



UCLC UPDATE

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United Churches Update 001

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Keeping In Touch During This Pandemic

Bless This Mess

Life changes in a blink of an eye. Church is currently much different than it was last month. However, your need to let your light shine, upon your family and friends and even on social media, remains the same. Through it all we will even find new opportunities for ministry. There are a few important news items to share with you.

UCLC Ministries

A number of changes have happened to our ministries, just like everywhere else. All are following best practices from the CDC so here is what is happening

- **Our Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Lunch Program** has been cancelled until we are all able to safely gather once again.
- **Our Food Pantry** continues to be open to meet the needs of those most in need of food in our community. So if you have your food donations hanging around waiting to be delivered, we are still open Monday mornings for that! In order to keep to CDC guidelines they are prepacking bags for clients who then pick them up at their appointed time. We may find the need to deliver to some of the most vulnerable population, so if you or someone you know could help with that, please let Mona know at 570-322-1657 or foodpantry@uclc.org.
- **Our Shepherd of the Streets** continues to be open but have reduced their hours to 9 a.m. - noon Monday - Thursday. Their office traffic flow has been rearranged to allow for social distancing. They are always appreciative of your donations when you

bring them in! Especially toilet paper at the moment!

- **Campus Ministry** isn't meeting at the college now because it is closed, but the students are never far from Tammey's mind and they often check in with her. And the soup sale was a great success with 117 quarts sold! Delivery will begin later this week.
- **Nursing Home / Assisted Living Center Ministry:** These facilities are not allowing visitors of any kind, so we are no longer doing any of our worship services until we are able to go in.
- **County Prison and Pre Release Ministry:** They are no longer allowing anyone to go into the prison unless they are providing legal services so we are not doing worship services, and clergy visits have also been restricted.
- **Telephone Devotion Line:** These devotions are words of hope and inspiration - perfect for this time of forced isolation. Call 570-322-5762.
- **Main UCLC Office:** We are mostly working from home. Contact Gwen at 570-419-1464 or director@uclc.org.

UPMC: Many 1st Responders Need Help With Child Care

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve rapidly, UPMC continues to evaluate what our first responders need so they may continue providing healthcare seamlessly. They have identified childcare as one of the biggest hurdles they are currently facing. *-continued pg 2*

Given the recent mandate to close schools, and with daycares also in the process of closing, UPMC is concerned about helping their first responders, including critical hospital staff, identify alternate solutions to care for their children who are not able to remain at home by themselves during the day. It is critical they identify childcare stop-gap resources so the first responders may continue providing patient care during this unknown, rapidly changing time.

To help, Dawn Wright and her staff are putting together a list of individuals who are able and willing to be a resource (caregivers/babysitters) to our UPMC employees who have an urgent childcare need.

She wants to find qualified congregants to consider helping their fellow congregants who are first responders in need, because our first responders feel more comfortable securing/accepting childcare help from folks they know and trust.

In addition she is pulling together a list of qualified people – with contact information – who are willing to help, and provide that information as a potential resource to any of their UPMC first responders in need. Any babysitting fees/payments would be solely between the caregiver/babysitter resource and first responder.

Anyone interested should contact Dawn Zell Wright, SPHR, Vice President – Human Resources, UPMC at 570-321-3309 or wrightd7@upmc.edu.

Earth Week Cleanup Postponed

Due to the growing concerns about the spread of COVID-19, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its partners are suspending their annual litter cleanup program, Pick Up Pennsylvania, through the end of April. Additionally, they have asked those with registered events to postpone until May or reschedule for a later date in the year.

As a result, the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and Heart of Williamsport have decided to suspend the Williamsport Cleanup Week previously scheduled from the week of April 18th - April 26th. SGP and HOW will continue to monitor the situation and will provide more information as it becomes available. The Safety Captains Meeting previously scheduled for April 14th has been cancelled. Please notify your volunteers of this postponement and reach out to Sam Keller at sjkeller@susquehannagreenway.org

Habitat Ceremony Postponed

The Groundbreaking Ceremony scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at the Diamond Street Build has been postponed. Watch for the new date from the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity.

Special Concerns

Things are not going to be the same ever again! That may not be what you wanted to hear, but it isn't all bad. Each of us now realize just how quickly life can change - and that we are more connected to one another than we realized. The other thing we are discovering is that together we can make it through!

- Make regular wellness calls to seniors and anyone with exceptional health problems to ensure that they have everything they need and are doing ok. Pick up things that they need so that they don't have to put themselves at risk by going out to stores.
- Love your neighbor enough to check on them via phone or email - but to stay home from activities that put everyone at risk.
- Don't panic - but don't think that only somebody else can get the coronavirus either. Be as cautious as possible and urge other to be cautious too. Be safe and be well!
- Pray without ceasing:
 - Pray for God to heal our world.
 - Pray for families already affected by COVID-19 and those who might be.
 - Pray for faith to continue worshiping and serving in old and new ways.
 - Pray for our leaders and health professionals and all those who are working diligently to contain and respond to this virus.
 - Pray for employers and employees in these trying times.
 - Pray for students - teachers - parents.
 - Pray for those with the least resources.
 - Pray and care for each other.
 - Pray.