

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship 8 & 10:30am in Church and Online

Oct. 6

Communion
(World-Wide)

Oct. 13

Oct. 20

Healing/Praying with
a Pastor

Oct. 27

New Members Received,
Celebrating Those Who
are Members for 40+
Years at Union



Save the Date! Alathea is coming back to Union!

Sunday, November 24th at 8am and 10:30am Worship

Mande and Cristi are two of our favorite musicians, storytellers, and community builders. They have a gift for sharing their faith and God's love in a way that is authentic and inspiring. The last time they were here they did a virtual concert for us in worship during the pandemic. We are excited to have them back in person. They are joined by a new band member Calvin.

www.alathea.com

Their appearance is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern Family Music Fund in the Funds of Lasting Gifts.



UNION UCC TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN EVENT!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

1 PM - 3 PM

AT UNION UCC GROVE PARKING LOT

JOIN US AND UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHICH IS JUST A SHORT WALK AWAY, FOR A SAFE FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION!

WOULD YOU, YOUR BUSINESS, OR AN ORGANIZATION YOU ARE ASSOCIATED WITH LIKE TO DECORATE A CAR AND BE PART OF THE HALLOWEEN FUN WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF WINNING AN AMAZON, TARGET, OR DUNKIN GIFT CARD? REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/4DAWP80](https://bit.ly/4DAWP80)



Have you been a member at Union UCC
for 40 or more years?

We'd like to celebrate you!

And give God thanks for your faithful service.

Join us in worship on October 27th
at 8am and 10:30am when we will also
receive new members.

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Upcoming Dates for Worship

November 3 – Matt Gerry wrote a book! *The Many Faces of God*. In today's message he'll talk about his book and how God's presence is in each of our lives.

All Saints – We will remember those who have passed this year and celebrate their lives.

November 10 Veterans Sunday When we Recognize those who served our country in the military .

November 17 Festival Choir Sunday **Matt Gerry** will lead our musicians and many from the Gerry Music Studio and community in a Sunday filled with beautiful music.

CHRISTMAS *at Union UCC, Neffs*

Lights in the Grove with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 7th 3-5pm

Parkland High School Chorale
Concert
Sunday, Dec. 15th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Eve Worship
Monday, Dec. 23th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 3, 5, & 8 pm

Sunday Worship 8am & 10:30am at church and online.
www.unionucc.org
5550 Route 873 Neffs

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.



Adult Faith Formation
Classes with Pastor Kris and
Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am
Oct 4, 11, 18, 25
Sundays from 9:15 to 0:15am
October 6, 13, 20, 27

Wrestling with Doubt:

Finding Faith Adam Hamilton. We will look at topics like: Is There a God? Wrestling with the Bible. Is Heaven Real? When Prayers Go Unanswered. Why do the Innocent Suffer? "Hamilton approaches these sources of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journey. Whether you're a longtime Christian or someone brand new to faith, this book will lead you to a trust in God that is unafraid of hard questions. Wrestle with doubt and find faith—belief and trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers."

Note: In addition to these gatherings there is an adult group that meets on God First Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of the month and also every Wednesday of the month. God First starts with supper (you can join or skip) at 5:30 with small groups starting at 6:00-7:30pm. See more detailed info.

The ONA Team: Deana Correll, Eric Minnich, Hannah Minnich, Payge Haydt, Sue Steinmann, Doug Brace, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Kris

Our team is here to continue the work of Consistory and the Leadership Planning Team in becoming an ONA community and doing all that we can to sustain a safe and welcoming place for everyone here at Union. In addition to LGBTQ+ topics we hope to also look at ways to include awareness around needs for those with physical and emotional challenges.

Doug Brace(doug@dougbrace.com) has agreed to help us with communication and outreach. Please contact him or anyone on the team with your ideas or interest in participation.

Our Team was glad to participate in Lehigh Valley Pride in August with the Penn Northeast Conference.




GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS and WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

God First Wednesdays
Supper, Small Groups, Worship
Wed, Oct 2 5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6pm Supper 6-6:30pm Kids Choir or Activities
6:00-7:15 Small group for adults, Youth, and Kids 7:15-7:30pm Intergenerational Worship

OCTOBER TOPIC for Youth and Adults: The Chosen TV Series

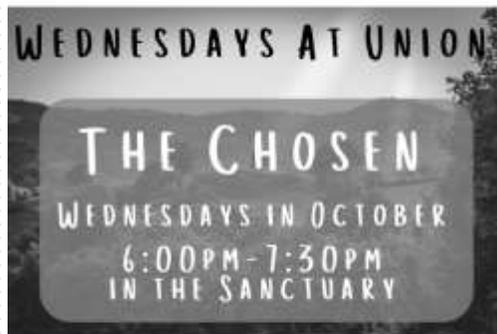
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

Adult and Youth Small Group on The Chosen Continues
Oct 9, 16, 23, 30 6-7:30pm

Midweek chance to put you and God first!
Sign up at PastorKris@unionmice.org or just join us!

Future God First Dates:
Nov 6, Dec 4
A new adult topic starts in Nov

Have You Heard About THE CHOSEN?



Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesdays during the month of October as we explore the stories of Jesus' life as depicted in the hit series The Chosen. We'll look at some of our favorite scriptures and themes from the Bible while exploring what Jesus calls us to do as disciples in 2024. Once the 5-week series is over, and you feel like you're wanting more, you can explore the series on Amazon Prime Video or at thechosen.tv/en-us

Join us for the kick off at God First Wednesday, October 2, 2024.



Tai Chi Thursdays
10-week session: 9/19-11/21
\$15 drop-in
5-pack \$67.50
10-pack \$110
Instructor: Alice Perry
Memorial Hall
Cash/check/venmo

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour on Sundays

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

Upcoming hosts include:

- Oct. 6 –Worship Committee
- Oct. 13—Christian Ed
- Oct. 20 –Welcoming
- Oct. 27—Church and Ministry



OCTOBER 8

NOVEMBER 12

DECEMBER 10 WITH LABYRINTH OPEN HOUSE 6-9PM

BREATHE

TUESDAYS ONCE A MONTH IN THE SANCTUARY

7-8PM



Catch your Breath ...with God
*Prayer * Meditation * Music * Communion*

Led by Roni Gerry, Pastor Carrie, and Pastor Kris

From the Jed Foundation

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for Union United Church of Christ's donation of \$500 to support our work in preventing suicide and protecting the emotional and mental well-being of our nation's teens and young adults. Together, we are working to create supportive environments that foster resilience and connection, reduce risks, and decrease the number of young people who die by suicide.

With your help, JED is leading the way to help schools evaluate and strengthen their mental health, substance misuse, and suicide prevention programs. We are paving the way for more young people to find the support they need to navigate life's challenges.



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.

Throughout the summer we have been interviewing Architects and Capital Campaign Consultants to begin the process of discerning the scope of renovating Memorial Hall.

The Marketing Team will be launching our logo soon!

The Mental Health and Wellness is creating new opportunities for our church and community!

The Summer 2025 Grove Event Team is booking bands and food trucks for our next grove adventure!

The Open and Affirming Team has been created and attended LVPrize in August.

The LPT and Consistory enjoyed a summer break and reconvened in August. They meet for an hour about every other month at Consistory meeting and for part of a day every other month.

Next meetings are September 28 and October 26.

Contact one of us if you want to know more or participate in any of these teams.
Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller and the LPT/Consistory



From the Mission Committee

Thank you to all who supported the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Neighbors in Need collections this summer. These are annual collections that Union UCC supports every year through OCWM, Our Church's Wider Mission.

Thank you to the Vacation Bible School families who supported the food and toiletries collection. The Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Lehigh Conference of Churches were so grateful for these much needed donations of peanut butter, jelly, cereal, tooth paste and brushes, soap, and toilet paper. Great job everyone.

Thank you from the Northern Lehigh Food Bank for providing various food items for their Summer Kid's Pack program, along with the 300 boxes of cereal which was collected in May. 150 bags of food were prepared with 25 various food items including soup, cereal, apple sauce, crackers, cookies, mac and cheese, and more. These bags were distributed to children during the month of July. School supply bags were distributed to 120 children in August.

Thank you for the recent \$3,000 donation to the food bank from Funds of Lasting Gifts. This donation helps to keep our operation running to provide food for over 200 local families every month.



