

**In response to the gospel, we will love God,
love one another, and love the world
by making disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Union Church Staff

Billy Younger Lead Pastor
Tom Ribar Associate Pastor of Youth & Families
Monica Laughery Office Manager
Kellyn von Arx Assistant Director of Youth & Families
John M. Seybert Director of Music Ministries
Anthony Calvario Praise Team Leader
Winona Johnston Discipleship Coordinator
Sue Strunk Organist
Rebecca Safko Treasurer
George Shumek Financial Secretary
Katie C. Parr Childcare Center Director
Carl Reed Sexton
Sally Andrews Pastoral Care Coordinator
Mimi Massucci Wedding Coordinator
Sue Shumek New Member Coordinator

2018 Leadership of Union Church

Session Elders:

Clerk of Session-Sally Andrews
Administrative Support Team-Sam Wilson
Childcare Committee-Gail Jackson
Discipleship Committee-Winona Johnston
Fellowship Committee-JoAnn Barker
Finance Committee-Jeff Scott
Outreach/Mission Team-Scott Davis
Nominating Committee-Mariann Bertocchi
Safety & Security Team-Tim Jackson
Worship Committee-Tom MacLachlan
Capital Campaign Construction Project-Don Jukes

Trustees:

Donald Lee Tidball, President
Bob Winning, Vice-President
Michael Carr
Nick Cue
Dan Hancock
Chauncey Smith

Deacons:

Cathy Scott, Moderator
Gwen Davidson, Secretary
Judy Bocek, Treasurer
Karen Connell
Betty Fair
Nancy Fotovich
Karen Jakub
C.J. Johnston
Sally Lickovich
Carole MacLachlan
Kristin Mickle
Sue Shumek
Michelle Smith
Pedro Torrez
Bob Weber

HILLTOP HERALD

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his suffering, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10,11

Dear People of the Resurrection,

It's almost Easter and we will soon join Christians all over the world in a great shout, "He is risen. He is risen indeed!" Powerful hymns of the church along with contemporary songs of joy will join one another in a thousand different languages to proclaim the central truth of the Christian faith, "On the third day, he rose from the dead..." Sermons join this chorus explaining, proclaiming, declaring, and applying the reality of the resurrection to millions of congregations. Preachers like me will come at the ancient texts from a variety of directions. And out of the blizzard of words we will attempt to speak it in fresh, relevant ways that touch lives and transform hearts.

Common to all, of course, is the astounding and transforming truth, God raised Jesus from the dead and nothing will ever be the same again. It can't be the same. The risen Christ enters the lives of all who trust in him and through his men and women, his church, he invades the world. But behind our witness stands another reality. This truth is part of the apostle's witness from beginning to end. "We have seen him," the people cried with joy. Then their worlds turned upside down.

We see the risen Christ too. Not like they did, of course. But we see him in Scripture. We behold him with eyes of faith. And once-in-a-while, thank God, we see the Risen One in each other as well. We shouldn't be surprised. After all, we live and breathe in a community of faith energized by the presence of the Risen One who promises to be with us always. What a great promise! What a great privilege! Of course, I would invite all of you to join us this Easter season and take advantage of the several worship opportunities that we have planned for you during Holy week:

Thursday, April 18: Maundy Thursday Communion Service (7:30p.m.)
Friday, April 19: Good Friday Tenebrae Choir Service (7:30p.m.)
Easter Sunrise Service (6:15a.m.)
Easter Contemporary Service (9:15a.m.)
Easter Traditional Service (11:00a.m.)

Again, what a great opportunity to worship our great and risen Lord! Come and see!

