

5550 RTE 873, PO BOX 66, NEFFS, PA 18065 Church Office (610) 767-6961 Office Fax (610) 767-7128 www. unionucc.org Facebook.com/unionneffs

ANNOUNCEMENTS NOVEMBER 14, 2021



OUR PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN THIS WEEK

To share a prayer request you may use the yellow prayer slips found in the racks in your seats and hand it to a pastor.

<u>Medical Issues/Cancer:</u> Veronica, Gary, Chester, Scott, Tommy, Mackenzie, Allison, Bonnie, Bertha, Sharon and Mark, Richard, Beth, Lucy, Jillian, David, Joe, Scott, Rob, Sue, Jacquie for strength facing brain surgery, Janice going through radiation and chemo, Beth, Alta with MS, Bruce facing medical decisions, Harry for strength following surgery, Sherry, Elaine, Tony in treatment

<u>General Prayers:</u> Sharon, Bob, Debra, and Bertie, Jack, Chris, Russ, Carrie, Ryan and Jake, Kyle, Jim, Ollie, a sister, Vic and Sherry, Charlie, Joe, Rose and Tom, peace and comfort for a sister, Mabelyn, Luis, Lucy, Terry facing surgery, Jacquie for healing and strength, healing for Hannah after her surgery, Peggy, Katie

<u>Thanksgiving</u>: Grateful for COVID vaccines, health care workers and school staffs, encouraging friends and the many people who love and support us, Union UCC family

<u>Thoughts and prayers</u>: to the family and friends of **Catherine Haberern** who passed on November 5, 2021. Funeral services were held 10:30 am. Wednesday, November 10, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc .

To the family and friends of **Roy Becker** who passed on November 7, 2021. Funeral services were held on November 13, 2021 in the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We will continue to offer online worship through Facebook, our website, and Youtube.

UPDATE:

Please continue to visit the welcome tables to receive your bulletin (and communion) and to share your offering. Sanctuary Guidelines Worship Fall 2021

We will open the church at 7am, with worship services at 8am and 10:30am.

Masks are required for worship on Sundays, church group meetings, and all events and gatherings inside the building for everyone over the age of 3 regardless of vaccination status.

Pews will be marked to allow for 3 feet of distancing. Please sit in open areas only. The balcony will be open.

On Communion Sundays, we will continue to use the prefilled communion cups of grape juice and a gluten free cracker. Please use the ziploc bag to take your garbage with you.

Congregational singing resumes in November.

We are grateful for the love of this church family and for God's love which sustains and carries us during this challenging time.

~ The Pastors and Consistory of Union UCC

November 21 Thanksgiving Sunday

November 28 1st Sunday of Advent, Communion

December 5 2nd **Sunday of Advent,** Rev. Patience Retirement Celebration, Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Penn Northeast Conference Minister

December 12 2nd Sunday of Advent

<u>Little Lambs Nursery:</u> The nursery is open to families who may need to use it. It will not be overseen by staff or volunteers at this time. Parents and adult family members are responsible for their children. We will provide the livestream of worship for you while you utilize the room. Please sign in on the clipboard and use the bin for used toys. Thank you for understanding and being flexible during this time.

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris

Love is the Way-Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael

Curry. Fridays 9:30-11am, Youth Room Nov 19. Sundays 9:15-10:15 Room 5 Nov 14, 21

<u>Choir</u> Horizon Choir - Rehearsals every Sunday at 9:15am in the choir room. Heritage Choir - Rehearsals every Sunday at 7:15am in the choir room. High School Choir - 8th through 12th grade after the 10:30 service in the choir room. Kids Choir - kindergarten through 7th grade @ 6pm and we'll continue to meet every Tuesday in the choir room.

Thanksgiving meals served at St. John's UCC, Slatington – St. John's is hosting a community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 25 free of charge to anyone. Free-will donations are accepted and profits support the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. The dinner will be served as pick-up or delivery this year, no sit-down service will be available. If you would like to donate a turkey, money for food supplies or baked goods, contact Lisa Hofmann at lehofmann9@gmail.com or 610-760-9991 Pastor Kris is volunteering this year from 11am-2pm on Thursday, let her know if you'd like to join her and she'll sign you up.

