



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

**UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY**

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Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Issued mid-monthly, September through May with some 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 XXXIV NUMBER 3

[www.uclc.org](http://www.uclc.org)

March 14, 2017

Please notify us of changes of email address

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

## **POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE\***.....*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**H**e who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will himself also call and not be heard. (Proverbs 21:13) Fortunately many are listening to the cry of the poor in our communities. However, we are challenged to go beyond charity and advocate for justice – changing systems that contribute to hunger and poverty.

**Local School Lunch Programs Reveal Pervasive Level of Need:** Recently released data for the 2016-17 school year for Free and Reduced Lunch programs in county

schools reveals a high level of need for children. Many school districts experienced an increase in the total percentage of eligible children. The overall county average was 7,860 children.



School District	% Free Eligible	% Reduced Eligible	Total % 2017	Total % 2016
East Lycoming	31.1	4.2	35.3	31.8
Jersey Shore	44.8	6.6	51.4	45.8
Loyalsock	35.0	3.7	38.7	36.5
Montgomery	42.3	6.5	48.8	39.7
Montoursville	22.8	4.0	26.8	26.5
Muncy	35.2	4.0	39.2	39.1
South Williamsport	37.9	6.0	43.9	40.3
Williamsport	60.8	6.4	67.2	66.4

In charity we need to do more to support food pantries and other programs that assist families with children. In justice we need to advocate for strengthen programs focused on child nutrition. (Statistics are from the PA Department of Education)

**Take Action** – On behalf of children and their mothers:  
*-continued on page 2*



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

**This year's Bread for the World's Offering of Letters campaign focuses on mothers and children.**



Hunger and malnutrition affect mothers and children more than any other group. Bolstering the nutrition of these groups will help us make great strides toward ending hunger altogether by 2030.

As an advocate, you can influence lawmakers through persistent phone calls, emails, handwritten letters, video-recorded messages, and in-person meetings. Politely remind lawmakers that, as a citizen and voter, you hold power and that they are accountable to you. Tell them what you want them to do, why it matters to you, and who else in their district/state you represent. For more info visit [www.bread.org/take-action](http://www.bread.org/take-action).

**PA Council of Churches-Advocacy:** Through the Public Witness Ministry of the Penna Council of Churches we...

- empower people of faith, through education and skill-building, to make a difference for the common good in the public square;
- advocate on behalf of the Council's member church bodies before Pennsylvania's legislative and administrative branches of government.

The Council's Principles for Public Advocacy, informed by scripture and the positions of our member communions/denominations, guide our efforts. Legislative priorities are set every two years in coordination with each two year legislative session. The Council's Board also adopts resolutions to provide a more formal, public stance on particular issues. Please join in helping to build a more just society!

Public Witness is one of the ministries of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. To learn more about this ministry, go to [www.pachurchesadvocacy.org](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org).

**UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY \***

Mona Rundio, Coordinator

[foodpantry@ucl.org](mailto:foodpantry@ucl.org) or 570-322-1657

**N**ow that Lent is here, let us look and listen to the worldly lives around us. We all tend to, at times, only think and live for our own means to survive in any way possible. Lent is the time for us to give what we can for our souls and those less fortunate than ourselves.

It's a time to prepare our garden for the new life coming soon. So let's plant seeds by expressing love, mercy and grace in the world. Doing so we experience joy and share hope with those around us.

This is also the time to offer others grace, as God had given us, and to give to those in need without anything in return but the opportunity to renew our deep faith in the Lord. As we grow and try to become united with All in the journey of life upon this sinful world let's show that we can give and feed others through our belief and faith.

Our United Churches Food Pantry currently needs...

