



NEWS of the 29 Churches of the York Association

York Association website:

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Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission, Cooperative Ministry

March 2015 - Newsletter

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)

Letter from the President

Question: "What are you giving up for Lent?"

This popular question is asked during the 40 days leading up to Easter. Is it just something you do because it's the Lenten season or is there real intention behind it?

We acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God in our lives and focus on turning our hearts and minds back toward God. The three pillars of Lent are *prayer, fasting* and *almsgiving* (giving help especially money to the poor). These observances help us turn away from whatever has distracted or derailed us and to turn back to God. Giving up something for Lent is ultimately a form of fasting. We can deprive ourselves of some small pleasure or indulgence and offer that sacrifice up to God. Or we might "give up" a bad habit such as smoking as a way of positively turning our life back towards what God wants for us. In my case, it would be a real struggle to give up chocolate for any amount of time. While eating chocolate isn't really distracting me from God, it's the experience of want, however temporary, that can help us to appreciate the true abundance in our lives.

What might you give up this year? Is it something you enjoy that you want to sacrifice, a bad habit you want to conquer or a distraction keeping you from your loved ones. Find something that works for you, and whatever it is, may it help you to turn towards God in this holy season of Lent.

Submitted by: Barbara Crum - President

Annual Leadership Banquet Sunday, April 19th

The Parish Life Committee would like to invite you to the Annual York Association Leadership Banquet at the Valencia Ballroom, York. This banquet is for ALL Church Leaders and those who serve the Church faithfully, regardless of whether they hold an official "leadership" position in your congregation. We truly want to honor the clergy and devoted lay persons within our midst! Please mark your calendars. The reservation and menu selection information has been sent to your church's office.

Submitted by: Steven Roush, Sec – Parish Life Comm.

Eight Association Churches Rotating Wednesday Services During Lent

For the second straight year, York Association Churches are participating in a Lenten "rotation" in which the worshipers all move to different churches. In the past, only the pastors moved among the churches. This year eight churches are participating in two separate rotations – **East & West**. If your church is not offering Lenten services on Wednesday evenings, feel free to join us at any of these evening services.

Each evening begins with a 6:00 p.m. light supper followed by a 7:00 p.m. worship service.

East Rotation

- Feb. 25 - Hayshire UCC
- March 4 - St. John's/Red Lion UCC
- March 11 - Trinity/Hellam UCC
- March 18 - Locust Grove UCC

Continued on next page...

West Rotation

- Feb. 25 - Faith UCC
- March 4 - Shiloh UCC
- March 11 - Grace UCC
- March 18 - Dover UCC

On March 25, all eight congregations will join together for a choral concert at Faith UCC.

Submitted by: Rev. Ron Oelrich

Attention All YOUTH - 30 Hour Famine Shiloh UCC – February 27-28

This year's 30 hour fast will feature the musical group, *Captive Free*, who will lead Friday night's activities with a concert beginning at 7 pm. The concert is open to the public. An offering for the group will be taken.

Youth ages 10 and up are encouraged to spend the night and then share in service projects throughout York on Saturday morning and afternoon. While we will use the time of fasting to grow closer to God and appreciate hunger that many live with, we will have plenty to drink and youth group leaders should provide a small breakfast to those youth under 12.

Youth are encouraged to find sponsors. All money raised will be sent to Church World Service. If your church is interested in participating, please contact Joy Gobrecht @ 717-225-0540 so appropriate service projects can be scheduled.

Submitted by: Joy Gobrecht

Penn Central Conference Green Justice Ministry Team

The Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast: It's not too late to join! Receive an email each day during lent with tips for creating an environmentally friendly household and congregation. Sign up with your e-mail address at <http://www.macucc.org/carbonfast>

As more churches are integrating Creation and Creation-oriented themes more directly into their worship services, GreenFaith offers tips on how to do this well. This page also contains extensive listings and bibliographies of various Christian Green Worship resources and materials that are available either online or in print such as prayers, liturgies, sermons, scripture resources, and music. <http://greenfaith.org/resource-center/spirit/greenworship-resource/christian-resource-1/christian-resource>

GreenFaith and The Story of Stuff Project have just published an exciting teen curriculum, "Let There Be ...Stuff? Limited FREE copies available. <https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/greenfaith/donation.jsp?campaign=164>

Submitted by: Libby Loser

Around the Association

Hayshire - York

- On January 25th, the Congregation of Hayshire UCC voted to extend a call to **Rev. Brenda K. Marin** as their next settled pastor. Rev. Marin is currently the Associate Pastor at Trinity UCC in Hanover. At the conference level, she serves on the Hartman Center Advisory Council. She is a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary. During her time at LTS, Brenda assisted in the Continuing Education Department as well as supported the Leadership Now program during their major annual events. As a Seminarian, she served as Student Pastor at St. John's Blymires UCC in Dallastown. Rev. Marin will begin her ministry at Hayshire the beginning of April with her first worship services on Good Friday and Easter.

Submitted by: Barbara Crum

St Paul UCC – Shrewsbury

- St. Paul UCC, 161 S. Main St., Shrewsbury will be taking orders for homemade Easter candy. Choose from: Peanut Butter Eggs; Choc., Van. or Coconut Creams; Pastel Coconut Bon Bons; Peanut Butter Marshmallow; Peanut Clusters; Raisin Clusters, and Assorted. Cost is: \$9.50 per pound and \$5.00 per 1/2 pound. Deadline to order is March 18. Pick up at the church is: Friday, March 27 from 6-8p and Saturday, March 28 from 9a-12noon. To place an order or for more information, please call (717) 818.5548 or (717) 235.5732.

Submitted by: Joan Kerchner

Trinity UCC – Hellam

- Trinity United Church of Christ - Hallam, 200 East Market Street, Hallam, is sponsoring a turkey supper on Saturday, March 21st at 5:00 p.m. It will include turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, filling, cranberry sauce, vegetable, roll & butter, beverage and dessert. Reservations are required. Please email the church office at trinity@trinityhallam.com or call (717) 757-3169 by March 15th. The price is \$9.00/pp, children 5 and under are \$5.00.

Submitted by: Pat Harbaugh

APRIL newsletter deadline is March 5.

The April newsletter will be emailed on March 15 from the Association President.

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