This Ministry Resource Packet is a resource to help pastors and laity to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Please share these items with leaders of your congregation.

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Session Members’ Training for
Online Clergy Session/Online Conference Session

In order to be prepared for this year’s Conference Sessions (Clergy Session on September 22 and Annual Conference Session on October 3), registered clergy and lay members are encouraged to attend one of the following training sessions:

- Sept 15, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept 21, 11 a.m.
- Sept 21, 5 p.m.
- Sept 29, noon
- Sept 29, 5 p.m.

These training sessions will include how to login, voting procedures and other important details.

In the near future, the link to attend these trainings will be sent to those who have registered.
Greetings from the office of Equipping Vital Congregations!

September/October 2020

“...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Church of the Resurrections Leadership Institute 2020

Join us ONLINE for

Leadership Institute 2020

September 24–25, 2020

We're excited to bring Leadership Institute 2020 to you as an all new ONLINE experience on September 24-25.

The online format is packed with relevant and actionable leadership development content through a live-streamed event, plus on-demand bonus material for every member of your ministry team.

Register Online at: https://li.cor.org/

Individual tickets are just $49. With the low ticket price and no travel expenses, you can include and engage more of your team leaders in every ministry area across the church.

You'll experience:

- **2 Breakout Sessions** on Friday, with 6 topics to choose from at each session, followed by **Live Q&A**, giving you the opportunity to engage with the presenter(s).

PLUS a library of on-demand workshops you can access any time over the next year. These workshops cover a wide variety of All Sessions will be recorded and available to registered participants for replay... so no worries if the dog distracts you during a session or you can't decide which breakout to choose! **You'll have access to ALL the content to explore and review on-demand for an entire year after the conference.**

We're working on a variety of ways to connect with each other during the conference, including chat rooms for focused discussion and the ability to set "meet-ups" with colleagues from across the country. So, while we can't be together in person, we will still have the opportunity for a shared and connected experience.
We'd love for you to join us for this opportunity to learn and connect - so gather your team and register today for Leadership Institute 2020!

UMSee: Ministry on the Cutting-Edge Podcasts

*UM “SEE” Ministry on the Cutting Edge* is a podcast of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Each podcast features leaders from around our annual conference and the wider connection sharing innovative and inspiring ideas for ministry on the cutting edge. Ideas worth sharing! There are now five Episodes on Spotify, as well as the Susquehanna Conference website at susumc.org, under the Resources tab and labeled as UMSEE Podcast (susumc.org/umsee or susumc.org/podcast).

Episode 6: Stewardship & Generosity with guest Scott McKenzie from Horizons
Episode 7: Fresh Expressions: with guests Chris Backert from Fresh Expressions US, Matt Lake and Mitch Marcello

Equipping Vital Congregations Facebook Page
If you use Social Media, look up Equipping Vital Congregations on Facebook, and like our page! You will find many resources that may help equip your ministry. One of those resources is our new “TED-like” talks called EVC Snapshot.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE CAMP COMEBACK CAMPAIGN

Generous donors continue to bring life and support to the Camp and Retreat Ministry during this challenging year of COVID-19. We are thrilled to say that, as of the beginning of September, the community of amazing donors has raised $71,000! $29,000 remains to be raised to reach the full Camp Comeback Campaign goal!

The 50 @ $500 campaign event is currently taking place! We're seeking 50 donors who are committing to raise $500 each by the end of October 2020. The 50 donors can be individuals, families, friends, or churches, and the $500 can be donated immediately or donors can work to raise the money. All 50 donors will receive additional information and a fundraising resource packet. Will YOU be one of the 50? Email esliski@susumc.org to add your name to the list! Make an online donation at any time at susumcamps.org.

SAFELY GATHER WITH US THIS FALL!

With group safety guidelines in place, we invite you to join us for these September and October events!

- A Retreat For Pastors: Finding Possibilities in the Midst of Deep Change - September 16, Wesley Forest
- WanderWomen Backpacking - September 18-20, Wesley Forest
- Laid-Back Fall Scrapbooking Retreat - September 18-20, Greene Hills
- Fall Work Day - October 24, Camp Penn

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE HOLIDAY EVENTS!

- Mount Asbury's Christmas Drive-Thru Light Show - beginning November 27.
  - Help spread cheer today by donating Christmas lights for this event. Email pweidman@susumc.org
- Christmas at Camp Penn - December 13
  - Join us in the historic Camp Penn Chapel for a candlight Christmas service

To find more details on any events listed and to register please visit www.susumcamps.org or contact the Camping Office at camps@susumc.org or 717-766-7395

WWW.SUSUMCAMPS.ORG
Safe Sanctuaries Updates and Information

All basic Safe Sanctuaries training to be done online starting Jan 1, 2020

The MinistrySafe system has been up and running for our conference since October 2019. It’s use has been mandated and costs are covered by our conference insurance company.

Thank you to all churches who have logged in to MinistrySafe and are utilizing it to track the needed basic Safe Sanctuaries training and clearances for staff and volunteers to serve children and youth within our conference.

With the eventual restart of Children and Youth programs impacted by COVID-19, now is the perfect time to make sure your staff and volunteers are trained and have all their clearances entered into the MinistrySafe system. Unfortunately, this time of transition provides the opportunity for possible perpetrators to gain access to your children and youth programs. for possible predators to try to work their way into your church. To help your church prevent this, there is a second level of training, Skillful Screening Training, that is available to all our churches at no cost.

