



The Crown

A publication of Church of the Apostles, a United Church of Christ congregation



December

December 2019
Vol. 43 No. 12

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Join us on:



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www.apostlesucc.org



For this year's Advent season, we will be exploring the theme of joy as we begin to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the hymn "Joy to the World" by Isaac Watts. During the time of waiting and expectation, we will name that joy is not the same as happiness. It is not something light-hearted or merry. Joy is from a place within our souls, an emotion placed there by Christ for us to appreciate.

The challenge is to know this joy while in times of frustration and suffering. The joy that Christ has given us is not affected by the world, money or material possessions. It is not based on our present circumstances or how other people feel or think about us. It is what Ebenezer Scrooge learns each Christmas season - that it is connected to the compassion and empathy we have for others. It is known in being part of establishing God's justice in the world. We experience it when we let go of our expectations and judgements. We experience it when we seek to look at all of creation as Christ sees it, as a new parent sees their newborn for first time.

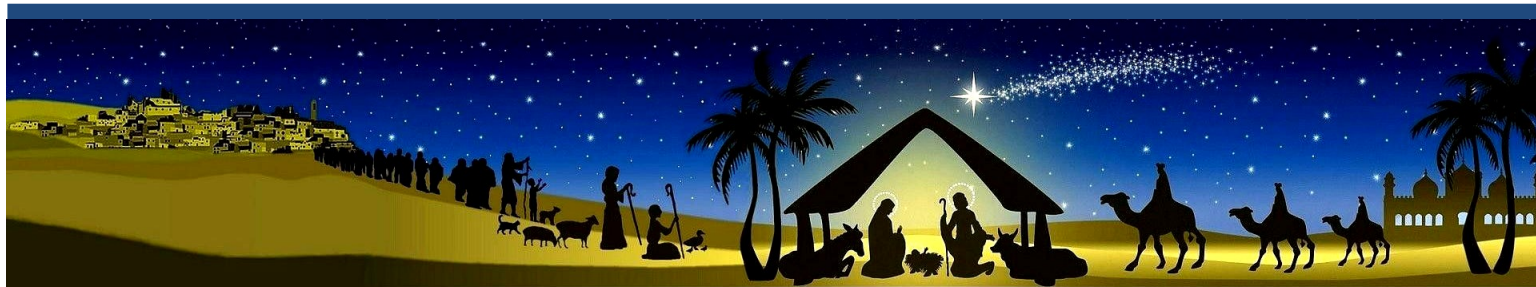
If we want to talk about issues, we can divide into many factions. However, Jesus's birth was not about dividing but bringing people together; those of different classes like the shepherds and the innkeeper, those of different educational backgrounds like the magi and the town folk, and those with much faith and those with little. That is still who gathers on Christmas Eve - those who worship weekly and those who only come on Christmas - and we all get to hear that we are cherished children of God. We are also gifts from the holy to humanity.

Jesus Christ is the Joy-Made-Flesh! May we come to celebrate that together!

Blessings & peace,

Pastor Kuhn





Letter from the President

When we started this journey together, with me as your Council President, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. A lot of meetings maybe, some responsibility for things that I would have to learn along the way. The occasional complaint, and hopefully a sign of well doing. I came into this position green, having only served on council for 2 years...ever...in my life. I can be opinionated and vocal and quite honestly a bit "much" for some, but I love my church, it is home to me and I hoped that if I kept that close to my heart it would all work out for the best.

What I didn't expect, was the overwhelming support of the congregation as I have tried to serve you well. It has not been an easy year, and we have faced challenges in many facets. We started a journey together, and I am so very proud to walk along with you all as we act out love, kindness, acceptance, and support for one another.

This year, for me personally, has been a blessing. That does not mean that it has been easy. There have been days where I have felt that I just couldn't do anything right...but those are the days where God had sent his blessings. Because I kept moving, moving through the tough days, accepting the gracious words from my church family when I really needed them most. This body of Christ has lifted me up in ways I cannot begin to explain, but will forever be grateful. I've become a better version of myself because of you. That is love. That is the blessings that come with being a member of this beautiful church family.

I know I am not alone in the receiving of your overwhelming love and support, and I'm sure I'm not alone in the knowledge of the blessing it is.

