

"Go and Do Likewise" - Jesus

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

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.



TRUNK OR TREAT
October 18th 1pm-3pm
FREE EVENT
UNION UCC GROVE PARKING LOT
& UNION LUTHERAN PARKING LOT
SAFE FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN
CELEBRATION
Lots of Candy!
Hot dogs, pizza, soft pretzels, & drinks too!
Register to decorate a car here:
<https://bit.ly/trunkortreat2025>
Would you, your business, or organization like to decorate a car and be part of this fun event?!? Please register.
5550 PA-873 Neffs, PA



It's time to celebrate our members who have been members at Union UCC for 1 - 19 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.

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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 on-going 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. **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.



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

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!

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!

Gallivanting Greenhouse

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




Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

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.

FUNDS OF LASTINGS GIFTS (FOLG)

Our church as been financially blessed by the generous donations from its members. We are able to pay our bills and make generous donations through our mission giving locally and around the world. But did you know that 20% of the operating budget is supported by the Funds of Lasting Gifts?

The Funds of Lasting Gifts is a collection of funds intended to preserve long-range financial reserves in keeping with the faith commitment opportunities before the congregation. FOLG provides a way to donate funds from one's accumulated assets (stocks, bonds, property, insurance, cash) whether it be through a will, a life income or trust arrangement, or direct giving. The funds are aligned with the values and interest of those making the donations, supporting the operating budget for items such as music, property, mission, education and more.

There are five elected Trustees and Treasurer who oversee the funds within the FOLG, following the guidelines of an Endowment Policy Statement. They meet Quarterly with the church's Investment Management Company, Raymond James, to review the investments and results as well as the overall financial details of income and fund disbursement.

If you are interested in creating a new fund, or wish to donate to one of the existing funds, please contact one of the Trustees listed below or contact Pastor Kris. They can also provide a list of all of the existing funds.

Teresa Dalrymple – Chairperson – E-mail aug281982@verizon.net

AJ DiPaolantonio – Trustee/Treasurer

Doug Albert – Trustee

Al Stubbmann – Trustee

Larry Todd - Trustee

UNION UCC'S OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) STATEMENT

Adopted February 2024

Our church is a diverse family of believers, extending extravagant welcome and hospitality to all. We affirm that all people are created in God's image and all are worthy of God's love and grace, treating all people with compassion, respect and dignity.

We inspire dedicated Christian discipleship to include persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical, cognitive, or emotional ability, economic, educational, and social status, and political and cultural background.

We treasure the spiritual gifts of everyone, welcoming all into full membership, leadership, employment, ministry, mission, fellowship, worship, sacraments, rites, responsibilities, and blessings of the life of Union UCC.

As we grow with vitality into the future, we commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We celebrate and honor diverse theological and biblical interpretations as we strive to remain spiritually united in Christ. We will reach out with love to any and all people who enter our doors seeking God with faith in Jesus Christ our Savior.



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**

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

September Baptisms



**Knox Kocher,
with parents
Carly and Randy
and sister Cora**



**Weston Roth,
with parents
Laura and Ben**

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.

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



Senior Day



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

Lunch & Refreshments	Vendors	Bingo & Trivia
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Register online www.NorthWhitehall.org or
in person at our office by October 9th.

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 (mattroni@yahoo.com)

Mitchell Roth - Assistant Instrumental Director (mroth2005@gmail.com)

Edie Fella - Chime Choir Director (edie.fella@gmail.com)

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.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.

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 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:



Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

October 2025 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)



Youth Group Sunday Supper!

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 19 RSVP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-58507009-october>

Trunk or Treat

October 18, 2025

1pm-3pm (arrive at 12pm)

Join Pastor Kayli for our annual Trunk-or-Treat event in the grove parking lot! You'll have the chance to help decorate the trunk of her car and hand out candy to our friends who attend!

Sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-51219729-trunk>



CONFIRMATION RETREAT DAY

November 22, 2025

All Youth grades 9th—12th are invited to be helpers at our confirmation retreat! Watch for information on when to sign-up

We will feed you!!!!





What an exciting month we have had in Preschool! Our teachers worked so hard to make our classrooms beautiful. They have been creating lesson plans and ready getting materials gathered, finding just the right things to help the students get excited about learning. They have also been preparing the preschool space for our students. Each student has a color-coded name tag where they will hang their backpack and jacket, a mailbox to write notes to each other and family, and bulletin boards welcoming them to our school!

Our students arrived on their first days with bells on! They settled right in and got to work! As the great Fred Rogers said, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. **Play is really the work of childhood.**" The students have been exploring the new centers we created in our classrooms and enjoying the prompts the teachers set up for them. I have observed budding scientists, artists, mathematicians, engineers, and musicians in just a few weeks of school! As the children, teachers, and I settle in to the new school year, we are all getting to know each other, what our favorite things are, and what we like to do!

The children have been learning all about what makes each of them unique by identifying similarities and differences between themselves and their classmates. They have also been exploring emotions, including socially acceptable ways of handling the big feelings that come up around the first days of school! In the Three-Year-Old Preschool Class, the children are learning about making choices for themselves, being away from parents, and navigating sharing toys and space with other children. In the Four-Year-Old Preschool Class, the students are focusing on themselves as part of a family unit as well as part of a school community. In PreK, our older students are learning about what it means to be a good citizen, how we can be a good friend and neighbor, and who the helpers are in our towns and cities. We will all be learning about Fire Prevention in the coming month and are hoping for a visit from one of our local fire stations. This is usually a highlight of the year for the students!

