

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 6, 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
Shelly & Ori Handwerk, Facility Caretakers

CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President: Eric Minnich, VP: Don Penrod, Secretary: Janice Metzger, 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

Sharon and Mark, Ed, Beth, friend with cancer diagnosis, Dana diagnosed with cancer, Charlie with pancreatic cancer, Nan recovering, Carol, a friend in the hospital, Jillian, Joyce, mom with returning cancer, Bill and Marilyn, my husband's health and healing, healing from recent operation, prayers for my father, new medicine to help my grandson, Barbara, Diane, Jamie, Marlene, Dorothy, Susie, Linda, Maria, Mary Ellen, granddaughter with eye problems, 99 year old mom with health problems

General

To continue to live as normal life as possible, to get through difficult times and a period of adjustment. Direction in life, adjusting to losing mom, clarity and guidance, to continue to provide faith-filled opportunities at our church. My husband and I to start our family, good health, to develop my spiritual, mental, and physical health, adjusting to senior years, to listen to God and trust his path for me, continued health and happiness, health and strength, empty nest and caring for parents, last step in getting my Master's degree, to build my own family, strength with changes occurring with family, extended peace and love for all, continued prayers after loss of husband, learning to say no/stretching myself too thin, for Josh applying to the Air Force, for Dylan at Navy basic training, strength through transitions, sister for healing, Jerry, children during divorce, thankfulness for answered prayers, that my family will grow in faith

July and August Worship
10:30am Sunday worship only through September 3rd

August 6 Communion, Guest Preacher: Geoffrey Brace

August 13 Worship in the Grove, Church Family Picnic, Special Music
in worship and after worship by jazz band, The Patrick Kerssen Trio.

August 20 Pray with A Pastor

August 27 Worship in the Grove

September 3 Labor Sunday

September 10 8am and 10:30am worship, Education Hour and
Children's Church Resumes

Summer Coffee Hour will continue on Sundays after 10:30 worship.
Stop by in Memorial Hall for some cool lemonade, juice, water, and a
snack and visit with friends and pastors.

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one.

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help
you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.



While everyone's response to loss is unique, people facing loss and
grief will experience many of the same challenges. The weekly
GriefShare topics address these common struggles—providing valuable
tips, encouragement, and direction: loneliness, fear, anger, regret,
relationships, hope and much more.

Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation and Bob Gutekunst, Pastor of Grace
UCC are beginning a GriefShare group on Mondays, September 11-
December 11 (no Nov. 27) from 6:30-8pm in the Memory Room. Cost is
\$5 at the first meeting. Space is limited so please register early: [https://
www.griefshare.org/groups/172660/registrations/new](https://www.griefshare.org/groups/172660/registrations/new)

We look forward to sharing this special ministry with our congregations
and the community!

BLUES NITE OUT

Neffs Church Grove
Saturday, August 26
4pm-10pm

A night of music
under the trees.

Admission is Free
Food is available to
purchase.

Bring a chair or
blanket.



Union UCC, 5550 Route 873, Neffs
www.unionucc.org

Baked Goods Needed for Saturday, August 26th Blues Night Out 4-10pm

Please bake: cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, fudge, rice krispie treats, bar cookies. No pies, please. Hand pies are ok. We always like to have 1 sugar free option and 1 Gluten Free option. Please do not precut, our volunteers will take care of that. If possible, please use a disposable tray.

Items can be dropped off on Saturday at the grove from 12noon to 4pm on Aug 26.

Sign up by emailing Pastor Kris at pastorkris@unionucc.org and look for sign-up link in next weeks announcements.

In June you received a letter asking you to complete the information form and survey that was mailed with the letter.

If you haven't returned your form to the church office yet, please do so.

Here's the online link to complete it:

<https://forms.gle/JEZM4v4EcZ29EktMA>

Copies are available at worship or you can contact the church office for additional paper copies to be mailed to you.

**Youth Group Summer Hang-
Outs In the Grove
6pm-8pm**



All Youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to join us in the Grove this summer! Each gathering will include games, snacks, and fun! If there is rain in the forecast, we'll meet in the Youth Room (rm 15, basement).

Date: August 9

**SUMMER
FUN FEST**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH
5PM-8PM
IN THE GROVE**

All ages are invited to join us for a fun family event. There will be a water blaster battle area, fun carnival-style games, and snacks. Please wear clothing that you are comfortable getting wet in and feel free to bring your own water blaster.

Breakfast Bunch for Northern Lehigh Kids at St. John's Lutheran Church, Slatington.

This program provides breakfast and a bag lunch for kids for 10 weeks in the summer on weekdays 8:30-10am. We are volunteering Aug 16. We are filled up at this time. Gift cards to Giant, Weis, Walmart, or Redner's are still needed and can be given to our church office. Monetary donations made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church with "Breakfast Bunch" in the memo line also help.



**Join your church family on Sunday
August 13, 2023 after 10:30am
worship in the grove for a time of
food, fun, and fellowship.**

Hot dogs, turkey barbecue, snacks and beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share!

