

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA17701

Phone 570-322-1110, E-Mail uclc@sunlink.net

Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor

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

Office Hours: 9 AM - 4 PM Monday - Thursday

Issued mid-monthly, September through May with special e-mail issues during the summer. Items marked with an asterisk may be of special interest to your congregation. Deadline to submit articles - First of each month.



VOLUME XXXVI

NUMBER 5

www.uclc.org

May 13, 2019

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PD.
Permit # 307
Williamsport, PA 17701

REFLECTIONS.....by Jeffrey LeCrone, Chair, Interfaith Dialogue Commission

Pittsburgh.

San Diego.

Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Christchurch, New Zealand.



Chances are that when these cities are listed together, you probably don't have to read any further to know what the connection is. In the last year alone, these cities have seen attacks on worshippers from all three of the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). The frequency of these sorts of events (all of them occurring less than a year ago) seems to indicate a growing tension between people of different faiths.

I fully expect that everyone reading this newsletter would agree with me that every one of these incidents was a tragedy. But it can be difficult to know how to respond. After all, we didn't commit these acts ourselves, nor would we be inclined to it. But the evil that inspires this kind of thing is closer than we sometimes realize. For example, the shooter in the most recent of these attacks (San Diego) was revealed to be a member of a church that – according to the pastor, who was horrified by the attacks – does not teach extremist views.

I don't have all the answers to why someone who was raised in a faith that teaches love would commit such an act. But I can suggest two things. Fear and ignorance. The two

thrive on each other. So, on behalf of the Interfaith Dialogue Commission (IDC), I would like to invite you to do your part in decreasing both. Here are some ways we think you can do that:

- Read a book about interfaith relations, either by yourself or (preferably) in a group where you can discuss it.
- Attend an Interfaith Panel Discussion. The IDC will be sponsoring a few throughout the county this summer. Please keep an eye out for announcements.
- Get to know a person of a different faith (if you don't know where to start, see the above suggestion).

These ideas are just for starters, and we may have more in future newsletters.

We may never know whether our actions may cause or prevent a Pittsburgh, or a Christchurch, or a Colombo from happening again. But reaching out to understand our brothers and sisters of different faiths can only have a positive radiating effect on both ourselves and our community.

Suggested reading:

- ▶ Joshua in a Troubled World: A Story for Our Time, by Joseph F. Girzone
- ▶ Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: the Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi, and an Imam, by Ted Falcon

-continued on page 2

- ▶ Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others, by Barbara Brown Taylor
- ▶ The Faith Club: a Muslim, A Christian, and A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding, by Ranya Idliby
- ▶ Spiritual Ecology, by Leslie Sponsel
- ▶ The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Sister Joan Chittister, et al.
- ▶ Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity and the American Promise, by Eboo Patel

- **About Us:** This page tells a bit about who we are as United Churches of Lycoming County, and a little about our staff.
- **Podcasts:** This is the page you can go to access our podcasts. You can listen to them there, or click the little purple circle to go to it on Youtube.
- **Newsletters:** This is the page you want to go to for a back newsletter or to get a poster or some information out of one of the supplements. Older newsletters are archived on a second page.

A special thank you to Professor Denise Leete and her 2019 Web and Interactive Media Senior Capstone class who worked with eight Non Profits this semester. We were graced to have Noah Kline share his skills with us. He did a great job!

WWW.UCLC.ORG REDESIGNED



Our website has a fresh new look and some new features to make things easier to find and use. Here is some of what you'll see....

- **Home Page:** View our latest newsletter, upcoming special events, listen to the daily devotion, read the feature(s) of the month.
- **Resources for those in Need:** Has a drop down menu for each category for people looking for help, and at the bottom you can download our familiar PDF.
- **Resources for Congregations:** includes the Ministerium list, Faith-Based Initiate Committee of the Heroin Task Force - Including the Prevention Sunday School Lesson Download/Forms & Surveys etc.
- **Resources: Religious Holy Days Calendar**
- **Shepherd & Food Pantry:** This page tells about these two ministries and how you can help.
- **Other Ministries:** This tab takes you to a brief summary of *United Campus Ministry, Institutional Care Ministries, Ecumenism and Education, Social Concerns, Media, Interfaith Ministries* and *Church Women United*. There is an opportunity to learn more at each one of these ministries and you will find more explanation and how you can be involved. At the top of the page is a box that talks about “*this week in ministry*” and when you go there you will find the list of the week’s nursing home and prison service leaders, services on the radio, ecumenical lunch, and one or more editorials for the week from a local religious leader.
- **Special Events:** will list in calendar fashion events that United Churches, Ministeriums, and/or Congregations are inviting the ecumenical community to attend.
- **Area Churches:** This tab lists all the congregations that I know about in our county, their location/ mailing address and time of Worship. They are listed by affiliation.

