

January 2015 Newsletter
CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP - 10:45 AM

336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268 – 0288

(717)762-4113

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E-mail: ApostlesUCC@gmail.com

From the Pastor's Study January 2015

It is the beginning of a new year and the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. If we were to know what this year will bring we might be afraid to enter into it. Who could have imagined the unsettling events of last year; renewed racial tension and violence, the evil, unthinkable acts of the terrorist group ISIS, the natural disasters, a plane full of passengers gone with no trace, thousands of deaths from the Ebola virus, the continuation of wars, refugees by the thousands fleeing their countries, and the ever present existence of ignorance, want and poverty.

And then there were our personal challenges; sickness, financial difficulties, death, caring for the aged and as Christians a world that has little interest **in the church or God as an answer to the world's overwhelming problems.**

And yet, as people of faith, we continue to believe in our God who is just and merciful, good and caring, and aware of our suffering and our every need. And because of what we believe we continue to move forward as one in Christ into another new year knowing that God will not desert us, nor will he ever abandon his people. Despite the overwhelming woes of the world there were still many things that continued to bring us hope for the future; the birth of babies, improved relationships between people, more awareness of the needs of the poor, better understanding of those with mental health issues, our awareness and care of the poor through charitable gifts of concerned and caring people.

Much of the misery of this world is of our own doing. Much of the misery of the world stems from our own personal misery and unhappiness. Dictators drag entire nations of people down through their personal greed and misery and the desire for something more to elevate their power. Miserable individuals attempt to drag everyone around them down to their level of discontent. And yet most misery and sadness of this world need not exist because of the hope of a child born in Bethlehem whose birthday we just celebrated. Have we already forgotten his effect on the world? The hope he represents. God so loved us that he sent us a Savior to save us not from God but from ourselves! And yet many who profess to love him and follow him are still unhappy.

I was talking to an older German lady who I have known for many years. And we were talking about how many people we encountered over the Christmas season that were miserable; friends, family members, acquaintances, people in stores. And she said something that is true *“Being joyful, hopeful, optimistic, having a positive outlook on life and the future is a choice.”* It may not be an easy choice, but still it is a choice. It is also a choice to be angry, bitter, pessimistic and negative about this world and the life God has blessed us with. It is a choice. What do we accomplish by wallowing in misery and despair? How have we made a positive difference in the world when all we do is complain and wring our hands with worry?

I do fully understand that being grateful, that keeping a positive outlook, that being optimistic is not always easy. But we do have help to maintain an attitude about life that is positive, uplifting and life changing. That help is the presence of Christ in our lives and the power and the ever present presence of the Holy Spirit to guide us, to encourage us, to help us achieve what seems unachievable especially in dire circumstances. Unfortunately, many of us, including myself a pastor, often forget that source of help God has given us. Perhaps we forget because we still find it hard to believe that God could have bestowed such gifts upon us. Or perhaps we find it hard to believe in **something we can't see but exists in spirit only. Or maybe we think we aren't** worthy of such a gift.

As we begin a new year, I encourage you to take advantage of all the gifts God has given us that help us to live joyfully and with hope in this ever changing and often difficult world. Call on the Holy Spirit in times of need to **comfort you, to help you make decisions that you can't make on your own.** I ask you to carry the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of Christ in your heart throughout the new year and see what a difference it makes in your life. Allow the star of Bethlehem to guide you to the Light of the World, as it did for those seeking a better life over 2,000 years ago.

I often return to a scripture that gives me comfort when the world seems so ugly and is getting me down. It is from a letter written by the Apostle Paul to

the Philippians, “...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

We all have the ability to lift up or tear down, to make a positive difference in the world or add to its misery. Be kind to one another and if you find you have not been kind go to that person and apologize and ask for their forgiveness. **We have all said and done things we shouldn't have in a moment of unthinking. It isn't as important that we live perfect lives, only Christ was perfect, but that we are mindful of our shortcomings, our imperfections and continue to strive to improve ourselves and correct ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit. Remember Jesus, think of the kind of man he was; kind, gentle, humble, forgiving, understanding compassionate and yet still strong and committed to God. Strive to be more like him.**

I close with the words, a prayer for you, written by Paul to the **Ephesians, “...I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that your being rooted and grounded in love may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.**

