



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Summer Update

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

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

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Please notify us of changes of your 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 \*

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.



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.

### SEPTEMBER:

- 13- A Sharing of Ideas led by Rev. Gwen Bernstine, Staff, UCLC, *"Transitioning Sacred Spaces"*
- 20- Mr. Carl and Mrs. Opal Schlappi, Area Musicians, *"Come Hear That Old Time Gospel Music"*
- 27- Mr. Marty McCormick, Volunteer Assoc. to the Chaplain, Clinton Cty. Correctional Facility, *"The Impact of Crime and How We Work Toward Healing"*

### OCTOBER:

- 4- Ms. Diane Langley, President, Langley Communications Corp. *"Insights of Dealing with Trauma"*
- 11- Ms. Morgan O'Neal and Friends, Family of Therapy Animals, *"Bringing Joy to Residents of Nursing Facilities"*
- 18- Mr. Richard Reitz, A Little League Uncle, *"The Joys of Adopting a Team for Little League"*
- 25- Ms. Ann Dunlap and Mr. Derrick Bryant, Members of New Covenant United Church of Christ's summer Mission Team, *"Hurricane Harvey - Irma - no Hurricane Katrina: Long Term Recovery Is Still Happening There!"*

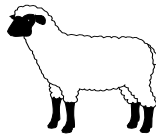
Plan to attend! Bring a friend! Make new friends! Over the years I can't remember one week I've not enjoyed this gathering! There is interesting conversation with the folks gathered, good food I didn't have to prepare, and I always learn something new during the program! And it's for regular folks like you and me! Join me this week!



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)

**GROWING PAINS**

**A**s this year has unfolded, we have been receiving contributions from most, if not all, of the faithful who gift us on a regular basis. However, what was enough to serve the needs of those who come to us for various needs, no longer is. As a result, we have had to cut our help for certain programs, such as work related help. This was a major, very helpful part of our ministry...enabling people to get into jobs who needed certain uniforms, etc. We are now able to help with medically related issues only. This change was initiated in June 2017.

From August 2015 to July 2016 we helped 3,393 separate needs, some of these people came to us more than once, as is the nature of some of our help...especially prescription help and medical transportation. From August 2016 to July 2017 were able to help 4,163, an individual increase from an average of 282 per month to 346 per month. This is an increase of 756 clients in a year when prices increased both in the medical field and in the work related issues. For instance, picture ID's went from \$13.50 to \$30.50, with this being one of our most requested items, as one cannot get a job without proper ID. Medicine has increased, as well as Bus and Van fees for medical purposes has increased, as well as the cost of medical supplies.

Shepherd of the Streets receives no federal or state grants and depends on concerned Christians and churches. We also receive a medical grant from a local foundation. Prayer is the beginning point of all contributions we receive and to pray for the contributor is our privilege.

We give basic hygiene items to our clients in order to help them in general health. Contributions of family-sized items are always greatly needed. Some churches use monthly collections of a certain item, others ask for any kind and any amount from individual members. Baby items, especially diapers (size 4 & 5) are also a prime need. Bedding is always needed. With fall and winter upon us, blankets are needed.

Thank you for your consideration of a monthly or one-time contribution and for your donation of hygiene items, baby needs, and/or bedding. 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***

<i>Towels and Wash Cloths</i>	<i>Bedding</i>
<i>Tissues and Toilet Paper</i>	<i>Blankets</i>
<i>Soap</i>	<i>Deodorant</i>
<i>Baby Diapers</i>	<i>Baby Shampoo</i>
<i>Baby Q-Tips</i>	<i>Baby Wipes</i>
	<i>Combs</i>
	<i>Baby Oil</i>
	<i>Baby Powder</i>

**WELCOME NEW PASTORS**

**N**ew Pastor's Orientation will be held Wednesday, September 27, 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: Tuesday, Nov. 14 at The Castalano Center of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Muncy, 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting.
- 1/18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Celebration Schedule 2017-18**

**World Community Day:** Friday, November 3, 2016 at 1:30, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Quiggleville, 1877 St. Michael's Road, Cogan Station. Ingathering for the Christmas Project for Nursing Homes and Project Impact

**World Day of Prayer:** Friday, March 3, 2018 at 1:30, Place TBA. Ingathering of lap robes, bibs, catheter bags, etc. for Nursing Homes

**May Friendship Day Luncheon and Meeting:** Friday, May 4, 2018 at Noon, Place TBA. Ingathering of non-perishable food for United Churches Food Pantry.

