



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the  
**UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY**  
202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701  
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Office Hours: 9-3:30 Monday - Thursday

*Issued mid-monthly, September through May with 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 XXXI NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 15, 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.

## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

**W**e gathered around tables at Montoursville Presbyterian Church to celebrate 68 years of the ministry that we do together and to get to know each other better. The meatloaf dinner and hospitality of the congregation certainly blessed us that evening as we celebrated some of the ways we work together today, and the ways God uses all the ministry that we do individually to be the church in Lycoming County in these times.

The staff was recognized and thanked for their excellent work. Each passionately works with many of the 220+ congregations to help them build relationship to work together in ministry and to better understand each other.

- Mrs. Patty Gohrs, United Churches Adm. Assistant
- J. Morris Smith, Th.D., Shepherd of the Streets
- Ms. Toni Fogal, Shepherd of the Streets Adm. Assistant
- Ms. Gail Burkhart, Food Pantry Coordinator
- Mrs. Tammey Aichner, Campus Ministry Coordinator
- Rev. Gwen Bernstine, Exec. Director, United Churches

Memories were shared of the ministry we provided this year as the reports in the annual book were commended.

*-continued on page 2*



*The Staff, Officers  
and Board Members  
of United Churches  
hope that you  
and those for whom you pray  
experience the blessings of  
peace, hope, joy and love  
during your Advent and  
Christmas journeys.*

*May we all be open to receive anew  
and share with others these blessings  
that only He can bring,  
at Christmas and every day of the year.*



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

**NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** -continued from page 1

- Our Pantry fed the hungry and found many new consumers as we moved to a new section of the Castellano Center of St. Joseph the Worker Parish this summer.
- Our Shepherd Ministry brings hope to those in need, and draws them closer to God. They reached over 3,700 in the past 12 months. They are now also located in the Castellano Center, having moved this summer.
- Over 100 volunteers went to nursing homes, assisted living centers and our county prison to provide over 800 services this year. This year several services will be re-configured to fit the needs of the facilities.
- Our Campus Ministry has enjoyed several new activities this year including a mission project called "Meal in a Bag" and a fall retreat with other Campus Ministry students from area schools.
- Church Women United continues their outreach, just packing 1500 Christmas Stockings for area nursing homes and the children served by Project Impact.
- Educational Ministries provides opportunities for all of us to become more informed. The committee is currently working on Suicide Prevention. Our County Coroner told us this week that there are more deaths by suicide in our county than traffic fatalities or homicides.
- Our media ministries provide opportunities for clergy to share messages in the newspaper, and congregations to get information out on Facebook.
- The Interfaith Panel provides students in the Williamsport school district with an opportunity few people ever get; to have leaders from four different faith traditions to answer their questions. These folks will accept your invitations to speak with your groups.

The board of directors, congregations and community have embraced the visioning process. We have spent a lot of time defining our integral and cutting edge ministries, which we feel are youth, media and institutional ministries.

Our Financial reports showed our program cuts of 20% have helped us to stabilize. This means none of our ministries are open Fridays, but staff work extra to get things done. They received a small raise for their hard work. We expect to reconfigure hours for the Shepherd position for the second half of the year, and have added funding for health insurance for our Executive Director this year.

We are especially grateful for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament raised about \$10,000 (thank you Rev. Ken Weiss and your excellent committee!) We do need to have more of fund raisers, big and small, throughout the year.

A 2015 budget of \$165,523.00 was approved.

Elected to the Board of Directors were: members at large are Mr. Marty McCabe, Mrs. Dawn Blanchard, Ms. Karen Fabroni, Rev. Ashley Rossi; Christian Social Concerns coordinator Rev. Susan Halverstadt, and Youth Committee Mrs. Alyssa Maneval. Pastor Dorothy Anderson moved to become the as Chairperson of the Shepherd of the Streets during the year. The following persons, who have either moved out of the area or are rotating off the board at the end of the year and were thanked for their service on the board, Fr. Paul Fontanilla, Rev. Robin Meyers, Rev. Robin Baer, Rev. Larry Waltz and Mrs. Karen Barraco.

The Ecumenical Service Award was presented this year to honor and celebrate the ministry of an individual in our midst.

