

1844

175th Anniversary  
small church with a big heart

2019



# The Link

Unionville Presbyterian Church

**NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER 2019**

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## Stewardship from a Place of Abundance

Stewardship is a “way of life” for all of God’s disciples, but stewardship also is a term abounding in misconceptions. Stewardship is not just about money. Stewardship requires a holistic understanding. It is really everything that we do after we say we believe in God. It is a way of life. Stewardship is about our use of time and talent as well as the treasure entrusted to us. It is about our temperament, our habits and attitudes as we work to personally connect to the changing culture we are a part of. And so, we always need to prepare to adapt. It also involves us in the mission and vision of Unionville Presbyterian Church in a challenging, changing time for small churches.

I attended a stewardship workshop in Philadelphia led by Reverend Stacy Emerson. She says, “Leaders often discuss the challenges they have with balancing their congregation’s budget”. Their endowment funds may be drained. They don’t have enough pledges to carry out their ministry fully. They don’t have as many members or volunteers in the congregation as they once had. They are focused on scarcity and fear. They are not sure how to make things work, and so they are depressed. They are looking for help and ideas. They need more opportunities for conversation in order to think things through. They need access to a wider perspective about what God is doing in the church and the world.” Emerson explains that no one alone has the answers to such challenges, and experimentation is something leaders become open to. Realities and possibilities vary from place to place.

We are not the owners of the resources we have. God is the source of all of our blessings. Think of that rather than thinking about



# Stewardship

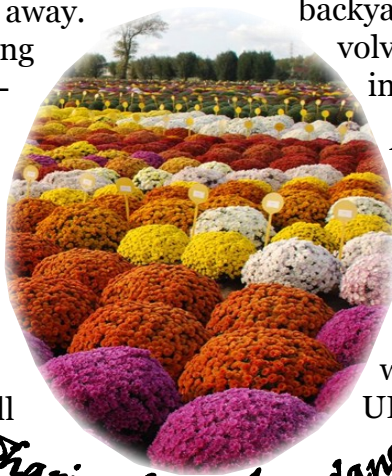
## WAY OF LIVING

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how much that is mine should I give away. Generosity is at the heart of everything we do in our lives as Christians. Generous discipleship is how we participate in God's restorative healing work in the world. God gives everyone the resources to be part of that restorative work. This reality is a joyful thing, not something that is scary or difficult.

I also attended a conference for small churches put on by the Synod of the Trinity. As I listened to my colleagues listing all the things they did NOT have; I was struck by the abundance here at



UPC. We have a great building (that's paid for!), the manse/office building with the beautiful backyard for events, enthusiastic and involved leaders, and a heart for mission in our community.

As we come into our time of stewardship, I would like us to reflect on our mission statement: "Loving God, and our neighbors as ourselves". I will preach on these topics through the lens of stewardship. As we all consider our commitments to UPC for the year 2020, let's think about sharing our time, talent, and treasure from the abundance we have been given.

Blessings, Rev. Annalie

## 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

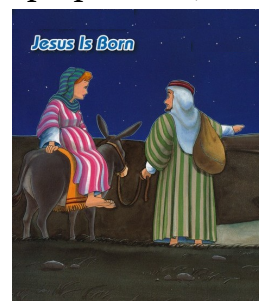
pray.

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 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

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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:

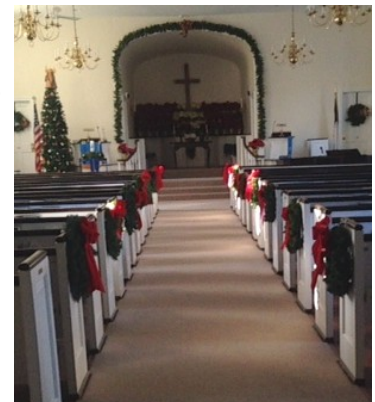
A truly Christian approach to the month of December will inevitably be counter-cultural. If you embrace much of this list, have faith in what you are doing. Christmas is not about Martha Stewart-quality centerpiece, the gourmet Christmas feast, or getting the “hot toy of the year.” Our spiritual health 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.



## The Gift of Small Churches

**(Presbyterian Outlook, September 12, 2016, Kristin Stroble)**

*(This is an article that I keep in my files because it reminds me of UPC. I wanted to share it with you because I am always so proud of how we welcome the children in our midst. I am always so grateful to be part of a congregation “where everybody knows your name”. Rev. Annalie)*

“I just wish we would grow.” “We don’t have enough young people.” “There’s not enough money.”

“We are too small ... too old.”

