



# NEWS of the 24 Churches of the York Association

**Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission,  
Cooperative Ministry**

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## **DECEMBER 2023 – 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)

## **Making All Things New**

### **York Association Annual Meeting**

was held, with a quorum in attendance, on Sunday, November 12, 2023, 2pm at Starview UCC.

A presentation was made by the Penn Central Conference, led by our Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD, regarding the Keystone Project 2023. The discussion surrounded the creation of a single Pennsylvania Conference combining Penn Central, Penn West, Penn Southeast, and Penn Northeast Conferences. This information is vital in understanding the processes which have taken place and are still to come.

### **Essential Functions Identified by the Keystone Working Group**

1. Faith Formation for All Ages
2. Generosity & Stewardship Ministries
3. Oversight/Authorization/Support
4. Search and Call
5. Digital Ministry/Technology
6. Communication
7. Congregational Futures
8. Disaster Ministries
9. Leadership: Training Pastors/lay leaders
10. Mission
11. Ecumenism
12. Spiritual Revival
13. UCC Identity
14. Administrative, Legal & Fiscal Oversight
15. Pastoral Care

## **Passwords**

Passwords are the keys to our tech world – they are used for our social media, our networks, our computers, and our email (the email password is the most important one!) These keys, just like physical keys, need to be tracked and carefully shared within the church.

When setting up a password, the longer the password, the better. NEVER use anything less than 10 characters! However, passwords that you cannot remember and need to put on a sticky note by the computer are pretty useless also.

Creating a password that has a theme is smart. Once I did Star Trek passwords: SpockKirkEnterprise. Easy 17 letter password. Or add some numbers and symbols – Spock2Kirk!Enterprise – now 19 characters with a number and a symbol. Be careful that your password is not too churchy! Don't use too much MaryJosephJesus! or Father3Son2HolyGhost! And, of course, never use your family's names, your church's name, address, or personal information in the password.

One of my favorite cartoons about passwords is this one: <https://xkcd.com/936/> You should never duplicate passwords. This one is tough and frankly, a pain. I must have 30 passwords that I have to remember (or my browser has to remember.) It is painful to set up a new computer or to access an app on your phone once the password is set up on your computer. However, you want to make sure that you create new passwords just in case one is compromised. If you have reused that password, then everything that you used it on is now also compromised.

For a church, it is imperative that more than one person has access to the passwords that control the website, the Facebook page (or any other social media page) and the email account. Your email account is the

most important. You can change the other passwords if the account has been correctly linked to them. The secretary should have a folder with all the passwords and the pastor and council president should know where the passwords are written down. Some passwords aren't a big deal – for example, you can easily set up another Staples account. Some are a big deal – like your Internet connection (Comcast?) or your Facebook account. Also, do not allow people to set up apps for your church without sharing the passwords. I have seen organizations where the passwords are never shared and when the person leaves, those applications are no longer accessible. Don't forget to get all the passwords from retiring/leaving pastors where they had created access that the church paid for (for example, video streaming, or Sunday School lessons.)

Passwords also need to be refreshed. This is easier than rekeying your entire church! Important passwords need to be changed every so often – just make sure that you share the new passwords with the appropriate people.

I have worked with a few churches who had past accounts set up many years ago and no one knows the password. They can't get that name for the account, so they have to create another page/email/account with a new name. This can get confusing to parishioners. Track your passwords and make sure that you have all of the important ones recorded.

*Submitted by: Jaron Flickinger*

## Around the Association

### St. John's Blymire UCC

1009 Blymire Road, Dallastown

**What:** Christmas Marketplace

**When:** November 25, 9-12pm

Plenty of homemade crafts

**What:** Cookie Walk

**When:** December 9, 9-12pm

Dozens of homemade varieties

### Heidelberg UCC

47 W Philadelphia St, York

**What:** First Friday – Heidelbean Coffee House

**When:** Friday, December 1, 6-8:30pm

Plan to stop by & spend York's First Friday at the Heidelbean Coffee House. Musicians, The Three Amigos will be on the auditorium stage and Dick Frey, organist, will be playing favorite Christmas hymns on the Austin pipe organ in the sanctuary.

### Hayshire UCC

100 Haybrook Dr, York

**What:** Story Time and Cookies with Santa

**When:** Saturday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm and at 4:30pm

Santa would like to visit as many children as possible from our Hayshire family and the community.

Registration for this event is required. Please visit our website at [www.hayshireucc.org/events](http://www.hayshireucc.org/events) to register.

### York Association UCC Christmas Party

The York Association clergy will be holding their annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 13, 6 pm, at the First Post in York. So, they will NOT be meeting that morning at the Lion's Pride.

**JOIN US ON A JOURNEY TO  
BETHLEHEM**

INSPIRATIONAL STORY

SHEEP & ALPACAS

FREE EVENT

BAKED GOODS

OUTDOOR LIVE NATIVITY AT  
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
509 PACIFIC AVE. YORK, PA 17404  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10  
3:30-5:30 PM

*The next newsletter, JANUARY, will be emailed Dec 15. Please send articles to [news@yorkassociationucc.org](mailto:news@yorkassociationucc.org) by Dec 13. Thank You!*