

HONORING THE PAST * CELEBRATING THE PRESENT * BUILDING THE FUTURE

VOLUME 15. ISSUE 4 APRII 2024



Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am in church and online

In April we'll be looking at Resurrection Stories and how God's love and grace unlocks our own rising up.

> Sunday, April 7- Easter Joy Continues with music by Stacy Gabel

Stacy is an accomplished performer with a passion for writing songs with catchy lyrics and memorable melodies. When not in the studio recording, Stacy can be seen performing at festivals, wineries, resorts and theatres. She enjoys connecting with her audience, leaving each show with new friends and putting a smile on everyone's face. At 10:30 worship kids will stay in church to learn her original song "At the Zoo-oo-oo."

> Sunday, April 14 - Pastor Carrie Beleno's Installation as our Pastor of Visitation!

Sunday, April 21- New Members Received

Sunday, April 28- Baptism (Women's Retreat Weekend)

May 5- Confirmation Day

June 2- Communion

*Rain or Shine *Breakfast, Lunch and

Baked Goods will be Sold

*Everyone is welcome!

Country Sale

Saturday, June 1, 2024 8am -1pm Union UCC, Neffs Grove

- Have stuff that you want to get rid of?
- Purchase a Vendor Space: \$21
- One Space per family Spaces limited
- Vendors sell and keep profit
- Each space includes an area of 15' wide x 15' deep

Set up: Saturday, June 1 -- 6:30 am - 8:00 am

If you have any questions or are interested in renting a space, please email Sheila Nagle ssnagle@ptd.net or contact the church office, 610-767-6961. Country Sale Space Reservation contracts may be found on the church web site Unionucc.org, or you may pick one up in the church office.

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# BREATHE

Catch your breath with this new and unique time of evening prayer, reflection, quiet, and music. This monthly gathering on Tuesday nights will give you time to rediscover calm and peace. 7pm-8pm on Tuesdays in the Sanctuary April 30 Led by Pastor Kris, Roni Gerry, and Carrie Beleno



### Faith on Tap Korny's Tavern

at Kornfeind's Market 2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay

God. Conversation. Food & Drink. At your favorite neighborhood tavern.

Wednesday, April 24 6:30-8:30pm

Park in the back of the store and enter from there. Cost: Your drink (Beer, Wine, Iced Tea, Soda, Water) Complimentary Kornfeind's Food. Sign up if you can, or just join us.

Sign up here:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA 7-48526694-fotapril2024

Hosted by Kris Snyder, Senior Pastor, Union UCC, Neffs and Joe Kornfeind, Kornfeind's Market and Business Professor, and other guests.



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Union UCC's Consistory and Leadership Planning Team Affirm Our Mission Statement, Core Values, and Vision Statement by Registering to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church in the United Church of Christ.

The following statement was approved and celebrated by our Consistory on February 20, 2024.

#### UNION UCC'S OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

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! **We're Installing Pastor Carrie!**Sunday, April 14th at 8am and 10:30am Worship

Please join us to celebrate the completion of her work to be licensed by the Penn Northeast Conference to serve as our Pastor of Visitation and as a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital. We will recognize her in worship and celebrate her at a special coffee hour. Lots of great music in worship this day too with our Festival Choir directed by Matt Gerry with Blake Hoppes.



Meditation and Prayer Gatherings with Pastor Kris Looking for some peace and ways to decompress? We meet by zoom monthly for meditation and prayer.

> Union UCC and Community Tuesdays 7-8pm April 23, May 21

Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09

Meeting ID: 876 8037 8046 Passcode: 954906

I'll lead us in various readings, scripture, and prayer practices like breath prayer and centering prayer, as well as meditation practices from the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, Buddhist, and Christian traditions.

Sign up with PastorKris@unionucc.org
You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, whatever your schedule allows.

### GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, May I 5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper Menu: Chicken fingers, fries, brownies. 6:00-6:30 Children's Choir with Blake

(All kids are welcome but not required.) Non Choir kids hang with Ms. Tiffany and families.

6:30-7:15 Kids with Ms. Tiffany (Parents can join or go with adults.)

