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Rev. Dave Heckman
Lori Marshall
Rev. Stan Nixon
Rev. Gary Sheesley

Summer 2023

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY



At our April board meeting we elected 2 new board members. We would like to welcome our new board members Lori Marshall and Brad Lena. Lori is exploring getting started in prison ministry and Brad is currently volunteering at SCI Albion.

While we are known for our ministry teaching the Disciple Bible Study our volunteers are involved in a variety of ministry offerings. Some are teaching short term Bible studies and studies using DVDs. This format works well especially in Federal Camp facilities where men are there for shorter periods of time.

Dr. David Stains and Ron Gritzer are starting back at Loretto FCI after Covid with Spanish worship. Alan Jones, Randy Datsko and David Bunnell are teaching the 6 month Threshold program at FCI Loretto.

Larry Simmons is teaching the Disciple Bible study at SCI Greene but it has been a tough go with Covid. Hopefully now that Covid has loosened its grip, he will be able to reach more men. Larry is also working with several others trying to bring Kairos into several other facilities. Bill Cadigan and Gary Sheesley are waiting for the “go ahead to restart” the Disciple Bible study at SCI Forest.

Brad Lena at our April board meeting at Clarks Mills presented the background for a class he taught at the Allegheny County Jail as part of the Religious Services

department. His was a 6 week program that was part of a larger program of Bible Study, parenting, finances among other subjects. His program “Reclaiming the Human Being: Heart, Mind and Spirit” is a model that others working in shorter term county facilities could use.

As much as possible we encourage our volunteers to go in as teams so that we can talk to more men and women and for the purpose of encouraging one another. New volunteers are especially encouraged to go in with someone else who is already doing prison ministry to help see what is involved with prison ministry.

If you think you may be interested in prison ministry on the county, state or federal level, contact our Director, Randy Datsko either at our office at 814-659-7562 or call his cell phone at 814-659-7562 and he will try to provide information and resources to help you. Also, if you are already involved in prison ministry let us know where you are involved in prison ministry and what you are doing. It will help us collect ideas for others who want to do prison ministry in their area. Email dave@cemlife.com or call 814-558-8380.

One question that came up at our board meeting was, “How will disaffiliation effect our ministry?”. Part of the answer is: as we are an independent non-profit organization already, those who disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church should have little effect. They are welcome to continue or to begin involvement with our organization. We will receive financial resources and volunteers from individuals or churches regardless of denominational affiliation who would like to support prison ministry. We welcome and will help anyone wanting to begin ministry with those who are incarcerated in Western Pennsylvania.

Prison Outreach Ministry

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Thank you for your ongoing
and faithful support

Contact us at:

www.wpapom.org

W PA Conference Advance Special

Your church can contribute
to the Prison Ministry
Our # is CC003300

Prison Outreach Ministry





Randy Datsko is our Missionary Director who not only leads studies in Loretto but can also be scheduled to speak to your church or organization by calling our office at 814-849-2612 or by calling him directly at 814-659-7562.

Please consider becoming a monthly supporter of WPA Prison Outreach Ministry

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