A Lenten Message from Our Bishop
By Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Return to me with all your heart. (Joel 2:12)

It is hard to believe that another Lenten Season is almost over. Throughout this season Discipleship Ministries has encouraged United Methodists around the world to use Joel 2:12 to guide their Lenten journey (https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/lent-2019-worship-planning-series).

The book of Joel is only three chapters long, so I urge you to read or reread it tonight during your evening devotions. The prophet Joel calls the people of Judah to repentance. Joel assures them that if they repent, the judgment of God which has been manifest by locust, drought, and fire will end.

Joel prophecies that if the people through fasting, weeping, and mourning rend their hearts and return to God, God will be gracious and merciful and blessings will come to the land. But the greatest blessing that God promised, I believe, was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on “all flesh.” “…your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” Joel 2:28.

I am praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our annual conference during Easter Season. I am praying for prophesy, dreams and visions.

Discipleship Ministries has suggested there are some behaviors that will help us to more fully cooperate with the grace of God during this season so that we may experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It has encouraged United Methodists around the world to slow down our pace in order to walk carefully and think more deeply as we journey through the wilderness of our hearts and souls, so that on Easter Sunday morning we may experience a transformative outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Before we get to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, there must be weeping that leads to repentance. As we look around us this Lenten season there is much about which we can weep: There was a massacre at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand; protests in Pittsburgh following the acquittal of Michael Rosfeld; another crash of a Boeing 737 Max, severe flooding in the Midwest, and a cyclone in Mozambique. We do weep for these natural and human made disasters and hold all of those persons who have been impacted in our hearts and prayers. But we also weep as we look into our own hearts and souls, recognize our own sinfulness, and acknowledge how our actions have made God weep. As we rend our hearts, we hold on to the promise that when we respond to the gracious prompting of the Spirit and repent, we have the promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit not just on our flesh, but on all flesh.

Lent is not yet over. I feel like John the Baptist in saying, “There is still time to repent!” There is still time for all of us to fast, weep, and mourn as we examine our hearts and souls and repent. I hope you will join me in prayerful expectation of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Easter Sunday morning. To God be the Glory!
Jumonville Spring Dinner to Honor Beattys

The Jumonville Board of Directors and staff will honor the strong legacy of ministry by Larry and Jaye Beatty at the annual Spring Dinner on Sunday, May 5 at Jumonville Dining Hall. All are invited to join in the event, which raises funds for camperships. Part of the funds raised this year will be given as a love offering to the Beattys for their years of service. Larry served as President of Jumonville for 37 years; Jaye most recently served as Public Relations Coordinator.

“As Larry and Jaye move from full-time ministry on the mountain into a new chapter of ministry, we want to collectively show our deep appreciation for their many years of dedication to sharing the grace of Christ to campers, guests, and visitors,” said Jessica Gamaché, WPAUMC Camping and Retreat Ministries Coordinator. The Beatty’s legacy at Jumonville reaches beyond the mountaintop in countless ways. The thousands of summer campers who have been richly blessed by Larry’s constant devotion to God’s calling, a nationally-recognized program, cutting-edge uses of technology, and thoughtful facility management are just a few of the ways Larry’s ministry will be remembered. The innovation around the adventure program set the standard for the combination of Christ-centered curriculum and exciting activities, which continues to inspire similar programs around the country.

On March 31, 2019, Larry and Jaye shifted their focus to their next steps in lifelong ministry. “We hope that you will join us in expressing gratitude for Larry and Jaye and the impact they have made on the lives of everyone who has come to this mountain,” Board Chair Jeff Bees said. Anyone with a special memory, prayer, or congratulatory thought to share is invited to send them to Jumonville so they can be collectively presented to the Beattys at the Spring Dinner. Send to Sharon@jumonville.org or 887 Jumonville Road, Hopwood, PA 15445.
The Reverend Junius B. Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, visited Western Pennsylvania to lead an "Engaging Your Community Workshop" at Christ UMC in Franklin and speak at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary’s Albright-Deering Lecture.

"We are called to a journey of growing and going" Rev. Dotson told the group in Franklin. "The church is always at its best when going." He emphasized the necessity for churches to connect to people outside the church or risk becoming stuck.

