



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Summer Update

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 Asst.: [office@uclc.org](mailto:office@uclc.org)

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

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SEPTEMBER 13, 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.*

## WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES\*

**J**oin 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.

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 or Patty at the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help our caterer, Heidi, know how to prepare.

Please note that September's schedule has changed to allow us to include the Curry's who are here briefly with Lorna's mother while they are stateside.

### SEPTEMBER:

14- **Lorna and Travis Curry**, Missionaries, Katima Mulilo Namibia Africa, *"Ministry with the Children of Zion Village"*

LET'S  
**do lunch**  
TOGETHER

21- **Janet Sherman**, Ritual Chair, Temple Beth Ha Sholom, *"150 Years of Jewish History in Lycoming County"*

28- **Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza**, Pastor, Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport, *"The Holy Land"*

### OCTOBER

5- **Betsy Rider**, Owner, Otto's Bookstore, *"One Book Lover's Musings on Some Local Books and Her All Time Favorite Books"*

12- **Bill & Sarah Kieser**, Funeral Directors, Sanders Mortuary, *"Have the Talk of a Lifetime"*

19- **Melissa McGargle**, Director, Family Promise of Lycoming County, *"Opening New Doors"*

25- **Joe Campagna, Jr.** Executive Director, Yellow Wolf Advocacy Project, Inc. *"Protecting Basic Legal Rights"*

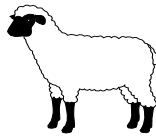
Plan to attend! Bring a friend! Make new friends!



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

**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

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

**The Silent Killers**

**H**ere I mean that which kills people around the world that get no sensational headlines, probably introduced in infancy and childhood, fed throughout life, and brings on early disabilities and sufferings, and finally a much-too-soon death. These killers are the causes of those diseases we hear much about: heart disease, cancer, diabetes and to which most of health management and money is given.

These silent killers are preventable. They are right under our noses and trained eyes see them on a daily basis here in the most blest country in the world. Ever wonder about the extent to which poor nutrition, poor sanitation, poor health habits, or generational physical weaknesses effect life, even when through education and advances you do not live in any of those conditions?

The fact is, ignorance, superstition and sin maintain these killers into our so-called enlightened society. Realize that poverty may be a major incubator, but that material wealth and affluence might actually contribute more.

Extended use of tobacco, alcohol, opiates, and immoderate use of most anything share part of the blame, but only a part. These things steal health and safety from all classes of society. They kill by silently working while being cloaked by feelings...another name for additions. Ignorance and unhappiness are often the locks that keep a person captive. But the key to the cuffs might often be found in childhood and generational norms.

But, let us look into that. What did the food money purchase? For most of us, nutritional values were not printed on the product like they are today. For most of us, it was a sign of adulthood when we could smoke or drink alcohol. For most of us, we wanted to be "cool", no matter what the cost. Parental ignorance of nutrition, basic health knowledge, good habits of hygiene, medical care availability, medical affordability, interest in what is right and good, safe environment, sanitation, precautions all were lacking for many as they grew up.

Of course, not all diseases are caused by traits of family-of-origin, some are generational, some are accidental. But, many have a "seed" that is advanced by conduct, conditions, and consequences throughout life's journey.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS reaches out to the community in the areas of health and safety, making available medicine, supplies, safe environment, education, counsel, and referral to those ministries and agencies that effect certain medical or social issues. Please help us with funds that assist for medicine and good health. Please help

us with your donations.

Administrative Volunteers are also needed to help with the work in our Shepherd office. The office is open Monday thru Thursday from 9-12 and 1-3. Contact Dr. Smith for more information.

Personal Hygiene Items continue to be provided every day in our Shepherd of the Streets Ministry. Almost every person who comes through our doors is blessed by one or more of the hygiene items you send. 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>Deodorant</b>	<b>Combs</b>
<b>Baby Diapers</b>	<b>Baby Shampoo</b>	<b>Baby Oil</b>
<b>Baby Q-Tips</b>	<b>Baby Wipes</b>	<b>Baby Powder</b>

**WELCOME NEW PASTORS**

**N**ew Pastor's Orientation will be held Thursday, September 29, beginning at 9:30-Noon at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport.

Pastors new to the area or others who have been here a bit longer and would like to know more about the ministries we do together as United Churches, as well as the ways we work together with the many agencies in the county should attend. For more information or more details, contact Gwen at 570-322-1110 or [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org).

