



# Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

## The Gift of Partnership by Rev. Jill Young, Protestant Campus Minister



Whether Peter and John, Paul and Silas, or Mary and Martha, the Scripture is full of partners in ministry. We aren't meant to do our work alone! Partnership can come in many forms, but I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to directly co-labor with Pastor Kelly Kocher-Ross

on campus this academic year. Having to undergo treatment for breast cancer is not the way I would have chosen to bring this about, but God works in and through all circumstances. Before I knew about my own health situation, God was already bringing Kelly and I together last Spring to vision about reaching more BU students through Christian hospitality. Her becoming PCM's Associate Campus Minister this year to carry on

the direct ministry on campus, when I'm needing to rest or work from home, has been such a gift, both to me and the students. Kelly is also the pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Espy and has an impressive career background in leadership training and process management in the corporate world. Together we offer our unique combo of gifts to God, pray, brainstorm, love-on students, implement plans, encourage one another, and trust God for what is next.

## 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!*

## International Peacemaker Visits Bloom by Kelly Kocher-Ross, Associate Campus Minister



Thanks to a partnership with the Northumberland Presbytery, we had the rare opportunity of inviting International Peacemaker, Lucy Awate Dabi, to our campus and community as our Vocation Exploration Speaker this fall.

Lucy, a social worker by profession, works with RECONCILE International, the Resource Centre for Civil Leadership in Yei, South Sudan. Accompanied by her toddler son, she gave an

evening talk at Trinity UMC in Espy on September 19. She spoke of her "Matthew 25" organization's work in cooperation with churches to provide clean water, environmental justice, health and wellness, and refugee welcome. She also told of her amazing but dangerous, gospel-centered work in bringing together killers and victims to experience forgiveness and reconciliation. She proclaimed that only in Christ was this possible. Her talk was followed by fellowship time over dessert with those who attended and had many questions for her.

Her next engagement, on September 23 in BU's Kehr Union, was in partnership with BU's Social Work De-

partment, who brought over 100 students plus faculty and staff to listen to her Power Point presentation about the challenges in her own neighborhood in the South Sudan. She described the difficulties with the men at war and the children brought up to only understand war. Her stories and experiences opened eyes, minds, and hearts. A luncheon for social work students followed. As students asked her many thought-provoking questions, she openly and graciously answered them. Many who attended event left with a better understanding of the challenges that exist behind our backyard and with ideas for ways they can make a difference as social workers. Many were deeply touched by her young open-hearted son.



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### Leading Worship at Wesley by Craig Bond, PCM President

*“PCM, to me, is the calm in the middle of the storm. No matter what is going on around me, I can always come to PCM and center myself. By the end of Jesus and Java, I find myself feeling lighter, more at peace, and closer to God.”*

Jillian Ramos  
BU Freshman



On November 17, 2019 PCM assisted in leading worship at Wesley UMC. Alongside Pastor Mark Reisinger, I had the privilege of preaching at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services, which

included sharing my call story. Vice President Tim Blaine read Judges 3:12-31 and our Worship Coordinator Audrey Edgell shared with the congregation her musical abilities of singing and playing her ukulele by performing the song “Satisfied.”

It was at the 8:30 service that I had an experience that I will never forget. In my sermon I shared about how God is calling me to the military chaplaincy so that I can provide spiritual support to soldiers who need help and attempt to lower the

number of suicides of Pennsylvania soldiers in my role as chaplain in the PA Army National Guard. After the service, a gentleman from the congregation came up to me and shook my hand. He was holding back tears as he told me that what I am doing is extremely important and needed and to keep up the work. He generously gave me a challenge coin, which is a coin that is designed by officers and senior enlisted ranks to present to servicemen and women as a way of congratulating them for the hard work they are doing. I was blessed both by his encouragement and the opportunity to preach at Wesley.

### PCMers Study Judges by Tim Blaine, PCM Vice President & Service Coordinator



This semester PCM chose to study the *Book of Judges* for our Wednesday night “Main Event” get togethers. We learned about the humble Gideon and how, through God’s might, he and 300 men defeated the mighty Midianites and freed the people of Israel from the yoke of oppression. We discussed Samson, the strong man, who, though he had stumbled away from God, in his final

moments God still came to him and used him as an instrument to free His chosen people from those who would denigrate and subjugate them. We discussed Deborah, a woman unlike any other who led an insurrection to free her people, God’s people, from their enemies. Yes, the *Book of Judges* teaches us of many heroes who were ordinary people, that God used in order to accomplish miraculously extraordinary feats, but it also instructs us on more than just that; It shows us the everlasting mercy and faithfulness

of God toward His people. The Israelites would follow God, and they would rise and prosper, they would wander from God and find themselves in gnashing jaws of their enemies, hungry as wolves and just as malevolent, but through it all, when His people called and cried to him, God would answer and He would save them. Truly this is where the hope that is so central to our faith finds its purchase in our hearts and in our minds. “Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge.”  
-Judges 2:18



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### 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 12, number 1

### Jesus & Java by Audrey Edgell, PCM Worship Coordinator



Jesus & Java is our weekly time together at the campus Starbucks. We reflect on a current event and how Scripture speaks into that situation.

This semester we got to talk about a lot of interesting cur-

rent events ranging from televangelists and prosperity gospel to the pass-

ing of Elijah Cummings.

Through our conversations we had insights into how we as Christians are called to treat others and be a place of hope and love. The Scriptures we talked about in reference to

the topics really stuck with me.

This time also served as a meeting place for some students who were unable to come to our Main Event on Wednesdays due to their academic schedule.

I loved going to Jesus and Java this semester because it really helped me make direct connections from my faith to my daily life and I think the rest of the group grew in their faith as well.

### 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!***

### Orientation Worship Service

Pastor Kelly led a *lectio divina* on Phil 1:1-11 using playdough as part of our beginning of semester worship service welcoming new students.



### Open Bite Night with CCM



On Oct 9, PCM served at Catholic Campus Ministry's weekly meal and enjoyed fellowship together afterwards.

### Service of Remembrance

Pastor Jill and Pastor Kelly participated in BU's Service of Remembrance for the four BU students who died this past semester. Candles were placed on the remembrance benches outside the Student Services Center.



### Parents & Family Weekend Worship



PCM, along with members of other Christian clubs, Kappa Phi, Impact, and Gospel Choir, held a special on-campus worship service in celebration of World Communion Sunday on Oct 6.

### Pray for PCM ...

- For financial provision for our ministry at BU.
- 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 unwelcome to their faith.
- For our new Spiritual Wellness Circles and vision for hospitality ministry.

**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



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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) or  
Pastor Kelly Kocher-Ross:  
[kross@bloomu.edu](mailto:kross@bloomu.edu)



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