



Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

Exploring Purpose in the PA Wilds by Rev. Jill Young, Protestant Campus Minister



PCM Students at Kinzua Bridge State Park

“It worked as a metaphor!” said Craig Bond, our PCM intern and student leader, after he and I heard reflections from students comparing the life-path to the historic Kinzua Bridge. The Kinzua Bridge was struck by a tornado in 2003 and rebuilt into a stunning visitor viewpoint.

This wasn't the only part of our retreat planning that came together. Craig, who had been working for months to take his fellow PCMs to his home town on this Vocation Exploration Retreat, got to see further fruition. Following our visit to the Kinzua Bridge State Park, we were treated to a wonderful panel on the topic of vocation at First United Methodist Church in Bradford, PA (aka Tower Church). Craig's former youth pastor, Alan Trotter, and I facilitated a panel discussion in which church members shared their own stories of call with the students. They described how God had led them down their unique paths. They

also discussed the ways that they are serving God through their current professions, from human resources to special education. PCM students commented later that this was just as helpful and inspirational as hearing from a big name speaker.

That evening, students enjoyed worship time together at the cabins where we were staying in Allegany State Park. Faith and friendships were deepened.



Vocation Panel at Tower Church

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!

Addressing Mental & Spiritual Wellness on Campus

by Tim Blaine, PCM Service Coordinator



PCM's 100 Reasons Table at Fresh Check

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Unfortunately, many college-aged individuals find reason to feel uncertain and dismayed, from the stressors of juggling a

work and school schedule, to the mounting debt from tuition, to maintaining passing grades. This semester, PCM sought to address the mental and spiritual well-being of students on campus through our presence at campus events such as Fresh Check Day (March 28th) and the Wellness Fair (April 12th).

At the Fresh Check event, we encouraged students to add to our “Tree of Life” by writing down their own personal reasons to live. We also invited student feedback on topics for a spiritual wellness group that we hope to offer next semester

in cooperation with BU's Wellness Center. About 100 students participated in our booth activities.

At the Wellness Fair, we ran a table about the positive impact gratitude can have on one's life and handed out 50 gratitude stones. PCM plans to build upon this spiritual wellness outreach to campus this coming year.

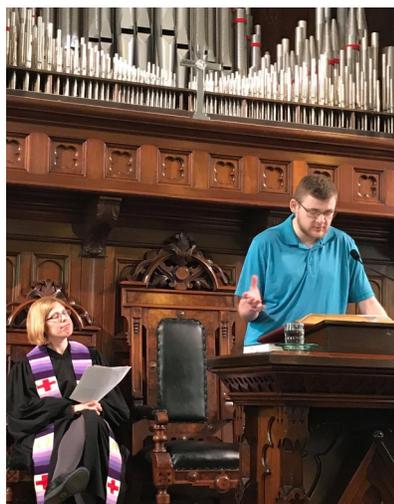


PCM's Gratitude Table at Wellness Fair

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My First Sermon by Craig Bond, PCM Fellowship Coordinator

Starting off freshman year was scary for me because I didn't know anyone when I first moved in. Then I found Protestant Campus Ministry. PCM has been so helpful and kind to me through my first year of college, and I could not be more thankful to God for leading me here!



Craig & Pastor Jill at Grove Presbyterian

I came into college planning to become a high school history teacher and museum curator.

After joining PCM and participating in the Vocation Exploration circles and retreats, I began to discover a calling to ministry, in particular as a chaplain in the PA National Guard in which I serve.

After learning of my interest in ordination in the United Methodist Church, Pastor Kelly Kocher-Ross of Trinity United Methodist Church in Espy invited me to preach in the spring semester. I felt honored and grateful to have this opportunity. I wrote my sermon on Fellowship and its importance in discipleship and quoted from John Wesley, a founding father of my Method-

ist tradition. On February 17th, I gave my first sermon at Trinity UMC, and I was joined by fellow PCM students who came to support me and participate in leading worship.

Then, on March 31st, I had the privilege of preaching again, this time at Grove Presbyterian Church in Danville, where Pastor Jill and fellow students led worship alongside me. Not only have I gained valuable experience by writing and delivering these sermons, but I have also received further confirmation of my calling into ministry. I'm grateful to both congregations for inviting me into their pulpits.

PCM Leader Discerns Call in Montana

by Maddy Staley, former PCM Co-President



Audrey Edgell
PCM Freshman

This semester, I moved to Missoula, Montana to complete an internship with Emmaus Campus Ministry at the University of Montana. Pastor Jill helped me find this opportunity because of a growing sense of call to ministry that I discerned in part through my participation in PCM's Vocation Exploration circles and retreats.

During my internship, I was able to learn from John Lund, Emmaus' campus pastor, about all that campus ministry has to offer. I helped with planning discussions to share with the students, including loving your enemies, atonement, the ethics of mission work, sexuality, vulnerability,



and more. These conversations opened my mind to the questions that my peers have about spirituality, and how the church can help them feel more included.

During a trip to San Francisco, we learned about some of the issues facing the Bay Area, and how churches and organizations are tackling them. We met with a group of pastors who provide socks, prayer, and company to the homeless population. Helping those in need should go beyond taking care of physical needs and extend to tending to people's hearts and souls.

Overall, this experience was eye-opening. I learned a lot about myself and what I want out of life. I am excited to continue my vocational journey after graduation by completing a year of service with Mission Year while further discerning God's call for my life.



If you prefer to "go paperless" and receive your newsletter via email, you can send an email to 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 2

Connecting with Campus & Community...



Block Party Outreach

PCM Students, along with Deacon Jim Jenkins of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, passed out almost 300 baked pretzels and water bottles labeled, "Jesus Supports the Buddy System! Stay Safe!" to students passing by on Saturday, April 13th. Many of those who received the food and water really appreciated the love expressed.

Community Friendship Meal

PCM, in partnership with First Presbyterian Church, Kappa Phi, and the Veterans club, helped to serve the Community Friendship Meal on Saturday, February 9th. They experienced the joy of serving!



"Get Your Ashes On"

Kappa Phi invited PCM to join them on Ash Wednesday to offer "ashes to go" on campus in the Kehr Union building. Pastor Jill and Reverend Luther Martell placed ashes on the foreheads of many students who came by that day and wanted to receive ashes. It was a joy to bless students that we'd never met in this way, and to partner with Kappa Phi!

Open Bite Night with CCM

What a privilege to make a meal at Catholic Campus Ministry's Newman House on April 10th, and then to share it with our Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ. Afterwards, we had a worship time around the fire pit, singing worship songs led by CCM's associate director Nina, and prayerfully reflecting together on Jesus's call to rest (Matthew 11), led by Pastor Jill. What a rich time!



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 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.

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

