

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

United Churches of Lycoming County

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701

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

Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor

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

Volume XXVII Number IV

April 13, 2010

HELPING FAMILIES TO BE BETTER AN INTERFAITH APPROACH

Sunday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us at **Ohev Shalom Synagogue**, 1501 Cherry Street in Williamsport for a brief look at family through the eyes of various faith traditions. Together, the interfaith dialogue commission of United Churches would like to share insights that can enhance all of our lives. Panel presentations and practical ideas will be given on...

- How to have dinner together and spend the evening together without turning on the TV.
- Working to improve your marital relationship to help keep your family strong.
- Meditation skills to help everyone within the family.
- Healing broken relationships and reconnecting with estranged family members.

Represented on the panel will be people from the Jewish, Christian, Islamic and Buddhist traditions.

Light refreshments will also be served. For more information contact Rev. Ken Weiss, kweiss1213@hotmail.com or 323-6325.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

Monday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Sticking Together Without Getting Stuck is being presented by our Family Life Task Force on April 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport.

The guest speakers for the evening are Mary Ann and Jay Paulukonis. They are the parents of two young adult children. For six years they served together as Family Life Directors in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently Mary Ann is Family Life Director in the Scranton Diocese and is president of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministries. Jay is a stained glass artisan with his own studio. They will celebrate 41 years of "their work in progress" this April.

Join us for this fun gathering for married couples as we explore the mystery called marriage -

1 + 1 is more than 2

and 2 are 1

Bad math great grace!

The cost for a couple is \$10. Child care will be available. Register by contacting United Churches, 322-1110 or uclc@sunlink.org.

Visit us at the following web site - www.uclc.org

YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL!

We, as United Churches partner with approximately 180 congregations to do ministry together. We began in 1946 to provide a venue for both laity and clergy to work together ecumenically.

Many of the things we do....

Shepherd of the Streets	Campus Ministry
Food Pantry	Seminars
Interfaith Dialogue	Ecumenical Lunch
Church Women United	Devotion Line
Advocacy for Justice	

you are reading about today in this newsletter. Other things have been featured in other issues like

Nursing Home Worship	Hunger Initiatives
Prison Worship	Radio News & Views
Footsteps to Follow Newspaper Editorials	
Networking for Churches to Work Together	
Special Events for Pastors and Church Leaders.	

These ministries touch the lives of school students, the elderly, the poor, the ill, the prisoner, and you and me. Annually thousands of our county citizens are touched by God's love, grace and hope. Who can measure the impact of God's healing power? How do you measure lives changed through God's presence as revealed in the caring help of dedicated staff and volunteers?

Unfortunately it takes financial contributions to keep offices open for the needy to be able to come to the Shepherd of the Streets and for people to bring food to our Food Pantry. There needs to be those desks and computers and phones to get the scheduling to happen to ensure that more than 700 worship services are led during the year. And you can help!

- \$35 will pay for the paper that was used to print this newsletter today.
- \$44 will mail 100 first class letters.
- \$60 will pay the rent for a week for the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry or the Food Pantry
- \$120 will pay for office supplies for a week for all our ministries - paper, copier supplies, etc.
- \$462 will pay all staff salaries and benefits for one day.

Please open your heart to the infinite possibilities of how your contribution can touch the lives of others. Contributions should be sent to United Churches, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701.

Church Women United.....

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

Mrs. Regina Gross, President

The theme for May Friendship Day 2010 is "Living the Vision". It is the celebration where we focus on Church Women United and each unit's strengths and involvements. This celebration will be held Friday, May 7 at Pine Street United Methodist Church with a luncheon at noon and celebratory program at 1:15.

The lunch will cost \$7.50 per person. Reservations are needed by April 23rd and must be pre-paid. Send checks payable to Church Women United. Mail to: May Friendship Day, Mrs. Pat Wittig, 915 Prospect Avenue, Williamsport PA 17701.

