



# 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 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 2

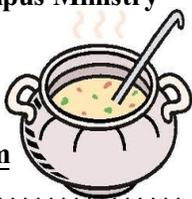
FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Please notify us if you change your e-mail address

*Thank You for receiving our Newsletter via E-Mail.*  
*It is a wonderful donation of postage, office supplies and volunteer time.*  
*Please send it on to others who can make use of the information.*

**S OUP SALE for United Campus Ministry**  
March 15-30  
Pick up or Delivery  
\$6 Per Quart

Order Form



Beef Vegetable ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chicken and Cheese Ravioli ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chicken Corn Chowder ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chicken Noodle ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hot Sausage and Shrimp Gumbo ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Minestrone ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Potato ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sausage and Potato ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spinach Tortellini ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks payable to: United Campus Ministry.**  
**Mail to: 1325 Mansel Avenue, Williamsport PA 17701**

**32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ECUMENICAL  
 PRE-LENTEN SERVICE**  
**7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 2, 2014**  
 at  
 New Covenant United Church of Christ  
 202 East Third Street, Williamsport  
 Corner of Basin and East Third Streets



Speaker:  
 The Rev. Brian VanFossen,  
 Pastor  
 St. Joseph the Worker Parish  
 Williamsport Pennsylvania

**N EWSLETTER MAILINGS:** Can you receive our Newsletter by e-mail? Not only is it cheaper and less labor intensive to use the internet, but it takes at least a week longer to have it delivered by the post office. To change, contact Gwen at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org).



### March 12&13 / 30-HOUR FUNDRAISING EVENT

**T**he First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania is excited to announce Raise the Region 2014, an event to help the community support local nonprofit organizations fund raising efforts. FCFP, in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, will be launching a 30-hour fundraising event on March 12 & 13, 2014. Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships has donated \$125,000 that will be used to stretch every donation made to preregistered nonprofits. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded throughout the entire event.

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 We are thrilled that the First Community Foundation Partnership is once again producing 'Raise the Region'.

Mark your calendars! Go to [www.raisetheregion.com](http://www.raisetheregion.com) and have your credit card ready to make a 100% tax deductible online donation.

And don't forget one of your favorite nonprofits....  
**United Churches of Lycoming County!!**

### WEDNESDAY NOON ECUMENICAL LUNCHES\*

**J**oin us Wednesdays for lunch and a program. The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. You're assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. Parking is free in the lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary. Call United Churches, 570-322-1110 if you're not a regular attender to help our caterer, Heidi Potter, know how to prepare. Both laity and clergy are welcome! (Call Gwen, 570-419-1464 to check for weather cancellation.)



### FEBRUARY:

- 12- **Mr. Robert Bernstine**, Presidential Hobbieist, "*Happy 205<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mr. Lincoln*"
- 19- **Mrs. Candy Watkins** and **Mrs. Carol Waltz**, Area Musicians, "*Love ?*"
- 26- **Mrs. Carol Sides**, President, Lycoming/Clinton County NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) "*Education, Advocacy & Support for Individuals, Family Mem-*

*bers, Providers & the General Public*"

### MARCH

- 5- **Pastor Ann Runnels**, Nisbet United Methodist Church, "*Why Celebrate Ash Wednesday*"
- 12- **Rev. R. Kenneth Weiss**, Caring Outreach, "*Preparing for The Future*"
- 19- **Ms. Barbara Dromazos, RDN,CSR,LDN**, North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinic, "*Eating Tips to Keep You and Your Kidneys Healthy*"
- 26- **Ms. Carolyn Hawk**, Director of Fund-Raising and Community Relations for the Lycoming County United Way, "*Calling 211 - Why?*"

Make plans to join us and bring a friend!



**Tammy Aichner, Coordinator**

Contact at: 570-419-5376 or [ucm@ucl.org](mailto:ucm@ucl.org).

