Greetings and welcome to Annual Conference 2019 as we celebrate being Better Together … One with each other.

Our theme for the 2017-2020 Quadrennium is Better Together, with a focus on the words of Christ from John 17 and our Communion Liturgy: Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

It is no secret that we live in a time of great disagreements – divisions over perspectives, over ideas, over words, over actions and inactions, so you may be wondering how we can celebrate being one with each other.

The how is easy, I believe. The how is because of God’s great love for us show in Jesus’ sacrificial love. When we keep our eyes focused on Jesus, when we realize that we are all imperfect people who don’t know it all, Jesus is our great conductor. He stands ready with the baton ready to unite us in song together. What song is He calling us to? One of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. He calls us to exhibit those to each other and to our world. We are also called to forgive one another. Colossians 3:13 instructs us “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.”

Many things can divide us, yet we are called to unity in Christ Jesus. He is more powerful than any of those divisions, as we seek to be One with Each Other, let us turn to his direction as our Great Conductor. You’ll hear stories of connections, change, and new beginnings at Annual Conference. These conversations and movements were not things that happened overnight, but after hearing the call of Jesus toward a new direction, these communities stepped out in faith to realize where Jesus was leading them.

All of us can make a difference together, and you’ll have an opportunity to do that through these stories and through serving our local community at Annual Conference. We all have an instrument to play in God’s grand orchestra, all we have to do it follow our Lord and Conductor, Jesus Christ.
What's Up for Today

9 a.m. – Registration Check In
This is your time to register, pick up your nametag and any other materials you’ll need for annual conference. You won’t be moving in to your room just yet. Room check in and move in will happen later on today.

9 a.m. – Pre-Conference Ministry Workshops
Two pre-conference ministry workshops:
Leadership Matters with Ken Nash and Open the Floodgates! The Power of Breakthrough Prayer with Sue Nilson Kibbey will meet during this time.

10:30 a.m. – Clergy Session
Clergy will gather in the Blue Room to act on the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and approve candidates for ordination.

10:30 a.m. – Laity Session
Laity session will gather in the White Room for a brief orientation, to be upheld in prayer, and to celebrate the ways that churches are making disciples of Jesus Christ.

12:30 to 2 p.m. – Lunch
Lunch will be served in the Chocolate Ball Room and the Red Ball Room.

12:30 p.m. – Preachers’ Aid Society
The Preachers’ Aid Society assists clergy with emergency financial needs, and seminary debt. In 2018, the Preachers’ Aid Society provided $18,732 to nine clergy families for emergency assistance; and reduced the educational debts of seven applicants by distributing over $21,000 directly to lenders.

12:30 p.m. – United Seminary Lunch: Cocoa 1

2 p.m. – Opening Celebration
We’ll gather in the White and Blue Room to hear Bishop Park address the annual conference as we celebrate the ways we are “Better Together.”

3:15 p.m. – First Plenary
We’ll map out our agenda, lay out the rules of getting our work done, and begin our work discerning the ways the Holy Spirit is connecting us to the mission of Jesus Christ, and is leading us to live in Christ’s life together. We also vote for delegates to the 2020 General Conference. Two ballots are scheduled.

Beginning at 4 p.m. – Check in to Hershey Lodge Rooms

5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Dinner
Lunch will be served in the Chocolate Ball Room and the Red Ball Room.

5:30 p.m. – Memorial Dinner in Cocoa Terrace & Cocoa Suite 1

5:30 p.m. – Fellowship of Local Pastors in Magnolia A, B, C & D

7 p.m. – Memorial Service
This evening we will gather in White and Blue Rooms to offer our gratitude for the life and ministry of clergy and lay members who have finished their journey in faith and now rest from their labors.
Memorial Service Speaker

Rev. Brenda Leigey

Rev. Brenda K. Leigey is from West Decatur, Pa., where her home church is Salem United Methodist Church. While a member of Salem UMC, Brenda was blessed to serve as a Sunday School teacher, Youth Leader, Lay Leader, and Church Council Chairperson. She was blessed to be supported and encouraged by the members of her home church and family, which ultimately lead her to answer God’s call upon her life to be a pastor.

Rev. Leigey graduated from Phillipsburg-Osceola High School in 1979 and Dubois Campus of Penn State in 1981. Brenda was employed by Clearfield Bank and Trust, Clearfield before becoming a certified candidate for ministry in 1989, and a licensed local pastor in 1990. Brenda furthered her education at Bloomsburg University in 1992 graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology. In 1994 Brenda became a probationary and received her Masters of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary. She was ordained in 1995. She was ordained in 1997 in the Central Pennsylvania Conference. She was recommended for ordained ministry by the Salem United Methodist Church, Mt. Hope Charge. She has served the following pastores: Brandon-Central, (Now Christ UMC, Benton) 1990-1995; Nescopers Wesly from 1995-2000; Nescopers Wesly with extended ministry to Albright, 2000-2001; and Philipsburg Trinity since 2001.

Brenda’s passion for youth and children and serving as a Lay Leader during her years at Saless UMC, led her to seek out where God wanted her to best serve. She started the Clearfield Cluster of United Methodist Youth and served on the State College District Youth Board and the Central Pennsylvania Council on Youth Ministries. While serving in the Lewisburg District, she served as the Lewisburg District Youth Coordinator; Co-Dean in the conference camping program at Wesley Forest and the Lewisburg District Committee on Ministry. She has also served on numerous conference boards and agencies, including the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as the Elder’s Registrar. She has served as Chair of the State College District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Cluster Leader for the Moshannon Valley Cluster, and currently is serving as Chair of the State College District Superintendency Committee.

Brenda has focused on building relationships in the church and in the community desiring that people come to know and love Jesus, as they take the next faithful step to share it with others.

Brenda is married to Allen who is the director of the athletic department of the Curwensville School District. They are blessed with a daughter, Macala Rae.

In January 2019, Brenda was appointed by Bishop Jeremiah Park as the Superintendent of the State College District effective July 1, 2019.

Brenda gives thanks to God for the grace, love, forgiveness and mercy that she has received and experienced as she strives and learns to be a faithful follower of Jesus.

A verse from Philippians 2:1-2 has been pinnacle in Brenda’s faith journey and will be a constant reminder of how, with the help of God, she will lead the church as she begins her new appointment as the State College District Superintendent. The verses remind us who we are to be as the church, how we are better together as we are encouraged to be united with Christ, embraced by Christ’s love and together in the Spirit, have a like one mind, like Christ, as we live as kingdom people on this earth.

“Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” Philippians 2:1-2 (NIV)

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR TODAY

Mission Central, Memorial Service, Thursday, May 30, 2019

The Cup of Water Fund ($160)

This fund is a fund which is available to lay persons in our conference who are facing difficult financial hardship. These donations provide emergency grants to families or individuals who are recommended by pastors to the Cabinet. In these difficult economic times your generosity provides needed help to our brothers and sisters.

MISSION CENTRAL

Projects at Annual Conference

Mission Central will be collecting shoes of all kinds, shapes and sizes ... as long as there is “life in their soles,” we will collect them!