- **Mr. Donald Konkle** is a member of Montoursville Presbyterian Church. He lives each day in the spirit of the greatest commandments, "To love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. And to love your neighbor as Jesus has loved you". Don's neighborhood is a place where he knows everyone's name and they know his, and he is available to offer a helping hand when needed. He visits those in the nursing homes, volunteers for the Montoursville Fire Department and the UC Food Pantry and has donated 26 gallons of blood. His service on the UCLC Board of Directors, Golf Committee and Long Term Disaster Relief Committee is a blessing. Helping to repair houses that have been flooded is a passion that he has gone near and far. His humble leadership is legendary at his church where he serves on many boards and committees and keeps an eye on everything. His passion for music has blossomed to be a love and joy for his family, who are near and dear to him.

Focusing on ministry was the order of the evening and we celebrated the ministry we do together and the ministry that is done through all who were present. Diane Thomas provided the evening prayer as liturgical dance.

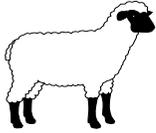
#### Location Change:

Please Remember that our Food Pantry and Shepherd of the Street Ministry are both now located at the Msgr. Castellano Center which is located at 320 Park Avenue. Mail for the Food Pantry should be sent to:

United Churches  
202 East Third Street  
Williamsport PA 17701

Shepherd Mail can be sent to: Shepherd of the Street

PO Box 2184  
Williamsport PA 17703



## SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\*

J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,  
 Contact at: 570-322-6538

### NATIVITY

Forced to journey in days of birth's pressing requisite  
 to the village of King David's birth to be counted for a  
 tyrant's toll,  
 the chosen found sanctuary in nature's cleft,  
 where sheep are kept or robbers hide or certain women  
 ply their trade  
 for the Holy One is sent to the lowest, the captives, the op-  
 pressed, the abused.

With no bed, no lamp, no mid-wife's gentle urge,  
 but only the drape that secured journey's full-term en-  
 cumber  
 and perhaps a travelers skin of water,  
 the hour came that brooks no delay.

Amidst the signs declaring human need, in holy poverty's  
 Light of Life  
 the new-born is ushered into the calloused hands of a  
 humble carpenter,  
 swaddled by the trembling fingers of a submissive virgin  
 stripping bands from the cloth that had secured her  
 gravidity,  
 doubling as her burial shroud should she give her life in  
 birth,  
 a happenstance common for the time.

Placing Him in trough of stone,  
 unaware of the prophetic posture that hence in parity  
 she would wrap Him in death's pall to place Him in a crypt,  
 so in birth He borrowed a grotto, in death He will bor-  
 row a grave  
 needing neither for long, but fulfilling their signature prog-  
 nostication...  
 the mystery began to unfold amid angelic wonder  
 that reach climatic anticipation of that never before actual-  
 ized.

In the grotto there was birthed the Promise of eternal life,  
 in the grave He will abolish the dread of eternal death,  
 making both archives of Divine oath,  
 yet not marking the place to spawn superstition,  
 but declaring each as the affidavit of Divine intent.

Such hallowed happening was not confirmed by prophet,  
 priest,  
 rabbi, or theologian, but indigent unpretentious shep-  
 herds were chosen

whose minds were uncluttered with preconceived notions,  
 whose souls uncomplicated with worldly aspirations,  
 but in simplicity  
 had been prepared for apostolic participation in this Thing  
 of God.

Endorsed by angelic acclaim, forearmed with expectation's  
 anticipation,  
 these pastors hastened according to what had been made  
 known by the Lord,  
 where the young mother watched in wonder as the herdsmen  
 validating in her heart what had happened in her,  
 giving confirmation to her own experience,  
 giving insight that would lead her to see in her maternity the  
 hope of eternal life.

### VOLUNTEER NOW FOR 2015 MINISTRIES\*

**W**e are pulling together the ministries schedule for 2015. It's a big job - over 850 services...and...We can't do it without you. Both clergy and laity are needed. We have about 35 services yet to fill in the following places....



#### ***Nursing Home and Assisted Living Center Worship:***

- Sundays at 2 p.m. weekly: Rose View Center  
 Manor Care South and Valley View
- Sundays at 2:15 weekly: Manor Care North (2 services)
- Sundays at 3: Weekly - Williamsport Home (2 services)
- Monthly-The Meadows, Elmcroft, Loyalsock Creek RNC
- Wednesdays at 10:30 weekly - Loyalsock Creek RNC
- Thursdays at 11 am. weekly - Presbyterian Home

#### ***Prison Worship Services*** (Sundays weekly)

Lycoming County Jail - 1:45 and 3:15 p.m.

