

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

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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.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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WEDNESDAY NOON ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*

Join us for lunch this spring. The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but we welcome a call to the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer, Heidi Potter, know how much to prepare. Both laity and clergy are welcome!



APRIL:

- 15- **Mr. Phil Landers**, Retired Accounting Professor, Penn College, and Enrolled Agent - IRS, *"Sex, Sin and the IRS, Part II"*
- 22- **Mrs. Patty Gohrs** and **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Staff, United Churches, *"Pennsylvania Bingo"*
- 29- **Rev. Walter Everett**, retired United Methodist Pastor, New York Annual Conference, *"Forgiveness, the Path to Healing"*

MAY:

- 6- **Mrs. Arlene Brown**, Founder of the Urukundo Home for Children in Rwanda, Africa. *"Hope Made Real"*
- 13- **Mrs. Dawn Blanchard**, St. Anthony's Clinic, and **Mrs. Jan Ann Dodd**, Community Health Center, "Helping People With Health Care in Williamsport"
- 20- **Rev. Ken Elkin**, Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Williamsport, *"And the People We've Met...; the Continuing Saga of the Camino Santiago"*
- 27- **Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Witson**, Pastor, New Covenant United Church of Christ, *"Reflecting the Light"*

Treat yourself to a midweek refreshment!

And bring along a friend!

Our May newsletter is our final regular newsletter until September. Please be sure to get your articles in with information for summer events.

Especially needed are:

Vacation Bible School

Block Parties

Summer Events you'd like to invite the community.



Follow us and others at "United Churches of Lycoming County"
& "Walking with God in Lycoming County"

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY

Gail Burkhart, Coordinator, 570-322-1657

E-mail - foodpantry@uclc.org

Want to share two fun things that happened at the Food Pantry recently.

In February the wonderful office staff from Faith United Methodist church did a 'takeover' at the Pantry. They did it all: served clients, answered the phone, stocked the shelves, organized the storage rooms. They didn't turn down any project that we had for them. And thanks to their thoroughness we were able to offer our hard-working volunteers a much needed (and appreciated) day off. They have blessed us with an experience like this previously and I have to say, "we love it." Since they have done this before, they're catching on to all the little things our volunteers do to keep us running smoothly. Then they offer suggestions of how to make things easier for us. A fresh set of eyes can sometimes see things that we miss. And they donated food, too. Doesn't get better than that!

So hats off to those energetic, hardworking folks. You're a class act all the way and we love you and thank you for a great day.

Our second fun experience was the annual Boy Scout food drive sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 21 from Montoursville. This food drive coincided with one sponsored by the Cub Scouts of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Williamsport. These young men are so active and so excited to be doing such a major community service. It's thrilling to realize that we do have a younger generation that is aware of the needs of the disadvantaged citizens in our midst. They put flyers out one week and collect the food the next week, then count, sort and pack the articles and deliver to us. To see their joy and pride in a job well done is a pleasure to us and of course the food goes a long way toward keeping our shelves full for the Spring and early Summer. So again to all of you who have the heart for what we do, many, many thanks.



In the month of March we had the pleasure of serving more than 444 persons. We sure couldn't do it without your donations or the help of all our awesome volunteers. There are some items that we could use for our shelves:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ramen noodles | cake mixes | frostings |
| canned fruit | chunky soups | kidney beans |
| tea bags | sugar | jelly |
| pasta (any shape) | saltine crackers | macaroni-n-cheese |

Don't forget that we are now at the rear of 320 Park Avenue in the Msgr. Castellano Center. Our hours are: Monday mornings from 9:30 - Noon for food donations and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am - 3 pm to serve clients with food orders.

*United Churches
is you and your congregation
EXTENDING
in ministry!*

County-wide Prayer Walks are being held Sunday, April 19th. Sponsored by the Faith-based Initiative Committee of the Lycoming County Heroin Task Force, the walks are being designed to not only create awareness, but to pray specifically for agencies within each community which are dealing with the effects of the heroin epidemic.



Our mission is to work together to facilitate healing of spirit through the power of God's love.

