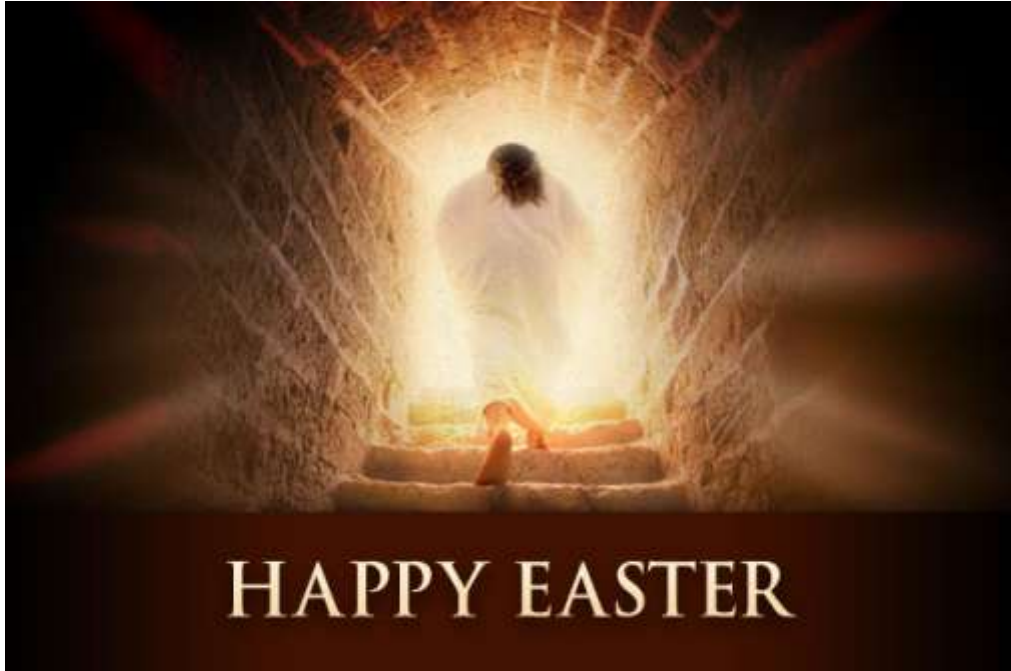


March 2016 Newsletter
CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



HAPPY EASTER

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 March 2016

I'm writing this article for the March newsletter but it feels like it should be April. A spring like rain is falling and the temperature is close to fifty degrees. Many of the surrounding fields are green and the stink bugs are coming out of hibernation in my house. Despite the recent blizzard of 2016, most of the snow has melted and the winter weather seems to be over. It feels like spring. But the reality is there is plenty of winter yet to come. There will likely be more snow and freezing temperatures even into April.

Easter always seems like it should always be in April when the trees are budding and bulbs are emerging from the cold ground and the temperatures are warmer. But this year Easter is in March. By this weekend there will only be three weeks until Holy Week and four weeks until Easter Sunday. Like the rest of the world the church is always planning and working and looking ahead towards the next season. The Easter Sunday bulletins have been ordered and deadline to order Easter flowers is looming.

It is good to have something to look forward to whether it be a special event, a new season, a celebration or a milestone in life. Sadly there are many people who have little or nothing to look forward to. My father who lives in an assisted facility is one of those people partly by choice. He does not participate in any of the activities the facility offers. He only interacts with the people who care for his personal needs and the men who sit at the table with him for meals. He rarely receives visitors or phone calls. He is not alone in not having anything to look forward to. Many of the residents at retirement homes lead lonely lives sometimes by choice and sometimes by family circumstances.

But there are also many people who are not in retirement homes, who are not elderly or physically challenged in some way that have nothing to look

forward to. They are often younger people who feel there is no future for them. There is a prevailing sense of hopelessness by many people in our world today. I believe it is the reason behind so much sadness and the many addictions people struggle with. Since people don't foresee any future than why not do something that at least feels good right now? It is a temporary fix that always leads to a greater feeling of emptiness afterwards.

I believe that much of the hopelessness people feel today could be alleviated or even eliminated if they would find a church home and become part of a church family. Unlike many of us from older generations who grew up in the church, there are many younger people who have never been inside of a church. They have little or no understanding of who God or Jesus are. They have never known the hope that most of us as Christians have because of our relationship with God and the promises of God. They have only known what the secular world has to offer which is a superficial hope based on material, fleeting, worldly things of little substance.

