

The Link

Unionville Presbyterian Church

**NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER 2018**

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Stewardship: Takers, Keepers, Givers

Giving goes to the heart of what it means to be created in the image of God. Among the varieties of people I have encountered three groups emerge: takers, keepers, and givers.

The takers might be characterized by a man Michael Lewis mentions in his book, Flash Boys A Wall Street Revolt. (Norton and Company, 2014). The book is about the darker side of Wall Street. The man says, "I'm not happy just to sit in first class. I'm only happy if everyone else I know is sitting in economy." Grasping, claiming, acquiring, when having has nothing to do with needing but is only the outward manifestation of a sick soul. The takers are the unhappiest people I've met.

The keepers hold on to what they've got as though, in the words of the great singer/songwriter/drummer, Don Henley, "hearses come with luggage racks." Keepers have forgotten that what they have was given to them on loan from God. At most, we are temporary stewards of what we have. The keepers live in fear that they will lose what they possess, until their possessions possess them. They are not a happy group either.

But the givers are the happiest people I have ever met. God does not create because God is driven by need, by insecurities, or by self-interest. God does not create from a relentless desire to take or keep. God creates from boundless love; love that finds its expres-



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sion and joy in giving itself away.

The core of our humanity, the deep secret of our human identity, the mystery at the heart of all we are is that we are created in God's image and are never truly ourselves, never truly at rest, and never truly joyful until we participate in God's love which gives itself away. We were created to live this life of God, the Great Giver. When we participate as broadly and as deeply as we can in the culture of giving, our lives find their truest meaning. When we give, we find ourselves resonating with the life of the God in Whose image we are created. When we give, we discover a happiness and joy



that endures.

Join me during this season of consecration! Our November 18 we will bless the bounty of our Spread the Warmth campaign and hear from those that collected the winter gear and also the groups that will benefit from receiving them. November 25 will be the day we receive our 2019 stewardship commitment cards and celebrate God's many blessings at UPC with a Consecration Celebration with a fabulous fellowship event using our new kitchen immediately following worship! Look for a letter from the Stewardship Ministry Team and return the Commitment Card. Let's be the givers we are created to be and fully participate in the joy of giving!

Embracing Advent

The Advent Season, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, are perhaps the busiest, most hectic times of the year. In the breathless rush to make the most of the season, it is easy to forget that this sacred season is less about "holiday cheer" and more about a "holy child."

Advent is our opportunity –a gift from God in itself –to re-orient ourselves to receive the gift of Jesus. Here, in descending order, are the Top 10 things **not** to do during Advent.

10. Do not forget your rituals: Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different. Rituals in your personal and/or family life, can help you slow down

and prayerfully ponder the gift of the Incarnation, the Son of God made flesh. Take time daily to relax, meditate or pray.



9. Do not add to the frenzy: If you are a parent, try not to add to the craziness of this season by being frantic yourself about last minute shopping, entertaining or decorating.

8. Do not forget your Bibles: What Bible passages point to Advent themes of preparation, promise, hope, expectancy, God's enduring faithfulness, the time when God's kingdom will be fulfilled? Advent is an

excellent time of the year to familiarize yourself again with the Bible's stories that lead up to the

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birth of Jesus.

7. Do not try to be perfect for the Holidays: Believe it or not, it's not the end of the world if the Christmas tree has a bare sport on one side, if a bulb in one of the window candles is burnt out, or if you cannot find just the perfect gift for Uncle Bob. The holiday season can be stressful enough without allowing the drive for perfection to overwhelm you.

6. Do not over do your schedule: Learn to say "no" to some of the demands or events that may beg for your presence, however enjoyable or good they may be. Know your limits. As the saying goes, "Too much of a good thing is still too much."

5. Do not overdo gifts: I recently heard of a study that indicates children on average receive 60% more for Christmas than they expect. Very



good news for parents, right? But it also indicates that while parents need to be very clear with their children about expectations, ever more important is that they themselves need to be consistent with these expectations in their own gift giving. Remember, the focus is Jesus, God's supreme gift to us, not our gifts to others.