FAITH UNBOUND IN LYCOMING COUNTY *

Join Lou Kolb as he hosts the fourth podcast in our series to better acquaint you with the ministries and activities of United Churches. This show features **Dawn Blanchard and Ann Judd with Born 2 Fly, Ann Michael with International Justice Mission and Heather Shnyder with Transitions of PA. They are all involved in the fight against human trafficking.** Check it out on Youtube and as always, let us know what you think.



<https://youtu.be/oT4LoqpgbUc>

Mental Health Roundtable *

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month** and an appropriate time to address a very serious subject that affects all of our communities of faith every day. Working with the local chapter of NAMI, Saint John's- Newberry UMC will host a gathering to come to the table to talk about how Mental Health Issues affect us directly and our wider community as a whole.



Who: All Faith Community Leaders

What: Mental health roundtable

Where: Saint John's-Newberry UMC, 2101 Newberry St, Williamsport, PA 17701

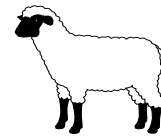
When: Monday, May 20th, 1 p.m.

Why: To discuss how we might more effectively engage with persons who have mental illnesses in our faith communities, our families and the community at large.

If you or a representative from your faith community is available, they would love to have you join them. Contact Lenore ahead so they know how many to prepare for. If you cannot make it but would like to stay in touch, please send her an email or call to let her know. -Rev. Lenore Hosier, Pastor, Saint John's Newberry UMC, lhosier@susumc.org.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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



ALL WE DO IS “MEDICAL”

For some time now we have been assisting people with medical issues; help with prescriptions, medical supplies/equipment, transportation to appointments out of town, bus passes for reaching medical treatment in town, glasses, fresh bedding, hygiene items, baby needs, baby and adult diapers, and thanks to United Way, oral surgery assistance.

Each of these needs, if unmet, would curb the client’s ability to be served by the medical community. The people that come to Shepherd of the Streets with medical issues are wrestling not only with financial need, but are in the throes of fear, ignorance, and superstition. This opens the door for guidance and counseling, specifically Clinical Pastoral Counseling. The application of the gospel to these situations produces much fruit for the reign of the Lord. Our key verse is: “A cheerful heart does good like a medicine, but a wounded spirit dries up the bones”. (Pr. 17:22)

If we can meet the immediate need, no one is turned away for whatever reason. We realize that when someone is in the grip of fear the level of anxiety is overwhelming and this often causes a client to manifest anger at God, doctors, life, especially their life, and though this behavior might mean termination of counseling or treatment somewhere else, we accept these challenges as a test of our patience and love which should be secured in Christ Jesus. Almost without exception, the Holy Spirit prevails and peace ensues.

The array of helps we did in the past, have been taken up by other ministries, so that nothing goes lacking. Funding for this ministry has increased, but so has the need. Our appeal is that this summer will not be a struggle for these clients, and a worry to us. Keep us in mind and heart; medical ministry is not seasonal. Send us your 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., M-Th., 9am-12noon, 1pm-3pm.

Thank you for your donation of hygiene items, baby needs, and/or bedding. This continues to be just as necessary as it was thirty-one years ago when we began. 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

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <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> |



THE PLACE TO BE FOR LUNCH WEDNESDAYS *

Join 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.



