

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

November 3

All Saints: We will remember those who have passed this year and celebrate their lives by lighting a candle for families to take home.

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 the faces of those around us. Copies of the book will be available that morning.

November 10

Veterans Sunday: We honor all of our veterans with a special musical medley of each branch of the military's song with a chance to stand during your song.

This is also **Stewardship Sunday.**

November 17

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

This program is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts and the Mattern Family Music Fund in the Funds of Lasting Gifts.



November 24

Thanksgiving Sunday with guest musicians **Alathea.**

Mande 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

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

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



TICKETS!!

Use the QR Code to get tickets or get your tickets on Sundays!

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December Worship

December 1st -
1st Sunday of Advent and Holy
Communion

December 8th, 15th, and 22nd
Advent and Christmas Music

December 22nd
Additional Special
Music and Chimes

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. 23rd 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
5550 Route 873 Neffs

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

That United Church of Christ tagline, for me, is the root to what I believe an open and affirming (ONA) congregation is. Whether a church or somewhere else, would you go somewhere that you do not feel welcome?

Being an ONA congregation is more than just opening our minds and hearts to people that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ). It is also about accepting and including 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. In short, EVERYONE!

As Union concludes the "Do Unto Others" worship theme from September, we need to continue to practice its characteristics - kindness, respect, love, humility, compassion - in our everyday lives with everyone.

Stay tuned in early 2025 for opportunities at Union to learn more about being an ONA congregation.



Adult Faith Formation
Classes with Pastor Kris and
Pastor Carrie

Fridays from 9:30 to 11am
Nov 1, 8, 15, and 22

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15am
Nov 3, 10, 17, and 24

***The Many Faces of God* by our**
own member Matt Gerry
(Michael Sheridan).

Have you wondered how God reveals His presence to you? Have you wondered how He can create and love so many people without losing track of a single one? Have you worried that God may never appear to you in your life or that you might not recognize him if he did? Matt shares how God shaped his life, taught him valuable lesson, and made him feel loved – through the people he met. You will then come to recognize how God has been there for you in your life – shaping, teaching, and loving you.

Note: In addition to these gatherings there is an adult group that meets on God First Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of the month and also every Wednesday of the month. God First starts with supper (you can join or skip) at 5:30 with small groups starting at 6:00-7:30pm. See more detailed info.



Here is Union UCC’s logo!

Thank you to **Nicole Pickens of Resonant Word** for your creative work and design.

Thank you to our Marketing Team for leading us through the process: **Brynn Buskirk, Marianne Kitzmiller, Don Penrod, and Pastor Kris** (and the LPT/Consistory). Thank you **Funds of Lasting Gifts** for funding this effort.

The Union UCC logo development was informed by how members and leadership understand the church’s identity, history, context, values, and goals, via interviews, a survey, and a site visit. Of particular significance were the terms “Relevant, Engaged, and Growing.” Almost all survey respondents said being part of the United Church of Christ denomination is important to them. To subtly invoke UCC identity, the font and most of the color palette utilizes elements from the UCC brand standards. Additionally, the rainbow of colors suggests diversity/inclusion, as well as vibrant life. The primary symbol in the logo design is a tree with rainbow leaves. The tree suggests the church’s growing nature, as well as providing a connection to the church’s physical setting, especially the Grove. The “i” in Union forms the trunk of the tree, and its shape suggests a person with arms outstretched in praise and joy as well as welcome.

GOD FIRST WEDNESDAYS and WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union

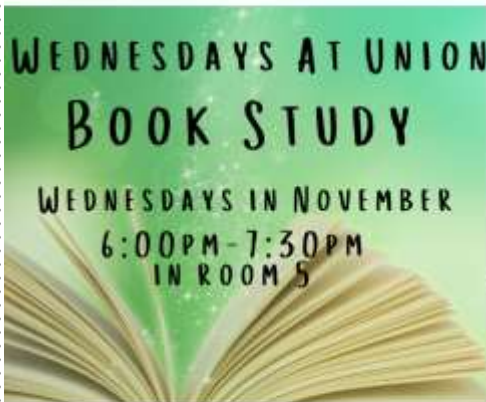
God First Wednesdays
Supper, Small Groups, Worship
Wed. Nov 6 5:30-7:30pm

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
November Topic for Youth and Adults: **What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid?**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Union
Adult Small Group on What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid
Nov 6, 13, and 20 6-7:30pm (No gathering Nov 27)

Midweek chance to put you and God first! Sign up at PastorKris@unionucc.org or just join us!
Future God First Dates: Dec 4 A new topic starts in Dec

Ready to Live Life Fearlessly?



Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesdays in November as we read and discuss the book **“What Would You Do If You Weren’t Afraid? Creating a Meaningful Life in Uncertain Times”** by Michal Osman. Michal is the head of company culture at TikTok. She has created a unique personal growth methodology for everyday modern life, drawn from ancient Jewish wisdom. Get ready to be challenged, find your courage, and move forward freely to flourish in a life without fear. Pick up a book in the lobby or Pastor Carrie’s mailbox.

Join us on Wednesdays, November 6, 13, & 20, 2024.



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:

- Nov 3 Mission Committee
- Nov 10 Consistory
- Nov 17 Financial Leadership Team
- Nov 24 Sunday Staff

LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

FREE ADMISSION
Donation of Hats and Gloves are welcome!

Saturday, December 7th
3-5pm

Sponsors Larry, Phil, and Julie Wehr
Lights by Christmas Decor

CRAFTS, SNACKS, AND HOT CHOCOLATE
LETTERS TO SANTA AND PICTURES WITH SANTA
DRIVE BY, WALK AROUND, ENJOY THE LIGHTS ALL SEASON.

LUMINARIES

Sponsor a Luminary for \$10 in Honor or Memory of Someone.
Orders due by November 24th.

Candles will be turned on at the event on Saturday, December 7th at 5pm with a brief time of prayer. They will light every day of December through Christmas Eve. You may pick up your luminary bag to keep on Christmas Eve.

Pay by check to "Union UCC" or go to this link to use Venmo. bit.ly/unionluminaries

A separate form must be completed for each luminary. Names will be printed on your luminary to find and visit.

Name:
Email:
Phone:
Name of person you are honoring/remembering:
Total luminaries for this name:



BREATHE

TUESDAYS ONCE A MONTH
IN THE SANCTUARY

7-8PM NOVEMBER 12

DECEMBER 10 WITH LABYRINTH
STOP BY ANYTIME 12NOON-7PM
FOR LABYRINTH OPEN HOUSE,
LABYRINTH AT BREATHE AT 7PM



Catch your Breath

...with God

Prayer * Meditation * Music * Communion

Led by Roni 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.

Tai Chi Thursdays

10-week session: 9/19-11/21

\$15 drop-in
5-pack \$67.50
10-pack \$110

Instructor: Alice Perry

Memorial Hall
Cash/check/venmo

From the Mission Committee

Happy Fall to everyone, the leaves are changing colors, cooler temperatures are here, daylight hours are getting shorter. Yes, Fall is here, and Winter is around the corner, but we will not discuss that season yet.

Union UCC has a large property, and with a large property comes lots of maintenance and some surprise repairs. Nothing major to report on, just a bunch of recent repairs, which include: fixing leaking toilets, installing a new water meter, replacing lights in the stair tower, repairs to the emergency generator, replacing emergency light bulbs, programming work by Protect Alarms, adding heat and water sensors for preventive care, replace light fixtures and more.

Minor maintenance and repairs to our property are all necessary to keep our building in good shape for our staff, members, and guests who enter our doors on a daily basis. Your financial support to the church is greatly appreciated to help maintain our property. A big thank you to the Funds Of Lasting Gifts endowment fund for providing funds for the many property upgrades and repairs, as they are needed, throughout the year.

Another recent property project was an upgrade to the wi-fi system to the basement area of the church. Selig Electric installed new outlets and wi-fi jacks in Rooms 2, 4 & 5 and ran new cables from each room back to the main electrical closet in the youth room. Jeff Herbine installed all of the electronics needed to make this major improvement to the wi-fi system in the basement, which will be a big help to the Family Promise families and other people who use the basement rooms. Thank you Jeff and Selig Electric for performing this task in a timely manner.

Well, that's it for now, enjoy the fall season and Happy Thanksgiving.





FAITH FORMATION

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

No Sunday School
or
Children's Church
December 29th

FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 24 AT 9:15AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



CHILDREN 3 YEARS OLD AND OLDER AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION. EACH FAMILY IS INVITED TO BRING A FOOD ITEM TO ADD TO OUR FRIENDSGIVING BUFFET.



Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley Holiday Hope Chest

Fill a wrapped shoebox with suggested items (no food please) and bring to church by Nov. 17th. See the table in the foyer for gift suggestion sheets and nametags on Nov. 3rd and Nov. 10th. If you are unable to pickup the information at church you can sign up online at <https://bit.ly/3A2MmY5>



NOVEMBER 16TH

FAMILY GAME & MOVIE NIGHT

4-8PM IN MEMORIAL HALL

THE MOVIE WILL START AT 6PM

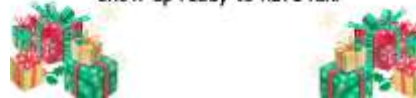
Games	Pizza & Snacks	G Rated Movie
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Register at <https://bit.ly/478RXrO>

KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year, our kids will have a short Christmas program that will take place on Sunday, December 15th at 9:15am in Memorial Hall.

This program doesn't require any special practices. Kids just need to show up ready to have fun.



NOVEMBER 2ND 3PM TO 6PM



JOIN US FOR THIS FUN EVENT!
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!
REGISTER ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/3RS0IMS](https://bit.ly/3RS0IMS)



Polar Express Christmas Celebration

December 22nd at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall

Register at <https://bit.ly/3Telh8d>

Reverse Advent Calendar

We will, again, be handing out baskets and advent calendars on 11/10 and 11/17 to interested families. The idea is to put something in the basket each day of Advent. If you are unable to pick up a basket we encourage you to use your own basket, bag, or box and put in items each day of Advent. Please bring the filled basket back to church between Christmas Eve and January 5th and we will deliver your donations to the food bank.



Union UCC, Neffs Youth Group

November

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.” – Dr. Seuss



November 2024 Edition

Pastor Kayli (pastorkayli@unionucc.org)

Youth Group “Friends-Giving”

All youth are invited to join us for a belly-filling, laughter having, friendship building gathering. Pastor Kayli will provide the main and the pie...you bring your favorite Thanksgiving side-dish

Date: November 23, 2024

Time: 6pm-8pm

RSVP by November 20, 2024

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F48AEAD2BA2FE3-52279307-youth>



November Together Opportunities

High School Happy Hour:

November 3 (11:30am-12:30pm)

November 17 (11:30am-12:30pm)

Open Sunday School:

November 10 (9:15am-10:15am)

November 24 (9:15-10:15am)

All gatherings in the Youth Room



SAVE THE DATE

Y.A.T. Christmas Extravaganza Lunch

December 22, 2024

11:30am-1:00pm

More Information To Come!




LIGHTS IN THE GROVE

DECEMBER 7, 2024

1PM-3PM


Join us for this annual event in our beautiful grove! Lights, snacks, crafts, and more!





Women's Retreat Weekend
April 4-6, 2025
Tuscarora Retreat Center,
Mt. Bethel
<https://www.tuscarora.org>

\$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



PNEC Ambassador Corner

Keystone Conference??

The vote by all four PA Conferences to become one Conference, the Keystone Conference, will take place at the Fall meetings of all four Conferences on **Saturday, November 9th**. All Conferences will vote at the **same time** on the **same day** with results to be known as soon as they are tallied. Tune in following the 9th of November to find out the results! **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!**

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.

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
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.
You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, whatever your schedule allows.





Here's a paper copy you can hand to a pastor or mail to the church office.
 Descriptions are at <https://www.unionucc.org/ministries-committees/>

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Which Committees or groups are you interested in?

(Circle all that apply)

Consistory

Christian Education

Welcoming

Fellowship

Worship

Financial Leadership Team

Mission

Property and Maintenance

Helping Hearts/Communion Ministers

Youth Group

Children's Ministry

Choirs and Worship Music

Which volunteer opportunities are you interested in? (Circle all that apply)

Organizing the effort to sell Union UCC merchandise like shirts, hats, mugs, and pens.

Donating a baked good to a church event.

Newsletter Assembly (weekday)

Staying in touch/visiting with those who have health challenges or are unable to attend worship.

Volunteering at a grove event with set up, food serving, ticket sales, clean up.

Family Promise Volunteer - meals, hosting supper, overnight.

Or you have another idea?

2025 Offering Envelope packets

Envelope packets for 2025 will be ready for pick up starting Sunday Nov 17 . Please pick up your packets in Memorial Hall, along with those of family members, neighbors or friends. The more envelope packets picked up, the more we save on postage costs. Memorial Hall will be open every Sunday in November and December, and the Christmas Eve dates,

Please do not use the new envelopes until 2025, everyone gets new numbers each year. Members who use the e-giving program do not receive envelope packets.

Thank you for your continued financial support to the church by dropping your envelope in the collection plates on Sundays or mailing in your envelopes to the church office. Your financial support is greatly appreciated to continue the many and varied missions and ministries of Union UCC.

