

## THE CALL FOR THE STATED MEETING OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY



The June Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery is called for **TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015 at 4:00 P.M.** at the United Presbyterian Church, 6750 PA Route 873, Slatington, PA 18080.

If you plan to attend, please notify the Presbytery office by 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 by phone (610-391-9020) or email ([office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org)).

Commissioners are asked to bring a can of food to the presbytery meeting for the local food bank. A collection basket will be at the Registration table.

You must make a reservation if you wish to be counted for dinner! Please note that the cost of dinner is \$8.00 per person.

If you wish to be excused for all or part of this meeting, you must notify the Presbytery office by phone or email. **THERE IS NO CHILD CARE AVAILABLE AT THIS MEETING**

All documents for this meeting will be on-line at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/>

Ruling Elder Marsha Heimann  
Stated Clerk

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### **Friends of Brainerd:**

We are in need of volunteers to help clean out some of the buildings at Camp Brainerd. Are you available on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>? We will meet at the camp between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to finish the clean out. Bring yourself, your friends, your family, everyone is welcome to help. No skills necessary.



Won't you please consider giving us a few hours of your time to get this job done. You can either let us know you will be coming by contacting the Presbytery office, or you can just show up on **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.**

We look forward to seeing you on Monday!

## Moderators Forums

Join us at the next Moderator's Forum on **July 28, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.** at the **Washington Presbyterian Church, 715 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA.** Lehigh Presbytery Moderator Dave Duquette has held three Moderator's Forum's from the beginning of the year. The purpose of these forums is to discuss what our challenges are and what our future might be.

*Let us come together and discover what God has in store for us!*

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### **GOVERNOR WOLF'S ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES**

Today [the Governor announced](#) that effective July 25th, volunteers giving their time and talent to our children (e.g., Girl/Boy Scout Leaders, Little League coaches, advocates in a rape crisis or domestic violence shelter, Big Brothers/Sisters, Bible School teachers) **will be exempt from paying for** background checks conducted by the PA State Police (\$10) and child abuse history clearance obtained through the PA Department of Human Services (\$10). That is an automatic savings of \$20 for those volunteering with PA children.

Wolf's actions remove a huge hurdle for those non-profits as well as faith and community-based agencies already running on a shoe string budget. These organizations have been committed to protecting children, but new background check requirements added another layer of financial insecurity to already stretched-too-thin agencies and churches.

Wolf also revealed that employees required to get the PSP and DHS background checks will see the fee for both reduced by \$2 each. Employees then would pay \$16 for both checks, as compared to the current \$20 in total fees.

Wolf has no authority to waive the fees for the FBI checks that are still required of certain volunteers (those who have not resided in PA consecutively for the last 10 years). The fate of FBI checks for volunteers is likely to be in the mix when House Bill 1276 advances.

Additional legislation has been presented that will roll back significant changes made to background-check provisions of Pennsylvania's child protection laws, the House Children and Youth Committee moved the bill to the full House for consideration. The vote is expected next week. The Presbytery will keep you informed as we receive updated information.

Please continue to visit our Webpage at [www.lehighpresbytery.com](http://www.lehighpresbytery.com) on Act 153 Child Protective Services Law for current information regarding the Background Checks. The Deadline Date for these background checks remains July 1, 2015 and must be completed to be compliant with the Law.

# YOUTH CAR WASH



Come support the 5th - 12th graders from the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown as they raise funds to offset the cost of their summer youth ministry special events!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015**  
**9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Donation \$6.00 for exterior wash.**

Bring your vehicle to the N. Cedar Crest Blvd. side parking lot.  
(First Presbyterian Church, 3231 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA - on the corner of N. Cedar Crest Blvd. and W. Tilghman Streets)

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## 2016 MONTHLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Worldwide Ministries Care Team (WMCT) would like to once again **highlight** Lehigh Presbytery churches with both **your local and international mission** accomplishments and ongoing projects in their **2016 Monthly Prayer Guide**.

Please review this information and submit your article (following the guidelines below) to Robin at the presbytery office ([office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org)) by **July 27, 2015**.

If you are not able to meet the deadline but would like to be included in the Prayer Guide, please contact Robin to discuss an extension.

### GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION:

- **150-200 word article** highlighting your global, national or local mission works; significant event(s) and or people.
- **2-3 pictures** (picture size will be adjusted to fit length of content)
- Provide **3 concerns or joys** to be prayed for
- Short **scripture passage** with Bible version noted

For reference you can **view** the **2015 WMCT Monthly Prayer Guide** online at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/resources/prayer/> or <http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/worldwide-ministries/worldwide-ministries-prayer-guides/>

We look forward to your participation to make the 2016 Prayer Guide a success. If you have any questions please contact Robin at Lehigh Presbytery (610-391-9020 or [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org)).

Thank you,  
Worldwide Ministries Care Team



Benefits through the stages of your life.

## BOARD CONNECTIONS

### 2015 RBCs Promote Conversations on Redesigning Benefits Plan

How can we serve more?

The President of the Board of Pensions, the Reverend Frank Clark Spencer, put that question to participants at the [2015 Regional Benefits Consultations \(RBCs\)](#). The Board used the RBCs to gather input on how best to provide benefits to the servants of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in this era of great change.

To those who participated and lent their voices, we thank you. For those who haven't had a chance to contribute, please go to the Board's [Facebook page](#) to make your voice heard. We need your input as we redesign the Benefits Plan for the future of the Church.