In Resurrection Power,

Pastor Billy



**UNION
CHURCH**

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SPRING Edition: April/May, 2019

~ THE HILLTOP HERALD IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON THE NEWS AND EVENTS PAGE OF THE UNION CHURCH WEBSITE ~
2019 PUBLICATIONS:

June 2nd with ALL articles due by noon on May 28th • July 28th with ALL articles due by noon on July 23rd

YOUTH MINISTRY (Grades 6-12)

Union Church Mission Trip: July 12 - 20, 2019, Jackson, MS. Information meeting: February 17th @ 12:30 in the Noble House. The cost of this trip will be \$500/participant. \$250 after fundraising. This trip is open to any student in 6th - 12th grade (this is a "multi-generational" whole church trip, so parents can sign-up too!). Due to the unique situation of our church mission trip starting as the high school trip ends, we are encouraging the high school students to take part in both trips, but we understand this might not be possible for every student. We will make transportation arrangements for students who can only take part in one trip.

Surf City: Aug 4 - 9, 2019, Silver Lake, MI. This trip is put on by the same organization that holds Laurelville Mud Weekends. This trip is only open to students in 6th - 8th grade during the 2018-19 school year. The total cost of the trip is \$420/student. A \$100 deposit is due by February 25, 2019 to complete the sign-up. Final payments will be due by July 28, 2019.

Building authentic faith that the students of Union Church can carry on to college and beyond.

- » Youth Bible Study (6th-12th grade)–Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00p.m.
- » Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grade)–Sundays, 6:30-7:30p.m. . .message and hangout.
- » High School Youth Group (9th-12th grade)–Sundays, 8:00-9:00p.m. . .message and hangout.

 follow us: unionyouthministry

Youth Ministry Contacts:

- * Kellyn von Arx, Assistant Director of Youth & Families | kellyn@unionpresbychurch.org | 412.337.6417
- * Rev. Tom Ribar, Associate Pastor of Youth & Families | tbribar@outlook.com | 412.977.9454

NOTES FROM SESSION

As we experience the sunshine and warmer temperature of Spring, Union Church congregation gathers to celebrate a special Easter Season. Easter services include Maundy Thursday with communion at 7:30p.m. Our faithful choir's presentation of a Tenebrae service Good Friday at 7:30p.m. A full day celebrating the Lord's resurrection Easter Sunday with a sunrise service at 6:15a.m. Joyful worship services are planned to glorify the Lord. Bad weather and cloudy days are behind us and we rejoice in the many signs of growth here at Union. Our renovation is moving ahead as we see a beautiful new entry way nearly ready for use, and great open space in fellowship hall. Patience and prayer have resulted in an area we are thankful for as we look to the future. As we begin a new season this fall, keep the second Sunday in September as a special time to officially dedicate our renovation. Along with the structural improvements we are growing our membership. Session received 17 new members in March. Sue Shumek, faithful new member coordinator, has listed those members in this issue of the Herald. Take time to get to know these folks. The first Sunday of each month we celebrate communion here at Union. We are pleased to let you know we served more than 160 members communion on each of those Sundays. Session members and Deacons are appreciated for their work in preparing and serving communion; and we are grateful to Cathy Scott for baking our communion bread. January 2019 brought three "new" gentlemen to our Session Board. Elder Sam Wilson as lead Elder on AST, Tim Jackson as lead elder on Safety and Security Team, and Don Jukes as lead elder of Capital Campaign Construction Project. These men have served for a while in these capacities but are now recognized as Elders.

2018 Session Elders:

Administrative Support Team-Sam Wilson
Childcare Committee-Gail Jackson
Clerk of Session-Sally Andrews
Discipleship Committee-Winona Johnston
Fellowship Team-JoAnn Barker
Finance Committee-Jeff Scott
Outreach/Mission Team-Scott Davis
Nominating Committee-Mariann Bertocchi
Worship Committee-Tom MacLachlan

Submitted By: Sally Andrews, Elder

OUTREACH-MISSION TEAM

Meet: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7p.m.
—all are welcome!—

Mission Trip 2019 - Jackson, Mississippi, John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation. July 13–20, 2019. 20+ folks from Union have expressed interest and 8 from Mt. Pisgah. trip coordinator: Pastor Tom Ribar (412.977.9454)

PRISM (Pittsburgh Regional International Student Ministries) – Annual Banquet at the LeMont is Thursday, May 2, 2019 Buffet Brunch 11:30–1p.m. or Dinner 5–9p.m. Union will reserve 2 tables of 8 guests for the Buffet Brunch. Please see Joan Richards (412.298.8045) or Sinikka Davis (412.956.3957) to express an interest!

