



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

Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor

Mrs. Patty Gohrs, Administrative Assistant: [office@uclc.org](mailto:office@uclc.org)

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday

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

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

November 10, 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.

## DIAL - A - DEVOTION \*

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



**D**evotions change each weekday and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirit and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God." The devotionalists this fall include:

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11/9-15 Rev. Danesta Whaley         | 11/16-22 Mrs. Sandy Grier          |
| 11/23-29 Rev. Gwen Bernstine        | 11/30-12/6 Pastor Dorothy Anderson |
| 12/7-13 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens | 12/14-20 Mrs. Tammey Aichner       |

**Listen today and tell others about this ministry!**

**A devotion line business card is available from our office for your convenient reminder or to share with others.**

## **VOLUNTEER NOW FOR 2016 MINISTRIES\***

**W**e are getting ready to fill the ministries schedule for 2016. Both clergy & laity are needed. **Worship:**

### **Nursing Home -Assisted Living Centers:**

Sundays at 2 weekly: Manor Care South Valley View Rose View Center

Sundays at 2:15 weekly: Manor Care North (2 services)

Sundays at 3: Weekly - Williamsport Home (2 services)

Monthly - The Hillside (3:10), The Meadows(3)

Rose View Court (3), Elmcroft (3)

Loyalsock Creek RNC (2)

Wednesdays at 10:30 weekly - Loyalsock Creek RNC

Thursdays at 11 weekly - Presbyterian Home

### **Prison Worship Services** (Sundays weekly)

Lycoming County Jail - 1:45 and 3:15 p.m.

Pre-Release Center for Men/for Women - 3:30 p.m.

### **Daily Telephone Devotion Line** - Record from your home.

Volunteers have responsibility for one week at a time.

**Footsteps to Follow Editorials:** Clergy and people in professional para church leadership are invited to sign up for a week's turn at these newspaper editorials in the Saturday morning Sun Gazette.

**Please** contact us at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) or 570-322-1110 to learn how you can be part of these ministries. We need you!



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

**69th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY\***

**O**ur 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the United Churches is being held Thursday, November 19 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd, Wmspt. If you haven't made your dinner reservation, or plan to attend the meeting, call us today at 570-322-1110 or 419-1464 or email us at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org). The evening will include:

- ★ Presentation of an Ecumenical Service Award.
- ★ Election of officers and new board members.
- ★ Adoption of the 2016 Budget.
- ★ Celebration of the Ministry We Do Together.
- ★ Conversation of the Evening: Refugees with Roberta Updegraff, a freelance writer for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance who is currently covering this overwhelming human disaster worldwide.

**UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY \***

[foodpantry@uclc.org](mailto:foodpantry@uclc.org) or 570-322-1627

**W**e have many things to celebrate when we think of our blessings, here at the pantry! It is just like making a list yourself, when you begin you can't believe how long it is, but let me highlight a things...

1. You, our generous supporters. Your prayers and donations make amazing differences in the lives of those struggling to feed their families.
2. Volunteers who do their work joyfully, efficiently, and capably. Who willingly accept responsibly to be Jesus reaching out to our community, for each of us, every week!
3. Our clients, who share their lives with us as they choose the items from our shelves that they can best use to stretch their food budget. A picture here, a story there; we become family! The family of God.
4. Gail's leadership allowed our pantry to do so many of these things and we are blessed. Please pray for us as we move through the process of interviewing for a new coordinator in the weeks ahead.



The pantry continues to be open, and right now some of the food items that we are in need of are...

oodles of noodles	chunky soups	peanut butter
tuna fish	powdered drink mix (ie: kool aid)	
canned veggies	jelly	saltine crackers
pastas	canned fruits	mac-n-cheese
cake/frosting mixes	stuffing mix	tea bags
spaghetti sauce	pork-n-beans	instant coffee

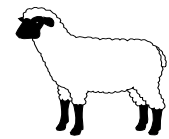
Your support is greatly appreciated. You are always in our prayers and we request that you remember us in your prayers as well. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving as you give thanks for your many blessings too. Don't forget that our

Pantry is now at the Rear of 320 Park Avenue. The hours are Mondays 9:30 - Noon for donations and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-3 for clients services.