Participating Communities, locations and times:

- Hughesville: 1 p.m. from the Friends Church 137 South Third Street, Hughesville. Contact Lori Ergott
- Jersey Shore: 1 p.m. from the Presbyterian Church, 235 South Main Street, Jersey Shore. Contact Steve Atanasoff
- Montgomery: 2 p.m. from First United Methodist Church, 41 Houston Ave, Montgomery. Contact Larry Stout
- Montoursville: 1:30 p.m. from Our Lady of Lourdes, 800 Mulberry Street, Montoursville,
- Muncy: 2:00 p.m. from St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 201 South Main Street, Muncy. Contact Karen Barraco
- Williamsport, Center City: 1 p.m. from St. Marks Lutheran, 142 Market St, Williamsport. Contact Gwen Bernstine
- Williamsport, Loyalsock: 4:00 p.m. from Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church, 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport. Contact Sandy Knowlden or Deb Dodson.
- Williamsport, Newberry: 3:00 p.m. from Christian Church on Diamond Street, 822 Diamond Street, Williamsport. Contact John Shiery or Belton Mobley.

For more information about the prayer walk contact Karen Barraco at kbarraco@windstream.net or 570-546-5180.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

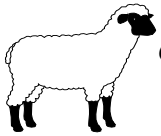
Have you called yet?
The number is 570-322-5762.
It's available 24 hours a day.



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 spring include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4/13-19 Mrs. Sandy Grier | 4/20-26 Rev. Gwen Bernstine |
| 4/27-5/3 Mrs. Pat Jenkins | 5/4-10 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens |
| 5/11-17 Rev. Danesta Whaley | |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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

THE POVERTY OF RACISM

I have been privy to group and individual discussions about racism, and have noticed one thing in common: such only scratches surface issues that have nothing to do with race. There are only four or five races in the world, depending on how sociologists have argued. Race is established by biological characteristics and social/cultural differences, both emanating from birth. No one gets to choose to be born or into what culture he is born. But, it is always easier to accept or reject people on their appearances, whether they be of a certain color or class, religion or ethnicity, intellect or physical/mental capacity, aptitude or attitude.

What messes these neat small-minded classifications up is that they are not consistent... so in order to be right one must reject an entire group because some, maybe most look a certain way, act a certain way, or pray a certain way, etc.. In 1950 the United Nations rejected the term "race", opting for "ethnic group", only to discover that there were more than 5,000 ethnic groups. As for biological realities, recent science has found that the DNA of any two persons has about 3 million variants. So to let the discussion center on these issues is a waste of time and rests only on what one has been told, probably from their youth.

It becomes obvious that to accept or reject someone because of empirical diversity is empty of substance. Diversity of features and culture has always caused problems and always will until the real problem is acknowledged. From Eden's paradise to the present, the problem that has separated God and man, and humans from one another, has been self-centered pride. In my own assessment I am better than you, smarter than you, I am right and you are wrong.

The poverty of modern racism lies in the heart, where the accumulation of what one thinks is true fills the mind, while fears produced by untruth fill the heart. Such is called pride, and pride is held in fear that understanding more of something will discredit and crumble the foundations upon which one has built an existence.

The problem is that we come to "love" what we like, instead of loving what is Truth and Life. Jesus ultimately gave us only one command: "Love one another". Untruths and fear cannot produce love. We receive the Love of God when self is redeemed from our management and given over to His divine will. God's Love will not just alter, it will revolutionize our entire way of life. And that is what pride fears the most. No longer will we be content to judge from self-centeredness, but must seek the truth and life that renders all judgment of one another fruitless and ignorant. Only one who has accepted the

realities of diversity, will be content to witness the love and life of Christ in the midst of ignorance, superstition, and sin.

Look at the cross if you want to understand what racial, ethnic, and religious untruths will do. Peer into the cross if you want to know the love and truth of God. To save us, God did not change our diversity into unity...but brought unity to our diversity. Take your mind off of that which is too broad to consider, and look within if you want to understand the hate and fear that drives people apart. The answer is not laws against racism; no law can govern the spirit of man. The answer is obedience to a divine command...love one another. God so loved this world with all of its diversity and darkness, that He gave His only Begotten Son.

In 1707 Isaac Watts wrote:

When I survey the wondrous cross
 on which the Prince of glory died,
 My richest gain I count but loss,
 and pour contempt on all my pride.
 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
 save in the death of Christ my God;
 All the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.
 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 that were a present far too small;
 Love so amazing, so divine,
 demands my soul, my life, my all.

N EIGHBORHOOD WATCH
I NFORMATIVE MEETING will be held Thursday May 21st at 7 pm at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 E. 3rd St., Williamsport. The meeting will be held in their Fellowship Hall (use the Academy Street door).



The United Churches of Lycoming County and the Citizen Corps Council will present information on Neighborhood Watches already established in the County and how to start one in your church or home neighborhood.

