

July 2015 Newsletter
CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



Future site for our Peace Pole
Photo courtesy of Trey Gelbach

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP - 10 AM

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Waynesboro, PA 17268 – 0288

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From the Pastor's Study July 2015

A few weeks ago our consistory president Randy Cramer and I attended the annual Penn Central conference at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. The event was attended by more than three hundred people from United Church of Christ churches from the central regions of the state Pennsylvania. Those in attendance included clergy, lay people, children, guest speakers, professors from Lancaster Theological Seminary and even a service dog. The conference gives me the opportunity to reconnect with people I know from other churches as well as people I knew from my three years at Lancaster seminary. For people like Randy, who were attending conference for the first time, it is an opportunity for them to better understand the United Church of Christ; what it believes, what it is doing in the world, and what its plans are for the future.

Every day there are meetings called "plenaries" a word I had never heard until the first time I attended conference. Conference was the first time Randy heard the word as well. It is a word he, like I, have come to dislike. In fact, **the week after the conference Randy said he didn't care if he ever heard the word again. I agreed. A "plenary" is a session during a conference which is open for** contribution from all attending speakers. Plenary sessions are usually held at the beginning of a conference, in the latter half, and at the end. They may contain a broad range of content from keynote speeches to panel discussions. All of this is of course necessary but it can feel like a consistory meeting that goes on forever depending on how interesting the speaker and the topics. Beyond plenaries there are other activities such as walking a labyrinth, shopping for books and SERRV items and various workshops or seminars.

As with every conference I have attended much of the weekend discussion was how about how to grow the church, attract new people, keep new people, attract children with the hope of filling the pews and Sunday school rooms. Randy and I attended an all-day seminar on Friday about growing the church based on a **book called "Real Good Church" by Rev. Molly Baskette who led the seminar. Her** church located in Boston has grown tremendously due to a number of actions they have taken to bring their church back from the brink of death. Of course what works in Boston, dubbed the hippest city in America, might not work in south central Pennsylvania.

One of the most significant changes made in the Boston church was becoming ONA. By doing so the congregation lost three people and gained 1,200! Yes, 1,200 new people; hard to believe. What is ONA? In United Church of Christ language, **that means “Open and Affirming”**. A church that declares itself **“Open and Affirming”** is publicly saying they welcome gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender persons in the church’s life and ministry. There are more than 1,200 congregations in the United Church of Christ that are ONA.

Not everyone in the United Church of Christ supports ONA. A number of congregations have left the denomination because of its stand on this social issue. There is a church in this community that left the UCC because of this issue. There are 75 congregations that have identified themselves as not ONA but churches **that are “Faithful and Welcoming”** which affirms marriage is between a man and a woman.

It is sad to me that any church should have to declare itself welcoming to *all* people. The Christian church, an institution that began and grew out of the life and teachings of Christ, should as Christ did, welcome all people no matter who **they are, who they were, no matter where they’ve been in life**. Unfortunately many people, especially people considered to be outside what is considered normal or acceptable by society often do not feel welcome in the church. Beside the LGBT community they would include people with handicaps, mental illness, people living in poverty, people of different ethnicity, people who have served time in prison.

Welcoming people who are different especially from the LGBT community does not mean you just *tolerate* them. It means you *accept* them for who they are, unconditionally. There is no judgement, no criticism, not condemnations, just loving acceptance in the same way Christ would have accepted them.

I offer this information to you with the hope that you might think about church today, not how church used to be, but the church in the year 2015. There are many reason people have little or no interest in the church. It is a complicated **problem that didn’t happen overnight**. But the church as a place of judgmental, non-accepting, self-righteous people is still strong in the mind of many people. Many people have been hurt by the church, wounded deeply. The fact that over a thousand people began attending services at the church in Boston indicates just how many people wanted to be a part of a church but felt unwelcome, or unworthy.

One of the topics I frequently hear discussed among people associated with the church is that the church and its people need to stop pretending they are without flaws. None of us are. All of us, even our ministers, are broken people who have past histories and present issues in our lives we do not want others to know about. We need to start being real with one another and admit that all of us are broken in some way and are in need of a Savior.

