

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA17701

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Return Service Requested

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Tammy Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@uclc.org

This is the time...
for you to get you order in for our Campus
Ministry's Annual Soup Sale!

Soup Sale for United Campus Ministry

Donation: \$7.00 per quart

(Checks payable to "United Churches Campus Ministry")

All soup freshly homemade then frozen.

Order Form

Type	Quantity
Beef and Barley.....	_____
Chicken Corn Chowder.....	_____
Chicken and Wild Rice.....	_____
Chili.....	_____
Ham and Bean.....	_____
Hot Sausage and Shrimp Gumbo.....	_____
Italian Wedding.....	_____
Potato with Chicken and Rivals.....	_____
Spinach, Sausage and Tomato Tortellini.....	_____
Tomato.....	_____
Vegetable Beef Soup.....	_____
Total Quarts ordered: x \$7.....	\$ _____



Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____
or _____

Mail check and order form to: Pastor Tammy Aichner
1325 Mansel Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701

Orders are needed by March 1st.

Quantities are limited, first ordered, first served.

Delivery will be between March 18th - 31st. Tammy will contact you to arrange pick up or delivery. Soup will be delivered frozen.

All proceeds go toward our Campus Ministry.



This year we again join with Christians around the world who set aside these eight days from January 18-25 as a special time to share the prayer of Jesus, "that all may be one... that the world may believe." (John 17:21).

We also join Christians from the island of Malta and Gozo who each year celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St. Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. They have chosen the reading used for the feast, Acts 27:18 - 28:10 as the text for the 2020 Week of Prayer. The theme is "*They showed us unusual kindness.*"

The following events have been scheduled to help in your observance which also includes the events in memory of Martin Luther King.

All Week - 1/18-25 - Special devotions for each day will be available on the Telephone Devotion Line. They are reachable 24/7 by calling 570-322-5762.

Saturday 1/18 - Footsteps To Follow Editorial in the Williamsport Sun Gazette, www.NorthcentralPA.com (an online newspaper, and [www.uclc.org/other ministries/-this week in ministry](http://www.uclc.org/other_ministries/-this_week_in_ministry)

1/20 - **Ecumenical Sunday** - This is the day to celebrate what God is doing through many ecumenical agencies - local, regional, national and international - that make up the modern ecumenical movement. Some liturgical suggestions for your worship service can be found in the newsletter supplement at www.uclc.org. Your congregation could celebrate this day with a pulpit exchange or by fellowship with a sister congregation.

1/23 - **The Diocese of Scranton** will host **An Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word** at 12:10 pm in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. All are welcome to attend. In addition CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the service live on Comcast channel 016.

1/23 - **Wednesday Lunch - "Unusual Kindness"** will be the theme of the program for the Ecumenical Lunch held at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Williamsport from Noon - 1 p.m. Rev. Gwen Bernstine, will be the speaker.

The luncheon is \$6. For reservations call 570-322-1110.



**EVENTS IN MEMORY OF
THE REV. DR MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.**

Theme: "The Strength To Love"

Dream Week Activities:

Sponsored by
the Beloved Community Council



"We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Saturday, January 18 at 10 am - Peace Walk and Music Celebration: The Peace Walk begins at Penn College in front of the Academic Center, 1 College Avenue, Williamsport. A trolley will be available for those unable to walk. Refreshments will then be served inside the Klump Academic Center. A Musical Celebration in Honor of Richard James will be held in the A.C. Auditorium beginning at 10:45. It will feature performances from Lycoming College Pom and Dance and Penn College Pep Band.

Sunday, January 20 - Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Mini-Workshop will be held from 1:30-4 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 426 Mulberry St. Williamsport.

Monday, January 20 at 9 am - Day of Service "More Than A Meal": STEP/AmeriCorps will coordinate a Meal Packaging Event for our Day of Service Project which will be held from 9-12 (with clean up until 1:30) at the Lycoming College Recreation Center, 700 College Place. The meal kits will benefit our community members in need in partnership with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Refreshments and child care will be provided. Older children are welcome and encouraged to participate

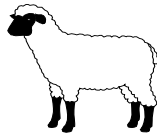
Monday, January 20 - "Call To Community," an Open House will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m at the Castellano Center for Community Outreach, 320 Park Avenue, Williamsport. The Williamsport Ministerium is hosting this evening for us to discover the wonders of our community. There will be information about many services provided in our area. Come and meet your neighbors, share some food, and discover the power of community.

