

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

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Office Hours: 9 AM - 4 PM Monday - Thursday

Issued mid-monthly, September through May with special e-mail issues during the summer. Items marked with an asterisk may be of special interest to your congregation. Deadline to submit articles - First of each month.

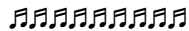


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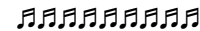
May 12, 2015

Please notify us of changes of e-mail address

Thank You for receiving our Newsletter via E-Mail.
It is a wonderful donation of postage, office supplies and volunteer time.



UNITED CHURCHES SUNDAY *



Happy United Churches Sunday to us!
Happy United Churches Sunday to us!
What great ministry we do together!
Happy United Churches Sunday to us!

Please join us in celebrating United Churches Ministry on **May 31, 2015**. We don't always take time to realize that United Churches Ministries reach well over 200,000 people every year throughout the county with our hard working staff and over 500 volunteers. These numbers include the work of our Shepherd of the Streets, Food Pantry, Fuel Bank, 816 Nursing Home and Prison Worship Services over the year, the weekly Footsteps to Follow column in the newspaper, the monthly Faith Matters editorials, daily phone devotion line, ecumenical events - worship services and educational opportunities, campus ministry, collections for the hungry and needy in our world, and even this newsletter you are reading!

And join us throughout the year in celebrating these 69 years of ministry together in our county. There are endless possibilities, some of which include...

- Use our brochure and envelope to help your congregation be aware of, pray for, & support United Churches (they are

available from our office).

- Make your prayer life ecumenical by keep the ministries of your sister congregations in prayer as well as the ministries we do together.
- Do something (attend an event - volunteer - donate food, hygiene items etc.) at least monthly to be involved with the ecumenical community.
- Invite Gwen, Morris, Gail, Tammey or Patty to share some of the story of the amazing ministry we accomplish together.
- Financially supporting the ministries of United Churches. Consider adding an additional means of support - an extra donation - having a fund raiser for us - helping with one of our fund raisers....
- Discover things to celebrate that the congregations in our community are doing together.

Help us celebrate our ecumenical life together on United Churches Sunday and every day of the year, and insure that it continues to be vibrant and Spirit led!



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

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 we welcome a call to the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender to help the caterer, Heidi Potter, know how much to prepare. Both laity and clergy are welcome!

**MAY:**

- 13- **Mrs. Dawn Blanchard**, St. Anthony's Clinic, and **Mrs. Jan Ann Dodd**, Community Health Center, "Helping People With Health Care in Williamsport"
- 20- **The Rev. Ken Elkin**, Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Williamsport, "*And the People We've Met...; the Continuing Saga of the Camino Santiago*"
- 27- **The Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Witson**, Pastor, New Covenant United Church of Christ, "*Reflecting the Light*"

JULY: Mid-Summer Gathering

- 22- **Miss Michelle Gray**, Liturgical Dancer at Love Unlimited Ministries, "*Praising God through Dance*"

Treat yourself to a midweek refreshment!

And bring along a friend!

Want to work with others to do youth ministry? If you, or someone you know, is interested in helping to plan activities for the youth, particularly for churches where there is no youth group, please contact Alyssa Maneval at alyssamaneval@gmail.com. Also a core group of people will be needed to oversee a few events a year, as well as volunteers to help plan specific events. We would like to have events for the younger youth and the older youth. If your church would be interested in hosting some events, please let Alyssa know. We hope to rotate the churches so the youth are exposed to a variety of religions and people. Anyone who is interested in being involved with this effort will have to get their clearances.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

INFORMATIVE MEETING will be held Thursday May 21st at 7 pm at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 E. 3rd St., Williamsport. The meeting will be held in their Fellowship Hall (use the Academy Street door).



Churches are an important part of their neighborhoods. You'll see how you can help your congregation make an even bigger difference in the neighborhood surrounding them by being involved in a Neighborhood Watch. There are so many benefits from every congregation getting better acquainted with your neighbors and letting them know your congregation really cares. You'll learn about what is happening in the County, and how already established Neighborhood Watch groups function. There are 230 churches in Lycoming County. Imagine what a difference these congregations can make if you get involved!

