



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873  
PO Box 66  
Neffs, PA 18065

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 27, 2024

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  
Claire Puia Sunday Set-up  
Hannah and Ryleigh Minnich Sunday Set-up  
Bryce and Luke Thrash, Night Lock-up  
Shelly & Ori Handwerk, Facility Caretakers

#### CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President: Eric Minnich, VP: Don Penrod, Secretary: Janice Metzger, Treasurer: Marianne Kitzmiller

## God is Holding Us Prayers

**To share a prayer request you may use the yellow prayer slips found in the racks in your seats and for this season we are placing them in the holding containers at the altar.**

Dave's health, Emma, parents in Florida, North Carolina and Florida, Elizabeth, Ronica on the passing of her mom, Holly, family member facing surgery, niece's recovery and mental health after delivery of her healthy baby, strength and courage for daughter, sister and brother in law for healing and faith, Anna, Dad in hospital, strength for Mom, young man with tumor on his spine, an uncle in the hospital, Bridgette with the loss of her husband, Jackie Hankee's family, Joe, a grandbaby.

**If you are in the hospital**, please notify a pastor or church office, or ask a family member to do so. Please be sure to give the hospital our church code **(511)**. If we missed you during your hospital stay, let us know **610-767-6961**.

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship 8 & 10:30am in Church and Online

November 3

**All Saints:** We will remember those who have passed this year and celebrate their lives by lighting a candle for families to take home.

**Matt Gerry** wrote a book! The Many Faces of God. In today's message he'll talk about his book and how God's presence is in the faces of those around us. Copies of the book will available that morning.

November 10

**Veterans Sunday:** We honor all of our veterans with a special musical medley of each branch of the military's song with a chance to stand during your song.

This is also  
**Stewardship Sunday.**

November 17

**Festival Choir Sunday**  
**Matt Gerry** will lead our musicians and many from the Gerry Music Studio and community in a Sunday filled with beautiful music.

*This program is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern Family Music Fund in the Funds of Lasting Gifts.*

November 24

**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
with guest musicians  
**Alathea**



\$175. \$88 deposit due by January 1. \$87 balance due March 1.  
Payment plans & assistance available.

## Checks to Union UCC, Memo Line – Women's Retreat

Friends and Family members are welcome too.

Only 30 spots available.

Leader: Pastor Kris

Planning Team: Donna Christman, Diane Schaller, Julie Johnson, Sue Steinmann, Val Borman, Julie Wehr



## Holy Grounds Coffee Hour

Enjoy some coffee, tea, juice, hot chocolate, and snacks on Sundays in Memorial Hall after both worship services.

Upcoming hosts include:

Oct. 13—Christian Ed

Oct. 20 –Welcoming

Oct. 27—Church and Ministry





Mande and Cristi are two of our favorite musicians, storytellers, and community builders. They have a gift for sharing their faith and God's love in a way that is authentic and inspiring. The last time they were here they did a virtual concert for us in worship during the pandemic. We are excited to have them back in person. They are joined by a new band member Calvin.

[www.alathea.com](http://www.alathea.com)

*Their appearance is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern Family Music Fund in the Funds of Lasting Gifts.*

# CHRISTMAS <sup>at</sup> Union UCC, Neffs

Lights in the Grove with Santa  
Saturday, Dec. 7th 3-5pm

Parkland High School Chorale  
Concert

Sunday, Dec. 15th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Eve Worship  
Monday, Dec. 23th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship  
Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 3, 5, & 8 pm

Sunday Worship 8am & 10:30am at church and online.

[www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org)  
5550 Route 873 Neffs



## **Labyrinth Walking at Union**

**Walk or sit with us  
in quiet and prayer.**

**Labyrinth walking is great for  
time with God  
and to de-stress.**

**(Wear socks, no shoes please.)**

**Tuesday, December 10**

**Open House 12noon-7pm**

**The labyrinth will be in Memorial Hall all day and evening.**

**Stop by to walk anytime on your own 12noon - 7pm.**

**The Breathe service is 7-8pm and will be using the labyrinth  
at that time.**

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### **Hurricane Appeal:**

As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss due to Hurricanes, we invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts in the following ways:

\* Donate to the relief efforts:

[https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief?  
utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_term=united-  
church-of-christ&utm\\_content=7951c7de-0eff-457f-af45-  
a11435124728&utm\\_campaign=social-media](https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_term=united-church-of-christ&utm_content=7951c7de-0eff-457f-af45-a11435124728&utm_campaign=social-media)

Or write a check to Union UCC - Memo: Hurricane Relief.

