



# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701

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## WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHEONS 2015-16 SEASON TO BEGIN\*

**J**oin us for the 2015-2016 Season! These luncheon programs are held every week of the school year at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine Street, Williamsport. 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 Pine Street UMC's lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen, Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer know how much food to prepare. Our schedule this fall is:

### SEPTEMBER:

16- **Ms. Mary Siemenski**, Manager, Lycoming County Women's History Project, *"The Hidden History of African Americans in Williamsport: What I Learned from Researching Julia Collins"*

23- **The Rev. Leroy Wion**, Retired Wesleyan Pastor and Minister of Music and American Rescue Workers Pastor and Counselor *"Gospel Concert"*

30- **Mr. Todd Penman**, Executive Director, West End Christian Community Center, *"Opportunities to Reach Out in Jesus' Name"*

### OCTOBER:

7- **Mrs. Roberta Updegraff**, Christian Writers Group, *"Telling Your Story in Publishable Vignettes"*

14- **Rev. Ronald Shellhamer**, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP), *"Ministry to the Aboriginal People of Northern Canada (The Cree First Nation)"*

21- **Mr. Kyle Murphy**, Manager, Lycoming County Transportation Museum, *"Rivers. Rails and Roads"*

28- **Mrs. Patty Gohrs and Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches of Lycoming County, *"Pumpkin Blessings"*

A special thanks to Pine Street United Methodist Church for all that is involved in providing the site for these programs. Heidi Potter, our caterer, and Juanita Shaw and Margaret Shell for providing centerpieces to make our tables so festive each week. Come join us!



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

**United Churches 5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Major Fund Raiser and Golf Tournament\***

September is here and your support for United Churches is heartwarming! There are, however, a few more last minute things to be done.

**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 27**. 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 Sunday, **Sept. 27, 2015**

At Hoss's In Williamsport

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

For: **United Churches of Lycoming County**

Group #: **29334**

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 to take a chance or two or more in our raffle this year! We have great prizes....

- A New Set of Clubs by Rick Mussleman Golf Services Unlimited 775 Wishon Irons valued at \$1099
- Framed Paintings from Gold Leaf Frame Shoppe, Wmspt. Ringer Hill Autumn by Dan Curry - value \$350
- Wave Riders by Gerald W. Putt - value \$300
- Limited Edition unframed print by Ron Beach The Sentinel - value \$125
- Jewelry from local artisans including.....  
Petro's Jewelry - A silver necklace - value \$95  
Mike Cillo Jewelry -  
Mahonsky Jewelry -
- Autographed Books from Local Authors .....  
Adam Makos: A Higher Call & Voices of the Pacific  
Jay Paterno: Paterno Legacy

Bob Wallace: Hadessa Finds Peace & Abel is Saved

- A Bluebird House (Condo)
- Numerous Other Prizes

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 at the Golf Tournament, September 25<sup>th</sup> but you don't have to be present to win.

**The NEED...** Six years ago we had to cut our employees salaries by 20%. Their work schedule went from 5 days a week to 4. Anyone who knows our wonderful employees know that they work many administrative hours to keep the wonderful ministries we do together running smoothly. They still do, just for less money.

After four tournaments we've been able to give them back much of what was cut, but they're still behind where they were six years ago, and without this fundraiser they'll lose what's been restored. You know that as the economy struggles, giving goes down, but the needs of our county increase. More work - less money - we have to do something!

We invite you and the whole community to support these fundraisers every way you can.

**Ken Weiss at 570-321-9555 or  
E-mail: [kweiss1213@gmail.com](mailto:kweiss1213@gmail.com)**



**The Tournament is...  
Friday September 25.**

**T**HE TOURNAMENT starts at 8:30 am at White Deer Challenge Course. For a donation of \$80 (one of the lowest tournament fees in our county) our golfers get a round of golf, a golf cart, lunch after playing, a number of free gifts, and a door prize. There are a few spaces left - - call today.

**Our Sponsors...** there is a range of sponsorship levels and all sponsors are recognized in what has turned into one of the largest tournaments each year. Most sponsors happily come back yearly. We also have special church sponsor category (\$50) which can be given by the church, a group within a church, or an individual who would like to see their church on this list as a supporter of United Churches. What we need now are more sponsors and golfers. Contact Ken for details. We also need door prizes - gift certificates to local stores, small \$10-50 gifts, things a golfer might enjoy.