So if you'll have me, and if the council can put up with me, what do you say we do it all again next year?

"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, here and now."

- Fred Rogers

I think Mr. Rogers would be proud. . .

Merry Christmas to each and every one you!

Christa DiDomenico Conrad



Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

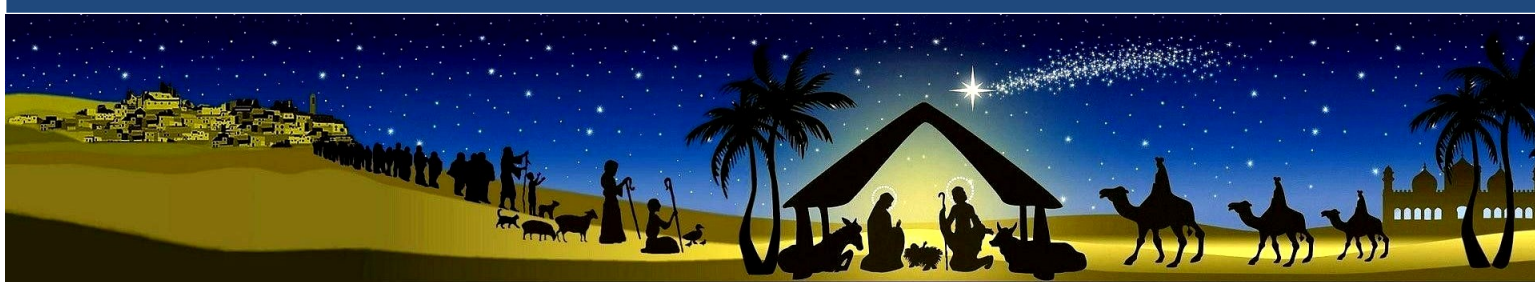
Dial (717) 392-5718 to listen to the worship information.

The sermon can be watched online at www.apostlesucc.org

Giving Report • October 2019

The cash flow for month ending October 31, 2019 was negative (\$77,760.06) for the year 2019 to that date. Same time last year was negative (\$83,017.10). Operating Expenses through October 2019 were \$485,298.10, Revenue \$407,538.04. Same time last year \$483,410.38 for Expenses, \$400,393.28 for Revenue.

Submission deadline for the January *Crown* is 12/12/19.



Advent and Christmas 2019

Advent Reflection Services

The season of Advent, those dark December weeks leading up to Christmas, is a time we can feel free to openly express our longing. As we await the return of the season of light we observe the world's darkness and lament that God's will is not yet done on earth. But we know God is with in the darkness and in light. Come, whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey for nights of music, meditation, contemplation, and prayer on Wednesday Dec. 4th and 11th at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 8:30 AM—10:30 AM. Story time begins at 9:30 AM.

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and fruit. Adults: \$6. Kids, ages 2 - 10 are \$3. Bring your camera for a picture with Santa!



Christmas Eve Services

Our 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm services on Tuesday, December 24th will recall the birth of the Christ Child and provide the opportunity to sing beloved carols.

The afternoon service will be a traditional service with candlelight and communion, along with instrumental music.

The evening service will be a traditional service with candlelight, and feature an orchestra plus our adult and children's choirs.

Come to remember the spirit of Christmas in word and song as we celebrate the gift of our Savior!



"Blue Christmas" Service

We will offer this quiet, contemplative service in our Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm. If Christmas is difficult, come to this service to hear the scriptures and remember the wonder of God's gift in Jesus Christ as we acknowledge that Christmas no longer feels the same.

What is a Chrismon Tree?

By Linda Lewis

For this Advent season, Church of Apostles will display a Chrismon Tree in the narthex. All white and gold ornaments and Chrismons are being made by members (both adults and children) of our church.

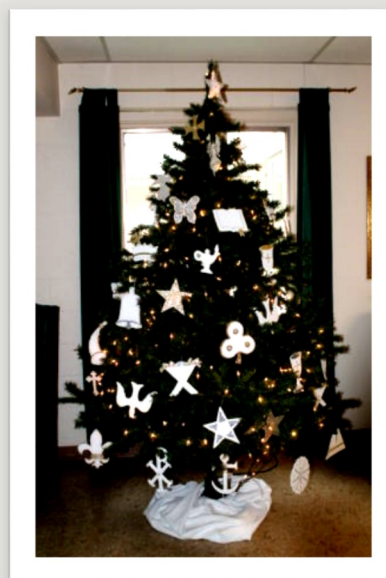
The Chrismon Tree originated at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA in 1957. From that beginning, the idea has spread to Christians all over the world.

