



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 9, 2025

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
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 your seats and place in the Offering plate.

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

Prayers and Blessings

To the family and friends of **Jean Wieand** who passed on January 29, 2025. Services were held on February 4, 2025.

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 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 - 730



Join us as we welcome our newest members to our team!

Menu: Sandwiches, pizza, wings, snacks, water.

Please bring a dessert to share

(Gluten Free options available)

Make it a **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** by bringing a can(s) of soup or cash donation for area food banks.



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.

Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 4, 2025
6pm-8pm
Fellowship Hall

Hosted by the Fellowship
Committee



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

FREE! Donations accepted. Bring a dozen doughnuts or Fastnachts to share.

To-Go option available



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

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

Welcome Home TO UNION UCC



Are you looking for a family of faith? Do you want to know the love and grace of Jesus more fully? What are your questions? We would love to welcome you on this journey.

Our next new member gathering is on Sunday, February 16th at 11:45-12:45 at Coffee Hour.

Your welcome Sunday is February 23rd at 8am or 10:30am or virtually.

Contact me if you would like to talk, sign up, or if you'd like a different date.

Pastor Kris pastorkris@unionucc.org

Our leaders have been writing their elevator pitches for their faith or our church.

Here's Pastor Kris's: Our kids and youth love growing up here. They say that the building is like a second home and the people are a second family. It's a safe place to ask questions and a great place to learn how to love and serve God. Adults tell us that coming to worship is fun, surprising, and gives them what they need to get through the week. They feel nurtured here, as well as challenged and inspired to live out their faith. Guests and new members say that they love that we say and embrace the United Church of Christ motto: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Some have said it is the best thing they have heard a pastor say and they are grateful for a place that models what it looks like to be followers of Jesus when we disagree or are different. It is this extravagant welcome that is often the reason they join us as members.



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



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

Join us for God
First on February
5th at 5:30pm

FLANNEL SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9TH

WEAR YOUR
FAVORITE
FLANNEL
OUTFIT TO
CHURCH. THE
MOST CREATIVE
OUTFIT WILL
GET A SPECIAL
SURPRISE.



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>

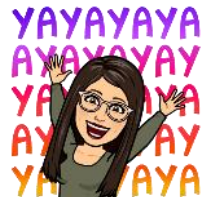


Those interested in volunteering and those
signed up to volunteer are invited to join us
for a meeting on March 9th after the 10:30
service in the Youth Room.



SAVE THE DATE!
YOUTH SUNDAY 2025
MARCH 16, 2025

Theme: TBD



HS Seniors Preach, everyone is
encouraged to participate!

Confirmation Winter Retreat

Theme: Faith Through a Secular Lens

February 15, 2025

10:30am-3:30pm

All Youth (9th thru 12th grade) invited to attend/help lead

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.**



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

venmo



BREATHE

TUESDAYS
ONCE A MONTH
IN THE SANCTUARY

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.

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.



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

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