

October 2017 Newsletter



Harvest Time

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

Last month I attended the first ministerial meeting of the season for the pastors of Mercersburg Association. Ministerial meetings are held every month at different churches in the association. They might be as far away as Perry County, Carlisle and Mechanicsburg, or as close as Waynesboro or Greencastle. The meetings give pastors an opportunity to share updates from one another as to what is going on in their lives both personally and professionally. There is usually a guest speaker or one of the pastors may give a talk or presentation on a variety of topics related to ministry. Last month's meeting was held at a church in Carlisle Springs.

The guest speaker was one of my professors from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Professor Lee Barrett. Professor Barrett is one of most prominent theologians at the seminary and very popular among the students. He certainly had a positive impact on my life as a seminary student. His topic for the meeting was on preaching. But before he got down to the subject of preaching he gave some background information as to the state of the Christian church in the United States.

He began by telling us that interest in anything related to church or organized religion was in decline in this country. That was not a surprise to any of us at the meeting. Many of the pastors at the meeting that day have seen a marked decrease in attendance. Although individual churches of different denominations might appear to be doing well, in general as a whole, interest in church continues to decline no matter what denomination, regardless if it is a mega church or a small country church. It was believed some years ago that once people became uninterested in a mega church they would trickle down to the smaller churches. But that has not been so. People who leave mega churches, meaning churches with thousands of members, tend to stop going to church altogether.

He said that there continues to be a decline in interest in bible study, Sunday school, church choirs, and vacation bible school. There is little interest in biblical studies of any kind. People are not interested in learning about the bible or the history of Christianity. Does any of this sound familiar?

Professor Barrett told us he had recently attended a church service in one of the Scandinavian countries where the clergy are paid by the government. There were several members of the clergy participating in the service and only a dozen or so people in the pews. He sees the United States headed in the same direction as European countries have been in the past and

are today, becoming secular countries. That means that the attitudes of the people, their activities and the things they do have no religious or spiritual background.

After that background information about the current state of the church Professor Barrett began to talk about the real subject of his talk and that was on preaching. He said that despite what is going on in the world concerning the state of the church there is still good news to be heard and it must be preached if even to only a small group of people on a Sunday morning. It is the good news of the gospels that need to be heard. In order for any news to be shared it must be heard. Despite that recent studies show that the average attentions span of a person listening to a sermon is now three and a half minutes, pastors must continue to preach the gospel. With the increased speed of modern technology the human attention span has decreased. When I was in seminary we were told that a sermon should last around twelve minutes and no more than fifteen minutes or you would lose your audience. That is the difference in how life has changed in less than ten years.

But there are other ways in which the good news of the gospels may be shared even with those who have no time, or no interest in hearing it spoken during a worship service. It can be shared by our actions; by the way we live our lives, by showing others how much the church still cares for them, how much God cares for them.

I was watching a show on television the other morning about a ministry that is worldwide. They reach the unchurched in this country by meeting the needs of people who are in need of basic necessities. The ministry provides clothing, food, hot showers, and assistance with housing and utility bills. The church goes into the neediest places of a city and offers help to people where they most need to be helped. The response is tremendous. People leave with bags of clothing, toiletries, and food and most important they leave with some hope for the future. It is in helping those who have the greatest human needs that the church is able to open doors and encourage people to perhaps come to church some Sunday. Out of three hundred people helped in one community by the church whose story I was watching on television, over one hundred people came to church. Why did they decide to give church a chance? Because of the love that was extended to them by a church that cared enough to meet their basic human needs; food, shelter, clothing.

This morning I delivered a gift card to a man whose family has been living in and out of shelters since the beginning of the year. The father, his wife, and three children have been living in a local church since May. Two of the children attend school. I stood in the parking lot of McDonalds and listened to the father's story of his family problems. Afterwards I offered him words of encouragement and told him they would get through this tough time in their life and one day look back at where they had been and where they would be one day. The father shook my hand and offered me the same blessing I have heard many times from people the church has helped, "God bless you." He further declared, "I know that with Christ we will get through this."

