



# 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@ucl.org](mailto:director@ucl.org)

Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor

Mrs. Patty Gohrs, Administrative Asst.: [office@ucl.org](mailto:office@ucl.org)

Office Hours: 9-3 Mon, Tues, Thurs., 9-1 Wed.

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VOLUME XXX NUMBER 3

Please notify us if you change your e-mail address

MARCH 12, 2013

*Thank You for receiving our Newsletter via E-Mail.*

*It is a wonderful donation of postage, office supplies and volunteer time.*

*Please send it on to others who can make use of the information.*



The First Community Foundation Partnership is sponsoring 24 hours of online giving to support non-profits. Please support United Churches of Lycoming County on Tuesday, March 12! You have from midnight to 11:59 p.m. Go to [www.raisetheregion.com](http://www.raisetheregion.com) and have your credit card ready to make a 100% tax deductible online donation. **Thanks!**

## SOS 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR TO BEGIN

**O**ur Shepherd of the Street Program began April 1, 1988. It was created and continues to provide spiritual guidance, counseling and referral to help persons who are experiencing hunger, homelessness, unemployment or other difficulties, while bringing them to an awareness of the love of Christ.



Providing spiritual counseling was projected to be the focal point of the ministry. It is Jesus Christ who is the primary resource offered to clients to initiate or deepen their relationship with Jesus. The ministry was developed to encourage relationships between local churches and the hungry, homeless, the unemployed and unemployable of our community. The program was also developed:

- to provide our clients a listening ear, advocacy to right injustices and communicate their plight to the community and referrals to area service providers.
- to provide spiritual counseling, advocacy and referrals, and to connect people with resources for their material needs, particularly in the area of housing.

The program also provided at some times over the years:

- Thanksgiving baskets to support the families with children under 18 in our community who wish to celebrate with a home-cooked meal but can not afford to do so financially.
- a summer picnic and Christ-centered Christmas event each year bringing together children and their parents for a time of fellowship, sharing and celebration with members of area churches.

Clients requesting help through the Shepherd Ministry continue to rise. In 1996 the average number of clients seen each month was 175. In 2012 it was 347. Throughout this year look forward celebrating the things we do together through our Shepherd program and how you can help.

Visit us at the following web site - [www.ucl.org](http://www.ucl.org)

**CAMPUS MINISTRY \***

Sharon Comini, Coordinator, [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org)

The students and leaders are now on our Mission Trip. They return mid week. Please keep us in prayer as they work to help those in need in New York City.

*Thank you so much for helping us with our expenses by supporting our soup sale! We have made \$600 so far. There are a few quarts of soup still available.*

Contact Sharon at 570-419-5376 or [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org) to see what is still available. She'll deliver it to you. Soup not sold will be donated to St. Anthony's Center. Please keep UCM in your prayers as they head home from New York City.

**WEDNESDAY NOON ECUMENICAL LUNCHES\***

Join us Wednesdays for lunch and a 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, Office-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help our caterer, know how much food to prepare. Laity, clergy and people of all ages are welcome! (Listen to WRAK or call Gwen at 419-1464 to check for snow cancellation.)

**MARCH:**

- 13- **Rev. Karl Jones, Jr.**, Director of Development, Northeast PA Lions Eye Bank, *"Giving the Gift of Sight"*
- 20- **Ms. Gail Burkhart**, Director, United Churches Food Pantry, *"Food and Much - Much More"*
- 28- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Executive Director, United Churches, *"It's Wednesday and Friday's Coming"*

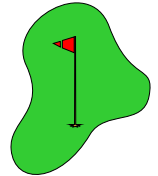
**APRIL:**

- 3- **Mrs. Virginia Dusman**, Lutheran Laywoman, *"Pennsylvania Dutch Stories"*
- 10- **Mr. Phillip Landers**, Retires Professor, Penn College, Enrolled Agent - IRS, and Sight Coordinator for AARP Tax Program, *"Taxes, Senior Citizens and the IRS"*
- 17- **Mr. Curley Jett**, Retired Williamsport Police Officer, *"Better Safe than Sorry"*
- 24- **Ryan Miller**, Edward Jones Investments, **Jim Malee**, Malee Law Firm (Wills & POAs), **Virla Ocker**, The Hillside A Senior Living Community, **Kevin Novotny**, James C. Maneval Funeral Home, (End of Life Planning), *"Key Life Decisions: Are You Prepared?"*

This is a ministry that everyone in our congregations and community is welcome to participate in. Make plans to join us and bring a friend!