<b>Bisquick Mix</b>	<b>Cereal</b>	<b>Canned Meats</b>
<b>Canned Fruits</b>	<b>Condiments</b>	<b>Boxed Potatoes</b>
<b>Jelly/Jam</b>	<b>Juices</b>	<b>Noodles</b>
<b>Ramen Noodles</b>	<b>Oatmeal</b>	<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>
<b>Healthy Snacks</b>	<b>Spam</b>	

The Pantry hours: Monday: 9 - 12 for donations  
Tuesday: 10:15 - 2 clients  
Thursday: 10:15 - 2:30 clients



**NEW LOVE CENTER PANTRY**

**J**ersey Shore Ministerium's New Love Center Pantry serves households mostly in Lycoming County but also in Clinton County. During February they served 373 households, 11 of them new, for a total of 879 people.

A Backpack Program began this January to help food insecure children on the weekend and it continues to flourish. Distributions are being made by volunteers at Phelps Chapel to Avis, Jersey Shore, and Salladasburg Elementary schools. They now distribute 34 backpacks and hear many positive comments from teachers and principals.

They also reach out in special ways to a growing senior population, distributing 73 senior boxes this month. The item of the month they are collecting is Rice-a-Roni, any flavor. This pantry is currently located at St. John's ELCA, 229 South Broad Street, Jersey Shore.

**SON LIGHT HOUSE**

**E**astern Lycoming County reaches out to those in need through The Son Light House, 130 Carpenter St., Muncy, distributing food, clothing and sometimes furniture to individuals and families.

In January the provided food for 516 households (9 new) including a total of 1,264 individuals.

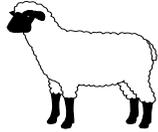
Just as the statistics on page one show an increase in the school lunch program, the average monthly recipients increased slightly in the eastern portion of Lycoming County last year. Son Light House served an average of 601 households made up of 1,467 individuals.

Donations of food (especially cereal), clean usable seasonal clothing, toys and furniture can be donated Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7:30 - 10 a.m.

**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

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

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,  
570-322-6538, [shepherd@ucl.org](mailto:shepherd@ucl.org)



*Judging the Book by its Cover*

**A** famous violinist whose concerts brought \$145 a ticket, went onto a busy street of Boston as a homeless person, put his shabby hat down and played his wonderful music. Only six people stopped to listen...only two gave some change. Everyone else walked by ignoring both man and music.

It has always been a wonder to me why people fear the poor, even when I did, too. Fear comes from an Old English word which means “ambush”. It is a feeling of apprehension. Fear is caused by assuming a possibility. We fear from subconscious and conscious dreads that are present probabilities. In other words, we learn most of our fears. The two human reactions when encountering fear is to fight or flee that come from both ignorance and knowledge. As far as I know, the only fear one is born with is the fear of falling...that’s good, from God. There are proper and just fears, but this writing is not examining that kind of fear.

Have we received the shallow idea that if someone is poor, it means that they are mentally handicapped and could be violent, or they are dirty and you might catch something from them, or they have squandered their human franchise and will try to get at yours, or that they are scoundrels and sinners? St. Paul wrote: “Avoid the appearance of evil” and that such admonition is toward the poor. The poor indeed may have poor language skills, bad hygiene, clothes that are ragged and dirty, but they can also be highly intelligent, but insecure believers in God. They might just be the victims of generational poverty, poor choices, traumatic events, crime, disturbed parents or absentee parents, or worse: never loved.

What a child learns to fear will grow into a neurosis and effect their Christian life. But, we can outgrow our fears. St. Paul wrote: “when I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.”

The opposite of love is fear. Jesus told us to love the poor. In I John we read, “Perfect love cast out fear”. Listen to the litany of fear: “impatience, unkindness, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, easily angered, remembers wrongs”. (I Cor. 13) How are we to rid ourselves of fear? By being loved by someone who protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres in loving others.



Forgiveness, of others and self, is the gate to love, for you can only love others as much as you love yourself, and you can only truly love yourself as a redeemed child of God. There is no other way to cast out fear and there is no other way to reach the poor with the saving grace of God’s undifferentiated Love.

**WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES\***

**J**oin 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.



**LENTEN SERIES: GOD’S PRESENCE IN YOU**

**Lord Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace**

**MARCH**

- 15- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches of Lycoming County, *“Where There is Doubt, Faith; Where There is Despair, Hope”*
- 22- **Rev. David Smith**, Pastor, Montoursville Presbyterian Church, *“Where There Is Sadness, Joy; Where There is Darkness, Light”*
- 29- **Rev. James West**, Pastor, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Williamsport, *“Grant That I May Not Seek to be Consoled, as to Console”*



**APRIL:**

- 5 - **Pastor Kathy Burkhart**, Unityville United Methodist Charge, *“To be Understood as to Understand, to be Loved as to Love”*
- 12- **Mrs. Tammey Aichner**, United Campus Ministry, United Churches, *“For it Is in Giving That We Receive and in Dying That We Are Born”*  
\* \* \* \* \*
- 19- **Ms. Jan Ulmer**, Senior Manager of Mission Delivery, East Central Division of the American Cancer Society, *“Helping Others Celebrate More Birthdays”*
- 26- **Rev. Danesta Whaley**, Northeast Regional Director Yokefellowship Prison Ministries, **“God Sets Eternity In Our Hearts”**

Join us! Bring a friend! Make new friends!

**SAVE THE DATE****7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT****UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY**

Friday, September 22, 2017      8:45 AM Shotgun Start  
 Registration 8:15 AM      White Deer Challenge Course

**Contact:**

Ken Weiss  
 161 West Hills Drive  
 Williamsport PA 17701  
 570-321-9555  
[kweiss1213@gmail.com](mailto:kweiss1213@gmail.com)



**LUNCH AND GIFTS FOR EACH GOLFER!**



**Tammy Aichner, Coordinator, [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org)**

**A** huge thank you for the outpouring of support of our soup sale! We sold more than we had made, so I am just sitting down after a long day of making more to fill all the orders!

We are in the home stretch of the year. The students will be returning from Spring Break on Monday. Within a month and a half we will be starting finals. A number of our students graduate this year. Our prayers will be with them as they embark on the next phase of their journey. They have changed lives of the people they have met while on campus, namely mine! Please don't underestimate the impact of what may seem like a small conversation or a chance encounter. Sometimes a smile can mean so much to someone who is struggling. Thank you to all who have supported Campus Ministry, in many different ways, this year.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED \***

**M**ay Friendship Day Celebration will be held Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Williamsport. The luncheon will again be catered by Crouse Catering and the menu will include his delicious chicken salad with all our favorite trimmings. The cost this year will be \$9, and reservations should be sent to send your reservations in as early as possible or by April 28<sup>th</sup> to Dianne Casella, 407 Allen Street, Montoursville, Pa 17754.

The program, Kindling New Fires of Love, will begin at 1:15 pm. Please bring a contribution for the United Churches Food Pantry as part of your offering.

There is plenty of parking in the parking lots north of the church and the church is handicapped accessible. Watch for more details coming soon.

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

**F**or Sale: Kimbel Piano needs a new home. The owner is willing to give it away free to a congregation or ministry who would like it. It was tuned approximately years ago. Contact Pam Hansen at [pam.hansen@thrivent.com](mailto:pam.hansen@thrivent.com).

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES \***

**P**astoral Care Volunteers Needed: UPMC Susquehanna is searching for dedicated men and women to assist our chaplains with spiritual care visits in the hospital and nursing home. A 6 hour training is planned for early April. Volunteers generally serve 2-3 hour a week and can be flexible. Reach out to those in need with this healing ministry while helping us to achieve our mission of "Extending God's Healing Love". If you are interested apply at [www.susquehannahealth.org/volunteers](http://www.susquehannahealth.org/volunteers). Call the Volunteer Offices at 570-321-2433 or 570-546-4128 if you have questions.