Additional training is available if you decide to start a Neighborhood Watch. The Neighborhood Watch is not a crime watch. It is people getting to know their neighborhood and the people who live close-by.

There are 230 churches in Lycoming County – 90 in Williamsport, 25 in Jersey Shore, 20 in Montoursville, 21 in Muncy and 74 in outlying areas. Think of the impact people concerned about their neighborhood could make.

A poster for this meeting has been attached with the email version of this newsletter.



Five students at Penn College gathered on March 21st, at 11 in the morning (early by college time) at West End Christian Community Center to put together the donations from many generous individuals, businesses and churches. The event was our second of its kind. In a reusable bag we put a box of spaghetti, a jar of sauce, fresh baked bread, salad and dressing, cookies and literature. After assembling 25 bags, we took to the streets, and knocking on doors, delivered the meals.

Each time the students have come away with a new perspective on hunger. Many of you heard how touched we were last year by the grandmother who had nothing to feed her grandson for dinner that night (gives new meaning to our daily bread) and the man who didn't want a hand out and gave us his last few dollars to help someone this year.

This year we were touched by neighbors "loving their neighbor". As we knocked on doors, families would say to us that while they were doing fine, the family next to them was struggling and since they were not home at that time because they were working, they would make sure they received the bag instead. We met a neighbor who pointed us to a building that resembled a garden shed where someone was living. The neighbors were sending food and care every day to that "home" and knew that the man could use it.

We come away from this year knowing that even in times of struggle, we have been blessed with so much. May we remember all year long to share our blessings with others. We look forward to doing this again next Spring. It would not be possible without the help of so many!

CREATION CORNER

Christian Social Concerns Committee

**Beyond Earth Day 2015,
for the faith-based reader**



Humanity is now using natural resources 50 percent faster than Earth can renew, meaning that we are currently operating as if we live on 1.5 Earths. In the developed world, the news is even worse, says Amy Domini.

The newest effort is this: **Blessed Tomorrow** is a coalition of diverse religious partners united as faithful stewards of creation who seek to inspire action today on one of the greatest moral challenges of our era---protecting our shared home (aka the planet, the earth, God's world). Let us be caring for creation today so there may be a blessed tomorrow.

At www.blessedtomorrow.org one can find key talking points about faith and climate, frequently asked questions, partners and leaders in the effort, paths to positive steps (resources, tools, success stories, news, blogs, events), climate change vision, principles and commitment, etc. Links to the 2015 45th

anniversary of Earth Day are also provided.

The partners include Blessed Earth, Catholic Climate Covenant, Center for Environmental Leadership, National Religious Coalition on Creation Care, Interfaith Power & Light, Green Faith, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Islamic Society of North America, National Latino Evangelical Coalition, World Evangelical Alliance, and others.

Books for the faith-based reader:

Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love. E. A. Johnson.
Can We Survive Our Origins?: Readings in Rene Girard's Theory of Violence and the Sacred. Pierpaolo Antonello/Paul Gifford, edt.

Creation. David Fergusson.

Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology and the Pulpit, Leah Schade (forthcoming).

A Faith Encompassing All Creation: Addressing Commonly Asked Questions about Christian Care for the Environment. Tripp York & Andy Alexis-Baker, editors.

Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence. Karen Armstrong.

From Nothing: A Theology of Creation. Ian A. McFarland.

The Gift of Creation: Images from Scripture and Earth. Norman Wirzba and Thomas Barnes.

Good Food: Grounded Practical Theology. Jennifer R. Ayres.

The Greening of Protestant Thought. Robert Booth Fowler.

In the Steps of St. Francis. Ernest Raymond.

Introducing Evangelical Ecotheology: Foundations in Scripture, Theology, History and Praxis. Daniel L. Brunner et al.

The Nature of Creation: Examining the Bible and Science (Biblical Challenges in our World). Mark Harris.

Jesus Goes to Washington: His Progressive Politics for a Sustainable Future. Douglas J. Miller.

Pollution and the Death of Man. Francis A. Schaeffer.

Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation. Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda.

Song of a Scientist: The Harmony of a God-Soaked Creation. Calvin B. DeWitt.

Spirit Unleashed: Reimagining Human-Animal Relations. Anne Benvenuti.

Surprised by Scripture: Engaging Contemporary Issues. N.T. Wright.

Thomas Berry: Selected Writings on the Earth Community (Modern Spiritual Masters). Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, editors.

