

May2015 Newsletter
CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



Spring Clean Up!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP - 10:45 AM

336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268 – 0288

(717)762-4113

Website: www.apostlesucc.com
E-mail: ApostlesUCC@gmail.com

From the Pastor's Study May 2015

While thinking about what to write for the month of May newsletter, one of my favorite hymn's came to mind; *"This is God's Wondrous World"* or the less gender inclusive version; *"This is My Father's World"*. *"This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres."* May is here again with its warm days, blue skies and all of its budding and flowering beauty. The cold winter months, and the uncertain, fluctuating temperatures of April are behind us now. *"This is God's wondrous world, the birds their carols raise."* The morning is again filled with choirs of singing birds greeting a new day. *"...the morning light, the lily white, declare the Maker's praise."* The soil of our community garden plots has been turned over and some early planting has been done. Perennials are coming back to life, a miracle in itself. The buzz of lawn mowers can be heard amidst the squealing and shouting of children at play. *"Let the voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let the earth be glad."* People are on the move again planning and planting, and tending their own little pieces of paradise.

I am looking forward to this month not only because the winter has been colder and harsher than it has been in many years, but because May marks an end of what has been a long, harsh, stressful episode in my life and the life of my family. After three years of being involved in the life on my elderly parents and all the unimagined stressful, painful situations that that entailed, I can finally see the end in sight. I am about to get my life back and that feels good. The future feels brighter and more hopeful.

We all go through rough patches in our lives. It is unavoidable. Well, it is avoidable if we chose to not get involved and many people do chose that option. Those rough patches often concern the people we love, our family. We find ourselves in the middle of a situation we never dreamed we would be dealing with. As I said to someone a few Sunday's ago, *"If we knew what was coming down the road in our life, we'd run the other way."*

It is good that we don't know in advance what challenges lie ahead or how long they will last. If we did many of us would decide before they occurred that we aren't getting involved and much is lost in making in that decision.

But when we do face the challenges that come before us and accept them, when we chose not to run in the other direction, we find that the time we have spent in the situation becomes one of the greatest periods of growth in our lives. Despite the pain and stress, despite the frustration and the loss of our life for a while, we find we come out in the end, a different person, a changed person; changed for the better. We are more mature, more patient, a more understanding person. We often find we have more empathy for others than we once had. We have found new life within ourselves.

Spring is a season of the new life. It is symbolic of the hope that *always* comes at the end of a harsh season of cold and darkness. No matter what has come before, we know that a new, better season will come again; a season of new growth, new life, and new possibilities. And no event in the history of humankind has demonstrated that than the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The promise of new life, of a new beginning is a promise God has assured all of us. Let us rejoice in this season of new beginnings, and yes, let us give thanks for *all* the seasons of our life, even those that are difficult; for in every season there is wisdom to be gained, and lessons to be learned and new life to be discovered.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

"...for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..." Song of Solomon 2:11-12a

Book Donations for Children

Last year Pastor Michael took a car load of shoes to the annual conference. This year a request is being made to send a new or gently used children's book to conference. The books will then be redistributed to organizations in each of the associations of Penn Central conference. A box will be placed in the narthex to accept your donations.



ANNUAL MEETING MISSION PROJECT

This year, bring a Children's Book to annual meeting that you enjoy reading to children or have read to a child.

In conjunction with the UCC's all-church literacy initiative that was launched last year, we will be collecting children's books at annual meeting. **Reading Changes Lives**, is our denomination's response to the crippling literacy gap in the United States and around the world.



There will be donation boxes throughout Degenstein Center during the weekend.

After annual meeting, the books will be distributed to organizations in each of our eight associations.

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 May



9 Linda & Dan Ritchey
 13 Betty Yeakle
 17 Nancy Piper
 18 Nancy Luick
 18 Pastor Michael
 19 Mark and Katie Lux
 27 Jean High
 28 Mark Lux
 30 Nicole Leidig
 30 Ty and Holly Berkey

Calendar of Events May

3 Worship	10:45 AM
7 Buchanan Trail Quilters	5:30 PM
10 Worship	10:45 AM
11 Social Seniors at Apostles	2 - 4 PM
17 Worship	10:45 AM
17 Consistory	12:15 PM
21 Silver Express Delivery	1:30 PM
24 Worship	10:45 AM
31 Church Growth Com.	9:15 AM
31 Worship	10:45 AM



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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in May*

Lay Readers

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

May 3: Donna Haugh

May 10: Bob Stum

May 17: Pastor Michael

May 24: Debbie Jacobs

May 31: Laurie Deavers



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

May 3: Tony & Donna Haugh

May 10: Bob & Trudy Stum

May 17: Bruce Barr & Ernie Fitz

May 24: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

May 31: Danny & Laurie Deavers

Communion Assistants

May 3: Tony & Donna Haugh, Bob Stum

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be held at Church of the Apostles on May 11, from 2- 4 PM. The guest speaker will talk about the Titanic, have a replica of the ship and be dressed in a uniform that would have been worn by the ship's captain.

Refreshments will be served.

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*

Adopt a Tree

“Adopt a Tree” for the summer to help maintain and enhance the church grounds. Volunteers agree to weed and mulch around one of the trees on the property by May 15 and continue throughout the growing season. The raised area around the cross and sections of the mulched beds along the front and parking lot side of the church are also included. A mulch pile is available on the playground area to use, and a wheelbarrow for use is located along the right side of the storage shed. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex, please write your name next to the tree or mulched bed you’ll adopt.



Changes in Worship for Summer Season



May 3 will be our last communion until we return to the fall worship schedule in September. Our worship service changes to 10:00 AM for the months of June, July, and August beginning on June 7.

Outdoor Worship Service

Our first outdoor worship service will be held at 10:00 AM on June 7, weather permitting. Bring your own chair if you like.



BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*



Penn Central Conference
United Church of Christ

2015 Annual Conference

Pastor Michael and Randy Cramer will be attending this year’s annual conference in Selinsgrove from June 12-14.

UCC Responds To Nepal Earthquake And Beyond

April 29, 2015



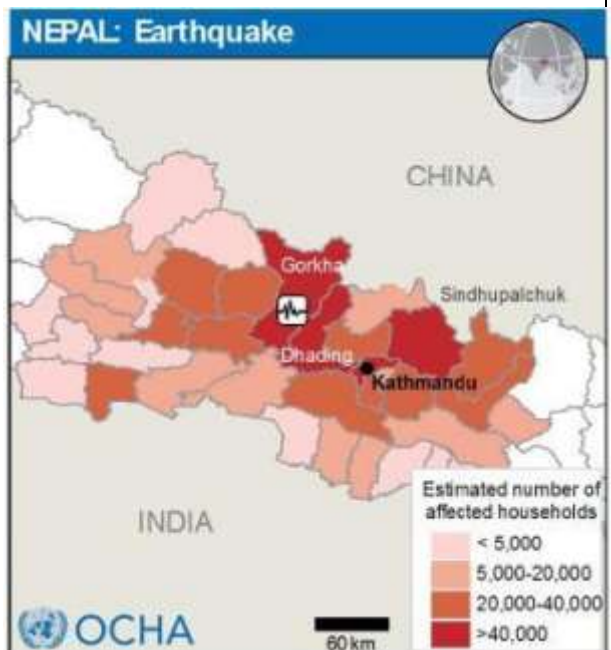
By The Numbers

- 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake
- Over 5,000 confirmed dead
- 10,000 Injured
- 70,000 Homes Destroyed
- 530,000 Homes Damaged
- 8 Million Affected (over 1/4 of the population)
- Worst Earthquake in Nepal in 80 years

How You Can Help

Generous donations to the International Emergency Fund allow Disaster Ministries to respond to global disasters. Donations may be made out and sent directly to:

Wider Church Ministries
Financial Services - 6th Floor
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115.



Situation

On April 25, 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal causing significant damage and destruction in Kathmandu and surrounding areas. Since Saturday's quake, our partnership through the ACT Alliance has been responding and working hard to help stabilize the situation through provisions of food, water, medicine and temporary shelter.