4. Do not go into additional debt: Perhaps this is easier said than done. However, it is important to remember that the gift-giving of Christmas is supposed to spring from and be a sign of our gratitude to God for God's gift-giving of Jesus. Rather than large grandiose, expensive gifts, consider giving smaller, more thoughtful items.

3. Do not expect the culture to follow your lead: A truly Christian approach to the month of December will inevitably be counter-cultural. If

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On The Pastor's Night Stand

After months of anticipation, I was finally able to read "The Next Person You Meet in Heaven: The Sequel to The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom.

(It was finally released on October 9). Mitch Albom is one of my favorite modern authors and I have everything he has ever written!

The Amazon.com review states, "In this enchanting sequel to the number one bestseller The Five People You Meet in Heaven, Mitch Albom tells the story of Eddie's heavenly reunion with Annie—the little girl he saved on earth—in an unforgettable novel of how our lives and losses intersect."

Fifteen years ago, in Mitch Albom's beloved

novel, "The Five People You Meet in Heaven", the world fell in love with Eddie, a grizzled war veteran- turned-amusement park mechanic who died saving the life of a young girl named Annie. Eddie's journey to heaven taught him that every life matters. Now, in this magical sequel, Mitch Albom reveals Annie's story.



The accident that killed Eddie left an indelible mark on Annie. It took her left hand, which needed to be surgically reattached. Injured, scarred, and unable to remember why, Annie's life is forever changed by a guilt-ravaged

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LOVING OURSELVES



We started October with the always popular annual soup event on

World Communion Sunday. This was a great way to break in the newly finished kitchen. We had about a dozen soups and a wonderful smorgasbord of breads. Thanks to all who provided soup and all those who attended.

On November 24 we will have the Greening of the Church starting at 9 AM. We will have

donuts and cider to give us energy as we decorate. This is always a fun event and there are jobs for everyone. We need people who can sit and fluff the greens, others to climb ladders to hang the greens, and kids who can be runners and bring bows and wire back and forth. It is always fun to work together to beautify our church for Christmas.

We will have a coffee on Consecration Sunday, November 25. Please stay after worship for our last fellowship event of 2018.



2018 Christmas Cantata

The Christmas Story is a timeless and mystifying mosaic of events that reshaped the course of human history. It is the chronicle of events that could never pass the scrutiny of human invention and imagination. It remains impossible to imagine the unthinkable. This is a story so profound that it demands to be shrouded in simplicity – so breathtaking that it requires some space just to comprehend the intent, let alone the reality – so unbelievable that it must be anchored in truth. This is a story that is Di-

vine in origin and Eternal in design. This is the story of God in Heaven who loved the world so much that He sent His Son, that whoever believed in Him and the sacrifice that He would make, would never perish, but would have eternal life. Only God could make that promise, Only Christ could pay that price, Only Love could write this story.

Please join Bill Johnson, Director of Music, and the UPC Choir on Sunday, December 23, during worship, to experience the beautiful music of this story only love could write!



The Kitchen Project Is Complete!

As most of you know the UPC kitchen has been under renovation. I am pleased to announce that due to the many hours of work from many people, the project is complete. What started as a project to simply replace the cabinets has resulted in replacing not just the old cabinets but - walls, ceiling, floor tiles, counter tops, all new electrical, all new plumbing and re-painting.

Many thanks for many hours of work to: Carol, Ethan and Tristan Buckley, Rob MacPherson, Randy Boltz, Dick Musser, Jane Burgarella and Jane McCray.

Thanks for your patience as we worked to upgrade our facilities.

