



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
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*Thank You for receiving
our newsletter via email.
It's a wonderful donation
of postage, office supplies
and volunteer time!*

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

World Day of Prayer Celebration will be held Friday, March 3rd at 1:30 pm. at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport.



In the theme scripture, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Mt. 20:1-16), Jesus talked about the kingdom of heaven and sees no wrongdoing in giving equally, but the workers who felt entitled to receive more, strongly complained. This dialogue is turned into a question and theme, "Am I Being Unfair to You?"

The women of the Philippines have stories to share of generations of wisdom, traditions and experiences that show God's profound love and acceptance. Hearing their stories of hardship and struggles will give us a new awareness and realization of just how much economic inequality there is in the world. We will learn about a cultural practice called dagyaw, which is a common way of laboring on neighbors farms and sharing the harvest among all as a way of building and sustaining a community.

True to the World Day of Prayer motto "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action" we will be thinking about actions to take to further expand God's Kingdom.

Refreshments will be served following the celebration. Walker, catheter bags and lap robes will be collected for county nursing homes. Walker bags are most needed. Instructions can be obtained from Pat Wittig 570-322-4330.

Your contribution is your Fair Share of our Local Church Women United of Lycoming County Budget. Contributions from individuals as well as from Women Organizations are very much appreciated.

There is plenty of parking in the parking lot (entrance on Church Street) and on-street parking. The Church is handicapped accessible via the ramp door.

Reminder: Mark your calendar for Friday, May 5, for the May Friendship Day Luncheon Celebration at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Williamsport.

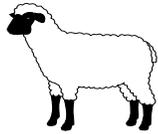


Follow us and others at "United Churches of Lycoming County"
& "Walking With God in Lycoming County"

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

.....a MERCY ministry.....

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

**HUMAN LIFE**

Life is the thing of God (Lk. 2:15) and is the being of BEing, for just as there is no origin of God, there is no origin of man. Life is the IS of God, without beginning or end, eternally providing origin to what it causes, giving objective ability to generate kind, rank, and order.

Biotic existence was spoken into being by the Voice of God sounding the Word of God with the reality, within and without, so that the selection of any biological form is confined to the morphology of its species producing the flesh of animal, fish, bird, and plants, even the myriad of insects.

The reason for the creation of the cosmos with constellation upon constellation revealed to be that God would give His own life for the being made in His image and likeness and so arrange participation in the divine design with the capacity to procreate beings of like complexity (Gen. 1-2, Eph. 1:3-9).

Molded and crafted by God, the man of God was brought to life by the Breath of God, unlike the vast array of living things brought into existence by dynamic Word that inculcated each with a nature of its own; the man of God came from God's Trinitarian workmanship, perfect to its model, eternal, immortal with the vocation of dominion, to reign with God in impeccable and peerless excellence.

Taking from the man those attributes best for a suited partnership, and so included the fullness of humanity in a oneness of male and female to bring order and purpose to generated life that can be traced to God's gifting.

The oneness of man and woman is necessary to participate in this crowing act of God, the intent of God to allow generating of human life, such God-ness, or as God Himself put it such AMness, the actuality of God, the core of Being, the motive of BEING, appellated I AM WHO AM by the Voice of God.

Thus, the human life is unique, matchless in all creation, unrivaled in mental, social, psychological, and physical faculties, unsurpassed in potential. When any of these human life principles are neglected or left under-developed, the human drifts from what they ought to be and become ignorant of potential, will-power, capacity to think, to love, to hope. So is the potential of amness injured and often falls into disrepute, producing poverty, false self-reliance, vulgarity, and sin. Life so diminished brings the many hardships of poverty, and low self-esteem.

At Shepherd of the Streets, we are given the opportunity to speak into such lives and drop the seeds of life and living to hearts that have been battered with inferiority and by poverty.

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.

