

January 29, 2017

Health and Human Service Sunday being celebrated in UCC churches!

Health and Human Service Sunday is a day to celebrate the UCC's long, faithful heritage of advocating justice and extending care and compassion in Christ's name - within our congregations and among many UCC-related ministries across the nation.

For hundreds of years, the UCC and its predecessor denominations courageously founded mission houses, hospitals, and orphanages at times when such services were scarce and needs were great. Today, more than 400 health care centers; affordable housing and retirement communities; homeless shelters and feeding centers; and services for children, youth, families, older adults and people with disabilities bear witness to the United Church of Christ's continuing testament of mercy, inclusion and kindness.

January 29 (or another Sunday, if deemed more fitting for your congregation) is an occasion to give thanks for these diverse ministries and to lift them in our collective prayers, as we celebrate the UCC's Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) and its many member institutions. Let us remember that these ministries are not an "extension" of the church. They are the church in action! And their bold witness is ours!



Getting to Know :

Salem Hetzel's UCC

261 Hetzels Church Rd., Pine Grove, PA 17963



Salem Hetzel's Church – A Union church – Lutheran and United Church of Christ –working to share God's Love and Light.

The church founded, in 1783 by the Lutherans, was joined by the Reformed congregation in 1822 (later to become UCC). The congregations maintained both traditions and worked together to maintain expand and build the facilities – in 1960 the Lutheran congregation conveyed 50% ownership of all properties to the UCC congregation for \$1.

The two congregations, previously both with part-time pastors, have made the decision to work together toward a shared ministry with a full-time pastor. The journey of decision and discovery is sure to be an interesting one.

Working towards shared ministry – the two congregations have one service, alternating UCC and Lutheran traditions, and a joint choir that sings throughout the summer. Fifth Sunday morning services are presented by the church's Youth Group – God's Gang. Without a steady pastor, the congregation has invited in other ministries and organizations for worship; including the Salvation Army, Women in Crisis, Bethany Children's Home, Racetrack Chaplaincy of America and Teen Challenge.

Salem Hetzel's Church has begun a Bible reading program that will take their members through the Bible in one year. Salem Hetzel's takes the Word of God to anyone who wants to listen, read and learn via their Facebook page – **Salem Hetzel's Church**. Regular postings of scriptures and videos help to share the Message of our Lord.

A request for prayers as Salem Hetzel's Church is in search of a new pastor.



Prayers are requested for the congregation of Salem Hetzel's UCC in Pine Grove .