



The Quarterly Truth NEWSLETTER Autumn 2020

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC.

501 High Street Williamsport, PA 570-323-1797

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday – Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Sunday - Closed

Rev. C. Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz, Director

Website: stmwilliamsport.org Want me to come and share about Sojourners to your church or group?

Invite me! I'd love to!

Mission Statement Sojourner Truth Ministries loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are supported by these foundations:



VOLUNTEERS/ PARTNERS/ PRAYING FRIENDS NEEDED!!! Since COVID, we have "lost" 85% of our volunteer base. Most of our volunteer friends tend to be retired and have health issues, or loved ones have risks, thus eliminating many volunteer options. We have persevered, however, and continue to meet needs in the community in various ways. Does anyone remember Stretch Armstrong?

Our meal guests would love to return to seated meals in the building- but we do not have enough regular volunteers to make this happen. We would need 2 seatings with a quick, thorough cleaning between and after. We need volunteers to help provide social services (Mon-Fridays are open!)(training provided) such as completing forms, referring guests to programs and agencies, and listening to and praying with people. We need your prayers. With the work Sojourner Truth ministries is called to do, this is Kingdom building, not merely filling physical needs. Please pray for us and the sojourners we minister to. Let us do everything we do with His great Love. In Jesus' name. ~ Angelique

On my heart lately has been 1 CORINTHIANS 13, "the love chapter". This is about so much more than a feeling; rather, it is the basis we as believers ought to exemplify. The love of Christ working through us- through literally everything we do- is what has been fueling my tank often in this work. If not because of love, our work is virtually useless. Let us be motivated to serve, reach out, speak, and act in love. Not just those who think like we do, or vote like we do, or act like we would want them to- but toward all.

Pastor Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz

NEW BIBLE STUDY

With the world in an angry turmoil we will benefit from a review of what God says about **ANGER**.

Some of the topics to be discussed:

- *The four types of anger
- * What Jesus said about anger
- * What anger does to our worship, discipleship, relationships, self
- * What we *should* be angry about
- *Does God get angry?

The study will be held on Wednesdays starting on September 16th for approximately 6 weeks. It will be a discussion-type study led by Rev. Jerry Cline.



Sojourner House of Hope

As of this writing, we are in the interview process for staff to run the program, a transitional home for women coming out of homelessness. This has been over two years in the making, and we continue to be in awe of how God is in the details. Everything about the House and program to healing and sustainability is Christ-based and thoughtfully planned. We will need more staff than originally anticipated, and are also looking for more mentors (a minimum 9 month commitment, training provided) and a plethora of volunteers from overnight monitors to dinner helpers to crafters and handypeople, benefactors and more. Please reach out to us to see how you can get involved! We are eagerly anticipating opening, and are blessed in the waiting.

“Adopt” a resident of Sojourner House of Hope (“So Hope”)

As a sponsor, you will be invited to specifically pray for a special resident, get a milestone update if she chooses to share it, and receive her story upon graduation if she chooses to make it public. This is a continued support option to help towards covering the costs of one resident for \$200 per month. The goal is that a resident will be prepared to graduate the program in 6 months; however, there is grace with the timeline. After 6 months, unless otherwise specified, the Gift of support will continue with same resident, or the next one coming in. With this Support, you will be invited to pray for a specific person, get updates on her progress and if she chooses, you will be invited to hear her testimony and be present at her graduation. Notes of support or encouragement are welcome.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM TO START ...

The After School Kids (ASK) program at Sojourner Truth Ministries is set to start Tuesday September 9th. ASK is meant to provide a safe place for children 5 to 12 years of age to learn about the Bible and Jesus while engaging in fun recreational and educational activities. It is open from 3pm to 5pm each Tuesday and Wednesday when the schools are in session. ASK always provides a snack to the children which is sometimes more like a nutritious meal. Special structured Bible Program to Start.

The first 4 days (Sept 29, 30, Oct 6 and 7) of ASK will offer a special structured Bible learning program for the children the same as what might be found in a Vacation Bible School. It will involve a fun and exciting video called WOW each day that has been used for VBS's around the world! Children will also have the opportunity to do arts and crafts activities including designing their own ASK t- shirt which they can keep. Each child will also be given a children's Bible.

Volunteers Needed!!!!

To make this program the great and glorious ministry that God has laid upon our hearts, adult volunteers will be needed. So, if the Lord is moving you, call 607-432-4926 or 570-323-1797 to sign up/Register.

Parents are asked to register their children for this program. You can do so by going to STM before the program starts or by calling the above phone numbers listed.

- Jerry Kabat, Program Director

ATTENTION: Your GPS is Recalibrating

The road I was driving on was unfamiliar to me, but I was enjoying the scenery nonetheless. That is, until I was suddenly “informed”(through my car's GPS monitor) that it was *recalibrating*. Recalibrating? That word is generally defined as occurring when the GPS navigator needs to have a “*fresh point of reference*” preventing it from “*drifting off course*.” My GPS was recalibrating in order to obtain a fresh point of reference, as I continued toward my destination.



At Sojourner Truth Ministries, you could say that we are “*recalibrating*” our GPS navigator through the efforts of **Strategic Planning**. Strategic Planning is a rather simple format that includes three columns: Objective, Strategy and Timing. The **Objective** category is filled with verbs (words of action). This is where goals are listed in small bite-size pieces. For example: To enable patrons to learn gainful skills; to operate Sojourners as a center of community ministry, to expand community engagement beyond the walls of STM. The **Strategy** column addresses specific objectives, including: Mentoring, Bible Study, Social Services and Life Skill Classes. The **Timing** category is the commitment category. This is where each strategic line item is given a scheduled timeline. It is important to note that each of these categories and strategies are updated on a regular basis to reflect the nearness of their destination and completion. Having a Strategic Plan enables Sojourner Truth Ministries to look through the microscope at all areas that are changing, growing, or (may) need a little attention to blossom where they are planted. In other words, instead of just “driving” this vital Ministry along each and every day (possibly missing an important turn or opportunity); our “GPS”(aka Strategic Plan) will help us to determine what needs to be *recalibrated*, so we can get a “*fresh point of reference*” for the Sojourner Truth Ministries navigation system to continue to run smoothly.

