

**The Abbey Church 2020 Yearbook  
Of  
Congregational Life**  
(Reports from 2019 forecast for 2020)



*<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.*

Acts 20:28

**The Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ  
515 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16652**

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**Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ  
2020 Officers, Boards and Committees**

**Executive Committee**

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Donna Jarrell	<b>Finance Secretary:</b>	Christopher Hindman
<b>Moderator:</b>	Mel Woomer	<b>Member at Large:</b>	
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Carol Wenner	<b>Assoc/Conf Reps:</b>	Rev. Jerry and Lori McCuller
<b>Secretary:</b>	Loida Woomer		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jim Wenner		

\*designates Chairperson

**Spiritual Council**

\*Russ Sharpless  
Chris Hindman  
Chad States  
Bonnie Haverstock  
Kelly Maffia  
Donna Rinker  
Sue Knepp  
Pastor Donna Jarrell

**Board of Missions**

\*Bill Frazier  
John Barley  
Kelly Maffia  
Linda Gibbs  
Rita Hollibaugh  
Donna King  
Pastor Donna Jarrell

**Stewardship**

\*Jim Wenner  
Don Hindman  
Hilda Horne  
Pastor Donna Jarrell

**Board of Trustees**

\*Sam Slicker  
Mel Woomer  
Don Hindman  
Don Talasky  
Jerry States  
Tom Young  
Pastor Donna Jarrell

**Fellowship Committee**

\*Linda Bressler/Sue Sharpless  
Ann Kunz  
Sally Frazier  
Pat Bomboy  
Sally States  
Hilda Horne  
Donna King  
Sandy Scott  
Pastor Donna Jarrell

**Christian Education**

\*Chad States  
Sue Knepp  
Bill Frazier  
Rita Hollibaugh  
Amy Frazier-Yoder  
Jim Wenner  
Delta States  
Kevin Perrin  
Sally Frazier  
Kelly Maffia  
Pastor Donna Jarrell

**Lay Visitation**

\*Bill & Linda Bressler  
Nevin & Pat Bomboy  
Donna King  
Sally States  
Donna Rinker  
Ann Kunz  
Sandy Scott  
Dottie Wolfe  
Pastor Donna Jarrell

**Nominating Committee**

(functions one time per year)

1 Chair person  
4 Members

**Budget Committee**

(functions one time per year)

Chairperson  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer

**Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ** Treasurer's 2019 Annual Report Jan 2020

We start 2020 in good Financial health. Our members increased giving to the Operating Fund by nearly \$2,000 from 2018. The Fund Raising team collected almost \$8,000. Our Investments performed well, and allowed us to reserve \$15,000 toward the replacement of our heating system (which is over 20 years old – still running, but Trustees have concerns about how long it will continue to operate without major repairs). Investment income also supports the monthly Housing allowance we provide to the Pastor. Thank you for your continued support of the Abbey, and its mission.

Detailed activity reports are available in the church office for 2019. A list of major items is below:

Expenses

Staff Payroll	\$66,144
Pastor Insurance/Pension/Housing & Fees	\$48,844
Property and Workers Comp	\$16,205
Utilities	\$14,445
Copier	\$2,281
Church Maint	\$9,133
Advertising	\$1,243
Worship/Pastor Support	\$7,068
UCC Missions	\$2,013
Global Missions	\$980
Local Missions	\$1,405
VBS	\$1,057
MISC	\$1,577
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$172,395</u></b>

Income

Offering – General Fund	\$120,170	(2018 total \$118,369)
UCC/Penn West Offerings	\$2,000	
Good Samaritan Offerings	\$637	
Building Fund Offerings	\$1,094	
Jack and Jill Rent	\$6,760	
Insurance Reimbursement	\$11,928	
Fund Raising – Basement Sales	\$3,280	
Fund Raising – Gift Card Profits	\$4,116	
Fellowship – Sand Tart Sale	\$1,785	
Misc Income	\$2,779	
<i>Internal Account Transfers</i>		
Payments from Savings Accounts, Investment Distributions and Memorial Funds	\$17,846	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$172,395</u></b>	

Respectfully Submitted  
Jim Wenner

## Membership Statistics

**Membership in 2018** 246 (175 inactive)

### New Members-New Membership Service 11/24/19

John Dickison  
Tracey Harpster  
Jonathan Reverly-Cohen  
Kimberly Reverly-Cohen  
Tom Young 5

Rev. Paul N. Marsteller 1  
Affirmation of Baptism 7/30/2019

### Transferred Out

Randy Rennell 1  
Transferred to 15<sup>th</sup> Street UMC, Huntingdon  
11/7/2019

### Deaths

#### **In Loving Memory:**

Polly Grove November 30, 1933-September 14, 2019  
Rev. Paul Marsteller March 23, 1928-August 31, 2019

**Membership in 2019** 249

### Baptisms

Evelyn Reverly-Cohen May 19, 2019  
Daughter of Jonathan & Kimberly Reverly-Cohen

Jonathan Reverly-Cohen September 29, 2019

## **2019 Pastor's Report**

2019 was the 3rd complete year of service for Pastor Donna.

### **Pastoral Care**

In a joint effort with the lay visitation committee members, Pastor Donna routinely visited church members who are no longer able to participate in worship. Often she served communion. She made a special effort with member Doris Stitt who lost her independent situation and was placed in permanent nursing care. Pastor has also provided visitation and prayer support to those who were hospitalized for sudden health events and for those who had planned surgeries.

Pastor Donna has also been approached by members of the community (but not of the church) who are acquainted with her profession who seek pastoral care and counseling. In these situations, she provided spiritual support (prayer) and direction. One outcome of this counseling resulted in two baptisms in 2019, a baby and her father. The mother had been previously baptized. A second outcome of pastoral support, counseling, and prayer is forgiveness of past bitterness toward the church and routine attendance at The Abbey.

With Pastor Donna presiding, The Abbey hosted one funeral in 2019 for longtime member Polly Grove. The Fellowship Committee provided a luncheon. Pastor Donna presided over two additional funerals in 2019 for folks unrelated to The Abbey. She provided pre-marital counseling and conducted the wedding for neighbors of the church who provide electricity for our annual Fall Festival.

Five adults, two couples and the Pastor's husband, were received into membership at The Abbey in a service in November 2019.

### **Christian Education**

A Sunday morning Adult Sunday School class continues to meet on a regular basis. Children are given "Sunday School" in a separate area during worship. There also continues to be a children's sermon during worship. Beginning January 19th, Jim Wenner will offer a percussion group to children who can count to four. This group will meet for one half hour before the service and share its gifts with the congregation.

In 2020 VBS made a huge comeback at The Abbey. We hired a young but experienced VBS Director. About 45 children registered, and we enjoyed a good group averaging 30 each evening. The Presbyterians contributed both money and

human resources. Several adults commented that “the children were having a good time.” Afterwards, we held a debriefing. The Presbyterians will take the lead on VBS this year, but Abbey members suggested they would like to have a weekly event for children for 8-10 weeks over the summer. Stay tuned!

Member Sue Knepp organized intergenerational Easter and Christmas programs. The pastor organized a dramatic reading reflecting on sacrifice for the first Sunday in Lent. She designed a Hanging of the Greens service for the first Sunday of Advent. Members responded positively to various expressions of worship. The Abbey has many talented folks who participate and share their gifts for the work of the Kingdom.

The Pastor held a Soup & Study hour during the Lenten season. Eight to ten members were present each week and faithfully studied Eugene Peterson’s book, *The Practice of Resurrection*. The book focused on the meaning of the church and church membership, discipleship, and growing up in Christ. About half the readers found the book too dense and demanding, but the other half were great fans. We’ll try again in 2020, using a slightly less demanding read.

Pastor Donna attended the 2019 boundary training required by the PennWest conference.

### **Missions and Community Outreach**

Members of the congregation voted that the Soup Kitchen, held each Thursday evening at The Hunting Presbyterian Church, was a top priority for community ministries we wanted to support. The Abbey group made and served dinner on three separate occasions. Pastor Donna and Tom headed the efforts in August. The group seems to be having a good time with the ministry.

The church and pastor participated in several community wide worship services, including a community Ash Wednesday service held at St. James Lutheran Church; the annual Good Friday Passion Walk, which begins at The Abbey; and the community Thanksgiving Service, held at The Huntingdon Presbyterian Church. On two occasions the pastor presided over worship at Westminster Woods.

For the third consecutive year, our most successful outreach as a congregation was the Fall Festival in the church parking lot. Originally scheduled in October, inclement weather prompted us to reschedule for November 3rd. Attendance was slightly lower than we typically see, but we had more children without parents

present than we have had in past years. We played outdoor games, served refreshments, provided music, and offered crafts for kids. Member Jeffrey Speck streamed parts of the event live on his Huntingdon Television Channel. We have recently enjoyed the routine attendance of two families we connected with during the Fall Festival.

Before the Fall Festival, member Jeff Speck and pastor handed out flyers (and treats) to area trick-or-treaters on Halloween. After the Fall Festival, member Linda Bressler helped pastor prepare and give away about 30 Christmas gift bags for the children who get off the bus near the church. These bags were well-received and appreciated by parents waiting for their kids.

Pastor Donna has had to assume to President's role for The Huntingdon Area Forum of Churches. The elected President stepped down prior to assuming responsibility, and as Vice President she was forced to step up. The Forum meets six times per year. Its primary mission is to facilitate ecumenical work among the churches in the community.

During "Nurse's Week," the pastor blessed about 100 hands of general and medical staff at J. C. Blair hospital.

### **Engagement in the UCC's Wider Church**

In 2019, Pastor Donna participated in four expressions of the Wider Church: the Juniata Association Ministerium; the Juniata Association Committee on Ministry; the PennWest Annual Gathering and Planning Committee; and General Synod. She attended many meetings via ZOOM technology, but also traveled to California, PA (California University) on two occasions. Likewise, she attended pre-synod meetings via ZOOM, but also spent seven days in Milwaukee as a delegate to the 2019 General Synod. She routinely attends Association and COM meetings. The Abbey will host the 2020 Juniata Association meeting on April 27, 2020.

Perhaps the most significant engagement, for The Abbey and its pastor, within the purview of the wider church occurred in April 2019. Members of the PennWest Revitalization Team visited The Abbey for an evening of discussion and training. About thirty members attended. This meeting proved to be a turning point for The Abbey. Though they had considered The Abbey as a church in serious decline, the leaders helped members shift their perspective, considering the ways in which we are affecting the persons in need in our community. Rather than measuring people

in pews, we were encouraged to measure our success by considering the number of lives our ministries impacted.

## **Worship**

Pastor Donna prepared and delivered approximately 48 sermons in 2020. She made weekly contributions to the bulletin by way of covers and announcements. The Worship Team generally met once a month to plan Sunday services and any special services. A Maundy Thursday service was held with 14 in attendance. The pastor continues to focus on six to eight week series in her pulpit ministry. The changes made to worship in 2018 have been accommodated.

Two annual worship events were added in 2019: the Creation Care service, focusing on stewardship of God's creation; and a Hanging on the Greens service intended to explain the meaning of the greens and why we hang them.

The Abbey tried another new experience over the summer of 2019. The sanctuary, unairconditioned, is particularly hot--so hot that a visitor left the service early because she was feeling faint. We decided to try meeting downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Though it isn't aesthetically conducive to worship, it was ten or fifteen degrees cooler. We continued this practice for several weeks, before other activity planned for Fellowship Hall forced us back to the sanctuary. The pastor particularly enjoyed the intimacy of the services held in the Fellowship Hall. The musicians appreciated the quality of the singing. In the sanctuary, folks can be seated 50 feet from pulpit, so it was particularly special to be in close quarters for those weeks of worship.

## **Trustees**

Pastor worked the head trustee to write an application for the PennWest conference annual grant event. We wrote for funds for a new sound system. A good portion of our request was funded.

The Abbey's wrought iron yard sign (marquis) is in serious disrepair. Executive Council voted to approve funds for its repair. Pastor sees this need as a priority for 2020.

## **A Vision for the Future**

The congregation experienced a turning point this year. In 2018, they saw themselves as "losers," having lost two families with children in a short period of time. After the meeting with the Revitalization Team from PennWest in April, the

congregation's self-perception and self-esteem improved dramatically. They understood that the impact of a congregation and its ministry can no longer be measured by number of persons in the pew or people on the rolls. Their attitude of "how can we save our church" was transformed by the Holy Spirit, education, and evidence that we are impacting the lives of those in our community. As a result, we experienced a movement toward revitalization--a willingness to focus outward on serving our community rather than inward on "saving the church." The results: two baptisms, one of a new convert; a booming VBS; an effective and impactful fall festival; fun working at the soup kitchen; and increasing giving of food and dollars during the holidays for people in need.

The word for 2020 is FOCUS. We will not let ourselves become distracted by irrelevant matters, but keep our eyes on Jesus.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Donna S. Jarrell

## **Fellowship Committee Annual Report for 2019**

The Fellowship Committee had many activities and events planned through the year.

**January 20, 2019**-We started off the year with a covered dish.

**May 6, 2019**-Furnished light refreshments for the Forum of Churches meeting held at the Abbey.

**June 23, 2019**-Summer church picnic at Smithfield Park after worship.

**August 17, 2019**-Pastor Donna and Tom invited Abbey members to their home for a picnic. Members were to bring a covered dish and chairs. Pastor Donna and Tom provided hot dogs, hamburgers and rolls.