**S**usquehanna Valley CASA is the voice for children in our community. This volunteer-powered network is made up of com-

mitted citizens - from all walks of life - who are specially trained to fight for the basic rights, essential needs and best interests of abused and neglected children in our local courtrooms and communities.

A CASA volunteer meets directly and regularly with his/her assigned child (or sibling set), and also speaks with everyone of significance to the child, to understand every aspect of the child's life - placement/permanency, visitation, educational, medical, behavioral, social, financial/physical needs, vocational & life skills. The volunteer informs the Court, through written reports, as to what the child's needs are, and makes recommendations regarding a permanent home and any needed support or services for the child.

It takes just one caring adult to make a lifelong difference in the life on an abused or neglected child. The majority of local abused and neglected children do not have a CASA volunteer at their side. To find out how to help contact Yevonne Heatley, Executive Director at 570-998-2200 or email her at [voicesforchildren@susquehannavalleycasa.com](mailto:voicesforchildren@susquehannavalleycasa.com).

**CREATION CORNER**

*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*

Climate Caretakers: Biblical, Scientific, Business

**J**ohn Elwood, of Climate Caretakers, combines biblical, scientific, and business approaches in his monthly Evangelical blog, [www.BelovedPlanet.com](http://www.BelovedPlanet.com), now in its 7th year. It reflects his "hearing the gospel's call to care for an injured planet" as an elder in the Presbyterian Church in America. Covering such themes of faith, science, and justice, his resources list includes 24 on-line, 42 books and 5 videos.

- Tracking CO2, now at over 400 ppm, is Earth's CO2 home page, <https://www.co2.earth>.
- The <https://www.desmogblog.com> is about the global warming misinformation campaign, and tries to clear public relations pollution that clouds climate science.
- Other recommended sites include Climate Progress, Skeptical Science, the U.S. Drought Monitor, EcoWatch, [www.350.org](http://www.350.org), etc.

Following Elwood's "Action" suggestions, one finds [www.theRE100.org](http://www.theRE100.org). It notes what corporations do to reduce carbon emissions by pledging to use 100% renewable energy resources. The private sector uses 1/2 of the world's electric consumption, and some of the most influential companies' pledges come from Walmart, P&G, Nike, Nestle, Microsoft, GM, Google, FB, Johnson & Johnson, Starbucks, etc.

[www.TheRE100.org](http://www.TheRE100.org) is brought to us by [www.TheClimate-Group.org](http://www.TheClimate-Group.org). It works with businesses, governments, NGOs, etc., and the Carbon Disclosure Project (<https://www.cdp.-net/en>) that motivates companies and cities to disclose their environmental impact, thus helping to drive sustainable economics.

Both of these are members on the [www.wemean-businesscoalition.org](http://www.wemean-businesscoalition.org), urging 100s of investors and businesses to create a low carbon revolution.

One Coalition member, **The B Team**, goes beyond Plan A ("business as usual") to Plan B, for transparency and anti-corruption. "B" corporations are conscientious, not just for sustain ability and minimizing harm, but also for maximizing their positive impact. Thus, people using business as a force for good.

There is a news-stand magazine, "B", [www.bthechange.com](http://www.bthechange.com) and BestForTheWorld <http://bftw.bthechange.com/> web sites.

Another Coalition member, [www.ceres.org](http://www.ceres.org), works with advocates, investors and companies to integrate environmental and social considerations into business decision-making, the goal being sustainable prosperity.

"The Good News is a 'lamp shining in a dark place.'"

**DIAL - A - DEVOTION \***

Have you called yet?  
The number is 570-322-5762.  
It's available 24 hours a day.