Why do we so often focus on our deficits instead of our strengths? Perhaps it’s human nature or a result of our fears and insecurities. My church is a small church, averaging 80 in worship. The majority of the membership is people over the



age of 60. Like so many small churches, some thought that if they hired a younger pastor, then new people would flood in, that finally young adults would start attending. I’ve been in this congregation nearly five years and that still hasn’t happened. And so I hear frustration and fear of the future from the long-term faithful members. “Why won’t our children or our grandchildren come to worship? Will we survive?”

There are days that I too get caught up in what we lack. I dream

of what we could do with more money. I wonder how we would be different if we had more people. I’d like to not always be the youngest in the room.

We so often focus on our deficits. We too easily get stuck in what we don’t have. Here are the gifts that my small church offers: I see a church full of people

who deeply love each other and seek ways to show that love. I see church dinners overflowing with homemade casseroles.

The act of cooking for another and sharing meals together is one of the more intimate ways we express hospitality and Christian fellowship. I see a church that during the passing of the peace truly makes sure they greet as many people as possible, especially the person they don’t know. I see a mission committee that wants to serve the children in our community through outreach events, even if they don’t come back for worship. I see faithful people with questions and fears and doubts, who gather each week for Bible study because they want to learn together and deepen their relationships with each other and God. I see a church that more than anything wants to love and be loved in return.

My 4-year-old nephew sometimes comes to worship with me. On those mornings, since I am leading worship, he is either in the pews with



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my mom or watched by my church members. Sometimes he is the only child in church; sometimes there are one or two other children. I know many parents who are looking for a church want to be in a place where there are tons of children and a variety of programming for all ages. I understand this and at one time would have agreed. But then I look at my nephew. He doesn't even seem to notice that there aren't other children. When he enters the church on Sunday mornings, he's greeted by name. Some get on the floor, at his level, to play with him. Some have brought him candy or a small present. In worship, he makes noise, but that's okay. He sometimes gasps at my sermon, proof he is listening despite the evidence to the contrary. He wants to hold the hymnal, too, and try to sing along. He colors at different points or



plays with cars underneath the pew. Nobody seems to mind. A small church knows how important it is to have children in worship.

I know that not all children can sit through worship, but too often we sell our

kids short. My 4-year-old nephew asks to come with me to church, a place where he is known and loved, even if he only comes a few times a year. He is learning the rhythms and rituals of worship. He is learning what it means to be a part of a community.

I think my small church is a gift. They know that each person there is vital to our continuing ministry and to the kingdom of God. They value the children in their midst. In our sanctuary we know each other's names and stories. We look

around and notice if someone is missing and make a point to call or send her a card. Of course I wish we had more children and young adults, but not just to increase our numbers. I want more children to experience the gifts my church has given my nephew. I want youth and young adults who are struggling with identity to have a safe place to question and doubt.

I think we need to value our small churches. After all, the church began as small house communities –

intimate groups who shared meals, resources and lives together.

In a culture that is crying out for connection and community, small churches are a gift that is greatly needed. The church is one of the few places left where inter-generational communities gather together.

One of my members has four young adult children and two young grandchildren. She says that she stays at our church because here everyone knows her children's names and stories. They've watched them grow up. They've been present through the difficulties her family has experienced and the joys. It is precisely because we are a small church that she stays.

Let's give thanks for our small churches and the momentous ways they take five loaves and two fish and multiply them every day. We worship a God who praises the small gifts of a widow's mite and who promises us that the faith of a mustard seed can move mountains. Small churches are a gift. They have and continue to change lives and the world through the simple gift of love.



## On The Pastor's Night Stand

I read “Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times” by Adam Hamilton. He is one of my favorite modern theologians and I have everything he has ever written!

The Amazon.com review states, “Fear is a complex emotion.

Sometimes it saves us. More often it robs us of the life we want. But we can take our lives back. You'd be hard-pressed to overstate the extent to which fear, anxiety, and worry permeate our lives today. Fear wreaks havoc on our relationships and communities. It leads us into making bad decisions. It holds us back from the very pursuits that promise fulfillment and joy. Making matters worse, not a week goes by when some new threat or calamity isn't dominating the headlines. Why are there so many tragedies? we wonder. What will happen next?”

As the senior pastor of a large, diverse church in America's heartland, Adam Hamilton has seen the cost of fear up close. When he surveyed his congregation on how fear affects them, 2,400 people responded--and what they said was eye-opening. Eighty percent admitted to living with moderate or significant levels

of fear. “Unafraid” is Reverend Hamilton's insightful and impassioned response.