Rev. Dotson compared the planning process to a football game to explain how churches can be more successful in their outreach. The key to a winning game plan, he said, is staying true to the identity of the team, adapting to changing circumstances, and offering hope. He noted that churches often become stuck because they are "running the same plays... and sometimes it's time to call an audible."

A winning game plan offers hope, he said, "And we are on the winning side."

Rev. Dotson dug deeper into the idea of community engagement as an intentional system of discipleship during a workshop session. He reminded everyone that a church cannot disciple people that it’s not in relationship with. While it is necessary to see all the people, they cannot be viewed as a means to an end, he said. He urged the group to consider their own outreach efforts and asked, "Are we ministering to people... or with people?"

Greensburg Trinity UMC is living out Jesus’ call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit those imprisoned. In the past year, the “Feed My Lambs” ministry has served hot lunches, provided bag lunches to go for another meal, and snack bags for upwards of 40-50 people in need every Wednesday afternoon.

“We have cared for the homeless in our area, those who have trouble making ends meet, and have reached out to serve those who are just plain lonely,” said Pastor Tammy L. Falcsik. “Furthermore, we have been able to supply our homeless with much-needed fuel to keep their camp stoves going to provide warmth during these cold months, as well as sleeping bags, boots, clothing, and other items they have needed.”

“In addition to helping with their physical needs, our ministry enables us to connect one-on-one with the folks who come in our doors to meet their spiritual needs,” she added. “Every week brings opportunities to talk with our guests about the love of God given to us through His gift of salvation offered to all through Jesus Christ.” She said that many have come seeking prayer for their particular circumstances of life, and a few have attended worship services with the congregation of Trinity.

“We are thankful the Lord opened the door for this ministry in our church, and His blessing surely has been upon us in our outreach,” the pastor said. “This ministry could not have occurred without the hours and hours put forth by our volunteers and it has been a blessing to see the love of Jesus in action!”

The church is also thankful for the donations from members of Trinity and the Luxor UMC, several businesses in the area, and a grant from the WPAUMC Parish and Community Development Committee, which provided much-needed financial resources, Pastor Falcisik said. “It is because of folk like these that Greensburg Trinity UMC is able to live into the calling our Lord has given.”
A diverse group of about 20 people gathered at the Conference Center in mid-March. Two called in by phone. Some were clergy persons, others laity. Some knew others in the room; some were making first-time connections. Most were United Methodists, but some weren’t. Some have been life-long followers of Jesus, while others came to faith more recently. Most were white, but some were persons of color. Some had been in recovery from addiction for years, while others were celebrating months in recovery.

What brought them together was their common passion – a desire to help end the terrible opioid addiction in our region! Whether personally affected by the brokenness of addiction or simply feeling called to do something to end the pain of others, those in the group met for several hours on March 18 to dream about and plan an event offering effective ways our clergy and laity in Western Pennsylvania could make an impact on the opioid crisis.

The impetus for this gathering came last summer when Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Rev. Renee Mikell, Assistant to the Bishop, and Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn, Director of Connectional Ministries went to the Ashes to Life congregation in Beaver Falls to meet with a few people who were in recovery from addiction. During that meeting, seeds were planted to find ways the WPA Conference could respond to the addiction crisis that is devastating so many communities. In October, Rev. Dunn attended an overnight ecumenical gathering in Foxburg, PA to gather more information and connect with persons engaged in addiction recovery ministries.

Then, based on information shared by our District Superintendents, an invitation was extended earlier this year to churches where effective addiction ministry is occurring.

On March 18, representatives from these churches, as well as several other interested people, met to claim the vision of holding a Conference-wide event to empower both clergy and laity to effectively respond to the opioid epidemic in their communities. For these followers of Jesus, the planning was infused with hope as discussion centered on saving lives and offering persons in addiction a pathway of healing and restoration.

A Conference-wide event will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at the downtown campus of the First United Methodist Church in Butler, PA. The event will feature: worship with testimony of persons in recovery; a panel discussion that will include persons in recovery as well as church members who are already engaged in recovery ministry; information tables where people can gather resources and make connections with others in similar ministries; and afternoon break-out sessions designed to empower clergy and laity to help break the power of addiction in our churches and communities.

