

## Professional Youth Worker Award

### MATT COYNE

Matt Coyne, director of student ministry at New Stanton UMC, received the **Conference Youth Worker of the Year Award**. Leaders of the Conference Youth Ministry Team and Amanda Gilligan, coordinator of young people's ministries, presented the award at the New Stanton Church, where he has served for three years.



His youth group meets every Sunday from 5:30-8:00. During that time they play games, eat, have worship, and discuss the word of God in small groups. About once a month, the youth group does a fun activity. This winter, they had a weekend retreat at Jumonville where they played games, went up to the cross, and had a spiritual journey with Jesus. Matt also has planned a mission trip for the youth to go to North Carolina this June.

Matt previously was a Youth Director at Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole in Wyoming and a church plant in Hilton Head, SC. Matt is married to Brittany Coyne and has two daughters, Mirabella and Brea.

## Pineapple Award

### SHARON GREGORY



Each year, the Conference Youth Ministry Team (YMT) presents a person or group with the Pineapple Award.

The award is a way to recognize people who have supported and advocated for the youth of our conference.

The person is nominated and voted on by the youth ministry team.

This year's recipient is Sharon Gregory, our conference lay leader. Through her breakout session at SPARK she spoke to the youth about how to get involved in the church and reminds others that the youth are the church of today not just the church of tomorrow. She loves the youth of the conference and not only encourages our youth but advocates for them as well. We surprised Sharon with the award (and some great Pineapple themed gifts) at the first ever laity session at conference on Thursday morning.

## Timothy Award

### OWEN RAYGOR



Owen Raygor, the son of Pastor Eric Raygor and Kimberly Raygor, a senior at Somerset Area High School received the Timothy Award. This award is given to a youth in Western Pa who exemplifies the qualities in 1 Timothy 4:11-12.

The Timothy Award winner is nominated and voted on by the Conference Youth Ministry Team. Owen works each year at Camp Allegheny and is deeply involved with his church's children and youth

ministries as well. Owen plans to attend Edinboro University to major in Social Work, which shows his caring and compassionate nature which reflects Jesus' love. Owen was presented with the award at Somerset Grace UMC on May 21 by members of the Conference Youth Ministry Team.

## Ecumenical Achievement Award

### CALVARY UMC

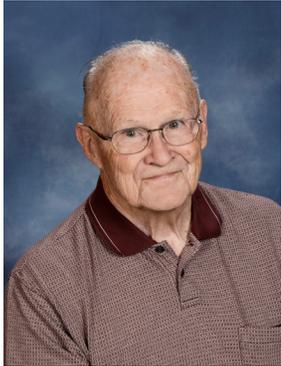
On Sunday, May 21, the conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationship presented Calvary United Methodist Church, Somerset (Connellsville District) with the 2017 Ecumenical Achievement Award.



Susan Moudry, coordinator of Clergy Excellence for WPAUMC, and Dai Morgan, member of the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, presented the award during the worship service at Calvary UMC in Somerset

The presentation included a framed certificate and letter from Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi. The congregation also will receive a \$500 cash award to be used for further ecumenical ministry.

## Friend of United Methodist Women Award



### REV. DON BLOOMSTER

The 2nd annual “Friend of United Methodist Women” award goes to The Rev. Don Bloomster, retired pastor living in Marienville. Husbands of UMW presidents are called on to be long-suffering, supportive partners in ministry, mission and advocacy. They often provide encouragement behind the scenes and endure the absence of their spouse when she is out and about carrying out her duties.

This was the case years ago when Shirley Bloomster was president of the Conference United Methodist Women. Don continues to support the United Methodist Women as the current president of the Board of Ruth M Smith Center, a National Mission Institution owned by United Methodist Women. As a spouse, a pastor, and now the president of the board, Don Bloomster is a true friend of United Methodist Women.

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## One Matters Discipleship Award

### WESLEY UMC

The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church recently recognized Wesley UMC in Erie, PA with the One Matters Discipleship Award.

“Pastor Pam Gardner and her staff have created an atmosphere of reproducible discipleship through hospitality, intentionality and love,” said Chris Kindle, direction of Discipleship for the WPA Conference.

The One Matters Award seeks “to lift up the importance of discipleship and help interpret across the connection what zeros in professions of faith and baptism mean and what moving away from the zeros means.”

The award, which includes \$1,000 for new and/or ongoing discipleship ministries and a One Matters Discipleship Award plaque, is presented to the pastor and lay leaders of a congregation which has done significant work to make its zeros from previous years become positive numbers.



# 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS



*Each year special awards for outstanding ministry are presented by various groups within the annual conference.*

*In 2017, to allow members of each winner's congregation to celebrate with the winners, these awards are being presented in the winner's local church. A few awards were presented during special gatherings at this annual conference. Inside are the award winners announced thus far. The Denman Awards for Evangelism will be announced later.*