

February 2017 Newsletter



2016 Valentine's Concert

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

People belong to a church and attend worship services for a variety of reasons. For many of us of a certain generation, church is something that has been a part of our lives since before we can even remember. Shortly after our birth our parents had us baptized and later enrolled us in Sunday school. Afterwards, without question, we took confirmation classes and became members of our parent's, sometimes our grandparent's church. And for many years afterwards, often for a lifetime, we continued to be active members of our church. We may not have always been crazy about church but we made a commitment to it and for the most part we were content with our church.

Some people, of that same generation still attend church, not because they love it, but out of guilt and a sense of obligation. They have been a member of their church their entire life and they would feel guilty if they stopped going. After all, it was what was expected of them. It is what good people do. Beyond those reasons, they're not sure why they still attend worship services. If they had the nerve, if their friends and family wouldn't be upset with them, they'd quit going all together because they no longer see value in attending worship services. The hymns are boring to them, the words spoken have little or no meaning for them and the sermons leave them cold. What is the point except that if they stopped going to church they might be viewed unfavorably by their peers and feel out of sorts on Sunday morning.

Over the past three or four decades, some, in fact many people have made the decision to stop attending worship services altogether. Although still members, they ended their regular, active relationship with the church except perhaps for attending special services for Christmas, Easter, funerals, weddings and baptisms. Beyond those special times they have little or no dealings with the church. They no longer see any reason for being an active member of any church.

Still there are folks who do attend church and are active members because they genuinely love church. My grandmother, as I'm sure many of yours, was one of those people. No matter how busy she was, she always found time to devote to her church while raising a family and working multiple jobs. Staying home on Sunday morning was not an option. People who are like my grandmother love the hymns, find meaning in the religious words they have heard and spoken their entire life. It gives them a sense of stability of continuity in a world that is chaotic and unstable. They love the fellowship they have with friends and family members on a Sunday morning. They appreciate the comfort and support that they know they will receive in times of grief, in illness, and in loss. They also take joy in knowing that members of their church family will also

be there to celebrate with them during the happy life moments of their life; at weddings, birthdays, baptisms, and anniversaries. To them, despite its many flaws, the church is worth supporting and they know their lives would be less if they were not part of a church family.

There is a new category of people who are discovering church for the first time. For them church is an entirely new experience. They have no religious background, no history of Sunday school, have never been baptized nor even know what all of that religious lingo means. Sometimes those new people are the grandchildren of people who do have a history with the church. Sometimes they are young people who have friends who attend church who have invited them to join them for a worship service or a church activity.

Some folks are returning to church after decades of being away from it. They have decided to give it another shot. Perhaps church really did have something to offer. They've tried other things to fill the emptiness in their lives and nothing has filled it. A woman I know in her seventies told me she started back to church again after being away for many years. She had forgotten just how much the church once meant to her and she has come home again.

Despite how it might seem, the church will never completely disappear. That is because the church has been sanctified by Jesus. It is a sacred gift; it has been set apart for a particular purpose or work that is holy or sacred; God's work. Despite how small in number churches may become, no matter how many churches close their doors, no matter how small a congregation becomes, no matter how insignificant people think the church is, the good news is that it will never entirely disappear. That is a comfort for those of us who love the church and cannot imagine a world without it. That is an assurance of hope for the future for those who have yet to discover the church and for those who still choose to remain disconnected from the church. As long as the church exists, there is place where people can turn to, to find hope, to be renewed, to start again.

There have been a number of songs written entitled, "The House that Love Built." That would be a particularly good title for a song about the church. The church is the house that love built; the house that Jesus laid the foundation for, the house that generations of people have maintained and found shelter. And it is also the house that has built many of us into the people we are today.

**In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael**

*"And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it.-Mathew 16: 18
(Good News Translation)*

Why We Do What We Do During Worship

Passing of the Peace

An important part of most Christian worship services is the passing of the peace. Christians greet one another with a hug, a handshake, and yes, sometimes with a kiss, with the words "Peace be with you". The response, "And also with you" often follows. These words have been spoken by Christians for nearly two thousand years. The practice is rooted in Scripture that calls us to be peacemakers. Jesus himself used these words with his disciples. The apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words "Grace and peace be with you."

Although the gesture is simple, the meaning is significant. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity. During times of division we symbolize our unity as Christians through handshakes and hugs. When we regularly pass the peace we practice God's call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace. Some may question the sincerity of our words, and doubt the value of the practice of passing the peace. Therefore we should be mindful of the sincerity of words we speak in our greeting to one another.

