



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

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**UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY**  
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[www.uclc.org](http://www.uclc.org)

MAY 10, 2016

[Please notify us of changes of email address](#)

*Thank You for receiving our newsletter via email.  
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!*

**P**lease join us in celebrating United Churches Ministry on **May 22, 2016**. 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 70 years of ministry together in our county. There are endless possibilities, some of which include...

- Use our colorful brochure to help your congregation be aware of and pray for United Churches (they are available from our office to insert in your bulletin).
- Make your prayer life ecumenical by keep the ministries of your sister congregations in prayer as well as the ministries we do together.
- Do things... **attend an event - volunteer - donate food, hygiene items - call the devotion line - etc.** to be involved with the ecumenical community.
- Invite Gwen, Morris, Mona, Tammey or Patty to share some of the story of the amazing ministry we accomplish together.
- Financially support 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!

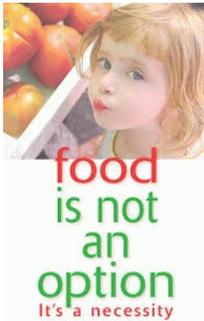


Follow us and others at "United Churches of Lycoming County" & "Walking With God in Lycoming County"

**FOOD PANTRY \****Mona Rudio, Coordinator 570-322-1657**E-mail - [foodpantry@uclc.org](mailto:foodpantry@uclc.org)*

**W**hat is expected of us here on earth who live by our faith in the Lord? It is a pretty long list of things He wants from us but we each have our own purposes and characteristics about us. A very important one of those is; We are to treat others as we would want to be treated! So what can we do for those that are on a low income and need some food. How about an anonymous generosity of food items to the food pantry.

We all have things we need and want but to remain stable and alive we all need food more than any other item. During the story of Jesus serving 5,000 people, loaves of bread and fish, it is not mentioned who the boy was that gave his food. So just like some people did in the scripture, without having their name shouted out, let us be giving generously to others anonymously!



Knowing the Lord will multiply our gifts of giving, may we do so to others and help them be lifted up, generously and anonymously. The pantry is in need of these items:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Hot Dogs (24 Oz.)</i> | <i>Canned Meats</i>   |
| <i>* Cereal</i>          | <i>Canned Vegies</i>  |
| <i>* Oatmeal</i>         | <i>Canned Fruits</i>  |
| <i>* Jelly</i>           | <i>Soups</i>          |
| <i>* Peanut Butter</i>   | <i>Pasta/Sauces</i>   |
| <i>Healthy Snacks</i>    | <i>All Condiments</i> |

We at the Pantry thank you all for your merciful, giving, and joyous open hearts!! Even though you don't see any outcomes or results of your giving, every day a person's life is changed and up-lifted with significant outcomes! We here at the Pantry are told by the clients to tell you "Thank You" from them for your anonymous and generous giving!!

We are located at the rear of 320 Park Ave. Williamsport (Msgr. Castellano Center). Our donations hours are Mondays 9:30 – 12 ; hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15 – 2:30.

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

- United Churches Sunday - May 22
- Sixth Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, September 23, at White Deer at 8:45 a.m.
- CROP Walk - Sunday, October 9, 1:30 p.m. along the River Walk, beginning at St. Mark's, Wmspt.
- United Churches Assembly: Thursday, Nov. 17 at First United Methodist Church, Muncy, 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting.

**U**nited Churches  
1946 - 2016

I'm writing this article over Mother's Day weekend, a time many enjoy the connections of family, and I nod because this is an important part of who we are as United Churches. We've always seen the need to provide a way for people to be in connection with and worship God. And we believe it's as important to provide connections to the family of God (pastors/people of faith) who provide this ministry of encouragement and comfort.

Our June 1946 minutes show we'd begin scheduling services 10/46, since services up until then had been organized by the City Ministerium. In 1952 we provided services to the County Home, the Williamsport Home, the Florence Crittendon Home, the Park Home and Devitt's Camp, a Tuberculosis Sanitarium. We've added additional nursing homes, assisted living facilities, high-rises, county prison and two pre-release centers.