In Christian Love,
Happy New Year, Pastor Michael



Church of the Apostles

Elders and Deacons

2014 - 2015

Elders

Randy Cramer	Jean High
Dave Patterson	Martha Smith

Deacons

Trudy Stum	Donna Levick
Nancy Dinterman	Brian Jacobs

Church Leadership
Elders & Deacons



Altar Flowers

There is a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board in the Narthex for those wishing to donate altar flowers. Flowers can be purchased or provided from your own garden. If you purchased flowers and would like the purchase to be credited as a donation, place the receipt in a white envelope with your name and church envelope number in the upper right hand corner. You can place this envelope in the offering plate. If you want to supply flowers, but are unable to make the purchase, contact Nancy Dinterman at 762-3735. Flowers may also be ordered through **Above the Rest Florist** at 762-8181. The cost is around \$35 for two vases that will be delivered to the church Sunday morning at no extra cost.

Birthdays & Anniversaries in January



2 Arianna Taylor
4 Gretchen Baumgardner
24 Amy Dingle
24 Danny Deavers
24 Robert and Betty Lynerd
25 Holly Berkey
28 Bruce and Maude Barr

Calendar of Events January

4 Worship	10:45 AM
11 Worship	10:45 AM
11 Consistory	12:15 PM
12 Social Seniors at Trinity State Line	2 - 4 PM
12 Buchanan Trail Quilters	5:30 PM
18 Worship	10:45 AM
20 Silver Express Delivery	1:30 PM
25 Worship	10:45 AM
31 Buchanan Trail Quilters	9AM - 3 PM



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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in January*

Lay Readers

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

January 4: Donna Haugh

January 11: Bob Stum

January 18: Judy Fitz

January 25: Randy Cramer



The Nursery is Available if Needed.

Acolytes

The youth in our church will acolyte.

If they are unavailable, then the
Pastor or another congregant will bring
"The Light of Our Lord"
into the sanctuary.



Ushers & Greeters

January 4: Tony & Donna Haugh

January 11: Bob & Trudy Stum

January 18: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

January 25: Randy Cramer &
Bob Benchoff

Communion Assistants

January 4: Tony & Donna Haugh,
Judy Fitz

February 1: Bob & Trudy Stum,
Ernie Fitz

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be held on January 12
at Trinity State Line.

Refreshments will be enjoyed following the program.

Church Staff & Committees



Pastor: *Michael Cromer* Home: 717-776-7612
Cell: 717-816-2940
Email: mcromerm@aol.com

Church Office: 762-4113 Email: 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*

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this Christmas season meaningful and beautiful. From the decorations, to participants in the Christmas Eve service, to those who cared for the poinsettias, who helped with the Christmas tree, to those who donated funds and gloves and mittens, who purchased SERRV items, who caroled for shut ins, who visited the sick, who delivered food and gifts and flowers, who bought gifts for the children at Hoffman Homes, for those who helped put everything away for another season of Christmas.



Thank You from the Pastor

Thank you for the cards, the many pounds of chocolate, the cookies, and other gifts you bestowed upon me during the Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

Thanks so much to my church family for the Christmas gift. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Judy Fitz

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the congregation for your generous Christmas gift. God bless you all.

Jim Heefner

Thank You so much for your generous staff gift to both of us. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Dan & Linda
Ritchey