Easter is the perfect time to share our faith with others; not in a self-righteous, holier than thou way, but in a way that will perhaps intrigue people, pique their interest. Tell people what Easter means to you personally. Tell them why the resurrection of Jesus means hope for the world. Invite them to our Easter service; send them an Easter card, not a card with Easter bunnies and chicks, but a card that expresses the spiritual meaning of Easter. Give a book about the Easter story to a child. There are many books available that explain the Easter story in a way a child can understand. That book might plant a seed in that child's life that will help them grow into a future life of faith. Invite someone to see one of the two biblical movies that have been recently released. "*Risen*" is about the days following the crucifixion of Jesus and another, coming in March called "*The Young Messiah*", about the early life of Jesus. Biblical movies always inspired me as a child.

Easter should be a joyful time for Christians, as much so if not more so than Christmas. I invite you to take time away from Easter baskets, candy, dyeing and hunting for eggs, preparation for family dinners and buying flowers to reflect on the spiritual meaning of the resurrection of Jesus. Take time during Holy Week to attend the Maundy Thursday and the Good Friday service. Reflect on how different your life might be had it not been for the love and sacrifice of Christ. Give thanks for the hope we as Christians have for the future that is available not only to us but to *all* people, even those who may not yet know or believe, because of Christ's sacrifice of love.

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Michael

“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”-1 Peter 1:3



My grandmother Margaret Cromer in her garden Easter morning April 1968.

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
March***



- 1 Laurie Hovermale
- 3 Erica Pryor
- 5 Tony Haugh
- 6 Maude Barr
- 7 Pat Bostwick
- 9 Tim Misner
- 12 Dan Ritchey
- 14 Trudy Stum
- 14 Mae Kauffman
- 15 Richard Hovis
- 15 Steve Leidig
- 20 Sandra Smith
- 20 Gilbert and Laurie Hovermale
- 25 Mitchell Leidig
- 29 Jake Jacobs

**Calendar of Events
March**

- 6 Worship 10:45 AM
- 7 College Club 7 PM
- 13 Worship 10:45 AM
- 13 Consistory 12:15 PM
- 14 Social Seniors 2 - 4 PM
- 14 Buchanan Trail Quilters 5:30 PM
- 20 Palm Sunday Service 10:45 AM
- 17 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
- 27 Easter Sunday Service 10 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 March*

Lay Readers

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

***No assigned readers
for
March***



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

- March 6: Tony & Donna Haugh
March 13: Donna Levick & Judy Fitz`
March 20: Bob & Trudy Stum
March 27: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

Communion Assistants

- March 6: Tony & Donna Haugh,
Bob Stum
April 5: Ernie Fitz, Jean High,
Bob Benchoff

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be held at Trinity State Line

on March 9, from 2- 4 PM.

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:

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*

. Christian/Jewish Seder

This will be the 5th year that Church of the Apostles will hold a Christian/Jewish Seder meal. This special event has become a popular addition to our preparation for Easter. An average of 30 people have attended the Seder each year, many of those people have had no previous understanding of this Jewish tradition. Those who have attended have found it to be a meaningful spiritual experience. It has deepened their understanding of the Jewish heritage that Christians share. A Christian/Jewish Seder meal is based on the traditional Jewish celebration meal at Passover.



We as Christians observe this meal because it is a reminder to us that God did not first reveal himself to us but to the Jewish people. It is also a reminder that Jesus was a Jew. This year's Seder meal will be held on March 20 at 3:00 pm. A community potluck will be held after the symbolic meal. The Seder meal is a sacred time of worship that follows a certain order. It tells the Exodus story of the Jewish people. It is a time for adults to educate the young about their spiritual heritage and a time for the adults to renew their own memory of their past. This is a joyful time of fun and fellowship. Everyone is invited to participate from the very young to the eldest of the church family. Everyone is welcome to attend and to bring a friend. Please bring food to share at the potluck that follows the symbolic Seder meal. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex or you may call Pastor Michael to reserve your place at the Seder table or if you

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.

Holy Week Services

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter Sunday. It is the last week of the season of Lent. There are two special weekday services during Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday Service March 24, 6:00 PM



On Maundy Thursday the church remembers Jesus' last meal with his disciples in the upper room prior to his arrest and crucifixion. The day marks three key events in Jesus' last week on earth; the washing of his disciple's feet, his institution of the Eucharist (communion), and his new commandment to love one another.