Upcoming Event: The 2015 conference on Energy Efficiency: Integrating Technology, Policy, and People. Sponsored by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE); see <http://aceee.org/conferences/2015/ssi>

POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE*

from our Christian Social Concerns Committee

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy (Psalm 72:4). God’s love for children extends in a special way to children experiencing the challenges of hunger and poverty. These children and their mothers need our special care especially during pregnancy and the earliest formative years after birth.

Child Nutrition: Nutrition programs aimed at children are particularly important. A healthy start in life – even before a child is born – pays off for years, not only for individual children and families, but for communities and our nation as a whole.

Children Living in Poverty: In Pennsylvania approximately 1.7 million children (1 in 5) live in poverty. In 2013, the percentage of persons living in poverty in Lycoming County (14.2%) was higher than the state percentage (13.3%). Many of these are children who come from working families.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): WIC is a federally funded program that provides for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. WIC offers to qualifying families: 1) free healthy foods, 2) nutrition counseling/tips, breastfeeding support, and 3) referrals to other services. WIC serves low-income families. Many working families qualify. Income guidelines currently range from \$21,590 per annum for a family of one to \$51,634 for a family of five. There are additional increases in allowable income for larger families.

Lycoming County WIC Participation: Approximately 2,800 women and young children are served by WIC locally.

Local WIC Contact Info: Bi-County WIC Program

Lycoming County: 570-322-7656

Clinton County: 570-648-1087

Toll Free: 1-800-WIC-WINS (942-9467)

Website to apply for benefits: www.pawic.com

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Up for Renewal This Year: WIC was enacted in 1974 and last renewed in 2010. Funding for WIC will expire by September 30, 2015 unless it is renewed by Congress and approved by the President.

Be a Faithful Advocate: What Do We Want Congress to Do to Protect WIC? Congress must act by the end of September to continue WIC and School Breakfast/Lunch programs. As people of faith we need to tell Congress to:

- Continue strong investments in child nutrition programs.
- Improve children’s access to feeding programs.
- Ensure improvements to child nutrition programs are not paid for by cuts to other programs like SNAP (formerly known as food stamps).



March 2015 / 30-HOUR FUNDRAISING EVENT

Thank you for helping us be a successful part of First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania’s Raise the Region 2015, an event. There were 6,863 gifts donated totaling \$1,169,415. We received 17 of those gifts totaling \$2,375. Your 100% tax deductible online donation receipt will be coming from the First Community Foundation, as well as an individual thank you from us.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY**

You are cordially invited to attend the May Friendship Day Luncheon and Celebration.

DATE: Friday, May 1, 2015

PLACE: Montoursville Presbyterian Church
900 Elm St, Montoursville, Pa

TIME: Luncheon 12:00 noon
Celebration 1:15 p.m.

COST: \$8.75 per person

PROJECT: Ingathering for the United Churches Food Pantry



Caregiving is a task entrusted to us by God. As women we care for others throughout our lives; from children and youth, to our spouses and significant others, our parents and grandparents. May Friendship Day encourages us to journey with those in our midst who find themselves in the role of caregivers.

Please bring a contribution for the United Churches Food Pantry as part of your offering. Donations may be put in Gwen’s car in the parking lot. The greatest needs as they continue to serve over 500 persons each month are:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Noodles & Pasta | Canned Vegetables |
| Microwave Popcorn | Spaghetti |
| Saltine Crackers | Odds of Noodles |
| Tuna & Tuna Helper | Oatmeal (Flavored Pkts) |
| Soups | Hamburg/Chicken helper |
| Sugar (1 lb pks) | Coffee/Tea |
| Canned Meats/Stews | Powdered Drink Mixes |
| Canned Fruit | Peanut Butter/Jelly |
| Cake Mixes & Frostings | |

Luncheon Reservations must be received by April 20th and must be prepaid! Checks are to be made out to Church Women United and mailed to Diane Casella, 407 Allen St, Montoursville PA 17754. Walker bags are still needed. If you need any information about these, call Pat Wittig at 570-322-4330 or cell 570-971-1072.

CLASSIFIED**Ads**

Custodian Needed: The West End Christian Community Center, 901 Diamond St. Williamsport, PA 17701 has a need for a Custodial/light maintenance person for up to 20 hours per week. Starting wage is: \$9.50/hour. Clearances required. Send letter of interest and or resume to: weccadmin@comcast.net

Volunteers are needed for Williamsport's Community Theater League. For more information contact them at 570-322-1777.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Regional Director Northeast PA
Yokefellow Center – Ph. 326-6868

**LABORS OF LOVE**

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward HIS name, in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister. -Hebrews 6:10

Blessings to all of you! Yokefellow is grateful for your labors of love that you have shown by supporting the work of the ministry.

