



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.

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August 18, 2014

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 2014-2015 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:

- 10- **Rev. Larry K. Waltz**, President, Blooming Grove Historical Society, *"The Underground Railroad and Blooming Grove"*
- 17- **Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine**, Executive Director, United Churches, *"What It Means To Be Ecumenical"*
- 24- **Mrs. Pam Markle Hansen**, Thrivent Financial Associate, *"Protecting Yourself From Identity Theft"*

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

New Pastor's Orientation will be held Wednesday, September 24, beginning at 9:30-11:45 a.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.

United Churches 4th Annual Major Fund Raiser and Golf Tournament*

September is almost here and we are almost ready ... How about you? Our first three 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 \$750 Gift Certificate from Dicks Sporting Goods
- Two Paintings (each a \$360 value) from Gold Leaf Frame Shoppe in Williamsport
- A Framed Print from Carol Wagner
- The Latest Framed Print from Ron Beach
- Autographed Books from Local Author Adam Makos
- Jewelry from Mike Cillo
- Jewelry from Petro's
- 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 26th but you don't have to be present to win.

The NEED... Five 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 hours. They still do, just for less money. After three tournaments we've been able to give them back much of that cut but they are still behind where

they were 5 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! So 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 26.

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 Burkhardt, Coordinator 322-1657

This summer we have seen many transitions. First, we moved to a new area at the Msgr. Castellano Center which you reach by using the door at the back corner of the building. We also 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. 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 Spaghetti Sauce</i>	<i>Ketchup and Mustard</i>	

Many blessings to all of you as you this fall!

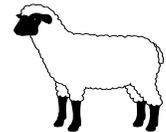
CROP Walk 2014 *



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 12, 2014** at 1:30 P.M. at **the River Walk in Williamsport!** This is our 4th 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 are urged to attend our **CROP Rally** on Wednesday, **September 3, 2014** 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.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*
J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,
570-322-6538, shepherd@ucl.org



Our office has moved this summer so that it is also at the Msgr. Castellano Center at 320 Park Avenue (Mailing address: PO Box 2184, Williamsport PA 17703).

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

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 fall include:

8/18-24 Pastor Dianna Herrod	8/25-31 Rev. Dr. Margaret Balliet
9/1-7 Pastors Jim / Kathy Behrens	9/8-14 Mrs. Sandy Grier
9/15-21 Mrs. Patricia Jenkins	9/22-28 Rev. Gwen Bernstine
9/29-10/5 Mrs. Patty Gohrs	10/6-12 Pastor Dorothy Anderson

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!



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

The new semester begins this week for our Campus Ministry. Wednesday, August 20th is the kickoff at the Campus Commons. Jessie Burdett will again play acoustic guitar and sing as students enjoy pizza and Julie Bitner's delicious homemade cookies. They'll also have a chance to win a copy of **Sex and Violence in the Bible** by local author **Joseph Smith**.



Mr. Smith, will offer a colloquium on the topic of the Bible's presentation of sex and violence on **Thursday, August 21** at 4 PM in CC 105.

You are cordially invited to come and join students and faculty for this presentation from 4-5 this Thursday in the Alvin C. Bush Campus Center, Room 105, arranged by our UCM!! A book signing will follow the colloquium.

We will go rock climbing on Friday afternoon, August 22nd to see one of the most beautiful views this area has to offer. Faith Talks are Monday evenings at 8 beginning August 25th, when area pastors and church leaders guide the discussion. We are looking forward to a great year!!!!

We need your help in finding a music person to help with our Fall Retreat which will be held September 19-20. If you can help, or have a suggestion, contact me.

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

CREATION CORNER

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

Late-summer reading suggestions:

There are several categories of books relating to the environment that may interest you. The full listing appears as a blog on the Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA web site at <http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>. A few of the books are listed below by title, alphabetically, under topics: ANIMALS (examples are....)

- 365 Fish, by Antal Vida.
- America's Other Audubon, by Joy M. Kiser (focus on nests and eggs)
- How Animals Grieve, by Barbara J. King.

ART

- Of Green Leaf, Bird, and Flower: Artists' Books and the Natural World, by Elisabeth Fairman.

COSMOLOGY

- A Brief History of the Universe: From Ancient Babylon to the Big Bang, by J.P. McEvoy.

DISASTERS

- Hot Time in the Old Town: The Great Heat Wave of 1896 and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt, by Edward P. Kohn.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Winged Obsession: The Pursuit of the World's Most Notorious Butterfly Smuggler, by Jessica Speart.

Additional categories include; Extinctions, Fiction, Food, Gardening, Plants, Botany, Insects, Nature Photography, Nature Writing, Ourselves, Places and Travel.

The July booklist column/blog, of topics dealt with... Beginner's Guides, Biographies, Climate Change, Ecology, Environmental Policy, History, Miscellaneous and Religion and the Environment.

Check it out! You're sure to find some interesting reads.

