



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

NEWS of the 24 Churches of the York Association

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SEPTEMBER 2025 – 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)

Worship in Motion

We are thrilled to invite you to **Worship in Motion**, a dynamic, spirit-filled initiative exploring the vitality of worship in the 21st century. Sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and facilitated by Rev. Dr. Dominique Denman, Director of Christian Education and Community Outreach at Trinity United Church of Christ – York, this project brings together the sacred and the cinematic.

Through a series of film screenings, community discussions, interviews, filming, and interfaith engagement, Worship in Motion offers an opportunity for reflection, connection, and creative expression.

This journey will culminate in a documentary film, capturing our shared insights, hopes, and experiences as we imagine what vibrant, transformative worship looks like today and for generations to come.

Location:

Trinity United Church of Christ – York

32 W. Market Street, York, PA 17401

Event Dates:

**Sundays, August 17th, September 14th, October 19th at 2:30 pm and Friday December 5th at 6:30 pm
Documentary Screening.**

We warmly encourage pastors, ministry teams, youth leaders, creatives, and seekers from all walks of life to join us in this bold exploration of faith and story. Your voice matters, and your presence is welcome.

Let's put **Worship in Motion—together.**

For questions and additional information contact
Dr. Dominique at outreachandeducation@trinityucc-york.org

The Gathering Community (aka Parish Life Committee)

What was Parish Life Committee? According to our bylaws, the responsibility of the Committee was to disseminate information from the Association, Conference, and National offices. With immediate access to this information via e-mail, websites, social media, and other media, this function is redundant.

For many years, the primary responsibility was planning gathering activities for the Association. One of the favorites was the Annual Leadership Banquet. Due to waning interest and Covid, social gatherings came to a halt. It is felt these activities should again resume, especially with the General Synod vote to approve the Keystone Conference in 2026.

First, we feel it is important to change this leadership team to better reflect the nature of the focus. We are proposing the Parish Life Committee be known, moving forward, as The Gathering Community Team.

It is felt that all gatherings have an educational component to them. For example, if we were to hold an Association Cook-Off, food insecurity would be our focus (just an example at this time).

We are proposing the following event to kick off the Fall. The Association will be hosting a watch party (venue will be announced as soon as it has been secured, it will be a church in the York Association.)

September 25-26th, UCC Building & Lead Fund are sponsoring a virtual workshop entitled "Beyond Sunday – 2025 Partners in Building Virtual Conference." It is described as an immersive experience designed to equip you with the tools and

inspiration to extend your impact beyond Sunday.
Please reach out to Lisa Young –
itsaboutme0503@comcast.net – about the event if
you have any questions. A formal registration form
will be sent as soon as all the details have been
ironed out.

The Gathering Community team is an initiative to
gather the York Association and beyond. Please reach
out to, Lisa Young and Rev. Equilla Curry with ideas
for gathering events.

Agenda

Beyond Sundays –

Thursday, September 25 – 11:00am-3:15pm

Welcome & Vision Casting: The Power of Partnership

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

Keynote: Prayer: A Unified Blessing

Rev. Rachel Pryor, SCN

Morning Reflection: Anchoring Our Purpose

Rev. Dr. Patrick Duggan

From Pulpit to Pavement: Unleashing Community Potential

Rev. Hodari Williams, Pastor, New Life Presbyterian Church

Panel: Innovators' Showcase

Adese Church: Pioneering New Pathways

Panelists: Carla Leon, Sandra Acosta and Rev. Dr. Greg Smith
Q&A

LUNCH BREAK

WORKSHOPS

Pioneering New Pathways

Adese "Entrepreneurial" Church

Building Bridges Home: Strategies for Affordable Housing Solutions

Affordable Housing

Revitalizing Spaces, Empowering People

Community Facilities & Economic Development

WORKSHOPS IMPACT HUB Q&A

Charge: "Go Forth and Transform"

Rev. Dr. Jamesetta Ferguson

ADJOURNMENT

Friday, September 26 – 11:00am-3:15pm

Welcome & Vision Casting: Charting our Collective Future

Rev. Terrill Murff, Interim IL Conf Minister

Morning Reflection: Anchoring Our Purpose

Rev. Dr. Patrick Duggan

Prayer: A Unified Blessing

Rev. Dr. Patrick Duggan

KEYNOTES

The Dual Engine of Growth: Community Engagement & Capital Fundraising

Rev. Staci Marrese-Wheeler, Common Grace

Rev. James Pennington, Back Bay Mission

LUNCH BREAK

KEYNOTE IMPACT HUB Q&A

Rev. Staci Marrese-Wheeler, Common Grace

Rev. James Pennington, Back Bay Mission

WORKSHOPS

It's Hard to Love Your Neighbors if You Don't Know
Them! Using MissionInsite tools to connect with your
community

MissionInsite

Engaging Transform Church Transform Community 2.0

Congregations

Engaging Community through Digital Ministry

WORKSHOPS IMPACT HUB Q&A

Emily Reece, Jill White, Jim Keat

Charge: "Go Forth and Transform"

Rev. Dr. Jamesetta Ferguson

ADJOURNMENT

Love in Action: Servants Work Camp

Hello friends,

On Sunday, July 27th, Starview UCC had the honor of being
the music ministry recipients of Faye Schaeffer and Wayne Bear.
One of their songs was *The Jesus Way*, a popular piece by Phil
Wickham. The lyrics are exactly about that: living and loving in
the same way as Jesus: the Way of self-giving love. Of mercy and
justice. Of walking toward those the world walks away from.

