



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Summer Update

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

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Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday

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

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www.uclc.org

AUGUST 4, 2016

[Please notify us of changes of email address](#)

Thank You for receiving our newsletter via email. It is a wonderful donation of postage, office supplies and volunteer time!

A Great Cloud of Ecumenical Witnesses



Many things change during the summer, or as the year's pass by, but the shoes pictured here remind me that big and little, our job as people of faith is to walk a walk that we will be proud to have others follow.

Twenty five years ago, when I came to this office, I knew that I had big shoes to follow. My predecessors all have left an indelible mark on the work we do, they were people of incredible vision.

- 1979-1990: Dr. Alton M. Motter
- 1969-1978: Mr. Robert Smink
- 1964-1968: Mr. C. Arthur Underwood
- 1962-1963: Mrs. Diane S. Hume (Mrs. James C.)
- 1951-1961: The Rev. C. H. Hershey
- 1949-1950: Dr. Howard R. Gold

Dr. Motter wrote, in an article for our 50th Anniversary History, that during his time at United Churches we were surrounded by a great cloud of ecumenical witnesses, and that it was continuing. That must have also been true for each of the Executive Directors (or Executive Secretaries as we were first called.) From the founding meetings in 1945 to the present day ecumenical witness is most important.

Fr. Thomas Ryan said that we must be ready to celebrate the vitality in the Body of Christ wherever it is found: What advances the reign of God in any church helps all

churches. Churches are not like competing corporations in the business world, so that the stakes of one rises as the lot of others falls. One of our staff often told me how wonderfully different it was to work in the church rather than the business world.

We continue to be surrounded by a great cloud of ecumenical witnesses here in Lycoming County. In this 70th Anniversary year I was encouraged to read a local pastor's Facebook post that encouraged pastors and church members to stop trying to market themselves as the better church or the only church doing things the right way, but to remember that they are part of the body of Christ. Yes indeed. A great cloud of ecumenical witnesses right here in Lycoming County!

6th ANNUAL UCLC GOLF TOURNAMENT Ken Weiss, 570-321-9555, kweiss1213@gmail.com Friday, September 23, 2016

Golfers Needed!!!: Now is the time to register. The Entry Fee is \$85/golfer. No team required. Individuals will be matched to a partial team. Checks should be made payable to United Churches and mailed to Ken Weiss at 161 West Hills Drive, Williamsport, 17701. Contact Ken at 570-321-9555 or kweiss1213@gmail.com.



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

FOOD PANTRY *

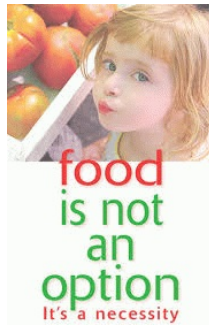
Mona Rudio, Coordinator 570-322-1657

E-mail - foodpantry@uclc.org

We all have things we need and want but to remain stable and alive we all need food more than any other item. The pantry is in need of these items:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Hot Dogs (24 Oz.)</i> | <i>Canned Meats</i> |
| <i>Cereal</i> | <i>Canned Vegies</i> |
| <i>Oatmeal</i> | <i>Canned Fruits</i> |
| <i>Jelly</i> | <i>Soups</i> |
| <i>Peanut Butter</i> | <i>Pasta/Sauces</i> |
| <i>Healthy Snacks</i> | <i>All Condiments</i> |

We at the Pantry thank you all for your merciful, giving, and joyous hearts!! Even though you don't see any outcomes or results of your giving, every day a person's life is changed and up-lifted with significant outcomes! We here at the Pantry are told by the clients to tell you "Thank You" from them for your anonymous and generous giving!!



We are located at the rear of 320 Park Ave. Williamsport (Msgr. Castellano Center). Our donations hours are Mondays 9:30 – 12 ; hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15 – 2:30.

Mark these 2016 Dates on Your Calendar:

- Sixth Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, September 23, at White Deer at 8:45 a.m.
- CROP Open House - Wednesday, September 7 from 4-6 p.m. Stop by New Covenant UCC, 202 East Third Street to pick up materials for the Walk.
- CROP Walk - Sunday, October 9, 1:30 p.m. along the River Walk, beginning at St. Mark's, Wmspt.
- United Churches Assembly: Thursday, Nov. 17 at First United Methodist Church, Muncy, 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

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



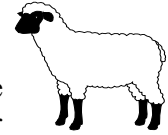
Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God." The devotionalists this summer/fall are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8/8-14 Patty Gohrs | 8/15-21 Rev. Gwen Bernstine |
| 8/22-28 Patty Gohrs & Gwen B. | 8/29-9/4 Pastor Dorothy Anderson |
| 9/5-11 Pat Jenkins | 9/12-18 Derek Smith |
| 9/19-25 Rev. Marwin Reeves | 9/25-10/2 Rev. Danesta Whaley |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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



Administrative Volunteers are needed to help with the work in our Shepherd office. The office is open Monday thru Thursday from 9-12 and 1-3. Please contact Dr. Smith for more information.

