

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 26, 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, 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

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, mom and dad's health, job search, healing for Marguerite, Sharon, Brad, Marie, a good outcome for Abby and kids, sister for peace and wisdom, healing for Amy

March Worship

SUNDAY MARCH	5	LENT 2 Baptism at 10:30am, Girl Scout Cookies!
SUNDAY MARCH	12	LENT 3 Special Music by Interrupted Silence, Daylight Savings
SUNDAY MARCH	19	LENT 4 Youth Sunday
SUNDAY MARCH	26	LENT 5 New Members Received

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

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.



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.

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
Items of interest from the PNEC:

Congregational Leadership Training
Saturday, March 4 - 9AM to 4PM via zoom

It is a training offered by PNEC committees to help lay leaders **and** youth leaders appreciate and navigate the many roles and responsibilities of leadership in the local church.


An ideal learning opportunity, offered for newly-elected Consistory members, Confirmation students, and even seasoned church Leaders!

If interested, please email Patty Rehrig at the Conference Office -
patty@pneec.org

EXTRA NOTE! FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND THOUGHTS:


PA Keystone Project is happening now among the four Pennsylvania UCC Church Conferences (Penn Northeast, Penn Southeast, Penn Central and Penn West.) The purpose is to discern if there is a way forward to consolidate the four UCC Conferences into one UCC Conference for PA, thus bringing more unity, as well as diversity into our areas, partnering more effectively, and furthering more understanding between conference cultures in the process. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at jemrenaissinc@aol.com & please put Union Ambassador in the subject line. I look forward to helping Union members feel more connected to the Conference and the wider church.



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)



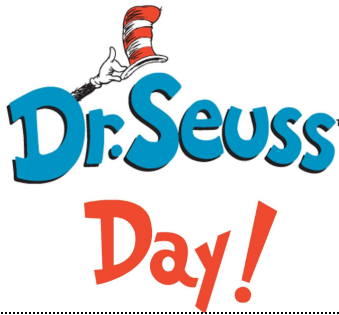
- Mission:** to assist families with children experiencing or about to experience homelessness find or retain affordable housing, and gain sustainable, financial stability.
- Partners:** The mission is carried out by a network of 15 host congregations and many other community resources working together 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).

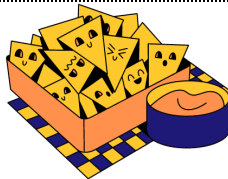


CHILDREN AGED 3 TO 7TH GRADE (AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS) ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON MARCH 5TH IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:15 AM FOR A DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION. THERE WILL BE CRAFTS, GAMES, AND MORE.

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>

Easter Egg Hunt Donations!

Fellowship Committee can't do the egg hunt without your help.

Please consider donating pre-wrapped candy to be put in plastic eggs.

NO PLASTIC EGG DONATIONS PLEASE!!

All donations needed by Sunday, March 26, 2023.



BeReal With Jesus!

Youth Sunday is a chance for all youth to be celebrated and have a Sunday worship time dedicated to them! High School seniors are encouraged to preach the message that day and all other youth encouraged to participate!

- ⇒ You can sing/play and instrument
 - ⇒ Read scripture
 - ⇒ Lead liturgy
 - ⇒ Collect offering...
- You name it, you can do it!

Sign up here: [https://](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f48aead2ba2fe3-youth8#/)

www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f48aead2ba2fe3-youth8#/



CarePatrol

CarePatrol Info Session for families seeking answers for care for senior adults.

Sunday, March 26th at 11:45am, immediately following 10:30 worship. Youth Room/Basement.

CarePatrol is a team of Certified Senior Advisors who help families find safe, quality independent living, assisted living, memory care and in-home care as well as adult day programs. We meet with families personally to consult, educate and advocate as they explore care options. We tour with our clients to senior care communities and review care and violation histories of the communities we recommend. Our service is FREE to families.

RSVP by Wednesday, March 22nd to Carrie:
vispastor@unionucc.org OR call the office at 610-767-6961
Bagged lunch provided for those who RSVP by Wednesday,
snacks also available.



Easter Flowers

FOR THE HOME VISITATION MEMBERS AND SANCTUARY

share the Joy of Easter with our Home Visitation Members. Sponsor a flower that will be delivered by volunteers for \$10.00 per plant.

You may also purchase flowers for our Sanctuary on Easter morning "In honor of" or "In memory of" someone - you may pick it up after the Easter Service on April 9.

Please print and return your information on the form below with your payment (checks payable to Union U.C.C.) and drop in offering bins or mail to the church office no later than **Sunday, March 19, 2023**. Flowers may also be ordered on our website under online donations or by clicking [here](#).

I would like to sponsor an Easter flower for (please mark your choices):

HOME VISITATION MEMBER(S) SANCTUARY*

Sponsor's Name: _____

Homebound Tulips _____ Display Tulips _____ Display Lilies _____ Display Hyacinths _____
Display Daffodils _____ Total Number of Plants _____ Total amount enclosed is \$ _____

Envelope # _____ Phone/Cell Number: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

*I will pick up my flower after worship service on Easter Sunday. (Please circle one) YES NO

Lent Study Opportunities

We are offering 2 different studies for you to work on independently.

Copies of the Journal and Book can be picked up at church on Sundays in the lobby or in the plastic bin on the South entrance porch during the week.

Our Facebook page will also post each week's discussion questions.

Or sign up for weekly emails at administrator@unionucc.org



Guided Journal - based on our worship theme - Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

Each week includes scriptures and questions to think or write about.

Book - You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit

James K.A. Smith

This book tackles the subject of how our culture shapes us and how our faith practices can help us transform our lives for the better.

Study on your own or join one of our groups:

Fridays 9:30-11am, Room 5
and Zoom - Feb 24 - March 31

Sundays 9:15-10:15am, Room 5
Feb 26 - April 2



Pastor Kris

pastorkris@unionucc.org

Holy Week and Easter Worship



April 2 Palm Sunday 8:00 and 10:30am
(No God First Wednesday on April 5)

April 6 6pm Maundy Thursday in Memorial Hall,
Potluck Meal, Worship, Communion.

Bring a casserole, side dish, or dessert to share.

Note: NO Online Option.

April 7 7pm Good Friday Worship in the
Sanctuary with Communion

April 9 Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise in Grove,
8am and 10:30am in church



EASTER MIMOSAS and SNACKS on the LAWN
Join us after 8am and 10:30am worship on the
front lawn of the church for a celebratory
mimosa, orange juice, and snack.

The Easter Bunny will be
joining us!



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.

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