



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the
UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
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www.uclc.org

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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.

1/20 - The **Ecumenical Lunch** program at Noon at Pine Street UMC, 441 Pine St. The Revs. Ashley Rossi and Gwen Bernstine will help us to look at this year's theme, "Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord" and the reasons for this special octave. 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.

1/25 - 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 (Comcast channel 016).

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 devotionalists this winter include:

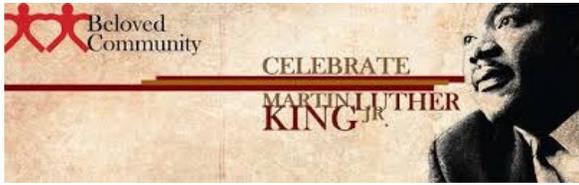
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/11-17 Mrs. Sandy Grier | 1/18-25 Rev. Gwen Bernstine |
| 1/26-31 Rev. Marwin Reeves | 2/1-7 Mrs. Tammey Aichner |
| 2/8-14 Pastor Dawn White | 2/15-21 Mrs. Sandy Grier |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!



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

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. EVENTS



Monday, January 18, at 9:00 am there will be a Peace Walk in honor of the **Martin Luther King Day of Service**. It will begin at the Dr. Yasui Peace Monument on the corner of Little Little Blvd. and Pine St. with parking in Municipal Lot G. We will walk on 4th St. to Penn College of Technology, Bush Campus Center, gathering there at 9:30 for a volunteer registration and brief rally. The Penn College shuttle bus will then return walkers to their cars at 10:00 am. MLK Day Service Projects begin after 10:00 am as volunteers go to assigned local social service centers to perform various tasks in small groups. Volunteers will be assigned to:

- Firetree Place
- West House
- Family Promise of Lycoming County
- American Rescue Workers
- Saving Grace Shelter
- North Central PA Food Bank in Williamsport
- West End Christian Community Center
- United Churches Center City Food Pantry
- Salvation Army - Lock Haven and Williamsport
- New Love Center Food Pantry (Jersey Shore)
- Sojourner Truth
- Footprints of Montgomery, Inc.

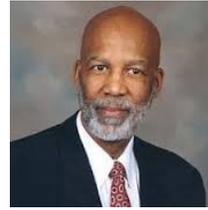
The group's mission is to honor the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by servicing the needs of the community. This year the group has coordinated various efforts into a MLK DreamWeek beginning Sunday, January 17.

Nontombi Naomi Tutu will be speaking on Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 pm - at Klump Auditorium at Penn College. Naomi, daughter of famous human rights activist, Bishop Desmond Tutu, will be speaking on "Our Shared Humanity: Creating Understanding Through the Principles of Martin Luther King, Jr." She is the author of "The Words of Desmond Tutu". A book signing to follow event, and is free and open to the public.



The challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa has been the foundation of Nontombi Naomi Tutu's life as an activist for human rights. Those experiences taught her that our whole human family loses when we accept situations of oppression, and how the teaching and preaching of hate and division injure us all.

In her speeches she blends this passion for human dignity with humor and personal stories.



Terrance Roberts, Ph.D., will also be speaking on Wednesday, January 20. An original member of the "Little Rock Nine", he will speak at 7:30pm at Lycoming College Clarke Chapel, telling about his experience as being one of first black students to enter

classes at Little Rock Central High School in 1957. The desegregation of the school gained national attention when Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus ordered his state's National Guard to prevent the students from entering. A month later, President Eisenhower sent U.S. troops to allow the students to enter the school, despite the angry mobs, and protect them while there. All are welcome.

Round Table Discussion: On Thursday January 21, Lycoming College will host a discussion on "Building Trust Through Positive Community Relations". It will be held at Welch Honors Hall, from 7:30pm to 9pm. Doors open at 7pm.

Reading Material: During MLK DreamWeek the James V. Brown Library will display books and other materials relating to Dr. Martin Luther King's life and legacy.

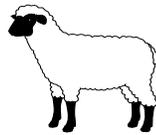
To find out more about MLK DreamWeek 2016 activities and the Beloved Community Council please visit the organization's website at www.bcc-web.org.

The MLK Day of Service is a national annual volunteer initiative in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday in January. The Beloved Community Council has been active in creating programs of awareness in Williamsport since 2012. Several prominent area institutions contribute their resources to the annual event. The coalition of organizations involved include, Americorps, Step, Inc., Corporation for National and Community Service, Lycoming College, Pennsylvania College of Technology, The YWCA, City Alliance Church, United Churches of Lycoming County and Heal Thy Self.

