



Dear Susquehanna Church Family,

I am writing to ask you to consider inviting your church this year to participate in Peace with Justice Sunday, one of the six special offerings of the United Methodist Church. This year the offering will be collected on May 22nd, 2016, though you are welcome to collect it any time throughout the year.

What makes this particular Sunday so special is that fifty percent of all fund collected are dispersed right here in the Susquehanna Annual Conference in the form of grants for local churches reaching out to their communities to bring justice and peace.

Let me share the story of one of our grant recipients who used money to hire an intern to equip leaders and volunteers to be active within community ministries.

*One area of great need in most communities is a ministry to those who have been incarcerated, or those trying to re-enter society. Our student intern has had training and personal experience working in prison ministry as well as other social ministries, especially Human Trafficking.*

*During her time here the intern has been able to offer events within the life of our congregation, with groups such as U.M. Women, Worship, Sunday School, Stephen Ministry and other such opportunities to expose our congregation to volunteer opportunities. She has been diligent in providing information regarding the ministry as well as the opportunity to change the lives of others, one at a time. Her conversations have also been forthright explaining some of the difficulties of ministry with many folks who have had life-long issues from family abuse, addiction, etc. Our constant reminder because of the intern's efforts has been that our interaction and commitment to an individual may be the dynamic turning point to begin a new direction in their life. While ministries such as prison mentoring do not usually attract large numbers of volunteers, I believe the intern's commitment and efforts over the past few months has created a core of men and women who are now committed to train and become mentors. This is truly a dream come true to a ministry that is much needed.*

I would hope that you will partner in special ministries like these. Just imagine what we could do right here in Pennsylvania if only each of your congregants worshipping on PWJ Sunday would give \$1.00.

***Blessings,***

***Rev. Michelle Bodle  
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