

# ***March 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](http://www.apostlesucc.com)***

***E-mail: [apostlesucc@gmail.com](mailto:apostlesucc@gmail.com)***

# THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR.....

We are quickly approaching one of the most meaningful times in the life of the Christian community – **LENT**. The Lenten period allows us time to **RECALL THE EASTER STORY** and absorb its meaning. Some consider the Lenten season a “journey.” I would like to suggest that we consider our 2019 Lenten time an **EXPERIENCE!**

This series will take us through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from his **SERMON ON THE MOUNT** in Matthew 5-7 and relates them to the events surrounding Christ’s life, death and resurrection. In the process, the services will powerfully reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate “sermon on the mount” for our experience of faith in this sacred season.

Our experience begins on **ASH WEDNESDAY - BLESSED Are YOU – Matthew 5:1-11**. We recall how we who are poor in spirit, who mourn and who hunger and thirst for righteousness are called blessed by our Savior in his Sermon on the Mount. Ash Wednesday reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in him through the **CROSS**.

**Week 1 – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – SALT and LIGHT – Matthew 5:13-16**. We find Christ calls us to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen his great love for us on the cross can spend our Lent savoring his salvation and shining with his glory and grace **IN THE PLACES WHERE HE HAS PUT US**.

**Week 2 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – PRAYER and FASTING – Matthew 6:5-18**. We revisit that Lent is a season of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communication with him, and we learn more about him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to him.

**Week 3 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – DO NOT WORRY – Matthew 6:25-34**. We are reminded that so much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to **TRUST** that he knows what is best and **WILL TAKE CARE OF US TO THE VERY END**.

**Week 4 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – JUDGE NOT – Matthew 7:1-5**. We are aware that we live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus’ advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we **FREE** ourselves to **LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER THROUGH FRESH AND FORGIVING EYES**.

**Week 5 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – BUILD on ROCK – Matthew 7:24-27**. We reexamine how we build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in his teachings that the

only solid foundation is himself, the Rock of our Salvation.

**ON CHRIST ALONE WE BUILD.**

**PALM SUNDAY – ASK, SEEK, KNOCK – *Matthew 7:7-11*.** In this special service we remember that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people asked, “Who is this King of Glory?” They were seeking one who saves when they shouted, “Hosanna!” They were knocking on the door for a new future. What they did not know was that Jesus was **OPENING THE DOOR TO EVERLASTING LIFE** through the cross.

**MAUNDAY THURSDAY – THE LAST SUPPER – TRINITY UCC, WAYNESBORO.** This service will be an enactment of the Last Supper with a different twist. Did you ever wonder what was going through the minds of the disciples that fateful night? Did you ever think about their motives or their dreams of what they thought was happening or what they wanted to happen? This is what we will be exploring together as we listen to the thoughts of the disciples as they gathered in the Upper Room to have their last meal with their Teacher. We will gather at the table with the disciples to share in communion with the twelve and Jesus so that we might have a better understanding of all the dynamics that went on that night. This just might be the most realistic communion service you have ever experienced.

**GOOD FRIDAY – SERVICE OF TENEBRAE – Here at CHURCH of APOSTLES UCC.** The word “Tenebrae” comes from the Latin meaning “darkness.” The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of the week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus’ burial.

This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus’ death and hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ Candle, carried out of the Sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise also sounds symbolizing the closing of Jesus’ tomb. The worshippers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ’s death and await the coming Resurrection.

**EASTER SUNDAY – TREASURES IN HEAVEN – *Matthew 6:10-21*.** Easter reminds us that Jesus taught us all that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of **LIFE WITH JESUS AWAITING US**. I look forward to sharing these worship opportunities with all of you as the final celebration of the Easter Vigil where we **LET THE RESURRECTION FILL OUR LIVES!**

Blessings and Prayers for the journey,  
Pastor Narda

## EVENING 2019 LENTEN STUDY



Beginning on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, we here at Church of the Apostles have been invited to share in a 6-week course studying the biblical themes and lessons from the feature film *The Shack*. The study will take place at Trinity UCC on North St. at 7pm. *The Shack*, which is based on the best-selling novel by the same title (**you may read or have read the**

**book, not mandatory but recommended**), takes us on a father's uplifting spiritual journey. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression, causing him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to come to an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters a trio of strangers – all three persons of the Trinity – led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

In many ways, *The Shack* is a modern-day parable, similar to the stories of Jesus told to help people better understand the truth He wanted to communicate. *The Shack* is an artistic and imaginative representation of a deeply personal story that explores encountering God's love. It raises provocative questions and points us toward the path for healing out of impossible tragedy. For all those who have wondered where God is in their pain, for those who have questions if God is there at all, *The Shack* presents an unforgettable encounter with a divine love that promises to never leave us.