MAY:

- 15- **Mama Arlene Brown**, Director, Urukundo Foundation, Rwanda, **“Hope Made Real”**
- 22- **Pastor Tammy Aichner**, First Church of Christ Disciples, **“Love”**
- 29- **Rev. Ken Elkin**, Lutheran Pastor, Retired, **“How To Build a Cathedral”**

SUMMER GATHERING

JULY 31 - Rev. Viking Deitrich, Viking will be on home assignment this summer from his base in Berlin where he is now the "Regional Representative for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa" for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He will be sharing with us about his work, which is mostly in Eastern Europe, particularly the Balkans and Russia; and also includes projects in Jordan, the Holy Land and Cairo. He relates to Lutheran Churches in those countries as a liaison, and does administrative work evaluating grants and providing support to missionaries.

FALL LUNCHEONS BEGIN

SEPTEMBER 11 - Rev. Bob Wallace will reflect on 9/11 our experiences and lessons learned.

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

♪♪♪♪ UNITED CHURCHES SUNDAY ♪♪♪♪



Happy United Churches Sunday to us!
Happy United Churches Sunday to us!
What great ministry we do together!
Happy United Churches Sunday to us!

Let's all sing Happy United Churches Sunday (Tune: Happy Birthday) as we celebrate the things we do ecumenically. This year we encourage you do that on **June 16th**. Take time to realize that through United Churches we reach over 200,000 people every year thanks to our hard working staff and over 500 volunteers. These includes the work of our Shepherd of the Streets, Food Pantry, Fuel Bank, 816 Nursing Home and Prison Worship Services, the weekly Footsteps to Follow column in the newspapers and the monthly Faith Matters editorials, daily devotion line, ecumenical events - worship services and educational opportunities, campus ministry, collections for the hungry and needy in our world, and this newsletter you are reading!

Our colorful brochure can help your congregation be aware of United Churches ministries (they're available from our office to use as bulletin inserts). Pray ecumenically by keeping your sister congregations and their ministries in prayer as well as the ministries we do together.

Do a new ecumenical thing ... perhaps it's attending an event - volunteering - donate items - calling the devotion line - etc. Look at our new website and find new ways to be involved ecumenically!

Invite Gwen, Morris, Mona, Tammey or Patty to share some of the story of the amazing ministry we accomplish together. Financially support United Churches Ministries. Consider adding another means of support - an extra donation - have a fund raiser for us - help with one we have.

Discover things to celebrate that our congregations do together. Celebrate our ecumenical life every week of the year to ensure that it continues to be vibrant and Spirit led!

FOOD PANTRY *

Mona Rundio, Coordinator 570-322-1657

E-mail - foodpantry@uclc.org

Spring is upon us and soon the children will be back home for the day. With that in mind, they will need to have food available to them for all 3 meals. With the warmer weather coming it is the time for being outside. We do so in a variety of ways; camping, hiking, swimming, biking, sports and etc. We need lots of fuel to keep up with all these activities, and the younger more active ones need even more. Think about the ways you cook to keeping your family nourished during



the summer. We need to be sure all families are able to do the provide the same quality nourishment for their families.

As Christians we should go about our daily lives not for ourselves but for others around us with patience, love, and a giving heart. While you are at the store or out having your fun be humble and kind to all those around you! We don't know their life story. By giving a nice hello, hand shake, open door/table, or even a donation to your local pantries for them, you are magnifying Our Lords love to others. Please live each and every day thinking and treating your neighbors as you would like to be treated. Especially in times of doubt, grief, or hardships by contributing food to the community.

Our pantry is very low on all items listed below:

<i>Cereals</i>	<i>Oatmeal</i>	<i>Variety Noodles</i>
<i>Soups</i>	<i>Dressings</i>	<i>Ramen Noodles</i>
<i>Olives</i>	<i>Ketchup</i>	<i>Canned Vegetables</i>
<i>Pickles</i>	<i>Mustard</i>	<i>Pop Tarts</i>
<i>Mayonnaise</i>	<i>Snacks</i>	<i>Canned Meats</i>
<i>Jellies/Jams</i>	<i>Canned Fruit</i>	<i>Tomato Sauce</i>
<i>Peanut Butter</i>	<i>Mac-n-cheese</i>	<i>Canned Stews</i>
<i>Juices</i>	<i>Microwave Dishes</i>	

Thanks so much to all of you who have and still do contribute to us! We are encouraged by you and Our Lord to make our pantry a safe haven and happy environment in our community! **Have a Wonderful and Blessed Summer!**

We are located at the rear of 320 Park Ave. Williamsport and the hours are:

Mondays: donations/stocking 9 to noon

Tuesdays and Thursdays: clients 10:15 to 2:30

United
Campus
Ministry

Pastor Tammey Aichner,
Coordinator, ucm@uclc.org

Another school year has come to a close. Thank you to everyone for all of their support...whether leading a Bible Study, donating food/supplies, or ordering soup from our fundraiser. I truly am blessed to be a part of the students' lives.

