5550 RTE 873 PO Box 66 Neffs. PA 18065

# NNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 28th, 2025

Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor Nikki Pentland, Faith Formation Minister of Children Mr. Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music Sarah Stoll, Church Administrator Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager Ryleigh Minnich, Claire Puia, Payge Haydt Sunday Set-up Dan Haftl, 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, military personnel, Ruth and her family, Darrell, Dolly and the Mulcahy family, Connie's family and friends, Katy for strength and good health, a friend diagnosed with lung cancer, the family and friends of Glady Kuhns, friends and family battling medical issues, David recovering from surgery, Brad having cancer treatments, Bridgette with heart problems, brother in law who has started bladder cancer treatment, Selig family on the passing of their son, brother, father, godfather, Uncle Matt for comfort, peace + strength, prayers for the world with the unnecessary shootings, Shawna and her battle with cancer, Teresa with her injuries, Charlie & Carol, George & Diane, Jack & Karen, Kerry & Rose, Mark & Michelle, Joe, Jan, and Barb.

Thanksgiving for all of the school supply donations and for the medical debt fundraiser donations!

#### **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.



# Holy Growds Coffee Hour Enjoy some coffee, tea, juice, hot chocolate, and snacks on Sundays in Memorial Hall after both worship services. Upcoming Hosts: Oct 5 Worship Committee - Edie Fella Oct 12 Christian Ed - Nikki Pentland, Sue Steinmann Oct 19 Welcoming - Pastor Kayli Oct 20 Church and Ministry - Teresa Dalrymple

#### The Chemo Bag Project:

Inspired by a patient who explained to the congregation how helpful they are, people gather periodically at Union United Church of Christ in Neffs to make chemo port pillows that patients can wrap around car seatbelts and other shoulder straps to cushion and protect the port, implanted on the upper chest, that is used to deliver their chemotherapy with infusion drugs.

Each port pillow is sewn together using a 3" long unit of non-adhesive 5/8"-3/4" wide "Velcro," fiber fill or equivalent stuffing, and clean, washable, non-stretch fabric scraps that are at least 4"x7". One church member taught sewing friends to make the pillows with their stashes of scrap fabric at home. Non-sewing friends donated supplies and asked if they could also help make the pillows.

Together, a small group of them developed an assembly line-type system in which anyone can participate in some way, with no prior experience.

Even people who can't be there in person contribute to the group process by preparing at home and/or donating supplies for the group to use. One person even helped from her hospital bed! She said she was glad to have something there to distract her and make her feel useful.

At the group port pillow making sessions, leaders show people who don't sew how to prepare the materials or stuff and bag the pillows as parts of the no-stress "assembly line." Everyone has fun working together.

The number of people who have helped in person has already more than tripled, since the first group convened at Union UCC in June 2025. And the number of pillows made at each gathering has more than sextupled, with 159 completed onsite at the 3rd session on September 7, 2025.

All the port pillows made at Union UCC get included in the "Bag of Hope" totes that local non-profit, The Chemo Bag, delivers monthly to infusion centers throughout the Greater Lehigh Valley area. The group organizers at Union UCC hope to be able to contribute an ongoing supply of port pillows for area patients.

To facilitate that goal, donations of thread for machine sewing and



Velcro intended for sewing, in addition to clean fabric that measures at least 4 inches by 7 inches, sandwich baggies, and printed copies of the paper inserts that are available in the church lobby, with the directions, would be greatly appreciated.



#### Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event October 10-12th.

We are packing 100,000 meals!

We have raised \$26,000 or the \$30,000 needed.

To support this event please use the QR Code below, visit https://give.fmsc.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.

Volunteer registration is open.

Use the form below, sign up on Sundays after church, or use the QR code to sign up. To

achieve our goal we will need 500 volunteers to cover all the

shifts – invite your friends, neighbors and family to help.



If you volunteer and haven't donated yet, please consider donating at least \$20 to help us meet our balance still needed.

If you prefer not to register online, please fill out the sheet below and return it to Eliot Lightner or place it in Pastor Kris's mailbox.

#### Session dates and time:

Friday Octorb	er 10 <sup>th</sup>
---------------	---------------------

Unload	2:30-3:30PM	4 Volunteers
Setup	3:30-5:30PM	10 Volunteers
Packing Session 1	6:30-8:30PM	80 Volunteers

#### Saturday October 11th

Packing Session 2	9:00-11:00AM	80 Volunteers
Packing Session 3	12:00-2:00PM	80 Volunteers
Packing Session 4	3:00-5:00PM	80 Volunteers
Packing Session 5	6:00-8:00PM	80 Volunteers

#### Sunday October 12th

Packing Session 6	12:00-2:00PM	80 Volunteers
Clean Up	2:00-5:00PM	10 Volunteers

Name:

**Email Address:** 

Phone Number:

Session:

Number of Spots:

#### Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15aam \*If you need a copy of the book let Pastor Kris know.

