



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the
UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
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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 1

JANUARY 13, 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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (John 4:7) is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25). Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21). The following events have been scheduled to help in your observance.

1/18-25 - **Special Devotions** for each day will be provided by Gwen Bernstine on our Telephone Devotion Line, reachable 24/7 at 570-322-5762.

1/21 - The **Ecumenical Lunch** program at Noon at Pine Street UMC, 441 Pine St. The Rev. Dr. John Charnock will help us take a closer look at Jesus' encounter with the Woman at the Samaritan Well. For reservations call 570-322-1110.

1/22 - **Service of Prayer at Holy Cross Orthodox Church**, 1725 Holy Cross Lane (Next to St. Ann's Catholic Church on Northway Rd. and Sheridan St.) Thursday at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. A fellowship time follows.

1/23 - The Diocese of Scranton will host an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. All are welcome to attend. In addition, CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the service live."

33rd ANNUAL ECUMENICAL
PRE-LENTEN SERVICE
7:30 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.



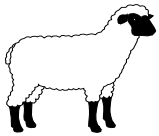

Follow us and others at "United Churches of Lycoming County"
& "Walking With God in Lycoming County"

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,

Wanted Volunteers

Call 570-322-6538 for details.



WEDNESDAY NOON ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*

Join us for lunch this winter. The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen, Office-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer, Heidi Potter, know how much to prepare. Laity, clergy and people of all ages are welcome!

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

JANUARY:

- 14- **Rev. Ken Weiss**, Caring Outreach, *“Pennsylvania’s Yellow Dot Program”*
- 21- **Rev. Dr. John Charnock**, Director Mission Integration and Ethics, Pastoral Care and Volunteer Services, Susquehanna Health, *“The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Jesus’ Encounter with the Woman at the Samaritan Well”*
- 28- **Mrs. Alyssa Maneval**, Education Writer, Williamsport Sun Gazette, *“The Newspaper - Facebook - Twitter - Pinterest - Instagram - Community Calendar - How Should Congregations Share about Programs?”*

FEBRUARY:

- 4- **Catherine Haefner, Carol Wurster, & April Mingos**, Hospice/Palliative Care Specialists, *“Healing Waters and Soul’s Journey Home Hospice”*
- 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- **Kim Kmetz**, Community Relations Director at Elmcroft Senior Living, *“The Care Now Available in Senior Living Communities - and Cost Coverage”*

Come and learn some of

The Secrets of Happy Families

inspired by the book by Bruce Feiler

A Workshop:

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

Saturday, January 31, 2015

8:30 A.M. - Noon



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

Workshop Location:

The Fleming Center:

St. Joseph the Worker Parish

720 West Fourth Street, Williamsport



Presented by staff from:

Area School Districts and Colleges
United Churches of Lycoming County

Register with Patty or Gwen

at the United Churches office

at 570-322-1110 or director@ucl.org

by Wednesday, January 21

Full color posters are available from our United Churches office, 570-322-1110. or by calling Jim Foran at 570-916-6277. We can also send you a PDF file, and you can contact me at director@ucl.org.

FOOD PANTRY *

Gail Burkhardt, Coordinator 570-322-1657

E-mail - foodpantry@uclc.org

It is a New Year but for many the same concerns are foremost in their minds, "How do I provide nutritious food for my family. With your help we are able to assist. Some of the items that we most need at this time are:

<i>microwave popcorn</i>	<i>saltines</i>
<i>stove top stuffing</i>	<i>canned fruit</i>
<i>pasta (elbow and noodles)</i>	<i>oodles of noodles</i>
<i>oatmeal packets (flavored)</i>	<i>pop tarts</i>
<i>chunky soups</i>	<i>canned veggies</i>
<i>cocoa packets</i>	<i>coffee</i>
	<i>tea bags</i>

The 425+ persons that we assisted the first three weeks of December were very appreciative that you care and take the time to contribute to their well being. The ladies who volunteered at our Pantry from a Penn College Ethics Class were pleased to get into the holiday spirit here!

