

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the
UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701
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Issued mid-monthly, September through May with some special e-mail only summer issues.. Items marked with an asterisk may be of special interest to your congregation. Deadline to submit articles - First of each month.

VOLUME XXXI NUMBER 7

SEPTEMBER 9, 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.

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES*



Join us for the start of the 2014-2015 Season! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen at the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attendee will help the caterer know how to prepare.

SEPTEMBER:

- 10- **Rev. Larry K. Waltz**, President, Blooming Grove Historical Society, *"The Underground Railroad and Blooming Grove"*
- 17- **Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine**, Executive Director, United Churches, *"What It Means To Be Ecumenical"*
- 24- **Mrs. Pam Markle Hansen**, Thrivent Financial Associate, *"Protecting Yourself From Identity Theft"*

OCTOBER:

- 1- **Rev. Robert Wallace**, Retired United Methodist Pas-

tor, **"Hungry in Haiti"**

- 8- **Mrs. Melissa Magargle**, Executive Director, Family Promise of Lycoming County, Inc., *"Success Stories: Assisting Families out of Homelessness"*
- 15- **Rev. Ken Weiss**, Caring Outreach, *"Pennsylvania's Yellow Dot Program for Emergency Information"*
- 22- **Rabbi Joel Kessler**, Spiritual Leader, Ohev Shalom Congregation, *"Israel's Lone Soldiers"*
- 29- **Mrs. Candy Watkins** and **Mrs. Carol Waltz**, Area Musicians, *"For All the Saints" Music of All Saints and All Saints (Hallows) Eve*

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

New Pastor's Orientation will be held Wednesday, September 24, beginning at 9:30-11:45 a.m. at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine Street, Williamsport. Pastors new to the area or who would like to know more about the ministries we do together as United Churches, as well as ways we work together with the many agencies in the county should attend. Lunch is included. RSVP to Gwen at 570-322-1110 or director@uclc.org.

Visit us at www.uclc.org

**United Churches 4th Annual
Major Fund Raiser and Golf Tournament***

September here and we really appreciate all your support for United Churches! Our first three years showed us just how much support there is for UCLC. However, we need to do so much more.

EAT OUT as part of the **United Churches Fund Raiser and Golf Tournament Celebration:** We've teamed up with Hoss's Steak & Sea House again 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 **Sunday, September 28**. 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%!



**Ken Weiss at 321-9555 or
E-mail: kweiss1213@gmail.com**

The Tournament is...
Friday September 26.

It starts at 8:30 am at White Deer Challenge Course. For a donation of \$80 our golfers get a round of golf, a golf cart, lunch after playing, a number of free gifts, and a door prize. There are still a few spots open if you contact us this week.

Our Sponsors... are fantastic and you can still be one of these special people - groups - businesses - churches! There is a range of sponsorship levels and all sponsors are recognized in what has turned into one of the largest tournaments each year. Sponsors are also recognized mid-year in our newsletter. Most sponsors happily come back yearly. Contact Ken this week.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

Present this Card on Sunday, **Sept. 28, 2014**

At Hoss's In Williamsport

Hoss's will then donate 20%+ of your Total Check

For: **United Churches of Lycoming County**

Group #: **23593**

Please Present Ticket When Ordering

Thank You!



Voucher distribution is prohibited on Hoss's property.

TAKE A CHANCE ON A WONDERFUL PRIZE:

There is still time for you to take a chance or two or more in our raffle this year! We have great prizes....

- A \$750 Gift Certificate from Dicks Sporting Goods
- Two Paintings (each a \$360 value) from Gold Leaf Frame Shoppe in Williamsport
- A Framed Watercolor from Carol Wagner
- The Latest Framed Print from Ron Beach
- Autographed Books from Local Author Adam Makos
- Jewelry from Mike Cillo
- Jewelry from Petro's
- A Bluebird House (Condo)
- Numerous Other Prizes

RAFFLE

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. They are available at the United Churches office and from board and committee members. Winners will be drawn during lunch at the Golf Tournament, September 26th.

*You don't have to be present to win
but you do have to have a ticket ☺*

CHURCH FUEL CO-OP

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held August 13th. Two heating oil bids were opened and the contract for the 2014-2015 heating season was awarded to Pickelner/Nittany Oil.

Their "cap price" bid of \$3.449 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. And each account also has the option to pay their bill within ten days and get the cash discount of 10¢/gallon (payments via cash, check or bank transfer).

The 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 withdraw 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.

More information can be obtained by contacting Gwen Bernstine or Patty Gohrs at United Churches, 570-322-1110 or Gwen at director@uclc.org or 570-419-1464.



CROP Walk 2014 *

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2014

Walk begins at 1:30, Registration begins at 1 P.M.



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 12, 2014** at 1:30 P.M. at **the River Walk in Williamsport!** This is our 4th 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 - fires, floods, winds, drought, war. One minute people are OK and then they are in extreme need. This is why Church World Service is here and their CROP program works with those who are hungry.

This is the 35th year of walking for the Williamsport/Lycoming County CROP Walk. There will be people from Cogan House, Muncy, Salladasburg, Quiggleville, 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 United Churches Food Pantry, Son Light House Food Pantry, American Rescue Workers Food Pantries in Williamsport and Jersey Shore, and St. Anthony's Kitchen.

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 9-3).
2. **TROUT RUN** - They will begin from the Trout Run United Methodist Church. Call Mary Phillips at 570-998-8650.

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 on October 13th, and end with Thanksgiving food collections. And all year long our United Churches Food Pantry and all our other Pantries reach out to those who are hungry.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY **Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 322-1657*

As Autumn returns, we hope that you had a restful and relaxing vacation. We didn't! We were busy moving the pantry ... again. We expect this to be our long term home, and are enjoying our new space. We even have windows, a first for us to be able to see the sunshine, clouds and whatever nature sends our way.

We have neighbors, too. The Shepherd of the Streets is here and the Little Ones Clothes Closet is here with clothing for children from newborn to 6 years of age. This is a mission of the ladies from the parish of St Joseph the Worker. So there are finally many services under one roof to make it more convenient for clients. It's been a dream of Fr. Brian Van Fossen and it has finally come to fruition.

We had some surprises the last few months that we want to share. First, we had unexpected visits from Pastors of the United Churches family. As the Pastors remarked, we have pretty slim 'pickins' this time of year. They passed this information on to their congregations and we were blessed with food donations that helped us help all the families that have come needing food. We always love visitors to show off our new home and to share pantry stories.

Second, Tim Mahoney, Director, Lycoming County Pre-Release Center called asking if we could use fresh sweet corn from their huge garden. So, thanks to their largesse we were blessed with deliveries of sweet, young, tender corn, shucked and cleaned. First 297 ears and the next week 200 ears. What a treat for our clients. Many thanks, everybody!

Third, the PA legislature passed the budget on time and even as you read this newsletter, we will be receiving our funds to buy food from the state Food Bank. What a blessing that will be for us!

Now a surprise to you: in the month of July we served 400 clients and in August we served 562 folks.

Whenever I ask why someone has come to Williamsport, mostly the answer will be that they have family here or that they have come to work with the gas industry but couldn't get a job. So they stayed but can't find work and can't afford to go back to where they came from. You can make of that response whatever you will. But the bottom line on that is that this causes additional strain on our already overloaded services.

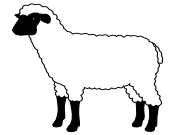
There are some things that we need in the pantry this month: Spaghetti Sauce is at the top of the list. This month the state food bank didn't have any when we placed our order and that's an item that I like every family to have. Everybody likes it, teenagers to 'keenagers, it's easy to make

and anybody can heat up the leftovers and it stretches no matter the number of people at your dinner table.

<i>Spaghetti Sauce</i>	<i>Oodles of Noodles</i>	<i>Tea Bags</i>
<i>Saltine Crackers</i>	<i>Chicken Noodle Soup</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
<i>Pork-n-Beans</i>	<i>Canned Milk</i>	<i>Tuna</i>
<i>Canned Veggies</i>	<i>Cake Mixes & Frosting</i>	<i>Jello</i>
<i>Stuffing Mix</i>	<i>Flavored Oatmeal</i>	<i>Packets</i>
<i>Canned Fruit</i>	<i>Pop Tarts</i>	

We thank you all and keep you in our prayers, hoping that you pray for us and our folks as well.

One more note: this is the month of the anniversary of the '9/11' attack on our country. Many people lost their lives on that day and many more have since either lost their lives or are suffering the results of lost limbs. How can we ever thank them enough for their sacrifice? By praying for them daily!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS***J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,****570-322-6538, shepherd@uclc.org****MEASURES OF POVERTY**

From time to time I have been asked to provide my criterion for people that we help. Once when asked to provide our measurement of such in order to get a grant, I wrote "discernment of the Holy Spirit". I wasn't trying to be cute, sarcastic, or super-spiritual...I was providing the criterion. (By the way, we got the grant.) Most want a set of rules or regulations to determine how to be fair. But, when dealing with the suffering, there is no way to be fair, but rather, the motive must be mercy, and the measurement, justice. Even when one goes to court he does not want judgment, but justice.

For freedom, Christ has set us free. We are individually on "our way to God", and must be merciful as God is merciful. What is a rule for all, disregards personal history, and promotes injustice because one must disregard that person's predicament, set aside love and mercy.

Let me explain discretionary evaluation which is made every visit, and does not take its cue from a form. Look at the words that justify a person's eligibility. Poverty implies a lack of resources for reasonably comfortable living. Destitution and want imply such great poverty that the means for mere subsistence, such as food and shelter, are lacking. Indigence implies a lack of comforts that one formerly enjoyed. Penury suggest such severe poverty as to cause misery or loss of self-respect. (Roget's Thesaurus)

Poverty is measured by the social-physical-economic standards within a people group. For instance, one factor in

the United States is education which is public and "free". Factors linked to lack of education in the U.S. include unemployment, race, single parent families, physical and mental disabilities, and generational bias. We look for these factors when discerning a person's poverty level. These factors lead to ignorance, superstition, and sin.

Ignorance implies a lack of knowing and comes by unawareness, lack of information, inability to use common sense, inexperience, misinformation, being unacquainted with, illiterate, untrained, untaught, disability, and lack of virtues or moral standards.

Superstition implies false belief, untruth, irrationality, fears from erroneous notions, gullible, lack of faith, social retardation, and spiritual ignorance.

Sin implies error, wrongdoing, transgression, evil-doing, immorality, crime, ungodliness, lapse of concern for what is right and just, unrighteousness, venality, and the seven deadly sins: pride, covetousness, lust, wrath, gluttony, envy, and sloth.

Knowing that a tomato is classified as a fruit is knowledge based on measurable facts...not putting tomatoes in a fruit salad is wisdom based on discernment. Knowing that a person is poor is knowledge based on measurable factors, but discerning their immediate poverty takes wisdom and knowledge. I thank God that the first gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom and knowledge, which form the warp and the woof of mercy.



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

A new school year has begun at Penn College. UCM had a very busy kickoff week. We held our annual Fall Kickoff, complete with music, pizza and prizes. Thanks to Jessie Burdett for playing music again this year and Julie Bittner for the fresh baked cookies and drink.

We followed that up by bringing author Joe Smith on campus to discuss his book "Sex and Violence in the Bible". He was available for questions and a book signing. There was a nice turn out for this event.

Friday, despite the weather, a group of students went rock climbing out near Rock Run.

This year we have many exciting events planned for the students including 2 mission trips, Fall Retreat and many local outreach projects, as well as our on campus weekly Bible Study.

I would love to sit down with you to see how we can partner to bring students closer to Christ. If you or your congregation have talents that you would like to offer or events that you would like to invite the students to, please contact me. We have a few openings left for Faith Talks this semester. If you, or a group in your congregation, would like to bake cookies for an evening, please let me know. Young adults like food!

The Fall Retreat is coming soon! September 19th and 20th we will be going to the Haft in New Albany. We opened this to Mansfield and Lock Haven campuses to join us. The theme will be "Never Alone". We will have special music on Friday night and a guest speaker (Rev. Danesta Whaley) on Saturday. There will be time for fellowship, devotions and activities. Trinity Episcopal is providing a labyrinth for the group and a prayer station will be available for reflection. There will be kayaking, canoeing and hiking. If you would like to provide food or snacks for the event, please contact me at ucm@uclc.org.

Please keep all students and teachers in prayer this year. May they find God to be the source of all truth.

**United Churches
is your church
e - x - t - e - n - d - e - d
in ministry!**

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 devotionists this fall include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9/8-14 Mrs. Sandy Grier | 9/15-21 Mrs. Patricia Jenkins |
| 9/22-28 Rev. Gwen Bernstine | 9/29-10/5 Mrs. Patty Gohrs |
| 10/6-12 Pastor Dorothy Anderson | 10/13-19 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner |
| 10/20-26 Rev. Gwen Bernstine | 10/27-11/2 Pastor Dianna Herritt |

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

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

Because of thirst, the infant's tongue sticks to the roof of its mouth; children beg for bread, but no one gives it to them. -Lamentations 4:4 Images of starving children often stir a response. Do these images move us to advocate for domestic and foreign policy reforms?

Lycoming County Unemployment Rate for June 2014: The preliminary unemployment rate for the county for June 2014 was 5.9 %. This was the third consecutive month with a rate below 6.0%. These figures are reflective for the first time since before 2008 of more typical unemployment for the area. Those who are currently unemployed still face significant challenges to provide for themselves and their families.

Extreme Poverty in U.S.: Households with Children Slipping through the Cracks. The National Poverty Center states that as of the beginning of 2011, about 1.46 million U.S. households with about 2.8 million children were surviving on \$2 or less in income per person per day in a given month. This constitutes almost 20 percent of all non-elderly households with children living in poverty. About 866,000 households appear to live in extreme poverty across a full calendar quarter. The recent growth has been concentrated among those groups that were most affected by the 1996 welfare reform. Despite the presence of a substantial in-kind safety net, a significant number of households with children continue to slip through the cracks. Source: National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan

Act Now: Let's Get Food Aid to 9 Million More People. Reforming the U.S. food aid program will help to increase flexibility and prevent inefficiencies from harming those that food aid is meant to help. According to researchers at U.S. AID, GAO, and Cornell University, fully reforming Food for Peace, the main U.S. food aid program, will allow for up to \$440 million in efficiency savings, allowing the United States to reach up to 9 million more people each year (up to 16 percent increase from the average 56 million reached by Food for Peace). Increased flexibility will allow U.S. food aid to reach those in need more than two months sooner than current implementation. Proposed legislation (S. 2421) is currently in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This bill would change the Food for Peace program currently authorized through the Farm Bill and places food aid authorities into the Foreign Assistance Act. Doing this allows the government to drop the harmful policies of U.S.-only procurement, U.S.-only cargo preference, and monetization. Contact Senators Casey (202-224-6324) and Toomey (202-224-4254) now to ask them to co-sponsor this legislation.

CREATION CORNER*The Christian Social Concerns Committee****Climate Matters***

As international climate talks resume this month (see <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit>), and as readers of this column acknowledge many concerns they have for the integrity of creation, may we consider the following interpretations of our current situation.

“All creation is groaning” says Katharine M. Preston in the Sept.-Oct. issue of *Sojourners*. Creation is “yearning to be free” writes Rose Marie Berger in the same issue. She, however, adds that “Christians don’t just *look* for hope in desperate times; we *are* the hope in desperate times.” Both writers are probably inspired by Romans 8:22-23.

Naomi Oreskes, a Harvard professor, argues that fossil fuels can’t solve the problems created by fossil fuels (see <http://greenlinemag.com/wishful-thinking-about-natural-gas>). Environmental activists raise up the need for sustainable alternative renewables and cry out “Keep the coal in the hole, the oil beneath the soil, and the gas beneath the grass.”

In the book **Spiritual Ecology** (Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee, editor), Franciscan Richard Rohr’s article, “Creation as the Body of God”, posits that “our modern world has distorted or lost the original understanding of the divinity of the world, resulting in our present ecological crisis”.

From the same book come two further quotes. One, from an alchemical text: “There are fiery sparks of the world soul, of the light of nature, dispersed or sprinkled in and throughout the structure of the great world into all the fruits of the elements everywhere.”

The other quote is from Stephan Hoeller: “God redeems humanity, but nature needs to be redeemed by human alchemists, who are able to induce the process of transformation, which alone is capable of liberating the light imprisoned in physical creation.”

Lastly, consider these abridged remarks on “The Divine Spark” by Rudolf Bahro: “The proposed solutions to our environmental problems are no longer a matter of saving a few watts, using less plastic or stopping an oil pipeline; they are tantamount to a call for freezing the infrastructure. It is our entire industrialized lifestyle that is obsolete, and without a cultural revolution that shatters the logic of the industrial system, we are lost. The alternative is theology, not ecology--the birth of a new Golden Age which cultivates what Russian novelist Chyngyz Aitmatov calls the ‘divine spark’. The issue is not man’s tools, but man’s spirit.”

Source: *Adbusters* magazine Sept/Oct 2014 #115, vol. 22 no. 5.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES *

Tanzanian Partnership: Susquehanna Health Hospice Staff began a partnership with the Shirati Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care Team. Dr. Nisbett and the team of staff nurses and social workers who went to Tanzania will be speaking a number of places this fall.

- HOPE Community Church, 1300 Tinsman Avenue on Saturday, September 13 at 7 pm.
- Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium, 1100 Grampian Boulevard, on Sunday, September 28 at 7 pm
- Ecumenical Lunch, at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., one Wednesdays in November.

Parish Festival: Our Lady of Lourdes' 3rd Annual Festival, 100 Walnut Street, Montoursville, will be held September 12-14 (Friday & Saturday 5-9, Sunday 12-4). Enjoy rides, games, raffles, a chili cook-off and pumpkin painting, special entertainment and great food. Saturday's dinner is meatloaf with take outs available.

Recital: A piano-vocal recital, will be held Sunday, September 28 at 1 pm at Oval United Methodist Church, 6796 SR 44, Jersey Shore, featuring Agnes Donahue, Soprano and Jeffery Watson, Piano.

Agnes Donahue is a lifelong church soloist and choir member. The soloist for the 40th Anniversary of the Signing of the Civil Rights Act, she also sang with the Papal Mass Choir for Pope Benedict XVI's visit. Dr. Donahue leads OASH Intergovernmental Affairs & Regional Activities for Dept. of Health & Human Svs. in Washington, DC.

Oval's own Jeffery Watson has appeared as piano soloist with several symphonies and is pianist with the Internationally acclaimed tango quintet, QuinTango. Dr. Watson is on the faculty at George Washington University and the Washington Conservatory of Music.

Ask The Rabbi: The spiritual leader of Ohev Shalom Synagogue in Williamsport, Rabbi Joel Kessler is hosting a weekly conversation at noon at Starbucks on Academy Street. Come with questions or listen.

Golden Agers Club: Get your Golden Ticket! Travel with the Golden Agers Club around the golden globe! When? Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm at the Salvation Army, 457 Market St., Wmspt. They'll explore various countries' music, crafts, games, speakers, and devotions. (Lunch is included) All are welcome! Call Amy McGovern at 570-326-9187 x 109.

NAMI meets montly on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Robert M. Sides building, 201 Mulberry St, Wmspt. On September 9th, Richard E. Dowell, Jr. PhD, Pediatric Neuropsychologist will be presenting on the topic of "Building Bridges".

Out of the Darkness Walk to Prevent Suicide and Support Survivors: Sunday, September 21st at Indian Park - Pavilion #5, Montoursville. Check-in & on-site registration opens at 1 p.m., walk begins at 2 p.m. rain or shine. Proceeds benefit AFSP & Lycoming County Suicide Prevention Coalition. For more information please contact Joe Miller at joesmiller@verizon.net or 570-974-3958.



Newberry NGA's 100th Anniversary Open House will be held on Sunday, September 28 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Johns-Newberry UMC in their Fellowship Hall. Help us celebrate 100 years of serving the greater Williamsport area. The open house will feature displays of their history and what they currently do in our community. Light refreshments will be served.

Their Yard Sale will be Saturday October 18 at St. John's-Newberry UMC. To donate to the yard sale contact: Deb, dbuckman@chilitech.net, or Becky, murphy173@verizon.net, or Carol, carolandshuman@verizon.net.

Lycoming County Life Chain will be held Sunday, October 5, 2014, on the Golden Strip (East Third Street) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate in this peaceful prayer event. For more info call Tammy, 570-745-3328.

The American Cancer Society's fifth annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Lycoming County 5K walk will take place Saturday, Oct. 25, in Indian Park, 617 N. Loyalsock Ave., Montoursville. Now is the time to form your team. Registration will begin at 9 and the walk begins at 10 a.m. There is no fee for teams to enter and no limit to the number of people per team. Those who are interested in signing up may do so at www.makingstrideswalk.org/lycoming. Most of the funds raised on our walk helps local women who are uninsured or under insured get screenings and wigs.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Prisoner Visitation and Support: Can you visit a prisoner once a month? There currently is a critical need for people willing to provide a listening ear at the federal prisons located at the Federal Corrections Complex at Allenwood. There are three facilities – low, medium, and penitentiary. PVS visitors visit once a month spending about an hour with a prisoner in a face-to-face conversation. The focus of PVS is on prisoners who do not normally receive family visits. Visiting days are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If you are interested in learning more about being a PVS volunteer, contact Dan Doyle at 570-546-2385.

NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The **Local Education and Resource Network, LEARN**, is an outreach effort benefitting children from birth to 6 years in Lycoming County. Their programs surround early literacy and activities to help children move smoothly into the classroom setting. They lost funding with state budget cuts. Now housed at Lycoming College, funds are needed for programming expenses for the children, their parents and teachers. Congregations interested in hearing how they might help bring books or supplies to the children of Lycoming County, please email the coordinator, Beth McClain at mcclainb@lycoming.edu.

There is also room for volunteers to sit on the LEARN team. They welcome all who would like to hear more! Visit them online at <http://lycoming.edu/education/learn.aspx>.

Foster Families Needed in our area. Nearly 14,000 children in PA are in foster care and there are many in Lycoming County in desperate need of loving homes and caring families. Families United Network, Inc., will train you to care for foster children and work closely with area children and youth agencies to place children and monitor their care while in these homes. Contact Kristi Hoover, Program Supervisor at 570-651-9016 for details.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Yokefellowship's Annual Conference will be held in Lewisburg, PA at Country Cupboard/Best Western on October 3-4, 2014. Their theme is "He has given us the Ministry of Reconciliation". Each speaker will share their experiences and journeys as a part of change in our criminal justice system. Registrations are to be postmarked by Wednesday, September 10. Brochures are available by contacting Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Northeast Regional Director, Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, 570-326-6868 or smileynessie@yahoo.com.

Mental Health First Aid Training: The Lycoming/Clinton MH/ID program is sponsoring this free training on Oct. 28th at the Little League Complex, S. Wmspt. from 8-4:30. The training is designed to instruct professionals on how to intervene when dealing with an adolescent/youth experiencing a mental health crisis. Continuing Ed credits are available. Guidance counselors, school nurses, youth pastors and teachers are the identified participants for this training. For details or to register contact Mark Longenberger, Community Support Services at 570-326-7895 today. Space is limited.

Pennsylvania Parent Forum: The Parent Panel Advisory Council, in collaboration with the Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs, is hosting a free, day-long informational event for parents. Topics included will be signs and symptoms of substance abuse, how to motivate

your son or daughter to get help, and how to best access help/treatment when needed. The forum round table will allow for feedback. This event is intended for parents, not professionals. Save the date. Watch for information.

WHEN: Friday, November 7, 2014, 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

WHERE: Holiday Inn Harrisburg – Hershey (Grantville)

COST: Free, but registration will be required.

Contact: PA Dept of Drug & Alcohol Pgms. 717-783-8200

School of Religion: Lutheran Shared Ministry invites you to be part of this study opportunity Wednesdays in October from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Wmspt. Pre-register at 570-323-4619 by Sept. 29th. The classes are:

- **Beginning again with the Catechism:** is a two hour course mixing history, theology and Bible, seasoned with life, as you consider how insightful Luther's Small Catechism is. Leader Pastor Kenneth Elkin.
- **Pericope Study Group** (this will be a 1 hour course) *Pericope*, the Greek word for *section*, identifies the "section" of text used on Sunday for the three readings used by congregations who follow the Lectionary. Worship leaders then study these selections to decide what speaks to a given congregation and to craft sermons. Come, observe and be part of the process. Add your own insights. Leader Pastor Elisabeth Aurand.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Choral Director Needed: The Williamsport Civic Chorus is a singing community in our 71st season, with about 50 members who range in age from 17 to 77. Ned Wetherald, current director, has announced his retirement at the close of the 2014-15 season, and they are seeking a new director. Responsibilities include:

- musical direction, choice of material, themes, etc.
 - attendance and participation at monthly board meetings
 - procurement of soloists and accompanist(s)
 - details on website, www.williamsportcivic-chorus.org
- The Chorus is accomplished in the performance of classical selections, and with patient and able direction, have performed genres ranging from bluegrass to African folk music. A resume and cover letter should be submitted to the search committee via wccdirectorsearch@yahoo.com. The deadline for application is December 1, 2014.

Girl Scout Volunteers Needed: Now is the time girls from Kindergarten to 12th grade are signing up for Scouts! Volunteers are needed to start new troops to help girls build their courage, confidence, and character, making the world a better place. Leaders can work around their schedule by choosing their own meeting time, location, and how often they meet. Contact Jen Cullin at jcullin@gshpa.org or 570-266-0116.