

December 2019 Newsletter



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP 10:45 AM

***336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268***

717-762-4113

Website: www.apostlesucc.com

E-mail: apostlesucc@gmail.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

“Every generous act of giving, with every gift, is from above...” James 1:17a

Recently while searching through my files for a Hanging of the Greens service, I came across this wonderful reading that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. I cannot recall who was kind enough to send it to me, or who should receive the credit for the reading. I just knew I had to share it with all of you and extend my hope:

May the true gift of Christmas bless each of you with peace and love.

“This is how it happened... I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree.

He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. “What are you doing?” I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know.

He then answered me with a simple statement.

“TEACH THE CHILDREN!”

I was puzzled; what did he mean? He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, “Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten.”

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **FIR TREE** and placed it before the mantle. “Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man’s thoughts turning toward heaven.”

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant **STAR**. “Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise.”

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a **CANDLE**. “Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness.”

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a **WREATH** and placed it on the tree. “Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection.”

He then pulled from his bag an **ORNAMENT** of himself. “Teach the children that I, Santa Clause symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December.”

He then brought out a **HOLLY LEAF**. “Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly represents the blood shed by Him.”

Next he pulled from his bag a **GIFT** and said, “Teach the children that God so loved the world that HE gave HIS begotten **SON**...” Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **CANDY CANE** and hung it on the tree. “Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds’ crook. The crook or the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother’s keeper.”

He reached in again and pulled out an **ANGEL**. “Teach the children that it was the angel that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior’s birth. The angel song ‘Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men.’”

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a **BELL**. “Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.”

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, “Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship **HIM**, our **LORD**, our **GOD**.”

Remember... Jesus is the reason for the season!

Happy Birthday Jesus!”

Blessings and Joy for the journey,
Pastor Narda



Birthdays & Anniversaries *In* December



15 Shirley Zeigler

The Christmas Eve Choir



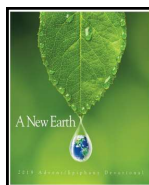
will practice on Sunday
December 8, 15 and 22
following Worship.

Social Seniors

Social Seniors will meet Monday,
December 9 at Church of the
Apostles from 2 - 4 PM.
Gillian Austin and
St. Maria Goretti High School
will present the program,
along with an additional
Christmas Surprise!
Bring a friend!

Calendar of Events *for* December

- 1 Worship 10:45 AM
Hanging of the Greens
Soup & Bread / finish decorating
- 1 Wayne Band Holiday Concert 3 PM
- 7 Hospital Auxiliary Greens Sale 8 AM
- 8 Worship with Communion 10:45 AM
Hanging of the Crismons
- 9 Social Seniors Christmas Gathering 2-4 PM
- 15 Worship 10:45 AM
Christmas Caroling {after a light lunch}
- 17 Silver Express Delivery 1 PM
- 22 Worship 10:45 AM
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight /
Communion Service 7 PM
- 29 Worship 10:45 AM



Advent Devotional Discussion Group

meets at 9:30 am
on Sundays during Advent,
beginning December 1st.



Weight Watchers meets every
Tuesday at 6 PM
and Wednesday at 9 AM

Worship Assistants



for December

December 1: Judy Fitz & Donna Levick

December 8: Tony & Donna Haugh

December 15: Chris & Cristie Bobb

December 22: Nevin & Sondra Monn

December 24: Bert & Laurie Hovermale

December 29: Bob Benchoff & Ernie Fitz

Lay Readers for December



December 1: Judy Fitz

December 8: Donna Haugh

December 15: Pastor Narda

December 22: Mary Lou Misner

December 24: Bert Hovermale

December 29: Bob Benchoff

WANTED:

***Audio/Video Engineer Trainees
for***

***Church of the Apostles
new Audio/Video system.***

Training expected to begin in January.

Required: a willingness to learn and a desire to help make a joyful noise to the Lord.

A desire to explore your creative side is a plus. Sunday work required, and the pay is lousy [there isn't any], but the benefits are heavenly.

See Bert Hovermale for more details.

Communion Assistants

December 8:
Tony & Donna Haugh

December 24:
Bert & Laurie Hovermale

January 5:
Tony & Donna Haugh



Christmas Services & Events at Church of the Apostles

December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM - Advent Devotional Discussion Group

10:45 AM - Worship / Hanging of the Greens
followed by a Soup & Bread Luncheon
and finish decorating the church.

3 PM - Wayne Band Holiday Concert

December 7: 8 AM - Waynesboro Hospital Holiday Greens Sale

December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM - Advent Devotional Discussion Group

10:45 AM - Worship with Communion and
Hanging of the Crismons

December 9: 2 - 4 PM - Social Seniors Christmas Celebration Gathering

December 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM - Advent Devotional Discussion Group

10:45 AM - Worship

Afternoon - Christmas Caroling (after a light lunch)

December 22: 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM - Advent Devotional Discussion Group

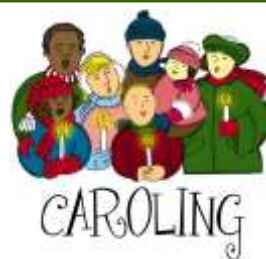
10:45 AM - Worship

December 24: Christmas Eve

7 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight / Communion Service

We will be going
Christmas Caroling on December 15
after Church.