It is important to recognize the cumulative impact of weekly passing the peace. By regularly practicing the gesture, our hearts become shaped in the form of the words we speak. When a child first learns to say "please and thank you" they don't understand the significance. But eventually as the child matures they come to understand that those words are significant in expressing gratitude. When we speak the words "Peace be with you." We are declaring our desire for peace, that we are committed to working for peace in this world.

It is understandable that passing the peace makes some people uncomfortable. Perhaps the discomfort comes from embarrassment; we are moved outside our comfort zone. Therefore we should be mindful of others discomfort and meet them where they are comfortable.

It is hard to believe that a simple handshake could ever turn into a fist fight. How could the hand that embraces the frail hand of the elderly, the shaking hand of the sick, the timid hand of the introvert, the rough hand of the farmer, or the soft hand of a child be considered a weapon? How could the hand that is regularly trained in worship to extend peace ever become a cause of division? – Much of this piece was taken from various internet articles on the subject.

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be held on Monday February 13,
2 - 4 PM at Trinity State Line.

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*

***Birthdays
&
Anniversaries
in
February***



- 7 Dylan Fitz
- 9 Elizabeth Reecher
- 10 Laurie Deavers
- 13 Ashley (Ritchey) Walker
- 16 Richard and Linda Hovis
- 26 Hailee Leidig
- 28 Chloe Lux

**Calendar of Events
February**

- 4 Buchanan Trail Quilters 9AM-3PM
- 5 Worship 10:45 AM
- 12 Worship 10:45 AM
- 13 Buchanan Trail Quilters 5:30 PM
- 19 Worship 10:45 AM
- 21 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
- 26 Worship 10:45 AM
- 26 Tom Jolin & Friends After Worship
Potluck Luncheon



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 February

The Nursery is Available if Needed.



Ushers & Greeters

February 5: Bob Benchoff & Randy Cramer

February 12: Bob Stum & Ernie Fitz

February 19: Judy Fitz & Donna Levick

February 26: Nevin & Sondra Monn



Communion Assistants

February 5: Bob Benchoff & Randy Cramer

March 5: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

CONSISTORY

MEMBERS



Julia Cramer

Jean High

Mary Lou Misner

Martha Smith



Donna Levick

Sondra Monn

Nevin Monn

Brian Jacobs



Inclement Weather and Sunday Services

We are in the season of inclement weather that might prevent worship services on some Sunday mornings. If you are not certain as to whether or not Sunday worship is being held, please call Bob Benchoff at 377-4729.

2016 Giving Report

Here is a breakdown of our giving unit contributions last year. A “unit” is a person/family using church envelopes. So a unit could be a teen, a family of five, or a single senior.

Amount Given	Number of Units
\$1 - \$100	1
\$101 - \$500	2
\$501 - \$1,000	2
\$1,000 - \$3,000	18
\$3,000 and up	5

Weekly Envelopes	\$39,468.30	
Christmas Envelopes	\$ 1,620.00	
Easter Envelopes	\$ 485.00	
Lenten Envelopes	\$ 418.00	
Initial Envelopes	\$ 122.50	
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,298.00	
Offering Plate	<u>\$ 418.00</u>	This represents 15% of total tithing.
Total Tithing	\$44,829.80	

Of course the key question is not how are you giving in relation to others but how are you giving in relation to God?



A Gift from the Folks at Trinity House

The church received a beautiful flower arrangement during the Christmas season from the folks at Trinity House out of gratitude for all the food the church has delivered to them throughout the year.

“Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their bowls!



Donations for this month will be delivered **February 21.**



All canned/boxed food on the shelves will be delivered each month to ensure freshness.

Photo Use Agreement

You will find a Photo Use Agreement from the church's insurance company in this month's newsletter for each member of your family. Please fill it out and return it to the basket in the Narthex or mail it to the church as soon as possible.

Brotherhood Mutual
Insurance Company

Photo Use Agreement for Church of the Apostles
This agreement has been reviewed and approved by our attorney and Underwriter.

I, _____ hereby grant Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company the following rights and license for the use of my photographs and images:

1. Use and storage of my name and image, my name, or digital or photographic copies (photographs, audio recordings or other documents) will appear in any or any of Church of the Apostles.
2. Use of my digital and photographic name and image in electronic publications of Church of the Apostles.
3. Use of my digital and photographic name and image in electronic publications of Church of the Apostles.
4. Use of my digital and photographic name and image in any photo site or social media created by or for Church of the Apostles, its subsidiaries.
5. An irrevocable agreement on behalf of a major credit facility support that the legal member or guarantor of a loan that I have the legal authority to sign this agreement on behalf of the Church.