FEBRUARY

- 15- **Dr. Rodwan Rajjaub**, Local Neurosurgeon, *"Helping Syrian Refugees in Refugee Camps World Wide through the Syrian American Medical Society"* This week's luncheon is being held at New Covenant UCC.
- 22- **The Revs. John Manno & Gwen Bernstine**, Hope and Healing Committee, Project Bald Eagle, *"Prevention Through Faith Intervention Sunday School Lesson Series"*

MARCH**LENTEN SERIES:
GOD'S PRESENCE IN YOU**

- 1 - *"Lord, Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace"*, Ashes/Communion will also be offered at this time.
- 8 - *"Where There is Hatred, Let Me Sow Love, Where Injury, Pardon"*
- 15- *"Where There is Doubt, Faith; Where There is Despair, Hope"*
- 22- *"Where There Is Sadness, Joy; Where There is Darkness, Light"*
- 29- *"Grant That I May Not Seek to be Consoled, as to Console"*

**APRIL:**

- 5 - *"To be Understood as to Understand, to be Loved as to Love"*
- 12- *"For It is In Giving That We Receive & In Dying that We are Born"*

Join us! Bring a friend! Make new friends!

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY *

Mona Rudio, Coordinator

foodpantry@uclc.org or 570-322-1657



Thank the Lord for such a fabulous February, as of so far. The Super Bowl collections from so many of you has been such a glorious and generous contribution to our pantry. It demonstrates how we as true Christians who listen, follow and obey His words. "It is blessed to give than to receive". - Acts 20: 35

Now that the giving is started let us keep it going forward to stock our shelves fully. We have been getting many new clients in the pantry since December and it is continuing. This could be due to many different reasons but we are not to figure that out, just to give what we can so they can survive.

The Pantry is to give each person a 3 day supply of food/drink per each month. Each family/person has a folder and their visits are recorded so to reschedule accordingly to the 30 day period. Our clients are so very grateful and do not take advantage of our facility, praise the Lord!

We are still in need of the following items:

- Canned Meats (Spam, Tuna, Chicken),**
- Mashed Potatoes** **Pasta/Rice Mixes**
- Mac and Cheese** **Spaghetti Sauce**
- Canned Tomatoes** **Cereal** **Oatmeal**
- Hamburger Helper** **Flour** **Sugar**
- Baby Formula** **Ramen Noodles**
- Drink Mixes** **Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate,**
- Condiments (Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo)**

Interested in volunteering or just wanting to view and understand the pantry feel free to give a call or stop on by on a Monday. We're still looking for a few volunteers on Mondays and Thursdays. The time frames differ each of those days but we work with you on your availability.

We are located in the rear of 320 Park Ave and our hours of operation are:

- Monday: 9-12 donations/stocking shelves
- Tues and Thursday: 10:15-2:30 clients
- Wednesday: receive Food Bank Order time varies

♥♥♥♥♥ Happy valentines day! God bless! ♥♥♥♥♥

POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

The Lord God keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free (Psalm 146:6-7). The Lord does amazing things; however, we are necessary participants in keeping faith forever. We need to give food to the hungry and advocate to change society so that hunger and poverty

are eliminated.

Food insecurity in the U.S. declined – In 2015, 12.7 percent of households in the U.S. – 42.2 million people – were food-insecure. Food insecurity means they were without reliable access to nutritious food on a regular basis. These figures are actually lower than from the years beginning with 2008 that marked the recent recession. However, the most recent figures are far from the Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating hunger by 2030.

<p>Poverty statistics in the U.S. from the U.S. Census Bureau for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43.1 million people (13.5%) were in poverty. • 24.4 million (12.4%) people ages 18-64 were in poverty. • 14.5 million (19.7%) children under 18 were in poverty. • 4.2 million (8.8 %) seniors 65 and older were in poverty.

Health care is a hunger issue:

- Poor health is a leading cause of hunger.
- Since the passage of ACA, 30 million people are newly insured.
- 82% of those who would lose coverage are in working families and 55% are low-income.
- 31 states have expanded Medicaid to millions of low-income individuals

Hunger and poverty are domestic and global issues: Economic development is necessary both in our country and throughout the world. Jesus came to save all. After his death his disciples came to realize this. Paul preached an inclusive mission. We too are challenged to think beyond nationalistic rhetoric when considering economic development. Our primary concern needs to be centered on eradicating hunger and poverty wherever it is experienced. Our political culture stresses a "me-first" attitude. In contrast Jesus gave us a new commandment telling us to love our neighbor as he loved us (John 13:34). Foreign aid and domestic programs that target those living in poverty are both needed.