Drawing on recent research, inspiring real-life examples, and fresh biblical insight, Hamilton shows how to untangle

the knots we feel about disappointing others, failure, financial insecurity, loneliness, insignificance, and aging. Then he helps readers understand and counter fears related to such outside perils as terrorism, death, and the apocalypse.

Writing with generosity and intelligence, Hamilton shows how believer

and unbeliever alike can develop sustaining spiritual practices and embrace Jesus's recurring counsel: “Do not be afraid.” For anyone struggling with fear or wondering how families and communities can thrive in troubled times, “Unafraid” offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions.

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!

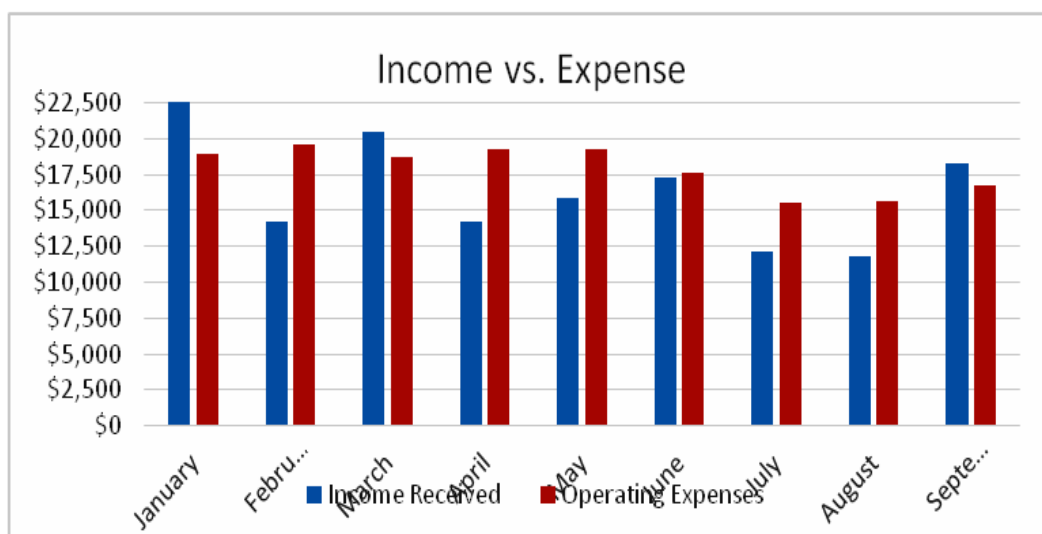




# LOVING OURSELVES

## Finance Ministry Team Update

As of September 30, income received (\$162,787) was greater than operating expenses incurred (\$161,265). There were a few people who made a full year contribution in January that is inflating the income year to date. If we were to pro-rate their contributions, income would be \$157,162 compared to expenses of \$161,265. Our expenses through September month-end are below budget (\$161,265 vs \$174,852). Please see the chart below for a comparison of income received to operating expenses by month.



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 2020 budget which will be presented to the congregation in early 2020.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments for the FMT, please feel free to contact its chair, Fred Hoge. You can do so in person, by phone (610-357-8464), or email ([hogekf@verizon.net](mailto:hogekf@verizon.net)). You may also contact the church treasurer, Mary Hewes, by phone (610-347-2327) or email ([hewesmb@aol.com](mailto:hewesmb@aol.com)).

## Late Fall Fellowship



On November 30th we will enlist volunteers for the annual Greening of the church to decorate our building for the Christmas holidays. Save these dates and join these fun fellowship activities!

On November 24th UPC members and friends will celebrate Consecration Sunday with a Fellowship Coffee following our worship and dedication service.



*Greening the Church*

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## Born to Save Us All

Long ago, a baby was Born in Bethlehem that would change the world. He came as our Messiah to redeem and deliver us.

This year's Christmas cantata, MESSIAH, HEAVEN'S GLORY, celebrates the coming Messiah with a worshipful retelling of the Christmas story. Combining selections from Handel's Messiah, popular Christmas carols, and contemporary worship songs, the UPC choir will sing with joy and celebration as we worship the newborn King, born to save us all.

The cantata will be presented during the morning worship service, on December 22. Invite your family and friends for this especially moving musical experience.