UCC Disaster Ministries is supporting these essential on-the-ground efforts, as the death toll continues to rise. Currently it is reported more than 5,000 have died as a result of the earthquake. The earthquake, the worst to hit Nepal in over 80 years, also triggered a deadly avalanche on Mount Everest.

The avalanche buried part of the mountain's base camp, which was full of mountaineers who had come for the start of the main climbing season. An army spokesman told Reuters that at least 18 bodies had been found on Mount Everest. Google executive Dan Fredinburg was among those killed in the avalanche, CNN reports.

Powerful tremors also rocked neighboring countries, impacting people in India, Tibet, Bangladesh, as well as two Chinese citizens on the Nepal-China border. The earthquake's epicenter was 50 miles east of Nepal's second-largest city, Pokhara. Geoscientists noted that the shallowness of the quake amplified the power of its tremors at the surface, adding to the destruction. Strong aftershocks continued throughout the afternoon, as rescue teams scoured the rubble for survivors.

Nepalese authorities struggled to assess the full scale of the damage across the remote Himalayan nation, with communications systems down in many areas. "We are totally cut off from most parts of our country," Nepal Disaster Management Authority official Ram Narayan Pandey told Reuters.

Thousands of people rushed into the streets of the capital in an effort to remain safe, The Guardian reported, with many too afraid to return as the city was rocked by aftershocks.

Hospitals in the capital were flooded with the wounded, with one converting its parking lot into a makeshift clinic, according to The Associated Press.

In neighboring India, people rushed out of their homes as tremors rippled through the country, HuffPost India reported. India sent a 40-member rescue team and three tons of relief supplies to Nepal by plane to aid relief efforts. Pakistan also offered "all possible help" to the devastated nation.



Lancaster

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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April 17, 2015

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

Dear Friends of Lancaster:

I am writing to thank you SO MUCH for your gift to Lancaster Theological Seminary!

Your investment in the seminary is more critical now than ever before as we prepare transformational leaders for the church and society. Lancaster graduates are pastors, Christian educators, seminary professors, and nonprofit executives.

We rely heavily on our friends for financial and prayerful support. Each gift strengthens our mission and creates new opportunities to serve God through our educational ministries.

Thank you again.

In Christ,

Crystal Mills Many thanks,
Friends!

Crystal Mills
Vice President for Advancement and Communications

NB: An IRS provision requires, as a condition of deductibility, that donors of gifts of \$250 or more receive and keep receipts issued by Lancaster Theological Seminary for gift substantiation purposes. This letter, which serves as your receipt, conforms to this provision and, through it, the Seminary affirms that neither goods nor services were provided in return for your contribution.

Received: 3/25/2015 \$100 Annual Fund



“Give Me Jesus”

Shekinah Dance Benefit Concert

Proceeds to benefit The Street Kids Philippine Mission

and

The Shekinah Dance Company

Tickets Available at the Door - \$8 per Person

Children Under 5 Admitted for Free

May 9, 2015

Doors open at 6 pm. Dance Performances from 7-9 pm.

Sale of light refreshments and exhibit of donation purposes beginning at 6 pm.

Living Faith Chapel

8770 Possum Hollow Road

Shippensburg PA 17257

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

This is the 6th year for our Community Garden, which is located behind the fellowship hall ! A big thank you to Andrew Lowrey who has again volunteered to do the initial rototilling of all the plots. The free plots are available by signing the Community Garden Contract which lists the terms, rules & conditions for participation. For more information & to reserve a plot contact Bob Benchoff.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

Spring is here and help is needed to spruce up the flower beds around the church building and to plant the outdoor planters, the Outdoor Activity Center beds , the new "Plants of the Bible" beds along the front entrance way and the new beds under the sign at the corner Barnett & Amsterdam Roads.

Volunteers are also needed to help with watering the planters throughout the season, especially during the hot, dry months.

Please contact Bob Benchoff or Bruce Barr.

"Silver Express" Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **May 19.**



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.



May 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.