We can express our faith-inspired convictions by contacting our federal legislators:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Senator Robert Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Telephone: 202-224-6324</p> | <p>Senator Patrick Toomey
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Telephone: 202-224-4254</p> |
|---|--|

- Rep. Tom Marino
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Telephone 202-225-3731



Tammey Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@ucl.org

As I sit down tonight, I think back on our day. Our Campus Ministry group spent the afternoon preparing and serving a meal at Sojourner Truth. I bring this up because we have a few more days to take soup orders. Our fundraiser helps with our outreach: Sojourner Truth, Meal In A Bag, Mission Trips, etc. If you haven't thought about ordering a quart, please know that your \$7 will affect a lot of people, those that serve and those that are served. I wonder what group we are in. I start thinking we serve and leave thinking we are the served ones.

On the 19th at 2 pm we will have our 3rd Universal Day of Prayer at 3:16 Church. Thank you to Pastor Sal and his worship team in advance. All are welcome to come and pray for students of all ages and in all places. 3:16 Church and Redeemer Lutheran share the facility at the corner of Sheridan Street and Washington Boulevard.

We still have a few openings for pastors to lead a Bible Study this Spring Semester. If you are interested, please contact me at ucm@ucl.org.

CLASSIFIEDS:

Youth Ministry Coordinator Needed: Pine Street UMC is seeking a part time Youth Ministry Coordinator. The Youth Coordinator, along with a team of adult volunteers who value the spiritual development of our youth, will provide vision, integrity, leadership and oversight of ministries for youth grades 6-12. Working collaboratively with the education committee, this person will design, grow and shepherd a ministry of faith to our youth and young adults. Part time: 15 hours per week. Submit resume to: Pine Street UMC, Attn: Mark Porter, 441 Pine Street, Williamsport PA 17701; or contact the church office at 570-323-4604 or by e-mail streetpine@hotmail.com for an application and additional information.

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 winter include:

2/13-19 - Pastor Clarence Thompson 2/20-26 - Mrs. Dorothy Wagner
2/27-3/5 - Rev. Nessie Whaley 3/6-12 - Pastors Jim and Kathy Behrens
3/13-19 - Mr. Zavon Braggs 3/20-26 - Mrs. Patty Gohrs

Listen Today and tell others about this Ministry!

Mark these 2017 Dates on Your Calendar:

May Friendship Day Luncheon/Meeting

Friday, May 5 at 11:30 a.m.,
Pine Street United Methodist Church

United Churches Seventh Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, September 22, at White Deer at 8:45 a.m.

CROP Walk - Sunday, October 8, 1:30 p.m.

MINISTRY NEEDS:

Shepherd of the Street needs hygiene items, bedding, and baby needs. The list of hygiene items are regular sizes of:

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

Contact Nancy at 570-322-6538.

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

United Churches Food Pantry needs volunteers to help on Mondays and Thursdays. The duties are helping clients select and receive their items, stocking shelves, and helping to maintain a clean and safe environment. The time frames differ each of those days but we work with you on your availability. Contact Mona at 570-322-1657 or foodpantry@ucl.org.

Like to Knit or Crochet? If so, this may be a project for you! Members of the Shirati committee have begun knitting and crocheting comfort dolls, a simple pattern that makes a small doll. These dolls are then taken to various Shirati events that we have, and sold for \$5. All money raised goes directly back to Shirati. The idea is when we have a surplus of dolls that have been made, they can be taken over on the next trip to Shirati and given to the children. The dolls are soft and have no parts on them that could pose a choking hazard.

There is a simple pattern for both knitting and crocheting and any type and colors of yarn can be used. If you are interested in making and donating these dolls, please call or email Allison, for a copy of the patterns. She can be reached at (570) 320-7691 or abrion@susquehannahealth.org.

CREATION CORNER*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*

News You Can Use

Let Justice Flow Like Streams...of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure. (-first verse, Hymn 763 in With One Voice).

Headlines of "Global Warming In Overdrive" prompt concerned readers to respond.

A recent global evangelical God-centered effort committed to care for the climate through regular prayers and action, with an emphasis on glorifying God and loving our neighbors is www.climatecaretakers.org.

An international grass-roots environmental group that trains and supports volunteers to build relationships with elected representatives in order to influence climate policy is the ten-year-old www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Also see www.citizensclimateeducation.org.

Another online action center is the www.momsleanairforce.org, fighting pollution and climate change (it's for dads too!) It is supported by the 50-year-old Environmental Defense Fund.