**M**ark these Dates on Your Calendar:

- United Churches Assembly: Thursday, Nov. 17 at First United Methodist Church, Muncy, 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting.
- 1/18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Celebration Schedule 2016-17**

**World Community Day:** Friday, November 4, 2016 at 1:30, St. Paul Calvary United Methodist Church, Wmspt. Ingathering for the Christmas Project for Nursing Homes and Project Impact

**World Day of Prayer:** Friday, March 3, 2017 at 1:30, New Covenant United Church of Christ, Wmspt. Ingathering of lap robes, bibs, catheter bags, etc. for Nursing Homes

**May Friendship Day Luncheon and Meeting:** Friday, May 5, 2017 at Noon, Pine Street United Methodist Church, Williamsport. Ingathering of non-perishable food for United Churches Food Pantry - especially to help over the summer months when children are out of school.

CROP Walk 2016 \*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016

Registration begins at 1 P.M. Walkers go out in small groups.



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 9, 2016** at 1:30 P.M. at **the River Walk in Williamsport!** This is our 6<sup>th</sup> year at this location. Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport.

We will start and finish at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Market St. in Williamsport - right at the Market Street Bridge. Our 3, 6, and 9 mile walks will take place on the Williamsport and the South Williamsport sides looping one, two or three times between the Market and Maynard Street Bridges.

Our world is filled with people in need. Disasters seem to be everywhere - floods, earthquakes, winds, drought, war. One minute people are OK and then they are in extreme need. The plight of Syrian refugee children trying and failing to reach safety will haunt us forever. This is why Church World Service is here and their CROP program works with those who are in need.

This is the 37<sup>th</sup> year of walking for the Williamsport/Lycoming County CROP Walk. There will be people from Cogan House, Muncy, Salladasburg, Montgomery, Loyalsockville, Hughesville, Montoursville, Williamsport, South Williamsport and lots of places in between. Join us!

Our goals this year include 200 walkers and \$15,000 in money raised. Please know that every dollar makes a difference. 25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies. This year the agencies we have chosen to receive these funds are the American Rescue Worker's Food Pantry - Williamsport, Son Light House Food Pantry - Muncy, The New Love Center - Jersey Shore, and St. Anthony's Kitchen - Williamsport.

**TWO WALKS**

1. **GREATER WILLIAMSPORT** - will begin from St. Mark Lutheran Church on Market St. in Williamsport and will move onto the river walk. Contact Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza, 570-322-0126. Sponsor forms and materials can be picked up at the United Churches office, 570-322-1110 or 570-419-1464, (Mon.-Thurs. from 9-5) or Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W Fourth Street (8-4).
2. **TROUT RUN** - They'll begin from the Trout Run United Methodist Church at 1 p.m. Contact Michelle Ludwig at 570-998-8650 or madmoms25191@gmail.com.

**FIVE STEPS:**

1. **PLAN** to walk because so many other people in the world **MUST WALK** for **FOOD, WATER, FUEL, and SHELTER**.
2. **LEARN** more about the issues of hunger and poverty in our world all year round.
3. **DECIDE** upon the location and length of your walk - 3, 6, or 9 miles.
4. **RECRUIT** sponsors who'll pay you or your team to walk. **Get the whole church involved in getting sponsors this year.**
5. **JOIN** your friends, as you walk together.



**STEPPING OUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY**

People of all ages, races, and faiths from all parts of Lycoming County will again work especially hard in October and November to increase their awareness, prayer, action and advocacy regarding hunger and poverty in our communities, nation and the world. Events in our county begin with CROP Walk, and end with Thanksgiving food collections. All year long our Pantries in our community reach out to those who are hungry. This Fall the New Love Center Pantry is opening a satellite distribution location monthly at the McHenry Township Community Center in Cammal to serve the people in Jersey Mills, Cammal, Slate Run, and Cedar Run area.

**INFORMATION NEEDED**

**B**oth our Resource Directories “What To Do When Persons Need Help” and our Church Directory for Lycoming County will be updated soon. Please contact us with any updates.

**FOOD PANTRY \***

*Mona Rundio, Coordinator 570-322-1657*

*E-mail - [foodpantry@uclc.org](mailto:foodpantry@uclc.org)*

**T**his is the time of the year that we all start feeling the rush to get around in the morning, yard work, and start the Holiday shopping. As we go through the fast pace life let us not forget our Lord and God who has blessed us all in many different ways! As we praise and honor Him let us remember to pray for all those who don't have all they need to be comfortable and full.

As we shop for ourselves in grocery stores let us all try to be giving and buy for those in need. Just one item bought between all of us amongst the community can become a large amount to be distributed to those in need. We here at the pantry are in need of many and all kinds of items. This is just a small list of such food items:

<i>Cereal</i>	<i>Oatmeal</i>	<i>Tea Bags</i>
<i>Coffee (No K-Cups)</i>	<i>Peanut Butter</i>	<i>Jelly</i>
<i>Ketchup</i>	<i>Mustard</i>	<i>Soups</i>
<i>Mac&amp;Cheese</i>	<i>Spaghetti Sauce</i>	<i>Pop Tarts</i>
<i>Popcorn</i>	<i>Canned Vegetables</i>	<i>Jello/Pudding</i>
<i>Canned Meats</i>	<i>Stuffing Mixes</i>	<i>Ramen Noodles</i>
<i>Small Rice Bags</i>	<i>Canned Fruits (All Types)</i>	



The budget was passed this year on time and is an awesome amount to help supply food for those that come to the pantry. Even so we do NEED the donations because the Food Bank does not supply or have all types or needs of food we need for our clients.

I hope and pray all of you and your family have had a wonderful and exciting summer!! My prayers continue that it will carry over to the fall and winter seasons for you and all of us here in the community. If have any questions or would like to volunteer here at the United Churches Food Pantry just give a call or stop on by.

***Thank You*** all who have had food drives and donate food to us this summer! May you all continue to be blessed for your loving thoughts and giving. We are located at the rear of 320 Park Ave in Williamsport and our hours are Monday 10-12, Tuesday and Thursday 10:15-2:30



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

**D**ear Friends of Campus Ministry, As I enter my 4th year as Campus Ministry Coordinator, I can't help but take a moment to reflect on how far we have come. The students that started with me as freshman will graduate this year! That first semester on campus, a secretary mentioned that when I start measuring time by semesters I'd see how fast the years fly by. She was so right!

During that first year, we focused on our on campus Bible Studies, called Faith Talks. We relied heavily on some of the pastors/churches that always had supported UCM. As time went on, we were able to develop relationships with churches that had never participated before. For that we are blessed. These pastors have provided us with spiritual guidance and growth right alongside our long time campus ministry supporters. It reminds me of my church...how we change hymnals out in the summer for some of our old time favorites...and go back to the newer ones for a few months. We look forward to each one!

That year we added an outreach event in the Spring, at the suggestion of one of our students. We put together all the supplies for a family to make a spaghetti dinner and delivered 25 to homes in a food insecure neighborhood. The following year, we planned our pastors and then the outreach event, Meal in a Bag, was the very next thing we said was a must do! We continued the tradition, adding a second during the school year last year. Our first need as a group this year are donations for our Meal in a Bag. On October 8th, we will be delivering 25 meals, with the support of you.

***We are looking for donations of boxed spaghetti, jars of sauce, bottles of dressing, bags of salad, loaves of bread and packages of cookies. Please contact me at [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org) if you are able to contribute.***



Please continue to keep the students of Penn College and the ministry of UCM in your prayers.

**CLASSIFIEDS \***

**A** Set of Flags: A Christian and a United States Flag with stands and finials are looking for a new home. Contact St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 570-323-8132. They are available at no charge.

**POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE**

*Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**W**hoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done (Proverbs 19:17). Serving the Lord in the person who is in need is obviously the only reward that matters. What a gift to meet the Lord in this way. We are called to pray, be informed, and to take action through charity and advocacy for justice.

**Lycoming County Unemployment Rate: 5.9%** - The national rate is 4.9% so the local economy continues to lag behind the national economy. For those needing work, the search for gainful employment continues to be challenging.

**People in Poverty** - Poverty is the major cause of hunger. In the U.S., hunger is not caused by a scarcity of food, but rather the continued prevalence of poverty. To the surprise of many, most Americans (51.4 percent) will live in poverty at some point before age 65. That means any one of us — or our friends or family members — may be affected.

Although we live in the world's wealthiest nation, a reported 14.5% of U.S. households – nearly 49 million Americans – struggle to put food on the table. Further, more than one in seven people in the U.S. lives below the poverty line, an income of \$22,113 for a family of four in 2010.

Outside the U.S., many people suffer from hunger and poverty. Nearly 1.2 billion people in developing countries live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 a day. The vast majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries, where 13.5 percent of the population is undernourished. (Source: www.bread.org )

**Children in Poverty** – Children are at high risk of hunger because they are dependent on adults for their care. And their younger and growing bodies are more vulnerable to the other problems hunger causes.

Every year, 2.6 million children die as a result of hunger-related causes. In the U.S., nearly 16 million children — one in five — live in households that struggle to put food on the table. Even short-term episodes of hunger can cause lasting damage to a child's development. Hunger puts children at risk of a range of cognitive, behavioral, emotional, and physical problems.

It is vitally important that children get a good start in life from a nutrition point of view. Bread has focused many of its efforts on the movement to provide adequate nutrition to children during the 1,000 days from a woman's pregnancy to her child's second birthday. This is a critical time of growth and development for children.

Studies show hunger among children can lead to:

- aggression, tardiness, and absenteeism
- health problems
- a decrease in attention and lower test scores

Children who are fed and nourished adequately learn better in school. This translates into a better education. As better-educated children grow into adulthood, they are more likely to be productive and have higher-paying jobs.

Ending hunger among children has many benefits. It can break the cycle of poverty that often continues across generations. (Source: www.bread.org )

**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 weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God." The devotionists this summer/fall are:

9/12-18 Derek Smith	9/19-25 Rev. Marwin Reeves
9/25-10/2 Rev. Danesta Whaley	10/3-9 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens
10/10-16 Pastor Dorothy Anderson	10/17-23 Rev. Gwen Bernstine
10/24-30 Tammey Aichner	10/31-11/6 Fr. Dan Kovalak

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

**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 are still needed!!** It's not too late to register. The

Entry Fee is \$85/golfer. No team required. We can match up individuals. 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?** Donate a door prize... gifts or gift certificates valued at \$10-\$50 that golfers might enjoy. Raffle tickets are now being sold, and you do not need to be present to win. The prizes include a golfers dream, several beautiful prints, nice jewelry, interesting books, autographed baseballs, and much more.

We also have both people, churches, businesses 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

**CREATION CORNER****Christian Social Concerns Committee**

The Value of Nature for Ourselves, Prisoners, Ex-offenders

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul." -Psalm 23



**W**here would we be without nature, our environment, God's creation? A loss of experiencing the "outdoors" has been documented ("nature-deficit disorder").

- So what are the advantages for us of having a relationship with natural settings, fresh air and sunshine, walking in forests, parks, and along shorelines, and eyeing green landscape aesthetics?
- In "The healing power of nature" by Alexandra Sifferlin, these healthful effects can include the lowering of blood pressure; stress reduction; the increasing of awe, energy and a sense of rejuvenation or purpose; the promotion of cancer-fighting cells; potential help with ADHD (attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder) symptoms; and may aid with mental health (mood uplifts, less depression and anxiety).
- Some studies propose that even the images, sounds and smells of nature within the built environment can offer benefits (source: TIME magazine, 7/25/16, pgs. 24-26).
- And just as time spent in the natural environment has therapeutic value for everyone from at-risk youth (Outward Bound programs) to veterans, new research suggests it can help ex-convicts, those who have spend years cut off from the outdoors, according to an article by Brian Mockenhaupt, "The Great Escape" (OUTSIDE magazine, 9/16).
- Might nature be a key to their rehabilitation? Relearning life beyond prison after incarceration is hard (the challenge of a job search, finding a place to live, breaking the cycle of bad habits and friends that can lead to more prison time). "Sponsors", a mentorship group in Eugene OR (Lane County) tries to implement a program demonstrating what science confirms, that nature is good for us.
- So, the thinking goes, combine the restorative power of nature and outdoor activities (horseback riding, rock climbing, confidence-building challenge courses, extended wilderness trips, bicycling, fishing excursions, etc.) with individual/group therapy.
- Studies show that such, especially among young of-

fenders, reduces the recidivism, and improves judgment and decision-making.

- "Bringing offenders into the outdoors---even while they're still locked up---may vent just enough steam from the pressure cooker to get them back on track."
- "Sponsors" is holistic, offering many re-integration services beyond the "back-to-nature" program. Founded 43 years ago by Catholic nuns and community activists, its outdoor therapy program is now six years old, and the "graduates" are 80% less likely to re-offend after two years compared with other former inmates.
- Within prison, inmates may have "yard time", fresh air but not much nature. At the Snake River OR Correctional Institution, an experimental "Blue Room" effort by Nalini Nadkarni, the "first-of-its-kind" connecting the most isolated prisoners with the natural world.
- Research in other institutional settings (hospitals, nursing homes, public housing, etc.) showed that people respond favorably (physiologically, psychologically, emotionally) to nature imagery. Exposure to the projected nature imagery in the "Blue Room" had salutary effects (calming, resisting worst impulses) and thus fewer disciplinary issues.