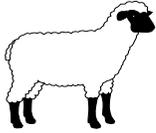
**A**s I sit here watching the Olympics, a statement is repeated with each athlete. "*They have trained for this moment their whole life.*" Spending time with the students, I think that statement holds true for our faith walk, as well. We continue "training" for our ultimate goal. And, like the athletes, sometimes we stumble. "If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand." Psalm 37:23-24. How blessed we are to have Jesus Christ as our "coach" and what a "playbook" God has provided for us.

In February, we participated in a Spring Involvement Fair on campus. We made a Bible trivia game and students were able to find out more about United Campus Ministry. We gave away Amplified Bibles, books on Heaven and Books of the Bible bookmarks. We are always looking for ways to reach students.

Thank you to our February pastors: Captain Debbie Engel (Salvation Army), Pastor David Smith (Montoursville Presbyterian Church), Pastor Bob Home (First Christian Church of Montoursville) and Pastor Jim Pentz (New Covenant Assembly of God).

On the front page of this newsletter is our annual soup sale order form. Soups will be frozen and available for pick up from March 15-30. I will contact you when I receive your order form to make arrangements. Share the order form with others that would like to support this fundraiser and campus ministry.

*Thank you for your continued prayers and support!*



## SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\*

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

### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Recently I was asked if the Affordable Care Act has influenced the Shepherd of the Streets in any way. To answer this question, it is necessary to give some history. Last year, the state welfare system got ready for the mandate by changing their way of handling Pennsylvania medical access (MA) payments. The state was divided into zones and cards were distributed for one of three insurance carriers to MA people in each zone. Note that not all ACCESS card holders have medical and/or prescription coverage.

These insurance companies (I do not know how many cover the state) were selected by the state and each zone got three insurance cards to divide among their MA population, evidently without sufficient research, because it became immediately evident that one of the cards given to Lycoming Co. residents did not cover medical or prescription with certain major hospitals in our area. This one had to be recalled and another company issued. This took awhile for government bureaucracy to handle this chore so Shepherd of the Streets Ministry (SOS) had to help many purchase their meds and, of course, at full price.

The other aspect to this is that not all the three cards cover the same meds and some people got a card that did not cover the medication that they were already on for an on-going health issue. The patient did not know this until the first time he tried to get his usual meds with the new card. So until this got straightened out, SOS had to pay for those scripts at full price. In addition, any client that has not needed MA during this time, discovers this the first time they do need it. It still raises its head now and again forcing us to pay full-price.

These glitches took a toll on the prescription fund of Shepherd of the Streets. The roll-out has not affected SOS because the aforementioned is the way the Affordable Care Act handles all on Medicaid or Medicare. Medicare supplemental coverage and RX plans are backed by independent insurance companies.



**Volunteers needed:** We now have openings during the week for volunteers to receive clients. If you are retired or work part-time, this may be just right for you to help the ministry of Shepherd of the Streets. Phone Toni at 570-323-6538, M-Th., 9a-12 to make an appointment to discover what it means to be a volunteer and what SOS actually does.

**Needs continue:** Family hygiene items continue to be a great need, as well as baby care hygiene, diapers (all sizes), and bedding (especially sheets, all sizes).

**Finances:** Shepherd of the Streets ministry is financed by individual contributions, church budgets, and a few personal foundations. Our cost in serving others rises with the costs of all that we give. This year, donations were less than usual. We ask you to give to this vital outreach of the United Churches of Lycoming County. Please send donations to Shepherd of the Streets, 669 Center St., Williamsport, PA 17701.

**Pray for us!** Your prayers are our greatest support.

### WORSHIP LEADERS FOR 2014\*

We still need some *help*. The worship service schedule for 2014 was complete (all slots full) but some dates didn't work for people, so we now have these vacancies. March and April are just around the corner so please check your calendar today and let Patty or Gwen know if you can help! *Thanks*.



**Sundays:**

- Valley View: 2 pm - April 20 (Easter)
- Rose View Center: 2 pm - March 30, August 31
- The Meadows: 3 pm - March 16

**Wednesdays:**

- Sycamore Home: 10:30 am - March 19, May 14, July 9, October 8

Please contact us at [uclc@sunlink.net](mailto:uclc@sunlink.net) or 570-322-1110.

