

# ***January 2021 Newsletter***



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

***VIRTUAL WORSHIP at  
[www.apostlesucc.com](http://www.apostlesucc.com)  
on the WORSHIP tab***

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR .....

As we change the calendar to January we often think another Christmas is over and we can take down the Christmas decorations and begin thinking about the New Year. We seem to be in a hurry to put Christmas in a box and pack it away. We seem to be in a rush for the next holiday. Before you do, take time to read this writing by Ann Weems:

### BOXED

*I must admit to a certain guilt about stuffing the Holly Family  
into a box in the aftermath of Christmas.  
It's frankly a time of personal triumph when each Advent's eve,  
I free them (and others), from a year's  
imprisonment boxed in the dark of our basement.  
Out they come, one by one, struggling through the straw,  
last year's tinsel still clinging to their roves.  
Nevertheless, they appear, ready to take their place again,  
in the light of another Christmas.  
The Child is first because he's the one I'm most reluctant to box.  
Attached forever to his cradle, he emerges, apparently unscathed  
from the time spent upside down, to avoid the crush of the lid.  
His mother, dressed eternally in blue, still gazes adoringly,  
in spite of the fact that her features are somewhat smudged.  
Joseph has stood for eleven months, holding valiantly what's left of his staff,  
broken twenty Christmases ago by a child who hugged a little too tightly.  
The Wise Ones still travel, though not quite so elegantly,  
the standing camel having lost its back leg  
and the sitting camel having lost one ear.  
However, gifts intact, they are ready to move,  
sometimes confused with Joseph (who wears the same dull brown),  
tumble forth, followed by three sheep in very bad repair.  
There they are again, not a grand set surely,  
but one of the children (and now the grandchildren)  
can touch and move about to reenact the silent night.  
When the others return, we will wind the music box on the back of the stable  
and light the Advent candles and go once again to Bethlehem.  
And this year, when it's time to pack the figures away, we'll be  
more careful that the Peace and Goodwill  
are not boxed for another year!*

Hopefully we will re-discover and share the peace and goodwill that we find during the Advent and Christmas season and realize that the work of Christmas is just beginning.

Blessings for the journey, Pastor Narda

# Thank You

*I hardly know where to begin or feel so I can adequately express my thanks for your incredibly generous monetary gift to me for Christmas and all of your individual gifts chosen specifically for me and my family. I am extremely grateful and want you to know how blessed I feel to be among you in the ministry of Church of the Apostles UCC.*

*May the New Year find you safe, joy-filled and filled with God's abundant blessings.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,  
Pastor Narda*

*A special thank you for your cards and gifts on the occasion of my 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as organist.*

*~ Jim Heefner*

# Thank you!



Thank you so much for your generous staff gift to both of us. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Dan & Linda Ritchey

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the congregation for your generous Christmas gift. God bless you all.

Jim Heefner

**\$350 was donated to Habitat for Humanity in 2020 including \$104 from Garden Produce!**

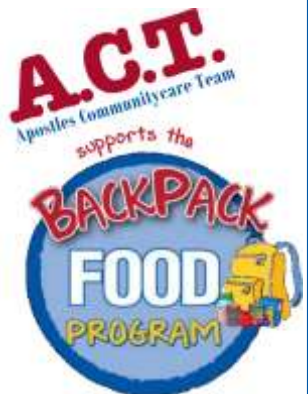


**\$521 was donated for the Backpack Food Program during the 4th Quarter !!!**

**The 2020 donation total is \$1,646.05 !!!**

*Many thanks to all who made this possible!*

**Christian Outreach Team**



*Church of the Apostles requires that you wear a mask and maintain a good social distance from everyone who is not in your household while you are inside the church.*

***Thank you  
for understanding.***

## **In-Person Worship Services**

We all have been looking forward to seeing each other back in the pews for worship, but it seems we must wait a bit longer. The holiday surge of the COVID virus has and will be our deterrent until the number of cases decrease significantly. We pray that the vaccine will be highly effective.

Instead of setting a definitive date to return, in-person services are suspended indefinitely.

Consistory voted on December 28, 2020 to affirm this decision.

The congregation's safety is our priority.

As soon as possible we will be back together!

Meanwhile, many, many thanks to Pastor Narda, Jim, Linda, Bert, Laurie and the lay readers/leaders for their Extra Time and Talent to provide meaningful Virtual Services for us. These Virtual Services also reach out to welcome folks we don't even know...YET! The sermon, the music, the scriptures, seeing the beautiful inside of our church reminds us that indeed God is with us! Rejoice!

If you 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.  
along the top of the page.

## **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.



# **Birthdays & Anniversaries in January**



2 Arianna Taylor  
7 Randy Cramer  
24 Amy Dingle  
25 Holly Berkey

## **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 and should be marked for Silver Express. There is also a basket at the side door for donations.



## **THE TREE OF WARMTH**

Our **TREE OF WARMTH** is filled with all kinds of warm clothing. Thank you so much for the wonderful response to this Outreach Program. The items will be given to Waynesboro Health and Human Services the week of January 4.

***Christian Outreach Team***





## *A Message from our Consistory President*

Dear Apostles Friends,

It's been a privilege, a pleasure, and yes, a bit of a challenge to be Consistory President this year. We've come through all right so far, but we know there are more challenges ahead. Luckily, we have a very able Consistory to lead us into 2021.

There's a lot I'm thankful for.

I've had the opportunity to serve on Consistory with dedicated and thoughtful people who really care about Apostles. I'm a better person for having worked alongside Mary Lou Misner, Judy Fitz, Sondra and Nevin Monn, Julia and Randy Cramer, Richard Hovis, Laurie Hovermale, Tory VanReenan, Chris Bobb, Joanne Keech and Larry Little. Thank you all.

Chris, Joanne, and Larry remain on Consistory and will help to provide continuity and "institutional memory" during these challenging times. Thank you for continuing to serve.

Mary Lou Misner, Bob Benchoff, and Donna Haugh comprise an all-star team of Consistory veterans (all are former presidents) who have agreed to serve again. Thank you for continuing to hold this beautiful church in your hearts.

Linda Ritchey is an extraordinarily able administrator who willingly and enthusiastically added "virtual church expert" to her skill set. She is usually the first person I contact in an emergency – and we've had some emergencies. Linda, even Pastor Narda and I don't know everything you do for us, but we're thankful for everything nonetheless.

Jim Heefner is a gifted musician and music director who is never satisfied with "good enough." We've had the pleasure of listening to him for 10 years now, and my wish is to continue to listen to him for many years to come. Thank you, Jim.

Pastor Narda is the heart and soul of this church. Her compassion, energy and creativity are awe inspiring. It's been a joy to work in partnership with you, Pastor Narda, and I thank you for that.

The Apostles membership gets my biggest thanks, for sticking with us whether we were outside or in, masked or not, real or virtual – through whatever. Thank you for continuing to love this church.

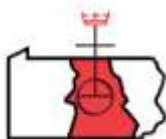
Wishing you peace and joy in the new year,  
Bert Hovermale

# CONGREGATIONAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Once again Penn Central Conference is supporting its churches by offering another program that will be very helpful during these days of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. So many clergy, myself included, have been wondering what more we can do to help us DO and BE Church during these difficult days. Thanks to the Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Transitions, the conference is offering our churches a new program: Congregational Empowerment Team Inaugural Academy for PCC Congregations. This initiative is intended to provide support the churches through a team of clergy and layperson volunteers trained in a coaching approach to congregational leadership. The coaches seek to empower congregations to find new ways to share their faith, guide them in discernment of their God-inspired mission, and build their capacity to move toward realizing their vision of how to be Christ's church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Each Church participating will be assigned a coach to help clarify issues/concerns, brainstorm possible responses, determine a course of action, and then support that church as they move toward accomplishing their goals. Along with other teams and coaches we will participate in 3 virtual workshops led by Rev. Paul Nickerson of Nickerson Consulting. Rev. Nickerson is no stranger to Penn Central Conference as he has been involved in other revitalization programs offered to our churches. Workshops are scheduled for Saturday, January 23 or Sunday, January 24; Saturday, March 13 or Sunday March 14; and Saturday, May 15 or Sunday, May 16, 2021. Due to a grant to fund this program, the \$650.00 fee will be covered and there will be no cost to any of the churches in the conference. The only requirement for each church is several Lay persons and the Pastor to commit to the program. I am so pleased and grateful to Bob Benchoff and Bert Hovermale for volunteering to commit to this important and vital program for our church as we move forward and contemplate what the church will look like post-pandemic.

We will keep you posted on the possibilities and progress of the Congregational Empowerment Team. All we ask of each of you is an openness to join with us as we implement ideas and most importantly your prayers to help us discern God's will for Apostles UCC.



**PENN CENTRAL  
CONFERENCE**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WAYNESBORO AREA FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES

# RECONCILIATION:

Bringing Us Together



zoom

Webinar Sessions

**Jan. 21, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

Reconciliation: Desiring and Achieving Unity and Oneness

**Jan. 28, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

Reconciliation: Breaking Down the Walls of Division

**Feb. 4, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

Reconciliation: Healing Wounds of Division

**Feb 11, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

Reconciliation: Keys for Community Trust

**Feb 14, 2021 @ 3pm**

Reconciliation: Unity Service

**Work Together - Learn Together**  
**Pray Together - Build Together**

W.A.F.C. IS HOSTING THESE WEBINARS  
TO TEACH, ENCOURAGE, AND LEARN  
HOW TO RECONCILE OUR DIFFERENCES  
IN THIS WORLD TOGETHER

**Pre-Registration Required:**  
[www.wafchurches.com](http://www.wafchurches.com)





# Waynesboro Area Fellowship of Churches

Pennsylvania

## Guest Speakers



**Thurs, January 21, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

**Rev. John Dorhauer, President and General  
Minister of the United Church of Christ, Ohio**

**Thurs, January 28, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

**Rev. Dr. Lois Waters, Pastor,  
Unity In Christ Church, Chambersburg, PA**



**Thurs, February 4, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

**Rev. Tabitha Ssonko, Pastor Monumental African Methodist  
Episcopal Church, Steelton, PA**

**Thurs, February 11, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

**Police Chief Roland Camacho,  
Chambersburg Police Department, Chambersburg, PA**



## Closing Unity Service:

**Sunday February 14, 2021 @ 3pm**

**Rev. Jan Bye, United Campus Minister  
Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA**

**Pre-Registration Required:  
[www.wafchurches.com](http://www.wafchurches.com)**

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SAYS

# Thank You!

To the members of

APOSTLES UCC, WAYNESBORO

2019

For your contribution of

\$3000.00

For Basic Support of

**Our Church's Wider Mission**

## Changing Lives



**John C. Dorhauer**  
General Minister and President  
United Church of Christ



**Conference Minister**  
Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call  
Penn Central Conference



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ's national ministries relies on your church's contribution to basic operating support and mission.

Being 5 for 5 means that your church is a leader, providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings:

*One Great Hour of Sharing  
Strengthen The Church  
Neighbors In Need  
The Christmas Fund*



# Thank You!

To the members of

Apostles UCC, Waynesboro

for being a **5 for 5** Congregation of  
the United Church of Christ in 2019 .

5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.

John C. Darbauer  
General Minister and President  
United Church of Christ

Carolyn Call  
Pastor  
First Central Conference  
Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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



# **January 2021**

## ***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.*