



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 7th, 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, Jillian, military personnel, sister for good test results, daughter for strength and healing, Lucas and Stella, Joyce with cancer, Rich, Judy, Joe, 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 and Annie, Healing for Bruce, Kathy with her cancer battle, Darrell, Charlie, Dolly and the Mulcahy family, Connie's family and friends, Katy for strength and good health, a friend diagnosed with lung cancer, Maria for the loss of her beloved cat, the family and friends of Gladys Kuhns, friends and family battling medical issues, Brad with cancer, David recovering from surgery.

Thanksgiving for all of the donations of socks and underwear this summer 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.

Worship Schedule

**Sundays 8am and 10:30am
at church and online**

September 7- Prayers of Complaint

8am worship returns

September 14- Prayers of Thanksgiving

Children's Education Hour at 9:15am resumes

September 21- Prayers of Protection

Baptism; Children's Church Resumes at 10:30 Worship

September 28- Prayers of Intercession (for others)

Harvest Home

October 5- Communion

September Worship Theme: Prayer
This is not intended as a 'How to...' kind of series.
Rather it is going to explore some examples of prayer from the Scriptures with the intent of delving more deeply into the nature of prayer, forms of prayer, and the content of prayer. Through these examples we hope to let the Scripture speak to us in our own faith lives, in our own contexts, to consider what prayer means to us.



**UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK:
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.
- 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

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.



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.



We need volunteers to help pack meals October 10, 11, 12. If you are volunteering, please consider making a \$20 donation per volunteer to help us meet the balance we still need to cover on our costs. We have met \$23,000 of the \$30,000 needed, thanks!

Volunteer Registration opens 9/12 online. If you would like to reserve openings before then to ensure you get the session you are looking for or 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 October 10th		
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

Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith by Sarah Bessey. Sarah Bessey is an expert at faithfully stumbling forward. As a New York Times bestselling author and co-founder of Evolving Faith, the foremost community for progressive Christians, she has been trusted by thousands of people to pursue a reconstruction of faith centered on compassion, truth, and inclusion. Bessey has found a deeply underserved and underestimated remnant in the wilderness of Christianity who are still devoted to Jesus, deeply rooted in the Gospel, fascinated with Scripture, and committed to reimagining their faith.

Field Notes for the Wilderness guides us through multiple principles to live by for an evolving faith, including:

- practicing wonder and curiosity as spiritual disciplines
- mothering ourselves with compassion and empathy
- making space for lament and righteous rage
- finding good spiritual teachers
- discovering what we are for in this life, and moving in that direction

In this groundbreaking and nurturing book, Bessey becomes a shepherd for our curiosity, giving us a table for our questions, tools to cultivate what we crave, and a blessing for what was—even as we leave it behind.

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am September 12 and 19 (Chapters 12-14)

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15aam September 14 and 21 (Chapters 15-17)

***If you need a copy of the book let Pastor Kris know.**

New Study Starts September 27 & 29 through 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 <https://unduemedicaldebt.org> 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.

My heart is more than full, Pastor Kris



Thank you to everyone who supported and helped with our Shakespeares in the Grove and Faith and Food Truck Nights This Summer

We had a wonderful summer of additional events to enjoy with the chance to share our grove with our church friends and the community.

Special thanks to:

The Shakespeare Festival and Vince's Cheesesteaks

Valerie Borman and Buns on the Go

Steel Creek, The Iron Grille and the Udder Bar

Woodside Avenue and Grumpy's BBQ

The Mattern Family Music Fund

AND Thank you to ALL OF OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS!

See you at the BBQ Bash on September 20th!
Then it's Lights in the Grove with Santa on December 6.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION COLLECTION

THROUGHOUT 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

9/7 & 9/14

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



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

Bakers Needed for BBQ Bash on Saturday, September 20th!

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 September 20th (the day of the event) from 12-4pm.

Please do not pre-cut. Our volunteers will take care of that.

Please use a disposable tray.

Here's the link to sign up:

<https://bit.ly/bbqbashbakers>

(or email Pastor Kris)

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://bit.ly/unionuccnewmember>

Or you can contact the office for a paper copy.