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

NOVEMBER 2ND 3PM TO 6PM



JOIN US FOR THIS FUN EVENT!
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!
REGISTER ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/3RSOIMS](https://bit.ly/3RSOIMS)

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1 PM - 3 PM

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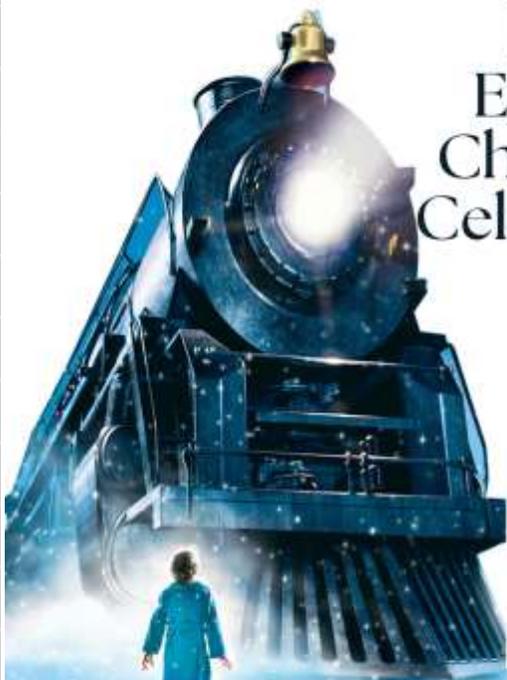
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REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/4DAWPB0](https://bit.ly/4DAWPB0)



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

This fundraiser will take place October 6th-20th.
Pick up will be Tuesday, November 5th 4-6pm.
If there are any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org.



Polar Express Christmas Celebration

December 22nd at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall

Register at <https://bit.ly/3Telh8d>

NOVEMBER 16TH

FAMILY GAME & MOVIE NIGHT		
4-8PM IN MEMORIAL HALL		
THE MOVIE WILL START AT 6PM		
Games	Pizza & Snacks	G Rated Movie

Register at <https://bit.ly/478RXrO>

Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group



"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." – Dr. Seuss

October 2024 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)



High School Happy Hour

All youth grades 9th thru 12th invited to join us for a time dedicate just for them

October Dates: 10/6 & 10/20

Time: 11:30am-12:30pm

Location: Youth Room or Zoom



Open Sunday School

Youth 8th thru 12th are invited for a time to hang-out and have a "coffee hour" dedicated just to them! No need to sign up! Just be there!

October Dates: 10/13 & 10/27

Location: Youth Room



Trunk or Treat October 19, 2024 1pm-3pm

Youth are invited to join Pastor Kayli in decorating her trunk for our annual Trunk or Treat Event!

Please arrive by 12pm to be ready to go by 12:30pm.

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



Youth Advisory Team Lunch

All youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited to our kick-off lunch for the program year!

We will do some planning, create connections, and have a TON of FUN!

*Bring your favorite candy to create a "candy salad"

When: October 13

Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

Where: Youth Room

Please RSVP/Sign Up by October 6

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-51219296-yat>



YOU ARE LOVED. YOU ARE WORTHY. YOU ARE WELCOMED.



Women's Retreat Weekend
April 4-6, 2025
Tuscarora Retreat Center,
Mt. Bethel
<https://www.tuscarora.org>

\$175. \$88 deposit due by January 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



PNEC Ambassador Corner

Keystone Conference??

The vote by all four PA Conferences to become one Conference, the Keystone Conference, will take place at the Fall meetings of all four Conferences on **Saturday, November 9th**. All Conferences will vote at the **same time** on the **same day** with results to be known as soon as they are tallied. Tune in following the 9th of November to find out the results! **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.

Way to go, Union UCC!! Keep it up!

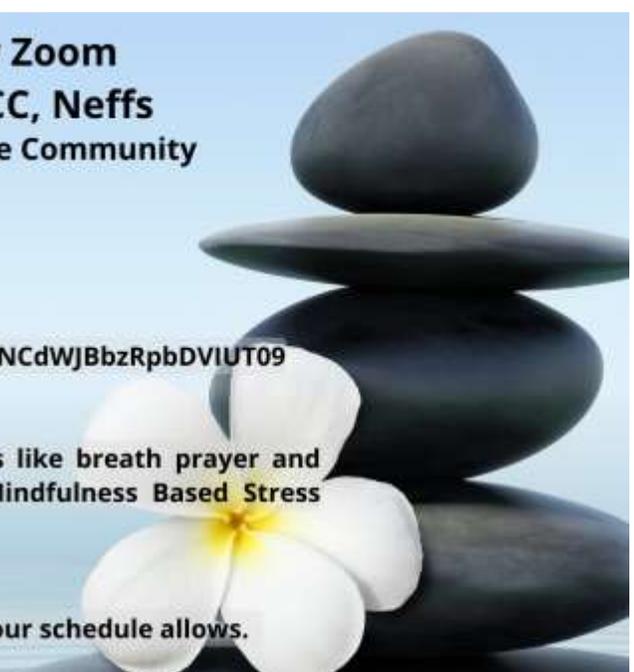
Meditation and Prayer Gatherings by Zoom
with Pastor Kris Snyder from Union UCC, Neffs
Union UCC, Friends, and Penn Northeast Conference Community