The Beloved Community Council's Mission Statement, is "To inspire our community to overcome barriers of injustice and oppression through education and peaceful compassionate action. To establish, promote and maintain an evolving multicultural consciousness and presence in our community."

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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



“IT’S NOT FAIR!”

Although that “line” gives me the opportunity to counsel, I dislike ever hearing it. But, it is a whine I hear very often. A person who uses unfairness as a reason for not getting a job or testing bad for an advance, is living in denial and refusing to face the reality of his short-comings.

The word “fair” in the Scriptures means attractive or beautiful, clear and sunny, clean and unblemished. Only in modern English has it come to be used for equality or sameness. The fact is, in the sense that all are entitled to the same... that was lost in the fall of man. To suggest that every person should be judged by an equality that is lost in the living of life, the choices made, or the culture to which they were born, is in itself unjust. Most of the parables of Jesus deal with inequality of people (talents, seed/sower, judgment). God doesn’t rule by fairness, but righteousness. God is not concerned with fair, but is just in all things.

The place where fairness is a concern is in games, from sports to checkers. Because of the inequality of persons (mental, physical, social, spiritual) rules are set to seek dis-interest in the differences relative to each person or team.

When dealing with society, however, fairness cannot be the goal. Every action between humans is rooted in acumen: such as insight, discernment, accuracy, knowledge, wisdom, intuition, sensitivity, intelligence, refinement, good taste, etc. and if such has been denied the person or neglected by the person, it will most likely militate against fairness throughout life.

A young man came into the Shepherd office seeking money for an ID. I asked why he wanted an ID. Slouched in the chair opposite mine, his hat on backwards, his pants below his butt, five inches of boxer shorts showing, he mumbled barely audible, “to get a job”. In a mater-of-fact voice, I said: “you are not going to get a job”. He did not ask why, but he did look at me, so I proceeded to criticize his demeanor and bearing. He said, “that’s not fair.” I said, “No, but it is just. You set the rules for fairness, being human sets what is right in the sight of God and man. You made your move to be judged negatively by dropping out of school, and thinking everyone ought to accept that as you had not. Go get a GED.”

In our society, concern for social justice has been slowly creeping into a political issue of social fairness, which, of course, is impossible to achieve without making some “rule” that will quench the spirit of people who want to know and do what is right for themselves and/or their fellowman. Justice (the root means “right” in Latin)...i.e.

the desire to do right rather than be fair.

When you get to heaven and see people who were not as faithful or did not struggle as much as you did, do not whine, “that’s not fair.” Remember, it cost Lucifer his job.

Hygiene items (family size, unopened) are always needed at Shepherd of the Streets. Call 570-322-6538 if you have questions about of what to get. Many thanks to those who have supplied us with hygiene items throughout the year. The list follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <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> |

NGA ~ Needlework Guild
of America

New Clothes

For New Tomorrows

NGA: This year the Newberry Branch of NGA donated 1123 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
 - 451 personal care items and blankets
- Expectations for Women:
 - 64 baby items (at St. Mark's request)
- Daniel's Closet:
 - 503 items of clothing
- Salvation Army:
 - 36 items of clothing and 10 shoe vouchers for their dress for success program
- Messiah Lutheran for their angel tree
 - 22 items of clothing/shoe vouchers
- Danville Hospital (St. Mark's request)
 - 19 items of clothing
- Campus Ministry
 - 5 shoe vouchers
- Family Promise
 - 13 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.

FOOD PANTRY **Mona Rundio, Coordinator 570-322-1657**E-mail - foodpantry@uclc.org*

New year, new season, new reasons, and new resolutions. These are things we all hear and go through time and time again. One year it may be us who feel very blessed and go through many wonderful new opportunities, but at the same time, others may not feel as fortunate. Although difficulties arise, we are still blessed every day. We awaken and are part of this fabulous world God has blessed us with! So what to do.....?

For us here at the pantry, we take each day happy, loving, giving, and sharing with others is a huge purpose for us. We also know that the great donations we receive come from individuals, organizations, and churches are given with the same open loving hearts. If you happen to wonder what can I do this year that makes a difference. Well one thing is to spread that light in you to others, not as fortunate or those who wonder of how to help. And it is simply by your words, actions, and praise.



As we help others at the pantry there are some sad moments, but in return there are many happy moments to remember. The clients here are very thankful for our helping, sharing, and enlightening their day and lives. I have not been here very long but am delighted to participate as a member of the United Churches family. The welcomes and heartwarming hellos from volunteers, clients, and board members continue to ignite God's radiant light within me to reach everyone who comes to our pantry.