A light lunch will be served.
There should be 4-5 members we will try to visit.
A sign-up sheet will be available December 1.



Christian Outreach Team “THANK YOU’s”



Thanks to everyone who helped with the disaster buckets ministry. Special thanks to Pastor Narda for helping with the purchases and Donna Levick and Linda Hovis for helping to get the supplies ready for Sunday.

Also thanking Larry Little & Joann Keech for volunteering their truck to take the buckets to New Windsor, MD.



Thanks also to each person who took a name and purchased a gift for Hoffman Homes for Youth.

We are providing 10 group hall gifts this year.

Judy Fitz, Team Leader

The Stocking Tree

This year we will have a sock tree. Stockings are one of the most requested items especially in the winter from agency's that have clothes available for the needy. There is a need for stockings for all ages.



As we purchase stockings, may we be mindful of people not having the necessary resources to purchase socks to keep them warm. May the thought of helping people warm our hearts that we are responding to the call of loving our neighbors. Thank you for prayerfully responding to this ministry.

The tree will be located in the Fellowship Hall. They will be delivered to Waynesboro Health and Human Services after Christmas.

~ Christian Outreach Team



Thank you to Lay, Life and Work Team
for providing the reception following the Waynesboro Fellowship of Churches Community Thanksgiving Service.



*A new grandchild is love...
 ...small enough
 to hold in your arms...
 ...big enough
 to fill your life with happiness.*

Welcome 

Madison Avery Gossert
 Born November 18, 2019

Congratulations 

Grandparents:
Bev & Ernie Fitz
Parents:
Katie Fitz & Matthew Gossert

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Approved:

- * New Consistory members:
 Larry Little, Joanne Keech, Tori VanReenen, Christopher Bobb
- *Amendment to the Constitution
- *2020 Spending plan
- *Audio/Visual Sound System



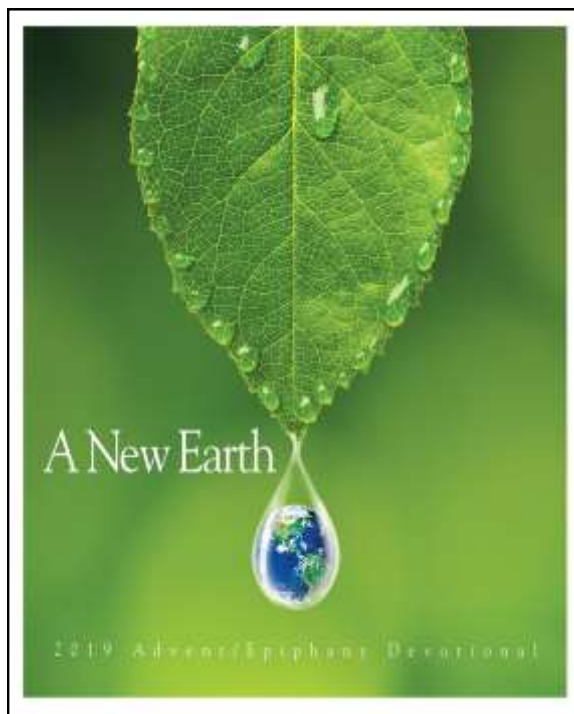
Our New Sound System Has Been Ordered & Will be Installed in January!

Envelopes are available in the pews
if you would like to make a donation to help defray the cost.

*Include your name on the envelope to receive credit for your donation
on your 2019 tax statement.*

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays at 9:30 AM During Advent, in the Social Hall



The UCC gives us a great resource to help us prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord – the Advent Devotional. Like its Lenten counterpart, this little booklet has a short but thought-provoking message for each day, all pointing to a central theme for the season. Some days it seems as though the devotional message is written especially for me, touching something inside me that needs to be explored, changed, or healed before I can welcome the Christ Child once again. Have you ever felt that a devotional message was speaking directly to you? The devotional is another way that I know that God is still speaking – to me, to us, to the world.

The Advent Devotional Discussion Group meets before church on Sundays during Advent, beginning December 1st. On December 1st we'll talk about the theme for the season and the devotional message for that day, the first day of Advent. On subsequent Sundays we'll discuss the messages for the week just ended. Did any of them resonate particularly well with you? Did any of them seem to reflect God's saving grace in our conflict-ridden times? Did any of the messages give you a moment of peace in your busy Christmas season? Come to share or just to listen.

The group will meet at 9:30 in the social hall, but if you're a Sunday Slow Roller please join us whenever you can get here. You'll be just as welcome.

Attention Team Leaders

Please email your team's 2019 Annual Report
to the church office
by January 12, 2020.