## United Churches 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament\*

Ken Weiss at 321-9555 or  
E-mail: [kweiss1213@gmail.com](mailto:kweiss1213@gmail.com)



Even though it is still rather cold as I write this, plans are well under way. Our tournament will be held on FRIDAY September 27, 2013. Once again we will have a shotgun start at White Deer Golf Courses (Challenge Course). Each golfer will receive a wonderful set of gifts, a round of golf (cart included), all kinds of free food while playing, a door prize just for showing up and great buffet lunch after the round. All this and the price is the same, \$80 per golfer. We expect 25 - 30 foursomes with a Friday event that allows more people to join us.

We are currently looking for sponsors. There are many sponsorship levels; tournament sponsors... \$500, beverage cart sponsors ... \$400, meal sponsors.... \$300, hole sponsor ... \$100. All receive not only notice in all our material that day but a sign made professionally and displayed throughout the tournament.

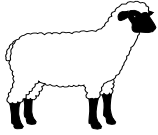
We also are looking for church sponsors which costs \$50. We kept it lower so churches can be sponsored not only through a board decision but also by a group or individual within the church (a Sunday school class or a small group) could do so that their congregation can be listed as a sponsor in our materials. If interested in supporting United Churches in any of these above ways, contact Ken Weiss.

Golfers will be notified later on in the year but if you want to get a head start on making sure you are playing this year, the contact information at the top of the column will apply.

We also need door prizes because every golfer who plays gets a gift. Their value is \$5 or more. Golfers really like gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses and it's a great way to promote your local business.

This year we are very excited to expand our raffle. Tickets will be available soon. Each ticket is a \$5 donation (5 tickets for \$20) and you need not be present to win. So far we have 3 MAJOR prizes for our raffle. The BIG ONE is a \$900 gift certificate to Golfsmith.com for the newest Taylormade Iron Set (3 - PW). We also have two wonderful paintings, framed and ready to hang. Once again, local painter, Ron Beach donated one of his beautiful landscapes. We also have a limited edition (# 55 of 100) large painting of a quaint church sitting on a hill in a winter setting, donated by the Revs. Ken and Christine Woods-Henderson. Other prizes will be added but we now know of several blue bird houses made by Rev. Larry Waltz, another photograph by Ken Weiss, and other items that will be well worth taking the chances on. Look for these tickets soon from Ken or United Churches and help us help us in selling them.

## SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\*



**J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,**  
*Contact at: 322-6538*

**F**UTILE, FUTILITY, FUTILENESS...that which fails completely of the desired end and is incapable of producing the desired result; vain, fruitless, useless, ineffectual (New World Dictionary). Some quote the saying of Jesus, “the poor you will always have with you”, as the reason they do not give to the poor; that it is futile because poverty is inevitable. Yes, poverty is inevitable...and there will always be the poor for many reasons: ignorance, disabilities, addictions, despotism, economic malpractice, crime, etc.

Eating a wholesome meal will not halt hunger’s craving, a good night’s sleep will overcome ever getting tired again, learning will not stop the mind’s inquisitiveness, a good wholesome laugh will not satisfy the soul’s longing for joy, nor will loving someone fully fill love’s urge. Eating, sleeping, learning, laughing, loving and an infinite number of other needs are futile if viewed as ever perfectly attaining their desired end. And if one is so disillusioned as to believe that these necessities are futile, they have ceased to effectively live, and intercession of the healthy is crucial and urgent. This mediation of those to care, is the justification for all physical, mental, social, and spiritual service.

Those who do not bestow good upon the indigent, the impoverished or the disadvantaged, because it is futile to do so little against that which will never be eliminated, have missed the whole point of charity. Charity is the outworking of love, the love by which love is shown. Faith in God and His Love obligates us to respond with sincere love to His charity. God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son, that we might have life to the fullest (Jn. 3:16). Jesus emphasized His mission by ministering to the poor. He said, to feed the hungry, water the thirsty, clothe the naked, care for the sick and the imprisoned and welcome the stranger was tantamount to ministering to Him. Why? It is expressing the Love of God.