Personal Hygiene Items continue to be needed in our Shepherd of the Streets Ministry. Thank you for helping us to reach out in mercy and love as we focus on their health and safety. In the course of a day we may help a senior with their medication, counsel someone that they can't afford to smoke and we can't afford to help, or help with a water bill (we all know this utility has gone up 30%), and provide a set of work clothes so someone can provide a home for themselves and their family.

Each person who comes through our doors may also need some of the hygiene items you send our way. We always need them.... The list follows:



- Toothpaste a Toothbrushes*
- Shaving Cream and Razors*
- Shampoo and Conditioner*
- Women's Hygiene Products*
- Towels and Wash Cloths*
- Tissues and Toilet Paper*

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Soap</i> | <i>Deoderant</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> |

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*

Join us Wednesdays for lunch and a interesting program! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The 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 Gwen at the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attendee will help the caterer know how to prepare.



SEPTEMBER:

- 14- **The Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza**, Pastor, Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport, "*The Holy Land*"
- 21- **Ms. Janet Sherman**, Ritual Chair, Temple Beth Ha Sholom, "*150 Years of Jewish History in Lycoming County*"
- 28- Missionary Speakers, TBA



The Adopt A Cop Program helps to connect churches and their communities. United Churches is relaunching the Adopt-A-Cop Program for our communities. This program seeks to support our local police officers in prayer.

Will your church commit to pray for a local law enforcement officer each week during the service? To participate, simply fill out your information below and fax or email back to us. We'll respond with a local police officers' name that your church can pray for.

ADOPT A COP PROJECT (Church portion)

Project: Match up law enforcement officers (those who want to participate) with a local church congregation that will pray for them on a regular basis. This project is completely voluntary.

Congregation name:

Contact Phone:

Contact Email:

Denomination:

Police Dept. Priority:

Comments

Project by United Churches of Lycoming County
When ready, please fax this form back to:
Fax: 570-955-3457
Or Email to: News@uclc.org

CLASSIFIEDS *

Toner Available: The Transitional Living Center updated a printer and has some ink jet cartridgees (new) left over, that they are making available to a church that can use them. They are....

- HP 933XL - Magenta
HP 933XL - Cyan
HP 933XL - Yellow
HP 932XL - Black

Call them at 570-326-7220

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

New Pastor's Orientation will be held Thursday, September 29, beginning at 9:30-Noon at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport.

Pastors new to the area or others who have been here a bit longer and would like to know more about the ministries we do together as United Churches, as well as the ways we work together with the many agencies in the county should attend. For more information or more details, contact Gwen at 570-322-1110 or director@uclc.org.



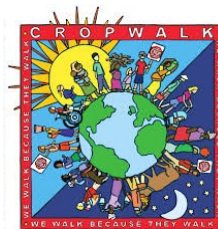
Tammey Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@uclc.org

We are looking forward to a great 2016-17! Unbelievably classes begin August 15th and then things will be busier than ever.

We are planning a Fall Kick-Off Event that will introduce students to three of the student organizations that connect with their religious life. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this special event, so please keep us in your prayers! Students will discover a place or places where they feel comfortable, that fits their schedule and provides ways for them to deepen their faith journey.

If you have family or members of your congregation who are students at PCT, please let Tammey know so students can contact them and invite them!

CROP Walk 2016 *



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the Greater Lycoming County CROP Walk, is scheduled for Sunday, October 9 at 1:30 P.M. at the River Walk in Williamsport! This is our 6th year at this location. Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport.

Materials: Recruiters can pick up their materials at the CROP Open House which will be held on Wednesday, September 7 from 4-6 p.m. at New Covenant UCC, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport. There is free on-street parking as well as the lot at the corner of East Third and Basin Streets. We will be in the lounge so the easiest door to use is the front center doors. For more information contact United Churches office, 570-322-1110, or director@uclc.org, or Trinity Episcopal Church, 570-322-0126 or trinityrector@comcast.net. You can also register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/williamsportpa.

6th ANNUAL UCLC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Ken Weiss, 570-321-9555, kweiss1213@gmail.com

Friday, September 23, 2016

Golfers are still needed!!

Now is the time to register. The Entry Fee is \$85/golfer. No team required. We can match up individuals. Checks should be made payable to United Churches and mailed to Ken Weiss at 161 West Hills Drive, Williamsport, 17701. Contact Ken at 570-321-9555 or kweiss1213@gmail.com.



How Can You Help? We need donations of the door prizes each golfer receives... gifts or gift certificates valued at \$10-\$50 that golfers might enjoy. Raffle tickets are now being sold, and you do not need to be present to win. The prizes include a golfer's dream, several beautiful prints, nice jewelry, interesting books, autographed baseballs, and much more.

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

- Church Sponsor: \$50
- Meal Sponsor: \$300
- Tournament Sponsor: \$500
- Hole Sign Sponsor: \$100
- Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$400
- Foundation Sponsor: \$1,000-\$5,000

CHURCH FUEL CO-OP

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op will be held Tuesday, August 16th at 10 a.m. at New Covenant UCC, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport. Six invitations have been sent to area companies inviting them to be present to submit a heating oil bid which will be selected by member congregations at that time for the contract for the 2016-17 heating season.



