

DSE Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE + UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

178 UCC churches in southeastern Pennsylvania



FOCUS ON: Neighbors in Need

Most UCC congregations will receive the Neighbors in Need offering today, Oct. 4, as part of World Communion Sunday. This special mission offering is a vital way to stay connected with our most vulnerable sisters and brothers around the U.S. who suffer from poverty, violence, racial and economic disparity, and environmental injustice. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects of compassion and justice. Although most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering today, it can be received any Sunday.

PSEC Pilgrimage to Germany, May 9 – 17, 2010

This pilgrimage will trace the sites where the church played such a significant role in the fall of the Berlin Wall and led to the reunification of Germany. Download the itinerary and application information at www.psec.org.

Hosted by Russ and Ruth Mitman, the pilgrimage begins in Berlin, the vibrant capital city of Germany, where on Aug. 13, 1961, Russ personally saw the unraveling of the barbed wire that eventuated in the Wall. The group will spend a day in Dessau with our partners in the Regional Church of Anhalt, many of whom lived through the Soviet occupation and participated in the candlelight vigils in the summer of 1989. The pilgrimage will continue to Leipzig where peace vigils began in St. Nicholas Church and where Bach was organist and is buried in St. Thomas Church.

The final leg leads through the Thuringian Forest to Nuremberg for a lunch and brief sightseeing stop and on to Munich, the site of the Second Ecumenical Kirchentag where Christians from all over the world will gather for a church celebration that will be a life-changing experience.

The pilgrimage is sponsored by the Ecumenical Mission Team of Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. For administrative purposes arrangements are made through Boscov's Travel Centre in Reading.

A familiarization session will be held in the Church House today, Oct. 4 at 7:00 pm. There is no obligation. Just come and explore the possibilities and bring your friends. Pastors and Licensed and Commissioned Ministers will receive 3.0 continuing education credits for participation in the Pilgrimage.

FALL EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For brochures, on-line registration and a full list of other meetings and events visit www.psec.org

Sat., Oct. 17 from 8:30 am to 3 pm—Cooperative Ministry

The fourth annual workshop for small-membership churches (average worship attendance of 75 or less) will be held at the Church House. A clergy/lay team from the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania will present a model of cooperative ministry which they have been engaged in for nearly eight years. It involves a cluster of small neighboring congregations working together to form a team approach to ministry. There will be workshops on the importance of knowing your mission and purpose, how to make decisions about your congregation's future, and how to utilize lay leadership for key pastoral tasks in the life of a church.



Why are we hosting a workshop on cooperative ministry for our churches? Because rising costs are making it more and more difficult for some of our small membership churches to exist as stand-alone congregations. In the past we had union churches (two congregations sharing a building) and charges of two or more churches sharing a pastor. This cooperative model involves the laity in key leadership roles and is a way to revitalize small congregations by fostering a unique vision for ministry. Members of Association Committees on Ministry are invited to attend this training event to understand the implications and leadership needs of congregations partnering together for cooperative ministry.

Sat., Oct. 10, at 5:30 and 7:30 pm, Glenside UCC will sponsor its

Fourth Annual Latin American dinner benefiting the Students of the Light NGO in Colombia, South America, which cares for children living in extreme poverty. The Students of the Light project is a primary program at Glenside UCC. Child care is available. For information call the church office 215-887-1819.



PRAYER PARTNERS - Your prayers are welcomed today for Trinity Reformed UCC, Holland, and the Rev. Franklin F. Schaffer as they celebrate the new church start of Field of God UCC pastored by the Rev. Bryan Olsen on the Trinity campus.