Youth Group with Pastor Kayli Adults with Pastors Kris & Carrie 7:15-7:30 Worship together

Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CABA823A7TA7-4BB5762E-codflist Oremall/text a staff member. Do your best to sign up - but if you miss signing up, just come

Future Dates: Last One! May I Putting God First on First Wednesdays

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING

Our Steering Without Oars group has been meeting since May 2022. They were the first to step into our boat! In October 2022 we invited 40 more leaders in our church to join us and formed the Leadership Planning Team. We have been meeting almost monthly looking at and creating a vision for God's ministry and mission at Union. In June 2023 we presented all of our work to Consistory who agreed to partner with us in our next steps.

We met in March and worked with our marketing designer, Rev. Nicole Pickens.

Watch for her work soon, very exciting!

These teams created more questions and drafts for: Architect interviews and design process, Capital Campaign and Financial pieces, and Purpose and Why of Renovating Memorial Hall.

We will be meeting at Consistory meetings in April and May.

We're looking for some more folks to join us with these new ideas (contact a Pastor to sign up):

Mental Health and Wellness Initiative Team

Summer 2025 Grove Event Idea Team



#### **Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris**

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am- April 5, (NO April 12), 19, 26

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am - April 7, (NO April 14), 21, 28.

#### Study of Acts 1-6 with Pastor Carrie

Acts is the perfect book for a God-is-still-speaking church, as many issues in Acts are important for us in the church today: leadership and conflict, cultural diversity and inclusiveness, the use of wealth, and the relationship between church and state, to name just a few. Beyond that, Acts is full of rollicking good stories and adventures.

Wouldn't it be great if the Book of Acts helped churches today recapture the excitement and adventure of following Jesus? Watch out -- it could happen.

<u>Note</u>: In addition to these gatherings there is an adult group that meets on God First Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of the month. The night starts with supper (you can join or skip) at 5:30 with small groups starting at 6:30-7:30pm. See more detailed post. Dates: Feb 7, March 6, May 1 (No Jan or April).



SAVE THE DATE for our NEXT Labyrinth Retreat

Saturday, April 14th

4pm-7pm at Union UCC, Memorial Hall

Starting with Appetizers and Snacks. Bring a food to share.

Wear cozy clothing, plan to wear socks/take your shoes

∩ff

A labyrinth is not a maze. There is only one path to the center and back out. Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many different faiths for spiritual centering, contemplation, and prayer. Praying with a labyrinth is a form of walking meditation, a physical expression of the interior journey towards God. Like a pilgrimage, forms of walking meditation give us time and space to listen and respond to God's love and grace.

Sign up here: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47987849-labyrinth">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-47987849-labyrinth</a>
Pastor Kris, Pastor Carrie, and Roni Gerry

### SUMMER WORSHIP PLAN

At Consistory's meeting in February they decided on this plan for Summer worship.

There will only be a 10:30am worship service starting on June 9 through September 1.

There will NOT be 8am worship starting on June 9 through September 1. We will have outdoor worship in the grove at 10:30am on the following Sundays:

June 30, July 14 and 28, August 11 and 25.

We will worship in the church if the weather does not cooperate on these Sundays.

#### From the Cemetery Commission

Part-time employment opportunities are available for caring for the Union Church Cemetery. Duties include the mowing of the cemetery property, weed eating around the memorials, preparing for and oversight of burials and cremations, prepare foundations for memorials, and general maintenance of cemetery grounds and property.

Candidates shall enjoy working outdoors, in all weather conditions, be familiar with lawn mowing equipment, be able to lift 50 pounds and perform light digging and raking of ground. Please contact Union Church Cemetery secretary/treasurer Phil Wehr at 610-767-3657 for more information.

#### From the Property Committee

Spring is here, time to visit our church grove. Thousands of daffodils will be blooming soon for everyone to enjoy. Other flowers and trees will also be coming alive in the church grove and woods. Come and visit God's natural beauty during this special time of the year. Take a walk through the woods, sit on one of the benches or in the gazebo and re-energize you spirit, bring the kids for some fun on the swings and the playground., or have a simple picnic lunch. Our church grove and woods are here for everyone to enjoy.

