



# Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

## What Makes PCM Unique?

Protestant Campus Ministry has an ordained campus minister who works directly with students as well as other Bloomsburg university programs and departments to offer a pastoral and theological point of view on campus. PCM supports the spiritual needs of BU students, faculty, and staff.

But we need your help.

**Please consider making a donation to PCM and keeping us in your prayers!**

## Advent Banquet Gathers and Inspires by Kayla Harrison, PCM Co-President



Keynote speakers Tom & Christine Aroney-Sine

Local churches and organizations, PCM alumni and students, and other friends of PCM gathered on Friday evening, November 30 for an Advent Banquet. Together we enjoyed fellowship, good food, Advent hymns, and fresh insights for today's church from our keynote speakers.

Pianist and former board member Bonnie Crawford offered us

lovely dinner music and led us in singing. Everyone joined in worship happily, just as if we were in church instead of a banquet.

Students Maddy Staley, Tim Blaine, and Craig Bond gave testimonies about how Protestant Campus Ministry has helped them thrive, and how they plan to help PCM to thrive in the future. Craig and Maddy also shared about their future plans to work in ministry.

Dr. Tom Aroney-Sine and Dr. Christine Aroney-Sine spoke together about the future, specifically the ways in which

we can creatively change our approach to the changing world around us. Dr. Aroney-Sine demonstrated great understanding of the challenges and opportunities the younger generation is facing. Dr. Aroney-Sine told us about her unexpected but rich service as a missionary medical doctor and her work since as an author and blogger. Their approaches to their lives, and outlook on the future, was truly inspiring. Thank you to all who contributed to this delightful evening.



## On Service by Tim Blaine, PCM Service Coordinator

A common misconception both in and surrounding the Christian faith is that we serve simply out of obligation because we are obeying a divine command.

In PCM we instead encourage service that is rooted in the truth that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God (Psalm 139, Genesis 1). We all come from the same clay, are crafted by the same hands, and no person

can claim to be cut from a different or better cloth.

Add this belief to the idea that we are all God's children and we come to a conclusion much different than "I serve because God told me to." Rather, **we begin to look at everyone around us as not just our equal, but our flesh and blood family.** When we see a man sitting on the curb, hungry and cold, that's our brother, uncle, or nephew in God. When we see a mother struggling to provide for her children, that's our sister, and those are our nephews and nieces. The idea of us all being equal to one another and

children of the same Divine Creator speaks to the intrinsic, infinite value of every person and motivates us to serve in any capacity we can.

We are invited into this beautiful reality whenever we help feed (and enjoy a meal) with those who are hungry at events such as the Mission Meal and Community Friendship Meal, or help to sort out clothing and shoes to give to Fair workers who need them, or ensure that local families can have a Merry Christmas by assisting in sorting and handing out gifts, trees and decorations at the annual TreeFest. It is here that we meet Christ.



Serving with First Presbyterian at the Community Friendship Meal at Wesley UMC.

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### Asking Questions That Deepen Faith by Maddy Staley, PCM Co-President



hell, and the power of prayer. Our goal was to break the stigma around doubting and having questions as a Christian. **We wanted to offer a safe space for people to discuss their doubts honestly while re-**

**maintaining rooted in God and Scripture.**

Through reading the Bible and consulting various scholarly sources, we dug deep into troubling issues in the hopes of helping each other navigate the world without having to give up

their faith. We used passages such as 2 Timothy 3:16 and James 1:5-6 to ground our study as we came to Scripture with faith, humility, and open minds.

This topic led to some incredible discussions. At times, we did not agree. But rather than letting our disagreements shut conversation down, we allowed them to help us open up about why we believe what we believe, and how Christians can come together even when we have different opinions. Most importantly, it helped me become closer to God, even as my questions grew. Now, I am not afraid of doubt, but can handle it with hope and faith.

#### Pray for PCM ...

- For growing numbers of students to benefit from our vocation program and fellowship group.
- For the spiritual growth of our students in their journey with Christ.
- For students struggling with physical and mental illness, as well as in environments unwelcoming to their faith.
- For BU faculty and staff.
- For continued financial provision for our ministry at BU.

For this semester's weekly Wednesday night gatherings which we call "Main Event," we chose to explore questions that Christians might have about their faith. Topics included the creationism/evolution debate, the problem of evil, salvation and

### The Importance of Fellowship by Craig Bond, PCM Fellowship Coordinator



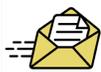
program with our new Freshman members so that they have someone that can help guide them into this thing we call college.

a place where students feel surrounded by others who will be with them through the worst of situations and celebrate with them in the best of situations. Fellowship is a cornerstone to what it means to be Christian and helping foster that fellowship is especially important on a college campus.

What is fellowship? To me it is being in community with fellow believers, and it is a key component to being Christian. PCM has been working on finding ways to better build our community this semester. We have created a new position on the student leadership team that is dedicated to helping build our community. We have plans to initiate a mentorship

**John Wesley's teachings say that Christianity is not a solitary religion, it is a social religion.** This is something that PCM has helped foster. Activities like game night, movie night, and gatherings at Pastor Jill's home for Halloween and Advent have helped build a welcoming community,

**We enjoyed leading worship at Orangeville United on Sep 23.**



If you prefer to "go paperless" and receive your newsletter via email, you can send an email to [jyoung@bloomu.edu](mailto:jyoung@bloomu.edu) indicating your preference. **Thank you!**

***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 11, number 1

### Connecting on the Broader Campus...



#### Partnering for a campus worship service.

Pastor and BU Professor Dr. Brian Johnson preached at the Parents and Family Weekend Worship Service on October 14. This service was jointly led by PCM and Impact and it was a wonderful blend of worship styles. BU students, parents, and siblings attended.

#### Equipping business students to ask deeper purpose questions.

Pastor Jill led a session on vocation called “How to Thrive: Finding your way to meaningful, joyful work & a purpose-filled life” for BU’s annual ZIPD business conference on November 9. Twenty BU business students participated.



#### Did you know...

*that Protestant Campus Ministry is not funded by Bloomsburg University? Support for PCM comes from local churches and some of their governing bodies, from parents, alumni, and community members. Bloomsburg University generously gives us free use of meeting rooms and equipment for our campus events, but for everything else—books, study materials, food, office supplies, transportation, printing, and salaries—*  
**we are dependent on you!**



#### Fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters in another club on campus.

PCM held a joint gathering in October with Impact, another Christian fellowship group on campus. We discussed Scriptures together that speak to the issues of anxiety and depression that so many students experience, and we prayed together.



#### Providing a campus memorial service.

On November 6, 2018, Pastor Jill led a worship service on campus in honor of the shooting victims at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and in support of BU’s Jewish Community.

#### Creativity workshops offered on campus.

On November 30 our special guest speakers from Seattle, WA, Christine and Tom Sine, offered workshops to BU students. Christine shared insights from her new book *Gift of Wonder: Creative Practices for Delighting in God*. Tom facilitated BU students and staff in thinking creatively about their life plans for the next decade.



**Please consider becoming a PCM sustaining partner by committing to a monthly, quarterly, or yearly contribution.**

Recurring donations can be set up through our website:  
<https://bupcm.weebly.com/donate>

PCM - The Welcoming Place



Protestant Campus Ministry  
Bloomsburg University  
400 East Second Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815  
E-mail: [jyoung@bloomu.edu](mailto:jyoung@bloomu.edu)

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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 Presbyterian minister, and is also led by a committed team of student leaders and interns. In addition, PCM provides vocational discernment opportunities to Bloomsburg University students through our Vocation Exploration Initiative.

PCM is supported by:

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

**For more information about how you can support PCM, contact Pastor Jill Young:**  
[jyoung@bloomu.edu](mailto:jyoung@bloomu.edu)



Visit our websites: <http://bupcm.weebly.com>, <http://VocationExploration.org>  
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