

# ***September 2019 Newsletter***



## ***CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST***

***WORSHIP 10:45 AM***

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

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# THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR.....

***“Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man’s eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, ‘Can you see anything now?’ The man look around. ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘I see people, but I can’t see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around.’” Mark 8:23 & 24***



I have just returned from walking on the Appalachian Trail. Many of you know that this is one of the ways I try to do self-care, I hike on Tuesday mornings with a group of folks who enjoy hiking on the AT (Appalachian Trail). One of my favorite things about our hikes is being in the forest and being among the trees that make up the forest.

As I walked today I was contemplating what I would share with you all this month in my newsletter article. This verse from Mark came to my attention a day last week. This passage and the blessing of being outdoors in the forest, brought to mind an old proverb or slang from the early 1500’s that goes: **“you can’t see the forest for the trees.”** Many times we have heard the proverb reversed, as in: **“he/she can’t see the trees for the forest,”** referencing that idea that it is possible to be too broad

when looking at a situation. Anyone who makes a sweeping pronouncement without considering the details could be said to be exhibiting just as much of a logical flaw as someone who focuses on a minute aspect of a situation without examining the whole (seeing the forest for the trees).

As I consider the recent events facing our world: another hurricane is heading for the USA and has devastated our friends in the Bahamas and other islands; another mass shooting with numerous deaths and injuries; loved ones dying from opioid overdoses daily; there is much political unrest in our country over these and many other issues and problems. When it comes to dealing with these issues there are many sides to be considered, views and ideas. And there are many connected and affected circumstances with suggested changes and decisions that also need to be considered and evaluated.

I don't need to remind us that we live in a complex society and a complex web-like world where the decisions that I make can impact you, where the changes one local government or state makes affects other areas, and a world where the decisions one country makes impacts other parts of the whole world. So when it comes to finding answers and solutions we must remember that there are not any simple answers to these problems. And when we do hear simple answers proposed for complex problems, most likely, the solution or the person giving it is looking at the forest and proposing sweeping change that can have damaging effects to trees that may not be visible from the forest level.

In the passage from the gospel of Mark 8, we see that Jesus dealt with people on an individual basis. He went to individual's homes, he spoke to individuals, he healed individuals, Jesus asked them what they wanted or needed. For we in the church this should be a reminder that we should do our best to help others on an individual basis in our community, on a case by case basis, as much as is possible. When we respond like this we show the individual that their needs are important and are real. We must work alongside the individuals instead of judging them. We must work to build a relationship of caring, respect and rapport. When we are able to build a relationship then systemic change is possible and important. If there isn't a connection or rapport with those we serve then no lasting change will occur.

When we simply look at the forest level and propose change we run the risk of making decisions based on stereotypes or generalizations about groups of people. By saying that all people in the welfare system are lazy or that all those associated with Wall Street are greed filled, these are false generalizations or stereotypes. We need to stop looking at the forest of the situations and loosely making generalizations about any group of people. We are a country of individual people or trees and we make up the forest. We must be careful how we characterize what we see and believe.

Discerning a balance between focusing on the details of a situation and looking at it broadly is important and vital. To take the metaphor further, when you can't see the forest for the trees, it suggests that we may be missing crucial information which may be influencing a situation, like why the trees are there in the first place.

May we here at Church of the Apostles UCC have the courage to not draw conclusions about people before we get to know who they are and what their life situations are and may we find new ways of creating a welcoming atmosphere for us to worship God together and reach out in service to the world around us.

Blessings for the journey,  
Pastor Narda

# ***Birthdays & Anniversaries in September***



9/2 Dave Patterson  
 9/10 Ernie Fitz  
 9/17 Julia & Randy Cramer  
 9/18 Charlie High  
 9/22 Joe Hovermale  
 9/28 Debbie and Jake Jacobs  
 9/28 Amanda (Ritchey) Kratochvil  
 9/30 Hannah (Misner) Caplan

## ***Social Seniors***

Social Seniors will be held on  
 September 9  
 at Church of the Apostles.  
 The program will be presented by  
 Physical Therapist Brittany Schuh  
 and Occupational Therapist  
 Andrea Mowen  
 from the Wellspan  
 Center for Dizziness and Balance.