CHURCH FUEL CO-OP

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held August 13th. Two heating oil bids were opened and the contract for the 2014-2015 heating season was awarded to Pickelner/Nittany Oil.



Their "cap price" bid of \$3.449 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 10¢/gallon (payments via cash, check or bank transfer).

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.

More information can be obtained by contacting Gwen Bernstine or Patty Gohrs at United Churches, 570-322-1110 or Gwen at director@uclc.org or 570-419-1464.

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.

Golden Agers Club: Get your Golden Ticket! Travel with the Golden Agers Club around the golden globe! When? Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm starting September 9, 2014 at the Salvation Army, 457 Market St., Williamsport. They will explore various countries' music, crafts, games, speakers, and devotions. (Lunch is included) Everyone is welcome! For details call Amy McGovern at 570-326-9187 x 109

The 9/11 Memorial Bike Ride will be held again this year. The ride begins in Montgomery at the Clinton Township Fire Hall. There will be a blessing of the Fallen Warrior Cards and Sending Forth during the brief opening ceremony at 4:45 p.m. Area pastors are invited to participate.

The congregational and individual support our community provides for this ride is one of the reasons it is so successful. Hearing the church bells ringing, a bell choir or two playing at curbside, seeing flags displayed and reading encouraging posters as they ride along the route of the ride is so impressive it often moves bikers and spectators to tears.



Fun Day In Brandon Park: "Be Cool, Stay In School". You are invited to join in a day of family fun, drug awareness and health education on Saturday, September 6th (rain date September 13th) from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be a petting zoo - pony rides, clown and balloons, horse & buggy rides, a visit with our police dog, fire trucks, face painting, and table games. You'll be able to get acquainted with the school police officer Jason Bolt. Parents will find lots of pamphlets available with valuable information. There will also be hot dogs, soda, water and

snacks. This event is sponsored by Williamsport Hospital, County officials, City officials, Individuals and all Neighborhood Watches in Williamsport .

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 9th 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 21 at Indian Park - Pavilion #5, Montoursville. Check-in & on-site registration opens at 1 p.m., walk begins at 2 p.m. rain or shine. Proceeds benefit AFSP & Lycoming County Suicide Prevention Coalition. For more information please contact Joe Miller at joesmiller@verizon.net or 570-974-3958.



Newberry NGA's 100th Anniversary Open House will be held on Sunday, September 28 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Johns-Newberry UMC in their Fellowship Hall. Help us celebrate 100 years of serving the greater Williamsport area. The open house will feature displays of our history and what they are currently doing in the community. Light refreshments will be served. As United Churches is a member of the NGA community we hope that you will all come and learn of how we can be of service to you.

Their Yard Sale will be Saturday October 18 at St. John's-Newberry UMC. To donate to the yard sale contact: Deb Buckman, dbuckman@chilitech.net, or Becky Miller-Pryor, murphy173@verizon.net, or Carol Johnson, carolandshuman@verizon.net.

The NGA ingathering will be Monday, December 1st at 11 a.m. St. John's-Newberry UMC. This is the day they display all the clothing purchased for distribution at this time of the year. Last year they distributed new clothing, shoes or coats to over 600 individuals plus sent items to the Salvation Army, Shepherd of the Streets, Joinder Children and Youth, and Daniel's Closet. Their work begins the end of October - if you want to be a shopper please contact Deb Buckman, 570-323-1707.

Events and OpportunitiesContinued from page 4

L ycoming County Life Chain will be held Sunday, October 5, 2014, 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 23rd 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 - J. Howard Langdon - 570-546-3104
- East Lycoming - K. Vincent Swartz - 570-584-4267
- Montgomery - J. Howard Langdon - 570-546-3104
- 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

T he American Cancer Society's fifth annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Lycoming County 5K walk will take place Saturday, Oct. 25, in Indian Park, 617 N. Loyalsock Ave., Montoursville. Now is the time to form your team. Registration will begin at 9 and the walk begins at 10 a.m. There is no fee for teams to enter and no limit to the number of people per team. Those who are interested in signing up may do so at www.makingstrideswalk.org/lycoming. Hundreds of County residents, breast cancer survivors, and business and community members will wear pink that day as they fight breast cancer and provide hope to all people facing the disease. Most of the funds raised on our walk helps local women who are uninsured or under insured get screenings and wigs.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM NEEDS

T he Local Education and Resource Network, LEARN, is an outreach effort benefitting children from birth to 6 years here in Lycoming County. Many of their outreach programs surround early literacy and transitioning activities to help children move smoothly into the formal classroom setting. They collaborate with childcare facilities, school districts, early childhood intervention organizations and the parents.

Until 2012, LEARN was funded solely by a \$50,000 state grant until the state budget eliminated their funding. That year they also lost their housing with the Lycoming

County United Way. This past April, LEARN found a new home within the Education Department at Lycoming College! However funds are still needed for programming expenses for the children, their parents and teachers.