We closed out our year with a cookout and fellowship. It was bittersweet to wish 2 of our graduates well as they embark on new adventures. I am sure that in whatever it is they do, it will glorify God. They were an integral part of our ministry and it was a joy to be a part of their faith journey.

If you know of a student who will be attending Penn College in the Fall, please forward their contact information to our leadership team. They would love to personally connect with them over the summer.

POVERTY: A FAITH BASED RESPONSE *

Christian Social Concerns Committee

For I am poor and needy; my heart is pierced within me (Psalm 109:22). We are called as people of faith to respond to the needs of those living in poverty by acts of charity and justice. Let us individually and collectively heal pierced hearts.



Central PA: Neighbors in Need – In the 27 counties served by the Central Pa Food Bank, more than 140,000 neighbors are in need each month. Of our neighbors in need 58% come from working families – the working poor. Others include children (29%) and seniors (13%). One in 9 Central Pennsylvanians struggle with hunger with one in six children being hungry.

Global Nutrition Resolution Recognizes Importance of U.S. Leadership – H.Res. 189, introduced by Representatives Roger Marshall (R-KS) and Jim McGovern (D-MA), supports the commitment of the U.S. government, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to achieving global nutrition goals. “Good nutrition saves lives. It keeps children healthy. And it results in healthier, more stable and productive families and adults,” said Congressman McGovern. “This is a solvable problem. USAID and the international community have made significant progress over the last three decades in addressing undernutrition and malnutrition in children, but more needs to be done. Over 151 million children in the world are undernourished. It is critical for the U.S. to sustain our engagement on child nutrition and build on our success. This is the best way for us to show the world what America stands for and use our influence to make a real difference in people’s lives.” (Source: www.bread.org)

Ending extreme poverty: A moral & spiritual imperative – “As leaders from diverse religious traditions, we share a compelling vision to end extreme poverty by 2030. For the first time in human history, we can do more than simply envision a world free of extreme poverty; we can make it a reality. Accomplishing this goal will take two commitments: to act guided by the best evidence of what works and what doesn’t; and to use our voices to compel and challenge others to join us in this urgent cause inspired by our deepest spiritual values.

We in the faith community embrace this moral imperative because we share the belief that the moral test of our society is how the weakest and most vulnerable are faring. Our sacred texts also call us to combat injustice and uplift the poorest in our midst. No one, regardless of sex, age, race, or belief, should be denied experiencing the fullness of life.”(Source: World

Council of Churches)

Put Faith into Action This Summer – Be an advocate on issues of poverty and hunger by writing to Congress. For more information visit Bread for the World’s offering of Letters – www.bread.org/get-involved.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?
The number is 570-322-5762.
It's available 24 hours a day.



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 devotionalists this summer are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5/13-19 Ms. Tiffany Haller | 5/20-26 Ms. Gail Landers |
| 5/26-6/3 Ms. Sandy Grier | 6/3-9 Pastors Kathy & Jim Behrens |
| 6/10-16 Ms. Patricia King | 6/17-23 Pastor Danesta Whaley |
| 6/24-30 Pastor Gwen Bertine | 7/1-7 Ms. Pat Jenkins |
| 7/8-14 Ms. Tiffany Haller | 7/15-21 Pastor Ken Wagner-Pizza |
| 7/22-28 Ms. Sandy Grier | 7/29-8/4 Ms. Connie Couture |
| 8/5-11 Pastors Kathy & Jim Behrens | 8/12-18 Ms. Patty Gohrs |
| 8/19-25 Ms. Gail Landers | 8/26-9/1 Ms. Patricia King |
| 9/2-8 Pastor Georgianna Welch | 9/9-15 Ms. Tiffany Haller |

Listen today - And share this resource with a friend!