All Pastors at one time were assigned services. Now both pastors and laity volunteer to participate.

We have also worked to provide chaplaincy programs at the Williamsport Hospital and Lycoming County Prison.

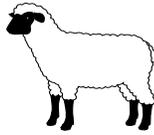
The hospital chaplaincy came to fruition in the early 1970's with the Rev. Claude V. Deal, Jr. assuming the Chaplaincy post in March of 1974. Prior to that we had worked hard to provide some ministry at the hospital. In 1955 we started a Saturday evening vesper service, which was eventually broadcast on closed circuit TV to patients in their beds, which was much easier than trying to get patients and beds as needed to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor solarium. We also tried to find a better system for pastoral care for out of town patient, as well as finding members of ones own congregation. As well as ways to better link spiritual care for staff, especially in times of stress and crisis.

In 1954 at the request of Judge Charles F. Greevy, the Council agreed to furnish religious services at the county prison one Sunday a month. The Rev. Roy Ammerman was named chaplain, by the prison that same year. In 1978 a Prison Ministry sub-committee was established as the county worked to decide on building a new prison. Although the commissioners initially decided to renovate the old structure, they would eventually build a new facility, moving in during January 1986. The commissioners did add volunteer chaplains in 1980, Fr. William Blake as Catholic Chaplain and Rev. Donald Visscher as Protestant Chaplain. The current Chaplain is now Rev. Andrew France, and Rev. Danesta Whaley is the Assistant.

**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,

570-322-6538, [shepherd@ucl.org](mailto:shepherd@ucl.org)



**The Sacredness of Human Life**

Life is the *thing* of God, the being of His BEing,  
 for just as there is no origin of God... there is no origin of life.  
 Life is the IS of God without beginning or end, eternally providing origin to what it causes, giving objective ability to generate kind, rank, and order.  
 Biotic existence was spoken into being by the Word of Life, with the reality of perfect relation, so that the selection of any biological form is confined to the morphology of its own.  
 The reason for the cosmos with constellation upon constellation is revealed to be that God would give His own life to the being made in His image and likeness and so arrange participation in the divine design with the capacity to procreate beings of like complexity, thus making human life sacred.  
 God's intent for the human is wrapped in the wonder and awe of human capacity for intellect and reason, hindsight and foresight, motivated by love for God and one another to so have basic human dependency on love that generated eternal life retaining the status of the highest life form by virtue of an inbred faculty for goodness.  
 Thus, the being was made male and female, to bring order and purpose to generated life that can be traced only to God's gifting.  
 In timeless place, there was no space between the two, their nakedness lift no secret or shame, and dependency on each other under God's anointing proffered no guilt.  
 Molded and crafted by God, the man was brought to life by the Breath of God, unlike the vast array of living creatures enlivened by dynamic word that inculcated each with a nature of its own; the man came from God's Trinitarian workmanship, perfect to it model, eternal immortal, with the vocation of dominion, to reign with God in impeccable and peerless excellence.

The entirety of such sacred intent comes from *Amness*, the actuality of God, persistently continual, unceasing ceaselessness, beyond the boundaries of human thought, provoking faith in lieu of a science that can identify and classify.  
 Amness IS...the core of BEing, the motive of beING, the WHOever of Holy Trinity, appellated I AM WHO AM by the Voice of God.  
 Life of all mankind is unique, matchless in all creation, unrivaled in mental, social, psychological, and physical faculties, unsurpassed in potential.  
 Humankind is given Godliness, image and likeness of God, by the Breath-anointing of God, thus humans have I *Amness*, the core of Being, the spirit of ISing, the capacity of divine personification that negates any excuse to scorn.  
 Mercy sees beyond rules of conduct and character to intent and consequence, emitting love rather than judgment, with passion for deliverance and reconciliation.  
 True mercy declares no personal intent other than love, no motive other than grace, and no hope other than reparation.

