

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor
Tiffany Lakatosh, Faith Formation Minister of Children
Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation
Mr. Blake Hoppes, Minister of Music

Marissa Haney, Church Administrator
Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager
Kiel Baer / Payge Haydt Sunday Set-up
AJ DiPaolantonio, Night Lock-up
Maria Beltz / Ori Handwerk, Facility Caretakers

CONSISTORY OFFICERS President: Eric Minnich, VP: Jason Klinger, Secretary: Janice Metzger, Don Penrod, 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 hand it to a pastor. Or submit [online here](#).

Medical

Veronica, Robert, Jim and Rosann, Mary Lou, Barbara, Dorothy, Marlene, Susie, Joan, Tina, Gino, brother-in-law with early Alzheimer's, Ed, Grace, Vic, Ruth, a dad recovering from a stroke, Colleen, Donna, Bruce, Tommy, Dave, Rick, Jenn's dad, Alta, Justin, Beth fighting ovarian cancer, Deb and her husband, Heidi's mom, brother undergoing cancer treatments, Brad, Beth

General

All hungry people to find food, Jake's family in their grief, answers and relief for mom, New Tripoli Fire Company. Peace for all who grieve, a mother to include her son, thanksgiving for Katie and Jake's baby girl Olivia, a baby for Caroline and Nathan, Mom, Tom, Clark, Marie, Brad, aging parents, healing for a husband, friends for all who are alone, that my fish Jack doesn't die, healing for Shirley, Marie, Dad's and Mom's health, job search, Lucy for continued healing and strength, Rick, healing for Sharon and strength for Bob, Marie Brad

Sundays 8:00 am and 10:30am in the Sanctuary and Livestream on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs> or on Facebook and Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/c/UnionUnitedChurchofChristNeffsPA> anytime during the week.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 1	NO 8AM WORSHIP, 1030 WORSHIP ONLY
Sunday, January 8	8AM AND 10:30 WORSHIP. COMMUNION, LED BY OUR YOUNG ADULTS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS
Sunday, January 15	10:30 BAPTISM
Sunday, January 22	OUR MONEY STORY: RELEASE, 10:30 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 29	5TH SUNDAY

Looking Ahead

Feb 12	Confirmation Class leads Worship! Souper Bowl Sunday & Tailgate Lunch
Feb 19	Communion Sunday, Healing Service (Pray with a Pastor)
Feb 21	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday with Communion
Apr 9	Easter Sunday

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday at Union UCC is usually held around Valentine's Day, to spread our Love, and God's Love to the World. This year we will celebrate Blanket Sunday all of February.

Donations of cash or check may be made through the special envelope included with this newsletter, marked "Blanket Sunday" and "Souper Bowl Sunday" Please mark your donations accordingly and mail to the church, or drop in the collection plate on Sundays. E-Gifts may also be made. Blankets cost \$10 each, you may support one blanket, or many blankets, all up to you.

You're changing lives around the World!! Through your support of the Church World Services Blankets Program, you are helping people faced with difficult challenges, whether due to a natural disaster or another sort of emergency.

Please support this important annual mission project, our goal is to collect over \$2,000. Thank you, the Mission Committee

Staff Update from Pastor Kris



Welcome to Carrie Beleno as our Pastor of Visitation.

She will be the primary pastor who visits our members and follows up with care. Her primary responsibility is caring for those on our visitation list. She will also share hospital visits with Pastor Kayli. Pastors Kris, Kayli, and Carrie rotate sharing calls and visits with a variety of other lists of members. Carrie will continue to organize our Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers, Golden Times, and support our current adult offerings. We plan to create new ministry opportunities and programming for adults too.

Here's a little more info about Carrie:

Carrie was previously an elementary teacher, principal, and reiki master/teacher and spiritual life coach, owning her own healing center in Bethlehem. She has a M.Ed. in Educational Development and Strategies. She is also currently a hospital chaplain for St. Luke's University Hospital Network.

Carrie lives in Washington Township with her husband Tony and three rescue cats. They have a son Marc who lives in NYC and a daughter Gianna and her husband Bill who live in Schnecksville with their adorable twin boys Billy and Albie. They keep her spare time busy!

She just finished up several years of working as a reiki/meditation teacher at the Cancer Support Community and continues to direct plays at Pennsylvania Playhouse.

This calling has been cultivated for years and she is excited and blessed to share the next chapter of ministry with the congregation and staff at Union UCC!

You can reach Carrie at this email: vispastor@unionucc.org and through her cell at 610-297-6569 or through the church office.

Holy Grounds Coffee

Come for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, water and snacks on Sundays in Memorial Hall after both worship services.

Hosting Committees:

Jan 29 – Mission

Feb 5 – Financial Leadership Team

Feb 12- Souper Bowl/ Tailgate Lunch

Feb 19- Youth Group





Join us as we welcome our newest members to our team!

Menu: Sandwiches, pizza, wings, snacks, water, please bring a dessert.

(Gluten Free options available)

Make it a **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** by bringing a can(s) of soup or cash donation for area food banks.

PNEC Ambassador Corner

Hopefully many church members have become aware that Union UCC is one of 127 churches of the Penn Northeast Conference [PNEC] in Pennsylvania and that the PNEC, in turn, is one of 36 Conferences in the UCC National Church and that the PNEC has initiated an Ambassador program to help congregations and members feel more connected to the Conference and the wider church.

How does the Conference & the National church work and how is Union connected to them? Union meets biannually as does the Conference while the National Church meets through Synod which recently changed to meeting every (3) years instead of every (2) years. Just as Union has a Consistory and Committees which carry out the work of Union, the Conference and the National Church have Boards, Committees and Ministries which carry out the work of the wider church.