New Study Starts September 27/29 through October 31/ November 2: The Changemakers

A Changemaker is a risk-taker, someone who puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Jesus was a Changemaker. The Good News is... so are we. Made in the image of God, sharing in the purposes of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we are the "assets" we've been looking for. Our wealth lies in the Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Empowerment that sustains us through change, for change, for the sake of a better world. Join us as we hatch new ideas and fly to new heights, risking something big for something good.





Dear Friends, Family, and Church Friends,

I never thought turning 60 could feel this good!

I am overwhelmed by your support of this fundraiser to erase medical debt. **Together we raised over \$10,000!** There is \$132 million dollars of debt in Pennsylvania alone. **We have helped to erase at least \$1 million of that debt in PA!** 

I cried when the first donation came in 3 months ago and I've been crying almost every day since then with each of your donations. Hard tears, knowing that so many folks are struggling right now. And, good tears, knowing that together, we are bringing some ease, peace, and joy back into people's lives.

I think we often feel that alone there's not much we can do to make a difference in the world. But together, well together, and with God's help, we can do so much more. Which is what we just did in a simple yet important way.

Check out the website <a href="https://unduemedicaldebt.org">https://unduemedicaldebt.org</a> to learn more about this agency's work and to hear the powerful stories of lives transformed by support like ours. One of the biggest gifts people receive is the repair of credit scores and the improvement of economic security allowing them to rebuild their lives. Some of you shared your own stories of knowing what this kind of debt is like. I think many of us are one crisis away from knowing this could be us.

Last year 5 churches in Bethlehem did this fundraiser. They raised \$25,000 and erased \$3 million dollars of debt. For just a moment, they erased ALL of the medical debt at that time that existed in the Lehigh Valley.

I wonder if the churches in our area would want to work together to make an even bigger impact on this concern and issue in the future? It's something to think about and pray about. Could we do even more together?

Thank you for joining me in honoring the life we live and the faith we walk with your incredible and powerful gift of presence, faith, hope, and love.

Thanks to everyone who came to the party and to everyone who donated. Thank you for all the birthday love and care for this old lady.

Save the Date, Donate toiletries, or Sign up to volunteer!

#### Love Your Neighbor Community Outreach Day Saturday, November 15



Together, we can do so much more!

Our churches will share in a day of service projects like Second Harvest Food Bank, packing toiletry kits for folks who are homeless, and doing house or yard clean up projects for church members.

#### Sign up here to volunteer: https://bit.lv/UCCLOVE

Donations needed:
Caring Hearts will deliver these kits to folks who are homeless.

All items should be new and in original packaging. Items needed:

Washcloth, toothbrush, travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less), bath size soap, travel size deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol), travel-size lotion (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free), travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less), wide-tooth comb (6" minimum teeth.)

Please deliver your donations or financial gifts to your church by Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sign up to volunteer on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to assemble the toiletry kits at St. John's UCC, Laurys Station. arrive at 9:00am-11:30am

> Standing or sitting options to help. Use the link above or contact your pastor to sign up. Once you sign up you'll receive more information.

Volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank to help with their Senior Food Box assembly line packing food for low income senior adults. The location is in Nazareth. We could meet at Union UCC, Neffs at 7:45 to travel together if preferred.

Volunteer 8:30-11:30am.

Volunteers must be 18 or older, bring photo ID, wear closed shoes, and be able to stand for the assembly process.

Use the link above or contact your pastor to sign up. Once you sign up you'll receive more information.

4 Volunteer to help one of our church members with cleaning projects in their house or yard.

Meet at Jordan UCC, Allentown at 8:45am, volunteer until @ 11:30am.

Dress warmly with covered shoes, bring gloves.
Use the link above or contact your pastor to sign
up. Once you sign up you'll receive more
information.

<u>NOTE:</u> If you are a member in need of this kind of help, contact your pastor. We would help for about 1 hour at each location.



Contact your pastor with questions.

Loving our Neighbors... together. Participating Churches include:
Union UCC, Neffs
St. John's UCC Laury's Station
Jordan UCC, Allentown
Heidelberg Union, Slatington
Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington
Grace UCC Northampton
St. John's UCC, Fullerton

#### Music Opportunities at Union from Blake Hoppes



Blake, Matt, Mitchell, and Edie are all resounding with excitement for this upcoming musical season! There are many musical opportunities here at Neffs Union UCC and we need your voices, instruments, and energy to honor God and make our worship more meaningful.

