

**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
Kelsey Liwosz Childcare Center Director
Carl Reed Sexton
Sally Andrews Pastoral Care Coordinator
Mimi Massucci Wedding Coordinator
Sue Shumek New Member Coordinator

2019 Leadership of Union Church

Session Elders:

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

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

225th Anniversary/Dedication Sunday: Join us September 8th to celebrate 225 years of God's faithfulness to Union Church. We will also be dedicating our new entryway to the Lord. Worship at 10a.m.; dedication at 11a.m.; reception to follow. Please invite your family and friends to share this special day. Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY WORSHIP
Beginning
September 15, 2019

Contemporary
Worship **9:15 a.m.**

Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Traditional
Worship **11:00 a.m.**

Growth Group Opportunities this Fall

◊ **Wisdom Literature Lecture Series:** a six-part lecture series studying the main Wisdom Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Song of Songs and the Psalms. In this series we will examine the Wisdom Literature not only for wise principles for living, but also to meet afresh the Wisest Person these books point to—Jesus.

Mondays, 7-8:30p.m.: Sept. 30; Oct. 7,14, and 21; Nov. 4 and 11

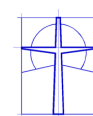
◊ **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University:** a 9-week course that teaches a biblical approach to personal budgeting and finance. The cost for the Financial Peace University course is \$109/family. This cost covers the extensive print resource, and online access to additional materials for the course. There are scholarship funds available if the cost is prohibitive. Please contact Pastor Tom directly to inquire about scholarship help.

Wednesdays, 7-8:30p.m., Sept.25–November 20

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

UPCOMING 2019 PUBLICATIONS:

October 6th with all articles due by noon on October 1st • November 3rd with all articles due by noon on October 29th
December 8th with all articles due by noon on December 3rd



UNION CHURCH

6165 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks, PA 15136-1338 • 412.787.1818 • www.unionpresbychurch.org

September 2019

UNION YOUTH MINISTRY (UYM); Grades 6-12

Here is what will be going on this Fall:

September

- ◊ Friday, September 13 - Rend Collective Concert @ Grove City College. We will leave the church parking lot at 5PM and return by 11:30PM. Cost is \$35/ticket, plus \$ for dinner (will we stop for dinner on our way to the concert).
- ◊ Monday, September 16 - Weekly small groups start!
- ◊ Sunday, September 22 - 6-8PM Youth Group

October

- ◊ Friday, October 11 - First UYM Coffeehouse (6:30-9PM). The band, Larga Veda will be playing!
- ◊ Sunday, October 27 - 4-6pm Union Church "Trunk or Treat". The Youth ministry helps run this event. 6-8PM Youth Group

November (*No Coffeehouse this month due to Laurelville)

- ◊ November, 8-10 - Middle School Laurelville
- ◊ November 15-17 - High School Laurelville
- ◊ Sunday, November 24 - 6-8PM Youth Group

December (*No coffeehouse this month due to Parents Night Out)

- ◊ Friday, December 13 - 6-9PM Parents Night Out. This is a yearly event that the Youth Ministry holds to say "thank you" for all the church does for us. We ask all students to be present to help provide childcare for the evening for families of Union.
- ◊ Sunday, December 22 - 6-8PM Youth Group Christmas Party

Building authentic faith that the students of Union Church can carry into adulthood.

- **Weekly Small Groups**
 - ◊ **Middle School** (6th-8th grade) **Girls** Wednesdays, 4-5:30p.m.
 - ◊ **Middle School** (6th-8th grade) **Boys** Thursdays, 4-5:30p.m.
 - ◊ **High School** (9th-12th grade) **Boys and Girls** Mondays, 6:30-8p.m.
- **Monthly Youth Group** (Combined 6th-12th grade) **Boys and Girls**
 - ◊ 4th Sunday of the month, 6-8p.m.
- **Monthly UYM Coffeehouse**
 - ◊ 2nd Friday of the month 6:30-9p.m.

*All above meetings take place in the lower level of the Christian Education Building, unless otherwise noted.

