

April 2016 Newsletter
CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



Flower Cross

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

I was in McDonalds the other day when a young man, his girlfriend close to his side, perhaps in their teens, walked up to the counter, slammed his cup down and demanded some ice tea. Apparently the tea cooler by the soda dispenser was empty. He also demanded packets of ketchup because the ketchup dispenser was also empty. *"You people need to start doing your job back there!"* He arrogantly told the employees as a dozen customers waiting in line listened, some shaking their head in disgust. The timid boy behind the register said nothing. Hoping to reduce his anger and anxiety of the situation, an older woman, perhaps the manager asked the teens if they had a nice Easter. I, on the other hand, a minister, a usually non-violent person, wanted to verbally put him in his place and imagined punching him in the mouth.

Perhaps it is my age or where I am spiritually in my life, but I have become increasingly annoyed and disgusted with the world around me. I am fed up with rude and crude people, with the vulgarity of people's actions and the words they use in public. I have little patience for cruelty, and the lack of compassion for anyone who is different or thought to be inferior to someone else. I am saddened by the apathy so many people have for those whose lives are not like theirs.

I have little tolerance for people who consider it acceptable to use profanity in front of children, toddlers and babies. I am sick of people who neglect responsibility, and who have a *"who cares, if it doesn't benefit me personally then it doesn't matter"* attitude. Even more sadly is that much of this type of attitude and behavior is found in people who should know better, adults who should be influencing others in a positive way by their example.

I am saddened by the great interest in darkness, in violence, and in death. Television shows and movies must be increasingly brutally violent and graphic in order to attract an audience. The marquee of a movie theater is evidence of what people want to see. The majority of films today have an R rating meaning they are exceptionally violent, sexually graphic, and profanity is used throughout the film. Despite the warnings, people take small children with them to those movies. The entertainment industry continues to see how far it can go to satisfy its audience's desire for what was once considered despicable to see.

So "What has happened? What is different about the world today than ten, twenty, thirty years ago?" One of the bad things that is significantly different about today's world is that many people have no moral compass. They no longer make decisions based on what is morally right. Morality no longer plays a part in how many people conduct themselves. There was a time when most of us knew right from wrong. We knew what acceptable behavior was and what was not. Many of us developed our moral compass from our parents, our grandparents and other adults in our lives and from attending church and Sunday school.

Since the church does not play a role in many people's lives today, and hasn't for years, children must develop their moral compass from either their parents or from their school, or worse yet, from celebrities! Many argue that school teaches children what is right and wrong as well as church ever did and that may be true. But what school does not do, and cannot do by law, unless it is a religious institute, is to teach children *why* something is right or wrong based on what the bible says is acceptable to God. Therefore, much of what is learned about morality is based on what the secular world decides is right or wrong. And because we live in a broken world, that determination of what is right or wrong is bound to be flawed because it often has no strong foundation to stand on.

So where do we find hope for the future of this world and its people? Where can we find evidence that despite how lost the world seems at times all is not lost? We find hope for a better world in Christ. For as long as the presence of Christ exists in the world and is available to those who seek him, there will always be hope that a better world is possible. And the good news is our guarantee from God. The presence of Christ will be with us always. Christ is with us always, all of us, none excluded, for not just a few days, months or years, but always. You can't beat a guarantee like that.

When the world gets you down and you begin to wonder if things will ever get better, take time to look at the beauty of this world. Look at the beauty that surrounds you every day in creation. Listen to children. Listen for the kind, gentle voices of people who chose not to be foulmouthed and vulgar. Resist being drawn towards entertainment that focuses on and celebrates darkness. Don't join the multitudes which chose to diminish life with their vulgar language and behavior. Instead celebrate the beautiful life Jesus lived and died to give us. Think of his resurrection over death and darkness and find renewed hope for this world. And if you need something to visualize, something physical to remind you that there is still hope for this world, think about the children on Easter morning decorating a bare wooden cross with flowers during our worship service. Think about their innocent little hands enthusiastically covering that crude wooden cross with flowers, the cross symbolic of the crude world we live, the flowers representing new life that exists because Christ has come into the world. No matter how many times I have watched the transformation of that cross on Easter morning I am as moved by seeing it each year as I was the first year the children began this meaningful Easter tradition. And just as inspiring is the song we sing every year as the children work their magic, "*In the bulb there is a flower, in a seed an apple tree, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*"

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."-Ephesians 4:29

***Birthdays
&
Anniversaries
in
April***



- 1 Jeff Dingle
- 1 Gloria Miller
- 4 Nancy Dinterman
- 9 Dallas Pagach
- 22 Nicole and Steve Leidig
- 25 Martha Smith

Calendar of Events
April

3	Worship	10:45 AM
10	Worship	10:45 AM
11	Social Seniors at Apostles	2-4 PM
11	Buchanan Quiltmakers	5:30 PM
16	CPR Class	9 AM - Noon
17	Worship	10:45 AM
19	Silver Express Delivery	1 :30 PM
24	Worship	10:45 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 April*

Lay Readers

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

No assigned readers

for

April



The Nursery is Available if Needed.



Ushers & Greeters

April 3: Ernie Fitz & Jean High

April 10: Nevin & Sondra Monn

April 17: Tony & Donna Haugh

April 24: Bob & Trudy Stum



Communion Assistants

April 10: Ernie Fitz, Jean High & Bob Benchoff

May 1: Bob Benchoff, Randy Cramer & Judy Fitz

Social Seniors



Social Senior's will meet at the church on April 11 from 2 - 4 PM. Help is needed to provide refreshments and entertainment. Bob Benchoff will give a talk on auctioneering. If you would like to help or have something to share with the group see Pastor Michael.

Church Staff & Committees



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

Church Office: 762-4113 Email: apostlesucc@gmail.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:

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*

CPR Training

At least six members of the church, including the pastor have signed up for CPR training on April 16 so that in case an emergency should arise at the church someone will be prepared to administer CPR.



Thank You



Many thanks to those who participated in the Seder on Palm Sunday, attended Holy Week services, purchased flowers for the sanctuary for Easter Sunday and anything else that you did that made the season of Easter special.

Peace Garden

Plans have begun to create a garden in the vicinity of the Peace Pole. Volunteers will be needed for this project. Please see Pastor Michael or Bob Benchoff if you are interested.



National Survey on Religiosity

Pennsylvania ranks 27 as the most religious state. 51% of people surveyed in the state said religion was very important to them. 34% said they attend church. 54% said they pray daily. 61% said they believe in God. 53% of Pennsylvanians are considered highly religious. Where do you fall in these categories?

The Value of Youth Groups

The following was taken from a daily Christian reading publication.

In our church, at the end of each school year we offer an opportunity for the young people who are leaving school and graduating from youth group to say farewell. Listening to them recently as they spoke one by one, I was both saddened and encouraged.

I was saddened because life is hard for many of them. Some have divorced parents. Others, although materially blessed, suffer deep emotional pain. All are challenged by living in a society where crime, violence and substance abuse are rife and pressure to conform is strong.

I was encouraged because I heard how the youth group provided acceptance, support, and a safe, welcoming place for these young people to hang out. Several confessed that without the group they might have acted out their inner loneliness in destructive behaviors. But the genuine care and love of other young people demonstrated in a tangible way the love of God. God's love expressed through us to another can prevent tragedy, provide fulfillment and make the difference between despair and hope.

Hoffman Homes for Youth Statistics

Church of the Apostles continues to support the good work Hoffman Homes has done for over a hundred years to care for, support and restore the lives of children.

Children admitted yearly **94**

Children discharged **86**

Average age **13**

Average length of stay **9 months**

87% have had previous psychiatric hospital treatment

43% have made one or more serious attempts at suicide

38% were sexually abused

46% were physically abused

87% had a history of aggressive behavior

81% were discharge after treatment

OUTDOOR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



This spring we have some exciting new projects:

Creating the Peace Pole Garden

Creating the new flower beds on both sides of the north entrance sidewalk canopy

Adding new plantings along the north side of the building

Power washing the sidewalks

Install four lawn banner posts along Barnett Avenue

In addition, we have the regular spring mulching, the outdoor planters, the biblical plants garden, and the bed under the Amsterdam sign to spruce up and plant !

Volunteers will be needed to help with watering during the dry spells. Please contact Bruce Barr or Bob Benchoff if you will be able to help with the outdoor ministry.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS



This is the 7th year for our Community Garden, which is located behind the fellowship hall !