Curt McCray

Elder, Building and Grounds



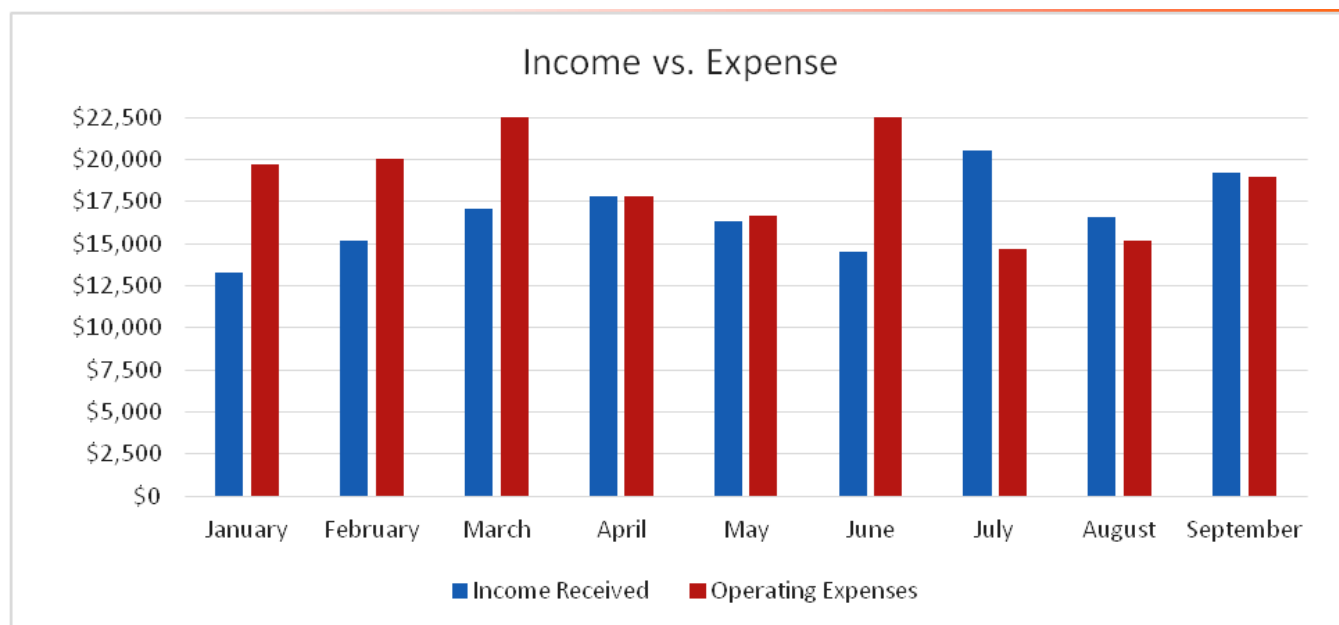
Finance Ministry Team Update

*Remember the church
in your will!*

Income and Expenses

As of September 30, 2018, income received (\$150,560) was less than operating expenses incurred (\$169,388). A withdrawal from the UPC Fund of \$10,000 was made in January 2018 to support the capital expenses from 2017. Two additional withdrawals of \$15,000 each were made in March and June 2018 to help offset increased operating expenses.

Thank you for your continued support. Ideally, offerings each week should be about \$4,500 to support our budget; we are currently averaging \$3,721. Please see the chart below for a comparison of income received to operating expenses by month.



Team Actions

The Finance Ministry Team will continue to monitor and report income and expenses on a monthly basis and look for ways to control expenses. We are in the processing of preparing the 2019 budget which will be presented to the congregation in early 2019.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments for the FMT, please feel free to contact its chair, Rob MacPherson. You can do so in person, by phone (610-742-7941), or email (macsupc@outlook.com). You may also contact the church treasurer, Mary Hewes, by phone at 610-347-2327 or by email at hewesmb@aol.com.



2018 POINSETTIA DEDICATION

**Return by December 2 *payment is due with order*

Unionville Presbyterian Church, 812 Wollaston Rd.,
Kennett Square, PA 19348



Your Name _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (\$8.00 each)

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ In Memory of _____

DECEMBER 2018 BULLETIN DEDICATIONS

**payment is due with order*

Sundays: 2, 9, 16, 23 (*circle date*) Christmas Eve 4:00 _____ 11:00 _____

Your Name _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (\$15/service)

In Honor/Memory of _____



2019 FLOWER DEDICATIONS

**payment is due with order*



Your Name _____

Flowers: \$45 Mixed Bouquet _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

Date _____ Please donate to a shut-in (check here) _____



LOVING NEIGHBORS

Pet Blessing at UPC



Outreach Initiatives in Full Stride!

The Mission and Outreach team would like to thank everyone for your support. This is an awesome church!

The rice and beans sale was held on the last two Sundays in October.



The Fall Outgrown Sale was held on Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturday morning, October 25-27. This is always a good event that helps the community in many ways.

