

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship 8 & 10:30am in Church and Online

<b>Sept. 1</b> 10:30am Worship Only	<b>Sept. 8</b> 8am Worship Returns 9:15 Education Hour Resumes Guest Musician Ben Tyler (Ben Anderson)	<b>Sept. 15</b> 10:30 Children's Church Resumes	<b>Sept. 22</b> 10:30 Baptism	<b>Sept. 29</b> Harvest Home	<b>Oct. 6</b> Communion
--	--	---	-------------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------



## We're going PURPLE in worship in September!

Our world seems to be consumed with division—often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place. The “purple space” is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

### Backyard BBQ Bash

**Saturday, Sept. 21**

Food for sale-  
Stand opens at 4pm

Free Music 5:30-8:30pm  
Local Favorite Band: TimeWhys

Chicken and pork dinners  
for sale from  
Lorah's Pig Roasters



Band sponsored by: Heintzelman Funeral Home &  
The Law Offices of Steckel and Stop

## UPCOMING

Children's Church Resumes Sunday, Sept. 15	Sunday School Resumes Sunday, Sept. 8
Confirmation Orientation Sept. 22	Faith on Tap Wednesday, Sept 11
Labyrinth Saturday, Sept. 14 Sunday, Oct. 6 Tuesday, Dec. 10	Meditation & Prayer Tuesdays 7-8pm on Zoom Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 26
Breathe Tuesdays 7-8pm Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10	God First & Wednesday Nights at Union 5:30-7:30pm - Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4 6-7:30pm - Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Schedule and events	Pg. 1	Steering Without Oars/ Mission Committee	Pg. 5	PA Conferences of the UCC	Pg. 9	Pastor Carrie's Corner	Pg. 13
Future Worship/ ONA	Pg. 2	Faith Formation for Children & Families	Pg. 6	Faith on Tap/ Plant Bingo/ Labyrinth Walking	Pg. 10	New Members/ Family Promise	Pg. 14
Adult Faith Formation/ Wednesday Nights	Pg. 3	Youth Group	Pg. 7	Nursery/ Giving/ Mum Order Form	Pg. 11	Blessings/ Staff Info	Pg. 15
Holy Grounds/ Property/ Cemetery Commission	Pg. 4	Breathe/ 5 for 5/ Meditation & Prayer	Pg. 8	Preschool/ Basket Social	Pg. 12	Member Info	Pg. 16

### Upcoming Dates for Worship

**November 3 – Matt Gerry** wrote a book! *The Many Faces of God*. In today's message he'll talk about his book and how God's presence is in each of our lives.

**All Saints** – We will remember those who have passed this year and celebrate their lives.

**November 10 Veterans Sundays** When we remember those who have died during their time of service to our country.

**November 17 Festival Choir Sunday** **Matt Gerry** will lead our musicians and many from the Gerry Music Studio and community in a Sunday filled with beautiful music.

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 & 10:30am Worship**  
**Mandee and Cristi are two of our favorite**

**musicians, storytellers, and community builders. They** have a gift for sharing their faith and God's love in a way that is authentic and inspiring. The last time they were here they did a virtual concert for us in worship during the pandemic.

We are excited to have them back in person. They are joined by a new band member Calvin. [www.alathea.com](http://www.alathea.com)

*Their appearance is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern Family Music Fund in the Funds of Lasting Gifts.*

**CHRISTMAS** *at Union UCC, Neffs*

Lights in the Grove with Santa  
 Saturday, Dec. 7th 3-5pm

Parkland High School Chorale  
 Concert  
 Sunday, Dec. 15th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Eve Worship  
 Monday, Dec. 23th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship  
 Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 3, 5, & 8 pm

Sunday Worship 8am & 10:30am at church and online.  
[www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org)  
 5550 Route 873 Neffs

### UNION UCC'S OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) STATEMENT

Adopted February 2024

Our church is a diverse family of believers, extending extravagant welcome and hospitality to all. We affirm that all people are created in God's image and all are worthy of God's love and grace, treating all people with compassion, respect and dignity.