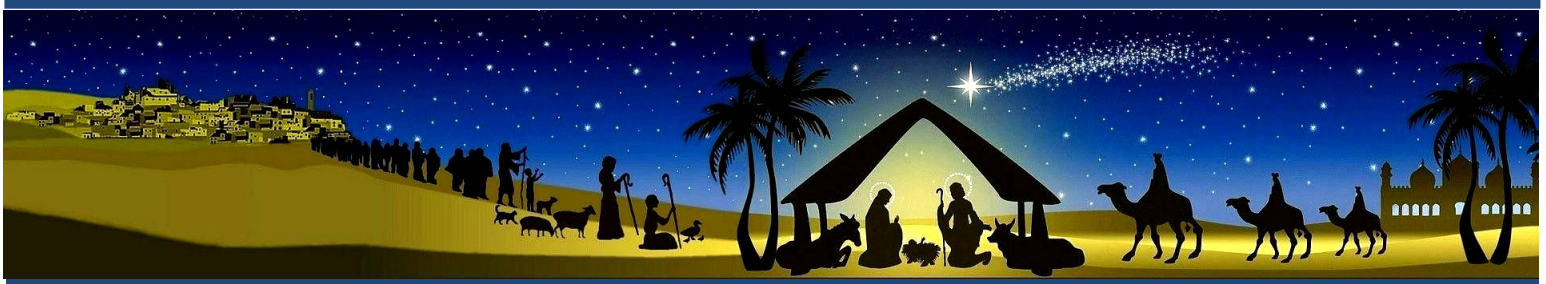
The evergreen tree, which symbolizes eternal life, is a background for tiny white lights and white and gold Chrismons.

The lights signify Jesus who is the light of the world, and the Chrismons (Christ + monogram) proclaim the name, the life, and the acts of Jesus.

All Chrismons are made in either white or gold or in a combination of the two colors. White is the liturgical color for Christmas, and suggests the innocence, purity and perfection of Christ. It is the color of joy.

Gold is a symbol for the glory and majesty of God.





Church News

Church Directories Arriving in January 2020

Church Member Directories will be available in January. Watch the bulletins and FaceBook for more specific dates. (Anyone who has a picture in our current directory or got their picture taken this time will receive a copy of the directory). They will be distributed at a table by the church office in labeled envelopes in January. All members can access the mobile directory if you have it downloaded on your computer or smart phone.



New Access Code for Mobile Directories

The link is on the COA web site. The new access code was included in the mailing about the Annual Meeting. See Donna Carr with any questions.

Financial Commitments for 2020

If you have not already turned in your financial commitment card for 2020, please bring it to worship on Sunday or mail it to church of the Apostles at:

1850 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603-2398

If you need a card, you can obtain one at the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office at 717-392-5718.

Council Retreat Planned

Council will be having a retreat on Saturday, January 25 from 8:30 AM -12:00 PM in rooms 308-310. (This will replace the standing Council meeting usually held in the third Monday 7 PM - 9 PM).

Blood Pressure Screenings Update

Blood Pressure Screenings are on hold until a new volunteer can be found. Can you help? Equipment is provided. Please contact Donna Carr (717-475-5285). Thank you to Cindy Williams for her 12 years of service in providing this skill to our members!

New AED, First Aid Stations at Church

Look for the new wall mounted American AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) outside the Coat Room and in the Fellowship Hall.

There is also a larger wall-mounted First Aid Kit in the kitchen. Property and Parish Life Commissions worked jointly on this project.



Parish Life

Cooking Club Meets in the New Year

Cooking Club will be meeting again on Monday, January 27 from 5:15-7:15 in the COA kitchen.

Item to be decided.

Our recent food items included pie crust in October and Christmas Appetizers in November.

If you want to be added to the interest list, call Donna Carr at 717-475-5285.