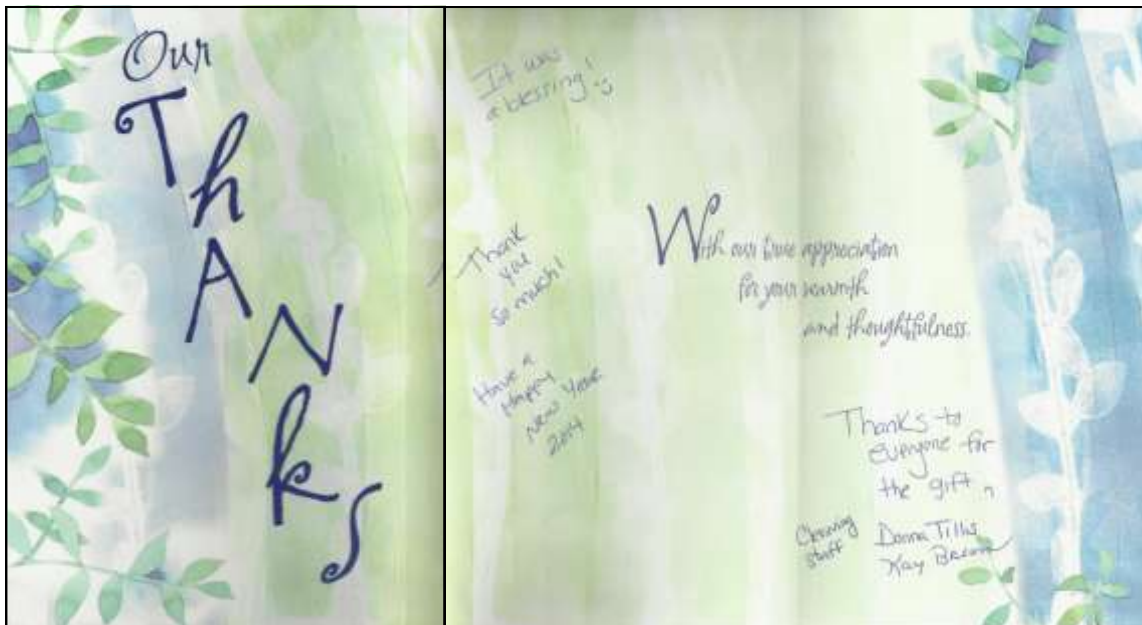


Valentine Party

Tom Jolin and his clog dancing troupe will join us again on February 8 for a Valentine's themed party that will include a community potluck followed by music and dancing by Tom and company. Bring a covered dish or desert to share. Over the years this has been one of our most enjoyable and fun events. Plan now to invite a friend to come and share the afternoon with us. This is a great afternoon of fun for kids as well. The potluck will begin at noon and the music at 1:00. A love offering will be taken for the musicians.

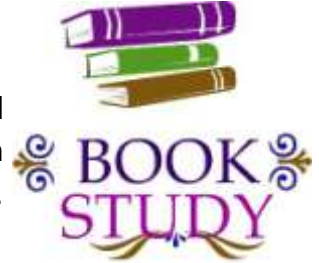
Special Note: Bring an unaddressed but signed Valentine card.

Thanks from our Sextons



Winter Book Study

Neither a date nor a book has yet been decided for our winter book study group that usually meets on Tuesday mornings. More information will be forthcoming. See Pastor Michael if you are interested.



New Member

We welcome Larry Little as a new member of Church of the Apostles through membership transfer.

The Mitten Tree

Around 36 pair of gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves were hung on the mitten tree this year. All items were donated to the Waynesboro Human Services. Thanks to Eric Jacobs for counting the donations and bagging them up for delivery.



Inclement Weather on Sundays



We are now in the season of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. If you are not certain whether or not we will be having a worship service on a Sunday when the roads may be hazardous, please check the churches answering machine or you can always call Bob Benchoff on Sunday morning. His number is 377-4729.

The success of our children starts with YOU!

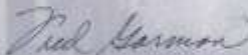
One thing remains constant here at Hoffman Homes and that is the faces of so many children who are here for treatment that have been traumatized in the past by experiencing sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and poor living conditions. These factors in a child's life contribute to feelings of hopelessness. These children have been diagnosed with a mental illness and are in need of treatment. They come to us without coping skills or a plan to overcome their individual issues. To cope, some hurt themselves or others and have tried to commit suicide. Others are not successful in school and have trouble forming and maintaining positive meaningful relationships. They do not trust adults and have many behavioral issues due to these past experiences. Some people call these children who suffer while living with a mental illness "crazy or bad kids". In order to alleviate this stigma, we as a society must accept that a person or child who has a mental illness is not crazy or bad and they can be helped. In essence, we all need to take responsibility for our children to ensure that they can fulfill their God given potential and remove the stigma.

Here at Hoffman Homes we do just that through acceptance, understanding and most importantly, care and treatment that gives the children we serve a sense of hope. Hope for a future, hope to reunite with their family and not be abused anymore, and hope to experience love and happiness. Please take the time to read this mother and daughter story of how important Hoffman Homes was to them. How she as a mother took responsibility to seek help for her daughter. After reading these testimonials, realize the potential for other children to experience the same success. It is our responsibility to make a difference so please support our efforts to help these children. Please give generously and partner with us to so that our children can hope for a better future.