**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.

**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

**U**nited Churches 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly will be held Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 5:45 with dinner at 6:30. Note the date on your calendar and plan to attend. This year it is in town, and the Castellano Center and we will feature the ministry of our Shepherd of the Streets and our Food Pantry.

**CROP Walk 2017 \*****SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017****Registration begins at 1 P.M. Walkers go out in small groups.**

**O**ur community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 8** at 1:30 P.M. Sponsor forms and promotional and educational materials can be picked up at the United Churches office. For more information contact Gwen at 570-322-1110 or 570-419-1464, or [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org). These walks all happen rain or shine. The reason - we walk in solidarity with those who have to walk for their food and water... rain or shine!



Our world is filled with people in need. Disasters seem to be everywhere - Hurricanes fill the news with Harvey, Irma and now we are hearing about Jose! And there are also 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 38<sup>th</sup> year of walking for CROP Walk. There'll be people from Cogan House, Muncy, Salladasburg, Montgomery, Loyalsockville, Hughesville, Montoursville, Williamsport, South Williamsport and 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 Son Light House Food Pantry - Muncy, The New Love Center - Jersey Shore, the Salvation Army, Williamsport and the United Churches Food Pantry, Williamsport.

**THREE WALKS**

1. **GREATER WILLIAMSPORT** - will begin Sunday, October 8 from St. Mark Lutheran Church at 142 Market St. (by the bridge) in Williamsport and will move onto **The River Walk**. Walkers choose a 3, 6, and 9 mile loop that takes you along the river on the Williamsport and South Williamsport sides looping one, two or three times between the Market and Maynard Street Bridges. Contact Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza, 570-322-0126. or Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W Fourth Street (8-4).
2. **TROUT RUN** - They'll have their walk on **October 1** begin from the Trout Run United Methodist Church. Registration 12-1, Walk at 1 p.m. Contact Michelle Ludwig at 570-998-8650 or [madmoms25191@gmail.com](mailto:madmoms25191@gmail.com).
3. Hughesville/Muncy - October 8 they will walk at Lime Bluff Park in Hughesville. Registration is from 12:30-1:30. For convenience, walking begins as soon as you register. For your safety, there is no through-traffic at the Park, but ample parking. You can walk or bicycle on one or all three smooth gravel paths. The Park offers covered sitting areas along the trails, clean porta potties, and well-maintained playground equipment. Contact Lena Carichner, 570-584-3723; [kippiel@aol.com](mailto:kippiel@aol.com), or Sharon Gladfelter, 570-584-5168; [sglad@windstream.net](mailto:sglad@windstream.net).

**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.

There is bad news ....

- 795 Million people face hunger issues worldwide. That's about 1 in 9 people. 2/3 of the world's people live in Asia.
- 66 Million students attend school every day hungry. Hunger is a problem in the U.S. where 14% of households face food insecurity. That number is higher in households with children.

There is good news too.

- There are 216 Million fewer hungry people in the world today than 25 years ago.
- You can continue the momentum through a CROP Hunger Walk. Last year over \$10 Million was raised to fight hunger through the world and around the corner.





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

**W**e are back in the harvest season and busy time of year! Prayers to all afflicted by Hurricane Harvey and Irma! To help, the Food Bank is affiliated with Feeding America. You can contribute to the need by visiting the website and make a monetary donation that goes directly to the food banks down south.

As our fast paced life beacons, let us not forget our Lord God who has blessed us all in many ways! As we praise and honor Him remember to pray for all those who don't have what they need to be comfortable and fulfilled in our community and around the world.

Without the state budget being passed we don't have the state allocations we use to order from the Food Bank. That makes your donations even more necessary! I know that each item purchased also carries your thoughts and prayers to the 200+ families served each month. They receive approximately 3-5 days of food to help them remain healthy.

When at the grocery store please remember to buy for those in need. Just one item from each of us could feed everyone who is in need in our community. Here is a list of some of our most needed items....

<b>Cereal</b>	<b>Oatmeal</b>	<b>Tea Bags</b>
<b>Coffee</b> (No K-Cups)	<b>Peanut Butter</b>	<b>Jelly</b>
<b>Ketchup</b>	<b>Mustard</b>	<b>Soups</b>
<b>Mac&amp;Cheese</b>	<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>	<b>Pop Tarts</b>
<b>Popcorn</b>	<b>Canned Vegetables</b>	<b>Jello/Pudding</b>
<b>Canned Meats</b>	<b>Stuffing Mixes</b>	<b>Ramen Noodles</b>
<b>Pasta</b>	<b>Healthy Snacks</b>	<b>Spaghetti-O's</b>
<b>Small Rice Bags</b>	<b>Canned Fruits</b> (All Types)	
<b>Desert Mixes/Icing</b>	<b>Hot Chocolate</b>	<b>Juice</b>



I hope and pray all of you and your family have had a great vacation time of year! I continue to pray that it will carry over to the fall and winter seasons for you and all our community. If you have questions or would like to volunteer here at the Pantry just call or just stop by.

A big THANKS to all who've continued to have food drives and donations through the summer! May you continue to be Blessed as you have Blessed others.

Due to the very necessary demolition on the former Mater Dolorosa Church building at the corner, some think we have moved again. The Pantry has not moved and plans on not doing so for long time. We are still located at: Rear

of 320 Park Ave in Williamsport and our hours are Monday 10-12 donations/stocking, Tuesday & Thursdays 10:15 – 2:30. Phone number: 570-322-1657 for appointments.



## Pastoral Care Week 2017 Hospitality: Cultivating Inclusion

**C**ome Celebrate: UPMC Susquehanna invites area pastors, chaplains, Eucharistic ministers, volunteers and other spiritual caregivers to a program on Thursday, October 5 from 9:30 – 11:00 AM in the Walnut Conference Room at the Williamsport Regional & Medical Center, 700 High Street, Williamsport.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Hospitality, Cultivating Inclusion". Attendees will enjoy an inspiring and informative presentation by Dr. Alexander Nesbitt and his guests from Tanzania about the Shirati partnership with the UPMC Hospice and Palliative Care team. Please RSVP by September 26, 2017 to JoAnn Welch at [jjwelch@susquehannahealth.org](mailto:jjwelch@susquehannahealth.org) or phone 570-546-4128.



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

**U**nited Campus Ministry is a month in to the new school year! Already we owe a few huge thank you's. Thank you to Messiah Lutheran for providing brand new Bibles that we were able to get into the hands of students during our Fall Fusion. Thank you to St. Luke's Lutheran for providing syrup for our sno cones for Fall Fusion. And, thank you to our pastors for our Bible Studies...Stan and Taylor from Cogan Station Christian Church and Dan from Hope Community Church.

In September we will be starting a weekly event on campus called "Jesus and Java". Wednesday mornings from 8-9 we will be handing out free coffee and baked goods along with a devotion from "Jesus Calling". Our current needs for this event would be a sandwich board to use so students walking by will know who we are, and baked goods. Thank you, in advance, for all of your support.

**P**osters and Flyers with more information on many of these articles are included in the supplement package. If you get your newsletter by snail mail, the supplement is on our web site with our newsletter.

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

**W**hen the poor one called out, the Lord heard, and from his distress he saved him (Psalm 37:7). Many people are calling out. As people of faith we must both take notice and act.

Minimum wage in PA and USA unchanged since 2009: The federal and Pennsylvania minimum wage of \$7.25 has not changed since 2009. Adjusted for inflation that figure equals \$6.35 today representing a 12.4% decline in value. Minimum wages have never achieved a living wage. According to a website at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) today one adult with one child would need an hourly wage of \$20.65 to earn a living wage. No wonder many families seek help from homeless programs such as Family Promise or from the various food pantries throughout the county work. As people of faith we must take notice and act.

Lycoming County Unemployment Rate of 5.7% in June was higher than the national rate of 4.3%. The local figure doesn't include those laid off by store closings at the Lycoming Mall this summer.

Part-time and low-wage work prevails – Many in our area and the nation can only find part-time work. While some individuals prefer part-time work, many try to “earn a living” by one or more part-time jobs. Volunteer at a local food pantry or other programs witness people coming for assistance wearing the uniform of their place of employment.

Poverty facts:

- One in 8 households in the US is food insecure – which means 1 in 6 children lives at risk of hunger.
- Nearly 800 million people in the world are still hungry, 20 million are at risk of starvation due to famine and near-famine conditions in South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen.

UCLC Christian Social Concerns Committee recently met with Rep. Tom Marino – Representatives of the UCLC CSC including Rev. Gwen Bernstine, UCLC Executive Director, met with Tom Marino on August 2 to discuss hunger and poverty issues as they pertained to proposals for the Federal Budget for 2018. Guided by recommendations from Bread for the World – an ecumenical organization focused on eliminating hunger and poverty in the world – the discussions centered on:

- Opposing any budget cuts that would increase hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world
- Fully funding domestic safety-net and international development programs that end hunger and poverty
- Opposing harmful structural changes – such as state

block grants – to SNAP (food stamps) and international development assistance

As people of faith we must both take notice and act.

**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 fall are:

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9/11-17 Pastor Derek Smith      | 9/18-24 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner   |
| 9/25-10/1 Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza | 10/2-8 Mr. Zavon Braggs       |
| 10/9-15 Mrs. Patty Gohrs        | 10/16-22 Pastor Derek Smith   |
| 10/23-29 Mrs. Sandy Grier       | 10/30-11/5 Rev. Marwin Reeves |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UCLC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
*United Churches 570-322-1110, [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org)*

**Friday, September 22, 2017**

**G**olfers can still register!! It's not too late. 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 202 East Third St, Williamsport PA 17701 or contact Gwen at 570-322-1110, 570-419-1464 or [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org).

**How Can You Help?** 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



**J**eff Steinberg to appear at Heshbon Park UMC, 2898 Heshbon Rd, Williamsport on Sunday, October 8th at 9am. Jeff invites you to know that “*You’re a Masterpiece in Progress.*” Born with no arms and badly deformed legs, Jeff Steinberg has had to overcome obstacles all his life. He’s called the ‘Tiny Giant’—at 4’6” tall he has a Big Heart and a Big Message from God for you! Meet him, hear his dynamic message in word and song and believe him when he says, “A handicap is anything that keeps you from being or becoming all that God created you to be!” See [www.TinyGiant.com](http://www.TinyGiant.com) for more information.

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

Our Planet, Our Selves

**G**lobal Witness, an international NGO (non-governmental organization) reports that in 2016 there were 200 environmental defenders, wildlife rangers and indigenous leaders murdered as they defended natural resources, wildlife, or community land. Thus nearly four a week.

Environmentalists are threatened by the interests representing mining and oil, illegal logging, agribusiness and dam building. Conflicts persist over water and land, pollution and evictions.

Globalization of incentives for economic interests trumping ecological interests is often cited as the cause for this culture of impunity where environmental defenders can be eliminated without repercussions. Assaults are attributed to corporations' private security guards, state forces and contract killers.

How might you and I, as a part of the ecumenical movement respond? Investment portfolio divestment from offending companies is a start. Or, as investors, we could vote to have the company report on how climate change, for example, will affect our "bottom line". Recently ExxonMobil shareholders voted overwhelmingly to do this.

If our tradition seems to urge support of extremist theologies and politics that jettison human rights, disrespect the rule of law, or fail to take a stand against environmental destruction, perhaps you and I have cause to re-think, seeking values that are more life-affirming.

If political will seems lacking, corporations unaccountable, the environmental movement challenged, and science unable to solve environmental problems, then we must rely upon the influence of spiritual leaders on the decision-making process by framing the struggle for ecological integrity as a humanitarian one.

Each of us can help.

-Note: This column began 10/97. Now completes 20 years.

**INTERFAITH PANEL PROGRAM AVAILABLE**

**L**ooking for a program for your group? The Interfaith Dialogue Commission of United Churches is willing to provide a panel representing different faith traditions to answer questions about their faith or to talk about specific areas of interest. Contact Gwen at United Churches. 570-322-1110 or [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) to make arrangements.

**CHURCH FUEL CO-OP**

**T**he annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Two bids were received from area companies. The contract for the 2017-18 heating season contract was again awarded to R W Dittmar Plumbing Heating and Oil Company, Muncy. Their "cap price" bid of \$2.049, the same as last year, was accepted. Members of the Church Fuel Co-Op won't pay more than this price for oil, no matter how high prices go this year. They will also continue to give 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.

**Additionally:**

Co-op Member congregations can offer to members of their congregation the 15¢ discount off the tank wagon price, and a 3¢ same day discount if they pay that day by calling in with a credit or debit card or having one on file.

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

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

For more information on this program contact United Churches, 570-322-1110 or Gwen at 570-419-1464.

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**W**alk to Fight Suicide: There are two walks in our area to help with suicide prevention, as well as to be supportive of people who have lost loved ones to suicide.

- September 24<sup>th</sup> Clinton County will have their Walk to Fight Suicide at Riverview Park - Lock Haven. Register at [www.afsp.org/ClintonCounty](http://www.afsp.org/ClintonCounty)
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Greater Lycoming County Out of the Darkness Community Walk will be held at 5 p.m. at Pennsylvania College of Technology/FH. Register at [www.afps.org/GreaterLycoming](http://www.afps.org/GreaterLycoming).



**EDUCATIONAL EVENTS \***

**N**ew Sunday School Lessons called **Prevention Through Faith Intervention** are now available for use to positively influence young minds to steer clear of harmful drugs. The full curriculum is available at [www.projectbaldeagle.com/faith.php](http://www.projectbaldeagle.com/faith.php). There site has been redesigned so you need the extra three letters. You can also go to our site, [www.uclc.org](http://www.uclc.org) and click on the resources button at the top of the page and then on to the Faith Based Committee Heroin.

**D**ietrich Bonhoeffer: **Theologian of the Cross** - All are welcomed to attend a study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, which will be offered at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1400 Market St, Wmspt, this fall, facilitated by John McNassor, PhD. Sessions will take place on Thursdays, from 5:30 PM to 6:30. Topics covered will be:

- September 28: Beginning with the end
- October 5: Following Christ
- October 12: Following Christ Together
- October 19: Challenging Questions
- October 26: Bonhoeffer and Luther:

Theology Under the Cross

Dr. McNassor earned a PhD in philosophy of religion in 2009 from Drew University. He is a psychotherapist in Wellsboro and adjunct professor of religion at Lycoming College. For details call (570)323-7309.

**S**chool of Religion: Lutheran Shared Ministry invites you to be part of this study opportunity on Wednesdays October 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Williamsport. The cost is \$12. Register by 9/20 by calling 570-323-4619 to get a 50% discount on material. The theme "From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation" will be discussed the first three weeks using 'Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist Common Prayer'. This unique ecumenical text draws on 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in preparation for this 500th Reformation anniversary year. It demonstrates how far Lutherans and Catholics have come together on three crucial topics, Church, Ministry and Eucharist. The final week will be a service of common prayer, a special moment in the journey from conflict to communion between Lutherans and Catholics.

**H**ealing Communities Day of Training will help communities of faith better minister to those affected by the criminal justice system by becoming Stations of Hope to:

- ▶ Connect returning citizens to resources;

- ▶ Provide spiritual support;
- ▶ Foster positive relationships and fellowships;
- ▶ Work to rebuild relationships;
- ▶ Advocate for criminal justice reform.

Once trained, Stations of Hope are better equipped to minister to the accused, those in prison, the families of defendants and prisoners, victims of crime, returning citizens and their families, and the community affected by crime.

The training will be held Saturday, October 28 from 9-4 at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 E. Third St., Williamsport. The cost is \$20 per person including lunch and materials (\$50 for groups of three from the same church/organization.) The instructor will be Marty McCormick. He serves as the associate chaplain at the Clinton County Correctional Facility where he provides

counseling and spiritual guidance to inmates preparing for release. He is also an Alternatives to Violence facilitator. A retired counselor who has assisted individuals with a variety of mental, physical and substance abuse challenges, Marty is well suited to guide us in this journey. Contact Gwen at United Churches 570-322-1110 or [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) for details or to register.



**S**chool To Prison Pipeline: Reserve the last Friday evening in October, the 27<sup>th</sup> to join us at City Alliance Church, 380 West Fourth Street, in Williamsport to talk about Education and the inequality of funding that happens throughout Pennsylvania. Our funding system has shortchanged many schools so that they cannot adequately prepare students to function fully in our society after graduation, assuming they make it to graduation. Watch for details and plan to attend.

