



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 XXXIV NUMBER 11

www.uclc.org

December 12, 2017

Please notify us of changes of email address.

*Thank you for receiving
our newsletter via email.*

*It's a wonderful donation
of postage, office supplies
and volunteer time.*

*The Staff, Officers
and Board Members
of United Churches
hope that you
and those for whom you pray
experience many blessings
during your Advent and
Christmas journey.*



*May we all be open to receive anew
the love, joy, peace and hope
that only He can bring,
at Christmas and every day of the year.*

71st ANNUAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

We gathered at tables at The Castellano Center of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport to celebrate 71 years of ministry that we do together. The delicious broasted chicken dinner and hospitality of the congregation blessed our evening together.

One of the highlights of the evening is hearing who has been chosen to receive the Ecumenical Service Award. This year there were three recipients.

Janet L Yoas: was honored for her strong and compassionate service as she responds to Matthew 25's suggestions to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned. She is always ready to help, sometimes encourage, and often lead her congregation to reach out to the community and beyond in many service projects, cleaning up Veterans Memorial Park, rehabbing the garage of Family Promise's House on Park Place, collecting food for our United Churches Food Pantry, funds for our Shepherd of the Streets, blankets, kits and items for refugees, knitting caps and collecting items for seafarers. She uses her marketing and networking skills with family, friends and congregation to garner coupons and hygiene items for our Pantry and Shepherd, and washes, folds and labels bedding for distribution. We look forward to discovering how God continues to lead Janet Yoas!

Timothy C. Mahoney: was honored for making a more abundant life possible for many through his leadership and support.

-continued on page 6

Follow us and others on Facebook at "Walking With God in Lycoming County"

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 devotionists this fall include:

- 12/11-17 Pastor Tammy Aichner
- 12/18-24 Fr. Dan Kovalak
- 12/25-31 Rev. Gwen Bernstine
- 1/1-7 Rev. Georgiana Welch
- 1/8-14 Mrs. Gail Landers
- 1/15-21 Rev. Gwen Bernstine
- 1/22-28 Mrs. Pat Jenkins
- 1/29-2/4 Ms. Connie Couture
- 2/5-11 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens
- 2/12-18 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

A devotion line business card is available from our office as a convenient reminder or to share.

VOLUNTEER NOW FOR 2018 MINISTRIES*

We are currently working on the ministries schedule for 2018. Both clergy & laity are still needed. *Worship:*

Nursing Home -Assisted Living Centers:

- Sundays at 2: Manor Care South Valley View AristaCare
- Sundays at 2:15: Manor Care North (2 services) Rose View Center

- Sundays at 3: Williamsport Home (2 services)
- Sundays - The Hillside (3:10), The Meadows(3) Leighton Place (3), Elmcroft (3)

- Wednesdays at 11 - West Edwin Street Apartments
- Thursdays at 11 - Presbyterian Home

Prison Worship Services (Sundays)

- Lycoming County Jail - 1:45 and 3:15 p.m.
- Pre-Release Center for Men/for Women - 3:30 p.m.

Daily Telephone Devotion Line - Record from your home.

Volunteers have responsibility for one week at a time.

Footsteps to Follow Editorials: Clergy and people in professional parachurch leadership are invited to sign up for a week's turn at these newspaper editorials in the Saturday morning Sun Gazette.

Please contact us at director@uclc.org or 570-322-1110 or 570-419-1464 to be part of these ministries. We need you!



UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY *

foodpantry@uclc.org or 570-322-1627

Winter is almost upon us and we are enlightened and excited for the holidays to come! We also need to be encouraged to continue helping others in our community and lives. How time flies through the fall months! Hopefully while you are out and about purchasing your remaining items on the list for loved ones you remember that we are to love all human kind and pick up a food item or two for those in need.



I can't tell you enough how thankful all the clients here at the pantry are for the items you bring for them! As you continue your journey of giving and love for others the pantry is in need of the following items:

- Healthy Snacks*
- Hot Chocolate,*
- Canned Meat,*
- Cereals*
- Pop Tarts*
- Condiments*

- Coffee - Tea*
- Juice Mixes,*
- Ramen Noodles,*
- Oatmeal*
- Popcorn*
- Plastic Grocery Bags*

Prayers from us to you that you remain well and continue to live a life full of the Spirit that God has given you. Feel free to visit the pantry or drop off a donation.