Donations of cakes, cake mixes, cantaloupes, watermelons, and anything you feel is appropriate for the Cake Walk will be gratefully received. (Please label the item for the Cake Walk.)

Also remember prizes for BINGO!

Music by The Patrick Kerssen Trio!



*Stone Farm Cellars
& Vineyard*

Proceeds will benefit families with children who are experiencing homelessness in the Lehigh Valley



SCAN ME

We sell out quickly!
Sponsorship Opportunities
are Available

Join us for a sunset gathering
of friends, volunteers, and area businesses

August 24, 2023 - 5:00 to 8:00 PM
Stone Farm Cellars and Vineyard
5831 Vera Cruz Road Center Valley, PA

Tickets: \$30 Pre-Event

Includes a beverage and BBQ sandwich of your choice
Additional beverages and light fare will be available for purchase

FEATURING

WINE/ CRAFT BEER * LIVE MUSIC * GREAT FOOD * FUN FILLED AUCTION
BROUGHT TO YOU FROM OUR FRIENDS
SUSAN & LARRY KARPER * STONE FARM CELLARS AND VINEYARDS
BACKYARD BAR COMPANY * UNIVEST BANK

For more information call 610-351-1368, email Devdirector@fplehighvalley.org
visit our website fplehighvalley.org or simply scan the QR code above

Yoga is a beautiful mind-body practice to ease stress and find balance on and off the mat. Learn how to connect breath to movement and “move” better in your body. This all level class will be held outside in the beautiful grove of Neffs Church which is located on the North/Neffs side.

TIME: Thursday Evenings from 6-7pm.

DATES: AUGUST: 3 10 17 24 31, SEPTEMBER: 7 14 21 28

THINGS TO BRING: yoga mat, beach towel, water, strap and blocks if you have them.

PAYMENT: \$8 drop in with a portion of proceeds given back to the church.

PREFERRED PAYMENT LINKS: Venmo: [sharon-schnyder](https://venmo.com/sharon-schnyder) OR Paypal: paypal.me/sharonschnyder however cash/check will be accepted as well.

Back to School Blessing

8/20, 8/27, 9/3 & 9/10

All students, educators, and school employees are invited to bring their backpacks, tote bags, laptop bags, and tool belts to worship for a special blessing to begin the new school year.

School Supply Drive

We will be collecting school supplies for local students from now until the end of September.

Donations can be dropped off at the church. If you would like to donate using our Target registry (<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/schoolsuppliesneffs>) any items can be delivered directly to the church.

If you have any questions contact Tiffany at dired@union.ucc.org





**We will be collecting donations on 8/6 and 8/ 13
for Neighbors in Need.**

Neighbors in Need offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.



**GREATER ALLENTOWN CROP HUNGER WALK:
Sunday, October 22, 2023,**

1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA
18104

Register, donate, or find more information
about the life-saving work of
Church World Service:

www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa



PNEC Ambassador Corner

Keystone Study Group – Communications Summary*

The sixth meeting of the Keystone Study Group* took place Friday, June 16, 2023. Guided by the Spirit, the study group whole-heartedly affirms the possibility of becoming ONE Keystone Conference. In our May and June meetings, we clarified WHAT a Keystone Conference would look like. We were mindful of all the ways a Keystone Conference can serve, support, challenge and unite our diverse faith communities and ministries. In all we addressed, we aimed to imagine a vibrant way of being the Body of Christ in our areas.

Participants in all four conference meetings both affirmed and expressed important reflections about a Keystone Conference. Overall, meeting attendees shared energy, enthusiasm and support for continuing our study and work toward recommendations for Conference leaders and congregations. Our consensus remains, **“Together we are stronger! The Keystone Conference.”**

*Excerpted from Communications from the Keystone Study Group, a study and discernment group of the 4 PA area UCC Conferences – Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, and Pennsylvania SE. Pastor Kris is a member of this discernment group.

If you have any 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.

Country Sale?

The core Country Sale committee and a few new interested people have met to discuss the possibility of bringing back the church yard sale on a smaller scale next May 4, 2024. We have had plenty of interest in renting spaces but need helpers both in preparation for the event and at the event itself. We will need interested helpers in the following areas:

- Committee members for planning (zoom meetings, meet every few months)
- Person to take reservations and assign rental spaces*
- Marking assigned spaces *
- Kitchen helpers to prep for the event on Thursday & Friday (days and eves)
- Kitchen helpers at the event on Saturday (7am-2pm, 2-4 hour shifts)
- Food Shoppers *
- Publicity and signs*
- Bake sale helpers at the event on Saturday
- Bakers
- Parking Attendants and greeters day of sale 7A to 10:30 (4 people)
- Grill guys (hot dogs and burgers)
- Preparation of money for food and baked goods and counting afterwards*
- Organize and price baked goods day before and day of event*
- Organize some type of raffle
- Helpers at conclusion of the event, tear down, trash cans, clean up

*Asterisks are areas that are covered. Please consider sharing your time and energy in one of the other areas to help us bring this favorite event back. Please reach out to pastorkris@unionucc.org if interested. We realize this is over a year away but before we can schedule the event, we need to know if we have enough interested helpers.