Get to know your neighbors by participating in

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 6, 2019

America’s Night Out Against Crime

Getting to know your neighbor is the reason behind this event. United Churches is partnering with the Citizen Corps Council to invite congregations to celebrate this year’s National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th. The celebration can be anything from a block party to gathering a group together to walk the neighborhood. The intent is to help make our neighborhoods safer. Porch lights should be on all over Lycoming County on this special night to strengthen “neighborhood spirit”. Turn on your porch lights and outdoor lights whether you are home or joining neighbors outside for the celebrations. The Williamsport Police Department has suggested a “Light the night Contest” to see which Neighborhood is the brightest. Many other suggestions for activities as well as a registration form are included in the newsletter supplement.



9th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

Friday, September 27, 2019 9 AM Shotgun Start

Registration 8:15 am White Deer Heritage Course

Contact:

Gwen Bernstine

202 East Third Street

Williamsport PA 17701

570-322-1110 or 570-419-1464

director@uclc.org



Golfers: Entry Fee is \$85/golfer. Foursome not required, individuals can be matched to a partial team. Checks should be made payable to United Churches and mailed to United Churches, 202 East Third St., Williamsport, PA. 17701.

How Can You Help? We would love to have a couple more folks on the golf committee to help plan this wonderful event! The next meeting will be Thursday, May 23 at 1:30 at New Covenant. We also will need help selling raffle tickets this summer.

We also have both people, churches, businesses and now foundations who sponsor our tournament. Levels are:

Hole Sponsor: \$100	Cart Sponsor: \$200
Halfway Hut Sponsor \$250	Meal Sponsor: \$300
Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$400	Tournament Sponsor: \$500
Fairway Sponsor: \$750	Angel Sponsor: \$1,000

All posters, letters and registration forms are included in the supplement. If you do not get your newsletter by email, they are available at www.uclc.org and go to the newsletter page or call our office to receive a copy!



Help Support United Churches Fundraising Evening at Panera Bread, 202 Basin Street, Williamsport on Tuesday, June 18 from 4-8 pm. They will donate 20% of the proceeds from your purchase that evening back to us. You do need a

flyer for this event. You can find it in the May Supplement - and it will be on our home page. It's a way to turn United Churches Sunday into United Churches Week!

CREATION CORNER

Christian Social Concerns Committee

Care of the Earth; Student Climate Activists, etc.

Care of the Earth: One series of informative lessons for people of faith is ...

- The 15 Steps to Create Effective Climate Communications.
- Let's Talk faith and climate: Communication Guidance for Faith Leaders.

(Both can be accessed from elca.org/environment)

- A 5-page study guide "For the Sake of the Earth" can be found at livinglutheran.org by clicking on the "Spiritual Practices and Resources" tab for the April issue of Living Lutheran article by the same name.

Student Climate Activists: "Your house is on fire!"

- "Adults keep saying, 'We owe it to the young people to give them hope.' But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is." Greta Thunberg, 16, who inspired 1.6 million people worldwide to participate in "Fridays For the Future" climate strikes on 3/15/2019. She was inspired by the USA student March for Our Lives movement after the Parkland FL school shootings of 2/14/2018.



- "Why study for a future we might not have?" Holly Gillibrand, UK child protester.

Quotations Worth Noting:

- "We can't save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed." Greta Thunberg, 16.
- "Are We the Last Generation?" Banner slogan by persons born after 1990 at an Extinction Rebellion protest 4/19/2019 at Heathrow Airport, UK.
- "On February 6, 2019 U.S. scientists revealed that global temperatures in 2018 were the fourth warmest on record, adding to a stretch of five years that are collectively the hottest period since modern measurements began." "Days of Doom" article, The Guardian Weekly, 2/15/2019, p. 14.

Upcoming Event

June 5 World Environment Day focus is on Air Pollution. Held annually worldwide to raise awareness and action for the protection of the environment, this year's celebrations will be in China. 2018 theme was "Beat Plastic Pollution."

Recent Magazine Feature Stories of Interest

"Science's Newest Miracle Drug is Free", a Special Report on The Nature Cure, is the cover story in the May issue of Outside magazine. Inside article by Aaron Reuben is "Ask Your Doctor if Nature is Right for You." Sidebar columns on how insurers encourage us to spend more time outdoors having awesome moments in nature.

