



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA17701

Phone 570-322-1110, E-Mail director@uclc.org

Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor

Mrs. Patty Gohrs, Administrative Assistant: office@uclc.org

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Return Service Requested

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BECOMING PLASTIC FOAM FREE

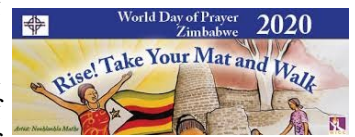
You want to be part of the solution, but aren't quite sure how it will work. You are in luck! *United Churches is now able to partner with interested congregations and small businesses to provide some replacement cups and clam-shell-to-go-containers at no cost to you, to help you discover what will work best for you.*



Thanks to an UMCOR Grant we will purchase these materials in a few weeks. To apply to be part of this free program please fill out the short application included in the supplement portion of the newsletter or contact us at 570-322-1110 or director@uclc.org for a copy. We is also on our web site under <http://uclc.org/Resources-for-Congregations>.

God calls us to be responsible stewards of God's creation. One of the most polluting substances we have in our communities is plastic foam, better known by the brand name Styrofoam®. Plastic foam takes anywhere from decades to millennia to decompose, and it releases toxic chemicals as it breaks down. Unfortunately, plastic foam is very common - in our trash, landfills, streets, and even our beloved rivers and streams. Such pollution sickens our natural world and breaks God's heart. Thank you for caring!

Church Women United of Lycoming County will gather on Friday, March 5 to celebrate World Day of Prayer. The congregation of First Church of Christ (Disciples) will be our host. The service begins at 1:30, at 1250 Almond Street in Williamsport.



The theme, "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk" was chosen by our sisters in Zimbabwe and is based on Jesus' encounter with a lame man who although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given. Jesus asked "Do you want to be made well?" This was probably the strangest, yet most life changing question asked by Jesus. Of course, the lame man whom Jesus encountered at Bethzatha, a pool in Jerusalem, wanted to be made well; otherwise he would have not been at the pool known for healing powers. The question is "What stopped him from being well before meeting Jesus?"

The women of Zimbabwe share their history as well as current political, social, and economic struggles. Instead of staying on their mats, our Zimbabwean sisters are acting on Jesus' call to action, to "Rise! Take up their mat and walk" which for them is a call to love, peace, and reconciliation. We welcome you to join us as our sisters of Zimbabwe challenge us to "take up our mats, whatever they may be for us, and walk."

-continued on page 2

CWU - World Day of Prayer *continued from page 1.....*

Refreshments will be served in the church Fellowship Hall following the celebration. Plenty of parking is available in the church parking lot.

Walker, catheter bags and lap robes are always appreciated! Nursing homes throughout the county welcome these items and will be received at this World Day Of Prayer Celebration. Instructions for these items can be obtained from Pat Wittig (570)322-4330 or are in the newsletter supplement.

Your contribution is your Fair Share of our Local Church Women United in Lycoming County Budget. Contributions from individuals as well as Women organizations are very much appreciated and will be used towards our Christmas Stocking Project. Your contributions may also be sent to Eleanor Derr, 319 Woodland Ave., Williamsport, Pa. 17701.



This year United Churches of Lycoming County will again be part of the Raise the Region day of giving! I imagine you have already circled March 11-12 on

your calendar because you always make a difference in our community and I hope you will want to include United Churches in the nonprofits you support during this special event! Please help us continue to provide hope to so many in our community through the many ministries including....

- The Shepherd of the Streets
- Food Pantry and
- Campus Ministry
- Providing almost 900 Worship Services to area nursing homes and prisons.
- Weekly Editorials and Daily Devotions are constantly available to give people hope
- Newsletters, Podcasts Lunches and Services that connect and educate
- and an Interfaith Dialogue Commission that helps us all learn how to better live together in a more diverse world.

You can look at information about each organization now by visiting <https://raisetheregion.org> and you will be able to make donations from 6 pm on March 11th to 11:59 pm March 12th.



Tammy Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@uclc.org

We are called to share God’s love and proclaim the Word. There are seasons when you wonder if you are making an impact. But then there are times when God blesses you with something unexpected.

