



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!



Elizabeth Staley

Pastoring in Tough Times, by Rev. Jill Young, Protestant Campus Minister

As if Covid-19 with its related challenges wasn't enough for students to be facing right now, BU students had to deal with other grave situations this semester, including having a classmate seriously injured in an accident, as well as confronting racism during "No Hate Week."

On the evening of Oct 17, BU senior and Digital Forensics major Sean Sears was hit by a motorcycle while crossing the street, which left him in a coma in intensive care. Members of his fraternity reached out to Deacon Jim Jenkins at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (where our PCM's office is) about having access to the sanctuary to pray for Sean. Jim and I together opened up the church one evening to provide space for these

students to pray. We were surprised by all of the students who streamed into the church, about 50 of them, all masked, and by how many of them wanted to join in for our evening prayer service up in the chancel. We also provided a cloth for students to write messages on to Sean and his family which Jim's wife made into a beautiful quilt for the family. I was so moved by these students, some without any faith background, being there in the quiet of the sanctuary in support of Sean. I said to them, "If you feel like you don't know how to pray for



Students sign prayer cloth at St. Paul's Episcopal

Sean, please know that your presence here is a prayer." Praise God that Sean came out of the coma and continues to recover. It will be a long process.

Last June, following George Floyd's tragic death at the hands

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Featuring Graduating Senior Elizabeth Staley, by Savannah Paul, PCM Intern

Elizabeth (Liz) Staley graduated from BU this fall, earning a Bachelor's in accounting with a minor in legal studies and fraud examination.

This past semester, she was the president of PCM and has taken time to reflect on her experience on campus and as a member of PCM.

Liz became a member of PCM during her freshman year and later served on the leadership team. Memories that stood out for her included making food at the Newman House with CCM and going to Pastor Jill's house for Halloween and Christmas parties. Outside of PCM, she also got involved with the Admissions Office as a student worker and tour guide, the Student

Association for Fraud Examination as the secretary, and the BU Equestrian Team as a show manager and assistant treasurer.

PCM gave Liz "a strong faith family at college, which can be hard to find." Along with providing a community, it also provided "a safe space for discussion and to express my faith...as well as a place to grow it." She was provided the opportunity to expand her knowledge about the Bible, spirituality, and Christianity through varying Main Event topics including Bible in pop culture, lesser-known Bible stories, different ways to pray, etc. PCM also provided a space to learn about other denominations. Liz

appreciated "seeing members renew their faith, grow their faith, or come to God for the first time."

From here, Liz plans to start a job at a public accounting firm and to pass her exams and obtain her Certified Fraud Examination and Certified Public Accounting licenses. She looks forward to what her future holds, which we all know is plentiful in options for her. But she will always remember her time as a member of PCM, and plans to stay in contact as part of the PCM alumni community. In closing, Liz thanks Pastor Jill "for everything she has done for me the last five years" and the rest of PCM "for helping me through my college years, and I know they will keep helping me through my journey."

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Kindness Rocks,

by Kat French, PCM Fellowship Coordinator

Although most of our events had to be virtual this semester, we did have a small, socially distanced gathering of our student leaders at Pastor Jill's home in October. Our event was inspired by the Kindness Rock Project, a national movement (see <https://www.thekindnessrocksproject.com>). We painted rocks with kind messages or beautiful designs on them so that we could place them either around campus or around the hometowns of PCM members. That way, people would see them and be assured that they are loved, and that everything will be okay, especially during these challenging times of Covid-19. Following the painting we roasted hotdogs and marshmallows and enjoyed in-person conversation. It was a good experience for me, not just painting the rocks, but hanging out with friends as well.



PCM Intern Savhanna with her "kindness rocks."

"Tough Times" continued from p 1

of police, Pastor Kelly Kocher-Ross and I reached out to Impact, a Christian club on campus of primarily Black students, to see how we could collaborate on a prayer service for victims of police brutality and racism. We began to plan our "Pray Their Names" service with Impact's student president Jordan Williams. We ended up holding it this semester on Sunday, Nov. 15 as part of BU's "No Hate Week," headed by Marcei Woods in Residence Life, with whom we are blessed to have as a partner on campus.