Was the sacrifice of God’s Son for the sins of the world, futile? It did not rid the world of sin. Is your salvation futile? It has not kept you from sinning. But, you have tapped into it over and over satisfying your heart’s need for God’s love, mercy, and forgiveness. Faith, hope, and love remain until their perfect end is accomplished.

Indifference neglects charity...the attitude of futility refuses charity. Ignorance fails to acknowledge charity...ingratitude refuses the attribute of charity. Pride is selfishness achieved, humility is charity attained. And though poverty will never be eliminated at any time, or in any place, to view charity as futility is sin against the grace and gifts of God and His greatest act of charity: the Cross of Christ.

“The way we came to know love was that He laid down His life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not only in word or speech, but also in deed and truth.” (1 Jn. 3:16-18)

Great thanks to those who donate money for prescriptions and medical needs, work shoes and clothing; hygiene items, baby needs, and bedding. Even though we are constantly in need of these items, we do not consider it futile if you keep giving them.

We look forward to a year long celebration of this our twenty fifth year of ministry together. When we work together it is amazing what we can accomplish as we continue to reach out in love to those most in need in our county.

### **FLOOD RECOVERY: \* Call 570-322-7648**

**T**his can be you! We really need your help to get families back in their homes. We are working on **Saturday March 23.**



At this point the focus will be finishing painting, trim work, etc. The amount and type of work will depend on the progress of each work day and any new sites that have come to our attention. **Call the Flood Hot Line at 322-7648 or United Churches office at 322-1110 with the number of volunteers and to leave your contact information.** Volunteers will meet at New Covenant UCC, 202 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Williamsport at 8 a.m. Saturday to receive assignments. Everyone should wear sturdy shoes, bring work gloves, and a favorite paint brush if you have one.

Congregations can select other dates to have your own workday. Call Phil/Gail Landers at 326-2337 for details.

**FOOD PANTRY \***

Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 322-1657

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

In our Food Pantry world, it's a quiet kind of time, almost an anticipatory time. We still have myriad little details to finish to make our space fully functional and comfortable for our volunteers and clients. So our days are spent in tackling the little things and serving those who come in need of help for them and their families in these uncertain times.



The government may be trying to convince us that things are oh, so much better, and they may be for some folks but those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits, or have been cut from their jobs for 'economic' reasons or whose health won't permit them to work a full time, high paying job, these are definitely not the best of times! So we go on with full hearts knowing that our God is a loving and caring Savior who is here for us all, despite our human frailties. He continues to provide the support [that would be your generous donations] and the labor [that would be our awesome volunteers] to continue to serve our community and it's food insecure residents.

In each of the last two months , we've seen the numbers of clients served increase by approx 25 to30 people. So the need is great. We are still in the process of trying to plug some of our gaps in volunteer coverage so if it's something you've considered, call and come see what we do!

We have need of several food items for the pantry this month to fill out our shelves:

spaghetti sauce	canned tomatoes
canned fruit	pop tarts
mac-n-cheese	jello and pudding
peanut butter	saltine crackers
applesauce	powdered drink mixes
tea bags	cakes mixes

As always, you are in our prayers of thanks for helping us to continue this important work. We're grateful that you take the time to collect your donations and bring them to us. We always like having you stop to see what's happening..

Easter will soon be here and know that you and your family's intentions are being remembered in prayer. We are so blessed to have been so loved by God's only Son! Peace!

P.S. Just a reminder: our phone number is 570-322-1657 and our hours of operation remain the same at : Monday 9:30 am to 12 noon (for food donations.) Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 3 pm for client food distribution.

**POVERTY - A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE\***

from our Christian Social Concerns Committee

Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest, and whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. . . I have come not to be served by others but to serve, to give my own life as the ransom for the many. -Matthew 20:26, 28. Our culture stresses being number one. "March Madness" in college basketball is about winning. Jesus throughout his ministry stressed service to others especially those most in need. At the Passover meal just before he died, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and said "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (John 13:15). Those experiencing food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness are waiting for us to serve them.

**Local School Lunch Programs Reveal Pervasive Level of**

**Need:** The recently released data for the 2012-13 school year for Free and Reduced Lunch programs in county schools reveals a high level of need for children.

School District	% Free Eligible	% Reduced Eligible	Total %
East Lycoming	24.3	6.2	30.4
Jersey Shore	31.5	9.8	41.3
Loyalsock	22.4	6.7	29.2
Montgomery	33.7	9.0	42.7
Montoursville	16.1	6.1	22.1
Muncy	26.2	6.6	32.8
South Williamsport	25.8	8.5	34.3
Williamsport	53.8	8.7	62.5
County Average	34.5	8.0	42.5

The lowest level of income which qualifies for free lunches has increased somewhat compared with recent years revealing a shift downward in family income for some throughout the county. The data reveals that in addition to Williamsport many of the smaller school districts have significant numbers of children living in or near the official level of income based on family size that constitutes poverty.

**A Place at the Table: Advocating for Those Experiencing Hunger and Poverty:**

Bread for the World, and ecumenical advocacy organization, will sponsor its 2013 Offering of Letters focused on the vision of ensuring "A Place at the Table" for the 50 million people who live in food insecure households in the United States and the 925 million desperately hungry people around the world. For more information visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) .

**A Place at the Table: A Documentary Film:**

A Place at the Table is a new commercially released feature-length documentary that will be shown in theaters this spring. The film was produced by Participant Media (Food, Inc. and An Inconvenient Truth). The movie explores the causes of and solutions to hunger in the United States. It will move millions of Americans to do something about hunger ([www.takepart.com/table](http://www.takepart.com/table) ). The film is also available on demand.

**DIAL - A - DEVOTION \***

Have you called yet?  
The number is 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 devotionists this fall include:

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3/11-17 Mrs. Melanie Taormina | 3/18-24 Rev. Danesta Whaley     |
| 3/25-31 Rev. Gwen Bernstine   | 4/1-7 Pastors Jim/Kathy Behrens |
| 4/8-14 Rev. Margaret Balliet  | 4/15-21 Pastor Dorothy Anderson |

*Listen today and tell others about this ministry!*

**Mark the Date:**

**Church Women United  
May Friendship Day  
Friday, May 3, 2013**

South Williamsport United Methodist Church  
Lunch: Noon, Program beginning at 1:15 p.m.

Theme: "Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality"

**I**n our faith communities, and in our personal lives, and in our local unity of Church Women United, we have many opportunities to swing wide the doors of hospitality. Many times we are caught in situations that are uncomfortable and we feel like looking through a peephole instead of opening wide the door. How open are we toward the newcomer, the person who is different because of race, ethnic group, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or emotional handicaps?

In the May Friendship Celebration we hope to find ways to grow in relationships and ways to minister to one another, and look for opportunities to open wide the doors to God's people, whoever they are and wherever we meet them on our faith journey.



**T**hank you all for participating in the First Community Foundation Partnership's 24 hours of online giving event to support non-profits. We really appreciated your sport of United Churches on Tuesday, March 12! You are part of the reason our community is such a special place to live!

**CREATION CORNER**

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*  
Earth Day Sunday 2013

Soil and Water Stewardship 2013 Week

**T**wo opportunities to employ a religious perspective on environmental issues this spring 2013 come from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Eco-Justice Program of the National Council of Churches (NCC).

**For the NACD Soil and Water Stewardship Week of Sunday April 28 to Sunday May 5, the theme is "Where Does Your Water Shed?"** It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. Outreach materials for churches include sermon starters, hymns and scriptures on the topic, and stewardship education materials suitable for all grade levels (guides, activity sheets, cd/power points, a poster, bookmarks, etc.). See <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship/2013> or contact your local county conservation district office. In Lycoming County, Carey Entz-Rine, Watershed Specialist, Lycoming County Conservation District, 542 County Farm Rd, Suite 202, Montoursville PA 17754, 570-433-3003, e-mail [centz@lyco.org](mailto:centz@lyco.org) who can put you in touch with maps, web sites, and bioregional watershed association contacts for Black Hole Creek, Greater Nippenose Valley, Larry's Creek, Little Pine Creek, Loyalsock Creek, Muncy Creek, Pine Creek, Rose Valley/Mill Creek and also the 4-H Program, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Growing Greener program of the PA DEP, PA Fish and Game Commission, PA Game Commission, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, and the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition/Lycoming College Clean Water Institute.