Last week we had a Spring Involvement Fair on campus. It is an opportunity to showcase our student organizations. In the

fall, we set a table up and give away sno cones. We are very popular. We have the timing perfect. While a student makes the sno cone, I give our 30 second “commercial”. In the spring, we set our table up with Jesus and Java. (Still a very popular table. We have student organizations bargaining their goods for our cookies!) Shortly before cleaning up, a student at the table next to us asked if she could have a cookie. She had been looking at them the whole time. While we gave her one, she asked what it was that we do. Holly proceeded to tell her about Jesus and Java. The student stopped her. “Wait a minute! My boyfriend, Charlie, and I were just talking about you guys last night! He stops at your table every Wednesday morning to pick up a devotion. He saves them and pins them on his wall.”

She goes on to tell us that last semester one of his friends stopped by his dorm one evening. The friend was in a bad spot, going through some difficult times and sharing all of this with Charlie. Charlie stopped him and said, “Wait. I have something for you.” He went to get one of the devotions and told his friend to read it, that it would help. Not only did the friend read the devotion, he looked up the scriptures and continues to read them every day. She said we had made an impact on his life. We don’t always get to see the lives we touch, but don’t stop reaching out. God is using you in His plan!

It’s not to late to order our soup!

Soup Sale Order Form for United Campus Ministry

Donation: \$7.00 per quart

(Checks payable to “United Churches Campus Ministry”)

All soup freshly homemade then frozen.

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: _____

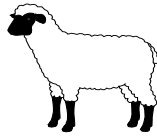
Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Mail check and order form to: **Pastor Tammy Aichner**
Order by March 1st 1325 Mansel Avenue
Delivery March 18th - 31st Williamsport, PA 17701

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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



Human life is sacred. Molded and crafted by God and brought to life by the Breath of God. That life is unique and matchless in all creation. Yet for each of us we sometimes face challenges and difficulties. For all too many life can become so diminished that it brings the hardships of poverty with it often low self-esteem. Our Shepherd of the Streets Ministry often has the opportunity to speak to people who are struggling, and drop seeds of life and hope to hearts that have been battered with fear, desperation, poverty and or inferiority.

To help us bring hope and help to those who ask, 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 also 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. Both clergy & laity can help. Currently there are about 20 services open. The nursing home residents love to come together to worship, something they have done all their lives! As we remind them of God's love and faithfulness we bring them the hope they need to face the challenges of life. Leaders are needed for services on Sunday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Contact Gwen at director@uclc.org or 570-322-1110.



INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS

Conversations in the Holy Land: On January 8th, eight United Methodists from the Williamsport Area led by the Rev. Lenore Hosier from Saint John's-Newberry UMC boarded a flight to Tel Aviv from JFK to spend a week of immersion in the Land of the Bible. They joined with 34 other pilgrims from a variety of other Christian traditions to visit the sites of both the Old and New Testaments. Beginning in the North, they went to places such as Tel Dan, the Mount of the Beatitudes and Capernaum. They took a boat across the Sea of Galilee and passed the snowed-capped peaks of Mount Hermon on their way to the Golan Heights. From there, they ventured south along the Jordan to Jericho, Qumran, Masada and the Dead Sea. A few final days around Bethlehem and ancient Jerusalem wrapped up the week-long trip, but this was not the full extent of their experience.

Among the other pilgrims was the Rev. Dr. Gary Mason, a Methodist minister, professor and conflict transformation consultant from Northern Ireland who led daily chats about peace building and the Middle East. The group met Muslims, Christians and Jews and got their perspectives on the situation in Israel and Palestine.



Pilgrims had opportunity to go to meals in the community in both Palestinian and Israeli homes to have open dialogue with people with differing viewpoints. At the trip's end, many agreed that the trip was life-changing, not only in their faith walk but also in their thoughts about people from other faiths and in political views in the Middle East. It was not just the rocks and ancient churches that told stories of faith, but the people themselves who ate together, struggled together, laughed together and had fellowship with one another that allowed the participants to experience God in a profound, new way.

Rev. Hosier is part of the United Churches' Interfaith Dialogue Commission and willing to share resources about the Holy Land and Interfaith Dialogue. Fr. William Corcoran of St. Boniface/St. Lawrence Catholic Parish, with extensive work in the Middle East, is also a helpful resource for those interested in learning more or traveling to that part of the world.

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:

- 2/10-17 Mrs. Rebecca Logan 2/18-23 Rev. Bernice Coaxum
- 2/24-3/1 Mrs. Patty Gohrs 3/2-8 Rev. Ron Shellhamer
- 3/9-15 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner 3/16-22 Ms. Pat Jenkins
- 3/23-29 Pastor Tammey Aichner 3/30-4/5 Ms. Yvonne Shenuski

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

FOOD PANTRY *

Mona Rundio, Coordinator 570-322-1657

Email - foodpantry@uclc.org

We are so grateful to all who have contributed to food that currently stocks our shelves. Our prayer is that the contributions continue so we can help those in need. We are all given the ability to help others and it is always amazing to see how you stretch your abilities and are so thoughtful and caring when shopping or even attending a Super Bowl party.



Many congregations had a Super Bowl event and asked those attending to bring a food pantry donation. Many of those items are already on our shelves and others, I am told are on their way. With these items we are able to fill a family under great financial stress due to illness.

One family told me recently how thankful they are that they can come to our pantry to get food when short on money. This family must make many trips for medical appointments and procedures, as well as to their pharmacy for the medicines needed to stay alive. The mother hugs and blesses us for our help and yours. She says that without the pantry they don't know how they would be surviving their difficult times.

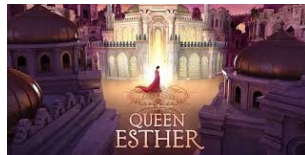
The pantry is never totally filled and it seems like things fly off the shelves as fast as we can get them stocked each week. Currently we are in need of the following items to help the families in our community:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Canned Meat</i> | <i>Canned Fruit</i> | <i>Coffee</i> |
| <i>Baking Items</i> | <i>Healthy Snacks</i> | <i>Pasta</i> |
| <i>Canned Vegetables</i> | <i>Condiments</i> | <i>Cereal</i> |

Location and Hours :

320 Park Ave Wmspt. rear entrance
 Monday – donations/stocking 9-11am
 Tuesday and Thursday —clients 10:15-2pm

Several seats are still available for our (UCLC) day in Lancaster to see Sight and Sounds newest production, **Queen Esther**. We've scheduled our trip for Tuesday, March 24. We leave at 6:30 a.m. and return about 8 p.m. Your ticket includes the bus trip, the morning show of Queen Esther at Sight and Sound, and a lunch buffet at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant. On the trip in we will make a breakfast stop at Hardees. The return trip includes a stop at Edwards Nut and Candy Company for your shopping pleasure. Total cost is: Adults: \$125, Children under 12: \$90. Please call Yvonne to see if seats are still available. Checks should be made out to United Churches (UCLC) and mailed 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.



POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE

Christian Social Concerns Committee

He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save (Psalm 72:12-13). The verses from Psalm 72 hopefully will inspire us to rescue the poor when they are afflicted. The failure to raise the state's Minimum Wage is such an example calling us to take action.

Minimum wage adjusted to inflation - The current federal minimum wage (also adopted by Pennsylvania) was set at \$7.25 per hour in 2009. Adjusted to inflation that is the equivalent of \$6.05 in 2019.

PA Minimum wage compared with its surrounding states in 2020 - PA is a desert of inequity:

Pennsylvania	\$ 7.25
New York	11.80
New Jersey	11.00
Maryland	11.00
Ohio	8.70



Raising minimum wage by \$1 could prevent thousands of suicides - Analysis of nationwide data from 1990 - 2015 revealed that raising the minimum wage by \$1 in each state could have saved 27,000 persons from suicide. The research was published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. Similar findings were found at Massachusetts General Hospital and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Minimum wage legislation is stalled in the PA Legislature

The PA Senate passed legislation in 2019 that would increase the Minimum Wage in four steps from \$8.00 in 2020 to \$9.50 in 2022. The PA Dept. of Labor & Industry estimates this would affect about 385,000 workers.

Living wage in Lycoming County - The Living Wage Calculator at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology estimates the following hourly rates would be needed for a living wage for our county:

- One adult would need \$11.19
- One adult with one child would need \$22.42
- Two adults with two children (both working) each would need \$15.13
- For more information visit:

www.livingwage.mit.edu/counties/42081

Take action - Contact your House Representative - Ask your House member to support passage of increase in the state's Minimum Wage.

Hon. Garth D. Everett or
 400 Irvis Office Building
 PO Box 202084
 Harrisburg, PA 17120
 (717) 787-5270

Hon. Jeff C. Wheeland
 427 Irvis Office Building
 PO Box 202083
 Harrisburg, PA 17120
 (717) 787-2885

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.