Send to:

Hoffman Homes for Youth
Annual Appeal
815 Orphanage Road

Sincerely,



Fred Garman
Vice President of Development
Hoffman Homes for Youth

*Yes, I do want to **help** the kids at Hoffman Homes for Youth succeed!*

Hoffman Homes for Youth is a psychiatric residential treatment program for children and is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My Gift

Enclosed is my fully tax-deductible gift: (checks payable to Hoffman Homes for Youth)

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Surprise Me! _____

Please charge my gift of \$ _____ to my credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV code _____

My Pledge

I would like to pledge an annual amount of

\$ _____ with a payment schedule of:

☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Biannually

First payment _____
Month/Day/Year

Planned Giving

- ☐ I have made provisions for Hoffman Homes for Youth within my estate.
☐ I would like information about making a planned gift.



Peggy Cluck Obituary

Margaret L. "Peggy" (Metz) Cluck, 96, of 167 N. Oller Ave., Waynesboro, died Sunday morning, Dec. 14, 2014, in her home. Born Oct. 11, 1918, in Chambersburg, PA, she was the daughter of the late John B. and Margaret (Leshner) Metz. She was a lifelong resident of the Waynesboro area. Following her mother's death at the age of 8 she was raised by her father, while living with aunt and uncle, the late Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Rives.

Mrs. Cluck graduated from Waynesboro High School with the class of 1936. She later graduated with the Class of 1940 from Hood College, Frederick, MD, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and attended Shippensburg State Teachers College for one year, where she received her teaching certificate.

She and her husband, the late Glen E. Cluck, were married on June 12, 1965. They moved to their present residence in 1972. Mr. Cluck died on March 16, 2010.

Mrs. Cluck taught in the Waynesboro School District for over 35 years. She taught second grade at Zullinger Elementary School and later Hooverville Elementary School, until her retirement in 1977.

She was a member of the Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ, Waynesboro (originally St. Paul's Reformed Church), where she sang in the choir in her early life. She was a 50-year member of Mount Vernon Chapter 398 Order of the Eastern Star; a member of the Waynesboro College Club, Joe Stickell American Legion Post 15 Ladies Auxiliary, Hood College Alumni, Antietam Humane Society, NARFE Chambersburg Chapter 1063, South Chapter 2977 AARP and the National AARP. She was a life member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees and the Franklin County Chapter of Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees.

She is survived by a number of cousins.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, 2014, in the Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ, 336 Barnett Ave., Waynesboro, with Pastor Michael Cromer officiating. Burial will follow in Green Hill Cemetery, Waynesboro. An Eastern Star service will be held by the members of Mount Vernon Chapter 398 at the church, just prior to the religious service at 2 p.m. Thursday. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, Thursday afternoon, in the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ, 336 Barnett Ave., Waynesboro, PA 17268, or Antietam Humane Society, 8513 Lyons Road, Waynesboro, PA 17268. Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home, Waynesboro, is handling the arrangements.



Hoffman Homes for Youth

A Psychiatric Residential Treatment Program for Children
815 Orphanage Road, Littlestown, PA 17340
717-359-7148 • Fax 717-359-2600
www.hoffmanhomes.com

C. Mitchell Snider, MBA, Chief Executive Officer

December 4, 2014

Church of the Apostles, UCC
Pastor Michael Cromer
336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268

*Thank
you*

Dear Michael,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$100.00 dollars. It is greatly appreciated. Your generosity and support of our program is truly at the heart of all we do to help the children placed in our care. Because of you, we can continue to serve traumatized children and their families. Your gift will enable us provide the children with a loving, nurturing, and healthy place to live while they are receiving their treatment.

We are so lucky to have you as a donor. Donors like you make a significant impact on the quality of services that we can offer. Your support even extends to our creative therapy programs, which change the lives of our children forever.

We hope you will contact us for a tour of our facility and we welcome the chance to answer any questions you might have about our programs. Please do not hesitate to call me at 359-7148 ext.4501 or email me at fgarman@hoffmanhomes.com. Also, please check out our website at www.hoffmanhomes.com. Additionally, we will update you on all the good your gift is doing via our bi-annual newsletter.

All of us here at Hoffman Homes for Youth really appreciate your support. Thank you again for helping to give these vulnerable children a place to learn, heal, and grow; and most importantly, a reason to hope!

Sincerely,

Fred Garman
Vice President of Development

*Our Friends
Wishing you
the blessings
of peace,
love and joy
this Christmas!*



*It so nice if you to sing
for us. Thank you & Happy
Christmas & New Year.
Jai's Martin*

**From
the
Residents
of
Trinity
House
Apartments**

“Silver Express” Food Bank

**Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!**



Donations for this month
will be delivered **January 20.**



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.



January 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.