We inspire dedicated Christian discipleship to include persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical, cognitive, or emotional ability, economic, educational, and social status, and political and cultural background.

We treasure the spiritual gifts of everyone, welcoming all into full membership, leadership, employment, ministry, mission, fellowship, worship, sacraments, rites, responsibilities, and blessings of the life of Union UCC.

As we grow with vitality into the future, we commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We celebrate and honor diverse theological and biblical interpretations as we strive to remain spiritually united in Christ. We will reach out with love to any and all people who enter our doors seeking God with faith in Jesus Christ our Savior.



**The ONA Team: Deana Correll, Eric Minnich, Hannah Minnich, Payge Haydt, Sue Steinmann, Doug Brace, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Kris**

Our team is here to continue the work of Consistory and the Leadership Planning Team in becoming an ONA community and doing all that we can to sustain a safe and welcoming place for everyone here at Union. In addition to LGBTQ+ topics we hope to also look at ways to include awareness around needs for those with physical and emotional challenges.

**Doug Brace(doug@dougbrace.com)**has agreed to help us with communication and outreach. Please contact him or anyone on the team with your ideas or interest in participation.

**Our Team was glad to participate in Lehigh Valley Pride in August with the Penn Northeast Conference.**



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

**Fridays from 9:30 to 11am**  
**Sep 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am**  
**September 8, 15, 22, 29**

For the month of September we will be working on a scripture study rooted in our worship theme on the Golden Rule, called "Do Unto Others." How do we handle disagreement as Christians? How do we bridge divides that exist in our families, communities, and churches? What are small and big steps we can do to make a difference this election season and beyond? There is not a book to read for this gathering, but there will be homework




**GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS and WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union**

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

5:30-6pm Supper 6-6:30pm Kids Choir or Activities  
6:00-7:15 Small group for adults, Youth, and Kids 7:15-7:30pm Intergenerational Worship

**OCTOBER TOPIC for Youth and Adults: The Chosen TV Series**

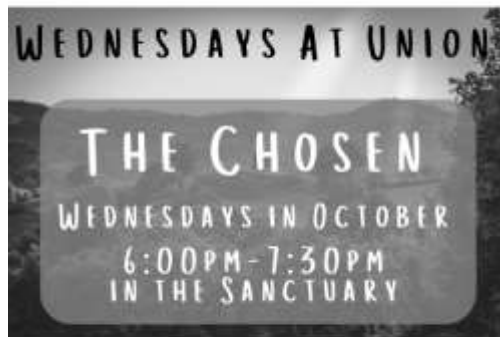
**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union**

**Adult and Youth Small Group on The Chosen Continues**  
**Oct 9, 16, 23, 30 6-7:30pm**

Midweek chance to put you and God first!  
Sign up at [PastorKris@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org) or just join us!

Future God First Dates:  
Nov 6, Dec 4  
A new adult topic starts in Nov

**Have You Heard About THE CHOSEN?**



Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesdays during the month of October as we explore the stories of Jesus' life as depicted in the hit series The Chosen. We'll look at some of our favorite scriptures and themes from the Bible while exploring what Jesus calls us to do as disciples in 2024. Once the 5-week series is over, and you feel like you're wanting more, you can explore the series on Amazon Prime Video or at [thechosen.tv/en-us](http://thechosen.tv/en-us)

**Join us for the kick off at God First Wednesday, October 2, 2024.**



**Have you been a member at Union UCC  
for 40 or more years?**

**We'd like to celebrate you!**

**And give God thanks for your faithful service.**

**Join us in worship on October 27th  
at 8am and 10:30am when we will also  
receive new members.**

## **Holy Grounds Coffee Hour on Sundays**

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

Upcoming hosts include:

Sept. 8 & 15—Sunday Staff

Sept. 22—Fellowship Committee

Sept. 29—No Coffee Hour (Baked Potato  
Lunch with Youth Group)

Oct. 6 –Worship Committee

Oct. 13—Christian Ed

Oct. 20 –Welcoming

Oct. 27—Church and Ministry

### From the Property Committee

The summer season is winding down, the grass is starting to grow again, the leaves will start to change colors soon, fall is coming.