**C**hurch Women United's Christmas stocking bags will be assembled Monday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m. at Pine Street UMC, 441 Pine Street, Williamsport, (free parking signs will be available in the church). Women are welcome to help assemble and package the 1200+ stocking bags for distribution to area nursing home residents, and for children who visit mothers at Muncy SCI.

**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

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

**A THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

Gracious and loving Father...

We thank you for your faithfulness that cares if we have what we need.

We thank you for your provision so that we might share with those in need.

We thank you for the privilege of serving those who will benefit most.

We thank you for the fellowship that we have with the poor, the challenged, the sick.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit who gives us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We thank you for the gift of your Son that we might be redeemed from those traits that would keep us from the joy of sharing our blessings.

We thank you that in giving we become most gifted, for by giving to those in need, we give it to your Son, who said "whatever you do to them you do to me".

Bless what we give that is needed for healing, for sustenance, for peace, for such is the your mercy to us that enflames the reality of your love for us.

Bless us that we be the testimony of Jesus to these who need, that they will see You in all we say and do.

In the Holy Name of Jesus we pray...Amen.

We thank all who collect hygiene items, bedding, and baby needs for us. The list of hygiene items we use follows, and are regular sizes of:

<i>Deodorant</i>	<i>Toothpaste and Toothbrushes</i>
<i>Soap</i>	<i>Shaving Cream and Razors</i>
<i>Tissues</i>	<i>Shampoo and Conditioner</i>
<i>Toilet Paper</i>	<i>Women's Hygiene Products</i>
<i>Combs</i>	<i>Towels and Wash Cloths</i>
<i>Baby Diaper</i>	<i>Baby Shampoo, Powder, Oil</i>
<i>Baby Q-Tips</i>	<i>Baby Wipes.</i>

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

**D**o not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—when you already have it with you. (Proverbs 3:27-28) Today, not tomorrow, we need to eradicate hunger!

**United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. Goal #1 is No Poverty. Goal #2 is No Hunger.

**Hunger:** Globally, one in nine people in the world today (795 million) are undernourished. The vast majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries, where 12.9% of the population is undernourished. Asia is the continent with the most hungry people – two thirds of the total. The percentage in southern Asia has fallen in recent years but in western Asia it has increased slightly. Southern Asia faces the greatest hunger burden, with about 281 million undernourished people. In sub-Saharan Africa, projections for the 2014-2016 period indicate a rate of undernourishment of almost 23%.

Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year. One in four of the world's children suffer stunted growth. In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three. Over 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

-Source: [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger)

**U.N. SDG #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture:**

Rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity over the past two decades has seen the proportion of undernourished people drop by almost half.

Many developing countries that used to suffer from famine and hunger can now meet the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable. Central and East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have all made huge progress in eradicating extreme hunger.

These are all significant achievements in reaching the targets set out by the first Millennium Development Goals. Unfortunately, extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to development in many countries.

795 million people are estimated to be chronically undernourished as of 2014, often as a direct consequence of environmental degradation, drought and loss of biodiversity. Over 90 million children under the age of five are dangerously underweight. And one person in every four still goes hungry in Africa.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people – especially children and the more vulnerable – have access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round. This involves promoting sustainable agricultural practices: improving the livelihoods and capacities of small scale farmers, allowing equal access to land, technology and markets. It also requires international cooperation to ensure investment in infrastructure and technology to improve agricultural productivity.

Together with the other goals set out here, we can end hunger by 2030.

- Source: [www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdl-governview/post-2015-development-agenda/goal-2](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdl-governview/post-2015-development-agenda/goal-2)

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

**P**rie Dieu (Prayer Bench): Solid oak frame double kneeler with open front. Measures 42" wide x 33" high x 28" deep with removable burgandy 4" foam padded kneeler. Asking \$75. Call 570-435-3323.

