

# ***September 2020 Newsletter***



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

***OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10 AM***

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

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# THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR .....

***“Surely the Lord is in this place...”* Genesis 28:16b**

Bruce and I have just returned from two weeks of vacation. I must admit that it was a bit challenging trying to decide where to go for those two weeks. With COVID-19 our choices were somewhat limited. But I am happy to report that our two weeks away were filled with special people, enjoyable activities and memorable moments. Our second week took us to Hartman Center in Milroy, PA. Many of you know that Bruce and I spent fourteen years at the camp with Bruce as Director of Outdoor Ministries for Penn Central Conference. You may also be aware that the Board of Directors for Penn Central Conference recently made the decision to sell the camp due to various reasons I won't go into. As you may imagine, this has been difficult for Bruce, myself, our children, and many folks that have strong connections to Hartman Center. My hope was that Bruce and I could return to the camp to spend time preparing to “let go” and to volunteer our “aging bones” in preparing certain areas for the service of Celebration, Homecoming, Reunion and Farewell on Saturday, September 12, 2020.

The area that Bruce and I concentrated most of our efforts on was the Labyrinth.



The labyrinth was the Eagle Scout project for our youngest son, Andrew and was done in memory of W. Lee Lawhead, UCC pastor, past Director at Hartman Center and family friend. You may know that a labyrinth is used a tool for prayer and contemplation. Some people confuse it with a maze, but the difference is that the path you go into the labyrinth is the same

path you come back out of the labyrinth. I've included two pictures of the labyrinth with this article. One shows how it became overgrown with weeds and the other shows the results of our efforts. You will notice that many of the stones that line and mark the path of the labyrinth are painted. These painted stones represent a very special significance and message during the time of ministry at Hartman Center.

The verse I highlighted for this message from Genesis 28, is part of a wonderful story from our Biblical ancestor, Jacob. I encourage you to read the story for yourself. I would like to share the significance of this text for myself and Hartman Center. One of the earlier years of our time at the camp, the theme for the summer tied in with Jacob's story. Genesis 28 tells of Jacob's journey to the area of Padan Aram in search of a wife. Along the way he spent the night at a place called Luz, using a stone for a pillow. That night Jacob had an unusual dream, wherein God reaffirmed to Jacob the earlier promises made to Abraham and Isaac. God said, *"The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your seed. And your seed shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south. And in you and in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with you, and will keep you in every place where you go, and will bring you again into this land, for I will not leave you until I have done that which I have spoken of to you"* (vs 13-15).

Jacob awoke and said, *"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."* Jacob takes the stone he had used as a pillow and sets it up as a "memorial stone" and anoints it with oil. Jacob used this stone as a symbol of his experience in that place. The Hebrew word translated "standing stones" is massebah and means "to set up." The Israelites followed ancient customs by setting up standing stones as a reminder of God's covenant and supernatural acts on their behalf. The story of the stones was passed down from generation to generation through oral tradition. This scripture urged Bruce and the staff to take this concept, and the Labyrinth at the camp, and tie in a beautiful song from Brian Sirchio entitled "Mark This Place" and have the campers over the summer take a stone, paint it and then place it on the path of the Labyrinth to mark their experience of being at Hartman Center. Let me share the words to Brian Sirchio's song – ***"Mark This Place"***:

**Chorus: "Find a stone like Jacob, and mark this place  
Surely God's been with us here  
And some day when we return,  
we'll remember things we learned By God's grace.  
Mark this place."**

**As we journey through our lives, there are places, there are times  
Where the Spirit seems to touch us in ways that change it all  
Holy places, holy ground, Holy Spirit all around  
Place where we seem to hear God call. (chorus)**

**There are places where the veil that can seem to separate  
Things of God from things of this world become so very thin  
That we sense God passing through; making promises anew  
Speaking words God knows we need to hear. (chorus)**

Just as Jacob set up stones at Bethel in order to remember his powerful dream, in which God reaffirmed his covenant with him, the campers were encouraged to place their stones at Hartman Center because the campers often shared how this place, this camp, was a special place that they encountered God. One of our retired pastors in PCC, Mike Loser, shared that for him the area in the Pines at Hartman Center marks for him, "Places in this world that are 'thin' places, places where the time and space between heaven and earth are so close that the veil is very thin."

My years at Hartman Center were some of the most rewarding and enriching of my journey. I never had the opportunity to attend camp as a youngster. After marrying Bruce, we began leading camps at two of our UCC camps in Ohio. Once we returned to PA, Bruce began to direct Science Camp at Hartman Center. Once each of our children became of age to attend camp, starting with 3-Day Getting Started Camp, I quickly learned how special this place was to my children and the friends they had met and continue to this day to keep in touch with. Each of our children credit Hartman Center with enriching their spirituality and faith journey. As a parent it is such a joy to see how the camp experience has had a positive impression on the people they are and the values they hold dear: peace, justice, love for all people. I had the privilege to not only watch my own children, but other people's children grow in just one week of summer camp. For me that is reason enough to Mark This Place!

Where is a place that you have experienced the presence of God? Just like Jacob, we can wake up to our lives and exclaim, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it! How awesome is this place! May we all wake up to our lives, to God's presence with us in the midst of all that is, right where we are.



Blessings for the journey,  
Pastor Narda



## WAYNESBORO CROP WALK 2020

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Waynesboro Area CROP Hunger Walk will be held on **Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**, with registration beginning at 1:30 PM and the walk at 2 PM. The walk will again be held on the walking path along the **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 encourage more participation in this vital ministry, the planning team 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 another for the church that raises the most money for Church World Service. Last year, Christ 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 for the second year in a row with 15 walkers.

**With this being Waynesboro’s 49<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 New York. Traditionally, 25% of the money raised goes to local ministries right here in Waynesboro. Recipients of these fund for the past few years have been New Hope Shelter, The Lunch Place and Community and Human Resources. Last year there were 73 walkers (plus 5 dogs) who collected around \$6,570 for Church World Service.

This year, with COVID-19, there will be some challenges (as has been the case with just about EVERYTHING in 2020!), with that **everyone will be required to wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet apart** unless you are a family group that lives together in the same household. The good news is that we can have up to 250 people for an outdoor activity.

The goal for this year is to have at least 100 walkers and collect at least \$10,000 for hunger throughout the world. **See Pastor Narda for a sponsorship form if you plan to be part of Team Apostles.**

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 through the U.S. This year marks the 51<sup>st</sup> year CROP Hunger Walks have brought the interfaith community together across our 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 can be in solidarity, bring awareness to these issues and raise the funds for a permanent change.

# From Bert Hovermale, Consistory President

## BITS AND BOBS

“Bits and Bobs” is a British expression that is roughly equivalent to our “Odds and Ends.” It’s just a little more fun to say. This will be a brief update of generally unrelated topics.

### Indoor vs. Outdoor Worship

In our August newsletter I told you we would continue worshipping outdoors through at least September 13<sup>th</sup>. I also mentioned that worship would begin at our summer starting time of 10:00 through that date as well. Pastor Narda and Consistory met recently to review indoor vs. outdoor worship, and we’ve have decided to continue worshipping outside through at least October 4, 2020, but worship will begin at our traditional starting time of 10:45 AM, effective September 20<sup>th</sup>.

I think this summary will help:

September 6: outdoor worship at 10:00

September 13: outdoor worship at 10:00

September 20: outdoor worship at 10:45

September 27: outdoor worship at 10:45

October 4: outdoor worship at 10:45

October 11: TBD at 10:45

October 18: TBD at 10:45

**October 25: indoor worship at 10:45,  
followed by the Annual Business Meeting**

We made this decision because studies of the ways in which COVID-19 spreads through the population continue to indicate the virus transmits much easier indoors than outdoors. We’re safer outdoors, so we should continue to worship outdoors as long as it is comfortable to do so. We’ll make a decision about October 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in time to get the decision into October’s newsletter. By then we should know whether we’re in for a cold, wet fall or a warm, dry fall.

### Annual Meeting

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, please plan to attend. The Annual Meeting is a very important event in the life of the church. We’re going to review the spending plan for 2021, elect new Consistory members to replace those members whose terms are expiring, and vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. There will be four vacancies on Consistory. Two members who have served on Consistory in the past have agreed to come



back and serve again. We still hope to find two additional volunteers to fill out the eight-member board. If necessary, we'll amend the Constitution and Bylaws to reduce Consistory from eight members to six.

## **Audio/Video System**

What has the church A/V system been doing while we've been worshipping outdoors? Playing video games and binge-watching old episodes of Friends? No. It's been much more productive than that. We traced and fixed an intermittent problem that resulted in interruption of the audio signal to the monitors. We also had an electric outlet installed on the sanctuary pillar where the temporary A/V workstation resides. This outlet will power our camera and streaming equipment. Having the power right there at the pillar will save us from having to stretch an extension cord, which is ugly and creates a trip hazard. We had the electricians run an ethernet cable for better streaming while they were running the electric cables for the outlet.

The other day I met with a woodworker who is going to give us a quote to build a lockable workstation for the A/V equipment in the sanctuary. We envision a cabinet that will store the equipment, permit it to charge while being stored, and then convert to a workstation where the A/V technician will operate the equipment during the service. This will make things easier on the equipment and the people who operate it. Companies that specialize in providing this type of cabinet charge up to \$1,000 for such a cabinet. I think we can employ a local craftsman to build us one that looks nicer and costs much less than the factory models. I plan to make a donation to help defray the cost of the cabinet. Please join me if you are able. It would be wonderful if we could provide this cabinet to the church without the expenditure of church funds.

## **Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting**

Laurie and I represented Church of the Apostles as lay delegates to the PCC annual meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was held by Zoom. After some initial technical problems, the event progressed rather smoothly. We were particularly impressed by the "Zoom Music" where people from various locations joined their voices in praise. The main piece of business at the meeting was the vote to approve the Reverend Carrie Call as PCC's Settled Conference Minister. Rev. Call has been acting as our Transitional Conference Minister. We've been in many Zoom meetings with her as we negotiated the turbulent waters of the COVID epidemic. She is intelligent and dynamic, and we're very lucky to have her as our Conference Minister. The Penn Central Conference will be a great resource and advocate for local churches like ours while Rev. Call is at the helm.



*Lights, Camera, Stream!*  
*Our Apostles Videographer*  
*in her new Director's Chair!*

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](http://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.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Our Annual Meeting  
will be held on October 25th,  
immediately following  
Worship. This will be a  
business meeting  
to approve the  
2021 Spending Plan.**

**Please plan to attend.**





# Readers for September

September 6: *Bob Benchoff*  
September 13: *Donna Haugh*  
September 20: *Mary Lou Misner*  
September 27: *Laurie Hovermale*  
October 4: *Donna Haugh*

# Birthdays & Anniversaries in September



9/1 Dave Webber  
9/2 Dave Patterson  
9/10 Ernie Fitz  
9/18 Charles High  
9/22 Joe Hovermale  
9/28 Debbie & Jake Jacobs  
9/28 Amanda (Ritchey)  
Kratochvil  
9/30 Hannah (Misner) Caplan

# Outdoor Services

will be held through October 4,  
& possibly on October 11 & 18.

*We will return to our 10:45 AM  
time on September 20.*

*Please bring your own lawn chairs.*

*If it rains or if the temperature is  
uncomfortable, you can sit in your  
car and listen to the service  
by tuning into radio station 88.9 FM.*

*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.*



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

***Thank you  
for understanding.***



*There's a basket at the side entrance for canned food donations for Silver Express.*

**SILVER EXPRESS DELIVERY**



## **CHURCH MOVIE DATE: SEPTEMBER 17**

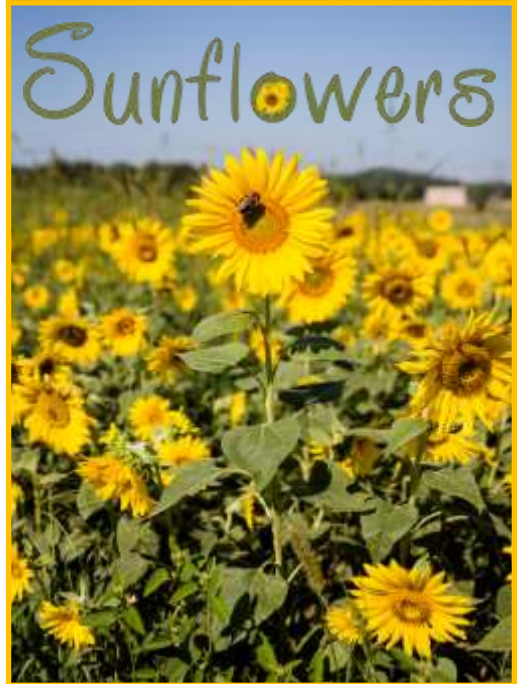
We are going to have a movie date at the Church **September 17, at 10:30 am.** When we had these movies in the past, we had about 6 - 8 in attendance. We can socially distance in the fellowship room but will have to wear masks. There can be more movie dates if this is successful.

**GOD BLESS THE BROKEN ROAD** tells the inspirational story of a young mother who loses her husband in Afghanistan and struggles to raise their young daughter in his absence. The film focuses on the importance of faith, friends, and family while paying tribute to those who serve in the United States military.

**No matter where life takes you.....FAITH TAKES YOU FURTHER.**

***Christian Outreach Team***

**The  
yellow & pink begonias  
in this planter  
are 2020 Easter flowers.  
They did well at  
Mary Lou's house!**





## SEPTEMBER 2020

Late summer & early fall are great times to visit our Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat.

Unfortunately the very dry month of June enabled the weeds, especially the grasses to outgrow the sunflowers when they were just coming through, however there will still be plenty of seeds for the wildlife this month.

You can walk across the front sidewalk and onto the lawn to see the cultivated nectar garden and further explore along the mowed walking path.

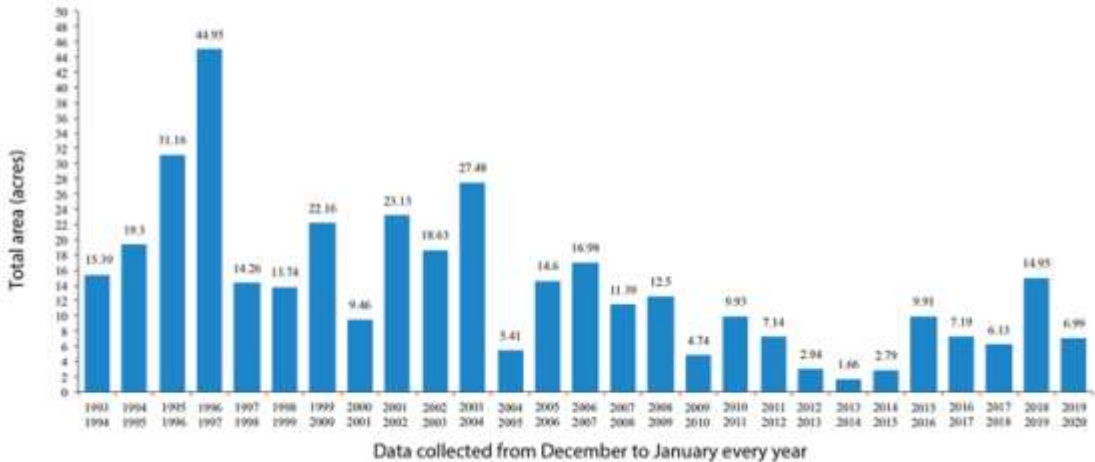
Our eastern US monarch butterflies have started their annual migration to the mountainous sites of the Sierra Madre in central Mexico where they will spend the winter in hibernation. When you visit the habitat you may continue to see caterpillars & newly hatched monarchs, but in addition, adult butterflies 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 and in 2008 it became a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site.

As you can see on this World Wildlife Federation chart the number of acres occupied by the monarchs hibernating in Mexico for the last 27 winters has been declining.



## Area of forest occupied by monarch butterflies hibernating in Mexico



**Monarch Watch, the organization where our Waystation is registered states, "Development in the U.S. is consuming habitats for Monarchs and other wildlife at a rate of 6,000 acres per day—that's 2.2 million acres each year, the area of Delaware and Rhode Island combined! To save the Monarch population, we must create, conserve, and protect monarch and milkweed habitats."**

There is hope because of the continued growth in the number of registered monarch waystations in the U.S. Monarchwatch.org's website states that as of July 24, 2020 there are 29,809 Monarch Waystations registered with Monarch Watch.

There is also great hope for the monarch and all butterflies and pollinators because of the following organizations, in addition to those named above, taking action: The Monarch Joint Venture, Xerces Society, Pollinator Partnership, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, North American Butterfly Association, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Save Our Monarchs Foundation, Environmental Defense Fund, Pheasants Forever, National wildlife Federation, Center For Food Safety, Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, David Suzuki Foundation, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, U.S. Forest Service, North American Monarch Conservation Plan, Trilateral Monarch Butterfly Sister Protected Area Network, and the Monarch Butterfly Fund.

Looking at the websites of these organizations online provides a wealth of information about the specific work they do and gives us the encouragement and confidence to continue our efforts to care for and improve our Church of the Apostles, UCC Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat, knowing that together we are making a difference!





A Psychiatric Residential Treatment  
Program for Children

MELISSA LEATHERY, LSW  
CEO & PRESIDENT

Thank You  
for the  
birthday card  
donations!

August 17, 2020

Church of the Apostles  
Attn: Tory  
336 Barnett Avenue  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Dear Tory,

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

**Thank you** for your donation of \$100.00 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  
for donating  
\$81.00  
to the  
Dumaguete Kalauman Center for Development  
in the Philippines!



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 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.*