Are you thinking of holding a special party in the church grove this summer? Start planning ahead by contacting the church office and talk with Marissa on dates that are available. Use of the grove facilities are for members of Union UCC, with a rental fee due upon reservation of the grove.

The grove is a great place for graduation and birthday parties, family reunions, baby and bridal showers or special events. Rental of grove is rain or shine.

### Country Sale BAKE SALE HELPERS AND BAKERS Saturday, June 1

This event will be outside in the grove and baked goods will be sold in the grove stand.

We're looking for bakers who will help us provide tasty treats for our Country Sale.

Some items will be sold whole and others will be cut for single serving sale. Please bring your items in disposable pans. We will cut and portion them.

We need pies, cakes, cupcakes, cookies, apple dumplings, muffins, brownies, fudge, bar cookies, snack mixes.

We prefer items that don't need to be refrigerated.

We can always use sugar free and gluten free options.

Please drop off your baked goods on Friday at the church 9am-2pm or on Saturday in the grove by 9am.

Use this link to sign up or email Sherry Penrod at <a href="mailto:slpbakes19@gmail.com">slpbakes19@gmail.com</a> or contact the church office. <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-48528445-baked">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-48528445-baked</a>

We also need volunteers to work shifts (1-4 hrs.) at the bake sale 8am-1pm.

Please reach out to Sherry Penrod at <a href="mailto:slpbakes19@gmail.com">slpbakes19@gmail.com</a> if you'd like to help out or with any questions.



# FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh
Email: dired@unionucc.org

# Church Family Worship

A pril 7th & May 5th

We Ravel 4 God

**APRIL 27, 2024 3PM TO 6PM** 

Family Fun Event April 13th 5-7pm



Email Ms. Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org to sign up.

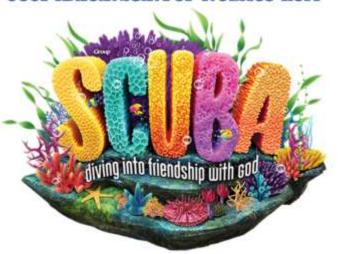


Help support VBS and Christian Education by purchasing some delicious Butter Braids! Each Butter Braid is \$15.

This fundraiser will take place March 23rd-April 7th.
Pick up will be Tuesday, April 23rd, 5-7pm.
If there are any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org.



Register online at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/1 OCOF4DACA723A7FC1-47912165-nerf



VBS 2024 JUNE 24TH-28TH 6-8PM DINNER AVAILABLE AT 5:30PM



VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS CAN SIGN UP AT HTTPS://VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/EVENTS/UNIONUCC

Worthiness doesn't have prerequisites - Brene Brown



April 2024 Edition
Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

#### DO YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR??

Huge thanks to all the youth who helped plan, participate, and decorate for Youth Sunday! It was a great day

celebrating all you do and contribute to this wonderful faith community!!







#### Pastor Kayli's Sabbatical Journey

Every five years, our pastoral staff is allowed the opportunity to get 12 weeks of sabbatical time. This is a time of rest and spiritual rejuvenation. Last summer, I took my first 4 weeks of sabbatical, and this May & July I will finish out my time.

During my time away (May 13-June 9 & July 1-July 28) I plan to find ways to reconnect to my spiritual growth and journey. I'm hopeful to find creative outlets that will connect my desire for creativity with my spiritual well being. I'm grateful for the opportunity to rest my body, mind, and soul to be able to better serve the wonderful people of Union UCC.



All youth grades 6ith thru 12th are invited to join us for a day of fun and food in the Youth Room!

When: April 20, 2024

Time: 1pm-3pm

\*bring your favorite snack/dessert to share with everyone\*

Sign up below <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6080F48AEAD2BA2FE3-47783434-spring">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6080F48AEAD2BA2FE3-47783434-spring</a>



# Save the Date! inal High School Happy Hour Sessi

Final High School Happy Hour Session (of the year)

May 12, 2024

Join us in the Grove as we celebrate the awesome year we've had and enjoy some great food!

