



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the
UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
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November 11, 2014

Please notify us if you 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.

VOLUNTEER NOW FOR 2015 MINISTRIES*

We are getting ready to fill the ministries schedule for 2015. 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 (3)

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.

PreRelease 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 uclc@sunlink.net or 570-322-1110 to learn how you can be part of these ministries. We need you!

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.



It's available 24 hours a day.

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

11/10-16 Mrs. Sandy Grier 11/17-23 Fr. Dan Kovalak

11/24-30 Dr. Margaret Mallery 12/ 1-7 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens

12/8-14 Rev. Gwen Bernstine 12/15-21 Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza

Listen today

and tell others about this ministry!

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



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

WEDNESDAY NOON ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*

Join us for lunch this fall and winter. The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen, Office-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer, Heidi Potter, know how much to prepare. Laity, clergy and people of all ages are welcome!

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

NOVEMBER:

- 12- **Mrs. Connie Phillips**, Victorian Tour Committee "*Victorian Christmas Come to Life as Emma Rolley*"
 19- **Dr. John Piper**, Historian, "*Home of the Friendless: A Women's Ministry to Women*"
 26- **Mr. James Foran**, Director of Religious Education, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, "*How To Celebrate Thanksgiving Canadian Style*"

DECEMBER:

- 3 - **Rev. and Mrs. Ken Wagner-Pizza (Becky)**, Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport, "*Walking with St. Paul in Greece During Advent*"
 10- **Rev. Ken Elkin**, Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church, "*Higher, Longer, More Beautiful; Continuing the Pilgrimage in Spain*"
 17- **Revs. Ken and Christine Woods-Henderson**, Northway Presbyterian Church, "*The Sounds of Christmas*"
 24- Christmas Eve. No lunch scheduled.
 31- New Year's Eve. No lunch scheduled.



Tammy Aichner, Coor, ucm@ucl.org or 570-419-5376

I was once told that the year flies by when you start measuring it by semesters. They were right! We have just a few weeks left before finals week and the students head home. We would like to hand out home baked cookies on campus during finals week with an encouraging scripture. Contact me at ucm@ucl.org if you are able to donate cookies to this cause. We'll need them by 12/7.

Consider coming out to support United Campus Ministry on December 12, 13 or 14th. St. Marks Lutheran Church will be putting on A Christmas Carol with a dinner. You will not be disappointed on the quality of production or the quality of food. I can attest to both!

Thank you to our recent pastors for Faith Talks; Pastor Owen White, Pastor Joel Long, Captain Debbie Engel, Pastor Ken Elkin and Pastor Ken Wagner-Pizza.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY *

Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 570-322-1627

It seems we've commented all year at how rapidly time flies. Now it's November, a month that has two very important events. First is Veterans Day. When I think of Veterans, I think first of elderly people who have ailments or stories, and most times both. But think what it really means to be a Veteran. They are people of all ages who've put their lives on hold to serve us. They go across the world to be with strangers and fight an enemy they know little about, except that they've somehow threatened our American way of life. Our Armed Forces friends put a hold their relationships, careers, plans for having children, or coming up with the next best mousetrap. They walk away from life as they know it, to protect us and life as we know it. So I hope this Veterans Day you told some Vets how grateful we are that they cared enough about us to step in and make sure America stays the wonderful country it is. In fact, don't wait for Veterans Day to come again to say another thank you, let them know we appreciate their sacrifice every day.

The second holiday I want to uplift is Thanksgiving. What a holiday that is and how many fond memories we have of the times spent with family and friends, around a table laden with food treats of all kinds. While these may be our first thoughts of the holiday, let's back up. Our first thoughts of Thanksgiving should be our loving Father who has given us all that we are thankful for, and all that we should be thanking him for every day.

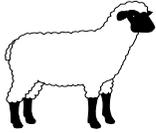
So while we enjoy our holidays, let's keep them in proper perspective. Our loving Father gave us life, that we might enjoy the world He made for us. Our Veterans have fought for us, so we may have the freedom to enjoy all that our God has given us. Pretty neat how that all works together, isn't it. Now don't forget to thank them both more than once a year.

