



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

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Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday

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 XXXIII NUMBER 10

www.uclc.org

December 13, 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 SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE*

An Ecumenical "Blue Christmas Service," will be hosted by United Churches of Lycoming County at 2 Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18th at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East 3rd St., Williamsport.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas can be an emotionally charged time. There is a great deal of pressure to feel joyous, as well as an emphasis on remembering and togetherness. For those who are hurting, the atmosphere of this time of year can amplify feelings of pain, grief, loneliness or despair.



The "Blue Christmas Service" is an opportunity to come together to acknowledge your pain, be reassured that you are not alone in your feelings, and to experience a message of God's unconditional love, the heart of the seasons.

Please help to promote this service throughout your congregations. Everyone is invited to attend, pastors and laity are encouraged to participate. *(Bulletin insert in packet)*

Mrs. Michelle Brague, Administrator at Loyalsock Creek Rehabilitation and Nursing Center will be the guest speaker. Members of the Hospice Choir will bring special music.

*May the Lord grant
You and those for whom you pray
Love, joy and goodwill
This Christmas
And every day of the year.*



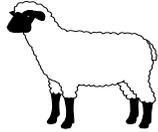
*The Staff, Officers
and Board Members
of United Churches*



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

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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

**INCARNATION**

Scluded in Nazareth the foster and his charge, now heavy with the Promised One, is forced to journey to Bethlehem of Judea by the pride of imperial self-acclaim, to be a count over whom sway can be claimed, from whom duty can be levied, upon whom authority and prestige can be forced, mapping a subjugated hegemony.

Faith set out on a journey that would imperil any mother with child during gestation's most strenuous days, so the young girl would wrap herself in a cloth to secure the womb and relieve her frame, and use it to tear into swaddling strips for birth's yield of life (or be a shroud for death's exigency, for mother or child or both).

When the moment of God's choosing crept upon the Virgin and the birth of the Promised One could brook no delay, accommodations in Bethlehem were few and fully engaged with the House of David of the Tribe of Judah, but, dug into the steeples of Bethlehem's verge were grottos declaring the second Adam be birthed in the clay as the first, not in the court of David's repute, nor in any dwelling made with hands, but in a breach carved into a slope that bore witness to sheep's security and shelter for ewes when lambing was imposed, where vagrants slept and thieves hid from sight, where prostitutes could trick their trade, outside of everything fit for decency, lower than the lowest, poorer than the poorest, where the Daybreak from on High could make advent into the darkness and excreta of a perverted world.

In holy poverty Immanuel comes, without the aid and care of kin He comes a kinsman redeemer, without lamp to light the way, He comes as the Light of Life, without clean water, except from traveling skin, He comes as living water, without a place to lay His head except in rough and callused hands that know the wood.

In holy poverty the child is born, with truth to gird their labor, with righteousness to protect their hearts, with peace to give them readiness, with faith to allay their fears, with hope to steady their nerves, with joy to numb their stress, with grace to guide their skill, with love to give them trust.

Cleaned as best afforded, the Babe is wrapped in the cloth that had secured the traveler's encumber, torn in swaddling strips, placed in trough of stone that had held sheep's food off tainted clay...indeed.

Gathering together thoughts from her own intuitive fiat the Blessed Mother pondered what this ordained: with joy she had swaddled the Incarnate Word, with confidence she

had placed Him in the borrowed stone, blissfully unaware that she would again wrap Him in linen cloth, and place Him in a cave on a borrowed stone.

We celebrate the Word becoming flesh, so that our flesh can become the Word...indeed, the mystery, hidden from generations is now made known by our celebration...it is Christ in you, the hope of Glory!

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY *

Mona Rundio, Coordinator

foodpantry@uclc.org or 570-322-1627

Now that the Harvest has been completed and we have a full stock to provide those in need, a *Great and Merry Christmas* to you all!! As we celebrate the birth of God's Son don't forget that it is just the beginning of God's magnificent plan for our world.