Bring your favorite side or dessert to share (Pastor Kayli will

provide the main dish)

Sign up here: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6080F48AEAD2BA2FE3-48641241-hshh">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6080F48AEAD2BA2FE3-48641241-hshh</a>

#### May Missions - Cereal - Cereal - Cereal

The special mission project for the whole month of May is to collect boxed cereals for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Every Summer, the food bank provides extra kid's packs to the children of local food bank families, stuffed with peanut butter, jelly, soup, canned fruit, and lots of extra goodies. Each supporting church of the food bank provides certain goodies to make over 120 kid's pack.

This year, in addition to our normal goodies, Union UCC will be providing 1 or 2 extra boxes of cereal to each child. Our challenge to you is fill the shopping cart and the foyer area of the church with CEREAL, all brands, all flavors, all box sizes. Our goal is to collect a minimum of 300 boxes of CEREAL, can we do this? YES, we can. Start shopping now, and bring to church the whole month of May.

Each box of cereal goes along way in providing nutrition to children during the summer months. You do make a difference. Thank you, the Mission Committee.

#### **Mission Thank You Notes:**



#### Sixth Street Shelter

We appreciate the partnership of friends like you as we help families improve their stability, self-sufficiency, resilience, and quality of life.

For over 30 years, the Sixth Street Shelter has been serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness. Last year, we provided safe shelter to 106 families, who live on property for seven to 60 days, meeting with counselors and case managers to develop life skills for long term housing, improved employment, and educational opportunities.

Thank you again, you are an important part of our work, and we are grateful for your involvement and support.

#### Coffee for the Troops, 109th Airlift Wings, South Pole Station, Antarctica

What started with a single bag of coffee, the holy spirit transformed into a unique worldwide coffee ministry for chaplains, the troops they serve and everybody else, thirsty for coffee in the area 24/7, 365 days a year. This is Holy Joe's Café, sharing his almighty all loving presence in a cop of coffee.

Thank you for your prayers and your support. God Bless You.

### The Lehigh Conference of Churches

Thank you for your recent gift, and for supporting our neighbors in need all year long.

For over 65 years, we have brought together area faith organizations to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, while building partnerships and fostering unity. Your generous gifts allows us to continue our work with more than 14,000 individuals and families in the Lehigh Valley living in poverty.

The Conference is most grateful for your support

#### March 18, 2024, 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 the Consistory minutes can be found in the church office.

Requested approvals:

Mission Committee request for FOLG

<u>Urffer Fund</u> - Church World Service to sponsor (2) children in Africa; My Stuff Bags Foundation; Miracle eague

<u>Mattern Humanitarian Fund</u> - Veteran's Outreach of PA; Guatemala UCC Water Project; Meals on Wheels; Maui Food Bank, Northeast Community Center-Bethlehem Food Pantry

Request from LPT group to affirm the Case Statement presented for the "why" of renovating Memorial Hall.

All of the above were approved unanimously.

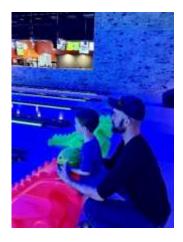
## **PRESCHOOL**

THE CALL HE IS PER WHEN

The past few weeks in the preschool have been very busy.

- 1. We held our annual bowl-a-thon to raise funds for our spring activities and were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families. This year we returned to Hampton Lanes which had been closed for a few years for repairs. The new space is amazing, go check the out.
- 2. The three-year-olds had their annual teddy bear clinic with a visit from the Cetronia Ambulance Corp who do a fantastic job familiarizing the students with emergency medical equipment in case they ever need to ride in an ambulance.
- 3. Then, this past Thursday, we held our annual art show in Memorial Hall. We even had a few bell choir members come and check us out. Once again, we were joined by Parkland High School Strolling Strings members who entertained the crowd of 188 people with a variety of upbeat tunes.

This month the fun continues with Easter hat parades and Easter egg hunts for the students and their siblings.









# R NURSERY IS OPE



Parents and caregivers are welcome to use our nursery for little ones who many need a little break from the worship service to eat or just need to get out some wiggles and energy.