© THOUGHTS FROM THE THRESHOLD, Thoughts on Christianity, -J. Morris Smith Th,D.

Personal Hygiene Items continue to be needed in our Shepherd of the Streets Ministry. Thank you for helping us to reach out in mercy and love as we focus on their health and safety. In the course of a day we may help a senior with their medication, counsel someone that they can't afford to smoke and we can't afford to help, or help with a water bill (we all know this utility has gone up 30%), and provide a set of work clothes so someone can provide a home for themselves and their family.

Each person who comes through our doors may also need some of the hygiene items you send our way. We always need them.... The list follows:



**Toothpaste a Toothbrushes  
 Shaving Cream and Razors  
 Shampoo and Conditioner  
 Women's Hygiene Products  
 Towels and Wash Cloths  
 Tissues and Toilet Paper**

<b>Soap</b>	<b>Deoderant</b>	<b>Combs</b>
<b>Baby Diaper</b>	<b>Baby Shampoo</b>	<b>Baby Oil</b>
<b>Baby Q-Tips</b>	<b>Baby Wipes</b>	<b>Baby Powder</b>

**WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHESES\***

**J**oin us Wednesdays for lunch and a interesting program! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen at the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer know how to prepare.

**MAY:**

11- **Interfaith Panel**, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and Christian representatives, *“Traditions of Grief and Mourning”*

18- **Mr. Aaron Russell**, Director of College and Community Outreach, First United Methodist Church, Williamsport, *“Transform Lycoming County”*

25- **The Rev. Elizabeth Aurand**, Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport. *“Growing In The Spirit With Church Gardens”*

**JULY: Summer Field Trip**

20- After lunch at Pine Street UMC we will car pool to the Sones Farm and Home Museum, for a tour with **Oliver and Mary Jane Sones**, to learn more about *“Life in the Early Days of Lycoming County”* The fee for the museum is \$5.

UNITED CHURCHES IS YOUR CHURCH

E - X - T - E - N - d - E - d

IN MINISTRY.

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

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**F**or he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper (Ps72:12). Are we listening? Are we delivering? Are we helping?

**Mother’s Day and Female-headed Households:** Single mothers head just over half of all U.S. low-income households with children—more than 4.7 million families. Female-headed households, particularly those led by women of color, are more likely to be food-insecure and live in poverty than other US households. Being food-insecure, according to our Dept. of Ag., means not having regular, reliable access to the foods needed for good health. Hunger and food-insecurity are caused by poverty. Gender discrimination and, for many, racial/ethnic discrimination make women more likely to

be poor. Female-headed households are more than twice as likely to be poor in the US (30.6 vs. 14.8 %). Census data show that households headed by single African-American women or single Latinas have an even higher risk of poverty (40.2 and 40.4 %, respectively). (Source: [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org))

**Global Food Security Act Passes the House and Senate:**

Both the House and Senate passed slightly different versions of this crucial legislation that has taken four years to get to this point. The House summarizes its version as “To authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for US foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote inclusive, sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.” It is hoped that both the House and Senate will jointly pass one version of the bill so as to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition. This legislation will be an important step in that direction!

Recommended Reading – Learn more about the impact of poverty:

- Robert Putnam, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, 2015. “Drawing on a formidable body of research undertaken especially for this book, *Our Kids* is a groundbreaking look at the new landscape of diminished opportunities set in an age of fragile families, crumbling communities, and disappearing jobs. Written with authority and compassion, it is a signal contribution to the ongoing conversation about inequality in America.” (from book jacket) Putnam spoke recently at Bucknell University.
- Matthew Desmond, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, 2016. “Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half of their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary, especially for single mothers. In vivid, intimate prose, Desmond provides a ground-level view of one of the most urgent issues facing America today. As we see families forced into shelters, squalid apartments, or more dangerous neighborhoods, we bear witness to the human cost of America’s vast inequality – and to people’s determination and intelligence in the face of hardship.” (from book jacket) In 2015, Desmond was awarded a MacArthur “Genius” grant.

**CLASSIFIEDS \***

**H**elp Wanted: Handi\*Camp needs a few more summer staff, people with a passion to serve Him - and heart for people with disabilities. Their PA and NJ camps runs from May 30 - July 8 and has openings in different weeks for nurses, counselors, service staff, dishwashers, kitchen helpers and bible teachers. For job description or an application, contact Tara Kelley at [tkelley@hvmi.org](mailto:tkelley@hvmi.org) or 717-859-4777. Their office is Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International, Akron, PA. and you can learn more about them at [www.hvmi.org](http://www.hvmi.org).

**CREATION CORNER**

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

World Environment Day, June 5, "Go Wild for Wildlife"



**A**n environmental Sabbath for Sunday June 5 is encouraged with the World Environment Day "Go Wild for Wildlife" theme focus on stopping the illegal trade in wildlife.

World Environment Day (WED) is the biggest annual international event for environmental action.

You are asked to do what you can to conserve and protect endangered, threatened, and imperiled "iconic" species, such as elephants, rhinos, tigers, sea turtles, and others.

Smuggling of elephant ivory tusks, rhino horns and tiger parts, for example, feeds corruption and fuels organized crime, robbing future generations of their natural heritage.

The biological diversity of our natural resources needs to be supported and enhanced. Within the U.S.A. concerns are raised about honeybees, monarch butterflies, wolves, ocean life and fisheries, and the threats to wild habitats that support bald eagles, bison, black bears, grizzlies, moose, frogs, song birds, salmon, etc.

The World Environment Day (every year, everywhere, every one) web site is excellent. Its downloads and toolkit of facts and figures about the illegal trade in wildlife, action proposals and benefits, is superb and can be adopted for other yearly proposals such as for Earth Day, and Feast of St. Francis, a day devoted to the blessings of/for animals, etc.

The WED logo is a colorful fingerprint within a circle representing the diversity of people and ecosystems, thus a representation of individuality and collective personal actions that equal a force for change.

At the WED home page <http://web.unep.org/wed/2016> also see the A-Z link in the lower left-hand corner.

A theological reference to be considered is Isaiah 11:6-7. This biblical passage served as inspiration for the painting of "The Peaceable Kingdom" (1826) by 19th century Pennsylvania Quaker folk artist Edward Hicks (1780-1849).

**DIAL - A - DEVOTION \***

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



**D**evotions are three minutes or less, change week-days 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:

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5/9-15 Derek Smith           | 5/16-22 Sandy Grier               |
| 5/23-29 Rev. Gwen Bernstine  | 5/30-6/5 Rev. Marwin Reeves       |
| 6/6-12 Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza | 6/13-19 Patty Gohrs               |
| 6/20-26 Rev. Nessie Whaley   | 6/27-7/3 Pat Jenkins              |
| 7/4-10 Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza | 7/18-24 Rev. Gwen Bernstine       |
| 7/25-31 Rev. Marwin Reeves   | 8/1-7 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens |
| 8/8-14 Patty Gohrs           | 8/15-21 Rev. Gwen Bernstine       |
| 8/22-28 Michelle Lozensky    | 8/29-9/4 Pastor Dorothy Anderson  |
| 9/5-11 Pat Jenkins           | 9/12-18 Derek Smith               |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!



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

**W**ow! What a year! This year we continued to build off the previous 2 years. At the end of each school year, we evaluate what we liked, what we didn't and what needs to change.

At the end of the first year, we had strengthened our on campus Bible Study with students and churches involved. We had our first Meal In A Bag (was that only a couple of years ago?). During our second year, we added a Fall Retreat and Universal Day of Prayer for Students.