**Please** contact us at [uclc@sunlink.net](mailto:uclc@sunlink.net) or call

570-322-1110 if you are able to help in 2015!

**FOOD PANTRY \*****Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 570-322-1657****E-mail - [foodpantry@uclc.org](mailto:foodpantry@uclc.org)**

**H**ere we are again with the hustle, bustle, & hurry, as time flies and before we know it, it's time for Christmas. I'm not one of those folks who is ready for Christmas by Thanksgiving. Many of us spend our time trying to find just the perfect gift that will make someone happy and then we feel like we've accomplished something wonderful. Then it's off we go as we hurry on to the next perfect gift search.

Think about this. Every year without all the stress of looking for perfect gifts, God prepares for us the most Perfect Gift ever sent to man, His baby Son! What a special and precious Gift that is and it is ours every year without ever a minute's doubt whether this year will be the year He doesn't come to us. We never have to worry about God letting us down, because He never will. So while you're in the midst of the gift crisis, remember that you & I and all the Christian world gets to celebrate our own personal Perfect Gift to treasure and love in our heart.

As you can imagine we have been really busy at the Food Pantry . We're valiantly trying to keep up with the traffic and keep stocking the shelves . thanks to your exceptional generosity, we've been able to send 3-4 bags home with each client on the appointment sheet and the 'walk-ins' too. To me that seems like THE perfect gift that we can give!

We do need some help with items that run low:

<i>microwave popcorn</i>	<i>saltines</i>	<i>coffee</i>	<i>jello</i>
<i>stovetop stuffing</i>	<i>canned fruit</i>	<i>pasta (all shapes)</i>	
<i>cake mixes/frosting</i>	<i>pop tarts</i>	<i>spaghetti sauce</i>	
<i>chunky soups</i>	<i>tea bags</i>	<i>canned veggies</i>	

The 500+ persons that we assisted the month of November were very appreciative that you care and take the time to contribute to their well being. It's a good feeling to know that you helped to fill empty bellies!

Blessings to you all and many thanks as well. Don't forget we are now at the rear of 320 Park Avenue in the Msgr. Castellano Center. The hours are Mondays 9"30-Noon for donations and Tuesdays and Thursday 10-3 for client services. The pantry will be closed over the holidays.

**S**ouper Bowl Sunday is one way to help our United Churches Food Pantry, or other groups in our area, 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 1, 2015). 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 2014 the grand total generated was \$8,410,334 collected in cash and food items by 7,559 groups, for their charities. Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 and since then they have received reports of over \$100 Million in cash and food items being donated. Be part of this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and part of a modern day miracle by getting your church on board. For details go to: [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org).



**Tammy Aichner, Coordinator, [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org)**

**T**he semester has come to an end. We finished the year handing out cookies with an encouraging scripture during finals week, thanks to the gracious support of volunteer bakers. Thank you to all the churches and pastors that have been a part of United Campus Ministry this year! During the month of January, the students will be electing officers and updating our current constitution. Due to some improvements in technology, they also will be attending training seminars. We will resume Faith Talks in February. Look for information in next month's newsletter about the Universal Day of Prayer For Students Event to be held in February.

**DIAL - A - DEVOTION \***

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



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

12/8-14 Rev. Gwen Bernstine 12/15-21 Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza

12/22-28 Mrs. Patty Gohrs 12/29-1/4 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens

1/5-11 Fr. Dan Kovalak 1/12-18 Mrs. Sandy Grier

1/19-25 Rev. Gwen Bernstine 1/25-2/1 Mrs. Pat Jenkins

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

**POVERTY - A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE\***

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**F**or 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) As we come to the end of another year, let us assess how we have done regarding helping the poor and working to eliminate hunger and poverty. Then let us resolve to improve our efforts from this point forward.

**Poverty in Lycoming County:** According to the United States Census Bureau the poverty rate in Lycoming County for 2012 (the most current figures) was 14.2% which was higher than the state poverty rate of 13.1%.

