

November 2016 Newsletter



Youth Group Carving Pumpkins

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES 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

Over the past few weeks we have begun our worship service with me saying, *"This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."* The congregations' response has been;

"We rejoice and we are glad because we have a God whose love for us is never ending. We rejoice in knowing that we have a God who forgives and abundantly gives. We are glad for the blessings of our lives, for our God who has never broken a promise nor abandoned us. This is the day that God has made, we rejoice and are glad in it because there is so much for us to be thankful for."

I wrote these words because I wanted us to begin our worship service on a positive note with words of gratitude and thanksgiving for what God has done for us and continues to do for us every day. I believe that we should also rejoice and be glad, even if we don't feel like it, despite what is going on in our personal lives and the world we live in.

Every morning during my commute to the church I recite the same words, *"This is the day that God has made I will rejoice and be glad in it."* I say those words because they help me to start the day with a positive attitude, with a bright outlook for the day, despite all the disturbing events that are going on in the world around me. God has given me this new day, a fresh start, a day to do start over, to do better, a day of endless possibilities; therefore I will personally rejoice by acknowledging what God has done for me and I will be glad even if it is hard for me to be glad.

Over the past several years we have been singing something different after the collection of our offering. Instead of the traditional doxology *"Praise God for whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below..."* we now sing words that are more contemporary yet just as meaningful;

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks for he's given Jesus Christ his son."

The words express our gratitude to **God** for giving us the gift of Jesus. The song goes on with the words;

“And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.”

The words express why we are giving thanks to God; the weak are made strong, the poor are made rich, we sing words of gratitude because of the hope God has given us through his son Jesus.

The Greek word for “thanksgiving” is “*eucharistia*”. In the center of that word is the word “*charis*” which means “*grace*”. Therefore at the heart of the Eucharist (Communion), is grace. At the heart of the word, “*charis*” is the word “*chairo*” which means “*to rejoice*.” Therefore when we take Communion it is a time of thanksgiving, a time to rejoice in God’s grace and for the blessings we receive through Christ.

November is the month we are more mindful of giving thanks and expressing gratitude because of the special day called Thanksgiving that we have set aside to give thanks. In the days leading up to Thanksgiving Day I hear it said many times on television, on the radio, in conversation that we should “*give thanks*”. But often the statement does not say, to whom or what we should “*give thanks*”? Are we to “*give thanks*” to the government for the holiday, to our friends, to the stores for their holiday specials, to our employers for giving us the day off? To just say “*give thanks*”, in itself doesn’t acknowledge who the thanks are being given to or why we are giving thanks. That makes the declaration to “*give thanks*” an incomplete, empty and rather meaningless statement. Perhaps there is an assumption that the thanks we are giving is to God but with so many non-religious people today I don’t assume that to be true. I wonder how many people even believe or even give thought to the fact that all that they have received has been given to them by God. We are more likely today to believe all that we have is by our own hand.

“We give thanks and are glad because we have a God whose love for us is never ending.” How many of us can say we have someone in our lives whose love for us is *never ending*; *never ending*, not just most of the time, but **never ending**.

Who but God not only **“forgives and gives”** but **always forgives** no matter what we have done and continues to give **“abundantly”**?

Who but our God has **never broken a promise** to his people? Has **never abandoned us**? There is no human being in this world who can match the love, the devotion, the blessings of God which are unlimited and unending.

“Be thankful and praise the Lord as you enter his temple, The Lord is good! His love and faithfulness will last forever.”-Psalm 100: 4-5

“Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do.”-1 Thessalonians 5: 18

The German writer, theologian and mystic, Meister Eckhart wrote; *“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.”*

May we always be grateful and give thanks for our God and for his son Jesus; for where would any of us be, who would we be, without them?

