



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the  
**UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY**  
202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701  
Phone: 570-322-1110, E-Mail: [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org)  
Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor  
Mrs. Patty Gohrs, Administrative Asst.: [office@uclc.org](mailto:office@uclc.org)  
Office Hours: 9-3:30 Monday - Thursday  
[www.uclc.org](http://www.uclc.org)

*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 XXXII NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Please notify us of 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.*

## 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL ECUMENICAL PRE-LENTEN SERVICE

7:00 p.m. Sunday, February 15, 2015



at

Faith United Methodist Church  
700 Fairview Drive  
Montoursville

Featuring

**The Covenant Players**

Come and feel God's love enfold you as the Good news of Jesus Christ is powerfully communicated through the medium of drama as prepare for Lent.

## UCLC FOOD PANTRY \*

**Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 570-322-1657**

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



LENDING A  
**HELPING HAND**

**F**ebruary is the month I think of all things 'heart'. Of course you all are always in our hearts for all the generous things you do to help us keep the Food Pantry up and running and serving.

But we all know February and March are fickle weather wise. I don't understand how the groundhog saw his shadow, with so many gray days. Having said that it might just be the time to take a quick review of the closure rules at the Pantry, so you don't make a trip with donations only to find we're not in. So here is the policy...

If the Williamsport School District is closed due to a weather event, our Food Pantry is closed as well. If the Williamsport Area School District is on a delay, we are still open our regular hours.

-continued on page 2 - column 2



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



**W**e are excited to participate again this year in **The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania's Raise the Region 2015**, an event to help the community support local nonprofit organizations fund raising efforts. FCFP, in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, Larson Design and Walmart will be launching a 30-hour fundraising event on March 11 & 12. These sponsors help stretch every donation made to preregistered nonprofits and provide monetary prizes and incentives that are awarded throughout the event.

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!!**

*When you give to us you give to all our ministries....*

**Shepherd of the Streets - Our Food Pantry**

**Campus Ministry - Nursing Home Ministry ... Etc.**



**Church Women United's  
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Friday, March 6, 2015

1:00 P.M.

Albright LIFE Center

901 Memorial Avenue, Williamsport

**T**his World Day of Prayer Celebration has been planned by the Presbyterian women of the Bahamas. The theme is from John 13:1-17, where Jesus, after washing the feet of His community of disciples, asks, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" This service will help us consider the ways we respond to that question.

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.

Albright LIFE is handicapped accessible. Parking is available in the parking lots surrounding the facility.

Please also note that May Friendship Day will be held at noon on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Montoursville Presbyterian Church, 900 Elm Street, Montoursville.

**Food Pantry .... continued from page 1...**

Just a reminder of our regular schedule: Mondays we open from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon for food donations. Tuesday and Thursday we open from 10 am to 3 pm to serve clients with food orders. We are flexible and will be glad to accept your food donations on Tuesday or Thursdays if you can't come in on Monday, or make other arrangements as needed.

We are very grateful that even in the cold, snowy, icy weather you still faithfully bring the donations that literally keep food on the table in many households in the Lycoming County. All that comes back to heart, and you my friends have lots of heart. That you share it with us is a supreme blessing that we are always thankful for and know that you are always in our hearts and prayers, too.

Some items that we could especially use at the pantry this month are:

<i>oodles of noodles</i>	<i>hot chocolate</i>	<i>saltines</i>
<i>chicken noodle soup</i>	<i>pop tarts</i>	<i>sugar</i>
<i>evaporated milk</i>	<i>tea (regular flavor)</i>	
<i>canned potatoes</i>	<i>hamburger helper (any flavor)</i>	
<i>powdered drink mixes (ie: kool aid)</i>	<i>Jello</i>	
<i>oatmeal packets (any flavor)</i>	<i>popcorn</i>	
<i>stuffing mix</i>	<i>canned fruit</i>	<i>ketchup</i>
<i>powdered milk</i>	<i>canned veggies</i>	<i>mustard</i>

Just FYI in the month of January we served almost 550 persons. Thank you for helping to make that possible. And a special thank you to all of you who remembered us this year with donations from Souper Bowl Sunday!