This past year we saw an increase in our mission and outreach, including a mission trip to West Virginia.

Looking forward to next year, we plan on adding a leadership conference and a twist on our Fall Kickoff event. We have amazing support from our area churches, church families and pastors! On behalf of the students, thank you so much!

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Adult Mental Health First Aid Training** helps an individual who doesn't have clinical training assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis, in a similar way that CPR training helps a non-medical professional assist an individual following a heart attack. The goal, in both situations, is to support an individual until appropriate professional help arrives. This 8 hour course will be held on May 25 from 8 - 4:30 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1971 Lycoming Creek Road, Williamsport. The cost is \$65. Registration is needed by 5/11. For more information or to register contact Brook Hummel at [HummelB@csgonline.org](mailto:HummelB@csgonline.org) or 877-907-7970 x 30001, Community Service Group, 330 North Second St, Sunbury PA 17801, Attn: Adult MHFA Training.

**Reclaiming Dinner for Families** is a five week class which begins on Tuesday, May 31 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Each class will offer a sit down dinner for your family, nutrition education for the adults, and creative lessons for the children. The final week (6/28) will be a fun night for certificates and an ice cream party. This class is open to foster families as well. Contact Amy McGovern, Social Service Program Coordinator, Williamsport Salvation Army, 570-326-9187.

**Grant Writing Training: "Positioning Your Grant Seeking Process for Success: Effective Grant Writing Tools and Resources"** will be held Thursday, June 2 from 10 - 3 at Toftrees Golf Resort and Conference Center, One Country Club Lane, State College. Writing a successful proposal is based on knowing where to find funding that supports the vision of the organization and on submitting a winning proposal. During this hands-on training, an experienced grant writer, with a solid history of securing grants to support a wide range of projects, will teach skills and provide tips for writing a winning application. The workshop will include strategies for using the Internet to identify and evaluate funding options and emphasize the basics of developing a budget and proven techniques for writing a proposal. While this workshop is designed for the novice grant writer, seasoned grant seekers will find valuable information to enhance their skills. Feedback on grant applications also will be available. The registration cost is \$99. For more information, contact PORH Outreach Coordinator Terri Klinefelter at 814-863-8214 or [tjc136@psu.edu](mailto:tjc136@psu.edu).

**Workshop and Book Signing:** Bethel AME Church, 601 Hepburn St., Wmspt., is hosting a workshop, book signing and spaghetti dinner on June 25, 2016 from 10:00 until 2:00. Pastor, author and

speaker Tameaka Reid Sims, from Harrisburg, will be facilitating the workshop and signing her book entitled: *God Speaks -- 30 Days of Positioning Yourself to Hear God's Voice*. Tickets are \$25.00 and includes the purchase of her book and early dinner. Ticket availability is limited. For ticket outlet and more information, call 570-322-1198 or 570-419-2502.

**Finding My Voice** is an overnight retreat for women led by the Rev. Dr. Susan Halverstadt, a United Methodist pastor and Spiritual Director. No matter who you are or where you are in ministry or in life, because finding your voice is essential. You will experience a safe supportive and friendly group of women where you can feel comfortable to just be yourself. Discover when you hear your voice most clearly and how you experience God when you speak your voice. The retreat, at Linck Hill Inn in Morris PA, begins at 6 pm Friday, July 29 and ends at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 30, and costs \$115. For more information contact Susan at [shalverstadt@comcast.net](mailto:shalverstadt@comcast.net) or 717-377-9266.

### **6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UCLC GOLF TOURNAMENT** **Ken Weiss, 570-321-9555, [kweiss1213@gmail.com](mailto:kweiss1213@gmail.com)**

**Friday, September 23, 2016**

**Golfers:** Entry Fee is \$85/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@gmail.com](mailto:kweiss1213@gmail.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 February).