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? -1 John 3:17



Note: Nearly 40% of families with children in Adams and Franklin Counties are struggling to make ends meet. It takes nearly \$49,000 for a family of three to be self-sufficient. The barriers that families encounter as they try to work their way out of poverty are many and often seem insurmountable.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The former St. Paul - Harbaugh Charge of the UCC officially became The Church of the Apostles, UCC at a Uniting Service held at Trinity, UCC, Waynesboro on March 26, 1967.

The Joint Consistory is shown in the following photo. Our celebration will continue with monthly newsletter photos of the Joint Study Committee and Legal, Finance & Building Committees as well as progress photos leading up to the Building Dedication in 1969.

A 50th Anniversary committee will be formed to plan a Service of Celebration to commemorate the Building Dedication in 2019.



Back Row: Francis Kline, Bruce Barr, Roy Hawbaker, Donald Shade, Robert Hartman, Andrew Fitz.

Middle Row: Richard Miller, James Valentine, Donald McCleaf, Lloyd McCleaf, Kenneth Pryor.

Front Row: Omer Eshleman, Cleo Martin, Naomi Carson, George Fox, Rev. Swisher.

***Birthdays &
Anniversaries
in
October***



- 2 Dorothy Wetherald
- 3 Sue Dingle
- 10 Judy Fitz
- 14 Robert Bostwick
- 19 Donna Haugh
- 24 Tyson Berkey
- 27 Nevin Monn
- 28 Mary Lou and Timothy Misner

**Calendar of Events
October**

- 1 Worship 10:45 AM
- 3 NGA Ingathering 9 AM - 1 PM
- 8 Worship 10:45 AM
- 9 Buchanan Trail Quilters 5:30 PM
- 15 Worship 10:45 AM
- 17 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
- 22 Worship 10:45 AM
- 29 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 October*



Ushers & Greeters

October 1: Bob Stum & Bob Benchoff

October 8: Tony & Donna Haugh

October 15: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

October 22: Nevin & Sondra Monn

October 29: Ernie Fitz & Judy Fitz

Communion Assistants

October 1 : Bob Stum & Bob Benchoff

November 5: Donna Levick & Randy Cramer

October Wedding



The wedding of Chasity Burns will be held at the church on October 14 and officiated by Pastor Michael. Some of you may remember Chasity attending this church as a child many years ago.

“Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **October 17.**



All canned/boxed food on the shelves will be delivered

Community Gardeners Picnic



The annual picnic of the community gardeners was held late afternoon on September 26 on the lawn behind the church near the garden plots. Although attendance was not what was hoped for, a time of fellowship and good food was shared by those who did attend.

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker Rev. Gloria McPherson from the Penn Central Conference will be our guest on October 15. She will present the church with a certificate acknowledging the churches financial support of Our Churches Wider Mission for the year 2017. She will also talk about the importance of continuing support of this UCC program.



Neighbors in Need Special Offering



Please support this month's United Church of Christ special offering for Neighbors in Need. This important program helps churches with mission projects, especially those that are faithful and creative and designed to help reach out to the marginalized in our neighborhoods.

Your gift gives grant money to churches trying to build a bit of hope in their neighborhoods. Two thirds of the program's funds support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of the funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. The 2017 theme for Neighbors in Need is *"Protecting the Sacred: In a Just World, Clean Water is Life."*

NGA Ingathering

The 2017 NGA Ingathering will be held at the Church of the Apostles on October 3.

The Mission of NGA - Needlework Guild of America is to improve the quality of life for economically disadvantaged individuals in the United States by collecting and distributing to them NEW gifts of clothes, linens, and personal care items.

Our desire is to help disadvantaged children, women and men by offering new items of clothing to help them become self-sufficient in life. The new clothes help bring warmth and comfort to those who need it most. A new outfit encourages a positive outlook on life.

