



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873  
PO Box 66  
Neffs, PA 18065

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 5, 2025

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

#### CONSISTORY OFFICERS

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

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

## 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.

All active military personnel protecting us in our homeland or deployed overseas especially Gabriel and Dylan, peace, Ron's successful surgery, family for strength and healing, Marika, Anna, Hal, Emily on the birth of her baby girl, Annette, Dave and Sandy, Glenn undergoing leukemia treatments, dad's & mom's health, peace on earth, safe travels for everyone traveling to see family and friends, Anna, Marika, Annette, healing for a couple with health issues, strength and confidence for a son, peace for dad, prayers for a successful surgery, Frank, Doug, Barbara, Dorothy, David, Jamie, Marlene, Sonny, and Susie strength and healing, Diane going for Surgery, safe travels over the holidays and every day in life, blessings to our church & community, grateful for our Pastors & staff of Neffs UCC, rapid & full recovery for Deb, Sparky, health for everyone over the holidays, Frank's recovery, Hal responding to his treatments, Charlotte, Ken, Beth, sick uncle, peace on earth, Ed, blessing for my church family, mother-in-law with brain cancer, may 2025 be a healthy and blessed to all, our daughter facing open heart surgery, Lucas and Stella, sister and brother in law for peace and healing, Annmarie, Richard, Katherine, Rachel, Tom, and all battling cancer.

# Worship Schedule

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

**29**  
DEC

No 8am Worship,  
10:30am only

**5**  
JAN

Communion

**12**  
JAN

10:30  
Baptism

**19**  
JAN

Healing/Pray with a Pastor  
New Worship Series Starting

6 Stone Jars

A miscalculation has occurred. The wedding guests have drunk all the wine before the party is over. At times, life can feel like we're "running out" of so much, and scarcity is shutting down the party. In these moments, we are invited to turn to the currency and economy of Jesus. Know the abundance of Jesus by drawing from jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace.

**26**  
JAN

10:30  
Semi-Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting

**2**  
FEB

## Upcoming:

**Feb 9:** Souper Bowl Sunday/ Tailgate Lunch

**March 2:** Communion/ Organ Concert

**March 4:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**March 5:** Ash Wednesday Worship at 7pm

## Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris and Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am Jan 10, 24, Jan 31

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am Jan 8, 22, Feb 2

### *Hear Us Out by Sue Pizor Yoder and Co. Lab. Inq.*

*6 Questions on Belonging and Belief – this team interviewed over 200 people under forty in search of the lessons they might teach about belonging, adversity, legacy, and faith. This book illustrates the ways millennials and Gen Z are navigating life, crafting their stories, and making meaning. McLaren says, "this is the must read for churches that are shrinking in size and wrinkling with age to help take seriously when they consider ways to welcome emerging generations into their midst.*

*Your congregation needs this book!"*


# Join us at Union for a Bob Ross paint night!



Hosted by Christine Unger  
Canvas & Cabernet  
Certified Bob Ross instructor!

\$30 cash or check to Union UCC or use our  
Venmo app  
Reservations required by 1/12, space is limited.  
Bring a roll of paper towels.

Complimentary glass of wine & snacks  
included!  
Pastor Carrie vispastor@unionucc.org



Friday,  
January 17  
6-9pm



We still have room  
for you! Get your  
deposit in to  
save your spot!

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

\$175. \$88 deposit due now.  
\$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



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

Upcoming hosts:

Jan. 5 Fellowship Committee

Jan. 12 Christian Ed

Jan. 19 Mission Committee

Jan. 26 Sunday Staff

**If you are in the hospital,**  
please notify a pastor or the  
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.

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



Find opportunities at:  
<https://bit.ly/4dfQZvb>

Or contact a pastor, staff member, or the church office.

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

## Presented by: C.R.E.W Connection-Resources-Education-Wellness

Join us for a special viewing and Q & A of  
"This Is My Son, This Is My Daughter."

presented by Bill Tonkin. It is an emotionally candid look at the impact of addiction on individuals and families, resources and hope.

**February 2, 2025**

**11:30-1:30pm**

All adults and teens are encouraged to attend but is not intended for children under 12. Pizza lunch provided.

**RSVP by January 29.**

## 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 events and luncheon. Contact the church office if you'd like to receive postcard mailing reminders.