Stay up to date on UYM events and activities by checking out the "Youth Ministry" page on the Union Church website and [@unionyouthministry](mailto:info@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 | tbarbar@outlook.com | 412.977.9454

NOTES FROM SESSION

We begin this fall with the celebration of a 225-year History of Union Church; and also a step forward into the future with the renovation of the entrance to include access for those who have difficulty with steps. We have planned to honor the Lord with a special service of gratitude as we celebrate his blessings upon this congregation for many years. By the time you read this the 225th Anniversary/Day of Celebration may be over but the next years are just beginning. Take some time to reflect on the way this congregation has been a part of your life. Many churches are struggling with very small congregations but we have a sizable group of faithful members that enable us to reach out and carry God's message to many different people and places.

As we return to 2-worship services some members will not be attending the same service. Summer one-worship service gave us the opportunity to see some of the congregation we miss during the fall to spring season, but please make an effort to keep in touch with some who do not attend the same service that you do. Think about joining a committee, a Growth Group, or serving in some way. As we continue through the fall there will be requests for help within various groups, consider answering those calls.

For your information communion was served in July to 127 and in August to 151.

Submitted By: Sally Andrews, Elder/Clerk of Session

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Worship Committee-Tom MacLachlan

CHILDCARE CENTER NEWS

Summer camp has just ended for the Childcare Center and we are gearing up for our 2019-2020 school year. September is going to be a busy month for teachers and students alike! In preparation for Grandparent's Day, our preschool classrooms will be participating in Tropical Planting Plus and will plant a special plant for their grandparents! We are looking forward to our Grandparent's Day Breakfast which will be on September 9th. Additionally, we are preparing for our fall picture days approaching on September 5th and 6th. We will resume our fall schedule which means students will resume Time with Tom and spend 30-minutes each week delving into the Bible with Pastor Tom.

Kelsey Liwosz, Director | 412.787.7553 phone | 412.787.8126 fax | childcare@unionpresbychurch.org

UNION GOLF LEAGUE

The Union Golf League at Moon Golf Club is every Monday at 5:12p.m. (weather permitting). Everyone is welcome! Contact: Scott [scott.antonine@gmail.com]



HOUSE SAFETY TEAM

Mission: Create a simple yet effective plan to insure the safety and security for our members and visitors.

Message To The Congregation

As summer is winding down, the kids are back in school, and our church is celebrating a milestone achievement . . .the completion of the beautiful new entryway and facility upgrades. We look forward to new beginnings in church life also.

One update to note is 'house safety' during services. We will implement the single entryway to provide one point to easily enter the church on ground level and walk up the nice wide staircase or get whisked upstairs in the elevator to the main floor of the Sanctuary. To enhance our ability to welcome all, we will focus on using the new entrance as the only point of entry into the building. Here a greeting team will welcome you and provide any assistance to find seating, DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministries, or Nursery Care as needed.

While we will only use the new entryway as a single point of access, in any emergency situation please use all exit doors to quickly move out of the building.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we look forward to the 225th Anniversary and Dedication of the new entryway on Sunday, September 8th.

Tim Jackson, House Safety Team Lead



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

After a summer of relaxation and warm sunshine, we are ready to begin our fall season as we plan for a time of study and growth in our women's groups and in the church. Presbyterian Women and the Lunch, Learn, and Laugh ladies met twice this summer to share our plans, family events, and to discuss the ways we are following Christ's teachings every day. We will begin our Bible Study on the last Tuesday of September at 12:30 p.m. in the lounge. Kathy Thomas has agreed to lead this study and the book we will use is the Bible. In addition to the Bible Study, women are invited to join our book study every Tuesday at noon. The book chosen to start our fall conversation is John Alcorn's book titled HEAVEN.

The Presbyterian Women of the Pittsburgh Presbytery will gather at Bethel Presbyterian Church on September 21st at 9 a.m. The theme this year is based on 1Peter 4:10 "SHOWER OF BLESSINGS AND LOVE". Our worship leader is Rev. Deborah Smith from Liberty Presbyterian Church in McKeesport. The Mission Project, "Foster Love Project", will be kicked off on this day, we are asked to bring gift cards to share with foster families and children. We will also learn about another project—knitted knockers—which are handmade prosthesis for women who have under gone mastectomies. In addition to taking part in mission projects, we will have time for worship, learning, and fellowship. Check the PW bulletin board by the kitchen for more information.

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.