So in this New Year, we appreciate all you and others do for our clients and our pantry. Each week we have new families and people signing up and all the donations we receive are needed and appreciated. Please remember to check all dates on your donated items. Listed below is a list of some items we are in need of for our shelves:

<i>Coffee\instant coffee (no K-cups)</i>	<i>Juice\Juice mix</i>
<i>Peanut Butter</i>	<i>Jelly</i>
<i>Cereal\oatmeal</i>	<i>Cans of Stew</i>
<i>Soups\Chowders</i>	<i>Syrup</i>
<i>Spaghetti Sauce</i>	<i>Mac&Cheese</i>
<i>Crackers\Cookies</i>	<i>Jello\ pudding</i>
<i>Ramen noodles</i>	<i>Rice-a-roni</i>
	<i>Ketchup</i>
	<i>Mustard</i>
	<i>Salad Dressing</i>
	<i>Sugar\Flour</i>

As we continue to get settled here in the new location and reorganize things to stay as friendly and welcoming to all, our new year resolution is to keep up with federal and state codes and to continue helping those people in need in our area. We continue to give thanks and keep you all in our prayers to remain warm and open hearted to give to

others that are in need. God Bless you all!!

Remember we are at the rear of 320 Park Ave. in the Msgr. Castellano Center. Hours are Mondays 9:30-Noon for donations and Tuesdays and Thursday 10-3 for client services. The pantry will be closed between 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 7, 2016) and some do it for the three weeks before.

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 2015 the grand total generated was \$8,049,3859 collected in cash and food items by 6,680 groups, for their charities. Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 and since then they have received reports of over \$100 Million in cash and food items being donated. Be part of this modern day miracle by getting your congregation on board. For details go to: www.souperbowl.org.

2016 MINISTRIES SCHEDULE*

Thank you all for your willingness to participate in our ministries this year! The schedules are out, so if you didn't get yours, please contact us at 570-322-1110 or director@uclc.org. I was amazed to look over the filled calendar and realize that along with volunteers who provide 850 worship services in area facilities; we have volunteers who provide 312 devotions available 24/7 to help folks have a closer walk with God, and still more volunteers who provide 64 editorials over the year to bring hope and light to the community. What a blessing you are!

**Mark these 2016 Dates on Your Calendar:**

Church Women United -
Friday, March 4 at 1:30 p.m. at
First Church of Christ Disciples
Ascension Ecumenical Service - Thursday, May 5
United Churches Sixth Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, September 23, at White Deer at 8:45 a.m.
CROP Walk - Sunday, October 9, 1:30 p.m.
The River Walk, beginning at St. Mark's, Wmspt.

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

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save (Ps 72:12-13). – We are called upon to be the hands of God in advocating for and serving those in need. Let us make a resolution to do more in charity and justice as we walk with those experiencing hunger and poverty in our communities, the nation, and the world.

The 2016 Hunger Report by the Numbers: Each year since 2008, the number of food-insecure people in the United States has hovered between 48 million and 50 million, approximately one in six people in the country. Food insecurity increases, by nearly 50%, a person’s chances of becoming a high-cost user of healthcare services within five years.

In 2014, the most recent year with complete data, 19.2 percent of U.S. households with children (7.5 million households) reported being food-insecure. In about half of these households, both adults and children were food-insecure. A study of 14,000 children, using data collected at intervals between birth and the start of kindergarten, found that when mothers are moderately to severely depressed, the risk of child and household food insecurity increases by 50 percent to 80 percent.

Between 2001 and 2013, the threat of hunger among seniors increased by 45 percent. Food insecure seniors are 60 percent more likely than other seniors to experience depression. In 2014, food insecurity in the United States increased healthcare expenditures by \$160.7 billion. (Source: www.bread.org)

10 Ways You Can Help End Hunger During Elections

1. Develop an “elevator speech” explaining why ending hunger is important to you as a Christian. (An elevator speech is one in which the central message is conveyed in 60 seconds.)
2. Register to vote.
3. Write a letter to your local newspaper saying that ending hunger is a priority for you as a voter.
4. Learn what each candidate says about ending hunger.
5. Speak at candidates’ town hall meetings about the importance of ending hunger.
6. Engage your friends. Make sure they are registered to vote and know what each candidate says about ending hunger.
7. Magnify your voice by combining it with those of thousands of others. Become a member of Bread for the World (BFW). Hold a BFW Offering of Letters.