A vibrant poster for a 'Plant Bingo' event. At the top, three hanging plants in various pots are set against a sunburst background. The title 'PLANT BINGO' is written in large, bold letters, with 'PLANT' in green and 'BINGO' in orange. Below the title, it says 'with Gallivanting Greenhouse'. The main text describes the event: 'Join us for a fun afternoon filled with Bingo, Raffle, Baked Goods & Food!'. The event details are listed with icons: a calendar icon for 'Sunday, November 3, 2024', a door icon for 'Doors open 1pm - Bingo starts 2pm', a location pin icon for 'Union UCC', and a ticket icon for '5550 Route 873, Neffs PA'. Pricing is listed as 'Bingo tickets: \$25 in advance - \$30 at the door for 15 rounds'. At the bottom, it states 'Proceeds will support Feed My Starving Children and Union UCC's Ministry'. On the right side, there are several colorful bingo cards and large letters spelling 'BINGO'. A QR code is located at the bottom right, with a blue arrow pointing to it and the text 'TICKETS!!' and a white arrow pointing left.

Use the QR Code to get tickets or get your tickets on Sundays!

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## Tai Chi Thursdays

10-week session: 9/19-11/21

6-7pm


\$15 drop-in

5-pack \$67.50

10-pack \$110

Memorial Hall

Cash/check/venmo to instructor: Alice Perry

A close-up photograph of a hand in a white Tai Chi sleeve, making a specific hand gesture (likely a 'Fist' or 'Clenched Fist' gesture) with the index and middle fingers extended and the thumb tucked in.



Here is Union UCC's logo!

Thank you to **Nicole Pickens of Resonant Word** for your creative work and design.

Thank you to our Marketing Team for leading us through the process: **Brynn Buskirk, Marianne Kitzmiller, Don Penrod, and Pastor Kris** (and the LPT/Consistory).

Thank you **Funds of Lasting Gifts** for funding this effort.

The Union UCC logo development was informed by how members and leadership understand the church's identity, history, context, values, and goals, via interviews, a survey, and a site visit. Of particular significance were the terms "Relevant, Engaged, and Growing." Almost all survey respondents said being part of the United Church of Christ denomination is important to them. To subtly invoke UCC identity, the font and most of the color palette utilizes elements from the UCC brand standards. Additionally, the rainbow of colors suggests diversity/inclusion, as well as vibrant life. The primary symbol in the logo design is a tree with rainbow leaves. The tree suggests the church's growing nature, as well as providing a connection to the church's physical setting, especially the Grove. The "i" in Union forms the trunk of the tree, and its shape suggests a person with arms outstretched in praise and joy as well as welcome.

## The much beloved Basket Social will return in the Spring!

Watch for more information on ticket sales and basket donation requests in the coming weeks and months! Want to help plan the event? Join our next



meeting

November 10, 2024

11:30am (after 10:30am worship)

Room 5, basement



## GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS and WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

God First Wednesdays  
Supper, Small Groups, Worship  
Wed, Nov 6 5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6pm Supper 6-6:30pm Kids Choir or Activities

6:00-7:15 Small group for adults, youth, and kids 7:15-7:30pm Intergenerational Worship  
November Topic for Youth and Adults: What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid?

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

Adult Small Group on What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid  
Nov 6, 13, and 20 6-7:30pm (No gathering Nov 27)

Midweek chance to put you and God first!  
Sign up at PastorKris@unionucc.org or just join us!

Future God First Dates: Dec 4  
A new topic starts in Dec

## Grief is harder around the holidays...

Pastor Carrie is leading  
a GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays"  
event on

**Thursday, November 21, 6-7:30pm**

Registration is required by November 10.