Bakers Needed for Lights in the Grove on Saturday, December 4th 3-5pm. Raindate Sunday, Dec 5 3-5pm. We would love it if you could make some baked goods for this event. Could you make a batch or two of: Rice Krispie treats (individually wrapped), Christmas cookies (a snack bag of 6 small cookies or an individually wrapped large cookie), brownies (individually wrapped), or your favorite recipe of any kind of Chex Mix recipe (individual portions in a snack bag size -half of a sandwich size bag). We always need a Gluten Free option too. Please label your items if they include nuts or peanut butter. Please deliver items to the grove food stand that Saturday anytime after 12noon until 3pm. If you If you need to deliver items on Friday, drop them off at the church office 9am-3pm. Please sign up and help us share some Christmas cheer with our church and community. https://www.signupgenius.com/

go/5080e4ca8a823a7fa7-bakers

Meditation Gatherings by Zoom with Pastor Kris Looking for a way to deal with stress? Trying to be more mindful in your life? We start each session with a time to check in with each other and share a topic or discussion question. Kris leads us in a guided meditation for 20-30 minutes. After the meditation, folks can stay to talk or quietly leave. If you're interested in joining us contact Kris at pastorkris@unionucc.org. Dates: Tuesday, December 7 7-8:00pm, and Tues-day, January 11 7-8:00pm. We are meeting virtually by zoom. Here's the link. https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89386319277? pwd=UFFTRVJxdXVDZ0VFWndyY1d4cGIFQT09

Meeting ID: 893 8631 9277 Passcode: 411524

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 hard-working pastors and staff by presenting each 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 and mail to her at **no later than Sunday, Dec 15**. You may also place it in the Church and Ministry mailbox near the church office. Any questions, email Donna at <u>dec12221@hotmail.com</u>. Thank you.

Rev. Patience Announces Her Retirement

Rev. Patience is turning that certain age in October and has announced her retirement as our Pastor of Visitation. We are very happy for her as she anticipates this next chapter in her life. But, we are sad to see her leave us. She has faithfully served as our first Pastor of Visitation for the last 15 years. She will continue to serve here through December 31st, 2021. We plan to celebrate and thank her on Sunday, December 5th at 8am and 10:30am Worship. Please participate in a card and gift shower to honor her ministry among us by sending your card and gift to Donna Christman at 5820 PA Rte 873, Slatington, PA 18080. Checks made to "Donna Christman." You are also invited to drop off your cards and gifts on Sundays in the offering plate as long as they are clearly marked for Donna Christman/Rev. Patience. Please take this time to thank Rev. Patience with best wishes, words of gratitude, and stories about how her ministry has been meaningful to you and your family. We have been blessed by her presence of leadership as a pastor and we look forward to receiving your words of appreciation as well as the chance to celebrate her work here.

History of the Pastor Of Visitation Position

When Pastor Thomas Thomas was called here as pastor in 1984 he was the only pastor on staff for this large church. A few years later he and the church leaders realized that an Associate Pastor position needed to be created in order to cover all of the pastoral responsibilities for this growing and healthy congregation. Union UCC called a few part-time associates in the transition and then called Janice Dey as the first full-time Associate. She served here for nine years. In this interim several part-time pastors helped Pastor Thomas who focused on pastoral care. After a 2-year interim, Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson was called as the Associate Pastor. Shortly after she began her work here, she and Pastor Tom realized that the church had grown in its focus on children and youth ministries and now needed to focus on their ministries with older adults. They created the Pastor of Visitation position to help meet those needs and Pastor Kris created the Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers groups to support the position and the care being provided to our adults. In September of 2006 Rev. Dr. Patience Stevenson was called as our first Pastor of Visitation. She has been serving in a variety of ways averaging 10 hours a week with a focus on caring for our members on our visitation list, supporting and organizing our Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers, leading our Golden Times monthly senior adult gathering, sharing hospital visits and general member care with the other pastors, officiating at funerals, assisting in worship monthly, and preaching quarterly. She also helped to organize our Green Team and our care for God's creation efforts. We look forward to building on the wonderful foundation of pastoral care, programming, and spiritual nourishment that Rev. Patience has provided to so many of us.