There will be an ingathering of items for the United Churches Food Pantry and pre-cut Christmas stockings will be available. This celebration will also feature the Fellowship of the least coin.

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCH *

Join us from 12 to 1 p.m. for the Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Lunch Program. Enjoy a tasty \$4 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary.

APRIL:

- 14- **Rev. Ron Shellhamer**, Interim Pastor, Church of the Savior and St. Matthew Lutheran Churches, "**The Church in Liberia**"
- 21- **Prof. Paul Shuck CFII**, Chief Flight Instructor, AvSport of Lock Haven, "**Touch the Sky! If You Can Drive, You Can Fly!**"
- 28- **Mrs. Kay Huffman**, Vocalist, **Mr. Tom Wetzel**, Pianist, Area Musicians, "**A Musical Salute To Spring**"

MAY:

- 5- To Be Announced
- 12- **Mr. William Kieser**, Supervisor, Sanders Mortuary, "**General Information Your Family Needs**"
- 19- To Be Announced
- 26- **Dr. Ellen Davis**, Director of Music at St. John's Newberry United Methodist Church and Members of the Chancel Handbell Choir, "**Towers, Tolls, Tales**"

This is a ministry that everyone in our congregations and community is welcome to participate in. Make plans to join us and you're welcome to bring a friend!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

Dr. J. Morris Smith

Contact at: 322-6538

NO PILL FOR POVERTY

Have you noticed that there is a pill for almost any physical, mental, or social problem? We have become a society that depends on chemical alleviation for everything that besets the human being. That can be good, but the bad of it is that we have become dependent on the pill to the extent that we squelch innate divine image and likeness to recoup and recover. The will to make changes in attitude and life-style to deal with sickness becomes obscure. Hey, Doc, please don't ask me to give something up or take something on...just give me a pill that will deal with it.

There is a pill for overweight and another for underweight. There is a pill for lack of energy and too much energy. There is a pill for pain, for infection, for wetness and for dryness. Can't get enough sex? There is a pill for that. Want to quit smoking or drinking or doing drugs...there is a pill for that. Depressed? You don't have to deal with mental, social, or spiritual issues...there is a pill for that. High blood pressure? No need to change your patterns...there is a pill for that.

I am not saying that there are not legitimate chemical uses for medicine. But many (perhaps most) medicines that impact the illness take the mind off the person's own natural ability to overcome and the God-given resources of the body are not exercised and atrophy. Physical atrophy is bad. Mental atrophy is bad. Social atrophy is bad. Spiritual atrophy is bad. Dependency atrophies!

The attitude that everything can be cured or tolerated by some sort of pill creeps into all arenas of life. Church boards spend hours trying to find the right "pill" for lack of attendance, or lack of giving, or lack of spirituality, instead of seeking the Will of God, the counsel of the Holy Spirit. I think that we know subconsciously if not consciously that God is going to ask for change in order to advance to higher ground. The "pills" that are tried give a temporary "hit", but soon the program we have devised with our own wisdom, has run its course and the problems return.

The government prescribes "pills" for poverty. They can only alleviate, but never cure. Poverty grows worse in America, because the government cannot change attitudes. Governments cannot love, cannot walk by faith, cannot initiate the Will of God, cannot hope. These are human attributes whose dynamics come from the heart because they are the heart of God.

Evangelism is not a program or a pill...it is the salvation of one person at a time, led by Jesus Christ to a new life, being cured of the perfunctory, chronic mentality that

has killed the old life. Programs produce entitlement...God gives life...a life that becomes accountable.

Yes, the Shepherd of the Streets helps alleviate the immediate with "pills" of money and material...but just as Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons, it gave Him the opportunity to preach the Gospel. That is what makes the Shepherd ministry, the American Rescue Workers, the Salvation Army different among the myriad of agencies aimed at poverty. It is evangelization, not just alleviation. Your gifts give us the opportunity...your prayers give us the energy. Thank you for all you do.