**Blake Hoppes**, the Minister of Music, directs the Heritage, Horizon and Kids Choirs as well as the Jazz Ensemble. If you are interested in joining any of these groups or performing a solo as a vocalist or instrumentalist, please contact him.

**Matt Gerry** will return as the Instrumental Director and will lead small group ensembles on <u>Christmas</u> and Easter in addition to directing the Festival Choir.

**Mitchell Roth** is reprising his role again and will be leading and organizing our student musicians on holidays and playing in worship with our choirs, Jazz Ensemble, and for special music.

**Edie Fella** will be directing the Chime Choir again this year. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Edie.

#### Choir Rehearsal Schedule:

The following choirs rehearse every Sunday and the rehearsals for each group will begin on September 14th:

Heritage Choir @ 7:15am Horizon Choir @ 9:15am Kids Choir - after the 10:30 service

The Festival Choir will be directed by Matt Gerry and is a special opportunity to join with both vocalists and instrumentalists from the congregation and surrounding community.

Performance Date: November 2nd (rehearsals TBD)

If you sing or play an instrument at any level (kids or adults) please feel free to contact our leaders to participate in any of our musical programs.

#### Contact Info:

Blake Hoppes - Minister of Music (<u>blake.charger@gmail.com</u>)
Matt Gerry - Instrumental Director (<u>mattroni@yahoo.com</u>)
Mitchell Roth - Assistant Instrumental Director (<u>mqroth2005@gmail.com</u>)
Edie Fella - Chime Choir Director (edie.fella@gmail.com)

#### **DISCOVER UNION UCC!** New Member Information from Pastor Kris

Join Pastor Kris and church leaders for an engaging session to learn more about the heart and soul of Union UCC. What kind of church are we? What are our core values and unique history? What exciting plans lie ahead? You'll also learn what it means to become a member of the church and how to take the next step if you're feeling called to join our community. This is a great opportunity to go deeper and discover what makes Union relevant, engaged, and growing.

Our next <u>DISCOVER UNION UCC is on Sunday, October 19th</u> at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. If you decided to join, 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://bit.ly/unionuccnewmember

Or you can contact the office for a paper copy.

Call or email me anytime. Pastor Kris pastorkris@unionucc.org



#### **Staff News from Pastor Kris**

## WELCOME TO NIKKI PENTLAND OUR FAITH FORMATION MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Ms. Nikki has been busy getting the year off the ground. Faith Formation is happening on Sundays at the 9:15am Education Hour and Children's Church at 10:30am worship. Everyone is 'also welcome to God First Wednesdays and other special events.



#### WELCOME SARAH STOLL, OUR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Sarah's recovery is going well and she continues to increase her time in the office as well as her hybrid hours at home. October is her second newsletter!



#### WELCOME DAN HAFT, OUR WEEKDAY LOCKUP STAFF



Welcome (and welcome back) to our new team of Sunday Set Up people is: Claire Puia, Payge Haydt, and Ryleigh Minnich.

#### WELCOME PAM MINNICH, OUR FACILITY CLEANER

Shelly Handwerk resigned this Summer and we thank her for her incredible service. Pam's primary responsibilities are the sanctuary and bathrooms and assisting Ori Handwerk, our primary custodian.



**From Pam:** Hi! I'm Pam Minnich but I'm generally recognized as Eric's wife or Raegan's

mom, haha! I'm not generally seen around church as I'm a Registered Nurse at LVHN CC ED on weekends. I am always involved with Family Promise, Vacation Bible School, and any other weekday activities. You all probably know Ryleigh and Hannah as well, I'm blessed to be a bonus mom to these young ladies. I look forward to helping, and giving back to the church in this new role.

Pastor of Visitation (Pastor of Spiritual Care) We have started to advertise for a Pastor of Visitation. There will be some changes in programming and limitations on what the other pastors can cover and offer in this time of transition. We hope to resume flower delivery to those on our visitation list for December. Thank you for your patience and support in this time of transition. Please reach out to Pastors Kris or Kayli if there's something we can do to support you.

# Faith on Tap

Wednesday, October 22 6:30-8:30pm



God. Conversation. Food & Drink. Korny's Tavern at Kornfeind's Market 2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay

Park in the back of the store and enter from there. Cost: Your drink (alchol and non-alcohol options) Complimentary Kornfeind's Food. Sign up if you can, or just join us.

> Sign up here: http://bit.ly/42aZZiO



Hosted by Kris Snyder, Senior Pastor, Union UCC, Neffs & Joe Kornfeind, Kornfeind's Market and Business Professor and Special Guests.

Thanks Kornfeind's Market!

#### Golden Times

Senior Adults are invited to this Christmas gathering on Tuesday, December 9th 12noon-1:30pm

Soup, Sandwiches, Sides, Dessert & Carols Free (Bring a Christmas Treat to share if you'd like!)