Procedures for obtaining clearances themselves have not changed and they can be accessed through our website https://susumc.org/safe-sanctuaries/

*If you are a large church with many staff & volunteers and have not yet accessed your account,* please contact the conference office at 717-766-7441 ext 3600 or by email safesanctuaries@susumc.org

A step-by-step guide is available on our website...here is the link to the guide https://susumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Final-Step-by-Step-MinistrySafe.pdf

Please contact safesanctuaries@susumc.org with any questions

Thank You for your diligence.
To: Susquehanna Conference  
From: Doug Hoy  
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020  
Subject: DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRY

The Susquehanna Conference is one of three Pennsylvania Conferences of the United Methodist Church with a mission emphasis that encourages volunteers to grow spiritually as they perform works of mercy. The focus of the Disaster Response Ministry (DRM) is to provide a relief and response capability to help alleviate suffering as the result of disaster in communities within the Conference, across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, throughout the nation, and internationally.

The Susquehanna Conference shares in a partnership with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to provide services when disasters overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

Our mission, is grounded in the teaching of Jesus Christ, to alleviate human suffering with open minds and hearts to all people. By Discipline, UMCOR’s purpose is to: Provide immediate relief of human need and suffering; Work cooperatively with the conference and others in disaster response; Initiate printed, audiovisual, electronic, and other resources; and to Assist and train conference coordinators.

Our goal is to provide a response that addresses the physical, social, spiritual and emotional needs of individuals and families through caring ministries. The Conference embraces UMCOR’s values for disaster ministry by: Affirming the dignity and worth of persons by involving them in their own recovery, enabling those affected by disasters to take responsibility for relief and recovery work; Honoring cultural differences; Delivering aid to people without regard to race, religion, politics, or gender; Seeking to work with other religious and secular organizations, wherever possible, to pool resources and avoid duplicating efforts; Avoiding the tying the promise of its relief and development activity to any religious or political viewpoint; and, Welcoming the good efforts of countless volunteers, individuals and churches who support us through gifts, prayers and service.

As a Conference ministry, we offer the following opportunities, training, and assistance.

1. Disaster Response Planning
   a. The DRM encourages every church and/or charge to develop a disaster response plan that specifically addresses its needs during anticipated disasters.
   b. A ministry representative will walk with you through the assessment of your needs and development of a plan that will enable you and your congregation to prepare and train for disasters, mobilize your people and resources when they are needed, and respond as efficiently and effectively as possible when they occur.
2. Disaster Response Training
   a. The DRM provides numerous training opportunities through classroom instruction, hand-on experiences, and virtual learning for individuals and groups, to support its ministry and mission, including:
      i. Individual Training
         1. Early Response Team (ERT)
            a. Initial
            b. Advanced/Re-certification
         2. Spiritual/Emotional Care
         3. First Aid and CPR
      ii. Group/Team Training
         1. Conference Disaster Response Planning
         2. Connecting Neighbors
         3. Spiritual/Emotional Care
         4. Active Shooter
         5. Site Safety
         6. Equipment Operations

3. Disaster Relief and Resources
   a. Along with all United Methodist communities, the DRM has the “response-ability” to carry out our faith in meaningful ways in accordance with scripture. To that end, the ministry is poised to provide practical, proactive support when disasters strike. That support comes through its connectional relationships with local congregations, UMCOR, other Annual Conferences, faith-based and non-profit organizations, businesses, and government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels.
      i. Recently, the DRM collaborated with FEMA, Mission Central, and a local disaster response non-profit organization to secure and deliver 800 gallons of hand sanitizer, nearly 60,000 face coverings, and N95 masks to churches and camping/retreat centers throughout the Conference.
      b. Those relationships also enable the ministry to train and equip Early Response Teams (ERT) and Volunteers in Mission (VIM) to respond to areas affected by a disaster and provide assistance with clean-up, volunteer coordination, construction management, donations management, fiscal management, emotional / spiritual care, casework / case management, and administration/information management.
      i. In 2019, the DRM and the Conference VIM were able to support a disaster response to the Upper New York Conference and provide clean-up and home repair assistance.
   c. Furthermore, the ministry is capable of providing resources to allow for these tasks to be accomplished.
      i. The Conference currently supports nine Disaster Response and VIM response trailers that are fully equipped with tools and equipment. They are staged throughout each of the seven Districts to allow for a rapid response, when needed.
   d. Additionally, the ministry can offer financial assistance, through the Disaster Response Ministry Advance (#8055) and UMCOR Solidarity grants, to offset the costs associated with responding to a disaster.
      i. In 2018 and 2019, the ministry provided financial assistance to churches and communities throughout the Conference that were affected by flooding, including:
1. Securing an UMCOR grant that was used to provide temporary housing, drinking water, medical supplies, construction/volunteer management, and home repairs for victims affected by flooding in Susquehanna County.

2. Providing grants to three churches to offset the cost of flood repairs to their buildings.

4. **Weekly Resourcing**
   a. The DRM recognizes that the times we are living in are very fluid and can change at the drop of a hat. And, with a plethora of information available, it can become very confusing. We also understand that time is valuable and you may not always have enough of it to spend hours searching for the information you need. So, in an effort to resource pastors, trustees, and congregations, the DRM will be providing pastors, trustees and congregations, with an informational one-stop shopping opportunity where they can find information on topics including COVID-19 state and federal updates, CARES rent and mortgage relief programs, PPP webinars, Food and nutrition assistance programs, spiritual and emotional welfare information, and much more.
   
   b. Please visit the Conference Disaster Response Ministry Weekly Resource page by clicking [here](#), selecting the Disaster Response tab, and then choosing “Weekly Resources.”