Thus the healing power of nature for ourselves, and prisoners, and ex-offenders. Inspiring models to emulate.

**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)**

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

Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellow Center

LET HIM GUIDE YOUR STEPS



I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye. -Psalm 32:8

**B**eloved ones, summer is winding down and soon fall is going to be upon us. In every season of life, the Lord promises to continue to instruct, teach and guide us. He is faithful to guide us along the best path as we look to Him continually.

For those that we are ministering to behind the iron bars, there is great opportunity to help guide the men and women along the way as we can help to show them a better pathway for their lives. It is a true joy to see them trusting in the Lord to lead and direct them every step of the way. What an incredible testimony to see lives changed for the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We co-labor with Him and other volunteers to bring hope and to inspire them that all is not lost. With the Lord as their Guide, they can be encouraged to move forward.

Our local Yokefellow ministry has over 200 inmates week-

ly in our facilities that we go and share the good news! Statewide we have over 400 volunteers that minister to approximately 1800. The Lord is at the helm of our ministry and He guides us every step of the way.

Could He be guiding your steps at this moment? Are you looking to connect with others who have a heart to see lives changed? Then Yokefellow Prison Ministry might be what you are looking for. Yes, the harvest is plentiful...the laborers are few and We are looking for more men and women to join with us to help others who have lost their footage and need a bit of guidance.

We will conduct a Volunteer Training tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 29 from 9 am to 12 noon. You will receive instruction/guidance, a volunteer manual and other handouts at the training. This is free of charge. The training is at our local facility at 1200 Almond St., Williamsport (parking in the rear). Please call our office at 570 326-6868 if you are planning to attend.

**CHURCH FUEL CO-OP**

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Six invitations were sent to area companies inviting bid. The contract for the 2016-17 heating season was awarded to R W Dittmar Plumbing Heating and Oil Company, Muncy. Their "cap price" bid of \$2.0 49 was accepted. Members of the Church Fuel Co-Op will never pay more than this price for their oil, no matter how high prices go this year.



**Additionally:** they are now giving us a 15¢ discount off the tank wagon price until such time as the cap price is lower, and a 3¢ same day discount if you pay that day by calling in with a credit or debit card or having one on file.

This plan is available to churches who are members of the Co-Op and their paid staff. To belong to the co-op congregations pay a one time fee of \$100. Should a congregation have withdrawn as a member, for some reason, the reinstatement fee is \$25.

Retired clergy in the area are invited to be part of the co-op at no charge, no matter their congregational affiliation.

Congregations wishing to become members of the co-op pay a one time fee of \$100 and then they and their paid staff are able to receive the discount throughout the year. For more information on this program contact United Churches, 570-322-1110 or Gwen at 570-419-1464.



**The Adopt A Cop Program**

helps to connect churches and their communities. United Churches is relaunching the Adopt-A-Cop Program for our communities. This program seeks to support our local police officers in prayer.

Will your church commit to pray for a local law enforcement officer each week during the service? To participate, simply fill out your information below and fax or email back to us. We'll respond with a local police officers' name that your church can pray for.

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**ADOPT A COP PROJECT (Church portion)**

Project: Match up law enforcement officers (those who want to participate) with a local church congregation that will pray for them on a regular basis. This project is completely voluntary.

Congregation name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Police Dept. Priority: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Project by United Churches of Lycoming County  
When ready, please send form back to:  
Fax: 570-955-3457 or Email to: [News@uclc.org](mailto:News@uclc.org)

Do you know of a child or teen who has experienced the death of a loved one?



**H**earthworks, of Susquehann Health Home Care & Hospice has age-appropriate grief support groups for children, teens, and their families who have experienced the death of a loved one whether recent or several years ago. Specially trained facilitators at Heartworks help children and teens express their thoughts and feelings through art, play,

music, games, and discussion, while adult family members meet separately to explore their own grief and learn ways to help their children. Groups meet twice a month September - May with open enrollment throughout the year. Pre-registration is required for this free program. Call Linda or Cherrie at 570-320-7691 or 1-888-499-3177 or learn more at our website [www.SusquehannaHealth.org/Heartworks](http://www.SusquehannaHealth.org/Heartworks).

## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

**Shalom Conference** of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches will be held on September 24-25 at the Hartman Center in Milroy PA. Shane Claiborne will be present Saturday evening, and the theme of his talk will be “Another World is Possible.” Their other featured speaker is Saadia Ahmad, current McCormack Scholar and Master’s student in Conflict Resolution at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Their theme, “Creating a Culture of Peace,” focuses on shalom – a holistic sense of peace that seeks wholeness and wellness for all of creation. Organizations and peacemakers that focus on a range of issues, including, but not limited to, domestic violence, systemic racism, drone warfare, environmental justice, torture, gun violence, and interfaith understanding, will participate. Learn more and register at [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org).



**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Training for Religious Leaders:** This training is scheduled for September 27 and will be repeated on Sept. 29. Faith leaders are in the best position to help someone experiencing abuse. Kacie Greer Hopkins, Community Educator with Wise Options at the YWCA North Central PA will share resources with you during this training so you can:

- Expand your knowledge and understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault, including different forms of abuse and red flags.
- Support and guide congregants experiencing or witnessing abuse.
- Learn ways your congregation can help prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Make appropriate referrals and build partnership with Wise Options.

There are two opportunities to attend this free training.

Dates: Tuesday Sept. 27th or Thursday Sept. 29th

Time: 10:00am- 12:00pm

Location: YWCA North Central PA,  
815 West 4th Street Williamsport, PA

To make your reservation call Kacie at 570-322-4672, ext. 112 or email her at [khopkins@ywcawilliamsport.org](mailto:khopkins@ywcawilliamsport.org).

**Strengthening Families** is a program offered by the Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition from 5:30-8 p.m. beginning Oct. 5 at Williamsport Area Middle School. The 7-week program is for parents and youth ages 10-14 in the Williamsport Area School District (including homeschoolers) and allows parents and caregivers to protect and empower their children by communicating family values, their standards regarding substance use and their hopes for their child's future. Attendees will learn ways to promote family bonding, keep lines of family communication open and use family strengths to

solve problems together. Youth will spend the first hour of each session together learning about topics such as empathy, how to deal with stress and peer pressure resistance. Caregivers will meet separately for that hour to discuss parenting strategies and how to guide their youth in setting goals, making good decisions and fulfilling responsibilities. The second hour of each session is spent together working on family activities that promote strong family relationships. There is no cost to attend, and a graduation gift card of \$100 will be awarded to each family completing at least 6 of the 7 sessions. A family dinner will be served at the beginning of each session. To register contact Lisa at 570-321-3143 or email her at [ldfogelman@susquehannahealth.org](mailto:ldfogelman@susquehannahealth.org).

**School of Religion:** Lutheran Shared Ministry invites you to be part of this study opportunity on Wednesdays in October from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Williamsport. Pre-register by 10/4 by calling 570-323-4619. The classes are:

- **Creation-Crisis Preaching:** For lay school of ministry grads and pastors (anyone preaching). You'll need Rev. Dr. Leah Schade, book “Creation Crisis Preaching” (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2015). Cost about \$22. Classes will be discussion, lasting about 1 hour. ~ Pr. Elizabeth Aurand, St. Luke
- **Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol”:** This four week study of this classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is contained in one book (costing \$5.50) which includes the entire text. The discussion will help you understand the story's relevance year round, just in time for this year's performance. ~ Bernadette Jones, St. Marks.
- **With Healing In His Wings:** A film each week with conversation as you discover brokenness and healing in many different contexts. Some sessions will run longer than two hours. ~ Pr. Ted Cockley, St. Matthews
  - 1) Something the Lord Made (110 min film)
  - 2) Awakenings (122 min film)
  - 3) Antwone Fisher (120 min film)
  - 4) The Twilight of the Golds (90 min film)
- **Awakening To God's Call To Earthkeeping:** For those wishing to gain a deeper awareness of our connection to creation and the Spirit's call to better care for it.

**Alternatives to Violence Project Basic Workshop** will be held the weekend of, Oct. 22-23 from 9 - 6 at the Pajama Factory, 1307 Park Ave., Wmspt. Those who complete it will have the opportunity to go on to the advanced level and finally the training for facilitators workshop. Those trained will then form a team of local facilitators who may potentially bring the program to a nearby prison, school, or other venue where it may be par-



ticularly beneficial. Besides this opportunity to reach out to marginalized people and make a difference in the community, the workshop is valuable in itself for personal growth and relationships, building self-esteem, communication, and conflict resolution skills. Further, it can serve as professional development in fields such as education, social work, corrections, and law enforcement. The cost for the workshop is \$25, with lunch included. Scholarships are available. Contact Tony White at [tonywhite12@comcast.net](mailto:tonywhite12@comcast.net) or 570-971-9509 to register. Space is limited and preregistration is required to reserve your spot.

**P**lanning for Music Ministry, a workshop for church musicians, pastors, and anyone interested in church music, will be held on Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Grove Presbyterian Church, 330 Bloom St., Danville. The day includes worship, a music display by Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra School of Music and Music Store, workshops on "Psalms, Hymns, Chants, and More," "Registration: Creating the Sounds You Desire," "Fundamentals of Basso Continuo for Use with Hymns," and "Instrumental Resources for worship." The event concludes with a choral reading session, and closing recital, open to the public, by AGO members and instrumentalists. Presenters are Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Phil Maue, Dr. Marcos Krieger, and Shirley Smith. For detailed information, contact Shirley Smith, 570-412-5949, [rsrsmith17772@windstream.net](mailto:rsrsmith17772@windstream.net). The day is sponsored by the Susquehanna Valley and Williamsport chapters of the American Guild of Organists.



### EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**A**uditions are being held for singers for a choir and cast members for the musical play, "The End of the Beginning, the Story of Jesus Christ" The characters: Jesus Christ, Mary - Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, 12 Apostles, Herod, Pilate, Caiaphas and Annas.

Audition dates – September 10 & 17 for (singing),  
September 24 & October 1, 2016 is for (casting)

Time – 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Place – Christian Center- 2100 Linn St.

(across from Newberry Church of Christ)

Also looking for a dance choreographer

(Pick a song that you are comfortable with);

Contact Ron Johnson: (570) 974-8681

[redemedministry1@yahoo.com](mailto:redemedministry1@yahoo.com)

**W**illiamsport Civic Chorus Gears up for 2016-2017 Season: Weekly rehearsals for their 73rd season begin on Monday, September 12th, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Wmspt. The Chorus welcomes new members and invites anyone who wishes to participate to join during the first two weekly rehearsals on Monday evenings. There are no auditions.

For more than seventy years, the talented and dedicated singers of the Williamsport Civic Chorus have gathered together for the common purpose of perpetuating the richness and diversity of choral music for the enjoyment and edification of audiences and singers, alike. Singers join for many reasons: to express themselves; to sing with friends, old and new; to improve as vocalists; to add to the cultural vitality of the greater Williamsport area. As the legendary author Hans Christian Anderson said, "Where words fail, music speaks." The members of the Chorus look forward to singing with – and performing for – their neighbors in Lycoming County and beyond, and welcomes new singers, no matter what their music background.

The 2016-2017 season will be an exciting and varied one, as the Chorus presents three independent concerts, as well as participates in performances with two area arts organizations. The first two concerts will be held the weekend of Veterans' Day, November 12th and 13th, in Mill Hall and Williamsport, respectively, and will feature patriotic music in a "Salute to Veterans" of the armed forces. The theme of sports and athleticism will shape the February 5th concert, "The Body Electric." On February 14th, the Chorus has been invited to perform with the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra in its presentation of Gustav Mahler's 2nd, "Resurrection" symphony. The May concert will be an unprecedented collaboration with the Uptown Music Collective presenting a rock concert filled with music and effects that will bring down the house.

Tickets and more information about the coming season are available by emailing [wccmail@yahoo.com](mailto:wccmail@yahoo.com) or visiting [www.williamsportcivicchorus.org](http://www.williamsportcivicchorus.org).



**S**ervice of Prayer and Thanks for ER Staff, EMTs and First Responders serving on the frontlines of the heroin/opioid epidemic in Lycoming county. It will be held in the tower Chapel at Susquehanna Health on Sunday, September 18 @ 2 p.m. (Next to the Emergency department.) Brought to you by Project Bald Eagle Hope and Healing Committee.