This agreement is valid until otherwise specified by its author(s).

Full name of person photo given (print): _____
DOB(s): _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Signature: _____ Title: _____
Print or type question 1 signature (last): _____
(If the above named person is under 18): _____
Print or type photo given (print): _____



Thank You

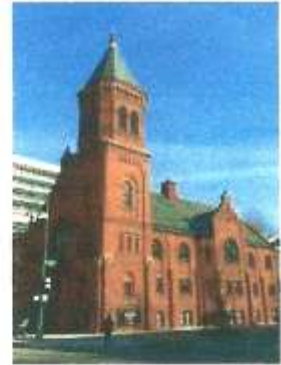
Dear Fellow Believers,

We want to say a very special thank you for the gift of \$125. We are so blessed and humbled by the support we have been shown.

God Bless,

Randy + Shelly Cook

THE UNITED CHURCH
1920 G Street NW
Washington D.C. 20006-4303
PH: 202-331-1495



DECEMBER 28, 2016

CHURCH of the APOSTLES
336 BARNETT AVENUE
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268

Thank you very much for the stamps you sent us DEC. 8. I'm writing you this letter, however, to say that after more than 20 years of collecting stamps for *Stamps For A Living* at St. Elizabeths Hospital here in Washington D.C., that that project has now been discontinued, effectively immediately. We do very much appreciate all the support you've given us.

The stamps that you did send us recently, but were still stored at church, were NOT thrown away, but were donated to the *Springfield Stamp Club*, Springfield, Virginia. Although the members of the club may be stamp collectors, they also support activities that involve youth.

If you have stamps that you have not yet sent us, I would suggest you might find a stamp club in your community to give them to, or any local youth group, such as Boy and Girl Clubs. Perhaps even an elementary school might find use for them working on projects with children. Another suggestion is *Stamps For the Wounded*, Veterans Hospital. However, any stamps we receive in the future that might have been sent to us before you received this letter will either be given to the *Springfield Stamp Club* and/or the *Smithsonian National Postal Museum*.

Again, thank you for all you've done. I wish you well. God Bless!

Sincerely,

June
(Mrs.) June P. Heinz
Church member

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mae E. (Miller) Kauffman Obituary



Mrs. Mae E. (Miller) Kauffman, 93, of Country Club Road, Waynesboro, PA, passed away Wednesday morning, January 4, 2017 in her home.

Born March 14, 1923 in Waynesboro, she was the daughter of the late Grover C. and Nellie R. (Royer) Miller. Mrs. Kauffman attended Plain Hill Elementary School in the Marsh area of Waynesboro and was a graduate of Washington Township High School with the Class of 1941 where she was active in many sports, especially girls' basketball. She later attended Dorothy Dermody School of Cosmetology in Hagerstown, MD.

She and her husband, the late Mr. Chester B. "Chet" Kauffman, Jr., were married March 5, 1949. Mr. Kauffman passed away May 13, 2009.

Mrs. Kauffman began her career as a beautician in August 1942 at Mary & Helen's Beauty Salon on North Church Street, Waynesboro. In 1981, she moved her shop to her home on Country Club Road, Waynesboro which she operated until her retirement in February 2000.

She was a member of Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ, Waynesboro, Beta Chapter of Y-Gradale since 1943 where she helped with the yearly scrapbook since 1945, Waynesboro YMCA where she held offices as President, Vice President and Secretary and served at State Vice President from 1987-1989, Chairman and member of Washington Township Class of 1941 Reunion Committee, served as Sunday School Secretary at Salem United Church of Christ, Waynesboro from 1942-1969 and was a member of National AARP. Mrs. Kauffman enjoyed sending and receiving cards from friends and family, photography, reading and watching T.V, especially the food channel. She also was an avid fan of Duke Basketball.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Mrs. Kauffman was the last of her immediate family.

