



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 16th, 2025

Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor
Lorie Hackett, Visitation 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
Ori Handwerk and Pam Minnich, 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, Jack & Karen, Mark & Michelle, Joe, Barbara on hospice in Florida, James, Michael, Bridgette, brother Ron battling cancer, Todd in employment search, peace in the world, Ronald as he begins cancer treatments, thanks for prayers for Johanna, Bruce with painful back, Carol with cancer, mother to settle into life at a personal care place, helping daughter Laura with our new grandson, sister fighting cancer, David and Lucille, Skip with throat cancer, Abby for good outcomes in court, Lucas and Stella, daughter's mental health, salvation for my mom, Bruce & Ron for healing, Elwood & family, the Mesics family, Maria & her family, David recovering from surgery + dialysis, Brad with cancer

Thanksgiving for Harvest Home food donations and the chance to host Feed My Starving Children.

Prayers and Blessings

To the family and friends of **Charles Mesics and Elaine Moyer**, who passed away November 8th and 9th. Charles's service will be held November 24th. Elaine's service will be held November 18th.

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.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP

November 9

Brad Hackett, Member and Guest
Preacher

Veterans Honored We honor all of our veterans with a special musical medley of each branch of the military's song with a chance to stand during your song.

November 16

Generosity Sunday led by our Financial Leadership Team

November 23

Thanksgiving Sunday 10:30 Baptism
November 30 Advent Begins, Holy Communion

November 2

Festival Choir

Union UCC Choir and Gerry Music
Studio Choir led by Matt Gerry and
Blake Hoppes

*This program is made possible by the
Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern
Family Music Fund in the Funds of Lasting
Gifts.*

All Saints Sunday

Remembering Those Who Have Passed

We will remember those who have passed
this year and
celebrate their lives by lighting a candle
for families to take home.

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



Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

Enjoy some coffee, tea, juice, hot
chocolate, and snacks on Sundays in Memorial Hall after
both worship services.

Upcoming Hosts:

Nov 2: Mission Committee

Nov 9: Consistory

Nov 16: Financial Leadership Team

Nov 23: Fellowship Committee



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



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.

2026 Offering Envelope packets

Envelope packets for 2026 will be ready for pick up starting Sunday Nov 16. Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs.

Memorial Hall will be open every Sunday in November and December, and the Christmas Eve dates.

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2026, everyone gets new numbers each year. Members who use the e-giving program do not receive envelope packets.

Thank you for your continued financial support to the church by dropping your envelope in the collection plates on Sundays or mailing in your envelopes to the church office. Your financial support is greatly appreciated to continue the many and varied missions and ministries of Union UCC.

The Financial Leadership Team

Love Your Neighbor

Community Outreach Day ♡

Together, we did so much more!



Our Love Your Neighbor Community Outreach Day was a success thanks to everyone who donated, packed toiletry kits, and lent a hand with home projects. Together, our seven churches showed what it truly means to serve as one community in Christ.

Your generosity and compassion made a real difference for our neighbors in need — and we are so grateful for your time, your gifts, and your hearts.

Faith on Tap

Wednesday, November 19

6:30-8:30pm

Korny's Tavern at Kornfeind's Market
2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay

God. Conversation. Food & Drink.

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/fotnov2025>



David Charles Smith, Senior Pastor of Jordan UCC, Allentown, will be our guest speaker talking about All You Need is Love: Faith Lessons from the Beatles.

Hosted by Kris Snyder, Senior Pastor, Union UCC, Neffs with Special Guests

Thanks Jodi & Kornfeind's Market!

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!



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.



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

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 (mgroth2005@gmail.com)

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



We have news!

All 101,088 meals provided during the recent LV MobilePack shipped out the week of November 3rd bound for the **Dominican Republic via our mission partner Cross Catholic Outreach.**

276 kids will be fed for a year!
Please pray for the community receiving the meals and the partnering happening there.

Giving God thanks for the 382 volunteers and over \$33,000 raised to make this happen.

HOPE starts with food.



GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Supper, Small Groups For Kids & Adults, Worship

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



BREATHE

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

DECEMBER 7



Catch your Breath

...with God

Prayer * Meditation * Music
* Communion

Led by Rani Gerry & Pastor
Kris



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!



November Sunday Supper

Youth Group
Sunday Supper

All Youth Grades
6th thru 12th Invited

Food
Friends
Fellowship

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

Time: 5pm-7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall



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>

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

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. The email usually starts by asking for you to do a favor for her. When you respond it continues the request, like getting gift cards for someone whose ill. Directions include sending them a picture of the gift cards and 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.

Christmas at Union UCC



DECEMBER WORSHIP

November 30 1st- Sunday of Advent and Holy Communion

December 7, 14, & 21- Advent and Christmas Music

Sunday, Dec 14- Parkland High School Chorale Concert at 7 pm
(FREE)

Tuesday, Dec 23- Christmas Eve Eve Worship at 7pm

Carols, Candlelight, & Communion

Wednesday, Dec 24- Christmas Eve Worship

Carols & Candlelight

3pm (Communion), 5pm (no Communion), & 8 pm (Communion)



LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

Saturday, December 6th
3-5pm

FREE ADMISSION

**Donations of Hats and Gloves are
welcome!**

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

Union UCC
5550 Route 873 Neffs

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

FAITH FORMATION FUN

Grow in Spirit, Live in Faith:
Join Us on the Journey!

Contact: Nikki Pentland
Email: dired@unionucc.org

God First (2nd & 3rd) Wednesdays in December



Join us for dinner, small groups & holiday
ornaments, treats, & activities
12/3, 12/10, & 12/17
5:30pm-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall

*Please bring Christmas Cookies or dessert to
share*

ADVENT GIVING CHALLENGE

Help your family give
every day of Advent.

Pick up a basket and Advent calendar
on **NOV 23** or **NOV 30** (or feel free to use
your own).

Each day, place one item in the basket
and mark your calendar with a sticker.



Return filled baskets
DEC 24-JAN 2

we'll deliver them to
the **FOOD BANK**.

Suggested Items:

Toiletries, canned goods, pasta, cereal, socks,
mittens, undies, kids' books, crayons, toilet
paper, baking mixes, pudding, and more!

Let's make generosity a daily
habit this season.



HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS

This Christmas season, help bring hope
to a child in need by filling a shoebox
with age-appropriate gifts through the
Holiday Hope Chests program.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Pick up a tag from the tree in the lobby
- Fill a shoebox with small, thoughtful items
for the age group listed
- Wrap the box (lid and base separately)
so it can be opened for inspection

RETURN YOUR FILLED BOX NO LATER THAN
NOVEMBER 30TH

*Thank you for being part of this
beautiful tradition of giving!*

! IMPORTANT

No Sunday School
or Children's Church
November 30th and
December 28th

Polar Express Christmas Celebration

Free Event December 21st at
9:15am in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a celebration filled with festive fun for the whole family! Enjoy holiday crafts and a special visit from Santa himself.

Feeling creative in the kitchen? Bring your best cookies for our Cookie Contest —prizes await the most delicious and delightful creations!

Come in your coziest pajamas and let's celebrate the season with joy, laughter, and a sprinkle of Christmas magic!

DON'T MISS THE MAGIC! SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE ON SANTA'S LIST. HE'S ARRIVING WITH SURPRISES FOR EACH CHILD WHO JOINS THE FUN!

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/POLAREXPRESS2025](https://bit.ly/polarexpress2025)



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

IN THE TRADITION OF GIVING GIFTS TO FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, OUR CHURCH HAS TRADITIONALLY EXPRESSED OUR LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR PASTORS AND STAFF BY PRESENTING THEM WITH A MONETARY GIFT.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE IN THIS GIFT, PLEASE SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO DONNA CHRISTMAN AT 5820 PA RTE 873 SLATINGTON, PA 18080 NO LATER THAN DEC 17.

OR PLACE IT IN THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY MAILBOX AT CHURCH. THANK YOU!

DONNA CHRISTMAN @DEC12221@HOTMAIL.COM

Parkland Chorale Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 14th 7pm

Union UCC, 5550 Route 873, Neffs

Free Admission * Donations Accepted

Enjoy an evening of gorgeous music
in our beautifully decorated sanctuary.





Salvation Army Angel Tree in Memorial Hall

Take a tag and shop for a child. Please do **not** wrap gifts. Unwrapped gifts are due back

by **Sunday, Dec. 7th**

Spread the Good News in 2026!

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.

We still have 2025 dates available



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

LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

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

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

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:



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

Poinsettia Order Form

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH, 2025
\$8.00 EACH

fill out the form below or order online at:
<https://bit.ly/unionpointsettas2025>

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____ PLANTS FOR THE
VISITATION LIST

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____ PLANTS FOR THE
SANCTUARY.

I WILL PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
____ YES ____ NO

Envelope
Number _____

Sponsor's
Name _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Total amount enclosed _____

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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Senior Pastor

Cell Phone: 610-657-6007

pastorkris@unionucc.org

Ext. 24

Rev. Kayli Freeman

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Director: Rebekah

Millroy



www.facebook.com/unionneffs