

The Social Ministry Committee met for the 2nd time in 2022, on Tuesday, April 26th. Attending were eight members: Delores Reenock, Elena Lalik, LeAnn Chandler, Pat Held, Nancy Xander, Betty Krupa, Margaret Zimmerman, and Nancy Miller.

In the absence of Cindy Kocher, LeAnn led the discussions and planning, until the speaker, Denise Martinez, along with her husband Ted Martinez, and friend/formerly homeless man Braheem arrived.

Denise is the organizer, and CEO of the newly formed 501C non profit organization **Caring (DAM) Hearts**, located both in Allentown and now Slatington near the Huckster (DAM refers to her initials). Nancy Miller currently is a Thursday volunteer.

Denise informed us of her mission/ministry, to help the less fortunate - including the homeless, and veterans; she also shared her history of being a survivor of serious health issues, and also mental manipulation. The Slatington "store", Caring Hearts, focuses on **GIVING @ no charge**, donated clothing, donated hygiene items, and donated misc. household items to **ANYONE** who has a need and goes to the "store". Recently several victims of fire damage took advantage of this ministry. Denise and her organization are aware of, and work with, various other organizations that focus on outreach/homeless needs, such as Conference of Churches, the Ripple Community, and the winter housing at the Y in Allentown, etc etc., as well as St. Luke's/ LVHN street ministry to the homeless in Allentown.*** A future endeavor is to work with patients after bariatric surgery, to provide interim clothing as their bodies change with weight loss.

***As an outreach project, **Social Ministry would like to support the local needs for Caring Hearts by hosting a collection for hygiene items** - (toothpaste, mouthwash, bug repellent, batteries, flashlights, shampoo- to name a few). during May and June. ?? possibly later in the year as well. These items are quickly depleted from the store - food stamps do not cover personal supplies.

Other items discussed were a July worship service @ Gracedale, (date to be firmed up by Nancy Miller after communicating with Gracedale and also Bob Small). Nancy will work with Bob on creating a bulletin for the residents for the service.

The birthday party/picnic on August 13 will be further planned @ the June 28th meeting. Marge Zimmerman will apply for Thrivent \$\$ for this event.

Nancy Miller
Secretary for April