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR TODAY

Memorial Service, Thursday, May 30, 2019

SUSQUEHANNA DAILY LINK - MAY 30, 2019
2018 - 2019 Roll of the Honored Dead

Name | Relationship | Date of Death
--- | --- | ---
Mrs. R. Yvonne Baker | Spouse of Rev. James A. | May 13, 2018
Mrs. Doris L. Baughman | Spouse of Rev. Warren L. Jr. | October 22, 2018
Mr. D. Larry Bookhamer | Retired Pastor | April 18, 2019
Rev. Richard F. Brenneman | Retired Pastor | October 27, 2018
Rev. Richard B. Cartwright | Widow of Rev. Dan P. | August 3, 2018
Pastor James E. Cloer | Widow of Rev. Fuller B. | November 20, 2018
Mrs. Catharine A. Cole | Widow of Rev. Dan P. | December 6, 2018
Rev. Daniel L. Dennis | Widow of Rev. Golden A. | March 29, 2019
Pastor Robert J. Eddinger | Widow of Rev. Golden A. | November 17, 2018
Rev. Dr. Donald G. Fishel | Widow of Rev. Golden A. | December 18, 2018
Mrs. Barbara A. Gaither | Widow of Rev. Carl D. | September 7, 2018
Rev. Golden A. Gaither | Widow of Rev. Calvin B. Jr. | October 11, 2018
Mrs. Marion E. Geary | Widow of Rev. Calvin B. Jr. | March 27, 2019
Rev. Donald E. Mummert | General Conference Lay Delegate | February 19, 2019
Rev. Byron K. Krapf | Retired Pastor | October 26, 2018
Rev. James F. Kremer | Retired Pastor | July 23, 2018
Mr. James “Larry” Mench | Retired Pastor | November 23, 2018
Rev. Harold E. Miller | Retired Pastor | March 28, 2019
Rev. Hugh W. Miller | Widow of Rev. James E. | December 6, 2018
Rev. Ivan M. Moyer, Jr. | Widow of Rev. James E. | January 6, 2019
Rev. Donald E. Mummert | Widow of Rev. James E. | March 17, 2019
Mrs. Jean C. Parks | Widow of Rev. Dr. S. Ronald | February 28, 2019
Mrs. Lois E. Rudy | Widow of Mrs. Group B. Sr. | November 27, 2018
Rev. Dr. David W. Schmuck | Widow of Mrs. Group B. Sr. | February 17, 2019
Mrs. Donna L. Schroeder | Retired Pastor | June 30, 2018
Rev. R. Bruce Smyser | Widow of Rev. James E. | December 10, 2018
Rev. Charles T. Tressler | Widow of Pastor Thomas D. | October 17, 2018
Rev. Viola C. Tyson | Widow of Pastor Thomas D. | February 16, 2019
Mrs. Jennifer Wallace | Retired Pastor | July 24, 2018
Rev. Charles T. Tressler | Widow of Pastor Brian H. | February 13, 2019
Mrs. Thelma L. Woods | Widow of Rev. Dr. William F. | July 5, 2018
Mrs. Nancy J. Zimmerman | Widow of Rev. Charles H. | April 11, 2019
Rev. Charles H. Zimmerman | Retired Pastor | September 30, 2018
The Center for Spiritual Formation is offering a series of Sabbath Retreats, designed especially for clergy and CLM’s who are serving churches. We gather at Orchard Hill in Millersville at 9 a.m. for worship and a time of exploring the Word together, as partners on the journey with Jesus. Following lunch, a guided activity will be offered in which you may participate. Or, you may use the afternoon for hiking our trails, walking the labyrinth, or taking a much-needed nap! We regather at 3:30 for sharing and communion before leaving at 4:30. Come for each Sabbath or select a few.

Practicing the Presence of God
A Silent Retreat In the Benedictine Tradition with Kathy Harvey Nelson
December 17, 7:30 p.m. — December 19, 10 a.m.
Cost: $135
includes meals, lodging, devotional materials, and 2 ceus
In the silence, The Word becomes more audible; His Peace permeates more deeply; and there is refreshment that comes from time apart. Come away to the quiet, to the calm, to the Creator. Share rich liturgy and holy hours through the day and night. Experience communion and consolation. Be made new from the inside out.

To register for these retreats please fill out the form below and send it with your check to: The Center For Spiritual Formation - 45 South West St., Carlisle, PA 17013

**The Ministry of Spiritual Direction**
A two-year training course which assists lay and clergy to sharpen their listening skills, clarify their graces, and acquire the disciplines essential to caring for souls in love.

**YEAR ONE** focuses on the history, traditions & models, Biblical roots & theological foundations of Spiritual Direction. It stresses the difference between psychological counseling and Spiritual Direction, and demonstrates a contemplative approach to God.

**YEAR TWO** focuses on the actual practice of Spiritual Direction: developing listening and accusation skills; becoming familiar with displacement and projection, transference and counter-transference; acquiring a working knowledge of the life-stages of faith development; cultivating an increased awareness of the power of prayer and healing, and learning the importance of silence and solitude.

The Ministry of Spiritual Direction will:
- Provide basic instruction in sensitivity toward, and insight into the workings of the Holy Spirit;
- Advocate the need for a greater connectedness between the inner life of the Spirit and the outer life of faithfulness to the Spirit’s direction;
- Facilitate a deepening prayer life and a greater contentment with silence and solitude;
- Equip trainees to deal with strong emotions, and maintain relationships over time;
- Require trainees to undergo Spiritual Direction and aid them in accepting personal weakness as the basis for compassion.

**Visit centerformation.org for more information - keyword “Spiritual Direction”**

**Upcoming Trainings & Retreats at Orchard Hill**
Route 17 & Orchard Way, Millersville, PA

**Time of Sabbath Renewal for Pastors and Certified Lay Ministers**
Cost: $25/session - Bring a bag lunch
0.5 CEU/session

**SAVE THE DATES!**
**TOPICS WILL FOLLOW**
Tuesday, June 4, 2019
Tuesday, October 8, 2019
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Tuesday, June 16, 2020

The Center for Spiritual Formation is offering a series of Sabbath Retreats, designated especially for clergy and CLM’s who are serving churches. We gather at Orchard Hill in Millersville at 9 a.m. for worship and a time of exploring the Word together, as partners on the journey with Jesus. Following lunch, a guided activity will be offered in which you may participate. Or, you may use the afternoon for hiking our trails, walking the labyrinth, or taking a much-needed nap! We regather at 3:30 for sharing and communion before leaving at 4:30. Come for each Sabbath or select a few.

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**Retreat Name:**
**Name:**
**Address:**
**Phone:**
**Email:**
**Note:**
On his first missionary journey, Paul traveled eastward from Lystra, crossing over a mountain range to the region of Derbe, where he continued to preach the Gospel. Whilst in Derbe, Paul met a young man named Timothy, eventually leading him to Christ. Later, on his second missionary journey, Paul invited Timothy to join him and Silas, and from that point onward young Timothy served a vital role in the growth of the early church. Fourteen years later, whilst serving as the leader of the church at Ephesus, Timothy received a letter from Paul urging him to “let no one despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Never did Paul consider youthfulness an impediment to effective ministry, and neither does the Young People’s Ministry Council (YPMC), which has recently redirected its focus to the development of student leaders, equipping them to make disciples of their peers and serve active roles in the leadership of the United Methodist Church. The driving force behind this shift was the need for greater representation of young people in making decisions that affect the immediate life and future of the church.

At Annual Conference 2018, less than one percent of the voting laity was under 18. Looking ahead to General Conference, YPMC is working with the Division on Ministries with Young People to increase the number of young people elected as delegates, as only seven percent of General Conference delegates in the past have been under 35. There is a verse in Proverbs that is the basis of children’s and youth ministry. Proverbs 22:6 NIV reads “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” This should not only apply to Sunday School and youth group teachings but also to important decisions being made. Changes need to be made at the local home church level as well as at the conference level to improve the percentage of youth involved. We need to show the youth and young adults that their voices are important. If we don’t make them feel like their opinion counts, they won’t continue to attend, let alone be involved. Far from being the future of the church, young people are an integral part of the church right now, and members of YPMC prayerfully ask you to join them in ensuring that the youth of the Susquehanna Conference have a voice in the life of the church. Much like Paul did for Timothy, may we as one congregation mentor our young people, allowing them greater opportunities for involvement in the leadership of the church, and encourage them to serve Christ boldly, passionately, with their own unique talents and abilities from the reservoir of spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit imparts upon us all.

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At RiverWoods Senior Living Community in Lewisburg and Normandie Ridge Senior Living Community in York, you’ll find numerous ways to continue your mission of service including:

- Auxiliaries (membership is open to residents and non-residents)
- On-campus church services & Bible studies
- Meals on Wheels at RiverWoods
- Music Ministry (Chorus/Choir)
- Woodshops and Craft Studios
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Libraries on campus

Normandie Ridge and RiverWoods are proudly affiliated in faith with The United Methodist Church.

Our Team
We are comprised of both clergy and laity, many of whom have disabilities themselves or loved ones who have disabilities. Many members of Disability Ministries also have extensive experience working with and empowering people with disabilities in both the church and the community.

Our members include: Rev. Rebecca L. Holland (Chair), Rev. Mitch Galloway, Rev. Craig Gommer, Rev. James C. House, Rev. Jennett Wertz, Rev. Robert Stump, Rev. Carol Gathagan, Pastor Julie Rosensteel, Mrs. Pamela Harker, Ms. Abigail Kane, Mr. Jerry Post, Mrs. Wendy Allbright, Mrs. Lisa Lupold, and Mr. Jeffery Holland. Rev. Evelyn Madison (Mental Health Task Force, Chair) and Rev. Ed Zeiders (Child Advocacy, Chair) also serve in advisory positions.

We would like to sincerely thank Rev. Jennett Wertz for providing American Sign Language interpretation for the worship portions of our annual conference. Due to a series of complications, our regular ASL interpreter was not available. We are so grateful that Rev. Wertz was willing to share her interpreting skills with us.

Disability Awareness Sunday
Currently, we have a resolution before Annual Conference in order to ask the Susquehanna Conference to establish a Disability Awareness Sunday. We hope that you will support our resolution and that you will choose to celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday in your home church.

Upcoming Events
Rev. Rebecca L. Holland will be offering a seminar on accessible and inclusive worship at this year’s Bishop’s Retreat.

On Saturday, November 9, Rev. Phyllis Bowers will offer a free seminar on estate planning and capital campaigns at Christ Community UMC in Altoona. Christ Community UMC was able to become accessible because of a generous gift left to us by Mrs. Gloria Brown. Come join us to learn about how your own church can use estate planning in order to raise money to renovate for accessibility.

Stay Up to Date!
Please “Like” us on Facebook (Find us by searching “SUSUMCDisability”). You can also sign up for our newsletter at DisabilityUMC.org

To learn more or schedule a personal tour, visit RiverWoods.org and NormandieRidge.org

EAT. DRINK. BE MARRIED.

For more information, please visit our website at www.susumc.org
To our churches that paid their 2018 Shares of 100% - and 90%
Harmonize Our Efforts

If you look at how to make a stringed instrument, some of the same instructions translate into making disciples. You learn to “read” what or who you are working with each time. You make something that doesn’t just look great, but something useful that plays well too. You recognize you can’t make each one the same, because each has a different sound within it. “The reason violins last so long is because they are made to be repaired,” Mark Bluett, a master luthier from York, tells people who visit him. This repair work is also part of discipleship, part of growing in faith. We work on our brokenness with the Master. We emulate plants that thrive through all conditions and use this understanding of life’s rhythms to compose ourselves too. The music that resonates in us also comes from developing expert ears, from knowing how to listen and respond. It is a miracle that one can carve such simple things from nature to make a beautiful song. It is a miracle that God carves such simple things away from our nature to make us beautiful instruments of his great love. Disciples are made by his grace and made greater by the discipline of sharing it. We are stewards of what God gives us and he manages our results.

Let’s work together to produce fruit and praise for God, “singing and making melody to the Lord with our hearts.” As we harmonize our efforts to make and grow transformational disciples, we will celebrate being better together as one body of musicians, offering all we have with him.