VICKI SORG, DIANE SCHALLER, CLAIRE KERN, KATHY BONSELL, SHEILA NAGLE, SHERRY PENROD, DAN & DEB TOPP, PHIL WEHR, PASTOR KRIS

The **Steering Without Oars Leadership Planning Team met with the Consistory on June 19th** to share the work that they have been doing and to ask them to partner together to continue the work moving forward.

The Consistory agreed to do the following with the LPT:

- endorse and support our work,
- partner with us moving forward to take to the congregation for input, to affirm and refine the miracle question response, and
- to examine the structure and process of committees and groups, to engage committees and groups to create and implement goals and a calendar for the year.

The LPT will meet for an hour at Consistory meetings.

September 18 (6pm Picnic, 7pm meeting), November 20 at 7pm, and TBD

The LPT and Consistory will lead Congregational Forums: Sep 24 and Oct 1

The LPT and Consistory will plan Retreat Days Winter and Spring 2024 to implement, plan, and address other items needed.



Staff Update



Mitchell Roth graduated from Parkland High School and will be going to Lehigh University. We are excited that he will continue working with our student instrumentalists and playing in worship again this year as our Assistant Instrumental Director. During his senior year he played trumpet in District Band, District Jazz Band, Region Band, All State Jazz Band, All East Symphonic Band, District Orchestra, and Region Orchestra. Mitchell's work here will continue to focus on leading and organizing our student musicians on holidays and playing in worship with our choirs, Jazz Ensemble, and for special music.



Welcome to Matt Gerry our new Instrumental Director. In addition to his volunteer work with the Horizon Choir and Jazz Ensemble, as a staff person Matt will lead small group ensembles on holidays and organize our leader musicians. He will also work with our student musicians to play at non-holiday times as well as organize 2 festival choir events a year. He will provide solo and small group special music in the Summer and non-holiday times. Matt began his career as a professional musician at the age of 16, playing trumpet in a variety of jazz and classical venues. He and his wife Roni are the owners of the Gerry Music Studio teaching vocalists and instrumentalists of all ages throughout the area.

If you play an instrument at any level (kids or adults) contact one of our leaders so that you can share your music in worship.
Blake Hoppes (blake.charger@gmail.com)
Matt Gerry (mattnrni@yahoo.com)
Mitchell Roth (mqroth2005@gmail.com)



WELCOME NEW STAFF

Thank you Kiel Baer for serving as our Sunday Set Up person for the last 2 years. We wish you all the best as you graduate from high school!

Payge Haydt, who has served as the sub this past year, will now but the full-time Sunday Set Up Person.

Welcome to staff, Hannah and Ryleigh Minnich, who are now the sub.



HANNAH MINNICH

Hannah is a 10th grade student at Whitehall High School. Hannah is also a 7th generation member of this church. She is always looking for opportunities to volunteer. She is the vice president for serve club. A club that dedicates itself to serve the community. She is also a part of many other clubs and extracurricular activities. Hannah is a very active member of our church and is involved with the leadership planning team, youth advisory team, and youth group.

RYLEIGH MINNICH

Ryleigh is in 10th grade at Commonwealth Charter Academy. She volunteers at Neffs Volunteer Fire Company and just completed the EMT program. She is a 7th generation member at this church and is involved with the leadership planning team, youth advisory team, and youth group.



Anyone in K-5th grade for Cub Scouts and 6th-12th Grade for Boy Scouts interested in Scouting can join! Get a taste of scouting 😊
Hot dogs, drinks and snacks will be provided.



CUB SCOUT PACK #57 BOY SCOUT BSA TROOP #57

Annual "5 more minutes mom!" Swim Party

Sunday, August 20– 12-3pm

Orchard View Swim Club

4525 Game Preserve Rd.

Schnecksville, PA 18078

RSVP by 8/13/23 to neffpack57@gmail.com

Cost is free & bring a friend!



For More Information:
Pack 57: neffpack57.scoutlander.com
Troop 57: neffstroop57.wixsite.com/bsa57



Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next date is **Sept 17**. 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: We encourage you to make a deeper commitment to your faith by joining us as a member. The next new member gatherings are **Thursday, October 12 at 7-8pm OR Sunday, October 15 at 9:15am-10:15am in Memorial Hall (Coffee Hour)**. **You will be received as a new member on Sunday, October 22 in worship.**

Pastoral Sabbaticals: Our pastors are grateful for the sabbatical time that is granted to them for 3 months every 5 years. Pastor Kayli is using the 1st of her 3 months plus a week of vacation. She'll return August 7.

Hearing Assistance System: We have a wireless system on a table, as you enter from the lobby foyer. Please see an usher or a sound team person to assist you. You will need a receiver pack (turn it on) and ear piece (if you don't have a hearing aid) or a t-coil cord (if you have a hearing aid that is t-coil compatible.) Plug this into the receiver. At the end of worship, please return both pieces to the table and place the receiver back into the charger. Thank you to the Schlosser Family & Funds of Lasting Gifts for supporting this effort.

UNION UCC STAFF

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