Search Committee for the Pastor of Visitation

The Consistory has called the following people to serve on the Search Committee: those from Church and Ministry – Donna Christman, Ardith Kuhns, Teresa Dalrymple, Eric Minnich, Aften Hamm and additional members – Rev. Bill Metzger, Dan Topp, Phil Wehr, Carrington Smith, Pastor Kayli, and Pastor Kris.

We will keep you posted on the timeline and progress of our process.



SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 21 & 28 7AM-NOON MEMORIAL HALL

(Please do not bring new merchandise)

Choose your tags from the Salvation Army Angel Tree Plus pick up your 2022 Envelopes

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sundays at 8am and 10:30am In the Sanctuary, unless noted

November 14 401G Sunday... What is a 401G Sunday???* November 20 at 7pm – Handel's *Messiah*

Welcome in the Holiday season with 12 singers with Interrupted Silence and Elysium String Quartet for Handel's *Messiah*. Do not miss the Christmas portion and Hallelujah Chorus from this Baroque Masterwork being presented in our beautifully decorated sanctuary in Neffs! **\$15 General Admission Ticket**

November 21 Thanksgiving Sunday

November 28 1st Sunday of Advent, Communion Saturday, Dec 4 Lights in the Grove 3-5pm (Raindate: Dec 5) FREE Admission – Donate hats, gloves, mittens to the 6th Street Shelter

Live Christmas Music by Blake Hoppes, Lights by Christmas Décor, Crafts for everyone, assemble here or take home. Hot Chocolate and Snacks to Go and Santa!

December 5 2nd **Sunday of Advent,** Rev. Patience Retirement Celebration, Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Penn Northeast Conference Minister

December 12 2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 12 at 7pm Parkland Chorale Holiday Concert December 19 4th Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols by Interrupted Silence, Horizon Choir, & Community Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE in the Sanctuary

Masks Required, Registration Required, Limited Seating Wednesday, December 22 at 7pm Christmas Eve Service, Candlelight and Communion, Special Music Thursday, December 23 at 7pm Christmas Eve Service, Candlelight and Communion, Special Music Friday, December 24 at 3pm, 5pm, and 8pm Christmas Eve Service, Candlelight and Communion, Special Music

Interrupted Silence Ensemble at 3pm and 5pm

December 26 -No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship with our Young Adults and College Students January 2 – No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship January 9 – 8am and 10:30 Worship, Communion, 401G Sunday*



We look forward to providing clients of Family Promise nutritious meals and a warm and safe shelter for the week of November 14-21. Although our facility isn't available, we will provide homecooked dinners, gift cards for groceries to purchase breakfast and lunch, and some funding to offset the cost of the week at a hotel that has been part of the services during the height of the Covid-19 crisis.

The Steering Committee is looking for volunteers to cook and deliver dinners, to donate grocery cards, and to provide funds for the hotel stay. If you would like to help these families stay together and get back into their own homes, please join the Family Promise volunteer group here at Union. Questions regarding any aspect of the program (cooking a meal, donating gift cards, or paying for an evening at the hotel) can be directed to Susan Smith at <u>susancarrington@hotmail.com</u> or (610)366-7284.

Our upcoming hosting is scheduled for Nov. 14-21. Families will be housed at WoodSpring Suites Hotel in Allentown. We will be providing dinners and grocery gift cards for them to purchase their own breakfast, lunch, and snack foods. If you'd like to prepare a meal, please click on the link below to sign up.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b44aaaa23a31-family

Please read the instructions as there are allergies and food aversions. If you'd like to provide a grocery gift card, please sign up under the Sunday, Nov. 14 slot. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please send your donation to the church office (marked Family Promise, Barbara Carinci).

You are a blessing to many in need; you are much appreciated!

BLOOD DONORS SAVE LIVES

Union United Church of Christ-Neffs is hosting a blood drive to save lives at Miller-Keystone Blood Center. Our only source of blood is from donors like you!

JOIN US NOV. 15TH - NOV. 20TH



GROUP ID 0550

MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER

1255 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.,Ste 1300, Allentown 1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem

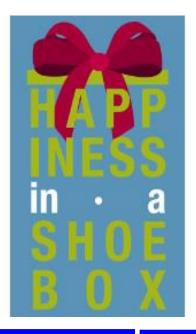
Schedule your blood donation by calling 1-800-223-6667 and mention Group ID 0550 or visit <u>GIVEaPINT.org</u> and include the Group ID in the notes section of the form.







GIVEaPINT.org | 1-800-B-A-DONOR



- Pick a gift tag (in foyer on 11/7 & 11/14)
- Shop for your child using the gift suggestion sheet
- Wrap the top and bottom of your standard size shoebox separately
- Pack your shoebox

PLEASE BRING YOUR FILLED and WRAPPED SHOE-BOX TO CHURCH BY



Union UCC's HOLIDAY challenge REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

This year, we will be once again handing out baskets and advent calendars to interested families. The idea is to put something IN the basket each day of Advent. Put a sticker on your calendar each day you place something in the basket. Bring the filled basket back to church between December 24th and January 2nd and we will deliver your Holiday donation to the FOOD BANK. Help your family give to others every day of Advent. Baskets will be handed out 11/21 and 11/28. (You can use your own basket/ box, if desired.)

(Item Ideas: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes,

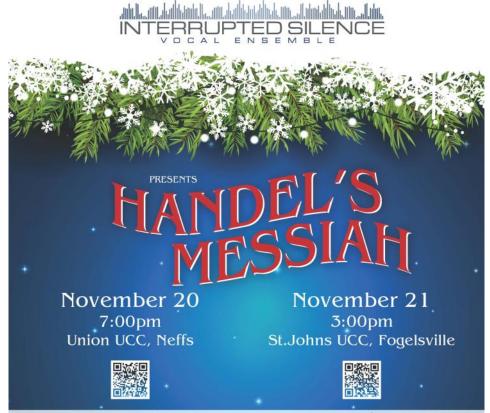
toothpaste, pasta, canned goods, condiments, cake and

brownie mixes, jello, pudding, cereal, socks, mittens, undies,

children's books, crayons, toilet paper, etc.)



Reverse Advent Basket



Welcome in the holiday season with 12 singers and a string quartet. You won't want to miss the Christmas portion and Hallelujah Chorus from this Baroque Masterwork!



 Tickets can be purchased via EventBrite & Facebook or at the Door (Subject to Availability)

ks Required for Audience Members



Share the joy of Christmas with our Members on our visitation list.

You can also sponsor a **Poinsettia for our church** services during the Christmas Christmas Eve week in cinsettias memory of a loved one, or in honor of someone.

The cost of a Poinsettia is \$8.25. Please fill out the form below and return the form and payment (please make the check payable to Union UCC) and put it in the offering plate, or put the form and payment in the mail and address it to: Union UCC Poinsettia Plant Order PO Box 66 Neffs. PA 18065-0066. You can also order on our website under online giving. https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps? appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIW0CPJNNxD8upkiY7JlDavDso zÜE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbT7q8tlCbXgdMlwdBGTvl4mXHubq5Z7ap5JV mPErc4ZeYHCKCZhESjGNQmZ5B-6dxzFIXYKd1yijB29TOHwCL9I=&ver=3

Deadline for ordering Poinsettias is Sunday,

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM \$8.25 each

I would like to sponsor _____ plants for the Home Bound

I would like to sponsor _____ plants for the Sanctuary. I will pick up my Poinsettia plant after a Christmas Eve service on Dec 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.



(Please circle one) YES NO

Envelope Number _____ Total amount enclosed

Sponsor's Name

Telephone #_____

In Honor of

In Memory of



UNION UCC IN NEFFS PRESENTS

LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 3-5PM RAINDATE SUNDAY, DEC 5TH 3-5PM

FREE admission

Donate new hats, gloves or scarves for the 6th St Shelter.

- Live Christmas Music by Blake Hoppes
- Lights by Christmas Decor
- ✦ Crafts for everyone, assemble here or take home.
- Hot Chocolate and Snacks to Go
- Santa! Bring your letter or write one here to deliver to him today.

Enjoy the lights! They will be on every night in December!

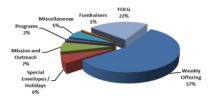
Sponsors: Larry Wehr in Memory of Carlton and Velma Wehr Phil and Julie Wehr in Celebration of Christmas at Union UCC

www.unionucc.org 5550 Route 873 Neffs Bring a chair, masks optional, practice safe distancing.

Union United Church of Christ – Narrative Budget

The following is a summary of the church's total income and expenses for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Contributions, Special Offerings and Gifts



•Regular **Weekly Offering** are gifts received through envelopes and plate offerings and comprise the majority of our income (57%)

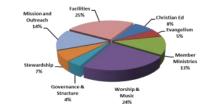
•Allocations from the **Funds of Lasting Gifts** (FOLG) target specific program, education, and evangelism needs per bequest guidelines and comprise an important portion of the church's total overall income (22%)

•Special Envelopes, including holiday giving, comprise 6% of our income while gifts received through the special Mission and Outreach and other mission envelopes and activities are about 7% of our income •Miscellaneous contributions include building rent and donations, interest earnings, and other gifts and comprise 5% of our income

•**Program** giving includes gifts from our education programs such as Sunday School and Preschool (2%)

•Fundraisers, although a small percentage (1%), are an important component of our income

Where our Stewardship Giving Goes



Worship and Music in our weekly and special services comprise a significant portion of overall spending (24%)
Christian Education provides a variety of educational programs, events and activities for all ages to learn about Christian faith and comprises 8% of overall spending

•Our Mission and Outreach giving is focused on helping those in need, both in the local community and the world. Our support includes OCWM, local mission agencies and food banks, and other mission projects (14%)

•Our Member Ministries seeks to nurture, support and connect members in a variety of programs and ministries through numerous groups and committees (13%) •Evangelism is focused on sharing the good news of the Gospel and comprises

5% of our spending

•Stewardship includes staff time and programs focused on how best we can use our time, talent, and resources in giving back to God and the Church (7%)

•Governance and Structure includes managing our staff and participating in the PNEC (4%)

•Spending on **Facilities**, the church building and property, is significant at 25% of overall spending but is critical in maintaining the church, its properties, and physical possessions, along with providing for the weekly/monthly operational costs.

A01G Faith Committent Card (A)



*401G Key to Investing in Loving God, Neighbor, & Self Wholeheartedly:

<u>G= Good</u> - do good/serve, create goodness, notice goodness. <u>G= Grace</u> - receive and share God's grace. G= Gratitude - evenese gratitude to God and others

G= Gratitude - express gratitude to God and others.
 G= Generosity - give and love with your whole heart and life.
 G= Gold - money, resources, treasures, material goods.
 G = Gols - hopes and dreams, God's dream and mission.
 G = Gifts - talents, friendship, compassion, kindness, love, fruits of the spirit, your passions and the world's needs intersect.

<u>G = Grit and Grind</u> - perseverance, patience, hope, trust, courage, strength, growth, meaning, purpose. <u>G=God</u> - worship, prayer, meditation, study, relationship.

- Look at your calendar, bank statements, credit card bills what do they reveal about your investments?
 Where are the incomes and debits in your life?
 - ··· Where are the incomes and debits in your life?





For where your treasure is, your heart will be also. Matt 6: 21



Rooted in Love

by Rev. Michael Neuroth

Ve attended Hope UCC in Alexandria, VA for ten years. Our vision is to "Welcome, Nurture, Transform," seeking to embody Christ's love for one another and the wider community. Hope is a vibrant and warm congregation full of great people and important ministry. But that's not really why I give my time and money to Hope UCC. It is because Hope is the only congregation that my boys, ages 10 and 13, have ever known. It roots them in love. It roots them in love expressed in the public as justice. As we pass the peace around the sanctuary each week, they see every kind of person wishing them love and peace, sometimes even a too-tight hug. My boys have been taught the stories of our faith. They have learned about racism and white supremacy, how to stand up for justice and equality. My boys received cards and flowers when they lost their grandfather and kind words of encouragement in ZOOM chats over the past

year. My boys wait with anticipation each year for the summer Camp Hope theme to be announced. They know which adults they can turn to for advice and which ones tell the best sarcastic jokes. And it isn't just my kids that are being rooted in love at Hope UCC; it's me too.

I give to Hope and the wider mission of the UCC, believing that the roots of love we tend will one day spread seeds of justice and joy in the world. For me, that's a great investment in my boys, our family, and a shared future for all.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
16,000	1,333	27	40	53	67	133
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	62	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

