

# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS



Published Monthly by the  
**UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY**  
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## ***Return Service Requested***

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## **United Churches of Lycoming County's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly!**

**U**nited Churches of Lycoming County's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly will be held Thursday, November 10, 2022. This year it will be held at Third Street United Methodist Church, 931 East Third Street, Williamsport, PA. The building is handicapped accessible and has plenty of parking. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m., with a welcome and meal blessing at 6:30.



The evening will include:

- Presentation of an Ecumenical Service Award
- Election of Officers and New Board Members
- Adoption of the 2023 Budget
- Program: "**The Place We Call Home**"

Guest Speakers: Ms. Jenny Hull from **Family Promise**, Mr. Duane Hershberger from **Habitat for Humanity of Lycoming County**, Rev. Angelique Labadie-Cihanowycz from **House of Hope**, and Ms. Rhonda McDonald from **Journey House**.

Attending from each member congregation should be three delegates, the pastor and two lay people. We encourage other interested persons to be present as non-voting representatives of your congregation.

Registration is \$30.00 and includes a delicious meal. Eat and Run will be catering a Pasta Bar (pastas, multiple sauces, chicken, sausage, broccoli, salad, rolls) with their delicious homemade cakes for dessert! Each person will also receive an Annual Report and a new Church Directory of Lycoming County. Please review your current listed information and let the office know of any changes by e-mailing [office@uclc.org](mailto:office@uclc.org) by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Reservations are needed by Monday, October 31st. Contact the UCLC office, 570.322.1110, or by e-mail at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org), to make reservations.

United Churches of Lycoming County officially began on January 4, 1946. Through the years, we have been able to provide for our community because of each and every one of you, willing to give of your time and talents and share the love that God has shared with you! The heart of United Churches of Lycoming County is to be...Connected through Faith, United in Service. Come and celebrate with us 76 years in "The Place We Call Home".

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



**Shepherd of the Streets**

Rev. Mark Brumbach  
570-322-6538  
[shepherd@uclc.org](mailto:shepherd@uclc.org)

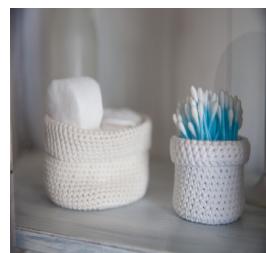
**I**want to begin by expressing

**my gratitude** to those who organized, and to those who participated, in our United Churches of Lycoming County's Annual Golf Tournament. It was a marvelous day to be on the golf course and I was personally blessed through my interaction with golfers, volunteers, and staff. Thank you to all of you for making the day all that it was.

I also want to share some "Shepherd Statistics" with you as we travel through this last quarter of the year. From January 1 - August 31 the Shepherd ministry has served 1,655 clients - 96 were new clients and 13 were return clients who have not utilized our services for years. 747 clients have received prescription drug assistance. 204 clients have received baby diapers. 803 clients have received hygiene kits. 162 clients have received medical transportation support. 23 clients have received oral surgeries or dental procedures. Do you think that your support of the Shepherd of the Streets ministry is making a difference? **The clear answer is "yes"!** Thank you.

A great way for you, your church, or organization to support the ministry is to collect hygiene kit items for us. When shopping for your personal needs please consider purchasing a few additional items for our Hygiene Kit Ministry. Our kits help recipients to stretch their tightening monthly budgets. We are not endorsing one store over another but we have recently discovered that Dollar General stores have a special \$1.00 section, which contains many of the items listed below.

- Disposable Razors/Shaving Cream
- Adult Toothbrushes
- Children's Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Men's and Women's Shampoo/Conditioner
- Men's and Women's Body Wash/Deodorant
- Baby Shampoo/Baby Lotion
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Wash Clothes/Bath Towels
- Band-Aids/Q-Tips
- Laundry pods (small packs – check Dollar Tree)
- Dish Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper



Thank you for your ongoing generosity toward the Shepherd of the Streets ministry. Each and every contribution enables us to continue serving the least, the last and the lost in Lycoming County in Jesus name.

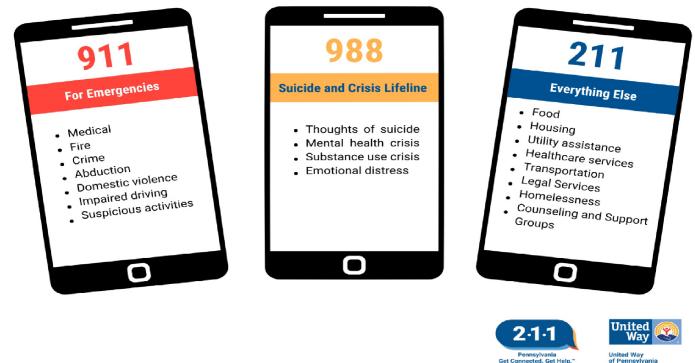
Remember to send all correspondence to our P. O. Box at:

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

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

Please deliver all hygiene kit donations to our office located at 320 Park Ave., Williamsport, PA.

I want to close by reminding you that I am willing and available to speak to any groups of which you are a part concerning the Shepherd ministry. Feel free to pass my contact information on to your church, civic, or other groups and clubs. It blesses me to be able to share with others the details of the current work that God is doing through this ministry.

**Help is 3 Numbers Away****United Campus Ministry**

Shelley Litz, Coordinator  
[ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org)

**F**or where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:19–20.) United Campus Ministry at Penn College is grateful for the support of local pastors who gather with us weekly to share in the good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are also thankful for the support of United Churches of Lycoming County in this endeavor.



## Poverty: A Faith-Based Response

Christian Social Concerns Committee

**I** was hungry, and you gave me no food (Matt 25:42). What's the use of prayer if it does not move us to action? What's the use of our spiritual hunger for God if it doesn't move us to help those in actual physical hunger? (Source: Fr. James Martin, S.J. Give Us This Day)

**Food insecurity rate in Lycoming County ranks high in Pennsylvania** – Lycoming County ranks #15 regarding overall food insecurity in PA.. (Food insecurity—the condition assessed in the food security survey and represented in USDA food security reports—is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.) The following specifics detail the county's insecurity levels:

- **Child food insecurity rate = 18.0% (4,190 count)**
- **The above is 1.9% above the national average**
- **Food insecurity rate = 12.1% (13,830 total)**

(Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau – updated September 13, 2022.)

**End youth homelessness in PA** - The Children Cannot Wait Campaign is a statewide effort to encourage the Pennsylvania Gubernatorial candidates to pledge support for the 40,000 children experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania. . Can you send two emails right now that could influence how the next Pennsylvania Governor understands how to support children and youth experiencing homelessness? A new policy brief is available that brings together the recommendations from national, state, and local leaders that have been offered in the past two years. The policy brief online is available online at <https://bit.ly/3CjPEon> . The campaign's aim is to request that the gubernatorial campaigns discuss their position with the statewide group, and to make a public statement. (Source: PA Council of Churches)



**TAKE ACTION:** Please email the gubernatorial campaigns and urge them to meet with the Children Cannot Wait Campaign? Their email addresses are:

- Doug Mastriano: [kimberly@doug4gov.com](mailto:kimberly@doug4gov.com)
- Josh Shapiro: [contact@joshshapiro.org](mailto:contact@joshshapiro.org)

You can copy and paste this message: "I am emailing you to encourage your campaign to meet with the Children Cannot Wait Campaign and discuss how best to support Pennsylvania's 40,000 children and youth who experience homelessness."

## Food Pantry

Mona Rundio, Coordinator

570-322-1657

[UCFPDirector@outlook.com](mailto:UCFPDirector@outlook.com)

**A**s I'm reading through my morning devotions, I always think and pray for those in need of help. The help needed shows itself in many ways and hopefully starts with prayer and is answered with our giving.

Psalm 112:9 says, "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor." In "A Hole in My Pocket" by Norma Rossouw, she says: "The world is poverty-stricken and we don't always know where to give and where to draw the line. It is important to remember that poor people are important to God, too. It's also important to remember that material things don't bring true happiness. Happiness comes from within. You can be satisfied and happy. Handle poor people with respect and dignity, rather than giving money and disrespect. Do what you can and pray that God will do the rest."

The United Churches of Lycoming County's Food Pantry is so grateful to have people who live by such a statement and are willing to help and provide for the needy.

The Food Pantry is in need of:

- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Healthy Snacks
- Juice/Coffee
- Canned Meats/Veggies/Fruits
- Canned or Boxed Meals
- Dessert Items
- Gift Cards to Area Grocery Stores



We are located at the rear of 202 East Third Street, Williamsport and the hours are:

**Monday: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. for donations/stocking/deliveries**  
**Tuesday: 10:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**Thursday: 10:15 - 12 p.m.**  
**Closed the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday/Thursday**



## Deadline

**A**ll information for the November Edition of the UCLC Newsletter is due November 1, 2022. Please email your submission to [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) .

## Rise Up Village Bakery

Marty and Wendy McCormick, Program Managers  
570-295-8434  
[riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com](mailto:riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com)

**R**ise Up Village Bakery is a training program for people involved in the justice system. Our goal is to assist them in restoration to the community. We have had five trainees since we began in May, and currently we are looking for additional individuals to participate in our program. Besides learning bakery skills, our trainees receive mentoring and assistance with the job search.



We are a volunteer organization and there are no paid staff. Our funding comes from the sale of our baked goods and cash donations. Currently we are baking breads, rolls, cookies and muffins. We ask for a \$5 donation for each item:

- White or whole wheat sandwich bread 24 oz. loaves
- White rolls (pkg of 8) 22-24 oz.
- One dozen large cookies (chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin or craisin)
- Jumbo Muffins (pkg of 4) Variety differs each month.

We are located at the New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 E. Third Street, Williamsport. We only bake on Mondays and pick up time is 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. An email notice is sent mid-week listing the items we will be baking the next Monday. Also, the listing can be found on our Facebook page. The preferred way to order is to send an email to [riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com](mailto:riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com) no later than Sunday afternoon. With advance notice we can handle large special orders.

We need volunteers to help in the kitchen, and with the packaging. Currently there are only four of us, and as the volume of orders grows, so does our need for help. Please contact us for more information.

We have had financial contributions which allow us to provide free baked goods to the Blessing Box at the church, and to organizations such as Family Promise, and Bethesda House. Please continue to support our ministry with your prayers, purchases, and donations.

Please note: We will be closed on the following Mondays: October 24, 31, and November 7. We will resume baking on Tuesday, November 8th, then return to our regular Monday time. The change is due to celebrating our 50th anniversary (three years late, thanks to Covid) with a vacation trip.

## Winter Coat Giveaways

**W**inter Outerwear Giveaway at Bethel AME Church, 601 Hepburn Street, Williamsport, back ard. Free hot dogs to munch, too!! Any member of your congregation in need of gently worn coats, jackets, gloves, etc., should arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on October 22nd. (Items are not for resale.) We aim to bless anyone in need for winter! For more info, call 570-322-1198



Newberry Church of Christ, 2100 Linn Street, Williamsport, will be holding a free coat giveaway for children and teens. October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon.

## Silent Retreat

**C**alvary Hill Ministries is sponsoring a silent retreat at Mt Saviour Monastery in Pine City, NY November 18-20, 2022. Participants will have the opportunity to immerse in the Liturgy of the Hours along with the monks at the Monastery, Daily Centering Prayer practice, or do their own self guided retreat. Meals will be provided. The cost, subsidized by Calvary Hill Ministries, is only \$30 for the weekend. There are a limited number of spaces available. For more information, or to register, call 607.432.4926 or email at [calvaryhillretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:calvaryhillretreat@yahoo.com).



## Lasagna Dinner

**T**rinity Pro-Cathedral, 844 W 4th St, Williamsport, will hold a Lasagna Dinner on Wednesday, November 9, from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner includes meat lasagna, salad, bread, beverage, and homemade dessert. Eat in or takeout. (Takeout does not include a beverage.) Cost for the dinner is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children (12 & younger) or \$9 for lasagna only. For more information, call 570-322-0126 or email [trinitychurchpa@comcast.net](mailto:trinitychurchpa@comcast.net).



## Upcoming Learning Opportunity

**C**rossroads and Connections: Building Relationships and Community- encourages you to register for the Reducing Plastics workshops for the following reasons:

- You will learn the health impacts, practical means to reduce the volume of plastics used on a daily basis, and you will know how to advocate against the Goliath industries and businesses pushing out plastics.
- For those that are up to the Reducing Plastics 6 Week Challenge we will be providing tools to assist you and weekly support in transitioning off of plastics.



Wednesday, October 12, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Register at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/405875814487>

Monday, October 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Register at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/405881702097>

Tuesday, October 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Register at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/405888793307>

In November and December, our second study of “Caste-The Origins of Our Discontents”, by Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of “The Warmth of Others Suns”. will take place. This study will be led by La-Verna Fountain, President, Meaningful Communications Matter, LLC, VP Columbia University (ret) and The Rev. David Bushnell of the United Church of Christ. Look for details coming out soon.

Crossroads and Connections - Relationships and Community Building is a multicultural group of concerned citizens from numerous communities across the country. We gather to work together on significant issues, to be part of the public conversation and move forward to more common ground, respect for one another and improved community relationships.

Our focus is on 4 issues of current relevance:

1. Violence
2. Racism
3. Climate Change and Environmental Impacts
4. Judicial Issues

Crossroads and Connections - Relationships and Community Building hosts events that foster discussion and understanding by offering Book Studies, Listening Session and Special Events on the above issues.

We are not affiliated with any formal organizations.

## VA Benefits Bootcamp

**J**oin us for a free in-person meeting on VA Benefits Bootcamp: Protecting Our Veterans Who Have Honorably Served. The ‘Greatest Generation’ fought for us; now, it’s our turn to fight for them!