A few minor repairs were made around the property this summer. In addition to the normal servicing of the air conditioning units, two other repairs were needed to the sanctuary units, the office units, and the choir room units. Once finished, the air conditioning units were all working well to keep the staff, the guests, and worshippers cool during this hot summer.

A major leak in the underground water line leading over to the grove was repaired early this summer, just in time for all of the summer events in the grove. Blessings to the Funds of Lasting Gifts endowment fund for providing funds to make these major repairs.

Lastly, a BIG shout out to our caretakers Ori and Shelly Handwerk, who have been hard at work all summer to clean and wax all of the tile floors and clean all the rugs around the church property, including the preschool floors. There is a major amount of furniture moving involved to empty a room, clean and wax the floors, and then return all of the tables, chairs, and other odds and ends to their proper location. The floors in the rooms shine bright, thank you Ori and Shelly.

### From the Cemetery Commission

Part-time employment opportunities are available for caring for the Union Church Cemetery. Duties include the mowing of the cemetery property, weed eating around the memorials, preparing for and oversight of burials and cremations, prepare foundations for memorials, and general maintenance of cemetery grounds and property.

Candidates shall enjoy working outdoors, in all weather conditions, be familiar with lawn mowing equipment, be able to lift 50 pounds and perform light digging and raking of ground. Please contact Union Church Cemetery secretary/treasurer Phil Wehr at 610-767-3657 for more information.



**UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING**

Our Steering Without Oars group has been meeting since May 2022. They were the first to step into our boat! In October 2022 we invited 40 more leaders in our church to join us and formed the Leadership Planning Team. We have been meeting almost monthly looking at and creating a vision for God's ministry and mission at Union. In June 2023 we presented all of our work to Consistory who agreed to partner with us in our next steps.

**Throughout the summer we have been interviewing Architects and Capital Campaign Consultants to begin the process of discerning the scope of renovating Memorial Hall.**

**The Marketing Team will be launching our logo soon!**

**The Mental Health and Wellness is creating new opportunities for our church and community!**

**The Summer 2025 Grove Event Team is booking bands and food trucks for our next grove adventure!**

**The Open and Affirming Team has been created and attended LVPrize in August.**

**The LPT and Consistory enjoyed a summer break and reconvened in August. They meet for an hour about every other month at Consistory meeting and for part of a day every other month.**

**Next meetings are September 28 and October 26.**

Contact one of us if you want to know more or participate in any of these teams.

Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, Consistory Officers: Eric Minnich, Don Penrod, Janice Metzger, Marianne Kitzmiller and the LPT/Consistory



From the Mission Committee

Thank you to all who have supported the Christmas in July collections of socks and underwear for 6th Street Shelter and the Allentown Rescue Mission. Thank you to all who have supported the collections of school supplies for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Reminder - toiletry collections happen all year long - soap, toothpaste, hair care products, deodorant are items are always needed at Lehigh Conference of Churches and the NL Food Bank. Please drop off toiletry items in the basket in Memorial Hall. Food collections also happen all year long for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Items needed all year long include cereal, canned soup, crackers, pasta, cake mixes and condiments.

These simple items make a difference in the lives of our local families, thank you for caring and sharing God's Love. Peace to all.

The Mission Committee has approved donations to be made to the following mission agencies.

From the Thomas Family Fund of the Funds of Lasting Gifts

\$1,000 to Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center

\$900 to Bethany's Children Home

From the Mission Discretionary account

\$500 to Allentown Crop Walk

\$500 to the Jed Foundation helping people with mental health concerns.

\$300 to the ONA organization

From the Mattern Humanitarian Fund of the Funds of Lasting Gifts

\$1,000 to Lehigh Conference of Churches for the Conference Kitchen program

From the Funds of Lasting Gifts non designated fund

\$5,000 additional yearly support to OCWM

\$3,000 to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank

"Sharing God's Love to the World"



**FAITH  
FORMATION**  
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
Contact: Tiffany Lakatosh  
Email: [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
NEEDS YOUTH AND  
ADULT HELPERS**



DO YOU LIKE HAVING FUN?  
DO YOU ENJOY INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN?

