

8 and 10:30 AM Sunday Worship at Church and Online

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.



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 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.

Save the Date,
Watch for Sign
Ups!



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
 Music of the 60s and 70s



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



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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What's a Chemo Port Pillow?

A chemo port pillow is a small pillow that a patient can Velcro around a car seatbelt or other shoulder strap to cushion and protect the port, typically implanted on the upper chest, used to deliver chemotherapy drugs.

In the lobby, there is a tote collecting these port pillows for anyone who is interested in helping out this cause. These will be added into "Bags of Hope" provided from The Chemo Bag, given to chemotherapy patients around the Lehigh Valley.

If you're interested in participating grab a packet of instructions in the lobby. Don't sew? No problem! We're always looking for donations of supplies which can be found in the directions.

Got Questions? Contact Dawn Dengler (dawndengler@gmail.com)

Next group gathering to assemble port pillows together:
September 7th after 10:30 am worship in the Fellowship Hall. No experience or sewing ability necessary.

Can't make this one? There will be other opportunities in the future, just contact Dawn!



FUNDS OF LASTINGS GIFTS (FOLG)

Our church has 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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Relevant • Engaged • Growing

610-767-6961

www.unionucc.org

5550 Route 873, PO Box 66, Neffs, PA 18065

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

Rev. Kris Snyder, Senior Pastor pastorkris@unionucc.org

Rev. Kayli Freeman, Associate Pastor pastorkayli@unionucc.org

Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music; Sarah Stoll, Office Administrator; Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager; Nikki Pentland, Faith Formation Minister for Children and Families

Summer News and Staff News from Pastor Kris

In my newsletter column this month I will be sharing with you a lot of personnel news: some goodbyes, some hellos, and several updates. It probably seems like an unusual amount of turnover. It is hard to see great staff members leave us, but we wish them only the best and hold them in our hearts and prayers as they move to their next chapters of loving and serving God.

I assure you that the ministry and mission of God's church here at Union remains in good hands, thanks to the pastors and staff and to so many of you who are and have been stepping up in volunteer leadership responsibilities. Thank you church for continuing to be patient and supportive of our pastors and staff as we navigate these transitions. We are so very grateful that God's spirit is guiding us and holding us together preparing us for our next chapter of love and service too.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL BLESSINGS to PASTOR CARRIE BELENO

Pastor Carrie has always worked as a chaplain at a hospital while she worked with us. About a month ago she was offered a full-time position at Lehigh Valley Hospital. She had hoped to continue with us too but developed some health issues and after a month on leave from our church has decided she needs to focus on her new job, her health, and her family and has resigned from Union UCC

We are so very grateful for her ministry, presence, and leadership with us the last three and a half years. She has touched our faith and our lives in so many ways. If you'd would like to send her a card or a financial gift you can send that to Pastor Kris's attention at church Union UCC 5550 Route 873 PO Box 66 Neffs, PA 18065. Or you can drop it in Pastor Kris's mailbox (not Carrie's). Checks made to Carrie Beleno. Please get them to Pastor Kris by September 7.

A search committee has been formed to begin looking for her successor. We will keep you posted.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL BLESSINGS to TIFFANY LAKATOSH

She is serving a church in Kunkletown as well as teaching and working at Alchemy Lounge. We give thanks for her 4 years of working with our kids and families and for sharing her enthusiasm and creativity with us.

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

Nikki currently works at St. Luke's in Human Resources. She has also worked Good Shepherd and Kidspeace as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (her degree from Temple). In her interviews she talked about how being a member here at Union has strengthened her faith and helped her through challenging times and that she'd be honored to help our children and families support their growth and navigate life's ups and downs.

Here she has been a volunteer at Bible School and is helping this Summer on Sunday mornings and says that watching the kids' faces light up when they get a message solidified is why she feels so called to apply for this position. She's had a call to work in a church earlier in her life too.

We asked her to create an event sample for us and she presented a Family Faith and Film Night featuring Beauty and Beast in the grove. Her flier talked about it being a story of with Christian parallels like redemption through love, seeing beyond appearance, transformation of the heart, and sacrificial love. Plus fun food to be served of course.

We asked her to share a lesson with activities on her favorite Bible story. She chose David and Goliath and led us through a fabulous lesson filled with learning the story, reflecting on it, and having discussion and activities to reinforce and apply the story. She closed it with an activity where they named a fear, placed the word on a pyramid of cups, and had a chance to throw a stone at the cups to knock them down and say – "This giant may seem big, but my God is bigger!" A great mantra for all of us to have in life!

Nikki and Kim have been members here since 2022 with their amazing kids Eleanor and Hemley. Nikki loves to hike in her free time. She will continue working at St. Luke's and will add this job to her 'to do' list. We can't wait for our kids and families to work with her and continue learning about God with her here at Union UCC!



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL BLESSINGS TO MARISSA HANEY

Marissa left for a full-time position with ServiceMaster but has been graciously helping us in the interim time. We give thanks for you!

WELCOME TO SARAH APOLLONIA STOLL, OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR.

We are excited to bring Sarah on board to our staff and church community. She comes with experience as a post-production photography assistant for a wedding company and a freelance musician who is a bassist, guitarist, and vocalist. In both of these areas she has created, edited, and designed content for purposes of marketing, branding, communication, and engagement. She impressed us with her energy, ambition, and passion. She's excited to share and broaden her visual designing and writing skills with us and to help us grow into our vision of strengthening how we are a relevant, engaged, and growing church. She also inspired us with her faith and desire to serve God and others through her work. She's been a part of her church's music ministry at the Metropolitan Community Church on Sundays for six years. On Sunday July 13 Sarah came to worship to meet everyone. That afternoon she had an accident playing soccer and needed surgery that week. She has started to work again remotely from home and she's doing a great job continuing to learn the position. Thank you Sarah and Marissa for helping us in this extended transition time.



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL BLESSINGS to BRYCE and LUKE THRASH

Bryce and Luke have been our weeknight lock up staff for 2 years. They graduated from high school and are going to West Chester for college. Great job guys, thanks!

WELCOME DAN HAFTL AS OUR NEW LOCKUP STAFF

From Dan: I came to Union UCC in 2016 and have found our church family to practice what we preach, that whoever you are, whatever part of life's journey your on, your welcome here. I am grateful that this is a safe space for all, including the LGBTQ+ community. During my time here at Union UCC I have been on consistory, and most currently usher at 8Am with my husband Michael and am on the chime choir. In September 2020 PK married myself and my husband Michael in the church grove. We are thrilled to celebrate our 5th wedding anniversary in September of this year. Michael works part time for St Lukes and is going to LCCC full time for medical billing and coding, and LOVES to bake for events at church. I work Full-time for LVHN and am per-Diem for St Lukes. Together we enjoy simple country life, gardening, chicken tending, and mild homesteading. We have 13 chickens, three dogs, and two cats. needless to say, we love animals. We have a 9yo Beagle named Tanner, a lab Shepard mix named Nora who's about 6yo, and Blaze, a Golden Retriever who was born Christmas day 2024. Our two cats are Leo and Willow. In addition to our passion for animals, including fostering animals, a surprising fact is I have a deep passion for cars, including classic cars. I want to thank everyone for always being welcomed into Union UCC and for the opportunity to be the "lock up dude".



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL BLESSINGS to RYLEIGH and HANNAH MINNICH

Ryleigh and Hannah have been our Sunday Set Up Staff for the last 2 years and graduated from high school. Thank you for doing an awesome job! Hannah is going to American University and Ryleigh is going to Lehigh County Community College.

WELCOME (AND WELCOME BACK) TO OUR NEW SUNDAY SET UP TEAM RYLEIGH MINNICH, CLAIRE PUJA AND PAYGE HAYDT

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL BLESSINGS TO SHELLY HANDWERK

Our Facility Cleaner will resign at the end of the Summer. We are seeking applications for that position.



Patty Monroe



Gabriela and Cody Groller



Ruthann Bachman



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.



Thank you to everyone who supported and helped with our Shakespears 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.

Thank you from Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Thank you for the generous donation of over 300 boxes of cereal for our summer Kid's Pack food distribution program. Each summer, food bank volunteers pack 150 bags of assorted food items, all donated by the 12 sponsoring churches. Each bag is filled with over twenty items, including peanut butter, canned fruit, soup, tuna, cookies, crackers, mac and cheese, pudding, and other items. Every child receives one bag starting in July, and will include two boxes of cereal, donated by Union UCC.

Thank you again for providing nourishment to the local children this summer.

July Baptisms



Colson Anewalt,
with parents
Macy and Troy



Whilden Groller,
with parents
Gabriela and
Cody



Sly and Luna
Stout, with
parents Keneley
and Travis

Congratulations and Blessings

Justin Evans and Cozette El-Kik were married May 24th.
Parents of the Groom are Pam and John Evans.

Allie Fella and Chris Ignatz were married June 7th.
Parents of the Bride are Edie and Jim Fella.

Mollie Jarrett and Max D'Amico were married July 13.
Parents of the Bride are Tina and Lew Jarret.



MOBILEPACK™

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.fmsc.org/lehigh> or make checks out to FMSC and include our event number 2510-090MI.



Union UCC, Neff's Youth Group

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney

September 2025 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Back to School Blessings

To all of our students, teachers, school workers, We wish you the best school year ever! Take a deep breath as you leave summer behind and jump into the busyness of the school year! We are here with you!



You're Busy Folks...



So let us meet you where you are! This year, Pastor Kayli & Deana want to be able to come cheer you on at your sporting events, activities, musicals, etc! Let us know where your games, plays, musicals, activities are and we want to be there!!!

CALLING ALL CONFIRMANDS!

All Youth in 8th grade (or older) are invited to join us for Confirmation Class!

Beginning September 14, 2025

9:15am-10:15am (orientation)

See Pastor Kayli if you have any questions!!!

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*

*All Youth Grades
6th thru 12th Invited*

*Food
Friends
Fellowship*

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

Time: 5pm-7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall





It is hard to believe that Summer is almost over! It has been a busy and exciting couple of months. We held mini reunions for our 2024-2025 Neffs students and Alumni at the Grove playground in July. We painted with water, used chalk to draw, dug in the mulch, played dinosaurs, and of course, played on the climber! We had some Italian Ice and popsicles to cool off and enjoyed the day with our little friends. Now, we are busy getting everything ready for the new school year and can't wait to see the students every day!

In August, we kicked off the 2025-2026 school year with our student and parent orientation program. This program provides new students with an opportunity to meet classmates and their teachers while having fun playing in the Grove. Parents had a chance to meet with the Director to become familiar with school policies and procedures and ask any questions they may have about the upcoming school year.

The preschool is pleased to welcome Nicole Hantz to our team this year! Nicole is joining us in the Four-Year-Old Preschool class. We know Nicole will be a fantastic addition to our team! We are also excited to welcome back Miss Broadhead, Miss Klimek, Mrs. Lynch, and Mrs. Anderson for another school year. We are so thankful to have a dedicated and motivated team!

Our teachers are back in action on September 2nd! They will be working hard to get our classrooms and supplies ready for our students! On September 8th and 9th, we will be holding our classroom visitation days. This will allow the students and parents to meet the teachers, explore our classrooms, and acclimate to our school environment. We look forward to meeting all of our new families and welcoming back our returning ones!

School officially begins on September 10th. We will be hosting a Donuts with the Director event directly after each class's drop-off on their first day! This event is intended for parents and families to mingle, ask questions, and give feedback.

If you have not yet had a chance to register your child or grandchild, contact the Director at Preschool@unionucc.org! We have a few remaining openings in both the Three-Year-Old Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms!



