

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

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UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA17701

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Rise Up Village Bakery

We are delighted to announce that the Rise Up Village Bakery is now a ministry of the United Churches of Lycoming County. We are very grateful for their support and encouragement. Because of our status as a non-profit we are now able to benefit from several community based programs.

Currently we have 4 trainees, 2 men and 2 women. We have had 4 others in the program, 3 of whom are now employed in the community. We have 6 volunteers who work with us each week, with several others coming in as needed. We are always looking for new volunteers, especially those who are willing to substitute when our regular volunteers are absent. Someone with skills with Excel and other record keeping tasks would be especially welcome!



Our offerings of bakery products continue to grow. We are constantly experimenting with new recipes, excitedly looking for the “perfect one”. If you have requests, please let us know.

Our trainees are eager learners, willing workers, and happy to be a part of the bakery family. Some “family members”, both trainees and volunteers, have had previous baking experience and have taught us all some tricks of trade. Yeah! Teamwork

is the name of the game.

We operate the bakery at the New Covenant United Church of Christ. Currently we are only open on Mondays. The ovens are in use from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and people can pick up their items from 2 to 4 p.m. Orders are accepted by 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Please email your requests to riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com. You can receive notice of our weekly offerings by email, or you can check the listings on our Facebook page.

In order to expand our training time we are seeking bulk orders for a second baking day. If your church or organization is having an event please consider talking with us about how we can work together.

This ministry is growing because of your support! You can continue to help by:

- *Being a customer.**
- *Becoming a regular or substitute volunteer.**
- *Spreading the word about this ministry.**
- *Giving a financial contribution.**
- *Hiring our graduates**

A big thank you from all of us. Have Happy Holidays!
-Marty McCormick, Program Manager 570.295.8434

Longest Night Service

December 21st is the longest night of the year, where there are more hours of darkness than light. During a Longest Night Service, space is given to acknowledge the grief and loss experienced during the year. The service is designed to bring peace to those of us who are experiencing sorrow, pain, or loneliness during this season. We come to share one another's burdens, sadness, fears, and whatever darkens our journeys. We gather to offer hope and encouragement to each other. We remember that God joins us in our lament and holds us in His tender care.



The service offers space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth." You will find others, who like you, are carrying burdens during this season. But, Emmanuel, God is with us. It was into a world of pain, hurt, and confusion that Jesus came, bringing peace, comfort, and hope to so many people. And, it remains with us today.

The community is invited to attend one of the following services. You will find that you are not alone. Come, pray, and light a candle to dispel some of the darkness...

Sojourner Truth Ministries warmly invites you to their "Blue Christmas" Service, December 21st, 12:30 p.m., at 501 High Street. JESUS IS LORD OF ALL and offers compassion and hope as we hear the wonderful promises of Christmas.

*Come to acknowledge (silently) your grief and pain.
Come to receive Christ's love, compassion, healing touch.
Come to enter in to the blessed hope of Christmas.*

Longest Night/Blue Christmas at Saint John's-Newberry UMC: For those who are not feeling quite so "merry" this Christmas, the Williamsport Ministerium will be offering a service of healing and remembering. Join us on the Longest Night of the year, December 21st, as we join together in the sanctuary at Saint John's-Newberry UMC (2101 Newberry Street,



Williamsport) for a short worship service at 7 p.m. You are welcomed and encouraged to bring along a friend, neighbor, family member or co-worker who might be uplifted in this time.

Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.

2022 Holiday Events

Christmas Caroling.
Dec 6th 12PM

Texas RoadHouse Dine Out Fundraiser.
Dec 20th 4PM-10PM

Blue Christmas Service.
Dec 21st 12:30PM

Christmas Eve Service & Meal.
Dec 24th 11AM

American Rescue Works
providing clothing, shoes, and food

2022 ARW Holiday Events

Holiday Food Distribution
Drive thru ONLY
December 21st, 10am to 4pm
Location: 337 Bridge Street, Williamsport
No pre-sign ups required

Community Christmas Dinner
Drive thru or Walk up
December 25th, 11am to 2pm
Location: 643 Elmira Street, Williamsport

Delivery available only for shut-ins/individuals with handicaps who are unable to pick-up meals. Call 570-323-8401 ext. 1, at least one (1) day in advance of event, to schedule this service.

Year End Appeal

It is common to hear the phrase "helping the least, the last, and the lost." Today, that person could be the one you are standing behind at the grocery store. Today, that person could be the one who has to decide between a prescription medication or fuel to heat their home. Today, that person could be your neighbor, your family member...



Every day, United Churches of Lycoming County assists our neighbors with needs. And, every day, the amount of people in our community with needs increases. Our Shepherd of the Streets ministry is on pace to see an increase of over 120 new clients this year. Those new clients receive access to prescription medications, transportation to doctor's appointments, hygiene kits, even warm bedding. Over two-thirds of our Food Pantry clients are over the age of 60. As they see an increase in food costs, the spendable income they have is diminishing. At the United Churches of Lycoming County office, our phone rings daily with needs for housing and utility assistance...families that are faced with a notice of eviction or utility shut offs. Without your support, we would not be able to make the difference in so many lives!

Would you prayerfully consider sending an end-of-year donation this to our ministry? Your donation can be mailed to 202 East Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, using the enclosed envelope, or given online at www.uclc.org. Know that whatever amount you feel called to give, it will stay in our community. Thank you in advance for your radical generosity.

Together,
Tammey Aichner
 Executive Director

Together,
Tammey Aichner
 Executive Director

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 devotionists this Winter are:

- **December 12-18:** Ms. Pat Jenkins
- **December 19-25:** Deacon Sandy Grier
- **December 26-January 1:** Mrs. Rebecca Logan

**Administrative Assistant Position
 for United Churches of Lycoming County**

The Administrative Assistant shall be responsible for the supervision and daily operations of the United Churches of Lycoming County Office. They are accountable to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors through the Personnel Committee. The person called to this position will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following tasks:



- Meet, greet, and welcome all persons who enter the office.
- Provide telephone coverage.
- Add information on the United Churches of Lycoming County website and social media platforms as needed.
- Deposit all income, write out all checks, keep all accounting records, and send receipts. Must be proficient with Quick Books.
- Pay the bills and keep the accounts for the United Churches of Lycoming County. As such, will be a member of the Finance Committee.
- Prepare Financial Reports to be reviewed and presented by the Treasurer at the Board of Directors meetings and the Annual Assembly. Provide Reports as needed for Committees.
- Maintain regular communication with staff and volunteers.
- This is a part-time position with a 20-hour work week. The hours will vary depending upon the work load and the demands of the United Churches of Lycoming County Ministries: Annual Assembly, Golf Tournament, Board Meetings, etc. There are days when the work day will be longer and days when it will be shorter, but should be 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

If you are interested in learning more about this position, or if you are interested in applying, please email Tammey at director@uclc.org. You may also call the office at 570.322.1110.

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



Shepherd of the Streets

Rev. Mark Brumbach
570-322-6538
shepherd@uclc.org



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry through your prayers and generous donations. We are currently receiving your responses to our Fall "asking letter". Based on the responses thus far we believe that God wants the Shepherd ministry to continue. Thank you for all that you do throughout the year to insure our ongoing ministry to the needs of our clients.



Every day we help people with monthly hygiene kits. We rely upon your donations of specific items for the kits. Remember that our reason for providing hygiene items is to enable the recipients to free up a bit of money in their monthly house-

hold budgets. Each item we provide is an item that they do not need to purchase. Listed below are items that we typically provide:

- **Men's and Women's Shampoo/Conditioner**
- **Men's and Women's Body Wash**
- **Men's and Women's Deodorant**
- **Shaving Cream/Razors**
- **Body Lotion/Hand Cream**
- **Toothpaste/Toothbrushes**
- **Q-Tips (small packs)/Band-Aids**
- **Paper Towels/Kleenex/Toilet Paper**
- **Children's diapers (Especially sizes 5 & 6)/Pull-Ups**
- **Adult Diapers (Pull-Up Style)**
- **Feminine Hygiene Items**
- **Laundry Pods (small packs)**

Monetary gifts are always on our list of needs as well. The Shepherd of the Streets Ministry receives no government funding. We currently expend an average of \$1,000 per week for our prescription drug assistance program. 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. Also allow me to remind you to 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.

As the various groups of which you are a part set their calendars for the coming year please remember that I welcome the opportunity to share with any and all about our ministry. If you are a part of a group that would welcome a "Shepherd Presentation" then please contact our office to schedule a visit. Your faithfulness enables us to serve the least, the last, and the lost in Jesus name. Consider with me that God is a giver. He has given His very best in order to provide for our spiritual poverty, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16

Volunteers Needed!

We are filling our volunteer schedules for 2023. Both clergy and laity are needed for:

- **Institutional Ministry Services** - Clergy and laity are needed to lead worship services at our area nursing homes. Volunteer on a monthly basis, or, a few times a year. We have openings on Sundays and weekdays.
- **"Footsteps to Follow" and "Faith Matters" Editorials** - Clergy and people in professional parachurch leadership are invited to sign up for a week's turn at these newspaper editorials in the Saturday morning Sun Gazette.
- **Committees and Special Events** - Would you like to bring your gifts, talents, and voice to one of our committees (i.e. Golf Committee, Church Women United, Interfaith Dialogue Commission, Christian Social Concerns, etc.)? Do you have an idea for a Special Event, or would you just like to be part of the planning of a one-time activity (i.e. Fundraising, Dream Week, Ecumenical Worship Services, etc.)?



Please contact Tammey today at director@uclc.org or 570.322.1110 to let us know what parts of these ministries you are able to partner with us on to provide for our community.



The United Churches of Lycoming County Office will be closed on Monday, December 26th, Monday, January 2nd, and Monday, January 16th.

Poverty: A Faith-Based Response

Christian Social Concerns Committee

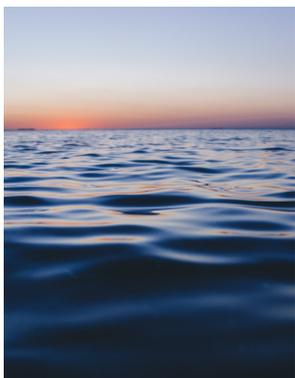
And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise" (Luke 3:10-11). In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist is described as preparing the way for the Lord. John answers the crowd's question about what they should do. As we wait to celebrate Christmas, is there more we can do – through charity and justice – to work on behalf of those in need?

Food as a right, a need, and a responsibility - The World Council of Churches' **Food for Life Campaign** works to ensure that decisions taken within the United Nations processes do not negatively impact global food security, the lives and livelihoods of smallholder food producers or increase competition for their lands. To achieve this, the campaign:

- Promotes just and sustainable food systems through international policy and practice
- Mobilizes action and reflection for food justice
- Provides opportunities for education and formation on the right to food and sustainable agriculture among faith communities For more information, visit: www.oikoumene.org/programme-activity/food-for-life

Solidarity with the poor – also sets forth a fundamental demand: the recognition of the full human dignity of the poor and their situation as daughters and sons of God. (Source: Gustavo Gutiérrez, **In the Company of the Poor**) Gutiérrez is one of the founders of liberation theology which proclaims the "preferential option for the poor."

Ending child poverty: restore expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) – Child poverty rates dropped from 9.7% in 2020 to 5.2% in 2021. The expansion of the CTC in 2021 from \$2,000 to \$3,000/ \$3,600 (the latter is for children under six) was a significant improvement. Unfortunately the expansion of the CTC expired at the end of 2021. Bi-partisan support is needed in Congress. Restoring the expansion of the CTC in 2023 must be a high priority. (Source: Commonweal, October 2022)



Wisdom of Dorothy Day – "A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words, and deeds is like that." (Day was a co-founder of the Catholic Worker ministry that continues to feed and support those experiencing hunger and poverty.) May we individually and collectively be pebbles working to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Food Pantry

Mona Rundio, Coordinator
570-322-1657
ucfpdirector@outlook.com

Advent Season is here! Giving to others during this time of year brings joy to the giver! It can be a time to give AND a time to receive. When giving to another, we receive joy in our heart from their smile and gratitude. That's what the clients, and us, receive when they pick out their groceries.



Thanks to all the churches that did a "Harvest Collection." The amount of food received is currently over 2,000 pounds, and we are still counting! This was very much in need for both our current clients and the new ones coming in each week. We also appreciate the monetary donations and gift cards you have supplied the Food Pantry with. Your donations allow us to keep giving to those in need! We are always in need of food, funds, and gift cards throughout the year, not just at the holiday time.

THANKS, again, to each of you for **ALL** that you have given to those in need!! Please continue, for we cannot survive without food for our body, love in our hearts, and the Spirit within our souls! **GOD BLESS, HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We pray that you all remain well and continue to live a life of love, with an open mind and a giving heart.

Hours of Operation

Mondays 9:00-11:00 (for donations and stocking)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15-12:00 (for client shopping)

Location

Side entrance, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport

Deadline



All information for the January Edition of the UCLC Newsletter is due January 1, 2023. Please email your submission to director@uclc.org.

Book Giveaway!

Former Pastor/Professor is downsizing his library and giving away 3 large bookshelves of Biblical Commentaries, Biblical Studies, and books on Preaching. Almost all have been purchased after 2005 so no moldy oldies. Featured is a 39 volume Interpreters Commentary Series to be given away as a set. There are 17 books by Walter Brueggeman.



Many books are from the Context group who focus on Biblical archaeology, NT culture, and customs such as Neyrey, Pilch, Malina and others. I have collected some of the better commentaries or works on each Bible book or group of books (ie. Prophets) in the Bible, as well as New and OT Introductions and reader guides. Volumes from the following series are represented: Westminster John Knox, Fortress, Continental, Word, Smyth and Helwys, Eerdmans, International Theological, Hermeneia, Abingdon, T & T Clark and a shelf of books on the book of Revelation. I collected books that were scholarly, but relevant to my work as a preacher and Bible teacher.

Preaching books include authors such as Fred Craddock, David Buttrick, Richard Eslinger, Richard Lisher, Henry Mitchell, Samuel Proctor, Evans Crawford, Ana Carter Florence, Frank Thomas, Thomas Troeger, Thomas Long, Ronald Allen, Eugene Lowry, John McClure, Paul Scott Wilson, Joseph Webb, Joseph Jeter, Luke Powery, Craig Barnes, Patricia Kastner, George Sweazy, Edward Farley, Charles Campbell, Karl Barth, James Earl Massey, Christopher Rodney, Al Faso, "What is the shape of Narrative Preaching?" and other books with multiple authors, Henri Nouven, Jana Childers, Christine Smith, Charles Rice, Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, Lucy Lind Hogan, and Howard Thurman.

Books are in very good shape but be forewarned, many have pencil underlining and writing in the margins. They can be easily erased. You can contact me, Rob Manzinger, by email at rmanzinger@icloud.com or by phone (272-202-0321). My goal is to give them away in lots, not to hunt and peck for a particular title. Bring your own box.

Clergy Robe Giveaway!

FREE clergy robes!

- Male: black, traditional clergy robe. Size Large.
- Female: natural linen alb, with lace near sleeve and hem. Approximate size 18 Tall (made by a friend).

Contact... woodcarrie5@gmail.com or text 734.718.9872.

Bus Trip

United Churches of Lycoming County's Interfaith Dialogue Commission invite you to join them on a bus trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on February 20th, 2023. The bus will be departing from First United Methodist Church in Williamsport at 5:45 a.m. An estimated arrival at the Museum is 10:00, with one stop along the way for a stretch of your legs! The cost per person is \$70.00. This includes your bus transportation and your entrance in to the Museum. We are limited to 56 people, so do not hesitate on making your reservation by emailing office@uclc.org or calling 570.322.1110!



United Campus Ministry



Shelley Litz, Coordinator
ucm@uclc.org

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23

The Fall 2022 semester at Penn College has come to a conclusion, and students will be on a four-week hiatus before returning on January 9th for the commencement of the Spring semester. Throughout the Fall semester, much hope has been professed in our Lord and Savior touching the lives of students at Penn College. I have witnessed firsthand God's faithfulness in fulfilling this hope and igniting students' passion to pursue Him. I thank God for providing a community that supports UCM with your prayers, your time, donations for fundraisers, donations for finals "fun bags", and your financial donations. On behalf of UCM, we give much thanks to our guest pastors this semester, members of Trinity Episcopal Church, Julie Bittner, Tammey Aichner, United Churches of Lycoming County, and numerous others for the many ways you have supported us this semester. We look forward with much hope and anticipation for what the Spring semester will bring for our ministry.

May the joy, peace, and love that were present at the birth of Christ be present in your heart and home this season and always. God bless.

In His Service,
Shelley