



# Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

## Cultivating Safe Space & Community



### 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!**



God works in such amazing ways. For several years I had tried to think of ways to connect with the university when I worked at a church in town. But in the winter of 2019, something kept tugging at me that I had to begin a ministry connection. I kept hearing in my heart, “the students need a “safe space.”” In the spring, I approached Pastor Jill and we started brainstorming with another person. We prayed and let God guide us. And then in August Pastor Jill called to tell me her diagnosis and asked me if I would help her and PCM. There wasn’t even a hesitation on my heart and I quickly said, “YES!”

God then made our paths clear. I saw that I needed to help Pastor Jill without creating any disruption and allowing her to take the time she needed for herself and her family. There was a lot to learn, but she was gracious and patient. Looking back, there were some laughable missteps I made, but no one held it against me. What I had not planned on was the depth in relationships that I would make with Jill and with the students, staff, and faculty. **I soon discovered that PCM is not only a place to come and find God, but it is a community to come and just be you.** It is a community in which to grow, learn, rest, laugh, be encouraged and be comforted. A community who allows

you space to grow in understanding of the mercy and love of God. It is a community who shares the love, compassion, and fellowship of Jesus Christ. It is a community who sees you, listens to you and opens you to express yourself in worship with gratitude and thankfulness. It is a community who embraces each person to discover their amazing gifts, to not just care for their own future, but touch the ones in the present which then impacts their own future.

I saw this unfold the fall semester with the students leading worship, talking together over java, displaying outreach and fellowshipping with other groups. I watched their compassion unfold as the campus lost four students and many marginalized people found their voice. PCM students stepped forward to support and walk beside their fellow students.

world went virtual and our coffee table had different faces and familiar faces, as did our time of worship. Alumni and current students were supporting each other after just meeting. Discussions were honest and real. The support and love and caring for each other often left me choked-up. What I saw were beautifully and wonderfully made people whom God had called together from past to present to just be in a “safe space.”

My time with PCM has technically ended, but my relationship with PCM will continue. My friendship with Pastor Jill is important and precious to me. The friendships with many of you, the students, are so dear to me. With a few of you, we have some exciting things to look forward to in ministry. God is unfolding so many things in our community. Yes, “our” community. One, that I hope continues



But I didn’t realize the impact of these ongoing relationships that made up this community, until the pandemic hit and we were separated. It was then that I truly saw the strong foundation that Pastor Jill had made each year in solid relationships with students, as PCM alumni came back to join our online gatherings. Our

to grow. Because everyone deserves to come into relationship with God and to fellowship with the ones who cannot wait to share the light of Christ. And this is one pastor who cannot wait to see how the safe space and community will continue to unfold!

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## Better Together by Tim Blaine, outgoing PCM President

**"PCM has been a wonderful experience and everyone is very welcoming. I am excited to continue next semester."**

Lauren Sattesahn  
BU Sophomore



Psalm 133:1 says it best; "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" In the spirit of this wisdom PCM has reached out to other organizations and our own alumni in order to stay virtually connected during this trying time.

Early on in the semester, we reached out to organizations such as IMPACT, the BU Gospel Choir and the Catholic Campus Ministry to partner in community service. We continued in this vein of inter-organizational connectivity by taking part in a joint fun-fair/children's carnival held at the Student Rec Center, where our newest leadership member Jillian Ramos really got to stretch her creativity muscles in coming up with a basketball-like game involving tossing balls into

buckets made to look like sharks!



In the spirit of community with all of our brothers and sisters of this world, PCM sent myself and fellow officer Audrey Edgell to an Interfaith Panel, as part of BU's Better Together Days, where we got to sit and answer questions about our faith alongside followers of other belief systems. This was followed the next night by a "Speed Faithing" event where

we, and others from different backgrounds and faiths, took turns moving from table to table to speak in smaller groups about topics affecting us all and how we approach those situations in the light of our various ideologies and religions.

After the university's closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, PCM met this challenge by organizing and running online worship and Bible study open to anyone inclined to take part, and these are still happening. This semester was my final one as an active leader of this organization, given that I've graduated and will be moving on to further education, **but if there is one thing that I've learned in my years with PCM, it's just how good and pleasant it truly can be when God's people live together in unity!**

## Looking at Jesus' I Am Statements by Audrey Edgell, PCM Intern and Worship Coordinator

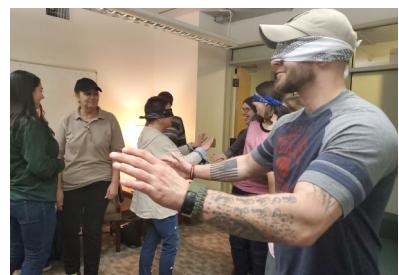


This semester, we took a look into the seven "I Am" statements of Jesus. Many of these verses are familiar to

and quoted by Christians, which made for good conversation while talking about the deeper meanings and context. Pastor Jill and Pastor Kelly started off the semester with an overview of

Jesus, and what we could hope to gain from this study. From then on, our student executives took turns weekly to explore each statement and include some fun activities. One of our favorites this semester was "I am the good shepherd" when our freshman representative, Jillian Ramos led us through a fun blindfolded marco-polo game as shepherds to find our sheep! This topic was great to continue over zoom as the semester moved virtually, and it was such a personal growth

experience for me. I believe that we all learned so much about the historical and cultural significance of these statements, and I personally found a greater appreciation for Jesus and His wisdom.



## 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!



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

## Volume 12, number 2

### More PCM happenings during Spring 2020...



PCM's beginning of semester worship gathering in the Kehr Union building.



Tabling at the Spring Activity Fair  
(Pictured: Pastor Jill, Audrey Edgell, Tim Blaine)



Raising funds for clean water by participating in World Vision's Global 6k. (Pictured: Pastor Jill's kids and alum Amber Srednicki)



Visit to the "Messy Table" service at The Table in downtown Bloomsburg. Pictured with Rev. Tormod Svensson.



### PCM Summer Rally

PCM alumni and students enjoyed participating in our Zoom Main Events during the semester so much that we decided to continue into the summer. Alumnus and soon to be seminarian Craig Bond is leading a series on J. R. R Tolkien & Christianity for what we're calling "Summer Rally," an opportunity to rally together alumni and students as Christian community during these unprecedented times. We meet Wednesdays at 7 PM for conversation, fun connection, and prayer for one another. Contact Pastor Jill if you'd like to join us.

## Protestant Campus Ministry's 50th Anniversary

In the Fall of 1970, the first Protestant Chaplain, Jay C. Rochelle, began at what was then called Bloomsburg State College, and 50 years later, by God's grace, we continue our important ministry at BU! Over the next months we will celebrating this anniversary. Please send any photos or stories you have to share from previous PCM "eras" to [pcm@bloomu.edu](mailto:pcm@bloomu.edu).

### 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 effectively minister amidst this Covid-19 crisis.
- 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 mental illness, as well as in environments unwelcome to their faith.
- For our growing vision for hospitality and spiritual wellness ministry at BU, to reach 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](mailto:jyoung@bloomu.edu)



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