FEBRUARY:

- 12- **Rev. Jeff LeCrone**, Interim Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport, *"Helping Youth Grow In Faith"*
- 19- **Mr. Timothy Mahoney** and **Mrs. Rae Weber**, NAMI of Northcentral PA, *"Mental Health Issues"*
- 26- **Rev. James Wooster, Jr.**, Pine Street United Methodist Church and **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches, *"Ash Wednesday - History and Service"*

MARCH:

A Journey Through Lent

The People Jesus Met On His Way to Jerusalem

- 4 - **Rev. Ken Wagner Pizza**, Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport, *"Zacchaeus"* -Luke 19:1-10
- 11- **Rev. Glenn McCreary**, Resurrection Catholic Church, Muncy, *"The Disciple Who Wanted To Know More About Prayer"* - Luke 11:1-13
- 18- **Rev. David Smith**, Montoursville Presbyterian Church, *"The Brother Who Wanted Some Of The Family Inheritance"* Luke 12: 13-21
- 25- **Rev. Brad Walmer**, New Covenant United Church of Christ, Williamsport, *"The Lawyer Who Tests Jesus"* Luke 10:25-37.

AREA MINISTRY NEWS

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.



Parking with shuttle service at American Rescue Workers parking lot. Appetizers donated by Hillside Catering. (Snowdate: Wed, March 4, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.) RSVP, but walk-ins welcome!



Staff Wanted: Sojourner Truth Ministries is hiring professional paid and volunteer staff for the House of Hope, as well as an overall Resource Advocate. Please

leave a detailed message 570-323-1797.

Blessing Boxes of different shapes and sizes have been springing up all over. They don't take the place of a food pantry or a free hot meal, but they are there for people who need a little extra to tide them over. The rule being, "take what you need and leave what you can."

These Blessing Boxes are there to help a person or family get through a difficult time when they don't have enough to eat, or the necessities of life just aren't there. There might be something for a family who's been stretching their food budget until it snapped. No dinner was possible until they were blessed with some chili, rice and beans, or tuna and noodles. A senior might find a blessing of warm gloves or a homeless person might use some soup, oatmeal, fruit or peanut butter and crackers for their meal. Soap and necessities like a clean towel or a new toothbrush are also stocked.

There are several boxes that I know of in Williamsport...

- Christ Episcopal Church
 - New Covenant United Church of Christ
 - St. John's Newberry United Methodist Church
 - Trinity Episcopal Church
- And in Hughesville....
- The Beacon, a United Methodist Church.



Wherever they are and whatever the shape, they are greatly appreciated. People find them and use them. All the congregations would appreciate your keeping these boxes and their users in prayer. And if you happen to find yourself in the position to have something to be able to give toward these efforts that would be a wonderful thing too.

Little League - Easter Egg Hunt Coupons: The World of Little League Museum is again offering churches complimentary youth passes to be used in conjunction with Easter Egg Hunts or similar events. To allow more children to have the opportunity to visit the museum, passes for children 12 and under are available to be used as gifts for your event. Contact Gwen at director@uclc.org or 570-322-1110 by Thursday, March 19th. Note: children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or other adult in the museum. Your group may use the tickets to arrange a field trip which would allow adult tickets to be purchased at a discount (please schedule in advance.) Questions: contact Janice Ogurcak, jogurcak@LittleLeague.org or 570-326-1921x 2280.

Earth Week Clean-Up: The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) is organizing a cleanup for the week of Earth Day, taking place April 18 - 26. SGP will register groups with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and obtain and provide gloves, safety vests and garbage bags for them. They ask groups to self-organize teams, and then share with them their weight of litter, number of volunteer hours, and area of litter collection. Contact Sam Keller at sjkeller@susquehanna-greenway.org to share your team's information and leader contact for final reporting. Each team can choose a specific spot that they wish to pick up litter, and the day they prefer.