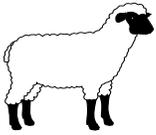
**The New Love Center Café, the Jersey Shore Ministerium and the community **did cookies in a big way** this Christmas.**

To show their love and concern for the people they serve they decided to provide a personal note to every family that passes through their Pantry telling each one they are important. They then decided to give a dozen homemade Christmas Cookies with the note. They asked for 350 dozen. Members of local churches began baking, but were falling short. Another email went out and contacts were made. Surprisingly the Culinary Classes at Jersey Shore High School reached out to help! Distribution day felt like Santa had arrived at St. John Lutheran Church too, there were so many cookies. They ended up with almost 700 dozen! Every family served in Lycoming and Clinton County received cookies and were given to the Central PA Food Bank and Jamie Caputo so they could extend this Christmas blessing to some others. It is a blessing to know that we live in an area where people care!



**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

*J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,  
Contact at 570-322-6538 or  
[shepherd@uclc.org](mailto:shepherd@uclc.org)*

**THE NEW POVERTY**

**W**ords imply, suggest, define, implicate, signify, infer, presuppose, propose, assume. Poverty, for most folks, is a term easily generalized. The vision of one in the throes of poverty is one poorly dressed, without an automobile, uses food-stamps, has an access card or no assistance, lives in a run-down apartment or is “on the streets”, in poor health. As we watch the middle-class shrink due to unemployment or inability to provide in an inflated economy, the aforementioned preconceived description of one caught in poverty has evolved and the “vision” becomes distorted, not so easily assumed.

As the economy shifts from labor to technology, skilled manual art to computerized replica, the labor force of the past slips into poverty and definitions become misconstrued. “I have never had to ask for anything...I wasn’t raised to depend on charity...I’ve always worked” have become introductions too often heard at Shepherd of the Streets these days. The labels we use for poverty become shameful, embarrassing, and guilt-laden. The ranks of poverty are swelling beyond the generational, criminal, unskilled, or disabled, the un-franchised...they now include the disfranchised, those once having been the pride of the American economy.

*Impoverished* is the word for those who once were able to “pay their way”, but now are *reduced* to poverty. This is not the usual definition of the poor, but is fast becoming a larger segment. Our usual definition of the poor is the word *impecunious*: one in the habitual state of poverty that suggests poverty resulting from personal practices. It is Latin for “having no money”. But, who uses that word? Instead we generalize with the word *poor*, a word we personally seek to avoid, especially in application to self.

Medical supplies, medicine, OSHA requirements for an unskilled job are more and more the need for Shepherd of the Streets clientele. Why no insurance? Recent changes in obtaining medical insurance are too expensive and the money one does have, must be used for immediate necessities. People barely able “to keep their heads above water”, find that one crisis or excessive need can sink the most careful.

For those who read this article and can share, your benevolence is needed to help the *newly impoverished*. Consider the ways and means of the poor, give from your abundance of grace and joy, and let your own poverty overflow in generosity (2 Corinthians 8:1-15). Thank you for show-

ing the genuineness of your love. God blesses those who care for the poor.

Hygiene items are also a continual need, as are baby needs, and bedding (especially blankets). Continue to pray for us to be supplied with grace and wisdom as we minister for you in this difficult and increasing field.

-----  
**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 570-322-1110 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.

**FEBRUARY:**

- 11- **Rev. Robert Wallace**, Retired United Methodist Pastor and Author, “*Hadassah Comes to Life: The Story Behind the Story*”
- 18- **Rev. Karen Atanasoff**, Pastor, Pine Street United Methodist Church, “*Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Imposition of Ashes*”
- 25- **Ms. Kim Kmetz**, Community Relations Director at Elmcroft Senior Living, “*The Care Now Available in Senior Living Communities - and Cost Coverage*”

**MARCH**

- 4- **Mrs. Gail Landers**, Trained Facilitator, Samaritan Counseling's Safe Church Program and Member of New Covenant United Church of Christ, “*Sacred Safety*”
- 11- **Rev. Martha McCracken**, Pastor, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Quiggleville, “*Seafarers Ministry of North American and the Caribbean*”
- 18- **Mrs. Nancy Baumgartner**, Free-lance Writer, “*Glimpses of God and Other Words*”
- 25- **Rev. Velinda Webb-Smith and Ms. Christine Carroll**, Sojourner Truth Ministry, “*Helping People Help Themselves*”

**POVERTY - A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE\***  
*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**H**e will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy (Psalm 72:4). God's care for those in need is evident throughout the Bible. Children are among those often identified as a focus of God's love and concern. How well are we providing for children in our communities, nation, and the world?

