

***December 2015 Newsletter***  
***CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES***



*Nativity*

***UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST***

***WORSHIP 10:45 AM***

***336 Barnett Avenue***  
***Waynesboro, PA 17268 – 0288***

***(717)762-4113***

***Website: [www.apostlesucc.com](http://www.apostlesucc.com)***  
***E-mail: [ApostlesUCC@gmail.com](mailto:ApostlesUCC@gmail.com)***

## **From the Pastor's Study December 2015**

It is the season of Christmas again and for many people thoughts turn towards home. Ideally home is the place where we know we are loved. It is the place where we have found comfort and peace, as well as physical and emotional support. Home is the place where our needs are met. As the saying goes, "*Home is where the heart is.*" But for many people, especially children, home has been anything but a place of security and well-being. It has been a place of violence, a place of injury, a place of insecurity.

A few weeks ago eight of us from Apostles visited Hoffman Homes for Youth. Establish over a hundred years ago as an orphanage, today Hoffman Homes is a place of refuge and recovery for children who have come from homes where there is anything but a loving, supportive environment. The range of injury to the children who find their way to Hoffman Homes is physical and emotional or both, moderate to severe.

We saw few children during our Saturday morning visit. Most of the children were inside their residence, a few played basketball outside. But we did see evidence of their presence. We saw the animals they care for and find comfort in through the animal therapy program. We toured the art department filled with colorful, joyful artistic expressions from children who still can express joy through art despite having been physically and emotionally wounded. We visited the gymnasium with its beautiful wall murals of children laughing and playing sports.

We heard the stories of some of the 240 children who come and go from Hoffman throughout the year. Although the average stay for a child is nine months, one child because of the severity of their emotional injuries remains there after two years. Another child who had progressed and was ready to return home suddenly began to digress. As suspected their digression was purposeful so that they might remain at Hoffman Homes; the place where they had found safety, a place where they knew they were loved.

Being so close to Christmas the same question was on the minds of **those of us who were visitors that day**; *“Do the kids get to go home to be with their families for Christmas?” “What about the kids who can’t go home for Christmas. What do they do for Christmas?”* We were told that some children do go home for Christmas. Some have family members who come to Hoffman to visit. For the children who must stay at Hoffman for Christmas it is the best place for them. They will have their own special time of celebration together opening gifts and sharing a meal.

We were told that sometimes a child arrives at Hoffman Homes the week of Christmas. I think all of us who heard those words were struck with sadness at the thought of any child being placed in an institution the week of Christmas. As sad as that might seem, it is fortunate that a place like Hoffman Homes exists where a child can find a place of refuge, a place of peace, a place that will properly care for them and help them to heal.

**I once heard someone refer to their home as their “sanctuary”.** We often only think of a sanctuary as the place in a church where worship services are held. However churches today, as they have been throughout history, are a place of sanctuary for people fleeing from persecution and danger. Today over two dozen churches in the United States are known as Sanctuary Churches. They defy federal law and offer protection for illegal immigrants who are in **danger of being deported.** The word *“sanctuary”* derives from a Latin word that means a container to keep holy things inside. A sanctuary is a safe place for keeping holy things and people; a place of holiness and safety. So you can see how one might think of their home as their sanctuary. For many of us our home is a place where we feel safe from the outside world. It is a place we retreat to for protection and comfort surrounded by the things and the people who are holy to us.

Hoffman Homes for Youth, although not a church is a sanctuary; a place of refuge for children; “holy people” in need of protection. But there is another place of refuge that all of God’s people have been given; it is a sanctuary like no other earthly sanctuary. That place of refuge, that sanctuary that is available to all of us is Christ. God has given us a place of rest, a place to run to, a place of peace and safety in his son Jesus. No earthly building, no human being on earth could ever provide us with the depth of compassion and caring as Christ. He is the place we find shelter, he is the place where we are known for who we really are. Because Christ once lived among us, he knows what it is like to live in this world we live in. He too often sought a place of refuge from this troubled world.

It is the season of Christmas again. Let us not forget in the business of this season to give thanks to God for his son born in a most unlikely sanctuary, a stable surrounded by humble animals, safe and protected from those who wished to do him harm.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Michael

“...Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” –Luke 2:12b



## Recent Baptisms

Last month during our Sunday worship service Nevin and Sondra Monn were welcomed into the church universal, the body of Christ, through the sacrament of baptism. We give thanks that Nevin and Sondra chose to make this important decision in their faith journey.

## New Members

The church welcomed four new members to the congregation during a special part of our Sunday worship last month. Tracey, Wally, Sondra and Nevin took vows of membership before the congregation making them official members of the congregation of the Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ. We welcome them, are grateful for their decision to join the church and look forward to the many gifts they will continue to share with the church.