**JOIN US!**

EMAIL TIFFANY AT [DIRE@UNIONUCC.ORG](mailto:dired@unionucc.org)  
TO JOIN THE FUN!



# UNION UCC TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN EVENT!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024**

**1 PM - 3 PM**

**AT UNION UCC GROVE PARKING LOT**

JOIN US AND UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHICH IS JUST A SHORT WALK AWAY, FOR A SAFE FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION!

WOULD YOU, YOUR BUSINESS, OR AN ORGANIZATION YOU ARE ASSOCIATED WITH LIKE TO DECORATE A CAR AND BE PART OF THE HALLOWEEN FUN WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF WINNING AN AMAZON, TARGET, OR DUNKIN GIFT CARD?

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/4DAWPBO](https://bit.ly/4DAWPBO)



**Sunday School  
Is Back**  
Starting  
September 8th



CHILDREN 3 YEARS OLD TO 7TH GRADE AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION TO KICKOFF SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15-10:15AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

**JOIN US FOR THIS FUN  
EVENT! ALL AGES ARE  
WELCOME!**

**SEPTEMBER 14TH  
3PM TO 6PM**

# NERF & NACHOS

Register online at  
<https://bit.ly/3RsoimS>



Children age 3 and older are invited to join us for Children's Church during 10:30am service starting September 15th.



Help support VBS and Christian Education by purchasing some delicious Butter Braids!

Each Butter Braid is \$15.

This fundraiser will take place October 6th-20th. Pick up will be Tuesday, November 5th 4-6pm. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Tiffany at [dired@unionucc.org](mailto:dired@unionucc.org).

# Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

"If you are always trying to be normal, you'll never know how amazing you can be." -Maya Angelou



September 2024 Edition  
Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

## Back to School Blessings

To all of our students, teachers, school workers, We wish you the best school year ever! Take a deep breath as you leave summer behind and jump into the busyness of the school year! We are here with you!



## You're Busy Folks...



So let us meet you where you are! This year, Pastor Kayli & Deana want to be able to come cheer you on at your sporting events, activities, musicals, etc! Please use the link below to add activities to the calendar so we know!

Info Needed: Name (first and last), activity, location.

\*there is no need for you to subscribe to the calendar, but if you want to support each other please feel free\*

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?>

Save The Date:  
September 29, 2024

Back by popular demand the Youth Group of Union UCC will be hosting the infamous Spuds & Suds Baked Potato Lunch. More information to come with sign ups and ticket sales!



Enjoy a baked potato lunch with all the toppings you can imagine while supporting our Youth Group!

## Sunday Funsies for ALL!

Join us this fall as we kick off our program year with many opportunities for all youth!

Confirmation: September 22 (9:15am)  
orientation

High School Happy Hour: October 6  
(11:30am-12:30pm)

Open Sunday School: October 13  
(9:15am-10:15am)





**\$175. \$88 deposit due by January 1. \$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



**UNION UCC – (5) for (5)**

At the Penn Northeast Conference meeting in June 2024, Union UCC was recognized as being one of thirty churches within the PNEC that are (5) for (5) churches which is a pretty big deal! That means that Union UCC supports, through individual members, the general budget and FOLG, all (5) of the (5) special offerings of the national UCC. They are listed, and how each one is funded, below for your information:

**Our Church's Wider Mission** – Basic Support - [OCWM] – Goes to the Conference and they send 10% to the National Church to support their ministries

**One Great Hour of Sharing** [OGHS] – Goes to the National Church to help people in crisis by providing sources of clean water, education, health care, refugee resettlement, emergency relief and disaster preparedness, to name a few

**Neighbors in Need** [NIN] – Goes to the National Church to support ministries of justice and compassion through advocacy efforts and justice initiatives

**Strengthen the Church** – [STC] - ½ goes to the National Church; ½ to the PNEC to support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations

**Christmas Fund** – this is the charitable arm of the UCC Pension Boards and it provides direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties

**OCWM** is included in the general budget, plus an extra gift through FOLG; **OGHS** is collected from member donations in June; **NIN** is collected from member donations in August. The **Strengthen the Church** and **Christmas Fund** are included in the general budget, payable each December.