**For the NCC Eco-Justice April Earth Day 2013 "Green Your Sunday Morning Routine"** theme, see [www.nccecojustice.org](http://www.nccecojustice.org). By looking at our ecological footprint (for example, as we turn on a light, take a shower, eat breakfast, etc.) and seeing what opportunities exist for change, we can become better caretakers of God's creation by reducing our environmental impact. The resource provides examples for individuals, churches and communities. Separate denominational versions are available (Disciples of Christ, ELCA, PCUSA, RCA, UMC).

**The "Spring of Sustainability"** sponsored by the Sustainable World Coalition, April 1 to June 14, is a free series of events featuring interviews and panels with more than 50 global sustainability leaders. Participants can connect via phone or web. Register at no charge at [www.springofsustainability.com](http://www.springofsustainability.com).

### CWS BLANKET AND KIT COLLECTION

**K**eeP making your **School Kits, Health Kits and Emergency Clean Up Bucket Kits** to replenish the warehouse in New Windsor Maryland for Church World Service. Our local collection will be Saturday, May 4 from 9-11 at First United Methodist Church at the door by the fountain. We also will be collecting blankets and your \$5 donations for blankets. Remember that a blanket is the most basic component of every disaster response. For more information contact our office or refer to the last page of our February newsletter.

### YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

*Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley,*

*North Central Regional Director - 326-6868*

GOD, OUR GREAT PROVIDER

**H**e opens HIS hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16) Beloved Ones, our GREAT God truly does provide everything that you have need of today and in the future. Are you trusting HIM?

Thank you to all who helped make our rose fundraiser be a true success. Our ministry had a profit of approximately \$1700 in sales. Through your love and support, our GREAT God's hand provided over and beyond.

Ministry Praise – What a joy to report that after 2 years of patiently waiting, the Lord re-opened the opportunity for the Yokefellow men's group at Clinton County. The Yokefellow Women's group is on the move and every week, there are so many great testimonies. Again, our GREAT God provides through the diligence of our faithful volunteers who have the opportunity each week to bring hope to those incarcerated. Please continue to keep us in your prayers to help make a difference and to give our GREAT God the praise!

Looking Ahead – Do you desire to know more about Yokefellow and what you can do by filling the mandate of our Lord to minister to the 'least of these'? Mark your Calendars now to join us for:

What: An Awareness Banquet

When: Tuesday, April 23 @ 6:00pm

Where: The Center For Independent Living  
(across from 33 East)

A catered sit down turkey dinner

provided by Station House Restaurant

Keynote speaker: Judge Marc Lovecchio

Other information and testimonies will be shared that evening. Reservations will be required by calling our office at 326-6868. Watch for more details.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

**H**ealthy Families/EMS Expo will be held on May 18th from 10:00-2:00. This event is done with many partners, and churches groups and agencies in our community who promote health/healthy living in some way are invited to participate and have a table at this event. For more information contact Tonya at Rick Mirabito's office, 321-1270.

**D**aniel's Closet, a free clothing ministry for children, women and men, will be open on Saturday, March 23, 9-11 am at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd, Wmspt. Clean, seasonal clothing may be dropped off at the church from 5-6 pm on Thursday, March 21, 2013.

**V**olunteers Needed: The Central PA Food Bank is looking for volunteers in the Williamsport area. Become a Hunger Study volunteer today! Get involved in your community and increase awareness for food insecurity. You could be helping your neighbor have access to food. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is looking for volunteers to assist with collecting data by visiting food pantries and soup kitchens and interviewing clients. We are working with Feeding America and participating in a study called Hunger in America 2014. Contact Sarah McCree or Matt Hess at 717-564-1700 or at [smccree@centralpafoodbank.org](mailto:smccree@centralpafoodbank.org) and [mhess@centralpafoodbank.org](mailto:mhess@centralpafoodbank.org).

**S**ummer Job Opportunities and Summer Fun at Krislund Camp and Conference Center: Krislund Camp is seeking young adult Christians to serve as summer counseling staff. Openings are available for positions that begin in early June and extend through mid of August. Candidates must be 18 years old and enjoy working with young people.

Krislund is a ministry of the Presbyterian Churches of Central PA. It offers youngsters of all ages an opportunity to grow in their Christian faith while enjoying fun activities such as archery, high ropes, swimming, horse back riding, fishing, hiking, and much more. Go to [www.krislund.org](http://www.krislund.org) for more information on the summer program, on counseling or on becoming a camper.