The meeting is sponsored by the Christian Social Concerns Committee of United Churches of Lycoming County and the Citizen Corps Council. The Williamsport Mayor, Police Chief and Captain, and neighborhood watch coordinators will speak at this event. Training will be offered at a later date if you decide to start a Neighborhood Watch group in your church neighborhood or in your home neighborhood.

People need neighborhoods where they can live, work and play together on a regular basis and get to know and help each other. You and your congregation can help make this happen.

Plans are also in process by the Citizen Corps Council to encourage churches to participate in the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4. Mark your calendars!

New Covenant UCC is handicapped accessible using the ramp entrance on Third Street and someone will direct you to the elevator. Others can enter at the Academy Street door leading directly to Fellowship Hall.

A poster has been attached with the email newsletters.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.

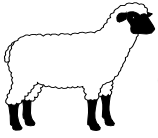


Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God." The devotionalists this summer include:

5/11-17 Rev. Danesta Whaley	5/18-24 Rev. Lois Yeagle Hungerford
5/25-31 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	6/1-7 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner
6/8-14 Mrs. Pat Jenkins	6/15-21 Mrs. Patty Gohrs
6/22-28 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	6/29-7/5 Mrs. Amber Shuman
7/6-15 Pastors Jim/Kathy Behrens	7/13-19 Mrs. Pat Jenkins
7/20-26 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	7/27-8/2 Rev. Lois Yeagle Hungerford
8/3-9 Pastors Jim/Kathy Behrens	8/10-16 Rev. Gwen Bernstine
8/17-23 Mrs. Sandy Grier	8/24-30 Mrs. Pat Jenkins
8/31-9/6 Pstrs. Jim/Kathy Behrens	9/7-13 Rev. Danesta Whaley

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

YOUTH MINISTRY PLANNING GROUP**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS***



*J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,
Contact at 570-322-6538 or
shepherd@ucl.org*

LEARNING FROM LIFE

I have walked the barrios of San Antonio and listened to hungry babies crying in the night as they rolled in their sweat from the insufferable heat. And I saw that those who suffer most from poverty are most innocent of it.

I have walked amid the hovels of untouchables in Chillakalu, India who are forced to live in squalor apart from all other people just because of their birth. And I saw that those who suffer most from caste and class are most innocent of it.

I have walked in Calcutta where the poor lay dying in the streets, and the dead lay floating in the Ganges River because their families had no money for cremation. And I saw that those most considered a burden are most innocent of it.

I have laid hands on fevered infants barely able to breathe and held the contorted faces of men and women ravaged by leprosy. And I saw that those most branded by hopelessness are most innocent of it.

I have walked among child beggars whose parents broke their arms and legs and let them set in grotesque, distorted shapes so they could prey on the pity of others. And I saw that those most abused by unscrupulous selfishness are most innocent of it.

I have walked into a cardboard city amid the waste and want of refugees from the Philippines in Kota Kinabalu, Malasia. And I saw that those who are ostracized and displaced by religious persecution are most innocent of it.

I have walked amid repressed Tarahumara natives of Mexico pushed into the Sierra Madre's whose only water-source was a meandering stream in which everything was washed and where drinking water was obtained, and the infant mortality rate was 60% before age 2. And I saw that those most affected by ethnicity are most innocent of it.

I have walked amid families eking out a living from desert sand in the Navaho Nation, herding a few sheep and goats, surviving in a poverty imposed on them. And I saw that those most affected by injustice are most innocent of it.

I believe that the ministry of Jesus was mostly among the poor so that His disciples would see all people as God sees all people, as His beloved and not scrutinize one another by the accidents of birth or status, or history...to not be drawn into the delusions of the world or the entrapments of our fears, but rather, to appreciate the diversity of humanity as we would a garden of botanical wonders or an orchestra of sundry instruments combining their various sounds in the marvel of

symphonic excellence.

God has led man's genius to create magnificent machines and medical miracles, build skyscrapers and blast atoms, discover galaxies and detect DNA, by accepting different and variant things to unite and accomplish visions and indulge dreams. It is because of difference that society advances, but only when society seeks unity amidst the diversity. There is only one humanity, only one earth, only one church. We must work to discover how we all fit on this planet. History provides us a manuscript of human error, mismanagement, and conduct unbefitting of the God who made us and has a wondrous aspiration for us. Let us learn from the testimony of time.