We appreciate all who collect hygiene items, bedding, and baby needs for us. We appreciate the monetary contributions to fund our general budget to keep our ministry open, and the donations for discretionary and prescription funds. The list of hygiene items we use follows, and are regular sizes of:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Deodorant</i> | <i>Toothpaste and Toothbrushes</i> |
| <i>Soap</i> | <i>Shaving Cream and Razors</i> |
| <i>Tissues</i> | <i>Shampoo and Conditioner</i> |
| <i>Toilet Paper</i> | <i>Women's Hygiene Products</i> |
| <i>Combs</i> | <i>Towels and Wash Cloths</i> |
| <i>Baby Diaper</i> | <i>Baby Shampoo, Powder, Oil</i> |
| <i>Baby Q-Tips</i> | <i>Baby Wipes.</i> |

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?
The number is 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 fall include:

4/12-18 Mrs. Dot Wagner 4/19-25 Rev. Jeff Zetto
4/26-5/2 Rev. Kenton Hunt 5/3-9 Revs. Jim & Kathy Behrens
5/10-16 Fr. Dan Kovalak

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!
It's a great way to have a closer walk with God.



FOOD PANTRY ****Gail Burkhart, Coordinator******Contact at: 322-1657***

Our United Churches/Center City Food Pantry provides a three day supply of food to those in need. This February we helped 150 families, including 183 adults, 139 children and 66 elderly for a total of 388 persons.

He is indeed risen!! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! What a wonderful, beautiful Easter. Spring has sprung (I think)! You all have been so generous with the Spring food drives and donations, I am constantly amazed at your kindness and caring spirits. It may look like we have an over abundance whenever you come to visit, but the food just flies off the shelves. With Summer and school vacations coming we find that the need is great because children can't participate in the school subsidized breakfast and lunch programs.

Is there anyone reading this who can help us with the pick-up of the donations from Wegman's on Tuesday mornings? It would require approximately 1-1/2 hours, conveyance [pick-up truck or van] and the ability to lift the bags of bread and sweets. Our clients do depend on this as the starch and treats for the family. If you can't help, maybe you know someone who can? We are in a pretty tight bind on this, so please pray that someone steps up to help.

For all of you who are always there for us, many thanks and know that you are in our prayers...always!

The special needs this month are:

<i>Oodles of Noodles</i>	<i>Cake Mixes & Frosting</i>
<i>Tea Bags</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
<i>Spaghetti</i>	<i>Noodles</i>
<i>Elbow Macaroni</i>	<i>Canned Fruit</i>
<i>Saltine Crackers</i>	<i>Jello and Pudding</i>
<i>Granola Bars</i>	<i>Fruit Juices</i>

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY ****Sharon Comini, Coordinator,******Contact at: 419-5376 or ucm@uclc.org***

We've had some exciting things happen this year with our partnership with Penn College this year. The religious organizations on campus are being recognized as a more formal part of the campus and we will be working with the Academic Affairs Office to help out with different events on campus. This is very promising as we will have more contact with the students and can form relationships with them.

As United Campus Ministry at Penn College winds down for the semester, we want to thank all of you for your support throughout the year.

Your support was especially evident at our annual Lasagna Dinner that was held on April 7. We are very thankful for the support of our sponsors, Stroehmann, Giant, Wegmans' and Sheetz. They generously supplied rolls and gift cards to purchase supplies for the dinner. Special thanks also to the following churches that have helped us by providing lasagna, cakes, and salad:

Montoursville Presbyterian Church

St. John Newberry United Methodist Church

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

St. Paul Calvary United Methodist Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

We were able to raise over \$500 for future mission trips. We hoped you had enjoyed the dinner. Thanks again for your support.

The final activity for the students will be our study bags that we will be handing out for finals week at the beginning of May. If your church is interested in putting together study bags for the students, please let me know.