Lately the topic of race and the various types of discrimination is in the **news every day. Didn't we already deal with those issue years ago? Yes, to a degree but not entirely.** It is an issue that will and should always be talked about. It is my belief that if we are honest with ourselves, all of us, including myself, carry feelings of discrimination with in us. It is my belief that those feelings are based in fear and deeply rooted in our ancient past; originally a way of protecting ourselves from people who we felt might be a threat to our survival. God has given us the ability to think and to talk and work out our problems and differences. If we are willing to do so we find that what we have in common is greater than our differences. An important step in resolving our fears, prejudices, **and discrimination towards others is to remember that all people are God's people; all people, not just people who are like us, but all people are a part of God's diverse creation.**

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

"My friends, if you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, you won't treat some people better than others. Suppose a rich person wearing fancy clothes and a gold ring comes to one of your meetings. And suppose a poor person dressed in worn out clothes also comes. You must not give the best seat to the one in fancy clothes and tell the one who is poor to stand at the side or sit on the floor. This is the same as saying that some people are better than others, and you would be acting like a crooked judge."

"You will do right if you obey the most important law in the scriptures. It is the law that commands us to love others as much as we love ourselves. But if you treat some people better than others, you have done wrong, and the scriptures teach that you have sinned." –James 2:1-4, 8-9 (The Contemporary English Version Bible)



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.

***Birthdays
&
Anniversaries
in
July***



- 7/2 Debbie Jacobs
7/4 Keira Lux
7/10 Heather and Shawn Shatzer
7/16 Connor Jacobs
7/24 Shelley Benchoff
7/27 Cherry Snyder
7/30 Maggie Shatzer
7/30 Katie Lux

**Calendar of Events
July**

- 5 Outdoor Worship 10 AM
8 Buchanan Trail Quilters 5:30 PM
12 Worship 10 AM
12 Simple Gifts Concert 1:30 PM
19 Worship 10 AM
21 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
26 Worship 10 AM
26 Church Growth Com. 11 AM



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

Al Anon meets every Thursday
from 8-9 PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in July*

Lay Readers

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

No assigned readers

for

July and August.



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

July 5: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

July 12: Nevin & Sondra Monn

July 19: Tony & Donna Haugh

July 26: Bob & Trudy Stum

Pastor's Vacation



Pastor Michael will leave for Bethany Beach, De. on July 19. He will be back in the office on July 28. If you need help with a personal matter during that time please call one of the deacons or elders.

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: *Reg Rice*
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*

Simple Gifts Concert and Community Potluck

Last year the church received a grant from the York Council of the Arts. The money we received was to pay for a concert by the group Simple Gifts. Simple Gifts is described as two women playing twelve instruments performing Romanian, Klezmer, Greek, Irish, Scottish, Appalachian music and more.



The women from the State College area have played all over the East coast in places like the Smithsonian Institute, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. Simple Gifts will play at our 10:00 AM service on July 12. A potluck will follow at noon with a free concert at 1:30. On July 13 they will perform at Hoffman Homes for Youth and later that day they will perform for the folks at Trinity House in Waynesboro. All three concerts were covered under the grant. Plan to support this event by attending some or all of the activities that day. Bring some food to share and bring friend.

Book Donations

Thanks to everyone who donated books for the UCC book drive. Randy Cramer delivered 400 children's books to the conference. Each association received two boxes of books to be distributed in a town within their association. Waynesboro was the recipient of the two boxes of books designated for the Mercersburg Association.



Blessed to be Blessing Survey

Thanks to everyone who returned survey cards indicating which charities you would like the church to tithe to out of our recent gift from the Peggy Cluck estate. Final tallying has not yet been completed.



Peace Pole Project

Some of the materials needed to install a Peace Pole in front of the church have arrived. They include panels that read “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in 8 different languages. We are still waiting on a cedar post that was special ordered for the pole.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY THANKS & SUMMER NEEDS

Thanks so much to everyone who adopted trees and areas to mulch, it all looks so beautiful ! A special thanks to Nevin & Sondra Monn, who adopted trees and also did the large beds along both sides of the church; and a special thanks to Donna Levick, who weeded, planted, edged and mulched the biblical garden, the bed under the cross, the Amsterdam road sign bed, and did the same with Bev Fitz & Mary Lou Misner for the Outdoor Activity Center beds. Thanks also to Donna, Nevin, Bev, Mary Lou & Pastor Michael for planting the sidewalk planters so attractively !

Volunteers are needed to help with watering the planters throughout the summer, especially if the summer is hot & dry.

Our sidewalks need cleaned ! We are looking for volunteers to help with this project. We'll be using buckets of bleach water, brooms & the hoses.

Please contact Bob Benchoff or Bruce Barr.



June 20, 2015

Church of the Apostles
336 Barnett Ave
Waynesboro, PA 17268-1810

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift of \$461.00 received on 6/8/2015 in support of the United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing.