Way to go, Union UCC!! Keep it up!


**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  
 September 17, October 15, November 26

Zoom Link:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680378046?pwd=QmozYWJFemJOVENCdWJBbzRpbDVIUT09>  
 Meeting ID: 876 8037 8046 Passcode: 954906

I'll lead us in various readings, scripture, and prayer practices like breath prayer and centering prayer, as well as meditation practices from the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, Buddhist, and Christian traditions.

Sign up with me at [PastorKris@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org).  
 You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, whatever your schedule allows.





## **Pennsylvania Conferences of the United Church of Christ Met at Penn State in June – from Pastor Kris**

**Our church's delegates and visitors were Doug Brace, Janice Metzger, Rev. Bill Metzger, and Pastor Kris. Here are some reflections of the event and work that is being done. They will be representing us again at the voting meeting on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> along with Pastor Kayli. Thank you Doug, Janice, and Bill for doing this good and important work on our behalf.**

### **From Doug Brace:**

On Friday, June 7th through Sunday, June 9th I attended the gathering of the four Pennsylvania conferences of the United Church of Christ at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center in State College. I did this as the alternate delegate of Union UCC. I would like to thank the leaders and members of Union UCC for supporting me in this capacity. This gathering was filled with time for worship, education, discussion, and fellowship with our UCC siblings across Pennsylvania. I attended workshops on (1) technology tools and boundaries, (2) white Christian nationalism, and (3) being church in an evolving world. During all of these opportunities, attendees talked about their joys and concerns and listened to presentations and asked questions about the proposal to merge the four Pennsylvania Conferences into a unified Keystone Conference. This time of discernment understandably leads to moments of uncertainty but also excitement for everything that can happen when we - the church, and all of its people and entities - come together as disciples of Jesus Christ to do justice. Personally, I look forward to all of the possibilities related to merging Penn Northeast, Penn Southeast, Penn Central, and Penn West to form the Keystone Conference and look towards God for guidance and inspiration as we all work (including you) together to do the church's work.

### **From Janice Metzger:**

I had the privilege of being a delegate to the All UCC PA Conferences meeting at State College 6/7-6/9. I was looking forward to this meeting to gauge the reaction of delegates/visitors/pastors to the proposed merger of all four PA Conferences into one Conference, the Keystone Conference.

In addition to worship, workshops and individual Conference meetings, there were several presentations on the decision process of merging into one Conference, time for questions at each session as well as an evening session on Saturday devoted solely to questions/concerns regarding the process and merger. All in all, I felt encouraged by the response to the merger. All questions asked, or concerns raised, were things that had been discussed and had an answer, or it was on the docket yet to be determined. Nothing was brought up that had not already been addressed or wasn't on the table yet to be addressed. A 'straw vote' taken at the Saturday evening Q&A session, revealed the vast majority were in favor of the merger.

I am hopeful that this merger will pass in November and look forward to the new possibilities and opportunities that will exist in all of us working together to be Christ's hands and feet in this world. If we merge into the Keystone Conference, we will have the opportunity for ideas to be shared, the ability to pool resources and access to the gifts/expertise of others across the Commonwealth.

Another plus for me was seeing people from each of the four Conferences. It felt almost like a 'mini-Synod' to me, in that I got a sense of the wider church, beyond Union and the Penn Northeast Conference. Members from our partner church in India were there, which added to the 'mini-Synod' feel of the wider, global reach of the UCC. It was particularly nice to have the General Minister and President of the UCC, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson in attendance to hear her views on the merger and have her preach at worship on Sunday morning. I look forward to more Keystone Conference meetings in the future!!