Disasters come in many shapes, sizes, and causes. When they occur, both physical and spiritual devastation result. It places victims in situations where they may be unable to see the hope and reassurance of God’s promises. And, in the midst of these situations, the mission of the Disaster Response Ministry is to provide that hope and encouragement through relief and restoration efforts.

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, before Jesus sent the disciples out two by two, He gave them the training they needed to share the word of God.

Likewise, if we prayerfully seek God’s call to ministry and desire to provide hope and restoration in times of disaster, He will 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).

If you would like more information about the Disaster Response Ministry, please reach out to Doug Hoy, the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. And, if you would like to partner with the ministry with financial support, please do so by sending your gifts to the Conference office with a note indicating it is for the Disaster Response Ministry Advance (#8055.)
August 28, 2020

Dear Clergy and Laity,

Volunteer in Mission Awareness Sunday is October 18, 2020. In order to help your congregation celebrate, I've attached a FAQ bulletin insert as well as a link to a "Thank You" video. Donations can be made to Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Advance #4055 to support our Conference VIM efforts or more specifically to VIM Materials Advance #7010 that provides teams with funds for project supplies. To add a personal touch, ask your Volunteers in Mission to stand and be recognized or have a mission moment with personal accounts right from your congregation. I'd love to celebrate your missions on our VIM Facebook page, our website or in the LINK. Send your photos and stories all year round, even your VIM Awareness Sunday celebrations. The world has been looking differently this past year, but Volunteers in Mission is remaining steadfast by putting their love into action!

This link is straight to the video: https://youtu.be/6WqpOjpCiG0
This link is to our website where you can download it: http://www.susmb.org/index.php/vim/videos

Peace to you,

Michelle

Michelle Y. Schwartzman
Director of Volunteer in Missions and Outreach
Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Church
What is United Methodist Volunteers in Mission?  
UMVIM exists to promote, encourage and enable Christians to exemplify “Christian Love in Action” through short-term mission service locally, nationally and internationally.

How long has UMVIM been in existence?  
The UMVIM movement began in 1976 and is organized by jurisdiction. The General Board of Global Ministries networks with the jurisdictional UMVIM offices, which in turn, coordinate with annual conference offices.

What is the ministry of UMVIM?  
UMVIM teams work together to fulfill ongoing missional needs domestically and abroad usually serving for several days to several weeks.

Their work includes construction and renewing of mission facilities, teaching, witnessing, conducting medical clinics, holding Bible studies or Bible School, and serving in disaster relieve and recovery efforts around the world.

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“UMVIM Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate those who have served in short-term missions and the work of UMVIM throughout the world. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and used by the annual conference Volunteers in Mission program.” -The Book of Discipline, 2016, ¶ 265.5

What can I do to support UMVIM?

- Invite the Conference Director of UMVIM to speak at your local church during the year.
- Contact the Conference Director of UMVIM about grants available to your volunteers/projects.
- Have volunteers attend a UMVIM training.
- Have a Sunday celebrating the UMVIM volunteers in your congregation.
- Create a display in your church reflecting your UMVIM efforts, send photos to Conference Director, too!
- Pray for UMVIM volunteers.
- Give to the Susquehanna Conference VIM Advance #4055 or VIM Materials Advance #7010.

Where do I find out more on UMVIM?

Visit our website at susmb.org
Contact Michelle Schwartzman, Susquehanna Conference Director of Volunteers in Mission
vim@susumc.org
717-766-7441 ext. 3105

Visit our website at susmb.org
Contact Michelle Schwartzman, Susquehanna Conference Director of Volunteers in Mission
vim@susumc.org
717-766-7441 ext. 3105
Our first General Rule as United Methodists is to “do no harm.” This extends to our mission relationships. We want to “do no harm” to our volunteers or the ones they serve. Our goal as United Methodist Volunteers In Mission is to minimize COVID-19 infections spread by United Methodist activity.

The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission leadership understands that many project sites rely on teams to assist in serving the community. These teams may come from nearby, from another state, sometimes from another country. Each individual situation will be different. Some local mission partners or missioners may have contracted and already recovered from COVID-19. Some may be carriers. Some are not infected. Some live with family members who are immunocompromised. All want to serve. Yet one of the worst unintended effects of mission work throughout the ages has been the spread of infectious disease. Remember that we bring other things with us when we bring the Gospel. We must be careful.

The federal disaster declaration includes every state and territory with most states presenting shelter-in-place and social distancing guidelines. These guidelines are designed to assist teams and hosts in determining when and how to prepare the site for future teams. All sites should adhere to public health and safety protocols in order to protect employees, homeowners, and missioners.

For the latest updates in regard to COVID-19, please visit - Centers for Disease Control.

Responsibility for adhering to these guidelines is shared by the Team Leader and the Project Site. This requires frequent communication and cooperation between both parties.

General Guidance for International Service
The State Department issues travel advisories based on health and safety concerns. Travel to countries at a Level 4 travel advisory is prohibited. Team insurance is not available for mission service in these countries. Travelers may be required to quarantine before or after travel to countries with advisories at Level 3 and below.

**General Guidance for US Project Service**
Based on [CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/)

- **Suspending teams**
  - Make this decision based on the guidance of your governor, bishop, and your state, county, and local health departments. Pay attention to directions about school closure, stay-at-home orders, and the size of gatherings that are allowed.
  - Make this decision with the guidance of your board of directors or other governing body.