From the Property Committee

The summer season is winding down, the grass is starting to grow again, the leaves will start to change colors soon, fall is coming.

A few minor repairs were made around the property this summer. Protect Alarms installed a new fire detector in the sanctuary, to replace an old, faulty one. A window was installed in the Memory Room door. The fire extinguishers were serviced, with some new ones needed to be purchased. The main septic tanks in front of Memorial Hall were cleaned. A new freezer was needed in the grove food stand. Blessings to the Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund for providing funds to make these repairs.

Lastly, a BIG shout out to our caretakers Ori and Shelly Handwerk, who have been hard at work all summer to clean and wax all of the tile floors and clean all the rugs around the church property, including the preschool floors. There is a major amount of furniture moving involved to empty a room, clean and wax the floors, and then return all the tables, chairs, and other odds and ends to their proper location. The floors in the rooms shine bright, the rugs in the offices and hallways are fresh and clean, thank you Ori and Shelly.



HARVEST HOME

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025



Please bring your garden gifts on Sunday morning before either church service. These items will be for our display and then given to people served by the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Suggestions:

Squash
Peppers
Apples

Pumpkins
Tomatoes
Corn

Beets
Potatoes
Pears

Fill up your paper bag with donations to bring anytime before September 29th. Items will go to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Bags will be available at services on 9/14 & 9/21.

Suggestions:

Cereals: Raisin Bran, Cheerios, Wheaties

Pastas: Spaghetti, Penne, Macaroni

Canned Vegetables: Corn, Baked Beans, Olives

Canned Soup: Chicken Noodle, Tomato, Broccoli

Canned Fruit: Peaches, Pears, Baby Formula

Good Stuff: Peanut Butter, Jam, Jello mix

Bakery: Cake Mixes, Brownie Mixes



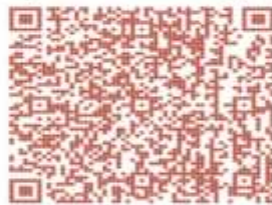
THANK YOU GOD FOR GIFTS TO ENJOY AND SHARE!



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: _____

Keystone Conference Resolution passes at General Synod!!

With the passing of the resolution to form the new Keystone Conference, there is much to be done to be operational by January 1, 2025. Finances and Staffing are some of the big items to be addressed.

FINANCES

For **2025**, congregational and Individual gifts to OCWM funds stay in the PNEC and fund our staffing, programs. And support from Congregational or Individual gifts to *Friends of PNEC* for **2025** also stay in PNEC to support conference programming.

For **2026**, Congregational and Individual gifts to OCWM funds will go to the Keystone Conference for staffing, program and support; but Congregational and Individual gifts to *Friends of the Association* (was Conference) in **2026** will stay with PNEC to provide funding for association programming and services.

Support for Committee on Ministry work in 2025 is supported by PNEC while support for Committee on Ministry work in 2026 is supported by the Keystone Conference

TRANSITIONAL STAFFING – BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2026

The new Keystone Board will consider several candidates who have experience working with local churches and have expressed interest in the *transitional* full-time ministerial positions.

The transitional staff will be contracted by the Keystone Board in the fall of 2025 beginning with the Transitional Executive Conference Minister.

That *Transitional Executive Conference Minister*, with the *Personnel Committee* and the *Transitional Board* will complete interviews with the transitional ordained and administrative staff so that the individuals can begin in January 2026. We anticipate 12-18 months of transition so that work can continue. After that point searches for settled staff will begin.

The administrative positions may be hired for "settled" administrative staff during the first months or year of the transition.

SETTLED STAFFING TO BEGIN SOMETIME IN 2027

There will be search committees formed for all the called positions in the Keystone Conference which include:

1. Executive Conference Minister
2. Three Regional Ministers

Leadership and Faith Formation position – part-time

These will be open searches which may include those who have served as transitional staff, but their continued employment/call is not guaranteed.