Registration will be open to all interested persons. There will be a small registration fee to cover the cost of lunch and refreshments. Stay tuned for more details, including when registration will be open on our WPA website (www.wpaumc.org).

If you are interested in helping in any way, contact Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn at alyce.dunn@wpaumc.org or Rev. Renee Mikell at renee.mikell@wpaumc.org.

Please pray for this event and especially for our families, communities and churches that have known the struggles of addiction!
In the Johnstown District, the Windber Area Community Kitchen (WACK) is a non-profit ministry operating from the Windber Calvary United Methodist Church. WACK’s mission is to feed adults and children in Somerset, Bedford, and Cambria Counties who are hungering not only for food, but for fellowship and social connections.

The ministry began in 2009 as a shared vision of Calvary UMC and Windber community members who believe that everyone should have access to the benefits of a home-cooked meal and the opportunity to socially interact in a positive, friendly environment regardless of gender, religion, race, age, disability, ethnic background or economic status.

WACK operates two programs to help alleviate food insecurities in its communities. Two Saturdays a month, healthy community meals are prepared and served in the Calvary kitchen and fellowship hall by dedicated volunteers from several Windber area churches and community groups, attracting 150 to 200 people. Any community member is welcome to come and be served, regardless of income level. There is no charge for the meal, but guests may donate to WACK if they wish. WACK Director and Calvary Lay Leader/SPRC Chair, Ed Rosbaugh is the supervising cook for the meals and schedules groups of volunteers to assist with serving and clean up.

For Ed, the ministry is, “not about the pork chops or meatloaf, but the love that goes into preparing and serving the guests. It’s about watching people enjoy the food and each other’s company.” Guests often comment on the quality of the food and the welcoming and friendly people.

Each meal is truly a community effort. Groups may completely sponsor a meal by donating costs for the meal and serving or they may simply come to serve. WACK also provides a light lunch on the fourth Wednesday of each month in conjunction with the Somerset County Mobile Food Bank’s distribution at Windber Calvary UMC. Calvary has also partnered with the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to distribute food boxes to senior citizens in the community who qualify for the program.

The church has been working to build relationships with guests who come for meals. Many families with young children have been at the meals, so seasonally, Calvary’s youth ministry team sets up craft activities in the Fellowship Hall. Calvary’s Leadership Team is currently working with church members to form a SWAT Team (Sincerely Welcoming All Team) to be on hand at each meal to greet guests.

When she was appointed to Calvary in July 2017, Pastor Heidi Helsel said she quickly personally the power of sharing these meals.

“A recent widow came from out of town,” she said, “simply for the fellowship. As we talked over a delicious meal, the widow shared her grief and her joy of her marriage of 60+ years. She said that her loss had caused a loss of appetite. By the end of the conversation, hearts were full and plates were empty.” Though a member of another church, the widow occasionally returns for meals and visits Sunday worship services. Lives are being connected.

WACK Connects Lives, Creates Fellowship

FUTURE CHURCH SYMPOSIUM

Is your church ready for the future? How confident are you in your understanding of where our culture is going?

Come spend a day thinking about the future of the church with author, scholar and theologian LEONARD SWEET at a Future Church Symposium, a conference for pastors and church leaders to consider how the church of tomorrow will take shape. The event is hosted by Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2434 Wilmington Rd. New Castle, PA 16105.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 FROM 9AM-4PM

$35 (Including Lunch)

WPAUMC offers a $10 discount for interested United Methodists. Enter “ilovejohnwesley” in the Eventbrite registration for the discount.

www.futurechurchsymposium.com
Table of Grace: The Church has left the Building!

Table of Grace Church, a new place for new people in Erie, has expanded its ministry with the community after a neighborhood survey last year.

Perhaps the most exciting new ministry, which involves people from age 4 through 65+, grew out of an effort to provide beds for inner-city children who sleep on a bare mattress, couch or the floor.

“Some children don’t have sheets, blankets and pillows to keep them warm and provide them with a restful night’s sleep. Often their clothes are in a box in a corner, and there are no curtains on their windows,” said Paula McGinnis. “Table of Grace is on a mission to change that by doing children’s bedroom makeovers! We completed our first one on a cold February Saturday – but by the end of the day – everyone’s hearts were warmed.”