Tuesdays 7-8pm
October 15, November 26

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





Serving God and others gives us meaning and purpose. It's one of the ways we practice our faith and put it into action. Union UCC couldn't do all that it does or be all that it is without your commitment to serve.

Union UCC has so many opportunities. Find something that fits your schedule, interests, passions, and calling. Contact a pastor if you would like help finding your way to serve God here.

Consistory– Governing body of the congregation.

Church and Ministry– Oversees and supports Pastors and staff.

Christian Education – Guide the education and faith formation of the church.

Children's Ministry– Have fun and help children grow in faith.

Youth Group– Help engage and participate with youth events creating strong bonds across the congregation.

Welcoming– Engage all people (new members, guests, members) with a sense of community and welcome. Spread the word of our faith community with the wider area around us.

Fellowship– Bring a sense of joy and friendship through events and food.

Mission– Creates outreach opportunities for donation and service in the community and world.

Financial Leadership Team– Oversees budget and finances of the congregation.

Heritage, Horizon, and Youth Choirs – Sing on a children's, youth, or adult choir or offer special music as a soloist. Play an instrument with a group or as a solo in worship.

Helping Hearts/Communion Ministers – Staying in touch/ visiting with those who have health challenges or are unable to attend worship.

Worship

Property and Maintenance



*Celebrate
Octoberfest!*

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



Thursday, October 10
6:30-8:30pm

God. Conversation. Food & Drink.

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.

<https://bit.ly/3zrd01f>



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

This month: **Rev. Michelle Funk** joins us!

Thanks Kornfeind's Market!

PLANT BINGO



with Gallivanting Greenhouse

Join us for a fun afternoon filled with
Bingo, Raffle, Baked Goods & Food!

 **Sunday, November 3, 2024**
Doors open 1pm - Bingo starts 2pm

 Union UCC
5550 Route 873, Neffs PA

 Bingo tickets: \$25 in advance -
\$30 at the door for 15 rounds



Proceeds will support **Feed My Starving** 
Children and Union UCC's Ministry



Labyrinth Walking at Union

Walk or sit with us
in quiet and prayer.

Labyrinth walking is great for
time with God
and to de-stress.

(Wear socks, no shoes please.)

Sunday, October 6
8am-1pm

Open House, stop by to walk
anytime on your own. Optional
handouts. Labyrinth will be in
Memorial Hall all morning.

Tuesday, December 10
6-9pm

Open House, stop by to walk anytime
on your own. Optional handouts.
Labyrinth will be in Memorial Hall all
night. **Breathe** service is 7-8pm.

To save your spot and sign up please go to: <https://bit.ly/3X3LzPc> OR email PastorKris@unionucc.org



Because of YOU our church changes lives....

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 guest 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



Vanco Mobile



Venmo

We've secured a block of tickets to see the Sound of Music at Civic Theater featuring our very own Gianna Neal (Pastor Carrie's daughter) as Maria! Would you like to join us October 20? Fill out the order form and return it ASAP, tickets and dinner are limited, first come basis. Contact Pastor Carrie with any questions.

Join us to see **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** at Civic Theater!

Sunday, October 20, 2pm

Name _____ Phone _____

of tickets: *Checks preferred, payable to "Civic Theater" or enclose exact cash.*

\$30.25 (adult) _____ \$26.50 (students/military/60+) _____ \$13.75 (under 13) _____

Please note, children under 4 are not permitted in the theater. We will be dining at the Ham Fam following the show (approx. 5pm) however, we have a maximum amount permitted, 35 people. Dinners will be chosen off a pre-selected menu (gluten-free and veggie options available). First come basis, \$5/person large-group restaurant fee, cash to Carrie to hold your spot.

Would you like to join us?

Yes # _____ \$5 enclosed per person _____

No, thank you

Return to church office, Pastor Carrie, or her church mailbox.



