



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Rev. Kris Penrose Snyder, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kayli L. Freeman, Associate Pastor
Tiffany Lakatos, 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 place in the Offering plate.

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, John, healing for David's back, Larissa with breast cancer, Jillian & family, daughter for peace, strength, healing, and courage, family for strength and healing, Suzanne, Diane, Darrell, Lisa W., Jessie, Lisa, Sue, Lucas and Stella, Frederick, all active military personnel protecting us in our homeland or deployed overseas especially Gabriel and Dylan, peace, Ron's successful surgery, Maureen entering hospice care, family for strength and healing, Marika, Anna, Hal, Emily on the birth of her baby girl, Annett, Dave and Sandy, Glenn undergoing leukemia treatments,

Thoughts and Prayers

To the family and friends of **Grace Schneck** who passed on November 23, 2024. Services were held on Friday, December 6, 2024.

To the family and friends of **Brian Rex** who passed on November 28, 2024. Services were held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

To the family and friends of **Ralph Ebert** who passed on November 28, 2024. Services were held on Thursday, December 5, 2024.

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY WORSHIP
8AM AND 10:30AM
AT CHURCH AND ONLINE

1 DEC	1st Sunday of Advent	8 DEC	2nd Sunday of Advent	15 DEC	3rd Sunday of Advent
Communion				7pm Parkland Chorale Holiday Concert	
22 DEC	4th Sunday of Advent	29 DEC	NO 8am Worship 10:30 only	5 JAN	
Service of Lessons and Carols				Communion	

At Union UCC we are sharing God's light and love near and far.
Worship with us and visit the lights in our Grove throughout the season and
be part of making our community and world a brighter place.

Christmas Eve Eve Worship
Monday, Dec. 23rd at 7pm
Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 3, 5, & 8 pm
Carols, Candlelight, & Communion

Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am
Christmas and New Year Blessings from Union UCC
5550 Route 873 Neffs PA

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris and Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am Dec 6, 13, 20

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am Dec 8, 15, 22

On the Way to Bethlehem follows the long journey to Christmas. The story begins in Rome with a decree issued from the seat of worldly power for a census, setting into motion events leading to the birth of the Savior of the world in a town that represents the very opposite of worldly power, Bethlehem. You will be drawn into those places in a way that helps you experience the spiritual truths each location holds. We will visit: Rome – A Place of Longing; Jerusalem – A Place of Waiting; Nazareth – A Place of Simplicity; Bethlehem – A Place of Humility; and Persia - A Place of Return.



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.COM



\$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 ON SUNDAYS

ENJOY SOME COFFEE, TEA, JUICE, HOT CHOCOLATE, AND SNACKS ON SUNDAYS IN MEMORIAL HALL AFTER BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES.

UPCOMING HOSTS:

Dec. 1– Christmas Cookies– Youth Group and Confirmation Class

Dec. 8, 15, 22– Bakers feel free to bring cookies to share any week!

Dec. 29- Sunday Staff





BREATHE

TUESDAYS ONCE A MONTH
IN THE SANCTUARY

DECEMBER 10 WITH LABYRINTH
STOP BY ANYTIME 12NOON-7PM
FOR LABYRINTH OPEN HOUSE,
LABYRINTH AT BREATHE AT 7PM

Catch your Breath

...with God

*Prayer * Meditation * Music * Communion*

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

PNEC Ambassador Corner Keystone Conference

I am happy to report that the vote, by all (4) PA Conferences on Saturday, November 9, 2024, was positive for moving forward to merge into the Keystone Conference!! Each of the (4) Conferences vote was 90% or higher in the affirmative. We will be able to pool our financial resources, the proposed Keystone budget is slightly less than the total of all (4) Conference budgets combined, and we will be able to share human resources across the Commonwealth, each Conference has its own special gift to share. The motion to become one Conference will be submitted to General Synod this summer for their approval. A Constitution and By-laws need to be drafted, transitional Board and staff will be put into place working up to the settled Board and staff. The plan is for the Keystone Conference to be operational on 01/01/2026! TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!

If you have any general Conference 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.

Poinsettia Order Form

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024

\$8.00 EACH

Order online at:

<https://forms.gle/zMDcZi6NZrpaFiiM6>

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____ PLANTS FOR THE HOME BOUND

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____ PLANTS FOR THE SANCTUARY.

I WILL PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

____ YES ____ NO

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).

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.

Feed My Starving Children Fundraiser

Back by popular demand, Wawa Shorti Hoagie vouchers. Each one sells for \$6.00 and raises enough funds to feed six children for a day! They will be available after 10:30 services starting 11/24 through the rest of the year.

They make great stocking stuffers!





You've saved the date...

TICKET SALES!!!

Tickets will go on sale beginning in **January**. They can be purchased on Sundays after worship, during the week in the office, or online.