As Veteran’s Day approaches, take time to reflect and appreciate all that has been sacrificed by our brave men and women in uniform. They selflessly dropped everything and went to war in the name of freedom. Today, our Veterans are fighting a new battle that’s entrenched within our country’s health care system. Topics to be covered:

- Qualifying War Periods & VA Pension Levels
- Maximizing Aid & Attendance benefits
- Myths & truths about the 3-year look back
- Ways to prevent spousal impoverishment
- Protecting assets from long-term care costs
- Do’s & Don’ts when applying for Medicaid
- And much more!

Hosted by: Christopher S. Bradley, Esq., and Tammy Zilske, Long-Term Care Planner, Certified Medicaid Planner™

Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 1 p.m. at The Elder & Special Needs Resource Center, 401 Washington Blvd., Williamsport. To register, call 1-800-351-8334, email [info@paelderounsel.com](mailto:info@paelderounsel.com) or visit PAElderCounsel.com/Register .

## Trunk or Treat

**T**runk or Treat, at New Covenant United Church of Christ, on Sunday evening, October 30<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Come and hand out candy to the little ghouls and goblins or bring them out to receive the treats!



## A Morning of Music

**L**yco Voices” Gospel Choir will perform Sunday morning, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:45, at New Covenant United Church of Christ. This group of Lycoming college students will present a musical message. Join us for what is sure to be a meaningful service. All are welcome!



## Dial-A-Devotion

570-322-5762

Available 24/7

Have you called yet, today?



**D**evotions are three minutes or less, change daily, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God".

## United Churches of Lycoming County Ministry Needs

**U**nited Churches of Lycoming County supplies pastors and lay speakers to our area nursing homes to conduct worship services. We are currently in need of volunteers. The services are mostly on Sunday, with a few services being held during the week. Please call Tammy at 570.322.1110 if you are willing to help fill an opening!

We also are filling our 2023 schedule with authors for our "Footsteps to Follow" and "Faith Matters" articles that appear in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. If you would like to write an article for this ministry, contact Tammy at 570.322.1110 and she can answer any questions you may have.



## Mission To Seafarers

**T**his is the Upper Susquehanna Synod's 12<sup>th</sup> year of providing Christmas-At-Sea gift sacks for ships' crews that come into the East Coast ports during Advent and Christmas. Filled gift satchels will be delivered by the Chaplains to the seafarers. Each satchel should contain the following:

- 1 sweatshirt, unhooded or hooded (the preferred) - M, L, or XL
- 3 pair of socks, thermal or white gym
- 1 casual pullover T shirt - M, L, or XL
- 1 heavy knit winter cap
- 1 can of nuts or large bar of chocolate
- Holiday or Christmas card



No additions or substitutions are allowed. Please bring all donations to Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport by October 31st.

**23rd Annual  
THREE DAYS OF EVENTS!**

**Victorian Christmas**

**Tour Victorian Homes, Historic Sites, Museums & Churches in Williamsport, PA**

**Presented by Preservation Williamsport**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022**  
Ole Bull introduces the *(Free)*  
Repasz Band Victorian Christmas  
Evening of Music - 7:30 PM  
The New Lycoming College Music Hall

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022**  
Tour of Homes, Historic Sites & Museums  
9 AM - 5 PM

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022**  
Tour of Churches - 1 PM - 5 PM

**ENJOY THREE FESTIVE DAYS!**  
Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting  
Special Lectures • Billtown Brass Band  
Holiday Invitational Artisan Market  
Dubostown Garden Club Show • Victorian Teas  
Toy Train Expo • Food Around Town & More!

**Available for purchase:** **TICKETS** for Saturday Home & Historic Building Tour Only, **WRISTBANDS** for Sunday Church Tour Only, or **COMBINATION TICKETS** for both Saturday and Sunday Tours  
*For more Information, including prices & purchase locations, and for a link to purchase E-Tickets, please visit the website below.*

**Tickets:** 570.327.7700 • <https://victorianchristmaspa.com>

## Church Women United In Lycoming County

Ms. Yvonne Shenuski, President

**C**hurch Women United's World Community Day will be held on Friday, November 4, 2022 at Clarkstown United Methodist Church, located at 3117 Clarkstown Road, Muncy, PA. The event will start at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the celebration. Join us in prayer and fellowship on November 4<sup>th</sup>!

**Christmas Stocking Project:** We will be preparing stockings for over 1,125 nursing home residents. We are asking for a \$4.00 donation per resident to purchase the needed gift items. Items included in the stockings are: pen, notebook, hand cream, emery boards, tissues, comb, and a Christmas card. We also prepare 50 gift bags for children who have mothers in the State Correctional Institute at Muncy. All donations will be used for the Christmas Stocking Project.



