



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 12th, 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.

Ruth and her family, friends and family battling medical issues, prayers for the world with the unnecessary shootings, Shawna and her battle with cancer, family grieving unexpected passing of their young dog, a niece in her healing, Teresa with her injuries, Charlie & Carol, George & Diane, Jack & Karen, Mark & Michelle, Joe, Jan and Barb, the family and friends of Barbara Neff, Dorothy, David, Mack, Marlene, Sonny, Susie & Rosie battling medical issues, Bruce for healing, Annie & Suzanne, a complete recovery for Hal, save travels for son travelling solo, a secure job for son in law, sister for strength and energy through chemo treatments, Lucas and Stella, David recovering from surgery and dialysis, Brad having cancer treatments.

Thanksgiving for Harvest Home food bank donations and the chance to host Feed My Starving Children & Pack 100,000 meals.

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.

"Go and Do Likewise" - Jesus

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.

October Worship Schedule

8 and 10:30 am in person and online

October 5

**Communion and Celebrating our Members
Who Joined in the last 19 years!**

October 12

Healing Service/Pray with a Pastor

October 19

Sneaker Stroll/Crop Walk

October 26

New Members Received

November 2

**All Saints, Remembering Those Who Have
Passed & Festival Choir**

Holy Grounds 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

Oct 12- Christian Ed

Oct 19- Welcoming

Oct 20- Church and Ministry

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

We are still in need of helpers each Sunday!

Sign up using the links below:

Sunday School (9 am): <https://bit.ly/fallsundayschoolvolunteer>

Children's Church (10:30 am): <https://bit.ly/fallchildrenschurch>



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. **The next group session will be after services on Sunday, November 16th.** Details will be in the November newsletter and weekly announcements closer to the date.

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.



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.

Funeral Luncheon Hosts Needed Ardith Kuhns and Deb Sanek work with the Pastors to arrange for our church to host funeral luncheons for our members. They coordinate 2 volunteers to help to host a catered lunch for families. This ministry is so appreciated by our families. It allows them to enjoy a meal together with loved ones after a funeral in a familiar and relaxed setting at a reasonable cost.

We are looking for additional hosts. There is a stipend paid of \$25. Hosts are asked to arrive an hour before the luncheon to set up paper products, beverages, make coffee, and be available for the arrival of the caterer. They help to serve the meal, pack up leftovers for the family, and clean up the kitchen and hall area. This commitment is usually for about 3 hours.

We have a great team of hosts now who serve about 2-3 times a year. We would like to add to our team. If you are interested in offering warm welcome and hospitality to our families during their loss of a loved one please contact Pastors Kris or Kayli.

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.ly/UCCLOVE>

- 1 **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 9th.

- 2 **Sign up to volunteer on Saturday, November 15th 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.

- 3 **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.

NOTE: 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 Laurys 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 Christmas 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 (blake.charger@gmail.com)

Matt Gerry - Instrumental Director (matttroni@yahoo.com)

Mitchell Roth - Assistant Instrumental Director (mqroth2005@gmail.com)

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 DISCOVER UNION UCC is on Sunday, October 19th 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

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



venmo Square

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 (alcohol 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.



BREATHE

SUNDAYS
ONCE A MONTH
IN THE SANCTUARY
6:30-7:30 PM

NOVEMBER 9

DECEMBER 7



*Catch your Breath
...with God*

*Prayer * Meditation * Music * Communion*

Led by Rani Gerry & Pastor Kris

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.

Donate, Recycle and Help Your Church

As you are cleaning out closets and cabinets be sure to keep Union UCC in mind. Bring your donations at any time to the bin in our grove. The church receives a certain amount of money for each pound that is donated. Items that are usable are resold or recycled. You are also helping to save the amount of things that end up in a landfill by donating your items this way. Recycle Local's goal is to help agencies have 0% waste.

Items accepted include: clean and dry clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, towels, drapes, pillow cases and stuffed animals. Place all items in plastic bags. NO furniture, rags, pillows, toys, or household goods. This is one more way to give and support the mission and ministry of God's church at Union UCC. Thank you.

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 spirit 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

All Youth Grades
6th thru 12th Invited

Food
Friends
Fellowship

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

Time: 5pm-7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall



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 18th. 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.



Feed My Starving Children

Thanksgiving to everyone who supported our FMSC event October 10-12th. We had over 400 volunteers here, raised over \$32,000, and packed 100,000 meals. 276 kids will be fed for a year! More info to come!



September Baptisms



Knox Kocher,
with parents
Carly and Randy
and sister Cora



Weston Roth,
with parents
Laura and Ben

Boy Scout Popcorn Fundraiser

Lucas and Connor Maxwell, two of our youth members and Scouts with Troop 1600, are selling popcorn to raise money to attend the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in July. They hope to learn new skills, become better leaders, and make new friends. If you are interested in helping them reach their goal, please scan the QR code or enter the following link <https://www.trails-end.com/store/scout/ZR4A457K?share=FDX76EZO>. If you would prefer to buy in person, the boys will be selling popcorn after the 8 AM and 10:30 AM services on October 19th. Thank you for helping to support our youth.



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 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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Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs