



UCLC UPDATE

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United Churches Summer Update 001

June 13, 2019

Keeping In Touch Over The Summer

Interfaith Dialogue Commission

You have an opportunity to do your part in helping to stem the tide of fear and ignorance that sometimes leads to acts of violence against other people of faith who are different from us. What can you do?

- Attend an Interfaith Panel Discussion sponsored by our Interfaith Dialogue Commission. Get to listen to and ask questions of our neighbors - - Jews, Christians and Muslims. You will have three opportunities.
- **Wednesday, June 19th** at the YMCA, 826 Allegheny Street, Jersey Shore.
- **Thursday, June 20th** at Lycoming College's Honor's Hall on the corner of East Fourth and Basin Streets in Williamsport. *(The college parking lot can be accessed through the Willow Street alley or you can park at the New Covenant United Church of Christ Lot on Third and Basin Sts.)*
- **Monday, June 24th** at the Hughesville Area Public Library, 146 South Fifth Street, Hughesville.
All will be from 7-8 p.m.
- Read a book about interfaith relations, either by yourself or (preferably) in a group where you can discuss it. Suggested are....
- *Joshua in a Troubled World: A Story for Our Time*, by Joseph F. Girzone
- *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor*, a Rabbi, and an Imam, by Ted Falcon
- *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, and A Jew - Three Women Search for Understanding*, by Ranya Idliby

- *Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth*, A Collection of Essays Edited by Llewellyn Vaughn-Lee
- *The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews Christians and Muslims*, by Rabbi Arthur Wasko, Sister Joan Chittister, Saadi Shakur Chishti.
- *Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity and the American Promise*, by Eboo Patel
- Get to know a person of a different faith.

We never know whether our actions may cause or prevent a Pittsburgh or a Christchurch, New Zealand or a Colombo, Sri Lanka or a San Diego from happening again. But reaching out to understand our brothers and sisters of different faiths can only have a positive radiating effect on both ourselves and our community.

United Churches Sunday

This year let me encourage you to take some time on Sunday June 16 to celebrate the amazing things we do together as United Churches of Lycoming County. Together we reach over 200,000 people thanks to our hardworking staff and over 500 volunteers!

Fundraiser at Panera

Stretch your celebration of United Churches Sunday into the week and enjoy the fundraising evening at Panera Bread, 202 Basin Street, Williamsport on Tuesday, June 18 from 4-8 p.m. They will donate 20% of the proceeds from your purchase that evening back to us. You do need to have a flyer for this event (attached). It is one of the attachments with this newsletter, and it is permissible to just show it on your phone, or to use the code when ordering via the drive through or to avail yourself of their quick pick up or delivery.

CROP Walk - The First Walk

Sunday, October 13 will be the day we can all join together to do something to help hunger here in our community and around the world. Plan to be part of this year's walk which is the 50th Anniversary of that historic First Hunger Walk! Perhaps in celebration you or your team can get 50 sponsors or 50 walkers or let's dream big, or perhaps we can have 50 new walkers involved this year. Just imagine the number of lives Church World Service has impacted over the years! The face of hunger in our world has indeed changed!

Mental Health and the Church

Help us as the faith community, develop ways to more effectively engage persons who have mental illness. We need to be able to reach out better to those with mental illness within our congregations and their families, as well as those within our community at large.

We have been meeting for a few weeks now and are making plans to begin a spiritual support group, provide a mental health first aid workshop, and to develop ways congregations and our community can observe mental health week in October.

Please join in this Roundtable Working Group. The next meeting is Monday, June 17 at 1 pm at St. John's-Newberry United Methodist Church, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport PA 17701.

Styrofoam

Plastic Foam Surveys continue to be compiled. We would really like to have your information. Please send it back to us at your convenience. If you have misplaced your copy you can obtain it at www.uclc.org/other-ministries/social-concerns.

Free Summer Meals for Kids

Concerned about kids who are going hungry over the summer? I was impressed to discover sites available free in our county for children and teens 18 years of age and younger who can get food while school is out. Check it out at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>.

Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, June 22 Church of Our Savior (Episcopal) host an Indoor Yard Sale and lunch from 8 am - 2 pm. They are at 31 North Loyalsock Avenue, Montoursville PA 17754.

Human Trafficking Summit

The PA Office of Rural Health is working collaboratively to offer a two-day continuing education and outreach event to continue a rural human trafficking collaborative with an emphasis on rural prevention, treatment and community collaboration. It will be held June 26-27 at the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center in State College PA. Follow [Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health](#) on Facebook for the most current information or contact Terri Klinefelter at 814-863-8214 or tjc136@psu.edu.

National Night Out - 8/6/19

Getting to know your neighbor is the reason behind this event. United Churches is partnering with the Citizen Corps Council to invite congregations to celebrate this year's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6. The celebration can be anything from a block party to gathering a group together to walk the neighborhood. The intent is to help make our neighborhoods safer. Porch lights should be on all over Lycoming County on this special night to strengthen "neighborhood spirit".

Turn on your porch lights and outdoor lights whether you are home or joining neighbors outside for the celebrations. The Williamsport Police Department has suggested a "Light the Night Contest" to see which Neighborhood is the brightest. Many other suggestions for activities as well as a registration form can be downloaded at www.uclc.org/other-ministries/social-concerns.

Devotion Line Lift

Have a closer walk with God listening to devotions that lift your spirits. They change 6 days a week and devotionalsists change weekly. Call 570-322-5762.