

Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God's redeeming love. (adopted April 28, 1991)

If you have a message or request to be mailed to the York Association contact list, please send your request to yapccucc@aol.com to be forwarded by either the YAA secretary or council President.

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the York Association
of the United Church of Christ. The meeting will be held on
November 9, 2014 at Trinity UCC,
200 East Market Street, Hallam, PA.

Schedule:

12:30 TO 1:30 PM = A simple soup and sandwich lunch will be served at a cost of \$5. Vegetarians will be accommodated. PLEASE MAKE A LUNCH RESERVATION BY NOVEMBER 3 AT TRINITY@TRINITYHALLAM.COM.

1:30 PM TO 2:00 PM - Registration in the Conference Room off the Gathering Space.

2:00 PM - Devotions, Business Meeting, Presentations, Installation, and Communion will follow. More details about the agenda will be included in the packet of materials, which was be emailed on October 24.

Ministry Project - In keeping with the practice we began last year of learning about and supporting the ministries of the host congregation, we are inviting the delegates, if they so desire, to bring a gently used or new toy, book, or game for Operation Toy Box, a program of outreach to Eastern School District which will be distributed by River's Edge Community Services. Trinity supports this outreach ministry.

Phyllis Baum, Association President

Partners in Blessing: Cooperative Mission, Cooperative Ministry

Recently, a colleague and I were discussing an article I wrote in this newsletter several months ago. I was lamenting that I hear at clergy gatherings about all the churches who were experiencing success with sharing resources. Despite this, the communication committee doesn't receive any articles. My colleague lowered her voice and said, "I intended to tell you that I would write one, but our collaboration has stirred up a lot of animosity." I encouraged that pastor to write about it. Knowing that this task is a lot to ask, I decided to write about it.

I wanted to write an article to let you know that it's okay to discuss all aspects of what it means to work together. Whenever we begin a new journey, there will inevitable feedback calling for a return to the past. The Israelites, who struggled under the oppressive reign of the Egyptians, were barely beyond the

eyesight of the Red Sea when the bellyaching began. "We had melons in Egypt! You brought all this way to starve." Or, "I'm sick of manna. Why can't Yahweh send something else?" We all talk about wanting church success: thriving mission, overflowing pews, abundant children and youth participation. And yet, all those things come with one thing- change.

Change can involve positive and negative aspects. Like anything in life, attitude is everything. What attitude are you bringing to collaboration? Is it "We'll do this my way because I've brought 'X' to this partnership." If so, it may be worth the time to consider all God brings to us, and how often we expect things to go our way. What's fair about scenario? If your attitude involves only working with people who are exactly like you, imagine how different/smaller Christianity would look without Gentiles, who definitely did not act or look like their Jewish counterparts.

Growth requires us to move beyond our comfort zone. We aren't just expected to shed our skin- it's necessary. That means we will spend some time vulnerable. It's part of the process. If you have examined the plan carefully, if you have enthusiasm for the journey, if you are seeing positive change- don't be afraid to walk confidently forward toward your goal. There will be bumps in the road. Here's my advice to you- don't be afraid to talk about the bumps.

For some reason, we shy away from discussing the struggle. Maybe we are too heavily influenced by a culture that lives in a filtered world. Photoshop the thighs, elongate the arms, redact the dark history. Rarely does anything worth having come without struggle. Embrace it. Overcome it. Talk about it. Because, after all, the whole point of this is to share. Share your resources of journey. Share your resources of adversity. Just SHARE.

Sheresa Simpson-Rice

A Letter From the President

Shall We Gather

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the York Association will be held on Sunday, November 9 at Trinity UCC in Hallam, beginning with lunch at 12:30 pm. We will continue the theme that was chosen for the recent music festival, "Shall We Gather?"

Shall we gather is a provocative phrase. It sounds like a question and an invitation at the same time. In these busy days for congregations, some may question why gather for an association business meeting on a Sunday afternoon? The simple answer is that

an annual meeting is required by our By-laws. But that is not a very compelling reason to gather, at least not in this age.