In Christian Love, With a Thankful Heart

Pastor Michael



Squirrels in Church

A church was having a problem with squirrels getting into the attic. They tried everything to get rid of them, spent hundreds of dollars on exterminators to rid of the squirrels but to no avail. Finally they came up with the solution. They decided to baptize the squirrels and make them members of the church and it worked, at least somewhat. Now they only see the squirrels on Easter and Christmas. So if you happen to see a squirrel near the church entrances on Sunday morning don't scare it away. It could be a visitor from that church.



***Birthdays
&
Anniversaries
in
November***



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

**Calendar of Events
November**

6	Worship	10:45 AM
13	Worship	10:45 AM
14	Buchanan Trail Quilters	5:30 PM
15	Silver Express Delivery	1:30 PM
15	College Club	6 PM
20	Worship	10:45 AM
20	Annual Congregational Meeting	12 PM
27	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 November

The Nursery is Available if Needed.



Ushers & Greeters

November 6: Donna Levick & Judy Fitz

November 13: Ernie Fitz & Jean High

November 20: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

November 27: Nevin & Sondra Monn

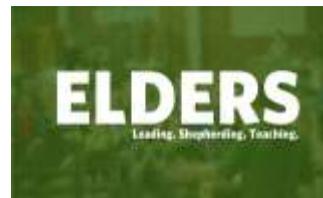


Communion Assistants

November 6: Donna Levick & Judy Fitz

December 4:

CONSISTORY MEMBERS



Julia Cramer

Jean High

Mary Lou Misner

Martha Smith



Donna Levick

Sondra Monn

Nevin Monn

Brian Jacobs

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be meeting on Monday, November 14 from 2 until 4:00 p.m. at Trinity United Church of Christ in State Line. Please come and enjoy the fun, fellowship and food. Hope to see you there.

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: *Mary Lou Misner* 717-749-3839

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: *Julia Cramer* 717-658-9603

Stewardship & Finance: *Donna Haugh & Jean High*

NGA Ingathering



On Tuesday October 4, 18 ladies representing 8 churches and a Y - Gradale Sorority gathered at the Church of the Apostles sorting nearly 6,000 new items to be distributed to South Mountain Restoration Center, Pregnancy Ministries, Faith Community Outreach Ministries, Waynesboro Community and Human Services and Franklin County Headstart Programs.

This was the 40th annual ingathering of the Waynesboro Branch of NGA Inc.

Thanks to all those supporting this effort to help those less fortunate.

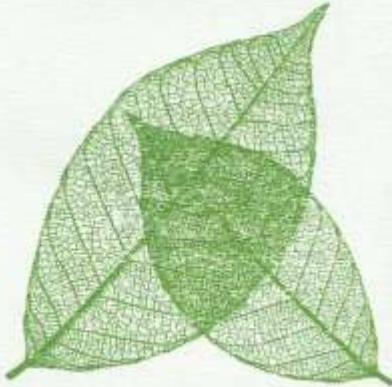
Linda Hovis
Waynesboro Branch Secretary

WAMS Students of the Month



Students of the Month for October at Waynesboro Area Middle School are from left, row one: Kamylle Gunder, grade eight; Kiaya Mouer and Anjolee Smith, grade seven; and Connor Jacobs, grade eight. Row two: Caroline Ridge, grade eight; Jared Peck and Isaac Moats, grade seven; and Josh Clapsaddle, grade eight. NANCY MACE/THE RECORD HERALD

THANK YOU



Thank you so much for the generous gift you gave to Danny + I while he was in the hospital. It helped to pay for the hotel which allowed me to stay longer with him, when he needed me most.

Much love

Laurie + Danny
#

Sondra Monn's Apple Cake or Bars Recipe

3 eggs

2 cups sugar

1 cup oil

3 cups flour

1 tsp baking soda

1/2 tsp salt

1 tsp cinnamon

2 tsp vanilla

3 cup diced apples

1/2 cup chopped nuts

Glaze: Combine 3/4 to 1 cup of 10X Confectioners sugar with enough milk to be able to pour it on the cake or bars.