Five of our group will be graduating this May: Michelle Mertes, Gene Raser, Chris Serphine, and Michael Yaw. who will be graduating this May. Congratulations to each of you as you complete this semester and move into the next segment of your life.

Best wishes to Michelle Mertes and Michael Yaw on their recent engagement.

CWS BLANKET AND KIT COLLECTION*

The new and good used blankets and kits you have been getting ready should be brought to First United Methodist Church, Williamsport. Remember to use the door by the fountain at the point of Market and Packer Streets. The church will be open between 9 a.m. and Noon on Saturday, May 1 to accept and record your donations. Copies of instructions and supplies are still available at our office as are the blanket envelopes and inserts.

Offerings for transportation are \$1 per Blanket, School, Baby and Health Kits and \$3 for Emergency Clean-up Buckets. They can be delivered at that time or sent to the office of United Churches, 202 E. 3rd St., Wmspt. PA 17701 Your assembling of the kits is only the first step in getting them where they can help so much. After our volunteer, Ben Zeafra delivers them to Harrisburg they go to the Church World Service (CWS) Center in New Windsor Maryland where they are sorted and packed for shipment anywhere in the world. The money you donate assures that they reach disaster destinations when needed.

POVERTY - A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE**from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 118:1)

These words begin the Psalm for Easter Sunday.

We are to carry out God's love empowered by our knowledge of the Resurrection. How are we making known this love both in charity and justice for those in need in our midst and in the world?

Local Unemployment Rate – New County High: Lycoming County's unemployment rate for January 2010 was 10.9%. This rate is higher than the state average of 8.8%. The local area has been at 9% or higher for over a year. This is the first time the county has reached or exceeded 10% in the current economic recession.

Children Living with Hunger and Poverty in Pennsylvania and Lycoming County: "Hunger" according the U.S. Census Bureau is the lowest level of poverty in this country. Families experiencing hunger lack the resources to have adequate food to serve their family.

- 15.8% of children in Pennsylvania live in families that struggle to put food on the table
- 16.8% of children in Pennsylvania live below the poverty line
- In 2009, 22% of Lycoming County children live in families needing and using Food Stamps.
- In the current school year in Lycoming County, 42% of the children qualify for free or reduced lunches; translating to 7,036 children in need.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization: The Senate Agriculture Committee is currently considering the reauthorization of funding for Child Nutrition. President Obama has requested \$1 billion annually. Strengthening child nutrition programs is an immediate and direct way to reduce child hunger and improve health and educational outcomes. Programs like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); school breakfast and lunch programs; and preschool, summer and afterschool meal programs are vital in providing children the food they need for healthy development. The chair of the committee is only supporting half of the requested amount.

Senator Robert Casey is a member of the committee.

Contact Senator Casey asking that he please ensure that the Senate child nutrition bill includes at least \$1 billion per year in new investments so we can make significant progress against child hunger. Senator Casey can be reached at: Senator Robert Casey, Jr.

U.S. Senate

Phone: (202) 224-6324 Washington, D.C. 20510

YOKEFELLOW*Evadna Cline, Director, Yokefellow Center - 326-6868*

There is a report of a student from Korea who was complaining about how difficult it is to learn the English language. He felt that American idioms were particularly difficult to comprehend. He said that he had studied English for nine years in preparation for attending the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. On his first day at the school, as he was walking across the campus, he was greeted by an American student casually asking, "Hi, What's the good word?" The Korean young man stopped in his tracks. He thought to himself: "I don't know the good word! You would have thought that after nine years of studying English, someone would have told me what 'the good word' was!"

Later, in an effort to solve this problem, he decided to turn the tables and ask an American, "What's the good word?" and listen to the reply. So, approaching a fellow student, he repeated, "So, What's the 'good word'?" the quick response was, "Oh, not much. How about you?"