No January or February

3/11: Strolling Strings (week change)

4/1: Rick Daugherty from Lehigh Valley Aging

5/6: Final for the year TBD

**25th Anniversary  
Basket Social**  
March 29-March 30, 2025

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee

Tickets on sale beginning in January  
After worship & online

Questions?  
Contact Maria Beltz (wesmar92@icloud.com)  
or Debbie Romig (dromig180@gmail.com)

**BASKET SOCIAL 2025**

**Tickets will be on sale beginning  
January 5, 2025  
After worship services & Online**

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

To purchase online & pay via Venmo visit: <https://forms.gle/p5CAcpY3N9jhdubo6>

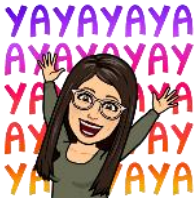
**Feed My Starving Children Fundraiser**

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.



**SAVE THE DATE!  
YOUTH SUNDAY 2025  
MARCH 16, 2025**

Theme: TBD



HS Seniors Preach, everyone is encouraged to participate!



## Check Out The 2025 Dates for High School Happy Hour and Open Sunday School!!!



### High School Happy Hour

January 5	March 30
January 12	April 13
February 2	April 27
February 16	May 11
March 2	

11:30am-12:30pm  
Youth Room or Zoom



### Open Sunday School

January 12	March 23
January 26	April 6
February 9	April 20
February 23	May 18
March 9	

9:15am-10:15am  
Youth Room



### God 1st Wednesday and Wednesdays at Union in February:

- 2/5: Modern parenting & grandparenting: Key issues facing today's families
- 2/12: Avoid Getting Crispy: Burnout/Trauma/Stress
- 2/19: Sleep/Health/Community: How these topics intersect & brief discussion of diagnosis & treatments for sleep disorders
- 2/26: Managing Anxiety and Depression in the Winter Months

Seminars led by St. Luke's Clinical Therapy Services

1st Wednesday: 5:30 - 6pm Supper,  
6 - 7:15 pm Kids Choir & Adult seminars  
7:15 - 7:30pm Closing Worship  
All other Wednesdays: Adults 6 - 7:30

**January**  
**NO God First or Wednesdays at Union**



### UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: February 16-23, 2025

serving children and families experiencing homelessness

#### Every child deserves a home.

We need your help hosting families in our church building 4 weeks a year.

- Help with set up and tear down.
- Cook and deliver a supper one night during the week. (5:30-6pm)
- Visit with families, serve supper, and clean up. (5:30-9pm)
- Host overnight (In your own area 8:45pm-6:30am).
- Assist with food shopping during the week.
- Offer financial support through your church donations marked "Family Promise."



#### Why do I volunteer?

Jesus tells us to love God and to love our neighbors. This is a great way to do both while helping families get back on their feet.

~Kerry Snyder

Please contact Kerry Snyder (610) 737-7768 or Rosalie Snyder (610) 597-9302 with questions and to sign up. Other Steering Team members: Ralph and Connie Gioelli, Dennis Foster, Phil and Julie Wehr, Susan Glosan



**FAITH  
FORMATION**  
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh  
Email: dired@unionucc.org

# Silly Sock Sunday January 5th



Wear your favorite silly socks on January 5th, and show them to Ms. Tiffany to get a special surprise.

New Year Blessing  
May the New Year bless you with faith that guides your steps, lights your path, and fills your heart with hope and strength for the year ahead.

No Sunday School  
or  
Children's Church  
December 29th

# PIZZA & PAINT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH 3-5:30PM

JANUARY 19TH AT 11:45AM  
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. NO PAINTING EXPERIENCE NEEDED. WE WILL BE DOING A BEGINNER LEVEL CROSS PAINTING. EMAIL MS. TIFFANY AT DIREDD@UNIONUCC.ORG



TO SIGN UP.



REGISTER USING THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0F4DA  
CA723A7FCI-53328664-NERF](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4da-ca723a7fci-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](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



# Faith on Tap

Wednesday, January 29  
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 (alcohol and non-alcohol options)

Complimentary Kornfeind's Food. Sign up if you can, or just join us.

**SIGN UP HERE:**

<https://bit.ly/41KAjKa>



Thanks  
Kornfeind's  
Market!

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

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!

**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

**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 NIGHT WITH THE PHANTOMS 7:05PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6PM)**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND 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.**



**venmo**

TO ORDER TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFO PLEASE  
 CONTACT STEVE HAREHA

717-514-8881 OR s.hareha@gmail.com

Cash, Check, or Venmo  
 (Make Checks Payable to Steve Kareha)

Presented by Union UCC Men's group



**BREATHE**

TUESDAYS ONCE A MONTH  
 IN THE SANCTUARY

- NO JANUARY
- FEBRUARY 11 AT 7PM
- MARCH 11 AT 7PM
- APRIL 8 AT 7PM
- MAY 1 AT 7PM



*Catch your Breath  
 ...with God*

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

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

**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.

**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

**Rev. Kris P. Snyder**

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Director: Rebekah Millroy



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