The 2018 Annual Conference Opening Celebration welcomed laity and clergy from across Susquehanna Conference with a bulletin displaying the artwork of Charlotte Sustersic, age 11, from St. Paul’s UMC, State College, and a worship setting displaying a variety of crosses, music, and images celebrating a unity found in diversity.

In his opening remarks to the Conference, Bishop Jeremiah Park celebrated the committed, dedicated, mission-minded, and generous people of the Susquehanna Conference. “Thanks be to God for you!” he exclaimed. “Indeed, the Susquehanna Conference is a church alive in Christ together.”

Bishop Park encouraged the Conference to remember three words about the mission of the Annual Conference: Grow, Equip, and Connect, before speaking to the challenge of our current denominational situation regarding the question of homosexuality. The unity of our church is at stake, he said. When people on both sides of the matter are passionate about their position, there seems to be no good or right way forward for all. A certain way forward may please others but dissatisfy others, causing disillusion and even anger.

While Jesus’ prayer in John 17 will continue to be our biblical foundation for unity, unity does not have a chance until we experience a change from a heart at war to a heart at peace.

We are one in Christ Jesus

By Brenda Leigey

The 2018 Annual Conference Opening Celebration welcomed laity and clergy from across Susquehanna Conference with a bulletin displaying the artwork of Charlotte Sustersic, age 11, from St. Paul’s UMC, State College, and a worship setting displaying a variety of crosses, music, and images celebrating a unity found in diversity.

In his opening remarks to the Conference, Bishop Jeremiah Park celebrated the committed, dedicated, mission-minded, and generous people of the Susquehanna Conference. “Thanks be to God for you!” he exclaimed. “Indeed, the Susquehanna Conference is a church alive in Christ together.”

Bishop Park encouraged the Conference to remember three words about the mission of the Annual Conference: Grow, Equip, and Connect, before speaking to the challenge of our current denominational situation regarding the question of homosexuality. The unity of our church is at stake, he said. When people on both sides of the matter are passionate about their position, there seems to be no good or right way forward for all. A certain way forward may please others but dissatisfy others, causing disillusion and even anger.

While Jesus’ prayer in John 17 will continue to be our biblical foundation for unity, unity does not have a chance until we experience a change from a heart at war to a heart at peace.

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park delivering his opening message during the Opening Celebration on Thursday, May 31, 2018.

PHOTO BY: SANDII PEIFFER

To live is Christ

By Bethany Wood

Celebrating the lives and resurrection of our saints, the Conference gathered to stirring music, which included a ragtime rendition of “Blessed Assurance.” Chaplain David E. Smith spoke a call to worship as images of those honored this night were reverently shown on the screen, setting the tone for the celebration. He invited the Conference to hold the crosses many brought to Annual Conference as a reminder that because of the cross, we receive eternal life.

Dr. Frank Derby concluded this passage of the service with a prayer of remembrance.

Rev. Marian Hartman then spoke of the honor of sharing in the service of Life and Resurrection, and remembering those who have served Christ and his church in differing ways.

Recalling the Apostles Creed: “I believe in the communion of saints,” Hartman shared a childhood memory of her picturing a group people with wings sitting around in heaven drinking cups of grape juice. We are one with Christ, she said, and we serve in faith whether we lived yesterday, today, or tomorrow, or all the tomorrows after that.

Hartman recalled that when she attended her first Annual Conference, she wondered why the memorial service so important. Her family did not do death all that well, she said. They had a service, and then never spoke of the person again. But through the years, she has come to realize how very important this service is. Tonight, as the names of persons who had served with Hartman in the Wellsboro District were read, she celebrated the ways they proclaimed their faith. Some witnessed from the pulpit, some of them witnessed as persons who baked pies and cakes, and one served God with screwdrivers, paintbrushes, and hammers. Though each proclaimed faith in different ways, they all

Rev. Marian Hartman speaks about her personal experience with grief, loss, and finding peace during her message at the Memorial Service Thursday evening May 31, 2018.

PHOTO BY: SANDII PEIFFER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Once upon a time, River City Church succeeded in inviting a national food co-op to open a site in its community. When the meeting was called, all the right church and community leaders showed up. They listened, asked questions, and decided to schedule another meeting, which was cancelled due to calendar conflicts.

Louise showed up anyway. She had been volunteering with the co-op in a nearby community, heard word of the meeting, and was greeted by a locked door. She waited. Then she found the pastor, who explained the cancellation.

Louise was not discouraged. “I can get people here,” she said, “and I will even lead the meeting. All the church has to do is open the door and turn on the lights.”

The church agreed. “What could go wrong?” church leaders said. “It might even work.”

A meeting date was arranged and announced. Once again, all of the invited community and church leaders phoned in their regrets. It didn’t matter. The meeting was packed. It was filled with people whose life and leadership skills did not appear to match their passion for the project. That didn’t stop them. The site was launched. Things went wrong. It took a lot of work to make it all work.

Food had to be unloaded from a semi-truck. The police were called when traffic stacked up around the church. The church office spent a week handling complaints from people who didn’t get walnuts for their Christmas cookies, and then worked with the co-op to resolve the matter. Detailed meeting minutes were read aloud before they were approved. The work was worth it. Faith worked in love. Daily bread was provided. In three years time, what the church had thought “might work” grew to include three more food co-op sites. It had gone so right that key members of its organizing team became congregational and community leaders.

All this had gone as Jesus once said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” (Matthew 15:31)

Church works that way. A small church gathers in a room, and after a mighty rush of wind, they are out and about to welcome three thousand souls more. A discouraged pastor drags into small group, and his strangely warmed heart changes countless hearts. God works that way. Sometimes God’s best work begins from something as small as one more meeting.
The love of God which flows from the spirit of the heavens is the love of a God who is pure and perfect, and who has no part in the world. The love of the Spirit is the love of a God who is all-powerful and all-knowing, and who has the power to guide and direct our lives. The love of the Spirit is the love of a God who is all-loving and all-forgiving, and who has the power to forgive our sins and to give us a new life. The love of the Spirit is the love of a God who is all-wise and all-seeing, and who has the power to direct our lives and to help us to do the right thing. The love of the Spirit is the love of a God who is all-powerful and all-compassionate, and who has the power to help us in our times of need.

One with Christ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A heart at war sees the other side as an object to overcome and does not recognize that the other side has as many rights and privileges and validity as it does; it leaves no room for the other side. A heart at war sees peace as existence without demanding or requiring that it is “my way or no way at all.” The heart at war is the most compromising voice for us to hear when we tune our attitude with the turning fork of Christ.

One with Christ

We are (not just) lay people

By Deb Stetarsky

“We are lay people!” declared Kay Kotan, Director of Equipping Vital Congregations. “We are not just lay people. And we are called for impact.”

Kotan was the dynamic keynote speaker for the Laity Session Thursday morning. Using Nehemiah as an example, she demonstrated that the role of lay leadership was the perfect model for lay leadership. He possessed many qualities that we are called for but notably he had never been a leader before, had no training, and was actually a servant to his own home. His example shows us that whatever our place is, God can use us. Kotan went on to say that lay people can give us courage to serve regardless of what training we have or don’t have. Kotan said that Jesus had felt that lay people were crucial to the mission of spreading the Word.

The author of several books, said as she traveled the country and spoke to groups, that she heard too many times the phrase “I am just a lay person.” Because of that, she then asked “What did Nehemiah do when Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry.” She named several reasons for writing the book. Among them she mentioned that Nehemiah’s methods were founded on a laity movement, and that we need to reset the fork of love and lay people. Kotan is hoping the outcome of the book will restore the laity missionional impact of poultry leadership. Kotan outlined eight areas for us to make an impact. The first is working with Christ’s church for Christ’s impact. The second way we can impact is to buy-in and commitment to fulfill our mission. One hour a week is not enough to make mature members of the faith.

The second way we can impact is relationally. Kotan asked us to think about how our churches reflect our communities. Chances are that they do not, and if that is the case we need to be intentional and essentially foreigners in our own neighborhoods, and therefore ineffective in our mission.

Thirdly, Kotan said we need to make a discipleship impact, meaning that we should remember that we are disciple makers, and that requires a way of being or doing. Becoming a church member isn’t a one-time commitment. It’s a lifelong striving toward being impactful Christians.

Fourth, Kotan said we need to find a way to make an impact. Kotan reminded us that we are in a relationship business. We must be prepared for guests at our churches, always remembering the principles that we teach medically. Taking care of each of us is important, too. But congregational care isn’t just the pastor’s responsibility. Lay people can also do hospital visits, etc.

Next is outreach impact. Outreach is not just the mission, though it is valuable, and we are good at it. But we aren’t as good at sharing that good News. Let’s tune it to the highest place, but also to his heart of love.

The love of God which flows from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Our community such as fire halls, businesses, and schools and ask questions. Find out what they need, then name it and own it. Become a partner with the community.

Worship makes a big impact. Passionate worship is multi-layered and engages all the senses. Worship is when we leave worship saying, “Wow.” It leads us to want to reach out to share God’s good news. And laity should share the task of creating worship with the pastor.

Seventh, lay leadership impact is very important. Kotan believes. Remember that the committee’s name is “Nominations and Lay Leadership Development.” She said laity should have conversations about how to make authentic disciples and ask the big questions about our faith. Are we bringing up our next leaders?

Lastly, Kotan said that when a new pastor arrives, it is a huge opportunity to bring something new in a way and to make a great impact. Try not to let the stress of the change distract us from that opportunity.

In conclusion, Kotan encouraged us to form a group in our churches and study how we can make an impact. Equipping Vital Congregations is launching education opportunities on-line starting this fall. There will be four modules: Impact (Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry), M3 (Moving from Maintenance to Mission), Small Church Check-up, and Community of Practice. More information can be found at www.equippingspecialcongregations.com.

Following Kay Kotan’s presentation, the Laity Conference Leader, introduced Audrey Wilder, conference leader for Young People’s Ministry. She explained the fundraisers that benefit the youth. The money the group raises funds scholarships to send youth to Annual Conference and fund Youth Service Fund. There are T-shirt sales, with the goal to raise $2000. They have raised $1,674 so far. Also, the popular pie-in-the-face contest is happening again this year. Six brave clergy and two laity are participating. Vote with your dollars for whom you want to see get the pie in the face.

Concluding the session, we were asked to spend some time to talk with the strangers in our midst to ground us so that we could get to know each other. We then promised to pray for each other. Following the Conference and, hopefully, beyond.
Celebration for our

Rev. Dr. Timothy Ray Baer
Rev. Baer was recommended for ministry by Greenwood Altoona. He was ordained in 1978 and 1981. He served Bedford Valley; Youngs; Fishing Creek Salem; and Shepherdstown. He also served as Chambersburg District Superintendent.

Pastor Michael Stephon Baumgardner Sr.
Pastor Baumgardner was recommended for ministry by St. Thomas. He was licensed to preach in 2005. He served Valley UM Parish; Sidingel Hill; Scotland; Conocovery/Eagle Lake Winola; Pine Grove/McAlesterville; and Valley Parish.
Pastor Baumgardner and his wife, Crystal, will reside at 187 S. Main St., Pleasant Gap, PA 16825-2329.

Rev. Carola Beasley-Topliffe
Rev. Beasley-Topliffe was recommended for ministry by Piltston. She was ordained in 1989 and 1992. She served Trough Creek Valley; Rocksville; Marysville Bethany; and Yeagertown.
Rev. Beasley-Topliffe and her husband, Keith, will reside at 70 Foundry St., Unit 330, Manchester, NH 03012-3769.

Pastor Katherine Anne Behrens
Pastor Behrens was recommended for ministry by Ramey. She was licensed to preach in 1994. She served Wallacocton; Millerstown; Loyalsock Walls Run; and Walls Run.
Pastor Behrens and her husband, James, will reside at 124 S. 2nd St., Hughesville, PA 17737-1710.

Rev. Richard J. Bender
Rev. Bender was recommended for ministry by Meyctown. He was ordained in 1993 and 1996. He served St. Paul Manchester; Redsville/Church Hill; and Lewistown Grace. He also served as State College Assisting Elder.
Rev. Bender and his wife, Kay, will reside at 117 Woodland Cir., Redsville, PA 17084-8626.

Rev. Phyllis M Bowers
Rev. Bowers was recommended for ministry by Otterbein Emigsville. She was consecrated diaconal in 1999 and ordained deacon in full connection in 2004. She served Stewardship Foundation, 1986-2005; co-executive director, Stewardship Foundation, 2005-2006; and executive director, Stewardship Foundation 2006-present.
Rev. Bowers and her husband, Richard, will reside at 40 Farmington Dr., Jacobus, PA 17347-1205.

Pastor Judy M. Bupp
Pastor Bupp was recommended for ministry by Pleasant Gap. She was licensed to preach in 2004. She served Violet Hill; York City Extended; York City; York Fourth; and Adamsville/Yoe.
Pastor Bupp and her husband, Larry, will reside at 1051 Pleasant Grove Rd., York Haven, PA 17370-9712.

Rev. Gary Lee Daugherty
Rev. Daugherty was recommended for ministry by Windsor Area Larger Parish. He was ordained in 1992 and 1996. He served Druck Valley; Clearfield Centre Grove; Unah; Sermans Dale/Youngs; and Airville McKendree.
Rev. Daugherty and his wife, Julie, will reside at 500 Coit Rd. Apt. 325, Plano, TX 75075-5854.

Rev. Martin White Bovee
Rev. Bovee was recommended for ministry by First Baptist Church, Carthage, New York. He was ordained in 1965 and 1967. He served American Baptist Churches in New York and New Jersey; Newton/ Ransom Cooperative Parish/Ransom; Christians United Together, Director/ Ransom; Chinchilla; Nosen; Athens; and Jefferson/Greenmount.
Rev. Bovee and his wife, Musa, will reside at 16 Cemetery St., Adams, NY 13603-1202.

Pastor Patricia C. Bollinger
Pastor Bollinger was recommended for ministry by Aldergate York. She was licensed to preach in 2005. She served Crayle/New Bridgeville; Water’s Edge; McVeytown Parish; and McVeytown/Wayne.
Pastor Bollinger and her husband, Daniel, will reside at 2869 Mile Hill Rd., Sunbury, PA 17801-5430.

Rev. Debra A. Decker
Pastor Decker was licensed to preach in 2006. She served Everett Area Cooperative Ministry Extended; Everett; and Clearview/Stevens Chapel.
Pastor Decker and her husband, Gene, will reside at 172 Penny Ln., Everett, PA 15537-7662.

Rev. Daniel L. Dennis
Rev. Dennis was recommended for ministry by Pleasant Valley. He was admitted on trial in 1975 and ordained in 1975 and 1980. He served Harveyville; Port Trevorton; Berwick Bethany; and Bolinger Springs Otterbein. He also served as York District Superintendent.
Rev. Dennis will reside at 830 Dunbar Rd., Carlisle, PA 17015-1795.

Rev. Dr. Jean-Pierre Duncan
Rev. Duncan was recommended for ministry by Christ Mountaintop. He was licensed to preach in 1984 and ordained in 1987 and 1990. He served Slocum; New Hope (Faith/Stairville); Scranton Urban Cooperative Ministries/Dunmore; Scranton Urban Cooperative Ministries/Embury; Abbott; Countryside Community; and Detroit Conference: New Baltimore Grace. He also served as BGCM/Conference Shalom Coordinator.
Rev. Duncan and his wife, Noreen, will reside at 2282 18th St., Wyandotte, MI 48192-4124.

Rev. Cecily Annette Elisey
Rev. Elisey was recommended for ministry by Faith Montoursville. She was ordained in 1999 and 2002. She served New Oxford Charge; Faith Community Church of the Brethren; Penndale/Huntersville; Pt. Loudon-Edenville; McClure; Springville; and Millerstown.
Rev. Elisey’s mailing address will be PO Box 66, Ralston, PA 17763-0066.

Rev. Ronald S. French
Rev. French was recommended for ministry by Bridgeport, Upper New York. He was ordained in 1984 and 1988. He served Catawissa Circuit; Sunbury Albright; York Fourth; Winterstown; and Danville Trinity.
Rev. French and his wife, Denise, will reside at 1246 Ridge Rd., Bloomsburg, PA 17815-6907.

Rev. Mitchell M. Galloway
Rev. Galloway was recommended for ministry by Messiah York. He was ordained in 1978 and 1981. He served Chambersburg St. Johns; Belleville Watts Memorial; Adamsville- Dallastown Trinity; York Fourth; and Winterstown.
Rev. Galloway and his wife, Carol, will reside at 191 Winners Cir., Red Lion, PA 17356-8782.

Rev. Peter Frank Geschwindner
Rev. Geschwindner was recommended for ministry by Mt. Horeb, Warren, New Jersey. He was ordained in 1977 and 1979. He served Star Parish, Washington, New Jersey; Drew; Port Jervis, New York; Artesian Ferwell, South Dakota; Trout Run; Mt. Pleasant Mills; Watsontown; Gethsemane; and Tunkhannock. He also served as Chaplain, Albright Care Services, RiverWoods; and as Chaplain, Riverswoods Senior Living Community.
Rev. Geschwindner and his wife, Anne, will reside at 36 Wilson Cir., Milton, PA 17847-9646.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth B. Grundon
Rev. Grundon was recommended for ministry by Trinity Hummelstown. He was ordained in 1977 and 1984. He served Olivet, St. Paul, Minnesota; Pine Creek Circuit; Mifflin Trinity; Mt. Union First; Three Springs Parish; New Hope Parish; and Greater Broad Top. He also served as resident chaplain at York Hospital.
Dr. Grundon and his wife, Nancy, will reside at 1744 Eaglesmere Ln., Shirleyburg, PA 17260-9405.

Rev. Albert R. Horst
Rev. Horst was recommended for ministry by St. Peters Riverside. He was ordained in 1980 and 1982. He served Burnt Cabins; Jersey Shore First; Crayle/New Bridgeville; Red Lion Bethany; York Messiah; and East Prospect Zion.
Rev. Horst and his wife, Peggy, will reside at 2949 Elkridge Ln., York, PA 17404-8494.
Rev. Kevin E. Hughes

Rev. Hughes was recommended for ministry by Hillside, Greensboro District. He was ordained in 1978 and 1981. He transferred from Western Pennsylvania Conference, and served Gainesville/Galeton; Uriah; Lykens; Shelton Centenary; Shippenburg Messiah; Mechanicsburg; Mt. Olivet/Wesley; and Mt. Olivet/St. Marks.

Rev. Mugridge and his wife, Janio, will reside at 1913 Silver Creek Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-1972.

Rev. Lisa Kerlin Klinger

Rev. Klinger was recommended for ministry by Trinity Hummelstown. She was ordained in 1993 and 1996. She served Wiconisco Calvary; York Otterbein; Liverpool; Mt. Holly Springs; and Blue Mountain.

Pastor Klinger and her husband, Robert, will reside at 1635 Williamsburg Way, PA 17241-9749.

Pastor I. Robert Klingerman

Pastor Klingerman was recommended for ministry by Bethany Berwick. He was licensed to preach in 2003. He served Center Charge.

Pastor Klingerman and his wife, Dena, will reside at 1642 Spring Garden Ave., Berwick, PA 18603-2503.

Rev. William Mackey-Wisor

Rev. Mackey-Wisor was recommended for ministry by Bigler. He was ordained in 1981 and 1985. He served Manor Hill, Nescopeck before going on honorable location. He returned to active status and served Virginia Conference: Watson Memorial Chapel.

Rev. Mackey-Wisor and his wife, Mary Anne, will reside in Harrisonburg, VA.

Rev. F. Jeffrey Mugridge

Rev. Mugridge was recommended for ministry by St. Lukes Millheim. He was ordained in 1976 and 1981. He served Christ York; Shamron Dale; Coudersport Larger Parish; Laurelton; and Penns Valley.

Rev. Mugridge and his wife, Evelyn, will reside at 161 Kramer Rd., PO Box 239, Aarenburg, PA 16820-0639.

Pastor Ann B. Overmiller

Pastor Overmiller was licensed to preach in 1998. He served Wiconisco Calvary and Radston.

Pastor Overmiller and his wife, James, will reside at 212 Camelot Arms, York, PA 17406-1870.

Rev. Dr. S. Ronald Parks

Rev. Parks was recommended for ministry by Aldersgate York. He was ordained in 1979 and 1982. He served New Bedf ord; Wyoming Conference: Gouldsboro; Everett Extended; and Harrisburg Calvary.

Dr. Parks and his wife, Jean, will reside at 2081 Ralambrook Dr. S, Rebersboth, DE 19971-8989.

Pastor Larry W. Parlett

Pastor Parlett was recommended for ministry by Sta wartstown. He was licensed to preach in 2000. He served Potosí Mt. Zion.

Pastor Parlett and his wife, Susan, will reside at 10310 High Rock Rd., Airville, PA 17302-9496.

Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver

Rev. Salsgiver was recommended for ministry by St. Pauls Williamsport. He was admitted on trial in 1973 and ordained in 1973 and 1977. He served Harrisburg Grace; Park Street; Welliboro; and Bloomsburg Wesley. He also served on the General Board of Discipleship; as Lewisburg District Superintendent; and as Director, Central Pennsylvania Conference Council on Ministries; and as Director, Susquehanna Conference Council on Ministries.

Dr. Salsgiver and his wife, Joanne, will reside at 1635 Williamsburg Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-7389.

Chaplain David E. Smith

Chaplain Smith was recommended for ministry by Grace Lemoyne. He was ordained in 1978 and 1981. He served Baltimore Conference: Sleepy Creek; Boonsboro; Mt. Nebo; and Picture Rocks; Huntersville Parish. He also served as Chaplain, U.S. Army; as Coordinator, Wounded Warrior Soul Care Initiative JUSTPEACE.

Chaplain Smith and his wife, Karen, will reside at 14000 Jones Bridge Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-6994.

Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Somerville

Rev. Somerville was recommended for ministry by Grace Shrewsbur y. She was licensed to preach in 1996. She was probationary elder in 2004 and ordained in 2007. She served Endless Mountain Group Ministry: North Towanda; Bald Eagle; and New Visions Parish.

Dr. Somerville and her husband, Roger, will reside at 128 Hannibal St., Blossburg, PA 16921-1457.

Rev. Ruby Harkness Sosa

Rev. Sosa was recommended for ministry by East Canton. She was ordained in 1994 and 1998. She served Endless Mountain Group Ministry; Wrightsville Local Stom; and Texas Conference: Iola/Shir.

Rev. Sosa and her husband, James, will reside at 132 Garnet Head Rd., Pembroke, ME 04666-4340.

Rev. Norman E. “Skip” Spangler III

Rev. Spangler was recommended for ministry by York Fourth. He was ordained in 1978 and 1982. He served Fellowship, Lowell, Massachusetts; Columbia Circuit; Lock Haven East Main St./Laurel Run; Altoona Otterbein; York Otterbein Extended; and Mt. Zion Enola.

Rev. Spangler and his wife, Delores (Dj), will reside at 3 Crestline Dr., Manchester, PA 17345-1201.

Rev. Dr. William J. Townsend

Rev. Townsend was recommended for ministry by Factoryville. He was licensed to preach in 1984. He was ordained in 1986 and 1988. He served Stevens Point; Ransom; Skimmers Eddy; Northern Ohego Coop. Parish/Cooperstown; Harmony Coop. Parish Dir./New Milford; Kingston; Dorrancetown; and Franklin Forks. He also served as Director of Spiritual Life, Children’s Home, Binghamton, New York.

Dr. Townsend will reside at 221 Lake Roy Cir., New Milford, PA 18834-7001.

Rev. Thomas A. Willard

Rev. Willard was recommended for ministry by Liverpool. He was ordained in 1977 and 1979. He served West Fairview; Waggoners; Shepherdstown; and Camp Hill. He also served as Wellersboro District Superintendent.

Rev. Willard and his wife, Mary Alice “Marty”, will reside at 2709 Yale Ave., Camp Hill, PA 17011-5348.

Pastor Michael H. Wilson

Pastor Wilson was recommended for ministry by First Blossburg. He was licensed to preach in 2007. He served Reedsdale/ Church Hill; Reedsdale/Church Hill Extended; Reedsdale/Church Hill; and Laurelton.

Pastor Wilson and his wife, Mary, will reside at 149 Reit Ave., Winfield, PA 17889-9133.

Rev. Jay Elwood Zimmerman

Rev. Zimmerman was recommended for ministry by Calvary Harrisburg. He was licensed to preach in 1975 and ordained in 1975 and 1979. He served Bald Eagle Parish; Paxton; Waynesboro Christ; and Gettysburg, PA 17325-6984.

Rev. Zimmerman and his wife, Linda, will reside at 90 Camp Gettysburg Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325-6984.
heart of Jesus was proven on the cross. The pitches from Jesus’ mind and heart are crystal clear: humility and love. Bishop Park then shared his struggle. “As I journey through the denominational struggle over human sexuality and its impact on the agenda of unity, one of the questions that I wrestle with is this one: Why do so many faithful, committed, devoted, honest, honorable, and authentic disciples of Jesus Christ differ from one another so radically? They love Jesus. What am I missing? Are we disciples of a different Jesus? Did we receive a different baptism and were we confirmed to a different faith? Do we worship and serve a different God? If not, what makes us so compelled and willing to go a different way from one another?”

In closing the bishop said, “I don’t know what is waiting for us and our loved church. But I know who’s holding the future, the One who came from the highest place to prove God’s love for us on the cross, the lowest place. There’s nothing whatsoever that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This Jesus walks with us.”

The Changing Landscape of

By Kevin Witt
Director of Camp & Retreat and Discipleship Ministries

The Board of Camp & Retreat Ministries and staff have prayerfully discerned four new horizons and visions to expand the missional impact and long-term vitality and sustainability of the conference’s camp and retreat centers and ministries. These efforts focus on making sure that Camp & Retreat Ministries are adaptive and dynamic pathways of discipleship that are true extensions of the ministries of our local churches.

Camp & Retreat Ministry with our colleagues in local churches will create new forms of ministry and collaboration that take seriously the needs of the changing landscape of society and the church. Stop by the Camp & Retreat Ministry table at Annual Conference or give us a call to talk and dream together about the possibilities.

1. Develop fresh partnerships with congregations to help enhance relationships and missional outreach within their local communities. Experiential faith formation is a powerful avenue for developing new relationships with people in fresh and dynamic discipleship opportunities. Perhaps it is a new idea that Camp & Retreat Ministry can come collaborate with your congregations to bring the benefits of outdoor ministry to where you are.

We are launching Camp in the Communities, 2019, in which a new form of day camp will be done with local churches in their own local communities that will be bridging opportunities to form new friendships with people in a positive and beneficial way. We will also support congregations engaged in the Equipping Vital Congregations processes for creative ways to help these churches fulfill some of the new visions for strategic planning, outreach, and ministry that they will be developing. In addition to the wide array of camps and retreats being offered already, we know that there are also churches that want to plan their own retreats and camps designed with specific faith formation and missional outcomes related to their context. We are eager to help.

2. Extend the wide embrace of God among underserved persons and communities. We will remove barriers and deepen relationships so those who participate and lead within our camp and retreat ministries more fully reflect the diversity of people and families living in our communities. This project includes a major renovation and expansion of accessibility for persons with handicap conditions, beginning with Wesley Forest. Also underway is an initiative to establish partnerships with United Methodist urban ministries, congregations, and other partners to enable children, youth, and families who now have financial or other barriers that hinder their involvement and access. This includes intentional relationship building and shared leadership with ethnic communities. It is also clear that the northern region of our conference is underserved in terms of camp and retreat ministry opportunities due to distance and an affinity with Sky Lake Camp historically. We now have a new collaboration with Sky Lake.

3. Steward the ministry to healthy growth and vitality in order to establish greater long-term capacity to fulfill our mission. We are working diligently to expand our current and projected growth of the ministry by 20 percent by 2021, which will bring us more in alignment with other UM camp and retreat ministries that have reached a level that enables long-term health and vitality. It is crucial that we steward the ministry well so that it will have the capacity to serve the church and the region into the future as we reach more people in the fulfillment of our important shared mission. We will be reaching out to persons who have a passion to make sure no one is prevented from accessing God-led Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries due to finances.

4. Excel at inspiring, developing, and renewing Christian servant leaders, especially those new to their roles. Camps and retreats have long been one of the milestone experiences for many laity and clergy in discerning direction in life, hearing the call of God, growing in spiritual leadership, and finding rhythms of renewal and restoration. It can be particularly challenging for laity and clergy new to leadership roles, so we want to be especially attentive to see that those persons also receive encouragement and assistance as we collaborate and coordinate with other groups in the conference focused on spiritual leadership development.
www.susumcamps.org
2018 CAMPS AND RETREATS
An Unforgettable Experience!
**YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRY**

**Two Options to be Dressed**

**Better Together**

**Annual Conference Polo & T-shirts for sale**

Proceeds from the polo & t-shirt sales will be used to fund Youth scholarships to Annual Conference.

- **Polo Shirt**
  - Adult Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large - $24
  - Adult 2XL and 3XL - $27

- **T-Shirt**
  - Adult Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large - $10
  - Adult 2XL and 3XL - $13

Visit the Young People’s Ministry Table to get yours today!

---

**YSF is the UM mission fund that is raised by youth, administered by youth, for the benefit of youth ministry and mission locally, nationally, and globally.**

Information about 2018 YSF Grant Recipients are on the tables in the dining areas.

Apply for a YSF grant online by visiting igniteyoungpeople.org. **Deadline October 31, 2018.**

---

**FUNDRAISING GOAL**

for AC 2018 = $10,000

---

**AC Workbooks**

In case you forget to pack yours, a limited number of printed workbooks will be available at the YSF table for $12.

---

**Pie-in-Face Challenge**

Drop spare change or loose bills into the bucket of the Conference leader you would like to see take a pie to the face. The competition will begin Thursday morning and end Saturday at 11 a.m. The Conference leader with the most money will receive a face full of pie before lunch on Saturday! Competitors include:

- Tom Salsgiver
- Audrey Wilder
- Kevin Witt
- John Konieczny
- Beth Jones
- Marian Hartman
- Barry Robison
- Larry Leland

---

**Charging Station**

Long sessions, short battery life, or lost power cord - we’ve got you covered. Check your mobile device at the charging station in the Great American Hall and we will get you powered back up. (suggested donations $5 per phone, $10 per tablet/iPad, $20 per laptop)

---

**Gift Basket Silent Auction**

(20 Baskets)

Bidding on gift baskets will be open until 9 a.m. Saturday. There are over 20 baskets that will be waiting to go home with you! Place a bid on your favorite baskets at the YSF display table.

---

By giving generously our youth can continue to be vital in their communities and the world.

**Thank You!**
Leadership Report: In Tune with Christ

By Ed Preston

A440. This is the pitch to which a piano tuner seeks to tune each instrument he or she encounters. Sometimes a piano is just a little bit out of tune and can be brought back in tune with one set of adjustments. Other times the instrument hasn’t been tuned for so long that it takes several adjustments over time to gradually bring the piano back to that frequency. Either way, the goal is to bring the instrument back to A440 so that it is in tune with other pianos everywhere.

The cabinet shared that in their own particular conversations about our differences, they are many, when we are all tuned to the Spirit of Christ we find that we are, indeed, better together. In their report, the cabinet used a reader’s theater format to dramatize the way conversations about our differences need to be couched in vulnerability in order to perceive God’s preferred future for us as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The cabinet shared that in their own various conversations they had come to realize that they were not fully in tune with Christ. The result was a new awareness and effort to re-tune our mission, which was expressed in three points: Grow spiritual, transformational leaders; Equip congregations for vitality and create new spaces for new people; Connect with each other and with the world, so that the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple-making congregations.

Rev. Larry Leland observed that tuning is a process. Already grow and equip goals have been created, and the connect goals are in process as our new director of connectional ministries has opportunity to work with the extended cabinet and other leadership. “Our work isn’t finished,” Leland said, “but we are committed to raising up new laity and clergy into leadership, increasing our participation as clergy and laity in continuous learning communities, and creating a shift toward diversity of effective leadership.”

District vitality teams and work done with declining congregations are also in the plan. One initiative already underway is to create new places for new people. To that end there will be three new church plants happening across the conference, with a final goal of 25 new places throughout the annual conference. This work is beginning in State College, with Tim Parker in leadership; Calvary Dillsburg, led by Chrisanna Rogers; and Josue Marrero Sánchez, reaching out through Calvary York. Following their introduction, Bishop Jeremiah J. Park led the Conference to pray for these three servants who are being sent forth into their respective mission fields.

The Mission of the Susquehanna Annual Conference is to equip local churches to fulfill their mission as we:

- Grow spiritual, transformational leaders,
- Equip congregations for vitality and create new places for new people
- Connect with each other and the world

So that, Alive in Christ together, the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple-making congregations.

2018 “GROW” Goals

1. Raise up new clergy and laity to serve – 100 new persons to enter the process for Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker or candidacy for Certified Lay Minister, Local Pastor, or Ordained Deacon or Elder.

2. Increase numbers of clergy and laity engaged in continuous learning communities • 25% of all congregations will have at least one layperson involved in a district or conference continuous learning community.

   • Extended Cabinet will engage in continuous learning together by reading three books in 2018, and interacting in person or online.

3. Create shift toward diversity of effective leadership – establish strategic relationships with three new colleges and two new seminaries, UM or non-UM which have significant ethnic diversity in their populations.

4. Due to the ongoing need for effective pastoral leadership at all size churches, prepare leaders to serve churches that may represent a large step up in leadership responsibilities.

2018 “EQUIP” Goals

1. Have at least two people per district trained in each strategy for new places for new people.

2. Have at least five churches in each district engage with the District Vitality Team by the end of 2018.

3. Launch 25 new places for new people from any of the four strategies.

4. Assist 10% of declining churches in growing areas to either stop decline or begin growth.

Specific goals for the “CONNECT” piece of our mission and vision will be developed as the new Director of Connectional Ministries has opportunity to work with the extended cabinet and other leaders on desired outcomes for the next year.

Check out the table displays outside the Great American Hall and in the Chocolate Lobby.
The Children’s Home started as an orphanage. Today, UMHC provides a safe haven for scores of adolescents—many the victims of neglect or abuse within families that have been shattered by substance abuse or domestic violence. To learn more about UMHC programs or to support this vital ministry with your gift, visit our Conference Table or go to www.umhcservices.com.

Mr. James Cogman
Meet our
Black College Fund speaker

James Cogman is a certified Lay Servant, and a candidate for ordination in the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our speaker is a student-athlete Magna Cum Laude graduate of Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. In August of 2016, he enrolled at Yale University where he received a graduate of Claflin University in

TO LIVE IS CHRIST
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE
proclaimed the same Christ.