Wednesday, January 22 - The movie "**Harriet**" will be presented at Lycoming College in the new Krapf Gateway Center's Troegner Presentations Room. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the movie begins at 6 p.m. Seating is limited; first come, first served.

Thursday, January 24 - you will have the opportunity to spend "**An Evening with Mike Africa Jr.**" at Penn College's Klump Academic Center at 7 p.m. Come hear his powerful message, "**Never Give Up.**"

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,
570-322-6538, shepherd@uclc.org



Ministry Or Maintenance?

We spend lots of money on maintenance of prescriptions, appointment transportation, and other medical needs for individuals and families. Maintenance is routine and necessary for healing and health.

Ministry is opportunistic. Not everyone who needs medicine or transportation, hygiene items, diapers, etc. is an opportunity for prayer, counseling, or spiritual direction. On the other hand, every person who comes to Shepherd of the Streets is a potential candidate for ministry.

We must be vigilant to see need inscribed on a face or heard in the voice of a troubled soul, or someone fearful because of what a doctor has said or how they might be feeling about a new pain or concern. Many times the need is expressed for someone related, or for the death of a loved one.

Clinical pastoral counseling helps people to understand a disease, a procedure, the need for surgery, or to listen when they need to express themselves. Stress is usually brought on by inexperience, confusion, disregard, or unknowing. If it were not for our ministry of maintenance their stress would often be ignored and get no attention, and stress can balloon into anxiety, if not despair.

A lot of our counseling is crisis oriented. Sometimes the crisis is real and sometimes it is imagined. The possibility of an amputation is a crisis, as is a wound that will not heal. We also get many others that have had critical events invade their lives. (During this past year, three mothers had sons that were murdered, another had the same happen to her daughter, another had a sister who was murdered; others had been abused or abandoned and left with children, bills, and no money.)

Among the poor I sometimes find there is a dearth (shortage) of mercy, faith, hope, and love. But, there is abundant fear of the unknown, poor health habits, and a lack of common medical knowledge. If it were not for SOS providing maintenance, there would be no ministry.

Thank you: all of those who responded to our giving letter sent in November. God bless you with His abundant grace during this new year.

Keep us in mind and heart; medical ministry is not seasonal, but if it were, this would be the season of colds and flu. To send a blessing to Shepherd of the Streets, Box P.O. 2184, Williamsport, PA 17703 and/or visit us at Shepherd of the Streets, 320 Park Ave., Monday - Thursday, 9am-2pm.

Thank you for your donation of hygiene items, baby needs, and/or bedding. These family sized hygiene items are such a blessing because people suffer the most when there is not enough money to feed, clothe, and house their family, and

most illnesses are a surprise to their budget. This continues to be a necessary part of our ministry. The list follows:

- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes*
- Shaving Cream and Razors*
- Shampoo and Conditioner*
- Women's Hygiene Products*
- Towels and Wash Cloths*
- Bedding and Blankets*
- Tissues and Toilet Paper and Paper Towels*
- Soap* *Deodorant* *Combs*
- Baby Diapers* *Baby Shampoo* *Baby Oil*
- Baby Q-Tips* *Baby Wipes* *Baby Powder*



MORE VOLUNTEER NEEDED*

We need a few more volunteers to fill the ministries schedule for 2020. Both clergy & laity can help. Currently there are about 30 services open. Pat Jenkins, outgoing coordinator, reminds us, "There are no special requirements to participate in the nursing home ministry. All that is needed is the passion and saying yes to God when the desire is placed on your heart to share God's Word and message with others." It is a blessing to offer residents the ability to worship with folks of their own denomination as well as with a variety of Christians represented in these facilities. The services mean far more to them than many of us realize. Leaders are needed for services on Sunday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Contact Gwen at director@uclc.org or 570-322-1110 to help.