**H**ome Communion Set: 4 glass cups with host dispensers in wooden box with purple velvet carry case. Asking \$20. 570-435-3323

**M**en's Solid Black Pulpit Robe: Bell sleeves with wide cuffs. Pleated front with full front zipper. Chest size 42-46. Asking \$50. Call 570-435-3323

**S**toles: A total of three. The white ones need dry cleaned. Asking \$5 each. Red - Pentecost, Reversible White: Christmas (manger) and Easter (cross), White PAX. Call 570-435-3323.

**F**olding and/or Stackable Chairs Needed for Sunday school rooms and Fellowship Meals at Omega Orthodox Presbyterian Church who has purchased a new space. Contact Drew at 570-651-3449

**H**ymnals Available free to a good home: The Celebration Hymnal © 1997. Call New Covenant United Church of Christ, 570-326-3308.

**B**ell Choir and Chimes Director position open. Contact the Church Office at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 570-326-3308.



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

**H**ow fast the semesters go! The students had a great October. Thank you to Phil and Gail Landers for opening their home and creek access on a beautiful Sunday. We had a great time in fellowship and kayaking/canoeing. As always, we ate well! Thank you to our pastors... Rev. Paul Browne and Pastor Velinda Webb.

We added a Fall Meal In A Bag event this October. A special thanks to Sojourner Truth for allowing us to stage the event at their facility. If you remember from previous years, we deliver 25 complete spaghetti dinners in a food insecure neighborhood. It is always eye opening for the students. And I continue to be amazed at the students enthusiasm for this outreach.

We do have a few needs coming up...we would like to hand out Cookies For Crunch Time. If you, your congregation, Bible Study group, etc. has a baker in your midst, please consider baking a batch of cookies to donate to the students. We will package them, with a scripture on the package, and hand out to the students during Finals week. We would need them December 4th-6th in order to distribute starting Finals Monday. Please email me at [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org) to make arrangements.

Soon we will be having our Soup Fundraiser...be on the lookout for the order form to add to your insert in your bulletin, and let me know now if you would like to make soup. This year we are planning a mission trip to South Carolina over Spring Break, and this is how the funds will be used.

Also, two of our students have decided to going to New York City this Thanksgiving to hand out blankets to homeless people. We are accepting blanket donations at the United Churches office to aid them in this process. For more information you can contact Kwani Lawrence at [ucm@pct.edu](mailto:ucm@pct.edu).

As always, thank you for your continued support.

### WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES\*

**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.

When winter weather makes travel difficult on Wednesdays call Gwen at 570-419-1464 or 570-323-5911 to know if Ecumenical lunch has been cancelled.

### NOVEMBER:

- 11- **Ms. Tonya Anderson**, Life Therapist, An Exquisite Life, *"For the Love of Veterans"*
- 18- **Ms. Henrietta Hadley**, Executive Dir., Firetree Place, *"Strengthening Youth, Families & Community"*
- 25- **Mr. James Foran**, Director of Religious Education, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, *"How To Celebrate Thanksgiving Canadian Style"*

### DECEMBER

- 2- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine and Mrs. Patty Gohrs**, Staff, United Churches *"Enjoying Your Christmas Greetings to the Fullest"*
- 9- **To Be Announced**
- 16- *Here We Are A Caroling*

### "New Year – New Hope" Sunday in January

**P**roject Bald Eagle's Faith-based Initiative Subcommittee is asking your congregation to dedicate a Sunday in January 2016 for offering prayers and support for those dealing with heroin and opioid addiction, as well as their families and others affected by this epidemic. "New Year – New Hope" is our emphasis for the month.

The purpose of the Faith-based Initiative is "to facilitate healing of spirit through the power of God's love." We believe that the power of transformational prayer is key to the hope and recovery of those with addictions, and essential to undergird the efforts of everyone involved in Project Bald Eagle (formerly known as the Heroin Task Force).

We have resources available for your use, including a prayer card that can be printed and used as a bulletin insert and suggested litanies for your worship service. For more information on the Faith-based Initiative Sub-committee, contact chairperson, the Rev. Andrew France ([amfrance@comcast.net](mailto:amfrance@comcast.net)). For information on resources for your worship service in January, contact Karen Barraco ([kbarraco@windstream.net](mailto:kbarraco@windstream.net)).

