



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the
UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701
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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 XXIX NUMBER 6

August 24, 2012

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 2012-2013 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-322-1110 if you are not a regular attendee will help the caterer know how much food to prepare.

SEPTEMBER:

- 12- **Mrs. Eleanor Derr, RN,MSN**, Last Director of the Williamsport School of Nursing, *"How Nursing Education Has Evolved"*
- 19- **The Rev. J. Morris Smith, Th.D.**, Program Director, Shepherd of the Streets, *"Serving the Poor Among Us"*
- 26- **Mr. and Mrs. Phil and Gail Landers**, and members of the United Churches Long Term Disaster Relief Committee, *"Helping Folks Recovering from the Flood"*

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

New Pastor's Orientation will be held Wednesday, September 19, beginning at 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine Street, Williamsport. Pastors new to the area or who 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. Lunch will be included. For more information or more details, contact Gwen at 322-1110 or director@uclc.org.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES *

Nursing Home Service Leaders Needed: We have several services currently available in our nursing home ministry this fall. Please contact Gwen at 322-1110 or director@uclc.org to volunteer. Right now the list includes:



- Manor Care North: Sun. 2:15 p.m. Oct. 7, 28, Nov 25
- Valley View: Sun. 2:00 p.m. Sept. 16, Nov 18, 25
- Williamsport Home: Sun. 3:00 - Oct. 14
- Pre Release Center for Men Sun. 3:30 p.m. - Oct. 21,28
- Rose View Court - Thurs. 2 p.m. - Sept. 6
- Sycamore Manor - Wed. 10:30 a.m. Sept. 11, Oct 24

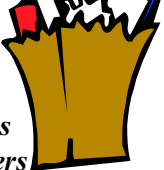
PRISON MINISTRY REMINDER

Clergy: It is time to check your Prison Green Card - Pastors in our county are provided with access to the Lycoming County Prison for professional counseling of inmates who are members or related to your congregation as well as to allow you to provide ministry within the county. However these cards do expire every two years, so please check your green card today. Our office has the forms available to update your card.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY *

Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 322-1627

Each month we see an increase in the volume of clients. These are tough times for all of us, some more than others. So that we may continue to serve the 'food insecure' of our county, the food pantry is in need of the following items this month:

<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>	

Many blessings to all of you as you get ready for fall and help others to do so. We continue to praise God for the many ways you so generously bless our community.

CROP Walk 2012 *



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 14, 2012** at 1:30 P.M. at **the River Walk in Williamsport!** This is our 2nd year at this location. Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport.

All recruiters will then be invited to our CROP Rally on Thursday, **September 6, 2012** at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East 3rd St., Wmspt. between **4-6 P.M.** This is the time for you or your recruiter to drop in and get your CROP materials and talk about this year's walk. The recruiter envelope and walker sponsor forms will be available. More info is available at www.cropwalk.org.

FLOOD RECOVERY: A Ministry Opportunity *

Call 570-322-7648

This could be you! As a matter of fact, we really need your help on these **Saturdays:**

September 22
October 13 and
November 3.



We are having a "Flood Recovery Work-day. Victim's homes from the September, 2011 flooding still have unmet needs .

Local groups and individuals will be doing the following:

- clean-up inside and out
- ripping and tearing
- drywalling and painting, carpentry, etc.

All level of skills are welcome and needed!

Call the Flood Hot Line @ 322-7648 or United Churches office @ 322-1110 with the number of volunteers and skill levels at least three days prior to the workday. You need to be 16 to participate.

Volunteers will meet at New Covenant UCC, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday to receive their assignment. Everyone should wear sturdy shoes, bring work gloves, and a favorite tool bucket if you have one (with your tools labeled).

Congregations are also encouraged to select alternate dates to have your own workday. Contact Phil Landers @ 326-2337 or call the numbers above for more information.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



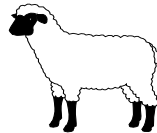
Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God." The devotionalists this fall include:

8/27-9/2 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	9/3-9 Pastors Jim/Kathy Behrens
9/10-16 Rev. Nessie Whaley	9/17-23 Dorothy Wagner
9/24-30 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	10/1-7 Pastors Jim/Kathy Behrens

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

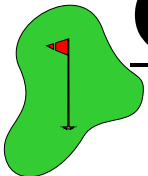
Our Shepherd of the Streets shelves often need restocked and we look forward to seeing you as you bring in the hygiene items, bedding and baby needs you generously donate and drop off at our Shepherd office at 669 Center Street, Williamsport. The list of hygiene items are:



Regular sizes please....