We want to do whatever we can to support you in your spiritual journey here and in the community. Please let me know where you are in your discernment and how I can support you. Call or email me anytime.

Faith on Tap

Wednesday, September 24

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 (alcohol and non-alcohol options)

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

Sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/fotseptember2025>



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

Thanks Kornfeind's Market!

GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

**Supper, Small Groups For Kids & Adults,
Worship**

Oct 8, Nov 5, Dec 3

5:30-7:30pm

October date is the 2nd Wednesday



Putting God First on First Wednesdays



HARVEST HOME WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 2025.

Bring your canned goods, produce, cut flowers, cornstalks, herbs, etc. Food collected will be given to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Sponsor the purchase of Mums for display. Please an order by filling out the form below. Make checks payable to Union UCC or order on our website under "Give Online" or by scanning the QR code below.

Deadline to sponsor is **September 14th.**



I will pick up my mums following the service ____ YES ____ NO

Giver (envelope) # _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Total # of Mums _____ x \$8 per Mum = Total \$ _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Calling all North Whitehall Township senior residents—
join us for a FREE day of fun, food, and community!

NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP

Senior Day

Thursday, October 16th
11:00am-3:00pm @Union Lutheran Church

Lunch & Refreshments | Vendors | Bingo & Trivia

Register online www.NorthWhitehall.org or
in person at our office by October 9th.

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.

Yoga in the Grove

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.

Family Fun Movie Night in the Grove

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 6:30 PM

Prayer & Mystery Movie (PG) Exploring:

Redemption and Transformation

Inner Beauty vs. Outer Appearance

Repentance and Forgiveness

Sacrificial Love

SNACK STAND WILL BE OPEN SELLING
YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE TREATS
INCLUDING PIZZA, HOT DOGS, POPCORN,
CANDY & DRINKS.



**BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET;
MOVIE WILL SHOW INSIDE IN THE
EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/familymovienightatunion>

Miss Nikki Pentland
Union United Church of Christ
5550 PA-873, Neffs, PA 18065



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



FALL INTO FAITH:
EXCITING EVENTS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES!

WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE SEVERAL
UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS WITH YOU!

SEPTEMBER 7TH: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CHILDREN'S CHURCH -
ACTIVITY BAGS AT 10:30 CHURCH, BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING & GIFT
AT 8 & 10:30

SEPTEMBER 14TH: 9:15AM SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES, BACK TO
SCHOOL BLESSING AND GIFT AT 8 & 10:30

SEPTEMBER 21ST: CHILDREN'S CHURCH RESUMES AT 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 27TH: FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IN THE GROVE

OCTOBER 1ST: GOD FIRST WEDNESDAY RESUMES

OCTOBER 18TH: TRUNK OR TREAT IN GROVE PARKING LOT

UNION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEFFS, PA

Succulent Pumpkin Workshop

Friday, October 17th 7PM
appetizers served @6:30



Plant your ceramic pumpkin with a variety of succulents, then accent with dried florals, grasses and decorative moss.

This pumpkin will last throughout the fall season!

with



Union UCC
5550 PA 873

Neffs, PA 18065
(Enter at Neffs/North Side of church, basement entrance)

RSVP by 10/14/25

Venmo, Square
or make checks payable to
Gallivanting Greenhouse,
attn Pastor Kris at Union UCC

Cost \$30- Venmo/Square to
Gallivanting Greenhouse



Love Your Neighbor

Community Outreach Day

Saturday, November 15

Together, we can do so much more!

Save the Date,
Watch for Sign
Ups!



Our churches will share in a day of service projects like Habitat for Humanity, packing toiletry and clean up kits, and yard clean ups for church members.

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.

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



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!

September RSVP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-57888882-youth>

*Youth Group
Sunday Supper*

**Food
Friends
Fellowship**

*All Youth Grades
6th thru 12th Invited*

*Third Sunday of the Month
(9/21, 10/19, 11/23, 12/21)*

Time: 5pm-7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall



Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next dates are **September 21, 2025 and January 11, 2026.** . 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 Sarah Stoll 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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Director: Rebekah Mill-

roy



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs