



Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

What Makes PCM Unique?

PCM is the only program at Bloomsburg University with an ordained Protestant minister on campus. We work directly with students as well as other university programs and departments to offer a pastoral and theological point of view. PCM supports the spiritual needs of students, faculty, and staff at Bloomsburg University.

But we need your help. Please consider making a donation to PCM...and keeping us in your prayers!



Amber, Molly, & Katie distributing clothing to Fair employees.

PCM Awarded a Large Grant for Vocation Exploration

We prayed, brainstormed, imagined...and talked with potential campus partners as we worked on our proposal last semester for the Lilly Endowment Inc., one of the nation's largest foundations. They had put out a call for campus ministries at public universities to submit proposals for programs that assist undergraduate students in the theological exploration of vocation.

The fruit of our labor was a **clear vision for a new arm of ministry for PCM.** Whether or not we were to be awarded the grant, we were sensing a call to serve the broader Bloomsburg University student body by offering theological

and spiritual resources for life and career discernment.

When we got word this fall from the Lilly Endowment that we were being awarded nearly \$85,000 - the full amount that we had requested to cover our vocation program expenses through Spring 2019 - our sense of call was confirmed. We knew there was no turning back from this new venture for which God had so generously provided.

Our *Vocation Exploration Initiative at BU*, which launches in Fall 2016, will assist students in developing

clarity and confidence in their calling through ...

- 1) **an annual speaker event** with nationally known speakers who can engage the broader campus in reflecting on life purpose,
- 2) **small groups called *Vocation Exploration Circles*** that will equip students with theological resources and discernment tools from the Christian tradition to guide them in their career and life choices,
- 3) **an annual vocation exploration retreat** as another option for prayerful space in hearing calling, and
- 4) a resource-rich ***Vocation Exploration at BU* website.**

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Partnering in Service, Darion Nomie, PCM Service Coordinator

This semester at Bloomsburg has been a busy one for PCM, but we still hold community service as a priority. We have done several service events so far, most in partnership with local churches.

In September we helped with the distribution of clothing, blankets, and footwear to the traveling employees of the fair company conducting the Bloomsburg Fair. They were in desperate need of warm clothing as fall and winter were soon approaching, as well as basic necessities like toiletries and living essentials. The incredible network of churches in Bloomsburg were able to help

provide some of these, which was greatly appreciated and left many employees feeling very blessed. First Presbyterian holds a clothing drive and runs this event every year and PCM has been able to be a part of it two years running.

PCM also participated with First Presbyterian again this semester in the Community Friendship Meal hosted by the Wesley UMC as well helping prepare and serve the Mission Meal hosted by Good Shep-



Ben serving at Good Shepherd's Mission Meal.

herd UMC. These meals benefit families immensely by allowing them to enjoy a warm meal in a welcoming atmosphere while conversing with their relatives and friends. **Even one evening like this can turn around someone's perspective and help them look at life in a brighter light.**

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Joining Together In Worship, by Hasby Firdauz, PCM President

"PCM has become for me a safe haven and friend-filled home where I can embrace my love for Jesus Christ and share it among peers. I'm extremely grateful for being introduced to such an environment especially since adjusting to college life can be difficult."
Molly Peterson,
BU Freshman



Pastor Jill and Pastor Harris pray for students at Parent & Family Weekend service.

Whether worshipping with new students, the BU Gospel Choir, or our local supporting churches, this semester was rich in times of

connecting more closely with others through joint worship.

Our semester began with our usual Orientation Worship Service especially for students just starting at BU.

But this year we tried an informal format. We sat in a circle for worship and sharing, and an interactive mini-sermon from Pastor Jill, plus broke into small-

er groups for an activity about the fruits of the Spirit. This format facilitated some deep and open connections right from the start of our year.

Then on September 20th the PCM partnered with BU Gospel Choir to lead a service for Parent & Family Weekend. Rev. Martin Harris, Assistant Pastor of Bethel Deliverance International, Philadelphia, PA gave a moving sermon, Pastor Jill administered communion, and both PCM and Gospel Choir students led in other elements of worship. It was a beautiful blend of worship styles.

PCM Awarded a Large Grant, continued from p. 1

We are excited about the potential of both engaging students in vocational reflection who would not typically be involved in campus ministry, as well as calling Christian students to more intentionally and creatively align their life choices with their faith.

We are grateful for our partners in this project which will include the Zeigler Institute for Professional Development in the School of Business, BU's

Center for Leadership and Engagement, Princeton Theological Seminary's Institute for Youth Ministry, and Bloomsburg area churches.

Please keep us in your prayers as we develop our curriculum and website and book speakers during the coming semester.



Hasby leading worship at Good Shepherd UMC.

We also had the privilege of visiting three of our supporting churches this semester to share a little about our ministry. It was a blessing to enter into worship with Orangeville United Church, Elysburg Presbyterian Church, and Lightstreet United Methodist Church and have connecting conversations with church members afterwards.

PCM also led a mini-worship service at Good Shepherd UMC for those who gathered for the Thanksgiving Mission Meal.

Worshipping together strengthens our faith and sense of God's love between and among us all.

Has your church included Protestant Campus Ministry in its benevolence budget?

Your congregation can give needed ongoing support to PCM by including it in their annual benevolence budget. Please check with your mission committee about supporting our mission on the university campus!

Volume 8, number 1

Building Christian Community on Campus, Amber Srednicki & Alexandra Mullen

PCM seeks to build a Christian community on a secular campus in which students feel at home and where they find friends whom they can walk with on the faith journey.



At the beginning of each semester we especially focus on welcoming the new students into our community. One way we did that was our cookout on the quad for both new, prospective members and anyone who was already a part of PCM. "I was able to catch up with some of my friends and also met new freshmen that I now call my friends," said Amber Srednicki, PCM student leader for communications.

At our weekly Main Events this semester we had an extra taste of home thanks to Alexandra Mullen, our student leader for hospitality, who often gave us a break from our usual pizza and made us home cooked meals. Main Events

are also **a place to talk honestly about our struggles and joys in living our faith.** Our *Galatians* Bible study this semester was another such place in which students freely shared about what it means to live in Christ's grace.

After Bible study we had our Sunday Night Social, a new event that we started this semester. It is a time on Sunday nights where we do homework, eat dinner, and just hang out.

Other opportunities for building community and friendship this semester were a hike in the beautiful Rickett's Glen, a bon-

fire, and a Halloween gathering at Pastor Jill's house.

"PCM is a close knit group. We have many differences, but that's how any family is," said Amber.

Partnering in Service, continued from pg. 1

In the upcoming semester, PCM plans on focusing on a campus-wide diminishing poverty initiative partnered with *Trees for the Future*. Together, we will be donating hundreds, if not thousands of trees to third-world natives as a means of generating income for them and decreasing deforestation and environmental degradation. In addition, we will continue to coordinate with our local churches, serve the community, and grow together in our compassion and understanding of needs in the wider world.

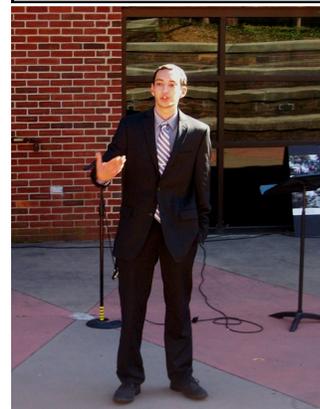
Did you know...

that Protestant Campus Ministry is not funded by the University? Support for PCM comes from local churches and some of their governing bodies, from parents, alumni, and community members.

Bloomsburg University generously has given us office space and free use of meeting rooms for our campus events, but for everything else—books, study materials, food, equipment, transportation, printing, and salaries—we are **dependent on you!**



Ben Kalisky, our student leader for spiritual care, represents PCM on a "No-Hate Week" panel.



Darion preaches at PCM's Sermon Jam in front of BU's Starbucks.



If you prefer to "go paperless" and receive your newsletter via email, you can send an email to jyoung@bloomu.edu indicating your preference. Thanks!

*SAVE THE DATE for
PCM's Winterfest Banquet on February 28, 2016*

PCM - The Welcoming Place



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You are Welcome at PCM

About PCM...

Protestant Campus Ministry (PCM) is a multi-denominational fellowship that offers members of the university community opportunities for exploration and growth in the Christian faith. PCM is staffed by the Reverend Jill Young, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and is also led by a group of students committed to their discipleship in Christ.

PCM is supported by:

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- The United Methodist Church
- The Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Local Churches
- Parents & Alumni
- People Like You!

For more information about how you can support PCM, contact Pastor Jill Young: 570-389-4950, jyoung@bloomu.edu



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