Jesus knew that we do not do ten-commandments well, so He left us the one that undergirds all others: "Love one another."

*United Churches
Of Your Church
E - X - T - E - N - D - E - D
In Ministry*



Tammey Aichner, Coordinator
Contact at: ucm@ucl.org

Another school year comes to a close this month. Looking back on this year, we were able to add a few new things. We had a Fall Retreat with Mansfield University in September that was a success and a Universal Day of Prayer For Students in February that was very well received.

We continued with our tradition of an on campus Bible Study and we added new pastors to our mix. We had our second annual Meal in a Bag, with the help of all of you.

Moving forward, we have a strong student board that consists of Danielle Logan as president, Tyren Booker as vice president, Kyani Lawrence as secretary and Jane Mertes, in her third year with us, as treasurer!

Thank you to everyone who has made this such a successful program. We look forward to making more connections in the upcoming year!

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers this summer.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY ***Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 570-322-1657,****E-mail - foodpantry@uclc.org**

Gwen reminds us that this will be the last regular newsletter before the 'summer break'. Gee that sounds good. To think that we can look forward to warmer weather after the cold and snowy winter, time with friends and family to relax and recharge... I think we can all agree that we need it.

I don't mean to rain on our parade but remember that there is no vacation from hunger. Folks that scramble to keep their families fed always look for ways to fill empty bellies.

There are a few more jobs available now that the weather permits outside contracting, roofing, housing renovations, etc., but these jobs are go quickly. So it may be a temporary fix but not a long term solution to the problem.

I'm not promoting any political agenda, but ask that you keep things like: hunger, joblessness, the minimum wage, homelessness and all that come with them, when the politicians ask you to support the new budget that the governor will be negotiating at the end of the fiscal year (June). These seem to be 'throwaway items' to the politicians who don't seem to think about what it means to a family when food stamps or insurance benefits are cut. We see every day how it affect lives.

In the meantime, with Summer almost here we shift into overdrive at the pantry. When school is not in session there are no school breakfasts or lunches to keep children from being hungry. Parents coming to the pantry often bring their children with them. It's a thrill for us to see a child's eyes light up when we tell them they can choose their own box of cereal.

Between the end of June and the time the new state budget is signed, there are no state funds to pantries to purchase food. During that time, we depend on you, our generous friends, to help us keep food in the pantry. Seems like we're always asking you for help. The truth of the matter is that we do ask you often for help. We could not do what we do without you. We've listed *several items that we can always use:*

<i>spaghetti sauce</i>	<i>hamburger helper</i>	<i>cereal</i>
<i>peanut butter</i>	<i>oodles of noodles</i>	<i>pop tarts</i>
<i>pasta (any shape)</i>	<i>saltine crackers</i>	<i>soups</i>
<i>powdered drink mixes</i>	<i>canned veggies</i>	

I'm at a loss for a different way to thank you. You support us so generously, when the food flies off the shelf, I still sleep well, knowing that our friends will help us to help the hungry. Be safe, have a great summer, do all those things that we put off. Life goes by in a hurry, don't miss out on that all important 'family time'.

Newsletter Publication: This will be the final hard copy newsletter to go out until September. To continue to get news and information and alerts over the summer *please give us your e-mail address.* This is also a great way to save postage and trees! Let Gwen know at director@uclc.org. You'll get the newsletter in full color via an adobe pdf file - include any summer or special editions!

CREATION CORNER**Christian Social Concerns Committee****World Environment Day (WED),
Wednesday, June 5, 2015**

Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care is the WED theme this year, for those taking part in over 100 countries, urging everyone to take responsibility to care for the earth and become agents of change.

A related theme of a six-month international EXPO in Milano Italy is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" and is meant to focus on the goal of meeting a "Zero Hunger Challenge, United for a Sustainable World."

Followers of The Ten Commandments are urged to observe the Sunday nearest June 5 as The Environmental Sabbath, to give the earth a Sabbath day, a rest, in keeping with the 1 commandment "Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy."