More information to follow.

**Ticket Prices: \$5 per sheet (25 tickets)
\$20 for 5 sheets**

Want to donate a basket? We'll have baskets available for filling beginning in January too!

GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS and WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

All ages are welcome. Let your Christmas kid spirit shine.

God First Wednesdays meets for 3 Wednesdays in December!
Supper included all 3 Wednesdays too!
December 4, 11, & 18 5:30-7:30pm

Bring Christmas cookies or a favorite treat to share.

5:30-6pm Supper, 6-6:30pm Kids Choir or Activities & Adults Christmas at the Movies
 6:30-7:15 Group Activity 7:15-7:30pm Closing Worship

Dec 4th - The Santa Clause Movie Pastor Kris & Cookie Decorating, Elf and Reindeer Treats
 Dec 11th - Miracle on 34th St with Pastor Kayli & Woodland Creatures Christmas Crafts
 Dec 18th - The Holiday with Pastor Carrie & Gingerbread Houses (bring candy!)

A midweek chance to put you and God first!
 Sign up with PastorKris@unionucc.org or just join us!

Future God First Dates:
 Feb 5, (no March), April 2, May 7

Young Adult
 Ages 18-25

PowerPoint & Pizza Party
 1pm-3pm

Sunday January 5, 2025
 Youth Room

Pizza & Power Point Party!

All Young Adults & College Students (age 18-25) are invited to destress and enjoy good company & Food!

When: January 5, 2025

Time: 1pm-3pm (hopefully we won't need more time)

Where: Youth Room!

Pre-prepare a power point presentation about something you're PASSIONATE about. It doesn't need to be serious (i.e.

What is the superior type of donut). DO NOT EXCEED 7 MINUTES

Send presentations to Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org) by Jan 5.

Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-53199445-pizza>

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.

**PARKLAND
CHORALE**

WINTER CONCERT

SUNDAY, DEC. 15TH | 7:00PM

UNION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5550 ROUTE 873 | NEFFS, PA

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS APPRECIATED TO SUPPORT OUR 2025
NAFME ALL-EAST PERFORMANCE TOUR

an evening of choral singing
and holiday cheer!



CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!

All youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited to join us for our YAT Lunch in December for a time to eat food, have fun, and plan for Youth Sunday!! We'll be decorating cookies, so bring some of your favorite cookie decorations (Pastor Kayli will have supplies too)

RSVP by December 18, 2024

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-53054882-yatlunch>



YG LIGHTS AT THE ZOO!



Let's keep the sparkle in the Christmas Season! All youth are invited to join us at the LV Zoo for their Winter Light

Spectacular!

Date: December 29, 2024

Time: 5pm-7pm (meet at the church at 4:30pm)

Sign up REQUIRED by December 15

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-53342205-youth>

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.



FAITH FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh

Email: dired@unionucc.org

Polar Express Christmas Celebration

December 22nd at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall



Register at <https://bit.ly/3Telh8d>



No Sunday School
or
Children's Church
December 29th



KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

PROGRAM

This year, our kids will have a short Christmas program that will take place on Sunday, December 15th at 9:15am in Memorial Hall.

This program doesn't require any special practices. Kids just need to show up ready to have fun.



KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH 3-5:30PM



DECEMBER 15TH AT 9:15AM
IN MEMORIAL HALL



REGISTER USING THE QR CODE OR VISIT
[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0F4DA-CA723A7FC1-53328664-NERF](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4da-ca723a7fc1-53328664-nerf)



Let's Bowl!

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH AT 10AM AT HAMPTON LANES IN NORTHAMPTON.

IT IS \$6 PER PERSON, PAYMENT IS DUE BY FEBRUARY 2ND.

REGISTER ONLINE BY JANUARY 30TH AT
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/3ZEAQAV](https://bit.ly/3ZEAQAV)



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 



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

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 if you are able to help with this ministry of wrapping our kids in Union UCC love!

Union UCC is holding a 5-session book study: *"Grieving with Hope"*

Mondays, monthly, 6-7:30pm
1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12
Memory room, 2nd floor.

Please RSVP to Pastor Carrie to secure your spot and receive the free book.



Country Sale

Community-wide yard sale

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, May 31, 2025
8am -1pm
Union UCC Grove

Watch for information on how to reserve your yard sale space in the New Year!



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.

Tai Chi Thursdays

10-week session: 1/16-3/20

6-7pm

\$15 drop-in

5-pack \$67.50

10-pack \$110

Memorial Hall

Cash/check/venmo to instructor: Alice Perry



VS.



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

CONTACT STEVE KAREHA.

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

Cash, Check, or Venmo

(Make Checks Payable to Steve Kareha)

venmo

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 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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pastorkris@unionucc.org
Ext. 24

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prechool@unionucc.org
Director: Rebekah Millroy



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