Children in Lycoming County in Families Receiving SNAP (Food Stamps): One indicator of need is the number of children living in families receiving SNAP benefits. As of June 2014, 6,208 children are in families receiving SNAP. Of these 1,028 are in the age group of newborn to two years old which is the most critical age group for developmental growth. (Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center – A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation)

Ending Child Poverty Now: The United States has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest child poverty rate among 35 industrialized countries despite having the largest economy in the world. A child in the United States has a 1 in 5 chance of being poor and the younger she is the poorer she is likely to be. A child of color, who will be in the majority of U.S. children in 2020, is more than twice as likely to be poor as a White child. This is unacceptable and unnecessary. Growing up poor has lifelong negative consequences, decreasing the likelihood of graduating from high school and increasing the likelihood of becoming a poor adult, suffering from poor health, and becoming involved in the criminal justice system. These impacts cost the nation at least half a trillion dollars a year in lost productivity and increased health and crime costs. Letting a fifth of our children grow up poor prevents them from having equal opportunities to succeed in life and robs the nation of their future contributions. - See more at: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/#sthash.FYMq0eIl.dpuf>.

Bread for the World – Feeding Our Children: In 2015, Bread for the World is focused on urging Congress to renew our federal government's major child nutrition programs, including those for school meals, summer feeding, and the WIC nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers along with their small children. Every five years, Congress must re-authorize the law that funds these programs, which have helped millions of children over the decades. Now is the time to renew these national nutrition programs. Be part of Bread's 2015 Offering of Letters by taking a few minutes to write letters to your members of Congress. For more information visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

**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 devotionalists this winter include:

2/9-15 Mrs. Tammey Aichner	2/16-22 Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza
2/23-3/1 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner	3/2-8 Pastor Dorothy Anderson
3/9-15 Rev. Danesta Whaley	3/16-22 Mrs. Pat Jenkins

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!



**Tammey Aichner, Coordinator**

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

**C**ampus Ministry will be holding a Universal Day of Prayer for Students at Trinity Episcopal Church on February 15th at 2 p.m. Pastor Sal Minnella will be delivering a message for the students. The worship team of 3:16 Covenant Church will be providing the music. Thank you to all who are making this possible. Please come out, bring any of your students with you, and join with others to lift students from around the world up in prayer.

Our Faith Talks resume in the month of February. If you would like to facilitate a Bible Study, and connect with college students in this setting, please contact Tammey.

**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.

**C**ounty-wide Prayer Walks are being planned for Sunday, April 19. Sponsored by the Faith-based Initiative Committee of the Lycoming County Heroin Task Force, the walks are being designed to not only create awareness, but to pray specifically for agencies within each community which are dealing with the effects of the heroin epidemic.



The following 12 areas will be covered by the Prayer Walks: Williamsport (center city), East Williamsport, West Williamsport, South Williamsport, Newberry, Loyalsock, Montoursville, Lycoming Creek, Montgomery, Muncy, Hughesville and Jersey Shore.

The Faith-based Initiative Committee needs help from the community in two ways:

- A Walk Coordinator for each area is needed. The Coordinator will prepare a prayer walk map for their neighborhood, with stops to include places such as schools, the police station, playgrounds and basketball courts, hospitals, fire stations, borough buildings, or places of ministry (such as the Salvation Army, Family Promise, YWCA, food banks, etc.).
- An Anchor Church/Synagogue/House of Worship is needed in each area. The facility should have ample parking, rest rooms available, and access to the sanctuary for those who may not be able to do the walk, but who would like to pray quietly during the walk.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karen Barraco, [kbarraco@windstream.net](mailto:kbarraco@windstream.net) or 570-546-5180.

### CLASSIFIEDS

**O**rganist Sought: St. John Lutheran "Brick" Church Montgomery is seeking a Director of Music/Organist. Full job description can be found at [www.stjohnbrick.org](http://www.stjohnbrick.org). For job consideration, email resume to [bricksearchcom@gmail.com](mailto:bricksearchcom@gmail.com).

**P**lease Note:

- New Hours at the New Love Center Food Pantry operated at St. John Lutheran Church, 229 South Broad St., Jersey Shore: No longer open on Mondays and Thursdays, it will be open the first four Fridays of each month from 9-noon and 1-3 pm. serving residents of Jersey Shore, Linden, McElhattan, Woolrich, and Avis.
- United Churches Fifth Annual Golf Tournament will be Friday, September 25, at White Deer at 8:45 a.m.
- United Churches Annual Assembly will be Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

### CREATION CORNER

#### Christian Social Concerns Committee

#### An Eleventh Commandment



**W**hat updates are needed for the **Ten Commandments** was a question posed in The Guardian Weekly of Jan. 23-29 "Notes and Queries" section.