The first Makeover Day started with a team heading to the home of a mother and daughter to start the transformation, while the little girl and her mom left for the church building and a day of activities.

At the house, part of the team wiped walls, swept the floor and painted the room, while others opened supplies to acclimate them to the temperature in the house, removed tags and built some shelves.

Other members of the congregation provided lunch to the crew, a new wave of volunteers arrived with furniture to assemble, and decorating began. Church member Kelsey Willats, an interior designer, spent time getting to know the little girl earlier and designed a room around her interests and favorite colors. Meanwhile, back at the church building, volunteers and youth were involved in special activities with a new friend. They started the day making cookies, and moved right into a project -- painting wall art of their first initials.

After a pizza lunch, the youth headed to the Children’s museum and the little girl’s art was whisked off to her home, where the finishing touches were being put on the room.

As the Mom and daughter arrived home, the little girl burst into the house and said “I made a lot of new friends today!” After being led to her new room and opening her closed eyes, she squealed with delight and said, “it’s everything I wanted!”

The Conference Parish and Community Development team provided a grant to help fund Table of Grace’s “bedroom makeover” ministry and other new efforts. In addition to “bedroom makeovers”, Table of Grace hosted a Health and Safety Fair for the community and in March launched Crockpot cooking classes to help families learn how to use slow cookers to make healthy dinners.

International recording artists, The Letterman will come to Erie to headline a fundraiser for the ministry on May 18, 2019. All are invited. Help change the lives of children, one child at a time. For tickets, contact concert@tableofgrace.net.

Improving Vision and Lives in Zimbabwe

By Chenayi Kumuterera, Zimbabwe West Conference Communicator

More than 4,000 people in rural Zimbabwe now can see a little better with new glasses provided through a Nyadire Connection program.

“Everything seems brighter. I can read my Bible now,” said 110-year-old Gladis Chikoto, who lives in Chikoto Village, about 3 miles from Nyadire Mission Hospital.

Nyadire Mission is the oldest United Methodist mission in Zimbabwe. It has primary and secondary schools, a college, hospital, orphanage, farm and workshop. The Nyadire Connection, a nonprofit founded by a group of United Methodists in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, provides continuing support for the mission.

Ziegler said he felt called to help others with vision issues in the same way he and his wife have been helped.

“(The men) organize and promote eyeglasses clinics where hundreds of rural people have their vision tested and receive free eyeglasses,” said Drew Harvey, chairman of The Nyadire Connection.

The eyeglasses program is led by Don Ziegler in Pittsburgh and Dr. Larry Tanyanyiwa, a doctor at Nyadire Mission Hospital.

“(The men) organize and promote eyeglasses clinics where hundreds of rural people have their vision tested and receive free eyeglasses,” said Drew Harvey, chairman of The Nyadire Connection.

Ziegler said he felt called to help others with vision issues in the same way he and his wife have been helped.

“The real reward is when you put the pair of glasses on the patient and they can see clearly for the first time in their entire life. The joy
they experience is what drives me to do this mission work,” Ziegler said. “Ninety percent to 95 percent of the patients we serve in the rural clinics have never had help with their vision before.”

On a January mission trip to Chindenga, Ziegler met 72-year-old Mabel Chibouunda.

“When she came to us, she could only see two lines on our eye chart at a distance of 20 feet — what most people could see at 100 feet,” he said. “After we measured the correction she needed and found her the correct prescription, she could now see what most people could see at 30 feet. What a marked improvement, and she was overjoyed,” he said.

Ziegler also remembers helping 9-year-old Comfort Hove.

“When she came to be served, she could see nothing on the eye chart at a distance of 20 feet (the traditional distance for measuring vision). … After finding her the correct pair of eyeglasses, her vision was miraculously improved.

“This is a life-changing experience for Comfort. … Now, she can go to school and learn,” he said.

Ziegler has been a part of four mission trips in the country since starting the clinics in 2016 with eyeglasses collected from churches, businesses and organizations throughout Pittsburgh. In partnership with the nonprofit Mission Vision, Ziegler learned to test vision and match patients with eyeglasses.

Mission Vision organizes and categorizes eyeglasses according to their prescription. Brother’s Brother Foundation, also a nonprofit out of Pittsburgh, transports the eyeglasses to Zimbabwe via The Nyadire Connection-sponsored ocean containers, said Harvey.

