

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, safe travels for Sandy & Lori, Margie, Anna, Marika, John, healing for David's back, Larissa with breast cancer, Jillian & family, strength, comfort, and healing for Carter and his family, strength and healing for John and his family, peace in the election, daughter for peace, strength, healing, and courage, family for strength and healing, Suzanne, Diane, Darrell, Lisa W., Jessie, Lisa, Sue

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.



Thanksgiving Sunday with guest musicians Alathea

Women's Retreat Weekend April 4-6, 2025 Tuscarora Retreat Center, Mt. Bethel https://www.tuscarora.org 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

\$175. \$88 deposit due by January 1.\$87



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: Nov 3– Mission Committee Nov 10– Consistory Nov 17– Financial Leadership Team Nov 24– Sunday Staff



Mandee 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

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

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris and Pastor Carrie Fridays from 9:30 to 11am Nov 1, 8, 15, and 22 Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am Nov 3, 10, 17, and 24

The Many Faces of God by our own member Matt Gerry (Michael Sheridan). Have you wondered how God reveals His presence to you? Have you wondered how He can create and love so many people without losing track of a single one? Have you worried that God may never appear to you in your life or that you might not recognize him if he did? Matt shares how God shaped his life, taught him valuable lesson, and made him feel loved – through the people he met. You will then come to recognize how God has been there for you in your life – shaping, teaching, and loving you.



LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

Saturday, December 7th 3-5pm

FREE ADMISSION

Donation of Hats and Gloves are welcome!

CRAFTS, SNACKS, AND HOT CHOCOLATE LETTERS TO SANTA AND PICTURES WITH SANTA DRIVE BY, WALK AROUND, ENJOY THE LIGHTS ALL SEASON.

Union UCC 5550 Route 873 Neffs

Sponsors Larry, Phil, and Julie Wehr Lights by Christmas Decor

LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

Sponsor a Luminary for \$10 in Honor or Memory of Someone Orders due by November 24th.

Candles will be turned on at the event on Saturday, December 7th at 5pm with a brief time of prayer. They will light every day of December through Christmas Eve. You may pick up your luminary bag to keep on Christmas Eve.

Pay by check to "Union UCC" and mail/drop off payment with form. Or go to this link and complete a form/pay there.

bit.ly/unionluminaries

A separate form must be completed for each luminary. Names will be printed on your luminary to find and visit. Name:

Email:

Phone:

Name of person you are honoring/remembering:

Total luminaries for this name:

	Poinsettia Order
	Form
	DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024 \$8.00 EACH
	Order online at: https://forms.gle/zMDcZi6NZrpaFiiM6
1	WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR PLANTS FOR THE HOME BOUND
1	WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR PLANTS FOR THE SANCTUARY.
	I WILL PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
	ENVELOPE NUMBER
	SPONSOR'S NAME
	IN HONOR OF:
	IN MEMORY OF:
	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED



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).

(and the LP1/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.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In the tradition of giving gifts to friends and loved ones, our church has traditionally expressed our love and appreciation for our pastors and staff by presenting them with a monetary gift. If you'd like to share in this gift, please send a check payable to Donna Christman at 5820 PA Rte 873 Slatington, PA 18080 no later than Dec 17. Or place it in the church and Ministry mailbox at church. Thank you!

DONNA CHRISTMAN @DEC12221@HOTMAILC.OM

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

2025 Envelope packets

Envelope packets for 2025 are ready for pick up. Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs. Memorial Hall will be open every Sunday in November and December, and the Christmas Eve dates,

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2025, everyone gets new numbers each year. Members who use the e-giving program do not receive envelope packets.

Thank you for your continued financial support to the church by dropping your envelope in the collection plates on Sundays or mailing in your envelopes to the church office. Your financial support is greatly appreciated to continue the many and varied missions and ministries of Union UCC.

> 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? 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. 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 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!





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.







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.



Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley Holiday Hope Chest

Fill a wrapped shoebox with suggested items (no food please) and bring to church by Nov. 17th. See the table in the foyer for gift suggestion sheets and nametags on Nov. 3rd and Nov. 10th. If you are unable to pickup the information at church you can sign up online at https://bit.ly/3A2MmY5





Reverse (Advent Calendar

We will, again, be handing out baskets and advent calendars on 11/10 and 11/17 to interested families. The idea is to put something in the basket each day of Advent. If you are unable to pick up a basket we encourage you to use your own basket, bag, or box and put in items each day of Advent. Please bring the filled basket back to church between Christmas Eve and January 5th and we will deliver your donations to the food bank.



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.

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: <u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/</u> <u>e/1FAIpQLSeXM2pHU6Pnwd020Rpm-o8BV6-eWUoxPe2fxpZnBawImYeZ-</u> <u>g/viewform</u>

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

🛡 🛡 🛡 Douglas Brace - 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



Faith on Tap:

The Perfect Brew for Life

Tuesday, November 19 6:30-8:30pm

Korny's Tavern at Kornfeind's Market 2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay God. Conversation. Food & Drink.

Park in the back of the store and enter from there. Cost: Your drink (alchol and non-alcohol options) Complimentary Kornfeind's Food. Sign up if you can, or just join us. SIGN UP HERE:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-



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Hosted by **Kris Snyder**, Senior Pastor, Union UCC, Neffs and **Joe Kornfeind**, Kornfeind's Market and Business Professor, with other guests.



OUR NURSERY IS OPEN!

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME TO STAY WITH THEIR LITTLE ONES IN OUR NURSERY ON SUNDAYS.

LISTEN TO AND WATCH WORSHIP TOGETHER WHILE YOU SNACK,

PLAY, AND REST.

Knitters and crocheters: We are looking for folks to make baby blankets to share with our families when they have a child baptized. Size around 32" by 32" and gender neutral colors like sage, white, yellow, and multi colors and must be soft. We also need a few larger ones every year for older children. Contact Pastor Kris isf you are able to help with this ministry of wrapping our kids in

Union UCC love!



UNION UCC NIGHT WITH THE PHANTOMS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND

7:05PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM)

Tickets: \$27.00 each

ORDERS can be emailed or dropped at the church office or in

the offering plate but MUST be in an envelope

marked Phantoms Tickets.

TO ORDER TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFO PLEASE



COTACT STEVE KAREHA.

717-514-8881 or s.kareha@gmail.com

Cash, Check, or Venmo

(Make Checks Payable to Steve Kareha)

Bring your friends and family!

Presented by Union UCC Men's group



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 <u>administrator@unionucc.org</u>. 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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