- Deodorant Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Soap Shaving Cream and Razors
- Tissues Shampoo and Conditioner
- Toilet Paper Women's Hygiene Products
- Combs Blankets/Sheets/Pillowcases
- Nail Clippers Towels and Wash Cloths
- Baby Diapers, Wipes, Shampoo, Powder, Oil, Q-Tips

Golf Tournament September 27, 2012*



The United Churches of Lycoming County is sponsoring our second annual golf tournament on September 27, 2012 at White Deer Golf Course to help support the financial basis of our organization. Your strong support and commitment in helping us to make this United Churches fund raiser a success is needed.

- ☛ Church sponsorship are available for only \$50
- ☛ Registration and fees (\$80 per player) - we had 108 golfers last year we want at least 120 golfers this year
- ☛ Hole sponsorships are still available for only \$100; larger sponsorships also available
- ☛ Door Prizes continue to be collected - anything of value of \$10 or more
- ☛ Donations of soda, water, snacks are also needed to give to each golfer, logo pens, pads of paper, coupons, etc..
- ☛ Raffle tickets are currently available. The prizes include: an original painting from Ron Beach, an original piece of jewelry from Mahonski Jewelers, two Blue Bird Boxes with instructions made by our own Larry Waltz, a photo by our own Ken Weiss - framed and matted or a nature scene, and a \$200 gift certificate to Dick's for a TaylorMade's new RocketBallz Fairway Wood.



Additional information and all checks should be sent to Ken Weiss, 1250 Almond St. Williamsport, PA 17701 or contact him at 323-6325 or kweiss1213@hotmail.com - checks payable to United Churches.

CHURCH FUEL CO-OP

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held August 8th. Two heating oil bids were opened and the contract for the 2012-2013 heating season was awarded to Pickelner/Nittany Oil.

Their "cap price" bid of \$3.57.9 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. And each account also has the option to pay their bill within ten days and get the cash discount of 15¢/gallon (payments via cash, check and bank transfer only).

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.

More information can be obtained by contacting Gwen Bernstine at United Churches, director@uclc.org or 322-1110 or 323-5911.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Council Director
 Contacts: 326-6868, smileynessie@yahoo.com

COME JOIN US! Yokefellow Upper Susquehanna is having their second Open House on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 1-5PM. The Location is 1200 Almond St, Williamsport. Additionally, Bridge Haven, which is a ministry to the families of inmates, will open their doors for a tour of the home we both share.

Enjoy fellowship, food and more information on these vital ministries in our community. You will hear testimonies from some of our volunteers who have the opportunity to go into the different prison facilities.

Last year was a great success because of you and we look forward to seeing you again. You may RSVP at 326-6868 (YFM office). Come and hear what the Lord is doing in our ministries!

*How good and pleasant for brothers to dwell
 in unity together Ps. 133*

CREATION CORNER*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*

Audio Resources for Creation Care

- ◆ Gil Waldkoenig "A Theology of Care for Land, Air, and Water from a Lutheran Perspective"

[www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation](http://www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation_Session_1.mp3) Session_1.mp3

Rev. Dr. Waldkoenig is LTSG Professor of Church in Society and teaches courses in ecology and religion; interfaith environmental ethics; ecology and stewardship; greening of religion; eco-theology in northern Appalachia, and the environmental history of Christianity.

- ◆ Fletcher Harper "Survey of Environmental Teaching from World Religions"

[www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation](http://www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation_Session_2.mp3) Session_2.mp3

Episcopalian Rev. Harper is director of the interfaith coalition known as GreenFaith (www.greenfaith.org), helping people, through education, inspiration and mobilization, to become religious leaders in building a just and compassionate society.

- ◆ David Rhoads "A Lutheran Theology of Creation: Foundations for a New Reformation"

[www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation](http://www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation_Session_3.mp3) Session_3.mp3

Professor Emeritus, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Chicago, Dr. Rhoads helped initiate an on-line environmental service for congregations (www.webof-creation.org), and edited *Earth and Word: Classic Sermons on Saving the Planet*. He was instrumental in starting www.lutherans-restoringcreation.org.

- ◆ Cynthia Moe-Lobeda "God's Lovers as Un-Creators: Morality in the Face of Systemic Evil"

[www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation](http://www.gettysburgseminary.org/audio/LTSG_2012_Spring_Convocation_Session_4.mp3) Session_4.mp3

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Theology and Religious Studies, at Seattle University, Moe-Lobeda teaches feminist and ecological ethics, and liberation theology. Her forthcoming book is *Ethics for the Un-Creators*, and she appears on Talking Stick TV (You Tube.)

More information on these presenters, and others for which audio versions of their talks are not yet available, can be found at <http://www.lts.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Spring-Convocation>.

KEN DAVIS COMEDY CONCERT *

"Fully Alive"

A Comedy Concert for
the Entire Family
Sunday, November 11, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

Williamsport Area High School, 2990 W. 4th St. Wmspt.