The web site for the observance allows you to register your activity, choose from many A-Z steps for action, food waste facts are noted, sample pledges and activities are provided, their top ten blogs are shared, as well as other multi-media sources, twitters, videos, global coverage and publicity. Also seen are profiles of prior WED years, 2000-2014.

"Planet Earth is our shared island, let us join forces to protect it. Although individual decisions may seem small in the face of global threats and trends, when billions of people join forces in common purpose, we can make a tremendous difference." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. <http://www.unep.org/wed>.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

United Churches Sunday: Sunday, May 31

September Newsletter Info needed by Tuesday, Sept. 1

United Churches Golf Tournament - Friday, September 25

United Churches Dinner at Hosses - Sunday, September 27

CROP Walk - Sunday, October 11

United Churches Annual Assembly-Thursday, November 19

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

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:15-17). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, those who lack daily food are "Food Insecure." In Lycoming County during 2013, 14% of residents were food insecure. The child food insecurity rate was 21%. If we have faith, then we must take action – both charity (providing food) and justice (changing systems to eliminate food insecurity) are necessary. Otherwise "what good is it?"

Summer Reading for the Faithful:

In Company of the Poor: Do you want some inspiration as to serving those experiencing poverty? Read In the Company of the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez edited by Michael Griffin and Jennie Weiss Block. Archbishop Desmond Tutu says: "Rarely have two such distinctive and complementary voices been raised together with more heartwarming and instructive results. This book will introduce you to important notions, from accompaniment to a preferential option for the poor, transformed here into vivid examples of what's wrong with the world, and also what can be done to repair it."

Feed the Future: Global Food Security Act (H.R. 1567)

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), there are more than 805 million people, or 1 in 9, around the world currently suffering from chronic hunger. Current legislation will give the U.S. government the tools and resources it needs to better combat chronic hunger and malnutrition as well as to expand and better coordinate U.S. investments in improving global food security.

Legislation should include a whole-of-government strategy similar to the one currently guiding the Feed the Future initiative. The strategy is designed to help hungry nations around the world develop smart, long-term, country-specific agriculture policy, and to ensure these nations independently meet the nutrition needs of their people.

Legislation should stress the importance of nutrition interventions during the critical first 1,000 day window until age two which helps reduce instances of stunting, life-long poor health, impaired cognitive/physical development, and diminished productivity. A strong emphasis should be placed on working with local farmers to improve their agricultural processes, help stabilize food production and enhance self-sufficiency. (Source: Bread for the World)

Summer Time Faith-Inspiration Action: In recent months, we have focused on child nutrition legislation relating to school and community food programs and other successful programs such as WIC (Women, Infants, and Children). This summer is the perfect time to contact our elected

officials in Washington to tell them:


- Continue strong investments in child nutrition programs.
- Improve children's access to feeding programs.
- Ensure improvements to child nutrition programs are not paid for by cuts to other vital safety-net programs like SNAP (formerly known as food stamps).

Contact information:

Senator Casey 202-224-4254
 Senator Toomey 202-224-4254
 Representative Marino 202-225-3731

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Regional Director Northeast PA

 Yokefellow Center – Ph. 326-6868

Please join us for a time of fellowship and outreach as we celebrate our First Annual Yard Sale.

WHEN: Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 7am-2pm

WHERE: Yokefellow Center – 1200 Almond St., Williamsport (parking in the rear parking lot), yard sale held inside/outside.

Grilling – Hamburgs/Hotdogs will be for sale

We will have a selection of cookware, collectibles, household items, baby accessories, books, CD's and many other nice things at bargain prices.

Contributions: We will accept items that you have in good shape. Please call ahead before dropping items off (rear of the house) 570-326-6868 – items are being accepted now until Thursday, June 4 – No bedding i.e. mattresses, beds, etc. and no clothing. Thank You! All proceeds will go to Yokefellowship for the work of the ministry. We are grateful for your labors of love. If you would like to make a donation to our ministry, please make checks payable to: Yokefellowship Prison Ministries, 1200 Almond St., Williamsport, PA 17701

A Yokefellow Volunteer Training will be held Saturday, May 30 from 9-Noon. If you are interested in serving in the ministry in any way, please come. Call 570-326-6868 to sign up. We are praying for god's fruitfulness for you! Enjoy summer!

