



NEWS of the 29 Churches of the York Association

York Association website:

www.yorkassociationucc.org

Email: YAPCCUCC@aol.com

Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission, Cooperative Ministry

February 2016 - 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)

From the President

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a joyous Christmas with family and friends. And now the start of another brand new year. The Power Ball is the highest in history giving some the hope of winning a jackpot of more than any one person could ever spend. Some have the hope of healing of the physical body or reconciliation of a relationship. Many just want there to be peace on earth; fearful of terrorist attacks, gun shootings, and the continuing war. We all have our own hopes and dreams for our own reasons but it seems when a new year comes around there is a renewed energy to urge us forward.

The same thing happens within the church. Each church family has its own concerns, fears, and dreams. We go through the seasons; Lent, a time for self-reflection. Easter, the assurance of the risen Christ. Advent when we wait in anticipation for the coming of Jesus. Then Christmas arrives with celebration and joyous times building us back up giving us the energy for the start of another new year to face whatever life brings our way. May your new year be what you need it to be?

Submitted by: Barbara Crum, YA President

Creation Care Websites

GreenFaith offered a two-part Energy Conservation Series for congregations last fall. This webpage includes the recordings and documents from the series to help with your energy stewardship efforts for your church building. <http://www.greenfaith.org/success-stories/energy-training-webinar-series>



2016 is the sixth year that Massachusetts Conference UCC will provide a day-by-day **opportunity to fast from carbon as a Lenten discipline**. Initiated by the UCC and endorsed by other denominations and faith groups, people of every Christian perspective – and people who are not Christians – have benefited from this opportunity to become more conscious and conscientious in their daily lives. **You are invited** to join to commit to fasting from carbon during Lent.

Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. The email will also suggest ways to engage others and your congregation. The activities range from the very simple: eliminate "vampire" electrical use; to the

**YORK ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATION BANQUET
Sunday, April 10, 2016**

moderately challenging: take "military showers;" reduce your driving speed; to more long term: buy local produce and consider getting involved in a community garden. We don't expect everyone to be able to do everything suggested; but serious consideration of each day's activity can raise people's awareness, inviting thoughtful reflection about how day to day living impacts the environment and what changes can be made.

To Sign Up for the Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast 2016, go to <http://www.macucc.org/carbonfast> and add your email address. OR

Sign up for Carbon Fast via Text! On your cell phone, just text CARBONFAST to 22828

Lastly, If you're shopping for a new car, the Fuel Economy Guide from the US Department of Energy gives help in comparing and choosing vehicles that save money at the pump and pollute less. According to the [US Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov), approximately 27% of our Greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation.

<http://fueleconomy.gov/feg/findacar.shtml>

Submitted by: Libby Loser & Lee Ann Strine

Penn Central Conference UPDATE

Pastors and Church Leaders:

The PCC Board of Directors met in a special meeting on Saturday, December 5th to follow up on actions taken at the October 31st meeting. As has been reported, on October 31st, the Board received the feasibility study from United Camps, Conferences and Retreats (UCCR) and voted unanimously to authorize UCCR to take on the management of the **Hartman Center** for us. Rev. Patty Dodds has been hired (part time) to serve as the Coordinator of Camping and Retreats for the Conference. She has been working with the Hartman Center Transition Team and Bruce Druckenmiller on the camping program for next summer.

The Board also received the report from the Self-Study Task Force at the October meeting, and unanimously voted to proceed with the recommendations of the study. Since then the Conference Search Committee has met and is moving ahead on the national search for our **new conference minister**.

"Common Lot"

Magazine for Women of the UCC

I just received my "Common Lot" publication from the UCC. It is a magazine written by and written for the women of the United Church of Christ and is published twice a year. I started reading and couldn't put it down! It showcases compelling articles including:

- Donna Schaper writing on "Reproductive Rights Re-seen"
- Marchae Grair writing a profile of UCC clergy woman and BlackLives Matter activist, Waltrina Middleton
- Cindi Knox giving reflections on her experience in "Three Strikes: A Lesbian, Transgender and Female Minister."

Reading it gives me a glimpse into the wider church community and what it means to be UCC. If you are interested in receiving a copy of "Common Lot", you can sign up for a free subscription at www.ucc.org/commonlot. It also can be read on line, (great for environmental stewardship) at: http://www.ucc.org/women_common-lot

Submitted by: Libby Loser

Around the Association

Heidelberg UCC, 47 W. Philadelphia St, York City

- **Valentine's Family Dinner Dance** fundraiser to be held February 13. Appetizers @ 5:30, Dinner @ 6:30, and Dessert and Dancing @ 7:30 – until? Silent Auction and music by our band, *The Stray Catechisms*. Tickets are Adults \$15 and Children \$5. Please contact the church office for tickets – heidelbergucc@aol.com

Reminder: Join Us on Facebook

Please like and follow the **YA News & Views** group to keep up-to-date on what is happening in your Association. ALL members of ALL congregations are encouraged to join our group page! Please invite your friends and families to join us! As of today we have 109 members following our group! Let's set a goal to double that number!

March newsletter deadline is Feb 8.

This newsletter (FEBRUARY) will be emailed on January 15 by the Association President, Barbara Crum.

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