We have made our decision to postpone our Awareness banquet for this year and we are setting our sights to have our **FIRST YARD SALE!** Please join us for a time of fellowship and outreach as we celebrate.

WHEN: Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 7am-2pm

WHERE: Yokefellow Center – 1200 Almond St., Williamsport (parking in the rear parking lot and the yard sale held inside/outside.



We will have a selection of cookware, collectibles, household items, baby accessories, books, CD's and many other nice things at bargain prices.

CONTRIBUTIONS : We will accept items that you have in good shape. Please call ahead before dropping items off (rear of the house) 570-326-6868 – Items accepted beginning week of April 20 – No bedding i.e. mattresses, beds, etc. and No clothing **THANK YOU!**

Proceeds will go to Yokefellowship for the work of the ministry. We are grateful for your labors of love. If you'd like to make a donation, please make checks payable to: Yokefellowship Prison Ministries, 1200 Almond St., Williamsport, PA 17701

Possible Workshop on Marriage and Divorce

Pastors received a letter recently (March 30) from the Family Practice Center, Cornerstone Family Health regarding the possibility of a workshop on Marriage and Divorce The facilitator for the workshop would be the Christian author, Leslie Vernick. I want to remind you that David Rising, Tim Bryant and Elise Meckbach are hoping for your response.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Camping: It's time to sign your kids up for Camp Ladore. A beautiful overnight camp experience for youth at the Salvation Army camp in Waymart PA. Music camp will be July 10-18 for ages 7-17 and the Corps Community Camp will be held July 22-27 for ages 7-12. You pay only 10% of the cost: \$40/camper. Slots fill fast. Call 570-326-9187 for more information and to make an appointment at our local Salvation Army, 457 Market St., Williamsport.

Gospel Concert: Gospel Bond will be in concert on Saturday, April 18th at the Community Theatre League, 100 West Third St., Williamsport. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and the cost is \$15/adults, \$10/ students.

Yom Ha Sho'ah Service: A Community Holocaust Remembrance Service will be held at Temple Beth Ha Sholom, 425 Center Street, Williamsport on Sunday, April 19 at 1:30 pm. It is a time for everyone to come together, remember and say "Never Again!" This event coincides with the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust established by Congress and led by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and is open to the public.



The Holocaust was a systematic persecution and annihilation of targeted Europeans by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims. Six million were murdered; Gypsies, people with mental and physical disabilities, and Poles also were targeted for destruction or decimation for in accordance with racial, ethnic, or various other criteria. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also were targeted for severe oppression and death.

Each year Holocaust remembrance ceremonies are held to encourage reflection on contemporary cases of genocide. "As long as genocide remains a threat, we must continue to ask ourselves about the consequences of action—and of inaction", says Kristine Donly of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Through our Days of Remembrance event, we seek both to commemorate this tragic history and to reflect on the lessons it holds for our lives today. We will pay tribute to the rescuers who risked their lives to save others during the Holocaust and to the American soldiers who liberated the concentration camps. Holocaust survivor Estelle Laughlin says it is not enough to curse the darkness of the past, we also have to illuminate the future and the Days of Remembrance reminds us that the humanity that is in all of us can leave the world better for our children and their children.

To learn more visit www.tbhs-pa.org, call Ohev Sholom Congregation at 570-322-4209, or visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's "Days of Remembrance" website at www.ushmm.org/remember.

Events and Opportunities

Civic Chorus Concert: A Cloud of Witnesses will be held on Sunday, April 26 at 3 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Comprising a requiem of sorts, the concert's musical styles range from folk to classical, ancient to modern, sacred to secular, with arrangements and original compositions by Music Director Ned Wetherald in his final performance with the Williamsport Civic Chorus. Tickets are \$12 general admission/\$10 senior/student, children under 12 free with a paid admission.

Help End Modern Day Slavery: White Pine and Coolidge Hollow United Methodist Churches of the Williamsport District of the United Methodist Church will be sponsoring a free lunch and program entitled "You Can Help Stop Modern Day Human Slavery".

Christine Johnson, representing the International Justice Mission, James Sortman, District Magisterial Judge for parts of Lycoming County representing PAATH-15 and Representative Matthew Baker from PA's 68th district will speak about efforts to stop human trafficking on Saturday, May 2 beginning at 11:30 am at the Deane Center for the Performing Arts (2nd floor - handicapped accessible), 104 Main Street in Wellsboro.