8. Engage your church/campus in a dialogue about hunger and poverty.
9. Give money and volunteer time to candidates who are committed to ending hunger.
10. VOTE for candidates who are committed to ending hunger. (Source: www.bread.org)



Tammey Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@ucl.org

Soup Sale for United Campus Ministry
 \$7.00 per quart
 (Checks payable to “United Churches Campus Ministry”)

Order Form

Type	Quantity
Beef and Barley.	_____
Chicken and Cheese Ravioli.	_____
Chicken Corn Chowder.	_____
Chili.	_____
Creamy Mushroom.	_____
Ham and Bean.	_____
Hot Sausage and Shrimp Gumbo.	_____
Hot Sausage, Spinach, Tomato Tortellini.	_____
Loaded Baked Potato.	_____
Minestrone.	_____
Sausage and Potato.	_____
Split Pea and Ham.	_____
Zuppa Toscana.	_____

Total Quarts ordered: _____ x \$7. \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail checks to Tammey Aichner at 1325 Mansel Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701

Delivery between February 22nd and February 27th. Tammey will contact you to arrange a delivery time. All soup will be delivered frozen. All proceeds will go toward our Campus Ministry Mission Trip.

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*

Join us Wednesdays for lunch and a 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 570-323-5911 to know if Ecumenical lunch has been cancelled.

JANUARY

- 13- **The Rev. Cynthia Dallas-Kirk**, Pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Williamsport, "From Tragedy to Healing: God Works for Good from Emmanuel AME Church, Charleston South Carolina"
- 20- **The Rev. Ashley Rossi**, Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church and Director of Ecumenism, United Churches, and **The Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches, **The Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity, "Called To Proclaim The Mighty Acts of the Lord."**
- 27- **Mrs. Pat Wittig, Mrs. Barbara Allen and Mrs. Velna Grimes**, Church Women United Ecumenical Action, "**Reaching out to Nursing Home Residents**"

FEBRUARY:

- 3- **The Rev. Spencer Sweeting**, Pastor, City Alliance Church, "**God Is Doing Amazing Things in Thailand and Across the Asian Pacific Region**"
- 10- **The Rev. Doug Eberly**, Pastor, Pine Street United Methodist Church, and **The Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches, "**Ash Wednesday**"
- 17- **The Rev. Dr. Susan Halverstadt**, Pastor, Warrensville United Methodist Charge, "**Mexico Mission Trip to Give Ye Them to Eat Project**"
- 24- **Ms. Mona Rundio**, United Churches Food Pantry Coordinator, "**The Gift of Receiving**"

PROJECT BALD EAGLE'S FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

New Year - New Hope is our emphasis for January. Our prayer is that every church and faith community has choose a week to offer prayers and support for those dealing with heroin and opioid addiction, as well as their families and others affected by this epidemic. "New Year – New Hope" is our emphasis for the month.

The purpose of the Faith-based Initiative is "to facilitate healing of spirit through the power of God's love." We believe that the power of transformational prayer is key to

the hope and recovery of those with addictions, and essential to undergird the efforts of everyone involved in Project Bald Eagle (formerly known as the Heroin Task Force).

It is not too late to choose a week. We have resources available for your use, including a prayer card that can be printed and used as a bulletin insert and suggested litanies for your worship service. For information on the Faith-based Initiative Sub-committee, contact chairperson, the Rev. Andrew France (amfrance@comcast.net). For information on resources for your worship service in January, contact Karen Barraco (kbarraco@windstream.net).

Additional Events to watch for:

- ▶ February 23 (Tuesday): Prayer Breakfast
- ▶ April 17 (Sunday): Community Prayer Walks
- ▶ Sunday School Curriculum on Drug Prevention
- ▶ More Prayer Services at Susquehanna Health

CREATION CORNER

from our Christian Social Concerns Committee

MOVING THE NEEDLE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

If you could move the needle on one environmental issue, what would it be? Consider the following short list of study guides and books, most written from a religious perspective for a reader of faith. Among them you may find some to inspire you.

STUDY GUIDES

The Papal Encyclical Letter from Pope Francis, *Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home*, includes a study guide in the published paperback version from The Word Among Us Press (wau.org), that is not provided anywhere else. "Addressed not only to Catholics but to 'every person living on this planet,' Pope Francis' second encyclical is a challenging call for a 'bold cultural revolution' in how we think about technological progress and economic growth. The degradation of our environment, he says, is a symptom of deeper problems: rapid change, unsustainable over-consumption, indifference to the poor, and the decay of social values. He offers a variety of solutions, including a change in lifestyles away from 'extreme consumerism' and toward a greater sense of social responsibility. For Christians, an 'ecological spirituality'--- one that is grounded in the convictions of our faith--- is not 'an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.'

For Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology and the Pulpit, by Leah Schade, a Lutheran pastor in northcentral PA, is free and available from the web site of Chalice Press.com, where a discounted version of the book is available in digital formats.

-continued on page 7

Creation Corner ... continued from page 6

A SAMPLE LIST OF BOOKS

- 75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know: The Fascinating Stories Behind Great Works of Art, Literature, Music and Film. Terry Glaspey.
- About Earth's Child: An Ecological Listening to the Gospel of Luke. Michael Trainor.
- Backpacking With the Saints: Wilderness Hiking as Spiritual Practice. Belden C. Lane.
- Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi. Richard Rohr.
- The Ecological Thought. Timothy Morton.
- Ecology Without Nature: Rethinking Environmental Aesthetics. Timothy Morton.
- For the Love of All Creatures: The Story of Grace in Genesis. William Greenway.
- From Nature to Creation: A Christian Vision for Understanding and Loving Our World. Norman Wirzba.
- Gardening Eden: How Creation Care Will Change Your Faith, Your Life, and Our World. Michael Abbate. (includes 15 pages of resources)
- Grounded: Finding God in the World/A Spiritual Revolution. Diana Butler Bass.
- Hope Against Darkness: The Transforming Vision of Saint Francis in an Age of Anxiety. Richard Rohr.
- Inherit the Holy Mountain: Religion and the Rise of American Environmentalism. Mark Stoll.
- Islam Statement on the Environment: see IslamicClimateDeclaration.org
- Methodism in the American Forest. Russell E. Richey.
- A New Climate for Theology: God, The World, and Global Warming. Sallie McFague.
- Our Only World: Ten Essays, by Wendell Berry.
- Sallie McFague: Collected Readings. Sallie McFague and David B Lott, editors.

WELCOME

Cornerstone Family Health has added another counselor to their psychotherapy department. Allison Keppler MA, LPC, CBIS is now available to see clients. She has a MA in Clinical Counseling from Eastern University. Allison has over 10 years of experience and has worked in residential, outpatient, and community based programs. She has provided individual, family, marriage and group counseling. Allison enjoys working with all ages but is most passionate about working with adults. She, Timothy Bryant, PhD, LMFT, David Rising EdD, and Elise Meckbach, LPC can be reached at 326-4118. More information is available at www.fpctors.com.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Sojourner Truth is looking for churches for our Saturday cafe and Sunday to serve a meal. they can go to our web page stmwilliamsport.org to see the requirements and to call Pastor Velinda Smith, 570-323-1797.

NAMI meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM at Robert M Sides Music Store located at 201 Mulberry Street in Williamsport. Speakers January 12th will be Heather Bausinger (Garbrick) sharing her story, "In her own Words" and Laural Spencer, Clinical Director of Diakon Family Life services presenting on Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Celebrate Recovery: A Christ Centered Program! Find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups. Sundays at 5 pm at the Evangelical Center, First Church United Methodist, 604 Market St. Williamsport.

Meal Packaging Event to be hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church in South Williamsport will be hosting a meal packaging event on Friday, April 1st. Volunteers are needed to package 20,000+ protein fortified macaroni and cheese meals that are then given to a Food Bank for distribution to those who hunger in our counties. The meals cost \$0.25 each. Work is available for all ages and abilities! For more information, contact Kathy Wither at 570-326-9171, x203 or wither15@comcast.net.



United Churches is celebrating it's **Seventieth** year! Our initial organizational meeting was Friday evening, January 4, 1946. Paul G. Gilmore was elected president, and our name, at that time, was the Council of Churches of Williamsport and Vicinity. Thus began "this organization that comprises both ministers and lay persons to unify and carry forward many of our common interests." Approximately 40 representatives of 25 congregations attended that organizational meeting. We have continued to expand our relationships with each other and our community. Becoming county wide, sustaining meaningful ministry, spin off programs that could become self sustaining, and develop necessary new ministry.

This year many new things will be coming up. For example, instead of an Ecumenical Pre-Lenten Service this year we are looking toward an Ecumenical Ascension Service on May 5.

Join us this year as we celebrate our ministry and who we are together. And help us to listen to God as we continue to discern who we are and who we serve.