Rev. Phyllis M. Bowers, Executive Director
Authors’ Book Signings AC 2019

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet authors speaking at Annual Conference and have your books signed. Not all titles will be available in the Cokesbury Store, so don’t miss your chance to get copies of books and have them signed, too!

Sue Nilson-Kibbey
Thursday, May 30
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. outside the Cokesbury Store
Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church
Ultimate Reliance: Breakthrough Prayer Practices for Leaders

Ken Willard
Thursday, May 30
8:30 am - 10:30 – EVC Booth
Stride: Creating a Discipleship Pathway for Your Church
Time Management for the Christian Leader

Kay Kotan
Friday, May 31
8 - 9:30 a.m. – EVC Booth
Small Church Checkup (also signed by co-author Phil Schroeder)
IMPACT! Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry

LIVE Streaming Schedule

The 2019 Susquehanna Annual Conference will once again be broadcast LIVE via susumc.org

Thursday, May 30, 2019
10:30 a.m. – Laity Session
2 p.m. – Opening Celebration
3:15 p.m. – Plenary One
7:30 p.m. – Memorial Service

Friday, May 31, 2019
8 a.m. – Plenary Two
1:30 p.m. – Plenary Three
7:30 p.m. – Ministry Night Celebration

Saturday, June 1, 2019
8 a.m. – Plenary Four
1 p.m. – Ordination Service

There will be NO WI-FI in the Great American Hall (Red, White, & Blue Rooms) for AC 2019.
You will have wi-fi in your rooms and in the Lodge lobby areas.

Download the AC Mobile App

This year at Annual Conference there will be a mobile app to help keep you up to date with all the events, announcements, and news.

- Visit http://my.yapp.us/AC19 on your device and follow the instructions on the page
- You’ll be asked to install Yapp from the app store (if you don’t have it already)
- Open Yapp and tap “Add an existing Yapp” and type AC19

If you have questions or need assistance contact the IT Department at support@susumc.org or 717-766-7054.

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Friday, May 31
8 - 9:30 a.m. – EVC Booth
Small Church Checkup (also signed by co-author Phil Schroeder)
IMPACT! Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry

LIVE Streaming Schedule

The 2019 Susquehanna Annual Conference will once again be broadcast LIVE via susumc.org

Thursday, May 30, 2019
10:30 a.m. – Laity Session
2 p.m. – Opening Celebration
3:15 p.m. – Plenary One
7:30 p.m. – Memorial Service

Friday, May 31, 2019
8 a.m. – Plenary Two
1:30 p.m. – Plenary Three
7:30 p.m. – Ministry Night Celebration

Saturday, June 1, 2019
8 a.m. – Plenary Four
1 p.m. – Ordination Service

There will be NO WI-FI in the Great American Hall (Red, White, & Blue Rooms) for AC 2019.
You will have wi-fi in your rooms and in the Lodge lobby areas.

Download the AC Mobile App

This year at Annual Conference there will be a mobile app to help keep you up to date with all the events, announcements, and news.

- Visit http://my.yapp.us/AC19 on your device and follow the instructions on the page
- You’ll be asked to install Yapp from the app store (if you don’t have it already)
- Open Yapp and tap “Add an existing Yapp” and type AC19

If you have questions or need assistance contact the IT Department at support@susumc.org or 717-766-7054.
Let MTSO help you get your full tuition covered

MTSO’s pledge to qualified UM applicants:

- We’ll assist you in locating and applying for scholarships from numerous sources.
- If those scholarships don’t cover your full tuition, **MTSO and its donors will make up the difference**.

We’re pleased to extend this commitment to every qualified prospective student who pursues United Methodist candidacy as an elder or deacon and applies to a master’s degree program by July 1 for the 2019-20 academic year. Speak with an MTSO admissions rep for details.
So that, Alive in Christ together, the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple-making congregations.