Do you know the 'Good Word'? Did you have an opportunity to hear and respond in your worship services last Resurrection Day, "Christ the Lord is risen." To which I hope you and all those around you would reply with a resounding voice, "He is risen indeed!" And because we believe those words and live them, it says a great deal about the way we live our lives and how we relate to those around us.

In the life of Paul, we find some amazing faith in the face of danger and death! Paul's is the face of a man who has learned that there is more to life than meets the eye. In the lives of inmates and those convicted of wrongdoing, our eyes see faults, but our faith sees our Savior, The eyes of the sinners see guilt, but we need them to see faith in His blood. Our eyes see our grave, we need to teach the inmates so see a city whose builder and maker is God.

Our eyes look in the mirror and see a sinner, a failure, a promise breaker. But by faith, God can show us the image of a prodigal bearing the ring of grace on his finger and the kiss of the Father on his face. When the Father flexes his muscles, "His power is very great for those who believe. That power is the same strength God used to raise Christ from the dead." (Eph. 1:19-20)

Those who share the 'good word' for the day, Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed, can go into the prisons with the confidence to share with inmates that the hands nailed to the cross are open for all of us, if we will but believe.

If you are interested in more information about Yokefellow Prison Ministry, or would like to volunteer please call 326-6868 for more information. The blessing will be yours!

CREATION CORNER*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

This year is the fortieth anniversary of Earth Day (April 22, 2010). And it's time for God's people to declare that yes Christ is even, maybe especially even, Lord over Earth Day. It's time for us to turn the corner, celebrate the wonderful creation that God has made, and join with all the creation to "worship the Lord with gladness."

The Rev. Mitch Hescocx, the new President/CEO of the Evangelical Environmental Network who for the past 18 years pastored a congregation in southcentral PA and for 14 years previous worked in the international energy business writes... Creation offers a marvelous testament. As a young college student in 1975 the creation's witness, especially Romans 1:20 came alive for me *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."*

I was in the middle of a Mexican wilderness as God used the earth, His beautiful creation in all its majesty, to lead me back to faith. As a church, we must remember that creation care is not only a Biblical command but also an opportunity as potentially the greatest evangelism tool for the 21st century.

Evangelism, caring for the poor, tending the garden, and worship are part of our identity in Christ. That's why EEN is partnering with the Blessed Earth, and I am personally joining Matthew & Nancy Sleeth in Orlando, FL on April 21, 2010 for "Hope For Creation: A Live Simulcast." The simulcast will feature worship and teaching to celebrate all that God creates as well as our call to be good creation stewards. It's time to renew our call as the original environmentalists. Join with me and thousands of Christians worldwide from your sanctuary, living room, coffee shop, dorm, or classroom on Earth Day eve.

It's time for a revival in the American Church and the revival can begin, as we remember and renew our call to be good creation stewards. We have been wandering too long in the wilderness. The Holy Spirit keeps building this connection between 40 years of Earth Day, 40 years of the Exodus journey, and 40 days of Jesus' temptation. Both the Exodus and Jesus' wilderness passages describe dependence, total dependence of God. It's time for us to stop wandering and return to a complete trust in God. Maybe that's why I am crazy and like Jesus care for His creation.

Backyard conservation, as in "Conservation Habits=Healthy Habitats" is the theme for the 2010 annual April/May Stewardship focus of the National Assoc. of

Conservation Districts (visit www.nacdnet.org/stewardship/2010/).

Also of note:

- The Evangelical Environmental Network, publisher of Creation Care magazine (www.creationcare.org) has announced its 2010 theme as "Putting A Human Face on the impacts of poor Creation care."
- "The National Day of Prayer for Creation Care" on May 25, 2010, with the "prayerlude" Creation Care Walk from West Virginia to Washington DC beginning May 8, 2010. Visit www.deepgreenconversation.org.
- The Evangelical Env. Network has begun a monthly e-mail newsletter, (sign up at www.creationcare.org).
- Christian students and campuses caring for creation web site is www.renewingcreation.org.
- A pastor from Tuvalu, a small island nation near Fiji in the South Pacific, provides testimony about climate change effects there in his "Ankle Deep in Reality Tour" at <http://www.restoringeden.org/>. Why Christians care can be seen at <http://christiansandclimate.org>.