The year you were born and the year you die isn’t as important as the time between, she said. What will your legacy be? she asked. What will you do to share the love and message of Jesus Christ? If you have still have a pulse, she said, God has something for you to do.

Hartman then recalled a memorial sermon preached by Rev. Jody Link shortly after the death of her husband, Rev. Kendal Link. Great is so high, Link reflected that night, you can’t go over it, so low you can’t go under it, so wide you can’t go around it. You just have to go through it.

Hartman shared that she finally understood that truth when her only child Samuel died suddenly just days before his high school graduation. She learned that if we do death together, we have such support to carry us through. We cannot be a Christian alone and isolated from others, she said. “Help, love, and support carry each of us in the power of Christ Jesus.”

And selfless service are his beacons of Divinity degree. Humility, leadership, and the spirited singing of “When I Heard That” and “I’ll Fly Away,” after which the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Jeremiah J. Park.
Webinar Wednesdays
Fall 2018
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. EST

We’re bringing in quality leaders from around the country for you!
Our presenters are from Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin and Tennessee

August 29  September 12  October 3  November 7
Rev. David Rash  Author Bob Sitze  Author Dr. Mark Vincent  Rev. Dr. Phil Jamieson

Register Online:
www.umstewardship.org/events
Cost $10 - Nonrefundable, 0.1 CEUs
Sponsored by The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation

This year’s Annual Conference logo ironically centers on a fork. It reminds us of the verses that tell us to center our lives on God rather than taking the “forks in the road.”

“So you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.” Deuteronomy 5:32

Even though the tuning fork was invented over 300 years old, no matter how you hit it against a hard surface its true character emerges. After a few seconds it will emit the same note each time because a tuning fork rings true.

Tuning forks can be used to judge hearing loss, reminding us that we can tune out from God’s direction if we don’t hear his word. Tuning fork principles are also used by radar guns for judging speed, reminding us that it isn’t always the forks in the road that can cause our trouble but our hurried rushing and pushing through limits set for us. Tuning forks can even diagnose fractures, reminding us that tuning in to him can show us the breaks that need healing in our lives. We are tuned together to be stewards of our listening, pacing, and breaks.

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Proverbs 4:23

Tuning forks remind us to tune our hearts by turning to God each time no matter how life hits us.

Tuning our lives means seeing the left and right but choosing to center on God instead. We center on what we can hear through the Holy Spirit. We become one in Christ when we can be in tune with each other in love and unity despite the differences in how we fit into the great Hymn.

We tune our hearts to heal them. Let’s ring true to his calling and be better together for him.

(https://sciencehowstuffworks.com/tuning-fork.htm)
E-mail: formation1@embarqmail.com • Website: www.centerformation.org

Affiliated with the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church - Mechanicsburg, Pa

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

A two-year training course which assists laity 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 & assessment skills; becoming familiar with displacement and projection, transference & counter-transference; acquiring a working knowledge of the life-stages of faith development; cultivating an increased awareness of the power of prayer & healing; and learning the importance of supervision.

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.

The Ministry of Spiritual Direction:
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 Street, Carlisle, PA 17013

Retreat Name: ______________________________________________________________
Name: ______________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________    Email: _______________________________________
Notes: ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

The Center for Spiritual Formation is offering a series of Sabbath Retreats, designed especially for clergy and CLMs who are serving churches. We gather at Orchard Hill in Millerstown 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.

A Time of Sabbath Renewal
for Pastors and Certified Lay Ministers
with Pat Woolever & Kathy Harvey Nelson
Cost: $25/session - Bring a bag lunch - 0.5 CEU's/session
The Center for Spiritual Formation is offering a series of Sabbath Retreats, designed especially for clergy and CLMs who are serving churches. We gather at Orchard Hill in Millerstown 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.

What happens at a silent retreat? We are silent, with conversation at meals. There is time for reading, reflection, walks on the mountain, but the core of the retreat is keeping canonical hours—the hours for prayer that monks have kept throughout the centuries. Canonical office is an ancient, but, fear not!, adapted, liturgy that retreatants participate in every three hours—day and night—with night participation at your option. The flavor of the retreat is to bring Christ into the focus of each moment and to practice savoring being in His presence. You will come away relieved—from carrying life alone when you were never meant to—and refreshed—having gotten to know your Lord and yourself in new ways. A past participant wrote, “A few days away reminded me of the importance of being still before God, of receiving His power through the Holy Spirit, and doing all I do through His power. This has reminded me that I need a “mini” retreat every day.”

Practicing the Presence of God
A Silent Retreat In the Benedictine Tradition
with Kathy Harvey Nelson
Monday, September 22, 6:30 p.m — Wednesday, September 24, 10 a.m.
Cost: $135 includes meals, lodging, devotional materials, & 2 CEU’s

SAVE THE DATES!
TOPICS WILL FOLLOW
Tuesday, October 9
Tuesday, November 13
Tuesday, March 19
Tuesday, April 9
Tuesday, May 14

... One with Christ