COA Book Club Announces Discussion Dates

The COA Book Club will meet in the church parlor for book discussions as follows:

December 10	<i>Bear Town</i> by Frederik Blackman
January 14	<i>Destiny of the Republic</i> by Candice Millard

Useful Church Items

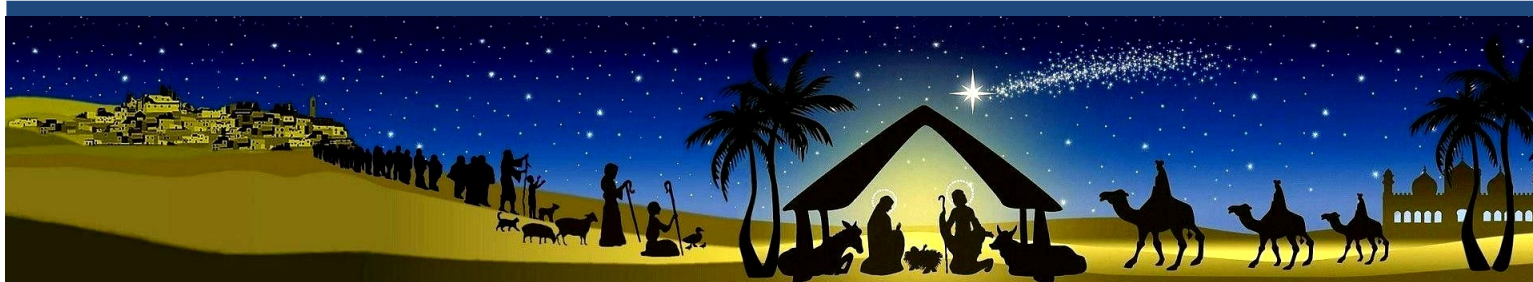
Lanyards, Name Badges Reminder

To all members: Please remember to wear your name badge during services. Use lanyard provided as needed. If you need a new name tag, put your request in the bin in the Welcome Center and one will be made for you by our Communications Secretary. Check the Name Badge Stand for your new badge.

Free Reads at Church Lending Book Rack

Please take time to look at the many books available for you to read and return. This rack is located near the Welcome Center. Feel free to bring in any books you would like to share with other COA members.





Church of the Apostles Christmas Bazaar 2019 Updates

42nd Annual Christmas Bazaar a Great Success

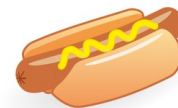
by Clara Kosmela, Bazaar Chairman

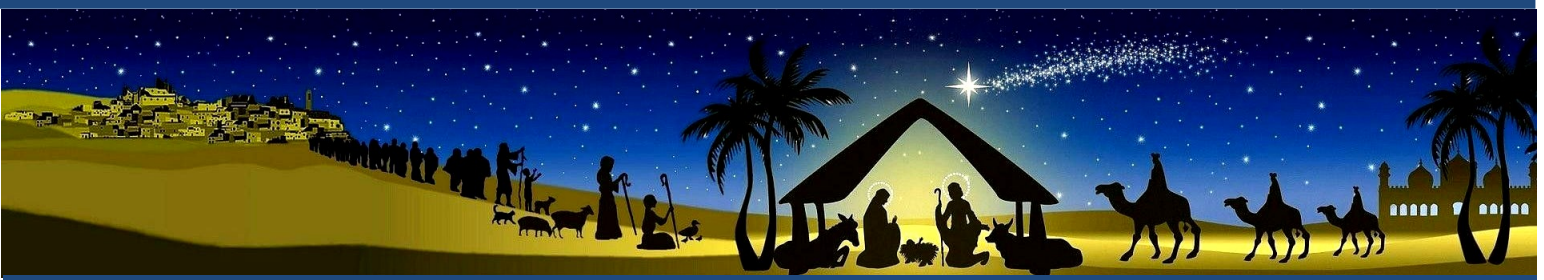
The 2019 COA Bazaar was a great success. We made over \$12,000. Julie Berkow and her soup helpers made 480 quarts of soup. Herb Forry and Ken Keller used 90 pounds of hamburger to make that delicious barbecue, Betsy Bischoff and helpers made 174 pies and 124 double apple dumplings.

Twenty five percent of the profit of the Bazaar will go to the UCC Disaster Relief Fund. This will be supplemented with \$60.25 that was received as donations to jars labeled "Donations for Disaster Relief Fund."