**D**evotions 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 devotionalists this winter include:

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3/13-19 - Mr. Zavon Braggs  | 3/20-26 - Mrs. Patty Gohrs          |
| 3/27-4/2 - Fr. Dan Kovalak  | 4/3-9 - Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens |
| 4/10-16 - Ms. Tammy Aichner | 4/17-23 - Rev. Gwen Bernstine       |

*Listen Today and tell others about this Ministry!*

**MINISTRY NEEDS:**

**S**hepherd 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.

**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)**

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

Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellow Center 

**T**hen the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' -Mt. 25:34-36

If you have been thinking about the possibility of prison ministry and ministering to those who are incarcerated or linking with the ministry in some other way, come join us for a volunteer training. You will be blessed!

THE DATE IS SET:

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Saturday, March 25, 2017

9 am - 12 Noon

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry Office

1200 Almond Street, Williamsport

(Light refreshments will be served)

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.

**GLIMPSES OF HOPE -- RECOVERY**

**A** Local Woman Shares Her Message... When I started my journey with addiction, the only things I knew to do was be an addict, a criminal and selfish. Just 3 years ago I thought I was going to die in active addition. As my life spiraled

out of control, any hope within me died. I lost my husband, my job and my self-respect. But my biggest failure was losing my children. Within a year and a half, I overdosed at least 12 documented times where Narcan had been administered. For reasons unknown to me, my Higher Power wasn't ready for me just yet. After every treatment center, there was an almost immediate relapse, but I took something with me from each place. It took me many years to get and stay sober! I really don't know how but one day I wanted more for myself.

My SOBRIETY date is 4-1-15! Since that day my life started to get better, I was given all the support and confidence I've needed to achieve my goals and become the person I am today. After I got sober, I immediately became employed. I had to get used to normal life again - become accountable, dependable and responsible, which wasn't always easy. I just kept doing what I was doing, every day. Don't get me wrong, some days are hard. There was a time when I couldn't find a good enough reason to stay sober but today, I can't find a good enough reason to pick up.

As I proved to be consistent in my recovery and making the right decisions, things started to fall into place. My relationships with my children began to heal, I no longer felt hopeless. Then I felt, somehow, I needed to help other addicts like me. I was told about a class that was being offered to become a Certified Recovery Specialist. Feeling very apprehensive, I took the steps to be a part of this class. A few weeks later I was told that I was chosen to attend the 9 week course! After 54 hours of training, a state exam and unconditional support from different people, I became certified. Then came one of the most amazing rewards. I was offered a position allowing me the opportunity to give back what's been given to me.

Today I financially support myself, I can help my children when they need it. Most importantly, I'm available. I pick up my phone when it rings, I do what I say I'm going to do, on a daily basis.

I am just so excited about the unknown, THE SKY IS THE LIMIT today. All I need to do is ask for help when I need it and put in the work. The rewards are endless, at least, that's been my experience to this point. I wish everyone like me could feel the peace that I feel inside. That be-

ing said, I would give it away if I could, so you all know for a fact, that no matter what THERE IS HOPE and WE DO RECOVER!!

So please, if you, someone you know or love is struggling with any kind of substance abuse, there is a place you can go to get treatment and continuous support. Just make the decision to make the call, that's all you need to do, at this moment.

Loving an addict isn't easy but please never give up. Sometimes all it takes is one person to never give up, JUST ONE PERSON!

PLEASE JUST REACH OUT TO SOMEONE!!!!!!  
TODAY!!!!!!

**Good Friday Services; Friday, April 14****Noon- 3:00 pm**

**St. Marks Lutheran Church**, 142 Market St., Williamsport, by the Williamsport City Min.

**Calvary Church of the Nazarene**, 3200 Lycoming Creek Rd, by the Hepburn Lycoming Min.

**Christ United Methodist Church**, 148 S Main St, Hughesville, by the E Lycoming Ministerium.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1407 Allegheny St, Jersey Shore, with a walk with the cross from First UMC, 236 South Main Street to Trinity UMC.