One notable feature of the film (and sometimes controversial) is the depiction of God. Papa is a woman. Jesus is a young carpenter of Middle Eastern descent. Sarayu, the Holy Spirit, is in the form of an Asian woman. These characters are not meant as literal portrayals of God or as a theological statement on the gender or race of God. Instead, they are an artistic way of presenting the different aspects of God's character in each member of the Trinity. They are creative representations of God's transcendence and goodness. God is above and beyond all earthly limitations and our finite understanding of the nature of God. In God's goodness, God desires to break down all boundaries in order to reach us with His compassion and saving grace in a way we can understand and relate to.

That's what we see Him doing with Mack. In the context of the story, Mack has rejected God in the past, but God is reaching out to him. Early in the movie, we see that Mack and his mother were abused by his alcoholic father. This naturally shapes Mack's view of God as a father and is a big part of why Mack rejects God. And as we'll hear Papa tell him, *"After what you've been through, I didn't think you could handle a father right now."* Papa knows what Mack needs and longs to heal him, and Papa reaches out to Mack in a representation he can relate to. It brings to mind the way Isaiah described God comforting Israel like a mother: *"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem"* (Isaiah 66:13).

It feels a bit like Aslan, the great lion in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. On first hearing that the true king of Narnia is a lion rather than a man, one of the main characters, Susan, responds, *"Ooh, I'd thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."* Her host, Mr. Beaver, replies, *"Safe? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good."*

C.S. Lewis wasn't teaching that God is a lion. And *The Shack* isn't teaching that God is a woman. What we find in both are beautiful depictions of God's character and His relentless love and pursuit of each of us walking in the earthly constraints and brokenness of this human life.

The themes of the first 5 weeks are:

- March 7       Where is God when I need Him the most?
- March 14     How does God see me?
- March 21     Why are you doing this to me?
- March 28     How can I know the heart of the Father?
- April 4       So, you just let him get away with it?
- April 11     We will be watching the film in its entirety.**

**We hope that you will set aside this time during the season of Lent to join us for this study or here at Apostles on Sunday mornings, beginning on March 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 10:30 where we will be using the "Stillspeaking Writers" group Lenten Resource entitled "Take Nothing With You."**

These opportunities promise to make our Lenten journey more meaningful!



***Birthdays  
&  
Anniversaries  
in  
March***



- 1 Laurie Hovermale
- 5 Tony Haugh
- 6 Maude Barr
- 9 Tim Misner
- 12 Dan Ritchey
- 14 Trudy Stum
- 15 Richard Hovis
- 15 Steve Leidig
- 20 Gilbert and Laurie Hovermale
- 25 Mitchell Leidig
- 29 Brian Jacobs

**Social Seniors**

Social Seniors will meet on March 11, 2 - 4 PM at Trinity State Line.



**Calendar of Events  
for March**

- 3 Worship 10:45 AM
- 3 Christian Outreach Team 12 Noon
- 4 College Club 5:45 PM
- 6 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM
- 10 Worship 10:45 AM
- 11 Social Seniors 2-4 PM  
at Trinity State Line
- 17 Worship 10:45 AM
- 19 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
- 22 Buchanan Trail Quilters 9 AM
- 24 Worship 10:45 AM
- 27 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team 1 PM
- 31 Worship 10:45 AM
- 31 Christian Education Team 12 Noon

**"The Story of the Bible" DVD**  
course meets Thursday,  
March 7, 14, & 21  
from 10:30 AM - 12:00 noon.

**Lenten Study on Sunday  
mornings, beginning on March  
10<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 10:30 am,  
"Take Nothing With You."**

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS  
for  
**March**



- March 3: Bob Benchoff & Richard Hovis
- March 10: Nevin & Sondra Monn
- March 17: Christopher & Christie Bobb
- March 24: Richard Hovis & Ernie Fitz
- March 31: Gilbert & Laurie Hovermale
- April 7: Tony & Donna Haugh

