



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 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, Miranda Brown Sunday Set-up
Bryce and Luke Thrash, Night Lock-up
Shelly & Ori Handwerk, Facility Caretakers

CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President: Eric Minnich, VP: Ron Pope, 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, 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, Doris, Nick and family, Kevin, Kathleen on the sudden passing of her husband, John, moms health, Deb & Dan, Beth, a niece, our country, safe travels, safe pregnancy and delivery for mom and baby, kindness, acceptance, tolerance and love, Carolyn, Stef and Dan undergoing treatment, a job for son-in-law, Dixie recovering from surgery, Jackie starting chemo, Daniel traveling home, Bill and Dana Dee with pneumonia, Ron's surgery, Lucas and Stella, Daughter for direction and peace, Sheila whose son just passed, Paulette with cancer, a good friend having open heart surgery, recovery for Rhonda, Judy

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.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8am and 10:30am at church and online

Sunday, March 2
Communion

March 5
Ash Wednesday
7pm Worship
Ashes and Communion

Sunday, March 9
Lent 1
Girl Scout Sunday

Sunday, March 16
Lent 2
Youth Group Sunday

Sunday, March 23
Lent 3

Sunday, March 30
Lent 4
Baptism
Recognizing 20-39
Year Members

UPCOMING

**April 17: Maundy Thursday 6pm Potluck Supper with
Worship/Communion**

April 18: Good Friday 7pm Worship with Communion

April 20: Easter Worship at 6am Sunrise (Cemetery), 8am, and 10:30am

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris and Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am March 7, 14, 21, 28 , April 4, 11
(No Class April 18)

Sunday from 9:15- 10:15am March 9, 16, 23, 30 , April 6, 13
(No Class April 20)

The Final Days by Matt Rawle

The four New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning, but the stories they tell aren't quite the same.

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

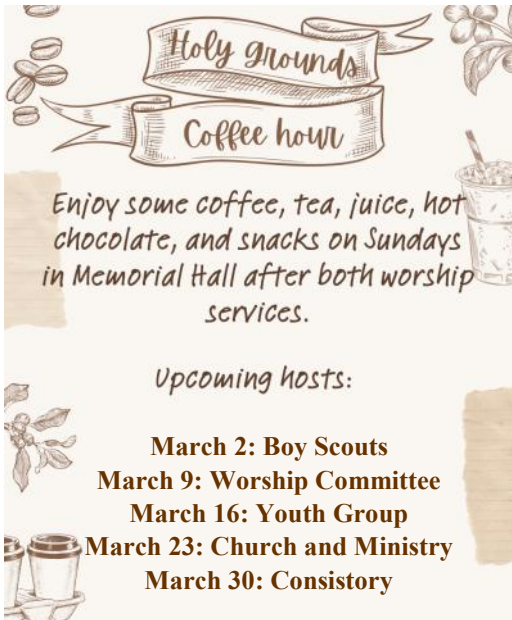
Adult Small Group on The Chosen
April 2, 9, 16, & 23 (not 30)

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

Tuesdays 7-8pm
March 15, April 22, May 6

Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBzRpbDVIUT09)
[pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBzRpbDVIUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBzRpbDVIUT09)
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.



Holy grounds
Coffee hour

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

Upcoming hosts:

- March 2: Boy Scouts
- March 9: Worship Committee
- March 16: Youth Group
- March 23: Church and Ministry
- March 30: Consistory

Creative Practices Group Meeting

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

Contact: Tara Henninger
tara.henninger@gmail.com.

- APRIL 6
 - MAY 4
 - JUNE 8
- 1-3pm

creative

adjective — /kriˈeɪv/

An ability to create something new, unique, and useful. Creativity will increase the spirit and motivation of your life.

PNEC Ambassador Corner

Keystone Conference

Want to know more about the upcoming transition to the Keystone Conference? You can attend a Town Hall Meeting either Tuesday, April 1st at 6:30 pm or Wednesday, April 2nd at 2:00 pm. To register, please call the PNEC office at 610-826-3113.

ALSO – IN PNEC

We, Union UCC, will be hosting the Spring meeting of the PNEC on Saturday, May 3, 2025!

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.

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!



UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: May 18-25, 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

Monday, March 31

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

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.

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.

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)

Easter Flowers

FOR THE HOME VISITATION MEMBERS AND SANCTUARY

share the Joy of Easter with our Home Visitation Members. Sponsor a flower that will be delivered by volunteers for \$10.00 per plant.

You may also purchase flowers for our Sanctuary on Easter morning "In honor of" or "In memory of" someone - you may pick it up after the Easter Service on April 20.

Please print and return your information on the form below with your payment (checks payable to Union U.C.C.) and drop in offering bins or mail to the church office no later than **Sunday, March 30, 2025**. Flowers may also be ordered on our website under online donations or by clicking [here](#).

I would like to sponsor an Easter flower for (please mark your choices):

HOME VISITATION MEMBER(S) SANCTUARY*
Sponsor's Name: _____

Homebound Tulips ____ Display Tulips ____ Display Lilies ____ Display Hyacinths ____
Display Daffodils ____ Total Number of Plants ____ Total amount enclosed is \$ ____

Envelope # _____ Phone/Cell Number: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

*I will pick up my flower after worship service on Easter Sunday. (Please circle one) YES NO



Our next Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event will take place October 10-12. To achieve our goal of packing more than 100,000 meals we will need 500 volunteers and will have to raise \$30,000 to pay for the ingredients. Volunteer registration will begin in September and fund-raising efforts have already begun. Last year our meals went to support children in Ukraine. To support this event please reference our event number 2510-090MI for use the QR Code below.



Easter Egg Hunt In The Grove



April 12, 2025
1pm start time

**Egg hunt is available for children/youth thru 10 years of age.
Please pre-register your kid(s) for the egg hunt using the form
below. Place forms in Fellowship Mailbox.
Registration cut-off March 17, 2024**



Rain Date: April 13, 2025

Parent's Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Age Group- please circle one

Child's Name: _____

0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____

0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____

0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10

Child's Name: _____

0-1 2-3 4-5 6-7 8-10





COUNTRY SALE

CHURCH & COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE

- Have Stuff that you want to get rid of?
- Purchase a Vendor Space: \$21
- One Space per family -- Spaces limited
- Vendors sell and keep profit
- Each space includes an area 15' wide x 15' deep
- * Rain or Shine
- * Breakfast, Lunch and Baked Goods will be sold
- * Everyone is welcome!



SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

UNION UCC,
NEFFS GROVE
5550 ROUTE 873, NEFFS PA

If you have any questions or are interested in renting a space, please email Sheila Nagle, ssnagle@ptd.net, or contact the church office, 610-767-6961.

Country Sale Space Reservation contracts may be found on the church web site Unionucc.org, or you may pick one up in the church office. Set up: May 31 6:30am-8am

Watch for new Summer events in the Groves!



FAITH & FOOD TRUCKS

5:30-8

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

SUNDAY, JULY 13

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17



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

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

Sign up with Pastor Kris to volunteer. pastorkris@unionucc.org
 Union UCC * 5550 Route 873 * Neffs



BREATHE

TUESDAYS
ONCE A MONTH
IN THE SANCTUARY

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*



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.

In April we will be heading out into the community interviewing neighbors, businesses, agencies, schools, and more to learn about what they think our community's strengths and challenges are and how our church can support the community in new ways.

The Architect Team is getting close to revealing draft design plans for renovating the lobby, the south entrance canopy, and Memorial Hall.

Watch for a chance to see those plans soon!

Summer 2025 will host new events in our grove: Shakespeare in the Grove from DeSales and 3 Faith and Food Trucks events with bands, a message, kids activities, and food trucks.

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, Ron Pope, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller, and the LPT/Consistory

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.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ Douglass Brace - doug@dougbrace.com ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥



The Neffs UCC Preschool is offering a \$250 Scholarship to a graduating senior who plans on continuing their education. The senior must be a graduate of the preschool and submit an essay by April 1st. The essay should be 500 words or less in which the applicant tells about themselves, their future plans, and a preschool memory.

Applications forms are available online.

www.neffsuccpreschool.org

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



www.facebook.com/unionneffs