I would like to offer shall we gather as an invitation. It is an invitation to share a common, simple meal together and enjoy the hospitality of one of our congregations. It is an invitation to make decisions about our common life together as an association of the United Church of Christ. It is an invitation to learn more about one of the outreach ministries of Trinity and to share in that ministry by bringing a gently used or new toy, book, or game for Operation Santa, a project of River Rescue. It is an invitation to share a simple communion meal at the end of our time together. (More complete details about making a lunch reservation and the agenda have been sent to pastors and churches by email.)

Shall we gather? Yes, let us gather and give thanks for the bonds and friendships we share in the York Association.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Phyllis Baum

Opportunity International Guest Speaker

Mt. Zion UCC – York – Tues. Nov. 11 at Mt. Zion UCC - Daniel Ryumgabe, Head of Transformation for Africa, will join us for a micro-lending update. Join us for dessert at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Mr. Ryumgabe's presentation will begin at 7 PM.

Donations Needed

For the last 126 years Grace UCC, located at 225 N. Hartley Street, York has been a stately presence to community of York City. Historically the church was built as a mission outreach site. Today the neighborhood has changed, but the needs have not. This December Grace UCC will host, for the third time, a Give-Away Project. We will be giving away children's clothing and toys to the families living within a few blocks of the church. But we need your help. We are asking for new and gently used clothing and toys that these families could use. We are looking for volunteers to assist us with distributing these donations on the day of the event. If you have donations or would like to assist us please contact the church via email GraceUCCYorkPA@gmail.com or by phone 717-843-7662. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Employment Opportunity for a Church Secretary

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 2173 Stoverstown Rd, Spring Grove, PA 17362 is seeking a church secretary for approximate 8-10 hours per week (Tues, Wed & Thurs) to provide clerical support. Applicants should be proficient in Microsoft Office - Word, Excel and PowerPoint and willing to learn Church Windows software. To learn more about us, check our website: www.stpaulsstoverstown.org. Interested persons are asked to send a resume to the above address to the attention of Steve Miller.

Care for Creation

On Sunday, September 28th, Emmanuel United Church of Christ, York's worship and discussion time focused upon one of their ongoing education programs entitled Care for Creation. Whether one's eye focused upon the beautiful worship table (created by participants bringing items to represent their love of nature), singing hymns such as "O God of Stars and Sunlight", or hearing the message from Genesis and Psalms, it reminded each of us of us that all of God's creation is good and we as good stewards need to respond to God's creation in a loving, caring way.

During our discussion time, John Bechtel, a board member of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light (PA IPL) came to share

with us the mission of this non-profit organization and what we as a congregation can do to be more involved. The organization is a community of congregations, faith-based organizations, and individuals of faith responding to climate change as a moral issue, through advocacy, energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of clean, renewable energy. John also has been sharing his expertise with the Penn Central Conference Green Justice Ministry Team.

As part of the Care for Creation program in 2014, Emmanuel, York has done the work to be identified as a Penn Central Conference Green Justice Congregation; had a discussion hour based upon the Ancient Roots segment of the Renewal DVD, a documentary that is inspired by the Americans of many faith traditions who are answering a spiritual call to confront the enormous challenges of environmental degradation; made the decision to become a member of PA IPL; planted native plants and annual flowers at Emmanuel Cottage at Hoffman Homes for Youth; helped our participants identify their household carbon footprints; and most recently sent climate ribbons to the Climate Ribbon Project, an art ritual space at the end of the People's Climate March in New York City on Sept. 21. It has been an interesting and exciting journey to explore what a difference each individual can make. As the words to the song "Dream God's Dream" by Bryan Sirchio say, "...help us dream of a world where there is justice, and where everyone is free to build and grow and love and to simply have enough..."

From the PCC Green Justice Ministry Team

TIPS FOR GOING ZERO WASTE - at home or at church

1. REFUSE what you don't need, whether it's junk mail or a free pen. When we take these items, we create the demand to make more. When we take them home, they clutter our space. When they break, we throw them away.
2. REDUCE what you already have. Adopting the zero waste lifestyle is not just about consuming less, it's also about letting go of all those items that are not serving you. Instead of letting them clutter your space, donate or resell them so they can serve someone who really needs them.
3. REUSE by replacing all your disposables with reusable alternatives. You can use the money earned from #2 to cover the upfront costs of transitioning to reusables. Buy second hand whenever possible.
4. RECYCLE only what you cannot refuse, reduce, or reuse. Find programs that accept hard-to-recycle items like shoes (<http://nikeinc.com/pages/reuse-a-shoe>) and electronics (<http://www.electronicstakeback.com/how-to-recycle-electronics/manufacture-takeback-programs/>)
5. ROT - There is a composting system for any lifestyle, even urban households have options <http://www.mnn.com/your-home/at-home/stories/the-ultimate-urban-composting-guide> from <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2014-4-july-august/green-life/zero-waste-abundant-rewards>