Thanks to Chris Conrad who manned our First Aid station in Fellowship Hall and to those who helped with parking on a very cold day. Thanks also to those of you who tried to stay warm while handing out brown bags and flyers at the doors. Thank you to all who worked, baked, and shopped to make the 42nd COA Bazaar a success!

Ministry	Gross	Expenses	Change Boxes	Net
Outreach - Soup	4951.00	1074.17	850.00	3026.83
Pies - Choir	4565.44	947.24	1140.00	2477.20
Property - BBQ	1448.00	456.46	250.00	741.54
Education - Hot Dogs	750.00	71.00	260.00	419.00
Youth - Drinks	969.26	310.08	160.00	499.18
Crafts	1280.98	20.65	320.00	940.33
Vendor Fees	5033.00	977.67	—	4055.33
Totals	18997.68	3857.27	2980.00	12159.41
Events Expenses		977.67		
Donation Jars	60.25			
Total Expenses		1039.01		





Outreach

Holiday Gifting Ministry Gears Up

We have started our Holiday Gifting Ministry! It is hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner and we will once again partner with the Pre-school and gift students at Martin Elementary School and residents of Hershey Mill Group Home. These recipients of our kindness and generosity are so grateful each year. Shortly, there will be gift tags hanging on a poster on the Outreach bulletin board which you will use in order to participate in this wonderful holiday ministry.

Reverse Advent Calendar Food Boxes to Help the Needy

Reverse Advent Giving Boxes are available at the card table station in the Narthex. This can be a good way to remember those less fortunate at this time of year. Bring your filled box back at the Christmas Eve service or drop off at the card table area during that week. These donations will be used to replenish our Food Bank which is low on supplies. Any questions, contact Donna Carr (717-475-5285)



Adult Enrichment/Education

Sowing Seeds of Climate Hope Concludes

Join members of the Green Team on December 8th, in the church parlor, during the second service (10:45 AM -11:45 AM) for the final session of the inspiring video/discussion series, *Sowing Seeds of Climate Hope* on December 8th. It is entitled *Final Thoughts on Climate Hope!* We are encouraging those who attend to bring an item to donate to the food bank or the Apostles Assistance Fund, but it is not required. Open to the public.

Sunday School News

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Judy Waltman, Education Commission Chair

Recently the education commission has been discussing new ideas for Sunday School. Particularly focusing on innovative ways to attract and retain teachers. We want the teachers and children to have a meaningful, faithful experience.

Criteria for teachers: Love God, love children and have or willing to get clearances. A degree or special training is not needed.

We have a paid nursery staff that is under the Education umbrella. In order to be consistent, commission members agreed to begin to pay Sunday School teachers in 2020. Our hope is this decision shows we honor and value our Sunday school teachers. In addition, it may attract more teachers, giving teachers an occasional break. In order to reach this goal, we may need to seek teachers from outside Church of the Apostles.

If anyone has any questions or is considering teaching Sunday School, please contact a member of the Education commission or a Pastor. ■

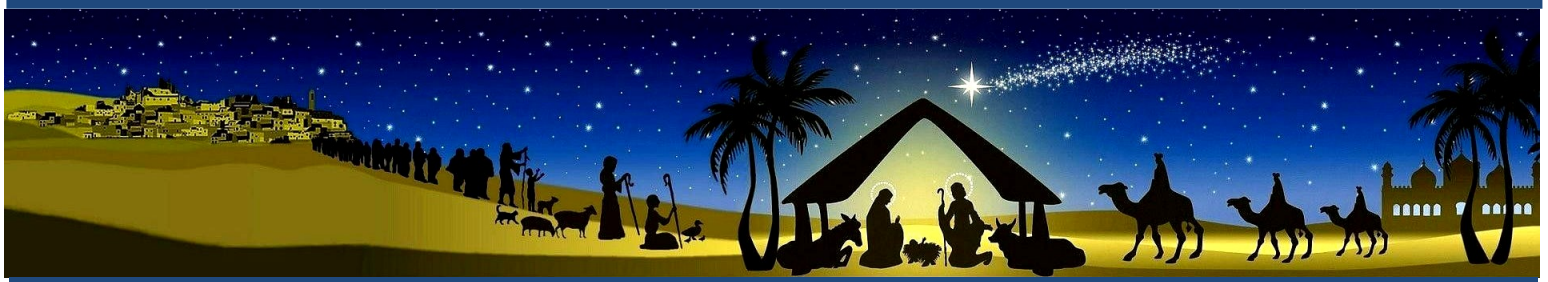
Youth News

SAVE
THE
DATE!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Upcoming Events