OCTOBER 8

NOVEMBER 12

DECEMBER 10 WITH LABYRINTH OPEN HOUSE 6-9PM

**BREATHE**  
TUESDAYS ONCE A MONTH IN THE SANCTUARY  
7-8PM



*Catch your Breath ...with God*  
*Prayer \* Meditation \* Music \* Communion*  
*Led by Roni Gerry, Pastor Carrie, and Pastor Kris*



*Faith on Tap*  
Korny's Tavern  
at Kornfeind's Market  
2228 Old Post Rd, Coplay



Wednesday, September 11  
6:30-8:30pm

**God. Conversation. Food & Drink.**

Park in the back of the store and enter from there.  
Cost: Your drink (Beer, Wine, Iced Tea, Soda, Water)  
Complimentary Kornfeind's Food. Sign up if you can, or just join us.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7A7-50604320-fotsep2024>



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



*Thanks Kornfeind's Market!*

# PLANT BINGO



with Gallivanting Greenhouse

Join us for a fun afternoon filled with Bingo, Raffle, Baked Goods & Food!

-  **Sunday, November 3, 2024**  
**Doors open 1pm - Bingo starts 2pm**
-  Union UCC  
5550 Route 873, Neffs PA
-  Bingo tickets: \$25 in advance - \$30 at the door for 15 rounds



Proceeds will support **Feed My Starving** Children and Union UCC's Ministry



## Labyrinth Walking at Union

Walk or sit with us  
in quiet and prayer.

Labyrinth walking is great for  
time with God  
and to de-stress.

(Wear socks, no shoes please.)

**Saturday,  
September 14  
9am-11am**

Led time together  
with Roni, Carrie,  
and Kris

**Sunday, October 6  
8am-1pm**

Open House, stop by to  
walk anytime on your  
own. Optional  
handouts. Labyrinth  
will be in Memorial Hall  
all morning.

**Tuesday, December 10  
6-9pm**

Open House, stop by to  
walk anytime on your own.  
Optional handouts.  
Labyrinth will be in  
Memorial Hall all night.  
**Breathe** service is 7-8pm.

To save your spot and sign up please go to: <https://bit.ly/3X3LzPc> OR email [PastorKris@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org)



Because of YOU our church changes lives....

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

- ELECTRONIC GIVING <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home>

Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)

- Venmo @unionuccneffs Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"

• Mobile Giving Vanco Mobile Faith Vanco Mobile Engagement app

- **Cash or checks (to "Union UCC")**

Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.



Vanco



Venmo



## MUM ORDER FORM

Sponsor the purchase of Mums for display. Please an order by filling out the form below. Make checks payable to Union UCC or order on our website under "Give Online" or by clicking here.

Deadline to sponsor is **September 12th.**

- I would like to sponsor # \_\_\_\_\_ potted Mum(s) for a **HOMEBOUND MEMBER.**
- I would like to sponsor # \_\_\_\_\_ potted Mum(s) for **DISPLAY.** (You may pick up mums after the 9/29 10:30am service.

I will pick up my mums following the service \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Giver (envelope) # \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Mums \_\_\_\_\_

x \$7 per Mum =  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_



It is hard to believe that Summer is almost over! It has been a busy and exciting couple of months. We held mini reunions for all three of our age groups at the Grove playground in July. We painted with water, used chalk to draw, dug in the mulch, played dinosaurs, and of course, played on the climber! We had some Italian Ice to cool off and enjoyed the day with our 2023-2024 school year friends. Now, we are busy getting everything ready for the new school year and can't wait to see the

students every day!

In August we kicked off the 2024-2025 school year with a Preschool in the Park program. This program provides new students an opportunity to meet classmates and their teachers while having fun playing in the Grove. Parents had an opportunity to meet with the Director to go over school policies and procedures and ask any questions they may have about the upcoming school year.

For the upcoming school year, the preschool is pleased to welcome Raven Klimek, a Northern Lehigh graduate, to our team! Raven is currently doing coursework to obtain her early years degree. We know Raven will be a fantastic addition to our team! We are also excited to welcome back Sarah Bergen for another year of fun with us. We were lucky to have Sarah return to our school after taking some time off to complete her Masters of Education at Cedar Crest College this Spring. Congratulations to Sarah for all of her hard work!