There are many items but it all can be accomplished if you continue to give thought to those in need while shopping! Your support is greatly appreciated! We always have you in our prayers and praises! Happy holidays to all!!

Location: Rear 320 Park Avenue, Williamsport
Hours: Monday.....9-12.....donations
Tuesday/Thursday..10:15-2:30.....clients



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 23rd. 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 in the supplement.

2017 Request:

Also for this year we need a volunteer to lead a service on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 at 3:10 at the Hillside.

POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever (Psalm 136:1). How can we create a sense of thankfulness in those who are experiencing hunger and poverty in our community, nation, and the world? Do we have compassion? Do we extend ourselves out of our comfort zone and advocate for justice on behalf of those in need?

Tax policy is a hunger issue -

Scripture indicates that government has a role to play in the protection and development of people. As Congress debates tax reform legislation, Bread for the World urges lawmakers to:



- Increase equity and fairness in the tax code.
- Maintain and strengthen tax credits for low-income workers.
- Block efforts to finance tax cuts for high-income people by cutting programs that help low-income people.
- Encourage work and allow new markets to flourish.

We urge our nation’s leaders to enact tax policies that do not harm, but rather expand opportunity for people who are struggling with hunger and poverty.

(Source: Bread for the World)

Facts about poverty that you may not know –

1. Nearly 22,000 children die each day due to living in poverty.
2. There are 2.2 billion children in the world, and 1 billion of them live in poverty.
3. A third of all poor in developing countries are children aged zero to 12.
4. Global poverty has decreased by half over the last decade; however, 71 percent of the population still live in low-income or poor (\$10 a day) conditions.
5. The average income of extreme poverty in a developing world rose from 74 cents to 87 cents per day from 1981 to 2010.
6. A quarter of humanity, 1.6 billion people, lives without electricity.
7. Nearly 2.8 billion people rely on wood chips, crop waste or animal dung for cooking and heating their homes.
8. In 2011, about 800 children under the age of five died every hour.
9. Those children could have survived via simple affordable intervention, such as clean drinking water or vaccinations.
10. According to an Oxfam report, if the world’s 100 richest people pooled their collective earnings in 2012, they could have ended extreme world poverty four times over.
11. One frappuccino at Starbucks costs more than the median income for people in the developing world (\$3 a day).
12. For every \$25 spent on repaying debt only \$1 goes to aiding a

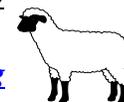
developing country.

13. Approximately 790 million people in developing countries, two-thirds of whom live in Asia and the Pacific, suffer from chronic undernourishment.
14. The 12 percent of the world that uses 85 percent of Earth’s water do not live in a developing country.
15. Some 54 percent of Americans are considered to be living below the poverty line.

(Source: borgen project.org)

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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



He Has Looked Upon His Handmaid’s Lowliness

A poor hill country maiden of no noble class,
yet, full of grace,
because she would give life to the light of Life.
A poor young girl in a male dominated culture,
yet, highly favored by God,
to conceive the Son of the Most High.
A poor virgin found to be with child,
and was subject to public shame,
but, the babe was Emmanuel, God is with us.
A poor person of little importance to her time,
yet was sought by the angel of the Lord,
to be called blessed for all generations,
Her poverty gave her no special consideration,
so she delivered Him in a sheep’s grotto,
yet, was called the mother of God.

During this holy season, remember the true reason,
and honor Mother and Child with gifts of mercy.

Merry Christmas † Shepherd of the Streets

We also thank all of you who collect hygiene items, bedding, and baby needs for us. The list of hygiene items we use follows: (Bring regular sizes please)



- Deodorant**
- Soap**
- Combs**
- Shaving Cream and Razors**
- Tissues and Toilet Paper**
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes**
- Shampoo and Conditioner**
- Towels and Wash Cloths**
- Women’s Hygiene Products**

Baby Needs: Diapers, Shampoo, Powder, Oil, Q-Tips, Wipes

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:**

- 13- **Mr. Brian Spies**, Art To Go Instructor, *"Bringing an Art Cart to our Neighborhoods"*
 20- **Dr. Charles Getchell**, Bringing handbells and music for singing *"Carol Ring"*
 27- **No Lunch** - Hope your Holidays are wonderful!

