

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA17701

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Earth Day

Earth Day Eve (21Apr-Fri-6p): Fifty-three years ago, Earth Day was initiated as a national expression of appreciation for our planet. Join the Lycoming Audubon Society on the River Walk gathering on the North side (Wegman's), near the river dam. Ample parking is 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).



Earth Day continues at Rider Park (22Apr-Sat-8a, 10a, 2p): with a focus on "Invest in Our Planet". There are three offerings:

- **8:00-9:30 a.m.:** Begin Earth Day with a bird walk led by Lycoming Audubon with Fred Stiner and Bruce Buckle (bcbuckle60@gmail.com). Meet in parking lot at 8:00 a.m.
- **10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.:** Planting Trees, beneficial to birds near the woods, a demonstration.
- **2:00-4:00 p.m.:** Tree ID and forest health hike. Meet in the parking lot at 2:00 p.m.



Bird Seed Donations

Valley View Nursing Center is currently looking for donations for multi-mix bird seed with sunflowers for our residents bird feeders. Any donation will be greatly appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at the Reception Desk.

Please register for one or all three activities, contacting Sara Street (570-321-1500, SaraS@fcfpartnership.org) Directions: from Warrensville Road, continue north on Pleasant Valley Road, and turn right onto Caleb Creek Road.



Rise Up Village Bakery



The Rise Up Village Bakery is celebrating its one year anniversary. We began by baking 5 or 10 loaves of white and wheat bread each week, selling them to friends and neighbors. One year later we are astounded by the support from the community for our vision. The total income from our first three months of operation in 2022 is equal to the amount we received for one baking day on April 3rd,nearly \$700!!! Our production has expanded from bread to include rolls, cookies and muffins. Currently we have 150 individuals on our weekly order email list, and the number of volunteers has grown proportionately as well.

Where do we go from here? How do we meet our goal of providing job training and support for returning citizens? The income from our product sales provides the funds for us to develop our program, and to focus on our trainees. We are excited to develop an intensive, two week module which will introduce the participants to the bakery environment. They will learn the procedures for making our products, and will be involved in two full production days. This 50 hour intensive will include mentoring and job skills preparation. Our volunteers will lead the training. We anticipate this program model will allow the trainees to move quickly into the job market.

And we cannot say enough about the blessings each of the volunteers and trainees have brought to the bakery, and to the lives of each other. Skills are diverse and hearts are filled with love and service to others. It may be a tip on how to fold the top of the cookie bag, or how to shape a roll, or designing a brochure. It may be to provide the laugh of the day as the mixer erupts with a "flour shower" to cover the baker. Over lunch we may share the joy of a new grandchild, or encourage someone facing medical issues. We lift each other up with our words and our faith. We are a family united in service and caring.

Information about our program, and a listing of weekly baked goods for sale, can be accessed through riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com. Contact us if you are interested in placing an order, or volunteering in the kitchen. We meet Mondays for production, and Wednesdays for prep work, at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport. Part of our mission is to provide free or reduced cost baked goods for church and community programs. Call Marty at 570-295-8434 or Wendy at 570-419-9303 for further information. Also, follow us on Facebook.

SEED TO SUPPER

A FREE BEGINNER'S GARDENING COURSE

Join Trinity Community Garden and Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Lycoming County in learning how to build healthy soil and plan your gardening space for a seasonal garden. Choose your crops, care for your growing garden and harvest your bounty!

- Where: Trinity Episcopal Community Garden, 844 W 4th St, Williamsport (in Parish Hall)
- When: Wednesdays, April 19 & 26, May 3 & 10, 5:00-6:30 pm



Pre-registration is required. To register contact Sherri at (570) 322-0126 or email trinitychurchpa@comcast.net. Open to adult participants within income limitations. Plan to attend all four classes. Participants receive a free gardening book, seeds, and other gardening supplies, as available.

Follow us at

"United Churches of Lycoming County"



Sponsored by NAMI of North Central PA



7th annual
**SUICIDE PREVENTION
WALK**

**April 22, 2023
12-3 PM**

\$5 minimum donation
Basket raffle and more!

**South Williamsport
Park Complex**
545 East Central Ave
South Williamsport, 17702

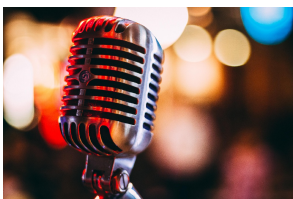
For more information
contact Madison Losell at
mlosell@comcast.net
or 570-932-0542



Scan for Facebook event

You Are Invited!

