

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” [Phillipians 4:13]

As Chaplain Advocate, I serve the community when and where I am “invited”—asked to help —both in Carlisle and the wider community whenever an agency or individual needs my assistance. I am “invited” - called as a chaplain to assist as needed.

During this past month I continue my role as a Board Member of Maranatha where I serve as the Chair of the Public Relations Committee. In this role, I am actively involved in fund-raising activities for Maranatha—a 501 3C agency.

I am President-Elect of Kiwanis attending weekly meetings and monthly Board meetings and work on fundraising projects (cranberry sales recently finished). This past week, I attended the Carlisle Borough meeting because Kiwanis—for its 100-year Anniversary—is working on a renovation of LeTort Park’s Children’s Fort. Our request was approved by Borough Council.

I continue as an Affiliate of the Cumberland County Drug Treatment Court attending weekly meetings and provide assistance to participants when requested.

I completed—two weeks ago—the 12-week NAMI Family 2 Family Session. I was invited to serve on the local NAMI Board beginning in the New Year 2020.

As a Board Member of the American Mental Wellness Association Board, I facilitated two workshops in Harrisburg for our Annual Conference and also had a Information Table at the Conference for G.R.A.N.D.S. —the support group I initiated sponsored by the YWCA Carlisle and Sadler Health Clinic. My co-facilitator, Karen Byers, and I meet Monthly with the family members who are raising their grand children because of the opioid crisis. I provide assistance to the grandparents outside our monthly meetings when I am asked to help.

Most of the community work I do is strengthened by my role as a Trauma Informed Care Facilitator where as a member of a County Mental Health Team I train local agencies (e.g., Bosler Library, Mental Health & IDD, Salvation Army and other school and community based agencies.

This week I was invited to attend the Hershey Medical Center’s Addiction Seminar. While at Hershey, I met with the Clinical Pastoral Education Director regarding the ACPE Certification Process. As a Chaplain Advocate, I want to be ACPE Certified as a Chaplain. As my role is as a chaplain working with primarily social service, Criminal Justice, educational, and other community organizations—including agency Board memberships—I can participate in the ACPE certification process.

As a followup to the Hershey Conference, I met with a colleague to discuss opportunities to work together on community programs addressing the opioid epidemic.

As President of the Labyrinth Board at Biddle Mission Park, I was part of our Team to supervise the planting of nine trees at Biddle Mission Park. I reported on their successful planting at the recent Carlisle Area Religious Council meeting.

As a follow-up to Church and Community Connection Council’s (CCCC) consideration to provide a Breakfast to those individuals needing a warm meal (approximately 85), I attended New Life Community Church’s (Carlisle) Breakfast Program and stayed for church services. I will be sharing my report with CCCC at our January meeting.

As a Board Member of the Carlisle Area Religious Council, I attended and provided the closing prayer for the Thanksgiving Prayer Service hosted by Second Presbyterian Church—Carlisle.

I attended a meeting at Second Presbyterian Church for a IDD children’s education program where I will participate as one of the wider Carlisle church representatives serving on the Curriculum Committee.

I conducted—with a UCC-colleague—a Penn Central Conference Workshop at St. Thomas UCC—Linglestown—on the role of the church in addressing the opioid epidemic recently passed as a Resolution at UCC General Synod as a public health epidemic. Fifteen pastors attended—who at the end of the session—requested another workshop for our 2020 Annual UCC Conference at Susquehanna University. Their request was approved by Nora who also was at the workshop as Convener. The participants received “Certificates of Completion.”

I telephone and meet with my Cumberland County Prison Reentry Program woman who continues to do well in the community.

As always, I appreciate all questions.

As inscribed above First United Church of Christ’s front doors,

To the Glory of God [we serve].

Respectfully Submitted.

Chaplain Donna