PRISM will have an August furniture and supplies drive for back to college international students arriving in Pittsburgh. We also serve with the Oakland International Fellowship/Pittsburgh Chinese Church through Jesse & Emily McLaughlin.

Pierogi Making & Sale - May 17-19; **Hoagie Sale**- June 2019 supports Mission Trips this year and in the future.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras - June 18-26, 2019; trip positions open to serve with Lisa Anderson-Umana & North Way Christian Community Church. Cost is \$2,000 per person. See Scott K. Davis if you have any interest/questions!

Pittsburgh Pirates Faith Night - Saturday, June 22 @ 4:05p.m. No midnight testimonies! Union has 50 seats reserved!

New Wilmington Mission Conference - July 19-26, 2019 in New Wilmington, PA! Scholarships available for Unionites through Mission & Christian Education.

Homeless Camp Ministry - Third Saturday of the following 2019 months April 20; May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, and November 16. Other dates can be added, you can show up and help the ministry on ANY Saturday! Arrive at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community Church at 2700 Jane Street, Southside, Pittsburgh at 12p.m., pack 40 lunches, pray, and head out to the camps and tent sites. Or carpool from Union @ 11:30a.m. on the day of service. Volunteers must be age 15+, wear heavy shoes/boots, prepared to hike on hilly trails, railroad tracks, and duck under bridges to serve in this outreach ministry. Contact: Scott K. Davis

'The Table' - Outreach meal program through Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community at 2700 Jane Street, Southside Pittsburgh: Union's Outreach-Mission Team and volunteers provide a meal for 60-80 people every Tuesday and Thursday evening. 4:30p.m. for final meal prep, 5:30p.m. meal starts, clean-up at 6p.m. 2019 Meal Service dates: May 28, July 25, September 24, October 29, and Thanksgiving Day, November 28. *Pray, Cook, Bake, Serve, Clean, Care, Pray!* Contacts: Sinikka Davis (412.956.3957) and/or Scott K. Davis (412.370.7899).

10th Annual Chili Cook-off - raised \$5,605 to support the Perkins Foundation Jackson, Mississippi 2019 Mission Trip and Future Mission Adventures. The Chili Tasting & Voting tickets raised \$495, Chance Tickets \$755, Donation \$50, and the Live Auction raised \$4,305. Chili Cook-off Winners: People's Choice Award: 1st Place Anthony Calvario; 2nd Tim Jackson, 3rd Michael Swearingen & his father-in-law, John Smith. Secret Judges Award: 1st Place Tim Jackson; 2nd Anthony Calvario; 3rd Swearingen & Smith! The other Chili Chefs were: Pastor Billy's Chili, Pastor Tom Ribar, Bonnie Edwards, Chris LeVasseur, Deena Coletta & Jen Tinivell, Ray Strobel, Scott Miller, Dale Plannick, Michele Hall, Mark Diskin, Sr. and Drew vonArx. *The 11th Annual Chili Cook-off 2020 will be Sunday March 22!*

Vista Coffee Project - Drew von Arx is going to roast coffee again to sell at Union to benefit Christ for the City International in San Salvador, El Salvador. Jake & Becky Hjemvick & their family are missionaries that we support in El Salvador.

Union College Students Christmas Gift Cards - send packages to our students before finals in December and April. Thanks to Lori Wildman for heading this College Outreach project over the last several years. Connie Ripplow will lead this endeavor in 2019!

Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter at Northside Common Ministries– Serve a meal to the 22 men residing at the shelter on the North Side, Pittsburgh. 2019: Union Meal Service dates: May 9, September 12, and November 14. Leave Union around 6:30p.m. Contacts: Tom MacLachlan (412.626.9146) and Joan Richards (412.298.8045)

Please consider an ongoing monthly gift or a periodic gift to the Union Benevolence-Mission Fund!
Union's 2019 Mission Fund Budget is \$52,500 or \$4,375 per month. Regular monthly donation commitments are needed!

