

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA17701

Phone 570-322-1110, E-Mail director@uclc.org

Pastor Tammy L. Aichner, Executive Director and Editor

Mrs. Deborah Bird, Administrative Assistant: office@uclc.org

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Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PD.
Permit # 307
Williamsport, PA 17701**

United Campus Ministry

United Campus Ministry Soup Sale



Donation: \$8.00 per quart
(Checks payable to "United Churches Campus Ministry")
All soup freshly homemade then frozen.

Order Form

Type	Quantity
Beef and Barley	_____
Broccoli and Cheddar	_____
Chicken Corn Chowder	_____
Chicken and Wild Rice	_____
Chili	_____
Ham and Bean	_____
Hot Sausage and Shrimp Gumbo	_____
Italian Wedding	_____
Pasta Fagioli	_____
Potato with Chicken and Rivals	_____
Spinach, Sausage, and Tomato Tortellini	_____
Vegetable Beef Soup	_____
Total # of Quarts ordered: ___ x \$8.00....	_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

- * Orders are needed by March 17th.
- * Quantities are limited to first ordered, first served.
- * Delivery will between March 24th – 31st.
- * Soup will be delivered frozen.
- * All proceeds go to our campus ministry.



Please circle one option:
•pick-up (at UCLC office)

OR

•delivery

* Shelley Litz will contact you for arrangements.

**Mail check and order form to:
United Churches of Lycoming County
c/o Pastor Tammy Aichner
202 East Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701**

Shepherd of the Streets

Rev. Mark Brumbach

570-322-6538

shepherd@uclc.org



Recently I was asked, "Is the Shepherd denying people services?" The honest answer to that question is, "absolutely yes." Everyday we deny people services because they come to us asking for services that we do not/cannot provide. We do not help with utilities, rent, clothing, shoes, ID cards, birth certificates, bus passes, bus tickets, or a host of other things. We simply do not possess the resources, financial or otherwise, to meet all of the requests that come to us each week. If, for example, we started helping with rent and utilities we would deplete our available funds within a very short time. Some might observe that "in the past" the Shepherd helped with lots of needs and that observation would be correct. The Shepherd did at one time help with a broader range of needs, but that was at a time when there were not as many helping services and agencies available. We have a client who has proclaimed on more than one occasion, "I hate that new shepherd because he never gives me anything!" The truth is that we have often had to say, "no" to this particular client because he has often asked us for things that we do not supply. The rest of the story is that whenever the request has fallen within our helping areas we have indeed helped with his need.

So, what help does the Shepherd currently offer to those in need? The Shepherd Ministry concentrates on four areas of assistance. First, we help people to meet the cost of their prescription medications. We can help with the full cost of medications or with copayments. We also fund eye exams and prescription eyeglasses when clients have no other means of caring for their vision. Second, we help with funding for medical travel. Clients must provide proof of their appointment on the day of, or the day prior to, their appointment. We then give them funds for fuel based on the mileage to and from the appointment. Third, we supply monthly hygiene kits filled with whatever items we have to give. Finally, we help clients to receive needed emergency dental procedures and oral surgeries through a grant from United Way. Recently we have added a "blessing table" in our entryway that is intended to supply some basic food needs.

Our clients can request a hygiene kit every 30 days. Why do we provide these kits? Our hope is that the kits enable those who receive them to free up a bit of money in their monthly household budgets. Each item we provide is an item that they do not need to purchase. Listed below are items that are cur-

rently needed. It is amazing how our shelves fill up and then quickly empty.

- Women's and Men's Deodorant
- Women's and Men's Body Wash
- Women's and Men's Shampoo
- Women's and Men's Conditioner
- Shave Cream
- Q-Tips (small packs)
- Paper Towels
- Laundry pods (small packs)
- Kleenex
- Hand Cream
- Dish Detergent
- Body Lotion
- Bath Towels



Monetary gifts are always on our list of needs. The Shepherd of the Streets ministry receives no government funding. It is through the faithfulness of many individuals and local congregations and through our faithful stewardship that the needs of many in our community continue to be met.

Please be mindful of our mailing address as you support the Shepherd ministry through your financial gifts. Please send all correspondence to our P. O. Box at:

**Shepherd of the Streets
P. O. Box 2184
Williamsport, PA 17703**

Please do not mail anything to our Park Ave. address, or our former address on Center St., because it will be marked as undeliverable.

If you would like to visit us, or contact us via telephone, our physical address is 320 Park Ave., Williamsport, PA. and our telephone number is (570) 322-6538.

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." -Proverbs 11:24, 25

Deadline

All information for the April Edition of the UCLC Newsletter is due April 4, 2022. Please email your submission to director@uclc.org.



Save the Date!

South Williamsport Suicide Prevention Walk
at South Williamsport Recreation Complex
April 23, 2022 noon to 3pm



Ladies: Save the Date!

The First United Methodist Church is hosting a women's workshop from 9:00 until 12:00 on Saturday, April 30, in the church's Living Water Café. The address is 602 S. Market St., Muncy. The leader will be Pastor Susan Halverstadt.

The theme is "**Awaken Our Hearts to Prayer.**" The scripture focus is Matthew 6:9-13. The format will be presentation, discussion, and individual exercises.



We will explore deepening and expanding our prayer life, letting Jesus show us the way. We'll learn how digging into The Lord's Prayer can take us closer to the path of His way of life.

The Rev. Dr. Halverstadt earned a B.S. degree in Education/Music from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI; a B.S. degree in Nutrition from Park College, Parkville, MO; a Master of Divinity degree from St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO; and a D.C. from Cleveland Chiropractic College, Kansas City, MO.

She serves as pastor of Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church, Williamsport, and is an Elder of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. In recent years she has led retreats and workshops in the Susquehanna Conference on "women and faith" topics.

To register, contact the church office (570-546-8030, office@firstumcmuncy.org). Registration runs March 28 to April 22, on a first come, first served basis.

**Follow us at
"United Churches of Lycoming County"**



Pre-Spring Hike at Rider Park

Rider Park Manager, Sara Street, invites you to stretch your legs and explore Rider Park with a pre-spring hike. Walk 2.6 miles along the ridge of the Katy Jane trail while looking out across the Loyalsock Creek valley. Sara will explain tree species growing along the trail as you look for signs of wildlife. Learn about new research being conducted by Lycoming College students at the Park during the spring semester. Bring your sturdy hiking boots, water, and a sense of adventure.



**Pre-Spring Hike with Rider Park Manager
Saturday, March 19, 2022
1:00 – 3:30 PM
Meet in the main parking lot**

Due to limited parking at Rider Park, participants are asked to pre-register for this event by calling 570-321-1500 or emailing, FCFP@fcfpartnership.org.

Directions to the Park can be downloaded at www.RiderPark.org.

Creation Corner
Christian Social Concerns Committee

More things you can do to help in the climate crisis (List derived from the "100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis" column "Small Works" by Sarah Lazarovic in the Winter 2022 issue of Yes! Journalism for People Building a Better World, with permission). To be continued in future columns.

- Buy just enough
- Live smaller
- Pay a little extra to purchase clean energy from your utility
- Grow your own food
- Write climate letters to your paper
- Volunteer to make your community more resilient
- Help those around you find low-carbon solutions
- Adopt new technology that will inspire your neighbors
- Ask your landlord to make green retrofits
- Learn from indigenous land guardians
- Learn about the land you're on
- Volunteer! Volunteer! Volunteer!
- Organize! Organize! Organize!
- Join! Join! Join!

Poverty: A Faith-Based Response

Christian Social Concerns Committee

The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry” (Ps 146:6-7). The Lord secures justice and in charity gives food. Do we do both?

What is hunger? - Everyone feels hungry on a daily basis. Most people are able to satisfy this craving and need. Even if not immediately, they can count on having a meal or snack within hours. People who suffer chronic hunger do not have the option of eating when they are hungry. They do not get enough calories, essential nutrients, or both. People who are hungry have an ongoing problem with getting food to eat. They have a primary need — how to feed themselves and their children today and tomorrow. They have little energy for anything else. It is commonly known that the cause of hunger in the world is not a shortage of food but rather access to food. We need to provide food (charity) and advocate for policies (justice) that provide access. (Source: Bread for the World)

Child poverty spiked by 41 percent in January – The end of the expanded Child Tax Credit on December 31, 2021 resulted in a dramatic rise in child poverty figures. Approximately 3.7 children and their families have been impacted. (Source: Washington Post). Locally a significant rise in enrollments in food pantries is occurring.

Child Tax Credit needs to be extended - Just a small amount of money can lift poor folks and their children out of poverty, according to a pair of recent studies, results that could shape government policy on how to help the nation’s neediest. One study found that a cash infusion of \$333 a month to poor mothers helped their children’s brain development, which could set them up for better educational and professional futures. The findings come as lawmakers debate whether to continue the expanded Child Tax Credit that provided advance monthly payments to many low-income families and was credited with alleviating child poverty in the U.S. (Source: Baby’s First Years)

Pass H.R. 40 to Promote Racial Justice - It is painfully clear that the United States has never fully atoned for its original sin of slavery and the proceeding century of racial discrimination in law and in culture. Congress has an opportunity to pass H.R. 40, a bill that would establish a commission to study the legacy of slavery in the United States, its impact today, and ways forward toward healing and reconciliation. As Christians, we are called to assert the dignity of all people and reject all forms of dehumanization. Call on Congress to pass H.R. 40 as a step toward addressing the legacy of slavery and ongoing racial injustice. (Source: Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns)

TAKE ACTION: Ask Representative Fred Keller to support H.R. 40, by calling 202-225-3731.

Food Pantry

Mona Rundio, Coordinator

570-322-1657

UCFPDirector@outlook.com

First, I would like to give a huge “Thank you” and hug to the churches that continue to support us and the community at this time!! The clients we help are continually letting us know how thankful they are for you for being such thoughtful and loving people!

Second, when trying to live the 3 E’s (Engage, Encourage, and Exceed) of life, you may ask yourself, “How and where does one start to live this way?” **ENGAGE** in giving to others, **ENCOURAGE** them of their wealth/love amongst the world, then **EXCEED** by continually thinking and praying for all the people around you. We then are given what we may need and are thanked beyond belief from Our Lord above!

A hospitable life is a loving life of giving, contributing, and remaining humble. This helps those around us acknowledge and wake-up to learning a Christ-like life to live. We are here to provide food to those with need during the hard times in their life, and in so doing, it will help keep them thriving. Even after you contribute to the community, continue to pray for those you helped so that they can, in return, do the same for those around them.



We pray and hope that the giving keeps on going and growing around our community! When shopping for yourself, keep in mind those that are down and out, in many ways. Then pick some items up for them and their family to donate. If you can’t come up with an idea of what to get, we do take monetary donations/gift cards to hand out to them. These gift cards provide the means for a family to supplement their food with fresh produce, meat, and dairy products. We give out one card per family, per month.

At this time, we are in need of these products:

- canned meats/fruits/veggies
- microwave meals/soups
- juices /drinks
- cereal/oatmeal
- cake or muffin mixes/frostings
- jelly/jams
- healthy snacks
- ketchup/mustard/mayo

Hours and Location:

**Monday 9-11 for donations/stocking,
Tuesday/Thursday....10:15-12 for clients
Side Entrance of 202 East Third Street, Williamsport**

Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

The Susquehanna Valley Chapter Pennsylvanians for Human Life will host a **PRO-LIFE PRAYER BREAKFAST** on Saturday, April 9, 2022, 9:30 a.m., at Holiday Inn Express, 90 Pine Street, Williamsport. This event is not a fundraiser or a political event. It is a time of prayer. The money collected for the tickets will be used to help defray the cost of the breakfast.

The **PRINCIPAL SPEAKER** will be Maryann Lawhon. Maryann is the Executive Director of the documentary "The Voice of John;" an effort to fulfill a promise she made to a little baby after he had been aborted and left to die on a dirty utility room counter. She promised to be his voice and describes a major purpose of her life was to BE "The VOICE of JOHN."

A native of Scranton, she graduated from Scranton State General Hospital School of Nursing and attended the University of Scranton. A holistic practitioner, she went on to become certified in massage therapy and therapeutic touch. Her love for geriatrics and working with the elderly motivated her to become certified as a validation worker, allowing her a unique and effective way to communicate with people in all stages of dementia. More recently she trained as a life coach, specializing in work with women facing a crisis pregnancy as well as patients and families with issues related to aging and dementia. Currently a radio program host for JMJ Catholic Radio, "The Voice of John with Maryann Lawhon", features a weekly program encompassing issues of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. Most recently Maryann is leading educational efforts with a series of video podcasts on life issues.

A breakfast buffet will be served. The price is \$20 Adult • \$7 Child 2-10 yr. • Under 2 Free

RSVP by March 25, 2022 to Doris 570.745.3502 or Tammy 570.745.3328.

Dial-A-Devotion

570-322-5762

Available 24/7

Have you called yet, today?



Devotions are three minutes or less, change daily, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God". The devotionalists this Spring are:

- **March 7-13:** Deacon Sandy Grier
- **March 14-20:** Ms. Pat Jenkins
- **March 21-27:** Rev. Ron Shellhamer
- **March 28-April 3:** Ms. Tammey Aichner

Be a Hero!

**Protect Your Friends, Your Family
Our Community**

- **Vaccines are our best hope to keep all of us healthy**
- **Vaccines help stop the spread of COVID**
- **Vaccines help keep our community open.**

COVID cases are rising in our community.
Kids under 5 are protected when family members are vaccinated.

Let's WIN the Fight Against COVID.

**WEAR A MASK
GET THE SHOT!**

www.vaccines.gov

More information: www.letsendcovid.net

Ecumenical Lunch Is The Place To Connect Wednesdays

The Time Is Now to be part of our virtual lunches on Wednesdays for great programs this winter! You can bring your lunch to your computer, tablet or phone and enjoy conversation with each other and the speaker. Zoom is free. This link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88609741957> will either help you download the app or prompt it to open. You are also able to connect by phone. Call 1-301-715-8592 (toll charges apply), when prompted enter the meeting number 886 0974 1957. The passcode is 56076370. For other arrangements call United Churches at 570-322-1110.



March:

- **9-Rev. Robert Wallace**, retired UMC pastor, "*Shimei is Amazed!*" **Book Reading**
- **16-Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza**, Trinity Episcopal Church, "*Lenten Bible Study, Matthew*"
- **23-Rev. Brad Walmer**, New Covenant United Church of Christ, "*Lenten Bible Study, Mark*"
- **30-Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Lycoming Presbyterian Church, "*Lenten Bible Study, Luke*"

Creation Corner

Christian Social Concerns Committee

Upcoming March & April dates for meaningful events

March 31, 2022, On-line and free: A Q&A discussion with climate scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe on her case for hope and healing in a divided world. Where do we begin? What do we say when people are skeptical? How do we stay hopeful in the face of some overwhelming trends? And what is our call as Christians? AustinSeminary.edu/savingus .

April 22, 2022, Friday is the 52nd anniversary celebration of Earth Day. Look for events in your community, and check for your religious denomination's web sites, and/or see these web sites:

1. "Invest In Our Planet: What Will You Do?" theme materials at the earthday.org site.
2. Earth Day activities for churches via progressivechurchmedia.com/earthday2022
3. "Happy Mother Earth's Day: Save Earth to Save Many Lives" via earthreminder.com
4. GodSpaceLight
5. epa.gov.earthday
6. earthdayinitiative.org (virtual stage)
7. greenmatters.com
8. umcmmission.org resources from the United Methodist Church
9. creationcare.org from the Evangelical Environmental Network
10. LutheransRestoringCreation.org 2022 Earth Day Virtual Worship
11. CreationJustice.org Weathering the Storm with Faithful Climate Resilience stories 2022 resource download includes Bible stories, sermon starters, a liturgy, and action steps. 10 pages.

April 24-May 1, 2022 (both Sundays) Soil and Water Stewardship Week theme is "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life" sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts, with many educational materials for pastors, Sunday Schools, etc. Go to nacd.net/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/stewardship-outreach-materials-churches/ . In past years materials included a litany and program insert, educator and church leader guides, student booklets, placemats and activity guides, posters and bookmarks.

April 29, 2022, Friday is Arbor Day (always the last Friday in April). The first national proposal for tree planting took place 150 years ago, 1872, in Nebraska, and since 1972 the Arbor Day Foundation has inspired people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Look for activities in your area for this 150th and 50th anniversary. The theme this year: "Trees are Terrific...For Today and Tomorrow." ArborDay.org

Book Study

Book Study - The Great White Way: Race and the Broadway Musical by Warren Hoffman and facilitated by Keith Wiley will be on Zoom, Thursdays from March 3rd to the 24th at 7:00 p.m. Registration Link -

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/244029477737>



Rise Up Bakery

Marty McCormick, Coordinator
570-295-8434
riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com

Who: Rise Up Village Bakery's goal is to assist returning citizens (ex-offenders) in being fully restored to the community. By training and working at the Rise Up Village Bakery, these individuals will gain the necessary skills to become productive members of our community. With their confidence and feelings of self-worth renewed, these men and women will Rise Up to discover they are "capable of experiencing a new life of exciting possibilities!"



Where: We are baking in the kitchen at the New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 E. Third Street.

When: We are currently baking on Mondays. We hope to expand our time in the kitchen as the demand for our bakery products grows.

What: We currently are working at perfecting our first products: white and whole wheat sandwich breads. We will be adding quick breads, muffins, and other delights as we develop our product line. We will soon be ready to take orders.

Help Needed: There are many ways that you can help make this new life possible for our returning citizens: volunteer in the kitchen, take orders at your church or neighborhood, share with us your ideas, recipes, and expertise, tell others about the bakery, support the bakery by sending a check (earmarked for the Rise Up Bakery) to United Churches of Lycoming County. Please be in contact with me at the phone or email above because it "takes a whole village" to Rise Up a bakery!

Let us give thanks to God for this opportunity to honor and glorify Him through our service to the "least of these." (Matthew 25: 31-46)