A big thank you to Franklin County Master Gardener Trey Gelbach, who is our volunteer Community Garden Coordinator this year. Trey can be reached at 717-816-8792.

Presently all of our plots are taken. If you are interested in a plot we will be glad to put you on the waiting list !

When available the free plots are acquired by signing the Community Garden Contract which lists the terms, rules & conditions for participation.



31 NEW FACES AT APOSTLES SINCE 2010 !

Thirty-one new faces in the last six years shows a steady growth in the number of people who have become a part of the ministry & mission of our congregation !!!

Our Church Growth committee takes this opportunity to recognize them and to say thank you for sharing their time, talent & treasure :

Laurie Deavers Danny Deavers Janet Bonner Dennis Bonner
Selina Lowrey Andrew Lowery Julia Taylor Randy Cramer
Arianna Taylor Phoenix Pryor Alijah Pryor Esther Pryor
Dylan Cramer Troy Bryan Austin Bryan Cameron Bryan
Brady Bryan Donna Levick Darlene Sease Larry Little
Joanne Keech Trey Gelbach Sondra Monn Nevin Monn
Tracy Westfall Wally Fisher Jerri Jones

PLUS a core Youth Group of 4 regulars and others who participate from time to time !

We look forward to welcoming more new faces as they discover and share in ministry here at the Church of the Apostles !

Please remember to place ideas for church growth into the church growth suggestion box in the narthex.

Habitat for Humanity Partners with Local Woman, Tara Hoke, to Build Home



Tara Hoke, Mark Story, left, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County and Marlin Maclay of Thrivent Financial stand at the snow-covered lot on North Broad Street in Waynesboro where her Habitat for Humanity home will be built later this year.

Tara Hoke will be living in her new home at 25 N. Broad St. by Thanksgiving thanks to Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County.

Work will begin in April on the three-bedroom, one-and-a-half bathroom, 1,200-square-foot rancher. It will include the sweat equity of Hoke, her family and friends and volunteers from the community. Thrivent Financial is providing \$67,500 - half the cost of the project - and Hoke will pay a zero interest mortgage for the remainder.

This is the 37th Habitat for Humanity home in Franklin County and the fifth in Waynesboro, according to Mark Story, executive director.

WANT TO HELP?

Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome to help build Tara Hoke's Habitat for Humanity home on North Broad Street in Waynesboro. Work will be done every Tuesday and Saturday, with a third day determined by the weather and the construction sequence. Work is never done on Sunday. For more information, email office@yourlocalhabitat.com. Volunteers are contacted via email with the three Ws - what, where and when - work is available and then they can just show up. People interested in donation money, materials and services are asked to use the same email.

Children in Worship...a Blessing, Not a Curse

By Rev. Jacquie Church-Young

I write this to you as a parent, rather than as a Christian Educator. I have been part of congregations who say they value children, and in order to show this, create their "Jr. Church" or "Children's Worship" services so that our children can learn about worship in their own ways and in their own setting. I am not trying to start a debate about when, how often, or the true value of children's worship. However, I do want to point out that children being present in worship (and I might argue, the more often, the better) create a tremendous blessing for the adults around them. This blessing comes in the form of loud paper rustling, inappropriate laughter, occasional crying, and a general ruckus. It also comes with pew climbing, cheerios on the floors, and "bugging" people so that they can't fully listen to the sermon. Too often we act as though this is the "downside" or the curse of children in our worship. In reality, our chance to really exhibit the love of Christ and practice radical hospitality comes at these moments with our kids.

Worship is often the *primary* gathering place and time for our communities. It is the time we get to practice the love of Christ with each other, and set a model for each of us to use in our everyday lives. It is a time to worship and praise God *together* as *the body of Christ*. Letting the little children come, be seen, and be loved by the adults in our community is critical to the lives of our children. Making space for children in worship is also critical for our adults. This includes teaching those who are uncomfortable with children how to be present with these wonderfully different little people (I was one of those before I had my own). It allows adults who don't get to hold babies and toddlers, and wrangle five year olds often, the opportunities to do so. Encouraging children to worship with us allows us to hear the scripture and prayers and songs from their perspective and in new and joyous ways. Churches that can practice the radical hospitality of fully welcoming the little children may be blessed to see more parents with children coming through their doors.

