



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

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Please notify us of changes of email address

Thank You for receiving our newsletter via email.

It's a wonderful donation of postage, office supplies and volunteer time.

VOLUNTEER NOW FOR 2018 MINISTRIES*

We are getting ready to fill the ministries schedule for 2018. Both clergy & laity are needed. **Worship:**

Nursing Home -Assisted Living Centers:

Sundays at 2: Manor Care South
Valley View AristaCare

Sundays at 2:15: Manor Care North (2 services)
Rose View Center

Sundays at 3: Williamsport Home (2 services)

Sundays - The Hillside (3:10), The Meadows(3)
Leighton Place (3), Elmcroft (3)

Wednesdays at 11 - West Edwin Street Apartments

Thursdays at 11 - Presbyterian Home

Prison Worship Services (Sundays)

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 parachurch 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 or 570-322-1110 to be part of these ministries. We need you!



CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING: Several Ministeriums are hosting ecumenical Thanksgiving services this year. All are welcome to attend.



- ▶ The Muncy Ministerium Service will be Sunday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 602 S. Market St., Muncy. Preacher: Rev. Don Edwards
- ▶ Hepburn Lycoming Ministerium Service will be held Sunday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at Balls Mills United Methodist Church, 5941 Bloomingrove Rd., Cogan Station.
- ▶ The Nippenose Valley Community Service will be at Antes Fort United Methodist Church on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. Preacher: Pastor Wanda Minnick.
- ▶ South Williamsport United Methodist Church, 409 Main Street, South Williamsport, on Sunday, November 19 at 7 p.m.

You are welcome to attend!

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

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



Devotions 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 devotionists this fall include:

- 11/13-19 Mrs. Pat Jenkins
- 11/20-26 Rev. Danesta Whaley
- 11/27-12/2 Rev. Gwen Bernstine
- 12/3-10 Rev. Marwin Reeves
- 12/11-17 Pastor Tammey Aichner
- 12/18-24 Fr. Dan Kovalak

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

A devotion line business card is available from our office as a convenient reminder or to share.



Ads

Tables looking for a home: First United Methodist Church in Muncy has eight or more used, 8-foot tables with wood tops in fair to good condition to give away to another church. To see them visit 602 S. Market St., Muncy Monday through Friday, 9:00-4:00. The office number is 570-546-8030.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY *

foodpantry@uclc.org or 570-322-1627

The month for giving thanks is upon us now. How time flies by these days as we grow busier. We at the pantry would like to give our first and most important thanks, to God. For it is from God that we have been created and shown how to live a proper life in this world. Let us give back in THANKSGIVING!

Second is a huge thanks to you, the community, for giving and thinking of the pantry. We are able to provide 3-4 days of food to families in need with your donation of food and funds. Without your giving many in the area would grow more weary and sick because they are not able to provide nutritious meal for themselves and their family. THANKS to a pass it forward community!

The third thanks is to our volunteers who help clean and stock the pantry and serve our clients. They are very open and talkative with clients and develop relationships with many of them. This encourages clients to share with their friends how just a word or a can of food can make a difference in your life. Just as Jesus, did for all of us. THANKS for being such helpers to us and those in need!



And finally, the fourth is to all the military personnel, Veterans, that sacrificed much to keep us whole, just as Jesus sacrificed himself for all of humanity Without our Veterans sacrifices we would be unable to be such a free and giving nation.

This time of the year we want to gather the Harvest and pass it on, extending love and hope to as many as possible. To keep on planting seeds amongst the community we here at the pantry are in need of these items:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------|
| Cereal | Snacks | Oatmeal |
| Canned Beans | Canned Meats | Soups |
| Stuffing | Sauces | Gravy |
| Instant Potatoes | Canned Veggies | Pastas |
| Crackers | Ramen Noodles | Flour |
| Baking Mixes | Canned Fruits | Condiments |
| Sugars/Sweeteners | Coffee/Tea | Pop Tarts |
| Hot Chocolate | Popcorn | |

There are many items but it all can be accomplished if you continue to give thought to those in need while shopping! Your support is greatly appreciated! We always have you in our prayers and praises! Happy holidays to all!!

Location: Rear 320 Park Avenue, Williamsport
Hours: Monday.....9-12.....donations
Tuesday/Thursday..10:15-2:30.....clients

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

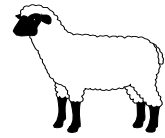


- ❖ Monday, November 20 from 11-1 at West End Christian Community Center, 901 Diamond Street.
- ❖ Wednesday, Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Day beginning at noon at St. Anthony's Center, 125 East Willow Street, Williamsport. Delivery is available for shut-ins (call 570-326-2244 by 10:30 am)
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 23, 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. 23, Thanksgiving Day at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1407 Allegheny St, Jersey Shore from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ok
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Day at Sojourner Truth Ministry, 501 High Street, Williamsport from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.



SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,
570-322-6538, shepherd@uclc.org



This is the season of harvest, of thanksgiving for God’s gracious provision for earthly journey.
Giving thanks is signed by God and sung by the creation He voiced into existence
for the life He breathed into being.

Taking pause in the world to recount His blessings gifted to us, begins a season of heightened awareness of who we are, made in the image and likeness of God.

Thus we begin with the acclamation of thanksgiving that forms a choir of sacrificial homage and adoration that accounts for the Love that God gifts us with His own Spirit.

This day of love is brought to a crescendo that celebrates the Voice that created all things being gifted so that we might be able to live in Him now and forever.

From a virgin girl, to a righteous man, to the poorest of the poor abiding in fields of darkness, the love-song sweeps its carol with words of oblation:

full of grace, the handmaid of the Lord, rejoiced in the gift of God, her Savior,
in the diminish of sacred silence, the man intoned God’s gift of the Holy Infant,
in a Gloria of exultation, heavenly hosts proclaimed the gift of God’s Son,
in the witness of wonder, the shepherds exulted of what they saw and heard.

The love-song of God is the Voice becoming flesh marking the gifts of Grace and Truth, the Paschal Sacrifice of divine affection.

This season is measured by the everlasting joy and eternal hope that results from gifts bestowed on us by a grace that enables us to bestow that Love on all around us.

Gifting others as God has gifted us with true treasure of attention, gratitude, and love in the form of things material and things spiritual is the singing of the songs of harvest like the native Americans sung to the pilgrims...gifts of provision and hope, singing the angelic carol of triumph to the disfranchised abiding in darkness, who sang the joy to all they met of God’s gift wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, singing the magi’s song of provision for the care and survival the newborn King.

Led by the Star of Jacob in the sickness of a wayward world, Shepherd of the Streets sings the song of Jesus from the cross that gives access to the healing and health given by the suffering sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lamb of God.

Will you join us in singing the litany of mercy throughout this season of adoration by gifting the poor with means to healing and health.

In thanksgiving and peace, sincerely,
J. Morris Smith, Shepherd of the Streets,
Nancy Long and the Volunteers at SOS

We also thank all of you 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

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever (Psalm 136:1). Mercy is a primary virtue that calls upon us to extend compassion, love, and support to all especially those in need. Currently as politicians in Washington consider tax reform/cuts and health care, we as a people of faith need to be focused on those most in need. We must raise our voices both individually and collectively so that mercy is extended to those encountering hunger and poverty.

Tax reform/cuts and a faith-based perspective – As Congress and the White House formulate proposals for tax reform the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops articulated six moral principles that should guide lawmakers' decisions:

- Care for the poor;
- Strengthening families;
- Maintaining progressivity of the tax code;
- Raising adequate revenue for the common good;
- Avoiding cuts to poverty programs to finance tax reform; and
- Incentivizing charitable giving and development.

Tax proposals in Washington: Two essential tax programs that aid the poor – As Congress decides the future of tax reform/cuts both the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) are essential programs that benefit many families living with poverty. The EITC benefits low and moderate income families while the CTC applies to all families. The EITC is a major factor in lifting working families out of poverty. Note that all current discussion focuses on corporations, business, and upper income beneficiaries. While the middle class is mentioned, the poor are never considered.

Federal minimum wage and its impact on ability of families to afford rent – There is no state where a person working full-time at the federal minimum (\$7.25) wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent. (Source: Out of Reach Report 2017, National Low Income Housing Coalition, www.hlihc.org/oor). Pennsylvania's minimum wage is the same as the federal rate. Without quality, safe, affordable housing, homelessness and housing insecurity will continue to hurt our communities. Many of the families who need the assistance locally of Family Promise (a program offering services to families encountering homelessness) are working families. The current minimum wage of \$7.25 was established in 2009. Today that amount's equivalent worth is \$6.30. That is a decline in earnings of 13.1%.

Children living below the poverty line in the United States – Currently 1 in 6 or 13.3% live in poverty. Of this figure for African-American children the ratio is 1 in 5 or 22.5% and for Latino households the percentage is 18.5%. (Source: Bread for the World)

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*

Join us Wednesdays for lunch and an interesting program! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen at the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer know how to prepare. When winter weather makes travel difficult on Wednesdays call Gwen at 570-419-1464 or 570-326-1396 to know if Ecumenical lunch has been cancelled.



NOVEMBER:

- 15- **Mrs. Gaye Peters Coates, RN.,** American Red Cross Volunteer, *"Reflections of Nursing Amid Disaster"*
- 22- **Mrs. Patty Gohrs,** United Churches Staff, *"Thanking God for Warm Fuzzies"*
- 29- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine,** United Churches Staff, *"Adventure Excitement"*

DECEMBER:

- 6- **Carl and Opal Schlappi,** Old Time Gospel Duo, *"Celebrating the Christmas Season"*
- 13- **Mr. Brian Spies,** Art To Go Instructor, *"Bringing an Art Cart to our Neighborhoods"*
- 20- **Dr. Charles Getchell,** Bringing handbells and music for singing *"Carol Ring"*

Join us! Bring a friend! Make new friends!

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Our Directory for Lycoming County is now available from our United Churches Office or at the Annual Assembly.

The resource "What To Do When Persons Need Help" has a few corrections and additions for you to please note....

- 7. N. Grace's Closet: 1601 Walnut Street, JS., 1st, 2nd 3rd 4th Fridays 9-Noon, Clothes for all ages, some shoes / limit 2 sets per person, 570-398-4806
- 17. C. Suicide Hotline: All ar 24/7 1-800-525-7938, Lycoming Cty Crisis Intervention - 570-326-7895, Clinton County Crisis Intervention - 570-748-2262

An updated copy (as a pdf file) can always be found on our website resource page.



Tammy Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@uclc.org

Here is a recap of our busy month of October... There were five on-campus Bible Studies, four Jesus and Java coffee hours, a "God is Big" on campus event, an Open House and we were present at the Out of the Darkness Walk.

None of these events would be possible without the support of all of you! Special thanks to our pastors this October...Pastor Stan (Christian Church of Cogan Station), Rick Taylor (New Life Orthodox Presbyterian), Pastor Mark Brumbach (South Williamsport United Methodist Church) and Pastor Velinda (Sojourner Truth).

Cogan Station Christian Church and New Covenant United Church of Christ contributed supplies to our on campus event...outdoor games and a popcorn machine. Thank you both!

We handed out 6 cases of bottled water at the Suicide Awareness walk. Thank you to Patty for printing every single label for the bottled water, in addition to all of our weekly devotions for Jesus and Java and our church directories for the Open House! We keep her busy and she only shows us love!

Looking ahead, if anyone would be willing to contribute towards survival bags for finals week, please contact me at ucm@uclc.org.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Peacemaking: Williamsport District of the United Methodist Church invites you to participate in "Vital Conversations" on peacemaking with Dr. Rick Love, Peace Catalyst International. Conflict is a painful fact of life. How do you handle it? What should followers of Christ do about it? How do we resolve conflicts in our families, our communities and our organizations?

A Community Program: Friday, Nov. 17, 7-9 pm
at St. Paul Calvary United Methodist Church
1427 Memorial Avenue, Williamsport
Building Bridges: Christian/Muslim Peacemaking
(Open to General Public)

A Workshop: Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 am - 4 pm
Jesus-Centered Peacemaking
Designed for clergy and church leadership
Reservation Needed for Workshop
Contact Rev. Lenore Hosier
717-479-2544 or lhosier@susumc.org

This event is free because of the generous support of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church.

CREATION CORNER

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

Thankful Prayerful Responses for Creation's Blessings

Including prayers in church liturgy is one of many ways to express our care for creation, as we are instructed to by the "First Commandment" in Genesis 2:15, to "serve and protect" the creation. Consider these:

❁ Creator God, you provide daily for our nourishment. Bless fields and orchards, oceans and lakes, birds and animals, insects and fish. Sustain those who harvest your life-sustaining bounty. Help us share the gifts you have freely given. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

❁ Reveal your will for your creation, mighty God. Renew waters, lands, and skies that are threatened by our carelessness. Teach us to honor and care for the works of your hand. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

❁ We pray for the renewal of creation: for a shared, plentiful harvest, for lands unable to bear fruit, for what is neglected or destroyed by our hand, and for the earth's advocates. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

❁ You rejoice in your good creation. Provide moisture for parched places, wind and sun for flooded lands, and shelter and sustenance for creatures of every kind. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

❁ Restore what is broken in creation, gracious God. Revive farmlands and vineyards, protect waters needed by all living things, and move us to care for this earthly home. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

❁ Give bountiful pastures, safety and health to herds, livestock, and all animals. May our care for all of your creation reflect the shepherding love for all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

❁ We pray for parks and open spaces, for clean air and clear water. Help us protect places where we are reminded of God's work in creation and find renewal. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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CROP WALK INITIAL REPORT


The initial report is in and our county walks have collected \$10,459.09 to help fight hunger and poverty around the world and respond to disaster. Remaining CROP envelopes should be brought to United Churches office as soon as possible.





Looking for more ways to promote your church events? Email information to News@uclc.org for inclusion on the Facebook pages “Walking with God in Lycoming County” and often also in NorthcentralPA.com online newspaper. Your Christmas services are a good way to start.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley: 570-326-6868
Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellow Center 

Let Us Not Grow Weary While Doing Good!
A Harvest Is Ahead!

Galatians 6:9 reminds us of this truth that we must continue to sow wherever He leads us because there is a true harvest awaiting. The ministry of Yokefellowship is helping at-risk youth, inmates and offenders yoke to Christ for salvation and changed lives.

Recently the ministry held its annual volunteer gathering in Lewisburg, PA at the Best Western, Country Cupboard with over 120 attendees. What a blessed time we had in re-connecting with our YPM brothers and sisters, as we listened to powerful testimonies of what the Lord has done and is doing in the lives of His people. We were encouraged and reminded by our keynote speaker to remain focused and faithful to the call.

As servants in this ministry, there are times we do not see the results we might be looking for. However, God’s powerful word reminds us over and over to go forward and believe that there is a true harvest of souls who are waiting to hear His Word and receive hope for their lives. Would you like to join us in serving ‘the least of these’? Contact our office at the above number and we will fit you in. You may be the added blessing to someone’s life.

Our Yokefellowship Northeast Region covers the following facilities that we are currently in:

- Clinton County Correctional – (men & women)
- Lycoming County Prison – (men & women)
- Lycoming County Pre-release (men & women)
- State Correctional Institute Muncy (women)
- Tioga County (men)
- (Sunbury/Union Northumberland area):
 - Snyder County Prison (men & women)
 - Northumberland (at S.C.I. Coal Township) (men)
 - S.C.I. Coal Township (men)
- (Northeast area):
 - Carbon County (women)
 - Northampton County (men & women)

Thank you for praying for our ministry. We welcome your prayers and your support.

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Blue Christmas Service: The Montoursville Ministerium is hosting a service of healing and hope on Sunday, December 17 at 7 pm at Faith United Methodist Church, 700 Fairview Drive, Montoursville. It is an opportunity for people who are in the process of grieving to come together, acknowledging our pain, loneliness or despair, be reassured that you are not alone in your feelings, and to experience a message of God’s unconditional love, the heart of the season.

Lycoming Arts Alliance are looking to promote their new Art Cart and would like to present to various groups looking for a guest speaker. The Art2Go! Program is a mobile arts classroom providing structured creative outreach led by a certified arts instructor. It seeks to support organizations and community members who have identified a need to expose others to the imaginative and therapeutic powers of the arts. It is committed to sharing the fun dimension of the arts by providing opportunities to create for entertainment purposes. The Contact is Brian Spies, brianjamesspies@yahoo.com 443-977-8682.

Williamsport Music Club will present Christmas Music by Candlelight at the Pine Street United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 pm. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Shepherd of the Streets ministries of United Churches.

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along and Play-Along is being sponsored by the Williamsport Music Club on Dec. 30 at Pine Street United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m. Theodore Lentz will be the conductor of singers and instrumentalists in portions of Handle’s “Messiah” with audience participation. Music scores will be provided. A \$10 donation will be accepted at the door.

Victorian Christmas Soup Luncheon will be held on Saturday, Nov 18 from 11 am to 2 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W 4th St, Wmspt. The menu includes a choice of Clam Chowder, Chicken Tortilla or Vegetable Soup, Salad, Bread, Pie and Beverage. A Craft Sale will be held. Tours of the Church will be offered from 9 - 4 with music provided by the Organist Guild.

Festival of Lessons & Carols will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W 4th St, Wmspt. on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 pm. Modeled on the annual celebration at King's College, Cambridge, this service features nine readings (lessons) interspersed with traditional congregational hymns and carols. This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 3:30 pm.