The local branch of NGA services the following agencies: Waynesboro Community and Human Services, South Mountain Restoration Center, Pregnancy Resource Center, Franklin County Headstart Programs and Faith Community Outreach Ministries. These agencies provide us with requisitions as to their needs and we shop appropriately. A copy of the requisitions are posted in the Narthex or I will accept monetary donations and shop for you.

Thanks again, for helping those less fortunate.

Linda Hovis
Waynesboro Branch Secretary



CONSISTORY MEMBERS



Julia Cramer

Jean High

Mary Lou Misner

Martha Smith



Donna Levick

Sondra Monn

Nevin Monn

Brian Jacobs

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

September 17, 2017

Communication

- Bill Luick is a now resident of the Village of Laurel Run.
- Gloria McPherson of the UCC Conference will speak about OCWM in worship on Oct. 15.
- Sunflower field has had many “likes” on Facebook.

Minutes & Treasurer’s reports were approved.

New Business - It was approved to move the remainder of the Peace Pole fund to the general fund.

Next meeting: November 5, 2017

CONSISTORY TERM EXPIRATION DATES

Elders

Martha Smith

Jean High

Mary Lou Misner

Julia Cramer

Deacons

Brian Jacobs 12/31/17

Donna Levick 12/31/17

Nevin Monn 12/31/19

Sondra Monn 12/31/19

This is an election year for 4 new members to begin a three year term in January 2018.

HELP! Christmas is coming!!

We need YOUR feedback. Please email or call mlmisner@pa.net / 717-749-3839 with your opinion. **Deadline: October 15, 2017.**

- Should we have a morning worship service on December 24?
- With the evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service that would be two services on the same day.

FREE United Church of Christ

Daily Devotional...in your inbox!

Be uplifted! Devotions are written by the UCC Still Speaking Writers Group!

Get it started now - dailydevotional@ucc.org

The following is for your review prior to the vote in November:

- Consistory voted to approve the following proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.
- A congregational vote to approve will be held at the Annual Meeting on November 19, 2017.
- Contact Consistory president, Mary Lou Misner with any questions at 717-749-3839 or mlmisner@pa.net

Proposed Constitution & By-Laws revision

July 2017

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Current:

Membership in this church shall be open to any person who has been baptized, and who has been confirmed or has made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We further affirm that membership is open to all persons regardless of race, class, or ethnic background.

Proposed Change:

Membership in this church shall be open to all persons who are seeking a relationship with God and fellowship with a community of believers. We further affirm that membership is open to all persons regardless of race, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, physical health challenge, mental health challenge, gender identity, sexual identity, economic status, immigration status, marital status, educational status.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Currently no by-law addresses our Use Of Facilities Contract agreement

Proposed insertion of letter “ f ”

- f. They are responsible to oversee the rental contract that must be used to schedule special events on the church property. Our facilities are available to members and outside groups.

ARTICLE XIII. Property

1. addition at the end of the paragraph...All persons can be married on church property no matter their gender identity, sexual orientation, race or religion.

STROKE

DIABETES

HEART DISEASE

Early Detection is Key to Prevention



Life Line Screening ultrasound technician performing a carotid artery screening to look for fatty plaque buildup.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH SCREENINGS CAN DETECT YOUR RISK FOR SERIOUS DISEASE

A stroke occurs in the US every 40 seconds, yet 80% of strokes can be prevented.¹

1 in 3 with diabetes don't know they have it.²

Heart disease is the #1 killer among adults in the US, but heart disease is preventable and controllable.³

What's Inside Your Arteries?



NORMAL

Blood flows easily.



MODERATE

Blood flow reduced.



SIGNIFICANT

Blood flow is halted.

¹Source: National Stroke Association

²Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

³Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A Stroke Screening is Coming to Your Neighborhood:

Join the nearly 8 million people who have been screened. Appointments are limited, register today.

Are YOU at risk?

Where: Church of the Apostles

When: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Pre-registration is required. To get a discount and have questions answered call:

1-888-653-6450 or visit lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers

First+Last Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Package 1 Package 2 Screening site, zip code and date: _____

To sign up call 888-653-6450 or fax this form to 866-628-4857.