JANUARY:

- 3- **Ms. Melissa Lundy**, Coord. IF Gathering, First United Methodist Church, Wmspt., *"Helping Women Live Knowing God Is Real"*
 10- **Mr. Bruce Hoffman**, Historical Investigator, *"A Few of Williamsport's First Missions of Charity"*
 17- **Mr. John Hunsinger**, Area Historian, *"A History of Bands In Lycoming County"*
 24- Celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018.
 31- To be announced

Join us! Bring a friend! Make new friends!



Tammey Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@uclc.org

As we close out our Fall semester, I would like to extend the following thank yous...Thank you to Father John Victoria (St. Anns) for providing German Chocolate Truffles for Jesus and Java...Thank you to Trinity Episcopal Church for providing Study Bags for Finals Week. Thank you to Pastor Stan (Cogan Station Christian Church), Pastor Jim Pentz (New Covenant Assembly of God) and Pastor Tim Hartzell (Faith Wesley) for our November Faith Talks.

Over this short winter break, we will be putting together our line up of Spring pastors. Look for information soon about our annual Soup Sale. If you would like to be part of either of these opportunities, please contact me at ucm@uclc.org.

CREATION CORNER*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*

Advocacy for Sustainability and American Indian Wisdom

Advocacy: supporting, recommending, promoting, championing, backing, pleading, arguing in favor of, defending a cause or proposal.

Sustainability: the endurance of systems and processes for long-term ecological balance; the quality of not being harmful, or permanently damaging, to the environment, or depleting natural resources.



Advocacy for sustainability takes many forms, as within the Lutheran (ELCA) and Episcopal churches, and with the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" promoted by the United Nations. The latter includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and both religious denominations share a similar vision.

Clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; climate action, life below water and life on land are five UN examples (see others at www.globalgoals.org.) The Lutheran and Episcopal emphases encompass those of the UN, so as to create a "sustainable and sufficient world where there is enough for all to thrive." These churches seek to do this by "working through their service, reconciliation and justice ministries." The Lutheran effort may be seen at www.elca.org/prayfastact.

Those who lived on our soil of this USA nation prior to Europeans, and whose descendants live here still, were advocates of sustainability and from whom we can learn much, and we would be wise to pass along their wisdom to our children and grand-children, our descendants.

Consider the Iroquois: "In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

Chief Seattle: "All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the children of the Earth."

Chief Seattle: "This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth."

Chief Seattle: "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it."

Shawnee Chief Tecumseh: "No tribe has the right to sell, even to each other, much less to strangers. Sell a country! Why not sell the air, the great sea, as well as the earth? Didn't the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children?" (in a speech to William Harrison, Governor of the Indiana Territory, on August 11, 1810).

Cree Proverb: "When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money."

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The Salvation Army needs Bell Ringers now through Saturday December 23. Volunteers work in two hour shifts from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM and you are welcome to sign up for one or many. Locations are at Kmart, Walmart, and Sam's Club. Contact James Dancer at the Salvation Army, 570-326-9187x105 or James.Dancer@use.salvationarmy.org.



Sojourner Truth Ministries is currently in need of toasters, coffee, cleaning products, and dish washing detergent both liquid and for the dishwasher. We truly appreciate all donations. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 570-323-1797 or sojournertruthministries@gmail.com.

Souper Bowl Sunday is one way to help a ministry to assist people in need. It is an effort to glorify God and care for "the least of these" by each worshiper giving a can of food or the cost of a can of food (\$1) on Super Bowl Sunday (February 4, 2018) and some do it for the three weeks before.

Groups call 1-800-358-7687 on the day of the game (between noon and 5 p.m.) to report the amount collected, then send your funds/food to the charity of your choice. Reporting your collection enables the full impact of this simple act of caring to be determined and announced.

In 2017 the grand total generated was \$10,115,253 collected in cash and food items by 6,538 groups, for their charities. Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 and since then they have received reports of over \$130 Million in cash and food items being donated around the country. Be part of this modern day miracle by getting your congregation on board. For details go to: www.souperbowl.org.

Shoe Express: The West End Christian Community Center (WECCC) Shoe Express is a program that gives free new sneakers and socks to children from birth to 18 who live in the Williamsport area. To qualify children need to come with a parent or guardian. They must also have a CHIP or Access card or a referral letter from a social service agency or church. The program is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, excluding July, from 10 - noon.

The program cannot run without support from volunteers and donations. Last year alone the Shoe Express gave sneakers and socks to almost 750 children! If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Nancy or Rick Jacobs at 570-323-4627. We are also willing to speak about the Shoe Express or show it to your group. "A new pair of shoes can change a life!"

Pet Pantry: Recently, a group of community volunteers created Pet Pantry of Lycoming County, a 501c3 program of Animal Care Sanctuary and collaboration with Beckoning Cat Project. The mission is to provide pet food to families experiencing a challenging financial time, rather than having to place their beloved pet into the already overburdened shelter system. The opening for the pantry is slated for December, and will be housed at the Beckoning Cat Project, 1417 East Third St., Wmspt. To prepare they are seeking assistance to help stock the shelves! Contact Tracy Haas-Ungard at 570-494-7788 or tracyhaaz@yahoo.com with any questions.

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



Service of Prayer: Sunday, January 14 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 15...

Peace Walk - 9:00am - Pennsylvania College of Technology - less than 1 mile loop.

Service Project Rally - 9:30am - Penn College - 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 16:

Lift Every Voice And Sing with College and Church Choirs 6:30pm - 9 pm at Clark Chapel at Lycoming College, center of Campus,

Wednesday, January 17:

"Unity Through Understanding" is the topic of the Beloved Community Council Round Table Discussion; 5:30pm - 8:30pm at Christ Community Worship Center on 436 West Fourth Street (Corner of West Fourth and Center Streets.) Light dinner at 5:30.

Thursday, January 19:

Dream Week Keynote Address with Herman Boone "Remember The Titans" at 7 pm at the Klump Academic Center Auditorium, Penn College.

NEWS FROM THE 71ST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY -continued from pg 1

Tim Mahoney continued....Loving your neighbor second nature to Tim, and that starts at home where neighborhood is a place where everyone knows his name and where he offers a helping hand whenever needed. He is an effective volunteer especially at our Food Pantry, and an energizing presence on many local boards and committees including the Re-Entry Coalition, Wise Options, Suicide Prevention Coalition, the National Alliance of Mental Illness, the Lycoming United Way and the Interagency Coordinated Services Task Force. His guiding presence on the Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition is a blessing, especially as he is involved in their Youth Development Task Force, Strengthening Families Initiative and Rural Health Initiative. His connections and awareness, honed in part from 38 years of working as Deputy Warden at the Lycoming County Prison, makes all our service providers work more smoothly be connectively. We are grateful that in his retirement he volunteers daily, but left time to work in the garden, and travel with his wife to visit their three daughters.

Bonita C. Mahoney: was honored for her joyful and consistent vision of compassion service in our community, often using her gift of teaching in her church community, and as a Roman Catholic panelist for our Interfaith Dialogue Commission. Her concern for our community's health has brought her years of enjoyment working in the area of recreation, designing playgrounds and recreational facilities and overseeing the development of Rider Park; as well as managing the Lycoming County and Union County Medical Societies. Her passion for design has gifted our region with new playgrounds and recreational facilities, beautiful and functional gardens and landscaping, as well as original dresses, handbags and blankets for her three daughters and herself, and the occasional Derby Pie for her husband.

The staff was recognized for their service and excellent work. 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. Kevin Brophy led us through the business portion of the meeting, including the approval of the operational budget for 2018 totaling \$289,488.

New members of the Board of Directors were approved and members going off the board were thanked. The 2018 board will be... (* = new member, + = position change)

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: Mrs. Virginia Borek +

Committee Chairpeople:

Personnel: Mrs. Kathy Kolb +

Interfaith: Rev. Jeffrey LeCrone *

Christian Social Concerns: Rev. Joseph Hopkins +

Broadcasting: Mr. Lou Kolb

Institutional: Mrs. Pat Jenkins

Food Pantry: Mrs. Phyllis Gervin +

Ecumenism and Evangelism: Rev. Brad Walmer

Education: Mrs. Dawn Blanchard

Shepherd Committee: Ms. Yvonne Shenuski +

Campus Ministry: Mrs. Julie Bitner

Nominating: Mrs. Sandra Grier +

Newspaper: Prof. Ned Coates

Members at Large:

Ms. Sara Bower *

Rev. Max Furman *

Rev. David Letscher

Rev. David Trostle *

Pastor Kathy Burkhart

Mrs. Linda Miller *

Rev. Elisabeth Aurand

Rev. Susan Halverstadt +

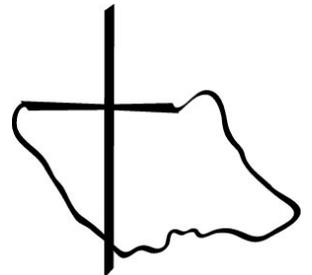
Dr. Terry Belles *

Rev. Mark Brumbach

Mr. George Cassella *

Rev. Velinda Smith *

Mr. Jerry Boskey *



The ministry that we do together takes all of us working together. One of the things I have always loved about United Churches is that we are busy working in, for and with our community. And it takes all of us to be the face of Christ reaching out in love and peace and understanding wherever we are.

This year has been a difficult year with many new challenges for everyone. In the midst of difficulties new and amazing things have happened throughout our county! The Jersey Shore Ministerium, West End Christian Community Center and Sojourner Truth Ministries have all solidified ministries in our community. The constantly increasing number of people who are food insecure has all twelve

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Assembly News.... from page 6

large pantries in the area working hard, with two more being added, and places opening that provide free breakfasts, lunches or dinners. We also reach out to persons that our homeless in new ways - both Journey House and Family Promise have new units.

This year we commended the printed ministry reports to everyone. Reports are available in our office to learn more about worshipping together, working with school districts to help prevent suicides, united campus ministry at Penn College, bringing God to the community through editorials in the newspaper and phone devotionals, providing 850 Worship service in area nursing homes and the county prison, and Interfaith Dialogue which continues to work to build greater understanding both together as a group, and in the community. Our staff of five have many wonderful volunteers and together we make it all happen!



Among those hardest hit this year because of the disasters and difficulties, is as always the people in our community who have the least resources. We focused on the two ministries who reach out every day to some of those most in need in our community. Mona Rundio shared the process of receiving food from our Pantry and introduced some of our wonderful volunteers. Dr. Smith provided some insight into the people we serve, noting that they may not have a lot of money but many are rich in spirit. Many often don't know what to do, but it is not that they are indifferent, but because of difficulties like some being unable to read well they miss printed instructions. Those in attendance were then able to visit these ministry locations.

EVENTS IN OUR AREA

IF Gathering: is coming to Lycoming County on February 9 & 10 at First United Methodist Church, in their Christian Life Center, 604 Market St., Wmspt. All women from the area are invited to join IF: Lycoming County as part of this international event. Friday, Feb. 9, 6:30 – 10:30 p.m. & Saturday, Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Register at lundy515@comcast.net. IF:Gathering is coming alongside women around the world, fostering relationships, and utilizing women's God-given gifts to not only transform hearts but also leave a tangible impact on the entire world. More information can be found at www.IFGathering.com.

This local gathering taps into Livestream to build local connections. Tens of thousands of women worldwide will participate in the IF:Gathering from a sold out event in Austin, Texas.

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Journey to Bethlehem is being presented by Newberry Church of Christ, Dec. 16-17 from 6-8 p.m. They invite you to witness the unfolding of the first Christmas. Guided tours of the streets of Bethlehem will be 25-30 minutes in length. The event is free, at 2100 Linn Street, Wmspt. It is an indoor/outdoor event and they are not handicapped accessible. Questions call 570-326-0731.

Lycoming Arts Alliance are looking to promote their new **Art Cart** and would like to present to various groups looking for a guest speaker. The Art2Go! Program is a mobile arts classroom providing structured creative outreach led by a certified arts instructor. It seeks to support organizations and community members who have identified a need to expose others to the imaginative and therapeutic powers of the arts. It is committed to sharing the fun dimension of the arts by providing opportunities to create for entertainment purposes. The Contact is Brian Spies, brianjamespies@yahoo.com 443-977-8682.

