“We have many parts in one body, but the parts don’t all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God’s grace that has been given to us.”

Romans 12:4-6a CEB
**Golden Cross Offering**

In Uncertain Times Your Support is Critical!

We all go through times when we are uncertain about what the future holds. God promises to be with us in the midst of the changes that are happening — in the church, in the nation and in our communities. We remain committed to our mission of serving seniors, children and teens, even when the future is unknown.

We need YOU as partners in this adventure. As generous people, let your heart guide you in giving to the Golden Cross Offering.

If your church receives this special offering, please make your gift at that time. If it doesn’t, make your check out to Susquehanna Conference, with Benevolent Homes Golden Cross Offering in the memo line, and mail it to: The Finance Office, 303 Mulberry Dr., Ste. 500, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

**Better Together**

This phrase reflects what a connectional church such as ours is all about. It affirms and celebrates the stronger and bigger mission and ministry we can accomplish as a connectional church. It also points to the mandate of unity for Christian witness as it sums up the spirit and the focus of Jesus’ prayer for the oneness of his disciples. In the Gospel of John chapter 17, Jesus repeats these words of prayer: “They may be one as we are one.” Prayer connects the people of faith to God’s way and God’s future. Prayer is an unqualified expression of faith that, no matter what we go through, we put our trust in God and we know that God is in charge. As we face the unprecedented challenge of the unity of our church, we are to rely on God for a breakthrough by the gift and power of prayer more than anything else.

In sync with the ancient prayer of Jesus for oneness, each year we will lift up a prayer that we offer at the Lord’s Table as a theme: 2017-18: “Better Together: Make Us One” 2018-19: “Better Together: One with Christ” 2019-20: “Better Together: One with Each Other” 2020-21: “Better Together: One in Ministry to All the World”

I believe that God has plans to give our church hope and a future. We all go through times when we are uncertain about what the future holds. God promises to be with us in the midst of the changes that are happening — in the church, in the nation and in our communities. We remain committed to our mission of serving seniors, children and teens, even when the future is unknown.

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A Call to Prayer and Holy Conferencing

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of Our Brokenness and Hope of the World! May you experience the closeness of God’s presence in your journey in a more intimate and noticeable way during this season of Lent.

Within a short time, we will gather for the Tenth Session of the Susquehanna Annual Conference at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pa., from May 30 through June 1. The theme this year is “Better Together: One with Each Other”.

We have just concluded a very divisive and conflicted special General Conference. We increasingly see our nation and the world more divided rather than unified. We are called to be in witness to the reign of God for such a time as this. As the conference vision statement says, people of “Susquehanna Conference will [gather together] to embody the beloved community of disciple making congregations”.

Article II under Section - VI Annual Conferences on page 35 of the 2016 Book of Discipline reads: “The Annual conference is the basic body of our connection to and partnership with the global community of the diverse Methodist traditions. We are honored to have their presence with us.

Offerings
Rev. Brenda Leigey, the incoming State College District Superintendent, will preach at our Memorial Service on Thursday evening. Our Bible Study on Saturday morning will be taught by Rev. Dr. Jong Chun “J.C.” Park, President of the World Methodist Council. He is a professor of systematic theology of the Methodist Theological University in Seoul, Korea.

Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council, will be the preacher for the Ordination Service on Saturday. He has served as a minister in the Methodist Church of South Africa. I know that we will be richly blessed and uplifted by their sharing of the Word.

Mr. Kirby Hickey, a lay delegate from Bethany Church, Red Lion, who serves as the treasurer for the World Council of Churches, represents a gift from The United Methodist Church to the world-wide Wesleyan family. As an annual conference, we will have a privileged moment in celebration of our connection to and partnership with the global community of the diverse Methodist traditions. We are honored to have their presence with us.

Please come and join us in prayer and praise as we gather at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pa., from May 30 through June 1.

With you in Christ’s Ministry,
Bishop Jeremiah Park

Youth People’s Ministry and the Youth Service Fund

The Young People’s Ministry Council needs your prayers and your support.

Come and check out our display table at Annual Conference and support our fundraisers. We will also have YSF grant applications.

Our total combined fundraising goal for AC2019 is $11,000. Support the Youth Service Fund by participating in one of our fundraisers.

• Conference delegates can purchase a workbook for $12.
• Candy Change Challenge. Hershey Kisses vs. Twizzlers - which one is your favorite? Vote by putting your spare change in the bucket for the candy you like the best.
• Charging Station available during sessions for phones, laptops, or tablets - by donation.

Do You Play a Musical Instrument? We NEED You!

We are creating a “Ya’ll Come” orchestra for Annual Conference Opening Worship at 2 pm, May 30. If you play a band or orchestral instrument we would love for you to be a part of Opening Worship. The orchestra will accompany the congregation singing hymns. If you are interested contact Dan Stokes: danstokes1801@gmail.com. Dan will provide music for your part. Bring a music stand if possible.

Gather at the organ in the Great American Hall, Hershey Lodge, at 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 30 to prepare for worship.

Holy Conferencing Principles

Everyone is a child of God.

Listen before speaking.

Strive to understand from another’s point of view.

Speak about issues, do not defame persons...

Disagree without being disagreeable.

Pray, in silence or aloud, about decisions...

Let prayer interrupt your busy-ness.

Strive to accurately reflect the views of others.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

~ Ephesians 4:3 NIV

2019 Susquehanna Annual Conference
May 30 - June 1
Hershey, Pennsylvania
Livestreamed at www.susumc.org
Fill the Trailer Wish List

ALTGOONA
air compressor
air hoses
angle grinder
angle grinder, extra wheels
axe/sledge hammer, 3.5 pound
brooms, hand
HARRISBURG
circular saw batteries
circular saw, cordless
extra blades
circular saw electric
crow bars
Dremel tool LEWISBURG
drywall finishing tools
set
drywall screw gun
drywall lift
drywall tape (rolls/box)
duct tape, rolls
dust masks (N95), 10-pack
SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE
generator, 3000 watt
minimum
flat
floor
Floor
grout
hammer drill, 1/2 inch
hammer drill, 1/2 inch BIT SET
hand sanitizer (32 ounce pump)
STATE COLLEGE
light, project w/ stand
light bulbs, project light
light, drill, cord (corded)
mold killer spray, 4 gallons (cases)
mold sprayer, (electric)
mold sprayer, hand
WILLIAMSPORT
sander, belt style
sander, belt style belts
sander, palm style
sander, palm style pads
screws (box)
#9-3 inch, self drilling
#10-1 inch, water Phills
YOKE
shingle stripper/
tarps, blue general
pressure hose, 100 foot
spray gun, hand
tape measures
tarp, blue general
purpose 10 x 12
brooms, push
buckets, 3 gallon
cable ties, (zip ties, assorted package)
chalk line
tape, chalk line chalk
shop saw
drill, batteries
drill, cordless
drill, bit set
drill, electric
drop cloth, 2 mil
minimum plastic (rolls)
dust pans
ear plugs, foam (box/100)
electrical extension cords (all sizes)
fan, floor, electric
first aid kit
gas can, 1 gallon
(hospital)
hammers, safety (yellow)
heater, propane
workute
ice chest, 68 quart
jig saw
jig saw, extra blades
level, 2 foot
level, 4 foot
nails (box)
1-1/2 inch roofing
#BD 2-1/2 inch
galv nails, (box)
reciprocating saw, batteries
reciprocating saw, cordless
reciprocating saw, extra blades
reciprocating saw, (box)
1-1/2 inch roofing
tape measure
reciprocating saw, (box)
environmental
stainless steel
saw, wet tile
tile cutter, manual
trash bags, contractor strength (42 gallon/box)
tie down straps, 10 foot
tile cutter, manual
trash bags, contractor strength (42 gallon/box)
yard
utility knife
water cooler, 5 gallon

Fill the Trailer at Annual Conference

Disasters come in many shapes, sizes, and causes. When they occur, both physical and spiritual devastation result. It places victims in a situation where they may be unable to see the hope and reassurance of God’s promises. And, in the midst of these situations, the connectional system of the United Methodist Church can provide a message of encouragement and restoration.

As 1 Peter 5:10 indicates, “The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

The Disaster Response Ministry is conducting a “Fill the Trailer” campaign during Annual Conference. The goal of this initiative is to furnish the Conference’s newest disaster response trailer with the tools and equipment necessary to support early response teams (ERTs) and early ministry needs. If your delegation feels encouraged to prayerfully consider providing financial support to equip the trailer or supporting this initiative by either providing financial support or fundraising effort to fulfill that calling.

When you arrive at Annual Conference, drop your tools and equipment in the trailer that will be at the Disaster Response Ministry informational table. Your financial support can also be dropped off at the table or sent directly to the Conference office noting Disaster Response Ministry Advance #8055.

When Noah was asked to build an Ark, he was provided with the tools to complete the task. Moses was summoned to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and equipped by God to do the job. And, when Jesus sent the disciples out two by two to share the word of God, He assured them they were outfitted with the proper tools.

If we prayerfully seek God’s call to provide hope and restoration in times of disaster and rely on Him to provide us with the tools we need, we can be assured He will bless us abundantly with all we need to “abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Dough Hoy - drc@susumc.org
Disaster Response Coordinator

Backpacks for Mission Central

As part of Annual Conference this year, we will be assembling backpacks for Mission Central. Please bring a NEW backpack with you on Friday, May 30 to participate in part of the “Essential Elements Experience”.

Mission Central will also be collecting school supplies of all kinds, shapes, and sizes ... as long as there is ‘life left in their soles’ they will be accepted!
**FRESH EXPRESSION**

**CHURCH**

**DISTRICT**

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<tr>
<th>Dinner Church</th>
<th>Hicks UMC</th>
<th>Altoona</th>
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<td>Yego Chapel</td>
<td>Camp Hill UMC</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
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<td>Budget Inn Community Center</td>
<td>Fishing Creek Salem UMC</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
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<td>Refresh Church</td>
<td>Camp Hill UMC</td>
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<td>M&amp;TCA Church</td>
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<td>Worship Music &amp; Prayer at Max’s Bar</td>
<td>Hollfax UMC</td>
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<td>Wednesday Night Dinner Church</td>
<td>Hollfax UMC</td>
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<td>Motor Cycle Church</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Valley View UMC</td>
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<td>Heart-to-Heart with Jesus</td>
<td>New Cumberland Churches</td>
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<td>Diner Church</td>
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<td>Campfire Church</td>
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<td>Family Group</td>
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<td>Ecumenical Youth Group</td>
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<td>Tunkhannock UMC</td>
<td>Scranton/Tioga</td>
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<td>Spiritual Reflection</td>
<td>South Gibson UMC</td>
<td>Scranton/Tioga</td>
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<td>Allegies</td>
<td>Trinity UMC</td>
<td>State College</td>
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<td>Contemplative Prayer</td>
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<td>Neighborhood worship Ralphe Rd</td>
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<td>Ride for Triumph (Motorcycles)</td>
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<td>Puffs and Pontification (upcoming Campus)</td>
<td>First UMC Williamsport</td>
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<td>Lycoming College Staff</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Worship (Walnut St)</td>
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<td>Rugby Church</td>
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<td>Fishing &amp; Bible Stories</td>
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<td>Faith UMC</td>
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AND there are more than 20 Fresh Expressions in the exploration stages ... stay tuned!

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**Discerning next steps for Equipping Vital Congregations**

The apostle Paul tells us, “The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose... For we are God’s servants, working together.” 1 Corinthians 3:8-9

Over the past two years, a movement has sparked that has led to new ministries and new opportunities for making disciples of Jesus Christ. Kay Kolan, Director of Equipping Vital Congregations has been a faith-filled co-worker planting seeds throughout our beloved Susquehanna Conference.

As a part of her work, countless congregations have begun to develop strategic plans and discipleship pathways that will help reach new people. Dozens of Fresh Expressions have been launched and Vitality Teams are in each of our districts, equipped to walk with local churches through visioning and reflection. New initiatives such as The Valley in State College, The Journey in Harrisburg, and The Open Door in Dillburg are widening circles of relationships and community engagement. All of these missional areas are the embodiment of the beloved community of disciple-making congregations.

However, last month I received a call from Bishop Gary Mueller. The Arkansas Conference wanted to extend an offer to Kay to be their new Director of the Center for Vitality and New Places for New People. She has accepted. She will begin this new position on July 1, 2019.

As a passionate innovator, Kay will bring a significant contribution to her place of ministry and the Arkansas Conference will be blessed to have her on the team.

Here in the Susquehanna Conference, the Cabinet and I realize the vital importance of the spark that has become a flame, and we will discern the next faithful steps for the office of Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC). We are fully committed to the EVC team and continuing the work of equipping and resourcing local congregations into vitality and creating new places for new people.

Please pray for Kay and her husband Bob as they transition into her new position. Please also pray for our Conference as we navigate through these new changes.

With you in Christ’s Ministry,

**Bishop Jeremiah Park**
Calvary UMC - A Lighthouse in York

This is the first in a series of stories highlighting some of the ways God is at work in and through Calvary United Methodist Church and its many partner churches to transform the city of York, Pa.

Written by Sandii Peiffer, edited by Pamela Brossman

F
teen years ago, a revolution began in York, Pa., but it has nothing to do with baseball. In 2014, Rev. Dr. B. Michael “Mike” Brossman was appointed to serve Calvary UMC to infuse new life, renewed vision, and fresh energy into a dwindling congregation and underutilized church facility. Located west of downtown York near the York Fairgrounds, Calvary lies in a culturally and economically diverse neighborhood. The community demographics are one-third black, one-third white, one-third Latino, and 1% other. “To be an all-white congregation in our community wasn’t working,” said Brossman.

Prior to Brossman’s arrival, the church had three worship services and Christian education on Sunday mornings and a service/community meal and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings during the week. “When Pastor Mike arrived, things started happening,” said church sexton Mike Gurleten.

From less than 100 worshipers five years ago to a congregation of nearly 350 people; from three worship services to five, including a bilingual Spanish/English service; from two days of facility usage a week to seven, by more than 20 church and community groups—Calvary’s growth is reflected not only in numbers, but also in service, ministry, missions, and outreach. And there is a whole lot more going on in the community too.

Leadership Development

With a doctorate in Church Leadership Excellence and a church planter by nature, Brossman has been a “lumaround guy” for most of his 28 years of ordained ministry. When he arrived at Calvary, there were a lot of issues to process and understand and a lot of healing that needed to happen. Listening intentionally and caring were key. “The saying ‘people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care’ really is true,” Brossman said.

Immediately, he started using “us” or team language. The church leadership assessed where they were so they could find out how to move forward, discovering a vision that they could test and tweak together.

“Our goal is to reach our potential as a leadership church. We had great leaders with great hearts and great willingness—it was just a matter of tapping into that by talking, healing, affirming, and being patient with each other,” said Brossman.

“We surround ourselves with people who disagree with us, who balance us, whose strengths are our weaknesses or vice versa, so we have to work together. Together we’ll make more of a difference than any one of us can on our own.”

“We pray that God will grow our impact, influence, and territory, and we practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, worship, Bible Study, and memorization. Then, led by the Holy Spirit, we present all ideas for mission and ministry and look for where God is nudging us.”

Brossman also encourages leaders to nurture a “Timothy”—a person they can mentor to carry on the legacy of leadership, ministry, and service.

A Strategy for Growth

“We can’t do what God calls us to do if we stay the same; we have to grow,” said Brossman. “We follow a pattern: Life involves change and always brings conflict which exposes our fears. Fears properly dealt with give us the breakthrough we are looking for.”

Part of Calvary’s growth resulted from a merger with St Paul’s UMC in 2015. Then, Otterbein and Asbury UMCS merged in 2018, and some of those members came to Calvary, including First Spanish, who had been using the Otterbein building. Calvary hired pastoral couple Josue Marrero and Vivien Rodriguez to start and lead Genesis, a new Spanish/English congregation. The couple are originally from Puerto Rico.

Sunday school, Bible study, fellowship, fundraising, and mission-oriented groups within the church have grown, as have the connections with surrounding churches and the community.

Expanding the Territory

Three years ago, Calvary started reaching out to community leaders and formed Hope Church Leadership Network. The network has grown to more than 200 community organizations that help the under-served in York. They meet monthly at Calvary.

Many community organizations were invited to use Calvary UMC for their meetings and programs. Lenten and Advent services are shared with neighboring St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church and St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. “The advantage of ecumenism is that each church gets closer to finding their own identity,” said Calvary’s Associate Pastor Tanya Brubaker.

Recently, Calvary, Grace, and Asbury UMCS began holding Courageous Leadership Conversations, sharing about the unique things happening at their locations and focusing on four topics: youth, marketing, the Latino community, and vacation Bible school. What would it look like for the three congregations to work together on those four things, to pool and share resources and not duplicate efforts?

“28 years in and I’m full speed ahead,” said Brossman. Physical discipline and spiritual discipline are the same thing for him—he’s in shape. “I’m excited about what’s going on and excited about the leaders I work with and those I meet in the other congregations and in the community.”

To be continued...

I
n 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. FEoF take us outside of 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.

To help you to start a fresh expression in your local community, there will be two workshop opportunities. One workshop will be held on March 30 in Williamsport. A second workshop will be conducted at the pre-conference workshops on May 29 and 30. Visit the Equipping Vital Congregations website for more information - www. equippingvitalcongregations.com.

So that, Alive in Christ together, the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple-making congregations. www.equippingvitalcongregations.org/bishops-challenge

www.equippingvitalcongregations.org/bishops-challenge
CRM Staff Updates

Sara Richardson has joined the Camp and Retreat Ministry team as the Reservations Specialist. She is assisting with camp registration and communications and will be working with the team to implement online reservations software for all camp and retreat events.

Sara is a graduate of Thiel College, where she studied psychology and English. She has worked in a variety of ministry and non-profit settings in programming, marketing, and development. Sara operates a small design business, S Richardson Creative, which offers personalized marketing and design services to churches, camps, and small businesses. She is passionate about sharing the stories of those bringing good things to the world.

Sara’s life was forever changed by camping at Wesley Woods in Western PA, where she met Jesus “face to face.” While serving on summer staff, she met her husband, Sam, and they later launched the Camp-to-Camp Project. For two years, the couple traveled the country visiting and learning from Christian camps across a spectrum of denominations, sizes, beliefs, and cultures.

Sara is excited to be following up the Camp-to-Camp journey with a new opportunity to serve on an amazing team. She is looking forward to supporting the valuable camping ministries in the Susquehanna conference both as the Reservations Specialist and as a volunteer in new donor relations and development efforts.
A Day with Chi Rho Singers - a Spouses Perspective

By Jack Servello

We headed out to State College, PA, to meet The Chi Rho Singers at Park Forrest Village UMC. Arrival time was 12:45 pm and rehearsals started promptly at 1:00 pm.

My wife is Pastor Barb Servello serving at The Leesburg United Methodist Church in Shippensburg. It was a long two-hour drive but during that time that we talked about almost everything on our minds, or just conversed in general. Occasionally we discuss what possibilities await us for dinner. Sometimes I will read books to my wife that she needs to read for special classes she’s taking, or I’ll drive and let her read them!

Usually we make time to stop for lunch in whatever town we’re singing in. Once near Moscow, PA, we stopped at a small pizza shop that served pizza with American Cheese instead of mozzarella! It was a very good meal. Diners make fantastic food too. It’s more time for us to spend together just talking and enjoying each other’s company.

Chi Rho Singers is comprised of clergy from the Susquehanna Annual Conference, both active and retired but mostly they’re all still very busy. The director is Rev. Joleen Willis and the president is Rev. Keith Schmuck. He usually introduces the group during the concerts.

When my wife first started singing with the choir, all I did was hang out and read or keep myself occupied until concert time. This year they asked me to play guitar with a few songs, so I’m doing that. Sitting through rehearsals is very interesting. Rev. Paul Zieber conducted a song this time and gave very detailed notes. Paul directed last year while Joleen attended to family needs.

At 3:15 pm they took a break for coffee and light refreshments, then went back to rehearsals. The men gathered in a separate room to rehearse one number which they sing and the women did the same. Then they got back together to finish rehearsals for the rest of the concert songs. At 5:15 pm it was dinner time. I have to say, there are lots of things Methodists do well and one of them is cook. We’ve had a wide range of dinner fare from chicken and scalloped potatoes to spaghetti with and without meat sauce; ham, green beans, and potatoes; and much more. One church provided a picnic meal of hamburgers and hotdogs. It’s always good no matter what or where.

After we all eat the members sing a song for the people who prepared the meal. It’s really a fun song, it’s partly to the tune of “Mary Had A Little Lamb”, and is called “Thank You People.”

The choir sings one Thursday a month between September and May somewhere in our Susquehanna Annual Conference. Next month they’ll be at 2nd Avenue UMC in Altoona, PA.

On May 23, their last concert before the summer break, they’ll combine with the Western Pennsylvania Conference Pastors Choir at Greenwood UMC in Altoona.

We have such a good time with one another, but it’s more than just fellowship. It’s worship. It might look like a lot of work, but it’s really just worshiping God all day in song. Striving for the perfect sound and hopefully making a joyful noise. I’m blessed every month when I get to sit in and just listen to them sing. If you’re ever able to attend a concert you will be blessed as well. If you’ve already heard them you know what I’m talking about.

For more information and events visit www.facebook.com/ChiRhoSingers/ or contact Rev. Joleen Willis, Director, at jwillis@susumc.org

Upward Basketball Celebration at Paddletown St. Paul’s UMC

At the culmination of months of planning, hard work, team practices, and basketball games the athletes of Upward Basketball at Paddletown St. Paul’s UMC wrapped up their winter season with worship songs, awards, and a very special guest.

Pastor Jane Keller Rosborough brought a love for Upward Basketball along with her when she was appointed to Paddletown St. Paul’s in July of 2018.

“I was fortunate to be director of Upward at my home church in Carlisle. When I was appointed to Paddletown, my children and I came to visit in January, 2018, and walked into their beautiful gym. Both of my kids looked at me and said, ‘This is Upward.’ My first response was, ‘Okay, we can’t push this, we’re new.’ After we arrived, I started going over to the gym and praying, ‘Ok God, here’s this space, where are you leading us?’ So, I proposed it to the administrative council, with the caveat, ‘in a year, I really think we could do this.’

“And their response was ‘if we are going to do this, let’s just do it.’”

And so began the task of getting everything ready for the upcoming season.

Rosborough needed some help in getting St. Paul’s first Upward season off the ground. She asked the congregation for volunteers, and Michael Cline began thinking about the ways he could support the new ministry. “She was asking for volunteers,” Cline said, “so I walked in and said, ‘I’d like to volunteer some time.’ She said ‘Well, I really need a director.’

I was a little shocked, so I really prayed about it and realized that it was probably the perfect spot for me to be in. I took the lead and started putting out fliers, and getting things out to the schools.”

The challenge of starting their first Upward season in 2018, instead of waiting until 2019, added some pressure.

Robin Jeffries has been a volunteer with the kids at Paddletown St. Paul’s UMC.

“In a year, I really think we could do this.”

“Along with our UPWARD Leadership Team and other church volunteers, we did 6 months of work in about two months to get it up and running,” said Rosborough.

They wondered if all of their hard work would pay off, and if they’d have enough basketball players and cheerleaders to participate in the first season.

Cline knew that something special was in the works. He said, “You know what, God’s got it in his hands. We will have enough kids.” And I was just confident that we’d have enough kids. When it was all said and done, we had over 60 kids signed up for our first season, which is amazing.”

All that planning made it all worth it. “Everything went really smoothly, and lots of people from our congregation came to see what it was about. And we had a lot of volunteers from our congregation, as well as from the community and the kids’ parents.”

Seth Franco shares some basketball tricks with the kids at Paddletown St. Paul’s UMC.

Seth Franco shares some basketball tricks with Upward kids at Paddletown St Paul’s UMC.

The end of season celebration brought together all of the Upward players and cheerleaders, and featured a special guest, former Harlem Globetrotter, Seth Franco.

Franco played for the Harlem Wizards and the Harlem Globetrotters throughout his basketball career.

“Today, I had the chance to be at Upward Basketball and to share my story. I was born with hip dysplasia and had both of my hips replaced. The big challenge for most of my life hasn’t been basketball, it’s been more of a health issue.”

Bringing his basketball tricks to Upward made this celebration even more special for the athletes of Paddletown’s first Upward Basketball season. Franco shared an inspiring message, amazed everyone with his tricks, and wanted all of this season’s players to know that they can do anything, as long as they trust in God.

“It’s been a great journey, God’s been a big part of my story. He is my story, giving me the strength to get up and try again every day.” Franco said.

See the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5D0FvVhPjVE

For more information about Upward or to volunteer, visit our website at www.susumc.org
The Journey Begins

The first steps in a new faith community in Harrisburg have been taken. Two United Methodist churches in Harrisburg voted on Sunday, March 17, to merge into a new faith community named The Journey. Those churches are Riverside and 29th Street. We are excited to see how God will move through this combined congregation to reach new people in Harrisburg.

The Journey’s mission is to create life-giving communities across our city. The vision is to connect new people with Jesus while investing in and loving our neighbors.

Pastor Kris Sledge and Pastor Deb Port have been appointed as the pastors to The Journey. “United Methodist churches in Harrisburg voted on their future. I have had the privilege to connect with many of these faithful members over the past few weeks hearing their concerns and dreams for the future. These people are truly amazing! I am grateful for God and these members who took a leap of faith and voted to be a part of this vital merger,” said Pastor Sledge.

Below: Pastor Kris Sledge preached at the first worship service at The Journey in Harrisburg, April 28, 2019.

The two churches worshiped at their existing locations through Easter. The newly combined congregation began worshiping together on April 28, 2019, at The Journey Church, 750 South 29th Street in Harrisburg, with over 125 people in attendance.

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation
1-800-272-0113
Rev. Phyllis M. Bowers

Where Your Treasure Is

Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasure in heaven... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

For those whose song is not like ours, we are called to encourage and not hinder their ministry just because it is different. We seek grace so God can remove our dissonance and off-key performances. For those who have no voice, we are to give them support and space to find theirs to share.

For those who do not hear or understand our music, we are called to love and find them noteworthy. We acknowledge how often we do not hear or understand too and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us in signs and languages of love.

For those who do not play well, we are called to invite them and to admit we need them too. We examine our own lack of play and ask Jesus to embrace us together as one body so that we may practice connecting with each other in harmony.

For those whose song is not like ours, we are called to encourage and not hinder their ministry just because it is different. We seek grace so God can remove our dissonance and off-key performances. For those who have no voice, we are to give them support and space to find theirs to share. We ask God to help us equip us all to speak up and out for each other, caring for and carrying each other.

We come together again soon at Annual Conference, a collection of extended family members woven into orchestrated lives and melodies in this time and place by God. There is a music we cannot hear or understand this time and place by God. There is a music we cannot hear or understand because it is orchestrated. For those whose song is not like ours, we are called to encourage and not hinder their ministry just because it is different.
The Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church met June 9-12, 1969, at Lebanon Valley College in Annville PA with Bishop Hermann Kaebnick presiding. The report of the Board of Missions included the following items/recommendations:

1. Selling the Bethlehem church property at 610 Wallace Street in York. This congregation (former United Brethren) merged into Ridge Avenue (former Methodist).
2. Selling the St. Luke church property at 610 West King Street in York. This congregation continued until 1999, when the church closed and the building sold.
3. Selling the Faith church property at 401 South Queen Street in York. This congregation (former United Brethren) merged into Wesley (former Methodist) from Aldersgate UMC.
4. Selling the Willowbank Street church property in Bellefonte. This congregation (former Evangelical) merged with Grace (former United Brethren) to form Hope UMC and sold the Del Brook building.
5. Initiating a study involving the Mechanicsburg area Del Brook and Salem congregations. Del Brook (former EUB) and Salem (former Methodist) later united to form Hope UMC and sold the Del Brook building.

As you read this, Annual Conference is fast approaching. We encourage you to visit the Discovery Place display at Annual Conference to see what’s new in Discovery Place. In a separate location we will also have a “give-away” table at which you can find resources to take home for free. Check us out!

Discovery Place has recently acquired several new resources:

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple, by Adam Hamilton. This newest study by Adam Hamilton examines the life of Simon Peter, an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. The six-session DVD was filmed on location in Israel and Italy and shows key sites in Simon Peter’s life. Join Hamilton as he takes an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter. (Includes DVD leader guide, and hardcover book. Available separately: Youth Edition and Children’s Leader Guide.)

Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World, by Andy Stanley. What made the first-century Christians’ message so compelling, so defensible, so irresistible? What did they know that we don’t? Buckle up…you’re about to find out! In this six-session study, pastor and author Andy Stanley explains the version of faith we must embrace if we are to be salt and light in an increasingly savior-less and dark world. (Includes DVD, study guide, and hardcover book.)

Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World, by Bob Goff. This is a study about God’s love…and the most amazing thing about that love is that it’s not just a bunch of rules or stuff we must agree with. God’s love is different. It changes things. It’s active. It works. It risks. God’s love…does. This is a five-session video-based small group experience in doing the love of God. Just imagine what God could do with a whole group of people who are passionate about Jesus’ love and eager to put it into practice! (Includes DVD, study guide with notes to leaders in the back, and book.)

Journey 101: Knowing, Loving, Serving God. How can you know, love, and serve God in a life-changing way? This three-part course helps to answer this question by describing fifteen core traits of a deeply committed Christian. Created by the staff of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, this is a basic discipleship program. The segments of Knowing, Loving, and Serving are on separate DVDs and can be used in any order. (Includes 3 DVDs, each with six sessions and an accompanying leader guide, participant guide, and daily readings book.)

Out of the Depths Series: Designed to be a companion through difficult times, this series features timely, accurate information on the dynamics of life’s challenges and the healing process. Each book has two parts: educational and devotional. Written by mental health professionals and pastors, these books draw from a wealth of expertise and personal experience to provide hope and healing.

When life is difficult, you don’t have to go it alone. Take this companion with you, or borrow one for a friend. Titles include:

• Your Companion Through Chronic Illness, by Nancy L Long and Elizabeth Shadbolt
• Your Companion Through Depression and Anxiety, by James Hightower and Matthew L Kelley
• Your Companion Through Grief, by Greta Smith
• Your Companion Through Addiction, by James Hightower and Peter Ferguson
• Your Companion After Sexual Assault, by Emily Flemming and Greta Smith
• Your Companion After Miscarriage or Infant Loss and Your Companion Through Divorce.

To be published this summer and already ordered:

• Companion Through Divorce.
• companion with you, or borrow one for a friend. Titles include:
  • Your Companion Through Chronic Illness, by Nancy L Long and Elizabeth Shadbolt
  • Your Companion Through Depression and Anxiety, by James Hightower and Matthew L Kelley
  • Your Companion Through Grief, by Greta Smith
  • Your Companion Through Addiction, by James Hightower and Peter Ferguson
  • Your Companion After Sexual Assault, by Emily Flemming and Greta Smith

We invite you to visit Discovery Place at the Conference Center, 303 Mulberry Drive in Mechanicsburg. We are open from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (closed at noon on Fridays in the summer), but other hours can be arranged with advance notice. Our website is www. discovery-place.org, and you can view our online catalog and place an order through it. We can also be reached by e-mail at discovery@susumc.org, or by calling 717-766-7968. We look forward to hearing from you!
Preaching with Power

June 15, 2019
Faith UMC, 512 Hughes St
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Leader: Dr. Dilip Abayasekara
Pastor - Do You Have a Word for Me Today?
Bring your outline for your next sermon to this seminar and right then and there begin to apply the principles you learn on how to craft an message that makes your congregants want to listen. Learn a few simple but powerful ways that you can convert pedestrian delivery into persuasive power. Claim biblical fundamentals so that you don't depend on personal cleverness but on the power of God unleashed through you and despite you! Will that be a worthwhile investment in your ministry?

Mission u 2019

Mission u Express
July 10 or July 27
Designed to give clergy and laity a condensed version of the 3-day school, Mission u Express begins at 8:45 a.m. with registration and refreshments. A two-hour overview will be presented for each of the two sessions. Lunch will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Mission u Seminar
July 11–13
Gather with other United Methodists for a unique learning opportunity and spiritual renewal. This annual event will motivate, inform and enrich your commitment to global ministry. Join us for Mission u on the campus of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. The Mission u 3-day seminar is a multi-generational gathering offering studies oriented to adults, youth, and children who have completed grades 6-12 and children who have completed grades K-5.

Adults of all ages participate in the Spiritual Growth study as well as the Special LWMM study. Learn from trained, experienced teachers as well as from each other. Enjoy delicious meals with friends and browse the Book Room and Resource Room, as well as for fair trade items in the Marketplace. Expect fun activities in the evening, time to relax and reflect as well. Studies are also available for children, Grades K-5 (accompanied by an adult) and Youth, Grades 6-12 (new this year - accompanied by an adult).

Brochure with registration form: tinyurl.com/yxufxovd

Mission u 2019

Wednesday, July 10 through Sunday, July 14
Kansas City Convention Center & Municipal Auditorium
Kansas City, MO

About YOUTH 2019
YOUTH 2019 is for all United Methodist youth, grades 6-12, and their leaders.

Join thousands for 4 days of discipleship, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and life-changing fun! Expect inspiration, support, and challenges to grow authentically as a world-changing disciple of Jesus Christ. This event is the National Gathering for United Methodist Youth, and troses its roots all the way back to the first YOUTH event of 1988. YOUTH 2019 will provide youth and their leaders with chances to connect with each other, denominational leaders, and connectional agencies to help them discover the wide variety of ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Keynote Speaker: Romal Tune
Romal uses purpose and passion to equip people to heal the wounds of their past. He bravely shares his own journey as a case study of raw transparency and refreshing honesty. As a full-time speaker and author, Romal guides audiences through the process of identifying and embracing their unique destiny. Committed to living the six-word mission statement that defines his life — "I help hurting people find healing" — Romal’s platform and cross-sector relationships have positioned him as a global leader who guides individuals, organizations and institutions to recover from setbacks and achieve success by honoring the particularity of their unique stories.

With an infectious style that has impressed thousands both nationally and internationally, Romal moves people to action! Through his passion, and systemic change, he creates an environment that impacts the effectiveness of individuals, leaders, executives, and their teams.

https://youth2019.com/
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D Larry Bookhramer of East Waterford, PA, spouse of Rev. Marsha J. Bookhramer, died on Thursday, April 18, 2019.

Rev. Daniel L. Dennis of Carlisle PA, Retired Elder, died on Friday, March 29, 2019.

Rev. Dr. Donald G. Fisel of Dillsburg, PA, Retired Elder, died on Monday, March 18, 2019. Among his survivors is his wife, Mary E. Fisel.

Pastor Anthony A. Grecco of Newfoundland PA, retired local pastor serving at La Anna United Methodist Church, died Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Rev. James F. Kremer of Benton PA, Retired Elder, died on Thursday, March 28, 2019. Among his survivors is his wife, Gloria J. Kremer.

Rev. Hugh W. Miller of Lake Ariel, PA, Retired Elder, died on Sunday, March 17, 2019. Among his survivors is his wife, Rev. Sarah S. Miller, Retired Elder.


Rev. Thomas R. Osenbach of Red Lion, PA, Elder serving at the Springvale, St. Pauls, and Bethlehem Stonepie UMCS in Red Lion, died on Sunday, May 5, 2019. Among his survivors was his wife, Denise, and son, Micah.


Susquehanna LINK can be delivered directly to your email inbox. Simply send your email address to link@susumc.org with "LINK Subscription" in the subject line.
"I am encouraged by United Methodists who, along with ecumenical and interfaith partners, are engaging in the genuine pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and around the world."

- The Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society.

"Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

– Micah 4:3b, NRSV

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Please make check payable to your local church or give online at www.umcgiving.org/givePWJS.