**Lay Readers**  
for  
**March**

- March 3: Bob Benchoff
- March 10: Mary Lou Misner
- March 17: Randy Cramer
- March 24: Richard Hovis
- March 31: Gilbert Hovermale
- April 7: Donna Haugh



**A Series of Services**  
for the  
**Season of Lent**

beginning on **ASH WEDNESDAY:**  
**BLESSED ARE YOU**

Church of the Apostles  
Ash Wednesday  
Service  
and  
Imposition of Ashes,  
**March 6 at 6:30pm.**

7 PM Lenten  
Study at Trinity:  
March 7  
March 14  
March 21  
March 28  
April 4  
April 11

**Communion**  
**Assistants**

- March 3: Bob Benchoff & Richard Hovis
- April 7: Tony & Donna Haugh





## **“Thank You” Team Volunteers**

So now we have our Apostles’ Teams reorganized...  
but wait! The only one missing is YOU!

That’s right, there is always room for more volunteers.

As the year progresses and you feel the call to jump  
on board to help on a Team, just let the pastor know!

There are many opportunities for you to

### **“Be the Church”**

through Team programs & projects.

Thank You to everyone who signed-up last month!

Thank You to all the long-term team members!

A Big Thank You to all Team Leaders!

All of the Teams do have a Leader. New Leaders are:

Randy Cramer- helping Bruce Barr with Property/Outdoor Team

Gilbert Hovermale – Worship Team

Laurie Hovermale – Lay, Life & Work Team

The Team list is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

## **All are welcome to “Sunday Snacks”**

About a year ago I started to bring a simple snack on most Sunday mornings...  
just an opportunity to offer a few sweets, maybe some fruit...finger food.

Coffee & tea, too.

AND a bit of fellowship!

Any one of you have the opportunity to join in this simple gesture of  
hospitality... remember the UCC call to extend “extravagant welcome”?

We could even expand a bit if you want. Let’s try this: If you can take a turn  
to bring a “Sunday Snack” just give me notice that you will do it.

Please, call, text or email by Friday evening to say  
it’s your turn this week! Bring whatever you want...

If you can bring “Sunday Snack” when I will be away  
in the coming months please let me know

(I will be helping Hannah with her new baby in Colorado).

The dates are: April 21, April 28, May 12.

Thanks, Mary Lou





Snow & Ice is here!



If a Worship Service or meeting must be cancelled...

...You will know before 8:00a.m.

The church office will send emails & make phone calls.

If you have not been notified by 8:00a.m. call

Pastor Narda 717-994-4614

or

Mary Lou 717-749-3839 for verification.

## **Community Garden**

Now is the time to sign that contract for a  
FREE plot in Apostles' Community Garden!

Contracts are available on the bulletin board by the kitchen  
and on the church website [www.apostlesucc.com](http://www.apostlesucc.com).

Gardening is not just the way to grow your own veggies,  
but excellent exercise as well. Yep, it's work, but rewarding work!

Gardeners work together to provide a place for fellowship,  
learning and encouragement.



# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMING IN JUNE !

The 50th anniversary historical display is being prepared, the Alumni Choir is forming, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary T-shirts will soon be available, a meal & concert is planned, and letters of invitation have been sent out to our former pastors and choir members to come join in the celebration !

The celebrating will begin Saturday, June 8th at 5:00 PM with be a catered meal. The sign up sheet for the meal is posted on the 50th Anniversary Bulletin board by the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Following the meal will be an inspiring concert by the duo "Sweet Life Music" !

Sunday, June 9th at 10:00 AM will be the worship service with Holy Communion led by Pastor Narda. Our special guest, the Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith, Penn Central Conference Minister and President will deliver the sermon. The service will include the dedication of a new double door between the narthex and the education wing. It will be dedicated as a memorial to Donald McCleaf who retired from Waynesboro Construction, Inc. after 30+ years of service. This major building improvement has been partially possible by the generous gift of the "no labor, no profit" management & installation by Waynesboro Construction, Inc.



## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND UCC ELVES COMMUNITY MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

Last month's Habitat For Humanity of Franklin County newsletter article entitled "Share God's Love Through A Habitat and Thrivent Build" explained how to turn faith into action by participating in the building of a home on Dickinson Avenue in Waynesboro this year.

We are partnering with other churches in the Waynesboro area to get involved in this Faith Build on and off the construction site by encouraging your participation in the following: working on the house, making a financial contribution, providing lunch for on-site workers, creating a welcome basket or special house warming gift for the partner family, attending the ground-breaking and/or dedication events and praying both as a church and individually.