Jesus was placed here to help heal us and draw us closer to God, in many ways! During this season of joy and grace please remember to give back to those that are in need of such love, like Jesus gives to us! Being humble and kind to all around us, letting everyone know they are cared about and needed. Hopefully they gain the strength to discover what their journey is for. Here at the pantry we are honored that you entrust us with your donations to distribute!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! All of us here at the pantry and United Churches are so very *thankful* for all of you that do take the time and effort to be so graceful to those that are less fortunate. Please also remember to check the expiration dates on the items before giving to us. Otherwise we have to throw it away and that is such a loss!! The items most needed this month are...

<i>Chunky Soups</i>	<i>Oatmeal Packets</i>	<i>Fruit Juice</i>
<i>Canned Fruit</i>	<i>Jello/Pudding</i>	<i>Instant Potatoes</i>
<i>Canned Meats</i>	<i>Meal Helpers</i>	<i>Saltines</i>

Volunteers are also needed at the pantry, especially on Thursdays, to help the clients go through and receive their items. You or someone you know may be looking for a way to contribute to the community and this may be a perfect fit. Stop in or give us call!!

We are located at the rear of 320 Park Ave in Williamsport. The hours of operation are:

Mondays 9-12 for donations/stocking

Tuesdays 10:15 – 2:30 Clients/distribution

Thursdays 10:15 – 2:30 Clients/distribution

POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*

For he rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor. (Psalm 72:12-13). Are we listening and responding? What more should we be doing through providing charity and advocating for justice? As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us pledge to do more for those experiencing poverty in our communities, nation, and the world.

Hunger and poverty need to be in the spotlight in 2017: Commentators during the recent election campaign occasionally noted that those experiencing poverty where not being talked about by either major candidate. We need to join the Psalmist and cry out with and on behalf of the poor from the very beginning of 2017. Let us individually and collectively raise our voices. We need to go beyond charity and initiate advocacy regarding policies and practices that affect those who are hungry, homeless, and experiencing other consequences of poverty.

Poverty in Lycoming County: The most recent available data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2014) stated that 14.7% of the county's residents were living below the poverty level. That translates into 17,184 people comprised of children, adults, and the elderly.

Poverty in the United States: The most recent data (2015) indicated that 13.5% of the population was living in poverty. That translates into 43.1 million people.

The world's mothers and children need our help: As Congress continues to make decisions about the fiscal year 2017 budget, we need your help to reach more members of Congress and to encourage them to increase funding for global maternal and child nutrition programs. Without this increase in funding, millions of mothers and children around the world won't have the nutrition they need to have a fighting chance for a better life. Help mothers and children around the world survive and thrive. Call (800-826-3688) and tell your representative and senators today to support an increase in funding for global maternal and child nutrition programs. (Source: Bread for the World)

A plan to end hunger: The global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), endorsed by the United States in September 2015, create new urgency and lay out a comprehensive plan for ending hunger by 2030. Under the SDGs, the goal to end hunger is connected to many of the other goals that address hunger's root causes, such as ending poverty, ensuring good health and a quality education, providing access to decent work, reducing inequality, achieving gender equity, and con-

fronting climate change. (Source: Bread for the World) For more info. visit www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*

Join us Wednesdays for lunch and an 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 attender will help the caterer know how to prepare. When winter weather makes travel difficult on Wednesdays call Gwen at 570-419-1464 or 570-326-1396 to know if Ecumenical lunch has been cancelled.

**DECEMBER**

- 14- **"Sharing Your Christmas Traditions"**
- 21- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Staff, United Churches, **"Twas The Time Before that First Christmas..."**
- 28 - No Lunch - Holiday Break

JANUARY

- 4 - **Ms. Yvonne Heatley**, Executive Director, Susquehanna Valley CASA, **"Case Stories of Court Appointed Special Advocates and Their Impact on Abused and Neglected Children in Our Community"**
- 11- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Staff, United Churches, **"Reflections on Twenty Years Weaving Stronger Relationships in Lycoming County"**
- 18- **Rev. Brad Walmer**, Pastor, New Covenant United Church of Christ, **"Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us"** (Beginning the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
- 25- **Bishop Robert L. Driesen**, Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA, **"Reformation and the Ongoing Work of Unity"** (Closing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
Join us! Bring a friend! Make new friends!

Refugees: A refugee response discernment and prayer group has been forming at St. Luke Lutheran Church. This group is discerning how we may best respond with action to the current refugee crisis including helping to resettle immigrant families in the Williamsport area. We are seeking additional members as we continue planning in 2017. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22nd at 7 pm at St. Luke Lutheran Church. If you are interested in additional information or would like to attend contact Erin at coordfammission@stlukeweb.com or 570-447-2776.

CLASSIFIEDS:

For Sale: St. Henry's House of Prayer: The 22 acre retreat in Brookside, 9 miles beyond Salladasburg on Route 287. This beautiful property includes a Guest House, Retreat House, Staff House and The Hermitage. Contact Sr. Henry at 570-326-2244 or 570-326-4320



Tammy Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@uclc.org

Thank you for an amazing Fall Semester! We had a great group of leaders, from a variety of denominations, lead our students in to a deeper study of God's Word.

A few thank you's...New Covenant UCC for donating meal tickets for dinner to students on campus, Trinity Episcopal for putting together 50 study bags for students on campus to help get through Finals, St. Mark's Lutheran for putting on another great production of A Christmas Carol to benefit Campus Ministry...to all the leaders that led Bible Studies and to all our outreach partners!

We have a packed Spring Semester planned. Our first need is for volunteers to make homemade soup for our fundraiser. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at ucm@uclc.org. Our delivery will be the first weekend of March. Look for an order form next month.

MINISTRY NEEDS

Shepherd of the Street needs **Administrative Volunteers** to work from 9-12 or 1-3. They are open Monday through Thursday. Contact Nancy at 570-322-6538. They also provide hygiene items, bedding, and baby needs. The list of hygiene items are regular sizes of:

Deodorant	Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
Soap	Shaving Cream and Razors
Tissues	Shampoo and Conditioner
Toilet Paper	Women's Hygiene Products
Combs	Towels and Wash Cloths
Baby Diaper	Baby Shampoo, Powder, Oil
Baby Q-Tips	Baby Wipes.

Prison Visitor Needed: Prison Visitation and Support (PVS) – a national federal prison visitation program - needs a volunteer visitor at FCI Allenwood (medium security). If you are a person who is a good listener and non-judgmental, contact Dan Doyle (570-546-2385). Visitation is once a month and scheduled with several other visitors at the same time (Fridays).

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



Devotions change each weekday and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirit and help you to have *"A Closer Walk with God."*

The devotionalists this winter include:

12/12-18 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner	12/19-25 Rev. Marwin Revees
12/26-1/1 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	1/2-8 - Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens
1/9-15 - Mrs. Sandy Grier	1/16-17 - Mrs. Patty Gohrs
1/18-25 - Special Devotions Daily for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

A devotion line business card is available from our office.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, NE Reg. Dir. 570-326-6868

Let Your Light Shine! Mt. 5:16 

Beloved, it is so good to let your light shine before others, that they can see your good works and give glory to God! The volunteers at Yokefellow Prison Ministry have so many opportunities to 'let their light shine' as they go into the prisons each week to allow those who sit in darkness to come into HIS light. What a privilege it is to be Light bearers!

Recently another door of opportunity opened for our prison ministry to not only minister to those behind bars but to help those transitioning out of the prison. A team of ladies meet each week with some of the ladies from The Transitional Living Center in Williamsport on Thursday at 6 pm. One of the local churches, Tabernacle Baptist has agreed to host us. What a blessing! The Word of God declares to us that we are to avail ourselves all the more as we see 'The Day' approaching. We are to build up and encourage one another. Also, what an opportunity it is to join forces together with the body of Christ to expand all the more His Kingdom. Pastor Joel Long from Tabernacle Baptist and his team have really opened wide their doors for us and we say 'thank you' to them.

As we continue serving our Lord in this capacity to the 'least of these', we truly witness firsthand God's radiant light week after week. Lives are being transformed by His light in and working through us to these men and women.

Watch for our next volunteer training. If you are interested in ministering in the prisons or helping in another way in the prison ministry, please contact our local office above. You'll be glad that you stepped into His Light, reaching out to those incarcerated and those transitioning.

70th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

We gathered at tables at First United Methodist Church in Muncy to celebrate 70 years of ministry that we do together better. The delicious ham loaf dinner and hospitality of the congregation blessed our evening together.

The staff was recognized for their service and excellent work, and each were given a beautiful mum. Gwen was also honored for 25 years of service with United Churches. Our staff are:

- ▶ Mrs Patty Gohrs, United Churches Adm. Assistant
- ▶ J. Morris Smith, Th.D., Shepherd of the Streets
- ▶ Mrs. Nancy Long, Shepherd Adm. Assistant
- ▶ Ms. Mona Rundio, Food Pantry Coordinator
- ▶ Mrs. Tammey Aichner, Campus Ministry Coordinator
- ▶ Rev. Gwen Bernstine, United Churches Exec. Dir.

Our President, Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza, highlighted some of the years activities. They include...

- Hosting an Ecumenical Worship Service for Ascension.
- Working diligently with School Districts and Congregations to help prevent suicides.
- Campus Ministry to and with students at Penn College.
- Providing access for Church Leaders for weekly editorials in the newspaper.
- Making a devotion available 24/7 in the community.
- Providing 850 Worship Service in area nursing homes and the county prison.
- Providing food to those who are hungry every week of the year.
- Providing hope and help to people in need - averaging 16 people a day who come to our Shepherd office.
- We celebrated World Refugee Day this year with a welcoming picture in the newspaper.
- The long term disaster recovery committee is evaluating needs from the localized flooding in October and will respond appropriately.
- Interfaith Dialogue has been working hard to build greater understanding both together as a group, and in the community. This year saw the first edition of an online interfaith newsletter. They also helped with a clothing drive in cooperation with the Islamic Center.

The assembly voted the following people to be part of the UCLC Board of Directors beginning in 2017:

Officers:

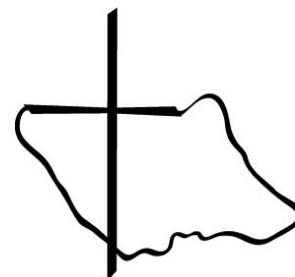
- President: Rev. Kevin Brophy
- 1st Vice President: Rev. Sam Hwang
- 2nd Vice President: Mr. Lou Kolb
- 3rd Vice President (CWU): Mrs. Linda Jackson
- Treasurer: Mr. Wes Miller

Committee Chairpeople:

- Personnel: Ms. Delores Loner
- Interfaith: Rev. Viking Dietrich
- Christian Social Concerns: Rev. Susan Halverstadt
- Broadcasting: Mr. Lou and Mrs. Kathy Kolb
- Institutional: Mrs. Pat Jenkins
- Shepherd Committee: Rev. Bob Wallace
- Campus Ministry: Mrs. Julie Bitner
- Nominating: Mrs. Barb Horn
- Newspaper: Prof. Ned Coates

Members at Large:

- Ms. Yvonne Shenuski
- Mr. Marty McCabe
- Rev. David Letscher
- Mrs. Sandy Grier
- Pastor Kathy Burkhart
- Rev. John Victoria
- Deacon Steve Frye
- Rev. Elisabeth Aurand
- Mrs. Phyllis Gervin
- Rev. Marwin Reeves
- Rev. Mark Brumbach
- Rev. Joseph Hopkins
- Mrs. Virginia Borek



The Ecumenical Service Award was given to Florence Joanne Strailey, who extends the mission of our Churches through her leadership and support, making a more abundant life possible for many in our community. Her deep and unique experience of life and ministry through her beautiful gift of music has brought her great joy and has contributed much to the Worship Services in the congregations in which she has been a member. Always an energizing presence she gathers residents at several nursing homes, but weekly at Valley View, for many different events and help them to be successful participants. At Nursing Home Worship she not only shares her musical talents but God's word of hope and love. She has nurtured many children as she taught in public school in several communities, and continues to be open to the ways God leads, from being a pet sitter for friends, to helping make apple dumplings for residents during an autumn nursing home activity. Her family at one time was a husband and two active boys, but now knows no bounds.

Rev. John Manno shared a bit about a new resource soon to be available through Project Bald Eagle, for Sunday School curriculum as a prevention tool.

The rest of the evening was spent enjoying a look back in time as Gwen reflected on major events and people of the past 70 years, especially highlighting the past 20 years.

CREATION CORNER*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*
Signs of Our Times?

We plead, O Lord, to see the day of Earth's redemption that sets your people free. -Verse from Advent Hymn 25, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" (Lutheran Book of Worship)

Voices calling for a renewable energy economy and a safe climate future, using a slogan of "Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground", remind us of the dangers of fossil fuel development and the urgency of the climate crisis.

One example, from the Fall "Friends of the Earth" news magazine, is this: "Pipeline leaks and oil spills contaminate public lands and waters, communities are being displaced by coastal erosion and accidents like natural gas explosions. And extreme weather events due to climate change, such as floods, hit some of the most vulnerable communities the hardest."

The "Keep It In The Ground" movement has found resonance in Pennsylvania as the PA Medical Society has adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on fracking.

Citing the many unanswered questions about Marcellus shale gas drilling, the group also asks for a state registry on the personal, community, and environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing.

Over 1000 chemicals could be used in fracking, and some may have a carcinogenic effect when released into the air and water. More research is needed, but for now the doctors' group thinks the questioned health risks outweigh the economic benefits.

Another example of groups in seeming agreement with the "Keep It In The Ground" movement is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), whose church-wide body recently voted to discontinue fossil fuel investments, and to work toward a sustainable future.

This happened on the heels of the 2015 call by the Lutheran World Federation Council to do the same.

Another "sign of our times": The nature words of pasture, dandelion, willow, acorn and nectar have been dropped from the Oxford Junior Dictionary for seven year olds. Techno words added are broadband, blog, cut & paste, MP3 player, and voicemail.

This quote from John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

Finally, this paraphrased quote attributed to Chief Seattle: "Whatever we do the web of creation, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Open Your Eyes: Reasons, Responsibilities, and Responses to Combat Child Sexual Exploitation Symposium for the Faith Community



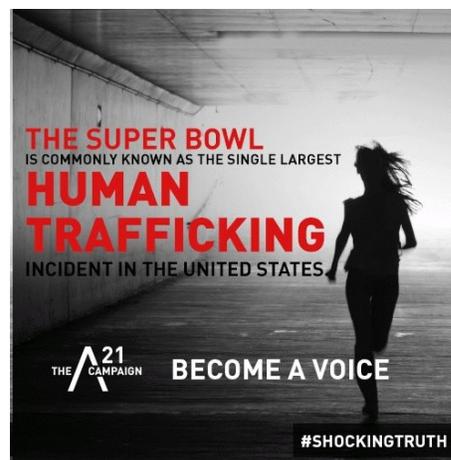
Bringing awareness and education to the faith based community, this symposium held on Friday, January 27th from 8-2 at Faith Wesleyan Church, 1033 Tucker Street, Williamsport, will feature

Ms. Shea M. Rhodes, Esq. (Dir., CSE Institute, Villanova Law School), Ms. Deb Colton (Founder & President of Oasis of Hope), Ms. Heather Shnyder (Prevention Education Specialist, Transitions of PA), and a survivor as the speakers of the day. The moderator will be Senior Magisterial District Judge James Sortman (Chair, Lyc. County Human Trafficking Response Team & Member, PAATH15).