Beat eggs, sugar and oil. Add flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Mix well. Stir in vanilla, apples and nuts. Batter will be stiff.

For cake: Place in ungreased 13 x 9 pan. Bake at 350 for 1 hour or until it tests done. If you use a Bundt pan you have to bake it a little longer. Let cool and pour on glaze.

For Bars: Spread on a cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool and pour on glaze.

Guest Musician

On November 13, Daniel McCarthy will provide special music for our worship service. You may remember Daniel as the guest musician who played guitar and sang during our outdoor Peace Pole event. Daniel will continue to play after the service from 11:45-12:15 in a mini-concert for those who wish to hear more of his music.



The Healing Service



Last month a healing service was part of one of our Sunday worship services; a first for Apostles I believe. Although I wasn't sure how a healing service would be received, I chose to include the anointing of oil and the

laying on of hands in our worship service because there have recently been a number of people in our congregation dealing with health issues. In addition all of us are in need of a healing of some sort. Although such a service is part of the United Church of Christ tradition, many congregations shy away from a healing service. Perhaps because many people associate a healing service with the Pentecostal church; they think of people speaking in tongues, thrashing around, shouting and falling to the ground. Perhaps people think it is just a show, it doesn't change anything or they don't want to air their personal health issues in front of a congregation. Our healing service was reverent, meaningful and reminded many of us that healing can still be found through Christ. Around a third of the congregations came forward to be anointed with oil, have hands laid upon them by Pastor Michael and be prayed for. Many tears were shed; an indication that many recognized their own need for healing and that there is still hope to be found in the healing power of Christ. Was anyone healed? Perhaps in ways we may never know or understand.

Notes from Our Consistory President

-1-

As the newly elected president I am looking forward serving the church...
working with our pastor, secretary, employees, volunteers and all church members!

I have a lot to "catch-up" on, but look forward to a great 2017!

I hope to see everyone at our ANNUAL MEETING on November 20.

-2-

www.apostlesucc.com

Have you been to our website? It's all about US!!

Our webmaster welcomes close inspection so she has input from YOU!!

This is an ideal way to welcome visitors:

Let's make it the best!

-3-

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! LOTS TO DO! START NOW!

What a year! The church STAFF has worked hard!

We are very blessed with our staff

and do they ever work hard to see that that all runs smoothly...

now is your chance to see that each receives an end of the year bonus!!!

Please generously use the white STAFF GIFT envelope to give gifts to the staff.

Please note all donations as STAFF GIFT.

Deadline: Sunday December 18, 2016

-4-

The Church GROWTH Committee....

Good News! We're growing in many ways and growth is an ongoing process.

You can help, too! Invite a friend to a church activity!

Help spread our GOOD NEWS!

Bibles for Hoffman Homes

During a recent conversation with one of the staff at Hoffman Homes for Youth I learned that when a child has been treated for either emotional or physical abuse or sometimes both, and is ready to leave the facility the one thing they all want to take with them is a bible. The ninety some children who reside at Hoffman Homes usually remain there for 9 months although a few remain for several years. I was surprised that the children had bibles because Hoffman Homes does not provide regular religious teachings at the facility. Because of the lack of funding to pay for a full time chaplain they must rely on churches in the community to volunteer to teach or provide a worship service for the children. Volunteers are not always available. Despite the lack of regular religious teachings the children are obviously learning biblical teachings enough that a bible is important to them.

You will find a table in the church for the donation of bibles for the children of Hoffman Homes. Because the ages of the children range from 6-18 years old bibles for all age ranges will be accepted. There are many bibles specifically for small children and bibles that are specifically for teenagers. An adult bible for a seven year old may not have much meaning for them at this stage of their life as one that is written for young children.

Please make donations of only new bibles. Once a number of bibles have been collected we will deliver them to Hoffman Homes perhaps around the same time we deliver Christmas gifts.