We've been busy this month at the Pantry. In October we served 532 clients. Some items in short supply are:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Oodles of noodles | Mac-N-Cheese | Coffee |
| Canned Fruits | Canned Veggies | Flour |
| Chunky Soups | Instant Potatoes | Saltines |
| Dried Milk | Pasta (any shape) | Cake Mixes |

We thank all our faithful supporters daily in prayer. If you didn't do what you do, we couldn't do what we do. Happy Holidays! Don't forget our Pantry is now at the rear of 320 Park Ave. The hours are Mondays 9:30 - Noon for donations and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-3 for client services.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*



J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,

Contact at: 570-322-6538

GIVING THANKS FOR LOVE

Everything about Thanksgiving Day has to do with the Love of God; the gathering of family and friends, the provision of food, the decorations, the history of it, even the kick-off of the holiday shopping season where we seek gifts for a loved one (although I have some issues with the encroaching commercialism). This year, let us look deeper and thank God for His Love.

To know faith, witness the Faith of God; to know hope, consider the Hope of God, to know love, contemplate the Love of God, but without ambition to engender the character of God for self-gratification, but that faith, hope, and love are gifts of God bestowed by God constituting every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

The enabling of the Love of God is guided by the Spirit of God to order such godliness aright and meld it into the human requisite and aptitude. Love must be understood in its divine context or it is not love at all, but man's emotional predilection to meet his own needs and manipulate circumstances to acquire their perceived end, for such is the confirmation of fear and anger.

For one to insinuate that God does not love each of us to the uttermost, is to have a frivolous, worthless faith, an idle empty hope, and be consumed with an arrogant egotism that nullifies the Cross, denies the mercy and forgiveness of God, sabotages sanctification, degrades inheritance, profanes man's nature, and vainly empties belief of vitality.

Love and Life are divine gifts that entwine to provide definition, significance, and purpose; thus the Love and Life of God must be viewed through the filter of the Cross in order to meet the preeminent demands of regeneration.

To love God is to allow the Love of God innate power to affect new character, and yield its influence in the vicissitudes of life. What is intrinsic in the Love of God rejects all that it is not, making imperative its supervision by the Holy Spirit, forging maturity of the human body, soul, and spirit.

The Love of God does not discriminate, nor is it appetitive gratification, nor does it require refinement, achievement, or acceptance from others; yet, to be satisfied it must be given, accepted, and returned as is.

The turkey is not on the table because daddy shot it, or mama bought it, or someone gave it...it is there because God loves us and as we trace that bird's history all the way back to creation, we come to two vital realities that make Thanksgiving, thanksgiving; it is what it is and it is a measure of God's Love.

Let us thank God for loving us and sacrificing His Son for us, trumping the world's emphasis on commerce and

entitlement. Let us live that Love in order to draw all to God's saving grace. Let us plant the Love of God in the midst of the un-franchised and disfranchised of the world around us by example and faithfulness, especially during this holiday season when we can so easily emphasize God's Love-gift...the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amid the hustle and bustle of the next two months, let us not be drawn away by mundane busy-ness or self-satisfied preparation, but let us love one another as He loves us, so that the Love of God will be made clear to those who live in the shadows and mist of the world around us and even those who are not easy to love at all.

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



1. The Hepburn Lycoming Ministerium Service will be held Sunday, Nov. 23 at 6 p.m. at Calvary Church of the Nazarene, 3200 Lycoming Creek Rd, Williamsport.
2. The Muncy Ministerium Service will be Sunday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Evangelical Free Church, 628 East Penn Street, Muncy, with the Rev. Dr. Don Edwards, from St. Andrew Lutheran Church, preaching.
3. The South Williamsport Ministerium Service will be Sunday, Nov. 23 at 7 at South Williamsport United Methodist Church, 409 Main St, South Williamsport. Pastor Joshua Reinsburrow of Messiah Lutheran Church will preach. A pie social will follow.
4. The Montoursville Ministerium is holding their Thanksgiving Eve service on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 7 pm at Montoursville Presbyterian Church, 900 Elm St.
5. The Montgomery Ministerium Service will be Sunday, November 23 at 7 pm at Grace United Presbyterian Church, 105 Second St., Montgomery. Speakers are Mayor Andrew Onufrak and Pastor Dave Jacobs of the Clinton Baptist Church. Special music will feature feature Gary Steele and Shirley West.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS *Five Thanks!*