NOTE: If readers of this UCLC column want to receive it during the summer months, visit this blog on social media... <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/blog-from-lutheran-restoring-creation-michael-ochs/>



NEEDED: Coffee, Sugar, Coffee Urn, Powdered Creamer, and Postage Stamps. At Sojourner Truth Ministry coffee helps with people's sobriety, and they go through a huge amount of it! To help them help others at Sojourner Truth Ministries take your donations to them at 501 High St., Williamsport between, 8 am and 1 pm Mon.-Sat. or call 570-323-1797.

HELP WANTED: Part time volunteer staff for multiple positions. Social service assistant, volunteer coordinator, activity help. Summer kids program 1 day/week (activities, reading, simple crafts). We will help with required clearances. Training provided. General volunteers and community service orientations - 1st and 3rd Wednesday 10 am. (RSVP requested) Please contact Sojourner Truth Ministries, 570-323-1797.

NEW MINISTRY COMING TO SOJOURNER TRUTH

Community, supervised, short term living for women coming out of a season of homelessness...it's in the works! Work has begun on a local house for this purpose and as we progress, we need lots of help! Interested in any fact of helping others become independent through this project? Manual labor, expertise, extra hands, volunteer staff, advisory panel, funding, room sponsorship, fundraising, prayer, and the list goes on! Reach out and see how you can get involved- this is your written invitation! Be a part of something bigger! Call Pastor Angelique at 570-323-1797, Angelique4stm@gmail.com to talk about transformation.

Prevention Sunday School Lessons:

Sunday School and Youth Group lessons called Prevention Through Faith Intervention are available for use to positively influence young minds to steer clear of harmful drugs. The curriculum is designed to be intergenerational. It's available to download free at www.uclc.org/resources-for-congregations. These lessons were designed locally by a host of area pastors and drug prevention professionals.



The opioid epidemic has affected the lives of people throughout the nation and Lycoming County is not exempt. In an effort to positively influence young minds to steer clear of harmful drugs this educational program has been developed. Ten lessons cover the topics of acceptance, affirmation, appreciation, care, courage, creativity, hope, relief, safety and success. All of the lessons give kids

reasons to not get involved with drugs and alcohol. It gives them the strength to say, "I don't need that, I'm already OK on my own." The program is not an effort to replace drug abuse education, but rather to back it up by teaching youth about self esteem, relaxation and natural highs. Lessons take scripture from the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testaments that relate to one another. Teachers have questions to ask students about how the stories can relate to drugs.

Jersey Shore continues to be busy this spring at the New Love Center Food Pantry. They served 395 households in in Lycoming and Clinton Counties this April. This includes 101 senior boxes. In addition the American Legion distributed Military Share boxes to 104 households. Volunteers from Phelps Chapel packed and distributed 196 backpacks each Friday to area schools.



5326 total lbs. of food were donated in April. Up significantly from last month. They received 347 pounds of mixed foods from Lingle's Neighborhood Market, 3245 pounds of mixed meats, breads, and other items from Weis Market, and 1734 pounds from churches, organizations, and individuals. 194 lbs went to the New Love Center Café.

Overall numbers have remained the same this year. Around 400 clients per month. This is a different trend from previous years when the numbers would drop as summer approached. The majority of new clients are seniors showing a definite need among the elderly population in the Jersey Shore area. - *Pastor Kerry Aucker Administrator.*


TRANSFORM: Reaching out in Christ's name to bless our community with no cost home repairs to homeowners as well as helping non-profit organizations; that's what TRANSFORM is all about. This local mission experience seeks to meet practical needs in our community by serving as the hands and feet of Christ. To volunteer to join in the fun with First United Methodist Church or to apply for home repairs (such as porch repairs, painting, weatherization, house and window cleaning, trimming bushes, weeding, and other small home repair projects), go to www.firstchurch.cc. TRANSFORM is Monday July 29th – Friday August 2nd, 2019.



