

June 2017 Newsletter



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP 10 AM

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From the Pastor's Study

Some months ago I came across a writing called, "There Comes a Time". The author offers to the reader wisdom and insight that invites you to look at and evaluate your own life. Instead of my own writing this month I share with you this piece from an unknown author and invite you to pause and look at your life at whatever stage you are in.

THERE COMES A TIME - *Author Unknown*

A time comes in your life when you finally get it... When in the midst of all your fears and insanity you stop dead in your tracks and somewhere the voice inside your head cries out - ENOUGH! Enough fighting and crying or struggling to hold on.

Like a child quieting down after a blind tantrum, your sobs begin to subside, you shudder once or twice, you blink back your tears and through a mantle of wet lashes you begin to look at the world through new eyes. This is your awakening. You realize that it's time to stop hoping and waiting for something to change or for happiness, safety and security to come galloping over the next horizon. You come to terms with the fact that he is not Prince Charming and you are not Cinderella and that in the real world there aren't always fairytale endings (or beginnings for that matter) and that any guarantee of "happily ever after" must begin with you and in the process a sense of serenity is born of acceptance.

You awaken to the fact that you are not perfect and that not everyone will always love, appreciate or approve of who or what you are... and that's OK. (They are entitled to their own views and opinions.) And you learn the importance of loving and championing yourself and in the process a sense of new found confidence is born of self-approval. You stop bitching and blaming other people for the things they did to you (or didn't do for you) and you learn that the only thing you can really count on is the unexpected. You learn that people don't always say what they mean or mean what they say and that not everyone will always be there for you and that it's not always about you. So, you learn to stand on your own and to take care of yourself and in the process a sense of safety & security is born of self-reliance.

You stop judging and pointing fingers and you begin to accept people as they are and to overlook their shortcomings and human frailties and in the process a sense of peace & contentment is born of forgiveness. You realize that much of the way you view yourself, and the world around you, is as a result of all the messages and opinions that have been ingrained into your psyche. And you begin

to sift through all the crap you've been fed about how you should behave, how you should look and how much you should weigh, what you should wear and where you should shop and what you should drive, how and where you should live and what you should do for a living, who you should sleep with, who you should marry and what you should expect of a marriage, the importance of having and raising children or what you owe your parent

You learn to open up to new worlds and different points of view. And you begin reassessing and redefining who you are what you really stand for. You learn the difference between wanting and needing and you begin to discard the doctrines and values you've outgrown, or should never have bought into to begin with and in the process you learn to go with your instincts. You learn that it is truly in giving that we receive. And that there is power and glory in creating and contributing and you stop maneuvering through life merely as a "consumer" looking for your next fix. You learn that principles such as honesty and integrity are not the outdated ideals of a bygone era but the mortar that holds together the foundation upon which you must build a life.

You learn that you don't know everything, it's not your job to save the world and that you can't teach a pig to sing. You learn to distinguish between guilt and responsibility and the importance of setting boundaries and learning to say NO. You learn that the only cross to bear is the one you choose to carry and that martyrs get burned at the stake. Then you learn about love. Romantic love and familial love. how to love, how much to give in love, when to stop giving and when to walk away. You learn not to project your needs or your feelings into a relationship.

You learn that you will not be more beautiful, more intelligent, more lovable or important because of the man on your arm or the child that bears your name. You learn to look at relationships as they really are and not as you would have them be. You stop trying to control people, situations and outcomes. You learn that just as people grow and change so it is with love.... and you learn that you don't have the right to demand love on your terms... just to make you happy. And, you learn that alone does not mean lonely...

You look in the mirror and come to terms with the fact that you will never be a size 5 or a perfect 10 and you stop trying to compete with the image inside your head and agonizing over how you "stack up."

You also stop working so hard at putting your feelings aside, smoothing things over and ignoring your needs. You learn that feelings of entitlement are perfectly OK.... and that it is your right to want things and to ask for the things that you want...and that sometimes it is necessary to make demands.

You come to the realization that you deserve to be treated with love, kindness, sensitivity and respect and you won't settle for less. And, you allow only the hands of a lover who cherishes you to glorify you with his touch... and in the process you internalize the meaning of self-respect.

And you learn that your body really is your temple. And you begin to care for it and treat it with respect. You begin eating a balanced diet, drinking more water and taking more time to exercise. You learn that fatigue diminishes the spirit and can create doubt and fear. So you take more time to rest. And, just as food fuels the body, laughter fuels our soul. So you take more time to laugh and to play.