Art in the Narthex



Each month a new piece of religious themed art will be hung in the narthex. How many of you took notice to this month's print entitled "Follow Me" by Scottish artist Tom Curr? The original was painted in the 1930's and is a depiction of Jesus and children of different nationalities. If you have a favorite picture you would like to display please see Pastor Michael.

Grant Approved

Church of the Apostles for the second time has received a grant in the amount of \$1,400 from the York Alliance for the Arts to have the group Simple Gifts perform a free concert at Apostles, a music workshop for the youth of Hoffman Homes, and a music workshop and concert for the folks at Trinity House. The events will take place in the spring of 2017.



Poinsettias for the Sanctuary



Orders are now being taken for poinsettias. The deadline is November 30. Consider purchasing a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of someone special in your life. These seasonal plants add so much to the beauty of the sanctuary.

Apostles Christmas Cards

The church is in conversation with a local print shop to create boxed Christmas cards that will feature photographs of the church during the Christmas season. More information will soon be available for those interested.



Holiday Schedule of Special Events

November 27	1 st Sunday of Advent
December 4	2 nd Sunday of Advent Christmons service / Hanging of the Greens
December 11	3 rd Sunday of Advent
December 18	3 rd Sunday of Advent Christmas caroling after worship
December 24	Christmas Eve candlelight service 7 PM
December 25	Christmas Day - No Worship Service

Musician Tom Jolin Returns to Apostles

One of our favorite musicians Tom Jolin and his hammered dulcimer returns to Apostles. Tom will provide special music for us during our 10:45 worship service on Dec. 11.



Christmas Day

Christmas day falls on a Sunday this year. A decision has been made by consistory to **not** have a worship service on Christmas day. Many of us will be attending Apostles beautiful and meaningful Christmas Eve candlelight service. Christmas day for most of us is a hectic and very busy day when we try to fit more into a day than we should. By having no service on Christmas day everyone will be able to spend time with friends and family.



Hoffman Homes for Youth

A Psychiatric Residential Treatment Program for Children
815 Orphanage Road, Littlestown, PA 17340
717-359-7148 | Fax 717-359-2600
HoffmanHomes.com

C. Mitchell Snider, MBA, CEO & President

October 24, 2016

Church of the Apostles
Attn: Rev. Michael Cromer
336 Barnett Ave.
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Re: 2016 Holiday Gift Program

Dear Rev. Cromer,

The holidays are fast approaching and we've started to prepare for this year's Holiday Gift Program for the children at Hoffman Homes. We hope that you will join us again this year as we make wishes a reality. The program is only possible thanks to your dedication and willingness to help provide an amazing holiday season for the children we serve.

If you would like to purchase gifts, please complete the enclosed form and return it by Monday, November 14th. Holiday gift tags will be sent out within a week of receiving the completed form.

We are grateful to receive gifts for our children, but must ask that you follow a few important guidelines. To be sure your gifts can be included, please do not wrap the gifts. Simply attach the gift tag. The reason for this is to ensure our children can remain safe. Furthermore, please do not provide items that could potentially be dangerous to our children. Examples of such items are glass, mirrors, pencil sharpeners, etc.

Please deliver all gifts on or before Friday, December 9th. They can be delivered to the administration building (entrance #3) between Monday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to purchase gifts and cannot deliver them, I would be more than happy to make arrangements to pick up any donated gifts.

Your generous support of our mission to serve the children at Hoffman Homes is immensely appreciated. The staff and children would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season!

If you have any questions or would like additional information, feel free to contact via phone 717.359.7148 ext. 4501 or via email bvarano@hoffmanhomes.com.

Gratefully,

Brittane Varano
Director of Special Events
and Community Development

*Thank you for your
continued support
of our children in care!*



HOFFMAN HOMES FOR YOUTH IS SANCTUARY[®] CERTIFIED BY THE ANDRUS SANCTUARY INSTITUTE & ACCREDITED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION.