The Williamsport Civic Chorus is delighted to present "Jazzin' with the WCC," accompanied by the Dave Miller Jazz Trio



Get ready for some favorite jazz standards from the 40's and 50's! Giants of the Jazz era like Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and George Gershwin made them famous – and the Civic Chorus can't wait to set your toes a-tappin' with tunes like Java Jive, Don't Get Around Much Anymore, and Just in Time. As if that's not enough, the Chorus will be accompanied by the incomparable Dave Miller on keyboards, Bobby Leidhecker on percussion, and Bruce Bozyk on bass. You'll be singing these wonderful songs long after the concert!

This fun, nostalgic concert is set for Sunday, April 30th, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Clerestory Room at the Pajama Factory, located at 1307 Park Avenue in Williamsport. Tickets are available at the door, but also at a discount from Robert M. Sides Family Music Center and Otto's Bookstore, or online at www.williamsportcivicchorus.org.

So, remember, you'll need to "Take the A Train" to the Pajama Factory on April 30th for a rousing good time!

"HELLO" from Sojourner Truth Ministries!

We are so blessed to serve the community in the capacity that we do. Our March meal count was well over 2000 served - we have been busy! Check us out on FaceBook- "Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc."

STM is on the verge of opening the **House of Hope**- a Christ-based, communal living program for women coming out of homelessness. We cannot move forward without a Director. We continue to seek the ideal candidate for this position-please reach out to us for details at 570-323-1797. We are looking for someone amazing! Someone who will be able to take charge, vet appropriate candidates, represent the program, fundraise, oversee and mentor staff and program, budget, work under pressure, lead others, and more. We are also taking applications for volunteer mentors and other various positions. And, we still need two Resident Advocates staff positions- someone to advocate for our patrons living with multiple barriers, as well as advocating for the ministry itself. This role requires a confident, organized, goal oriented, can-do multitasker with computer and social skills who is willing to go out into the community to connect on our behalf.

Thank you for your prayers for this ministry, and for those we serve, and all who come here to work in any capacity.

Blessings to you~ Angelique
Director, Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.
501 High St, Williamsport



(272) 236-3060
1940 East 3rd Street | Williamsport

FUNDRAISING
DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» **Support** ««
United Churches of Lycoming County
April 20th, 2023
3pm-9:30pm



**10%
DONATION NIGHT**

Support UCLC by presenting this flyer to the Williamsport Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to the church!

Christians Helping Honduras

Christians Helping Honduras is a nonprofit organization that started in 2019. We visited the Happy World Christian School in San Marcos de Colon Honduras that fall. We built a cinder block security wall on the west side on the school yard. The pandemic prevented us from going again until 2022. In the meantime, we raised funds to add a state-of-the-art computer lab with 15 Dell desktop computers. We also paid for refurbishing the playground equipment. Last fall we went back and painted the exterior of the older classrooms and updated the lighting in the areas that needed it the most. This July we will be painting the interior of the classrooms, and possibly doing one or more of the following depending on the abilities of our team; grounds keeping, electrical upgrades and painting a mural.



We need partners. Partners to help with fundraising events. In addition to our team trip in July, we are going to provide the funds for the school to add seventh grade next February. Currently the school has approximately 70 students in pre-k through sixth grades. In February 2025, we will add 8th grade, and 9th the following year. In Honduras, school is not a right, it

is a privilege. A ninth-grade education is considered a complete education as 12th is here. As we add these grades our fundraising needs to increase, hence our need for partners. Our biggest fundraising event is coming on June 15th at Hooplas

Mini-Golf at the Lycoming Mall. We need sponsors, gift donations volunteers and mini golfers.

We are also looking for interested folks to go with us on mission trips. Please contact Pete Heilman via text at 570-998-4000 for more information. There will be another article next month which will include registration forms for the mini golf tournament.



Help Wanted

The Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC), a faith-based childcare facility located in the First Southern Baptist Church at 89 Kimble Hill Road, Williamsport, is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant PreK Teacher. Applicants must be at least 18 years or older and have a minimum of two years documented experience working with young children. Resumes can be sent to ecclcsbc@gmail.com or call Melissa Hamm at 570-323-2025 for more information. The ECLC is an EOE.