**Plan ahead – New Year’s resolutions:** Some suggestions on how to improve our efforts regarding helping the poor and eliminating hunger and poverty include:

- Reach out to and support individuals and families in need in our churches.
- Volunteer with local organizations serving those in need (partial list): American Rescue Workers (570-323-8401), North Central Food Bank (570-321-8023), Salvation Army (570-326-9187), Shepherd of the Streets (570-322-6538), and the United Churches Food Pantry (570-322-1627).
- Learn more and connect with ways to advocate on national and global hunger and poverty issues (partial list): Bread for the World – [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) ; Feeding America (national coalition of food banks) – [www.feeding-america.org](http://www.feeding-america.org) , National Council of Churches Ecumenical Poverty Initiative – [www.faihendpoverty.org](http://www.faihendpoverty.org) .

**Progress against poverty – yet more needs to be done:**

Goal 1 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) calls for cutting extreme poverty in half between 1990 and 2015. In 1990, almost 50% of the population in developing regions lived in extreme poverty (less than \$1.25 a day). This rate dropped to 22% by 2010, achieving the MDG target five years ahead of schedule.

The absolute number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.9 in 1990 to 1.2 billion in 2010. Poverty rates are falling in every developing region. Currently, the overwhelming majority of people living on less than \$1.25 a day reside in two regions: South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. (Source: Bread for the World – 2015 Hunger Report.) The decline in poverty rates is encouraging. However, more still needs done. Contact our elected federal officials to ask them to support more effective United States foreign assistance that targets eliminating poverty.

**WEDNESDAY NOON ECUMENICAL LUNCHESES\***

**J**oin us for lunch this winter. 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 attender will help the caterer, Heidi Potter, know how much to prepare. Laity, clergy and people of all ages are welcome!

When winter weather makes travel difficult on Wednesdays call Gwen at 570-419-1464 to know if Ecumenical Lunch has been cancelled.

**DECEMBER:**

17- **Revs. Ken and Christine Woods-Henderson**, Northway Presbyterian Church, *“God With Us - Emmanuel: Songs of Christmas”*

24- Christmas Eve. No lunch scheduled.

31- New Year’s Eve. No lunch scheduled.

**JANUARY:**

7 - **Rabbi Joel Kessler**, Spiritual Leader of Congregation Ohev Shalom, *“Ask the Rabbi”*

14- **Rev. Ken Weiss**, Caring Outreach, *“Pennsylvania’s Yellow Dot Program”*

21- **Rev. Dr. John Charnock**, Director Mission Integration and Ethics, Pastoral Care and Volunteer Services, Susquehanna Health, *“The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Jesus’ Encounter with the Woman at the Samaritan Well”*

28- **Mrs. Alyssa Maneval**, Education Writer, Williamsport Sun Gazette, *“The Newspaper - Facebook - Twitter - Pinterest - Instagram - Community Calendar - How Should Congregations Share about Programs?”*

**Christmas Dinners:**

- Salvation Army, 457 Market Street, Williamsport: Sunday, December 21 from 1-3. To register call 570-326-9187.
- American Rescue Workers: Thursday, December 25, Noon - 4 p.m. in their 2<sup>nd</sup> floor dining room at 643 Elmira Street, Williamsport. Delivery is available only to shut-ins and handicapped persons by calling 570-323-8401 ext. 110 by Wednesday at noon.

## CREATION CORNER

from our *Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**A**n Introduction to Christian Environmentalism by K. Blanchard and K. O'Brien may be just the book you have been waiting for, especially if you have been hesitant to speak out about controversial topics such as hydraulic fracturing, fossil fuels divestment, and the like. The perspective offered here is to go to your Christian values (the moral and theological virtues), and speak from your heart while being well-informed on your subject.

While many denominations have produced environmental stewardship guidebooks for their parishioners, and some commercial and university publishers have books of readings on the subject of religion and the environment, as well as titles on Christian ecology topics, this may be the first text relating Christian virtues to environmental problems.