All congregations are able to become members of the co-op for a one time fee of \$100 and then they and their paid staff are able to receive the discount throughout the year. If you would like more information on this program please contact United Churches, 570-322-1110 or Gwen at 570-419-1464.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Are Needed at St. Anthony's Center from 9:30am to 1:00pm to help prepare vegetables & fruit and serve lunch. You can help one day a week, once a month or how many days you'd like. Please call 570-326-2244 if you can help.

A Memorial Service in Remembrance of Reverend Spurgeon L. East who was called home to be with the Lord last year, August 13, 2015 will be held Saturday, August 13, 2016 at Shiloh Baptist Church, 433 Walnut Street - Williamsport. Rev. Conrad Gibson, Pastor, invites all who worked with Spurgeon to attend this service from 11 - 1 on Saturday. The Rev. Carl Thompson, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Boston, Ma., will deliver the Memorial Message. Light Refreshments & Fellowship following the service.

Shirati 5K Walk/Run: The Susquehanna Hospice – Shirati, Tanzania Hospice Partnership is pleased to announce our 2nd Annual “Sharing with Shirati 5K Walk/Run.” It will be held on Saturday, August 20th at Indian Park in Montoursville. Registration will be from 8-9am at Pavilion 4. After some brief words about Shirati, the *walkers* will start out at 9:15am and *runners* will start at 9:30am. Registration is \$25/person. Medals will be awarded to the top runners in each age group and top male and female walkers overall. You can register online at www.parunners.com. There will be a bake sale, raffle of baskets and gifts donated by businesses in our community, and an African jewelry sale. All money raised will benefit our partners in Shirati, Tanzania.

Franklin Graham Prayer Rally will be held in Harrisburg on Thursday September 15. In this area Susquehanna Trailways will be doing a bus. The cost is \$ 45.00. To reserve your seat call 570-753-5125. There will be a pickup up in Mill Hall at 8:15 a.m. Local spot, please check when you call. There will be a stop at Hoss's Steakhouse on the way home, but the meal is not included in cost.

United Churches is your church
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in Ministry.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Living Financially Healthy

is a class being hosted by the Salvation Army and will be held on Saturday, August 20 from 2-4. Their July class, led by Aron Carter from Jersey Shore State Bank, was lively, well-attended and the best part was that participants were able to ask any financial questions they wanted. Dozens of questions were asked and answered! Topics included how to save money and what options are available, to how credit works, ideas of how to budget and how to protect yourself financially. This class, while covering some basic stuff, is sure to be never the same session twice. All are welcome. To sign-up for the August class call 570-326-9187. For more information contact Tammy Burke at ext. 102.



Shalom Conference of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches will be held on September 24-25 at the Hartman Center in Milroy (between Lewistown and State College). Shane Claiborne will be present Saturday evening, and the theme of his talk will be “Another World is Possible.” Their other featured speaker is Saadia Ahmad, current McCormack Scholar and Master’s student in Conflict Resolution at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

The Council's goal is to launch a statewide network of peacemakers that will promote communications and sharing to make peacemaking less lonely.

Their theme, “Creating a Culture of Peace,” focuses on shalom – a holistic sense of peace that seeks wholeness and wellness for all of creation. This broad understanding of peace suggests that a broad representation of organizations and individuals is necessary to ensure that our vision for peace is more than the absence of war. Organizations and peacemakers that focus on a range of issues, including, but not limited to, domestic violence, systemic racism, drone warfare, environmental justice, torture, gun violence, and interfaith understanding, will all be invited to participate in this exciting conference. The conference will consist of panel discussions, large group gatherings, two engaging speakers and numerous opportunities for people to network with one another. Learn more and register at www.pachurches.org.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Training for Religious Leaders:

This important training is scheduled for September 27 and will be repeated on September 29 2016:

As a faith leader you are in the best position to help someone who is experiencing abuse. Are you ready to respond? Do you know the resources in Lycoming County needed to help a victim? PA Coalition

Against Domestic Violence has many resources on how faith leaders can work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Kacie Greer Hopkins, Community Educator with Wise Options at the YWCA North Central PA will share these resources with you during this important training.

This training will give faith leaders the opportunity to:

- Expand your knowledge and understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault, including different forms of abuse and red flags.
- Support and guide congregants experiencing or witnessing abuse.
- Learn ways your congregation can help prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Make appropriate referrals and build partnership with Wise Options.

All faith leaders in Lycoming County are invited to this free training. There are two opportunities to attend this training.

Dates: Tuesday Sept. 27th or Thursday Sept. 29th

Time: 10:00am- 12:00pm

Location: YWCA North Central PA,
815 West 4th Street Williamsport, PA

Next Issue: The September issue of the United Churches newsletter will be mailed on September 13. Information for that edition should be submitted by September 1. Please note that this summer newsletter is sent by email only so there may be people with whom you wish to share a copy.