Recovery Community Connection will celebrate their Anniversary on June 14 from 6-9 at the Genetti. You are invited to help them celebrate their second year of promoting recovery and empowering recovery leadership! Enjoy a great meal, music, silent auction, and connect with individuals, allies, and families living in long term recovery from substance use and mental health disorders. Tickets: (\$50/person: contact 272-268-3831, or jennifer@recoverycommunityconnection.org .

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley: 570-326-6868

Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellow Center 

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 GNT)

We are continuing to trust in and rely upon the Lord as we’ve co-labor in this ministry for 63 years. There is a great contentment as 300 trained volunteers work and watching the Lord do amazing things. Weekly we attest to the Lord’s great faithfulness to us as we acknowledge Him for guidance and direction to bring hope to the incarcerated. Every volunteer is important and brings something to the table. Yokefellowship Prison Ministry is committed to help change people’s lives through personal discipline and committed small groups where problems and faith can be shared. Our goal is simple. We desire to connect people to God, to one another and to help raise up disciples in a relational manner.

Currently our local YPM office goes into Lycoming County Prison, Lycoming County Pre-release Center (men & women), Clinton County Correctional Facility, Tioga County Jail and State Correctional Institute at Muncy. We also do ministry at the Transitional Living Center.

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 very important.

To learn more about the ministry, the next Yokefellowship Training is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019 9AM-12Noon at our office: 1200 Almond St., Williamsport (Parking in rear of the house in lot) – call today at the above number for your reserved spot.

Stay tuned and watch for more information on our Annual Yokefellow conference which will be held at the Best Western/Country Cupboard in October.

Memorial Day Mass will be held at St. Boniface Cemetery on Penn & Wyoming Sts. Wmspt., on Monday May 27th at 9:00 am. Bring a chair and join them for light refreshments after Mass. (In case of inclement weather, Mass will be in St. Boniface Church.)

Strawberry Festival: Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W 4th St, Williamsport, will hold a Strawberry Festival on Sunday, June 9 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. BBQ sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans, cold drinks and strawberries with shortcake and ice cream will be available. Tours of the church will be offered. The Bald Eagle Art Show will take place at Way’s Garden on Saturday & Sunday. For more information, call 570-322-0126.

Gigantic Rummage Sale will be held at St. Lawrence Parish, 821 Central Ave. S. Wmspt in their Church Hall on Friday and Saturday June 14 & 15, 2019 from 8 AM – 4 PM Friday, 8 AM – 2 PM Saturday. There will also be coffee, baked goods, hot dogs etc.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS & CAMPS AROUND OUR COUNTY

DATE / TIME	PLACE	THEME/DETAILS
June 16-20 6:30 - 8 pm	Salladasburg United Methodist Charge at Salladasburg Church, 310 Main Street	Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power, K - Grade 5
June 23 - 6-8 pm June 24-27 - 9-Noon	Saint John's-Newberry UMC, 2101 Newberry St., Williamsport	ROAR Age 3 - Grad 5
June 24-28 10 - Noon	Pine Street United Methodist Church 441 Pine Street, Williamsport	To Mars and Beyond Age 3 - Grade 5 Register: www.pinestreetumc.org (Events)
July 21-25 6 - 8:30	New Covenant United Church of Christ 202 East Third Street, Williamsport	ROAR! Life is Wild - God is good Ages 3-12 years & special needs adults
June 24 - 28 8:30 - Noon Plus 6/28 7 - 8	Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport Public Concert: Friday 6/28 at 7 pm	Summer Music Camp Grades K-7 Cost \$15 Registration needed by June 3
July 29 - August 2 1 - 4 pm	Fairlawn Community Church 353 Pleasant Hill Road, Cogan Station For details call Dawn Blanchard 570-772-6765 Teaching Anti-Trafficking Skills in a Kid-Friendly Way	Born 2 Fly Day Camp “Reaching Kids Before Traffickers Do” Girls who’ve completed 4or 5 grade Registration in supplement
August 5 - 9 5:30 - 8:30	Hughesville Evangelical Friends Church 137 South Third Street, Hughesville Register: www.hughesvillefriends.org or 570-584-2686	Soccer Skills & Drills/Bible Lesons/ Skits/Songs Pre-K - Grade 6
August 4-9 Evenings TBD	St. Luke Lutheran Church 1400 Market Street, Williamsport	To Mars and Beyond Age 4 - Grade 4