



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

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

VOLUME XXXII NUMBER 6

August 19, 2015

Please notify us if you changes of e-mail address

Thank You for receiving our Newsletter via E-Mail. It is a wonderful donation of postage, office supplies and volunteer time.

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*



Join us for the start of the 2015-2016 Season! 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, Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer know how much food to prepare.

SEPTEMBER:

- 16- **Ms. Mary Siemenski**, Manager, Lycoming County Women's History Project, *"The Hidden History of African Americans in Williamsport: What I Learned from Researching Julia Collins"*
- 23- **The Rev. Leroy Wion**, Retired Wesleyan Pastor and Minister of Music and American Rescue Workers Pastor and Counselor *"Gospel Concert"*
- 30- **Mr. Todd Penman**, Executive Director, West End Christian Community Center, *"Opportunities to Reach Out in Jesus' Name"*

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

New Pastor's Orientation will be held Tuesday, 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.

CROP Walk 2015 *



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 11, 2015** at 1:30 P.M. at **the River Walk in Williamsport!** This is our 5th year at this location. Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport.

Materials: All recruiters should have picked up their materials at the **CROP Rally** last week. If you didn't get to the Rally, materials are available at the United Churches office, 202 E. 3rd St, or Trinity Episcopal, 844 W 4th St, Williamsport. Info is available at www.cropwalk.org.

**United Churches 5th Annual
Major Fund Raiser and Golf Tournament***

September is almost here and we are almost ready ... how about you? Our first four years showed us just how much support there is for UCLC. However, we need to do so much more.



All are invited to take a chance or two or more in our raffle this year! We have great prizes....

- A New Set of Clubs by Rick Mussleman Golf Services Unlimited 775 Wishon Irons valued at \$1099
- Framed Paintings from Gold Leaf Frame Shoppe, Wmspt. Ringer Hill Autumn by Dan Curry - value \$350 Wave Riders by Gerald W. Putt - value \$300
- Limited Edition unframed print by Ron Beach The Sentinel - value \$125
- Jewelry from local artisans including Petro's Jewelry Mike Cillo Jewelry Mahonsky Jewlery
- Autographed Books from Local Authors Adam Makos: A Higher Call & Voices of the Pacific Jay Paterno: Paterno Legacy Bob Wallace: Hadessa Finds Peace & Abel is Saved
- A Bluebird House (Condo)
- Numerous Other Prizes

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. They are available at the United Churches office and from board and committee members. Winners will be drawn at the Golf Tournament, September 25th but you don't have to be present to win.

The NEED... Six years ago we had to cut our employees salaries by 20%. Their work schedule went from 5 days a week to 4. Anyone who knows our wonderful employees know that they work many administrative hours to keep the wonderful ministries we do together running smoothly. They still do, just for less money.

After four tournaments we've been able to give them back much of that cut but they are still behind where they were 6 years ago, and without this fundraiser they would lose what has been restored. And you know that as the economy struggles, giving goes down, but the needs of our county increase. More work - less money - we had to do something!

We invite you and the whole community to support these fundraisers every way you can.

**Ken Weiss at 321-9555 or
E-mail: kweiss1213@gmail.com**



The Tournament is...
Friday September 25.

It starts at 8:30 am at White Deer Challenge Course. For a donation of \$80 (one of the lowest tournament fees in our county) our golfers get a round of golf, a golf cart, lunch after playing, a number of free gifts, and a door prize.

Our Sponsors... there is a range of sponsorship levels and all sponsors are recognized in what has turned into one of the largest tournaments each year. Most sponsors happily come back yearly. We also have special church sponsor category (\$50) which can be given by the church, a group within a church, or an individual who would like to see their church on this list as a supporter of United Churches. What we need now are more sponsors and golfers. Contact Ken for details. We also need door prizes - gift certificates to local stores, small \$10-50 gifts, things a golfer might enjoy.