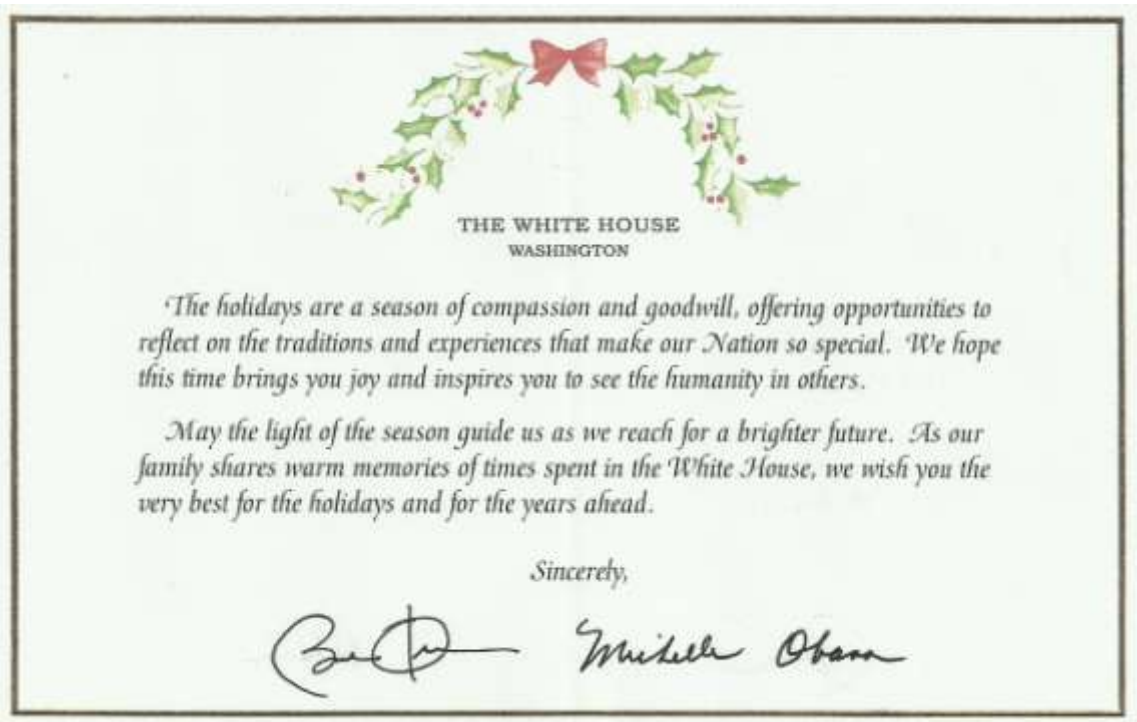
In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three sisters, Cathryn Ressler, Lorraine Ressler and Mary McCoy; and two brothers, Ordean W. Miller and Richard Miller.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, January 14, 2017, in the Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro, with Rev. Michael Cromer officiating. Burial will be private in Green Hill Cemetery, Waynesboro.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro PA 17268. Arrangements are by Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home, Waynesboro.

A Greeting from the Former First Family

Right before Christmas Mae Kauffman sent one of our churches Christmas cards to President Obama and his family. She included with her card, as she often did, a note telling the president about our church. Unfortunately Mae passed away before she received the Christmas greeting from the former first family seen below.





From Mae's Family

It was a beautiful service. So appreciated your smiling. It was a fitting tribute. Many thanks, the family

Pastor Michael -

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relations really mean to us.....

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered

Most sincerely,
Family of Mae Kauffman

Sending our thanks to everyone for cards, calls and donations made in Mae's memory. We appreciate all who helped - the service, music, set up/clean up, flowers - with the very special memorial service for our aunt Mae Kauffman.

Pastor Michael & members of the church,

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us.....

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered

Most sincerely
All Mae's family



Tom Jolin and the RockCandy Cloggers

Tom Jolin and his troupe of clog dancers and musician friends, Rock, Candy and Slim will return to Apostles on Feb. 26 for our free annual event of old time music, clog dancing demonstrations. The show will begin at 1:00. The event will be preceded by potluck at noon. Our guest will also sing and play for us during our 10:45 service. Invite a friend, bring a neighbor to this, one of our most favorite, fun, and enjoyable events of the year. Children will be invited to participate in the music making. A love offering will be collected.



Glove, Mittens, Hats and Scarves

Over the holiday season, over 50 pieces of winter clothing were donated and hung from our mitten tree. They have been given to Waynesboro Human services for distribution among those in need in the community.

An Open and Affirming Meeting

Four guests from St. Paul's UCC in Mechanicsburg recently worshiped with us, shared a meal of soup and bread, and then joined us for a discussion about

Church of the Apostles becoming an Open and Affirming Church. Our guests talked about their own personal often painful experience growing up gay/lesbian in the Christian church. They also talked about their churches decision to becoming ONA (Open and Affirming) and what that process was like. The meeting was the first step of many, which can go on for years, in this churches decision to become a church that will hopefully enter a covenant stating that people of all sexual orientations are welcome at Church of the Apostles.



**THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES
336 BARNETT AVENUE
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268-0288**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please forward an address change to the Church office.



February 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.