Immediately one might recall back thirty-five years to The Eleventh Commandment Fellowship and the names Vincent Rossi and Fred Krueger. Based on Psalm 24:1, they proclaimed the eleventh commandment as "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; Thou shall not despoil the earth, nor destroy the life thereon."

Their efforts promoting Christian ecological ethics were aided then by The North American Conference on Christianity and Ecology (NACCE), Appalachia Science in the Public Interest (ASPI, Fr. Albert Fritsch), the AuSable Institute (Cal DeWitt), The National Catholic Rural Life Conference, the Ozarks Bioregional Project (David Haenke), the eco-justice working group of the National Council of Churches of Christ, among others.

Before that, In 1939 Soil conservationist Walter C. Lowdermilk (1888-1974) proposed the following as "The Eleventh Commandment":

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by the herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground or wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish off the face of the earth."

And going back in time even further, surely the Old Testament verse from Micah 6:8 also comes to mind as having an application to earth stewardship. "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly (thus, our goal of environmental justice), to love mercy (in reciprocity, we need to sustain the environment as it sustains us) and to walk humbly with your God" (curb my hubris and greed so as not to permanently remove what God has generously provided for my beneficial use and enjoyment).

Perhaps you can think of an eleventh commandment too. For example, using the "re-" prefix, "Recycle, Repent, Reduce, Redeem, Replenish, Reuse, Rejoice!" etc.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES \*

**M**arriage Refreshment Weekend for couples married one day to ninety years! Led by Dr. David and Joyce Leaman this weekend of renewal and commitment is being held at First United Methodist Church Christian Life Center, 601 Market Street, Williamsport on Friday, February 27 - 6:30-8:30 and Saturday, February 28 8:30 - 3. The cost is \$50 per couple, \$60 with babysitting services. For more information or to register contact them at 570-322-3572 or [fumc2@comcast.net](mailto:fumc2@comcast.net) or [www.firstchurch.cc](http://www.firstchurch.cc) Register for babysitting by 2/22.



### **S**oil Stewardship:

- The theme for the 60th anniversary of the April Soil and Water Stewardship Week is "Pollinator Stewardship". More Info. forthcoming.
- The "International Year of Soils" theme for 2015 is celebrated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and others, showcasing the importance of soils with the following monthly themes:
  - Jan.- Soils Sustain Life
  - Feb.- Soils Support Urban Life
  - March- Soils Support Agriculture
  - April- Soils Clean and Capture Water
  - May- Soils Support Buildings/Infrastructure
  - June- Soils Support Recreation
  - July- Soils Are Living
  - August- Soils Support Health
  - Sept.- Soils Support the Natural Environment
  - Oct.- Soils and Products We Use
  - Nov.- Soils and Climate
  - Dec.- Soils, Culture and People



### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES / RESOURCES\*

**R**esource for Children/Youth/Families: Kristina Rogers and I am the Editor and Publisher of Macaroni Kid Williamsport, a website that publishes a free weekly e-newsletter that dishes the scoop on the best events for kids and families in our community. Church members can subscribe to Macaroni Kid. Your congregation can also add your family friendly events to the calendar and newsletter. Macaroni Kid loves to spread the word about community activities that families can enjoy. Click on <http://williamsport.macaronikid.com> to view this resource. For questions contact Kristina at 570-419-3123.

### YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, – Ph. 570-326-6868  
Northeast Regional Director Yokefellow Center

”BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!”

**B**lessings dear friends. As time moves forward and we continue to walk in cadence with Him, our greatest joy is that we are blessed as we bless others!

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry is privileged to have the opportunity to bless those men and women who are incarcerated. Weekly we share the ‘good news’ within our small group discussions, and there is an excitement that grows among us. The incarcerated men and women are very grateful for us showing them that there is another way to succeed in life – Jesus! Recently we held a volunteer training for those interested in serving in different ways within this ministry, as well as a re-training (every 2 years) for some of our veteran volunteers. It was such a blessing!

We are honored that many of you continue to share in the joys and blessings with us by helping support this vital ministry. Because schedules are busy, we want to give you some upcoming dates for events we are planning for the community. Please mark your calendars to join with us!