<https://www.griefshare.org/events/249018>



## BREATHE

TUESDAYS ONCE A MONTH  
IN THE SANCTUARY

7-8PM

NOVEMBER 12

DECEMBER 10 WITH LABYRINTH

OPEN HOUSE 6-9PM



*Catch your Breath  
...with God*

*Prayer \* Meditation \* Music \* Communion*

*Led by Roni Gerry, Pastor Carrie,  
and Pastor Kris*

### Meditation and Prayer Gatherings by Zoom with Pastor Kris Snyder from Union UCC, Neffs Union UCC, Friends, and Penn Northeast Conference Community

Tuesdays 7-8pm  
November 26

Zoom Link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09)  
[pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09)  
Meeting ID: 876 8037 8046 Passcode: 954906

I'll lead us in various readings, scripture, and prayer practices like breath prayer and centering prayer, as well as meditation practices from the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, Buddhist, and Christian traditions.

Sign up with me at [PastorKris@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org).  
You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, whatever your schedule allows.





## Youth Group "Friends-Giving"

All youth are invited to join us for a belly-filling, laughter having, friendship building gathering. Pastor Kayli will provide the main and the pie...you bring your favorite Thanksgiving side-dish

**Date: November 23, 2024**

**Time: 6pm-8pm**

**RSVP by November 20, 2024**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-52279307-youth>

### November Together Opportunities

#### High School Happy Hour:

November 3 (11:30am-12:30pm)

November 17 (11:30am-12:30pm)

#### Open Sunday School:

November 10 (9:15am-10:15am)

November 24 (9:15-10:15am)

\*All gatherings in the Youth Room\*

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Y.A.T. Christmas Extravaganza

Lunch

**December 22, 2024**

**11:30am-1:00pm**

More Information To Come!



**NOVEMBER 16TH**

**FAMILY GAME & MOVIE NIGHT**

4-8PM IN MEMORIAL HALL

THE MOVIE WILL START AT 6PM

Games	Pizza & Snacks	G Rated Movie
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# FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 24 AT 9:15AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



CHILDREN 3 YEARS OLD AND OLDER AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION. EACH FAMILY IS INVITED TO BRING A FOOD ITEM TO ADD TO OUR FRIENDSGIVING BUFFET.

Register at <https://bit.ly/478RXrC>



**Step Into Serving At Union UCC**  
**We're in this together.**

- Looking for meaning and purpose?
- Wanting to put your faith into action?
- Hoping to make a difference in the lives of others?

**Find opportunities at:**  
<https://bit.ly/4dfQZvb>  
 Or contact a pastor, staff member,  
 or the church office.

Here's a paper copy you can hand to a pastor or mail to the church office.  
 Descriptions are at <https://www.unionucc.org/ministries-committees/>

Name:  
 Email:  
 Phone:

**Which Committees or groups are you interested in? (Circle all that apply)**

- Consistory
- Christian Education
- Welcoming
- Fellowship
- Worship
- Financial Leadership Team
- Mission
- Property and Maintenance
- Helping Hearts/Communion Ministers
- Youth Group
- Children's Ministry
- Choirs and Worship Music

**Which volunteer opportunities are you interested in? (Circle all that apply)**

- Organizing the effort to sell Union UCC merchandise like shirts, hats, mugs, and pens.
- Donating a baked good to a church event.
- Newsletter Assembly (weekday)
- Staying in touch/visiting with those who have health challenges or are unable to attend worship.
- Volunteering at a grove event with set up, food serving, ticket sales, clean up.
- Family Promise Volunteer - meals, hosting supper, overnight.
- Or you have another idea?

## **New Members from Pastor Kris**

New members come to us with a variety of faith experiences and backgrounds as well as a variety of interests, passions, and schedules. Maybe you have been visiting us or other churches for a long time and are still wondering if this is a fit or the right time to make a commitment to join us formally. Or maybe you visited here a few times and knew right away this is your place.

In our effort to honor this diversity, we'd like to offer you a few options of continuing this conversation.

1. You can join as a member at any time. Complete the information form (attached or use the link) and return it to the office or to me. Reach out to me to schedule a time to meet. We can then welcome you as a new member on whatever Sunday you choose at your convenience.

2. The other option (or in addition to the first option) is to attend a new member gathering. This is a chance to meet with me and with other members and hear why they love their church and love to serve God here.

**Our next gathering for new members is on Sunday, February 16th** at 11:30 -12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, February 23rd at 8am or 10:30am worship.

We hope both options will give you a chance to meet some new friends, get some more information about us, and ask your questions.

