



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 23, 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

Marissa Haney, Church Administrator
Barbara Carinci, Financial Manager
Hannah and Ryleigh Minnich Sunday Set-up
Claire Puia 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

**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

All active military personnel especially Gabriel and Dylan, Emily on the birth of her baby girl, strength and confidence for a son, peace for dad, Frank's recovery, Hal responding to his treatments, Charlotte, Ken, Beth, sick uncle, Ed, mother-in-law with brain cancer, 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, Susie, Dorothy, Susan, Darrell, Cam and Jordan's family, baby Felix, Suzanne, Annie, Malcolm and Margie, Doris, Nick and family, Kevin, continued recovery for Deb, Kathleen on the sudden passing of her husband, John, an alumni students family on his passing, Sherry's healing and strength, moms health, Deb & Dan, Beth, a niece, our country, safe travels, safe pregnancy and delivery for mom and baby, kindness, acceptance, tolerance and love, Daniel in his travels

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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8am and 10:30am at church and online

February

Feb. 2: Blanket
Sunday/ Boy Scout
Sunday

Feb. 9: Souper Bowl
Sunday/ Tailgate
Lunch

Feb. 16: Confirmation
Class Leads Worship

Feb. 23: New Members
Received

March

Mar. 2: Communion
Save the Date! 3pm
Organ Concert

Mar. 4: Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper

Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday
Worship at 7

Mar. 9: Lent 1

Mar. 16: Youth Sunday

Mar. 23: Lent 3

Mar. 30: 10:30
Baptism

April

Apr. 6: Lent 5

Apr. 13: Palm Sunday

Apr. 17: Maundy
Thursday 6pm
Potluck Supper with
Worship/ Communion

Apr. 18: 7pm Good
Friday Worship with
Communion

Apr. 20: Easter
Worship at 6am, 8am,
and 10:30 am

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris and Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am Feb 7, 14, 21, and 28

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am Feb 9, 16, 23, and March 2

In 1945 an Egyptian peasant unearthed what proved to be the Gnostic Gospels, the sacred books of one of the earliest Christian sects. The landmark study exploring alternative perspectives of early Christianity as revealed through the Nag Hammadi texts that could have shaped the religion differently if included in the Christian canon. Join us for *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels.

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

Tuesdays 7-8pm
Feb 4, March 18, April 22, May 6

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

Share in readings, scripture, prayer practices like breath prayer and centering prayer, and 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.



GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS and WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

**God First Wednesdays
Supper, Small Groups, Worship
Wed, April 2 5:30-7:30pm**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

No God First or Wednesdays at Union in March

**Adult Small Group on The Chosen
April 2, 9, 16, & 23 (not 30)**



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper


March 4, 2025
6pm-8pm
Fellowship Hall

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee

Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Menu: Pancakes (Gluten Free available), sausage, applesauce, and Fastnachts.

FREE! Donations accepted. Bring a dozen doughnuts or



Holy Grounds
Coffee hour

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

Upcoming hosts:

Feb. 2 Boy Scouts
Feb. 9 Souperbowl Tailgate Lunch
Feb. 16 Confirmation Class
Feb. 23 Fellowship Committee



Creative Practices Group Meeting

Bring your ideas, creativity, openness and any supplies you'd like to work with. No experience needed. This is a non-judgmental space for creative exploration. The time can be spent in the way you need. No RSVP needed. Meets in Memorial Hall.

Contact: Tara Henninger
tara.henninger@gmail.com

creative
adjective — /krē'ādiv/
An ability to create something new, unique, and useful. Creativity will increase the spirit and motivation of your life.

 **MARCH 9**
1-3pm



Organ and Music Concert

**Sunday, March 2nd
3pm
Union UCC, Neffs**

Music by Jacob Roth, Blake Hoppes, and other Guests
Organ Music
Piano & Organ Duets
and a Sing Along of your favorite hymns

Funded by the Funds of Lasting Gifts
Free Will Offering supports California Wildfire Relief
Refreshments and Snacks after the Concert



UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: February 16-23, 2025

servicing 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



We celebrated our members of 40 or more years, now it's time to celebrate you! You've been a member at Union UCC for 20-39 years! We'd like to celebrate you and give God thanks for your faithful service.

Join us in worship on March 30th at 8am or 10:30am.

Let a pastor know if you'd like to be part of a video interview to share your faith story during the month of March.

Basket Raffle

FUNDRAISER

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Fellowship Committee of Union UCC is having their annual 25th Anniversary Basket Social on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, 2025. We would appreciate your consideration in donating a **theme basket**, **gift card** or whatever you deem appropriate to help sponsor this event.

Basket Suggestions

Baking	Movie	Relaxation
Holiday Theme	Coffee Lovers	Game Night
Bath & Body	Mystery Box	Spa Day
Italian Dinner	Craft Night for	Gardener
Car Care	Kids	Tea Time Lovers
Lottery	Pet Care	Golf Lovers
Chocolate	Day at the Pool	<i>Your idea!</i>

Reach out to us, if you need an empty basket, we have plenty of sizes at the church. Thank you and stay tuned for more information in the next Union UCC newsletter.