⇒ **2019 Outreach-Mission Team meetings at 7p.m. in the Noble House:** 2nd Tuesday of the month—May 14th
⇒ Everyone is welcome to meetings! Serving Christ together, Scott K. Davis 412.370.7899



MUSIC MINISTRIES

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." Psalm 96:1

Pianist Needed: Praise Team is looking for a member of the congregation who may be interested in playing the piano to consider contributing to worship. If you are interested or have questions about playing the piano for the Praise Team, please contact Anthony Calvario or see him after the 9:15a.m. worship service.

CHILDCARE CENTER NEWS

Happy Spring! The childcare program is thrilled to have some warmer weather so we can get back outside, play on the playground, and enjoy walks in our parking lot. We have a busy month with speech and vision screenings, picture day, and preschool graduation practices (May 22nd). Students will be studying flowers, chicks & bunnies, The Easter Story, frogs, and the Earth this month. We are closed on Friday, April 19th to observe Good Friday, but will enjoy Easter egg hunts the day before during our classroom Easter parties. We will return the following Monday, April 22nd to celebrate Earth Day! Our preschoolers will be going on a litter walk to help keep the church grounds clean; and our toddlers will be working together to create giant collages of the world to hang in their classrooms. We are looking forward to yet another busy month!

Katie C. Parr, Director | 412.787.7553 phone | 412.787.8126 fax | childcare@unionpresbychurch.org

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE • REMEMBERING THE PAST

It is very evident that we are planning for the future with the renovations taking place. Some have wondered why it has taken us so long to realize that we needed an elevator. Whatever the reason—was it that those in the past were more active and maybe more fit to climb the stairs? Was it that our members did not reach the age we now do; or they did not experience the physical problems? Could it be that we were “too” worried about the expense? There is the belief that forming a committee and doing the work is extremely slow for Presbyterians—whatever the reason, we are now completing this much needed improvement.

Have you realized that it has been 25 years since we celebrated our 200th anniversary? There are plans to publish a booklet recalling and celebrating the changes that have occurred during the last 25 years. If you have an event or change that you feel should be noted, please contact: Don Jukes, head usher; Jim Strunk of the Bicentennial Book Committee; or Sally Andrews, Clerk of Session.

A beautiful hand painted cup celebrating Union Church's Bicentennial was presented to the church by a member from the 1940's, the Learish family. The cup from the 1894 celebration is in the curio in the lounge.

Submitted by: Sally Andrews

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS GROUP Meet: 1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 9:30a.m. & 6p.m.

Looking for an outreach/mission project? Come and learn how to knit or crochet baby afghans and laprobes.

Knitters and crocheters needed: Our group is going strong with 100 afghans made/donated In 2019. We're still looking to include you in our group! We make afghans the size of a receiving blanket [32"x35"], or preemie-sized [20"x20"], and wheelchair-sized laprobes [32"x36"]. We meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month in the lounge at 9:30a.m. Please consider joining us in this outreach opportunity. For additional information, contact Lorraine (412.452.0297) or Ellen (724.601.6268)

Knitting rhyme: In through the front door/once around the back/peep through the window and off jumps jack.

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Meet: 1st Tuesday of the month at 7p.m.

Servant Hearts Needed! The Fellowship Team needs you! . . . to help plan, create, prepare, and/or serve at any of the monthly events. Serve when you are available (one Sunday a month or one Sunday a year—we share times and tasks). Come to the meeting May 7th at 7p.m., or join us the 1st Tuesday of any month—we welcome and need you! Contact: JoAnn Barker 412.494.5507

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

We rejoice that 5 new members joined our congregation this April 2019

Christie Cyktor joined our church by a profession of faith. She lives in the Southside. She is the sister of Kari Calvario and the identical twin of Jen Minnier.