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!

If you have any general Conference questions, please feel free to reach out to me, Janice Metzger, at jemrenaissinc@aol.com & please put Union Ambassador in the subject line. As your PNEC Ambassador, I want to help Union members feel more connected to the Conference and the wider church.

Succulent Pumpkin Workshop

with 

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



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




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!

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

From the Mission Committee:

Thank you to all who have supported the Christmas in July collections of socks and underwear for 6th Street Shelter and the Allentown Rescue Mission.

Thank you to all who have supported the collections of school supplies for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Reminder - toiletry collections happen all year long - soap, toothpaste, hair care products, deodorant are items are always needed at Lehigh Conference of Churches and the NL Food Bank. Please drop off toiletry items in the basket in Memorial Hall.

Food collections also happen all year long for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Items needed all year long include cereal, canned soup, crackers, pasta, cake mixes and condiments. These simple items make a difference in the lives of our local families, thank you for caring and sharing God's Love.

Peace to all.

The Mission Committee has approved donations to be made to the following mission agencies:

From the Thomas Family Fund of the Funds of Lasting Gifts

\$1,150 to Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center

\$1,150 to Lehigh Conference of Churches

From the Mission Discretionary account \$500 to Allentown Crop Walk, \$500 to Allentown Warming Station at the YMCA, \$350 to the Out of the Darkness Walk, \$300 Medical Debt Relief

From the Mattern Humanitarian Fund of the Funds of Lasting Gifts

\$1,000 to Veteran's Outreach of PA – Veteran's Grove, Harrisburg

From the Funds of Lasting Gifts non designated fund

\$5,000 additional yearly support to OCWM

\$3,000 to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank

\$1,000 for the upcoming Feed My Starving Children event

\$1,000 to Medical Debt Relief, in honor of Pastor Kris's 60th B-day

Sharing God's Love to the World



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.



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.

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 1, Nov 5, Dec 3
5:30-7:30pm



Putting God First on First Wednesdays

Approvals by email since the last Consistory meeting in June:

- Request to pay Sarah for time off following her injury
- Request for donation to Pastor Kris' birthday fundraiser
- Request to approve Nicole Pentland for Minister of Faith Formation position
- Request to approve Dan Haftl as lock up person
- Request to approve the new Sunday set-up team of Ryleigh Minnich, Claire Puia and Page Haydt

Monday, August 18, 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 Mission for funds from the Mattern Humanitarian Fund to Veteran's Outreach of PA and from the Thomas Family Fund to Bradbury Sullivan LGBTQ Community Center and to Lehigh Conference of Churches.
- Request from Church & Ministry to approve funds from FOLG for a professional coach for Pastor Kris
- Request to approve funds from Memorial Fund to purchase a Kandao, 360° webcam, and various accessories

The above were approved unanimously.



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.



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

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.

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



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



Kathryn Rex passed on April 7 and services were held on June 20.

Sally Kern passed on May 10 and services were held on May 27.

George Lawrence passed on May 29 and services were held on June 3rd.

Robert Yurick passed on June 9 and services were held on June 16th.

Sandra Andresen passed on June 9 and services were held on June 17th.

Michael Kern passed on June 16 and services were held on June 26th.

Charlotte Bauer passed on July 12 and services were held on July 19th.

David Mulcahy passed on August 5 and services were held on August 20th.

Glady Kuhns passed on August 24 and services were held on August 28th.



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



Vanco Mobile



venmo

Union UCC Staff

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pastorkris@unionucc.org

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Neffs PA 18065-0066
www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:
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



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionneffs

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	\$50,008.00	\$9,480.00	\$59,488.00
Expenses	\$30,463.00	\$6,062.00	\$36,525.00
7-31-2025	\$14,863.00	\$47,608.00	\$62,471.00

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

We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. **Our next dates are Sunday, September 21, 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 Marissa in the office 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. We do not offer room use to non-members at this time.