SAVE THE PLANET
ACTION CALENDAR FOR LENT

YOU can make a difference

Try it for a day - a week - all of Lent - a lifetime

- 2/26 - Bring your own shopping bag to all stores
- 2/27 - Stop buying bottled water
- 2/28 - Say no to plastic straws
- 2/29 - Bring your own thermos/cup for coffee/tea
- 3/1 - Our First Commandment - Keep and tend the garden - Genesis 2:15
- 3/2 - Rethink your food storage
- 3/3 - Shop in bulk and refillables— bring your containers
- 3/4 - Carry metal utensils in the car
- 3/5 - Refuse plastic bags at the pharmacy or anywhere
- 3/6 - Shop at the Local Farmer's Market – bring your bags
- 3/7 - Buy bakery items packaged in paper or cardboard
- 3/8 - How can you buy something (air and water) you do not own - Chief Seattle
- 3/9 - Use powdered dish detergent
- 3/10 - Switch to bar soap instead of liquid soap
- 3/11 - Give up shampoo in plastic bottles
- 3/12 - Buy toilet paper not wrapped in plastic
- 3/13 - Take your lunch in reusable containers with utensils
- 3/14 - Refuse plastic foam (Styrofoam®) take-out containers
- 3/15 - Do not follow the majority - Exodus 23:2
- 3/16 - Wrap your garbage in newspaper
- 3/17 - Carry your own take-out container
- 3/18 - Pick up that bottle, plastic bag or paper and recycle it
- 3/19 - Cover leftovers with a plate
- 3/20 - Use jars/dishes for leftovers
- 3/21 - Recycle junk mail, envelopes, newspaper, cardboard
- 3/22 - The time of judgment has come beginning with God's household - 1 Peter 4:17
- 3/23 - Use a handkerchief instead of a paper tissue
- 3/24 - Use cloth napkins
- 3/25 - Use paper tape instead of plastic tape
- 3/26 - Carry your own refillable water container
- 3/27 - Drink water as your beverage of choice
- 3/28 - Ask your friends, group acquaintances to do the same
- 3/29 - A time comes when silence is betrayal - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 3/30 - Use compostable materials for your pet's pooh
- 3/31 - Use loose tea and loose coffee
- 4/1 - Avoid balloon, lantern and glitter release
- 4/2 - Make a covenant to buy less and use longer what you already have
- 4/3 - Use what is leftover-don't waste it
- 4/4 - Find one thing you can do, do it and find another
- 4/5 - Act justly, love kindness, walk humbly (for the environment) - Micah 6:8
- 4/6 - Pray, visualize, hope, meditate, dream
- 4/7 - Share 'plastic-free' with friends
- 4/8 - Discuss 'plastic-free' at all meetings



- 4/9 - Build a plastic 'monster' for your foyer/entry
- 4/10 - Tell others how easy it is to lessen your plastic use
- 4/11 - Replace your plastic foam with paper products
- 4/12 - Alleluia: Becoming plastic free begins with me.

- From the Christian Social Concerns Committee

CREATION CORNER
Christian Social Concerns Committee

Plastics

We all know about plastics. Produced with fossil fuels, the petro-chemical industry releases global greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that result in changes to our climate. Plastic is everywhere. It enters our bodies through accidental ingestion of nano particles, it is on our household shelves, litters our environment, is found in our waterways (think the Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch), and is released into our atmosphere from backyard burner barrels.

Plastic is truly a global problem, about which each of us can contribute to it being more of a problem, or less. For solutions, the "5 R's"—refuse, replace, reduce, reuse, recycle—are a start. The end goal is zero waste. Individual commitments, replicated by others million-times over, have a cumulative effect. Your efforts are important.

What is the extent of the problem? Consider these figures from various sources:

- 56 billion plastic bottles used in 2018
- the world makes 359 million tons of plastic yearly
- it is cheaper to make new plastics than to reuse old ones
- only 9% of plastic waste is recycled
- one million plastic water bottles are sold worldwide every minute
- 50% of plastics produced yearly are to be used only once
- it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to fully degrade
- by 2050 emissions associated with plastics could account for 15 % of the global annual carbon budget

Some solutions beyond lifestyle habits:

- urge bans on single-use plastics
- personally invest in socially responsible companies
- urge politicians to support environmental protection
- inquire of your employee pension fund (or of your financial institution, church denomination, etc.) and ask if its investments are fossil-free/environmentally friendly.
- use your stock-holding right to join with others in promoting resolutions for emission reductions
- look into the Plastic Pollution Coalition for ways you may contribute

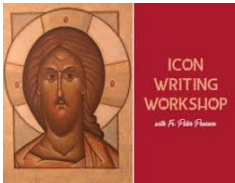
For people of faith to have an "ecological conversion" we must consider our actions to be life-giving for all, not merely for what is convenient to us. Our behavior is a vote for what we want the world to be.

COMMUNITY EVENTS*

Ecumenical Festival Choir is once again forming to begin rehearsals for their spring concert (April 26.) This Ecumenical Choir is open to any youth or adult who *loves* to sing Sacred Choral Music. There are no auditions or robes. You do *not* need to sing in a church choir to sing in the Ecumenical Festival Choir. Spread the word ... all are welcome! Call the Faxon Kenmar UMC Church Office at 570-323-7272 to register. Registration is \$25 payable to Faxon Kenmar UMC. Rehearsal dates are as follows.