There are a number of projects LEARN would like to bring back to the community but sponsors are needed. If your congregation would like to hear more about how they might help bring books or school supplies to the children of Lycoming County, please have them email the coordinator, Beth McClain at mcclainb@lycoming.edu.

There is also room for volunteers to sit on our LEARN Team and they welcome anyone who would like to hear more! Many volunteers sit at the LEARN table for their monthly meetings including representatives from the James V. Brown Library, PCT's Children's Learning Center, BLAST IU, Hope Early Learning, various childcare facilities and many more! To learn more visit them online at <http://lycoming.edu/education/learn.aspx>.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers for Heartworks, the children's grief support program of Susquehanna Health Home Care & Hospice are Needed. A 20+ hour volunteer training program is scheduled for later August. Our comprehensive training program provides volunteers with the tools they need to give loving and compassionate support to grieving children, teens, and their families. Volunteering requires a one year commitment to our bi-monthly Tuesday evening meetings throughout the school year. You can check out the Heartworks website at www.SusquehannaHealth.org/Heartworks to learn more about the program. We are especially in need of more male volunteers (though we would very much welcome new female volunteers too). For more information on volunteering, call Linda Bryant, Heartworks coordinator or Cherrie Serra, Bereavement Liason at 570-320-7691 or 1-888-499-3177.



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Yokefellowship's Annual Conference will be held in Lewisburg, PA at Country Cupboard/Best Western on October 3-4, 2014. Their theme is "He has given us the Ministry of Reconciliation". Each speaker will share their experiences and journeys as a part of change in our criminal justice system. Registrations are to be post-marked by Wednesday, September 10. Brochures are available by contacting Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, 570-326-6868 or smileynessie@yahoo.com.

Mental Health First Aid Training: The Lycoming/Clinton MH/ID program is sponsoring a Mental Health First Aid Training on October 28, 2014 at the Little League Complex in South Williamsport from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. This training is designed to instruct professionals on how to intervene when dealing with an adolescent/youth who is experiencing a mental health crisis. The Training is presented by Community Services Group.

This training is free and lunch is provided. ACT 48 credits are available as well as continuing education credits for registered nurses. Guidance counselors, school nurses, youth pastors and teachers are the identified participants for this training. For details or to register contact Mark Longenberger, Community Support Services at 570-326-7895. Don't delay, they are limited to 30 participants.

Pennsylvania Parent Forum: The Parent Panel Advisory Council, in collaboration with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, is hosting a free, day-long informational event for parents. Topics included in the event will include signs and symptoms of substance abuse, how to motivate your son or daughter to get help, and how to best access help/treatment when needed. The Forum will include a Round Table event so that parents can give feedback to the Department. More information to follow at a later date. This event is intended for parents and not for professionals. Spread the word! Various speakers and topics will be included in the forum.

WHEN: Friday, November 7, 2014, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

WHERE: Holiday Inn Harrisburg – Hershey (Grantville)

COST: Free, but registration will be required.

Further details to be released. For more information, contact the PA Dept of Drug and Alcohol Pgms. 717-783-8200.

School of Religion: Lutheran Shared Ministry invites you to be part of this study opportunity on Wednesday afternoons in October from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport.

The afternoon begin with a brief opening, then you will go to one of the two classes listed. After about an hour you break for light refreshments, then go back to your respective classes to wrap up. There is then a brief closing to conclude each week. This is a free faith learning opportunity, however, they do need to have pre-registrations to prepare rooms and materials for those attending. Call St. Mark's at 570-323-4619 by Monday, September 29th to reserve your spot. The two classes are:

- **Beginning again with the Catechism:** We learned the words in catechetical class years ago, and over the years since then we have experienced how they apply to daily life and work. So now it is time for a fresh reconsideration of how important and insightful Luther's Small Catechism truly is. We'll use a newly-issued DVD by Dr. James Nestingen, foremost Lutheran scholar and teacher, to start off our conversations each week about the Ten Commandments, Creed, and Lord's Prayer. It will be a grand mixture of history, theology and Bible, seasoned with life. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran, leads this 2 hour course.
- **Pericope Study Group** (this will be a one hour course) *Pericope*, the Greek word for *section*, identifies the "section" of text used on Sunday for the three readings. Rostered folk in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America normally get together each week to study these sections of the Bible, as well as the designated Psalm, in order to decided what speaks to a given congregation and to craft sermons. Come, observe and be part of the process. Add your own insights. Elisabeth Aurand, Pastor at St. Luke Lutheran Church leads this course.

Having Cancer is hard. Finding a ride to treatment shouldn't be.

For many cancer patients,
getting to and from treatment
is one of their toughest challenges.

If you or a loved one need transportation
to cancer treatment,
please call the American Cancer Society.
They are there to help you.

Call 1-800-227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org

The American Cancer Society also needs volunteer drivers
to help provide rides for people in our community.

Call the number above if you'd like to help!