# ***Calendar of Events for September***

1 Worship	10 AM
8 Worship	10:45 AM
8 Church Picnic	after Worship
15 Worship	10:45 AM
15 Consistory	12:15 PM
16 Delta-Y-Gradale Sorority	1 PM
16 College Club	5 PM
22 Worship	10:45 AM
29 Worship	10:45 AM



## ***Fall Book Study***

***September 12 - November 21  
beginning at 11 AM***



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

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *for* September



September 1: Tony & Donna Haugh  
 September 8: Tony & Donna Haugh  
 September 15: Judy Fitz & Donna Levick  
 September 22: Bob Benchoff & Ernie Fitz  
 September 29: Chris & Cristie Bobb  
 October 6: Tony & Donna Haugh

# Lay Readers *for* September

Sept. 1: Donna Haugh  
 Sept. 8: Donna Haugh  
 Sept. 15: Judy Fitz  
 Sept. 22: Bob Benchoff  
 Sept. 29: Pastor Narda  
 October 6: Donna Haugh



## ***Pastor's Vacation***

Pastor Narda will be on vacation Sept 14-22.

Please contact Rev. Irene Pouliot  
 at Trinity State Line for pastoral care:

Church 717-597-0585  
 Cell 240-707-1290

***Rev. Mark Ruzicka will be with us  
 on Sunday September 15 & 22.***



## **Communion Assistants**

Sept. 1: Tony & Donna Haugh  
 Oct. 6: Tony & Donna Haugh



# Waynesboro CROP Walk 2019

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual Waynesboro Area CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, with registration beginning at 1 PM and the walk at 2 PM. This year the walk will again be held on the walking path along the new Washington Township Boulevard and will feature a 2-mile and a 5-mile route. The Walk will begin and end at the soccer fields on the corner of Washington Township Blvd. and Country Club Road. Two years ago, in order to try to encourage more participation in this vital ministry, we started a “friendly competition” among area churches. A “traveling trophy” is awarded to the church that has the most walkers participate in the walk and one for the church that raises the most money for Church World Service. Last year, Faith United Methodist won the trophy for the most money raised, raising almost \$1,200, while the Church of the Brethren won the award for the most walkers with 15 walkers.

From its inception in 1969, Church World Service sponsored CROP Hunger Walks have grown to include walkers of all ages, faiths and backgrounds in more than 1,000 communities throughout the U.S. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year CROP Hunger Walks have brought the interfaith community together across the country to raise funds to end hunger around the world. Participation impacts people in more than 35 countries. In many developing countries, people can walk up to 6 miles a day to get food and water. CROP Hunger Walk is an opportunity to walk and be in solidarity, bring awareness to these issues and raise the funds for permanent change.

With this being Waynesboro's 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive Hunger Walk, there is only one other walk that has been happening for a longer period of time which is in York. Traditionally, 25% of the money raised goes to local ministries right here in Waynesboro. New Hope Shelter, The Lunch Place and Human Resources have been the recipients of these funds the past few years. Last year there were about 50 walkers (plus 3 dogs) who collected around \$5,000 for Church World Service.

Our goal this year is to have 100 walkers and collect a minimum of \$10,000 in sponsorships.





# NGA - 2019

On October 1, approximately 18 ladies representing seven churches and a Y-Gradale Sorority will gather at the Church of the Apostles to sort **new** clothing, linens and toiletries that will be distributed to five local agencies: South Mountain Restoration Center, Waynesboro Community and Human Services, First Start Partnerships, Pregnancy Ministries and Faith Community Outreach Ministries. A list of items needed by each agency is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to shop or I will accept donations and shop for you. Items purchased will be on display the month of September.

**Thanks for helping those less fortunate.**

Linda Hovis  
Waynesboro Branch Secretary of NGA



## Pets & Blessings

**Sunday October 6, 2019**

**2 - 4 PM**

**Red Run Park, Rouzerville**



*Bounce House, Crafts, Games & Train rides for the kids.*

*Popcorn, cotton candy, cookies, brownies,*

*Ice Cream for purchase by Antietam Dairy*

*Presentation by the Blue Ridge K-9 Training Center*

*Pet contest - for the smallest, largest, most colorful, most unusual pets*

*Raffle & Door Prizes and Pet Bingo*

*Photo Ops with St. Francis*

*Animal Blessings ALL Day & Pet Memorial Service*

# A Conversation About Our Sound System

Hello from The Church of the Apostles Worship Team. I find it much easier to talk to people one on one than to address a large group, so I've structured this article like a conversation. I hope you don't mind that I've taken the liberty to write your part of the conversation as well as my own.

## ***"What does the Worship Team do?"***

In short, the Worship Team assists the pastor and the organist by sharing ideas and doing work that sustains and perhaps even enhances the worship experience at Apostles. The Altar Guild is part of the Worship Team. The Worship Team serves as a conduit between the congregation and the pastor for ideas and needs related to the practice of worship at Apostles. That brings me, finally, to the purpose of this article, which is to let you know about the need for replacing something that is important to the practice of worship at Apostles: our sound system.

## ***"What's wrong with our current sound system?"***

The answer to that question depends on what you want the sound system to do, and that depends on what kind of worship experience you want to have. If you would be happy with a worship experience where one person spoke primarily from the pulpit, then there is nothing wrong with our current system.

## ***"Yes, I can see where having just one amplified voice coming always from the pulpit might be boring, but we have more than that now, don't we?"***

Yes, but we have issues now, too. Our current wireless technology is limited as to the area where the microphone wearer can stand and still be heard. We can only use two wireless units at a time, and the units themselves are getting older and do not always perform reliably. The placement of the speakers also limits where people can stand. This is true not just because the speakers themselves are large and take up a lot of space, but also because feedback will be generated whenever someone with a wireless microphone steps in front of the speakers.

## ***"Those speakers are massive. They still work fine, don't they?"***

They do, but they were designed to be portable units used at trade shows or concerts. They were never intended to be used in a fixed configuration, like we have them now. In addition to the space they take up, the feedback they produce, and the attention they command, those speakers are a trip hazard for anyone entering or exiting the area in front of the altar.

## ***"Is anything else wrong?"***

The hearing assist technology works sometimes, other times not. The control box does not accept inputs using the most current technologies (Bluetooth, for example), which sometimes presents difficulties for our guest soloists. The control box is an eyesore with all those wires showing right behind the pulpit. Sadly, there are very few people who know how to operate it since of our dear friend Danny Deavers left us.

***"OK, but why not just buy some new microphones and mount our current speakers on the wooden beams in the ceiling? In other words, shouldn't we just fix the minimal number of problems for the smallest amount of money?"***



This “solution” would certainly expend the least money, but is it necessarily the best solution? We would still have all the limitations associated with our current technology, and I don’t want to be the one on the ladder when we try to turn a large, portable speaker into a permanent, overhead mount.

***I realize that this “minimalist” solution just keeps everything more or less like it is until something else breaks, but if this isn’t the best solution, then what is?***

Here’s the key question I want you to consider, and it brings us back to the purpose and objectives of the Worship Team. Does the quality of sound in a church enhance the quality of worship? I think it does. I’d like us to consider a system that employs current technology to deliver more and better sound output that can enhance our worship experience.