**F**all Collection To Help Refugees: Now until the end of October fall and winter clothing for adults and children and toys, hygiene items and school items are being collected. Items will be sent to Syria through the Syrian American Medical Society, a non-political medical relief organization that provides medical and humanitarian aid to Syrian Refugees. Drop offs in Williamsport are: The Islamic Center, 322 Locust St., Call 570-326-4062. Note that women's clothing should be modest, long sleeves and long hems. *Sponsored by the Interfaith Dialogue Coalition of United Churches.*



**L**ycoming County Life Chain will be held Sunday, October 2, 2016, on the Golden Strip (E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate in this peaceful prayer event. This is their 25<sup>th</sup> year. If your church has not received the written announcement in the mail and you are interested, contact the coordinator in your area listed below.

Newberry - Larry Stetts - 570-326-0048  
 Montoursville - Robert Stein - 570-584-2947  
 South Williamsport - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653  
 Loyalsock - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653  
 Hepburn/Lycoming - Frank Sherman - 570-326-2916  
 Jersey Shore - Diana Persun - 570-745-3557  
 Muncy - Dave Huffman - 570-494-1826  
 East Lycoming - K. Vincent Swartz - 570-584-4267  
 Montgomery - Dave Huffman - 570-494-1826  
 Williamsport, - Kim Corson - 570-745-3121  
 St. John Neumann HS (Dir of Formation) 570-323-9953

**T**he 150th Anniversary Services for Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W. Fourth St., Wmspt. will be held on All Saints' Sunday, November 6. There are two services, a spoken service at 8 a.m., and a choral service at 10. Both with the Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan as Celebrant & Preacher, and the Rev. Kenneth Wagner-Pizza, Rector & Provost. All past choir members are invited to join the Reunion Choir at the 10:00 service.

This will be followed by a Banquet at the Gennetti Hotel and Ballroom, 200 W. Fourth St. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will open at noon. Dinner and program at 1 followed by "dancing through the decades". The cost is \$30 (scholarships available). RSVP by 10/14 to 570-322-0126

**W**illiamsport Music Club will present Christmas Music by Candlelight at the Pine Street United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4:00pm. The program will feature music from the Music Club ensemble and individual music club members, as well as guest musicians Fiona Gillespie - Jackson, sop. and Catherine Getchell, trumpet in the Bach Cantata #51.

There will be a 12 min. prelude played by Kristin Ivers, piano and Emilie Tupper, violin.

**H**andel's Messiah Sing-Along and Play-Along is being sponsored by the Williamsport Music Club on Dec. 30 at Messiah Lutheran Church from 7-9:30 pm. The event is a fundraiser to benefit the Budd Scholarship Award Fund. Singers, instrumentalists, and appreciative listeners are invited to attend, participate, and support this benefit by donating \$15. Singers should bring their own book. There will also be a limited number of books to borrow for the evening. Instrumentalists should bring their own stand and book light. Parts will be available to borrow for the evening. Tickets will be available in advance at Robert M. Sides Family Music Center and also at the door on the evening of the event.


**O**peration Christmas Child National Collection Week is November 14-21. If you have not gotten your materials or need to know your closest drop-off location contact Amy Seyler, North Central Church Relations Team, 570-745-3555 or [seylerrich@yahoo.com](mailto:seylerrich@yahoo.com).

#### CHURCH SPECIAL EVENTS:


**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Festival**, 100 Walnut St. Montoursville, Sept. 16, 17 & 18, Friday & Saturday 5-9 PM, Sunday 12-3 PM. Rides, Games, Basket Raffle, Fall Decor/Pumpkin Sales & Decorating Booth, Cake Wheel, Entertainment All Weekend

**Trinity United Methodist Church Indoor Yard Sale**, 1971 Lycoming Creek Rd, Wmspt. with Lunch both days. Friday, Sept. 23rd 8AM to 4PM. Lots of items.

**E**at out as part of the United Churches Fund Raiser Celebration: We've teamed up with Hoss's Steak & Sea House to celebrate the friendships made and to work together as part of God's family to add to the total raised. We hope you can join us at Hoss's in Williamsport on **Saturday, September 24**. All are welcome - you are part of our team! Clip the box below and present it at Hoss's, Williamsport. They will donate 20% of your total check to United Churches. If a lot of us go and there are \$1,200 in sales, Hoss's will donate 25%!



**COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER**  
 Present this Card on Saturday, **Sept. 24, 2016**  
 At Hoss's In Williamsport  
 Hoss's will then donate 20%+ of your Total Check  
 For: **United Churches of Lycoming County**  
 Group #: **45040**  
 Please Present Ticket When Ordering  
 Thank You!



Voucher distribution is prohibited on Hoss's property.