

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 19, 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, Justin, Beth, Deb and her husband, Heidi's mom, brother undergoing cancer treatments, mom recovering from shingles, Lucy, Eleanor, Jill, Dawn, Rich, Alea, Pat, a dad's upcoming Surgery, Diane getting spine surgery on Wednesday, Thomas undergoing tests

General

Tom, Clark, Marie, Brad, aging parents, healing for Shirley, Dad and Mom health, job search, Lucy for continued healing and strength, Rick, Dani and her family in their loss, peace for Bud, Rocky, Henry, Angie, and Eileen, Nancy for continued healing, progress for Jeff, family of Alta on her passing, daughter for peace and wisdom, sister for peace and comfort, Tom and Jan, Nancy, Susan's mother, Kirsten, Healing for Kathy, Linda, Sharon, Bob, Lucy a dear Golden-Doodle, all the people of Turkey & Syria, Bud and his family, love and peace to be spread around the world

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

FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS:
 BLANKET SUNDAY AND SOUP FOR
 SOUPERBOWL

Sunday, February	5	BLANKET SUNDAY, BOY SCOUT SUNDAY
Sunday, February	12	SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, TAILGATE LUNCH, CONFIRMATION CLASS LEADS WORSHIP
Sunday, February	19	COMMUNION SUNDAY, HEALING SERVICE (PRAY WITH A PASTOR)
Tuesday, February	21	SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER 6PM
Wednesday, February	22	ASH WEDNESDAY 7PM SANCTUARY WORSHIP WITH ASHES AND COMMUNION
Sunday, February	26	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Looking Ahead	Mar 19	Youth Sunday
	Apr 2	Palm Sunday
No God First Wednesday on April 5	Apr 6	6pm Maunday Thursday Potluck Mean and Worship
	Apr 7	7pm Good Friday Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion
	Apr 9	Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise in Grove, 8am and 10:30am in Sanctuary
	May 7	Confirmation Day

TURKEY AND SYRIA RELIEF - The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 5,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade.

The UCC has posted a prayer and short statement in response to this crisis. While the earthquake was on the border, the tremors were felt as far away as Lebanon and Cyprus. At this time, we are issuing an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event.

Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need. The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 5,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade. Give generously by clicking here https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=01307c84f29abecd2f148dfb9145dd9016358d5485884e2f31e6019a0d26c8b0

You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444. You can also send checks made to Union UCC with the note 'earthquake relief.'

The Mission Committee is giving \$1,000 from the Wotring Estate.

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:

Feb 19- CE

Feb 26- Worship Committee

March 5- Fellowship Committee

March 12- Welcoming Committee



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!



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



- **Mission:** to assist families with children experiencing or about to experience homelessness find or retain affordable housing, and gain sustainable, financial stability.
- **Partners:** The mission is carried out by a network of 15 host congregations and many other community resources working together to meet the immediate, basic needs of displaced families and assist them to build patterns that will bring long-term stability.
- **Motto:** We provide security, stability, and support in a judgment-free environment that recognizes that at any point, any one of us could be in their shoes.
- **Impact:** 74% of the families utilizing this program find stable housing after 6 to 8 weeks.



- 1. More families experience homelessness in the United States than in any other industrialized nation. (The Bassuk Center on Homeless and Vulnerable Children & Youth)**
- 2. 84% of families experiencing homelessness consist of a single mother with one or more young children, and a big reason for this is that many family shelters do not accept men into their programs, causing families to separate when they become homeless. (GreenDoors.org)**
- 3. More than 2.5 million American children – that's 1 in 30 – experience homelessness every year, and over half are under age five. (The Bassuk Center on Homeless and Vulnerable Children & Youth)**
- 4. Family homelessness has become chronic, with families accounting for 37% of the overall homeless population and 50% of the sheltered population. (The Bassuk Center on Homeless and Vulnerable Children & Youth)**
- 5. The most cited reason for family homelessness is lack of affordable housing. (FamilyPromise.org)**
- 6. Almost 50% of renters pay one-third or more of their incomes on rent, and one in four renters spends more than half their income on rent. (Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies)**
- 7. At minimum wage, a family needs to work 2.5 full-time jobs (about 100 hours/week) to afford the average 2-bedroom rental in the U.S. (FamilyPromise.org)**

How Can You Get Involved

- Thru Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley, Union UCC will be hosting up to four families experiencing homelessness in our church the weeks of March 12th, May 14th, and November 26th.
- We need numerous volunteers in the roles of Meal Preparation & Delivery, Dinner Host, and Overnight Host for those weeks.
- You can sign up to volunteer at www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4AA9A72DAIFA7-family.
- Please contact Kerry Snyder (610) 737-7768 or Rosalie Snyder (610) 597-9302 with questions (preferably text message).

Dr. Seuss™ Day!

CHILDREN AGED 3 TO 7TH GRADE (AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS) ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON MARCH 5TH IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:15 AM FOR A DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION. THERE WILL BE CRAFTS, GAMES, AND MORE.
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO DRESS UP AS THEIR FAVORITE DR. SEUSS CHARACTER.

NERF & NACHOS FAMILY FUN EVENT

MARCH 25TH
5-8 PM



Please bring your own safety goggles and a nacho topping for our nacho bar.

Register Online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DAC A723A7FC1-nerf>

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 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!



GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, March 1

5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:30pm Supper Menu: Pizza, salad, ice cream.

6:00-6:30 Children's Choir with Blake (All kids are welcome but not required.)

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

Youth and Adult Group with Pastors Kayli and Kris

7:15-7:30 Worship together

Signup here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-godfirst>

Or email or text a staff member.

Do your best to sign up - but if you miss it, just come.

Future Dates:

**No April 5, Join us Thursday April 6 at 6pm for Maundy Thursday
Potluck and Worship.**

May 3

Putting God First on First Wednesdays

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.

UNION UCC STAFF

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