Cool Weather Is Coming: Energy Tips For Congregations is a two page on-line reference for churches who are seeking to reduce their energy use, costs and greenhouse gas emissions. It is located on the website of The Interfaith Coalition on Energy - Philadelphia area. You will find that many of the tips are practical and free or low cost. The link is: <http://www.interfaithenergy.com/energy-tips>

Green Justice Congregations Checklists:

Please consider becoming a Penn Central Conference Green Justice Congregation. Make a commitment to actions with your church building and church life that will help your congregation use less energy, care for creation, and save money all at the same time. The easy to use checklist will guide you in many actions, some very

simple to implement, some more complicated; but your congregation can decide which ones will work for you. Checklists are found at www.pccucc.org and are listed under the resources tab / Green Justice Team and may be returned to the conference office in May so that your church can be recognized as a Green Justice Congregation at Annual Meeting 2015. Looking at the checklist this fall and setting some goals for the year will give your congregation a great head start.

Around the Association:

Dover UCC – Dover

- Suicide Survivor Support Group – beginning the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8 pm in the fellowship hall. The group is led by York County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Contact Cindy Richard (717) 227-0048 crichard@penn-mar.org for more information. Dover UCC is located at 45 W. Canal St. Dover, PA 17315.

Emmanuel UCC – York

- Emmanuel UCC, York, is selling pecans for their Kenya Education Fund, which supports secondary education for girls from Mercy Homes Orphanage in Luanda, Kenya. The pecans, raised organically and sustainably, are from Koinonia Farms in Georgia, a faith based community that began Habitat for Humanity and many other peacemaking social justice organizations. The cost for a 1 pound package of pecan halves is \$12.50. Contact Emmanuel UCC if you would like to purchase pecans. Phone 717-801-1084 E-mail emmanuelucc@gmail.com. Dina Sande from Mercy Homes says it best, "I take my humble time to thank Emmanuel Church for the support upon my education. I was to go nowhere but at least am placed somewhere in my future. Showers of blessings to you."

Shiloh UCC - York

1. Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 7 am to 3pm. Holiday Breakfast plates will be available from 7 AM to 11 AM and a Holiday Soup and Sandwich Luncheon will be held from 11 AM to 3 PM. Take out quarts of ham & bean and chicken corn soup will also be available. All proceeds from the breakfast and luncheon meals will support the local disaster relief efforts of the American Red Cross. Additionally, the bazaar will offer: baked goods, candies, cooking demonstrations, hand crafted jewelry, crocheted and woodcraft items, baskets, a gift boutique, holiday décor, handmade crafts and games. The Shiloh United Church of Christ Hand Bell Choir will present a community concert in the church sanctuary beginning at 10 AM.

Starview UCC – Mt. Wolf

1. Saturday, NOVEMBER 1st, from 3:30pm – 6:30pm, the Starview United Church of Christ at 4832 North Sherman Street Extended, Mt. Wolf, will host its Annual Spring Oyster and Roast Beef Dinner. You may select a dinner featuring fried oysters, or roast beef with filling, or a combination of both. Each dinner includes mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert, and choice of applesauce, fruit cocktail, or coleslaw. Prices of the oyster or roast beef with filling dinner is \$9.00 for small portion and \$12.00 for large. The combo dinner cost is \$10.00 for small and \$13.00 for large. Extra oysters are \$2.00 each. Carry-out dinners are an additional 50 cents. Oyster stew is \$5.00 per bowl. Pints (\$6.00) and quarts (\$9.00) of the stew are available for take out only. For more information, contact the church office at 266-4248.

December 2014 Newsletter Deadline is November 5th. The December 2014 Newsletter will be mailed on November 15th. Newsletter submissions should be addressed to:

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3421 Stone Ridge Road - York, PA 17402
Or
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