The Financial Leadership Team



*Faith on Tap:
The Perfect Brew for Life*

Tuesday, November 19
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://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4CA8A823A7FA7-52307785-fotnov2024>

*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.



Save The Date

**25th Anniversary
Basket Social**
March 29-March 30, 2025

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee

Questions?
Contact Maria Beltz (wesmar92@icloud.com)
or Debbie Romig (dromig180@gmail.com)

Want To Help?

The Basket Social steering committee is looking for folks who want to help make this the best event possible! Join us for our upcoming planning meetings:
November 10, 2024 (11:30am, Room 5)
December 8, 2024 (11:30am, Youth Room, rm 15)

Want to help but can't attend?

Reach out to Maria Beltz (wesmar92@icloud.com) or
Debbie Romig (dromig180@gmail.com)



**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.)

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.

**Grief is harder around the
holidays...**

Pastor Carrie is leading
a GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays"
event on

Thursday, November 21, 6-7:30pm

Registration is required by November 10.

<https://www.griefshare.org/events/249018>

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In the tradition of giving gifts to friends and loved ones, our church has traditionally expressed our love and appreciation for our hard-working pastors and staff by presenting each with a monetary gift.

If you'd like to share in this gift, please send a check payable to Donna Christman at 5820 PA Rte 873, Slatington, PA 18080 and mail to her at no later than Sunday, Dec 17.

You may also place it in the Church and Ministry mailbox near the church office. Any questions, email Donna at dec12221@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Monday, October 21, 2024, Consistory Actions:

These notes reflect items that needed action and approval by Consistory. Standing and routine items are reported by Committees and Staff throughout the newsletter. A complete copy of the Consistory minutes can be found in the church office.

Requested approvals:

- Request from Property for funds from FOLG for a new generator voltage regulator for emergency lighting and a request for a 2025 project of replacing (9) old windows in Room 100 and the nursery. For this project funds are requested from FOLG to order the windows in 2024.
- Request from Christian Ed for funds from the Semmel Fund for curriculum, VBS, and various supplies
- Request from Church and Ministry for vacations - Pastor Kayli from 11/25 to 12/2 and Pastor Kris from 12/25 to 1/8 and also 3/10 to 3/17, although this will be flexible depending on the arrival of her grandbaby!
- Request from FLT for funds from the Mattern Humanitarian Fund for UCC Hurricane Relief and from the Mattern Music Fund for the November Festival Choir and Christmas Eve music

The above requests were approved unanimously.



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.

We have called Alloy5 to be the architect firm to help us create a plan for renovating Memorial Hall. They have impressed us with their ability to weave our core values, vision, and mission into their design ideas.

The Capital Campaign team is continuing with interviews to choose a firm that will lead us through a feasibility study to discern next steps for a capital campaign.

The Marketing Team has launched our logo! Look around to see and hear more.

The Mental Health and Wellness Team - is now called CREW - Connection, Resources, Education, Wellness.

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

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



I recently came across a quote from the The Audubon Nature Preschool that said “Children are born naturalists. They explore the world with all of their senses, experiment in the environment, and communicate their discoveries to those around them.” And we really have been seeing that with our students this month! All three age groups have been busy playing in our beautiful Grove! They have been observing and documenting the changes they are



seeing as the weather changes and we transition into Fall. The children have been noticing and exploring the new colorful leaves that fall on our playground this time of year. They have been busy little squirrels, collecting, piling, and sometimes even ‘selling’ acorns! While the students are experiencing all of the changes Fall brings, they are also busy running, jumping, and climbing! This is giving them the wonderful opportunity to discover the changes that they are making in themselves as well! Already, we have seen some of our students becoming more open to trying new gross motor activities and become able to accomplish things they weren’t able to just a month ago. Our staff feels very fortunate to have the Grove to aid in our students’ development.

Along with that we would like to give a tremendous thank you to Sharon Maletsky and her entire family. We had the privilege of teaching two of Sharon’s grandchildren several years ago! Sharon has generously made donations to our preschool in honor of her granddaughter, Amelia and her husband Mark. With those donations we were able to purchase a fantastic piece of playground equipment that the children absolutely love. If you are able, please notice the adorable caterpillar that has found a home on our playground. The students are not only learning to use their bodies in new ways, but also their imaginations. They have come up with some really cute and funny play scenarios that include riding our giant caterpillar! Again, a huge thank you to Sharon! We appreciate you and your support of our program!