- December 22 - Youth Group Christmas Party!
6 PM—8 PM Fellowship Hall
- December 29 - Pajama Sunday (During Service)
Fellowship Hall
- December 31 - New Year's Celebration & Game
Night in Fellowship Hall 8 PM



November Celebrations

** 50+ Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary!

Date	Name
12/21/1957	Daniel & Bernie Fickes **
12/22/2012	Chris & Christa Conrad
12/23/1977	Peter & Mischelle Van Buskirk
12/26/1954	Dr. Walter & Peggy Kreider **
12/28/1993	Dan & Teresa Clouser

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men".*

Luke 2:14



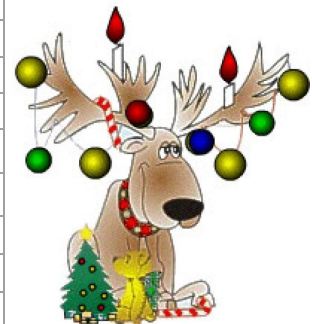
*Peace is not the absence of problems.
Peace is Christ in the midst of problems.*

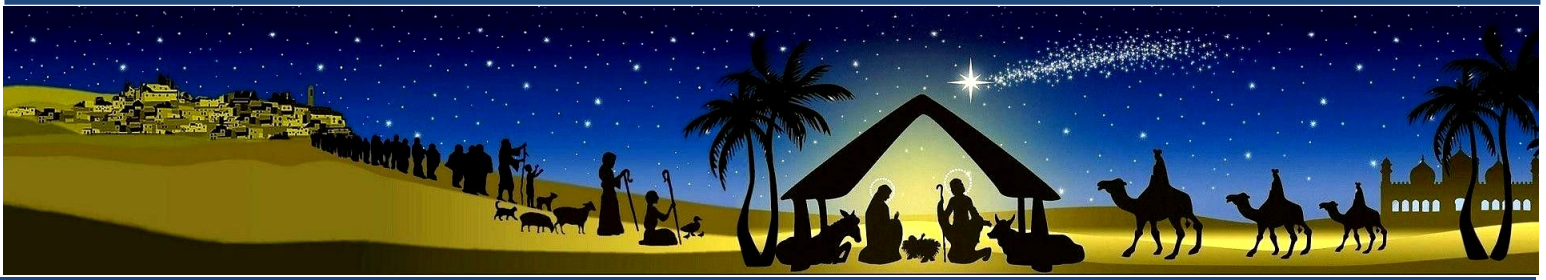
* 90+ Birthdays

Date	Name
12/2	Janie Cardellino
12/2	Molly Harter *
12/6	Conner Braun
12/7	Andrew Laymon
12/9	Stella Newport
12/9	Robert Schulmeister
12/10	Emma Rose Carr
12/13	Beverly Hoffman
12/13	Linda Schock
12/15	Edward Fitzkee *
12/16	Carol Emig
12/19	Mike Hess
12/19	Carol Horn
12/19	Kirsten Leser
12/19	Stephanie Rampaul
12/21	Cathy Kenlin
12/21	Holly Kleimo
12/21	Marie Wenner
12/22	George Robb
12/23	Geraldine Gibbs *
12/23	Joyce Smedley *
12/23	Laurey Williams
12/24	Richard Braine
12/26	Molly Walters
12/27	Marie Herr *
12/27	Ed Fuller
12/27	Pat Cover
12/27	Erin Rohrbaugh
12/28	Don Hess
12/29	Dr. Stephen Locky III
12/29	Sarah Medved
12/30	Dan Walters



*Happy
Birthday!*





Flowers for Worship

December Flowers for Worship

December 1

In Loving Memory of

- John Payne by his wife, Nancy, and children



December 8

In Loving Memory of. . .