- Tuesday, April 21 at 6pm will be our Awareness Banquet, held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 702 W. Fourth St., Williamsport. Our keynote speaker will be Chaplain James Pall, recently retired chaplain of Dallas State Prison who has served in Christian ministry for 38 years. Chaplain Pall is a special blessing to Yokefellow and has helped many within the system and out of the system. It has personally been an honor to share in ministry with this brother in Christ who has a true heart and love for people. This event will have a complimentary dinner catered by Station House. There will be an opportunity to give to the ministry of Yoke-fellowship that evening. That evening you’ll hear various voices sharing more about our ministry and those who benefit from it. Please plan to join us! More details to follow and invitations will be sent out.
- Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 7 am to approx 2 pm our very first yard sale at the Yokefellowship Ministry house, 1200 Almond St., Williamsport. Watch for advertisements and details to follow of how you can help.

If you would like more information on Yokefellowship, please call us at the above number and we would be happy to assist you!

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES \*

**Retiree's Luncheon:** on the third Fridays of the month ... Montoursville Presbyterian Church is the place to be if you are retired and would like to gather and enjoy great fellowship and wonderful food. These lunches are held at 12 noon and all retirees are welcome. There is no charge, but a donation basket is available. The church is at 900 Elm Street, Montoursville and is handicapped accessible.

**Help! Office of Aging needs Volunteers** to deliver Meals-on-Wheels to Seniors in Lycoming Area! Do you have an hour to make the difference in the life of a home-bound senior? Drivers and runners needed. If interested call Marcella at the Senior Center for details at 570-726-6378. Mileage reimbursement is available. Meals-on-Wheels is part of STEP's Independent Living Pathway to Success.



**Fracking and Forest Fragmentation** is the theme for the Feb. 25 Lycoming Audubon Society public meeting, presented by PSU doctoral candidate Lillie Langlois, highlighting how the forest bird community in northcentral Pa has been effected. Meet at the J.V. Brown Library at 6:30. Ms. Langlois is enrolled in the Wildlife and Fisheries Science program at Penn State.

**Chi Rho Singers** are coming to Jersey Shore. They will be presenting an evening of wonderful music on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in the First United Methodist Church, locate at 236 Main Street, Jersey Shore beginning at 7. This Choir is made up of approximately 40 Pastors from the Central PA Conference of the United Methodist Churches. They are under the direction of Reverend Joleen Willis, who serves the West Side United Methodist Church, Clearfield. Some of the area Pastors in this Choir include Carol Campbell, Catherine Dawes, Susan Halverstadt, Sandi Hemker, Jim Hillister, Jay Jones, Kristi Webster, and Jennett Wertz. The Concert will be a joyous celebration of God's love for us through music. There will be various styles of sacred music, both contemporary and the traditional will be presented for your enjoyment. Several instruments are used to accompany this choir. At times the audience will be invited to join the choir is a few selected numbers! This is an invitation to hear this amazing choir and to celebrate the gifts of God which are expressed in music. There is no cost for entry: however a free will offering will be received to off set costs.

**Iron Chef - Support Family Promise:** The seventh annual Iron Chef competition will be held on Sunday, March 1, beginning at 5 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran

Church, 142 Market St., Wmspt. This year's competition features St. Mark's Pastor Kenneth Elkin (defending his title) and Pastor Kerry Auker of St. John's Lutheran, Jersey Shore. The festivities begin with a dinner followed by the competition which will be projected on a large screen TV so that all can see what is happening between these "chefs". The competition will be streamed live at [www.ustream.tv/channel/iron-chef-williamsport](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/iron-chef-williamsport). The winner in all this, of course, is Family Promise of Lycoming County. 75% of your ticket money goes directly to FPLC. The cost of the evening is \$30 and reservations may be made by calling 570-323-4619. Patronage is available for the event. There are four categories: a la carte (\$1-49), cordon bleu (\$50-99), Haute cuisine (\$100-179) and restaurateur (greater than \$180). Patrons will have their names listed in the evening's program. Please contact St. Mark's (570-323-4619) about this opportunity. Come and help us add to the \$30,000 that has already been raised through this event for FPLC. To see this year's challenge go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/StMarksChurch>. Come cheer on your favorite chef.