Friends are Welcome! Please RSVP to office to Sarah by Dec 2 if you are

attending. 610-767-6961

Pastors Kris & Kayli

#### Suspicious Emails from Pastor Kris or Other Staff

We often have times when a fake email is generated by an outside scammer that looks like it's from Pastor Kris or other staff but it is not. The email address might look like hers – but if you look closely it is not her actual email. If it isn't pastorkris@unionucc.org then it isn't her email. So you should block it and delete it. It's tricky, because these scammers can also sound very much like her, using her ways of closing an email or phrases she uses, it's very deceptive. And the email usually starts by asking for you to do a favor for her. When you respond it continues the request with things like getting gift cards for someone whose ill. And directions include sending them a picture of the gift cards and scratching off the code. They do this so they can redeem them without the actual card.

So if you get an email that sounds like this – check the email or text first to be sure it is the real one. If you're still uncertain, contact the church office or Pastor Kris directly before you continue to respond. We will typically post on Facebook that a fake email has been sent, so you can also look there.

We are doing all that we can to continue safe and best practices with our technology. Unfortunately, this happens often to us and to other churches. Thanks for your care and support.



Calling all North Whitehall Township senior residents join us at our neighbors Union Lutheran Church for a FREE day of fun, food, and community!



# 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.

# September Baptisms



Knox Kocher, with parents Carly and Randy and sister Cora



Weston Roth, with parents Laura and Ben

# 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



#### 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 as needed.

In September we met to review the findings of the community needs assessment and began to implement some of our marketing strategy. The Ambassador Program was introduced - ask around and jump on board with being an ambassador for Union UCC!

Soon you'll meet our Street Team as we introduce Union UCC merchandise and ways to share your pride of and faith in God's spirt at work here.

In October we'll be learning more about how to welcome and include our LGBTQ+ friends from our Open and Affirming Team with guest Robin Gow.

In November we'll continue to Dream God's Dream as we dig into our next Generosity and Stewardship Campaign led by our Financial Leadership Team.

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, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Ron Pope,

Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller, and the LPT/Consistory

## Hey! Pssst! Yes you! Do you love your church? I mean, really love it and the people in it?

How would you like the opportunity to share that with others who may not be familiar with us or might not know how wonderful Union UCC really is? Would you consider becoming a Union UCC Ambassador?

What is an Ambassador you may ask? Well, you would have the opportunity to welcome and be a friend to our new members, pray with our current members, and talk about the great things we are doing here via social media, among other things. What would you share about our church if given the opportunity? You will join a team of others who all love our church as much as you do and brainstorm ideas of how to share our works with the local community. How can we help people find what they need?

Minimal time investment needed. Could be as easy and simple as sending an email once a week to another church member or welcoming a new member. Sounds fun, doesn't it? If this idea is speaking to you, then please reach out to Marianne Kitzmiller (mariannekitzmiller@gmail.com); Brynn Buskirk(thebuskirks@rcn.com); Don Penrod (Dpenrod65@gmail.com) or Pastor Kris and join the party!





#### Youth Group Sunday Supper!

Let's try something new this year!

We all have memories (maybe even traditions) of family gathered around a table to share a meal and share stories!

Youth group is no different! Join us once a month for a time of food, friends, and fellowship. Let's build memories and strengthen the family!

Sign ups not required, but requested, so we know how much food to prepare!

We hope you'll join us!

October RSVP: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-58507009-october



We are gearing up for a fun and festive Trunk or Treat event on October 18. To help make it a sweet success, we are asking for donations of candy from our generous congregation. Every contribution is appreciated and will help bring joy to the children in our community. Donations can be placed in the jack o lantern box located in the lobby. Thank you in advance for your kindness and support.



It's time to celebrate our members who have been members at Union UCC for I-I9 years!

We celebrated our members of 40 or more years last Fall, and our members for 20–39 years last Spring, Now it's time to celebrate you!

Join us at church on October 5th at 8am or 10:30am.

Let a pastor know if you'd like to be part of a video interview where you can share the story of belonging here and what it means to you.

We'll share the videos during October and November.

**Baptisms:** We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next dates are **Sunday November 23, 2025 and January 11, 2026.** 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 Sarah Stoll at <a href="mailto:administrator@unionucc.org">administrator@unionucc.org</a>. 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

Ext. 24

#### Rev. Kayli Freeman

Associate Pastor pastorkayli@unionucc.org Fxt. 25

#### Nikki Pentland

Faith Formation Minister Of Children dired@unionucc.org

#### Sarah Stoll

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 Ext. 32 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: Rebekah Mill-

rov



www.facebook.com/unionneffs