JOIN UCLC AT SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES

MOSES

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

DEPART AT 6:30 AM AT FIRST CHURCH, WILLIAMSPORT

<p>\$140 PER PERSON</p> <p><i>Return at 7:30 pm</i></p>	<p>RSVP BY MAY 1ST</p> <p><i>Call 570.322.1110</i></p>	<p>BUFFET LUNCH</p> <p><i>Bird in Hand Restaurant</i></p>
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Revival

**His Glory Ministry
Presents:
REVIVAL
April 12th, 13th, and 14th at 7:00 p.m.
Hampton Inn, Williamsport**

**Revivalist - Overseer Bernice Coaxum
Pastor/Founder of
"Keys of the Kingdom"**



Deadline

All information for the May Edition of the United Churches of Lycoming County's Newsletter is due May 1, 2023. Please email your submission to director@uclc.org. As a reminder, the May Edition will be the last newsletter until September. Send in all of your summer events to be included!



Poverty: A Faith-Based Response

Christian Social Concerns Committee

Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke? Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh? (Is 58:6-7). Isaiah spoke clearly. As disciples of Jesus Christ we must also act with clear conviction and concern.

Homeless children – nationally and locally – more than 2.5 million children will experience homelessness this year in the USA. One in 30 children are homeless in Lycoming County. (Source: Family Promise of Lycoming County) To learn more and/or support visit: www.familypromiselycoming.org.

Hunger and poverty in Pennsylvania, between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in Pennsylvania averaged 9.2%.
- Pennsylvania's food insecurity rate was 12% lower than the national average of 10.4%.
- The official poverty rate (which does not account for income from safety-net and tax-support programs such as SNAP, EITC, and others) in the state averaged 10.0%.
- SNAP, alone, lifted 330,000 people above the poverty line in Pennsylvania, including 129,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017, on average. (Source: www.bread.org)

Human Right – safe and secure housing:

- 10.4 million renters in USA report being behind their rents
- 65% are people of color
- Average rents have increased 20% in last two years
- Four million people feel likely to be evicted
- Pandemic-related relief has expired
- Many faith traditions see housing as a basic human right
- Faith-based nonprofits need to be part of the solution
- Advocacy for adequate public housing is another part of the solution (Source: Commonweal, March 2023)

Federal Farm Bill – Stay informed - The impact of the farm bill is significant. It not only affects the agriculture and food sectors - it can play a huge role in ending food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and save the lives of millions abroad. This year, Congress is working to renew farm bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and international food aid programs. Among the measures that should be included are strengthening nutrition security in domestic and international programs; creating a more equitable SNAP program; and increasing food systems sustainability. To stay informed and be ready to advocate visit www.bread.org.

World Food Program (WFP) warns – there will be an “extreme jeopardy” for those experiencing hunger at present. WFP forecasts that 345 million people will experience food insecurity* in 2023 which is double the number in 2020. Major contributing factors include climate change, natural disasters, pandemic, and the invasion of Ukraine. (Source: Washington Post)
*The condition of not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet one's basic needs.

TAKE ACTION: The WFP is a United Nations agency. It is widely recognized as the best and most efficient way to get food to people in great need. For more information or to donate visit: www.wfpusa.org.

Food Pantry

Mona Rundio, Coordinator
570-322-1657

UCFPDirector@outlook.com

Just as God gave His one and only Son for us, we are to also be disciples amongst the world. As written in 2 Corinthians 9:7 -9, “Every man according as he purpose in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: but for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: As tis written, He hath dispersed abroad, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remains forever.” It's the time of year that we spring forward and continue to spring each day forward...PRAISE THE LORD! I, myself, pray and give thanks to the LORD each morning and evening for a new beginning and end. I pray for those whom are lost, forgotten, in pain/illness, or poor, that what is needed will be provided to them in a meaningful and memorable way. As followers of Christ, we should help provide such things.

When you are shopping this month, think and pray for what you are capable of doing for the people in our community; those in need during these economic hardships and wars. The Pantry is in need of the following:

- **Cereal/Oatmeal**
- **Drinks**
- **Canned/Pre-Packaged Food**

Monetary donations to the Food Pantry and grocery store gift cards are also very much appreciated. We continue to THANK all of you that faithfully contribute to UCLC and all the ministries we reach out to and work with!!

Pantry Days and Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m.-11 a.m. for donations/stocking/deliveries

Tuesday: 10:15 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday: 10:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

Closed the 5th Tuesday/Thursday

United Campus Ministry

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up” - Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

The past two months have been a labor of love for the United Campus Ministry's annual soup fundraiser. From gathering orders, to making soup, and then organizing soups for pick-up/delivery, many hands were necessary in this endeavor. Thank you so much for supporting United Campus Ministries with your soup orders. Much thanks for the “soup makers”: Pastor Tammy Edkin, Mrs. Julie Bittner, Pastor Mark Brumbach, Mrs. Sondra Fisher, Father Kyle Murphy, Mr. Perry Landon, and Rev. Gwen Bernstine. Thank you, Pastor Brad Walmer, for providing space for soups to be stored in the refrigerators at New Covenant United Church of Christ and for supporting our ministry with open doors for pick-ups. Much gratitude is also extended to Dawn Gueary for organizing the soup orders and keeping a count for the soup makers!!



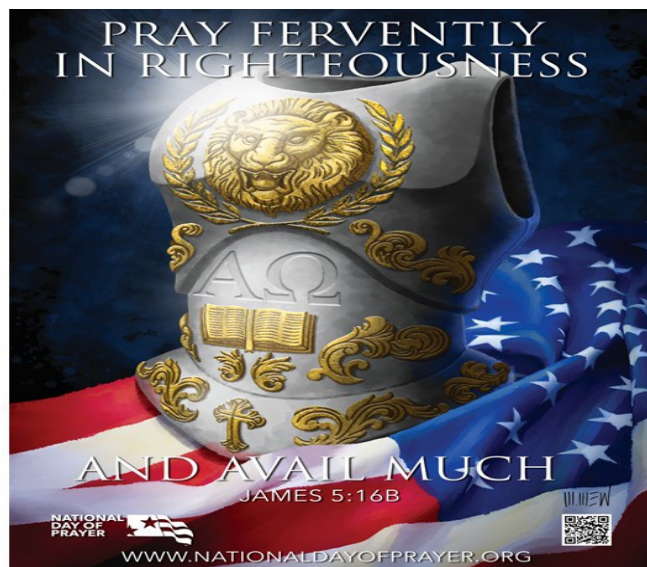
The month of April means that finals week will be just around the corner for Penn College students (May 1st – 5th). United Campus Ministry will be filling “Finals Fun Bags” again this semester for students. **I am humbly asking for donations of**

pre-packaged snacks, gum, bottled water, post-it notes, highlighters, index cards, inspirational messages, etc. Donations can be dropped off at the UCLC office at 202 East Third Street by Friday, April 28th. Your support of United Campus Ministry has been instrumental in leading students to our Lord and Savior. These young adults are searching for, and finding comfort in, the One who they find their true identity in. Praise God for United Churches of Lycoming County in supporting United Campus Ministries with your prayers and donations. Together, we are leading one more student to Christ.

In His Service,
Shelley Litz

Church Women United

May Friendship Day Luncheon and Celebration
Friday, May 5, 2023
South Williamsport United Methodist Church
409 Main Street, South Williamsport
Luncheon at noon, Celebration at 1:15 p.m.
\$13.00 per person
RSVP to Diane Casella by April 23, 2023
407 Allen Street, Montoursville, PA 17754
Checks payable to Church Women United



Community National Day of Prayer

Date: Thursday, May 4

Time: 6 pm—7:30 pm

**Where: Ways Garden
(corner of 4th and Maynard Streets)**

**Bring seating and gather for a time of guided prayer.
We will enjoy inspirational music, scripture and prayer
led by volunteers from our community.**

*Parking available behind the Thomas T. Taber Museum,
Trinity Episcopal Church, Covenant Central (off of Campbell Street),
and Faith Tabernacle Baptist.*

Sponsored by Lycoming Centre Outreach 570-494-0474

Upcoming Meetings



Parents and Caregivers of Children with Mental Health Struggles

3rd Thursday of each month
6:00-7:00 p.m.

West End Christian Community Center
901 Diamond Street, Williamsport

For questions, please call: Kelly Gordon (570) 326-7895

Lycoming County Peer Support Group

2nd Wednesday of each month
6:30-7:30 p.m.

West End Christian Community Center
901 Diamond Street, Williamsport
Check NAMI NCPA on Facebook for updates

988

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline