Annual
Sip & Mingle For A Great Cause



Join Us

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 - 5:30 to 8:30

For a sunset gathering of friends, volunteers and local businesses at
Domaine Pterion Vineyard & Winery
6501 Saint Peters Road, Macungie, PA 18062

Tickets \$45 Early Bird Pricing *\$55* after August 1, 2025

Enjoy a complimentary Domaine Pterion beverage
and your choice of one delicious food option:

- Creamy Cheese Tortellini
- Personal-sized Pizza
- Savory Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwich

Plus, explore Domaine Pterion's full menu of food and drink options available for purchase

Featuring

Great Food and Beverages
Live Entertainment
Fun Filled Auction

Sponsorship Opportunities

Call 610-351-1368 or
email Devdirector@fplehighvalley.org



SCAN HERE
to purchase tickets



To purchase tickets visit our website at fplehighvalley.org
Proceeds benefit families with children experiencing homelessness in the Lehigh Valley

Women's Retreat Weekend

April 17-19, 2026

Tuscarora Retreat Center, Mt. Bethel

<https://www.tuscarora.org/>

\$175 - \$88 deposit due now, until Dec 1.

\$87 balance due March 1.

Payment plans & assistance available.

Checks to Union UCC,

Memo Line – Women's Retreat

Friends and Family members are welcome too.

Only 30 spots available.

Leader: Pastor Kris

Planning Team: Donna Christman, Diane Schaller, Julie Johnson, Sue Steinmann, Val Borman, Julie Wehr



SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION COLLECTION

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

Donations can be dropped off in the donation boxes on the porch or brought to worship on Sundays.

We are collecting items such as:

- ✓ Backpacks
- ✓ Lunch Bags
- ✓ Pencils/Pens
- ✓ Markers/ Crayons
- ✓ Target gift cards (\$10-\$20)
- ✓ Glue Sticks/ Erasers
- ✓ Spiral Notebooks
- ✓ Pencil Cases
- ✓ Kids Scissors

Education Blessing

8/31, 9/7, & 9/14

All students, educators, and school employees will receive a special blessing to begin the new school year.



Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next date is **September 21, 2025**. There is a pre-baptism zoom session with the pastor the week before. Sign up by calling the church office at 610-767-6961 or emailing Marissa Haney at administrator@unionucc.org. The pastors will work with you if the scheduled dates are a conflict.

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

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

UNION UCC STAFF

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Facebook

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