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

**MINISTRY**

**P** **Prayer:** An intercessory prayer group is forming to help bring some hope and healing to our community in the midst of the heroin epidemic. They expect to meet weekly for an hour or so, making their requests known to God in faith. This group will pray for hope to dawn anew where all has been lost, as well as asking God to bring healing to those who have no cure. Hope and healing will come to our community, and to the other communities so challenged by this scourge, only from divine intervention, and divine intervention only comes through prayer. To be part of this prayer group contact Debbie Stout, 570-974-1625 or [larrydebbie.stout@gmail.com](mailto:larrydebbie.stout@gmail.com) or Gwen Bernstine, 570-419-1464 or [director@ucl.org](mailto:director@ucl.org).

**R** **ed Shield Community Garden spring work day:** Volunteers are welcome to help weed, mulch, and plant on Saturday, May 21 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The garden is located at 724 Park Avenue. Produce harvested from the garden is donated to local food pantries and soup kitchens. For more information contact Amy McGovern at the Salvation Army, 570-326-9187.

**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)**

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley: 570-326-6868   
Regional Director Northeastern Pennsylvania

**Prospering In Him**

**B**eloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.  
-III John 2

As we continue to follow in HIS footsteps, the Lord will cause us to prosper in all things. Yokefellow Prison Ministry is prospering and seeing the Lord's faithfulness day by day as we stay in step with Him. A few of our upcoming events you can share in are:

**Volunteer Training:** on Saturday, May 21 from 9 am-12 Noon at the Yokefellow Center, 1200 Almond St., Williamsport, PA (parking in the rear parking lot & use the entrance in the back). Bring yourself and your great expectations. Phone today to make your reservations at 570-326-6868 (Deadline is Thursday, 5/19).

**Yokefellowship Annual Conference** is opened to all. Mark your calendar now and plan to join them at our annual conference as they Celebrate 61 years in ministry. The date is Friday-Saturday, Oct. 7-8. Held at the Best Western/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, the Keynote speaker will be Cindy Sanford, Author of "Letters to a Lifer: The Boy Never to be released. "Letters to a

Lifer" provides a rare insight into life without parole (LWOP) for juveniles in the USA. A true story from Pennsylvania. It is a compelling tale of faith and redemption. Details will follow with more speakers, workshops and costs. The annual conference is not only a time for our current volunteers to re-connect, but to connect with others who work in the criminal justice system and those who are interested in making positive changes in our society. For questions, please call our ministry office at 570 326-6868

**P** **roject Impact & Bridge Haven** is interested in finding people looking to volunteer in a Christian community service project. They are a volunteer program at the Yokefellow Prison Ministry building, 1200 Almond St. Williamsport. Their purpose is to strengthen the bonds between inmates and their families while incarcerated in area prisons by providing a residence for children and family members to stay while visiting their mothers, fathers, and family members from across Pennsylvania.

They are searching for volunteers who are interested in helping to organize and develop awareness of our service program. They also provide transportation arrangements, food, and assistance for the families of inmates. Other additional jobs include: taking reservations, typing announcements and correspondence, housekeeping tasks, and performing outside custodial jobs.

They provide a Christian nurturing environment at Project Impact & Bridge Haven that promotes fellowship and support for many dysfunctional families who need our Christian support. We want inmates to know that people do care for them, and want to help reunite families that may reduce the spiraling increase of incarceration, fight recidivism, and strengthen inmates' family bonds.

Another part of their ministry is to help publish C.O.P.I.N.G. magazine. Children Of Parent Inmates Needing Guidance, collects stories from inmate about mothers and fathers who are incarcerated and the effects on their lives and the lives of their children.

Please contact Eugene Breisch, President of Project Impact and Bridge Haven, for more information, to volunteer, or to have someone to come to your church or organization to make a presentation.

They also ask for your prayers and support to continue their Christian mission. Call 570-326-2081 or write Project Impact & Bridge Haven, 1200 Almond St., Williamsport, PA 17701.