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

Souper Bowl Sunday is one way to help our United Churches Food Pantry, or other groups in our area, to assist people in need. It is an effort to glorify God and care for "the least of these" by each worshiper giving a can of food or the cost of a can of food (\$1) on Super Bowl Sunday (February 1, 2015). Groups call 1-800-358-7687 on the day of the game (between noon and 5 p.m.) to report the amount collected, then send your funds/food to the charity of your choice. Reporting your collection enables the full impact of this simple act of caring to be determined and announced. In 2014 the grand total generated was \$8,410,334 collected in cash and food items by 7,559 groups, for their charities. Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 and since then they have received reports of over \$100 Million is cash and food items being donated. Be part of this 25th Anniversary year and part of a modern day miracle by getting your church on board. For details go to: www.souperbowl.org.

CLASSIFIED

Part-time Church Custodian – St. Luke Lutheran Church invites applications for a part-time custodian position. The custodian provides light maintenance and cleaning for the church building(s), grounds, and contents, also including setup for special events. Some responsibilities are shared with the Building Maintenance Manager. The position is budgeted at 15 hours per week. A more detailed position description is available from the Church Of-

fice at 1400 Market St., Williamsport. If interested, an application form may be downloaded at <http://stlukeweb.com> or picked up at the church office.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



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

1/12-18 Mrs. Sandy Grier	1/19-25 Rev. Gwen Bernstine
1/25-2/1 Mrs. Pat Jenkins	2/2-8 Pastors Kathy & Jim Behrens
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

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

NEEDLEWORK GUILD OF AMERICA

NGA: This year the Newberry Branch of NGA donated 961 items to United Churches linked organizations. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for economically disadvantaged children, women and men by offering new gifts of clothes to help them become self-sufficient in life. The new clothes help bring warmth and comfort to those who need it most and encourages a positive outlook on life.

Here is the breakdown:

TO: Shepherd of the Streets

407 personal care items and blankets

30 shoe gift cards

Expectations for Women:

107 baby items (at St. Mark's request)

Daniel's Closet:

271 items of clothing

Salvation Army:

89 items of clothing

20 shoe gift cards

Messiah Lutheran for their angel tree

37 items of clothing

If you know of a need that NGA can address, please contact our United Churches office, or one of the above agencies so that requests can be channeled properly.

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

CREATION CORNER

from our Christian Social Concerns Committee

If your resolve for a New Year's Resolution is to propose to your church council that your church become a Caring for Creation Center, here is a sample covenant to consider for adoption.

Covenant for Care of Creation

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

The Church's concern for God's creation is shaped by the Creative Word of God, the Love of God hanging on a cross, the Spirit of God daily renewing the face of the earth. Caring, serving, keeping, loving, and living by wisdom---these translate into justice in political, economic, social, and environmental relationships.

As a covenant congregation, ___ Church will

- Study and Learn about God's marvelous creation and our responsibility to God and our place in it.
- Pray, Preach, and Worship so that our environmental activities grow out of biblical faith, reverence, and love for God's creation.
- Make Congregational and Individual Lifestyle Changes to better model our concern and care for creation.
- Get involved in Our Communities, Our State, Our Nation, and the World to promote policies that foster justice and wholeness of God's creation.

Through this covenant, ___ Church claims the promise of "a new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1). We dedicate our congregation's life to the care and redemption of all that God has made, for the sake of Jesus Christ who lived, died, and was raised for us to reconcile us and all creatures to God. (See Col 1:20)

We Pray for Your Healing: The West Branch Healing Room opened in June, 2006 as an inter-denominational Christian ministry under the umbrella of the International Association of Healing Rooms. Our mission is to serve the community and the Body of Christ by praying for their healing, as all Christians are authorized by God to do. Mark 16: 17-18 defines the evidence of the Holy Spirit's power in the lives of all believers in this way: "In My (Jesus) name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." We trust in the promise that we are active participants with God in the work of healing: John 14:12 promises believers that "the works I shall do, you shall do also, and greater works than these."

We operated as a walk-in ministry for the past eight years, and began ministering by appointment in May,2014. Currently we are housed by Trinity Episcopal Church, 804

West Fourth Street and hold appointments there. For more information, contact our Interim Director, Lynne Echols, at JesusHealsAt WBHR@gmail.com, or call her at 570-974-6024 between the hours of 10 am and 8 pm.

All prayer team members have completed training in healing prayer in accordance with the guidelines of the International Association of Healing Rooms (for more information go to www.healingrooms.org). We will be holding weekend and weekday training sessions the first quarter of 2015 for those who may be interested in joining us as prayer ministers.

MASS CHOIR EVENT IN MAY*

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

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

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

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

Name
Address
Home Phone
Cell Phone
Email Address

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

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

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

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

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

West End Christian Community Center's Winter Clothing Drive – Now that you received new clothing for Christmas, please consider donating your gently used winter clothing that has been hanging in your closet – not being worn – to the West End Christian Community Center's Clothes Closet. We need additional winter clothing items. Perhaps you lost weight (or gained it) and no longer wear certain things. These articles of clothing can be “repurposed” to families in need. Winter can be especially cold when you don't have a warm coat to wear. Many of our customers are on fixed incomes and find purchasing clothing a difficult task this time of year. We accept donations during regular business hours. For details call 570-323-6297. Thank you for your compassion and willingness to “Help Us – Help Others”.

Daniel's Closet, a free clothing ministry will be open on Sat., Jan. 24, 2015 from 9-11 a.m. Housed at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd, Williamsport, they will accept donations of clean, seasonal clothing accepted on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 4:30-6 p.m. Use the Washington Blvd stairwell. Your support has allowed them to welcome over 185 friends this past year and make Christmas brighter for almost 175 children in our community.

Class Schedule for the winter at the Salvation Army: All classes are held at the Salvation Army, 457 Market St., Wmspt. Scholarships are available for any class with a fee. To register call 570-326-9187.

- Strong Women: for women and men 40+ years, strength training. 12 weeks of lunch time sessions 1/21 - 4/8 on Monday and Wednesday from 12 - 1. Cost: \$65. Instructor - Laurie Welch.
- Strong Women: for women and men 40+ years, strength training. 12 weeks of evening sessions 1/20 - 4/9 on Tuesday and Thursday from 4 - 5. Cost: \$65. Instructor - Amber Shuman.
- Gardening 101: for beginning gardeners to learn tools to plant seeds and maintain a healthy plot. One day workshop on Saturday, 2/17 from 5-6 pm. Instructor: Master Gardner from Lycoming County Extension Master Gardeners.
- Finance: Basic budgeting, avoiding financial pitfalls, tips on savings. Voucher to the Salvation Army Thrift Store will be given to participants who receive a certificate of completion. One day workshop on Saturday 2/21 from 2-4 p.m. Instructor Andrew Paulhamus.
- Penn State Nutrition Links: Making healthy eating decisions for you and your family. Four sessions on Mondays from 4 - 5:30 beginning 2/23. Instructor - Lori Masser.

- Gardening on the Cheap: Repurposing items for planting: One day workshop on Monday 3/16 from 5-6. Instructor Ed Dammer, Penn State Master Gardener.

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., Wmapr. 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. 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.

Civic Chorus Concert: A Cloud of Witnesses will be held Sunday April 26 at 3 PM 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 RM Sides Family Music Center, Mulberry St., Wmspt and Otto's Bookstore, 4th St., Wmspt. (discount \$2).

Mark these 2015 Dates on Your Calendar:

- Church Women United -
Friday, March 6 at 1:00 p.m. at Albright LIFE
- United Churches Fifth Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, September 25, at White Deer at 8:45 a.m.
- United Churches Annual Assembly
Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.