~ Donna J. Miller, STM Board Member

REFRIGERATOR FUNDRAISER UPDATE!!!

You may have heard that we have been fundraising on FaceBook for a new, commercial refrigerator. We had three hand-me-down, household refrigerators to handle food for over 1200 meals per month served. As soon as the fundraiser was posted, one of those fridges died! At this writing we have two, and thankfully someone gifted us with their air conditioner which at least helps to keep produce from perishing so quickly. As of this date, \$2500 of \$3500 has been raised- praise God! We went ahead and ordered the commercial unit so we can be best stewards of the food so generously donated to us, and what we order from the Food Bank. THANK YOU to each of you who have given! It is not too late if you would still like to invest in this blessing.

The Education of a Resource Advocate

I've learned a lot during my first six months at STM, and I'm grateful to Pastor Angelique and our board for their guidance and for their encouragement to educate myself. I've had the opportunity to take volunteer management, grant-writing classes through Penn State Extension, and now racial reconciliation classes through another nonprofit ministry, Be The Bridge. Thanks to the United Methodist Church's Peace with Justice Training Scholarship, I will also be attending restorative practices training in the fall. Before beginning the class with BTB, I would have considered myself to be fairly knowledgeable about my own privilege, the history of the US, and the oppression of people of color, however, these subjects are far more complex than I ever knew. I recommend the film "13th" to anyone interested in learning about systemic racism in the US, and I encourage us all to check our privilege in the name of our Christian faith.

One of the main themes of "13th" is mass incarceration. The US is home to approximately 5% of the world's population, but it houses 25% of the world's prison population - almost 2.3 million people. Restorative justice and restorative practices have already proved to be valid alternatives to detention, and we hope to use them in a new program - Sojourner Truth Youth Leadership and Advocacy (STYLA). STYLA is a Christ-centered leadership education program created for nonviolent youth offenders and at risk youth, kids who badly need compassion and validation. Participants will learn their value as children of God, and as community members, through leadership training, social justice education, community service, and mentoring. We will strive to provide support and equip participants to advocate for change within our flawed institutions. We won't find out about funding for STYLA until October, but we plan to implement some version of the program even without funding. We are also in the process of finding funds for a potential remote learning program for local K-8 students, as they cope with a hybrid learning schedule. We are also in need of volunteers for both programs, please contact us if you are moved to help.

Theresa DiMaggio, Resource Advocate

Thanks United Way of Lycoming County!

We are so grateful to be receiving two thirds of the needed amount to run our feeding program through our partnership with United Way.



Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc

Like us on **facebook** and see what we're up to, read relevant short articles, and get to know us and our mission better!

Remember you can always make donations through **PayPal** or mail to:
Sojourner Truth Ministries, 501 High Street, Williamsport, P.A. 17701

Openings for 2020 Dinner church still available....

(sign up at Dinner Church tab on website) Website: stmwilliamsport.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: STM Board Secretary position for 2021.....

As of December 2020, our present Board Secretary will be relocating from the area and resign from the board. Sojourner Truth Ministries Inc. Board of Directors will be in need of a Board Secretary for the year 2021. If interested or know someone who may be interested in the position, please contact Pastor Angelique.

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501 HIGH STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
STM newsletter Autumn 2020

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Convictions? No Convictions? Winston Churchill stated, “You have enemies? Good. That means you stood up for something, sometime in your life.” We Moore took it further when he said, “Fighting for your convictions is important. But finding peace is paramount. Knowing when to fight and when to seek peace is wisdom.” What is it that causes any of us to rise above the difficulties and bring change – much needed change. “Convictions are compasses of life,” Warren Wiersbe says, “they keep moving in the right direction. They are the foundation stones that help us stand firm when everything around us is shaking and changing.” This sounds like summer of 2020, doesn’t it? Linda Skitka writes, “Convictions are attitudes that are treated more like possessions or aspects of the self.” They are more than opinions, but the beliefs that define who we are; they guide each moment of our lives. How do we perceive convictions within our own identities? Which relationships influence us? How do we spend time? How do we lead our families? How does the entertainment we choose influence us? How do our careers align with God’s calling? How are our finances ordered to honor God? How do health decisions impact longevity of life? What priority do we place on the worship of God? The answers to these reveal some of the convictions that determine how we place one foot in front of the other. Without these determinations and the careful recognition of each of these character convictions, we end up in a place without conviction that leads to despair and chaos. What are the guiding principles that allow us to maintain our convictions? First, prayer is essential because it encourages and allows communication with God. Ephesians 6:18 reminds us, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Second, stay strong in the Bible, the ultimate guide with answers to life’s questions and offers direction for living. Joshua 1:8 tells us, “Keep this Book always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Third, we are called to be committed (not a popular view of late). We need to challenge modern cultural norms and demonstrate commitment in life, work, and our pursuit of godliness. Proverbs 16:3 reveals, “Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” And finally, do everything as unto the Lord. View all things through the prism of eternal purpose. When we do, we’ll approach life with greater passion, compassion, mercy, grace, and perseverance. Colossians 3:23 concludes, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” Brothers and Sisters, What are your convictions?

- Len Richards, STM Board President