## SUMMER EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**Round Table Discussion:** Stories will be collected about Williamsport and why you chose to make this your home. The Beloved Community Council is hosting this event at Lycoming College, Welch Honors Hall, on the corner of Basin Street and East Fourth Street, from 5 - 8:30 pm on Thursday, May 26. The story collection is part of the Heart of Williamsport efforts.

**Peace Pole Rededication:** There is good news coming from the 600 and 700 blocks of Second Street in Williamsport. Last December, Irish Griffin organized an anti-crime, anti drug march through this and other neighborhoods. Then a Peace Pole was erected in front of the NSA Housing offices over a year ago, and a community picnic brought children and families outside again, the neighborhood is a lot safer with children able to play outside. Join the Beloved Community Council in gathering on Saturday, May 28 at 11 am to rededicate the Peace Pole in a special event "Increase The Peace"

**Experience Christian Spiritual Renewal** in a unique Victorian setting this summer at Mt. Gretna Campmeeting, 41 Boulevard Ave., Mr. Gretna PA. Each Friday, as part of the Mt. Gretna 2016 Bible Festival, in June at 7 p.m., an Ecumenical Worship Service will be held in the historic Tabernacle each with the theme "God's love...". Also from June 12–August 28 on Sunday evenings and many Wednesdays at 7 there will be concerts and worship services. And two Saturday morning children's programs will be provided in partnership with PA Chatuaqua. A schedule can be obtained at [www.MtGretnaTabernacle.org](http://www.MtGretnaTabernacle.org) or by calling 717-371-1725.

**Community Yard Sale:** Montoursville Brethren in Christ Church, 105 Fairview Court, Montoursville, will hold a Community Yard Sale on Saturday, June 4 from 8 AM to 1 PM in the church parking lot. (Rain date - June 11) The church is located on Route 87, just north of Walmart. Hotdogs and beverages will be sold to benefit Global Aid Network (GAIN) and a bake sale to benefit People to People. Spaces are free. Contact Yvonne Hartshaw for an application at 570-433-4715 or [hartshaw4@verizon.net](mailto:hartshaw4@verizon.net).

**Total Woman Conference:** Day by Day Ministries will hold their 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference on Saturday, June 11, at Old Lycoming Township Fire Hall, 1600 Dewey Ave. Williamsport. The conference will begin at 10 am. Lunch will be provided. Speakers, vocalists and praise dancers from area churches will be participating.

The donation is \$20.00. For more information or to register contact them at [daybydayministriespa@yahoo.com](mailto:daybydayministriespa@yahoo.com) 570-220-8063.

**Men's Breakfast:** The Iron Men Fellowship of Williamsport is hosting their first annual breakfast on Saturday, June, 25th, at 8am, at the Gap fellowship Church, 412 Maynard Street, from 8-11 a.m. Speakers will be Pastors Bud Yoder, Gary Runtas and Belt-on Mobley. For more information or to make a reservation contact Warren Earl at 570-224-5623 or [ironmenwilliamsportpa@gmail.com](mailto:ironmenwilliamsportpa@gmail.com)

**Bishop Retiring:** A Worship Service honoring the retirement of The Rev. Robert L. Driesen, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport. When Bishop Driesen was pastor at Messiah, he was active in United Churches and served as president. A catered dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m. Tickets, at \$20 each, are available by contacting Messiah Lutheran Church, 570-326-9171 or [messiahoffice@comcast.net](mailto:messiahoffice@comcast.net). Seating is limited, so reservations should be made early.