Trusted by Hospitals Nationwide.

Life Line Screening has **partnered with over 150 hospitals** across the country and has **screened nearly 8 million participants**. Why? Because the ultrasound screenings that we offer **can help save your life**.



Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening — \$70.00

Ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque — a leading cause of strokes.



Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation) — \$70.00

A quick and easy test using EKG electrodes placed on the arms and legs to identify the presence or absence of an irregular heartbeat.



Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening — \$70.00

Ultrasound screening for an abdominal aneurysm (enlargement) that could lead to a ruptured aorta.



Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening — \$60.00

Evaluates for peripheral arterial disease (PAD) in the lower extremities, which increases the risk of heart disease.



Osteoporosis Risk Assessment — \$60.00

Ultrasound screens the heel for bone mass density. Osteoporosis is painless and silent in its early stages.

PACKAGE 1

Stroke, Vascular Disease & Heart Rhythm Package — 4 tests for only \$139

PACKAGE 2

Add an Osteoporosis Screening for only \$10 more — 5 tests for only \$149

A \$181 savings!

Screening results are provided to you in 15 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of stroke risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for stroke prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. Screenings in California are provided by Life Line Mobile Screening, a physician owned practice. Screenings in Kansas are performed by Life Line Screening of America, Ltd. on behalf of Life Line Screening Physicians, P.A. Screenings in New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York are performed by Life Line Medical Screening, LLC (Dr. Andrew Mangano, 70 Niagara Street, Buffalo NY, 14202). Life Line Screening does not engage in the practice of medicine in those states. This information is not intended to induce referrals by Life Line Screening to Life Line Medical Screening, LLC for any professional medical service. Texas residents: Physician authorization is required. A Life Line Screening affiliated physician will provide authorization for you if you qualify. Cancellation Policy: A full refund is issued if you call to cancel at least 2 days prior to your appointment. If less than 2 days' notice is given, we will issue a Gift Card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, to purchase future screening services.



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

September 6, 2017

Pastor Michael Cromer
Church of the Apostles UCC
336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Dear Pastor Cromer,

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."
MOTHER TERESA

Thank you! Your gift of \$100.00 (Check No. 6627, dated 8/30/17) in support of our 14th Annual "A Night in Paradise" Gala Fundraiser will help ensure that the children in care at Hoffman Homes for Youth—kids in crisis who are coping with the crippling effects of trauma, abuse, neglect and loss—have a better chance at achieving a brighter, better and happier future.

For more than a century, Hoffman Homes has been a place of hope and recovery for thousands of children in great need of safety, stability, caring and support. We believe that our rustic setting, our structured living environment and our progressive day school, coupled with our focus on innovative creative therapies—including art therapy, music therapy, pet therapy and therapeutic horsemanship—create an environment of healing for the deeply traumatized children in our program. Through these unique therapies, along with our spectrum of individual, group and family therapies, our children learn to process their emotions and discover coping skills that help them take their first vital steps toward lifelong recovery. **This would not be possible without your support.**

Again, many thanks for your commitment to our children. Your support ensures that we can continue to offer programs and services and make ongoing enhancements that directly benefit the children we serve...**Your generosity of spirit is giving a second chance to kids in need; your kindness is changing lives.**

In gratitude,


Kris Roeder
VP, Marketing & Development
kroeder@hoffmanhomes.com
717-359-7148

Your generosity is a blessing to us - Thank you! Please just let me know when you want me to visit + I'm there... 😊

P.S. Please just contact me if you'd like to visit for a campus tour—to see firsthand how your support is making a difference to our children—or to arrange a "Mission Moment" visit to your congregation. *Thank you for caring!*

*Blessings,
Kris*

Thank
you



Thank you for the
beautiful flowers
and everything
you have done for
me and my family.
It is greatly
appreciated

*Your kindness and
sympathy are more
deeply appreciated than
any word of thanks
can ever express.*

Annet Bonner
:
The Bonner family

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please forward an address change to the Church office.



October 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.