**Mansfield University Concert Choir:** Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church invites you to enjoy the Mansfield University Concert Choir on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in their sanctuary at 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport. This concert is part of their Church Concert Series of six free Sunday afternoon concerts at 2 pm that are being held this year at Faxon Kenmar. The next concerts in the series are:

- April 26: Dan Umholtz, Organist
- May 17: Faxon Festival Choir

**Civic Chorus Concert:** A Cloud of Witnesses will be held Sunday April 26 at 3 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This concert is dedicated to the ordinary people who have become extraordinary to each of us, many of whom have gone on to their eternal reward. Comprising a requiem of sorts, the concert's musical styles range from folk to classical, ancient to modern, sacred to secular, with arrangements and original compositions by Music Director Ned Wetherald in his final performance with the Williamsport Civic Chorus. Tickets are \$12 general admission/\$10 senior/student, Children under 12 free when accompanied by a paid admission. Discount tickets are available at Robert M. Sides Family Music Center, Mulberry St., and Otto's Bookstore, W. 4<sup>th</sup> St, Wmspt. (discount \$2).

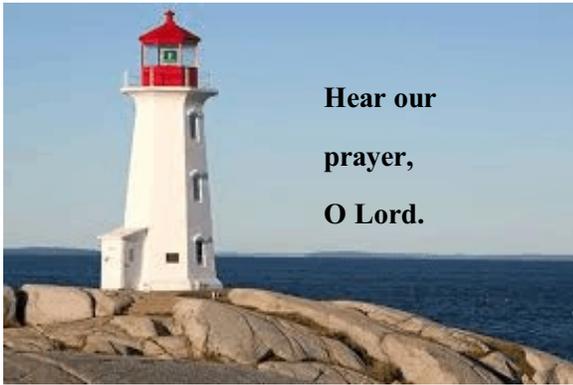
**Yom Ha Sho'ah Service:** Holocaust Remembrance Service will be held at Temple Beth Ha Shalom, 425 Center Street, Williamsport on Sunday, April 19 at 1:30 pm. It is a time to come together, remember and say "Never Again!"

**PRAYER CARDS AVAILABLE**

**T**he Faith Based Committee of the Lycoming County Heroin Task Force is working to provide you with resources to help with your ministry to your congregation and in the community. Below you will find a copy of the prayer cards that you can make and have available for use by your congregation.

A copy ready version that enables you to run these prayer cards three to a page has been emailed to pastors along with their February newsletter. Teaching material, information and referral suggestions are also being made ready.

The committee asks for your prayers and assistance as they continue this work. Anyone interested in being part of this group please contact Rev. Andy France, Chair at 570-419-6635 or [amfrance@comcast.net](mailto:amfrance@comcast.net).



**Hear our  
prayer,  
O Lord.**

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE ADDICTED**

Our God and our Lord,  
Have mercy and compassion upon us  
as we struggle to free ourselves  
from the temptations, snares and traps  
of this world.

Give us strength, wisdom and  
the courage to face our addiction.  
Open our hearts to receive your loving  
power that we may be healed in spirit.

Guide us into a new future that is  
God-directed and hope-filled.  
We as this knowing and trusting that it is  
only you who can totally set us free.

Amen.

Lycoming County Heroin Task Force  
**FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE COMMITTEE**  
“To facilitate healing of spirit through the  
power of God’s love.”

**FOR ALL WHO SERVE  
THOSE IN ADDICTION**

O sovereign and faithful God  
We see the plight of those who we serve  
and with whom we live and work.  
We see the depleting and destructive effects  
of addiction upon mind,  
body and spirit, and relationships.  
In your mercy and compassion  
we ask that you touch those who suffer and  
battle against addiction  
so they can achieve that fullness of life  
you intend for them to have.  
Show them the path of liberation from the  
bondage of addiction and fill them  
with your healing power.  
We give you thanks in advance by faith  
knowing you love all of us dearly.  
Amen.

**FOR FAMILIES**

You, O Lord, are the God of compassion,  
forgiveness, hope and new life.  
We pray that your healing power will  
create a new and healthy spirit in  
those whom we love. Give to us patience,  
understanding and the spirit of forgiveness.  
Grant to us courage to  
stand firm and foster accountability  
rather than to enable. We offer all of  
our efforts to you, trusting that you will bless  
who we are and what we do, and that you will  
receive our desires and prayers.  
We know that you will give us strength to face  
the outcome of what we do, for we know that  
you are the God of life.

Amen.

**Heroin Task Force – Faith-based Initiative**  
The Rev. Andrew France, Chair / [amfrance@comcast.net](mailto:amfrance@comcast.net)