United Churches  
is your church

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in Mission and Ministry

**Shepherd of the Streets Celebrates 25 years  
Be A Part Of this Vital Service!  
Donate \$25 to the Shepherd of the Streets.**

**W**e are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Shepherd of the Streets Ministry. This program has touched more than 75,000 lives during its existence and continues every day to...

- assist people who need hope and peace in the midst of poverty and need.
- advocate with local agencies and health services

The current Shepherd, Dr. Morris Smith defines poverty as the "absence of hope."

Imagine finding oneself, an out of work single parent, with the gas, electric and water bills due, a sick child in need of critical, life maintaining medication, the rent is three months behind and the refrigerator is broken. Each day brings a new set of challenges and demands; just breathing seems to be a struggle, which bills should be paid, where the next meal is coming from. As one can imagine, life feels empty, overwhelming and hopeless. The need is so great and resources are so limited.

Any one or a combination of these human conditions needs a community response. In 1988, the United Churches of Lycoming County organized a single humanitarian effort in the form of an organized ministry to "assist the needy in our midst." Twenty-five years later the Shepherd of the Streets continues to provide spiritual, financial and material aid to the disfranchised, the disabled, the sick, the marginalized and the rejected.

This simple and timeless philosophy of neighbors helping neighbors in time of need is orchestrated through the collective generosity of area churches, private foundations and caring individuals. The Shepherd of the Streets program seeks to enable and recharge those in our community who are crushed by economic disparity, social disadvantage, frightened and challenged.

The Shepherd of the Streets provides aid and assistance through:

- Guidance and Counseling
- Prescription Assistance
- Documentation
- Bedding
- Baby Diapers and Supplies
- Utility Help
- Dental, Audio and Visual Assistance
- Work Preparedness
- Transportation Assistance
- Hygiene Items

In addition the Shepherd of the Streets accepts financial support for four main areas.



- **Prescription Fund:** to assist the uninsured and under-insured with the costs of medications, glasses and transportation to medical appointments.
- **Utility Fund:** provided by grants from the Plankenhorn Foundation, this fund assists with the costs of oil, gas, electric and water.
- **Oral Surgery Fund:** for those who have been triaged by the Susquehanna Health Dental Clinic.
- **Discretionary Fund:** for those who need resources for getting into the job market, with documentation, travel for emergency family needs.

Since 2001, Dr. Smith has served as the Shepherd of the Streets in Lycoming County. He and his team of volunteers embody the biblical guidance of Matthew 25: 35-36, 40 *"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me.... Inasmuch as you did for the least of these, you did it to me."*

**We all need to be a part of the Shepherd of the Street efforts. Please open your hearts and generously support The Shepherd Of The Streets. Join in the effort to celebrate and keep the efforts going by encouraging the families of Lycoming County to contribute \$25.00 to the Shepherd of the Street Program by March 31, 2014.**

Send your donation to United Churches of Lycoming County, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA, 17701. Please note in the memo that it is for the Shepherd of the Streets. You can also make your donation online at [www.uclc.org](http://www.uclc.org). For questions call 570-322-1110.

### **GOT CHURCH NEWS ?**

**L**ooking for more ways to promote your church events? Email information to [News@uclc.org](mailto:News@uclc.org) for possible inclusion in United Churches' ongoing event promotion. Include What / Where / When / web site / Facebook / Who For / Cost & details. Our broadcasting department will develop them for use in producing one minute weekly Public Service Announcements (PSA) for area radio stations, postings on Facebook, Twitter, Connect Williamsport, etc. Kathy and Lou Kolb who chair that department hope this effort will result in some more people attending area church events. Regardless, it would show the public that there are active churches inviting them to events.

**FOOD PANTRY \***

Gail Burkhardt, Coordinator 570-322-1657

E-mail - [foodpantry@uclc.org](mailto:foodpantry@uclc.org)



February is heart month and from our heart to yours, all of us at the Food Pantry thank you for your support as we continue to grow. Each thing that you do to contribute to the 'health and well being' of our ministry is so greatly appreciated.

