

Faith Connection Stories

We love to hear stories about Penn Central Conference **congregations working within their communities** to passionately declare and demonstrate their **courageous love of Christ.**

Please share your story.

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Redeemer's, Littlestown and Bethel, Spring Grove - Mission Trip to Pipestem, WV



- Three congregations, two conferences and one mission
- Summer Mission Trip with Appalachian South Folklife in Pipestem, WV
- 30 volunteers
 - Repairing homes and cleaning weed-infested yards
 - Painting shutters and siding and sanding drywall



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Quentin - Sparkle Box



- Followed book The Sparkle Box
- Good deeds done and written on paper → put in a box
 - Everyone celebrates the joy of these deeds!
- Added donation box as well:
 - Yarn for Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - Food item for JOY Food Pantry
 - Clothing for Jubilee Ministries
 - Donation to:
 - Children of Compassion
 - Local Fire Company
 - Lebanon County Christian Ministries



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Bethany, Ephrata - Hometown Mission "Trip"



- Three days, July 14-16, 2016
- Day began with breakfast and devotions at the church
- Then broke out into project groups
- 40 people participated and volunteered 350 hours of labor to the local community!



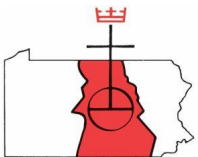
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Ephrata Manor – United Church of Christ Homes



- Providing care and service to elders through acts of love and compassion
- Food drives to benefit Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company
- Spaghetti Dinner to benefit local Lions Club and their philanthropic endeavors



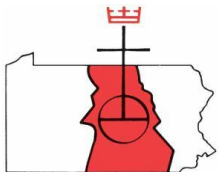
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Bethel, Spring Grove – Youth Share Their Faith



- Martin Luther King Day
- 13 volunteers, 26 hours of services
 - Answering phones and scheduling tax appointments for senior citizens
 - Cleaning out a large storage closet, sorting clothing, reorganizing children's clothing displays and sorting glassware



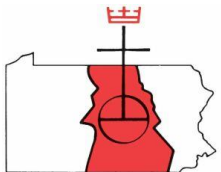
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First Reformed, Lancaster – Serving Meals and Raising Funds



- Over 16,000 meals served in 2016
- Raised over \$3600 for National Multiple Sclerosis Society at a concert featuring QuintEssentially Brass



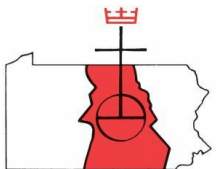
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Shiloh, Danville – Expanding Their Welcome



- Became ONA in 2015
- Hosting educational opportunities around LGBTQ issues through book studies and forums for the wider community
- Purchased a new bus and made space in sanctuary for those in wheelchairs
- Working on becoming A2A
- When Muslim Community Center was evicted, offered space in their building



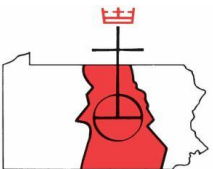
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St. John's, Lewisburg – Filling Up Buckets



- April, 2017
- Goal - fill up 10 clean up buckets for Church World Services.
- Filled 20 buckets!
- CWS Emergency Clean Up Buckets provide assistance to families and communities affected by flooding, tornados and other disasters.



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St. John's, Boalsburg – Furthering Safety



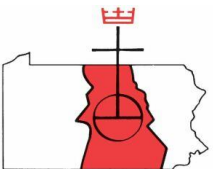
You are Safe
"Not all those who wander are lost."

J. R. R. Tolkien

Safety Pins Show Our Support

In WWII the Dutch used safety pins as a secret symbol of solidarity for and with their Queen Wilhelmina, and against the Nazis. No words were needed to identify a friend. Today this tradition is being retooled as a symbol of safety and acceptance for those who are vulnerable and afraid in a cynical world. Wear this to show others that they are "safe" with you. Choose to promote a culture of unity, kindness, tolerance, peace, love, and freedom!

- Furthered "You are Safe" initiative
- Made and gave out over 200 pins decorated with charms of hope such as hearts, peace signs, crosses and globes; also colorful beads
- Reminded those who wear them, to reach out to those in need and to speak up for those who have no voice

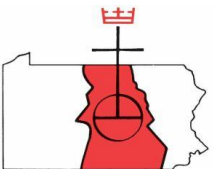


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Zion, Blain – 200 Years Celebration

- Sunday, July 23, 2017 - Commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Union Church in Blain
- Joint Worship - **Zion United Church of Christ in Blain** and **Zion Lutheran Church of Blain**
 - Attended by Zion UCC, Sandy Hill UCC, Zion Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran churches
 - Elements of the Reformed tradition were combined with a Lutheran communion service
 - A potluck luncheon followed, and many requested a joint service each year.
- *History*
 - *Prior to the founding of the Union Church, the two denominations (German Reformed and Lutheran) had been worshipping together unofficially in houses and barn, with an occasional service at the Union Church in Loysville.*
 - *However, in May of 1816 Pastor Heim (Lutheran) and Pastor Helffenstein (Reformed) jointly laid the cornerstone of a stone church that would be completed in July 1817.*
 - *The two denominations worshipped together for eighty years before splitting amicably in 1897 to become two churches.*



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THANK YOU
for sharing your story!



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