- **Hosting teams**
  - Know the quarantine rules. Some states require travelers to quarantine before or after arrival. Have a plan to ensure compliance.
  - Post reminders for hand washing, awareness of symptoms, etc.
  - Improve air circulation in all common areas.
  - Provide prevention supplies:
    - hand sanitizer
    - disposable facemasks
    - eye protection
    - cleaners and disinfectants
    - Gloves for food preparation and cleaning

- **Other considerations**
  - Avoid buffet-style meal service. Have kitchen crews prepare dishes. This includes sack lunch preparation.
  - If the dishwasher does not meet standards for sanitation, consider asking teams to bring paper products (not Styrofoam)
to be discarded after each meal. Provide adequate trash receptacles.

- All touch surfaces should be thoroughly wiped down when the team arrives and as they prepare to leave with approved cleaners. [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19)
- Work should be done on exterior projects only. Make accommodations for portapotties so teams do not have to enter a home.
- Consider ways to assure safe distancing on the work site, in the dorm, dining area, and meeting space.
- If possible, provide washer and dryer facilities for laundering expectations.

- Screening protocol on arrival
  - Take temperature
  - Ask about general health
  - Ask if missioner has been in contact with anyone who had COVID-19

  - Wipe down all surfaces prior to welcoming teams.
  - Arrange for outdoor projects to assure minimal contact between homeowner and team members (painting, deck or ramp building, landscaping, roofing). Make accommodations for rest room facilities so team members do not have to enter the home. (i.e.: portapotties)
  - Childrens’ ministry (VBS) should be suspended until more guidance from CDC and the local officials is available.
  - Have a plan in place to safely transport a team member who develops symptoms of COVID-19.

    - Provide space for isolation if someone reports symptoms.
    - The team member exhibiting symptoms should contact his/her health care provider as soon as possible.

- **Leading Teams**
  - Follow the guidelines of the CDC for travel both inside and outside the U.S.
  - Follow your local guidelines from municipal, county, and state health authorities. Also make sure you know the local guidelines in the place
where you intend to serve. Where guidance from different authorities conflict, follow the more restrictive protocols.

- If it is determined that it is safe and lawful to serve, continue to make arrangements for proper social distancing and PPE for team members, and sanitize surfaces and equipment wherever you go.
- Each team member will sign the Medical and Emergency Form.
- Know the health infrastructure in the area where the team intends to serve and the location of the nearest hospital.
- Have a plan for canceling the journey or sending team members home if any team members are uncomfortable with the enforcement of safety protocols.
- Consider donations to the partner organization and organizing a virtual mission if it is not appropriate to physically travel to the project site.

Going “back to normal” may be a long way off. We expect to take measures to interrupt transmission of the virus until (1) antibodies are proven to protect against re-infection, (2) tests are widely available to the general public and all team members have recently tested negative, or (3) there is a vaccine available and all team members have been vaccinated.

Like us on Facebook: Susquehanna Conference UMC Volunteers In Mission 
Bookmark us at: www.susmb.org

Contact Volunteers in Mission and Outreach vim@susumc.org
for information, speakers or to be added to the mission opportunities email list.
Foundations of Faith Community/
Parish Nursing Course
Sept. 25, 26 & Oct 23, 24 2020
Otterbein United Methodist Church
Organized by Meritus Health

Name of Attendee: ________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______________
Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________
Home congregation: ________________________________________________
Dietary Restrictions: ________________________________________________

No refunds given after September 18, 2020.
Date of Application: ____________________

Project Title: _________________________________________________________________________

Applicant: ___________________________________________________________________________

Contact Person: _______________________________________________________________________

Street Address: _______________________________________________________________________

City: _______________________________________________ State: _________ Zip: ______________

Telephone: __________________________   Email:  _________________________________________

District (please check one):   ____ Altoona ____ Harrisburg ____ Lewisburg ____Scranton/Wilkes-Barre
                              ____ State College ____ Williamsport ____York

Brief Project Description (two or three sentences)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How will this ministry make disciples for the Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?
___________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Demographics: (Check all that apply) _____Rural _____ Suburban   _____Urban _____Transitioning
                       _____Growing   _____Declining

Anticipated Number served for Target Group _____________

Specific Grant Amount Requested from Committee _____________

Describe Target Group and Need:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Goals Achieved To Date:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
The following must be attached:

- Project Mission/Vision Statement.
- Financial Plan/Budget: Past two years (if applicable) and the budget for the upcoming year.
- One-page evaluation of how prior year’s grant funding (if applicable) was used for ministry.
- Two (2) recommendations from the following: Community Leader (i.e. local government or school-elected official and/or staff), Ecumenical Community Member, UM Cluster Leaders. They should specifically address the project’s purpose and target group, potential impact and (if year 2 or more) the demonstrable fruits of this project.

Other information you may wish to share with the committee:

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Has your church or organization received previous funding from the Mission Board Grant Committee? If so, please give us a listing of funds granted and what year they were received.

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Funding sought from other funding sources (please mention if funding has been received or is pending). It is very important that you demonstrate funding that is in addition to the requested grant.

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

**Important Information:** If you are approved for a grant, please share to whom the check should made payable and if you want it directed to a certain person or ministry name:

Payable to: ___________________________________________ Memo: ________________________

**Approvals:** The following signatures are required prior to submission.

Church Council Chair
Chair Signature: __________________________________________ Date: ____________

District Superintendent
DS Signature: __________________________________________ Date: ____________

*Shares of Ministry is expected for churches applying for grants.*

**Deadline:** **Postmarked by September 30, 2020.** Tardy applications may not be reviewed until after January 1, 2021.

**All applicants must submit four (4) complete paper copies to:**

Rev. Robert Strozyk, PO Box 470, Millville, PA 17846-0470

**The required four (4) paper copies must be signed by the Church Council Chair. Only one copy needs to be signed by your District Superintendent.**

We do not accept application on discs or drives, thank you for your consideration. Questions may be addressed to Rev. Robert Strozyk, 570.458.4349
To Local Church Leaders:

Together We Can Do More to Feed the Hungry!
Will your congregation help?

Susquehanna Conference Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering
Goal $1.00 per member

World Hunger Sunday, November 15, 2020
(Suggested date to gather the offering)

100% of the Offering Goes to Hunger Projects
50% will go to hunger projects and agencies within the Susquehanna Conference
25% will go to national hunger projects through UMCOR
25% will go to international projects through UMCOR

46 Hunger Programs and Agencies within the conference boundaries requested grants from the 2019 Offering.

~~ We need every congregation to give support to this offering. ~~

With support from local congregations in this conference, we ’ve been able to make a difference in the lives of those with insufficient resources to feed their families.

The agencies who help the hungry and the persons who received the help have benefited immensely from your prayers and gifts of money.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant job losses, as well as current economic trend, the need has increased across this annual conference and we must do all we can to help alleviate hunger in our conference, the nation and the world. Therefore, we hope your church will prayerfully participate in the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering with your monetary gifts. The greater the gift the more families we can help.

- There are no offering envelopes for this offering. Be creative in how you gather the offering, such as taking a Love offering with a receptacle carved out of a loaf of bread.
- A bulletin insert is enclosed which can be copied.

Please share the grant application for the 2020 offering to any agency or project in your community that addresses hunger needs and would benefit from a grant will be available September 2020 An agency or project that has previously received funding, needs apply each year to receive a grant each year.

A copy of the grant application can be downloaded from the conference website nd is located in the Ministry Resource Packet. www.susumc.org

Each United Methodist Church can have its treasurer remit the offering on the “Treasurer’s Remittance Report” under C: Special Day Offerings – line 6 (Harvest Home Offering for World Hunger).

Or send a check payable to

Susquehanna Conference UMC with Harvest Home for World Hunger on the memo line to:
Susquehanna Conference UMC; 303 Mulberry Dr. Mechanicsburg, Pa 17050-3179

If you have any questions about the 2020 Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering:
Flo Waybright, World Hunger Offering contact for the Conference Board of Global Ministries
Phone (717)225-5933 e mail: waybright5@comcast.net

“The World is Our Parish” ~ We look forward to a future world without hunger.
If we work together it can be done.
This year, 46 Hunger Projects in our Susquehanna Conference Received Grants

The Effects of Malnutrition

- Prevents children from growing to their full genetic potential
- Reduces resistance to disease and longer a recovery time following an illness
- Impairs mental capacity by affecting cognitive ability, delaying the development of motor skills, increased difficulty for children to be alert and interactive
- Reduces physical capacity, agility, and job ability for adults in work force
- Increases mortality rates

The Grant Application is available by September 2020. It can be found on the Conference website in the Ministry Resource Packet. www.susumc.org
Encourage your local food pantry to apply.

For questions, contact: Flo Waybright at waybright5@comcast.net or 717-225-5933

Each United Methodist Church can have its treasurer remit the offering on the “Treasurer’s Remittance Report” under C: Special Day Offerings – line 6 (Harvest Home Offering for World Hunger).
Or send a check payable to Susquehanna Conference UMC with memo line: Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering
to: Susquehanna Conference UMC, 303 Mulberry Dr., Mechanicsburg, Pa 17050-3179

Sponsored by the Susquehanna Conference Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church
World Hunger Sunday
Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering
November 15, 2020

Did you know...1 in 6 Americans are living with inadequate food?

The crisis of inadequate food extends into many communities worldwide. Our Christian compassion calls us to do all we can to help alleviate hunger in our local community, in our nation and around the world.

By participating in the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering you can take one action to help address the urgent need of the hungry in our midst.

The offering goal is $1 per member.

Our prayerful action and monetary gifts bring hope to those struggling to put food on their table.

Jesus encouraged us to feed the hungry.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat … Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink.

Jesus replied: “I tell you the truth for whatever you did to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.

Matthew 25:3 -37, 40

100% of the Offering Goes to Hunger Projects

50% will go to hunger projects and agencies within the Susquehanna Conference
25% will go to national hunger projects through UMCOR
25% will go to international projects through UMCOR

World Hunger Sunday
Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering
November 15, 2020

Did you know...1 in 6 Americans are living with inadequate food?

The crisis of inadequate food extends into many communities worldwide. Our Christian compassion calls us to do all we can to help alleviate hunger in our local community, in our nation and around the world.

By participating in the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering you can take one action to help address the urgent need of the hungry in our midst.

The offering goal is $1 per member.

Our prayerful action and monetary gifts bring hope to those struggling to put food on their table.

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Hunger Grant Recipients of the 2019 Offering