Registration will open at 8 am and the first speaker will start at 8:30. Lunch will be provided. Following the symposium's conclusion at 2:00 pm, each attendee is invited to join the free Mandated Reporter Training, from 2-4 pm. Each person who completes this training will receive a five-year certification.

NOTE: A reminder that all those who work with children and/or youth (under age 18 years) in a faith setting (e.g. church, mosque, synagogue), whether paid staff or volunteers, must undergo training and be certified as mandated reporters according to Pennsylvania law.

Registration for the symposium closes on January 13th, or when capacity is reached. Please contact Jim Sortman at jhsortman@gmail.com with any questions.



This event is hosted by the North Central Human Trafficking Response Team Faith Committee. A donation of \$10 per person requested. (Snow date: Friday, 2/3/17)

This seminar will also be held on Sat, January 28, 2017 from 8-2 at Christ

Wesleyan Church, 363 Stamm Road, Milton, PA 17847. (Snow date: 2/4/17)

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along and Play-Along is being sponsored by the Williamsport Music Club on Dec. 30 at Messiah Luth. Church from 7-9:30.

Festival Choir Planned: The Music Ministry of Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church invites you to be part of the Third Annual Festival Choir on Sunday, May 7th at 2 p.m. There are no auditions. The choir is open to any youth or adult who enjoys singing sacred choral music. We have had up to 15 churches represented in our ecumenical choir. Singers are expected to attend four of the six rehearsal PLUS the dress rehearsal. The fee is \$20.00. Rehearsal times are listed on the registration form, which can be found in the emailed/online extras pack. Registration is needed by **12/15/16**. If you have questions contact David Koskey H-570-322-8562 or Cell-570-220-2621.

Community Christmas Service: The Montgomery Area Historical Society, in conjunction with the Montgomery Area Ministerium will hold our annual Community Christmas Service at the Stone Church on the property of the former Allenwood Federal Prison Camp on December 17. Guests should enter at the entrance to the White Deer Golf Course and follow the signs through the prison grounds to the Church. The open house begins at 2 pm. allowing visitors to look through various displays set up by the Historical Society. The service will then begin at 4 pm. This service marks the 75th anniversary of the last Christmas service held at the Stone Church prior to the government taking over the village of Alvira for the Ordinance Works.

Concert: Runville United Methodist's 30 Hour Famine Benefit Concert will be held at the Runville United Methodist Church, 1216 Runville Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823 on Sunday, January 22nd at 6pm. This small charge began participating in the 30 Hour Famine several years ago, raising money to feed two children. Last year's benefit concert allowed them to sponsor 30 children for a year. This year, with your help...?



Have Dinner at Wendy's and Earn Money for United Churches of Lycoming County! This event is at the Maynard Street Wendy's only, and will be held January 17th. Wendy's at Maynard Street will donate 10% of all their sales from 5 - 8 pm. Great Food - Great Cause! Enjoy!

.....A poster is available.

**EVENTS IN MEMORY OF
THE REV. DR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**



Service of Prayer:

On Sunday, January 15 at 4 pm. a Service of Prayer will be held at Freedom House Community Worship Center, 1700 Memorial Avenue, Williamsport

Dream Week Activities:

Sponsored by the Beloved Community Council

Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk & Day of Service on Monday January 16...

Peace Walk - 9:00am - Lycoming College Lamade Gym - less than 1 mile loop, accompanied by Trolley with Brass Band.

Service Project Rally - 9:30am - Lycoming College Lamade Gym - refreshments, speakers, and orientation for local service projects.