The book is recently published and thus there are no customer reviews on-line. The table of contents invites readers to examine their moral virtues (prudence, courage, temperance, justice) and their theological virtues (faith, hope, love) and ask how they might apply to pressing eco-threats, by seeking a "golden mean" between contemporary extreme arguments in the general discourse of how to address enviro-concerns. Thus, to apply seven virtues to seven problems in one world, they propose:

- **Prudence** guides our approach to species survival, between selfless conservation and self-interested stewardship.
- **Courage** (fortitude) is needed to develop energy sources, between fossil fuels, alternative energies, and Sabbath Living.
- **Temperance** (restraint) is applied in how our food is produced and how we personally consume it.
- **Justice** ought to be the goal sought in any approach to environmental injustice (such as toxic pollution), not revolution or reform.
- **Faith** is to be our companion as we encounter climate change, responding in personal and political and technological ways.
- **Hope** is an obligation, and needs to hold our aspirations about our human future, not despair or presumption.
- **Love** (charity) motivates us inasmuch as our earth-keeping advocacy and action is not limited to public protest or personal transformation.

Sub-titled "Ecology, Virtue, and Ethics", and published in paperback (230 pages) by Baylor University Press ([www.baylorpress.com](http://www.baylorpress.com) 1-800-537-5487), **An Introduction to Christian Environmentalism** is co-authored by Kathryn Blanchard (Assoc. Prof. of Religious Studies at Alma College)

and Kevin O'Brien (Assoc. Prof. of Religion at Pacific Lutheran University). They conclude their effort with a closing chapter entitled "Practicing Virtue in a 'World of Wounds'."

For earlier examples of books on this subject see this Creation Corner Column of July 2014 and December 2013.

*Come and learn some of*

### *The Secrets of Happy Families*

*inspired by the book by Bruce Feiler*

**A Workshop:**

**Focusing on ways to Connect, Communicate and Enjoy your family.**

**Saturday, January 31, 2015**

**8:30 A.M. - Noon**



**Provided: (at no cost)**  
**Continental Breakfast**  
**Workshop Materials**  
**Child Care Services**

**Workshop Location:**  
**The Fleming Center:**

**St. Joseph the Worker Parish**  
**720 West Fourth Street, Williamsport**



**Presented by staff from:**  
**Area School Districts and Colleges**  
**United Churches of Lycoming County**  
**Register with Patty or Gwen**  
**at the United Churches office**  
**at 570-322-1110 or [director@ucl.org](mailto:director@ucl.org)**  
**by Wednesday, January 21**

**EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**S**ervice in German of Lessons and Carols for the Advent /Christmas Season will be held at St. Michael Lutheran Church at 1899 St. Michaels Road in Cogan Station on Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to read a lesson or prayers in German, please call Pastor Martha McCracken at 570-865-6515 or 787-579-6598.

**C**hanukah Party: On Sunday, December 21st at 5:30 p.m., Ohev Sholom Congregation, 1501 Cherry Street in Williamsport, will be holding its annual Chanukah party with brisket and latkes and all the trimmings. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 6-12 and children under six are free. Entertainment provided by Kathleen Radspinner and partner. For reservations, please mail your check to the synagogue. For more information call, 570-322-4209

**H**ave you heard about the DOT? Pennsylvania's Yellow Dot Program is designed to make emergency care safer for you! Yellow Dot was created to assist citizens in the "golden hour" of emergency care following a traffic crash, when people may not be able to communicate themselves. In the event of a crash, a Yellow Dot decal on the back window alerts first responders to check the vehicle's glove compartment for vital information to assist in faster medical care. To receive Yellow Dot information cards or packets, come to Ecumenical lunch on January 14<sup>th</sup>, contact the Community Traffic Safety Project at [comphwy@chilitech.net](mailto:comphwy@chilitech.net) or phone 570-433-0820, or visit [www.YellowDot.pa.gov](http://www.YellowDot.pa.gov).

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING  
DAY OF SERVICE \***

**D**r. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service will be held on Monday, January 17, beginning at 9:45 a.m. at Firetree Place, 600 Campbell Street, Williamsport. Sponsored once again by the Beloved Community Council, there is a January ingathering of canned goods and non perishable food items (including kid-friendly snacks), personal care items and paper products. They can be taken to the Firetree Center on Thursday or Friday, January 8 or 9 from Noon to 2 p.m. During the "Day of Service" join in organizing and packing these items and meeting representatives from the eleven agencies receiving these donations. They are: American Rescue Workers, Salvation Army, center City Food Pantry, West House, West End Christian Community Center, Saving Grace Shelter, Sojourner Truth Ministry, AIDS Resource, Transitional Living Center, Shep-

herd of the Streets and Freedom House for Women.

