The opening worship for Annual Conference 2019 was held at Hershey Lodge on Thursday, May 30. In attendance were about 2,000 people, both clergy and laity, representing about 890 churches throughout the Susquehanna Annual Conference.

“We are gathered for such a time as this,” Bishop Park stated. “The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads… the theme of our Annual Conference is, ‘Better Together: One With Each Other.’ But what will this look like?” He went on to emphasize our unity in Christ. The entire opening worship service placed an emphasis on the beautiful harmony that can be achieved when different voices and different people remember the unity that is grounded in our baptismal covenant.

Harmony Illustrated Through Liturgy

There is something powerful in hearing 2,000 voices lifted together in song. The unity of the body of Christ is strongly evident when the congregation worships together. It is fitting that the logo for Annual Conference 2019 depicts the hands of a conductor. An orchestra needs all of its instruments just as just as the body of Christ cannot exist without all its members.

The scripture reading, Ephesians 4:1-6, was offered in multiple languages by Miriam Andrews (Trinity UMC, New Cumberland), JR Rodriguez (Damascus Charge, Damascus), Jonathan Olloe (The Journey, Harrisburg), and Sarah Kim (W. Decatur/Wallaceton Charge, West Decatur.)

A deeply moving rendition of “How Great Thou Art,” was offered by Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr. from Christ Community Church, Selinsgrove. Bennett’s rich deep voice was full of emotion. After his hymn concluded, the gathered congregation erupted in heartfelt applause and provided the singer with a standing ovation.

Throughout the entire worship service, Bishop Park was an energetic and passionate worship leader. His sermon was punctuated by lively singing and the repeated refrain of his favorite “Amen,” chorus.

Bishop Park’s sermon was entitled, “Made One With Each Other.” His message emphasized the beauty and harmony inherent in the “one-ness” of our foundation in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“We are a church alive in Christ together,” Bishop Park told the gathered congregation. He emphasized his love for the “dedicated and mission minded,” people of Susquehanna Conference. “God’s people continue to demonstrate what faithful discipleship is about as they constantly offer so freely their gifts and graces to the ministry of the church… Thanks be to God for you!”

“You Are of Sacred Worth”

Bishop Park also made space to recognize the pain and anguish that many people on both sides of the divide are feeling within the United Methodist Church, both here and throughout our global connection. “This is the first time we have gathered since the 2019 General Conference in February,” stated the Bishop. He said that this is a “painful,” moment in the journey of our church.

The Bishop then read an extended quote from a letter which was sent to him from the parents of children who identified part of the LGBTQ community. “Many parts of society are difficult for LGBTQ people,” read the Bishop. “As the parents of two such children, we are keenly aware of this. We have always wanted church to be a place where our children could find a balm for the harsh cruelty of the world… the results of the special General Conference 2019 have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Better Together: Unity in the Midst of Diversity ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

brought the cruelty of the larger world sharply into focus. We are wondering what the right answer is for our family.”

After reading these words, the Bishop stated, “The hurt is real and deep. To our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, and to you the parents of LGBTQ children, I want you to hear from me that I am sorry. I am sorry for the hurts and pains that you live through because you and your loved ones have been made to feel less than God's beloved children. You are of sacred worth to God. You are God's beloved. My prayers will continue to be with you for the grace of assurance, strength, perseverance, healing, and wholeness.”

Bishop Park stated that General Conference 2019 confirmed a fundamental difference in the United Methodist Church. “Tribal unity seems to prevail over denominational unity at this time,” said Bishop Park, “but Christian unity should be heightened and enhanced… One-ness is not exact likeness. It is unity and diversity and one-ness out of many… Harmony comes alive when everyone in the community understands that each one has a part in the larger picture—and each one has sacred worth.”

Bishop Park used Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12 to remind all who were gathered that there are many parts but only one body. “Our church must be a witness to the harmony that Christ makes in and through us. No matter what the path of our church may be, God’s people, keep harmony in mind.”

We Are One

Bishop Park continued to emphasize that the theme of “one-ness” and unity was clearly evident in his selected scripture passage, Ephesians 4:1-6. “We have,” stated Bishop Park, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God.”

Bishop Park noted that our unity with Christ is emphasized seven times in this brief section of scripture. “Seven is a perfect number that signifies completion… Christians, God’s people, what more do you need to be convinced that you are one as the followers of Jesus Christ? As the church you cannot be anything else but one.”

Bishop Park spoke about the sacrament of baptism as the foundation of our unity. “Regardless of how our future journey may be shaped, each one of us should carry in our hearts a biblical truth that we are made one in our baptism… Baptism confirms that we are one people who have a common identity.”

Christ's Love Unites Us

According to Bishop Park, as the people of Christ, we also share one destiny. Baptism is a covenant between us and God. We are God’s beloved. “The love that matters most, no one can take it away from any one of us… We all want to be loved. We have an innate insatiable appetite to be loved.”

“God’s love is not dependent on anything that we can be or we can do,” Bishop Park continued as he emphasized the beauty of God’s love. “You are mine and I am yours. We are not what the world says we are. We are what God says in our baptism. We are God’s beloved yesterday, tomorrow, and forever.”

“In this world where so many people are searching for their identity and seeking love. There is no greater thing that one person can do for another than assure them that they are accepted by God… and formed by God in their sacred worth… Each one of us is loved by God unconditionally with God’s infinite love now and forever. There is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God and Christ Jesus.”

Powerful Questions

Bishop Park called the congregation to consider the following questions, “What in me needs to die so that in our church there will be a resurrection? What in our church needs to die so that there will be a resurrection in our church?”

He then invited the congregation to keep those powerful questions in mind while reaffirming their baptismal covenant vows. “Our baptism,” stated Bishop Park, “Demands loyalty to the Lord. We live in the world but not of the world…. Holy living is about serving as Christ’s representative in the world… It’s ultimately about Christ’s great Kingdom that will come on earth. The Kingdom of love and light.”

Hope Lives

Bishop Park concluded his sermon by asking the congregation to consider, “How can we place hope at the center of our life and work?” He preached that there is always hope with Jesus Christ. “In the midst of our difficult journey as a denomination, it is important that we hear that hope is alive…. At this moment countless lives are being served and impacted in our church each day. Many people find hope through the ministry of the United Methodist Church. God Is not finished with our church yet! Fear not. God is with us.”

We Lead by Faith, Not by Fear

Bishop Park concluded with a personal story that was a highly effective sermon illustration. As he held a ceramic rooster in his hands, he told the following story about leading by faith instead of allowing fear to lead us.

“My father served a Methodist church in Korea for many years,” he told the congregation, “My Family raised chickens. One was a huge formidable and mean rooster. I was about three or four when I had an unforgettable encounter with this monster. One day I was passing by him when he was eating something from the ground. He ran up to me and attacked me!”

When young Bishop Park returned home crying, his father asked him what had happened. After listening to his story, his father called him
by name and said, “Let’s go to the rooster!”

“No! I’m afraid of him!”

“Don’t worry,” insisted his father. “I am going with you.”

At this point, the congregation was thoroughly immersed in his story.

“I approached the rooster,” Bishop Park continued, “My father stood behind me and said, ‘Get closer!’ He continued to urge me to get closer and closer to the rooster.”

Even though he was afraid, the young Bishop Park was able to pluck up his courage because his father was right behind him.

Finally, he was very close to the rooster.

“Kick the rooster!” his father cried.

The congregation gave a collective gasp.

“I did!” proclaimed the Bishop. “The rooster ran away and never pecked me again. I wasn’t afraid because my father was right there behind me. The rooster ran away not because of me, but because of my father who was with me. God’s people! Kick the rooster!”

Kick the (Metaphorical) Rooster
The Bishop’s sermon anecdote was so well received that the congregation burst into applause. After the clapping subsided, the Bishop concluded, “Please don’t go out and kick any animals. I am calling you to remember that we are called to walk with boldness. Fear not! The risen Christ is with us! The challenge before us is never greater than the power behind us.”

After the Bishop’s sermon, the congregation was invited to join in prayer. Janet Durrwachter prefaced the invitation by reminding us that there are many ways of praying, then moved the congregation moved into a time of Taizé prayer through song. A light and lilting flute played a soothing descant over the singing of the congregation. The time of prayer concluded with Desiree Bower (First UMC, Williamsport) signing The Lord’s Prayer in American Sign Language.

The Church’s One Foundation
The worship service ended with the congregation singing, “The Church’s One Foundation,” accompanied by the Better Together Orchestra. The Better Together Orchestra was comprised of musicians, both laity and clergy, throughout the annual conference. Their ability to join together playing different instruments with very little opportunity to practice beforehand was an illustration of the great talent that exists throughout the Susquehanna Conference. It also shows what beauty we can create when we work together in unity. The words to this classic hymn underlined this fact and complimented Bishop Park’s essential point: We are united in Christ.

“While we have many differences,” stated Bishop Park in his closing blessing, “we are made one with each other by the love of Christ Jesus.”

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View the AC2019 Opening Celebration at www.susumc.org/aclive
Ordained Elders (left to right) Joseph Samuel Hopkins, Stephanie P. Rupert, Joshua W. Davinsizer, and Joshua Stephen Wargo

Praying for our elected delegates to the 2020 General and Jursidictional Conferences

Chi Rho Singers

Pastor Sarah Kim, Jonathan Olloe, Miriam Andrews, and Pastor JR Rodriguez read scripture in different languages.

2019 Class of Licensed Local Pastors

Course of Study Graduates

The Essential Elements Experience
We celebrated 150 years of United Methodist Women

Certified Lay Ministers

Bishop Ivan M. Abrams

Our youth members are vital to our Annual Conference

We celebrated the ministry of the 2019 Class of Retirees

Commissioning/Provisional Elder Membership (left to right) Beth A. Pyles, David Neal Layser, Daniel L. Wilt, and David R.A. McElwee,

Bishop Jeremiah Park and Rev. Dr. “JC” Park (President World Methodist Council) sang a hymn together in Korean
Central Pennsylvania is a special place to me. It’s home. Having moved here from New Jersey in the 1971, I wandered up the road from our place in Manada Hill to discover a church that would forever change the trajectory of my life. Rev. Robert Miller, then pastor of Mt. Calvary UMC, befriended me, confirmed me, helped the Spirit awaken a call to ministry within me, and mentored me along the way. I wear the cross he wore on Sunday mornings. It was a gift from his family placed around my neck at his memorial service. In him, and a nurturing congregation, I found a home.

I met my wife Kim in Central Pennsylvania at a District Committee on Ordained Ministry meeting. We were married at Trinity UMC in Hummelstown, where she grew up. Kim also responded to a call to ministry which for her unfolded as a seminary trained Lay Professional Minister. Together we forged a life of ministry. Together we created a loving and nurturing home where we raised two sons who are now having children of their own. Home is expanding for us.

Along the way, Kim and I have been blessed to serve churches ranging in size from 8 to 5,000 members across six states and four jurisdictions. We partnered with God, and some incredibly gifted and passionate people, to revitalize congregations who were figuring out what it meant to create a spiritual home for their neighbors. We then answered the call to start two new UM churches in Western PA and Central FL with the goal of inviting people to discover or rediscover finding a home in God and among God’s people. Home is all encompassing.

I was invited to join a team called Path 1, started by the General Church in 2008, with the goal of starting 650 new communities of faith across the United States. We were tasked with inviting newer, younger, and more diverse people to experience being at home with God. I became the Executive Director of an incredible team of called and gifted people. Together we witnessed a movement where God planted over 700 new communities of faith over four years. Path 1 continues to guide this movement in new and innovative ways and has an ongoing relationship with our annual conference. Home is all inclusive.

While serving as the Director of Congregational Development in the Western NC Conference I experienced a movement of God’s Spirit leading the church to expand God’s home through Missional Church Plants and Fresh Expressions. These experiential forms of ministry are reigniting a movement that reclaims church as a verb more than a noun and designed to be relational, fluid and inviting. It’s not a new idea. I think this is how Jesus and the Wesleys did it! Home is experienced in innovative ways.

And now, I am here. Home, where it all started for me. Life has come full circle. I have a lot of memories here. A lot of friends and family. But I’m not the same person I was when I started here. Life’s experiences and rapid cultural changes make this a different home for me. I have to learn where God has been at work here and discern how my accumulated gifts and experiences might contribute to the new things God is already working on in and through you. I’ll trust you to help me find a new home here again.

I am blessed to build upon the good work of so many people, including Dennis Otto, Kay Kotan, Cindy Weaver, the Cabinet, Conference and District teams, clergy and laity who have forged great work here over these last several years. I will learn from their efforts as I step into, what I have heard our Bishop speak so passionately about, The Beloved Community. I love that. It’s evocative, inviting, and inspiring. I’m ready to make the Beloved Community my new home. But what excites me more is the opportunity to join you all in the journey of helping others experience and become part of God’s Beloved Community where we are all truly siblings in Christ.

Yes, I’ve been here before, but I am not the same person I was when I left. I’m ready for another new beginning. I’m ready to come home but not to become settled until everyone I meet receives the good news that in Jesus, God has made a home here with each and every one of us-no exceptions! Jesus said, “My Father’s house has room to spare.” (Jn. 14:2)

I’m home…but not settled, because there’s still great work to be done here! I’m looking forward to joining you all in his work.

Blessings in our journey together!

Gary
Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders

New Coordinator for Pathways of Spiritual Leadership

Kevin Witt
Director of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders

We are excited to welcome Kim Shockley as the new Coordinator for Pathways of Spiritual Leadership. Kim will work closely with Kevin Witt, the Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders Team, Young People’s Ministry Team, and other groups focused on Spiritual leadership formation. Kim will help create very intentional pathways and processes among laity and clergy across the age span. Kim will, also, play a major role in developing expanded spiritual leadership training and action opportunities related to the Young Clergy Initiative grant recently awarded to the Susquehanna Conference.

Kim comes with many gifts for this calling and role. Her background includes both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Christian Education. She has designed and implemented new Christian Education and Youth Ministries in multiple congregational settings, including new church starts.

Kim served in the Florida Annual Conference as the Orlando Area Congregational Excellence specialist. She was Team Leader for a research project called Toward Vitality. Most recently, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference called upon her to serve as the Church Vitality Strategist for the Catawba Valley District. Kim, also, brings extensive experience as a leadership coach for pastors and lay leadership teams. This calling led her to seek advanced training as a certified coach who is now working to complete the final steps toward advanced professional certification.

As a ministry coach, facilitator and consultant, Kim’s specialties include working with church leaders to discern clarity of focus and values, in order to accomplish important ministry goals. She loves working with teams and groups who want to know how to take an inspired idea and bring it to fruition through actionable steps. By facilitating dynamic Christian conversation, she draws from the participants the best options for accomplishing God’s desires for local mission and ministry.


Please, join me in warmly welcoming Kim Shockley as our new Coordinator for Pathways of Spiritual Leadership.

Kevin Witt

East: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 • West: Wednesday, September 25, 2019

www.susumc.org/bishops-day-apart
New EVC Director

It is with great joy that I announce the appointment of Rev. Gary Shockley as the new Director of Equipping Vital Congregations. Gary brings to the Susquehanna Conference significant and valuable experience in the many areas of Equipping Vital Congregations.

Gary’s ministry experience equips him to continue the work of the Susquehanna Conference in working with congregations and their leaders. Gary served as Director of Congregational Vitality for Western North Carolina Conference. There he was a member extended cabinet. In his position with Western North Carolina he created and led a new conference wide initiative to consult with many of their 1,100 congregations for increased vitality and new congregation development.

From 2009-2012, Gary was on the staff of the former General Board of Discipleship, Path 1. While being in ministry at the GBOD, Gary was appointed as the Associate General Secretary of Path1. During those years, Path 1 exceeded their goal of creating 700 new UM communities of faith in the US.

Gary’s vast experience also includes the starting of two new faith communities. Gary along with his wife Kim and their two young sons started the Cornerstone UMC, now a satellite campus of Crossroads UMC in the Western PA Conference. He also established a new faith community in Western Orlando as part of the Florida Annual Conference.

He is the author of seven books which focus on leadership, spirituality and vital living. Gary is also a painter and has written and illustrated children’s books.

Gary served in the former Central PA Conference from 1976-1990. While in the CPC, Gary was ordained Deacon in 1982 and Elder in 1984. He is currently a member of the Florida Annual Conference. Gary earned a BA from Messiah College and an M.DIV from Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, OH.

Gary is married to his wife, Kim. Together they have two grown sons and two grandchildren.

His appointment began July 1, 2019. For now, Gary will be on loan to the Susquehanna Conference and his appointment will be to Extension Ministries.

As Gary begins his ministry in the Susquehanna Conference, I know you will join me in thanking God for God’s leading in this appointment.

In Christ’s ministry with you,

Jeremiah J. Park Resident Bishop

New Conference Treasurer

It with joy and thanksgiving to God we announce that Mark H. Knecht, CMA, has been selected and hired as the Treasurer of the Susquehanna Conference. Mark comes to the Susquehanna Conference with a wealth of experience, knowledge and a commitment to Jesus Christ.

Mark has 27 years of strategic financial planning, budgeting, treasury management, and management of all financial matters. Mark’s experience includes working in for-profit as well as non-profit organizations. His work-related experience is with companies in the United States as well as an international ministry organization.

For 11 years, Mark was the CFO for Cure International, Inc. Cure International ministry is focused on providing medical care for children suffering primarily from orthopedic and neurological conditions. Their mission is “healing the sick and proclaiming the kingdom of God.” While at Cure, Mark led the effort of long-term financial strategic planning. Mark has experience and expertise in working with diverse cultures and diverse people throughout the world as a result of his work at Cure International.

Mark is married and together he and his wife have two daughters. They live in Mechanicsburg, Pa. When Mark isn’t working his “day job” he helps at his local church with outreach programs for families that are going through significant health concerns.

Mark began his work with Susquehanna Conference on June 20, 2019.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration gives thanks for the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration who helped us undertake a national search. The national search garnered over 20 resumes. Telephone screenings were completed with fifteen prospective candidates. After interviewing 5 candidates in person, Mark was unanimously selected.

One of the exciting things about Mark is that he believes it is important for him to use his gifts of accounting and financial expertise in a Christian ministry setting.

We know that over the next months you will warmly welcome Mark as he learns about the Susquehanna Conference and works with the office staff as well as churches, pastors, and local church treasurers.

With you in Christ’s ministry,

Jeremiah J. Park Resident Bishop

Timothy R. Baer President, CF&A
By Jairee Counterman

New Bloomfield, PA – On a beautiful Memorial Day Monday, Perry County’s newest choir – Young Voices in Song - made its public debut as part of the annual Memorial Day Ceremony in the New Bloomfield Cemetery. After an introduction by co-founder Rev. Jean Felty of New Bloomfield United Methodist Church, the children, ranging in age from kindergarten through 5th grade, sang “My Country ’Tis of Thee,” once by themselves and once with the enthusiastic crowd of ceremony attendees joining in.

Brief History: Young Voices in Song started in the fall of 2018 with a $1,000 “Mission Ignition Initiative” grant from the Harrisburg District of the United Methodist Church. Starting in November, every Wednesday that school was in session, between 8 and 15 children attended Young Voices in Song for singing, crafts, snacks, and activities that emphasized good manners and positive behaviors. Young Voices is staffed primarily by volunteers, including the pastors, from New Bloomfield United Methodist Church and Christ Lutheran Church (also in New Bloomfield). The director/accompanist, Mr. Bob Buyers (who also directs the choir at Enola Emmanuel United Methodist Church and works with the youth choir of the Susquehanna Chorale) receives a stipend and reimbursement for mileage. All staff and volunteers are vetted and have up-to-date background checks and clearances. Currently most attendees are “walkers” from New Bloomfield Elementary School, but Young Voices is open to any Perry County child in kindergarten through Grade 5, and we expect the program to grow. All children are welcome regardless of experience or ability. Additional funding has been received from the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Harold Greaney Charitable Trust of the Perry County Community Foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

Purpose: Provide Perry County children with a safe, supervised activity that reinforces positive social values and instills and develops a lifelong hobby/skill.

Schedule: Young Voices in Song had its last meeting of the 2018-2019 school year on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at New Bloomfield United Methodist Church. After taking the summer off, Young Voices will resume after Labor Day.

Program Contact: to register a kindergarten through 5th grade child for Young Voices in Song for the 2019-2020 school year, or to volunteer or donate, please contact Rev. Jean Felty at 717.582.2715 or Rev. Linda Shank, Christ Lutheran Church, at 717.582.4356.

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Young Voices in Song Committee – Rev. Jean Felty, Rev. Linda Shank, Rev. Miriam Nicholson, Mrs. Suzanne Twilley, Ms. Jairee Counterman, Mrs. Elizabeth Sawyer
By Shawn Gilgore

New Fresh Expressions of Faith are being created throughout our Susquehanna Conference. In the coming months, you’ll see some new communities of faith around the Conference, so, we wanted to give you a deeper look into what a Fresh Expression of Faith is, and how they are reaching new people for Jesus.

Fresh Expressions are new ways that the churches of the Susquehanna Conference can reach out to new people in new places.

These new communities of faith have begun in a variety of places and locations serving a wide range of people who are looking for places to connect with God and with others in their communities. At The Open Door, a ‘church within a church’ launching from Calvary UMC in Dillsburg, Chrisanna Rogers is leading a team of people who are on fire for what God is doing in their community. “God brought along this opportunity, I did not seek it out. He gave me the chance to see something new begin from scratch and watch it grow. I was excited at the prospect of ‘something new’.”

Rogers said that The Open Door is looking forward to helping the surrounding communities learn more about their faith. “Walking people through their first steps of faith is an honor, and one we can’t wait to take on.”

Often, it’s a big step in faith to go forward in a Fresh Expression. Pastors Kris Sledge and Deb Port of The Journey, a Vital Merger, said, “This process has been exciting, challenging, and a testimony to the amazing things that God can do. The vision for the future is to create life-giving communities both in and around Harrisburg. God will do this as we connect new people with Jesus and invest in and love our neighbors.”

The Journey in Harrisburg is a work in progress. New people can pour into a ministry area where God is calling them and help to form that ministry for the future.

“We are a diverse community of broken people who are driven to see God’s love break through the darkness” said Tim Parker, pastor of The Valley, a new church plant in State College. Even though Parker and many others have experienced feelings of apprehension, they trust in Jesus. “It may be uncomfortable to put yourself out there and walk by faith. But if we truly believe that the gospel has power and that people need saving then this a no-brainer. There is no risk when the risk is in Christ,” Parker said.

Parker hopes that the people in the communities that surround The Valley
will know that God wants to be part of their stories. “God wants to use them to impact their neighbors. Even if it is something small or impermanent. Our job is to be faithful.”

Matt Verstraeten is launching The Well, a new cooperative parish, made up of three churches, all in one movement. “Jesus sent the disciples out and gave them the authority to do some radical and miraculous things, but they were never sent out alone. Jesus sent them two by two. There’s incredible power and potential in collaboration.” The Well began on July 1st of this year.

You can connect with these Fresh Expressions at:

www.opendoordillsburg.com
www.thejourneyhbg.com
www.thevalleysc.org
www.wellumc.com

Above right: The Journey’s first worship service was held on April 28, 2019.

Right: The Valley is home to a diverse group of people throughout the year, including events around their surrounding communities.

Below left: (Left) Pastor Kris Sledge speaks with members of The Journey.

Worship events help ‘The Open Door’ reach out to the community before their official launch, September 9, 2019.
A team is only as good as the tools and training available to it. I learned this valuable lesson repeatedly during my time in the military. I observed teams being sent into the field with all the tools required to successfully complete their assigned tasks. Unfortunately, I have also been part of a few ill-equipped teams, and the outcomes were less desirable. It was not for lack of effort or attempt. Neither was the consequence a result of questionable knowledge or skills. We just did not have the right tools for the job.

Imagine how things would have turned out for Noah if God had limited His instructions to the first part of Genesis 5:14, “So make yourself an ark....” No further guidance. Not a single dimension. No tools. Just, go build an ark. Keep in mind, God had just revealed His plan to destroy the earth and the people on it. The outcome could have been less than desirable for Noah and his family. Fortunately, God did provide him with some very specific instructions and tools, so he could do the job.

A few months ago, the Disaster Response Ministry started to plan the “Fill the Trailer” campaign. And, we asked everyone to prayerfully seek how God would want them to support this endeavor. We placed our trust in Him and put our reliance on Him to bless us abundantly with all we needed to “abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

You Filled the Trailer and More!

DOUGLAS HOY
SUSUMC Disaster Response Coordinator

Because of that trust and reliance, and the generosity of many throughout the Conference, the ministry has been blessed beyond measure. The “Fill the Trailer” campaign produced a plethora of tools, equipment, and a brand-new response trailer, as well as financial donations, that will further equip the ministry and enable it to meet the needs of those facing rising waters, raging winds, and recovery from the destruction that occurs.

Early Blessings

One of those blessings arrived even before “Fill the Trailer” was officially promoted. After discussing the possibility of undertaking such a campaign at a staff meeting, I was approached by a co-worker who was interested in helping. Ann Watts, Conference Finance and Administration team member, asked what kind of tools and equipment we needed. I detailed the needs of the ministry and told her any donations, new or used, would be accepted. She explained she had a collection of tools that belonged to her husband, who passed away a few years earlier. She was in the process of moving and did not want to take the them with her. She intended to donate them to various other organizations until she heard about the campaign.

“I wanted to make sure the tools went to a good cause and where there was a need,” said Watts. “When I found out the ministry needed tools for the trailer, I wanted to give it the opportunity to identify what it could use before I gave them away.”

After further conversation, we settled on a date and time to meet. When I arrived, Ann showed me the tools being stored in her garage, shared stories about some of them, and explained how her husband would save everything because “you just never know when you might need it.” When we finished looking at the tools, I politely thanked Ann and started to examine them closer. Ann then informed me there were more tools being stored in a shed in her back yard. I was shocked. I couldn’t imagine what the term “more tools” meant because I was already staring at a large collection. As it turned out, in addition to the saws, drills, a sander, and countless hand tools, Ann had shovels, rakes, a few shop vacs, some extension cords, and a couple of very comfortable folding chairs. By the time I sorted through everything, the bed of my truck was completely full.

“IT’s just glad the tools will be used to help the disaster ministry meet the needs of the people it helps,” said Watts.

With a little trust and faith, our God “will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). But, He was not finished.

A Legacy of Service

Three weeks before Annual Conference, Debbie Ackley, in the Lewisburg District Office, forwarded an e-mail to me. As I read it, my eyes welled with tears.

“This is Warren Baughman’s daughter, Kathy, writing. As you know, Dad passed away two months ago, and we are in the middle of cleaning out the house. What you may not know is, Dad had quite an extensive workshop and tool supply. He also had an intense desire to serve, even up into the last month of his life. He was lamenting the fact that he couldn’t go help somewhere.”
I called Kathy (Baughman) Frey the next day. As we talked, she explained how she was working through her dad’s e-mail account as part of the “house cleaning” process and, by chance, came across an e-mail promoting “Fill the Trailer.”

“He worked extensively with affected churches up and down the Susquehanna River after Hurricane Agnes in 1972,” she said. “Dad led a rebuilding team from Berwick after Hurricane Katrina.”

During our conversation, I learned there were numerous other clean-up projects in which Rev. Warren L. Baughman, Jr. either organized or participated. Kathy shared with me that she and her brother, Ron, wanted to donate some of the tools and equipment from their father’s basement workshop.

“Many of Dad’s tools are in pristine condition, some even in original boxes,” Kathy explained. “If the Disaster Response Ministry can use them, we want you to have them.”

We arranged to meet and, before I hung up, Kathy informed me that they also wanted to make a financial contribution from their father’s estate to support the ministry. She proceeded to ask about the needs of the ministry and how they could help meet them. While recovering from the emotions that flooded my heart and quickly reviewing the many ideas running through my mind, Kathy asked a very specific question. “Do you need another response trailer?”

In silence, I wrestled with an outpouring of emotions that filled my heart. When I assumed the position of Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, I outlined some goals for the future of the ministry. Some were immediate. Others were more long term and a bit lofty. One of those goals included having a response trailer in each District. Kathy could not have been aware of my goals and her question could have been prompted only by the Holy Spirit.

“And my God will meet all your needs…”

A week later, I drove to Berwick. As I pulled into the driveway, Kathy met me with a warm smile and a welcoming hug. She introduced me to Ron, who was in town from his home in Texas. He took me to the basement workshop, showed me the tools, and shared some stories about his dad. It became quite clear that Ron and his dad had a mutual passion for woodworking. Eventually, Ron stepped back and said, “take what you need, I’ll be over here working on some things.”

Silence filled the room. I felt uncomfortable “taking” what belonged to someone else, even though it was freely being given. Finally, Ron offered his assistance, and, over the next two hours, we explored the workshop, disassembled stands, and carried things to the truck. All the while, Ron shared more stories about his dad and showed me some of his work. When we finished, again I had truck full of tools and equipment. As we secured the items, Kathy shared with me that the hymn, We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations, was part of the service celebrating her dad’s life.

“We’ve a story to tell to the nations...”

As I prepared to leave, Ron, Kathy, and I shared some time in prayer. We shed some tears of sorrow and joy. And, we celebrated the life of their dad and God’s servant, Rev. Warren Baughman, Jr.

As I look back on the past couple of months, it is evident God does provide. All that is required is that we trust and obey. It is also clear the words of that hymn exemplify the calling of God’s people and the mission of the Disaster Response Ministry. We do have a story to tell, one that identifies God “has sent His Son to save us” and “show us that [He] is love. Because of that love, and the knowledge of a Savior who the path of sorrow has trod, we can rest in the assurance that darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light ...in disaster and in life.

For more information or to make a donation email drc@susumc.org.
Calvary UMC, York - Hope Church

By Sandii Peiffer

This is the second installment in a series of stories highlighting some of the ways God is at work in and through Calvary UMC and its many partner churches to transform the community of York, Pa.

Five years ago, the Calvary UMC building in West York was used only a few days a week. When Rev. Dr. B. Michael "Mike" Brossman was appointed in 2014, things started happening.

Brossman poured encouragement, love, care, healing, team-building, and great amounts of enthusiasm into the church leaders and then, he started making connections out in the surrounding community.

Calvary UMC is now a thriving congregation and the building is utilized seven days a week by a host of church and community groups.

Recently sworn into the York City Police Chaplain’s Corps (by invitation), Brossman is on call to support the police force and for other situations as needed. "It’s about being involved and visible in the community, and being available," he said.

Brossman’s involvement in the community created the foundation for Hope Church, which started around four years ago. On the fourth Monday of each month Calvary UMC hosts Hope Church, a network of leaders from a wide variety of community organizations that help the underserved people of York.

The mission of Hope Church is:

Promoting mutually respectful and cooperative work and conversation among churches, agencies and organizations, schools and businesses for the sake of offering hope to the community that they share.

Hara Lewis, Calvary UMC’s Administrative Assistant, keeps the group organized by maintaining a spreadsheet of contact information for the 270+ organizations that are part of Hope Church and sending monthly updates and meeting notices.

Around 30-40 people attend each monthly meeting. After a brief welcome and introduction by Brossman, those in attendance take turns introducing themselves, describing what their organization does, and promoting upcoming events or special projects. It gives an opportunity to the others in attendance to learn about what is going on in the community and about the myriad organizations available to serve people in need. Hope Church offers a place to network which helps service providers refer needs appropriately. It is a way to build relationships, discover the needs in the community, learn about unique services available, and brainstorm and collaborate on possible solutions to community problems.

“Our focus is to help the people of York City and York County,” said Tracy Young, President of On Common Ground, a non-profit that offers experiential therapies for the recovery community and veterans. “We do a lot of
collaboration within the community and that’s how I came to be a part of Hope Church. It’s such a cool concept to bring people together, collaborating, talking, resourcing. As a result of one of the Hope Church meetings, I am now a mentor in the Veteran’s Court.”

Tracy is a Marine veteran, and his wife an Army National Guard veteran.

Ken Bruggeman of Campell Associates is also a member of Hope Church. “I am a community guy. I used to live downtown. I have a heart for the city [of York] and awareness of the things that are going on in the city and my faith pushes me forward to do things to serve the city in any way that I possibly can. My role with Campbell Associates has allowed me to do that in the construction end of things and my role with Hope church has allowed me to connect with people and to come up with solutions to challenges that they may be facing.”

One of those challenges is the area of Salem Square, considered to be the worst section of York City in terms of poverty, drug use, and crime. Through Hope Church, four non-profits expressed interest in establishing a community center in Salem Square to serve that community. Calvary owns a parking lot from the former St. Paul’s UMC (merger) there, so Brossman called Bruggeman to discuss the possibility of building on the site. Bruggeman is now working with the four non-profits to move forward on the idea.

“To put a community center in that space would open an opportunity to transform that neighborhood. The non-profits involved are focused on youth and would allow them to have opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have,” said Bruggeman.

For more information contact Hara Lewis at Calvary UMC 717-979-2513 or dimp1022@gmail.com or join the Hope Church York public group page on Facebook where you can find out about community events and meetings.

In 2019 we challenge each and every one of our congregations to start a Fresh Expression of Faith!

What’s a Fresh Expression of Faith, you ask? A Fresh Expression of Faith is a group of non-believers gathering for a common cause to build relationships and explore faith together. Fresh Expressions of Faith take us outside our church buildings and into the community. This might be a gathering of people in a gym, coffee shop, or a park. A ministry that meets people where they are already gathering in new, exciting ways for Christ.

Let’s do this together and let’s have some fun along the way! Challenge the other churches in your area and district to join. Use #SUSUMCChallenge on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter to show everyone what you’ve been working on.

Visit www.susumc.org/bishopschallenge to keep up to date!
Susquehanna Conference Receives Young Clergy Initiative Grant of $105,000

The Blessing
We are tremendously blessed as a Conference to be among those chosen to receive this pivotal grant through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The Young Clergy Initiative focuses on developing young Christian leaders under the age of 35. It provides very intentional opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in spiritual transformational leadership while discerning their calls to ministry as laity or clergy. The Young Clergy Initiative, as its name indicates, ultimately intends to increase the number of young ordained clergy which is a priority across the denomination, while many lay persons will grow in their passion and calling for Christian leadership, too. Kevin Witt, Director of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders for our Conference expresses gratitude to all who helped. “I want to thank the leaders here who worked so hard to formulate the grant proposal and to layout a framework for our Pathways of Spiritual Leadership that we can now move forward to implement. It is a true collaborative effort to address a very real need.”

The Need
Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Former Director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, professor of church leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary, and author of several books on leadership lays out the ministry frontier for the United Methodist Church.

“Several factors come to mind immediately that had a big impact. I first preached in my local church when I was 16. The Local Church nurtured my gifts and created a culture where youth were called and led. Camp and Retreat immersions had a profound impact on recognizing my unique Spiritual gifts and encouraged me to consider a call to every age category above 50 and underrepresented in every age category under age 50, compared to overall U.S. population… If we reach younger people, they are likely to be more diverse since the younger population is vastly more diverse than the nation’s older population. Statistics make clear whom we are not reaching for Christ. They tell us that as we respond to the call to take the Good News to all people, we must give special attention to younger people and more diverse people.”

From Focus Newsletter, November 14, 2017

We recognize the valuable contributions of leaders of all ages who bless our Conference each and every day, and at the same time it is important to be purposeful in widening the engagement of the gifts and graces of younger leaders. Add to this the upcoming “tsunami” of clergy retirements among the Baby Boomers and the need comes even more to the forefront.

The most recent report “Clergy Age Trends in the United Methodist Church” (https://tinyurl.com/y5er23pt) is revealing. In 1985, 15% or approximately 1 out of every 7 U.M. Elders in the U.S were under the age of 35. By the year 2000, the number dropped to 1 in 20 Ordained Elders under the age of 35 (5%). A slow increase has occurred across the denomination since 2000 with a heightened focus, however, the statistics in the 2018 Clergy Age Report indicate that the number of Ordained Elders under 35 in the Susquehanna Conference is still less than 5% as of 2018. Changing this trend will take deliberate, steady attention and teamwork. Over the last decade the average percentage across the nation of Ordained Deacons under the age of 35 has surpassed 12%, but our Conference is far below that. Though statistics never tell the whole story, they do help us recognize trends and opportunities.

Where we Shine
The national average of U.M. Local Pastors under the age of 35 is 8%, but in the Susquehanna Conference the tables show us ranking 2nd in the country behind Texas with 20.1% of our Local Pastors being under the age of 35 in 2018 – 1 out of 5. We will learn from what is happening in this arena, while we work to open up new avenues to increase young leaders exploring calls as ordained Elders, Deacons and Certified Lay Ministers.

Collaboration and “On Ramps”
The Pathways of Spiritual Leadership that will develop over the coming year hinge on linkages with key groups already engaged in leadership formation that can provide “on ramps” for a more interconnected, integrated and collaborative approach to growing young Spiritual Transformational Leaders. Rev Witt reflects on his own journey and implications for moving forward.

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“Several factors come to mind immediately that had a big impact. I first preached in my local church when I was 16. The Local Church nurtured my gifts and created a culture where youth were called and led. Camp and Retreat immersions had a profound impact on recognizing my unique Spiritual gifts and encouraged me to consider a call to..."
ordained ministry, which changed the direction of my life. Youth Ministry provided me with experiences with youth from other congregations as we were trained and put our learning and spiritual growth into action. Mentors from the Board of Ordained Ministry provided encouragement and guidance as I pursued this call that God had nudged and confirmed for me. The interplay and interconnections between these experiences it what kept me growing.”

How can we as a Conference develop very intentional pathways that move young people from one leadership experience to another rather than being siloed and separate from one another? The Young Clergy Initiative is a catalyst for creating this kind of collaboration along with new and innovative training and spiritual growth opportunities that don’t yet exist. Stayed tuned for updates throughout the coming year along with invitations to join in as we create new Pathways of Spiritual Leadership together.

A Milton woman has been volunteering for Meals on Wheels at RiverWoods Senior Living Community since its inception in 1972. Mary Ellen Bartholomew is now 90 years old, but her volunteer service to Meals on Wheels hasn’t ended, and she’s been delivering meals for 46 years.

Mary Ellen’s volunteering began when a new associate pastor spoke to her at church about the Meals on Wheels program. Mary Ellen and her best friend, Jane Kaar, signed up to deliver for Meals on Wheels every Tuesday. Mary Ellen is still delivering meals, but now she goes every other Tuesday, and her delivery partner is her daughter, Carolyn Daniloff. Mary Ellen drives and Carolyn delivers the meals to the doors of the customers. Mary Ellen explained, “We have about 16 stops and 20 meals to deliver every other Tuesday.”

Carolyn remembers helping her mother when she delivered meals with Jane, “When we were growing up, one of us would always go with Mom and Jane in the summer. We would hand the meal to Jane, who would then deliver it to the client’s door. We were brought up learning about service. We all took turns doing that with our Mom.”

Mary Ellen said she never thought about how many years she’s been volunteering for Meals on Wheels, “I don’t think that far ahead. I just go ahead and do what’s there now to be done and if it’s still there when I’m still here, I’ll do it.”

She added, “There are people who do not see anyone else but you that day and it always makes you feel good to see their smile and that they are happy to see you. My grandson Nicholas has gone with me. He would carry the bag in, and I’ll tell you, when recipients see a young person, they just light up. It just makes you feel good to make somebody else feel good.”

Mary Ellen Bartholomew is a shining example of being called to serve, and Albright is proud that he is part of our family. Albright invites you to continue your mission by joining us at one of our six locations. Visit www.albrightcare.org for information on senior living, day programs, giving or volunteering.
### Altoona District 100%
- 12th Street Huntingdon
- 15th Street Huntingdon
- Alleman
- Ambers
- Asbury Altoona
- Atkinson Mills
- Bald Eagle
- Bedford
- Bedford Forge
- Bethel Bedford Valley
- Bowman's Chapel
- Broad Avenue Altoona
- Broad Top
- Calvary Bellwood (Extended)
- Calvin
- Canoe Creek Union (Extended)
- Carrick
- Center
- Centererville Bedford Valley
- Centre Grove Clearfield
- Christ Community Altoona
- Christ Tyrone
- Claysburg
- Clear Ridge
- Clearville
- Coalmont
- Concord
- Congress Hill
- Cove Forge
- Crever Memorial Petersburg
- Curwensville
- Dale
- Donation
- Doylestown
- Dudley
- East End
- Ebenezer Harrisonville
- Emmisville
- Fairview McConnellsburg
- Faith
- Faith Woodbury
- First Hollidaysburg
- First Houtzdale
- First Mt Union
- First Three Springs
- Good Shepherd Tyrone
- Goshen
- Grazierville
- Greenwood Altoona
- Hicks Memorial Duncansville
- Hope Alexandria
- Hopewell
- Jaggard First
- Janesville
- Kerr Addition
- Knobsville
- Lake Street
- Lakemont
- Laurel Grove
- Little Cove
- Llyswn Altoona
- Madera
- Mapleton Grace
- McKee
- Mill Creek
- Mines (Extended)
- Mt Carmel Three Springs
- Mt Joy Clearfield
- Mt Zion Olanta
- Orbisonia
- O'Shanter
- Pinecraft
- Pleasant Hill Shade Gap
- Pleasant Valley Woodland
- Queen
- Ramey
- Rehobeth

### Altoona District 90%
- Richvale
- Royer (Extended)
- Ryde United
- Salem Hillcrest
- Saxton
- Second Avenue Altoona
- Shawville
- Shirleysburg
- Siloam Harrisonville
- Six Mile Run
- Spruce Creek
- Stevens Chapel
- Tatesville
- Tipton
- Trans Run
- Trinity Clearfield
- Trinity Roaring Spring
- Trough Creek
- Warfordsburg
- Waryers Mark
- Waterfall Zion
- Wehwood
- Wells Valley
- Wesley Chapel Breezewood
- Wesley Chapel Huntingdon
- Wesley Tyrone
- West Side Clearfield
- Weyant
- Williamsburg
- Woodvale

### Altoona District 90%
- Broad Top
- Emmanuel Clearfield
- Grace Three Springs
- McConnellstown
- Nossville
- Wolfsburg

### Harrisburg District 100%
- Allegheny Mechanicalsburg
- Barnitz
- Barry Salem
- Baughman Memorial
- Bethany Marysville
- Bethel Marysville
- Big Spring
- Buck's
- Calvary Harrisburg
- Calvary Lemoyne
- Calvary Wiconisco
- Camp Hill
- Carlisle
- Centenary Steetlon
- Chambers Hill
- Charton
- Christ Shippensburg
- Christ Tower City
- Cleверsburg
- Community New Cumberland
- Crosspoint
- Delville
- Derry Street
- Donnelly Mills
- Ebenezer Middletown
- Emmanuel Enola
- Evangelical Middletown
- Faith Halifax
- First Hershey
- First Mechanicsburg
- First Millersburg
- Geyers
- Good Shepherd Community
- Grace Hummelstown
- Grace Lemoyne
- Grace Mechanicsburg
- Grace Millersburg

### Harrisburg District 90%
- Halifax
- Hays Grove
- Hebron Millersburg
- Hickorytown
- Hill
- Hope Eternal
- Hopewell Cumberland
- Immanuel Loyalton
- Leesburg
- Letort
- Linglestown Life
- Liverpool
- Lykens
- Messiah Shippensburg
- Middlesex
- Mt Calvary Harrisburg
- Mt Gilead
- Mt Holly Springs
- Mt Hope Newville
- Mt Oliver Mechanicsburg
- Mt Rock Newville
- Mt Zion Carlisle
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- New Bloomfield
- New Buffalo
- New Germantown (Extended)
- Newburg
- Oakville
- Otterbein Bolling Springs
- Otterbein Duncannon
- Otterbein Newburg
- Paxton
- Pfloutz Valley
- Pine Creek Spring Glen
- Rockville
- Roseglen
- Salem Liverpool
- Salem Marysville
- Shepherdstown
- Shermans Dale
- Shiremanstown
- Shores
- Snyder's
- St Andrews Valley View
- St Johns Hegins
- St Marys Bolluviose
- Stoverdale
- Summerdale
- Trinity County Line
- Trinity Hummelstown
- Trinity New Cumberland
- Trinity Penbrook
- Trinity Walnut Bottom
- Waggoners
- Walnut Grove
- West Fairview
- West Hill
- Young's
- Youngs Shermans Dale
- Zion Stone

### Harrisburg District 90%
- Grace Penbrook
- Millerstown
- Trinity New Kingston
- Twenty-Ninth Street

### Lewisburg District 90%
- Aline
- Askam
- Bakers
- Beavertown Memorial
- Beavertown
- Benton
- Bethany Berwick
- Bethany Miton
- Bethel Catawissa
- Bethel Hill
- Bloomingdale
- Bower Memorial Berwick
- Browns Cocolamus
- Buckhorn
- Buffalo Valley
- Calvary Berwick
- Calvary West Nanticoke
- Catawissa Avenue Sunbury
- Centenary Ashley
- Christ Benton
- Christ Mountaintop
- Christ Northumberland
- Diosers Ridge
- Ebenezer Berwick
- Ellimsport
- Emmanuel Fremont
- Emmanuel New Berlin
- Evansville
- Eyers Grove
- Fairmount Springs
- Faith Chapel White Deer
- Faith Hoovers
- Faith Sunbury
- First Berwick
- First McClure
- First Nanticoke
- First Shickshinny
- Fowlersville-Lime Ridge
- Freeburg
- Good Shepherd Bloomsburg
- Hendrickson
- Heterville
- Hope
- Hummelts/Christ Community
- Hunlock Creek
- Jerseytown
- Kitchens
- Klinegrove
- Kulp
- Lightstreet
- Lime Ridge
- Lincoln Chapel
- McAlisterburg
- McDerrid Shickshinny
- Millburg
- Millville
- Mill-Green
- Montandon
- Mooroeburg
- Mt Pleasant Sunbury
- Mt Zion Richfield
- Muhlenburg
- Oakdale
- Orangeville
- Otterbein Sunbury
- Paxtonville
- Pine Grove Mifflintown
- Richfield
- Ridge Street
- Rohrbaugh
- Shamokin Dam
- Sloums
- St Andrews Milton
- St Johns Dewart
- St Pauls Berwick
- St Pauls Emmanuel Danville
- St Pauls Lewisburg
- St Pauls Penns Creek
- St Peters Beavertown
- St Peters Riverside
- Stone Church
- Summer Hill
- Summerhill
- Town Hill
- Trinity Danville
- Trinity Esyp
- Trinity Middleburg
- Trinity Northumberland
- Trinity White Deer
- Trinity Willow
- Turkey Valley
- Wesley Bloomburg
- Wesley Nescopike
- Wesley Selingsgrove
- Winters
- Zion Penns Creek

### Lewisburg District - 90%
- First Catawissa
- Lawyers
- Roaring Creek Valley
- St Johns Elimsport

### Scranton/Wilkes-Barre - 100%
- Abrahamsville
- Albright Wilkes-Barre
- Alderson
- Asbury Scranton
- Beach Lake
- Bennett-Derr
- Bethany
- Bethel Avoca
- Bradley Memorial
- Calvary Waymart
- Center Moreland
- Central Honesdale
- Central Wilkes-Barre
- Chinchilla
- Clarks Green
- Clifford
- Community Church Great Bend
- Countryside Community
- Court Street
- Courtlande
- Daleville
- Dalton
- Dimock Community
- Dunnington
- East Benton
- East Lemon
- East Rush
- Elatober
- Elm Park
- Embury Scranton
- Emory
- Evans Falls
- Fairdale Community
- Falls
- First New Milton
- First Old Forge
- First Taylor
- First West Pittston
- Forkston
- Forty Fort
- Franklin Forks
- Gibson
- Gouldsboro
- Hemlock Grove Greentown
- Hop Bottom
- Jenningsville
- Kingsley
- Kunkle
- LaAnna
- Lake Ariel
- Lake Como
- Lakehoro
- Larksville
- Lehman-Ide-town
- Lemon
- Lenoxville
- Loyallville
- Maple Grove
- Maple Lake
- Mehoopany

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Thank You

2018 Shares of Ministry Paid at 100% and 90%

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### Fresh Expressions

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AND there are more than 20 Fresh Expressions in the exploration stages ... stay tuned!
2019 CAMPS & RETREATS

CAMP PENN
GREENE HILLS
MOUNT ASBURY
WESLEY FOREST
SKY LAKE

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!
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July – 100 years ago
The cornerstone was laid July 13, 1919, for a new brick United Brethren church building in Tower City. Organized in 1871, that congregation had erected a frame structure at that same East Grand Avenue site in 1872. The Evangelical congregation in Tower City had an almost identical history, erecting a frame structure in 1872 on the northwest corner of Grand Avenue and Fourth Street and replacing it with a brick building in 1922. Similarly, in 1888 the Methodists erected a frame building on the southeast corner of Grand Avenue and Fourth Street and replaced it with a brick building in 1918. These three congregations are now one. In 1947, following the 1946 EUB denominational merger, the former Evangelical building burned down and that congregation joined with their counterparts in the former United Brethren building. In 1978, following the 1968 UMC denominational merger, the Zion (former EUB) and Wesley (former Methodist) congregations united to form Christ UMC and met in each church on alternate Sundays. In 1980, the furnishings from the Zion building were moved into the Wesley building, where all services would be held. In 1991 the present new Christ UMC building was erected on Grand Avenue next to the former Methodist site, which is now a landscaped lot within the Christ UMC complex. The 1919 United Brethren building is now a funeral home.

August – 50 years ago
After one year in the former Wyoming Conference and two years in the former Central Pennsylvania Conference of offering a week of camp for persons with special needs, both conferences announced they would be adding a second week for such campers in August 1969. The August 24-30 Wyoming Conference week at Sky Lake included a concurrent youth service camp, limited to ten young people, to include all the usual camp amenities while focusing on servant ministry and whose service component would be to spend six hours each day assisting and interacting with attendees at the special needs camp. The August 3-9 Central Pennsylvania Conference week was held at Wesley Forest. Both camps were promoted by articles in their conference’s regular publications. While the heading in the Wyoming Conference Methodist read “Special Needs Camp,” the then acceptable but now inappropriate headline in The Central Pennsylvania United Methodist proclaimed “Two Camps for Retarded Planned.”
Save money ... Borrow from Discovery Place

THANK YOU to everyone who stopped by our Discovery Place display table at Annual Conference. It was great to meet many of you for the first time, and renew relationships already established. A special thank you to our two volunteers who helped with coverage at the table: Sandy Zirbel (Camp Hill UMC) on Thursday, and Rich Dixon (Shepherdstown UMC) on Friday. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Discovery Place exists to help churches save money by borrowing resources rather than purchasing them. DVD studies almost always include a study guide and/or a book and can be borrowed for as long as you need them. The purchase of these materials and the postage to mail them to you is covered by the Shares of Ministry each church pays. Your only cost is the return postage by library rate, which is inexpensive. You will receive the materials in a canvas bag, and you will return the materials in the same bag. Mailing instructions and a return address card are included. It’s very easy!!

Featured studies for this month are the series *That the World May Know* by Ray Vander Laan. Popularly called *Faith Lessons*, there are 16 different titles. Vander Laan helps the viewer experience the Bible in its historical context by visiting the locations in which the Biblical events took place. Listed below are the titles. To view full descriptions, visit our online catalog at www.discovery-place.org and search by title as listed below. We have multiple copies of all 16 titles, and we would strongly encourage you to check them out.

1. *Faith Lessons on the Promised Land*
2. *Faith Lessons on the Prophets & Kings of Israel*
3. *Faith Lessons on the Life & Ministry of the Messiah*
4. *Faith Lessons on the Death & Resurrection of the Messiah*
5. *Faith Lessons on the Early Church*
6. *Faith Lessons in the Dust of the Rabbi*
7. *Faith Lessons Walk as Jesus Walked*
8. *Faith Lessons God Heard Their Cry*
9. *Faith Lessons Fire on the Mountain*
10. *Faith Lessons With All Your Heart*
11. *Faith Lessons The Path to the Cross*
12. *Faith Lessons Walking with God in the Desert*
13. *Faith Lessons Israel’s Mission*
14. *Faith Lessons The Mission of Jesus*
15. *Faith Lessons A Clash of Kingdoms*
16. *Faith Lessons Cultures in Conflict*

We invite you to visit Discovery Place at the Conference Office, 303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg PA 17050. Our hours of operation are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (but closing at noon on Fridays in the summer). Other hours can be arranged. If you can’t come in person, visit our website at www.discovery-place.org and view the online catalog (you can even place an order online!), e-mail us at discovery@susumc.org, or call 717-766-7968. Thank you, and we look forward to helping you find resources for your church!

Serving Christ with you,
Joni Robison

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Find free spiritual growth resources for your church at www.discovery-place.org

JONI ROBISON
A Time of Sabbath Renewal
July 23, 2019
The Center for Spiritual Formation is offering a Sabbath Retreat, designed especially for clergy and CLMs who are serving churches. We gather at Orchard Hill in Millerstown on July 23, 2019, 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, or walking the Labyrinth.
Find out more and register at tinyurl.com/y2ncwatd

There is still time to register for Summer Camp!
Have you signed up for camp yet?? Over 1100 campers have registered for 2019 camps and they are filling up quickly.
Go to www.susumcamps.org to find out more and register.

God’s Call Event
August 10, 2019.  9am - 3pm
Lightstreet UMC
1640 E. Main Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
An event for those discerning a call to ministry. If you are an adult, eighteen or older, and questioning whether you are being called to ministry, this event is for you. Join other men and women who are wondering, “God, are you calling me?” Members of the Enlistment and Interpretation Committee within the Susquehanna Conference will provide information on the ordained, local pastor and certified ministries within the United Methodist Church. Let us assist you as you discern your call.
Cost: $20.00 – includes lunch and materials.
Deadline for Registration: July 15, 2019
For additional information including a registration form contact: Rev. Sandy Kraft at skraft@susumc.org

VIM Team Leader (& Volunteers) Training
July 27, 2019.  9am - 4pm
First UMC, 801 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
August 17, 2019
Gettysburg UMC, 30 W High St., Gettysburg, PA 17325
September 14, 2019.  9am - 4pm
Trinity UMC, 84 Lombard St., Danville, PA 17821
October 19, 2019.  9am - 4pm
Grace UMC, 309 Herman Ave., Lemoyne, PA 17043
November 2, 2019.  9am - 4pm
First UMC, 200 E 3rd St., Lewistown, PA 17044
For more information and to register contact Michelle Schwartzman at vim@susumc.org or call 717-766-7441 ext 3105
Navigate is an equipping event offered to help current and future leaders impact their congregations and communities for Jesus Christ. Experience dynamic worship, powerful speakers, and compelling workshop leaders.

Enjoy a medley of equipping opportunities or explore learning tracks for Revitalization, Small Church, Lay Pastors, New Places for New People, Young Leaders, and Conference Leaders. Invite your colleagues to join you and mark your calendars for this can’t-miss event.

3-day Registration: $199 for the first registrant; $149 for each additional team member (lodging and meals separate)

If you are unable to attend all three days you can register for Saturday only for just $69!

Details and registration available at susumc.org/navigate
**FLY FISHING & MEN'S FAITH RETREAT**

**October 4-6, 2019**
for Men Ages 18+
*No Early Bird*

$175 w/Own Gear
or
$195 w/Rental Gear
Rented gear additional $20.

Starts: Friday 5 p.m.
Ends at 2 p.m. on Sunday

Instruction provided.
Bring your own gear or contact us so that we can rent equipment for you from TCO.

Please come get away to nurture your spirit and explore the waters of Penn's Creek - one of the truly great trout streams in Pa. Whether a complete novice or veteran fly fisher, this weekend is for you. What could be more fulfilling than growing with God, making friends, and discovering new aspects of fly fishing and fly tying.

This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Spiritual Formation.

**Accio Fun!**

**October 25-27, 2019**
at Wesley Forest
for Grades 5 - 10
*No Early Bird*

$165/3 Nights
Starts: Friday 7 p.m.
Ends at 11 a.m. on Sunday

The magic is back! Join us for this cosplay weekend as a prominent school of wizardry holds their next open house. The weekend will be filled with fun and faith discoveries! We will discuss how we are pushed by the love of Jesus to vanquish selfishness, pride, and ego. We'll compare that story to a certain boy wizard who was called to do the same.

**susumcamps.org/register**

**Fall Scrapbooking Retreat**

**September 12-15, 2019**
at G.H. Manor Lodge
for Women Ages 18+

$175/3 Nights
Starts: Thursday 10 a.m.

$138/2 Nights
Starts: Friday 10 a.m.
or

$80/commuter
Ends at 2 p.m. on Sunday

Enjoy the opportunity to scrapbook and let your creativity flow into the wee hours of the morning.

We'll share terrific home cooked meals, spend time discussing God's Word, and pick up new ideas while fellowshipping with gals who share your passion for scrapbooking.

**Fall Holiday Crafts & Laughs Retreat**

**November 1 - 3, 2019**
at G.H. Manor Lodge
for Women Ages 18+

$140/full event
or

$75/Saturday Only
Starts: Friday 6:30 p.m.
Ends at 3 p.m. on Sunday

Imagine an entire weekend filled with holiday celebrations that you can enjoy with your sisters in Christ, doing what you love most - CRAFTING!

Crafts, meals, and devotions are all planned with fall holiday themes.

All craft and program materials will be provided for participants and are included in the price of the event.

**susumcamps.org/register**
Webinar Wednesdays

Join Us the following Wednesdays at 1 p.m. – Great opportunities you don’t want to miss!

July 24 - Administration
Part of our job is administrating the church. This includes a lot of counting and reporting. This week we will talk about Vital Signs, Safe Sanctuaries, and Boundaries. We’ll also discuss some important sections of the Book of Discipline, the purpose of a Church Conference and when to call the DS.

August 7 - Pastor as Leader
Working with leaders is assumed in every church. Pastors need to have a solid relationship with Council, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, and Finance. But as pastor, you’re also the chair of Nominations. This week we will talk about your responsibilities and opportunities when working with these teams as well as the possibilities of the Simplified Accountable Structure.

August 21 – Resourcing
The Conference offers a great deal of resources and ministries that are intended to help your church move forward. This week we will cover creating connections with the General Church, the Annual Conference, and especially Communications, Volunteers in Mission, Discovery Place, Mission Central, Camp & Retreats, and Bishop’s Partners in Mission.

September 4 - Stewardship
It’s almost the end of the third quarter and it’s time to say Thank You! Everyone who has contributed financial to your church deserves a written thank you. It’s also a great time to build on the relationship and begin talking about giving in 2020.

September 18 - Rhythms, Retreats, and Renewal
Have you planned a vacation? How about a spiritual retreat? It’s important to care for yourself and about now you’re probably starting to get tired. We’ll talk about what’s waiting for you at the end of Advent and some great options that will help you carry you forward.

October 2 - Finance & Benefits
If you haven’t already, it’s time to start budgeting for 2020. Throughout the process you’ll want to have a good understanding of Shares of Ministry and your Pastoral Benefits. Also, as you present your budget to the congregation, you might want to consider creating a Narrative Budget.

October 16 – Equipped for Vitality
Gary Shockley, our new Director for Equipping Vital Congregations is here, and he wants to tell you all about Vitality Teams, Fresh Expressions, Small Church Checkups and more!

Register at susumc.org/webinar-wednesdays/
Dear Friends,

Here is a new proposal of two options for coming on an AWARE group this year: Nov. 29-Dec. 7 and another from September 20 to 28. The September dates are an accompaniment delegation with the new class of Health Promoters. We hope you will give this careful consideration. If you decide to come, please try to bring a friend (friends).

**Why come on an AWARE (Mission work/study) team?** We think you will find that the experience may deepen your faith in a new and different way. In part, because you get to know humble people who have great faith. You will begin to build relationships with the wonderful people who make up CYTTE and with others whose lives have been touched by CYTTE. If you have been here before you will have a chance to deepen relationships. You will learn a lot about CYTTE, Puebla, Mexico and ancient history. You will learn directly about the reasons why people have to migrate to the US. And you will have the chance to meet new people from different churches.

**Schedule:** On the Nov/Dec group Saturday, Sunday, ½ day Monday and ½ day Friday will be Educational Tourism with four nights at Hotel Gilfer in doubles, next to the Zocalo. Arrival at the Tree of Life farm Monday late afternoon, Tuesday -- Rural Day of Work/Learning, Wednesday and Thursday are work days, Thursday night -- church, Friday -- final reflection and return to Puebla.

**Educational Tourism Options:** Tlaxcala (Government Palace and Murals, Museum) and Archeological site/Pyramids of Cacaxtla-Xochitecatl (ancient ruins and preserved paintings), Puebla: Zocalo, 500-year old churches, museums (many options), Ruins and Church of San Francisco, Tunnels, Artist and Toad neighborhoods, Cholula Pyramid (largest foundation in the world) and purchase of artisanry. What we do will depend on the composition of each group. For example, on Monday we could visit other ruins as we go to Tlancualpican.
Work options: For those new to GYTTE the first day will be work that allows you to learn about the lives of rural families. Others may begin other work that same day and continue Wednesday and Thursday. The November group will work on a straw-bale home.

The September Accompaniment Group will have educational tourism during 3 days, some at the beginning and some at the end. You will have 3-4 nights at the Gilfer Hotel. Your time at the farm will be accompanying and getting to know the Health Promotors, but you will also do some work – probably the Rural Day – and more. You will also have a chance to share with folks on Thursday at the Tlancualpican church.

AWARE experience cost: $1,300 includes $1,000 for AWARE experience (program, lodging, meals, transportation, entrance fees, interpretation) and $300 contribution for a project like a straw-bale house, with a minimum of 6 people.

Please reserve by July 15 for the September group and by September 15 for the November group by making a $300 deposit. Make your check payable to Trucksville UMC and write GYTTE and date of group on the memo line. Please send GYTTE an email stating you have sent your deposit, thanks. gyttephm@aol.com

Mail the check to: Rev. Marian Hartman
418 W. High Street
New Bloomfield, PA 17068
Tel. 814-441-0235
e-mail: mhartman@susumc.org

Airfare to Puebla, or Mexico City and bus to Puebla is not included, although someone will meet you at the airport to ride the bus with you to Puebla. Everyone will need to arrive and depart on days indicated, although perhaps on different flights. Once you commit to AWARE we will send you lots of orientation materials!

When we have a group of at least six, we will have an on-line orientation meeting to answer questions, etc. Thank you so much for considering an AWARE experience with GYTTE!

In God’s love,

Nan, Miguel, Clara and Ivonne

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“Give Ye Them To Eat” No. 07629A, An Advance Special Program Of The United Methodist Church
REV. TOWANDA L. ACEY OF ATLANTA, GA, RETIRED ELDER, DIED ON TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019.

PASTOR WILBUR W. BLACK OF LAKE ARIEL, PA RETIRED LOCAL PASTOR, DIED ON SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2019.

REV. DR. BRADFORD B. SPANGENBERG, OF MILLVILLE PA, RETIRED ELDER, DIED ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019.

REV. R. BRUCE WOOLEVER OF NEW BLOOMFIELD, PA 17068-9605, RETIRED ELDER, DIED ON SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019.

AMONG HIS SURVIVORS IS HIS WIFE, REV. PATRICIA A. WOOLEVER.

MRS. MARTHA GETMAN ZANKER OF ELICOTT CITY, MD, WIDOW OF RETIRED ELDER REV. DR. ROBERT F. ZANKER, DIED ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019.

ERRATUM

Please send corrections to link@susumc.org

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