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along and Play-Along is being sponsored by the Williamsport Music Club on Dec. 30 at Pine Street United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m. Theodore Lentz will be the conductor of singers and instrumentalists in portions of Handel's "Messiah" with audience participation. Music scores will be provided. A \$10 donation will be accepted at the door.

Six Week Ecumenical Study and Discussion: From Conflict to Communion will be the center of a six week Ecumenical Study and Discussion that you are invited to be part of. It will meet Wednesdays, January 3 - February 7 at Perkins on Via Bella (in the back room).

The resource, "From Conflict to Communion", was generated by the Lutheran - Roman Catholic Commission on Unity as they took seriously the words of Pope John XXIII, "The things that unite us are greater than those that divide us."

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation was commemorated this fall in many ways. Among them was a month long conversation in our area among many Lutherans and Roman Catholics. In the spirit of the commission who wrote "From Conflict to Communion" "We invite all Christians to study the report of our Commission both open-mindedly and critically, and to come with us along the way to a deeper communion of all Christians." –from the Forward. A free PDF download may be obtained at:

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/From%20Conflict%20to%20Communion.pdf>

Contact Audrey at argraft@live.com with questions or for more information.

2018 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- Purim J |
| 6 - Epiphany/Theophony C | 4 - Souper Bowl Sunday E | 2 - World Day of Prayer (CWU) E |
| 7 - Baptism of Jesus C | 4 - Four Chaplains Sunday C+J | 11-17 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Wk IF |
| 15 - Martin Luther King Holiday IF | 11 - Transfiguration C | 25- Annunciation of Virgin Mary OC |
| 15- Day of Service (Penn College) | 12 - Great Lent (Triodion) Begins OC | 25 - Palm Sunday PC & RC |
| 15-20- MLKing Dream Week All | 13 - Shrove Tuesday PC & RC | 29 - Maundy Thursday PC & RC |
| 18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity C | 14 - Ash Wednesday PC & RC | 30 - Good (Holy) Friday PC & RC |
| | | 31- Magha Puja Day B |
| | | 31- Lazarus Saturday OC |
| APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
| 3/31-4/7 - Passover (Pesach) J | 3 - National Day of Prayer N | 2 - All Saints Day OC |
| 1 - Easter PC & RC | 4 - May Friendship Day (CWU) E | 15 - Eid al Fitr - Ramadan Ends I |
| 1 - Palm Sunday OC | 10 - Ascension of Jesus PC & RC | |
| 6 - Holy Friday OC | 17 - Ascension of Jesus OC | |
| 8 - Pascha - Easter OC | 16 - Ramadan Begins I | |
| 12 - Yom Ha Shoah J | 20 - Pentecost PC & RC | |
| 13 - Lailat al Miraj I | 20-21 Shavuot J | |
| 29 - Visakha Puja Day B | 27 - Pentecost OC | |
| | 27 - United Churches Sunday E | |
| JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER |
| 4 - Independence Day USA | 6 - Transfiguration OC | 8 - Birth of the Virgin Mary C |
| 22 - Tisha B'Av J | 15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC+OC | 11 - Memorial Bike Ride All |
| | 22-25 - Hajj Ends - Eid al Adha I | 14 - Holy Cross Day RC+OC |
| | | 12 - Islamic New Year I |
| | | 10-11 - Rosh Hashanah J |
| | | 19 - Yom Kippur J |
| | | 24-31 Sukkot J |
| OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
| 7 - World Communion Sunday E | 1 - All Saints Day PC+RC | 1 - World AIDS Day I |
| 4 - Saint Francis Day RC/PC | 2 - World Community Day Pgm E | 2 - Advent Begins C |
| 14 - CROP Walk All | 15 - Advent Begins (Winter Lent) OC | 6 - St. Nicholas Day C |
| | 21 - Entry of the Theotokos OC+RC | 8 - Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary RC |
| | 22 - Thanksgiving All - USA | 3-10 - Chanukkah J |
| | 25 - Christ the King PC+RC | 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.