## 2019 POINSETTIA DEDICATION

*\*Return by December 1    \*payment is due with order*

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



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$9.00 each)

# \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## DECEMBER 2019 BULLETIN DEDICATIONS

*\*payment is due with order*

Sundays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (circle date)    Christmas Eve 4:00 \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



## 2020 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) \_\_\_\_\_



# COMMUNITY

**"Experience A Food Tasting In Oxford"**



**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

**Doors Open at 1:30 P.M.**

**\*\*\* Tasting, 2:30 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Oxford Area High School, 705 Waterway  
Road, Oxford, PA**

**Event Includes: Food Tasting, Crafters/  
Vendors, Live Music**

**Ticket Cost: Adults, \$20.00; Children 4-10, \$10.00**

**Group Rates Available – For Information and/or Tickets**

**Please Call the Church Office, 610-932-9256**

**\*\*Sponsored by Shiloh Presbyterian Church\*\***

**42 S. Fifth Street, Oxford, PA**

**All Proceeds Benefit the SPC Community  
Outreach Center Programs**



## Save Money on Medicare

The Chester County Department of Aging and APPRISE health insurance counselors will provide free, confidential assistance to Medicare beneficiaries during the **Annual Open Enrollment Period, October 15, 2019 to December 7, 2019**.

You can join, switch or disenroll from a Part D Prescription Drug Plan, a Medicare Advantage Plan, or switch to Original Medicare with or without a Medicare Part D Plan. If you need help with your Medicare costs, the counselors will evaluate your eligibility for assistance programs.

For information, visit <http://www.chesco.org/477/Apprise---Health-Insurance-Counseling> or email [apprisechoesco@outlook.com](mailto:apprisechoesco@outlook.com)



**Not a Chester County resident? Call 1-800-783-7067 to connect to your County's APPRISE.**

### *Call to schedule an individual appointment at:*

- Coatesville Area Senior Center..... 610-383-6900
- Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli..... 610-344-6035
- Downingtown Area Senior Center..... 610-269-3939
- Government Services Center, West Chester..... 610-344-6035
- Kennett Area Senior Center..... 610-444-4819
- Oxford Area Senior Center..... 610-932-5244
- Phoenixville Area Senior Services Center..... 610-935-1515
- Surrey Services for Seniors, Devon and East Goshen... 610-647-6404
- West Chester Area Senior Center..... 610-431-4242

### *Call **610-344-5234** (after Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>) to schedule an individual appointment at:*

- Exton Library
- Easttown Library, Berwyn
- Downingtown Library
- Henrietta Hankin Library, Chester Springs
- Phoenixville Library
- West Bradford Township Building
- West Chester Public Library


Aging - Save Money on Medicare 2019 open enrollment assist program

## Troop 22 News



Pack 22 celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in Chester County this past weekend at the Camporee held at Hibernia Park over the Oc-

tober 25th-27th weekend. There were over 2,500 Scouts from all over the area. It was a jam packed weekend filled with song, crafts, and a lot of FUN!

We have many things going on over the next couple of months. Coming up in November is our canned food drive for the Kennett Food Cupboard. The Scouts will be dropping off bags all over the community to collect food for this great organization. They will then be recollected later in the month.

The Raingutter Regatta is also held in November. Pictures of that event to come in the next snapshot of Pack 22.



**LOVING GOD**

## From the Desk of the DCM

### Let Us Pray:

We are learning about praying during Sunday school. Each child is given a chance to add to our prayer circle. We all say "Thank you for" and then each child has a chance to say something. We are also saying "Please help me" and each child adds something. Children are able to participate if they would like or pass. The responses are precious! I remember having a classroom of two year olds and one little boy thanked God for his pillow, every day!

For me, I believe in prayer at all times, no matter what else may be happening and feel a connection to God in prayer. For the children I am teaching them



about putting down the markers and balls and having "prayer hands" just focusing for a moment. It will be exciting to watch and listen to them grow.

### Sunday School Lessons Coming Up:

**November 3, 2019** Let Us Worship

**November 10, 2019** Jonah

**November 17, 2019** What Shall I give?

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**November 24, 2019** Esther Saves her People

**December 1, 2019** A Child will be Born

**December 8, 2019** Prepare a Road

**December 15, 2019** Jesus' Family Tree

**December 22, 2019** Emmanuel: God With Us

**December 29, 2019** Gifts for the Baby King

### Lighting the Advent Candles:

Each Sunday during Advent different families may take turns to light the Advent candles and read scripture. Please look for the Sign Up Genius during November and sign your family up to light the candles. This is another special way for the children to participate in the celebration of Advent.

### Special Dates:

**November 22, 2019-Serving Sunday**

Children of all ages will have jobs during the service. Our intergenerational activ-

ity will be decorating the church on Saturday, November 30, 2019.

