

November 2015 Newsletter
CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



Youth Group

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP 10:45 AM

336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268 – 0288

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From the Pastor's Study

By the time you read this it will be November and we will be full swing into the holiday season. The price list for the poinsettias arrived from the florist several weeks ago, the bulletin covers for the Christmas Eve candlelight service have been ordered, and the church calendar has been booked with some event for most every weekend from now until Christmas Eve. And yes, believe it or not, I saw lit Christmas lights on a house the other night.

Every year when we get to this time of year I tell myself I will slow down and enjoy autumn. I will take notice to the beauty of the changing leaves as I drive to the church, I will just sit on the deck and take in the colors of the field and mountain behind my house, I will carve a pumpkin, bake a pumpkin pie, drink cider, I will buy some Indian corn and pumpkins and gourds for my front porch. I did do many of those things this year but I can't say I ever slowed down as much as I would have liked to. There always seems to be too much to do, too many demands on my time and not enough time to do everything.

One of my fondest autumn memories took place in 1962. My mother, my siblings and I moved in with my grandparents in Carlisle while my father was in Viet Nam for six months working as a civilian for the federal government. Like most children we were glad to be living with our grandparents. The rules were relaxed and my grandmother, like many grandmothers gave us a lot of time and attention. She always made us feel important and special.

In the autumn of that year I walked to school with the other kids, to a large old elementary school building a few blocks away. I can still remember those beautiful crisp fall days walking back and forth to school under trees covered with brilliant colored leaves falling around us onto sidewalks; the musty smell and the crunching noise of the dried leaves under our feet. On the way home from school we would often stop at a little one room general store to buy penny candy displayed in a glass showcase on the counter. The elderly store owner placed in little brown bags our 25 cent purchases of cocoanut watermelon slices, fire balls, bubble gum, and during Halloween, wax lips, wax fingernails, wax mustaches, and wax teeth. We loved being silly wearing those wax creations for the adults.

As the Christmas season approached my grandmother, despite her hectic schedule of running a household and working in a factory, made dozens of cookies. She always allowed me to help. She would take me to the grocery store with her and allowed me to help her fill the communion cups at church. I attended worship services with her on Sundays. I remember her and me going downtown to a church parking lot to buy a Christmas tree. The town was decorated with colored electric lights strung across the street, the windows of the stores painted with Christmas scenes; a little red building on the square was Santa's house.

We don't always remember all of everyday activities of the past; what we did when we got up in the morning, the meals we ate every day, the trips to the dentist and doctors, what we did in classroom each day. But we often remember the small acts of kindness shown to us when we were children; the little things that people did for us that made us feel important and special, the things they did for us that told us we were loved. Unfortunately we also remember the unkind things people said to us and the hurtful things that left us feeling broken and insignificant. Many of us can still remember the exact harsh words of criticism and belittlement that were spoken to us by adults.

Our new church youth group will meet for the third time this week. This will be the third youth group I have been a part of over the past 15 years. What I have learned about children from working with youth groups is how important it is for children to feel they are important, that their lives matter, that what they have to say matters. Too often we forget that kids of all ages need to be encouraged, need to be included in what the adults are doing, need to know that what they have to say is important. It is so easy to think, *"they're just kids, what could they have to contribute? What do they know about life?"* *"Their lives are easy. Wait 'til they become adults!"* I can assure you they know much more and desire to know much more than they are often given credit. Their thoughts are often much deeper than those of adults. Their lives are filled with challenges we never had to deal with as children. I have also learned that children need to have fun, that there is sacredness in just having fun.

Jesus loved children and told the disciples to let them come to him. He said that those who are like children belong to God's kingdom; that unless we become like children we will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles themselves like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I believe Jesus himself possessed many of the qualities of a child. He was trusting, humble, innocent, dependent, imaginative and joyful. Those are not easy qualities for anyone to possess in a broken world.

In the months to come I ask you to be mindful of all of our youth. Support them in any way you can. Look for signs of their presence in the church even if you don't see some of the kids that are only at the church for youth group. They recently caught everyone's attention with post-it notes of their favorite quotes placed throughout the church. They also placed their prayer concerns on the door leading into the sanctuary. Think of ways you can support them by doing small things that they will remember the rest of their lives. Make the church a place of fond memories they will take with them long after they have left and begun lives of their own.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

"Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord.-Psalm 127:3
(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

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
November***



- 3 Joshua Misner
- 5 Bruce Barr
- 7 Robert and Shelley Benchoff
- 23 Helen Bryson
- 27 Colin Berkey
- 27 Sondra Monn

**Calendar of Events
November**

- 1 Worship 10:45 AM
- 1 Consistory 12:15 PM
- 8 Worship 10:45 AM
- 9 Social Seniors 2-4 PM
at Trinity Waynesboro
- 15 Worship 10:45 AM
- 15 Annual Congregational Meal and Meeting 12 PM
- 16 College Club 6 - 10PM
- 17 Silver Express Delivery 1 :30 PM
- 22 Church Growth Com. 9:15 AM
- 29 Worship 10:45 AM



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

AI Anon meets every Thursday
from 8-9 PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in November*

Lay Readers

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

***No assigned readers
for
November.***



The Nursery is Available if Needed.