Becoming an Open and Affirming Church

Church of the Apostles, by a decision made by the Growth Committee, has taken the first steps in Apostles becoming ONA; Open and Affirming. An ONA church does not just welcome people of various sexual orientations, but affirms them for who they are; valued, loved children of God, accepted and loved by God. A congregation's affirmation and support through an ONA covenant can be a life changing and sometimes lifesaving experience especially for LGBT youth. A public welcome to LGBT seekers helps church growth. When new ONA churches attract new members, many of them are young straight couples starting new families. They identify with the values ONA represents and want their children to learn the faith in a church that genuinely welcomes and accepts all people.

Because the church is in the earliest stage of this process more information will be provided in the near future. This will include a guest speaker from the United Church of Christ who will speak on the subject and answer questions and concerns anyone might have about churches becoming ONA. There are already many ONA churches in the United Church of Christ and more presently seeking the status. Trinity United Church of Christ in Waynesboro is also pursuing ONA status.

"Honor God by accepting each other, as Christ has accepted you."-Romans 15: 7



Shiloh United Church of Christ

Danville, PA (rural – small town)

Founded in 1856

Average worship attendance - 80

Our Penn Central Conference adopted a new mission statement last spring that says this: ***Penn Central Conference – where congregations passionately declare and demonstrate the courageous love of Christ.*** I want to let you know that at Shiloh UCC in Danville, PA, we are doing our best to live out those words.

We voted in September 2015 to become an official Open and Affirming Church, and since then we have continued to make expanding our welcome a core mission for our congregation. We've been building on that vision in some new and interesting ways.



Banners in the front of our sanctuary boldly proclaim our welcoming statement and commitment to

welcome all God's children. People who are visiting for weddings and funerals have expressed how much those words mean to them, because they or someone in their family isn't fully welcome other places. As we continue to speak words of inclusion and hope, it's become much easier for our members to talk about their faith and invite others to join us for worship, ministry, and other events.

We've continued to provide educational opportunities around LGBTQ issues through book studies and forums, inviting others in the wider community to join us. We've met a number of interesting and faith-filled people outside our congregation in the process, and it's wonderful to see that as we demonstrate Jesus' radical love for our neighbors, others are becoming interested in doing the same. That's led to us providing a worship service at the Mid-Atlantic LGBTQ Conference in Bloomsburg next month.



We are in the process of becoming Accessible 2 All (A2A), with special emphasis on providing access and inclusion to people with physical, mental, and emotional challenges. We purchased a new bus and made space in our sanctuary for those in wheelchairs, which is allowing several of our members to attend worship and fellowship activities who otherwise would be left at home.

We've also made a bold commitment to get to know our Muslim neighbors. We started with a "get to know our neighbors" dinner, where we got to meet one another and learn about each other's faiths. When the Muslim



Community Center was evicted from the space they'd been renting in town, we offered space in our building so they could have a place for worship and prayer. It's been a true blessing for us and our neighbors to support and share God's love with each other, and we are looking forward to where this partnership will grow next. We, at Shiloh UCC in Danville, are proud to be one of the congregations in the Penn Central Conference who are passionately declaring and demonstrating the courageous love of Christ!

---Rev. Mary Schmozter



“I like it here.
I get to express my
feelings.”

Malachi's Story



“I CAME HERE because I had aggression. I would punch people and curse at them.”

Malachi just turned eight and has been living at Hoffman Homes for three months, to help him cope with some things that happened in his past. A smart and curious second grader, he has a ready smile and a quick sense of humor. Being at Hoffman Homes gives him the feeling of security—and a sense of home—that he needs to heal. “My favorite things are the playground and talking with Miss Patty,” he says. Malachi likes talking with his therapist “because I get to express my feelings.”

Another of Malachi's favorite things: pet therapy. “They have all kinds of animals, and their fur is so soft.” Malachi especially likes Larry the rabbit, because “I get to carry him, and he feels so nice against my cheek,” he says. “In pet and horse therapy, we talk about pets and learn about pets...

but the best part is getting to be with them.” The part he doesn't love? Cleaning up after them! But he knows that taking good care of them is part of being a good friend.