This past month we had a great time mini golfing and enjoying ice cream treats at Rolling Hills Recreation. We had a fantastic turnout for our family meet and greet night! The teachers and I had a great time getting to know the students and families better. We have so many parent and family events coming up in the coming weeks! Both the Three and Four-Year-Old Preschool classes have pumpkin patch field trips coming up. On the 17th, the “Threes” are going to be visiting Valley Fruits and Veggies. They always have a fantastic program and the students have a great time. We have added a farm field trip for the “Fours” this year as well! We will be visiting Unangst Farm for the first time as a school on Oct. 30th. Unangst has a petting zoo in addition to their pumpkin curriculum that fits in perfectly with our ‘land animal’ standards. Also, at the end of the month, our students will be Trick-or-Treating around the Grove! They will have a little parade in their costumes, get treats from parent, staff, and school board volunteers, and have an adorable Halloween performance to top it all off! Lastly, our Mid-month, families will join us for a fun Open House where they have an opportunity to check out art work, learn more about our curriculum and sign-up for parent-teacher conferences.

We have a few spots available in our 3 and 4 year old classes and are still accepting registrations for this school year until the end of Dec. Please feel free to contact me, Rebekah Millroy- Director, at 610-767- 5327 or Preschool@unionucc.org



Weis 4 Schools FUNDRAISER Do you shop at Weis? You can help the preschool earn funds EVERY time you shop simply by signing up and linking your rewards card. Register your Weis Rewards card online at weis4school.com Please share this information with your friends and family. The more interest and enthusiasm we generate, the greater the benefits to our school. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Mission Offerings.

This year the Christmas Mission Offerings will be divided to Phoebe Home and Phoebe Ministries in Allentown and Disaster Relief through PNEC. Please support these two mission organizations by using the Christmas Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Christmas Mission, or electronically. Thank you, the Mission Committee.

Phoebe Home & Phoebe Ministries

Phoebe Ministries provides faith-based communities and services for senior living, including independent apartments, personal care, skilled nursing, memory support services, short-term rehab, and geriatric care management.

Phoebe Terrace features retirement living in various apartment styles from efficiencies to two bedroom suites. Phoebe Apartments offers low-cost housing to independent seniors who meet federally established age and income guidelines. Phoebe Home offers skilled and intermediate nursing care.

Phoebe's short-term rehab services are of the highest caliber, specializing in the unique needs of the aging population. The Connecting Hearts program offers individualized care plans that reflect clients' needs and wishes, emphasizing remaining at home and staying independent.

Union UCC has a long history of supporting Phoebe Home in Allentown and the overall mission of Phoebe Ministries.

Disaster Relief through Penn Northeast Conference (PNEC)

Hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, earthquakes, flooding, blizzards, and explosions are some examples of disasters, some minor, some major. No matter where a disaster happens, no matter when a disaster happens, no matter who is involved in the disaster, there are mission agencies around the world ready to HELP.

Union UCC has supported many mission agencies over the decades who specialize in being prepared to HELP when a disaster strikes. Examples are - Church World Services (Blanket Sunday & Hygiene Kits), World Central Kitchen, and The Red Cross.

Union UCC also regularly provides financial support to the Disaster Relief program through the Penn Northeast Conference. These donations are provided to communities and families in need after a disaster strikes. Current donations will be going to help families whose lives were disrupted from the recent hurricanes in the South.

Please HELP by Sharing God's Love to the World.



Thank you for your faithful generosity and for all that you do to help our church be
Relevant • Engaged • Growing

ELECTRONIC GIVING <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone. Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)

FREE VANCO MOBILE FAITH ENGAGEMENT APP Look for Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.

VENMO @unionuccneffs or QR code. Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"

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.

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris for questions or to discuss legacy and estate gifts to Union UCC.



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



venmo

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.



UPCOMING HOSTING WEEK: February 16-23, 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



Our blessings and prayers go to the friends and families of those who have passed.

Patricia Frantz passed on September 16, 2024. A private service was held October 30, 2024.

Roma Handwerk passed on October 12, 2024 Services were held on October 22, 2024 at Union UCC.



Drew Michael Lerch



Alaya Noelle Flamm



Lalik Shabazz



Elijah, Noah, and Lilliana Parrales

Union UCC Staff

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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	\$79,304.00	\$3,437.00	\$82,741.00
Expenses	\$74,017.00	\$6,796.00	\$80,813.00
8-31-2024	\$605.00	\$25,838.00	\$26,443.00

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 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, January 12 and March 30, 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. 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.

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.