

June 2020 Newsletter



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP 10 AM

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

This past week has been one of the most heartbreaking weeks for me as your Pastor and a Grandmother. I am sure you are all aware of the death of George Floyd, the African American man who was killed due to the tactics used by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Monday, May 25th. Unfortunately this is not the first person of color to die in what would be described as questionable circumstances. All I ask is you hear me out as I share what is burdening my heart.

Friday night as Bruce and I watched a movie and had a “date night,” we were unaware that our daughter-in-law Kara had a post on Facebook that said: “When your 10 year old son says he is scared. You ask why? He says he doesn’t want anyone hurting his brother or his house burning down. And why would they do that? (Two broken heart emoji’s) Then we continue with a long discussion about what we need to do to help racism and hate.”

For those of you who may not be aware, our grandsons are adopted. The eldest, Landon, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana to a single mom who informed us that the birth father did not wish to be in the picture, but did let us know he was bi-racial. So Landon is not as dark skinned as the youngest, Louis, who is predominately African American. Louis, was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to a young military couple that had been displaced by hurricane Katrina and were expecting a baby and felt they needed to give the baby up and never told their families. I’m a grandmother because two women do not know their children had a baby. I cannot explain how grateful I am to these three birth parents for being willing to GIVE.

In what I would call a “God Incidence” was that on Friday morning, after a night of restless sleep, I awoke with the feeling that I needed to write my grandboys a letter telling them that I would do whatever I could to make sure they both knew that they are loved and that grandpa and I would do whatever it took to keep them safe. I can only describe this feeling as a nudging from God. I share the letter with you in the hopes you might better understand how I feel:



PASTOR'S *thoughts...*

Dearest Landon and Louis,

I am writing you both a letter that I wish I would have written earlier, after the death of Amaud Arbery; but after the death of George Floyd in Minnesota this week, I wanted to make sure you both know how much your grandfather and I love you both and that we need you both to know that we will do whatever it takes to make sure you feel safe. I have come to realize in spite of your ages, you are more advanced and impressionable than most your ages.

Louis, I will never forget the first time you came to visit grandpa and I in Waynesboro and we were heading to a festival. Driving through town, you spotted an African American man who was dark skinned and you said, "He's dark like me." You were only four-years old. I said to you, "Yes, he is dark skinned like you." It was clear to me that day that we have a responsibility to make sure we showed you how important it would be to you to make sure we lifted up your African American heritage and celebrate it. I have always loved the way you describe our family: You, Lou, are dark chocolate, your brother, Landon, is light chocolate, and your mom and dad, and rest of your family are white chocolate.

Landon, I have come to see how caring you are and how important it is for you to make others feel they can depend on you to be their friend no matter what the color of their skin, how smart they are, if they are good in sports; you care about other children. You have a sweet spirit that makes older adults feel cared about too. I love this about you! You are a great big brother also. When your dad was a youngster, grandpa and I always tried to teach the truth that every human being should be treated the same, no matter the color of their skin, how rich they are, whatever their religious beliefs are, or where they come from. There is a song that grandpa and I used to sing with the members of our singing group called Spirit Alive, in our first church in East Canton, Ohio. The song is called "*What Color Is God's Skin?*" Here are some of the words to that song:

"Good night," said a father to his little son,
so tired out when the day was done.
"Dad," he asked as he was being tucked in,
"What's the color of God's skin?"

CHORUS: What color is God's skin? What color is God's skin?
I said, "It's black, brown, it's yellow, it's red, it is white;
Ev'-ry man's the same in the good Lord's sight!"

The boy looked up with shining eyes -
Eyes that said there must be no lies.
“Why,” he asked, “do different races fight
If we’re the same in the good Lord’s sight?”

CHORUS

“Son, that’s part of our suffering past,
But the whole human family is learning at last -
That the thing we missed on the road we trod
Is walking as the daughters and the sons of God.”

CHORUS

I would change the last line of the chorus to Ev’-ry **ONES** the same in the good Lord’s sight! But the important thing is I believe this **_ EVERY PERSON IS THE SAME IN THE GOOD LORD’S SIGHT AND IN OUR SIGHT!**

And since I believe this, I **NEED** to be a voice that proclaims this and **SPEAKS OUT** for the injustice that I am seeing in our country and the world. That this is indeed **WRONG!** I walked in the 2017 Women’s March in Washington, DC on January 21st that year, because of you both. My most important goal was to bring an awareness of **RACIAL EQUALITY** for all. There were other very important goals that I felt strongly about. Aunt Rachel went with me and I’m sure she would talk with you about her reasons and experience, as I hope to sometime.

I want you both to know that I agree whole-heartedly with Martin Luther King Jr.’s mother, Alberts, when she said: “You are as good as anyone,” words she said to her son when he was growing up in a very difficult and unacceptable time in our country’s history – when African Americans were being excluded and treated badly. I know it seems like they still are. For this I am extremely sorry and promise you I will do everything I can to make a difference when it comes to racial equality and the mistreatment and killing of African Americans in our country.

I look forward to sharing with you some of the people I have come to regard as Hero’s in our country’s history. People such as: Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Barack Obama and so many others. You can count on me to help you learn about the many people who stood up to prejudice, hate, and injustice. I do give thanks that you both will grow up as members of churches that are connected to the United Church of Christ. I hope as you grow you will come to feel you have a home with the UCC just as your family does.

Finally, my hope is that I will have enough courage to stand up and call out and name this evil that I saw this week, and do something that can make all people feel they are “as good as anyone” else. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus, I pray I will!

Love & Prayers, Oma

As a Christian minister I have pledged and committed my life to preaching the gospel of Jesus – pure, unconditional, all-inclusive love – for ALL. I have always shared that I believe we were created to be in relationship. I do not condone the violence, looting and burning that went on this week, but I do believe it is time for having the hard conversations regarding racism and equality for all persons. Edmund Burke said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men and women to do nothing.” I am no longer going to do nothing – I’m in!

My hope is that you will be willing to have the tough conversations and commit to educating ourselves as a people of faith in learning how we can make a difference, in our own way, toward trying to bring awareness and to promote healing when it comes to this critical time in our nation and world. I am interested in hearing from any of you who would like to talk and hope we share a desire to do what we can to bring about positive change.

Blessings and Prayers for the journey,
Pastor Narda

Dear Apostles Family,

Bruce and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone for the beautiful basket of fresh flowers, for your prayers, your cards, and your messages sent to us on the recent death of Bruce's mother, Josephine.

Jo was 93 and a resident at Phoebe Home in Allentown, PA. Grandma, as we referred to her, volunteered at Phoebe for nearly 30 years. We were able to have a limited number of family for a graveside service. Our hope is to have a Celebration of Life event in the near future for all the family and friends.

With deepest gratitude and blessings,
Pastor Narda and family



A Message from Bert Hovermale, Consistory President

“You’re not the boss of me!”

Does that sound familiar? I used to hear it a lot from my son, then around 7, complaining that his sister, then around 5, was trying to direct their play. The phrase is making something of a comeback, thanks to COVID-19, but this time the complaint comes from individuals (including some politicians) who are unhappy about someone’s decision to close/not close or open/not open something or other. I’m not going to get into any of that, but I do have a question for you. Who do you think is the boss of us at Church of the Apostles with respect to when and how we resume on-site worship in the face of this pandemic?

Let’s look at the possibilities:

1. President Trump? No. The President declared that houses of worship were essential on May 22nd, but what he was really doing was asking governors not to prohibit churches from reopening.
2. Governor Wolf? No. The Governor issued stay at home orders and limited the size of gatherings, but religious institutions were specifically excluded from those orders. The Governor asked religious leaders to comply with his recommendations for size of gatherings, wearing of masks, and social distancing.
3. PA Health Secretary Levine? No. Dr. Levine has certainly been a visible presence during the pandemic, but her direct authority extends only to those facilities that are licensed by her department.
4. Franklin County Commissioners? No. The Commissioners considered unilaterally moving the county from Red to Yellow, but they decided in the end not to take that action.
5. How about our National United Church of Christ organization? Still no. The National UCC provides recommendations and guidance, but they don’t order member churches to open or close.
6. What about our own UCC Penn Central Conference? Again, no. We get recommendations and guidance from PCC, and they also provide us information from The Insurance Board, the UCC’s risk manager, but PCC has made it clear that they won’t order member churches to open or close.

You've no doubt realized by now that this was a trick question. Although there are many individuals and organizations who have an interest in whether houses of worship are open or closed, and all of these have provided recommendations and guidance in one form or another, the truth of the matter is that we, Church of the Apostles, are the boss of us. The Pastor, Secretary/Treasurer, and Consistory, working together prayerfully and collaboratively, sort through all the recommendations and guidance and make decisions by consensus. It hasn't been easy, and our work is far from finished, but I'm very thankful for Pastor Narda, Secretary/Treasurer Linda, and our engaged Consistory.

After prayerful consideration we've decided to reopen on June 14th with an outdoor service (weather permitting) beginning at 10:00 AM. Please note the time change. We will adopt our normal summer schedule when we reopen. This service will be BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair). You will be asked to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of space between you and others who are not part of your household. Masks will not be required as long as we are outside and maintaining a good social distance. If it rains on the 14th we're going to try an impromptu stay-in-your-car worship service. We'll be back in the sanctuary for worship at 10:00 AM on June 21st. Masks will be required when we worship in the sanctuary.

We are working hard to get ready to reopen. We ask that you think hard about whether you're ready to join us. Even if we all maintain a good social distance, gathering together in person is still a risk. If you have a serious health condition it may be best if you stay home and join us through Apostles Virtual Church. Virtual Church is still church, and we rejoice for everyone who takes advantage of this technology to participate in worship.

If you're not involved with one of the ministry teams, now is a great time to start. See one of our team leads to get started. Judy Fitz leads our Christian Outreach Team. Chris Bobb and Larry Little lead our Property Team. Larry is out of town, so see Chris for suggestions. Laurie Hovermale leads Lay Life and Work, and I could really use some help with the A/V System.

As we ramp up to reopen, we'll ramp down on our Bridging the [Social] Distance daily messages. I want to thank Pastor Narda and our other message writers for maintaining this ministry during our mandatory stay at home period. I hope you could feel the love and concern we have for you coming through during that time of isolation. I also hope the messages were something to look forward to and helped to brighten your days. They're still available under the Worship tab on the church's web page, <https://www.apostlesucc.com/worship/bridging-the-social-distance.html>.

ZOOM MEETINGS AVAILABLE FOR TEAMS

The church now has a Zoom account for online team meetings!

Team leaders should contact Linda with the date and time needed for their meeting. Team members will receive an email invitation to the meeting.

Consistory has been meeting through Zoom recently; it's easy to use and works very well !



If you are unable to attend Worship and have internet capability, you can access

Apostles Virtual Church

on our website by visiting
www.apostlesucc.com.

Click on **"Live Stream Recordings"** under the WORSHIP tab.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

From Stewardship & Finance Team

Your tithes and offerings that have been received were so needed and appreciated !

If you are unable to attend Worship, please continue to send in your offering on a regular basis.

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.

Wayne Band Concert

The Wayne Band concert scheduled for Sunday June 28 at 3 PM will be postponed to a later date. The concert will be held outside, weather permitting.



Ushers for June

June 14: *no usher needed*

June 21: *Mary Lou Misner*

June 28: *Judy Fitz*

July 5: *Tony Haugh*

Birthdays & Anniversaries in June



6/4 Katie Fitz
6/6 Tory VanReenen
6/12 Ernest and Beverly Fitz
6/12 Gilbert Hovermale
6/18 Beverly Fitz
6/20 Mary Lou Misner
6/21 Eric Jacobs
6/22 Robyn Dingle
6/23 Narda Druckenmiller
6/26 Robert Benchoff
6/26 Larry Little

The Church Reopens:

June 14 ~ Outdoor Service

*June 21 ~ Services resume
in the Sanctuary*

Services begin at 10 AM.

***Masks and
social distancing are required
inside the church.***

Outdoor Services

will be held on June 14,
July 12 and August 9
at 10 AM, weather permitting.

*Masks are not required for Outdoor
Services as long as good social
distancing is maintained between you
and others who are not part of
your household.*

***Please bring your own lawn chair
to eliminate the need for additional
cleaning of the folded chairs in
the Fellowship Hall.***



CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

OVER \$144,000
in CWS Kits & Blankets shipped



Dear friends,

Take a minute and reflect on the graphic above. No one really knew about the coronavirus last year, but every kit assembled and every dollar congregations raised for blankets was called forth for such a time as this. Your congregation helped build a response to truly unforeseen needs. Thank you!

I think you'll appreciate this full-circle story about your gifts. Just about 50 years ago, congregations in York, PA started a movement to share meals with families around the world in a time when hunger was rampant; you might know it as CWS' CROP Hunger Walk. Through this decades-old relationship, we recently learned that the community's own food bank, the York County Food Bank (YCFB), needed help. At their request, CWS shipped 2,000+ hygiene kits and blankets over to the food bank in February. **Then, the coronavirus hit.**

Again, before fully knowing the needs, you built a response. Now the YCFB can include hygiene kits in each box of food they're distributing during the pandemic. Zach (Director of Programs there) shared this: ***"The hygiene kits are a staple item, I don't know that I saw anyone who turned [them] down....The CWS Kit and Blanket program are a vehicle to answer our call to action."***

Congregations like yours choose to be first responders for the diseases of this world: hunger, poverty, injustice and pandemics like this one that widen the gap for families who are already vulnerable. And your bold compassion ripples through the months/years/decades ahead in incredible, unforeseen ways.

Thanks again for being part of this ongoing story,
Matthew Stevens, Director of Congregational Giving, CWS



Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat

MONARCH BUTTERFLY WAYSTATION

This year our publicity was hampered by the pandemic, but we were still able to give away 55 young milkweed plants to 6 church and community members in May so they could enhance their home Monarch gardens.

JULIE SHINDLE'S BUTTERFLY PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH AT 6:00 pm WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY TO ACCOMMODATE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK. WE ARE ANTICIPATING THAT FRANKLIN COUNTY WILL HAVE MOVED TO THE GREEN PHASE OF REOPENING BY AUGUST 6TH, THEREBY ALLOWING MORE THAN 25 PARTICIPANTS. IF WE ARE STILL IN THE YELLOW PHASE, THEN JULIE WILL PRESENT TWO PROGRAMS, ONE AT 4:00pm AND ONE AT 6:00 pm.

Julie will teach about the Monarch & Black Swallowtail butterflies, how to help them, and how to raise the caterpillars to adults and release them. Our Pollinator & Wildlife Group will again provide nurseries for families to use in raising Monarch caterpillars. If you are interested in a nursery for your family, please contact Shelley & Bob Benchoff at 717-749-5202 or benchoff360@comcast.net by August 1st.

Weather permitting, after the program, everyone is invited to walk across the church yard to the habitat, nectar garden & butterfly waystation to gather caterpillars and to see how many pollinators & other wildlife you may see. Once there, take a stroll on the mowed walking paths to explore the entire habitat. It is advised that Insect repellent be applied once outside the building.

As summer arrives keep an eye out for this year's new growth of sunflowers as they once again begin preparing for their spectacular bloom!



Our nation is amazingly diverse, representing different cultures and ethnic backgrounds. Yet most of us live in communities marked by sameness, among people who think, act, and look like us. The vision of Pentecost is to experience unity among a diverse crowd. Yet how do we realize this vision?

Through the funds provided by the Strengthen the Church Offering, The Penn West Conference provides a wonderful example. To support youth programming, this year, the Conference awarded grants to First Church in Irwin and First Church in Greensburg to send young people to the National Youth Event (NYE). Conference Minister David Ackerman explains why it matters, saying, "At National Youth Event, our youth get a sense of the width and breadth of the UCC. Most of our youth come from smaller rural churches. At NYE, they meet other youth from different backgrounds and come away with a sense of being united."

Every UCC conference uses your generous gifts to Strengthen the Church. The grants provided by the Penn West Conference will help young people, at a national gathering, experience God's dream of a truly united and uniting Church, amid differences in cultures and backgrounds. Every Conference faithfully uses your gift to invest in God's vision for the Church.

Please give generously to the Strengthen the Church Offering Together, we can invest in God's vision of Church.

STRENGTHEN
THE CHURCH



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

SEEK & FIND



S	A	C	R	B	L
T	C	R	E	K	J
R	H	E	G	T	L
E	R	A	N	H	H
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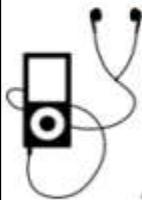
Strength
Leaders
Create

Hope
Church
Youth

Christ
Love
Renew

Neighbor
Give

WANTED



Apple iPod shuffles, iPods or iPhones

Do you have any old iPods or iPhones sitting in a drawer at home?

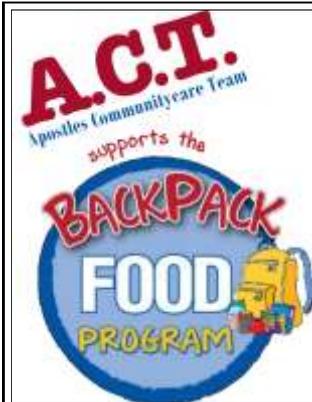
The activity staff of the Sarah Todd UCC Home in Carlisle
would like to increase the number of residents
that have a preferred music playlist to listen to.

Email Chaplain Mark Ruzicka at mruzicka@ucc-homes.org to arrange for your
donated items to be picked up/dropped off.

Don't come directly to the Home.

Meet the best iPods ever.





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

**SILVER
EXPRESS
DELIVERY**



Silver Express Donations

Just a reminder..... donations are needed for Trinity House. Canned goods and non perishables are welcome. We are not sure when we will go as a group but groceries can be brought to the Church and we will see they are taken to their office. Monetary donations can also be made by using an envelope in the pews and marking it for Silver Express. There will also be a basket at the door for donations.



Doughnut and Coffee Appreciation

From a request made by Wellspan Hospital to all local churches, Church of the Apostles recently sponsored a doughnut and coffee appreciation for the staff of one unit at the Waynesboro Hospital as a thank you to the healthcare workers.

CELEBRATING OUR FATHER'S, STEP-FATHERS, & STEP-IN- FATHER'S

Join us on Sunday, June 21, 2020
so we can honor you and raise a bottle of
DAD'S Old Fashioned Root Beer!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God's
♥
4-U-2

Please forward an address change to the Church office.



June 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.