CLASSIFIED

Ads

AARP Driver Safety Program Instructor Needed: If you are energetic and motivated and live in Lycoming, Bradford or Tioga County, you could become an AARP Driver Safety Program Instructor! To become an Instructor, you must take an 8-hour training *and* conduct three 8-hour classes per year (8-hour classes consist of two 4-hour sessions). Help your peers brush up on their driving skills and save money on their car insurance. Become an AARP Driver Safety Program Instructor! Contact Nancy Yaudes, AARP Zone 7 Coordinator; phone 570-326-6773 or email flynw@y@gmail.com

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY *

Susquehanna - Shirati Palliative Care and Hospice Partnership is pleased to announce that Dorothy Kawira, RN, and Palliative Care Coordinator, is visiting here this week! She will be talking about end of life care in Tanzania and would love to meet as many members of our community as possible. You are invited to attend talks to learn more about their work at the following events....

* Thursday, May 14th, 7-8:30 PM

Hope Community Church

1300 Tinsman Ave, Williamsport

* Friday, May 15th, 7-8:30 PM

Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium

1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport

The Gatehouse Singers will be providing several numbers.

Faxon Festival Choir: Church Concert Series. The culminating concert for this Church Concert Season will be held Sunday, May 17th at 2 p.m. at Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church, 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport. This choir is made up of people from our congregations who have been invited to participate in this special event. The concert is free and all are welcome.

Family Promise 5th Anniversary Open House and Art Auction will be held on Wednesday, May 20 from 5-7 pm at their offices and day center, 635 Hepburn Street, Williamsport. Join them and support local artists and help in "bringing home the homeless".

Making your AC Moore purchase count for this Mission minded knitting group: "The Dropped Stitches" needlework group at Christ Episcopal Church keeps busy, knitting, crocheting and sewing for charity. They've donated items locally and around the world and are having a fund-raiser to assist with shipping costs and other expenses. 10% of any purchases made at the AC Moore store at 529 Lycoming Mall Circle on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 will be donated to them. This is one day only and you must present a flyer when you check out an order. Flyers are available at the church, 426 Mulberry St, Wmspt. or by contacting Deb at den107108@verizon.net to have one sent.

Summer Trips for Seniors: The Salvation Army Golden Agers Club will participate in "Destination Unknown" trips during June and July. The program will meet on Tuesdays beginning most days at 10:00. Seats are limited so participants should call if they are interested in attending (anyone age 50 and above is welcome!).

Camp Ladore will also have a senior camp during August 17-21. A favorite week for the Golden Agers, we

have three slots left. The deposit is \$50 for the week and scholarships are available for low income seniors.

If interested in either of these opportunities, contact Amy at The Salvation Army 570-326-9187.

Newberry Branch NGA, which we work with often through Shepherd of the Streets, when people need a new set or item of clothing, is teaming up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for their cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's in Williamsport on 6/6/2015. The purchase of gift cards is not included in this fundraiser.

**COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER**

Present this Card on Sunday, **June 6, 2015**

At Hoss's In Williamsport

Hoss's will then donate 20%+ of your Total Check

For: **Newberry Branch NGA**

Group #: **26978**

Please Present Ticket When Ordering

Thank You!



Voucher distribution is prohibited on Hoss's property.

Living Financially Healthy: The Salvation Army is hosting an upcoming class: Living Financially Healthy (a 2 hour workshop) on Saturday, June 6 from 2 - 4 pm. Participants will receive a voucher to one of our thrift stores upon completion of the course. Basic financial information about budgeting, savings, understanding credit, etc. will be covered. Call them at 570-326-9187.

Tour to Israel with Trinity Episcopal: To celebrate our 150th anniversary as a parish in 2016, they are arranging a tour to Israel for anyone from the church or community who would like to attend. This 9 day tour, "Israel: A Biblical Journey" is scheduled for April 11-19, 2016. An information night will be held at AAA in South Williamsport on Tuesday, June 2 at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP to Trinity, Williamsport at trinitychurchpa@comcast.net or 570-322-0126 if you plan to attend the information meeting or if you would like more information on the trip.