Donation Receipts for Tax Statements

Please submit any receipts to the office that you want to have included
on your 2019 tax statement **by December 31.**

Any receipts submitted in January
will be included on your 2020 tax statement.

Reimbursement for Receipts

If you purchase a budgeted or In-Out donation item for the church
you can submit the receipt to the office for reimbursement.
Please include a note with your name, what the purchased item is (if it's not
clear on the receipt) and write "Reimbursement" on it.

All receipts need to be submitted for reimbursement **during
the calendar year the purchase was made** for Spending Plan purposes.

REIMBURSEMENT

2019 STAFF GIFTS !!!

Let's thank the church staff for all they do!
Please, use the pew **STAFF GIFT** envelopes
in the bulletin for your donation.

Place in the offering plate.

Deadline is December 22
to be distributed by Christmas.




Please pick up your box of Offering Envelopes for 2019 in the Narthex

If you are new to using envelopes and would like a box of envelopes for 2019,
please see Linda or let a note in the office.

If you don't want a box of envelopes,
you can use the envelopes in the pews for your donation
and place it in the offering plate
to receive credit on your tax statement for the year.



***A \$6.50 donation in the Initial Envelope is appreciated
to defray the cost of the envelopes.***



JANUARY 17-19, 2020 AT



Hartman Center
Camp, Conference and Retreat Center

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE MEN'S RETREAT

SEASONS OF A MAN'S LIFE

RETREAT THEME:

"THE SEASONS OF A MAN'S LIFE" WILL TAKE AND
EXPLORE THE THEMES OF ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8
(TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON.)

Speakers (laymen will explore phrases of the scripture), **Workshops** (five workshops on topics suggestive of the phrases of the scripture), a **Film Festival** (The Hartman Center Cinema will have three featured films from which to choose), **Some Friendly Competition** (a corn hole Tourney); Sunday Morning Worship, and lots of fun and free time.

Cost is \$125 (includes \$5 credit card charge) or mail in your check of \$120 to
Penn Central Conference, 900 S. Arlington Ave. Rm. 224A, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5024.
In the memo indicate "Men's Retreat."

A maximum of 100 men will be able to attend.

Register on line at HartmanCenter.com

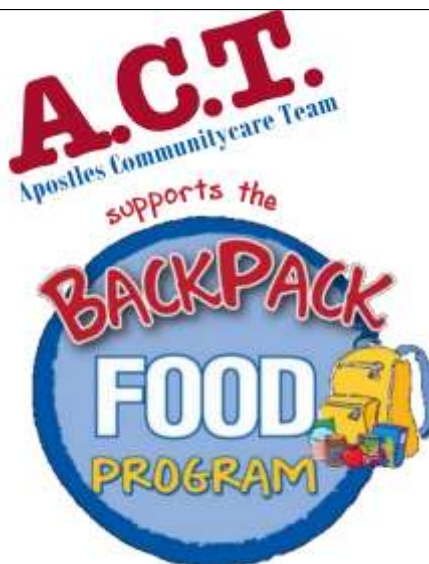
Register by 1/10/2020

A BIG THANKS AGAIN TO RUSSEL LONG

Again this fall Russell Long of Long Tree Specialists volunteered his expert services to help both our church and the Waynesboro Hospital Auxiliary. He skillfully dropped the blue spruce located just east of the Outdoor Activity Center so the Auxiliary could use the pine for their greens sale. He will then return to clean up the unused branches and trunk and haul them away. Thanks once again, Russell !



Please Support Our Outreach Ministries



If you'd like to send a card to Rev. Swisher:



Home Address:
Rev. William Swisher
28 Forest Trail
Fairfield, PA 17320

His current address is:
Rev. William Swisher
Wellspan Surgery & Rehabilitation Hospital
55 Monument Rd

thank you



October 18, 2019

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you.

You made a difference to someone who needed you. Their financial lifeboat was fragile and an emergency overturned it. You went to them and offered a hand up because that was all they needed. We are, after all, a community of neighbors who care.

Your generous donation helped Waynesboro Community and Human Services to serve nearly 1,000 families last year and more this year. It offers them information, clothing, food, diapers, counseling, and financial assistance to keep them in their home with the heat on. The Community Nurse program helps them stay in their home not in the emergency room or nursing home. We could not do it without you.

Thank you for being the neighbor who reaches out.

Sincerely,

Denise Esser

Denise Esser

Executive Director

Waynesboro Community & Human Services



Incarnation United Church of Christ
45 North Fourth Street
PO Box 68
Newport PA, 17074
717-567-9490

October 20, 2019

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

Dear Members of the Church of the Apostles Congregation,

On behalf of the consistory, I just wanted to extend a thank you for your recent donation of \$355 towards our flood fund. We truly appreciate it.

Our basement is completely restored. We are holding a dedication service today to recognize the rebuilding that took place since the flooding occurred in April. Your donation aids us in restoring our funds that were used for restoration.

Thanks again,

Scott A. Trout
IUCC – Consistory Treasurer

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Please forward an address change to the Church office.



December 2019

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.