The total for the 2018 Summer Garden Table this year was \$733. Since the garden season is done, we are back to the bake

sale season. We will have a bake sale the first Sunday of every month starting on November 4.



BAKE SALE

During the last bake sale season (November 2017 to May 2018) we raised more than \$1000 for the Kennett

Food Cupboard.

Instead of collecting shoe boxes for Compassion International this year we will be supporting the local winter outreach efforts with many other organizations in the area. There are many children in need right where we live so the Mission team decided to provide support in the local area.



Thanks to everyone for the support of all the mission projects!

Spread the Warmth in Southern Chester County



Collecting: new & GENTLY used winter wear for children & adults - boots, snow pants, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves & socks (Socks must be new!)

Community Partners: Kennett Township Police Department, Southern Chester County Regional Police Department, Kennett Square Police Department, Unionville Presbyterian Church, Po-Mar-Lin Fire Department, Kennett Fire Department, Longwood Fire Company and Local Rotary Clubs

Corporate Partners: Kendal-Crosslands, Exelon, Genesis

Thanks to: A.J. Blosenski Trash & Recycling Service for donating the collection boxes

Recipients include: Family Promise of Southern Chester County, Maternal and Child Health Consortium, La Comunidad Hispana, Young Moms/Dads, the Garage, and local schools

Donations accepted: at Police Departments, Fire Companies, Corporate Partners, and Unionville Presbyterian Church until November 15

Call: Rev. Annalie Korengel at 610-952-2992 for more information



LOVING GOD

November Serving Sunday: November 18

Serving Sunday is a special Sunday when children of all ages can sign up to participate in the worship service and have different jobs. The children will participate in the service by having some responsibilities: passing out bulletins, ringing the bell, being acolyte and receiving the offering.

Greening the Church: November 25

Please join us as we decorate the Sunday school classroom and the church. This is a fun activity for the whole family!



December Serving Sunday: December 23

This is Serving Sunday and the Choir Cantata. A reminder note about Serving Sunday will be sent by

Children's Seasonal Activities



email and children of all ages can sign up to participate in the service. Mr. Bill has invited the children to sing and be a part of this special Christmas celebration. Please speak with Mr. Bill if you need a CD to practice the songs.

Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:00 p.m.: Children of all ages are invited to attend and participate in the unrehearsed Christmas pageant. It's fun and everyone can have a part!



Each week the children join together for a story and craft after going

into the sanctuary for the Children's message. As we look forward to the Christmas season and celebrating the birth of Jesus. What a special time for us to reflect on God's love for us. In Sunday school we will sing Christmas songs, hear the Christmas story and make crafts. We will talk about our favorite

Christmas traditions and bring some into the Sunday school class.

Thank you for sharing your precious children!

With blessings for the season, Lizabeth



PCUSA CORNER

PC(USA) partners continue working toward peace in South Sudan: Clan leaders take oath and surrender thousands of weapons *by Kathy Melvin Presbyterian News Service*



Peter Tibi (dark purple shirt) watches community leaders sign a peace agreement he helped to facilitate. (Photo provided)

JUBA, South Sudan — When soldiers are seeking to reclaim lost territory they have little regard for the peace agreements signed by their national leaders. That's why the grassroots work of the Rev. Peter Tibi and PC(USA) partner RECONCILE is a critical component of South Sudan's fragile peace process.

"Without the ongoing efforts at the grassroots level, the agreement is worth no more than the paper on which it was written," he said.

Tibi is the executive director of

PCUSA in the World

RECONCILE, which was created by the New South Sudan Council of Churches to bring peace and healing to communities hurting from decades of war. The Reconcile Peace Institute (RPI), one of three RECONCILE programs, brings leaders to the campus in Yei from around the country and strengthens their skills in resolving conflicts and recovering from trauma. Mission co-worker Shelvis Smith-Mather is the principal of RPI. But RECONCILE staff also go into communities affected by violence and mediate peace agreements, facilitate trauma healing as well as teach civic education, good governance, democracy and conflict transformation.