Creative Approaches to Saving the Beauty of God's Earth is a 4-hour workshop to be held Friday, June 12 from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm at Susquehanna University as part of the Penn Central Conference UCC Annual Meeting. Seminar leaders Kevin Miller and Rev. Jerry Lee Miller will encourage participants to explore options to creatively respond to climate change as individuals, in your congregation, and as the church in the world. The power of ritual in spiritual, moral and ethical responses to the world's challenges will also be part of this experience. The cost of this workshop is \$20 including lunch. Contact our United Churches office for more information.

Handbell Workshops: Two identical one-day workshop will be offered at Saint John's School of the Arts in the Newberry section of Williamsport. You can choose from the one on Saturday, June 27 from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. *or* Saturday, July 25 from 2:30p.m.to 6:30 p.m.

This one-day workshop serves as an introduction to the art of playing handbells in a group. Students will learn basic handbell techniques and music reading skills while they participate in an ensemble experience. The workshop will conclude with the ensemble playing their bells at the 5:30 p.m. worship service at Saint John's-Newberry Church. Supplies will be provided. Students are asked to bring a sack dinner (they'll eat around 4:30 p.m). A minimum of 3-4 people must be registered in order to offer this workshop. If interested please contact Anne Keeley, 570-327-5575.

Camping: The Salvation Army is now accepting applications for a beautiful overnight camp experience for youth at Camp Ladore. Music camp is July 10-18 (ages 7-17) and Corps Community Camp is July 22-27 (ages 7-12). Cost is \$40 per camper (10% of the cost of the camp!). It is a first come- first serve application process and there are only a few slots left. Transportation to and from the camp is included in the price. Call The Salvation Army at 570-326-9187 for more information.

Autism Conference: The 2015 National Autism Conference will be held August 3 - 6, 2015 at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA. This conference provides comprehensive, evidence-based information to assist educators, providers and families in developing effective educational and therapeutic programming for all students with autism spectrum disorders. For complete session descriptions and general information visit: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/autism/index.htm>. Credits are available. Many sessions will be available to view live from your computer. If you are not seeking credits, there is then no registration for the webcasts. Information will be available on the PSU website. Many sessions will be archived.

Buba is coming! – **Buba is coming!:** Look for those three words in future announcements concerning a major evangelism event for individuals and churches in North Central Pennsylvania. The main presenter for this ecumenical and interdenominational conference is the Rev. Dr. Gemechis. Buba, an exciting Spirit-filled leader for missions in the North American Lutheran Church. His distinctions between the first-century Church and the contemporary Church will keep you on the edge of your seat! The theme for this three-day conference is: "The

Mission of the Church & Making Disciples" All sessions, including discussion groups, will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, Montoursville, Friday evening through Sunday morning, August 28th - 30th. (Come for one day, or for all three days.) Plan now to attend, and help to grow the Church of Jesus Christ where you are!

County-wide Prayer Walks were held almost a month ago, but it feels like yesterday. It felt good to support one another in prayer, and to listen to each other's stories as well as to pray specifically for agencies within each community which are dealing with the effects of the heroin epidemic. Thank you to everyone who participated or helped in this effort.



The Lycoming County Heroin Task Force's Faith-Based Initiative Committee mission is working to facilitate healing of spirit through the power of God's love. The chair of this task force is the Rev. Andrew France, and he and the committee welcome your prayers, assistance and involvement. You can reach him at 570-419-6635 or amfrance@comcast.net. We expect to continue to work under the new entity forming "The Bald Eagle Project".

Currently we are putting some of our resources on the United Churches website (www.ucl.org/resources) so that they are available to you when you need them. Currently the prayer card pdf file is there and a scripture resource. More resources will be coming throughout the summer. However, the greatest resources we have is the knowledge that sits around the table, from people who have walked these difficult paths to help others. They are willing to share their experience with others. And they would be very happy to have you come to the table to share your gifts to help our community. Contact Andy today.

