



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 26th, 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, George & Diane, Jack & Karen, Mark & Michelle, Joe, Jan and Barb, Dorothy, David, Mack, Marlene, Sonny, Susie & Rosie battling medical issues, Bruce for healing, Annie & Suzanne, Lucas and Stella, David recovering from surgery and dialysis, Brad having cancer treatments, God Bless New Kitty, Barbara on hospice in Florida, James, Michael, Bridgette, brother Ron battling cancer, Todd in employment search, peace in the world, prayer to Ronald as he begins cancer treatments, thanks for prayers for Johanna, and her successful surgery, Bruce with painful back, Carol with cancer, Charly in nursing home, mother to settle into life at a personal care place.

Thanksgiving for Harvest Home food donations and the chance to host Feed My Starving Children & Pack 100,000 meals and an awesome Trunk & Treat day

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:

All of the Bag of Hope totes packed by Union UCC members on Saturday, October 11th included a chemo port pillow that was either made at one of Union UCC's group chemo port pillow making sessions or donated via our narthex collection tote by people who made pillows at home.

Join us in Memorial Hall after services on Sunday, November 16th for the next group chemo port pillow making session so that we can continue to supply new chemo patients in our area with this helpful item in Bag of Hope totes distributed by The Chemo Bag (<https://thebagofhope.org/>).

There are plenty of non-sewing steps in the process, and we'll teach you what to do. We have a friendly group that includes community members in addition to Union UCC members and has even included a few kids. Stop by, stuff a pillow, chat with friends, meet new people, all while working together to provide some comfort to cancer patients in the greater Lehigh Valley!



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*



Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am

New Series Begins November 7th & 9th

Faith After Doubt: Why your beliefs stopped working and what to do about it.

Brian McLaren

Using his own story and the stories of a diverse group of struggling believers, McLaren a former pastor and now author, speaker, and activist, shows how old assumptions are being challenged in nearly every area of human life, not just theology and spirituality. His four-stage model of faith development – simplicity, complexity, perplexity, and harmony – shows how questions and doubts are not the enemy of faith but rather a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith.

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)

Staff News from Pastor Kris

Welcome Lorie Hackett, Our New Pastor of Spiritual Care

Lorie Hackett has been a member here for over 20 years.

After an extensive career as an educator and school administrator, she recently retired from serving as a school superintendent and has been discovering a new call in hospice and doula care. She would like to share her calling to care for others with our congregation by fulfilling some of the responsibilities of our Pastor of Spiritual Care.



She will be working an average of 5-10 hours a week November through April with our pastors, staff, and volunteers with a focus on hospital visits and follow up, coordinating a grief care gathering, supporting and reorganizing our Helping Hearts visitation team, and helping us imagine and offer new opportunities in adult programming and ministries.

Grief through the Holidays

JOIN US FOR A SUPPORTIVE OPPORTUNITY AND
DISCUSSION FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING THROUGH
THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13TH FROM 6PM TO 7:30 PM IN
THE BASEMENT - THE YOUTH ROOM.**

PIZZA, SALAD, AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Led by Lorie Hackett, our Interim Pastor Of Spiritual Care.

*Please reserve your spot by Sunday, Nov 9th by emailing her at
hackettl360@gmail.com or by calling the church office 610-767-6961.*

Thank you again to everyone who supported our Feed My Starving Children Event October 10-12.

Soon we'll hear where our meals are going.

382 volunteers covered 6 shifts to pack 101,088 meals to feed 276 kids for a year!

All backed by your prayers, support, hands, and hearts!

AND, over \$33,000 raised!

Giving God thanks for you and for the work of FMSC.



Production for Lehigh Valley MobilePack

Day	Date	Shift	Shift Start Time	Shift End Time	Volunteers	Boxes	Meals	Kids fed for a year!
Friday	10-Oct	1	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	65	80	17,280	47
Saturday	11-Oct	2	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	74	91	19,656	53
Saturday	11-Oct	3	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	55	76	16,416	44
Saturday	11-Oct	4	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	66	84	18,144	49
Saturday	11-Oct	5	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	31	48	10,368	28
Sunday	12-Oct	6	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	91	89	19,224	52
EVENT TOTALS:					382	468	101,088	276

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.

LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

**FREE
ADMISSION**
Donation of
Hats and
Gloves are
welcome!

**Saturday, December 6th
3-5pm**

*Sponsors Larry, Phil, and Julie Wehr
Lights by Christmas Decor*

CRAFTS, SNACKS, AND
HOT CHOCOLATE
LETTERS TO SANTA AND
PICTURES WITH SANTA
DRIVE BY, WALK
AROUND, ENJOY THE
LIGHTS ALL SEASON.

LUMINARIES

**Sponsor a Luminary for \$10 in Honor or Memory of Someone.
Orders due by November 23rd.**

Candles will be turned on at the event on Saturday, December 6th at 5pm with a brief time of prayer. They will light every day of December through Christmas Eve. You may pick up your luminary bag to keep on Christmas Eve.

Pay by check to "Union UCC" or use link below to use Venmo.

Use this link to sign up bit.ly/unionluminaries or hand in a paper copy.

A separate form must be completed for each luminary. Names will be printed on your luminary to find and visit.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Name of person you are honoring/remembering:

Total luminaries for this name:

GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS
Supper, Small Groups For Kids & Adults,
Worship
Nov 5, Dec 3
5:30-7:30pm

Putting God First on First Wednesdays

God First Wednesdays are for anyone and everyone. It's a great night to come if you can't be here on Sundays or if you have extra time to hang out with your church friends. We start with supper – usually a simple meal; mac and cheese, hot dogs, or spaghetti. There's always salad or a veggie and there's always a dessert.

Kids hang out and do activities with Miss Nikki, adults hang out with the pastors, and sometimes we do things all together. We close with a few minutes of prayer, singing, and reflection.

It's a fun night of connection and belonging. Join us anytime.

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
(11/23, 12/27)

Time: 5pm-7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall



November Sunday Supper Youth Group Friendsgiving!

We're going to do Sunday Supper a little different. Pastor Kayli will bring the main and beverages...you bring your favorite side or dessert!

Let's share what we are thankful for!

Date: November 23, 2025

Time: 5pm-7pm

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-59528642-november>

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.

Become a Part of Union UCC

Are you finding a spiritual home here at Union?

Are you looking for more hope?

Do you believe in God and want to be part of a community dedicated to practicing that belief?

Do you want to be part of church that welcomes and includes everyone?



The holidays are a perfect time to join our church as part of your celebration of Christ's birth. If you simply follow the link and fill out the form, you become officially a member of Union UCC. You will receive an invitation to meet with the pastors and other church members as our way to welcome you. None of this is required but it's fun and meaningful and a great way to connect.

Join today: <https://bit.ly/unionuccnewmember>

Contact the office for a paper copy of the form to be mailed to you or call or email Pastor Kris pastorkris@unionucc.org



BREATHE

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

NOVEMBER 9

DECEMBER 7



*Catch your Breath
...with God*

Prayer • Meditation • Music • Communion

Led by Roni Gerry & Pastor Kris



Union UCC's HOLIDAY challenge
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

This year, we will be once again handing out baskets and advent calendars to interested families. The idea is to put something **IN** the basket each day of Advent. Put a sticker on your calendar each day you place something in the basket. Bring the filled basket back to church between December 24th and January 2nd and we will deliver your Holiday donation to the FOOD BANK. Help your family give to others every day of Advent. Baskets will be handed out **11/23 and 11/30**. (You can use your own basket/box, if desired.)

(Item Ideas: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pasta, canned goods, condiments, cake and brownie mixes, jello, pudding, cereal, socks, mittens, undies, children's books, crayons, toilet paper, etc.)



**Reverse Advent
Basket**

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