Brittany Jackson joined by a profession of faith. She lives in Sewickley with her husband Chris and 2-year old son, Lucas.

Shelley and Edward Jackson both joined by a re-profession of faith. They are originally from New York and now reside in Oakdale with their son Cooper who is 9-years old. They are Red Sox baseball fans.

Emily Pasquarelli Jones joined our church by a re-profession of faith. She lives in South Fayette with her husband Brian. She recently married in January. She enjoys cooking and baking.

Joyce and Ray Lemaster recently joined our church by a letter of transfer from the Carnegie Presbyterian Church. They reside at Cloverleaf Estates in Carnegie.

Nancy McGilvray joined our church by a letter of transfer from Church by the Sea in Madeira Beach, FL. She now lives in Robinson Township. She enjoys playing pickle ball.

Jen and Christopher Minnier recently joined our church. Jen by a profession of faith and Chris by a re-profession of faith. They were recently married at Union, and now live in Whitehall. Jen is the sister of Kari Calvario and identical twin of Christie Cyktor. Chris is originally from Williamsport, PA.

Nicole Pajak joined our church by a letter of transfer from Holy Trinity Church. She recently moved back to Pittsburgh after living in South Carolina. Nicole is a WVU sports fan, and currently lives in Robinson Township.

Tracy Pasquarelli joined our church by a re-profession of faith. Tracy lives in Hopewell Township with her husband. She is the mother of Emily Jones.

Misty and John Seybert joined our church by a re-profession of faith. They live in Greensburg with their two daughters, Amelia and Claire. John has been the Director of Music Ministries at Union for 5-years.

Kellyn and Drew von Arx recently joined our church by a re-profession of faith. They live in Mt. Lebanon with their daughter, Lorelei, who is 6-years old. Kellyn is our Assistant Director of Youth & Families. Drew is the leader of a “Young” Men’s Group that meet once a month at the church.

Pam Weaver joins our church by a letter of transfer from Cove United Presbyterian in Weirton. She lives in Weirton, WV. Pam has two grown daughters, Kelsey and Rachel.

Sue Shumek, New Member Coordinator

DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministries

The DiscipleSHIP Team is planning several changes to our children and youth ministry that are to be in place for this fall. These changes will help us to serve our families and the children of Union Church and fulfill our mission to make disciples of even our youngest community members! Here is a summary of some of the changes that we will be introducing this fall:

1. All children (except for infants going to the nursery) will join families at the start of worship in both services.
2. Children participating in DiscipleSHIP will be dismissed to do so at the call for the offering; the children will be shepherded to their classrooms by designated assistants from each of the classrooms (and/or parents if they would like to do so).
3. The classroom breakdown during the early service will be as follows: nursery (infant—age 3); Pre-K (ages 3-5); K-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade (partial break-out weekly, from the larger group of K-5th).
4. The classroom offering for the second service will utilize Young Children in Worship – so the curriculum will not be duplicated by the second service experience; the age break-out during the second service will be for children ages 3–2nd grade. Children 3rd-5th grade will remain in worship.

We plan to accomplish the following objectives through these changes:

- Provide a consistent nurture of our children/ministry to our families at both services
- Introduce children to the larger, cross-generational worship life of the congregation
- Address appropriate developmental needs of children
- Increase the opportunities for Union members to use their gifts in response to the call we all share every time we baptize an infant or young child!

Over the course of the next few weeks, the DiscipleSHIP Team will zero in on this last bullet point. We believe that there are adults of all shapes and sizes (i.e. parents, grandparents, young married with no children, young singles...) who God has gifted for this service of teaching and nurturing our children. We will be "calling" folks to consider serving as a member of the DiscipleSHIP team. This may mean anything from weekly teaching for one of the age groups, to serving as a classroom assistant. A person may serve one week a month or more frequently...the DiscipleSHIP team is ready to work with individual needs in scheduling teachers and assistants. Teachers will have primary responsibility for implementing the curriculum for the respective age group. The assistants will help with shepherding the children to and from the CE building, provide one-on-one help with learning tasks, and provide important personal care and nurture for the children.