For whatever part of God's creation you hold dear, and wish to protect and defend, if you cannot be an "activist" there are many opportunities for you to be a "clicktivist" (signing petitions online), and/or being a "checktivist" (sending financial support for that cause).

As Earth Day April 22, 2017 approaches consider the materials your denomination has for caring for creation at its website. Look for the ecological ministries at www.creationjustice.org.

Consider the resources at the Earth Day Network and its 2017 campaign theme of "Environmental and Climate Literacy" (March for science, green schools and cities, endangered species, reforestation, communities of faith for the environment, etc.).

European Christian churches are organized as the European Christian Environmental Network (www.ecen.org).

Following Earth Day is Stewardship Week in late April. The 2017 theme is "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life". Materials are from the National Association for Conservation Districts (www.nacdnet.org).

Be mindful that the annual Arbor Day celebration is the last Friday in April.

From the archives: 1992: The Garden of God: Selections from the Bible's Teaching About the Creation. Glenn Paauw, assisted by Cal DeWitt and John Stek. Interna-

tional Bible Society.

Inspiring Quote: "Hope and optimism are different. Hope has to do not with thinking everything's going to be O.K., but seeing that it's not and then you move anyway". -Anna Deavere Smith, Time magazine, Nov. 7, 2016, p. 64.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley: 570-326-6868

Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellow Center 

"I will instruct you, I will teach you, I will guide you with my eye." -Psalm 32:8

Beloved, it is so good to know that our Faithful Father God is always watching over and caring for us, His children! He continues to keep watch over our lives each day and lead us into the path that He so desires for each of us.

Recently one man from the prison had discussed his journey 'inside' the walls of the prison. We had been discussing the topic of "Guidance" and sharing in the Word of God how the Lord desires to guide us daily. This gentleman knew that although he much rather be 'outside, there were things that the Lord was teaching him while he was in prison and he began to receive instruction. Others began to witness his life and some chose to also begin to attend Bible study. I told them that this journey of life would go much better if we would just receive the Lord's instruction and allow Him to take full control of our lives. We all know that we do a pretty poor job at trying to lead our lives, but with the help of our Lord, the journey can be delightful even amid challenges that we all may experience.

It is very rewarding to be a part of the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry as the Lord affords us the opportunity to be guided week after week as we fellowship with the men and women on the 'inside'. There are testimonies from our volunteers as they share their various experiences of what the Lord is doing each week as they go.

I would encourage you to come and be a part of the ministry in some way. We are tentatively setting a date for our next Yokefellowship Prison Ministry training, for Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9am until 12Noon at our ministry building located at 1200 Almond St., Williamsport. Please use the parking lot in the rear of the house and come through the first windowed door by the mailbox. Please call our office at the above number to reserve a spot today.

May the Lord continue to guide your steps each and every day!

GLIMPSSES OF HOPE -- RECOVERY



New Support Group for Grieving Families and Friends

Losing a loved one due to substance abuse adds another element to the grief process.

That was the experience of a California couple who lost their son through a heroin overdose. As they sought out a support group following this tragedy, they were unable to find a group that helped them deal with their particular circumstances. That was the beginning of what is now a national organization - GRASP – Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing.

A GRASP group has recently formed in our area. Meeting at St. John's-Newberry United Methodist Church, the primary focus is on families being able to share their stories about their loved one. A typical session includes discussion focused on resources or recent articles, sharing stories or pictures of their loved one, and seeking guidance from others in dealing with problems related to their loss. There is also occasionally a guest speaker.

The group is facilitated by Dr. Dave Bower, who taught at Lock Haven University for 33 years. Dr. Bower's area of research was in grief and bereavement, and he taught a death and dying course at LHU as well as drug education. He is also a consultant with West Branch Drug and Alcohol and serves on the Community Education Committee of Project Bald Eagle.

"We have found that grieving families need a place to go that is specific to addiction. Because of the stigma often related to substance abuse, there is a cloud over the family, feelings of guilt and other issues that need addressed," said Dr. Bower. "I highly recommend the GRASP website, which offers interaction with others, informative articles and an opportunity to meet people around the country."

The local GRASP support group meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. at St. John's-Newberry United Methodist Church, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport. There are signs posted at the building entrance with directions to Rooms 10-11. For more information, contact Dr. Bower at (570)220-4554 or at dbower@wbdaac.org.