Ushers & Greeters

- November 1: Tony & Donna Haugh
November 8: Bob Benchoff & Randy Cramer
November 15: Donna Levick & Jean High
November 22: Judy Fitz & Ernie Fitz
November 29: Nevin & Sondra Monn



Communion Assistants

- November 1: Tony & Donna Haugh and
Bob Stum
December 1: Bob & Trudy Stum and
Bob Benchoff



Social Seniors

Trinity UCC will host Social Seniors in Harbaugh Hall on Monday, November 9, 2015 from 2:00 until 4:00 PM.

Entertainment "Musical Presentations by Kathy and Carol" will be followed by light refreshments.

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*

The Upcoming Holiday Season is Upon Us

The holiday season is already here. Here is a tentative schedule for upcoming holiday events. Please note that some times and dates are not final and are subject to change.

November 21	Visit to Hoffman Homes-deliver Christmas presents.
November 29	First Sunday in Advent.
December 5	Annual Hospital Auxiliary Christmas greens sale Youth go for Christmas tree and tree set up in sanctuary
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.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

Please plan to stay after church on December 6 to help decorate the church. There will be wreaths to hang, a tree in the social hall to decorate, nativities to set out and much more.



2015 Annual Dinner & Meeting

On November 15, we will gather for our Annual Meeting. We plan to have a family style dinner this year. The menu is chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, slaw and fruit salad. If you would like to provide any of these items or donate towards the purchase of the, please contact any member of Lay, Life and Work Committee: Linda, Bev, Nancy, Debbie or Trudy.

It is important to sign up for the meal because tables will be set.

Thanks!

Lay, Life and Work Committee

A Successful 2015 Ingathering

In early October, seven local churches and a Sorority sorted 5,522 articles to be donated to South Mountain Restoration Center, Faith Community Outreach Ministries, Franklin County Head Start Programs, PMI Pregnancy Resource Center and Waynesboro Community and Human Services.

We take this opportunity to thank the congregation for supporting this effort to help those less fortunate.



Linda Hovis,
Waynesboro Branch Secretary

A Visit to Hoffman Homes for Youth

A dozen people have signed up to visit Hoffman Homes for Youth outside Gettysburg. The church has for many years supported Hoffman Homes which was founded in 1910. It is a facility that treats children ages 6-17 that have been physically, emotionally and sexually abused. The average age of the children is thirteen. Over 50% of the children at Hoffman have attempted suicide. Hoffman Homes uses various therapies to return children to wholeness; art therapy, drama and music therapy, horticultural therapy, pet therapy, horsemanship and play therapy. A trip to visit Hoffman Homes is being planned for the near future. So far 12 people have signed up. A tentative date for the trip is Saturday Nov. 21. No time has been set.

Christmas Gifts for Hoffman Homes



The church will again participate in the gift giving program at Hoffman Homes. 15 name tags for have been ordered. 12 of those tags are already spoken for. If you would like to purchase a Christmas gift for under \$25 or make a monetary donation to Hoffman Homes for Christmas gifts, please see Pastor Michael. We hope to be able to deliver the gifts to the home during our visit in November.

Mercersburg Association Fall Meeting

The fall Mercersburg Association meeting will be held at Trinity UCC in Mercersburg on November 8 from 3 - 5 PM. We will be talking about what we do as an association like educating and training Authorized Ministers, but the more important discussion will revolve around the "Why" of our existence as an association. What are we passionate about? What can we do together that we might not be able to do as individual churches? We hope to have lots of good discussion from clergy and laity alike. We ask that both clergy and lay people make an effort to attend this meeting.

Pumpkin Carving Fun at Youth Group!



Youth Group meets every other Sunday afternoon from 2 - 4 PM.



Youth Group

October 18

Our youth group will be meeting for the 3rd time by the time you receive your newsletter. At our last meeting we carved intricate designs on pumpkins, roasted the seeds, talked, and ate snacks. Our meeting ended with a brief devotional in the sanctuary. Youth group is open to anyone ages 12 to 18. Look for signs of their presence in the church.



Pennies for Peace



Our youth group will begin a project called **Pennies for Peace**, a service learning program of Central Asia Institute. The purpose of the program is to promote peace, nurture hope, and change the world one child at a time by raising money to help children, especially girls, receive an education in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. By providing an education for children in these regions the cycle of extreme poverty, violence and war is ended. Children who participate in the Pennies for Peace program broaden their cultural horizons and come to understand their own ability to help make a change in the world. You will find containers to collect pennies in the church labeled “Pennies for Peace”. Please drop your pennies into the containers each week. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Youth Group Prayer Concerns

Here are some of the prayer requests from our youth group:

*Pray for knowledge - for loved ones to always feel loved
-for courage-for help against temptations
-for creativity among today's youth
-for joy, peace, comfort and encouragement,
for acceptance by friends and family,
for those less fortunate...*



SAVE THE DATE



WAYNESBORO AREA FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

THROUGH MUSIC AND THE WORD

When.....Sunday, November 22, 2015

Time.....3:00 P.M.

Location.....Christ United Methodist Church

100 S. Church Street, Waynesboro

Program will include musical groups, praise teams, and choirs from area churches

For more information please call Pastor Lin Smalec, 717-765-0491 or

Rev. Gwendolyn Bell 717-743-7527

Thank You

We were touched by the new Church banner that was purchased in Del's memory. He would have loved it. Thank you for remembering him in this special way.

The Dingle Family

“Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their bowls!



Donations for this month will be delivered **November 17.**



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.



November 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.