With masks and social distancing in place, we were able to have an in-person service in the Kehr Union, with Impact students leading us in 8 minutes of prayers in honor of George Floyd's last 8



Impact Student leaders Kayla and Fionna lead "Pray Their Names." Photo credit: Kat French

minutes. Prayers were for victims of police brutality and racism, for the many upstanding police officers, and for us all to take action for positive change. Pastor Kelly, PCM students, and I read Scriptures and **prayed for us to be reconcilers through the power of Christ's ultimate reconciling work, our only true hope for change in these polarizing times.**

Virtual Church Visit at Trinity UCC, by Lauren Sattesahn, PCM Secretary

On November 1st, PCM had the opportunity to help lead a local church service over Zoom for Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ. PCM Students read prayers and scripture to the congregation, PCM Alumus Craig Bond preached on site, and Pastor Steve Hummel and Pastor Jill together led communion.

Craig's sermon was about servant leadership and avoiding hypocrisy, based around the verse, Matthew 23:1-12. Craig, who is



Craig Bond preaching at Trinity currently in seminary to become a UMC minister and military chaplain, says that he was

grateful for this opportunity to preach.

Although leading worship via Zoom can be challenging, we still were able to deliver a great service to the congregation. Thanks to Pastor Hummel for this wonderful opportunity to serve our community and connect with a local church.

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!

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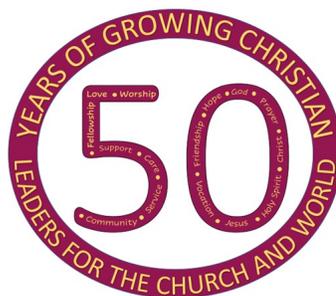
Celebrating PCM's 50th Anniversary

The first Protestant Campus Minister to serve BU (then Bloomsburg State College), Jay C. Rochelle, was moving into Bloomsburg as the college students were leaving for Thanksgiving in 1970. Since that time seven others have had the privilege of serving in that role: Gregory C. Osterberg, Robert B. Peiffer, Tammy Trotman, Beth Boyer Kollas, Marjorie Brigham Fisk, Maggie Gillespie, and Jill Young, as well as Kelly Kocher-Ross who served along side Jill during her cancer treatment last academic year. Under their leadership, as well as that of many dedicated student leaders, hundreds of students found a home with PCM—a place to stay engaged in their faith and deepen in their relationship with Christ, to be encouraged and cared for in the atmosphere of God's grace, to ask tough questions, and to find their calling in the world.

Thanks to all who have generously supported this ministry over the years!



PCM's 2nd campus minister, Greg Osterberg, with students at a PCM event in the 1980s.



Contribute to our 50th Anniversary Campaign
by Dec 31 at www.takeactionbu.org/pcm

Zooming for Main Events and Advent!



The theme our student leaders choose for Main Event this fall was “lesser-known Bible sto-

ries.” Student leaders and alumni took turns facilitating discussion each week about stories ranging from Balaam and the talking donkey to the ministry of minor prophet Malachi to the thief on the cross. We also prayed for one another and shared worship times together including virtual communion.

But students and alumni didn't want to end when the semester was over. Instead we chose to participate with the Susquehanna Conference (UMC) and study the book by UMC multicultural church pastor Olu Brown, *Hope: An Advent Journey*. Pastor Kelly designed the version for young adults—an interactive worship curriculum which we have been blessed by this Advent.

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!

Pray for PCM ...

- For us to continue to find creative ways to minister amidst the Covid-19 crisis. And for new students to find their way to us.
- For financial provision for our ministry.
- For the spiritual growth of our students and alumni in their journey with Christ.
- For students struggling with physical and psychological challenges, especially anxiety during the pandemic.
- For our growing vision for hospitality and spiritual wellness ministry at BU, to reach more unchurched students in need of spiritual care.

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



Visit our websites: <http://bupcm.weebly.com>, <http://VocationExploration.org>
Find us on Facebook: Bloomsburg University Protestant Campus Ministry