**Let's do it!** Let's have a fun day out on the golf course while we raise \$13,000 to keep United Churches ministries going strong. The last page of this newsletter has some pictures from last year and more information.

CROP Walk 2015 \*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

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



**O**ur community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 11, 2015** at 1:30 P.M. at **the River Walk in Williamsport!** This is our 5<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 - fires, floods, 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 36<sup>th</sup> 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 - Williamsport, Son Light House Food Pantry - Muncy, The New Love Center in 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) or Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 West Fourth Street (8-4).
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 11<sup>th</sup>, and end with Thanksgiving food collections. All year long our United Churches Food Pantry and all the Pantries in our community reach out to those who are hungry.

**UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY \****Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 570-322-1657*

**I**t's hard to believe Summer is on the way out and we're gearing up for all the activities of Fall. I hope you all had a calm, restful, relaxing summer filled with fun. Ours was busy, each day brings more new people that have hardship issues that put them in need of help to feed themselves and their families. You would think it would get easier to take care of these needs but sadly each new week brings new challenges.

Our staunch supporters at Faith United Church in Montoursville stepped up to the plate with their "Feed the 5000" program. That certainly helped to fill the shelves and the bellies! Thanks to all of you that made that possible.



We also had an amazing surprise in the donation of metal shelving for one entire food storage room. That still seems like a fantasy when I look at how wonderful it is to have things sorted and neatly put on the shelves instead of stuffed here and there with no rhyme nor reason. We look professional now! We have Mr & Mrs Denny Weaver from Jersey Shore to thank for that advancement in our program to feed hungry folks.

As we go forward into the Fall & Winter seasons we have some other projects 'cooking' that we'll share with you. It's all good and such a relief to finally be settled in where we can plan and grow our programs.

We will need both substitute and regularly scheduled volunteers at the beginning of 2016, so if you think you may be interested, stop in, take a look and chat with me. This wonderful ministry may be the perfect fit for you.

As the cooler weather is right around the corner, there are some food items that we are in need of this month:

oodles of noodles	chunky soups	jelly
tuna fish	powdered drink mix (ie: kool aid)	
canned veggies	saltine crackers	canned fruits

As always, you are in our prayers and we give thanks for your generosity. Have a good month and be safe

**WELCOME NEW PASTORS**

**N**ew Pastor's Orientation will be held Tuesday, 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).

**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 devotionalists this fall include:

9/7-13 Rev. Danesta Whaley	9/14-20 Mrs. Patty Gohrs
9/21-27 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner	9/28-10/4 Fr. Dan Kovalak
10/5-11 Pastors Jim/Kathy Behrens	10/12-18 Mrs Tammey Aichner
10/19-25 Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza	10/26-11-1 Pr. Dorothy Anderson

***Listen today and tell others about this ministry!***



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

United Campus Ministry is under way for the 2015-2016 school year! The students continued to meet over the summer with 3 of them being baptized on July 26th. It was an exciting day for all involved.

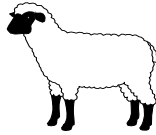
We have had our Fall Kickoff, Fall Student Organization Recruitment (campus wide) and our Fall Retreat. Thank you to our pastors/churches that held Bible studies (Faith Talks) in August; Curtis from Hope Community Church and Rev. Gwen Bernstine from First Baptist Church.

During the last weekend in August, we went on our second annual Fall Retreat at The Haft in New Albany. Last year the students had expressed interest in going for 2 nights. Thank you to our pastors that helped make this a success; Rev. John Piper from First Church of Christ (Disciples) and Pastor Kitty Keller from New Albany United Methodist Church, who were our speakers. Special thanks to Pastor Ken Wagner-Pizza and Trinity Episcopal Church for the use of their labyrinth and a special grant to make this event possible. Despite New Albany UMC's lunch that they provided after service on Sunday, the students still insisted on a stop at Eder's for ice cream on the way home! We have already reserved our spot for next year and hope to be able to combine with Mansfield's Campus Ministry group again.

We look forward to our events in September. We will speak at New Covenant UCC, hold a service at Valley View Nursing Home, go rock climbing and continue with our Faith Talks. Thank you for your continued support.

**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

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

**POVERTY IN AMERICA**

What comes first and breeds the consequence, or should we look for only one when so many clues offer themselves to the question. Poverty results from less than the truth, lowering of standards, ignoring ignorance, being content with unlearning.

The poverty of morality is couched in abuse of passions, distortion of appetites, the degradation of sex, the lust for money, the deterioration of personal responsibility, honesty, and loyalty.

The rampant poverty of education is the devaluing of reading, writing-spelling, arithmetic, lowering standards, letting television pollute our gumption, being content with what without why.

The poverty of deportment is the lack of training, the perversion of posture, the depravity of purpose, where slump replaces straight, where metal makes its mistaken message, clothes do not fit, and walking subverts normalcy.

The poverty of the arts is where titillation replaces stimulation, when machines displace skill, when excellence is corrupted by haste, and manufacturing replaces integrity.

The poverty of manners create havoc in families, unethical business practices, degrading of sports, selfish fixations, and wanton bumper-stickers, and demonic t-shirts.

The poverty of speech is where mumbling, articulation is unimportant, the proper use of words is meaningless, and description is insufficient.

The poverty of relationships is when Love is lowered into base words that mean less than love, describe sordid sexual activity that is not loving, "like" becomes "love", and the unloved know it not.

The poverty of simplicity is seen as negative instead of the holy poverty it brings to the soul, and people cover themselves with stuff to hide what they consider unlovable.

Well, I could go on, but I trust that you get the point. Poverty comes when excellence is unheeded or worse, never shown to be a challenge. The unchallenged will say, "Who cares?" while the world around them crumbles for lack of truth and real life. At Shepherd of the Streets, we have many opportunities to drop gems into the lives of those who come to see us who demonstrate these poverties. Help us to meet the physical needs so that we have the occasions to save lives from a misery they do not even know they have.

**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.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

9/16 - First Ecumenical Lunch of the Season  
9/25 - UCLC Golf Tournament  
9/27 - UCLC Dinner at Hosses (Fundraiser)  
9/29 - New Pastors Orientation  
10/11 - CROP Walk  
11/19 - UCLC Annual Assembly  
1/18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**CHURCH FUEL CO-OP**

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held August 11<sup>th</sup>. Two heating oil bids were opened and the contract for the 2015-16 heating season was awarded to Superior Plus. Their "cap price" bid of \$2.189 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 30¢ discount off the tank wagon price until such time as the cap price is lower.

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.

**A new benefit** for Church Co-op Member Churches: Your members who purchase their oil from Superior Plus can receive a 25¢ discount off the tank wagon price (if they are on automatic delivery) and 15¢ off if they call for delivery. They must be signed up for this through you. **And now...** they have been given a cap price of \$2.399 so they will never pay more than that for fuel oil this year.

For details on the Fuel Co-Op contact Gwen or Patty at United Churches, 570-322-1110 or Gwen at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) or 570-419-1464.

## **POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE**

*Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**I** know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy (Psalm 140:12). Justice for the poor is severely challenged by partisan debate. Child nutrition legislation waits for Congressional action. SNAP (food stamps) is a target for attack by some politicians who currently propose cuts in funding. Yes, the Lord does uphold the cause of the needy. The Lord is waiting for us to take action in support of those in need.

**Senate introduces Reach Every Mother and Child Act to prevent deaths:** It's a fact you have probably heard before, but the scandal of it still rings loudly: 17,000 children die daily from preventable and treatable causes - conditions such as pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria. What's more, malnutrition— something we can also prevent with a solid diet - accounts for almost half - 45% - of deaths among children under the age of 5. That's three million children's lives lost each year.

Bread for the World has been asking you and I to urge Congress to take action against hunger. Please continue! Recently Congress took a first step toward preventing these child deaths, and Bread applauds this move. On July 30, the Reach Every Mother and Child Act (S. 1911) was introduced. It is bipartisan legislation that will help end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths. Introduced by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Chris Coons (D-Del.), If passed, it'll provide low-cost, high-impact measures that are proven to prevent the deaths of mothers and children in the most vulnerable, poorest countries. Source: [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

### **Majority of school children in poverty for first time:**

According to the most recently available study, 51 percent of school children (grades K-12) were living in poverty for the school year 2012-13. (Source: Southern Education Foundation) Poverty compounds the challenges faced by these children as they seek to learn and to broaden their opportunities in life.

### **Poverty eradication: UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030:**

The elimination of poverty remains a top goal for the United Nations. The UN challenges itself and the world with the following goal: "We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment." Gains toward reducing poverty have been made since the formation of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000. Much more needs to be done. What role will we take in our nation and the world toward achieving this end?

## **CREATION CORNER**

*Consensus on Fate of Earth*

*at the corner of Church and State Streets*

**O**ver the 2015 summer, with the issuing of the Papal Encyclical Letter on the environment ("On Care for Our Common Home"), and the "Clean Power Plan" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, some agreement seems apparent that provides us further encouragement for our obligation to be hopeful. Described as "game-changing," the EPA regulations have a goal of reducing overall U.S. carbon emissions by 32% below 2005 levels by 2030, and provide states flexibility to achieve such (applauded by both some state and fossil fuel corporate leaders).

President Obama stressed the importance of the measures, saying "We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it" and "Climate change is no longer about protecting the world for our children and grandchildren, it is about the reality that we are living with right now."

Pope Francis, in his 246 numbered paragraphs of the encyclical addressed to "every person living on this planet" offers proposals to "help us escape the spiral of self-destruction which currently engulfs us" (§ 163). "Many things have to change course, but it is we humans who need to change (§ 202), so that we "hear both the cry of the environment and the cry of the poor" (§ 49), for both are related.

Calling for each of us, especially Christians, to have an "ecological conversion", we need to be "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork" for that "is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (§ 217).

One example of this emphasis on our original mandate of responsibility to the earth (from Genesis 2:15), to "till it keep it" (§ 66, 67), in the Lutheran faith tradition, is the Offertory Prayer wherein "...we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made..." (Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978).

Of course, some nay-sayers will object to this convergence of thoughtful linkages between the political and religious sectors. However, as the editor of *The Christian Century* wrote (Aug. 5, p. 3): "Religion and politics do mix...we want better health and education for everyone because neighbor love is one of our deepest values and commitments. We want safe food, safe automobiles, and a judicial system that guarantees equal treatment for all. And we want a sustainable environment for our grandchildren."

Note: For monthly Creation Corner columns from the summer, but not issued by United Churches, go to the blog at <http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org>.

**A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson Jr.**

**B**elow you will find a litany I received recently. You are welcome to use it and adapt it as needed, and use it when you wish. The litany was written for the African American Methodist Church’s Sunday of “Confession, Repentance and Commitment to End Racism”.

They invite all of us to join them in taking time to confess and repent of the sin and evil of racism. This includes ignoring, tolerating and accepting racism by the example of our lives and actions.

ONE: “Prayers can’t be answered unless they are prayed,” so the poet reminds us and so we have honored the dead in vigils of remembrance, emotional prayers, heartfelt tributes, scripture-based homilies, fervent eulogies, thoughtful soliloquies and appropriate words spoken by public officials, but something must follow the prayer meeting – ACTION.

**ALL: Vigilance follows the vigil!!!**

ONE: “Tragedies are commonplace”. So writes the composer – and the choirs sing and following the tragedies vigils were called in Newtown, Aurora, New York, Sanford, Jacksonville, North Charleston, Charleston, St. Louis, Ferguson, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Washington, DC, Houston, and Roanoke and in sympathizing cities, villages and hamlets around the world for the senseless deaths of mostly young victims - unarmed. That is why something must follow the prayer meeting - ACTION.

**ALL: Vigilance follows the vigil!!!**

One: “Shall we pray?” Some sincere soul will rhetorically ask for very good reasons. Prayer centers the spirit, calms the mind, sharpens the thought, makes the vision keen, quickens the will, and throws a laser beam on the problem. At the end of the Vigil when the Amen has been said and sung, something must follow the prayer meeting – ACTION.

**ALL: Vigilance follows the vigil!!!**

ONE: “Pray as if everything depended on God; act as if everything depended on us,” so says the thoughtful theologian. It is putting feet to our faith, power to our prayers, urgency to our present concern, momentum to the Movement. “I received no answer” says Fredrick Douglass, “until I prayed with my legs .” Something must follow the prayer meeting – ACTION.

**ALL: Vigilance follows the vigil!!!**

ONE: Vigil is the starting place, not only to feel God’s grace, but to do God’s will – take action against injustice. The sequence begins in theological reflection, the upward glance, deference to the Creator; marching orders for a parade rout out of bondage to the Promised Land. Next Steps include consensus building for political, social, economic solutions, Something must follow the prayer meeting. – ACTION.

**ALL: Vigilance follows the vigil!!!**

ONE: After the Vigil, Vigilance, to be daily examples of love, peace, faith, hope, maturity, responsibility and excellence so that succeeding generations will be motivated to become what they see in us – after we have prayed, not merely inspired by what we say. Something follows the prayer meeting – ACTION.

**ALL: Vigilance follows the vigil!!!**

ONE: After the Vigil, Vigilance, for legislative cures, legal remedies, exercising the franchise to vote in every election, to hold lawmakers and public officials accountable. Something must follow the prayer meeting – ACTION.

**ALL: Vigilance follows the vigil!!!**

ONE: After the Vigil, Vigilance against racism. Race is unavoidable; racism is a decision and optional. Hate is a horrible heritage; injustice is a terrible legacy, intolerance is a hindrance to freedom; indifference is the precursor to decay, apathy is the door to destruction; hopelessness is a path to collective misery.

**ALL: Prophetic Ministry becons us again to the Press, to the Polls, to the Precincts, to the Markets, to the School Boards, to the Statehouse, to the Capitol, to the White House – to express our pain, to have our voices heard, our ideas considered and our demands met. Vigilance follows the vigil!**



## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Perspectives on the World Christian Movement** will help believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus Christ to the early church, and Constantine to today, you will see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded, and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. It isn't a class about missions, but a course on how every believer can be intimately woven into the story of God using His people to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. Perspectives is a 15 week, nondenominational, internationally acclaimed Bible course featuring guest instructors weekly. It can be taken at either a non-credit or university credit level. Perspectives Williamsport will be held Tuesday evenings, Sept. 8 through Dec. 8 from 6-9 at Northway Presbyterian Church, 1520 Northway Road. Register online at [www.Perspectives.org](http://www.Perspectives.org).

### PA's Child Protective Services

A training session will be held on Mandated Reporting as laid out by the 2014 Pennsylvania



law regarding the state's Child Protective Services. There are two times from which to select, 1 and 7 p.m., on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at 142 Market St., Wmspt., by the bridge.

This **Training Update for "Approved Adults"** is for those who have the opportunity to promote teamwork and share their gifts in providing a safe environment while working with children. (*1 Corinthians 12:12-31*).

Specifically, "Mandated Reporters" which we ALL are, refers to any adult who comes into contact within his or her "work" or professional practice or any leader of any regularly established activity or organization, paid or unpaid, who accepts the responsibility of children.

Procedures for Mandated Reporting will be discussed (hopefully never used) but must be prepared. Advocacy and confidentiality are a stressed must, as well as immunity for the reporter. Printed handouts will be available, including the most recent Frequently Asked Questions of Volunteers from the Pa. Dept. of Human Services 8/3/15.

The sessions are led by Gail Landers of New Covenant United Church of Christ, Williamsport, a trained Samaritan Counseling Safe Church Facilitator, retired early childhood educator, and community volunteer.

If you would like to attend a session, please respond to [lutheransharedministry@gmail.com](mailto:lutheransharedministry@gmail.com) or on LSM's facebook page (LSM: Lutheran Shared Ministry), specifying afternoon or evening. If we do not have enough attendees for one

of the times, it will be cancelled, leaving the remaining available for those who wish to participate.

**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:

**PERICOPE STUDY:** "Pericope" is a fancy term for the Bible passages chosen for the coming weeks. Join area pastors as they read the lessons, delve into the background of each lesson, and discuss together how best to get its message said clearly in this time and place. This is always a lively hour conversation, led by a different pastor weekly.

**SPACE FOR WORSHIP:** Although Christians have worshipped anywhere, regularly we have the impulse to set aside a specific room or building for worship. We'll discern some principles behind the work of church architects, and explore by video some of the great worship spaces world wide. Along the way, we may discover ways our current worship spaces can function more effectively as proclaimers of the Gospel. Lots of information, pictures, and lively conversation. ~ *Pastor Elkin, St. Mark's*

**"AND A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM ":** Have you ever wondered why Jesus played with children and taught adults, while most of the time we do the opposite? Occasionally we have a chance to see things from Jesus' point of view. In this class you'll do that. Come see the wisdom of children in ways that surprise the adults around them. Through a series of films, you'll discover a few things about humans and our world, seen through the eyes of children. ~ *Pastor Cockley, St. Matthew*

**PLANNING FOR MUSIC MINISTRY,** a workshop for church musicians, pastors, and anyone interested in church music, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Wmspt. The day includes worship, a music display by Young's Music Store, workshops on "Improving Conducting Skills," "Working with Difficult Voices in Our Choirs," "Small Ensemble (handbell) Ringing," and "Spirituality in Our Workplace." The event concludes with a choral reading session and closing recital, open to the public, by Shawn Gingrich, solo handbell ringer. Other presenters are Seth Gerrepy, Kristin Ivers, and Jennifer Baker-Trinity. For details contact Shirley Smith, 570-412-5949, [srsmith17772@windstream.net](mailto:srsmith17772@windstream.net). The day is sponsored by the Susquehanna Valley and Williamsport chapters of the American Guild of Organists.





**Lord, Let Our Eyes Be Opened: Breaking the Chains of Mass Incarceration** is a conference being held by the PA Council of Churches Friday evening through Sunday October 23-26 at the Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg East. Clergy, lay persons, and anyone interested in learning more about the American criminal justice system and mass incarceration from a religious/moral/ethical perspective are welcome to attend. Attendees will look at...

- the religious, sociological and economic foundations that support why the faith community must be involved in criminal justice reform efforts;
- how racism, inconsistent sentencing guidelines for drug offenses and mandatory minimum requirements have placed a disproportionate number of poor persons and persons of color behind bars;
- treatment of incarcerated persons, and how (if at all) they are prepared for reentry into the community;
- alternatives to incarceration;
- barriers for returning citizens, issues for communities as they welcome them, and resources to support them; and what congregations can do on all of these fronts.
- have the opportunity to advocate for positive change in Harrisburg on Monday.

Attendees will hear nationally known speakers....

- Glenn E. Martin, Founder and President of JustLeadershipUSA, a national advocacy organization dedicated to cutting the US correctional population in half by 2030.
- Harold Dean Trulear, Ph.D., director of the Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Prisoner Reentry Project of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation, and Associate Professor of Applied Theology and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Howard University.

Full registration is \$200/\$240. Early bird discount applies to registrations received by 9/30. For details or to register online go to [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org) or call 717-545-4761.

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**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)**

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

**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST!** 

**W**hatever your hand finds to do, do it with all of your might ... (Ecc. 9:10) Beloved Ones, Yes, summer seems to be winding down quickly and fall is fast approaching. This is a good time to remember to acknowledge the Lord as you co-labor with HIM and your hands do the work ahead. Trusting in HIS guidance and direction, keep your hand in HIS strong hand.

Our local Yokefellow Center has been walking hand in hand with HIM as we continue to go into the prisons weekly to bring the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Several new volunteers have joined our Yokefellow family this past summer as we held a volunteer training in June. We are continuing to join our hands together as we discern what place in the ministry each one will fit.

There will be an opportunity for you to link with us as at our next Volunteer Training scheduled tentatively for Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9am to 12 Noon. Our trainings are informative in our relaxed setting at our office, 1200 Almond St., Wmspt. (parking in the rear). Please call our office at 570 326-6868 if you are planning to attend. There are various places in the ministry where you may fit in.

Conference scheduled – please visit our new website address at [www.yokefellowship.net](http://www.yokefellowship.net) for information of our 60<sup>th</sup> annual conference for YPM – All are welcome to join us on Friday-Saturday, October 2-3 at the Best Western Country Cupboard in Lewisburg, PA - Our keynote speaker at the Friday night banquet @ 6:30 pm will be Terri Roberts as she will share her powerful story of reconciliation between her family and the families of the Amish girls that her son killed & injured at the school in Nickel Mines, Lancaster County in 10/06. Registration is required.

Please keep us in your prayers as the Lord leads you. Correspondence can be sent to: Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, 1200 Almond St, Williamsport, PA 17701.

**Children’s Christmas Books Available:** United Methodist Pastor Bob Wallace (semi-retired) has recently published the second in his trilogy of children’s stories entitled Able Is Saved. Illustrated by local artist Emily Green, this book tells the story of the birth of Jesus as told through the eyes of the lamb who was given to Jesus by the shepherds who came to see him. This book, along with the first, Hadassah Finds Peace, are available from Pastor Wallace (570-326-1521), at Otto Bookstore or <https://www.createpace.com/5535946> or [5039782](https://www.createpace.com/5039782).

**Church Directories Sought:** The Lycoming County Historical Society has initiated a project to collect church directories. Both new and old directories will help to bring into clear focus the people who reside in our beautiful county. So when you have your fall clean out days, remember that our Historical Society can use a copy of directories, church histories, and other such things. For questions call Director Gary Parks, 570-326-3326.

**EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES \***

**The 9/11 Memorial Bike Ride** will be held again this year. The ride begins in Montgomery at the Clinton Township Fire Hall. There will be a blessing of the Fallen Warrior Cards and Sending Forth during the brief opening ceremony at 4:45 p.m. Area pastors are invited to participate. The congregational and individual support our community provides for this ride along the route is one of the reasons it is so successful.

**Jewish New Year:** Ohev Sholom Congregation, 1501 Cherry Street, Williamsport, will be holding services for Rosh Hashanah beginning on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Services will also be held on Monday, 9/14 at 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and on Tuesday, 9/15 at 8:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, please call the synagogue at (570)322-4209.

**Civic Chorus:** the Williamsport Civic Chorus' first rehearsal (new and returning singers are welcomed without audition) will take place on Monday night, September 14, 7 to 9 pm, in St. Mark's Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall, 142 Market Street, in Williamsport. For more information, people are encouraged to contact us at [wccmail@yahoo.com](mailto:wccmail@yahoo.com) and to visit the Civic Chorus' website at [www.williamsportcivicchorus.org](http://www.williamsportcivicchorus.org). It will be an exciting season as we welcome our new music director, Michael Connor, who has programmed several novel choral collaborations: an October 18th performance of "Oktoberfest in Song" with the Williamsport Gesang Verein Harmonia, a December 13th "Glorious Christmas" with brass choir and organ, and on April 24th "The Regional Premiere of Karl Jenkins' *Requiem*" with dancers from the Turning Pointe School of Ballet and musicians playing Near Eastern and East Asian instruments.

**Neighborhood Community Party:** New Covenant United Church of Christ will hold its annual Neighborhood Community Party on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Free food will be offered in Fellowship Hall, a Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary and games in the back yard on Church Street. Music will be provided by D. J. Zac Zelewicz. The popular Cake Walk will take place in the Lounge and crafts will be available in the Narthex. Com and enjoy the free party from 1 - 4 PM at 202 East Third St., Williamsport.

**Lycoming County Life Chain** will be held Sunday, October 4, 2015, 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 24<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 follow....

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  
 N.E. Cluster, Wmspt. - Kim Corson - 570-745-3121  
 Jersey Shore - Diana Persun - 570-745-3557  
 Muncy - Doris Bush - 570-745-3502  
 East Lycoming - K. Vincent Swartz - 570-584-4267  
 Montgomery - Doris Bush - 570-745-3502  
 Center City, Wmspt, - Kim Corson - 570-745-3121  
 St. John Neumann Regional Academy  
 Dir. of Religious Formation - 570-323-9953  
 W. Fourth St. Wmspt. - Denise Boring - 570-745-7185

**Better Together Walk to Prevent Suicide and Support Survivors:** will be held Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Indian Park, Montoursville. Check in will be at 1 p.m. at pavilion 5 and the walk will begin at 2 p.m. For more information please contact Joe Miller at [joesmiller@verizon.net](mailto:joesmiller@verizon.net) or 570-974-3958.



**Presbyterian Home at Williamsport will celebrate Fifty Years of Service** to our community on Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 4-6. The celebration's 1960 theme will include delectable foods, beverages, activities, music by the Pepper Street Band and vintage cars.

They will also be announcing and providing information about the launch of Masterpiece Living, which they have partnered with to offer stimulating, life-enriching programs designed to enhance the lives of residents, staff and the entire culture of our community.

There will be tours of the facility before and after the celebration. There is no charge for this event but reservations are required by Monday, September 14 by contacting Renna' Engle at 570-601-8351 or [rengel@psl.org](mailto:rengel@psl.org).

**Lyme Disease Support and Awareness Group** has formed and is meeting at First Southern Baptist Church, 89 Kimble Hill Road, Wmspt. They hope to encourage, educate and empower those who have or are suffering from Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections to move forward toward restored health. It is also their desire to actively inform communities of the danger and prevention of contracting tick-borne infections. The meetings are free and open to the public. Their next meeting is Saturday, September 26 from 10-Noon. For details contact Margaret Weaver at [beatlyme@verizon.net](mailto:beatlyme@verizon.net).