

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport, PA17701

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What is our mission? Why do a dozen people spend Mondays baking at New Covenant United Church of Christ? Who are we?



The mission of the Rise Up Village Bakery is to provide training in baking skills, and to offer support and guidance for individuals involved with the criminal justice system. Our vision for the graduates of our program is that they will be able to secure gainful employment and be restored to the community. We are volunteers who work alongside the trainees. We have a connection that transcends labels. We share God's love by serving others.

Currently there are 122 people on our weekly email list. The orders for our baked goods are often as much as 30 loaves of bread, 100 rolls, 80 muffins, and over 60 dozen cookies. On Mondays we start baking at 8:00 a.m. and orders can be picked up between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. We have become a "well oiled machine" and have learned how to "dance" around each other in the kitchen!



Rise Up Village Bakery

Trainee referrals come from local agencies. As people transition out of the program we are always looking for new candidates. Volunteers are also needed to work in the kitchen and in the "front of the house" with labeling and packaging. Please spread the word about our program and our need for participants, both trainees and volunteers.

To receive weekly notification of what we will have available for Monday pick up please sign up for our email list at riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com. You can follow us on Facebook, or visit us at New Covenant United Church of Christ at 202 East Third St., (Academy St. entrance) on Mondays (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and Wednesdays (8:00 a.m. to noon). Questions? Call Marty at 570-295-8434 or Wendy at 570-419-9303.

Deadline

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



Church Women United

Church Women United in Pennsylvania
State Assembly
Saturday, July 15, 2023
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pine Street United Methodist Church
Williamsport, PA
(Optional Meet and Greet, July 14th from 7-9 p.m.)
Registration: \$40.00

“Glorify God in All We Do”
Romans 15:5-6

Join with our Church Women United Sisters for Fellowship,
Workshops, and Worship.

Look for more details in April!

on the pulse PRESENTS
The Hidden Truth of Human Trafficking in Pennsylvania
Documentary Premiere, Q&A panel with experts
MARCH 18
3 P.M.
Klump Academic Center Auditorium,
Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport

SEVEN MOUNTAINS **UPMC** **LYCOMING COLLEGE**

St. Lawrence Church
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Dinner
Bring your own Guinness to celebrate the Luck of the Irish!

Dine-In or Take-Out
CORNEBEEF AND HAM DINNER
with Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots,
Soda Bread and Tasty Desserts
(Hot Dogs also available)

Friday, March 17, 2023
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
(SNOW DATE: Saturday, March 18, 2023)

Dinner Cost
\$14.00/ADULT
\$5.00/CHILD
(12 & under)

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH HALL
800 West Central Avenue
South Williamsport, PA
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
~ BYOB ~

★ FOR TICKETS, Please contact the Parish Office
Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm
Call: 570-326-1544 OR
Email: stboniface@comcast.net

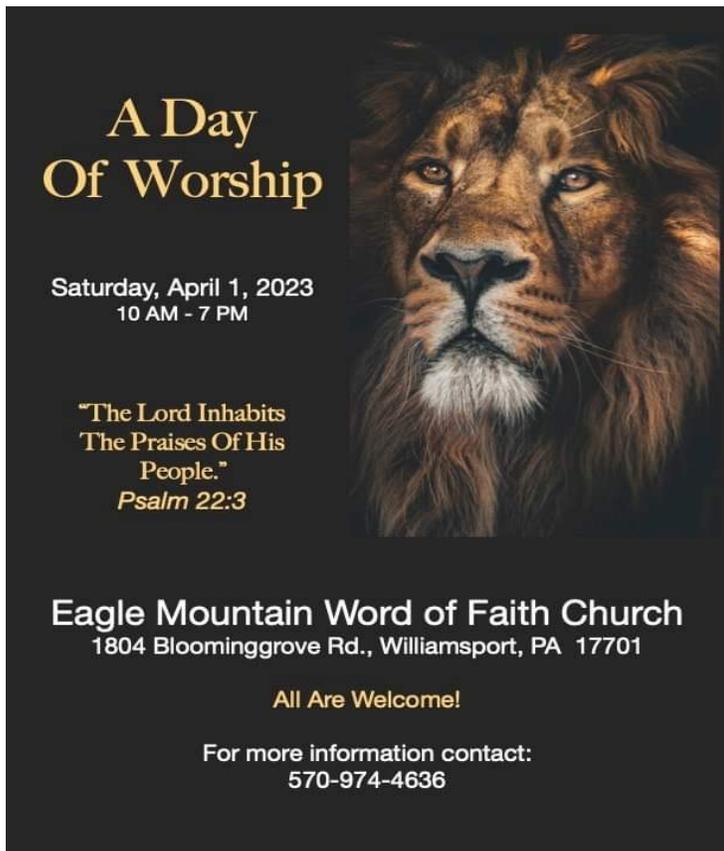
Help Wanted!

The Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) located in the First Southern Baptist Church at 89 Kimble Hill Road in Williamsport is hiring for two full time positions. Applicants must be at least 18 years or older and have a minimum of two years working with young children. Applicants must also be able to clear full background checks and a health check. Please call 570-323-2025 or email eclcfbsbc@gmail.com for more information. The ECLC is an EOE.

Immmediate Opening: Music Director, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport PA, to include responsibility for music selection, weekly worship accompaniment including pipe organ, direction of adult choir, bell choir and children's choir as applicable. Minimum requirement of 10 hours a week to include two Sunday worship services. Generous salary and benefit package commensurate with experience. Full job description available on inquiry. For further information, please contact the church office, or Pastor Jeff LeCrone, at (570) 323-7309 or info@stlukeweb.com.

Lycoming County Genealogical Society

The first program presented by LCGS in 2023 will be on March 25th in the conference room of the Thomas T. Taber Museum. Our programs are free to everyone. Doors open at 12:30 and the programs start at 1 p.m. Our speaker for the March program is Lindsey Harner with her presentation of *Finding Parents for James R. Higgins of Chester, PA with Indirect Evidence*. She says: "This lecture will discuss how I determined the parents of my 3rd great-grandfather, James R. Higgins. James only appears in records beginning in 1855, when he married, until his death in 1862 at the Second Battle of Bull Run. No original documents have been located that explicitly identified his parents. However, I believe I have found his parents through a reasonably exhaustive research process that included utilizing the FAN principle, and DNA evidence."



**A Day
Of Worship**

Saturday, April 1, 2023
10 AM - 7 PM

"The Lord Inhabits
The Praises Of His
People."
Psalm 22:3

Eagle Mountain Word of Faith Church
1804 Bloominggrove Rd., Williamsport, PA 17701

All Are Welcome!

For more information contact:
570-974-4636

Sojourner Truth Ministries

Greetings friends! As February has ended, I am hopeful for more sunny days and warm breezes. Spring brings new life. We were especially blessed to have Pastor Angelique baptize one of our sojourners. This is her first sojourner Baptism; a believers Baptism where we got to hear his testimony and journey to Christ. We have already witnessed him sharing Christ with others. WOW! OUR GOD IS GOOD! Our current needs include: clip on reflectors for bikes, handle bar mirrors, umbrellas, Dixie paper lunch plates, single use 8oz cups, and single use coffee cups. Thank you all for continuing to bless us so we can continue to do the Lord's work and bless those in need.



Lasagna Dinner

Trinity Pro-Cathedral, 844 W 4th St, Williamsport, will hold a Lasagna Dinner on Wednesday, March 22, from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner includes meat lasagna, salad, bread, beverage, and homemade dessert. Eat in or takeout. Cost for the dinner is \$13 for adults, \$6 for children (12 & younger), and \$9 for lasagna only. Trinity's various Outreach Ministries will be highlighted in March. For more information, call 570-322-0126 or email trinitychurchpa@comcast.net.

Creation Care Workshop

Crossroads and Connections: Building Relationships and Community is hosting this workshop 4 times. They will all be the same, so you only need to attend one. The workshop you attend will be relevant, impactful and compelling for participants and a step forward in educating and advocating for change and environmental health.

These workshops are being repeated from the fall because of the interests and outcry of concerned citizens regarding the Plastic Crisis. **Environmental Workshop: The Impact of Plastics and How to Reduce Its Use.**

Registrants will have the opportunity to learn about the following:

1. The health, environmental and climate impacts of plastics and how it is a major crisis. The lies from the industry that produces plastics and the lie about recycling.
2. Practical day to day ways in which you can reduce and eliminate plastics from your home and world. For those who want to step up, a six-week plan and support will be provided to reduce plastics in your home and in your organizations.
3. An awareness of corporations that are major contributors to the plastics crisis and simple things you can do to advocate for the reduction/elimination of plastics.

Whether you are concerned about the environment, the planet or health, you are invited to join this timely and thoughtful discussion.

Please rally yourself, colleagues, office members, boards, and others in your reach to join us. It will be totally worth your time to gain the knowledge and ability to do something about plastics.

Registration Links:

- Thursday, March 23 - 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/568435615227>
- Monday, April 10, 2023 - 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/571043575707>
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/571048550587>
- Saturday, April 29, 2023 - 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM
Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/571049282777>

Follow us at

“United Churches of Lycoming County”



Food Pantry

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

Charity begins at home, moves in to our community, and extends to the world...touching the circumstances and hardships that we will all endure. What does charity look like to you personally? Could it be something you give daily, weekly, monthly, or even yearly? God has blessed us richly. How will we use those resources? In the end, we can't take it with us. You may think that what you have, doesn't amount to much...but, God can do great things with your "little"! Just look what He did with a few loaves and fishes!

A humble and giving heart spreads in various ways: through a word, a piece of food, or an article of clothing. It shows a person that they are still cared for and loved. A faithful and true heart of God knows not to hold a grudge, but to forgive like He has forgiven us and our sinful ways. That kind of heart will encourage others to do the same.

When shopping for yourself, keep in mind those without the resources to do so. With your donations, we can continue to bring light and encouragement our clients.

The Pantry needs:

- Canned Meat/Fruit/Veggies
- Microwave Meals/Soups
- Juices/Drinks
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Cake/Muffin Mixes and Frostings
- Jellies/Jams
- Ketchup/Mustard/Mayo
- Healthy Snacks



The Pantry **DOES NOT** need:

- Green Beans, Corn, Spaghetti, Soup, or Mac and Cheese!

We are located at the corner of Academy Street and East Church Street (202 East Third Street, Williamsport).

Our hours are:

Monday: 9-11a.m. (for donations)
Tuesday: 10:15-2 p.m.
Thursday: 10:15-12 p.m.

May God bless you and keep you!

Earth Day Opportunity

Earth Day Eve over the Bridge (21Apr-Fri-6p): Fifty-three years ago, Earth Day was initiated as a national expression of appreciation for our planet. Directions: Join the Lycoming Audubon Society on the River Walk gathering on the north/Wegman's side, near the river dam. Ample parking available. Look for Audubon signs. With signs and flags, we'll walk clockwise, cross Market Street bridge, walk west a short way, stop and chat, then turn around and come back across the bridge. You may want to continue walking, or head home. Thanks for adding your presence in this simple statement of celebrating our beautiful earth. Leaders: Dorothy Holloway (hollowayok@gmail.com), Larry Waltz (LNRWaltz@aol.com).



**United Churches of Lycoming County's
Offices will be closed on
Monday, April 10th.**



Poverty: A Faith-Based Response

Christian Social Concerns Committee

Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon (Is 58:10). The joys of spring are upon us. How can we renew and extend to those in need the lights of charity and justice?

Wisdom of Dr. Paul Farmer – “If I am hungry, that is a material problem; if someone else is hungry, that is a spiritual problem.” (Farmer was a Harvard-trained doctor and medical anthropologist who provided health care services in some of the poorest areas of the world. He was deeply guided by his understanding of and commitment to Jesus Christ’s preference for the poor. He co-founded Partners in Health www.pih.org . Farmer died in 2022.)

Changes to SNAP food assistance program will impact nearly two million Pennsylvanians starting in March – The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) will stop distributing extra payments, starting in March. The SNAP Emergency Allotments have been provided during the second half of each month since the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020. February is the last month EAs are authorized to be sent. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services:

- All SNAP households will lose a minimum of \$95 a month in SNAP benefits.
- The statewide average impact is \$181 per SNAP household per month. (Source: WGAL-TV)



Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Its mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

For many years UCLC’s Christian Social Concerns Committee has partnered with Bread and area churches to advocate for justice for those experiencing hunger and poverty in our communities, nation, and the world. This year’s advocacy focuses on the federal Farm Bill which contains many programs that affect hunger and poverty.

Specific aims of Bread for the World regarding the Farm Bill’s by increasing access to healthy food – some examples are:

- Protect Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from cuts or harmful changes.

- Increase support for produce-specific SNAP benefits.
- Ensure more retailers are authorized for online SNAP.
- Increase support for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Incentive Program.
- Add fresh produce in the Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program (CSFP).
- Increase support for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Farm to FoodBank program and remove the state match requirement.
- Increase TEFAP infrastructure support to food banks for refrigeration and distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables.



TAKE ACTION: To stay informed and be ready to take action regarding the Farm Bill legislation, join Bread for the World at www.bread.org .

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

Hero Hotline! Sunday, July 16th - Thursday, July 20th
 St. John’s - Newberry United Methodist Church
 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport
 6:00-8:30 p.m. each evening.

Designed for ages 4-12 and special abilities adults.
 Registration forms are available at UCLC and any of the following participating churches.

Participating Churches: Christ Episcopal Church, First Church of Christ (Disciples), New Covenant United Church of Christ, St. John’s-Newberry United Methodist Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Sojourner Truth Ministries, and Trinity Episcopal Church.



Sight and Sound Bus Trip

Join United Churches of Lycoming County on June 13th for our annual Sight and Sound Bus Trip! This year, we will be enjoying Moses and a delicious lunch at Bird in Hand Restaurant. The bus will leave from First Church, Williamsport at 6:30 a.m. and will return at 7:30 p.m. The cost per person is \$140. Save your spot as soon as possible. The deadline is May 1st or when the bus is full, whichever comes first. Don’t miss out! Call the office with any questions at 570.322.1110.

Rise Up
PENN COLLEGE

A PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENT
HOSTED BY
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY
CRU & ARC

Featuring music by the Crossroads Worship Family

FREE to Students and the Community

THURSDAY, MARCH 16 | 7-8 p.m. | ACC Auditorium

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

United Campus Ministry



“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stay awake in vain.” Psalm 127:1

Cause if the Lord builds the house, nobody can tear it down. When it’s built on His name, there’s nothing gonna shake this ground. If the Lord builds the house, nobody can tear it down.” These lyrics, by Christian music artist Hope Darst, will be featured in the opening song at the first annual **Rise Up, Penn College!** praise and worship event featuring the Crossroads Church worship family. United Campus Ministry will participate in hosting the event on Thursday, March 16th from 7-8 pm at the Klump Academic Center. I humbly ask for your prayers that Penn College students and the community will “rise up” and either find hope, or renew their hope, in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In addition to Rise Up, Penn College, United Campus Ministry is focusing on our annual Soup Sale fundraiser. Much gratitude goes to the soup makers whose generosity is sincerely appreciated: Pastor Tammy Edkin, Mrs. Julie Bittner, Mrs. Sondra Fisher, Pastor Mark Brumbach, Rev. Kyle Murphy, Mr. Perry Landon, and Pastor Gwen Bernstine. Also, many thanks to those in the community who placed orders for soup. Your orders support the UCLC’s mission with United Campus Ministry at Penn College. Below are the dates/times for pick-up or delivery based on your preference noted on your order form. Please contact Julie Bittner, UCM Chairperson, at 570-419-3023 if you have any questions.



Camp Counselors Needed!

Camp Mount Luther is taking applications for both male and female counselors. You must be a high school graduate by the time camp starts. If hired, you will need to obtain the necessary clearances. Questions? Contact chad@campmountluther.org. Applications can be submitted online at www.campmountluther.org/applications.

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser

Grab your friends and family for dinner at Texas Roadhouse on April 20th. 10% of your purchases are donated back to United Churches of Lycoming County! Call ahead for your seating at 272.236.3060...and, don’t forget to mention to your server that you are there to support UCLC!

12th Annual United Churches of Lycoming County Golf Tournament

Save the date! September 29th, 9 a.m. shotgun start at White Deer Golf Course. The cost per person is \$110. Every player will receive a player package with raffle tickets, 50/50, and plenty of grace in the form of putting ribbons and mulligans! Plenty of food, fun, and fellowship!

Pick-Up:

Friday, March 24th (8am – 7pm) OR Saturday, March 25th (8 am – 12pm) @ United Churches of Lycoming County (UCLC) office, 202 East Third Street; Williamsport.

Delivery:

(pre-arranged according to request received on the order form)

Thank you for your continued prayers for this essential college ministry.

In His service,
Shelley