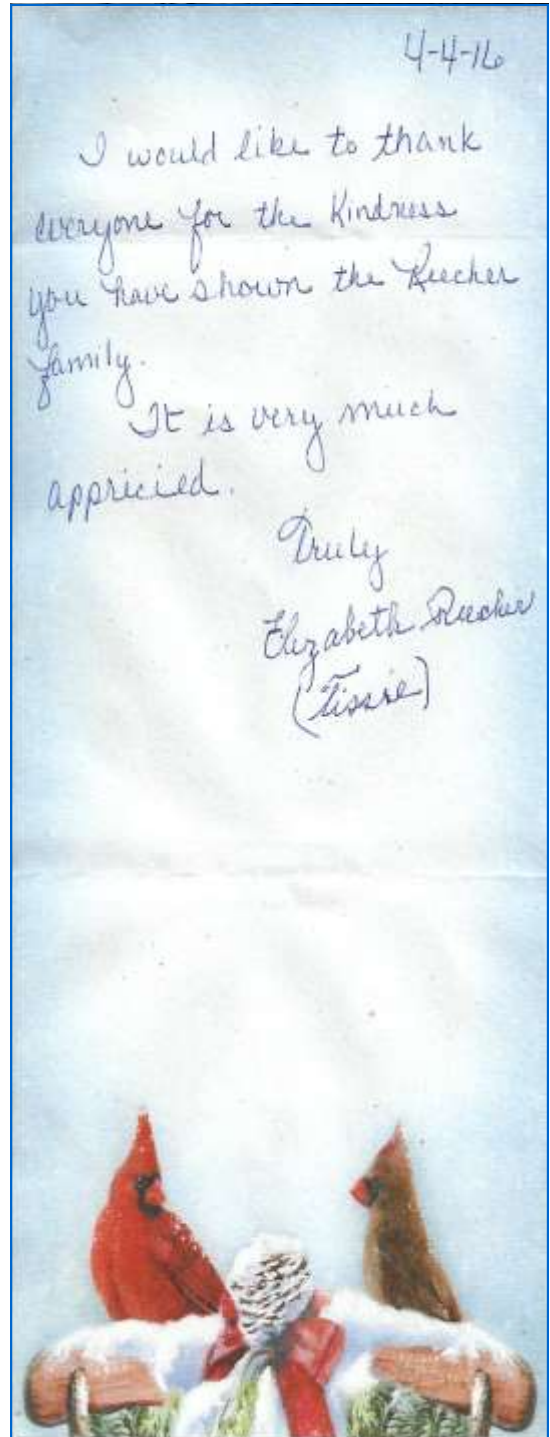
Find the Hidden Books

*Read the following story
and find the names of 16 books
of the Bible.*

*Some books may be found in the
combination of 2 words.*

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts. For some people it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books in the Bible in this story.

**THE BOOKS
OF THE BIBLE**



Community Health Nurse Needed



RN, Community Health Nurse
Part Time, Waynesboro, PA

The Waynesboro Community and Human Services provides Community Health Nursing, including home visits, to clients in Waynesboro, Washington Township and Quincy Township.

Our services are free to our clients. The agency is funded by on-going grants and donations.

Come join a group of Registered Nurses with great nursing experience from wildly divergent backgrounds. We enjoy flexible, weekday, part time, professional team work, while we provide important and gratifying service to people in their own homes. We are an older group of nurses with very up-to-date computer and smart phone skills. We use small laptops and smart phones for documentation, communication, and research every day. We have four wheel drive vehicles for safe travels in towns and country, in all kinds of weather.

Please Call, Text or Email for information. (717)860-3081

CommunityNurseComputer@gmail.com

Waynesboro Community & Human Services
123 Walnut Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268

Please Join Us For The
2016 Jewish Food Festival!



Congregation B'nai Abraham
53 East Baltimore Street, Hagerstown
Sunday, April 17th
11am-3pm

**A Sampling of Our
A La Carte Menu Items:**

Blintzes
Brisket
Chopped Liver
Kugel
Matzoh Ball Soup
Baked Goods

Eat In or Carry Out!

**Indoor and Outdoor
Activities!**

**Traditional Music
Under
the Big Top!**

Children's Activities!