1. UM Church, Elizabethville  PA  17023
2. Center UM Food Bank, Hustontown  PA  17229
3. Port Matilda UM, Port Matilda  PA  16870
4. Montdale Food Pantry, Scott Twp.  PA  18447
5. Wehnwood UMC, Altoona PA 16601
6. Chambers Hill UMC, Harrisburg  PA  17111
7. Bethany U M W, York  PA 17403
8. Osceola Mills Community Winter Suppers
   Osceola Mills  PA  16666
9. Trucksville UMC, Trucksville  PA 18708
10. Trinity UM Church, Bellefonte  PA  16823
11. Calvary UMW, Waymart  PA  1847
12. Kitchen of Care, Clearfield PA 16830
13. Cupboard at Calvary, Harrisburg PA  17109
14. Mackeyville UMC, Mackeyville PA  17750
15. United Church of Nelson, Nelson PA  16940
16. Trinity UMC, Roaring Spring PA  16673
17. Mt Nittany UMC, State College PA  16801
18. The WELL, YORK PA  17405
19. Trinity UMC. New Cumberland  PA 17070
20. Wesley Chapel UMC, Fairfield PA  17320
21. New Hope Ministries, Dillsburg PA  17019
22. Northern Blair Backpack Programs
    Tipton PA 16684
23. St. Paul Calvary UMC, Williamsport PA  17701
24. Emanuel Food Pantry of Windsor
    Windsor PA  17366
25. Park Forest Preschool, State College PA
26. Messiah UMC, Shippensburg PA  17257
27. First UM Church, Williamsport  PA  17701
28. Spry Church Food Pantry, York PA  17404
29. Mt. Holly Springs UMC
    Mt. Holly Springs PA  17065
30. Shavertown UMC, Shavertown PA  18708
31. Martha UMW, Port Matilda Pa  16870
32. Fawn UM Church Backpack Program
    Fawn Grove PA  17321
33. Northeast Neighborhood Association
    York PA 17405
34. Halifax UM Church, Halifax PA  17032
35. The Peach Bottom Charge Delta PA 17314
36. Feed My Sheep – First UMC
    New Milford PA  18834
37. Grace UM Church, Millersburg PA 17061
38. St. Andrews UMC – Panther Box
    Milton PA 17847
39. Sullivan County Food Pantry
    Dushore PA 18614
40. Calvary UMC, Waymart PA  18472
41. Lakeville UM Church, Lakeville PA  18438
42. Grace UM Church
    Millersburg PA  17061
43. Orange UMC, Dallas PA  18612
44. Trinity UMC, New Kingston PA  1702
45. Five Barley Loaves Food Bank
    McClure PA  17841
46. Pleasureville UMC, York PA  17406

National Project Grant Recipients
- Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, Virginia
- The Big Garden, Omaha, NE
- Tree of Life, Mission, SD
- Blackfeet United Methodist Parish,
  Browning, MT

International Project Grant Recipients
- UMCOR World Hunger and Poverty, global
- Augmenting Food Production and Income in
  Times of Siege: Urban Gardens, Palestine
- Give Ye Them to Eat, Mexico
- Food Resource Bank, global
- Solar Oven Partners UMC, Dominican Republic
- UMCOR Sustainable Agriculture and
  Development, Africa
CRITERIA CONSIDERED TO RECEIVE A GRANT

1. The program must feed or provide food for those in need

2. Please indicate the number of people served and a description of your hunger ministry

3. Include a budget if available

4. Funds must not be used to pay transportation costs, rent subsidies, electric, telephone, heat, fuel, or facility upgrades

5. There is no funding for administrative costs or salaries

The above items are important for consideration of funding. If you cannot provide all information, please submit the information you have with your application.

Each congregation is encouraged to participate in the

Susquehanna Conference Harvest Home Offering for World Hunger
Observed on November 15, 2020
Goal $1.00 per member

A United Methodist Churches can have its treasurer remit the offering on the “Treasurer’s Remittance Report” under C: Special Day Offerings – line 6 (Harvest Home Offering for World Hunger).

Other organizations can make checks payable to Susquehanna UMC Conference and in the memo space on your check write “Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering”. Forward offering monies to:
Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church
303 Mulberry Drive; Mechanicsburg PA 17050
Application for a Grant from the
2020 Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering

Name of Congregation/Agency: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: (_____) ___________                    E-mail Address_______________________________________

When receiving grant monies, make check payable to:  _____________________________________

Address to send check, if different from above: ______________________________________________

Name of Contact Person: ________________________________________________________________

Contact information, if different from above _________________________________________________

Amount of your grant request from the 2020 Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering: $_________

Number of Persons Receiving Assistance from Your Ministry in 2020: ________ per month – week – year (circle one)

1. List briefly the services provided by your ministry to meet the needs of hungry people in your community and other needs of residents of your community. Number of years of operation ________ (use the back if needed))

2. Briefly state how your ministry helps to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and in the communities of the Susquehanna Conference. (Use the back of this sheet if your need more space)

3. How did you fund your ministry and get supplies or resources to carry out your ministry in 2020. (List on the back)

4. List any projected sources of funding for food that your organization/agency will be receiving or applying for in 2021. (Please put information on the back of this form.)

5. Attach a copy of current budget for this ministry (if available)

6. Did your congregation participate in the Harvest Home for World Hunger offering in November? _Yes  _ No __

Return application by January 22, 2021 to: World Hunger Grant
c/o Flo Waybright
371 Little Creek Rd.
Spring Grove, PA 17362

Flo Waybright’s contact Information:
717-225-5933 waybright5@comcast.net
THE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS MOVING.

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, OUR ADDRESS WILL BE:

333 S. SPRING GARDEN STREET

CARLISLE, PA  17013

717-249-1512 X 1006

Email remains the same: centerformation1@gmail.com

Website: centerformation.org
PASTOR’S SABBATH
A Time of Renewal for Pastors and CLM’s
NOW ONLINE VIA ZOOM

The Center for Spiritual Formation offers a series of Sabbath Retreats, designed for clergy and CLMs who are serving churches. Due to COVID-19, we are meeting via Zoom beginning at 9 AM. Come for each Sabbath or select a few. 0.5 CEU’s per session. COST is $25 per session.

Tuesday, October 13 with Debi Decker
Our focus for the October Pastors' Sabbath is going to be various types of body prayer with the afternoon retreat time focusing on a Walking Meditation following guidance created by Jonathon Stalls of "Intrinsic Paths".