And yes, it comes down to funding!! Union prepares an annual budget, so do the Conference and the National Church. Offerings from local congregations flow to the Conference and to the National Church. Our Church's Wider Mission [OCWM] is the encompassing funding mechanism. In addition to the basic OCWM support, there are four (4) special offerings which the Conference and the National Church use to fund their programs, mission and ministries. A goal of the Conference is for congregations to be a 5 for 5 church, meaning that they support all (5) offerings. I'm happy to say that Union is a 5 for 5 congregation as we support all (5) through individual members, the general budget and FOLG!

UPCOMING HOSTING WEEKS: MARCH 12-19, MAY 14-21



servicing 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. (4:45-5:15pm)
- Visit with families, serve supper, and clean up. (5:15-9pm)
- Host overnight (In your own area 9pm-6am).
- Assist with food shopping during the week.
- Offer financial support through your church donations marked "Family Promise."



Why do I volunteer?

It is a good feeling to know that you have helped to make someone's days a little brighter and lifted their spirits during a challenging time in their lives. - Deb & Fred Sanek

For more information about how to volunteer contact
Kerry Snyder ksnyd82@gmail.com
or Connie Gioelli c_gioelli@yahoo.com



Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Menu: Pancakes (Gluten Free available), sausage, applesauce, and Fastnachts.

FREE! Donations accepted. Bring a dozen doughnuts or Fastnachts to share. Tickets "on sale" after worship (to help plan numbers)

To-Go option available



MR. PASTIE FUNDRAISER

Orders Due February 5th
Pickup February 24th

The Pasties come in a variety of flavors to choose from. Pasties will come frozen and can be warmed in the oven whenever you would like a quick and easy meal. Each Pastie is 12oz. The price is \$8 per Pastie.

If you would like to place an order please contact Tiffany at dired@unionucc.org or visit the table in the lobby after service.

Nursery Update

We are happy to announce the nursery is back and ready to be used by families with young children!

- Enjoy worship in live time on the newly installed tv
- a quiet & clean space for nursing/feeding small children
- Parents please stay with your child
- Sign in on the clip board
- Just enjoy the space

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tiffany (dired@unionucc.org)

Youth Group

SAVE THE DATE(S)

February 11, 2023: Confirmation Retreat (@Church)

February 21, 2023: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 19, 2023: Youth Sunday (theme TBD)



Have any fun ideas for the upcoming year? Want to get more involved? Let Pastor Kayli know!



Steering Without Oars Leadership Planning Team from Pastor Kris

We met on January 21 to work on this question:

If we could walk over to the light switch on the wall, and instantaneously flip the switch and a miracle would occur at Union where our dreams and God’s dreams would come true for God’s church here what task, initiative, or program should we be doing for the next 1-3 years? (No Limitations – the sky’s the limit!)

How would you answer this question?

Share your answers with someone on the team.

Steering Without Oars Leadership Planning Team: Fawn and Doug Albert, Maria Beltz, Max Bilger, Val Borman, Brynn Buskirk, Donna Christman, Deana Correll, Teresa Dalrymple, AJ DiPaolantonio, Dave DiPaolantonio, Jan and Andy Dyszel, Dennis Foster, Edie Fella, Dixie Gross, Brad and Lorie Hackett, Dan Haftl, Aften Hamm, Marissa Haney, Brian Horwith, Carol and Cliff James, Steve Kareha, Marianne Kitzmiller, Jason Klinger, Karl Klinger, Laura Kohler, Devon Kuharik, Darla Lakatosh, Tiffany Lakatosh, Vicki Mayk, Janice Metzger, Eric Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Hannah Minnich, Carol Pope, Ronie Pope, Don Penrod, Sherry Penrod, Maryann Puia, Deb Romig, Amanda Roth, Deb and Fred Sanek, Diane Schaller, Carrington Smith, Susan Smith, Kerry Snyder, Sue Steinmann, Carol Stout, Sue Todd, Gloria Toner, Dan and Deb Topp, Deb Wenner, Phil Wehr, Julie Wehr, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Kris, Joe Kornfeind

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 funds. Contact the church office if you'd like to receive post card mailing reminders.

Upcoming dates: March 7, April 4, May 2.

Women’s Retreat * April 28-30, 2023 * Trout Lake Retreats, Stroudsburg

Cost: \$150. \$75 deposit due now, \$75 balance due March 5.

Payment plans and financial assistance available.

Checks to Union UCC, Memo Line – Women’s Retreat

Friends and Family members are welcome too. Help us meet our minimum of 25. Leader and more Info: Pastor Kris

Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next dates are **March 5 & May 21**. There is a pre-baptism zoom session with the 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.

New Member Sessions: Are you thinking about deepening your faith commitment to Union UCC? To share your questions and interest in learning more about our church family contact Pastor Kris. **Next Sessions are March 12 and 19 at 9:15am. We will receive you in worship on March 26th.** If you can't make these dates let us know and we will work with your schedule.

Church Office: (610)767-6961

Office Fax: (610)767-7128

www.unionucc.org

[Facebook.com/unionneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)

Church Office Hours

Mondays Closed for Office Staff

Tuesday-Friday Office Open 9:15-1pm

Call/email for appointments with Pastors

All of our schedules change, it is still best to call ahead.

Urgent Pastoral Matters: Contact Pastor cell phones.

To enter:

- Press Intercom Button
- Release to Listen
- Open door