Krislund is just south of Lamar, PA on route 445. You are welcome to contact the staff at 814-422-8878.

## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**NAMI - Lycoming Family-To-Family Program:** For family members, partners and friends of individuals with Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Panic Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder & Borderline Personality Disorder.

A free educational 12 week series of classes is beginning April 1st and will run on Monday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 PM, 4/1/13 through 6/24/2013 at The Sharwell Building 200 East Street in Williamsport.

The course is taught by trained volunteer family members who know what it is like to have a loved one with a serious mental illness in the family. Pre-registration is required. Please call Rae Weber at 570 326-7895. Sponsored by NAMI Lycoming County.

**Autism Workshop:** On Thursday and Friday, April 4th and 5th, the Children's Development Center of Hope Enterprises will present Dr. Dennis Debbaudt, a world renowned speaker, to the Central Pennsylvania region. The Community Arts Center in downtown Williamsport will host Dr. Debbaudt's Autism Risk and Safety Management program which is designed to be a two day event. Day one will focus on Parents, Educators, Human Service and Autism professionals. Day two will deal with educating law enforcement and first response professionals on how to properly respond to people living with Autism.

Dr. Debbaudt is the leading global voice on autism training for law enforcement and emergency responders. He has co-authored over 30 articles and books relative to law enforcement and autism. He is the proud father of Brad, a young man with autism, and is known for his humor, insight and is one of the most sought after speakers in the autism community.

Tom Nelson, the father of two children with autism, knows what measures must be taken to prepare for an emergency situation when autism is involved. "From the moment we get up to the moment we go to bed, we are on a schedule that include emergency contingency plans." If families that deal with Autism on a daily basis must be this prepared to handle a situation, imagine a fireman or police officer, who doesn't have any training, attempting to deal with people with autism. This event will provide much needed training and information to our community on how to respond to individuals with autism in an emergency situation.

Thanks to several community sponsors, this event is being provided at no cost to attendees. If you have an interest of any kind in learning about handling an autism emergency, do not miss this opportunity! If you are a parent, educator, human service or autism professional,

sign up today for the Thursday, April 4th evening presentation. Registration for this program will begin at 6 pm with the training lasting from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Walk-ins are welcome; however, if you pre-register at <http://911autism.event-brite.com> ; you'll receive handouts to take with you.

If you are involved in law enforcement or are a first responder of any type, the Friday, April 5th session will be tailored for you. Also at no cost, this program will focus on effective approaches when interacting with autism individuals. A certificate of attendance will be provided and continuing education credits may be available. Registration for this session will start at 8:30a and the training will be from 9 am to 3:30pm. Register ahead of time at <http://autism-911b.eventbrite.com> to ensure you receive handouts; however, walk-ins are welcome.

More information about Dr. Debbaudt can be found at [www.autismriskmanagement.com](http://www.autismriskmanagement.com) or by visiting Hope Enterprises, Inc. or the Children's Development Center at [www.heionline.org](http://www.heionline.org) and [www.cdctherapy.org](http://www.cdctherapy.org) respectively.

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**E**ccumenical Good Friday Services will be held throughout our area:



Noon - 3:

Heshbon Park United Methodist Church, 2898 Heshbon Road, Williamsport by the Hepburn Lycoming Ministerium. The service will include congregational singing, special music and preaching on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

St. Mark Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street by the Williamsport City Ministerium.

1:00 p.m.:

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 201 South Main Street, by the Muncy Ministerium. The Rev. Steve Smith from Pleasant View Wesleyan Church bringing the message.

St. John's Lutheran Church, 229 South Broad Street, by the Jersey Shore Ministerium. A Cross Walk will begin at noon on the ballfield on the island.

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service.

First United Methodist Church, 41 West Houston Avenue, Montgomery, by the Montgomery Ministerium.

### EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA

**Brian Mextorf** a member of Pine Street United Methodist Church will give a recital at Pine St Church on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome.