Let's do it! Let's have a fun day out on the golf course while we raise \$13,000 to keep United Churches ministries going strong. The last page of this newsletter has some pictures from last year and more information.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY *

Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 570-322-1657

This summer we continue to see an increase in the volume of clients. These are tough times for all of us, some more than others. Thank you for getting us through the challenges of summer when kids are home from school and grandchildren visit. Even our volunteers often schedule vacations after this hectic time if possible. So...

We will be closing our Pantry for vacation the week of September 7 - 10, 2015. We will be back open for business on Monday, September 14.

This fall, as we continue to serve the 'food insecure' of our county, the pantry is in need of the following items:

<i>Oodles of Noodles</i>	<i>Mac-n-cheese</i>		
<i>Granola Bars</i>	<i>Tomato Soup</i>		
<i>Chicken Noodle Soup</i>	<i>Chunky Soup</i>		
<i>Canned Fruits</i>	<i>Powdered Drinks</i>		
<i>Coffee Creamer (powdered)</i>	<i>Saltine Crackers</i>		
<i>Hamburger Helper (any flavor)</i>	<i>Tea Bags</i>		
<i>Pasta</i>	<i>Spaghetti Sauce</i>		<i>Ketchup and Mustard</i>

Many blessings to all of you as you this fall!

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 devotionists this fall include:

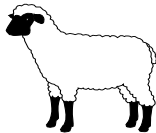
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8/17-23 Mrs. Sandy Grier | 8/24-30 Mrs. Pat Jenkins |
| 8/31-9/6 Pastors Jim / Kathy Behrens | 9/7-13 Rev. Danesta Whaley |
| 9/14-20 Mrs. Patty Gohrs | 9/21-27 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner |
| 9/28-10/4 Fr. Dan Kovalak | 10/6-12 Pastors Jim/Kathy Behrens |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,

570-322-6538, shepherd@uclc.org



The Shepherd of the Streets provides aid and assistance through:

- Guidance and Counseling
- Prescription Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Baby Diapers and Supplies
- Dental, Audio and Visual Assistance
- Work Preparedness
- Bedding
- Utility Help
- Hygiene Items
- Documentation



Tammy Aichner, Coor, ucm@uclc.org or 570-419-5376

The new semester has begun for our Campus Ministry. Monday, August 24th is the first of our weekly Faith Talks in CC 114.

We are looking forward to hosting a table at the student kickoff on the patio at Campus Commons on Wednesday, August 19th. There'll be free food, live entertainment and students will get a chance to meet our officers.

Thursday, August 20th there be a Q&A with local author Joseph Smith who wrote **Sex and Violence in the Bible**. This will be held in CC114. Refreshments will be provided.

We will go rock climbing on Friday afternoon, August 21st to see one of the most beautiful views in the area.

Our **Fall Retreat** will be held August 28-30 at The Half in New Albany PA. They will leave campus Friday at 3 and return Sunday by 3. Speakers, outdoor fun and fel-

lowship all await. Meals are included. Reservations are open to the first 20 students. The cost is \$25 per student and partial scholarships are available.

If you have family or members of your congregation who are students at PCT, please let Tammy know so students can contact them and tell them we have a place just for them!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 9/1 - Newsletter Info Needed by for September Issue
(It will be mailed out on 9/9 with info for congregations October newsletters)
- 9/16 - First Ecumenical Lunch of the Season
- 9/25 - UCLC Golf Tournament
- 9/27 - UCLC Dinner at Hosses (Fundraiser)
- 9/29 - New Pastors Orientation
- 10/11 - CROP Walk
- 11/19 - UCLC Annual Assembly
- 1/18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

CHURCH FUEL CO-OP

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held August 11th. Two heating oil bids were opened and the contract for the 2015-16 heating season was awarded to Superior Plus.



Their "cap price" bid of \$2.189 was accepted. Members of the Church Fuel Co-Op will never pay more than this price for their oil, no matter how high prices go this year.

The plan is available to churches who are members of the Co-Op and their paid staff. To belong to the co-op congregations pay a one time fee of \$100. Should a congregation withdraw as a member, for some reason, the reinstatement fee is \$25.