**1:00 pm**

**Resurrection Catholic Church**, 75 Musser Lane Muncy, by the Muncy Ministerium.

**7:00 pm**

**Mill Creek United Methodist Church**, 2255 Warrensville Road, Montoursville, hosted by the Montoursville United Methodist Cluster.

**St. John Lutheran "Brick" Church, Montgomery**, 196 Brick Church Road, A Cantata - "Tapestry of Darkness", hosted by the Montgomery Ministerium.

**St. James Lutheran Church, Rauchtown**, by the area Lutheran Congregations.

**Oval United Methodist Church**, 6796 South Rt. 44 Hwy, hosted by the Nippenose Valley Ministerium.

## REDUCING MASS INCARCERATION

**H**ealing Communities USA develops partnerships with faith communities across the country in order to mobilize congregations around reducing and providing alternatives to mass incarceration. Healing Communities identifies partners of like spirit who understand that pastoral ministry and prophetic witness exist as necessary dimensions of a holistic ministry.



In that regard, their partnership with the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and its Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach represents a tremendous opportunity to assist congregations and communities in fulfilling their mandates to care for prisoners and their families, as well as advocate for ethical criminal justice reform consistent with the best of Christian practice. They are well on their way to introducing and supporting their model partnership throughout the state, with congregations in ten counties already represented in training and implementation.

The Christian Social Concerns Committee of United Churches is working to become the eleventh county to begin this training and implementation. We need your interest and participation. Together we can learn how best to build relationships of healing, redemption and reconciliation in families and communities impacted by crime and mass incarceration. Contact Gwen at 570-419-1464 or [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) to share your interest in reducing and providing alternatives to mass incarceration.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

**E**nvironmental 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. 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 cost is \$140, which includes lodging, meals, and program expenses. A few spaces are still available. Contact Gail Landers at 570-326-2337 or 570-337-1661.

**Y**outh Worker and Student Leader Conference will be held Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at First United Methodist Church, 604 Market Street, Williamsport from 9-4 (registration begins at 8:30. The keynote addresses will be given by Samantha Bradley, director of Student Ministries, St. Paul Church, Chambersburg and Adjunct Professor of Communications at Messiah College and

Stephen Gallaher, Professor of Christian Ministries/Youth Ministries at Messiah College and CEO of Plum Hollow Youth Ministry Resources.

The cost of the conference is \$30/Adult and \$15/ Student (Checks can be made payable to Plum Hollow Youth Ministry Resources, 401 Skyport Rd. Mechanicsburg PA 17050 or you can register at the door (Door registration prices increase by 10%).

The seminar is for adult youth workers (staff, volunteer, veteran or beginner). Student leaders recommended for 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. There will also be a number of workshops for youth and adult leaders to choose.

## AN ECUMENICAL DECLARATION

**P**rotecting Welcome, Restoring Hope: We representatives of Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican communions in the United States, Church World Service and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, gathered together this 10th day of February, 2017, seek to join our efforts to those of other religious communities striving for the same sacred purposes, and officially declare our strong opposition to the executive order entitled "Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals." On behalf of our joint membership of 37 national member communions constituting more than 30 million Americans, we stand united in our resolve to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God in fellowship with the vulnerable, the outcast, the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, and all persons in need. As Americans, we are a nation of displaced persons.

This executive order drastically reduces refugee admissions; temporarily suspends the entire U.S. resettlement program; ends the resettlement of Syrian refugees; indefinitely bans individuals from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan from entering the United States; and preferences religious minorities. We have already witnessed the heartbreaking consequences of this executive order. Refugees who had waited years to be approved for resettlement to the United States; who had sold their belongings and given up their shelter in preparation to finally find safety, had their flights abruptly canceled and hopes of being reunited with their families in the United States dashed.