***To let us know you are interested, please complete this information form by using this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawlmYeZ-g/viewform>***

***Or you can contact the office for a paper copy.***

We want to do whatever we can to support you in your spiritual journey here and in the community.

***Please let me know where you are in your discernment and how I can support you. Call or email me anytime.***



## No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

That United Church of Christ tagline, for me, is the root to what I believe an open and affirming (ONA) congregation is. Whether a church or somewhere else, would you go somewhere that you do not feel welcome?

Being an ONA congregation is more than just opening our minds and hearts to people that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ). It is also about accepting and including people that are of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status, family structure, physical, cognitive, or emotional abilities, economic, educational, and social statuses, and political or cultural backgrounds. In short, EVERYONE!

As Union concludes the "Do Unto Others" worship theme from September, we need to continue to practice its characteristics - kindness, respect, love, humility, compassion - in our everyday lives with everyone.

Stay tuned in early 2025 for opportunities at Union to learn more about being an ONA congregation.

 Douglas Brace - [doug@dougbrace.com](mailto:doug@dougbrace.com) 



## Relevant • Engaged • Growing

Our Leadership Planning Team (LPT) and Consistory continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at Consistory meetings and on Saturday mornings about every other month.

**We have called Alloy5 to be the architect firm to help us create a plan for renovating Memorial Hall. They have impressed us with their ability to weave our core values, vision, and mission into their design ideas.**

**The Capital Campaign team is continuing with interviews to choose a firm that will lead us through a feasibility study to discern next steps for a capital campaign.**

**The Marketing Team has launched our logo! Look around to see and hear more.**

**The Mental Health and Wellness Team - is now called CREW - Connection, Resources, Education, Wellness.**

**The Summer 2025 Grove Event Team is booking bands and food trucks for our next grove adventure!**

Please talk to one of us if you'd like to join one of these teams or to learn more:

Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Carrie, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller, and the LPT/Consistory

## **“Together We Are Stronger”**



### **A Vision for Associations**

Did you know? Your church belongs to a group of other UCC churches grouped together in what is called an Association. When the UCC was formed in 1957 much of the authority in the new denomination was vested in the Associations, including the care of local churches within each one. Part of that commitment to care included helping churches when they were in difficult or troublesome circumstances. Over time, however, the task of caring for congregations in times of need moved into the hands of Conference staff, and away from Associations.

In looking toward a Keystone Conference, we know that Conference staff numbers will be reduced. Therefore, care for congregations will need to move back to members and leaders of Associations who will now be supported and resourced by conference staff. Currently, Association Presidents are meeting with representatives from the Keystone Working Group to draft what that work might look like for our Associations. This is largely human resource work to build teams of trained leaders.



Just as the Conferences are in formal discussions for a merger and shared leadership, the Keystone Working Group encourages those types of conversations among our Association leaders too!

**“We were talking to our churches about now being the time for shared ministry and realized we need to be talking about this at the conference level too.”**

~ Rev. Carrie Call, Penn Central Conference Minister

## Next Town Hall Sessions

The conversations around the timeline, the ministry of Associations are available for registration. Please use the QR code, on all conferences' websites or conference office.



In each townhall conversation, the timeline will be reviewed for possible action toward our vote, the motion to the General Synod and next steps.

## Merger Motion Vote by 4 Conferences Nov. 9, 2024

Each congregation is allowed their usual number of delegates to vote on the merger motion. See each conference for details to register, participate and make your vote count! The full motion is available on the website.

For more information: <https://psec.org/keystone/>

## Motion to General Synod, July 11-15, 2025

If approved by all 4 conferences, the motion is presented to General Synod for UCC delegates' approval.



**“We face the unknown, but God is known!”**

-- Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson  
President and General Minister of the UCC to the  
delegates at the gathered PA area conferences.

**Baptisms:** We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our upcoming date is **January 12, 2025**. 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](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org). The pastors will work with you if the scheduled dates are a conflict.

**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.

**Food and Toiletry Donations:** You're invited to bring non perishable food and toiletry donations at anytime to help our local food bank. Place items in the shopping cart in the lobby. Needed items: cereal, soup, pasta/sauce, peanut butter/jelly, vegetables, fruit, toothpaste/brush, shampoo, deodorant, soap, baby items. Thanks!

## UNION UCC STAFF

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