**September 8, 2019**-We had a covered dish.

**September 22, 2019**-Annual Fall Picnic at Sonny and Sue Knepp's home. We always have good food and fellowship at this event.

The Fellowship Committee helped with the luncheon following the memorial service for Polly Grove in September. Polly will be missed by all of us.

Our committee donated \$1,000.00 to the Trustees for a new water cooler. Whatever balance was left can go to help pay for security cameras for the church.

Our committee had another successful sand tart fundraiser. This year we made \$1,685.00. A special thank you to the rollers, bakers, decorators, packers and quality control for helping to make this a big success.

I will be stepping down as chairperson of the Fellowship Committee at the end of 2019. Linda Bressler and Sue Sharpless will take over co-chairing the committee.

Thank you to the committee for all your help.

Respectfully Submitted  
Fellowship Committee  
Pat Bomboy

## 2019 Spiritual Council Annual Report

Had a meeting with the conference leaders in regard to pastoral reviews-will now review every two years.

Communion is now gluten free.

In June, we had the Father's Day Service/Brunch at Raystown Lake.

By-Laws reviewed, proposed changes:

- a. Reduce number of committee members from nine to seven or more.
- b. Reduce meetings to six per year instead of nine.

Changes were approved by Executive Council.

Bibles were donated to home nursing that we had in storage.

New members joined the congregation.

Ongoing process of reviewing active/inactive membership.

Loss of two members on Spiritual Council.

Sally States and Donna King.

We are happy to welcome Chris Hindman to Spiritual Council. We are currently looking for additional members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Russ Sharpless  
Committee Chair



## **Lay Visitation Annual Report**

In 2019 the Lay Visitation Team focused on group visits, especially with Pastor Donna. We made small group visits to homes, hospitals, and nursing homes, with some visits including Holy Communion administered by Pastor Donna. Visits and phone calls were made to 19 Abbey members, with most receiving multiple contacts. Donna King continued the card ministry with sympathy, get well, and thinking of you cards.

Members of the team welcomed a new Abbey member residing in a local nursing home, and assisted Pastor Donna with the new membership ritual and vows.

Lay Visitation members delivered poinsettias and sand tarts to several homebound church members before Christmas.

We appreciate input from the congregation regarding Abbey members and friends who might benefit from a call, visit, or card, and welcome anyone interested in Lay Visitation to join the team.

## 2019 Trustees Annual Report

LED lights have been installed in the downstairs hallways. This was possible from a grant from the Penn West Conference that we had received in 2018. The lights are installed and very bright in the hall. Work is continuing to place LED lights in Pastor Donna's office as well as Loida's office. This should be complete in cold, cold days of winter.

In the fall of 2019 we applied for and were awarded a \$750.00 grant from the Penn West Conference to improve the sound system in the sanctuary.

The entrances of the building were power washed in the fall, removing many years of dust and dirt. Our fine feathered friends presents were also removed in the cleaning.

The front steps of the church were power washed and recoated with a material to make them "more level". Years of weather had worn them down to the point that the trustees didn't feel they were as safe as we would like.

After the power washing had been completed, the metal trim around the church was repainted.

We are in a constant maintenance and cleaning mode as the building is 90+ years old. We continue to repair and update as we can with the finances that are available.

For 2020 we are looking at new security cameras for the building (These are being installed in January). Also for 2020 we will replace the drinking fountain in the back hallway.

We replaced the chemical pump for the boiler system to help maintain performance. The boiler was leaking water for a period of time in the spring. D.C. Goodmans had been called. They could not find where the leak was coming from, as of the end of 2019 it has not leaked again. This will continue to be monitored.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sam Slicker,  
Board of Trustees Chair

## **Fundraising 2019**

Spring and Fall Basement Sales	\$3,280.00
Gas Grill Raffle Benefiting the Building Fund	\$ 492.00
Gift Card Sales	\$4,116.00
<b>Total Funds Raised for 2019</b>	<b>\$7,888.00</b>

It was voted during the Executive Council meeting on November 17, 2019 to dissolve the Fundraising Committee. Loida Woomer will continue to sell Giant, Weis and Sheetz cards to support the General Fund. Sue Sharpless and Loida Woomer will also continue to hold the spring and fall basement sales to support church expenses.

Each committee will be responsible to hold their own fundraisers, for example the Fellowship Committee has their annual Christmas sand tart sale and the Missions Committee holds several collections of funds numerous times throughout the year for the local community and abroad.

Respectfully,

Loida Woomer