UNITED CHURCHES

IS YOUR CHURCH

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IN MINISTRY

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY *

Project **IMPACT & Bridge Haven:** The focus of Project IMPACT & Bridge Haven involves arrangements of temporary housing and transportation for families visiting inmates in area prisons.

They are available to speak about their organization at area churches or social groups. Gene Breisch spoke to the congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church about the ministry of Project IMPACT & Bridge Haven. The congregation thanked him for the support of the inmate families. If your group is interested in an informational presentation about Project IMPACT & Bridge Haven, please call the Yokefellow Center, 1200 Almond Street, Williamsport, 17701, (570) 326-6868, for an appointment.

There were more than 47 families who stayed at the Project IMPACT & Bridge Haven Hospitality House while visiting with family members in area correctional institutions in the year 2009.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES *

Economic and Investment Outlook Update and the Economy's Impact on Congregations - This event can help Pastors and Church Leaders gain a better understanding of the factors that affect financial markets and trends. You can then apply what you learn to help make more informed investment decisions - decisions that can help you reach your charitable goals.

We will discuss the economy's impact on congregations and ministries and creative ideas found in many different congregations.

This event will be presented by Charles D. Etzweiler, MBA,CFP®, Thrivent Asset Management Product Consulting Group, from Minneapolis MN. There is no cost for you to attend. The event will be held twice, both on Tuesday, May 11 at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport. The daytime meeting will be from Noon - 2 including a light lunch and the evening meeting will be from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. To register contact United Churches, 322-1110 or uclc@sunlink.net.

Geisinger's Department of Spiritual Care is offering many exciting courses this summer. Contact them for more information or to register at 570-214-5091. Flyers are available through Gwen at United Churches, 322-1110 or director@uclc.org.

- Stages of Spiritual Development: an Interdisciplinary Study - Thursday - May 6 & 13 from 1-3 p.m.
- Quantum Theology -Mondays, May 3-24 from 7-9 p.m.
- When Religion Becomes Evil - Mondays, July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2, 9 from 7-9 p.m.
- Healing Presence (The Art of Caring Conversation) - Tuesday, Aug 4 from 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- Understanding Transsexualism: for Family, Friends and Caregivers - Mondays, Aug. 16, 23 from 7-9 p.m.
- Islam: Religion, History and Culture, Tuesdays, July 6-27 from 7-9 p.m.
- Daoism; the Classic Tao Te Ching, Tuesdays, August 3-17 from 7-9 p.m.
- Buddhist Studies: Emptiness, Heart Sutra and Four Marks of the Dharma - Wednesdays, April 21 - August 11 from 7-9 p.m.

- The Autobiography of God, Tuesdays, May 4 + 11 from 7-9 p.m.
- God Then and Now - Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- The Fifth Sacred Thing - Wednesday, Aug. 18 from 7-9 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

NEED: **People who have never been diagnosed with cancer:** The American Cancer Society is looking for half a million adults in the U.S. who want to make a direct impact in the fight against cancer. The Cancer Prevention Study-3 will pave the way for the next generation of cancer research. The Williamsport Relay For Life has been selected as one of a limited number of events nationwide where interested and eligible participants can enroll into this lifesaving study. If you're willing to make a 20-30 year commitment to the study that entails answering written questionnaires every few years at home, you're between 30 and 65, and you have never been diagnosed with cancer, you may qualify.

To find out more, go to the Williamsport Relay For Life on Friday, May 21st, at the Williamsport Area High School stadium between the hours of 5 and 9 PM. It's a chance to help eliminate cancer as a major health concern for future generations, but it won't happen without your help. To find out more, call 1-888-604-5888 or go to www.cancer.org/cps3. You may also contact Barbara Hemmendinger, local volunteer enrollment chairperson, at 323-2690.