Collecting the community's guns through a disarmament process allows the new South Sudan peace agreement to take root. (Photo provided)



Tibi, along with community leaders, government officials and representatives from the United Nations, recently met with five clans in Douny County, Gok State, South Sudan to end hostilities and begin the process of reconciliation. The clans have a history of conflict over

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cattle raiding, water sharing and revenge killings. They collectively took an oath to tell the truth, accept wrongdoing, apologize and commit to reconciliation and co-existence. The death perpetrated by both sides numbers in the tens of thousands. But this time soldiers wore signs around their necks that they had surrendered their weapons. The guns were carefully placed on the ground in staggering numbers.

Another peace deal was signed by South Sudan's president Salva Kiir and rebel and former vice president Riek Makar on Wednesday, June 27 in Ethiopia. This is not the first time they've come to the table together. Peace deals signed by both leaders have fallen apart in the past.

Under the threat of international sanctions, Kiir and Makar also signed a peace agreement in August 2015. Machar returned to Juba in April 2016 and was sworn in as vice president. Just three months later, violence broke out again between the two factions. Both sides blamed the other for violating the ceasefire.

As if the violence was not enough, the people of South Sudan are threatened with an epic, man-made famine. Opposing forces more often target civilians rather than one another. In South Sudan, they have raided cattle and burned homes and fields. Because so many have been forced to flee people cannot plant crops or must abandon them. Estimates are that thousands face immediate starvation and more than one million are in danger.

"We need to help people not only embrace the peace but build the capacity to maintain peace," said Tibi. "This includes trust building activities, trauma healing and training. People need to understand the peace agreement and be able to address their concerns."

Last December, Tibi traveled to the same area to meet with the clans to prepare for upcoming

reconciliation talks, bringing together women's groups and youth camp leaders, as well as chiefs and commissioners.

"Reverend, you came in peace and you will go in peace," they told him, even offering traditional blessings, but fighting broke out in a neighboring community and Tibi left in an armored convoy to travel to the air strip. His vehicle made it safely through a village that had just been burned to the ground. The convoy was fired on and some people died. He made it safely back to Juba and the government declared a state of emergency and forced disarmament followed.

The South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Project partners with RECONCILE in peacebuilding activities and longtime PC(USA) partners, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Across, to train teachers and strengthen Presbyterian schools including those in Pochalla and Pibor, two rural and inaccessible areas of the country.

In Pibor, about 90 percent of children never finish elementary school and some children have never attended school or known peace in their lifetime. In South Sudan, the UN reports that a girl is more likely to die in childbirth than finish primary school.

Mission co-worker Leisa Wagstaff has been going to rural areas and even traveling to the refugee camps to help teachers gain the necessary skills to help children heal from a lifetime of trauma. In a recent two-day gathering, a program of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan's Education Department provided activities for children to participate in trauma healing.

"We laughed, played, shed tears, journeying through some painful remembrances and harsh realities and celebrated the promises that God has given us," she said.

During the training, each participant was asked

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to think of a very painful memory. They talked freely about the killing of relatives, homes being torched, lack of education and facing the fact they may have no future.

“Many people are skeptical,” said Tibi. “They have reservations about the process. We pray that peace will come from the hearts of people and working together. People are ready to reconcile. They are dancing at the local level, but

they are worried about what could happen and the national and political levels.”

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) passed a comprehensive overture on South Sudan which provides our Office of Public Witness in Washington and United Nations office in New York with a strong foundation for advocacy and encourages our congregations to accompany advocacy with prayers and support.

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you embrace much of this list, have faith in what you are doing. Christmas is not about Martha Stewart-quality centerpieces, the gourmet Christmas feast, or getting the “hot toy of the year.” Our spiritual health depends on our resisting the cultural message that we need to get out and “shop till we drop.” Jesus came into the world for a different reason.

2. Do not forget the less fortunate: Remember that the real Christmas story is not set in a warm and cozy house, tastefully decorated and filled with more gifts than can fit under the tree, however wonderful that all may be. The real Christmas story is set amidst those who knew enduring poverty and danger. What more loving witness could you offer than to seek out some holiday opportunity to identify with the poor and downtrodden as God does?

1. Do not wait until Christmas Eve to come to Church! Avoid the holiday rush and join us for worship in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Worship

in the church is absolutely beautiful this time of



year, with beautiful and powerful Advent hymns. Join us for Advent worship and allow it to

bring you back to a sense of expectancy and alertness for the coming of God into our world, into your very life.



Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this contemplative service of healing and hope for those that are hurting this Christmas.

Service of the Longest Night

A Service of LIGHT in the midst of DARKNESS

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*“Love comes when you least expect it.
Love comes when you most need it. Love
comes when you are ready to receive it
or can no longer deny it.”*

— **Mitch Albom, [The Next Person You Meet in Heaven](#)**

mother who whisks her away from the world she knew. Bullied by her peers and haunted by something she cannot recall, Annie struggles to find acceptance as she grows. When, as a young woman, she reconnects with Paulo, her childhood love, she believes she has finally found happiness.

As the novel opens, Annie is marrying Paulo. But when her wedding night day ends in an unimaginable accident, Annie finds herself on her

own heavenly journey—and an inevitable reunion with Eddie, one of the five people who will show her how her life mattered in ways she could not have fathomed.

Poignant and beautiful, filled with unexpected twists, “The Next Person You Meet in Heaven” reminds us that not only does every life matter, but that every ending is also a beginning—we only need to open our eyes to see it.

I invite you to obtain your own copy and join me over a cup of coffee (or ice cream) and talk about it. If you need assistance purchasing the book, just let me know. If there is enough interest, we can certainly form a discussion group. Happy reading to you!



Leadership of Unionville Presbyterian Church

ELDERS

Moderator: Rev. Annalie Korengel
Clerk of Session: Sue Minarchi

DEACONS

Moderator:

Class of 2018

Mary Ann Gorko
Rob MacPherson
Pat Montague
Brooke Wren
Karen Wells

Class of 2019

Randy Boltz
Susan Minarchi
Greg Permar

Class of 2018

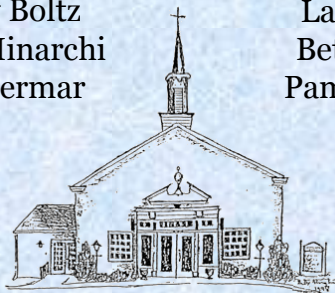
Laura Angell
Betty Hughes
Pam Woodford

Class of 2019

Tara Dickinson
Lillian Ryan

Class of 2020

Curt McCray



Class of 2020

Betty Bryer
Judy Jackson
Brian Roberts

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Annalie Korengel
Financial Secretary/ Treasurer: Mary Hewes
Director of Children's Ministry: Lizabeth G. Connors
Director of Music Ministry: Bill Johnson
Secretary: Judy Krug

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 LIFE 9:30	2 AA 7:00	3
4 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bake Sale 10:00	5	6 Choir 7:00	7 If Love Were Enough 7:30	8 LIFE 9:30	9 AA 7:00	10
11 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00	12 Finance 10:00	13 Choir 7:00	14	15 LIFE 9:30	16 AA 7:00	17
18 SERVING SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Community Thanks- giving Service @ St. Pat's 7:00	19	20 Choir 7:00	21 If Love Were Enough 7:30	22	23 AA 7:00	24 Greening of the Church 9:00
25 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Consecration Cele- bration 10:15	26 Session 7:00	27 Choir 7:00	28 Prayer/Praise 3:30	29 LIFE 9:30	30 AA 7:00	

December 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bake Sale 10:00 F A M I	*3 L Y P	4 Choir 7:00	5 If Love Were Enough 7:30 R O M I S	6 LIFE 9:30	7 AA 7:00	8 E
9 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 →	10 Finance 10:00	11 Choir 7:00	12	13 LIFE 9:30	14 AA 7:00	15
16 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00	17	18 Choir 7:00	19 If Love Were Enough 7:30	20 LIFE 9:30 Longest Night Ser- vice 7:00	21 AA 7:00	22
23 SERVING SUNDAY Worship/Cantata 9:00 Sunday School 9:00	24 Christmas Eve Ser- vices 4:00/11:00 p.m.	25	26 Prayer/Praise 3:30	27 LIFE 9:30	28 AA 7:00	29
30 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00	31					

Unionville Presbyterian Church
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Kennett Square, PA 19348

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E-mail: unionvillepc@gmail.com

Website: www.unionvillepresbyterianchurch.org

Loving God and our neighbors as ourselves