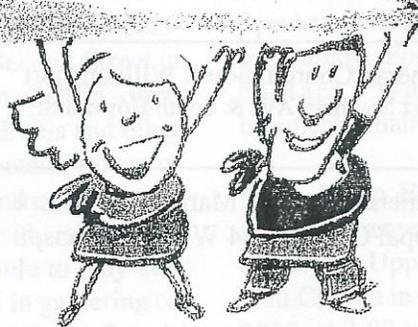
**Pre-school at St. Luke Yard Sale** Save the dates July 15th & 16th for the 18th Annual Pre-School Yard Sale from 8-2. Lunch and baked goods will be available. Look for more information in the newsletter or call the church office on how to donate household items, clothing, books, and much more! (570-323-7309)

**Free Clothing Exchange:** Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport will have a free clothing exchange on Saturday, August 6, from 8-11 am. Bring what you have, take what you need, even if you have nothing to bring. No money will change hands. They accept gently used clothing and accessories (shoes, purses, belts, ties, scarves, hats, gloves, etc.) in good repair. No household articles, please. Donations may be dropped off at the church in advance or brought the day of the exchange. Office hours are 8 am-3:30 pm weekdays. Set-up: Friday, August 5; we welcome any help that is offered and volunteers who help to sort the clothing may "shop" early.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS & CAMPS AROUND OUR COUNTY

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>THEME/DETAILS</b>
June 13-August 18	St Paul Calvary United Methodist Church 1427 Memorial Ave, Williamsport 570-322-5054	Kid's Club: A Summer Breakfast and Lunch Program Monday - Thursday: 9 - 12:30
June 6 - July 15	Montgomery Borough Park Community Summer Recreation Program	Summer Alive Morning Snack and Lunch <a href="http://www.summeralive.org">www.summeralive.org</a>
June 13 - 17	Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport Corner of West Southern Ave & South Howard St.	9 - Noon: Age 4 - Grade 6 Registration: 570-326-9171 x 203 or wither15@comcast.net
June 19 - 23	St. Mark's Lutheran Ch., 142 Market St., Wmspt. Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St, Wmspt.	La Frontera: Where Jesus Meets Us 5:30-8:30 Pre-K - Grade 5 Dinner begins each evening Beginning Site: St. Marks.
June 19 - 23	Salladasburg United Methodist Charge at Salladasburg Church, 310 Main Street	Bug Safari 6:30 - 8:00, K - Grade 6
June 20 - 24	Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport	Creation Sensation Music Camp 8:30 - Noon; Grades K-7 Registration needed by June 6
June 20 - 24	Pine Street United Methodist Church 441 Pine Street, Williamsport	Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love 10-Noon, Age 3 - Grade 5
June 26 - 30	New Covenant United Church of Christ 202 East Third Street, Williamsport	Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love 6 - 8:30 Ages 3-12
July 11 - 15	Christ United Methodist Church 146 South Main Street, Hughesville	Deep Blue Splash 9:00 - 11:30 Register at 570-584-2544 or <a href="mailto:secretary4bcumc@gmail.com">secretary4bcumc@gmail.com</a>
July 18 - 22	St Paul Calvary United Methodist Church 1427 Memorial Ave, Williamsport 570-322-5054	Deep Sea Discovery 5:30 - 8
July 25 - 29	St. John Lutheran "Brick" Church 196 Brick Church Road, Montgomery	"Cave Quest" 6:30 - 8:45
July 25 - 29	Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport	"Who's Ready" 6 - 8 Ages 4-12
August 7 - 11	St. Luke Lutheran Church 1400 Market Street, Williamsport	Deep Sea Discovery 6 - 8 Age 4 - Grade 4

# "FUN" DRAISER NIGHT!



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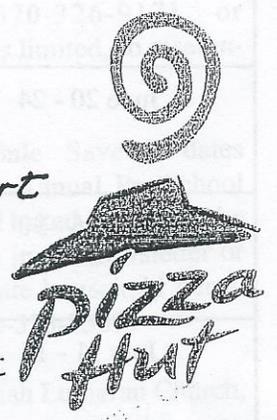
**WHO:** United Churches of Lycoming County

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 24th, 4 - 9 P.M.

**TIME:** 4 - 9 P.M.

**WHERE:** Pizza Hut, Golden Strip, Williamsport  
1729 East Third Street

**PHONE #:** 570-323-8967



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