



— Union UCC —

5550 RTE 873
PO Box 66
Neffs, PA 18065

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 13, 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, 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, Bill and Dana Dee with pneumonia, Lucas and Stella, Sheila whose son just passed, Paulette with cancer, a good friend having open heart surgery, recovery for Rhonda, Judy, Uncle John and his family, John, Dixie, Lee, Greg, Susie, Jillian as treatments continue, Bruce for a speedy recovery, Don for a pain free recovery, sister for peace and healing, daughter for wisdom and peace

Prayers and Blessings

To the family and friends of **Janice Herzog** who passed on April 1, 2025. Services were held on April 7, 2025.

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8am and 10:30am at church and online

I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you. -Psalm 5:7

Sunday, April 6 - Lent 5

Sunday, April 13 - Lent 6 Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Potluck Supper, Worship & Communion (Basement Hall)

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

Worship & Communion (Sanctuary & Online)

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Worship & Communion

6am Sunrise (Cemetery- NO Online)

8am & 10:30am (Sanctuary & Online)

Mimosas and Snacks with the Bunny on the Front

Lawn After Church

Sunday, April 27 - Easter Joy Continues

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

**Adult Small Group on The Chosen
(Season 4)**

April 2, 9, 16, & 23 (not 30)

**Final God First Wednesday: May 7
(potluck dinner)**

Adult Faith Formation Classes with Pastor Kris and Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am April 25, May 2, May 9 (last class)

Sunday from 9:15- 10:15am April 27, May 4, May 11 (last class)

Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith by Sarah Bessey

Sarah Bessey is an expert at faithfully stumbling forward. As a New York Times bestselling author and co-founder of Evolving Faith, the foremost community for progressive Christians, she has been trusted by thousands of people to pursue a reconstruction of faith centered on compassion, truth, and inclusion. Bessey has found a deeply underserved and underestimated remnant in the wilderness of Christianity who are still devoted to Jesus, deeply rooted in the Gospel, fascinated with Scripture, and committed to reimagining their faith.

Field Notes for the Wilderness guides us through multiple principles to live by for an evolving faith, including

- practicing wonder and curiosity as spiritual disciplines
- mothering ourselves with compassion and empathy
- making space for lament and righteous rage
- finding good spiritual teachers
- discovering what we are for in this life, and moving in that direction

In this groundbreaking and nurturing book, Bessey becomes a shepherd for our curiosity, giving us a table for our questions, tools to cultivate what we crave, and a blessing for what was—even as we leave it behind.



Holy Grounds
Coffee hour

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

Upcoming hosts:
April 13—Mission Committee
April 20—Easter Sunday
April 27—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 upstairs in Memorial Hall, Union UCC, Neffs.

Contact: Tara Henninger
tara.henninger@gmail.com

APRIL 6
MAY 4
JUNE 8
1-3pm

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

PNEC Ambassador Corner

Keystone Conference

The Keystone Working Group is working on the transition from (4) Conferences in the Keystone Conference. Details on governance, staffing, budget, communication and processes for the General Synod vote in July are being finalized. You can learn more in the May newsletter or visit <https://psec.org/keystone/>.

ALSO – IN PNEC

We, Union UCC, will be hosting the Spring meeting of the PNEC on Saturday, May 3, 2025! Doug Brace and I will be Union UCC delegates to that meeting.

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.



UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: May 18-25, 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

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 funds. Contact the church office if you'd like to receive post card mailing reminders. We also collect monthly items for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

May 6: "Preschool Fun and Games"

(Last gathering until Fall)

Red Robin® will give

**20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO**

UNION UCC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

4688 A Broadway, Allentown, PA 18104

April 24, 2025 4PM - 8PM

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at order.redrobin.com and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin

UCC Night at the Iron Pigs



In the Picnic Patio! **Included:** All-you-can-eat buffet & great seats along the 3rd Base Line

Friday, June 20, 7:05 pm Doors open at 5:45 pm

Only \$25/person!

Stephen Kareha

@Stephen-Kareha

TO ORDER TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
STEVE KAREHA.

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

ORDERS can be emailed or dropped at the church office or in the offering plate but **MUST** be in an envelope marked **Iron Pigs Tickets.**

Payments can be made by Cash, Check, or Venmo
(Make Checks Payable to Steve Kareha)

Bring your friends and family!



venmo



Congratulations Confirmation Class 2025



Confirmands

Lucas Maxwell

Tricia Schwarz

Parents

Krista & Benjamin Maxwell

Kelly Paulhus & David Schwarz

God-Guides

Kristin Ploeger

Ryleigh Minnich





Faith on Tap
Wednesday, April 30
6:30-8:30pm

*Thanks
 Kornfeind's
 Market!*

Korny's Tavern at Kornfeind's Market
2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay

God. Conversation. Food & Drink.

What Can the Church Learn from Taylor Swift?

Guest Leader: Rev. Kimberly Berenotto

Discover what Taylor Swift and her fans can teach the institutional church about cultivating community and authentic participation and engagement. Pastor Kim is the pastor of Longswamp UCC in Mertztown and also attended the Eras Tour.

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/4IHjtRP>

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

We are still in awe of how amazing our basket social was a few weeks ago! Special thanks to all the amazing businesses that generously offered donations for the event. We could not have done it without these businesses, our amazing congregation, and the support from well beyond our walls. Because of this generosity, we were able to raise \$8,391! We have donated \$1,000 to Iron Pigs Charities in memory of Veronica Fabian (who's love and dedication ran this basket social event for many years). The rest will be used towards the mission and ministry of Union UCC! Thank you again to everyone!



Meditation and Prayer Gatherings by Zoom with Pastor Kris Snyder from Union UCC, Neffs

Union UCC, Friends, and Penn Northeast Conference Community

Tuesdays 7-8pm

April 22, May 6

Zoom Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09)

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.





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 



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.



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.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 1 will be the last 8am worship service for the summer.

Starting June 8 we will only have 10:30 worship.

8am returns on September 7.

Outside Worship in the Grove is at 10:30am on June 29 (Build Your Own Sundae Sunday), July 13 (Blessing of the Animals), August 10 (Church Picnic). Bring your favorite chair or blanket or enjoy a bench under the trees or a table under the pavilion.



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

MAY 13 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

Baptisms: We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our upcoming date is **May 18 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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prechool@unionucc.org
Director: Rebekah Millroy



www.facebook.com/unionneffs