As part of the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing you participate in lives transformed around the world and throughout the year. People's immediate needs are met in the most vulnerable situations of their lives - when impacted by disasters, uprooted by violence or experiencing poverty. You also are part of affected communities for the long term and in addressing the root causes of need because of the United Church of Christ's commitment to vital and sustained relationships.

Among diverse partner organizations is the OGHS-supported Foods Resource Bank. This grassroots organization focuses on the importance of smallholder farmers in addressing global hunger and poverty. The work is based on a local community's assets and is targeted to address the needs and desires of the farmers themselves.

This year, farmers in Nicaragua, gripped by a devastating drought are engaged in climate-smart agriculture. Because wet and dry seasons are no longer predictable, the traditional rhythms that guide planting and harvest are disrupted. When rain comes, it is increasingly likely to be in destructive torrents, causing flood damage.

Landowners in these Nicaraguan communities now address climate-associated threats through crop diversification and the rescue and use of indigenous seeds. Farmer field schools enable participants to test planting methods and to teach each other. Knowledge spreads. During recent years, families have built simple homes and reclaimed land that had been deforested, over-grazed and compacted. Green manure cover crops are improving depleted soils and protecting them from erosion and drought. Fruit trees are beginning to bear, as are coffee varieties resistant to the rust that has recently destroyed much of the harvest. Plantains and rice are becoming important crops along with traditional maize and beans.

As families become food secure, marketing is the next step. During the coming year, farmers will engage in training for organizing at the cooperative level in order to facilitate their working together and their ability to advocate on their own behalf.

Together in the Spirit,

Mary Schaller Blaufuss

Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss
UCC Global Sharing of Resources Team Leader

Thank you

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Wider Church Ministries
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

216-736-3215 or toll free 1.866.822.8224 Ext. 3215
Email: oghs@ucc.org * www.ucc.org/oghs

June 1, 2015

Dear Sponsors and Friends of the Church of the Apostles,

Hello everybody! How are you? Thank you very much for the candies, letter and beautiful drawing that you prepared and sent me. I just received them and I am very happy. My whole family enjoyed the candies and I will ask my mother to hang your drawing on our wall.

I am glad to share with you that our classes ended last March 25, 2015 and I was given a ribbon being one of the top 10 honors in our class. My mother pinned my ribbon. Our summer vacation is over and our classes started today. I am attending classes in Grade IV. I am happy to meet my old friends and also excited to have new classmates and teacher.

Last April 4-11, 2015 we had our Saturday Church School classes at Kalamnan. Our theme is "Creating a Better World for a Better Future". We sang the theme song and recited memory verses during the closing program held at the big Silliman University Church. Then during summer vacation, I had more time to help my mother in cleaning the house and also play baseball with my friends. Last May 25, I had my circumcision. It was done in one of the public school in the city and there were 28 of us who successfully undergone it.

Again, thank you for helping me in my school needs and also in taking time to write and draw something for me.



Your Sponsored child,
Nelwin



A
Letter
from
Nelwin



**Nelwin's
House**

**Nelwin
received the
letter and
Candy Canes
from Christmas**



**NELWIN ADLING
Kalauman, Dumaguete City
Philippines**

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



June 12, 2015

Church of the Apostles
336 Barnett Ave
Waynesboro, PA 17268-1810

Dear Church of the Apostles,

Thank you for your gift to Our Church's Wider Mission. We are deeply grateful for your congregation's gift.

Your support of OCWM permits us to provide for operating expenses, equip leaders, support clergy in ministry, foster healthy and vital congregations, advocate and witness for justice, respond to disasters and tragedies, send help around the world, and preach a welcoming and open understanding of Christian faith.

Thank you for your vital support and faithful partnership. Please accept our sincere thanks and good wishes.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Joseph Williams".

Cheryl Joseph Williams
Director of Philanthropy and Stewardship

COLLEGIUM OF OFFICERS
Rev. Geoffrey A. Black
GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo
JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

Rev. J. Bennett Guess
LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Rev. James A. Moos
WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

Thank You
from
the Reecher Family



The Reecher Family
would like to thank
everyone for the
kindness, flowers &
cards given to us
during our sadness.
It was much appreciated.
Lissie Reecher &
Family

Thank you sincerely
for sharing our sorrow.
Your kindness is
deeply appreciated and
will always be remembered.

“Silver Express” Food Bank

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



Donations for this month
will be delivered **July 21.**

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.



July 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.