Tuesday November 10 with Susan Stewart
"Living abundantly": Jesus tells his disciples that "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." What does it mean for us to live abundantly in these crazy times?

Sabbath Renewal
$25 – .5 CEU per session

Name: ________________________________ Phone __________________
Address: ________________________________ E-mail __________________
Sessions: ________________________________

Return to The Center For Spiritual Formation, Inc., 333 S. Spring Gardent St, Carlisle, 17013 or Register Online: www.centerformation.org Questions? centerformation1@gmail.com or 717-249-1512.
The Center is affiliated with the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church, 303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
### Mission Central Virtual Run/Walk Benefits per Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Event Sponsor</th>
<th>Warehouse Sponsor</th>
<th>Forklift Sponsor</th>
<th>Pallet Sponsor</th>
<th>Box Sponsor</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ability to provide prizes for social media games</td>
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<td>Publicity on Website and Social Media</td>
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<td>Name and/or Logo on Race Shirts</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These funds help with Mission Central’s daily expenses. By opening our doors every day, Mission Central can continue to assist millions of people every year! Contact us at missioncentral@susumc.org for additional details!

Thank you for your support!
Getting Started with Livestreaming

Livestreaming an event, whether a worship service or Bible study, can seem like a daunting prospect. Simply explained, it’s the process of sending and receiving video in real time over the internet. Like any process of this type, it can be explained in terms understandable to the non-expert or in the more precise terms of the technical deep dive. At the risk of oversimplifying, this article will describe in non-technical language the basics of the livestream process, and the equipment required to get started.

How Does Livestreaming Work?

Think of livestreaming as a journey from sender to receiver with three parts: 1) capturing content, 2) encoding it, and 3) distributing it to the viewer over a stable internet connection. It begins with a camera and microphone, which is built into many smart phones, tablets, and laptop or desktop computers. The video and audio signals travel via ethernet cable or Wi-Fi to an encoder contained in a software program available for free or as a paid subscription, or a hardware device. Next the content is encoded, converting the raw video and audio to a format that can be streamed over the internet, and then distributed to the viewer via an open platform such as Facebook Live or YouTube Live or through a closed-platform service that requires a subscription and may restrict who can view it.

Capturing Content

Built-In Camera

The easiest way to capture the video and audio for livestreaming is by using a smart phone, tablet, or laptop that has a built-in camera and microphone. Most people are familiar with hand holding a smart phone or using a selfie stick in order to shoot video, but for the purposes of livestreaming worship, more stability is needed. This can be attained by mounting the camera on a small tripod. Although the camera on most smart phones is quite good, the audio can sound tinny without an external microphone attached. Search the internet for tools to adapt mobile devices for shooting video (search term: “smartphone video kit with tripod and microphone”). Additionally, laptops have poor quality audio that would benefit from the addition of an external microphone.

Stand-Alone Camera

Here several options are available priced low to high. At the low end is a dedicated livestream camera such as the Mevo Start Live Streaming Camera (about $400). More costly is a professional video camcorder capable of livestreaming, with the least expensive models ranging between $1,300 and $2,000 for the Canon XA Series of cameras, with JVC offering JVC GY-HM250 4K UHD Streaming Camcorder for about $1,700 and the JVC 4K UHD House Of Worship Streaming Camcorder Version for about $2,300. Note: these camcorders require the purchase of a separate video capture device to feed the video signal to a laptop. A third option is the PTZ (or pan-tilt-zoom) camera, so called for its ability to pan left to right, tilt up and down, and zoom in from across the room. The
camera is operated by remote control, and some models allow the operator to dial in a number of preset positions, which allows for multiple camera shots with a single camera. The camera is small and can be mounted on walls, ceilings, or any number of discrete locations. The PTZOptics Gen 2 series costs between $1,700 and $1,800.

**A Stable Internet Connection**

Before video content can be sent, a stable internet connection is required. For this reason, upload speed is important. Anyone who streams movies may be familiar with download speed, but upload speed has to do with sending data, not receiving it. First, make sure the computer is plugged into an outlet, not using battery power, otherwise it may run at 50% or 25% of normal speed. Second, use an ethernet cable that is Category 5 (Cat 5) or higher to hardwire the connection to the modem. While Wi-Fi can be used, an ethernet cable enables a better speed and more consistent signal. Finally, do a speed test using a free online testing site such as speedtest.net, speedof.me, or testmy.net. Most consultants recommend an upload speed of 5 Mbps or greater.

**Encoding**

Encoding is converting raw video to a format that can be delivered over the internet. Most mobile devices have a built-in encoder, but laptop and desktop users will require encoding software. Download OBS Studio, a free, open source software program, or use subscription software such as Wirecast, vMix, or Livestream Study. A moderately powerful computer, at least 8 GB RAM is required, and 16 GB is preferable. Most encoding software options are able to also perform live video mixing, which is switching between multiple cameras or microphones in the midst of a livestream event.

**Distributing**

The final step on the livestream journey is the video platform that delivers the content to the viewer, called a Content Delivery Network (CDN). Among open platforms, Facebook Live and YouTube Live are the most popular, though Twitter and Instagram have livestream function as well. For those who are undecided between YouTube and Facebook, a service called Restream ($20 per month) allows streamers to send the signal to both platforms at once. Closed platforms, such as Vimeo Livestream, Dacast, and Streamingchurch.tv, are available by subscription and allow control over where and how the stream is presented.1

**What about Video Conferencing?**

For smaller groups or for more interaction, video conferencing platforms such as Zoom, Skype, Facebook Rooms, or Google Meet offer another option. Zoom, the most popular service, offers a free account for hosting meetings of up to one hundred participants and forty minutes duration, with paid plans ($15 and $20 per month) allowing more participants and offering more features. Whether free or paid, most video conferencing platforms offer features such as screen sharing, chat, and whiteboard. Unlike livestreaming formats, video conferencing allows persons without computer access to dial in. However, a video conference is not public like Facebook or YouTube, which can be discovered by social media users who are not already church members. In contrast, an email invitation with a link is required to participate in a video conference worship service, though a Zoom or other video conference can be configured to be pushed to Facebook or YouTube.