***Birthdays  
&  
Anniversaries  
in  
December***



15 Shirley Zeigler

**Calendar of Events  
December**

- 5 Hospital Auxiliary Greens Sale  
8 AM - 12:30 PM
- 6 Worship 10:45 AM  
Hanging of the Greens Service
- 13 Worship 10:45 AM
- 13 Christmas Caroling
- 14 Social Seniors 2-4 PM  
at Trinity State Line
- 16 College Club 6 - 10PM
- 15 Silver Express Delivery 1 :30 PM
- 20 Worship 10:45 AM
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM
- 27 Church Growth Com. 9:15 AM
- 27 Worship 10:45 AM



Weight Watchers meets every  
Tuesday at 5 PM  
and Wednesday at 9 AM

Al Anon meets every Thursday

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in December*

## Lay Readers

The scriptures will be given to you the week before you are scheduled to read.

***No assigned readers  
for  
December.***



***The Nursery is Available if Needed.***



## Ushers & Greeters

December 6: Bob & Trudy Stum

December 13: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

December 20: Tony & Donna Haugh

December 27: Bob Benchoff & Randy Cramer



## Communion Assistants

December 27: Bob & Trudy Stum,  
Bob Benchoff





## Social Seniors

Trinity State Line will host Social Seniors  
on Monday, December 14,  
2015 from 2:00 until 4:00 PM.

## Church Staff & Committees



**Pastor:** *Michael Cromer* Home: 717-776-7612  
Cell: 717-816-2940  
Email: [mcromerm@aol.com](mailto:mcromerm@aol.com)

**Church Office:** 762-4113 Email: [apostlesucc336@embarqmail.com](mailto:apostlesucc336@embarqmail.com)  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday - Friday 8:30 AM – 3 PM

**Secretary:** *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

**Volunteer Financial Secretary:** *Judy Fitz* 762-4028

**Treasurer:** *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

**Choir Director:**

**Organist:** *Jim Heefner* 765-9534

**Consistory President:** *Randy Cramer* 717- 387-1657

**Vice-President:** *Jean High* 762-7794

**Altar Guild:** *Danny & Laurie Deavers* 717-655-5078

**Archive:** *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

**Christian Education:**

**Christian Outreach:**

**Lay, Life, & Work:** *Linda Hovis* 762-7350

**Outdoor Ministry:** *Bob Benchoff* 749-5202

**Property:** *Bruce Barr* (301) 824-2849

**Spiritual Council:** *Randy Cramer* (717)387-1657

**Spiritual Council Vice-Chair:** *Dave Patterson* 762-1452

**Stewardship & Finance:** *Donna Haugh & Jean High*



# Holiday Calendar

December 6	Second Sunday in Advent. Hanging of the Greens service.
December 13	Third Sunday in Advent. Christmas caroling for shut-ins.
December 20	Fourth Sunday in Advent.
December 24	Christmas Eve candlelight service 7 PM.

## Nativities on Display

If you have a favorite nativity you would like to share please bring it to church and put it on display along with others beginning Dec. 6. You may take it home whenever you like.



## Christmas Caroling

On December 13 after our worship service, and a brief lunch, we will go Christmas caroling at the homes of members who are unable to attend church. We should be back at the church in about two hours. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve candlelight service at Apostles will begin at 7:00 PM. As in previous years it will be a time of worship, special music, readings, and something special presented by the children. Share the joy of this special service by inviting and bringing a friend with you this year that might not be able to attend on their own.





## December Communion

Communion will be held on the last Sunday in December. The reason being is that most Sundays in December are packed with additional activities related to Christmas.

## A Christmas Gift for Nelwin

Our children have once again made Christmas cards and filled a box with candy for Nelwin, the boy we sponsor in the Philippines. Last year he sent us a picture of himself and the candy he received.

## Mitten Tree

We will once again collect gloves, mittens, knit hats, and scarves for Waynesboro Human Services to distribute to people in our community in need of winter wear. Our "Mitten Tree" will be in the narthex as usual. In the past we have collected close to 100 items.



## Blessed to be a Blessing

Before the month is over the church should be able to send checks to those charities that were chosen by the congregation to receive a portion of the gift the church received from Peggy Cluck's estate. Those charities selected by the congregation are St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Hoffman Homes for Youth, The Way Station, The Lunch Place, New Hope Shelter, and Save the Children. It is interesting to note that half of the charities the congregation chose to tithe to specifically serve the needs of children. What a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas by being a blessing to others.



## Our “*Silver Express*” Senior Food Delivery Program Needs Your Help!

Non-perishable food donations are need for the 3rd Tuesday each month.

Food can be placed in the hallway closet at any time;

boxed & canned food of all kinds, even Spam!

Want more info? Ask Linda H - Judy F - Donna H - Donna L - Mary Lou M

**Thanks for your support!**

## Thank You

I was surprised to be honored on the fifth year of my ordination during the annual dinner. Your gift of gift certificates for the Totem Pole Theater was much appreciated. Thank you for your cards and kind words spoken during the meal, the Pastor’s Cross, as well as the cake and ice cream.

Pastor Michael

Thank You

## 2016 Offering Envelopes

In 2016 we will be using extra boxes of offering envelopes from previous years. This means the date on the envelopes will be off by a day or two. You will receive credit on your tax statement for the actual day your donation was made, regardless of the date on the envelope.

Your envelope number may also change.





## Nancy M. Luick Obituary

Mrs. Nancy M. (Miller) Luick, 70, of Waynesboro, PA, passed away early Saturday, November 7, 2015 in her home.

Born May 18, 1945 in Waynesboro, PA, she was the only child born to the late Arthur R. and Mary (Cordell) Miller.

She graduated with the class of 1963 from Waynesboro High School.

She was employed as an executive secretary at Pacific Beach Bank in California, Citizens Bank of Waynesboro, and was employed as a secretary for many years for Ronnie Martin Realty Co. and Edward Jones, both of Waynesboro.

She married William G. Luick, and they moved to California for several years and decided to return to Waynesboro to be closer to family.

She was an active member of Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ, where she helped out where ever needed, and often prepared food for the churches pot luck dinners. In her early adult years, she was very active in the Girl Scouts as a leader as well as serving on the neighborhood council. She loved the outdoors and took hikes in the woods with her husband, whenever she had the opportunity. Attending summer concerts and other events at Renfrew Park brought her much pleasure.

She was a wonderful, giving lady and a beloved wife to her husband, William G. "Bill" Luick, who will miss her greatly.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Stacey R. Keesee, and her husband, Brad of Fort Stewart in Hinesville, GA, a grandson, John W. "Bill" Spurlock, Jr., and his wife, Tanairi, of Fort Lewis, WA, two great-grandchildren: Katherina and Eloy, both of Fort Lewis, a step-son, James A. "Jim" Luick, and his wife, Fernanda of Orange County, CA, and a step-granddaughter, Kaylee, a dear cousin, Jere Cordell and his wife, Sandy of San Diego, CA, and her faithful canine companion, her Yorkie, Tanna Bean.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Terry Lynn Valentine, who died at birth.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 12, 2015 in the Church of the Apostles, UCC, 336 Barnett Ave., Waynesboro, with Rev. Michael Cromer officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the church, Church of the Apostles U.C.C., 336 Barnett Ave., Waynesboro, PA 17268.

Scotland Campus



Where Faith Comes to Life

# A Classical Christmas Concert

With Baritone Luke Spurgeon & Violinist Madison Marcucci

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*Join us at the Scotland Campus Chapel of the Nations*  
Scotland, Pennsylvania

**Friday, December 11, 2015**

**An Informal Concert of Christmas Classics,  
Holiday Favorites, and Violin Performances 2:00 pm**  
*Featuring the James Buchanan High School Chorus*

**An Evening of Classical Vocal  
& Instrumental Music 7:00 pm**  
*With the Dickens Singers*

Ticket Price: \$10 at the Door (Student Price: \$5)  
Tickets also available online at [scotlandclassicalchristmas.eventbrite.com](http://scotlandclassicalchristmas.eventbrite.com)

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3583 Scotland Rd, Scotland, PA 17254. (717) 552-2220.  
[office.scotland@wtsconference.com](mailto:office.scotland@wtsconference.com) [www.Scotlandcampus.com](http://www.Scotlandcampus.com)



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SAYS

# Thank You!

To the members of

**CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC, WAYNESBORO**


For your 2014 contribution of

**\$4,000.00**

For Basic Support of

**Our Church's Wider Mission**

**Changing Lives**



Geoffrey A. Black  
General Minister and President,  
United Church of Christ



Conference Minister  
Penn Central Conference  
Rev. Ken Heasley



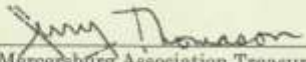
God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



## Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is awarded to:  
**Church of the Apostles, Waynesboro**  
for  
100% Payment of Your  
2014 Church Assessment  
to the Mercersburg Association

  
Mercersburg Association Treasurer  
November 8, 2015

  
Mercersburg Association President  
November 8, 2015

## “Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their  
bowls!



Donations for this month  
will be delivered **December 15.**

All canned/boxed food on the shelves will be delivered  
each month to ensure freshness.





**THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES  
336 BARNETT AVENUE  
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268-0288**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Please forward an address change to the Church office.*



# **December 2015**

## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We are called together to worship God, united by the Holy Spirit, and chosen as instruments of our Lord's purpose to teach, support and serve all people. We witness to the church, the community and the world by showing joy in the faith and using our talents to praise God.*