**MASS CHOIR EVENT IN MAY\***

The Music Ministry of Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church invites you to be part of a Festival Choir on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Responsibilities include:

- Purchasing your copies of the music for the concert.
- Attending Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon rehearsals and the dress rehearsal on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. with a luncheon following.
- Learning your part prior to the large rehearsals, or coming to Faxon Kenmar's choir rehearsals on Thursdays at 7 p.m. for additional rehearsal time.

To register and obtain more information via a February mailing send the following information by 1/31/15 to:

David Koskey, Director of Music Ministry  
Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church  
1301 Clayton Avenue  
Williamsport PA 17701

Name .....

Address .....

Home Phone .....

Cell Phone .....

Email Address .....

Vocal Part - Soprano 1 Soprano 2 Alto 1 Alto 2  
Tenor 1 Tenor 2 Base 1 Base 2

Do you sing in a church choir Yes No (not required)

Name of Church .....  
If you have questions contact the church at 579-323-7272 or David Koskey H-570-322-8562 or Cell-570-220-2621.

This concert will be the concluding concert in this years NEW Church Concert Series of six Free Sunday afternoon concerts at 2 p.m. that have been held this year at Faxon Kenmar. The next concerts in the series are:

- March 29: Mansfield University Concert Choir
- April 26: Dan Umholtz, Organist
- May 17: Faxon Festival Choir

*United Churches  
is your church  
e - x - t - e - n - d - e - d  
in ministry!*

## 2015 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 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 - (M) Muslim, (J) Judaism (I) Interfaith (N) National

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1 - New Year's Day --	1 - Great Lent (Triodion) Begins OC	5 - Purim J
6 - Epiphany/Theophony C	1 - Souper Bowl Sunday E	6 - World Day of Prayer (CWU) E
11 - Baptism of Jesus C	1 - Four Chaplains Sunday C+J	17 - St. Patrick's Day C
17-19 - Martin Luther King Holiday I	2 - Meeting of Christ in the Temple OC	25 - Annunciation of Virgin Mary RC
17- Day of Service (Lycoming College)	15-21 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week I	29 - Palm Sunday PC & RC
19 - Community M L King Events	15 - Transfiguration C	
18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity E	15 - Pre Lenten Service E	
	17 - Shrove Tuesday PC & RC	
	5 - Ash Wednesday PC & RC	
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
2 - Maundy Thursday PC & RC	1 - May Friendship Day (CWU) E	1 - Lailat al Bara'ah M
3 - Good (Holy) Friday PC & RC	7 - National Day of Prayer I-USA	7 - All Saints Day OC
4 - Lazarus Saturday OC	13 - Lailat al Miraj M	18 - Ramadan M
4-11 - Passover (Pesach) J	14 - Ascension RC	
5 - Easter PC & RC	21 - Ascension OC	
5 - Palm Sunday OC	24-25 Shavuot J	
10 - Holy Friday OC	24 - Pentecost PC & RC	
12 - Pascha (Easter) OC	31 - Trinity Sunday PC & RC	
16 - Yom Ha Sho'ah J	31 - United Churches Sunday E	
	31 - Pentecost OC	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
4 - Independence Day USA	6 - Transfiguration OC	8 - Birth of the Virgin Mary C
18-21- Eid al Fitr - Ramadan Ends M	15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC+OC	14 - Holy Cross Day RC+OC
26 - Tish B'Av J		14-15 - Rosh Hashanah J
		23 - Yom Kippur J
		28-10/4 Sukkot J
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
4 - Saint Francis Day RC	1 - All Saints Day PC+RC	1 - World AIDS Day I
4-7 - Hajj Ends - Eid al Adha M	6 - World Community Day Pgm E	6 - St. Nicholas Day OC
5 - World Communion Sunday E	22 - Christ the King PC+RC	7-14 - Chanukkah J
11 - CROP Walk I	8 - Stewardship Sunday E	8 - Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary RC
14 - Hijra - New Year M	15 - Advent Begins (Winter Lent) OC	20 - Last Sunday of Advent C
	21 - Entry of the Theotokos OC	25 - Christmas C
	26 - Thanksgiving I - USA	31 - Watch Night C
	29 - Advent Begins RC+PC	

**NOTE:** Celebrations of the Jewish & Muslim holydays begin at sundown the preceding day, and end at sundown on the holyday.