You want to have vibrant and healthy relationships with those who struggle with addiction in your church and community. But you find yourself wondering how to meet their needs in a wise, helpful and God-honoring way.

The Recovery-Minded Church addresses the pressing questions you are facing in ministering to those with addictions.

Here you will discover a clinically informed, biblical and theological framework to love the addicts in your midst and also practical tools to help you succeed in doing so, including discussion questions after each chapter for use in small group settings.

God desires to welcome his prodigal children with open arms and a spirit of celebration. We need to reflect this same kind of grace and mercy in our ministry to those with addictions, to move our churches from being recovery-resistant to recovery-minded.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Finding My Voice is Woman's Full Day Retreat led by the Rev. Dr. Susan Halverstadt, a United Methodist pastor and Spiritual Director. No matter who you are or where you are in ministry or in life, finding your voice is essential. You will experience a safe supportive and friendly group of women where you can feel comfortable to just be yourself. Discover when you hear your voice most clearly and how you experience God when you speak your voice. This retreat (9:30-4) is being offered on Monday, Feb. 20th at Linck Hill Inn in Navoo PA. The cost is \$50 and includes lunch. For more information contact Susan at shalverstadt@comcast.net or 717-377-9266.

Environmental Justice Workshop will be held at the Hartman Center Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, Milroy, PA on March 22-24. The event begins with dinner at 5:30 pm on Wednesday and concludes with lunch on Friday. Participants will be expected to commit to the entire workshop in order to cover all subjects and build community.

The Question: How can we take on the urgent challenges of environmental justice in our present time and place? Using video, discussions, and hands-on learning opportunities, this workshop will equip participants to mobilize their communities around local and global issues of environmental justice. The Workshop is cosponsored by the United Church of Christ Justice Witness Ministries and the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ Green Justice Ministry Team. Materials are biblically based and centered on the deep issues of justice and the beloved community. Local church leaders, pastors, educators, seminary students, and members of communities of faith beyond the UCC are all welcome to attend.

The cost is \$140, which includes lodging, meals, and program expenses. Please register by March 7 at <http://www.regonline.com/environmentaljusticeworkshop1>

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Bethel AME Church Annual Love Feast will be held Saturday, Feb. 18 from 11-2 at 601 Hepburn St., Wmspt. The cost is \$10 for fried chicken (breast/wing or leg/thigh), candied yams or corn pudding, mac-n-cheese, green beans, bread, bottles water and desert. Call (567) 245-5616 or (570) 506-1192 for your ticket.

Drug Prevention: A Silent Auction and Raffle will be held Monday, Feb. 20 from 5-8 at the Trade and Transit Center 2, 144 W 4th St, Michael Ross Room, 3rd Fl. Proceeds will be used for prevention, education and services related to addiction, including a memorial scholarship in memory of Zachary Bigelow. Community leaders have donated many items.

Being Mortal: You are invited to a free film screening and discussion of this PBS FRONTLINE documentary. It will be held at the Trade and Transit II Center, 114 W 3rd St, Wmspt on Feb. 22 from 7-9 in the Michale Ross Event Center, 3rd Fl. Based on the best selling book by Dr. Atul Gawande, it explores the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness and their relationships with the doctors, nurses, and family members who care for them. Come see the film and be part of the national conversation taking place in our community that asks: "have you and your family had these important conversations and planned ahead?" Sponsored by Caring Choices and Hospice Foundation of America it is sponsored locally by the UPMC Susquehanna's Supportive and Palliative Care Services. For details call 570-320-7680.

Black History Month will be celebrated Saturday, February 25 from 5-7 pm at the Diamond Street Christian Church, 822 Diamond St, Wmspt. There will be singing, music, poetry, dance and storytelling.

Be Part of Ohev Sholom Congregation's Jewish Winter Film Festival on Sunday, Feb. 26th, at 2 pm. at 1501 Cherry St, Wmspt. They will be showing "Life is Beautiful" a 1997 Italian comedy-drama film directed by and starring Roberto Benigni, who co-wrote the film with Vincenzo Cerami. Benigni plays Guido Orefice, a Jewish Italian book shop owner, who employs his fertile imagination to shield his son from the horrors of internment in a Nazi concentration camp. Winner of three academy awards including Best Foreign Film and Best Actor.