When we found ourselves literally on the streets after suddenly being evicted from our 'home' at the Campbell Street Center, it was a pretty bleak picture as we vainly looked for a place where we could continue to serve existing clients and maybe even entertain the thought of adding new, in need, folks to our client base.

Little did we know! St. Joseph the Worker parish stepped up and offered us a wonderful space at the Castellano Center. The central location is just right for our folks, easy access to the bus route, plenty of space for food storage and for clients to select food and take it out of the building with their grocery carts. All of this is the perfect set-up for all the new clients that have come to us.

In the month of January, in 7 working days for the Pantry, we served more than 400 people. That's almost 60 people a day. In our other homes we didn't have a population nearly at that level. Of course, you have to take into account that the need is greater now than at any time in our past history. But now we can accommodate these numbers of people because of the generosity of our landlord and the support of the congregations that make up the United Churches. With your help, we'll continue to help those in need in our community, from our hearts to theirs, through yours. There are items that we need to put on our shelves:

- Pasta (in all shapes) Pasta Sauce**
- Cereal and Pop Tarts Canned Fruits**
- Chunky Soups Tuna Fish**
- Popcorn Canned Vegetables**
- Baking Items (Cake Mixes, Bisquick, Cornbread Mix, Frostings)**

Don't forget that our Pantry is now at 320 Park Avenue. The hours are Mondays 9:30 - Noon for donations and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-3 for clients food services.

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Church Women United's May Friendship Day** will be Friday, May 2 beginning with a Noon luncheon. The service follows at 1:15 p.m. at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine Street, Williamsport.

**CROP Walk 2013**

**T**otal Raised: \$11,461.99  
34 Congregations and Groups Participated.



Congregations or Groups raising the most Funds:

- ① St Luke Lutheran, Williamsport - \$1,483.
- ② Trinity Episcopal, Williamsport - \$1,228.13
- ③ First United Methodist Williamsport - \$890.

Special Recognition To:

- The Jewish Community raised \$891.  
(Ohev Sholom Synagogue & Temple Beth Ha Shalom)
- St Mark's Lutheran, Williamsport - best year ever - \$637.
- St Michael's Lutheran, Quiggleville - \$469.
- Montoursville Presbyterian - \$459.
- Christ United Methodist Church, Hughesville - \$470.
- Loyalsock High School Honor Society - \$389.

Mark the date for this year - Sunday, October 12, 2014



**Church Women United's**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Friday, March 7, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.

Shiloh Baptist Church

433 Walnut Street, Williamsport

**T**his World day of Prayer Celebration has been planned by women from Egypt. They invite us into a time of worship with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert." With these words as backdrop, we are invited to learn about Egypt's history and rich cultural diversity. A young Egyptian woman shares her experiences in Tahrir Square – where she has found hope in dry places. Exploring the Samaritan woman's conversation with Jesus at the well will echo the cooperation between young people of different faiths during the Arab Spring, and prompt us to consider where we might have an unexpected, inspiring conversation. This gathering offers opportunities for dialogue and reflection about the borders that we, like Jesus and the Samaritan woman, have to cross to get to streams of living water.

The collections for the day are walker bags and lap robes which are used in area nursing homes. Also your Fair Share Contributions are being collected, and go to the local Church Women United of Lycoming County budget. A fellowship time will follow the service.

Shiloh Baptist Church is not handicapped accessible. Parking is available at the side and rear of the church.

**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 include:

2/10-16 Dr. Margaret Balliet 2/17-23 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner

2/24-3/2 Rev. Gwen Bernstine 3/3-9 Pastors Jim and Kathy Behrens

3/10-16 Mrs. Sandy Grier 3/17-23 Mrs. Patty Gohrs

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

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

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**L**ooking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Mark 10:21) On Valentine's Day many seek ways to express love for those who are special in their lives. The "rich man" in Mark's Gospel was a good man. Jesus encouraged him to go further by showing greater love for those who were poor. How are we responding to Jesus' invitation?

**Words of another Rich Man:** "The easiest way to respond to the myth that poor countries are doomed to stay poor is to point to one fact: They haven't stayed poor. Many – though by no means all – of the countries we used to call poor now have thriving economies. And the percentage of very poor people has dropped by more than half since 1990. That still leaves more than 1 billion people in extreme poverty, so it's not time to celebrate. But it is fair to say that the world has changed so much that the terms 'developing countries' and 'developed countries' have outlived their usefulness." -Bill Gates, in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's annual letter

**Lycoming County Unemployment Rate for November 2013:** The preliminary unemployment rate for the county for November 2013 was 7.0 %. This was unchanged from the previous month. This percentage translated into 4,814 individuals who were unemployed.

**8th Annual Soup and Bowl Event – February 21:** The Central PA Food Bank of Williamsport is hosting its annual fundraiser – "Soup and Bowl" on February 21 from 11 am to 2 pm. A simple meal of soup and bread paired with an empty take-home pottery bowl serve as a reminder of the historical food offering at "soup kitchens" and the numerous unfilled bowls of people facing

food insecurity today. Guest can enjoy four varieties of soup, bread, and dessert and select a handcrafted pottery bowl to take home from the event. For more information or to make a reservation contact Pam Hicks at 570.321.8023 or phicks@centralpafoodbank.org . (The United Churches Food Pantry receives much of its food from the Central PA Food Bank.)

**US Department of Agriculture: Signs of "Food Insecurity":** In 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture studied the following characteristics as signs of food insecurity: worried food would run out; food bought did not last; could not afford balanced meal; cut size of meal or skipped meal; cut or skipped meal in 3+ months; ate less than felt should; hungry but did not eat; did not eat whole day.

**Pope Francis and Poverty:** "I want a Church which is poor and for the poor." - Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)

**CWS BLANKET AND KIT COLLECTION**

**K**eeP making your **School Kits, Health Kits and Emergency Clean Up Bucket Kits** to replenish the warehouse in New Windsor Maryland for Church World Service. Our local collection will take place in a new way this year. You can bring your kits to our United Churches office during May. If possible please have them already boxed with all of the same kits in each box. With the disasters stretching our resources these blankets and kits are desperately needed. We also will be collecting blankets and your \$5 donations for blankets. Remember that a blanket is the most basic component of every disaster response. For more information contact our office.

**Classified Ad**

**C**hristian Entertainers for your Congregation, to lend a hand at your festival or bring happiness through the gift of music at a dinner event? Steve Hunter and his family attend South Williamsport United Methodist Church and entertaining throughout Pennsylvania. They want to expand to local churches within their base area. "It is sometimes hard to find talent to come into your church that appeals to all ages, and shares the love of Christ while making everybody smile and enjoy the music that they fondly remember." Steve is also available for functions with his professional DJ services as well as the largest catalog of karaoke music anywhere in the area. Steve is also the author of *Training Heroes*. He is an 8th degree black belt and the teacher of the now famous US Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell. Steve is available for speeches on personal safety, demonstrations as well as hands-on seminars. Steve Hunter can be reached at 570-651-9688 for further details and scheduling.

**CREATION CORNER**

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

The Ten Commandments: an environmental perspective

**E**xodus 20:1-17 (The Ten Commandments) reflected upon as nature is about to be reborn as Spring approaches. What can we do for God's Creation, the Earth?

1. Put God first, not the idol of your comfort, or economic materialism.
2. Do not worship nature.
3. Nature cannot be laid waste in God's name.
4. Honor the Earth. Seek to understand her, and work with her ways.
5. Avoid killing and poisoning the ecological system and its members.
6. Have a respectful regard for Creation; keep ourselves and the Earth good and pure.
7. Do not steal or make selfish use of forbidden fruit. If you do, the evolutionary balance God created will be upset, and nature will moan. We steal away the possibility of an inheritable earth, an inhabitable future, when we acidify the rain, deplete the protective ozone layer, add to global warming, lose species diversity, and cause deforestation.
8. Seeing the earth as our neighbor, we should speak well of her, defend her, explain her actions in the kindest way, overlook her weaknesses and mistakes, and speak only good of her. She is not to be betrayed or slandered or lied about. Nature is not to be challenged, exploited, or defeated.
- 9-10. When we do not covet anything of our neighbor's, we will not burn trash only to have our neighbor's space suffer its pollutants and wastes. We will not think we are wisely using earth's resources when we are actually leaving Creation poorer.

"The Earth is the Lord's": Thou shall not despoil it nor destroy the life thereon. That is a bold command. To set our attitudes and actions straight we should add: To preserve is worthy; to restore, divine.

The above was a Lenten meditation (March 16, 1994) by Lutheran layman Michael Ochs when he chaired the environmental task force of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lewisburg, PA. <http://www.uss-elca.org/>.

**A** listing of Ecumenical Good Friday Services will be included in the March United Churches Newsletter. Please get information in to our office by March 4 at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) or by calling 570-322-1110.

**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY - (YPM)**



*Rev. Danesta Whaley - 570-326-6868*

North Central Regional Director

It Is More Blessed to Give than to Receive! -Act. 20:35

**I**sn't that such a true statement? There is something about GIVING that gives us a sense of servant hood. Jesus Himself did not come to be served but to serve others – and HE certainly accomplished that mission!

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry is privileged and on a mission to serve the men and women who are incarcerated in the various institutions. Each week as the Gospel is presented in various ways, we are able to witness for some a true transformation as they are on the journey to serving the Lord. In the last newsletter one of our committed volunteers shared how his own life had been transformed and now the Lord is using him inside the prison walls to bring a ray of hope to others. He finds it so rewarding as he continues to give of himself, pouring out to others.

In helping us with our mission, Yokefellowship's annual rose fundraiser will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13. The dozen multi-colored roses wrapped in cellophane and tied with a ribbon are still for sale and can be purchased for only \$25.00 for your family or friends. The roses can be ordered by calling our office number above and placing your order. Roses can be picked up on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 1-4PM with payment due at that time. Our office is located at 1200 Almond Street and parking in the rear lot. We are so blessed by all who have supported us in the past and thank you for those who already have their orders in.

This year we wanted to expand our giving and be able to bless women at the YWCA (Liberty House & Wise Options). For those of you who support us with your donation but do not necessarily want the roses, we will be giving them to some of these women and bring God's Love and Joy to them. Simply just let us know and we will be certain to deliver the roses that day to the women housed there. We are already on our way with donations and are expecting to give each woman at least 3-4 roses each (depending on the number of women and the roses we have). So we are blessed and they are blessed as well.

Thank you again for helping us to share the Love of Christ. May you continue to be enriched as you bless others by your giving – HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR AREA

**WOMEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST:** On March 8, 2014 at 8:30 AM, New Covenant United Church of Christ will once again be hosting a Women's Lenten Breakfast. You all are invited to share in a time of community building and good food, reflecting and opening ourselves up to God as we begin our journey through Lent. There is no charge. Consider inviting a friend or two, then, please call New Covenant's office at 570-326-3308 to make your reservation. An RSVP is preferred to reserve seating for this event. It is our hope to gather women from as many different churches as we can to join in this event to help build community unity.

**BASIC HEBREW READING:** Ohev Sholom Synagogue is pleased to announce two new classes being given by Rabbi Joel Kessler. Rabbi Kessler will be first teaching Basic Hebrew Reading using the program made famous by the National Jewish Outreach Program. Afterwards a Jewish Laws and Customs course will be given with the first series of classes being on the Jewish calendar and the holidays. The classes will be held at the synagogue, 1501 Cherry Street in Williamsport and began on Sunday, January 26 at 10:00 A.M. and on subsequent Sundays thereafter. In addition, the class will be repeated on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. for those who cannot make it on Sunday. All including those not of the Jewish faith are welcome to attend the classes. For more information, you may contact Ohev Sholom Synagogue at 570-322-4209.

**PEEL AND EAT SHRIMP BOIL:** The Back Bay Mission of the Biloxi, MS Gulf Coast Brings to You a "Peel & Eat" Shrimp Boil on Friday, March 14, 2014 from 5-7 pm at New Covent United Church of Christ, 202 East Third, Williamsport. The menu will include; Shrimp with Special Back Bay Mission Sauce, Macaroni Salad & Cole Slaw, Warm Garlic Italian Bread, and desserts. Tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$7 for Children 12 & under. For tickets call New Covenant UCC at 570-326-3308.

Proceeds will be used to fund this summer's mission trip to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. The Shrimp Boil is a joint project of the Mission Teams of New Covenant UCC and the First Church of Christ - Disciples.

**Iron Chef Williamsport to benefit Family Promise of Lycoming County:** The sixth Annual Iron Chef Competition will be held Sunday, March 23 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport. Those who attend will be served a delicious dinner while the competition is taking place. Once the meal has been served, the cooking challenge begins. The title Defenders, a team from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, will be challenged by a team from Faith United Methodist Church, Montoursville. In order for all those present to view the event, the contest will be projected onto a large screen on stage. The tickets cost \$30 per person. To make a reservation call 570-323-4619.

**Cancer Survivors Network: An Online Community of Cancer Survivors and Caregivers.** The Cancer Survivors Network [www.cnc.cancer.org](http://www.cnc.cancer.org) is a free online community created by and for people with cancer and their families. This online community is a welcoming safe place for people to find hope and inspiration from others who have "been there." Services include discussion boards, chat rooms and personal Web space to tell your story, blog, post images, exchange private messages with members, and much more.

There are also **Interactive Online Classes** that provide a quick and convenient way for patients and caregivers to get the answers they need when they need them. Classes are self-paced and topics include pain, fatigue, nutrition, communication, intimacy, side effects and more.

To get connected with other information, contact our local Williamsport American Cancer Society Office, 1948 East Third Street (behind Mr. Sticky) or call them at 1-800-227-2345.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD OF SAMARITAN PURSE

**Thank You** for your participation this year in our Shoebox project, said Amy Seyler, Church Relations Coordinator for our region for Samaritan Purse. 2013 was a great year! The final total for the Mid-Atlantic Region which includes the Eastern Coast states like Pennsylvania was 952,550 shoeboxes, a 19% increase over 2012.

The grand total for all the US collections is 7,541,468 and worldwide 9,950,000. The Mid-Atlantic Region is looking forward to working and praying towards 1.1 million in 2014.

United Churches of Lycoming County's

Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, September 26, 2014

White Deer Golf Course – Challenge Course

Registration and Refreshments Begin at 8:15 a.m.

Shot Gun Start – 8:45 a.m. Format: Scramble

Lunch to follow



Golfers:

Entry Fee is \$80 per golfer. No team required. Individuals will be matched to a partial team. Checks should be made payable to United Churches of Lycoming County and mailed to Ken Weiss at 161 West Hills Drive, Williamsport, 17701. Contact Ken at 570-321-9555 or kweiss1213@hotmail.com.



Tournament Sponsors:

Our tournament has turned into one of the largest tournaments in the area! You will be happy to know most sponsors are happily coming back year after year.

We have many opportunities to help sponsor the tournament this year including being a tournament sponsor (\$500), beverage cart sponsor (\$400), meal sponsor (\$300), hole signage sponsor (\$100) or a church sponsor (\$50).

Every golfer receives a door prize, so your donation of gift certificates valued between \$10 and \$50 and other items that golfers might enjoy are appreciated.

Raffle:

We have a wonderful raffle this year with many prizes being added almost every week. A donation of \$5 (or 5 tickets for \$20) is all you need to have a chance to win. Board and committee members of United Churches are selling tickets, and they are also available at the United Churches office.



*Conversations based on the book.....*

# *The Secrets of Happy Families*

*by Bruce Feiler*

**Three-Session Workshop Series:  
Focusing on ways to connect, communicate and play more with your family.**

**Tuesdays: March 25, April 1, April 8**

**6 - 8 P.M.**



**Provided: (at no cost)**  
**Dinner**  
**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**  
**Rick Maribito's Office**  
**United Churches of Lycoming County**

**Register with Patty or Gwen at the United Churches office  
at 570-322-1110 or [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org)**