JUST MERCY, the film, was released nationwide this past week. It is based on an award-winning book of the same name by attorney Bryan Stevenson. Raised in rural Delaware, Stevenson regularly attended the AME Church, where he developed a strong sense of justice and compassion. He launched the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, which is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, along with challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. Stevenson has gained international recognition for his work defending the poor and unfairly incarcerated. JUST MERCY embodies the mission of forgiveness and redemption for people who have been incarcerated, and demands a fair legal system, free of extreme sentences. It underscores that one of the basic American rights—the right to meaningful counsel—is still dependent on access, all too often determined by who you are and where you live.



Go see it - - Read it - - Discuss it - - Embrace it!

BUS TRIP WITH UNITED CHURCHES

Join us (UCLC) for a day in Lancaster to see Sight and Sounds newest production, **Queen Esther**. We have scheduled our trip for Tuesday, March 24.

The schedule follows:

- 6:30 a.m. Leave from First United Methodist Church, Williamsport, (use their Parking Lot on the corner of Packer and Bennett Streets behind the wrought iron fence.) We'll again be riding with Cross Country Coach.
- 10:15 a.m. Arrive at Sight and Sound. Your trip includes a ticket to the morning show of Queen Esther.
- 2:00 p.m. Enjoy a late lunch at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant's delicious lunch buffet, (included.) On the return trip we will stop in Lancaster at Edwards Nut and Candy Company for your shopping pleasure.
- 8:00-8:15 Expected arrival back at First UMC, Williamsport.

Total cost is: Adults: \$125, Children under 12: \$90. Seats are sold on a first come first served basis. All money is needed by February 27th. Please send check, made out to United Churches (UCLC) and mail to: Yvonne Shenuski, 1426 Elwood Road, Williamsport, PA, 17701. Proceeds support all the ministries of United Churches! Contact Yvonne at 570-546-7786 or yon2@comcast.net to make your reservation.

FOOD PANTRY *

Mona Rundio, Coordinator 570-322-1657

Email - foodpantry@uclc.org

Happy New Year to all! I would like to say *Thank You* to all the Churches for their considerable amount of donations to our pantry. During the past two months we have received about 2,000 pounds of food for those in need. We hope to continue receiving a variety of food and amounts from you this year. Let's keep on giving and loving those in our community who are in need of food for their families!



Many of our clients were *so* appreciative of receiving such a large amount of food and variety of sides in order to provide their family a healthy and abundant meal for the holidays. We also receive many hugs and thanks for providing a family with cakes/cupcakes for birthday celebrations. You may probably understand how hard for them it is to provide the children with gifts as well as meals for the holidays and on their birthday (especially if it is near the holidays.)

Please continue with your loving, caring, and giving hearts! Remember to think of others when out shopping and at the grocery store so you remember to buy a product for those in

need in our community.

We thank and praise all of you that contributed to us in 2019! Both individually and as Congregations. The items that are currently most needed are as follow:

<i>Baking Mixes</i>	<i>Cake Icings</i>	<i>Jellies</i>
<i>Ketchup/Mustard/Mayo</i>	<i>Pastas/Rice</i>	<i>Juices</i>
<i>Cereal/Oatmeal/Pop-Tarts</i>	<i>Canned Meats</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
<i>Ramen Noodles</i>	<i>Healthy Snacks</i>	<i>Soups</i>
<i>Hot Chocolate</i>	<i>Cans of Fruit</i>	

Please note that we are closed on Holidays if they fall on a date we are normally open. We also follow the WASD for weather related closings. Have a wonderful, loving and blessed month! We are located at the rear of 320 Park Ave. Wmspt. with hours of Monday: 9 – 11 for donations; Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15 – 2:00 for clients.

THE PLACE TO BE FOR LUNCH WEDNESDAYS *

Join us Wednesdays for lunch and an interesting program! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

Parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help our caterer, Heidi, to prepare.



Please note that if the Williamsport Area School District closes schools because of winter road conditions we will not have Ecumenical Lunch. If you aren't sure what we are doing, call Gwen at 570-419-1464.