Rep. Baker will speak on HB 262, a bill he sponsored to make it easier to convict sex traffickers who use adult enterprises to conduct recruitment of victims. Christine Johnson will speak on her work with International Justice Mission and S. 553: End Modern Slavery Initiative Act. She will focus on what individuals can do to support advancement of this legislation. Judge Jim Sortman will speak about PAATH-15 and efforts underway with Lycoming County Human Trafficking Task Force to curb human trafficking along route 15, the most frequently used highway to transport human slaves through PA.

Seating is limited so RSVP by April 25 to Judy Ryder at jjryd5@hughes.net or 1293 Post Road, Trout Run, PA 17771. A freewill offering to support the ministry of The International Justice Mission will be available at each table.

Missionary Midwife's Memories: You are invited to join Albright LIFE for a lunch and speaker on Wednesday, May 6, at 1 p.m. when the author of *Babies, Bullets and Bee Stings: Memories of a Missionary Midwife* will speak.

In her fast-paced account of a farm-girl from a preacher's home who develops into a medical missionary, the reader is treated to a first-person account of what life is like on various mission fields in Central America. Her story spans baby deliveries by flashlight to veterinary-level treatment of injured horses, while the town's folk watch in awe. Her experiences reveal a brave mother and wife whose singular purpose in life is to share the Gospel with as many as possible. After graduating from a prestigious medical college, She turned away

from an incredibly large salary offer as a certified nurse-midwife, only to practice medical nursing on dirt floors and primitive clinics. This volume takes the reader to the front lines of missionary life and service, and reveals to the rest of us what it means to serve God in other lands. Albright LIFE is at 901 Memorial Avenue, Williamsport. RSVP at 570-322-5433 by noon on 4/30.

Susquehanna-Shirati Hospice Partnership is pleased to announce that two members of the Shirati Hospice team will be visiting Williamsport in May. Dr. Steve Biko, Medical Director of Shirati Palliative Care, and Dorothy Kawira, RN, Coordinator for Palliative Care, will be give talks about providing quality end of life care in rural Tanzania. For the past 3 years, Susquehanna Hospice has been assisting that program with medical and financial support and learning from their innovations as well. The public is invited to attend talks to learn more about their work. They will be speaking on Thursday, May 14th, 7-8:30 PM at Hope Community Church, 1300 Tinsman Ave, Williamsport and on Friday, May 15th, 7-8:30 PM at the Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium, 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport. The Gatehouse Singers will be providing several numbers. All are welcome to come and meet our partners from Shirati.

Help Strike Out Suicide... and knock down the silence, shame and stigma. Join the fun, informational fundraising event benefitting the production of *Power of One: Preventing Suicide in America*, a feature documentary directed by local filmmaker/author Alivia Tagliaferri.

Why: Since 2009, we have lost nearly 100 loved ones to suicide in Lycoming County alone. This event is to raise funds to share the powerful stories of local advocates to help prevent suicide in our community. The mission of *Power of One: Preventing Suicide in America* is to inform, empower and inspire.

Hosted with Lycoming County Suicide Prevention Coalition and NAMI--PA, Lycoming and Clinton County Chapter, you'll mingle with friends, sponsors and community service providers!

On May 30, 2015 in honor of Mental Health Month; 1 – 3pm.

At Faxon Bowling Lanes, 1225 River Ave, Williamsport

Sponsor A Team! Strike Out Suicide features 24 teams of six players (or eight players with two alternates) facing off for the 1st Annual S--?O--?S Grand Prize. Sponsor a team for just \$200! Your sponsorship includes a personalized lane (with team name and sponsor logo) shoes, soda and PIZZA! Not a bowler? Don't miss this fun fundraiser! Join us for a suggested donation of \$20.00 per person. Email Alivia Tagliaferri for sponsorship form and invoice via alivia@powerofonemovie.com



UNITED CHURCHES GOLF TOURNAMENT 2015

Our Fifth Annual Golf Tournament is Friday, September 25, 2015 at White Deer Golf Course, beginning at 8:45 am. As we begin getting our sponsors for this year we want to share with you the list from last year. It is quite impressive that we can list the following sponsors for this event. Without them, it would have been impossible to enjoy such a nice day of golf, and support United Churches so well. We encourage you to support these businesses and organizations as they have supported us. And to thank them for their support. Most of them come back as sponsors year after year!



TOURNAMENT SPONSORS 2014:

**SANDERS Mortuary, FISCHER INSURANCE Agency; THRIVENT FINANCIAL SERVICES,
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