***I’ll accept the general idea that better sound equals a better worship experience, but how will we experience this?***

Great question. We’ll have new microphones that are specifically designed for use in a church setting. Headset microphones for the pastor won’t pick up the rustling of clothing that we get with our current lapel microphones. We’ll be able to remotely adjust the volume on all our microphones to balance the sound between loud and soft voices. We’ll have new, overhead mounted high-fidelity speakers that will deliver a full, rich sound evenly throughout the sanctuary, and we’ll enjoy more usable space in front of the altar and eliminate our trip hazard. We’ll update our hearing assist technology to current standards, eliminating some frustration for folks who need a little help to hear the service.

***“What was that about remotely adjusting the volume?”***

The most exciting feature of the new sound system will be its control features, its “brain,” if you will. The system will allow for CD, SD, USB, and Bluetooth inputs. That may sound like gibberish, but accepting a variety of inputs just means we have more audio possibilities that are open to us. The system accepts up to 10 different audio inputs (channels) and organizes the sound (mixes it) so that everything sounds good when it comes out the speaker. So, in technical terms, we will have a 10 channel digital audio mixing console that can be operated from a tablet (like an I-Pad). The system has presets for various situations, so we don’t have to be actively “mixing” the sound all the time, but it also permits us to actively monitor and adjust our sound if we want to.

***“Why in the world would we want to do that?”***

Here’s an example that might help illustrate. We have a guest soloist who has her back-up accompaniment on her I-phone. No problem. We put a headset microphone on the soloist and connect to the I-phone using Bluetooth. We’re fortunate to have a choir that day, and the pastor wants to take advantage of that by having the choir join the soloist on the chorus. No problem. We set up a wireless microphone with a stand in front of the choir. We find out right before the service that a few of our children love this song and know it by heart. Can they sing a verse? No problem. We set up a second wireless for the kids. We have four channels of sound (soloist, accompaniment, choir, kids). Our sound person, sitting in the pews with the control tablet, balances the sound between strong and soft voices and recorded and live input to make it all come out right in the end. If we so desire, our sound person can record the performance or stream it live on the internet. [\*See Note.]

*Is that all?*

**Not by a long shot.** We've asked the vendor to include an optional video capability. These would be two, 70 inch screens placed on the wooden beams in the front of the church. The video screens could show announcements and display the words to hymns and responses so folks wouldn't need to fumble with and hold hymnals and bulletins. We could play clips of special music performances and special messages – just to name a few possibilities. The system would be capable of integrating audio and video, and everything could be controlled by someone in the pews with a tablet computer.



***“Will we have to hire a professional audio/video person to operate the controls?”***

No. The system is very intuitive, and our system vendor will provide training. I think this is an exciting way for someone who likes technology to get more involved in the church. “I run the video and sound at my church,” might really appeal to some of our young people, for example. Our system vendor will attend service with us after the system is installed. They'll identify and fix any problems that are identified and make sure we're comfortable operating the system.

***“Let’s get down to the nitty gritty. Who is this vendor, and how much does this system cost?”***

Our vendor is OneSeventeen A/V from Hagerstown. OneSeventeen refers to Colossians, chapter one, verse 17: He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Church audio/video is their primary business. Their corporate vision is, “First and foremost, to glorify God in all that we do.” Their quote for the system I described is \$11,775. We’ll also need to engage the services of an electrician to put in a few new outlets. We should figure about \$12,000 for the complete audio/video system. Audio alone is \$8,775. The video option is \$3,000.

***“Ok, that’s not terrible when you consider everything we get, and I understand that technology is expensive, but it’s still a lot of money for a little church like ours. Where is the money going to come from?”***

Some of it will come from the general fund, but we will have to dip into our investment fund for the remainder. Thankfully, the interest we earn from our investments will replace what we take out in less than six months. More importantly, we need to consider that our new audio/visual system is an investment, too. It’s an investment in what we believe will be a better worship experience. If we were only concerned about dollars and cents we wouldn’t have our pollinator habitat. We would have rented that field to a local farmer to plant hay and pocketed the rental income. But because we made the decision to invest in the pollinator habitat and forgo the income we’ve created a space that demonstrates caring for God’s creation.