- ❖ Tuesday Nov 18 from 6-8 pm at Calvary Church of the Nazarene, 3200 Lycoming Creek Road.
- ❖ Monday, November 24 from 11-1 at West End Christian Community Center, 901 Diamond Street.
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 28, 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 11/28)
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day at the American Rescue Workers from Noon until 4 p.m. in their 2nd Floor Dining Room at 643 Elmira Street, Williamsport. Delivery is available only to shut-ins and handicapped persons by calling 570-323-8401 ext 110 by Wednesday at noon.
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day at St. John's Newberry United Methodist Church, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport, at Noon to 2 p.m..

POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18) Our faith in Jesus tells us to take action and proclaim truth on behalf of those in need. Both charity (direct assistance to address needs) and justice (advocacy to change economic and political systems) are necessary.

Minimum Wage – Pennsylvania Lags Behind the Rest of the Nation: On Election Day, four states passed minimum wage laws that were higher than the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25. These new states bring to 29 the number of states (plus the District of Columbia) with a minimum wage higher than the federal rate. PA remains in the minority still using the federal rate. People of faith need to contact our state legislators and the Governor to call for justice for workers in Pennsylvania. The minimum wage is well below the Living Wage needed to live in Lycoming County especially for those individuals and families raising children. To see Living Wage calculations for Lycoming County visit: www.livingwage.mit.edu/counties/42081

Poverty in Lycoming County – U.S. Census Data: The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 14.2% of the people of Lycoming County are living in poverty. This figure compares unfavorably with the statewide average of 13.1%.

PA Council of Churches – Priorities for Advocacy: The Council through its Ministry of Public Advocacy has adopted the following top two priorities for the 2013-14 legislative session. These priorities are likely to remain the same for the new legislative session. People of faith need to be constant in their vision and commitment.

- Human Needs, including housing, food, energy, and health care—things needed to create a decent life
- Environment, including climate change, clean air and water, toxic chemicals reform, and better regulation of oil and gas drilling

To get involved and to keep informed visit www.pachurchesadvocacy.org

Americans Believe Government Can Do More to Combat Hunger: A new survey released this week by the Food Research and Action Center and Tyson Foods reveals eye-opening trends about American attitudes toward hunger in the United States.

Not only do a majority of Americans believe hunger is a bipartisan issue, but 71 percent also believe the federal government has a fair amount to a great deal of responsibility in dealing with it. Fifty-seven percent responded that local nonprofits, churches, and food banks have a fair amount to a great deal of responsibility. These results make clear that ending hunger is a partnership among federal, local, and community-based entities. To see the survey results visit www.frac.org/-national-survey-finds-bi-partisan-majority-look-to-government-to-lead-much-needed-fight-against-hunger.

You can help feed many in our area!

MEAL PACKAGING PROJECT

Area Churches and Organizations are welcome to join us on Saturday, April 11, 2015 for our Third Meal Packaging Project to be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1407 Allegheny Street, Jersey Shore. Our goal is to package 40,000 protein fortified macaroni and cheese and beans and rice meals for distribution through area food banks. Each meal costs 25 cents to produce so donations to the meal packaging project are appreciated. Checks should be made out to "Outreach, Inc." and mailed to Pastor Kerry Aucker, 229 South Broad Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740. We will also need volunteers each hour on April 11 starting at 8 a.m. Please call to schedule a time to package meals, 570-398-1676. We are limited to 60 volunteers per hour until all meals are packaged. For additional information or brochures contact Pastor Aucker.