You learn, that for the most part, in life you get what you believe you deserve... and that much of life truly is a self-fulfilling prophecy. You learn that anything worth achieving is worth working for and that wishing for something to happen is different from working toward making it happen. More importantly, you learn that in order to achieve success you need direction, discipline and perseverance. You also learn that no one can do it all alone and that it's OK to risk asking for help.

You learn that the only thing you must truly fear is the great robber baron of all time... FEAR itself. You learn to step right into and through your fears because you know that whatever happens you can handle it and to give in to fear is to give away the right to live life on your terms. And you learn to fight for your life and not to squander it living under a cloud of impending doom. You learn that life isn't always fair, you don't always get what you think you deserve and that sometimes bad things happen to unsuspecting, good people. On these occasions you learn not to personalize things. You learn that God isn't punishing you or failing to answer your prayers. It's just life happening.

And you learn to deal with evil in its most primal state - the ego. You learn that negative feelings such as anger, envy and resentment must be understood and redirected or they will suffocate the life out of you and poison the universe that surrounds you. You learn to admit when you are wrong and to build bridges instead of walls. You learn to be thankful and to take comfort in many of the simple things we take for granted, things that millions of people upon the earth can only dream about: a full refrigerator, clean running water, a soft warm bed, a long hot shower.

Slowly, you begin to take responsibility for yourself by yourself and you make yourself a promise to never betray yourself and to never ever to settle for less than your heart's desire. You hang a wind chime outside your window so you can listen to the wind. And you make it a point to keep smiling, to keep trusting, and to stay open to every wonderful possibility.

Finally, with courage in your heart and with God by your side you take a stand, you take a deep breath and you begin to design the life you want to live as best as you can.

Thank you for the beautiful
landscaping and flowers.
Also the "Be the Church" banner.
It's a good one.
Please pray for this country.

**From the
Church
Prayer Box**

NEW UCC Mission Initiative

3 Great Loves - Love of Children, Creation and Neighbor

"3 Great Loves: Love of Children, Love of Creation, Love of Neighbor" is a UCC-wide mission initiative that will be launched at General Synod 2017 and conclude at General Synod 2019. This initiative invites us to look at our work through the lenses of the **3Great Loves**.

How does our work express a love of children, a love of creation, and/or a love of neighbor?

Every Conference as been invited to participate in this initiative by sharing our Conference stories in written or short video (30 sec) form. We encourage each of our congregations to share their stories of ministry moving us toward a just world.

To curate these stories, **we are seeking a volunteer** "Just World for All Conference Coordinator" for Penn Central Conference. **Please email Wendy** at whepler@pccucc.org **if you are interested.**



Birthdays & Anniversaries in June



6/1 Bob and Pat Bostwick
6/2 Betty Lynerd
6/3 Robert Lynerd
6/4 Katie Fitz
6/12 Ernest and Beverly Fitz
6/12 Gilbert Hovermale
6/14 Bill Luick
6/18 Beverly Fitz
6/20 Mary Lou Misner
6/21 Eric Jacobs
6/22 Robyn Dingle
6/26 Robert Benchoff
6/26 Larry Little

Calendar of Events June

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------|
| 4 | Worship | 10 AM |
| 5 | Y Gradale Sorority Picnic | 5 PM |
| 11 | Worship | 10 AM |
| 12 | Buchanan Trail Quilters | 5:30 PM |
| 18 | Outdoor Worship | 10 AM |
| 20 | Silver Express Delivery | 1:30 PM |
| 25 | Worship | 10 AM |



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

AI Anon meets every Thursday
from 8-9 PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

in June



Ushers & Greeters

- June 4: Brian & Debbie Jacobs
June 11: Tony & Donna Haugh
June 18: Nevin & Sondra Monn
June 25: Randy Cramer & Ernie Fitz

SUMMER HOURS



Summer Worship Hours Begin

Worship begins at 10:00 AM for the months of June, July, and August.

Thanks to my church family for the generous gift that paid for Dylan's flight home after his mother's passing. In addition, the outpouring of sympathy in cards, phone calls and visits was very touching. These are the times that the church family is such a great source of comfort.

Randy, Julia and Dylan



First Outdoor Worship Service

The first outdoor worship service for the summer is scheduled for June 18 at the church's outdoor worship area weather permitting.

Penn Central Annual Meeting

Pastor Michael will again attend the Penn Central Annual Meeting at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove on June 9 and 10.