We had an exciting family event on September 18th at Rolling Hills Mini Golf. The students and families had the chance to get to know one another and enjoy some mini golf and ice cream! The 3s have a field trip to Valley Fruits and Veg planned, and we are heading to Flint Hill Farm for the first time with our Four-Year-Old Preschool classes. Pre-k is set to visit The Museum of Indian Culture this month as well, another new experience for our students. We are always looking for community connections! Feel free to contact me with ideas, outreach, and collaboration opportunities.

I am proud of our teaching team already, and all of the hard work they have put into making this school year wonderful. I am looking forward to a fun and enriching year.

We have a few spots available in our Three-Year-Old and Pre-k classes and are still accepting registrations! Please feel free to contact me, Rebekah Millroy, at 610-767-5327 or Preschool@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.



Pictured Left to Right: Nikki Pentland, Sarah Stoll, Dan Haft, Pam Minnich & Family

Gratitude Towards The Mission Committee

From Veteran's Outreach of PA in Harrisburg,

Thank you for your recent \$1,000 donation which will provide hot meals, comfortable living accommodations and suitable clothing to our Veterans. Your unwavering support also provides optimism and a renewed sense of purpose, rebuilding lives and reminding our Veterans that they are not forgotten. Together we are making a profound impact.

At Veteran's Grove, our Veterans find hope, community and support to rebuild their lives. Many share how a compassionate environment has been life changing, helping them on their journey to stability and independence. Thank you for walking this path with us and for believing in our mission.

From the Warming Station at the YMCA

Thank you for your generous \$500 donation to the Warming Station. Now in its eighth program season, our Warming Station continues to serve as a beacon of hope and essential resource for hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness during the cold winter months.

During the 2024 – 2025 season, we served 323 unique individuals and over 6,620 total meals to our unhoused neighbors. Our program has experienced our highest nightly averages than any previous season, and this increased need is expected again this upcoming winter season. Thank you for supporting this essential community program.

From Community Action Lehigh Valley

Your recent \$500 donation will make a difference in the lives of people in need among us. Community Action Lehigh Valley has been serving the community for over 60 years. Last fiscal year, we helped to stop foreclosures, prevent evictions, keep people fed, and shelter homeless families. We built houses, weatherized homes, helped folks start new businesses. We helped teach young people the importance of education and self-esteem, that college was more than just a pipe dream

As an agency, CALV remains committed to our mission of helping to create a society in which all people have access to economic opportunities and the ability to pursue that opportunity. Thank you for joining us in this important mission.



Family Promise
of Lehigh Valley

UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK:
February 8 -15, 2026

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



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!



Approvals by email since the last Consistory meeting in June:

- Request to approve Pam Minnich for custodial position

Monday, September 15, 2025, Consistory Actions:

These notes reflect items that needed action and approval by Consistory. Standing and routine items are reported by Committees and Staff throughout the newsletter. A complete copy of the Consistory minutes can be found in the church office.

- Request from Church & Ministry to approve vacations:
 Pastor Kayli - 10/20/25 - 10/27/25 and 11/24/25 - 12/01/25
 Pastor Kris - 12/26/25 - 01/02/25

The above were approved unanimously.



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




BREATHE

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

OCTOBER 5
NOVEMBER 9
DECEMBER 7



*Catch your Breath
 ...with God*

*Prayer * Meditation * Music * Communion*

Led by Rani Gerry & Pastor Kris

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.

Our blessings and prayers go to the friends and families of those who have passed.

Matt Selig (non member) passed on September 5 and services were held on September 13th.

Connie Renner (non member) passed on August 6 and services were held on August 21st.



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



Thank you for your faithful generosity and for all that you do to help our church be
Relevant • Engaged • Growing

ELECTRONIC GIVING <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone. Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)

FREE VANCO MOBILE FAITH ENGAGEMENT APP Look for Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.
VENMO @unionuccneffs or QR code. Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"

Cash or checks (to "Union UCC") Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris for questions or to discuss legacy and estate gifts to Union UCC.



Electronic Giving



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Union UCC Staff

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 610-767-5327
prechool@unionucc.org
 Director: Annette Wilcox

**Church Telephone
 Extension Directory
 610-767-6961**

Pastor Kris	ext. 24
Pastor Kayli	ext. 25
Marissa Haney	ext. 21
Tiffany Lakatos	ext. 27
Barbara Carinci	ext. 32
Music Office	ext. 26



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Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2025	-\$4,682.00	\$44,190.00	\$39,508.00
Income	\$90,325.00	\$25,349.00	\$115,674.00
Expenses	\$66,037.00	\$14,098.00	\$80,135.00
8-31-2025	\$19,606.00	\$55,441.00	\$75,047.00

Designated Funds category includes offerings for NIN, Mother's Day, OGHS, Lenten, Advent, Improvement Fund, Flowers, Directory, Bulletins, Phoebe Campaign, & special gifts.

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.

Dual Member Status

Dual membership is available to people who wish to join our church but who want to also maintain membership at another church. Dual members will have the same rights and duties as a member. According to our Constitution members are required to commune and donate yearly. We look forward to continuing to welcome new members into the Christian journey with our faith family here at Union UCC.

Baptism

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.

Weddings

To begin the process of scheduling your pre-marriage sessions and wedding at church/a venue and/or with one of the pastors call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Sarah Stoll at administrator@unionucc.org.

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.

Church Office 610-767-6961 Pastor Kris Snyder 610-657-6007

Room or Hall Use for Members You may reserve church space for personal use like family gatherings by contacting Sarah in the office at administrator@unionucc.org to see if your date is available, to complete the necessary forms, to learn the guidelines and process, and to pay the donations needed. One time use donations are \$60 plus a \$25 for cleaning fee for halls and rooms, \$60 for grove use. We do not offer room use to non-members at this time.