In many ways, Malachi is a typical kid. He loves animals, playing football and video games. But when asked what he's most happy about, right this minute, his answer is startling: “I'm happy that my mom just got out of jail.” His time at Hoffman Homes is giving him and his family the chance at a brighter future, by teaching Malachi how to understand, cope with and safely express his feelings. “I learned to take deep breaths, so you won't get mad,” he says.

Malachi's wish for Hoffman Homes, though, is just what you'd expect. When asked if there was something he'd like to have here that we don't, he doesn't hesitate: “A PlayStation,” he says. “Just not with the violent games.”

Turn over to help rewrite Malachi's story.



Hoffman Homes for Youth

Our story

FOUNDED IN 1910, Hoffman Homes for Youth is a not-for-profit residential treatment facility in Littlestown, Pennsylvania, providing comprehensive psychiatric care, treatment and education to emotionally and behaviorally troubled children. Your partnership ensures that we can continue to offer vital, life-affirming help and healing for these most vulnerable of kids, giving them a chance at a brighter future.

How you can help

NEW for Businesses—EITC Tax Credits!

Hoffman Homes' Hoffman Academy, our on-site special education school, has been designated an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) by the state of PA, approved for funding through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. *On or about July 1 of each year, for a minimal investment of time, qualifying businesses can take their state tax dollars and invest them in the education of our Hoffman Academy students.*

As a Pennsylvania business owner, you can direct 75% or 90% of your state tax liability to be donated to Hoffman Homes, Inc. and benefit from a qualifying charitable contribution at the same time. **At no cost to your business, you can help rewrite our children's stories.**

Financial Contributions

Sponsorship of our ongoing fundraising events—including our annual "Run for a Reason" Family 5K Fun Run/Walk, our annual Golf Benefit and our annual gala—as well as planned and direct

gifts to Hoffman Homes support our ongoing operations to ensure that our full range of therapeutic services, including our innovative art, pet and horse therapy programs, continue uninterrupted.



In-kind Donations

Throughout the year, we welcome donations of self-care products (shampoo, soap, hair brushes, combs, hair accessories, etc.) for the children in our care. Donations of creative therapy supplies—pet and horse food and care products; art supplies; and gardening tools and materials—are also much appreciated.

Rite Aid's KidCents Program

This program allows customers to "round up" their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate change to Hoffman Homes by using their free wellness card. Simply go to KidCents.com to select Hoffman Homes as your "round up" beneficiary and, if needed, register for a free card.

Share in our story & change lives

Your support offers hope and healing—and a new future—for the children in our care. To meet with our CFO to discuss EITC participation, to learn more about our program needs, or to arrange a personalized tour, please call our Development Office at 717-359-7148, ext. 4502. Visit us online at HoffmanHomes.com.



Dear church family,
Thank you for the flower arrangement. It was absolutely gorgeous and became the centerpiece of our wedding photos.
Thanks also for the donations to Hoffman Homes and for the love & support on our wedding day.
Rae & Julia

Thank
You



Cards

Church members,

The family of
Helen Bryson
thanks you for your
kind expression of
sympathy

The basket of flowers you
sent was beautiful and
greatly appreciated.

hospitality crew,
you were wonderful

The family of
Helen Bryson
thanks you for your
kind expression of
sympathy

Thank you for the delicious
meal you served us



Thank You

*Members of Church of
the Apostles*

*Thank you for the
beautiful bouquet
of flowers I received
while in the hospital.
They added to my
hospital stay. I
appreciated the
beauty they added to
my room. Thank you
so much.*

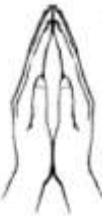
*Sincerely
Shelley*

“Silver Express” Food Bank

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



Donations for this month
will be delivered **November 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.



November 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.