JANUARY:

- 15- **Mrs. Barbara Horn** and **Mrs. Carol Johnson**, Members of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Co-Directors of Daniels Closet, *"Clothing Plus ... For Those In Need"*
- 22- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Staff, United Churches, *"They Showed Us Unusual Kindness"*
- 29- **Ms. Brittany Fischer**, Vice President, Community Impact, *"Our Community Coming Together By Way Of The Lycoming United Way."*

FEBRUARY:

- 5 - **Rev. Angelique Labadie-Chianowyz**, Executive Director, Sojourner Truth Ministries, *"House of Hope"*
- 12- **Rev. Jeff LeCrone**, Interim Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport, *"Helping Youth Grow In Faith"*
- 19- To Be Announced
- 26- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches, *"What Is Ash Wednesday All About?"*

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet today?
The number is 570-322-5762.
It's available 24/7.



Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God." The devotionists this fall are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/13-19 Rev. Danesta Whaley | 1/20-26 Rev. Gwen Bernstine |
| 1/27-2/2 Mrs. Tiffany Haller | 2/3-9 Rev. Georgiana Welsh |
| 2/10-17 Mrs. Rebecca Logan | 2/18-23 Rev. Bernice Coaxum |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE

Christian Social Concerns Committee

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. -Mt 2:11. Epiphany holds rich significance for Christians. May we have a deeper "ah-ha" moment regarding what we will do, as we start a new decade, in charity and in justice for those experiencing hunger and poverty in our communities and the world. What talents and other gifts will we bring?

Resolutions for the New Decade: We Can End Hunger by 2030 - The United States and the world have made substantial progress against hunger and poverty over the past 50 years. But too many people, including Americans, are still being left behind. Ending hunger and poverty in our state and country requires political will as well as comprehensive solutions that enable people to move toward financial stability. Elected officials should:

- **Support adequate federal funding for programs that help low-income communities.** Anti-hunger programs such as SNAP and WIC help families deal with a job loss or crisis. Efforts to reform Medicaid should ensure that vulnerable families do not lose health care access.
- **Support strong foundations for families, individuals, and workers.** Ensuring that everyone has access to good jobs, a livable minimum wage, and strong benefits lays a strong foundation for our workers. In addition, having access to quality education, affordable housing, health care, and asset and credit building opportunities empowers families and individuals to become financially independent.
- **Support fair and equitable tax policy.** Tax reform legislation should strengthen and expand earned income tax credits and child tax credits, narrow the widening inequality between top and bottom earners. Tax policies should prioritize low-income workers so they can earn more, save more, and build assets for the future. Legislation should not increase taxes for

low-income workers.

- **Support comprehensive immigration policy.** Immigration is a hunger issue on both sides of the border. Reform should both address the push factors that lead people to migrate from their home countries and, for those already here, prioritize family unity, human dignity, work opportunities, and responsible pathways to U.S. citizenship.
- **Support a fair and equitable criminal justice system.** Mass incarceration perpetuates hunger and poverty. Sentencing reform and support for individuals returning from incarceration, e.g., jobs, affordable housing, and programs such as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), will lower recidivism as well as hunger and poverty. (Source: Bread for the World)

AREA MINISTRY NEWS

Sojourner Truth Ministries Inc. has been a vital place for ministry to our lower income and homeless population for years. This ministry continues to meet many needs, including breakfast and lunch six days every week, emergency clothing, after school tutoring, and spiritual investment in this population of God's people. Thank you to all who have helped with this!

God is now enlarging our territory and ministry to provide safe short term restorative shelter for women coming out of a season of homelessness. The six month time of residency will include Christ-based programs to learn personal value and skills needed to become successful in independent self-supportive living.

This extension ministry is very close to meeting our financial, building upgrade, furniture, household and other needs in order to open by late spring, with thanks to our many supporters and volunteers!

The invitation is for you to come alongside us to help fill these needs. Contact Angelique4stm@gmail.com, 570-323-1797 for information about a part-time position, volunteer opportunities, a financial contribution, and our wish list.