**Iron Chef Williamsport:** The competition between St. Mark's Lutheran Church and this year's challenger, Lycoming Center Presbyterian Church, begins at 5:00 P.M., Sunday, March 17, 2013, in Fellowship Hall, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Williamsport. A tasty meal of bisque, sliced tenderloin of beef with Cabernet sauce, southern style green beans, and smashed sour cream & chive potatoes, with a chocolate indulgence for dessert, will be served to all those making reservations through St. Mark's at 570-323-4619. Once the meal has been served, the cooking challenge begins. St. Mark's team, headed by Pastor Kenneth Elkin, face off against the Lycoming Center team, led by Pr. Jerry Fourroux. In order for all those present to view the event, the contest will be projected on the large screen on stage. (It will also be streamed live on the web at <http://www.ustream.tv/stmarkschurch> for those unable to attend.) 75% of the \$25 ticket cost will go directly to Family Promise of Lycoming County. Family Promise has now been up and running for three years! Thirteen congregations have hosted over 50 families to date and many volunteers help at the day center! Over 600 volunteers, county-wide, are giving their time to this ministry! Your funding goes to supply and maintain the day center, pay for insurance, fuel the van, and compensate our director of the program! For your viewing pleasure of this year's and previous challenges, please go to <http://www.you-tube.com/watch?v=R-3MTQH-CWg>. Feel free to forward it to others after enjoying it yourself.

**Total Woman Conference** will be held Saturday, April 27 from 10-2 at the Holiday Inn, 100 Pine Street, Williamsport. This 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference is sponsored by Day by Day Ministries. Speakers will be Pastor Dorothy Anderson, Minister Jacquelyn Holloway, Carolyn E. Perry, BCM, and Minister Jacqueline Simmons. The donation is \$10 including lunch. Contact [daybydayministries2011@yahoo.com](mailto:daybydayministries2011@yahoo.com) or (570) 220-8063. Register now - Space is limited.

**Twinkie Clark** will be here in Concert on Saturday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Curtin Middle School, Williamsport. Also performing will be the Our Lady of Lourdes Choir and Kim Adair and Soulful. This Gospel Celebration is entitled "Let Go, Let God". Twinkie is part of the legendary Clark Sisters and a two time Grammy Award winner. Sponsored by IronMen

Ministries, Love Unlimited Ministries and Dr. Richard Troxler, tickets are \$20 and are available at Our Lady of Lourdes (570-368-8598), Christian Light Bookstore (570-326-0251), Day by Day Ministries (570-220-8063), [www.iTickets.com](http://www.iTickets.com) and Redeemed Ministry (570-974-8681).

**The Fourth Annual Billtown Film Festival** is scheduled to show 6 hours of independent films, over a 3-night event at the Community Arts Center in downtown Williamsport on April 28, 29 and 30, 2013. It will be free and open to the public.

This year they will host the 25th Anniversary screening of Lise Yasui's Oscar nominated "A Family Gathering". Richard James explained, "The Yasui family is very important to Williamsport. Lise's father, Dr. Robert Yasui, served this community for many years. Sadly, he passed away last year. The film tells of the family's struggle against and ultimate victory over racism and prejudice during the World War II years. Although the film has been aired on PBS, it hasn't been seen for several years."

The Billtown Film Festival will also show the art scene in York, Pennsylvania. In 2008, Williamsport hosted the Governor's Arts Awards. The following year in 2009, the awards ceremony was held in York PA. Budget cuts threatened to derail the event. It is interesting to see how other towns' creative community deal with funding shortfalls and budget crises. The film by Brian Plow "A Day in the Sun", is sure to inspire a little creative rivalry between Williamsport and York. For more information: [www.billtownfilmfestival.com](http://www.billtownfilmfestival.com).

**5K Hike Walk / Run Trek for Memories and Futures:** St Michaels Relay For Life team has organized a 5k (3.1 miles) timed event that will be held Saturday May 4 starting at 10am at Rider Park, Montoursville. Event is for all levels of fitness and will follow blue-blazed "Cheryl's Trail" at the park. The trail is a dry, very wide, and well groomed. Registration is \$20 before April 19 and will increase to \$25 from April 20 through day of event. T-shirts guaranteed for registrations up till April 19. Churches & youth groups are encouraged to participate in this day of enjoying the great outdoors and getting some exercise at this beautiful park! Questions please contact [Theresa.Miller@cancer.org](mailto:Theresa.Miller@cancer.org) or by calling 570-916-9764. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society! Registration is also available online at [www.parunners.com](http://www.parunners.com) or contact Theresa for a brochure.