### November 30, 2019-Greening the Church

Plan to join your church family as we transform the sanctuary adding Christmas decorations and enjoy spending time together. We also have a Christmas tree in the Sunday school room and will decorate the tree. This is a fun inter-generational activity and of course we will have snacks!



**December 22, 2019-Serving Sunday**

Children of all ages will have jobs during the service and then we will join worship to watch the Cantata

**December 24, 2019-Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**

Come to the Family Service and the Un-rehearsed Christmas Pageant!

Children help to tell the Christmas story by acting it out. There are no lines to memorize and we have costumes! It's fun and everyone can participate!





# LOVING NEIGHBORS

## Serving Our Church and Our Neighbors



Will Becker serves as Acolyte for his first time!



Ladies of Hamorton UMC help to feed our Family Promise guests during UPC's September hosting



Tri State Bird Rescue



Pet Blessing



Bee Like Jesus



Cards for Service Members

## Mission Ministry Helps Those in Need



**The Bake Table** will be set up on November 3rd and December 1st

benefitting the Kennett Area Food Cupboard. Baked good donations would be greatly appreciated on those dates. Thanks so much!

### Help Keep a Child Warm this Winter

Once again this year, UPC is participating in a drive to provide warm winter coats/jackets for area children in need. Begin-

ning November 3 through December 1, outerwear for children ages infant through size 16 may be delivered to the Narthex. Snow pants are also needed. Please provide only new, unused clothing. Your gift will be greatly appreciated by any child waiting for the school bus or playing in the snow.



## Leadership of Unionville Presbyterian Church

### ELDERS

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

### DEACONS

Moderator: Kay Dunkle

#### Class of 2019

Joan Deming-Murphy  
Susan Minarchi  
Greg Permar

#### Class of 2020

Carol Buckley  
Michael King  
Curt McCray

#### Class of 2019

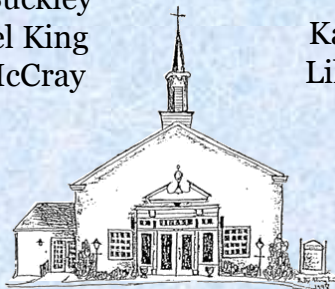
Vacant  
Kay Dunkle  
Lillian Ryan

#### Class of 2020

Betty Bryer  
Judy Jackson  
Brian Roberts

#### Class of 2021

Fred Hoge  
J R Nelson  
Brooke Wren



#### Class of 2021

JoAnn Fisher  
Marlel Holloway  
Pam Woodford

### STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Annalie Korengel  
Director of Children's Ministry: Lizabeth G. Connors  
Secretary: Judy Krug

Financial Secretary/ Treasurer: Mary Hewes  
Director of Music Ministry: Bill Johnson  
Nursery Attendant: Olivia Finkey

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 AA 7:00	2
3 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Bake Sale	4	5 Choir 7:00	6 Bible Study 9:30	7 LIFE 9:30	8 AA 7:00	9
10 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	11 Finance 10:00 CPR / AED Training 6-9:00	12 Choir 7:00	13 Bible Study 9:30 If Love Was Enough 7:30	14 LIFE 9:30	15 AA 7:00	16
17 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	18 Team Night 7:00	19 Choir 7:00	20 Bible Study 9:30	21 LIFE 9:30	22 AA 7:00	23
24 SERVING / CON- SECRATION SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:00	25 Session 7:00	26 Choir 7:00	27 Bible Study 9:30 Prayer/Praise 3:30	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY PUMPKIN	29 AA 7:00	30 Greening of the Church 9:00

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ADVENT 1 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	2  Pancakes for Jesus 4-8:00	3  Choir 7:00	4 Bible Study 9:30	5 LIFE 9:30  Bible Study 7:00	6  AA 7:00	7
8 ADVENT 2 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	9 Finance 10:00	10  Choir 7:00	11 Bible Study 9:30 If Love Was Enough 7:30	12 LIFE 9:30  Bible Study 7:00	13  AA 7:00	14
15 ADVENT 3 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	16	17  Choir 7:00	18 Bible Study 9:30	19 LIFE 9:30  Bible Study 7:00	20 Longest Night Service 7:00 AA 7:00	21
22 ADVENT 4/ SERVING SUNDAY Worship/Cantata 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	23	24  Christmas Eve 4:00/11:00	25 	26	27  AA 7:00	28
29 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	30	31				

Unionville Presbyterian Church  
812 Wollaston Road  
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Phone: 610-347-2327

E-mail: [unionvillepc@gmail.com](mailto:unionvillepc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.unionvillepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.unionvillepresbyterianchurch.org)

*Loving God and our neighbors as ourselves*