Retired clergy in the area are invited to be part of the co-op at no charge, no matter their congregational affiliation.

A new benefit for Church Co-op Member Churches: Your members who purchase their oil from Superior Plus can receive a 20¢ discount off the tank wagon price (if they are on automatic delivery) and 15¢ off if they call for delivery. They must be signed up for this through you.

For details on the Fuel Co-Op call Gwen or Patty at United Churches, 570-322-1110 or Gwen at director@uclc.org.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COUNTY *

Singers, both new and returning, are being welcomed by the **Williamsport Civic Chorus** as rehearsals resume on Monday, September 8, 7 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport. Auditions are not required for new singers at all levels who enjoy making fine choral music. More information about joining is available by calling Deb Muthler at 398-4472.

The 2014-15 season will consist of three concerts all at 3 p.m.; "Ghoultime Scarols" on October 19, "Praise Parisienne" on November 23, and "A Cloud of Witnesses" on April 26. Tickets and more information about the season are available by visiting www.williamsportcivicchorus.org.

NAMI to Meet: The monthly NAMI (National Association on Mental Illness) meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, so the next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Robert M. Sides building, 201 Mulberry St, Williamsport. NAMI is a grassroots organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans, both individuals and families, affected by mental illness by providing education, training, and support programs.

Out of the Darkness Walk to Prevent Suicide and Support Survivors: Sunday, September 18 will be held in Lock Haven for both Clinton and Lycoming County. The Lycoming/Clinton County NAMI Chapter is holding their walk in conjunction with the Lycoming Suicide prevention Coalition on Sunday October 18 at Indian Park, Montoursville.



Lycoming County Life Chain will be held Sunday, October 4, 2015, on the Golden Strip (E. 3rd St.) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate in this peaceful prayer event. This is their 24th year. If your church has not received the written announcement in the mail and you are interested, contact the coordinator in your area listed below.

- Newberry - Larry Stetts - 570-326-0048
- Montoursville - Robert Stein - 570-584-2947
- South Williamsport - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653
- Loyalsock - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653
- Hepburn/Lycoming - Frank Sherman - 570-326-2916
- N.E. Cluster, Wmspt. - Kim Corson - 570-745-3121
- Jersey Shore - Diana Persun - 570-745-3557
- Muncy - Doris Bush - 570-745-3502
- East Lycoming - K. Vincent Swartz - 570-584-4267
- Montgomery - Doris Bush - 570-745-3502
- Center City, Wmspt, - Kim Corson - 570-745-3121

St. John Neumann Regional Academy
Dir. of Religious Formation - 570-323-9953
W. Fourth St. Wmspt. - Denise Boring - 570-745-7185

Children's Christmas Books Available: United Methodist Pastor Bob Wallace (semi-retired) has recently published the second in his trilogy of children's stories entitled **Able Is Saved**. Illustrated by local artist Emily Green, this book tells the story of the birth of Jesus as told through the eyes of the lamb who was given to Jesus by the shepherds who came to see him. This book, along with the first, **Hadassah Finds Peace**, are available from Pastor Wallace (570-326-1521), at Otto Bookstore or <https://wwwcreatespace.com/5535946> or [5039782](https://wwwcreatespace.com/5039782).

Church Directories Sought: The Lycoming County Historical Society has initiated a project to collect church directories. Both new and old directories will help to bring into clear focus the people who reside in our beautiful county. So when you have your fall clean out days, remember that our Historical Society can use a copy of directories, church histories, and other such things. For questions call Director Gary Parks, 570-326-3326.

Presbyterian Home at Williamsport will celebrate **Fifty Years of Service** to our community on Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 4-6. The celebration's 1960 theme will include delectable foods, beverages, activities, music by the Pepper Street Band and vintage cars.

They will also be announcing and providing information about the launch of Masterpiece Living, which they have partnered with to offer stimulating, life-enriching programs designed to enhance the lives of residents, staff and the entire culture of our community.