By providing preference to Christians and other religious minorities, this executive order actually places them at greater risk in some countries, where they are seen as having special status and protection. We are unequivocally opposed to any policy that restricts access to life-saving protection due to a person's religion. ----- NCCC-USA

## EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

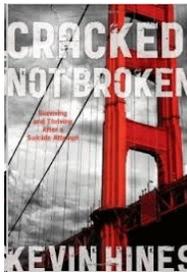
**Annual Lenten Soup Sale and Luncheon** every Thursday starting March 2<sup>nd</sup> thru April 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1pm at Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, 31 N. Loyalsock Avenue, Montoursville. Call 570-368-1863 to order

**Soup and Salad Lunch** with rolls, beverage and dessert will be held March 17th from 11-1:30 to benefit the New Love Center Building Fund. This event will be held in the Jersey Shore Library Community Room, 110 Oliver Street, Jersey Shore, PA, 17740. Tickets (\$10) are available at the door. Call 570-772-3275.

**Climate and Energy: Big Challenges and Bigger Opportunities**, will be the title of a presentation by Dr. Richard Alley on Wednesday, March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Rec Center at Lycoming College. Dr. Alley is a co-recipient of the Nobel peace Prize in 2007 in recognition of his work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Dr. Alley is also the author/host of "Earth-The Operators manual".

**Premier Vocal Ensemble: The Clarion University Chamber Singers** will perform on Thursday, March 23, 7:00 p.m. at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 229 South Broad Street, Jersey Shore. The concert is free and open to the public. They invite you to join them!

**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 Penn State Extension program that will run April 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 28<sup>th</sup>. It's free but you must register by April 1<sup>st</sup> at <http://extension.psu.-edu/health/walk-across-pa> or by calling Karen at 570-836-3196 or [kbracey@psu.edu](mailto:kbracey@psu.edu).

**CASA's Superhero 5K Run-Walk** will be Saturday, April 8 at the Lewisburg Area Recreation Park, St. Mary St. and N. 15th Sts, Lewisburg. the Kids Fun Run begins at 8:30 and the Superhero 5K (chip timed) begins at 9. There'll be kidzone activities, superheroes, great prizes for runners, walkers and best costumes (adults and kids), super awards, refreshments, music and more. All proceeds benefit Susquehanna Valley CASA. Register (\$25) at [www.parunners.com](http://www.parunners.com). Discount and guaranteed shirt through 3/22.

**Race against Racism:** The YWCA is again sponsoring this 5K and Unity fest on April 29, beginning at 9am in Brandon Park.

About Unity Fest: The goal of the YWCA's Unity Fest is to promote peace and openness by providing a safe place to be together. The YWCA believes that just by being together and sharing information in one location, we foster dialogue, diminish prejudice and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Want to participate in Unity Fest? E-mail: [athompson@ywcawilliamsport.org](mailto:athompson@ywcawilliamsport.org)

The 5K: About the route: Runners will begin in front of the band shell in Brandon Park and make their way to Wyoming Street; take Wyoming straight to Almond Street, following it to Lincoln Ave; take Lincoln straight to Packer Street; and end by taking Packer into and around the park to end at the band shell.

**Summer Theatre Camps & Workshops** are now open for registration at the Community Theater League: Call 570-327-1777 to register. For more information go to <http://www.ctlshows.com> There are camps for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.



**Have Dinner at Wendy's and Earn Money for United Churches of Lycoming County!** This event is at the Maynard Street Wendy's only, and will be held April 18<sup>th</sup>. Wendy's at Maynard Street will donate 10% of all their sales from 5 - 8 pm. Great Food - Great Cause! Enjoy!  
*.....A poster is available.*

**Earth Day March for Science** in Washington. A bus has been reserved for this April 22<sup>nd</sup> event. Scientists will line the mall with displays as a way to show concern about scientific censorship and as a learning opportunity. There'll also be speeches and a March. Seats are \$43. Anyone interested in going on the bus, contact Glenda at [knitkook@icloud.com](mailto:knitkook@icloud.com). For more information on the march go to <https://www.marchforscience.com>.