Help Strike Out Suicide... and knock down the silence, shame and stigma. Join the fun, informational fundraising event benefitting the production of Power of One: Preventing Suicide in America, a feature documentary directed by local filmmaker/author Alivia Tagliaferri. It is on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 1 – 3 pm at Faxon Bowling Lanes, 1225 River Ave, Williamsport.

IN CRISIS? KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?
WE CAN HELP!!

SUICIDE PREVENTION

From anywhere call: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

Lycoming County Crisis Intervention: 570-326-7895



Save the Date: Friday, September 25, 2015 United Churches 5th Annual Golf Tournament



Golfers: Entry Fee is \$80/golfer. No team required. Individuals will be matched to a partial team. Checks should be made payable to United Churches and mailed to Ken Weiss at 161 West Hills Drive, Williamsport, 17701. Contact Ken at 570-321-9555 or kweiss1213@hotmail.com.

How Can You Help? We need donations for the door prizes each golfer receives... gifts or gift certificates valued at \$10-\$50 that golfers might enjoy. We are also looking for donations of raffle items and tickets will be sold later this summer. When you receive a donation please let the donor know how much we appreciate their gift. We list donors on a page the golfers receive, and we also publish that listing in our newsletter (this year we did it in April).

We also have both people, churches, businesses and now foundations who sponsor our tournament. Levels for this are:

Church Sponsor: \$50	Meal Sponsor: \$300	Tournament Sponsor: \$500
Hole Sign Sponsor: \$100	Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$400	Foundation Sponsor: \$1,000-\$5,000

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS & CAMPS AROUND OUR COUNTY

DATE	PLACE	THEME	DETAILS
June 8 - 12	Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport Corner of West Southern Avenue & South Howard Street	Hometown Nazareth Offerings: Shepherd of the Sts.	9 am - Noon Age 4 - Grade 6
June 8 - 19	First Southern Baptist Church, Williamsport 89 Kimble Hill Road Info/registration: www.fsbcweb.org	Wilderness Adventure 2 week day camp, Cost \$100	9 am - 4 pm Grades 2 - 6
June 14 - 18	St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Trinity Episcopal Church hosting with several other congregations participating Sun & Mon at St. Marks, 142 Market St., Wmspt. Tues & Wed at Trinity, 844 W 4 th St., Thurs. TBA.	Summer Bible Camp "A Love That Never Ends" with curriculum from Camp Mount Luther	5:30 - 8:30 pm Pre School - Grade 5 <i>Grade 6 and older come help as an aid</i>
June 15 - 19	Pine Street United Methodist Church, Williamsport 441 Pine Street. Pre-registration helpful: 570-323-4604	G-FORCE: God's Love in Action	10 am - Noon Age 3 - Grade 4
June 21 - 25	Salladasburg United Methodist Church 310 Main Street, Salladasburg (hosted by the Charge)	Weird Animals	6:30 - 8 p.m. Grades K - 5
June 21 - 26	Quiggleville United Methodist Church at 2079 State Route 973W, Cogan Station with St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Quiggleville	SonSpark Labs Show	6-8:30 p.m. For All Ages
June 22 - 26	Our Lady of Lourdes Church 800 Mulberry Street, Montoursville	SonSpark Labs Show	9 am - Noon Grades K - 5
June 22 - 26	Warrensville United Methodist Church 5748 Warrensville Road, Wmspt, Pre-register: 570-435-0776	Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount	6:30-8:30 pm Grades Pre K - 9
June 22 - 26	Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport Must register (\$10) by Monday, June 1: Call 570-323-7272	Summer Music Camp God's Great Big World Grades K - 7	8:30 am - Noon + Thursday picnic & Matinee Performance
July 6 - 17	First Southern Baptist Church, Williamsport 89 Kimble Hill Road Info/registration: www.fsbcweb.org	Wilderness Adventure 2 week day camp, Cost \$100	9 am - 4 pm Grades 2 - 6
July 28 - August 2	New Covenant United Church of Christ, Williamsport 202 East Third Street	G-FORCE: God's Love in Action	6 - 8:30 pm Ages 3 - 12
August 2 - 6	St. Luke Lutheran Church 1400 Market Street, Williamsport	Bible Blast to the Past: Discovering God's Everlasting Love	6 - 8 pm Age 4 - Grade 4