**CHURCH SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Festival**, 100 Walnut St. Montoursville, Sept. 15-17, Friday & Saturday 5-9, Sunday 8:30-2. Rides, Games, Basket Raffle, Fall Decor/Pumpkin Sales & Decorating Booth, Cake Wheel, Entertainment All Weekend

**Lasagna Dinner: Trinity Episcopal Church**, 844 W 4<sup>th</sup> St, Williamsport, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 4-6:30. Dinner includes meat lasagna, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Take-out is available. Cost for the dinner is \$9.75 for adults and \$5.50 for children (12 & younger) or \$7.00 for lasagna only. For information, call 570-322-0126.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Kelly Willard:** If your church would be interested in hosting Kelly Willard (of Maranatha and Vineyard fame) for a concert this fall, please visit [www.kellywillard.com](http://www.kellywillard.com) and let her know. She's re-scheduling her summer trip that she had to cancel. She'll be around for about 2 weeks in October visiting nursing homes, prisons, churches, coffee shops, etc.

**Operation Christmas Child** National Collection Week is November 13-20. If you haven't gotten materials or need to know your closest drop-off location contact Amy Seyler, N. Central Church Relations Team, 570-745-3555 or [seylerrich@yahoo.com](mailto:seylerrich@yahoo.com). Region goal: 15,000 shoeboxes.

**Youth Basketball League:** The Bower Sunday School Basketball League will begin in November and is open to boys and girls from K - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Many congregations in our community sponsor teams in this league which is the namesake of the "oldest and largest church league in America." For details go to [www.bowerbasketball.org](http://www.bowerbasketball.org).

**Thrive is a local Christian non-profit offering English as a Second Language (ESL)** classes for adults on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30am-10:00am at City Alliance Church in downtown Williamsport. Youth programs are available during class time for children one year and older. The cost is \$15 per month, and fee waivers are available.

They also offer Spanish classes for high school students and adults on Thursdays from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Beginning and intermediate classes are available. Classes operate in 9-week sessions. The cost is \$80 per session, and a limited number of fee waivers are available.

A Language Cafe will also start on Sept. 7th on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm-7:30pm for adults (high school students are welcome if a parent is present). It is a casual time to drop in to share language and conversation. Opportunities will be provided to engage in conversation with those who are learning English as well as to practice Spanish (and French, Mandarin, or other languages when available) with native speakers. A \$2 donation, a willingness to make mistakes, and a delight in learning and meeting others are suggested. The cafe opportunity is best suited for those who are willing serve as volunteers for those practicing English and/or for those who already have at least a minimal knowledge of another language.

To participate or volunteer, additional information is available at [www.thriveip.org](http://www.thriveip.org), facebook@(thriveip), 570-337-2898, or [staff@thriveip.org](mailto:staff@thriveip.org).

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Home Ownership:** Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity will be holding an information session on home ownership through their program. They are seeking applications for two homes to be constructed in Williamsport soon. If you or a family you know are interested in becoming a Habitat for Humanity Homeowner join them to learn more about the application process and requirements. This session is free and open to the public. It will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 6-7 p.m. at Faith Wesley Church, 1033 Tuckers St., Wmspt.

**Lycoming County Life Chain** will be held Sunday, October 1, 2017, 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 26<sup>th</sup> year. If your church has not received the mailed announcement and you are interested, contact the area coordinator 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  
 W Fourth St., Wmspt - Denise Boring 570-745-7185  
 St. John Neumann HS (Dir of Formation) 570-323-9953

**Shirati / Williamsport Partnership:** Come and hear more about this amazing journey on Wednesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> when Dorothy Kawira, RN, and Peter Migenda, RN, from Shirati, Tanzania will be at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W 4<sup>th</sup> St., Wmspt., to share experiences providing end-of-life care in their villages of rural Tanzania. UPMC Susquehanna Hospice has been in partnership with Shirati Hospice since 2012. The partnership is part of Global Partners in Care's mission to pair US based hospices with hospices in developing countries. Goals are to share education between both hospices, and raise awareness and financial support for Shirati.

The evening will also include special guests The Gatehouse Singers. Please note that parking and entrance for Covenant Central is off Campbell Street.

**A Benefit Dance "Shake it for Shirati"** will be held Friday, Oct. 6, from 7:30-10:30 pm. at the Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium, Cost: \$10/person. For details contact: [abrion@susquehannahealth.org](mailto:abrion@susquehannahealth.org).