At the clinics, a team of volunteers registers patients, measures their distance vision and assesses the correction needed to improve their vision. Once an appropriate pair of glasses is selected, they do the testing again to see if the vision has improved.

The volunteers also screen for medical conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma and macular degeneration. There is a separate station for testing reading vision and dispensing reading glasses.

Ziegler also has trained local assistants and volunteers, including three nurses from the clinics, to administer testing and conduct additional clinics. Nyadire Mission Hospital continues to supervise the program.

“The local communities have benefited so much with the program since most of them cannot afford to purchase a set of spectacles due to their expensive nature in Zimbabwe, and visiting an optical practitioner in Zimbabwe also is unaffordable due to high consultation fees charged by the local specialists,” said the Rev. Lance-lot Mukundu, Nyadire Mission School station chair.

He said that the eyeglasses program came at the right time, as medical checkups have become something only the elite can afford. The Nyadire program is free to all, he said, so anyone who needs a set of glasses can be tested and given a free pair that suits his or her impairment.

“The program is for all ages and caters to everyone, regardless of their religion, color, creed, race or political affiliation,” Mukundu said. “The majority of people who could neither read nor write because of visual impairments can now read and write through the efforts by The Nyadire Connection and, in particular, Don Ziegler.”

Harvey echoed those sentiments, noting the effort it takes to pull off the clinics. “Don coordinates many organizations and people required to make this work and his team works very hard to find the best fit possible for each individual patient,” he said.

The program so far has served five rural clinics: Dendera in November 2016, Nyahuku in June 2017, Chikwizo and Dindi in April 2018 and Chindenga in January 2019, with a total of 4,409 patients served, Ziegler said.

The group plans to bring glasses to the Mashambanhaka clinic in June.

“The eyeglasses project has had a huge impact in the community we serve,” said Tanyaniya. “We hope in the future … to offer the service daily at the hospital.”

He said it is their vision for the program to continue at the United Methodist clinics and to engage more hospitals and clinics in the future.

This article was originally published by the United Methodist News Service.

For more information about the Nyadire Connection, visit www.nyadire.org. Glasses can be given to Christ UMC, Bethel Park or the Conference Center in Cranberry Township.
Join Johnstown Area United Methodist Heritage Tour

By David Grinnell, WPAUMC Commission on Archives and History

Catastrophes and disasters have a unique way of bringing communities together and are often marked as significant points in our history. In Western Pennsylvania we have experienced disastrous floods, some natural and some caused by human activity, and also tragedies associated with mass transportation. One thing is consistent: each time we experience these calamitous events, we come together as God’s people to help heal the wounds of the people and the community.

“By Water and Spirit” is the theme for the Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives & History meeting, which will be hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Archives & History in Johnstown, PA from May 7-9, 2019.

This meeting includes a day-long tour highlighting significant historic sites in the Johnstown Region on Wednesday, May 8.

Team Seeks Nominees for Denman Award

The Western PA Conference Evangelism Team is seeking nominations of clergy and laypersons to receive a Denman Award for Evangelism. The awards honor those who consistently reach others with the good news of God’s love. Three nominees will be selected for awards in 2019 -- one clergy person, one lay person and one youth.

The WPAUMC Evangelism Team encourages pastors, congregations or individuals to submit nominations.

An award winner’s ministry should be innovative or exceptional for the number of new Christ followers who credit them with helping to start or re-ignite a faith journey. Nominations will be accepted through April 29.

An award winner’s ministry should be innovative or exceptional for the number of new Christ followers who credit them with helping to start or re-ignite a faith journey. Nominations will be accepted through April 29.

The award winners selected by the Western PA Evangelism Team will also be honored by the Foundation for Evangelism. Learn more at foundationforevangelism.org.

Submit nominations to Pastor Rob Kifer by email to wpadenman@gmail.com or by postal mail to Mill Run UMC, %Pastor Rob Kifer, P.O. Box 99, Mill Run, PA 15464. (Write “Denman Award” on the envelope or in the email subject line.)

Help the Evangelism Team honor folks who deserve recognition for the Kingdom work they do. If you have nominated someone previously who did not receive the award, you may renominate them.

You can download a bulletin insert to share in your church and nomination forms using links in the Denman news story at wpaumc.org. Type “Denman” in the search box.

The bus tour will include visits to:

- The Johnstown Flood National Memorial Site and Museum (South Fork & St. Michael, PA)
- Johnstown Flood Museum (downtown Johnstown)
- Camp Allegheny (Stoystown)
- Flight 93 National Memorial (Shanksville)
- Flood Victims Memorial at Grandview Cemetery
- Johnstown Inclined Plane (70.5% grade)
- First United Methodist Church of Johnstown, a UMC Heritage Landmark and site of the merger of the Evangelical and United Brethren in Christ denominations in 1946.

The WPA Commission on Archives and History invites you to take part in this tour and experience the rich cultural heritage that has shaped both our nation and our region. The cost of the tour is $95 and includes: coach transportation, lunch and dinner. Preregistration is required. Get details and register at wpaumc.org/register.

Barbara J. Newman, an author and consultant who has worked to help create communities of inclusion for 30 years through CLC (Christian Learning Centers) Network, will lead a workshop for pastors and church leaders sponsored by the Western PA Autism Initiative. Participants will look at six key differences in persons with autism spectrum disorders and discover practical tools and ideas to create places of belonging for each individual. This workshop will be held Wednesday, May 1 at Ingomar UMC from 9:00am - 3:30pm with an optional session "Teaching Others About Autism" from 3:30-5pm. To register, visit wpaumc.org/register.
New Book Provides Church Finance Guide

A new book, *Church Finances for Missional Leaders: Best Practices for Faithful Stewardship* by Bonnie Ives Marden, provides a clear, easy-to-use guidebook for church finances. Recently released by the Publishing Office of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, it offers a step-by-step process of managing the budget and financial well-being for local churches of all sizes.

The book can help pastors, treasurers, trustees, and finance and stewardship chairs and committees. It includes guidelines, tools and reproducible worksheets to help readers navigate the typical financial demands of operating a church. It’s a comprehensive approach, and reviewers are already pointing to it as a must-have item for every church leader.

“Bonnie Marden clarifies the confusing language of financial stewardship, then elegantly lays out pathways of understanding and practice. Run, don’t walk, to get your copy,” writes Rebekah Simon-Peter, developer of “Dream Like Jesus” and “Creating a Culture of Renewal.”

Marden is a leadership consultant and financial stewardship practitioner. A facilitator of stewardship education through multiple United Methodist Foundations, she also served as the Imagine No Malaria campaign coordinator for the UMC’s New England Annual Conference.

“Church Finances for Missional Leaders” is available now on Amazon and Cokesbury. Learn more at GBHEM.org.

Credit Union Recognizes Financial Literacy Month

By Kasi Devinney

National Financial Literacy Month is recognized in the United States in April to highlight the importance of financial literacy and teach Americans how to establish and maintain healthy financial habits. Many of the country’s financial institutions and nonprofit financial educational organizations promote the month by holding special events, creating educational materials, and highlighting tools to effectively handle money and deal with debt. Keystone United Methodist FCU is here for you.

There are many ways to help develop financial literacy.

One is to start talking and teaching children at a young age to earn and save money. Keystone United Methodist FCU has a program to reward children for their good grades in school. With the ABC program, students with an account can earn a dollar for each A on their report card, up to five dollars free each report period from the credit union.

When children enter the teenage years, start teaching them how to manage a financial account. Open a checking account to take money management to the next level, balance and setting goals for themselves to save for future purchases or school beyond high school. An account offers banking from home, allowing customers to view balance in their accounts, access to mobile banking where ever they go, remote deposit for checks, simple budgeting tools, and more.

This is not where it ends, we can be there for all the next steps in life too. Having all the access to your accounts the way you choose allows you to build on what you want to help with your goals. Our online banking comes with tools to help track and stay on budget. With our Money Desktop, you can pay your bills with bill pay. If you need a small loan, auto loan, mortgage or home equity loan, applications can be found at www.keystoneumfcu.org/.

Keystone United Methodist FCU also wants to share discounts to help save our members money. We do this by offering discounts with Love My Credit Union Rewards, UChoose Rewards on our Visa Credit Card, and promotional discounts for amusement Parks. We even have SHERPA which is an Identity Protection Plan.