Our teachers are back in action on September 3rd. They will be working hard to get our classrooms and supplies ready for our students! On September 5th and 6th we will be holding our classroom visitation days. This will give the students and parents the opportunity to meet the teachers, explore our classrooms, and acclimate to our school environment. We look forward to meeting all of our new families and welcoming back our returning ones!

School officially begins on September 9th. We will be holding a Donuts with the Director event for parents and families to mingle, ask questions, and give feedback. If you have not yet had a chance to register your child or grandchild, contact the Director at 610-767-5327; we have a few remaining openings in both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old classrooms.



The much beloved Basket Social will return in the Spring! Watch for more information on ticket sales and basket donation requests in the coming weeks and months!

Want to help plan the event? Join our next meeting  
November 10, 2024  
11:30am (after 10:30am worship)  
Room 5, basement

### Pastor Carrie's Corner

My roles as Pastor of Visitation and hospital chaplain often lead me to discussions about “the really hard things” in life, and one of these is end-of-life care, or hospice. Here are some myths that palliative doctors are sharing in an article\* about the extended hospice care for President Jimmy Carter in the hope of easing fear or confusion. As always, I am happy to visit with you!

Myth 1: Hospice is for people who have “given up.” Hospice is very often the opposite and actually increases the amount of care and support available, for patients living at home or settings such as independent and assisted living.

Myth 2: Hospice care is for people with days to live. As Carter demonstrates, patients may have weeks or months to live.

Myth 3: Hospice care involves 24/7 bedside care by medical professionals. The bulk of the day-to-day caregiving responsibilities remain with the family, private caregivers or nursing home staff. Hospice is a form of care, not necessarily a place.

Myth 4: Hospice accelerates the dying process. The hospice philosophy is to provide comfort and compassionate care for people living with terminal illness, for however long that may be.

\*Quotes from Yahoo Life Aug. 9 article

.....  
 The hills are alive! We've secured a block of tickets to see the Sound of Music at Civic Theater featuring our very own Gianna Neal (Pastor Carrie's daughter) as Maria!

Would you like to join us October 20? Fill out the order form and return it ASAP, tickets and dinner are limited, first come basis. Contact Pastor Carrie with any questions.

Join us to see **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** at Civic Theater!

Sunday, October 20, 2pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets: *Checks preferred, payable to "Civic Theater" or enclose exact cash.*

\$30.25 (adult) \_\_\_\_\_ \$26.50 (students/military/60+) \_\_\_\_\_

\$13.75 (under 13) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note, children under 4 are not permitted in the theater. We will be dining at the Ham Fam following the show (approx. 5pm) however, we have a maximum amount permitted, 35 people. Dinners will be chosen off a pre-selected menu (gluten-free and veggie options available). First come basis, \$5/person large-group restaurant fee, cash to Carrie to hold your spot.*

Would you like to join us?

Yes # \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 enclosed per person \_\_\_\_\_

No, thank you

Return to church office, Pastor Carrie, or her church mailbox.

.....

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, October 13th at 11:30-12:30 in Memorial Hall where coffee hour is. You would be received in church on Sunday, October 27th 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.



## UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: September 15-22, 2024

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



Our blessings and prayers go to the friends and families of those who have passed.  
 Joanne Ebert, passed on June 23, 2024. Services were held on June 29, 2024.  
 Naomi Follweiler, passed on August 7, 2024. Services were held on August 12, 2024.

Congrats and Blessings  
 To Jake Puia and Sarah Alexander joined in marriage on August 18, 2024.



**Hannah Minnich** is a 12th-grade student at Whitehall High School. She is also a 7th-generation member of this church. She is always looking for opportunities to volunteer. Hannah is the president of the SERVE club, which dedicates itself to serving the community. Hannah is a very active member of our church and is involved with the Leadership Planning Team, Youth Advisory Team, Youth Group, FMSC, and the Open and Affirming Committee.



**Ryleigh Minich** is a 12th-grade student at Commonwealth Charter Academy. In her free time she volunteers at Neffs Volunteer Fire Company as a Junior Firefighter, along with firefighting she works at Rolling Hills Recreation. At church she is involved in the Leadership Planning Team, Youth Advisory Team, Youth Group, and the Mental Health and Wellness Team.