Music provided by "Spoken For" and Band

This concert will benefit our The Shepherd of the Street Ministry of United Churches and is being coordinated by First United Methodist Church of Williamsport. Tickets:

Gold: \$20 (Preferential Seating 370 available)

Advance: \$15 (General Admission)

Door: \$20

Groups: \$12 (Groups of 6 or more)

Get your tickets online at www.kendavistickets.com or at First UMC Williamsport after September 6th.

A short promotional DVD that can be used as part of your announcements in your congregations is available from our United Churches office. Watch for a Poster and a copy ready bulletin insert for this event coming to your church from First United Methodist Church soon.

L ycoming County Life Chain 2012 will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012, on the Golden Strip (East Third Street) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate in this peaceful prayer event. This is their 21st year and their goal is to have 2000 participants. If your church has not received the written announcement in the mail and you are interested in that information, please contact the district 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 - J. Howard Langdon - 570-546-3104

East Lycoming - K. Vincent Swartz - 570-584-4267

Montgomery - Sharon Bennett - 570-547-6149

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR *

Friday, November 2 - **Church Women United World Community Day** will be held at 1:30 p.m. The ingathering will be of handmade crinoline Christmas Stocking and money to purchase the items to fill them. The stockings will be filled later in the month at a special workday. Watch for details in our next newsletters.



Events & Opportunities *

Church Leadership Institute (CLI): Registration is now open for CLI's two courses in its fall 2012 term: Biblical Interpretation and Pastoral Leadership. CLI is the lay clergy training program of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Classes include students of other affiliations as well as those interested in single courses for training in other areas of church leadership. For information, contact Rev Eleanor Siegrist (814-944-1468 or ewsiegrist@gmail.com).

Hymn Sing: An Old Fashioned Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday evening, September 9 at 6 at the Jersey Shore Main Street Gazebo. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring friends and family (and lawn chairs). Sponsors: Grace Lutheran Church, Jersey Shore.

Russian Orthodox Ensemble to Perform Locally: On Wed., Sept. 18 at 7 pm, Holy Cross Orthodox Church Fellowship Center, off Northway Road, in Loyalsock, will host a concert performance of the world-renowned vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, "LYRA." The acappella music of this talented group of five singers, trained at the St. Petersburg Conservatory will feature works from the Russian Orthodox liturgical tradition and a selection of Russian Folk Songs. There is no charge for the concert. A free-will offering will be received. Refreshments and LYRA recordings will be available. See holycrosswilliamsport.org for a flyer.

CLASSIFIEDS

Electric Organ available to a good home. Robert "Bob" Bock entertained many of us over the years, and he had donated his floor model electric organ to the housing authority before he died. It now needs a good home. Please call 570-447-0944 for more information.

Chairs available, free to a good home. There are 15 cushioned metal chairs without arms in excellent condition. The cushions are blue and are on the seat and the backs. Please call 570-447-0944 for more details.

Bible Game Show: The Bible Challenge Show is now on the Game Show Network on Thursdays at 8 p.m. Comcast subscribers can find it on channel 62 or channel 1325. For more information see www.gsn.com.

Parish Nurses Organizing: Any registered nurse interested in Parish Nursing is invited to network with other Parish Nurses in our area the fourth Thursday of the month beginning Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, W. 4th & Mulberry Sts, Wmspt.

September's meeting has been moved to Camp Hill to include the Central Pennsylvania Parish Nurses Fall Seminar "Wellness in the Church and the Community". The keynote speaker will be Dr. Scott Morris, MD, MDiv. The seminar will be held Thursday, September 27 from 8:30 - 3:30. Registration is \$25-35. For more information or to collaborate on transportation contact Dawn Blanchard at 327-1908 or dsblanchard@comcast.net.

Helping those who are Hungry: St. John Lutheran Church in Jersey Shore invites you to help them package food for hungry kids in our area on Sunday, November 18 beginning at Noon. Their goal is to package 20,000 meals that will be distributed to people in need here in Lycoming and Clinton Counties by the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and the Love Center.

The need people to come and package the food. There will be four assembly lines and you are asked to work a one hour shift, noon - 1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-finished and cleaned up. Youth and adults working together will have a great time. Call Pastor Aucker 748-4581 to sign-up or for details.

Secondly, the cost of these highly nutritious meals is 25¢ so every donation of \$1 will feed a family of 4. St. John Lutheran Church is located at 229 South Broad Street, Jersey Shore.

The Lycoming-Sullivan Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is supporting this effort with a \$500 grant. You can learn more about the food packaging program and Outreach, Inc at their website, www.outreachprogram.com.

IN CRISIS? KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?
WE CAN HELP!!

**SUICIDE PREVENTION**

From anywhere call: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

Lycoming County Crisis Intervention: 570-326-7895