The Williamsport area working together can make a positive difference! Visit www.stmwilliamsport.org

Open House for Sojourner House of Hope, and Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc. 501 High St., Williamsport is scheduled for Fri, Feb 28, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Food provided by Hillside Catering.. Snowdate: Wed, March 4, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. RSVP, but walk-ins welcome! Donations happily accepted.



CREATION CORNER**Christian Social Concerns Committee**

Dates, Quotations, Books

Dates: Past and Future

- 1/21/1935 The Wilderness Society founded
- 2/2/2020 World Wetlands Day
- 2/14/2020 Great Backyard Bird Count begins
- 2/26/2020 World Spay Day
- 2/27/2020 International Polar Bear Day
- 3/3/2020 World Wildlife Day
- 3/22/2020 World Water Day
- 4/22/2020 50th anniversary of first Earth Day (1970)
- 4/24/2020 Arbor Day
- 4/26-5/3/2020 Soil and Water Conservation Week and Sunday (sponsor: National Association of Conservation Districts)

Quotations Worth Remembering

- You must take action. You must do the impossible. Because giving up can never ever be an option. - Greta Thunberg.
- The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that's wrong with the world. - Dr. Paul Farmer.
- In truth, we don't know which of our acts in the present will shape the future. But we have to behave as if everything we do matters. Because it might. - Gloria Steinem, My Life on the Road.
- If you assume that there is no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, then there is a possibility that you can contribute to making a better world. The choice is yours. -Noam Chomsky.
- This new decade could be the most determinative in human history. -Michael Brune, Sierra Club exec. director.

Books Worth Noting

- After Geoengineering: Climate Tragedy, Repair, and Restoration. - Holly Jean Buck.
- Atopia. Sandra Simonds (poetry).
- Censored 2020: Through the Looking Glass (The Top Censored Stories and Media Analysis of 2018-2019). Edited by Andy Lee Roth and Mickey Huff. (includes environmental and climate change stories).
- Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climate Regime. Bruno Latour.
- Earth is Our Business: Changing the Rules of the Game. Polly Higgins.
- Environmental Justice in a Moment of Danger. Julie Sze. (volume 11 in the American Studies Now series: Critical Histories of the Present).
- Erosion: Essays of Undoing. Terry Tempest Williams.
- The Hebrew Bible and Environmental Ethics: Humans, Nonhumans, and the Living Landscape. Mari Joerstad.

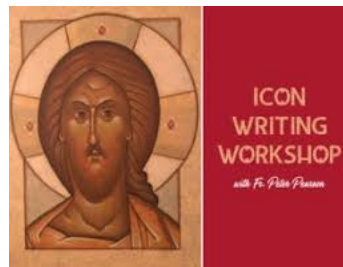
- How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human. Eduardo Kohn.
- I Dare You To Be Great. Polly Higgins (also available as a video talk by this "earth lawyer").
- Images of Conservationists (series of books for young readers) includes John Muir, America's Naturalist; Rachel Carson, Preserving a Sense of Wonder.
- Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don't Know You Have. Tatiana Schlossberg.
- Jesus and John Muir: A Wilderness Novel. Chris Highland.
- The Progress of This Storm: Nature and Society in a Warming World. Andreas Malm.

Classified Ads Secretary Needed:
Bethany Lutheran Church (NALC), Montoursville is searching for a part time office secretary. The job will be for 15 hours a week. Contact Pastor Letscher at 570-368-8933.

COMMUNITY EVENTS*

Give Blood on Monday, January 27 at the Community Blood Drive held in the Social Hall at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1400 Market Street, Williamsport from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by Williamsport Mom's Demand Action, homemade soup will be available to all presenting donors. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Williamsport Moms to schedule an appointment. You can also streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting www.RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



An Icon Painting Workshop, led by Peter Pearson, iconographer and priest will be held February 20-22, 2020 at Christ Episcopal Church, 426 Mulberry Street, Williamsport. The workshop will be held on Thursday and Friday evenings from 6:30-9 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (bring a bag lunch). The cost is \$200 (all materials provided) and registration is half down. No previous experience or innate talent is required. Contact Fr. Kyle Murphy: Christepchurch@gmail.com 570-322-8160.