CONSISTORY MEMBERS



Julia Cramer

Jean High

Mary Lou Misner

Martha Smith



Donna Levick

Sondra Monn

Nevin Monn

Brian Jacobs

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS May 17, 2017

1. Mary Lou attended a webinar on Church Safety presented by Brotherhood Insurance Company.
2. Spiritual Council:
Organist Job Description was updated.
3. Stewardship & Finance:
Working to balance the Budget for 2018.
4. Voted to Approve:
Memorial Fund money (less than \$125.00) will be used cover costs to plant part of the field in sunflowers to create a Pollinators Habitat as proposed by Property Committee.
5. Voted to Approve:
The legal name of the church will not change. **It remains "The Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ".**
6. Voted to Approve:
Pastor's vacation July 16-24.
7. Voted to Approve:
To discontinue ONA meetings and to make the congregation aware that we are no longer pursuing ONA status.

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2017

12:00 Noon

OUTDOOR MINISTRY THANKS & SUMMER NEEDS

Thanks so much to everyone who adopted trees and areas to mulch, it all looks so beautiful ! A special thanks to Nevin & Sondra Monn, who adopted multiple trees and Nevin who did the large beds along both sides of the church; and a special thanks to Donna Levick, who weeded, planted , edged and mulched the biblical garden, the bed under the cross, the Amsterdam road sign bed, and did the same with Bev Fitz for the Outdoor Activity Center beds.



Thanks also to Donna for selecting the flowers for the sidewalk planters and with Bev planted all the planters. Thank you to Pastor Michael for selecting & planting the flowers for the planter and the beds at the North entrance. Thanks to Shelley Benchoff for selecting & planting the annual flowers for the Peace Garden and with Bob's help doing the mulching.

Finally, thanks to all who help with watering the planters, hanging ferns & beds throughout the summer, especially Donna & Nevin !!! More watering volunteers are always needed !

“Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **June 20.**



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



Summer Care of Church Grounds

The property surrounding the church is one of the churches greatest assets. Many positive remarks and compliments are overheard and received throughout the summer months. People from the community walk the grounds, sit and rest. Children ride their bikes in the parking lot. However, to maintain the beauty of the property requires work. Weeds need to be pulled, flowers need to be watered, mulch needs to be spread. Although a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help maintain the church property was provided weeks ago only 3 people have volunteered to the work of many. Please consider giving a hand to those who have already volunteered.

Simple Gifts Music Workshop at Hoffman Homes

As part of the grant the church received from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, the group Simple Gifts will present a music workshop for the children of Hoffman Homes this month.



Outdoor Movie

Church of the Apostles, Trinity UCC of Waynesboro and Trinity State Line will come together at Apostles as one church family one evening to watch a movie outside on a big screen on the church property at Apostles. Tentative date is July 14. More information will provided at a later date.





Weekly Message from Our Conference Minister

Gathered Together in One Place (Acts 2:44-47)

In Central Pennsylvania, it is almost warm enough for short sleeves and a light jacket! Warm weather reminds me of grilling outdoors and gathering with friends and family. Acts 2:44-47 also makes me think of family gatherings. The people who gathered seem to have the kind of togetherness I have experienced at family reunions. After reading the scripture passage, I wonder if you get a similar sense:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." --- Acts 2: 44-47

There was a certain camaraderie as the disciples seemed to like each other and shared things in common. Emphasis was placed on the word "together," which was mentioned twice in the first few verses. Perhaps the author of Luke-Acts wanted to emphasize the importance of being gathered in community.

Why did they need to be together?

For the importance of being together, let us go back to my reference to outdoor grilling for a lesson from charcoals. While I am no expert at lighting charcoal grills, I am aware of the following important steps to take:

Step 1: Heap the charcoal in the grill.

Step 2: Douse the charcoal with lighter fluid and let it sit for a while.

Step 3: Ignite the charcoal.

Once lit, it will produce a huge flame which eventually dies down to reveal glowing charcoal. Inevitably, there are usually one or more charcoal briquettes that will fall away from the pile, no longer touching or connected to any of the other glowing briquettes.

Have you ever noticed what happens to the disconnected briquettes?

Over time they simply lose their glow. Similarly, I believe this is what can happen to people who neglect assembling together. They lose their glow because they are not around others who have a common focus or goal.

Abiding in Resurrection Hope,

Monica

Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith
Conference Minister and President

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please forward an address change to the Church office.



June 2017

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.