<http://www.pensions.org/AvailableResources/FeaturedArticles/Pages/RBC-Conversations-Focus-on-Serving-More.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/boardofpensions?fref=nf>

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### *Are you Passionate about Church History?*



You may or may not be aware that the Synod of the Trinity is turning **300 years old** in the fall of 2016. They are in the very early stages of talks about how they are going to celebrate this milestone birthday. One thing they obviously want to do is include the history of our presbyteries in anything that we do.

They are looking for anyone who is passionate about history, specifically church history, in our presbytery. It can be someone who works at the presbytery and has knowledge of our presbytery's history or it could be someone at a church in our presbytery who has these qualities.

If you are interested, please send your name, phone number and email address to Mike Givler at the Synod of the Trinity (contact info below).

Mike Givler  
Communications Coordinator  
The Synod of the Trinity  
3040 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011  
717-737-0421, ext. 233

## ***PRESENTATIONS AT LUTHER CREST***

The public is cordially invited to attend the following **FREE** presentations at Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104 in Crest Hall.

- Tuesday, **June 16, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.** - Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on ***"Evil and Forgiveness"***
- Tuesday, **September 15, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.** - Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on ***"God of Covenants"***
- Tuesday, **September 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.** - Dr. William Jennings on ***"Pope Francis: His Visit and his Recent Encyclical"***

For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

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***Please join us for the 2015 Job Fair  
hosted by Congressman Charles W. Dent***

**Saturday, June 27th from 10a.m. to 2p.m.**

**Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC)  
In the John G. Berrier Hall Gymnasium  
4525 Education Park Drive, Schnecksville, PA**



The Job Fair will feature prominent employers from our area seeking talented and capable workers for a diverse range of positions. Job seekers from all educational and professional backgrounds are welcome.

The Job Fair is free to attend, and there is no need to RSVP.

Don't forget to bring copies of your resume and a pen to fill out applications!

For more information visit <http://dent.house.gov>, or email [PA15JobFair@mail.house.gov](mailto:PA15JobFair@mail.house.gov), or call 610-770-3490.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

Numerous states have been affected by flooding this year due to the melting from heavy snow fall and a higher than average amount of rainfall. More than 150 locations in the central and southern Plains are currently reporting river flooding, the majority of which are in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, eastern Kansas and western Missouri. The relentless rain and storms have impacted a wide swath of Texas since the Memorial Day weekend. The severe weather left at least 23 people dead, and an estimated 4,000 homes damaged, washed away, or otherwise destroyed.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in continual contact with mid-councils that have been experiencing storms and flooding, and has responded to the most affected ones, Grace, Mission and New Covenant, with One Great Hour of Sharing funds and the presence of National Response Team (NRT) members, and has also reached out to Palo Duro to offer assistance.

Two congregations and a New Church Development, Saint Paul Presbyterian Church, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and Iglesia Cristiana Latina Presbiteriana in New Covenant Presbytery, sustained damage from the flooding. PDA is working with Presbyterian leadership to help these churches with their needs.

John Knox Ranch camp, a Presbyterian camp situated on the Blanco River, was affected by the flooding in Texas. While most of the buildings at John Knox stand on a ridge and were unaffected by the flood waters, the camp sustained extensive damage to the dining hall, swimming pool and two shower houses that were located below the ridge.

A major concern for John Knox was the need to be operational by June 10, the beginning of their first camp. If the facility is not able to open for the season, there would be significant financial challenges for the camp.

PDA is helping to address specific needs for John Knox by providing two mobile showers and a mobile commercial kitchen trailer. Working together as the body of Christ, Lutherans and Baptists have been working with local Presbyterians and other volunteers to ensure the pool and other buildings are cleaned-up and repaired to ensure the camp will be able to open on time.

The large area, multiple mid-councils, and severity of flooding in Texas has prompted PDA to assign a NRT member to serve as coordinator to help manage the flooding response in Texas. Previous experience in responding to floods lets us know this will be a long-term response

## ***HOW TO HELP . . .***

**Give.** Share your financial blessing and designate your gift to [DR000191 - U.S. Flooding](#). Gifts can be made **through your local church OR**; online, by phoning 800-872-3283 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EDT, or by mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

**Act.** [Assemble Gift of the Heart kit clean-up buckets](#) to help with response and recovery efforts following disasters in the U.S.A. Volunteers may be needed to help with cleanup and rebuilding; register your team's interest with the [PDA Call Center](#) or call 1-866-732-6121.

**Pray.** Pray for all who have been affected by storms and flooding, for those who remain in harm's way and for those involved in responding to needs.

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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **Monday, June 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Options for the future Task Group in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery.
- **Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** – Committee on Shared Gifts in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery.
- **Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** – Committee on Ministry in Room #115 of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown.
- **Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery at the United Presbyterian Church of Slatington.
- **Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** – Helping Hands Care Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery.
- **Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** – Joint Meeting of the Committee on Ministry and Presbytery Lead Team at the First Presbyterian Church, Weatherly, PA.
- **Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.** – Moderator's Forum at the Washington Presbyterian Church, 715 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA 19604

Please make note that the **C-Change Meeting** schedule for June 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. has been postponed until the fall. We wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer!

Please note that the **Presbytery Office** will be **CLOSED** on **July 3, 2015** for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July HOLIDAY. We hope you have wonderful 4<sup>th</sup>!

During the week of **July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 13<sup>th</sup>**, there will be times the phones will not be manned as we will be busy cleaning out the files. So please leave a message on the voice mail or email and we will get back to you promptly. The office **will be open** for meetings.