

April 2020 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

Were you aware that one of the most beautiful – and fascinating – symbols of life is the lotus blossom, or more commonly known to us, perhaps, the water lily? The lotus blossom or water lily is a beautiful white flower that rests on top of a dark, muddy body of water. The dark, muddy, murky body of water itself reminds us of life and all its darkness and uncertainty. Life is not always beautiful and happy, we know. Sometimes life can be unhappy. Someone might be healthy and happy today only to be facing some great trouble or sadness tomorrow.

When we lived at one of our denomination's church camps, Hartman Center, one of the unexpected beauties from rather ugly surroundings at various times of the year, was the pond. Most evenings I would take our dogs for their daily walk and head out on my normal route around the camp, which usually meant I would walk around the pond. At the south east area of the pond is where I witnessed the unexpected beauty from ugly surroundings. When you would stand on the bank at that area of the muddy pond and try to look through the dark waters to the bottom below, you never knew what was down there in the murky mire. This causes me to think that in life, sometimes we look into the muddy waters with a certain amount of fear and uncertainty.

But then, there it is, the beautiful lotus blossom or water lily that rests above the dark, muddy, murky waters, a lovely white flower that remains beautiful and unstained, despite the source from which it springs.



The roots of the lotus blossom descend through the dark, murky waters to the floor of the pond, where they feed on the mold and decay of leaves and other earthly matter. Indeed, the beauty of the water lily would not be possible were it not for the death and decay at the bottom of the pond that gives it life.

One of my fondest memories is the year that a family of Beaver made the pond their home. Bruce became aware of this before I did and if you know anything about the Beaver, they work mostly at night. So one night Bruce and I headed out to the pond with our flashlights. The closer we got to the pond we began to hear a rather unusual sound. The noises the beaver make while eating sound like a crying baby. These are actually normal beaver vocalizations which means that they're happy. It was incredibly loud and it was continual. The next day when I walked to look at the area the Beaver had been working in, I could not get over how this small creature had almost eliminated the entire growth of the water lily bed in the pond.

The lotus blossom or water lily becomes a fitting symbol of the human soul or spirit that rises above the muddy waters of life, above sickness and suffering, human weakness and uncertainty, trouble and death.

But just as the water lily, many people are able to rise above their difficulties and troubles to make something beautiful of their lives. If I were to ask you what it is that enables us to do just that, I imagine some of your answers would include words like: determination, courage, perseverance, faith, prayer, scripture ...etc.

So whenever life seems dark, or troublesome, or discouraging, let us try to remember the lesson of the lotus blossom and how it grows out of dark, frightening surroundings to produce something beautiful for the world.

A Prayer for Uncertain Times:

Dear God, You remind us in your word that we never have to give way to fear and worry in this life. Thank you for the powerful tools of prayer and your word. Thank you for your great love for us as shown through Christ's death and resurrection. Thank you for your Spirit that dwells within us even now and gives us peace. You assure us that you are constantly with us, no matter what we face in our lives, or in this world. When all seems shaky, dark and uncertain, we choose to look to you. We know that you alone are Sovereign and hold us in the palm of your hand. Help us to trust you even when we can't see what or how you are working. We know you will make a way for us, where there seems to be no way. Strengthen our spirits, from deep within, so that we can walk in your truth and peace today. Keep us focused on you and the way you bring unexpected "beauty" from "ugly" surroundings. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ

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Message for the April 2020 Newsletter

Subjects: Continued Suspension of Worship Services, Easter Online, Stewardship

Dear Members,

When I wrote to you on March 19th announcing the suspension of worship services through March, I had hoped that the actions we were all taking to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus would be successful enough to permit us to have on-site worship services again by Holy Week. Unfortunately, that has not happened. Taking into consideration the latest information from our commonwealth and national authorities, and after consulting with Pastor Narda and Secretary/Treasurer Linda, **Consistory has decided to extend our suspension of on-site worship services through April.** Like many organizations in our local area, we've adopted a month-to-month planning horizon, permitting us to resume services as quickly as possible when guidelines or restrictions change. Remember that the church is open for private reflection and prayer on Wednesday and Sunday mornings, and Pastor Narda will be there (at least six feet away) if you need someone to talk to.

We can't let Easter pass without notice, so this year we're going to have Easter Online (or in your mailbox if you don't have access to the internet). **Pastor Narda, organist Jim, and a very small number of volunteers are going to record an Easter service at the church and post it on the church's website (www.apostlesucc.com).** DVD copies of the service will be mailed to members without a computer. We hope you will gather your family around the computer or the television and symbolically share this sacred season with the rest of your Apostles family. You are encouraged to have some bread and wine ready for communion. I'm not going to be a spoiler, but the service will feature a special musical guest and the last of our *By My Hand For My Sake* monologs.

I'd like to call your attention to the note from the Stewardship and Finance Committee that appears elsewhere in this newsletter. **The church still has bills to pay, even when we're not having services.** Without the offertory as a reminder, it's up to all of us to make an extra effort to give our gifts. Please mail your gift or drop it in the church mailbox. Thank you very much.

Thankfully, **we've proven that we can still be a church even without regular church services.** I'd like to thank Pastor Narda and the past and present Consistory members who are writing the daily messages of hope and encouragement that go out to all our members who have email service. Keep up the good work!! Thanks as well to all the members who receive those messages and pass them on to others or reply with a nice note. Thank you to everyone who calls to check on a church member, family member, or friend. Thank you to everyone who prays for our church and its members, for the stricken, for the health care workers on the front lines, for the scientists working to find a vaccine, and for our leaders. Thank you to all of you who are staying home so we can turn the corner on this pandemic more quickly.

Peace,
Bert Hovermale
Consistory President

One Great Hour of Sharing

"You are God's field; God's building."

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Together, we are investing in communities world-wide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives. Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed.

Today, you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering ... and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. We will be accepting your donations through the month of April. Thank you for your generosity!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

in
April



- 1 Jeff Dingle
- 1 Gloria Miller
- 4 Nancy Dinterman
- 22 Nicole and Steve Leidig
- 23 Cristie Bobb
- 25 Martha Smith

Wayne Band Concert

The Wayne Band will present a concert on Sunday June 28 at 3 PM. The concert will be outside, weather permitting.



APRIL SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED

The difficult but responsible decision has been made to suspend all services in April, including Holy Week services.

A recorded Easter Service will be posted on our website on Easter morning. An email will be sent out with a link to the service.

Worship Assistants *for* May 3

USHERS & COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Nevin & Sondra Monn

READER: Pastor Narda

We will keep you informed as the date gets closer and the situation around COVID-19 continues to develop.

Community Garden Space Available

Free use of garden space is available for the upcoming season. Contact the church office to reserve your garden space.



LENTEN MONOLOGS



Pastor Narda - “Eve”



Bert - “Nicodemus”



Andrew - “Judas”



Bob - “Barabbas”

Remember
to pray for
and check
on each other !
If there was ever
a time to
BE THE CHURCH,
it's now.



TITHES & OFFERINGS

From Stewardship & Finance Team

Church expenses
still need to be paid.

Please remember your
tithes and offerings.

The church office is open on
Wednesdays from 9am-12 pm,
they can be mailed to the church,

or dropped off
in the church mailbox.

The mailbox is locked
and Linda is checking it.



It's Clearance Time !

Volunteers working with kids must renew their
clearances. It's FREE!

To renew your clearance, visit <http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/>
and click on "Obtaining Child Abuse Clearances". You will
need both the PA Child Abuse History Clearance and the
PA State Police Criminal Record Check. When you have
received both clearances, please make a copy of your
certificates and give the copies to Linda to be filed in the
office.





POLLINATOR & WILDLIFE HABITAT 2020

This year's early spring is very evident in our Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat! The cultivated nectar garden will again produce an abundance of young milkweed plants that will be thinned and be available to the church and community to transplant into their Monarch gardens and waystations.

At this time the COVID-19 social distancing may affect our ability to distribute the young plants, which will be ready this month. As with all activities, we will need to wait and see.

Black oil sunflowers will be planted around the outer perimeter of the east, south and west sides of the habitat by Ernie Fitz and Dan Ritchey will keep the walking path mowed for easy access to observe the plants and wildlife. Please remember to use your insect repellent.

This summer the Pollinator & Wildlife Group plans to host a Monarch and Black Swallowtail butterfly program for the church and community in our fellowship hall.

MISSION TRIP IN JULY

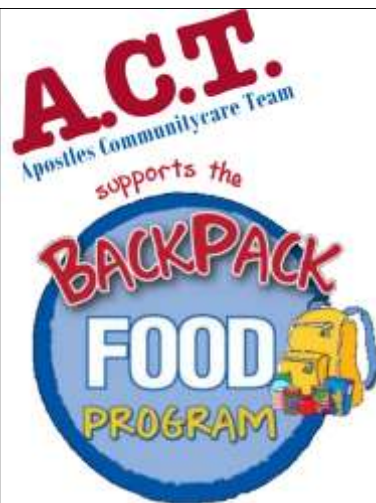
The Justice & Witness Ministry Team of Trinity UCC, Waynesboro has invited anyone from Church of the Apostles to join them on their next mission trip to Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm, near Elkton, Maryland. The dates are July 5-8, 2020.



Deep Roots serves as a homeless shelter for children and families in the community, and strives to break the generational cycle of homelessness. Also, Deep Roots offers an after-school enrichment program for children and teenagers who are residents at the Farm.

Groups do light construction and renovation chores; gardening and landscaping; and meal preparation. Often, groups also support programming for children and teenage residents.

If you have an interest in serving, let Pastor Narda know.



Food and Monetary
Donations
are needed to continue
our Silver Express
program
for the residents
of Trinity House.

***Please support
these Important
Outreach Missions!***





Prayer in a time of Pandemic

Loving God, throughout the Scriptures you call us to "Fear not!", but these are troubling times for the hardest souls. Give us courage to face the challenges of this new threat to your human family. Give us prudence, to do the necessary things to protect ourselves and others. Give us the clarity of vision to learn from this disease the lesson we are too prone to forget, that we are all connected, regardless of race or nationality or political persuasion. We pray for those who are struggling with this disease, that their health may be restored. We pray for medical personnel and first responders caring for those in need, that they remain healthy and unflagging in their life-saving work. And we pray for all those economically impacted, that they may find the resources to maintain themselves and their families. We ask all this, trusting in your abiding love, a love that even death cannot defeat. Amen.



The Rev'd Deacon Tom Hampson
*The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
Lodi, California*



March 12, 2020

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

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind donation of Emergency Clean-up Buckets to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That someone cares. And they are not alone.

Disasters can strike anywhere, anytime. And they can take many forms: tornadoes, earthquakes, civil conflict, drought, hurricanes and more. Caring people like you – who understand the urgency of responding after a disaster – allow people in crisis to receive help when they need it, and hope for the future.

Learn more about the power of your compassion at cwskits.org.

Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes your donations ensure that help is never far behind.

With deepest gratitude,

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO

P.S. Processing and shipping CWS Kits to their destination is a costly endeavor. Please help by sending a donation in the enclosed yellow envelope or paying online at cwskits.org/shipping. If you have already provided your gift for processing and shipping your kits to those in need, thank you!



Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening is able to bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative.

We look forward to working together again!

Sincerely,

Allen Burleson
Health Service Coordinator
Life Line Screening
Phone: (800) 897-9177 11430
Mobile: 330-949-2837
Email: allen.burleson@llsa.com



A Psychiatric Residential Treatment
Program for Children

MELISSA LEATHERY, LSW
CEO & PRESIDENT

February 25, 2020

Church of the Apostles
c/o Ms. Jean High
336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268

"Thank you

***for your donation of \$125
for the children's birthdays."***

Dear Jean,

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." (Psalms 127:3 NLT)

Thank you for your donation of \$125.00 for the children's birthdays. Together with your amazing support, we continue to help children in our community, let me tell you about one of them.

Abby* was 13 years old when she was admitted to our program. Her birth parents separated when she was two months old. She was physically and sexually abused by her father for three years. Abby had a history of mood instability, aggressive and destructive behavior, and anxiety. While in our program, therapists utilized trauma focused-cognitive behavior therapy. Her mother was very involved and supportive during her treatment, and Abby went home for therapeutic leave often. As treatment progressed, she was able to recognize the shame and self-hatred she held for herself. She was able to take responsibility for her actions, develop coping skills and positive relationships. After nine months of treatment, she successfully returned home to her mother. *Name changed for privacy

You'll hear from us with updates on the children in care in our winter and summer newsletter, *Hoffman Happenings*. You can contact me anytime if you have questions about our program, would like to arrange a tour of campus, or for me to come speak at your congregation for a mission moment.

As we celebrate our 110-year anniversary, ***we thank you*** for your compassion and dedication to helping children in need and for giving them the opportunity to heal.

With gratitude,

Alicia Stanley
Vice President, Marketing & Development
astanley@hoffmanhomes.com
717-359-7148 x4500



Thank
You

2-27-20

from
Tissie

Hello friends
Thanks for the
kindness showed me for
my 96th birthday. I
received 43 cards I
really appreciated them.
Thanks again,
Sincerely
Elizabeth Reecher
(Tissie)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Please forward an address change to the Church office.



April 2020

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.