***“I’m listening. Really, I am. But I keep coming back to this. Do we really need this system?”***

We can continue to patch the current system and keep doing what we’ve been doing with our current equipment for a while longer, but will that deliver the kind of worship experience that will satisfy current members and potentially attract new ones? What kind of worship experience do we want to have? Technology evens the playing field. It allows small churches to deliver some of the worship experiences associated with much larger congregations in the same way that it permits small companies to compete with much larger ones.

***“But God doesn’t care whether we have 10 channel sound and video boards, does he?”***

I suspect not. I believe God will hear our prayers and accept our offerings regardless of how they’re delivered. Our audio/video capabilities are just tools that help us focus and deliver those prayers and offerings, tools that bear witness of our love of God to others.

*\* Note: There are many factors to be considered before posting, publishing or streaming content on the internet. The example is just meant to illustrate the capabilities of the system.*

**If you are new to the Church**  
**please update the church office with your information**  
**for the church directory and newsletter**  
**(name, address, phone #, email address, birthday & anniversary).**



# Sunflowers





# POLLINATOR & WILDLIFE HABITAT

## September 2019



Late summer & early fall are great times to visit the Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat to see the sunflowers in bloom and the many pollinators and wildlife, especially the ones that are attracted to sunflowers !

Please remember to park in the parking lot and walk across the front sidewalk and onto the lawn to see the cultivated nectar garden and further explore along the mowed walking path. Our eastern US monarch butterflies have started their annual migration to the mountainous sites of the Sierra Madre in central Mexico where they will spend the winter in hibernation.



When you visit the habitat you may continue to see caterpillars and newly hatched monarchs, but in addition, adult butterflies from further north stopping at our waystation for nectar to provide the energy needed for the long flight south. They typically travel 50-100 miles a day, it can take up to two months to complete the journey. The ones starting from Canada will travel 3,000 miles. They use a combination of air currents and wind thermals in their travels.

Upon arrival in Mexico they congregate and roost together on oyamel fir trees. Tens of thousands cluster on a single tree to keep warm. The Mexican government recognized the importance of the oyamel forests to the monarchs and created the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in 1986. As temperatures warm and the days become longer in the spring the monarchs will begin to reproduce and the first of several generations will begin the migration north and once again we will await the arrival of the "King of the Butterflies" !



# Grant for Emergency Cleanup Buckets

Due to several years of back-to-back hurricanes, Church World Service's Inventory of Emergency Cleanup Buckets and other Kits is at an all-time low In Church World Service warehouses.

For families facing muck and ruin that a disaster has caused to their homes, these clean-up buckets are an expression of love and a symbol of hope for the future.

In 2018, 51 UCC congregations received a \$250.00 grant to put towards compiling these buckets.

Our grant has been approved by UCC Disaster Ministries and we will be receiving it in the next week. We are adding an additional \$250.00, which will allow us to assemble 10-15 buckets.

These buckets will be filled with sponges, brushes, soap, laundry detergent, household cleaner, dust masks, gloves, trash bags, insect repellent, clothesline and clothes pins, wipes, etc.

We will be buying supplies and will need help in assembling the buckets. These buckets will be delivered to Church World Service in New Windsor, Md.



# **THANK YOU's** **from the CHRISTIAN OUTREACH TEAM**



To everyone who helped with the backpack, school supplies, cards, candy, etc. for Nelwin.

Also for those who went through their shoes and gave to the New Hope Shelter fundraiser.

As always, your awesome support is deeply appreciated by all.



## **Hoffman Homes for Youth:**

- We are so grateful for your \$100 donation for birthday cards. Your continued support is a blessing to our children and honors our mission to serve them - Thank you!
- Thank you for your \$100 donation to the Silent Auction for the BLACK TIE & BLUE JEANS GALA to benefit the children at Hoffman Homes.

## **Dorothy Wetherald's New Address:**

116 Village Square  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
717-261-2389





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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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



# **September 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.*