### **UCC ELVES**

The UCC ELVES of our church do small home projects for homeowners who otherwise could not afford to have a needed repair or improvement made. If you are interested in this community ministry please sign-up using the sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

# SILVER EXPRESS DELIVERY



*"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."*

AUTHOR SALLY KOCH

Dear Jean,

We are so grateful to you...Thank you for seizing the worthwhile opportunity to help our children in care! Your gift of birthday cards and \$100.00 (Check No. 6773, dated 1/6/19) supports us in our mission to offer hope, healing and brighter futures to kids who are struggling as the result of crippling trauma, abuse, neglect and loss.

Because of your kindness...

- Samantha can participate in art therapy, her favorite, because "I can express my feelings safely through my artwork, and it distracts me from my problems, too."
- Davis has learned the coping skills crucial for helping "to control my anger, and to deal with my family problems."
- And, perhaps most importantly, Julie understands that she has the support she needs to get better: "I know there are people there for me."

With your help, we're able to give kids like Samantha, Davis and Julie—children who are struggling mightily and courageously with severe mental health and behavioral issues—the strength they need to begin their journey of recovery. Your caring gives them their best and greatest opportunity for a healthier, happier life. Your support offers them fellowship, a helping hand and the promise of a better tomorrow...and this—their greatest gift—is no small thing.

Thank you. Your kindness is changing lives.

Gratefully,

*Alicia*  
Alicia M. Stanley



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



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift to the United Church of Christ received on 12/25/2018. Per your request, it will be designated as follows:

\$535.00 for 2018 Hurricane Response International  
\$535.00 for 2018 Hurricane Response USA

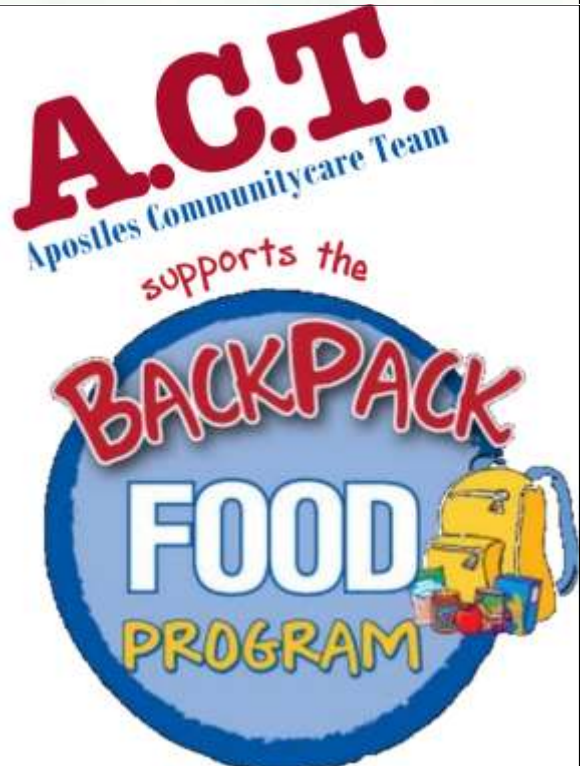
Your support of the United Church of Christ is extremely important to the work we do. Through it, you partner with us to support programs and services coordinated through the national setting to help local, national, and global communities change lives for the better. Should you have any questions regarding your donation, please call us at (800) 846-6822.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dorhauer".

Rev. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

***Please  
support  
these  
Outreach  
Missions***



Thank you so much  
for making  
my world a little  
more beautiful  
with your kindness...



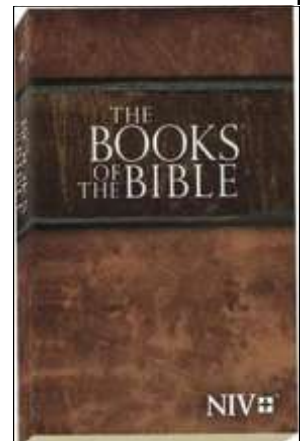
**A  
Christmas  
“Thank You”  
from  
our  
Cleaning  
Ladies**

*It really meant a lot!*

*Thanks,  
Kay Bream  
Hanna Willis*

## ***Can you find thirty (30) books of the Bible in this paragraph?***

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Please forward an address change to the Church office.*



# **March 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.*