Service Projects -10:30-1:00 - Fifteen social service agencies in our area need help; for a full listing of projects and to preregister, go to www.lycoming.edu/mlk

Tuesday, January 17:

Alternatives to Violence Project with Tony White; 6:30pm - 9 pm at Honors Hall at Lycoming College, corner of East Fourth and Basin Streets,

Wednesday, January 18:

"Empowering Ourselves to Unite On Common Ground" is the topic of the Beloved Community Council Round Table Discussion; 6:30pm - 8:30pm at City Alliance Church on 420 Elmira Street (Corner of and West Fourth and Elmira Streets.)

Thursday, January 19:

Dream Week Keynote Address with the Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington at 7 pm at the Klump Academic Center Auditorium, Penn College. His message will be, "The Content of Our Character: Doing the work, to live out the Dream of Inclusion" Thirty-nine years after the death of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King we find ourselves wondering, how far have we come? What does the work of inclusion look like in 2017 and how do we know if we are doing our part? What kind of person do we need to be to live into the dream of inclusion for the future? Rev. Dr. Washington will share with our community his thoughts on these questions.

2017 RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS / HOLIDAYS CALENDAR

This listing, though selective and incomplete, highlights religious feasts, festivals and other observances. It is offered with the hope that awareness will be fostered of special days celebrated by other Christian Traditions and some celebrations of other Faiths present in our community.

KEY: (PC) Protestant Christians, (RC) Roman Catholic Christians, (OC) Orthodox Christians, (C) Christians [All], (E) Ecumenical. Other religions in our area - (I) Islam, (J) Jewish (B) Buddhist (IF) Interfaith (N) National

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1 - New Year's Day --	2 - Meeting of Christ in the Temple OC	1 - Ash Wednesday PC & RC
6 - Epiphany/Theophony C	5 - Souper Bowl Sunday E	4 - World Day of Prayer (CWU) E
8 - Baptism of Jesus C	5 - Four Chaplains Sunday C+J	12- Purim J
16 - Martin Luther King Holiday IF	26 - Transfiguration C	12- Magha Puja Day B
16- Day of Service (Lycoming College)	28 - Shrove Tuesday PC & RC	12-18 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Wk IF
16-21- MLKing Dream Week All		25- Annunciation of Virgin Mary RC
18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity E		27 - Great Lent (Triodion) Begins OC
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1 - Lazarus Saturday OC	1 - Pascha (Easter) OC	4 - Pentecost C
9 - Palm Sunday C	4 - National Day of Prayer N	11 - United Churches Sunday E
11-18 - Passover (Pesach) J	5 - May Friendship Day (CWU) E	26-28 - Eid al Fitr - Ramadan Ends I
13 - Maundy Thursday C	10 - Visakha Puja Day B	
14 - Good (Holy) Friday C	25 - Ascension of Jesus C	
16 - Easter (Pascha) C	27 - Ramadan Begins I	
23 - Yom Ha Shoah J	31-6/1 Shavuot J	
24 - Lailat al Miraj I		
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
4 - Independence Day USA	1 - Tisha B'Av J	1-4 - Hajj Ends - Eid al Adha I
11 - All Saints Day OC	6 - Transfiguration OC	8 - Birth of the Virgin Mary C
	15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC+OC	11 - Memorial Bike Ride All
		14 - Holy Cross Day RC+OC
		21-22 - Islamic New Year I
		21-22 - Rosh Hashanah J
		30 - Yom Kippur J
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
1 - World Communion Sunday E	1 - All Saints Day PC+RC	1 - World AIDS Day I
4 - Saint Francis Day RC/PC	3 - World Community Day Pgm E	3 - Advent Begins C
5-11 Sukkot J	15 - Advent Begins (Winter Lent) OC	6 - St. Nicholas Day C
8 - CROP Walk All	20 - Christ the King PC+RC	8 - Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary RC
	21 - Entry of the Theotokos OC	13-20 - Chanukkah J
	24 - Thanksgiving All - USA	24 - Last Sunday of Advent C
		25 - Christmas C
		31 - Watch Night C

NOTE: Celebrations of the Jewish & Islamic holy days begin at sundown the preceding day, and end at sundown on the holy day.