**Here to Stay**

According to a recent survey, the average consumer watches about ninety minutes of online video content per day. Eighty percent would rather watch a livestream video about a business or organization than read a blog or social media post. They feel it’s more engaging to watch something live than pre-recorded.2 This data may motivate church leaders to go deeper, learn more, and livestream more events as opportunities permit.

**Resources**


1. For a comparison of streaming platforms, see “7 Best Platforms to Live Stream Your Church Service in 2020,” Dacast, https://www.dacast.com/blog/7-best-live-streaming-services-for-your-church/

Honest conversation about all matters, even politics, must be part and parcel of a Christian response to daily life, say Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers. Holland and Silvers came to this view after extensive dialogue over their own differing political views. Holland, a liberal, and Silvers, a conservative, knew each other as sorority sisters at Transylvania University in Kentucky, and later began having Facebook discussions after the 2016 presidential election. They now co-host a podcast called “Pantsuit Politics” in which they hold “grace-filled” discussions about politics, democracy, and values they hold dear.

What Can Churches Do?

Yet churches in our time confront a dilemma not faced by many previous generations: the divided nature of American culture. It affects how congregations order their life in worship, fellowship, study, and community outreach. Though church and state remain separate in American society, what happens in our divided society spills over into church life. How can churches and church leaders navigate the tricky waters of political difference without harming relationships in the process?

Hold a deliberative forum to explore options for churches engaging a divided society. Deliberation is a style of conversation that considers issues in depth in a group setting, employing careful listening to others for better understanding. “The Church’s Role in a Divided Society,” a guide developed by church leaders and the Kettering Foundation, outlines three options for churches with regard to political differences: 1) “the church as refuge,” which asserts that churches should focus more on spirituality and faith than social issues, 2) “the church as mediator,” which asserts that the church should actively engage the differences that people bring in order to gain a better understanding, and 3) “the church as prophetic voice,” which holds that the church only lives out its mission by becoming an agent of change to improve society. Convene a group of church members to carefully explore the benefits and drawbacks of each option. The goal is not to change minds but to explore the value commitments of congregants in a way that deepens understanding.

What if it is not possible to convene in person? One model developed by Kettering is centered around texting and online polling to forge consensus around difficult public issues. In this model, called Common Ground for Action, a moderator with a computer convenes a group in widely dispersed locations to deliberate through texting. Participants, anonymous to each other, exchange opinions throughout the event, and the moderator conducts online surveys before, during, and after the meeting, displaying results in graphic form in real time. More recently, Kettering has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by...
offering Zoom versions of the in-person deliberative forum, using texting and surveys for participants to state opinions about a topic and using Zoom to talk through the issues.3

Preach about a pressing social issue, invite small groups to explore the issue further, and then give a sermon in response to the dialogue. This “sermon-dialogue-sermon” model offers a “dialogical lens” for preaching and Scripture interpretation. The pastor begins by introducing an issue in the first sermon and, instead of taking a stand, explores the issue in its complexity, considering a wide range of voices. Later, small groups of diverse individuals engage the issue in more depth, brainstorming three approaches to the issue and then weighing the pros and cons of those approaches. The final sermon offers a “communal prophetic proclamation” that expresses the different perspectives that were explored in the group, the shared values that it revealed, and possible next steps the group could take to move forward on the issue.4 If it’s not possible to meet in person, hold discussions after the worship service via Zoom, using a feature called “Breakout Rooms” to break one large group into subgroups of three or four persons.

Offer the online course, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace: Guide to Civil Discourse for Groups. This resource, released in 2020 by The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations and its Department of Faith Formation, is available online for free. (The course is also available for individuals.) The five-part curriculum covers: civil discourse in context, tenets for civil discourse, values-based conversations, the complexities of policy, and sacred space for debate. The purpose of the course is to help anyone engage with others who hold a different view in a dialogue about the values that underlie these opinions. Each part utilizes three to six video lectures that are from five to seven minutes in length and are designed to support a fifty-minute class session.5

A Spiritual Imperative
The desire to assemble and debate are not only central to the American experience, they are integral to the Christian faith as well. As Holland and Silvers acknowledge, “love of the neighbor” implies not demonizing them, whether over tax policy or reproductive rights, and “turning the other cheek” implies not using the community of likeminded individuals as a base to launch attacks on those who disagree. Likewise, being “the hands and feet of a loving creator” means not opting out of issues like roads and bridges, school curriculum, or war and peace. Agreement over how to structure community life cannot be had without conversation. In Holland and Silvers’ words, “Learning to have healthy conflict with each other over political challenges is of utmost importance; in fact, it is a spiritual imperative.”6

Other Resources
The Listen First Project seeks to bridge social divisions “one conversation at a time” by partnering with a variety of businesses, schools, and other organizations to sponsor conversations that teach better listening. http://www.listenfirstproject.org/
Better Angels works to reduce polarization between conservative and liberal Americans and build alliances through Red/Blue workshops and ongoing partnerships between workshop graduates. https://www.better-angels.org/