**Claire Puia** is currently a sophomore at Parkland High School. She has attended Union UCC since she was born. She enjoys playing soccer and spending time with her family and friends. In her free time she likes to take her dogs on a walk around her neighborhood. She is looking forward to being more involved in the church community through her new position.

**Meet our SUNDAY SET UP STAFF**



Save the Date!  
 Alathea is coming back to Union!  
 Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 8am and 10:30am Worship  
*Their appearance is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern Family Music Fund in the Funds of Lasting Gifts.*

Union UCC Staff

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

Marissa Haney  
 Church Administrator  
 administrator@unionucc.org

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

Church Telephone  
 Extension Directory  
 610-767-6961

Rev. Kayli Freeman  
 Associate Pastor  
 pastorkayli@unionucc.org

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

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

Pastor Kris ext. 24  
 Pastor Kayli ext. 25  
 Marissa Haney ext. 21  
 Tiffany Lakatosh ext. 27  
 Barbara Carinci ext. 32  
 Music Office ext. 26

Carrie Beleno  
 Pastor of Visitation  
 vispastor@unionucc.org

Ori Handwerk  
 Facility Caretaker  
 Caretaker@unionucc.org

Preschool Office:  
 610-767-5327  
 prechool@unionucc.org  
 Director: Annette Wilcox

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

Barbara Carinci  
 Financial Manager  
 financialmanager@unionucc.org



[www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs)

# Financial Report

Fiscal Year	Operating Fund	Designated Funds	Grand Total All Funds
7-1-2024	-\$4,682.00	\$29,197.00	\$24,515.00
Income	\$47,261.00	\$1,484.00	\$48,745.00
Expenses	\$32,244.00	\$3,461.00	\$35,705.00
7-31-2024	\$10,335.00	\$27,220.00	\$37,555.00

Designated Funds category includes offerings for NIN, Mother's Day, OGHS, Lenten, Advent, Improvement Fund, Flowers, Directory, Bulletins, Phoebe Campaign, & special gifts.

## Donate, Recycle and Help Your Church

As you are cleaning out closets and cabinets be sure to keep Union UCC in mind. Bring your donations at any time to the bin in our grove. The church receives a certain amount of money for each pound that is donated. Items that are usable are resold or recycled. You are also helping to save the amount of things that end up in a landfill by donating your items this way. Recycle Local's goal is to help agencies have 0% waste.

**Items accepted include: clean and dry clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, towels, drapes, pillow cases and stuffed animals. Place all items in plastic bags. NO furniture, rags, pillows, toys, or household goods.**

This is one more way to give and support the mission and ministry of God's church at Union UCC. Thank you.

**New Member Sessions** We encourage you to make a deeper commitment to your faith by joining us as a member. Contact Pastor Kris [PastorKris@unionucc.org](mailto:PastorKris@unionucc.org) to sign up. See page 14 for more information.

**Dual Member Status** Dual membership is available to people who wish to join our church but who want to also maintain membership at another church. Dual members will have the same rights and duties as a member. According to our Constitution members are required to commune and donate yearly. We look forward to continuing to welcome new members into the Christian journey with our faith family here at Union UCC.

**Baptism** We offer baptisms during worship at the 10:30 service every other month. Our next dates are **Sunday, September 22, 2024 and January 12, 2025**. There is a pre-baptism zoom session with a 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.

**Weddings** To begin the process of scheduling your pre-marriage sessions and wedding at church/a venue and/or with one of the pastors call the church office at 610-767-6961 or email Marissa Haney at [administrator@unionucc.org](mailto:administrator@unionucc.org).

There is information on our website, forms to complete are downloadable. More information on the site: <http://www.unionucc.org/resources> for New Member, Baptism, and Wedding forms.

**Room or Hall Use for Members** Members are now able to reserve the use of rooms in the church again. Contact Marissa in the office to see if your date is available, to complete the necessary forms, to learn the guidelines and process, and to pay the fees. One time use fees are \$60 plus a \$25 cleaning fee. We do not offer room use to non-members.