



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY  
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*Issued mid-monthly, September through May with special e-mail only summer issues. Items marked with an asterisk may be of special interest to your congregation. Deadline to submit articles - First of each month.*

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER 2

[www.uclc.org](http://www.uclc.org)

February 12, 2019

**Return Service Requested**

**Non-Profit Org.  
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 Permit # 307  
 Williamsport, PA 17701**



It's time for our Campus Ministry's Annual Soup Sale. Below is the list of soups and your order form.

Soup Sale for United Campus Ministry  
 Donation: \$7.00 per quart  
 (Checks payable to "United Churches Campus Ministry")  
 All soup freshly homemade then frozen.

Type	Order Form	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 . . . . .	_____	_____
<b>Total Quarts ordered:</b>	<b>_____ x \$7. . . . .</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 or \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks and order form to Tammy Aichner, 1325 Mansel Ave., Williamsport, PA 17701. Orders are needed by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Quantities limited, first ordered, first served. Delivery will be between April 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>. Tammy will contact you to arrange delivery. Soup will be delivered frozen. All proceeds go toward our Campus Ministry.

Listen to Tammy's interview with Lou Kolb and learn more about our Campus Ministry Program at Penn College on our most recent Podcast:

<https://youtu.be/v4CW64FTDtk>

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED \***

Ms. Linda Jackson

**W**orld Day of Prayer will be held Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at Shiloh Baptist Church, 433 Walnut Street, Williamsport. Beginning at 1:30 the theme is "Come, Everything Is Ready"

This Celebration is written by the women of Slovenia, one of the smallest countries in Europe. They invite us to learn about their history and rich cultural diversity as they share stories of the intergenerational wisdom and traditions that reflect their political and economic situation from the time they were a socialist-communist state to today.

The theme invites us to come...everything is ready. Come to praise, thank and to proclaim the kingdom of love. The invitation is grounded in the parable Jesus told about a great feast which was attended by the folks called off the streets, as those invited excused themselves. (Lk. 14:15-24) Community forms around the table but is not enough to fill

the house – there is still room. We will think about who is missing from the table in our community and how we'd invite and prepare the feast?

The World Day of Prayer's guiding

principles affirm that prayer is rooted in listening to God and one another. Who isn't at your World Day of Prayer service yet?" The women of Slovenia challenge us to widen our circles and expand our communities. To build and strengthen the communities around God's table. Come, there is a place for you! Refreshments will be served after the celebration. Parking is available in the parking lot next to the church. The church is not handicapped accessible.

Walker, catheter bags and lap robes are always appreciated. Nursing homes throughout the county welcome these items which will be received at this World Day of Prayer Celebration. Instructions for these items can be obtained from Pat Wittig, 570-322-4330.

This is the time many local women's groups as well as individuals contribute their "Fair Share (\$5+) to Church Women United in Lycoming County Budget. This year these funds will be used toward our Christmas Stocking Project. Contributions from individuals as well as from 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 Avenue, Williamsport, Pa 17701

World Day of Prayer

**FAITH UNBOUND  
IN LYCOMING COUNTY \***

**J**oin Lou Kolb as he hosts the third podcast in our series to better acquaint you with the ministries and activities of United Churches. This show features **Pastor Tamme Aichner and our United Campus Ministry**. Check it out on Youtube and as always, let us know what you think.

<https://youtu.be/v4CW64FTDtk>

**THE PLACE TO BE FOR LUNCH WEDNESDAYS \***

**J**oin us Wednesdays for lunch and an interesting program! The lunch line opens about 11:45 with a home cooked \$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 United Churches 570-322-1110 helps preparations. To check on cancellations this winter call Gwen at 570-419-1464.

**FEBRUARY:**

- 13- **Pastor Tamme Aichner**, First Church of Christ Disciples, "*Love*"
- 20- **Mrs. Patty Gohrs**, United Churches Staff, "*The Most Fascinating Person I've Ever Met, Dr. Francis V. Costello*"
- 27- **Mr. Bill Smith**, Member of New Covenant United Church of Christ, "*Getting Ready for Shrove Tuesday: The History of Fausnaughts*"

**MARCH:**

- 6- **Rev. James Wooster**, Pastor, Pine Street United Methodist Church, "*Ash Wednesday Service*"

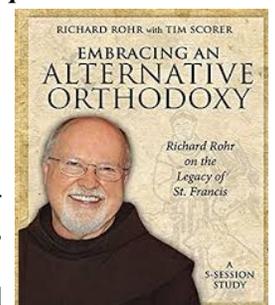
**Lenten Series - with the Williamsport Ministerium**

Embracing An  
Alternative Orthodoxy  
A Five Study Series With  
Richard Rohr  
on the Legacy of St. Francis

- 13- **Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza**, Pastor, Trinity Episcopal Church, "*Atonement Theology*"
- 20- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches of Lycoming County, "*Eco-Spirituality*"

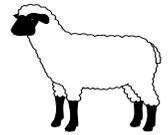
- 27- **Rev. Jeffrey LeCrone**, Interim Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church, "*The Cosmic Christ*"

Plan to attend! Bring a friend! It's for regular folks like you and me! Join us this week!



**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,  
570-322-6538, [shepherd@uclc.org](mailto:shepherd@uclc.org)



**The Paralysis of Poverty**

**Paralysis:** Any condition of helpless inactivity or of inability to act. New World Dictionary

**Poverty:** Deficiency in necessary properties or desirable qualities, or in imagination. NWD

**Poor:** Having little or no means to support oneself, needy, lacking some quality or thing. NWD

**T**hese thoughts are to be interpreted in the light of the above definitions and applied to those born into or whose childhood and adolescence was spent in poverty and the subsequent impact on mental processes, such as intellect, intuition, thought, perception, conception, apperception, judgment, understanding, reason, talent, instinct, and ingenuity have had their effects.

One's acumen is shaped by heredity and environment (physical, psychological, and spiritual), and that mystical acquirement through individual humanization. Like begets like, yet we all know those who have risen above their heredity and environment by the mystery of faith, hope, and love.

Human life starts in a state of wonder, the spirit aware and growing mind conditioned by a myriad of sounds, rhythms, and conditions surrounding it both inside and outside the womb.

Hope and prospect is established in the infant psyche (self-awareness) and if, after birth things are not as expected, disruption of body, soul, and spirit ensue. The mind does not know what to do with this new experience and cries out. The response to that fear is usually either physical or environmental, thus the child accepts that dynamic as accurate and blameless, good and right.

This perception is a feeling of satisfaction, setting instinct and expectation in the infant psyche.

However, if there is a generational poverty of faith, hope, and love in those responding to the need, or an inability to meet the need due to poverty in the mindset of the responder, and confusion is felt and sometimes, it is dynamic enough to cripple the child and never mind that fear becomes imbedded in the heart. For instance, mental complacency in the parent transmits to the child and this impedes learning, intuition, judgment, reason, and instinct.

Paralysis sets in when the child no longer can reason from the response and the need is unmet. That is, if the parent is complacent about knowing, appreciating, and acquiring the necessary and right thing, the psyche (soul) be-

comes cynical and adverse, the spirit is crippled and disengaged, and the toxicity will impotence or the child will assimilate ways and means to regulate the body, soul, and spirit. Adapting such increases the paralysis, if such ways and means are selfish and vengeful, but if there is a connection to dynamic righteousness and spirituality in the life of the child, they will readily appropriate that truth as a life principal. Truth will set one free.

Truth empowered by faith, hope, and love will reset the state of being and the stagnation, inflexibility, and the paralysis disabling the whole person will fade away in the Love of God. This is called conversion; a change from one frame of reference to another. At Shepherd of the Streets we have many opportunities to weave the Word of Life into our conversations with those who have been paralyzed in their upbringing or in their rebellion to life, especially in the throes of adolescence. What a grand opportunity to give counsel in the Spirit. -----

Thank you for your donation of hygiene items, baby needs, and/or bedding. The list follows:

- Toothpaste a 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*
- |                     |                     |                    |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Soap</i>         | <i>Deodorant</i>    | <i>Combs</i>       |
| <i>Baby Diapers</i> | <i>Baby Shampoo</i> | <i>Baby Oil</i>    |
| <i>Baby Q-Tips</i>  | <i>Baby Wipes</i>   | <i>Baby Powder</i> |



**I**n Memory...The Rev. Dr. Rena Joyce Weller Karefa-Smart, the first black woman to graduate from Yale Divinity School (1945) and a leader in the international movement to bring churches closer together, died on Jan. 9 at 97. Dr. Karefa-Smart was also the first black woman to earn a doctor of theology degree from Harvard Divinity School (1976.) She was an Episcopal priest and a minister in the A.M.E. Zion Church. She attended the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches and was an ecumenical officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. When at Yale Divinity School, her principal professor was H. Richard Niebuhr, (brother of Reinhold) who taught her that God was omnipotent and immutable and that human understanding of him must therefore change over time and space. These ideas informed her work as an ecumenist, seeking to bring churches together.

**POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE**

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

**T**he Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. (Luke 4:18). In Luke's Gospel, Jesus begins his public ministry reading these words from Isaiah at the synagogue in Nazareth. Where is serving the poor in our priorities?

**“Raise the Wage Act of 2019” Introduced:** Bread for the World has stated that if enacted, this legislation would raise the federal minimum wage this year and increase it annually until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024. Thereafter, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually to keep pace with inflation. This would lift wages for 41 million American workers and significantly decrease poverty and hunger in the United States. For more visit: [www.bread.org/news/bread-world-statement-introduction-raise-wage-act-2019](http://www.bread.org/news/bread-world-statement-introduction-raise-wage-act-2019).)

**Pennsylvania's Minimum Wage** has been stagnant at the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour for the last 12 years, which is at least \$1 less than every neighboring state.



©CBS/KDKA in Pittsburgh

**The Immigrant Push from Central America:** Hunger and Poverty Are Root Causes – Human migration have “push” forces. Why are people coming from this region? Violence is one of the causes; however, extreme poverty is another. Unaccompanied children are a particular example where conditions are pushing children out of their homes and communities. Aid for economic development to eradicate hunger and poverty should be a high priority for U. S. foreign assistance for the region. Violence is likewise linked to conditions of extreme poverty.

**Global “Extreme Poverty” Declines:** “Extreme poverty” is defined as persons living on less than \$1.90 a day. Rates of extreme poverty have dropped from 1981 – when those living in extreme poverty represented 42% of the world's population – to 2015 – when the percentage decline to 10%. The primary gains in income have been made in China and India. Still much needs to be done even in those countries and especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Global economic development aimed at eradicating hunger and poverty is essential.

**FOOD PANTRY \***

Mona Rundio, Coordinator 570-322-1657

E-mail - [foodpantry@uclc.org](mailto:foodpantry@uclc.org)

**L**ove: There are so many ways to express, communicate and share this amazing attribute we all received from our Father above. As we unite and praise Him lets us not forget to share it in our communities. Use both actions and word. Give generously to those less fortunate.

Each of us has God given abilities to help Gods' world grow and prosper! Abilities we all share is giving to others the gifts of love, fellowship and support. At the food pantry our clients are in need of a helping hand and are blessed to receive the food items you give. We see many ways congregations collect food for those in need. Some keep a basket available for weekly donations, some have monthly special collections and many do make special contributions for the holidays.



When shopping try to remember and care for those around you. Buy one more item than you need. Take advantage of the buy one and get one free deal and give the other to the pantry. Items that we are currently most in need of are:

- **Healthy Cereals**
- **Pastas - All Kinds**
- **Large Family Sized Items**

We thank and praise all of you that contributed to us in the past, present and still go come future!! Our location is at 320 Park Ave, Williamsport at the rear entrance. Our days of service are as follow:

- Mondays: 9-12 for donations
- Tuesdays: 10:15-2:30 Clients
- Thursdays: 10:15-2:30 Clients

Please note that we close for holidays (like Presidents Day) and also when WASD closes due to weather. Have a wonderful, loving and blessed month!!

**DIAL - A - DEVOTION \***

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



**D**evotions 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 coming up are:

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2/10-17 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner | 2/18-24 Mrs. Sandra Grier          |
| 2/25-3/3 Ms. Patricia King  | 3/4-10 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens |
| 3/11-17 Mrs. Tiffany Haller | 3/18-24 Mrs. Gail Landers          |

**Listen today - And share this resource with a friend!**

**CREATION CORNER**

*Christian Social Concerns Committee*

Winter Reading Suggestions

**W**ith hearts and minds uplifted,  
We plead, O Lord to see the  
day of earth's redemption, that  
sets your people free! -last verse, Hymn  
25, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Lutheran Book of Worship



The Accidental Species: Misunderstandings of Human Evolution. Henry Gee.

All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings. Gayle Boss.

Atlas of the World, 25th edition. Oxford University Press.

Beautiful Beasts: A Collection of Creatures Past and Present. Camilla de la Bedoyere (for readers 6 to 10).

Carbon Ideologies, Volume 1: No Immediate Danger. Volume 2: No Good Alternative. William T. Vollmann.

Climate Change in a Nutshell: The Gathering Storm. James Hansen. Known as the Nutshell document, it helps form the basis of the "Our Children's Trust" climate case, Juliana v. the United States.

Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change. Jim Antal. Forward Bill McKibben.

Deep Thinkers: Inside the Minds of Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises. Janet Mann, ed.

An Ecology of Happiness. Eric Lambin (re: nature prescription for psychological well-being).

A Field Guide To Your Own Backyard. John H. Mitchell.

Fixing Your City: Creative Thriving Neighborhoods and Adapting to a Changing World. George Crandall.

Future Politics: Living Together in a World Transformed by Tech. Jamie Susskind.

The Genius of Birds. Jennifer Ackerman.

Honeybee Hotel. The Waldorf Astoria's Rooftop Garden and the Heart of NYC. Leslie Day.

One of Ten Billion Earths: How We Learn About Our Planet's Past and Future from Distant Exoplanets. Karel Schrijver.

Preaching As Resistance: Voices of Hope, Justice, and Solidarity. Phil Snider, editor (ecology concerns included).

The Sea Around Us. Rachel Carson. New edition of the 1952 National Book Award.

Star Struck: Seeing the Creator in The Wonders of Our

Cosmos. D. Bradstreet & S/ Rabeu/

Ten Species That Changed Our World. Alice Roberts.

Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World. Marcia Bjornerud.

**Compact Disc**

Hymnody of Earth. A Ceremony of Songs composed and arranged by Malcolm Dalglish with inspiration and lyrics from Wendell Berry, with American Boy Choir, hammer dulcimer and percussion.

**DVD**

Unfractured: A Documentary on Activism, Family and the Fight Against Fracking. Re: Sandra Steingraber in NY; film director/producer is Chanda Chevannes.

**NOTE:** More selections are available in the February 2019 Online Supplement at [www.uclc.org/newsletter](http://www.uclc.org/newsletter).

**F**estival Choir 2019 is gathering under the direction of David Koskey. The Faxon Festival Choir closes their Community Church Concert Music Series. This Ecumenical Choir is open to all youth and adults who love to sing Sacred Choral Music and want to be part of the choir!



Rehearsals will be 1:30-3:30 PM on the following Sunday afternoons:

February 17	March 24	April 7
February 24	March 31	April 28

Normally they practice last two Sundays of the month (April is changed due to Palm Sunday and Easter)

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, May 4, 2019 9:00 AM - Noon  
PERFORMANCE: Sunday, May 5, 2019 2:00 PM

Registration fee is only \$25.00. There are no auditions or robes. There have been singers join us who regularly sing in as many as 15 various churches. Our largest ecumenical choir numbered 57. You do not need to sing in a church choir to sing in the Festival Choir. Join them this spring for the 2019 Faxon Festival Choir! A registration form is available in the supplement for you to fill out and mail with your registration fee to Faxon Kenmar UMC Festival Choir Attention: David Koskey 1301 Clayton Ave Williamsport, PA 17701. Should you be seeing this too late for the mail, contact the church office at 570-323-7272. Music packets will be passed out at the first rehearsal. Dave is looking forward to joining all your voices together to make beautiful music to praise God.

**CLASSIFIED**

## Ads

**D**owntown Parking Available: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Williamsport, has parking spaces for rent. Numbered spots behind the church or in the lot on Via Bella are available for weekday use at \$25/month. Contact them at 570-323-4619, [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org), or on Facebook.

**C**opier Needs New Home: An 11 year Canon/Fax-copier, floor model Image Runner #3235 is available free. It works well and parts and toner are available for it. Call 570-546-2788.

### SPECIAL RESOURCES:

**E**aster Egg Hunt can lead your kids to the Little League Museum! It's true because the World of Little League Museum in South Williamsport is offering churches complimentary youth passes to the museum to be used



in conjunction with Easter Egg Hunts you sponsor.

To allow more children to have the opportunity to visit the museum, passes for children 12 and under are available

to be used as prizes/gifts for those attending your Easter Egg Hunt or for children who are part of your Sunday school or Kids Group.

Please respond to Gwen at United Churches ([director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) or 570-322-1110) by Thursday, 3/28, with the number of children 12 and under that you expect to be part of your Easter programming. We need your name, congregation and contact information, including an address. We also need to know when you will use the tickets if it is not April 20. The count is needed to print adequate tickets.

Please note that children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or other adult in the museum. Your group may use the tickets to arrange for a field trip which would allow adult tickets to be purchased at a discount (please schedule in advance).

If you have any questions contact Janice Ogurcak, director of Public Programming and Outreach at the World of Little League Museum at [jogurcak@LittleLeague.org](mailto:jogurcak@LittleLeague.org) or 570-326-1921 ext. 2280.

### Soil and Water Stewardship:

The National Association of Conservation District is pleased to announce their 2019 Poster Contest and Stewardship Week theme: "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." They have educational and worship material to help remind people how important soil is to all areas of life... food, clothing, clean water, homes and more. These resources are print ready from their web site [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org).



**E**arth Day 2019: Each year before Earth Day, Creation Justice Ministries offers materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation. The 2019 theme "Next Generation Rising" and resource focuses on children and youth leading the way for creation justice. You can find Bible study, sermon starter, liturgical, and action materials to download at [www.creationjustice.org/nextgeneration.html](http://www.creationjustice.org/nextgeneration.html). Many faith communities will celebrate on a day convenient for them since Earth Month and Easter align this year. To connect with others planning Earth Day Sunday activities, join the Earth Day Sunday 2019 Facebook Event.

**I**nternational Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is March 21: Every person is entitled to human rights without discrimination. The rights to equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of human rights law. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. And based on Article 2, everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of race or any other kind.

**I**n The News: The Global Conference on Human Fraternity met in Abu Dhabi in early February.

Rev. Jim Winkler, the President of the National Council of Churches noted that this conference and others like it reflect a growing movement toward unity among the world's major religions that promises to become an inexorable force toward peace and justice and a new epoch in human history. He noted that success is not certain. We must remain in close and in constant contact with one another, for there remain within all major religions powerful extremists who believe only they, possess the truth. We must help everyone realize that our creator — the Divine, that loves and cherishes each of us, celebrates our diversity and deeply desires we live in harmony with one another.

Pope Francis said his pilgrimage there this past week wrote a "new page in the history of the dialogue between Christianity and Islam" and in promoting world peace based on brotherhood.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES \***

**D**well Orphan Care is a local nonprofit committed to supporting foster and adoptive families in Lycoming County, PA so that children have a safe, loving, forever home in which to dwell. Dwell provides care groups for foster and adoptive mothers, birthday boxes for every Lycoming county foster child and care packages for foster and adoptive families. Their long term goals also include sponsoring training opportunities for families and community educators to receive trauma informed training on how best to meet the needs of kids coming from hard places. Dwell Orphan Care also plans to award adoption grants to adoptive families in 2020.

See more of what they do and how you can partner with them at [www.dwellorphancare.org](http://www.dwellorphancare.org). There is also an events page for upcoming events and fundraising opportunities. Dwell Orphan Care is seeking local church partnerships to help with their ministry. Contact Executive Director, Jennifer Lake, at [dwellorphancare@gmail.com](mailto:dwellorphancare@gmail.com) or 814-330-6804. They would love an opportunity to share the vision of Dwell in person!

**N**ew After School Kids Program will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays weekly from 3:30 - 4:45 and is an extension of the ministry of Sojourner Truth Ministries, where they love all people, build character, and will offer skills and tools to teach valuable and long-term, positive life lessons to children to prevent poor decisions and avoid potential abuse. The reasoning, listening, observation, and speaking skills with practical applications will be woven throughout conversation and activities in order to empower rather than create fear about the world around us. (For example, part of the drama activities includes giving opportunity for children to give voice to their ideas, with positive peer support.)

Healthy, hearty snack, homework help, chess/life strategy, problem-solving drama, engaging cartoon videos with a Christian message, support, group games and activities, and rhythm groups will be provided.

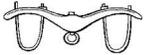
Permission required - <http://www.stmwilliamsport.org> or stop by at Sojourner Truth Ministries, 501 High St., Wmspt., for release forms from 8-1 pm M-F and by appointment in afternoons. Those interested in volunteering or providing other assistance should also contact Angelique at: [Angelique4stm@gmail.com](mailto:Angelique4stm@gmail.com) or 570-323-1797.

**R**ecovery Community Connection, an organization made up of men and women in various stages of long term recovery from substance use and mental

health disorder, would like to invite you to join us for our: 2nd Annual Open House on March 13, 2019, at 3:30 pm until 6:00 pm. Board members will be available to meet and greet. You are also invited to drop off your yard sale item donations during this time. They will have information on, their recovery support groups, trainings, how to join their board of directors and a volunteer sign up. Light refreshments and appetizers will be served. They want to thank you for support of their journey. People do recover! For more information contact 272-268-3831 or [jennifer@recoverycommunityconnection.org](mailto:jennifer@recoverycommunityconnection.org).

**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)**

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley: 570-326-6868  
Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellow Center



**R**ather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to Him, both now and forever! (NLT)

In the ministry of Yokefellowship, we thank the Lord for helping us to grow in grace and knowledge of Him as we reach into the harvest field of the prisons and correctional facilities. Yokefellowship's mission is to "help at risk youth, inmates and returning citizens yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives". The Lord opened up this ministry in 1955 and we are still going strong by His grace. We continue to grow in Him as we take the time to reach out to the men and women who are forgotten a lot of times by society. We focus on small group discussions for spiritual and personal growth through learning and practicing Bible-based disciplines. The results are amazing as we witness changes within our own lives and those, we have opportunity to serve behind bars. What a faith filled journey! It takes perseverance, but is also very rewarding.

One volunteer, Nancy, recently shared her experience facilitating a small group at Clinton County when one of the ladies, a regular attender, decided to make the decision to give her heart and life to the Lord. She was so excited she began to share with other ladies and the Lord received all the glory for what took place! This is just an example of how we can witness the Lord working as we continue to trust that there is growth and knowledge in His Word.

Would you like to be a part in this ministry? Everyone might not be called to go inside the prisons; however, giving time to help in other ways is also very important. Prayer is integral for this ministry. Any financial gift is welcomed and appreciated as well so that we can continue this vital work. There are also other ways you can be involved. Please contact our office at the above number and we will be happy to give you more information about this ministry. Volunteer trainings are set up as well for those interested in going into the prisons and for one on one visitation.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES \*

**Connection Can End Violence:** A Three Day Transforma-tional Workshop will be held March 22 - 24 at Northway Presbyterian Church, 1520 Northway Road, Williamsport. The workshop is for people ages 16-96 and will help you better communicate and reduce conflict at home, work, in the community and beyond as you learn empowering conflict resolution. The suggested donation is \$25-100, but not required. The times are Friday 6-10, Saturday 9-6 with lunch provided, Sunday 1-6.

Questions email [ncpaavp@gmail.com](mailto:ncpaavp@gmail.com). Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/avp-workshop-williamsport-registration-54948131340> .

**Healing Communities Day of Training:** April 13, 2019  
Did you know that...

- 25% of the working age population in America has a criminal record. That's 47 million Americans. As a result, there are also millions of victims.
- One in 104 American adults is currently incarcerated.
- One in 110 white children and one in 15 African American children have a parent incarcerated.
- It is likely that every church has victims, offenders, and their families in their congregations. Shame and stigma prevent people from talking about the resulting hurts and harms, or seeking help. This is why Healing Communities training was created.

Healing Communities Training is designed to assist churches in ministering to all those impacted by crime (offenders, victims, and their families) beginning with members of their own congregations. It will help churches to:

- Begin talking about the impact of crime and the need for healing among its members.
- Reduce the stigma and shame associated with crime.
- Create a culture of safety and support for those on their healing journey from crime.
- Connect offenders and victims to community resources.
- Provide spiritual support and build relationships.
- Facilitate acceptance of responsibility for one's actions and to seek restoration.
- Advocate for criminal justice reform.
- Understand the necessary steps involved.

The training will be held Saturday, April 13, from 8:30 to 4:30 at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 E. Third St., Williamsport. The cost is \$25 per person including lunch and materials or \$60 for groups of three from the same church or organization.

The instructor will be Marty McCormick. Marty is a retired counselor who is serving as a volunteer chaplain at Clinton County Correctional Facility. For more information or to register contact Marty at 570-745-7210 or at

[marty7210@gmail.com](mailto:marty7210@gmail.com). There is also a registration form in the online supplement packet. The registration deadline is April 1 (if after the deadline, call for availability).

The Healing Communities model equips congregations to become a "Station of Hope" for individuals and families impacted by the criminal justice system. Building relationships of healing and reconciliation is the focus. Congregations are encouraged to send a group of at least three leaders/active members in order to effectively implement the model in their setting.

### EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITY \*

**Vital Conversations for the Williamsport District:** February will be the final month for the Williamsport District Vital Conversations. We will meet at Saint Paul Calvary UMC on Memorial Ave. in Williamsport on Tuesday, February 19th at 7pm. Our discussion will be two-fold. Participants will receive a copy of Dialogue for Difficult Subjects, and we will discuss a few of the topics presented in this text. We will also have Marty McCormick from the Oval UMC sharing information about Healing Communities. This program was developed for an interfaith audience and seeks to engage congregations in restoration and healing people in their own congregations affected by crime, incarceration and reintegration by transforming hearts and minds, creating a sense of welcome inclusion, reducing stigma and shame, and building networks of support that start in houses of worship and expand to transform the community at large. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Lenore Hosier at [lhosier@susumc.org](mailto:lhosier@susumc.org) to reserve your materials.

**Volunteer Tutors Needed:** Career Pathways in Williamsport is looking for volunteer tutors. Tutors work with adult learners on Language Arts and Math. The majority of our learners are pursuing their high school equivalency diplomas (GED or HiSet) in order to secure employment, get a better job, or get into a post-secondary school. Time and location of tutoring sessions is flexible and worked out between learner and tutor. Our volunteer tutor program is overseen by the PA department of Education. Tutors receive training and support. The minimum time requirement is 3 hours/week. 4-year college degree is required. Call or email Joseph Wells if you have any questions or want to sign up. Contact him at 570- 601-5936 or [jhw5226@psu.edu](mailto:jhw5226@psu.edu). Their website is <https://sites.psu.edu/pennstatecareerpathways/>

**Lasagna Dinner:** Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Wmspt will have their dinner Wed, Feb. 20 from 4-6:30 pm. Adults: \$9.75, Children \$5.50 (12 and younger), Slab \$7 Take out available. 570-322-0126.