Sunday Afternoons at Faxon Kenmar UMC, 1301 Clayton Ave., Williamsport from 1-3:
 February 16 & 23
 March 22 & 29
 April 5 & 19

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday April 25 from 9 am - Noon
 Performance: Sunday April 26, Warm Up 1:15, Concert 2 pm



An Icon Painting Workshop, led by Peter Pearson, iconographer and priest will be held Feb. 20-22, at Christ Episcopal Church, 426 Mulberry St, 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.

Book Discussion Starting Soon: “Giving to those in need what they could be gaining from their own initiative may well be the kindest way to destroy people.” Robert Lupton, Toxic Charity.

Sometimes charity has unintended consequences that can be toxic to the individuals we seek to serve. Want to learn more? The Covation Center (217 W. 4th St) is hosting a 4 session discussion group starting on Tuesday, Feb. 25th and running every other week from 7:30-8:30AM, to discuss this and other challenging topics from the book. To sign up, email info@covationcenter.org or call 570-435-1993.

The Covation Center was founded in 2016 as a nonprofit seeking to empower entrepreneurs and small business owners through providing educational opportunities and one on one consultation. Funded by several grants to provide business outreach, they work to connect business owners with resources to help them succeed. They operate Williamsport's first co-working space too. Their passion is to serve the socially and economically disadvantaged population of Wmspt. by providing access to business resources, in order for these individuals to create income generating small businesses.

Blind Faith, With 2020 Vision is the theme of the Revival being held at Keys of the Kingdom P.H.C., 517 Southern Avenue in South Williamsport nightly at 7:30 February 19-21. Overseer Bernice Coaxum is pleased to an-

nounce that the guest speaker sharing on the theme from Hebrews: 11:1 will be Pastor Joann Walker, Evangelist Robin Parker and Pastor David Stewart. All are invited to attend!

Faxon Free Community Church Concert: These fantastic concerts held at Faxon Kenmar UMC 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport. Everyone is welcome on Sunday afternoon, March 1 at 2 pm when John Bate, Organist from St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Ocean City NJ



Made for More: Visions from the Promised Land... Christopher West will be speaking at St. Boniface Catholic Church, 326 Washington Blvd., Wmspt, on Tuesday, March 31 at 7 p.m. You are invited to share in this opportunity to join Christopher West, best-selling author, speaker and teacher, along with folk/ Americana musician Mike Mangione for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. They'll help you open your senses to the secret of God revealed in all of creation and orient your life toward authentic fulfillment. The event is for married, single, Catholic, non-Catholic, devout, skeptic, youth and experienced. The cost is \$25 and tickets may be purchased by contacting a sponsoring parish (St. Joseph the Worker, St. Ann, St. Boniface/St. Lawrence, Immaculate Conception/St. Luke, Church of the Resurrection and Our Lady of Lourdes), or Makenzie Connor, 570-323-9456 or youthmin@sjwparish.com.

Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast: The Susquehanna Valley Chapter Pennsylvanians for Human Life (SVC-PHL) cordially invites you to a Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 4th at 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Express (Grand Ball Room) in Williamsport. The principal speaker will be Dr. Monique Ruberu who is a daughter of God, a wife to an amazing husband and a mother to five adorable kiddos (2 in heaven). She is a convinced Catholic and a NaPro Technology Trained Pro-Life Ob/Gyn. Monique has a beautiful conversion story that she recently published titled “Rising with Roses.” She co-leads two 40 days for life campaigns in downtown Philadelphia. She is a pro-life advocate, trained sidewalk counselor and public speaker. She loves to salsa dance, spend time with her Lord in mass and adoration, scuba dive, travel and love her family. Monique loves speaking about making the most of your marriage, avoiding dating pitfalls and embracing the real purpose of dating, sexual integrity before and after marriage, NaPro technology as an alternative to contraceptives, IVF and typical gynecologic care, sidewalk counseling, the aftermath of abortion, and her conversion story. Breakfast buffet: \$15 Adult & \$5 Children 10 & under. RSVP: Doris at 570.745.3502 before Friday, March 20.

United Churches has served our community for seventy three years. It is truly a ministry that focuses on the entire community. This continues to be clear with the overwhelming response for our 9th Annual Golf Tournament. We encourage you to support these businesses and organizations as they have supported us.

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