Join us for our 25th Anniversary Basket Social. This event is spread out across two days...more opportunities to win! Lots of variety, 50/50 drawing and Bake Sale all to benefit the mission and ministry of Union United Church of Christ.
March 29, 2025 (9am-3pm)
March 30, 2025 (12pm-2pm)

Tickets can be purchased in-person after worship or online via Venmo: <https://forms.gle/R6Yq52sGeNK6wnbr8> (please add \$1 for fees)
\$5 per sheet
\$20 for 5 sheets
Day(s) of Event are Cash Only
Questions? Contact Debbie Romig dromig180@gmail.com
Or Maria Beltz wesmar92@verizon.net

Friends! Our 25th Anniversary Basket Social is looking for the yummiest of baked goods to sell to those folks hopeful to win!

For baked goods we need: Single Serve items (cookies, brownies, bars, cupcakes, etc..) please no full cakes or pies

Individually wrapped items please (6 cookies per package).

Gluten Free options are always appreciated too

Please sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-54705474-basket#/>





Faith on Tap

Wednesday, March 26

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/4g9fE6l>

*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.



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

DR. SEUSS SUNDAY MARCH 2ND



Which

**Dr. Seuss
Character**

Are You?

DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE

DR. SEUSS CHARACTER

VBS 2025

JUNE 23-27 6PM-8PM

DINNER AVAILABLE AT 5:30PM



Volunteers and participants can register online at <https://vbspro.events/p/unionucc>



Those interested in volunteering and those signed up to volunteer are invited to join us for a meeting on March 9th after the 10:30 service in the Youth Room.



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

Theme: TBD

HS Seniors Preach, everyone is encouraged to participate!



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!

First Communion Class

When: April 12, 2025
Time: 11:30am-12:30pm



Calling All 1st Graders
(or 2nd thru 7th graders who haven't participated yet)

You are invited to join Ms. Tiffany and Pastor Kayli for our First Communion Class!
Saturday April 12, 2025
11:30am-12:30pm

We will gather in the Sanctuary
Please use the Google Form to Register

RSVP no later than April 10, 2025

Sign Up Here: <https://forms.gle/Gc77xdW798Vd64h59>
Families and children are encourage to partake in their first communion at our Maundy Thursday worship opportunity. If you have questions please contact Ms. Tiffany (dired@unionucc.org) or Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Watch for new Summer events in the Grove!

Friday, June 13
Shakespeare in the Grove
DeSales University

Faith and Food Trucks

- *Live Music
- *Featured Food Truck
- *Kids Activities
- *Prayer and a Message
- *Cool Dessert Treats

Sunday, June 22
Sunday, July 13
Sunday August 17



Sign up with Pastor Kris to volunteer.



Another chance to invite the community and our friends to enjoy our Grove!



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

MARCH 11 AT 7PM
APRIL 8 AT 7PM
MAY 1 AT 7PM



*Catch your Breath
 ...with God*

Prayer ~ Meditation ~ Music ~ Communion

*Lead 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.



Open and Affirming (ONA) Team Update - Early 2025

It is amazing how quickly time goes by. One year ago in February 2024 is when Union became an ONA congregation! Thank you for your support as we take steps to show our community how we are ONA!

A reminder that being ONA is about opening our minds and hearts and including and accepting people that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ), as well as 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. EVERYONE!

The ONA team would like to let everyone know that **Sunday, June 29th** will be **ONA Sunday** at Union. Join us for worship outside in the grove!

The team is also in the beginning stages of scheduling and organizing programming for the Fall and we look forward to sharing information about them as they are ironed out and get closer.

 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.

On February 8th our LPT Team and Consistory will meet to be trained by Jill White to interview our community to discover how they perceive us, what they need from us, and how we might partner together. We look forward to seeing how this input will shape God's ministry and mission here at Union UCC.

The Architect Team continues to work with Alloy 5 our architect firm to help us design a plan for renovating Memorial Hall.

The Marketing Team will start to implement additional outreach and marketing strategies. CREW (Connection, Resources, Education, Wellness) has created an awesome February of mental health and wellness opportunities.

Food trucks and bands are lining up for a great summer 2025 idea in the grove!

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

Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our upcoming date is **March 30, 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

Rev. Kris P. Snyder
Senior Pastor
Cell Phone: 610-657-6007
pastorkris@unionucc.org
Ext. 24

Rev. Kayli Freeman
Associate Pastor
pastorkayli@unionucc.org
Ext. 25

Carrie Beleno
Pastor of Visitation
vispastor@unionucc.org

Tiffany Lakatosh
Faith Formation Minister for
Children & Families
dired@unionucc.org
Ext. 27

Marissa Haney
Church Administrator
administrator@unionucc.org
Ext. 21

Blake Hoppes
Minister of Music
Blake.charger@gmail.com
Ext. 26

Ori Handwerk
Facility Caretaker
Caretaker@unionucc.org

Barbara Carinci
Financial Manager
financialmanager@unionucc.org
Ext. 32

Church Office:
610-767-6961
Fax: 610-767-7128

PO Box 66,
5550 Route 873
Neffs PA 18065-0066
www.unionucc.org

Preschool Office:
610-767-5327
prechool@unionucc.org
Director: Rebekah Millroy



www.facebook.com/unionneffs