Submitted By: Sally Andrews

OUTREACH-MISSION NEWS

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

Robinson Twp. Autumn Festival: Union Church will have a booth at Robinson Township's Annual Autumn Festival on Saturday, September 14th from 12 – 9 p.m., Burkett Park, 5515 Moon Run Rd, McKees Rocks, PA. We will sell cotton candy and cold brew coffee. Please consider becoming a part of the team and help at our booth. Shift sign-ups are available; or reach out to Scott K. Davis [412.370.7899] or Amanda Wodzinski [412.600.9496].

Homeless Camp Ministry - Third Saturday of the month [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: 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).

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 Hjemwick & 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 Ripple 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 Church Meal Service dates: September 12, and November 14. Leave Union around 6:30p.m. Contacts: Tom MacLachlan (412.626.9146) and Joan Richards (412.298.8045)

World Vision Intergenerational Service - World Vision International Distribution Headquarters @ 110 Overlook Drive, Sewickley, PA. We sort and pack clothing (sometimes books) for shipment to inner-cities or third world countries. Age 12 & up. 2019 service work dates: October 12. We arrive at World Vision at 9a.m. and are done by 12p.m. We can carpool from Union at 8:35a.m. Contact Scott K. Davis (412.370.7899)

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—September 10, 2019

⇒ Everyone is welcome to meetings!

Serving Christ together, Scott K. Davis 412.370.7899

DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministries

Dear Union Church Family,

On behalf of the Discipleship Committee, we wanted to say...

Thank you!

Thanks for leading, serving and investing in the lives of families. Maybe you served in DiscipleSHIP in years past, maybe you served in Summer J.A.M. this past summer, whatever it is you have done for our children at Union...thanks for being there! You are an essential piece of these children's lives!

So I have one question for you....

Will you consider serving in DiscipleSHIP?

This is possible! Investing in the next generation is possible. All it takes is people like you! I am not asking you to "give up your time". I am asking you to step up to the plate and make a difference; to re-calibrate your priorities; and to serve this year.

*Yes, this is HUGE

*Maybe it means that you might not be able to do something personally that you really enjoy.

*Or it could mean handing over another serving opportunity to other capable hands so that you can commit to DiscipleSHIP and the children's programs at Union Church.

When we think of all that children will be exposed to in their life, we want them to have a solid foundation – a solid rock to place their feet. We as a church family, want to NOW instill in them the core values and lessons, so that when the storms of life come, they will not be shaken. Every child in our community needs this Rock Solid foundation... Jesus Christ!

There are many opportunities in which you can serve in our Children's Ministry at both worship services this fall, we will offer: Nursery Care (birth-3 years), teachers and assistants for 3-5 year olds, K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade. Greeters for KidCheck.

Still not sure? Call me or email with any additional questions. winonaj@verizon.net or 412-498-2927.

Blessings, Winona

DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministries, cont.

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

All children (except nursery care) will join the family in worship and be dismissed at Tithing/Offering. Children will be shepherded to respective classrooms by designated assistants for each classroom (parents are welcome to escort if they wish).

• **9:15a.m. Contemporary Worship Service**
Nursery Care (infant—age 3) and **DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministries***
 Pre-K (age 3-5) - 2nd level of Christian Education Building.
 K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade - 1st level of Christian Education Building.

• **11a.m. Traditional Worship Service**
Nursery Care (infant—age 3) and **DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministries***
 Children age 3-2nd grade. Children 3rd-5th grade will remain in worship. The classroom will utilize Young Children in Worship – so the curriculum will not be duplicated by the second service experience.

* All children (birth thru 5th grade) must sign in at KidCheck at the main entrance to the Sanctuary.

Note: Communion Sunday all 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students remain in worship.

DiscipleSHIP Children's Ministry Contacts:

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



Sunday, October 27

4:00-6:00p.m.

An event for children (birth thru 5th grade) & Family!

What is it? A Trunk-or-Treat opportunity for kids and a treat giving opportunity for adults. It allows us to gather as a community and provide a safe and secure Halloween environment for children. Kids go trick or treating "station to station"; while adults pass out treats from their station inside the Christian Education Building.

What do we need? Kids (birth to 5th grade) to come and "Trunk-or-Treat". Adults come with decorations for your station and bags of candy to pass out. Make it fun and wear a costume...enjoy!

* All stations need set-up and ready to "treat" by 4p.m.

* In addition to Trunk-or-Treat, refreshments, face painting, and games will be available.

Mark your calendar . . .

Don't miss this fabulous fall event!