There will be tours of the facility before and after the celebration. There is no charge for this event but reservations are required by Monday, September 14 by contacting Renna' Engle at 570-601-8351 or rengel@psl.org.

Lyme Disease Support and Awareness Group has formed and is meeting at First Southern Baptist Church, 89 Kimble Hill Road, Wmspt. They hope to encourage, educate and empower those who have or are suffering from Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections to move forward toward restored health. It is also their desire to actively inform communities of the danger and prevention of contracting tick-borne infections. The meetings are free and open to the public. Their next meeting is Saturday, September 26 from 10-Noon. For details contact Margaret Weaver at beatlyme@verizon.net.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: Perspectives help believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus Christ to the early church, and Constantine to today, you will see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded, and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. It isn't a class about missions, but a course on how every believer can be intimately woven into the story of God using His people to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth.

Perspectives is a 15 week, nondenominational, internationally acclaimed Bible course featuring guest instructors each week. It can be taken at either a non-credit or university credit level.

God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian. Whether you go to a distant country or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and perhaps crucial, for all Christians.

Perspectives Williamsport will be held Tuesday evenings, September 8 through December 8 from 6-9 at Northway Presbyterian Church, 1520 Northway Road, Williamsport. Register online at www.Perspectives.org.

Yokefellowship's Annual Conference will be held in Lewisburg, PA at Country Cupboard/Best Western on Oct. 2-3, 2015. They will be celebrating 60 years of ministry with the following guest speakers:

- Bret Taylor** - Testimony of a Returning Citizen
- John Rush** - Former Yokefellow Exec. Director
- Rev. Ullrich "Ulli" Klemm** - Religion, Volunteer and Recreational Services Program Administrator for the PA Dept. Of Corrections
- Harold Dean Trulear** - National Director of Healing Communities
- Terri Roberts** - Mother of Charles Carl, who shot 10 Amish school girls and then himself, speaks about forgiveness, reconciliation and healing.
- Christopher Santos** - Northampton County Prison Chaplain speaks about the need for Spanish-Speaking Ministry in PA jails and prisons

Registrations are to be postmarked by Sept. 8. Brochures are available at www.yokefellowship.net or by contacting Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, 570-326-6868 or smileynessie@yahoo.com.

Lord, Let Our Eyes Be Opened: Breaking the Chains of Mass Incarceration is a conference being held by the PA Council of Churches Friday evening through Sunday October 23-26 at the Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg East.

Clergy, lay persons, and anyone interested in learning more about the American criminal justice system and mass incarceration from a religious/moral/ethical perspective are welcome to attend. Those who attend will look at...

- the religious, sociological and economic foundations that support why the faith community must be involved in criminal justice reform efforts;
- how racism, inconsistent sentencing guidelines for drug offenses and mandatory minimum requirements have placed a disproportionate number of poor persons and persons of color behind bars;
- treatment of incarcerated persons, and how (if at all) they are prepared for reentry into the community;
- alternatives to incarceration;
- barriers for returning citizens, issues for communities as they welcome them, and resources to support them; and what congregations can do on all of these fronts.
- have the opportunity to advocate for positive change in Harrisburg on Monday.

Attendees will hear nationally known speakers....

- Glenn E. Martin, Founder and President of JustLeadershipUSA, a national advocacy organization dedicated to cutting the US correctional population in half by 2030.
- Harold Dean Trulear, Ph.D., director of the Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Prisoner Reentry Project of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation, and Associate Professor of Applied Theology and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Howard University.

Full registration is \$200/\$240. Early bird discount applies to registrations received by 9/30. For more information or to register online go to www.pachurches.org or call 717-545-4761.

Looking for more ways to promote your church events? Email information to News@uclc.org for promotion. Include what - where - when - web site - facebook - who for - cost and details. Our broadcasting department will develop them for postings on Facebook, Twitter, Connect Williamsport, NorthcentralPA.com online newspaper, etc. Kathy and Lou Kolb who chair that department hope this effort will result in some more people attending area church events. Regardless it shows the public that there are active churches inviting them to events.