That Way—the Jesus Way—isn't always glamorous or easy.
Nor is it always the loudest, flashiest, or most comfortable path.
But it *is* the path where life is made whole. It's where healing
happens. Where the goodness of God is made manifest in real-
time. Where Christ's LOVE becomes ACTION.

From July 22 - July 25, a local community of Christians didn't
just sing about *The Jesus Way*. They lived it...with drywall screws
and paintbrushes, lawn rakes and peanut butter sandwiches,
and shared prayers and patient hands. Love was present in
smiles passed across dusty rooms and in tears that flowed when
hope was restored.

Those four days were a living parable of God's goodness -
Christ's love made tangible. It was a story written not in ink, but
in muscle and mercy, in community, in grace.

This was LOVE in ACTION.

We witnessed it in the teenager staining deck boards beside
a retiree she just met. In the church members up before sunrise
scrambling eggs and making sausage gravy and French toast. In
the volunteer who knelt beside a homeowner to listen as she
told stories of her late husband.

We witnessed it ripple through driveways, porches, kitchens,
and daily devotions. And in those moments, the sacred and the
ordinary became one.

Over just four days, 79 volunteers—ranging in age from 8 to
83—came together from over 20 churches and
denominations. Together, they donated a combined 14,069
hours of labor.

All of the building supplies, paint, and materials
were donated.

If contractors had completed this work instead, the cost of
LABOR alone would have exceeded \$58,000—but it wasn't
contractors. It was neighbors. People of faith. People moved by
compassion. They formed one body, bound not by uniformity,
but by a shared desire to live out the love of God.

This was The Jesus Way. This IS what the goodness of the Living God looks like in motion.

And it began long before Tuesday morning. People from Starview and Hayshire UCC sold sandwiches and subs to raise funds and St. John's Lutheran, Mt. Wolf, gave a generous financial gift. Those funds became breakfast spreads, lunches packed with care, and dinner tables of shared laughter. Joining us, at Starview UCC to prepare and serve meals was Quickel Lutheran, Hayshire UCC, and Pleasureville Church.

Each day started with devotions. Work crews prayed before heading out, then spent the day hammering, painting, raking, sawing, fixing, cleaning, caring. Some stayed back to prep meals and wash dirty dishes. Some delivered forgotten supplies and extra water coolers. Some listened and prayed. Some simply showed up.

And every single moment of it—was worship! Because this wasn't just a work project. It was a witness to what love looks like when it puts on work gloves and kitchen aprons. It wasn't about pity. It was about presence. It was about showing up and loving the way Jesus does.

And that kind of presence flows from the very heart of the Living God. This was Christ's LOVE in ACTION.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Laura Baker, Starview UCC, Mt. Wolf

Around the Association

Locust Grove UCC, 1035 Locust Grove Rd, York

will have a **Chicken BBQ Dinner and Bake Sale on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 11am**. Dinner consists of ½ BBQ chicken, a baked potato, applesauce, roll & butter, cupcake, and a bottle of water. Dinners are served downstairs from the Social Hall, and we have a chair lift. Dinners may be Eaten In or Carried Out. Cost is \$12. You may pre-order by calling 717-755-1318, please leave your name, phone number, and the number of dinners you wish to purchase. SERVING UNTIL 1PM OR SOLD OUT. RAIN OR SHINE.

New Hope Fissel's UCC 3426 Fissels Church Rd, Glen Rock

Sharing September musical events:

- Please join us for worship **on September 7, 2025, at 10am**, featuring the gospel group SET FREE! We will have an outdoor service (weather permitting), so please bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music!
- On Sunday, **September 28, 2025, at 10am** the worship service will feature the *Brodbecks Band* as we celebrate Rally Day. A covered dish meal will follow the service.

St. Paul's UCC

2173 Stoverstown Road, Spring Grove

is having a **Soup Sale on Saturday September 27**. There will be ham and bean soup, chicken corn and gluten free chicken corn soup available.

Pre orders are due by September 20 by calling 717-225-4497 and leave a message. Soup can be picked up at the church from 10 to 12. Please contact Maryann Brenneman 717-515-6359 or email Mbrenneman61@comcast.net. if you have any questions.

CoM - SAVE THE DATES PLEASE

The York Association Council on Ministry requests that churches in the Association reserve Sunday afternoon, **September 14** for possible Ecclesiastical Council,

York Association Council Meetings

Anyone in the York Association UCC is welcome to listen to the York Association Council meetings. If you have an idea for strengthening our Association, and would like to put it on the agenda, at least one week prior to a scheduled meeting contact the Council President, Rev. Dave Martin, at pastorstpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net. The next meetings are on, **September 16, & October 21 at 6:30 pm** at St. Paul's UCC (Stoverstown). A Zoom link will be published the month of each meeting.

YA Church and Leadership Directory

A York Association Church and Leadership Directory is currently being distributed. Copies are being provided for those serving in a pastoral role, those serving as President and Secretary of the Consistory, Council or Coordinating Committee, those serving the Association, and those serving the Conference as part of the Association, as well as to our retired and/or exempt clergy. You are welcome to make more copies for more people.

Attn: York Association UCC Clergy & MIDs

The York Association Clergy and MIDs will meet on **Wednesday, September 10**. We will have our normal brunch at 11am with ACM Nora Foust at Lion's Pride, followed by Boundary Training at 12:30pm at St. John's UCC in Red Lion.

The next newsletter, October, will be emailed Sept 21.

Please send articles to

news@yorkassociationucc.org by Sept 18.