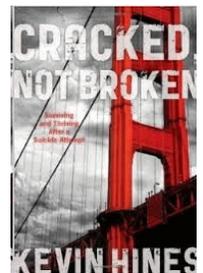
Women's Lenten Breakfast will again be held at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street in Williamsport on Saturday, March 4th at 8:30 a.m. There is no cost but reservations are required. Call the church office, 570-326-3308 by 2/24.

FREE Child Safety Seat Check will be held Friday, March 10th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Hepburn Township Volunteer Fire Company, 615 State Route 973 East, Cogan Station. Bring: your Child, the Child Safety Seat Instructions and Vehicle Owner's Manual. Each safety seat will take approximately 20 minutes to inspect; infant seats may take longer. For details, contact the Community Traffic Safety Project at 570-433-0820

Men's Banquet: Men of all ages are invited to a Men's Banquet at Bethany Lutheran Church, Montoursville on Monday, March 20 at 6 pm. A program will be presented by I-Tec (International Technical Electric and Construction), of Montoursville about their containers that can meet the technical needs of missionaries and not-for-profits worldwide and support local and international disaster relief. The cost of the turkey dinner is \$11/adult, \$5/children 6-12, \$0/children under 6. Reservations and payment must be made by March 12 to the Church Office, 369 Broad St, Montoursville PA 17754. Contact them at 570-368-8933 or bethluthch@chilitech.net.

Love For Shirati is a Valentine's Benefit Dance that is a fundraiser for Susquehanna Hospice - Shirati Palliative Care Partnership. The dance, (and Chinese Auction) will be held at the Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium, 1100 Grampian Blvd., on Saturday, February 18 from 7-10. Tickets will be available at the door.

Kevin Hines will be at the Klump Academic Center on Tuesday, March 28 at 7 pm to tell his amazing story of strength and survival, "Cracked Not Broken". Kevin is a mental health advocate, award-winning global speaker, best selling author and documentary film maker who reaches audiences with his story of an unlikely survival and his strong will to live. Two years after he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder (at 19 years of age) he attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. He says "It was the first millisecond, the first moment of free fall. I knew it was the worst mistake I ever made. And no-one would know." The fall would break his body, but not his spirit. Pennsylvania College of Technology invites you to come hear his inspiring story.



Everybody Walk PA 2017: is a great program for congregations, community groups etc. This Penn State Extension program will run April 3rd - May 28th. It's free but you must register by April 1st at <http://extension.psu.-edu/health/walk-across-pa> or by calling Karen at 570-836-3196 or kbracey@psu.edu. While there is a goal of the equivalent of at least 10 miles/week/person, there is no minimum requirement for participation.

UNITED CHURCHES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our Seventh Annual Golf Tournament is Friday, September 22, 2017 at White Deer Golf Course beginning at 8:45 am. As we begin getting our sponsors for this year we want to share with you the list from last year. It is quite impressive that we can list the following sponsors for this event. Without them, it would have been impossible to enjoy such a nice day of golf, and support United Churches so well. We encourage you to support these businesses and organizations as they have supported us. And to thank them for their support. Most of them sponsor year after year!



2016:

FOUNDING MEMBER TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

These wonderful sponsors have been with us since the very first year!!!

SANDERS MORTUARY

FISCHER INSURANCE AGENCY

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Thrivent Financial Services

Beverage Cart Sponsor: Maneval Allen Redmond Cremation & Funeral Home

Meal Sponsor: Tom and Sarah Gehret

Hole Sponsors:

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Eagle Construction Company	Rainbow Carpets	C & I Boiler
Curtis Johnson Enterprises	Montoursville Presbyterian Church	PNC Bank
Young Men's Democratic Club	Becky and Jim Donnell	Lori A. Moore, CPA
Jim Dinsmore, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.	Edward Jones Financial, Montoursville	Price Optical Company
The Eye Center - Lasic and Cataract Experts	Steam Specialist LLC	Lucy and Lee Kozsey
Baxter Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	AC Cruz State Farm	Madeline Bird
Pam Markle Hansen, Thrivent Financial	Ken Weiss, Kades Margolis	The Genetti Hotel
Merle Norman Cosmetics & Day Spa	St. Michael's Lutheran/Jim Mather	Woodlands Bank
Roger Myers; Myers-Pepper Ins.	Duraclean Restoration Services, INC.	Overhead Door, Inc.
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