We invite each Union member to prayerfully consider the possibility that the Lord is calling you to some aspect of our ministry to children and youth. (In addition to regular Sunday nurture opportunities, you may also consider the Lord's call to serve with Summer J.A.M., and seasonal ministry events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk-or-Treat; or ministry with Jr. and Sr. High youth on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings.) We are excited for the new look to our DiscipleSHIP ministry this fall. Please keep the DiscipleSHIP Team in prayer as preparations are made for the newly shaped ministry.

If you would like to take a deeper look at the different opportunities to serve, as well as the curriculum to be used, please mark your calendar for May 19th. After each worship service on May 19th, members of the DiscipleSHIP team will be in Fellowship Hall with samples of the curriculum, descriptions of the different positions (teacher, assistant, event-helper for Summer J.A.M., etc.).

We also want to announce one other and more immediate change that will begin with the summer schedule. During the summer months, when we move to one worship time each week, we will only offer nursery for infants through 3 years of age. All other children will remain in worship. We will have some worship aids and activities for younger children to use during worship. We trust that Pre-K and school age children will be blessed by worshiping with the larger Union family!

We will appreciate your prayers for our ministry to children and youth in the coming months!
The DiscipleSHIP Team

DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministries , cont.

9:15a.m. Contemporary Worship Service with discipleSHIP Children's Ministries* and Nursery Care*

11a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Nursery Care*

Preschool (age 3–4)* learns "God Made Me, God Loves Me, God is Always With Me".

Elementary (K–grade 5)* creatively get to know God through Bible teachings built around monthly virtues or characteristics of God.

Nursery Care (infants—age 3)* Children will be cared for by gentle, loving, compassionate hands while you attend the worship service.

*All children MUST sign in at KidCheck on the 1st floor of Christian Education Building.

DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministry Contacts:

* Winona Johnston, Discipleship Children's Ministries Coordinator | winonaj@verizon.net | 412.498.2927

* Rev. Tom Ribar, Associate Pastor of Youth & Families | tbarbar@outlook.com | 412.977.9454

REGISTER NOW:
Summer J.A.M.



... June 17-21, 9a.m.—12p.m.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Bible study: last Tuesday of the month at 12:30p.m.
—all women are welcome!—*

OUR PURPOSE
Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered
By the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:
to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
to support the mission of the church worldwide,
to work for justice and peace and
to build an inclusive, caring community of women
that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA)
and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Amid the construction dust, Presbyterian women have been faithfully working to fulfill the purpose of our group. We were delighted to host the World Day of Prayer for churches in the area. For many years a group of local churches, usually led by the women in each church, have prepared to present a worship time celebrating mission and especially women. Through many years we have heard from women of countries around the world telling us of their needs and asking for prayer support. The first

Friday in March our church hosted friends from seven or eight churches in the Montour and West Allegheny neighborhoods. Women from Slovenia wrote the worship service, ladies from Union presented the service, and we heard from leaders of a mission ministry in McKees Rocks reaching people with the Gospel.

The Lunch, Learn, and Laugh book study group worked to complete 26 fleece blankets as part of the Pittsburgh Presbyterian Women's mission project to share with Jeremiah's place, a crisis nursery care center in East Liberty. As well as the blankets, some small knit bears were created by some of the women. The blankets and bears will bless these very young children, along with some books and financial support for maintaining this service to the families.

Pittsburgh Presbyterian Women will meet for their Spring Gathering at the Oakdale Church on April 27. At that time, leaders will be elected, our Birthday Offering for mission work will be dedicated, and a time of worship and fellowship will be enjoyed. All the women of our congregation are "Presbyterian Women" and are invited to join us for a morning of fun, food, and fellowship. If you are interested please let us know ASAP. As with so many groups at this time, PW needs committed members to help us. We may not be very vocal or visible but we are always at work trying to meet needs and to fulfill our purpose. Look for us.

Submitted By: Sally Andrews