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

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

The children have been learning all about what makes each of them unique by identifying similarities and differences between themselves and their classmates. They have also been exploring emotions, including socially acceptable ways of handling the big feelings that come up around the first days of school! In the 3 Year Old Preschool Class the children are learning about making choices for themselves, being away from parents, and navigating sharing toys and space with other children. In the 4 Year Old Preschool Class the students are focusing on themselves as part of a family unit as well as part of a school community. In PreK, our older students are learning about what it means to be a good citizen, how we can be a good friend and neighbor, and who the helpers are in our towns and cities. We will all be learning about Fire Prevention in the coming month and are expecting a visit from one of our local fire stations. This is usually a highlight of the year for the students!

We have an exciting family event planned on September 18th at Rolling Hills Mini Golf. The students and families will have the chance to get to know one another and enjoy some mini golf and ice cream! The 3s have a field trip to Valley Fruits and Veg planned and we are working on setting up a similar experience for the 4s. We are always looking for community connections! Feel free to contact me with ideas, outreach, and collaboration opportunities.

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

We have a few spots available in our 3 and 4 year old classes and are still accepting registrations! Please feel free to contact me, Rebekah Millroy, at 610-767-5327 or Preschool@unionucc.org



Pastor Carrie's Corner



C . R . E . W .

CONNECTION - RESOURCES - EDUCATION - WELLNESS

In our effort to be relevant, engaged, and growing Union UCC is committed to an initiative that provides Mental Health and Wellness resources and events to support our church and community.

October 5, 2024

**Exploration of Mental Health Awareness & Spirituality: 9am-3pm,
Neffs Union UCC**

[Flyer/Details](#)

Event includes:

- Morning beverages and deli lunch, \$35
- Becoming a WISE Church
- 3 resource/informational breakout sessions (two a.m./one p.m. Selections made at event)
- Resource advocates
- Walking labyrinth/meditation space

October 6, 2024

Out of the Darkness Walk –Lehigh Parkway: 10am registration, 12pm start

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Established in 1987, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is a voluntary health organization that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by research, education and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death.

www.afsp.org/GLVwalk People who have been affected by suicide or know someone who is struggling, make donations and gather to walk in honor of those loved ones. **Contact:** Jim Presto jpresto@ptd.net, 908-798-2755

On-Going Wellness Opportunities

- Faith on Tap: 9/11, 6:30pm
- Zoom meditation: 9/17, 10/15, 11/26, 7pm
- Breathe: 10/8, 11/12, 12/10, 7pm
- Labyrinth events: 9/14, 10/6, 12/10
- Tai Chi: Thursdays, 6:00pm 9/19-11/21
- GriefShare: Thursdays, 6pm

Resources

- Suicide crisis, text 988
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) crisis: text NAMI to 741741, 800-273-8253
- St. Luke's: (Psychiatric) 484-822-5711, (Referral) 484-629-5091
- LHVN: (Psych emergency) 484-884-2425

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, October 13th at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, October 27th 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://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawlmYeZ-g/viewform> 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: February 16-23, 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



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

Joanne George passed on September 8, 2024. Services were held on September 16, 2024 at The Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.



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.

Throughout the summer we have been interviewing Architects and Capital Campaign Consultants to begin the process of discerning the scope of renovating Memorial Hall.

The Marketing Team will be launching our logo soon!

The Mental Health and Wellness is creating new opportunities for our church and community!

The Summer 2025 Grove Event Team is booking bands and food trucks for our next grove adventure!

The Open and Affirming Team has been created and attended LVPrize in August.

The LPT and Consistory enjoyed a summer break and reconvened in August. They meet for an hour about every other month at Consistory meeting and for part of a day every other month.

Next meetings are September 28 and October 26.

Contact one of us if you want to know more or participate in any of these teams.

Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller and the LPT/Consistory



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Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2024	-\$4,682.00	\$29,197.00	\$24,515.00
Income	\$79,304.00	\$3,437.00	\$82,741.00
Expenses	\$74,017.00	\$6,796.00	\$80,813.00
8-31-2024	\$605.00	\$25,838.00	\$26,443.00

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 PastorKris@unionucc.org to sign up. See page 14 for more information.

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, January 12 and March 30, 2025**. 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 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 Marissa Haney at administrator@unionucc.org.

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

Room or Hall Use for Members 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.