Note: Several pastors have expressed interest in doing it as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, on the fourth Sunday, January 24, 2016.

**CREATION CORNER**

*The Christian Social Concerns Committee*

Inspiring Quotations for Environmental Stewardship

- If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men. St. Francis of Assisi
- Each religion has given to us a definite acknowledgement of God as creator. Each religion also discusses divine qualities that mankind can utilize to be co-creators with God. When individual souls use God’s energy in a positive way to create good, we are part of God in action. God is then working through us. -G. David Lundberg
- If a chimney is full of smoke, how can the light be seen? If the mind is full of dirt, how can the soul shine? Yogaswami
- The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope. -Wendell Berry
- Now in the people that were meant to be green there is no more life of any kind. There is only shriveled barrenness. The winds are burdened by the utterly awful stink of evil, selfish goings-on. Thunderstorms menace. The air belches out the filthy uncleanness of the peoples. The earth should not be injured! The earth must not be destroyed!! -Hildegard von Bingen
- The intuitive mind is a sacred gift, and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a world that honors the servant, but has forgotten the gift. -Albert Einstein
- We are talking only to ourselves. We are not talking to the rivers, we are not listening to the wind and the stars. We have broken the great conversation. By breaking that conversation we have shattered the universe. All the disasters that are happening now are a consequence of that spiritual ‘autism.’ -Thomas Berry
- The Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh was once asked what we need to do to save our world. ‘What we most need to do,’ he replied, ‘is to hear within us the sounds of the Earth dying.’ -Quoted by Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee
- God’s first intention for heaven and earth was that they be one. The polluting corruption of evil has caused them to flee one another, but this division will not last. God’s original intention has now become God’s mission... (a) journey toward restoration. -G. Robert Paauw
- Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans. -Jacques Cousteau
- There’s no polite way of saying this: your body is a landfill, a dumping ground for a mind-boggling array of toxic chemicals. So is mine. So is your child’s. -Sloan Barnett
- You will find something far greater in the woods than you will find in books. Stone and trees will teach you that which you will never learn from masters. -St. Bernard of

Clairvaux, French Cistercian monk

- The Old Lakota was wise. He knew that man’s heart away from nature becomes hard; he knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to lack of respect for humans too. -Chief Luther Standing Bear
- Biblical orthodoxy without compassion is surely the ugliest thing in the world. -Francis Schaeffer
- We are looking forward to a new heaven and new earth, the home of righteousness. - 2 Peter 3:13

Note: The web site for the home church of the columnist is [www.stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org)

**C**ROP WALK had a beautiful Sunday this year for folks to walk in solidarity with those who were hungry. It was good to be part of an effort to help reduce hunger in our community and around the world. Our total earnings for 35 years is now well over \$1 Million. Don’t forget to return your walker envelopes to United Churches.



**C**ELEBRATE THANKSGIVING: Several of the Ministeriums in our County have reported they are hosting ecumenical Thanksgiving services this year. All are welcome to attend.



- The Jersey Shore Ministerium Service will be at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1407 Allegheny Street, Wednesday, November 15 at 7 p.m.
- Hepburn Lycoming Ministerium Service will be held Sunday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at Heshbon Park United Methodist Church, 2898 Heshbon Road, Williamsport.
- The Muncy Ministerium Service will be Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Pleasant View Wesleyan Church, 944 Penn Street, Muncy.
- The South Williamsport Ministerium Service will be Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport.
- The Montoursville Ministerium is holding their Thanksgiving Eve service Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 369 Broad St, Montoursville.
- The Montgomery Ministerium Service will be Sunday, November 22 at 7 pm at Grace United Presbyterian Church, 105 Second St., Montgomery.

**THANKSGIVING DINNERS**

- ❖ Tuesday Nov 17 from 6-8 pm at Calvary Church of the Nazarene, 3200 Lycoming Creek Road.
- ❖ Monday, November 23 from 11-12:30 at West End Christian Community Center, 901 Diamond Street.
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day beginning at noon at St. Anthony's Center, 125 East Willow Street, Williamsport. Delivery is available for shut-ins (call 570-326-2244 by 9 am 11/26)
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day at the American Rescue Workers from Noon until 3 p.m. in their 2nd Floor Dining Room at 643 Elmira Street, Williamsport. Delivery is available only to shut-ins and handicapped by calling 570-323-8401 x110 by Wednesday at noon.
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1407 Allegheny St, Jersey Shore from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day at St. John's Newberry United Methodist Church, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport, at Noon to 2 p.m.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Social Security - Strategize to Maximize:** When it comes to navigating the Social Security landscape, the choices can be overwhelming. And even just one mistake can be costly... for the rest of your life. Thrivent is hosting a complimentary presentation to learn how to sort through the options to help ensure the choices you make are right for you will be held Tuesday November 17 at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Williamsport - Faxon Exit, 66 Liberty Lane, Williamsport. The presentation will be given two times, one from 1:30 - 2:30 and again from 6:30-7:30. RSVP by 11/15 to Keith Wood at 570-323-9727 or [Becca.Eisenman@thrivent.com](mailto:Becca.Eisenman@thrivent.com).

**Retire Wisely:** 47 % of Americans age 56 to 62 could run out of funds to pay for basic retirement expenses if they retire at age 65. Will you have enough to retire? Will your retirement income last? Are your assets protect. Thrivent is also hosting this complimentary presentation which has been postponed to Thursday December 3. You will learn how to manage six risks all retirees face; out-living income, inflation, unpredictable events, market volatility, income taxes and rising health care costs. It will be held at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Williamsport - Faxon Exit, 66 Liberty Lane, Williamsport. The presentation will be given two times, one from 1:30 - 2:30 and again from 6:30-7:30. RSVP by 11/15 to Keith Wood at 570-323-9727 or [Becca.Eisenman@thrivent.com](mailto:Becca.Eisenman@thrivent.com).

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY**

**T**he Lycoming County Housing Alliance will be conducting a county-wide unsheltered and sheltered homeless point-in-time count at the end of January 2016. This past January we came in contact with 66 unsheltered individuals who needed our help. As part of HUD's Eastern PA Continuum of Care, counts are completed in Lycoming County twice a year and numbers are reported at the local, state and federal levels.

This count is important to our community as it helps to generate awareness and funding for programs like Journey House, Liberty House, The Salvation Army, Family Promise and Saving Grace who all provide services to the homeless in Lycoming County.

Our counts are facilitated in two ways: 1) A Street based count where volunteers and service providers survey the county looking for those who may be unsheltered; and 2) Service/agency based counts where agencies provide the number of homeless individuals they come in contact with on the count day, or are serving on the count day.

From Fall 2014 – Fall 2015, we've been able to utilize a backpack called Citypaks, specifically designed for unsheltered homeless that provide them an essential life sustaining tool while they are on the street. The packs are designed for security and safety for homeless individuals and are capable of holding many life sustaining supplies such as food, bedrolls, thermal blankets, matches, etc. Our Citypaks were donated to the Housing Alliance by Sojourner Truth Ministries. At this time, our supply of Citypaks is almost depleted and we are working to secure funding to purchase more for use in future counts. We plan to distribute the remainder of our supply in the January 2016 count with plans to purchase more for the Fall 2016 count.

***We are in need of your help!***

Due to our dwindling supply, we are in need of more backpacks for both children and adults at this time. We would like to fill these packs as we did last year with hats, gloves, socks, toiletries, snack items, and other essential items to help individuals living on the streets be able to survive while they are in the process of seeking help.

We are asking for help collecting items to put in the packs for our upcoming count. If your church would be interested in donating items, please contact the chairperson of our Housing Alliance, Mae-Ling Kranz; Program Director at the YWCA Northcentral PA at 570-322-4637 x117 for a list of needed items. We appreciate your consideration and support of those in need throughout our community.

**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)**

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

KINGDOM LIVING



Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. - Luke 12:32

Beloved Ones, what a blessing it is to share in the Kingdom of God with many as we continue to move forward with Our King's plan to witness change in the lives of those HE sets us in the midst of. Yokefellow Prison Ministry is about reaching out to 'the least of these' to see God's Kingdom change precious lives for eternity. We are co-laboring with the Lord and with many others to help bring about the change we all desire to see in the earth.

Just on the heels of hearing one of our conference speakers last month about 'Healing Communities' in the desire to offer restorative practices through the ministry of 'presence' (walking with returning citizens back into the community) came a first Re-entry Coalition kick off meeting. It was held on October 20 at Lycoming College. That meeting was very informative and many in the community came out to hear and to strategize together on helping 'returning citizens'. There will be future meetings and Dr. Kerry Richmond along with many others desire to see true change come about where we are helping people who are being released from prisons to be an integral part of society – that is Kingdom living! Our local Yokefellow Ministry is becoming more involved with this and has a strong desire to do our part as a faith-based ministry.

Our volunteers go into the prisons but also are a part of an even wider ministry to the 'whole' person. We will be having our next Volunteer Training on Saturday, November 14 from 9am to 12Noon at our ministry office located at 1200 Almond St., Williamsport (parking in rear of building). If you are interested in attending, please call the office number above and we will make room for you. Also please see further information about our Yokefellowship Fundraiser on Sunday, November 15 to eat at Hoss's Restaurant that day in support of our local ministry. Many thanksgivings to you all! *Let His Kingdom Come and Let His Will Be Done on Earth as it Is in Heaven!*

**November is the Great American Smoke Out!** Even if you don't smoke, you pay the price. Did you know these smoking facts....

- The price of a pack of cigarettes is not only the cost of the cigarettes you are smoking. It also costs the US more than \$193 billion in lost productivity and health care expenses each year.
- Each year secondhand smoke costs the US more than \$10 billion in medical costs and also lost productivity.
- The average pack-a-day smoker, who quits today

could save \$16,000 over the next 10 years just in the cost of their cigarettes!

**EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Mass Choir Event Again in May:** The Music Ministry of Faxon Kenmar United Methodist Church invites you to be part of a Festival Choir on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. Registration is needed by 11/25/15. If you have questions contact the church at 570-323-7272 or David Koskey H-570-322-8562 or Cell-570-220-2621.

This concert will be the concluding concert in this years NEW Church Concert Series of four Free Sunday afternoon concerts at 2 p.m. that have been held this year at Faxon Kenmar. The first concert in the series is:

- November 15: Ryan Workman, Tenor Solist

**Healing Our Land Through Unity:** This program will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at Oasis Fellowship (formerly Unity Christian Fellowship), 734 West Fourth Street. The program will begin promptly at 4pm. Some of the churches that will be participating in this program is Mount Zion, Covenant Central Presbyterian, Freedom House, Bridging The Gap, Central Baptist Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church and CrossFyre.

Please come out and be a part of this program. Remember, we are all member of one body. We are all necessary to have a well functioning body. Let's show the enemy that he has no power in Williamsport. If we decide to come together in the body of Christ, we will be able to overcome all that's wrong in our community- drugs, guns, gangs, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Invite or bring a friend! Ron Johnson, Founder – Redeemed Ministry

**Michael Burrell to Perform as Hymn Writer Philip Bliss:** Mr. Burrell will be performing and narrating as Pennsylvania native Hymn Writer P.P. (Philip) Bliss Saturday November 21st at St. John's-Newberry United Methodist Church in Williamsport, PA. The church is located at 2101 Newberry Street, and the concert begins at 5:30pm. A love offering will be received.

Mr. Burrell is the tenor soloist for the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes in Upstate New York. Hymn Writer P.P. Bliss is known for writing the lyrics and/or music for many popular songs and hymns, including "Hallelujah, What A Savior," "Wonderful Words of Life," "My Redeemer," "Hold the Fort," and "It Is Well With My Soul."

For more information, please contact the church at 570-326-5569.

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