We kindly ask that you sign in, to let us know that you used the space, and place any toys that your child played with in the green bin for cleaning.

We have a Nursery Nook area that is great for feeding and changing little ones. In that area we have diapers and wipes, in case you forgot to restock the diaper



We also have a TV in the room for parents and caregivers to enjoy worship service while caring for their little one.

We do not have an attendant at this time, therefore, a parent/caregiver is required to

> stay with the child(ren) when they are in the nursery. We hope that you enjoy our nursery.













Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.



- ELECTRONIC GIVING https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)
- Venmo @unionuccneffs Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"
- Mobile Giving Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
- Cash or checks (to "Union UCC") Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or quest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.





Vanco Mobile





UCC Night at the Iron Pigs
In the Picnic Pavilion with all-you-can-eat Buffet!
Friday, July 19 7:05 pm
Doors open at 5:45 pm
Only \$30/person!

Stephen Kareha #Stephen-Kareha

TO ORDER TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT STEVE KAREHA.

717-514-8881 or s.kareha@gmail.com



ORDERS can be emailed or dropped at the church office or in the offering plate but MUST be in an envelope marked *Iron Pigs Tickets*.

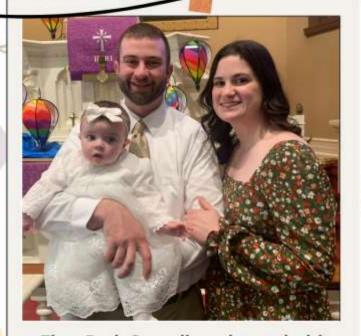
Payments can be made by Cash, Check, or Venmo

(Make Checks Payable to Steve Kareha)

Bring your friends and family!

venmo

March Baptism



Thea Ruth Geronikos pictured with parents Rebecca and James Geronikos. Baptized on 3/3/2024

# Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

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

Upcoming hosts include:

April 7- Sunday Staff

April 14- Fellowship Committee

April 21-FLT

April 28- Worship Committee

May 5- Welcoming Committee

#### Pastor Carrie's Corner

This month's message is "Giving and Receiving." Usually this is a message centered on Christmas, funny to see it in the Easter season, isn't it? But I think it is prudent to be reminded of it year-round:

We give when we are grateful, we give when we see a need. We give when our hearts are impacted by a cause or a dilemma, and we give out of joy! Sometimes it is so much harder to receive. It implies need or weakness, and that is often difficult to admit. But think of it this way: we would have nowhere to give if no one received! Please be open to asking, and receiving, because it allows us to demonstrate our love and compassion for others. And when and if you are ready, then express your gratitude through giving. It's a circle that gives life to a healthy church, and that is what we are! I am so grateful for all of you and to be able to care for this church community. Blessings!

My Installation Service on April 14th

Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to share so many life moments with our congregation and community. I visited those who are hospitalized, ill, or experiencing grief or life challenges; participated in funerals and baptisms; created and led GriefShare; and organized and led Helping Hearts, Helping Meals, and Golden Times groups as well as our Breathe and Prayers with a Pastor services, just to name a few. This work will continue, but looking forward I am excited to be working with the LPT in envisioning where our church and congregation is headed, as well as creating new groups and opportunities for folks to connect, learn and grow~spiritually, emotionally and faithfully, and expanding my preaching opportunities. Thank you all for your support as I continue to grow as a part of our ministry team!



# golden times

Golden Times is a gathering for our senior adults.

Everyone is welcome, including friends. We start at

12noon with lunch (often soup, salad, and a sandwich) and
then have a program until about 1:30pm. There is no
charge to attend. Your support of the budget and the
Funds of Lasting Gifts provides the events and luncheon.

Contact the church office if you'd like to receive postcard
mailing reminders.

We also collect monthly items for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

April 2: The Importance of Planning Ahead for Senior Care
Options with Carol Frawley, Community Relations Director
of CarePatrol of LV & Upper Bucks

New Members 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 (attached or use 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, April 14th at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, April 21st 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: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-g/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-g/viewform</a> 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.



## UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: May 12-19, 2024

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



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

Janet Hoffman passed on January 26, 2024. Private services were held on January 31, 2024 at Union UCC.

Donations were made in memory by John and Gloria Simock, Nancy Hoffman, Susan Stalcoskie, Thomas and Nancy Kern, Dale and Lucy Ritter, Shelby Hafler, Matthew Hoffman, Patricia McCarthy, Sybil Mohn, Alan and Marlene Steigerwalt, Gregory, Shelly, Shelby, and Abby Hafler, Richard and Madeline Bingell, Marjorie Hoffman, Terry and Bev Wertman

Curtis Hoffman passed on March 4, 2024. Private services were held on March 11, 2024 at Union UCC.

Alma Clauser passed on March 14, 2024. Services were held on March 22, 2024 at The Heintzelman Funeral Home.

#### Helping Meals



This fall we brought back our Helping Meals ministry! Our team will be delivering a baked good with the option of a casserole or soup, if requested, for those who are in need of a bit of support due to a life change like a hospitalization, birth or death of a loved one.

To request a visit from the Helping Meals or to volunteer to bake, cook and deliver, please reach out to Pastor Carrie. If you would like to assist in coordinating the team via text and a google doc, please let her know. It's an easy way to continue to support this ministry and we'd love to have you join our team.

#### Union UCC Staff

Rev. Kris P. Snyder Senior Pastor Cell Phone: 610-657-6007 pastorkris@unionucc.org

Rev. Kayli Freeman Associate Pastor pastorkayli@unionucc.org

Carrie Beleno Pastor of Visitation vispastor@unionucc.org

Tiffany Lakatosh Faith Formation Minister for Children & Families dired@unionucc.org Marissa Haney Church Administrator administrator@unionucc.org

Blake Hoppes Minister of Music Blake.charger@gmail.com

Ori Handwerk Facility Caretaker Caretaker@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci Financial Manager financialmanager@unionucc.org Church Office: 610-767-6961 Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66, 5550 Route 873 Neffs PA 18065-0066 www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office: 610-767-5327 prechool@unionucc.org

Director: Annette Wilcox

Pastor Kris ext. 24
Pastor Kayli ext. 25
Marissa Haney ext. 21
Tiffany Lakatosh ext. 27
Barbara Carinci ext. 32

Church Telephone

Extension Directory

610-767-6961

Music Office ext. 26

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www.facebook.com/unionneffs

## **Financial Report**

| <del>-</del>   |                   |                     |                             |  |  |  |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Fiscal<br>Year | Operating<br>Fund | Designated<br>Funds | Grand<br>Total All<br>Funds |  |  |  |
| 7-1-2023       | (\$4,682.00)      | \$39,850.00         | \$35,168.00                 |  |  |  |
| Income         | \$347,638.00      | \$39,116.00         | \$386,754.00                |  |  |  |
| Expenses       | \$316,102.00      | \$47,925.00         | \$364,027.00                |  |  |  |
| 2-29-2024      | \$26,854.00       | \$31,041.00         | \$57,895.00                 |  |  |  |

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.

**New Member Sessions** We encourage you to make a deeper commitment to your faith by joining us as a member. Contact Pastor Kris <u>PastorKris@unionucc.org</u> to sign up. See page 14 for more information.

<u>Dual Member Status</u> 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, May 19, 2024 and July 21, 2024**. 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 Marissa Haney at <a href="mailto:administrator@unionucc.org">administrator@unionucc.org</a>. 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 Marissa Haney at <a href="mailto:administra-tor@unionucc.org">administra-tor@unionucc.org</a>.

There is information on our website, forms to complete are downloadable. More information on the site: <a href="http://www.unionucc.org/resources">http://www.unionucc.org/resources</a> for New Member, Baptism, and Wedding forms.

<u>Room or Hall Use for Members</u> Members are now able to reserve the use of rooms in the church again. Contact Marissa in the office to see if your date is available, to complete the necessary forms, to learn the guidelines and process, and to pay the fees. One time use fees are \$60 plus a \$25 cleaning fee. We do not offer room use to non-members.