CREATION CORNER

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

Caring for Creation: A Sampler of Web Sites

Just 'googling' around for examples of ministries that take a caring approach to God's creation results in many sites. Of especial value are these:

- ▶ [*BioLogos*](#) - Science and Faith in dialogue and harmony
- ▶ [*BlessedEarth*](#) - Serving God, Saving the Planet. Energy Audits (church, home, business), good steward worksheets, Starting an Ecology Ministry, etc.
- ▶ Covenant(s) for Care of Creation - google that site for examples
 - [*CreationCare*](#) - includes the Evangelical Environmental Network Adult Study Guide: Why Christians Should Care about God's Creation, and other resources for laity and preachers
 - Creation Care: An Introduction for busy pastors (for evangelicals & scientists united to protect creation), from the Harvard School of Public Health, Center for Health and the Global Environment; the pdf can be downloaded at <http://www.chgeharvard.org/resource/creation-care-introduction-busy-pastors>
- ▶ [*CreationJustice*](#) - An "umbrella" effort, Ministries for Stewardship of God's earth and people for and by 37 major U.S. Christian denominations, emphasis: justice
- ▶ [*EarthCareOnLine*](#) - Caring for God's Creation, Creation Care web sites and statements, Bible verses, church facility management, etc.
- ▶ [*EcoPreacher*](#) - Ecotheological sermons, essays, reflections, by central PA Lutheran Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade
- ▶ [*GreenFaith*](#) - Interfaith partners educate, inspire and mobilize diverse people for environmental leadership. A "must see" site with varied emphases
- ▶ [*WebOfCreation*](#) is an "all purpose" site that includes Care of the Earth: An environmental resource manual for church leaders; Green Congregation Program, denominational statements, biblio. etc.
- ▶ Worship resources and suggestions (with or on behalf of creation), creation-celebrating hymns, books on ecology and worship, green congregation training, themes for Sundays of the Season of Creation (land, mountains, animals, river, forest, ocean, storm, universe, humanity, wilderness, outdoor worship, Earth Day, Harvest, Rogation), weekly care for creation commentary on the lectionary, etc. are at [*LetAllCreationPraise*](#)
- ▶ Other examples of searches you could do are those for Interfaith Power & Light, Green Seminaries, Bible & Ecology, Blessed Tomorrow, Care of/for Creation, etc.

Three secular sites of value:

- ▶ [*EnergyJustice*](#) is a network of advocates for grassroots environmental justice causes, providing platforms for action on various fuels and technologies, fact sheets and publications
- ▶ [*Religion OnLine*](#) provides nearly 50 articles; see ecology/environment under Social Issues
- ▶ Arguments from global warming skeptics and what the science really says can be found at [*Skeptical Science*](#)

HELP FOR CHRISTMAS

American Rescue Workers is signing up needy families for Christmas Baskets NOW through 12/12. Sign-ups are held Mon.-Fri. from 1-4 in their Social Service Center, 325 Bridge St., Williamsport. Applicants need photo ID, proof of income and identification (SS cards/access cards or ID) for each member of the household. The Toys for Tots pgm. is for children ages 0-12 yrs. of age. Sign-ups are also held at the Jersey Shore YMCA Mon. - Fri. Nov.10-28 from 1-4.



Salvation Army in collaboration with the Food Bank and American Rescue Workers are doing Christmas Food Baskets. You can sign up for them during their normal Social Service hours, Monday - Friday from 9-4 (closed 12-1 for lunch). They are also doing a Toy Distribution and Adopt a Family Angel Trees for kids and seniors.

Church Women United's Christmas Stockings will be assembled Monday, Nov. 17th beginning at 9 a.m. at Pine Street UMC, Wmspt., (free parking signs will be available in the church). Women are welcome to help assemble and package the 1200+ stockings that are distributed to area nursing home residents.



Children's Christmas Book Available: Retired United Methodist Pastor Bob Wallace has written and recently published a children's Christmas story book entitled [*Hadassah Finds Peace*](#). Illustrated by local artist Emily Green, this book tells the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem. It is the first in a trilogy of stories Pastor Wallace hopes to publish. The second, will be [*Abel Is Saved*](#), and the third, [*Rigel Finds Joy*](#). [*Hadassah Finds Peace*](#) is available from Pastor Bob Wallace (570-326-1521), at Otto Bookstore or online at <https://www.create-space.com/5039782>.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COUNTY*

Looking for more ways to promote your church events? Email information to News@uclc.org for possible inclusion in United Churches' ongoing event promotion. Include What / Where / When / web site / Facebook / Who For / Cost & details. Our broadcasting department will develop them for postings on Facebook, Twitter, Connect Williamsport, NorthcentralPA.com online newspaper, etc. Kathy and Lou Kolb who chair that department hope this effort will result in some more people attending area church events. Regardless, it would show the public that there are active churches inviting them to events.

Williamsport Civic Chorus: In a serendipitous finale to Preservation Williamsport's French-themed Victorian Christmas on November 22, the Williamsport Civic Chorus will perform "Praise Parisienne" on Sunday, November 23. The 3 pm concert will take place in Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W. Fourth St. "Praise Parisienne" is a collection of French Romantic music from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Music Director Ned Wetherald has programmed Louis Vierne's "Solemn Mass" among other beautiful compositions that include several solo organ pieces performed by Mrs. Donna Elkin and Dr. Susan Hegberg. Patrons of Preservation Williamsport's Victorian Christmas, which takes place the previous day, will receive a \$2 discount from our regular concert admission fee when presenting tour tickets at the door; the public may also purchase concert tickets in advance at the R.M. Sides Family Music Center and at the Otto Book Store. Children under 12 accompanied by a ticketed adult will be admitted without charge, and an audience reception will follow the concert.

Retire Luncheons are held the fourth Fridays of each month at Montoursville Presbyterian Church 900 Elm St. All retirees are invited to enjoy the great food and fellowship at no charge (donations accepted). The next lunch will be Friday, November 21st at 12 noon.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY PREPARATIONS

The Beloved Community Council is a local organization consisting of individuals committed to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of love, justice, and peace. They invite you into a service project to help to alleviate the shortage of resources at area agencies come mid-winter. There are two ways your congregation can help. First, you can hold a collection drive of food and personal care items. The second way to help is to participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 17, 2015 at the facility formerly known as the Campbell Street Center. On that day, we will celebrate Dr. King's legacy with two simultaneous

peace walks (one beginning at Lycoming College and the other at the Pennsylvania College of Technology). Once at the facility, the service project will consist of organizing and sorting the donations to be distributed to various local ministries and agencies. This project cannot succeed without the community working together. The Beloved Community Council invites you to join in this endeavor.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)*

Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Northeast Regional Director
Contact: 570-326-6868, smileynessie@yahoo.com

THE TIME IS NOW!

Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven. Eccl. 3:1 (God's Word translation)

"The ministry of Yokefellowship is helping at-risk youth, inmates and ex-offenders yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives". Recently the ministry held its annual assembly 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, hearing our awesome speakers and giving testimony of what the Lord is doing in this season of time. Our Lord has commissioned us all to not just go into the prisons each week, but to also continue to pray for more connections for those who need to be reached with the good news of Christ. This ministry opens many doors to follow the Lord's commands to minister to 'the least of these'.

The time is NOW to see how the Lord might be leading you, your church, or others you know into using your gifts and talents in this great ministry of the Lord. Mark your calendars and join us!

Yokefellowship Training

Saturday, November 22, 9 - Noon

(a light breakfast served)

1200 Almond St., Williamsport, PA – (570) 326-6868
(Parking in rear) – RSVP by Thursday. Nov 20

We can use your help in various areas and volunteers are also needed. To assist at:

Pre-release Center – 1st 2nd Sundays/month 3:30-4:30 pm (men and women's services) we have volunteers who are already committed that you will work alongside.

Pre-release – Fridays 7-8pm – (both men & women) Substitutes needed.

You will learn of many other areas you can serve in – The time is now! Don't miss it.