To find out more, check out our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
Each year, United Methodist confirmands commit themselves to upholding the church through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Traditionally, the conference supplements local church confirmation classes by holding events at the Conference Center in Cranberry Township. Last year, conference staff decided to take the show on the road and give the option to participate at one of our camps to give youth a taste of camp, cut down on travel time, and allow for more active breakout sessions. This year confirmation events were held at Jumonville and Wesley Woods.

The 2019 program was revamped to become more interactive. Confirmands participated in the traditional worship, but showed off their church knowledge in a game show led by host Jessica Gamaché and her assistant Chris Kindle. Contestants rolled a die and moved along a life-sized board, answering questions as they progressed. On every turn, they were asked to give five answers to various questions centered around the five confirmation vows. Each of the four contestants was supported by a team shouting out answers.

The youth attended breakout sessions led by Program staff on prayer, spiritual gifts, missions, social media, and diversity. These breakouts allow confirmands the opportunity to apply the concepts of their five confirmation vows to every day life.

Bishop Cynthia connected with the youth by sharing her story and her own faith journey. She explained the role of a bishop and its various responsibilities. The youth asked her a variety of questions before she closed the day in prayer.

The highlight of this confirmation season was seeing Connect Church in Blairsville, one of our newest churches, bring their first group of confirmands.
Saturday, May 18, 2019
9:30am to 1:30pm
(this is a working lunch)
Cost is free, which includes materials and lunch
Workshop certificates will be provided
Presenter: Rev. Leo Yates, Jr.
Deacon | Interpreter | Author  | Counselor
Located at
Trinity United Methodist Church
530 Center Church Rd
McMurray, PA 15317
For questions, contact Gail Brunson at trinitysign530@gmail.com. Accessibility accommodations must be requested by 5/1/19. This event will be presented in spoken English.
Registration is required. To register & for more information, go to www.eventbrite.com (search deaf ministry in McMurray, PA)

This workshop is helpful for
* Interpreters   *  Church Leaders  *  Students  * Ministers  *

WPAUMC church and agency leaders are invited to attend a free seminar from Church Mutual called "Security and Emergency Preparedness & Protecting Your Youth." Topics to be covered include general church security, planning for a violent incident, what to do in an emergency situation, and how to best protect children. The seminar is offered in three locations:

- April 24 at 2:00 pm – Christ UMC, Youngwood, PA
- April 25 at 6:00 pm – Dutilh UMC, Cranberry Township, PA
- April 26 at 1:00 pm – Clarks Mills UMC, Clarks Mills, PA

Register at https://www.wpaumc.org/register.

DEAF CULTURE WORKSHOP
Caleb Wysocki, a local ASL interpreter will lead a workshop on Thursday, April 11 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Otterbein room at Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park. It will cover topics such as deaf community and culture, the basics of sign language, resources to support deaf vocation and education, and the deaf community in Pittsburgh. It’s sponsored by The Nyadire Connection’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sponsorship Program. All are welcome. Register at christumc.net/signup.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Undergraduate college students or those entering college for the 2019-2020 academic year may apply for WPAUMC Board of Higher Education Scholarships! The deadline is April 30. Get more info about scholarships and application at wpaumc.org. Search for scholarships.
As Christians move through Lent and prepare to celebrate Easter, critical disaster relief work continues in several regions of the U.S. hit by a variety of natural disasters -- tornadoes, cyclones, fires, floods and mudslides in recent months. In southwestern Africa, a tropical cyclone and accompanying rains, flooding and mudslides killed hundreds of people, destroyed homes, crops, businesses and infrastructure. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is providing assistance in all areas.

You can help by donating to UMCOR through your local church or UMCOR.org.

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

1. Pray for those whose lives have been impacted by this disaster. Please also pray for Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief.

2. Make relief kits. Download the packing list and shipping label at umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

3. Give to UMCOR’s relief and recovery efforts at umcor.org/donate (U.S. Disaster Response, Advance #901670; International Disaster Response, Advance #982450; Undesignated, Advance #999895).

4. Donate requested items only. To keep relief supplies in stock, give to Material Resources, Advance #901440 at umcor.org/donate.

5. Please wait for an invitation to volunteer.