



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873  
PO Box 66  
Neffs, PA 18065

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 3, 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,  
Co-workers facing employment, Jillian, Lorrie for a  
successful hip replacement, Ruth as she faces cancer, 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.

Thanksgiving for all of the donations of socks and underwear this  
summer and for the medical debt fundraiser donations!

**If you are in the hospital**, please notify a pastor or the church office,  
or ask a family member to do so. Please be sure to give the hospital our  
church code (511). If we missed you during your hospital stay, let us know  
610-767-6961.

# 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!



## **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!



### 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.**





Are you ready to join the fight against hunger?

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

**MOBILEPACK™**

Our next Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event will take place October 10-12<sup>th</sup>. 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.



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### **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 at church Union UCC 5550 Route 873 PO Box 66 Neffs, PA 18065. Or you can drop it in Pastor Kris's 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.

Thank you for all the ways that you support and care for our pastors and staff.



**Sight & Sounds - NOAH**

**Saturday November 1st**

**7:00 PM**

**by Perkiomen Tours**

**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. 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](mailto:ron.v.76@gmail.com) or 484-695-9988**

**VENMO @unionuccneffs**



**venmo**

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**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 ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥





4-6:30 pm

Becky  
and the  
Beasts

# 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

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

*Space is limited. Please sign up to attend.*

**UNDUE**  
Medical Debt

## PASTOR KRIS IS TURNING 60!

I'm throwing a party and you're invited!

Here's the catch ~ It's a Fundraiser

Help me fulfill my dream of erasing medical debt. Over 100,000,000 adults nationwide have medical debt that negatively impacts their lives.

For pennies on the dollar we can change this!

**Every \$10 donated relieves \$1,000 on average of medical debt  
for people in financial need.**

Lehigh Valley churches did this last year and raised \$25,000  
and erased \$3 million worth of debt.

Learn more about the agency's work at: [unduemedicaldebt.org](http://unduemedicaldebt.org)

**AUGUST**

**9**

**5PM -8PM**

**KORNFEIND'S MARKET**

2228 OLD POST RD, COPLAY

PARK IN THE BACK

- Food & Drinks
- Raffle
- Music

**ABSOLUTELY NO BIRTHDAY PRESENTS ALLOWED!**

**RSVP BY JULY 27**

**SIGN UP HERE to attend:**

<https://bit.ly/4dIP0re>

**Questions?**

[pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)

**Donate Here - NOTE: "Medical Debt"**

Venmo @unionuccneffs

OR <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home>  
choose: Medical Debt Fundraiser

OR cash or checks to "Union UCC"

OR donate at the event.



## *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.**

*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>*



## **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

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-](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 10<sup>TH</sup>  
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:**

**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](mailto: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*



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](mailto:Devdirector@fplehighvalley.org)



SCAN HERE  
to purchase tickets

To purchase tickets visit our website at [fplehighvalley.org](http://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



## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

8/31, 9/7, 9/14

All students, educators, and school employees are invited to bring their backpacks, tote bags, laptop bags and tool belts to worship for 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](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org). The pastors will work with you if the scheduled dates are a conflict.

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

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

## UNION UCC STAFF

**Rev. Kris P. Snyder**

Senior Pastor

Cell Phone: 610-657-6007

[pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)

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[www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org)

Preschool Office:

610-767-5327

[prechool@unionucc.org](mailto:prechool@unionucc.org)

Director: Rebekah Mill-roy



Find us on  
Facebook

[www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)