The name Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, referring to the new commandment Jesus taught his disciples, to love one another. In other words, this is "new commandment" Thursday. We will, as we have other years, share a simple meal of soup and bread before the service. Please bring a soup and some bread to share for the **meal at 5:30**. In the past we have shared communion sitting at a table in the front of the sanctuary. This year communion will be served as served by the early church by intinction; *come forward, take a piece of bread, dip into a chalice of wine and eat*. In addition to communion you are invited to participate in a foot washing by Pastor Michael. Participants will come forward, sit in a chair, remove their shoes and socks. Water from a pitcher is poured over your feet and then dried with a towel. Despite any reservations you might have about his part of the service, I encourage you to participate in the foot washing. It is a powerful, humbling, experience that adds richness to this special service that cannot be put into words.

Good Friday Service March 25, 6:00 PM

On Good Friday the church marks the death of Jesus. It is called “good” because of what Jesus’ death means for the redemption of the world. This somber service includes a dramatic reading of the gospel account of Jesus’ *passion (the suffering of Christ after the Last Supper including his crucifixion.)* Although this is a somber service we should not be sad.



Instead we should show profound wonder and gratitude as we rejoice in the purposes of God, who wishes to redeem his children, and offer gratitude for God’s greatest gift.

Easter Sunday Service March 27, 10:00 AM

Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Our service will be a service of joy, celebration, renewal. Our children will again decorate a bare wooden cross with flowers as part of our service. Please note that the service is at **10 AM** which is earlier than

our usual
Sunday
service.





Valentines, Food, Fellowship & Clogging

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual Valentine potluck followed by special music and clog dancing by our friends Rock, Candy, and Slim. This year's event was just as much fun as it is every year.





Lancaster
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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*Thank
You*

February 11, 2016

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

Dear Friends of Lancaster:

THANK YOU for your support of Lancaster Theological Seminary!

Your gifts enable Lancaster Seminary to fulfill its mission of preparing future ministers and Christian leaders for the sake of Christ's church.

Your prayerful support and generosity help to open the doors for our students' education, open their minds to learning, and open their hearts to serving.

Thank you again.

In Christ,

Crystal

*Many blessings
and 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: 2/4/2016 \$200 CR Scholarship

WAYNESBORO
New Hope Shelter
INC.

December 2015
Church of the Apostles
C/O Pastor Michael Cromer
336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Dear Pastor Michael and Christian Friends at Church of the Apostles,

The Board of Directors, residents, volunteers, and staff of the Waynesboro New Hope Shelter wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your donation of \$3,860.21* (ck #6113). Your very very generous gift will help provide protection and safety from the cold winter nights, and provide nourishment for the mind, body and souls of the homeless men, women and children that are living in our shelters.

Currently, we have 32 residents staying in the New Hope Shelter, which includes 9 men, 13 women and 10 children. The New Hope Ranch houses 10 men that are receiving reentry and recovery support and education. Both shelters provide employment and educational training to reach the goal of becoming a productive community citizen. We work daily to fill the beds as they empty in our effort to assist as many people as safely possible. The phone calls from people in need continue to pour in, creating a waiting list.

Many people become homeless because they are addicted to drugs and alcohol. A single man battling an addiction to drugs came to our shelter. He participated in our drug addiction education training and grew stronger in his ability to manage his addiction. Living in the Shelter he received encouragement and support that enabled him to find employment and reconnect with family. After years of estrangement from his father, he moved back to live with him upon leaving the Shelter. This is just one example of the many stories of restoring hope which would not be possible without the compassionate support of benevolent people like you.

Your partnership in our mission restores hope, employment, education, and housing to those we serve. We are pleased to pass along the gratitude of our former residents, many of whom return to volunteer their time and share their renewed hope with others.

Our staff and volunteers work cooperatively with area agencies to guide our residents towards becoming self-sufficient. It is our goal to help every resident leave our doors with a job, housing, and a renewed hope in purpose and spiritual awareness. **Thank you for helping us to change people's lives, not just their address.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Burcher, Executive Director

Rev. Earl Eby, Director New Hope Ranch

Ben Lange, Shelter Manager

Shari Houdeshell, Housing Assistance Case Manager

Many thanks! We greatly appreciate your support!

"How can we thank God enough for you?" 1 Thessalonians 3:9 NIV

*In accordance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were received in exchange for this gift; therefore the entire amount may be tax deductible.

"Opening doors to those in need."

Thank You

STAMPS FOR A LIVING
C/O The United Church
1920 G Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-4303



February / , 2016

Thanks for the philatelic material you sent IN JANUARY. Once again, we want to express our appreciation for the time and effort you've taken to gather up and mail the stamps to us so that we can continue to carry on our work with *Stamps for a Living* at St. Elizabeths Hospital. This program provides some wonderful therapy for our residents there. Keep up the good work. Bless you!

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) June P. Heinz
Church member and
Stamp Collection Volunteer

Thank you!

“Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **March 15**.



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.



March 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.