**Tours of
the Sanctuary**

Need more information? Call or email us!
301.733.5039 or bnaiabraham1@verizon.net



WAYNESBORO COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES

123 Walnut Street • Waynesboro, Pennsylvania 17268
Phone 717-762-6941 • Fax 717-762-1115

January 15, 2016

Dear Friends

Waynesboro Community and Human Services is starting a new program called
The Garden Project

The Garden Project is an effort to reconnect community members with the source of their food. From the garden to the food pantry, the project will provide fresh produce to low-income families and also offer a chance to help in the in the garden with mentors.

To bring this garden to life, we are seeking donations as follows:

- Mushroom soil
- Organic fertilizer
- Vegetable seeds – beans, beets, radish, kale, lettuce, spinach
- Vegetable plants – broccoli, Roma & Cherry Tomatoes, Lunchbox Peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, onion sets
- Herbs – Thyme, oregano, parsley, lavender
- Flowers- marigolds

Our garden which will be located at the Community Gardens at the Church of Apostles in Wayne Heights, will be 20x40ft. Your help to start this project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration in helping us with this project.

Sincerely,

Denise Esser

Would You Host a Foreign Exchange Student?



International Fellowship, Inc.

1-800-647-8839

P.O. Box 130 • Westfield, NY 14787

(716) 326-7277

Fax: (716) 326-7279

March 16, 2016

Hello:

Thank you for allowing us to send the enclosed brochures and/or fliers to you for posting, as per our telephone conversation.

International Fellowship is a Not-For-Profit foreign exchange student program seeking Host Families in your area. Founded in 1952, International Fellowship is one of the oldest foreign exchange programs in the United States, with more than 60 years experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the toll-free number above. **Thank you again for posting our material.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Henry".

Joan Henry
Area Director
International Fellowship

All the information can be found on the bulletin board in the social hall.

THANK
YOU

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



Officers of the Church

Rev. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon
Justice and Witness Ministries

Rev. J. Bennett Guess
Local Church Ministries

Rev. James A. Moos
Wider Church Ministries

March 2, 2016

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

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.

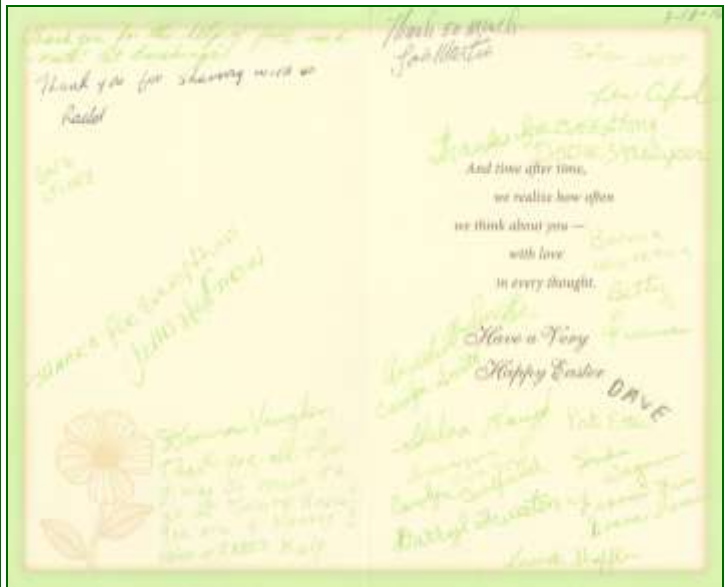
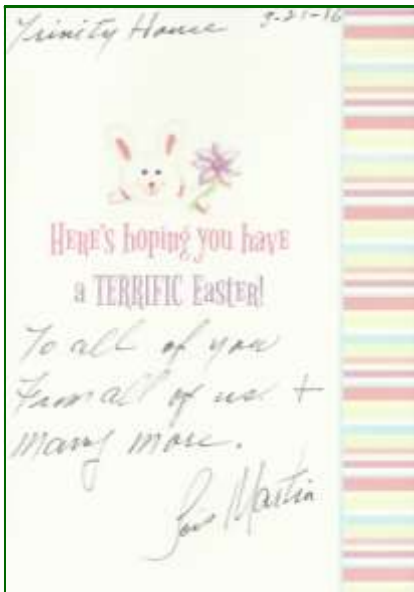
Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary A. Paxton".

Mary A. Paxton
Director, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship



**Happy Easter
from
Trinity House**



“Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **April 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.



April 2016

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.