Hospitality House Caretaker Needed: Project IMPACT & Bridge Haven is in need of a caretaker, manager. They have not had a caretaker at their Hospitality House on Almond Street since Irene Keller left in 2009. Evadna Cline, treasurer, has been volunteering to take family reservations and arrange transportation. Sometimes, the guests do the laundry, clean the house, and make beds. But, they are in need of a Christian person who is willing to live at the Hospitality House and perform basic housekeeping tasks, make reservations, and arrange transportation in exchange for free living arrangements. If interested, call (570) 326-6868 for an interview.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY *

FREE Concert - Captive Free East Coast - May 1: Messiah Lutheran church, corner of W. Southern Avenue and Howard Street, South Williamsport, will be offering a free concert on Saturday, May 1 at 7:00 PM in Shaheen Hall. Bring a friend and join us for this faith-encouraging program of music and personal sharing. A free will offering will be taken. Captive Free relies entirely on offerings and support from the congregations it visits, so please consider how you may be able to help. All are welcome regardless of whether or not you can contribute to the offering.

Yard Sale and Bake Sale to benefit Family Promise of Lycoming County will be held on **Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at First Ward Fire Hall on Hastings Street, South Williamsport.** Donations from area churches will be accepted to assist us in this effort. *Items can be brought to the First Ward Fire Hall on Friday, April 23, between the hours of 9 a.m.-8 p.m.* Only items in good repair will be accepted. In addition to clothing and household items, baked goods, hot dogs, and drinks will also be offered for sale.

FREE Clothing Exchange will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church on the corner of Howard Street and West Southern Avenue from **8-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 1.** Clothing may be brought to the church Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m. and place in the appropriately marked bin at the alley entrance. Please bring only those items that are in good repair and suitable to be worn. **NO money will change hands - bring what you can, take what you need. If you can't bring anything, that's okay, we want to give it all away, so PLEASE COME - ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Ladies Afternoon Out is being held by the Divine Providence Hospital Auxiliary on Sunday, May 2 from 1-4 p.m. at the Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium. Enjoy lunch with friends and some shopping. Relax with a short massage. Enjoy demonstrations of special products being offered. Twelve vendors will be there with their discount offers. There will be a Cosmetologist and table of Handmade jewelry. A demonstration on the many ways to use your scarfs plus lots more! There will also be door prizes, raffles, small games of chance and a Chinese auction with prizes valued at \$40 or more! Ticket price is \$12 per person or get friends together and reserve a table for 8 for \$80. For tickets and details call Pat Solley 326-9828 or Pat Lyons 322-7347. Proceeds benefit the Cancer Treatment Center.

National Day of Prayer Service will be held on Thursday evening, May 6 at Bowman Field from 6 - 7:30 p.m. This service has been planned with Christian and Jewish participation around the theme "For Such A Time As This". The service will begin with the sound of the shofar and will include wonderful music and prayers for our nation, government, military, media, business, family, education and church. The guest speaker for the evening is our Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Cheryl Allen. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Bowl for Kids Sake is an annual fundraising event for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Our local agency is holding its event April 17th at noon at Faxon Bowling Lanes. Please encourage your congregation to participate. Perhaps your youth group or your missions committee could form a team. Remember: No one stands taller than when someone leans down to help a child. To register your team call (570) 321-5437.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May 30 - United Churches Sunday

October 3 (Sunday) - Life Chain at 2:30 p.m. along East Third Street (the "Golden Strip") in Williamsport.

October 10 (Sunday) - CROP Walk at 1:30 p.m. in Indian Park in Montoursville, in Montgomery, Trout Run and Hughesville.

Vacation Bible School and Baccalaureate Services

We are now taking information for Vacation Bible Schools and Baccalaureate Services this summer. Please submit your information to us by May 1st for our May 2010 newsletter. Thank you!