- My mother, Helen Farrell, by Pat Sullenberger

December 15

To the Glory of God

December 22

- In loving memory of Charlie Klinger by his wife, Wilma

December 29

To the Glory of God

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers on Sunday, please contact:

July—December

Wilma Klingler 717-872-8419

January—June

Jean Heidig 717-394-8733

Cost of altar flowers: \$35.00

VERY IMPORTANT. . .

Please be sure to complete the form on this page when requesting flowers for loved ones or in honor of special occasions. Please print the details very clearly. This is very important so that your information can be accurately represented in the worship bulletins and newsletters.



Flowers for Worship Form

Our flowers are an integral part of our worship service. Not only providing a physical symbol of beauty during our worship, after the service they are given as a symbol of love and caring to a member of our community who is unable to be with us physically. The cost of our flowers and bulletins averages about \$140.00 a week. Our suggested contribution for sponsoring flowers and bulletins is \$35.00; however, any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor flowers, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it into the office. A thank you letter will be sent following your sponsorship with directions for sending in your donation. Thank you for your support in this important ministry.

I would like to sponsor flowers on the following date:

"In honor of" or "In memory of"

Your name

Phone number

If you have any questions please contact:

**Jean Heidig 717-394-8733
or Wilma Klingler 717-872-8419**



December 2019 Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent

- 8:15 am Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:15 am Worship Service with Children's Sermon
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship Service
- 2:30 pm Worship Service - HVHC

Monday, December 2

- 8:00 am Meditation Monday

Tuesday, December 3

- 12:30 pm Growth Task Force Meeting
- 4:00 pm Music Planning
- 5:15 pm Pilates
- 7:00 pm Worship Commission

Wednesday, December 4

- 7:00 pm Service
- 7:00 pm Crafts

Thursday, December 5

- 9:00 am Parent Council Meeting
- 5:30 pm Spiritual Council - Parlor
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 6

- 9:15 am MOPS

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 am Bazaar and Craft Show (Until 3:00 pm)
- 1:00 pm Worship Retreat - Parlor

Sunday, December 8

- 8:15 am Adult Choir
- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:15 am Worship with Children's Sermon
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 am Confirmation Meeting
- 10:45 am Worship Service
- 10:45 am Adult Education - Green Team
- 7:00 pm Cancer Support Group

Monday, December 9

- 8:00 am Meditation Monday
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting - Choir Rm
- 6:30 pm Education Commission
- 7:00 pm Commissions: OR, PL, PR

Tuesday, December 10

- 2:00 pm Book Club

Tuesday, December 10 (Cont'd)

- 4:00 pm Music Planning
- 5:15 pm Pilates
- 5:15 pm Cancer Support Group
- 6:30 pm Committee on Ministry
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir

Wednesday, December 11

- 5:00 pm Family Pizza Night
- 5:30 pm Church Fun
- 6:00 pm Cherub Choir
- 6:30 pm Carol Choir
- 7:00 pm Crafts

Thursday, December 12

- 5:15 pm Cancer Support Group
- 7:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

Saturday, December 14

- 7 am - 12 pm Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 15

- 8:15 am Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:15 am Worship Service with Children's Sermon
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School
- 10:15 am Children's Library
- 10:30 am Preschool Christmas Show
- 10:45 am Worship Service

Monday, December 16

- 8:00 am Meditation Monday
- 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

- 10:30 am Preschool Christmas Show
- 4:00 pm Music Planning
- 5:15 pm Pilates
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir
- 7:00 pm Worship Design

Wednesday, December 18

- 10:30 am Preschool Christmas Show
- 5:00 pm Family Pizza Night
- 5:30 pm Church Fun
- 6:00 pm Cherub Choir
- 6:30 pm Carol Choir
- 7:00 pm Blue Christmas
- 7:00 pm Crafts

Thursday, December 19

- 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22

- 8:15 am Adult Choir
- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:15 am Worship with Children's Sermon
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship Service
- 6:00 pm Youth Group - Christmas Party

Monday, December 23

- 8:00 am Meditation Monday
- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm Koinonia Group

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

- 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 4:00 pm Music Planning
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir
- 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25 **Christmas** *Church Office Closed*

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

- 8:15 am Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:15 am Worship Service with Children's Sermon
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School
- 9:30 am Pajama Sunday - Fellowship Hall
- 10:45 am Worship Service

Monday, December 30

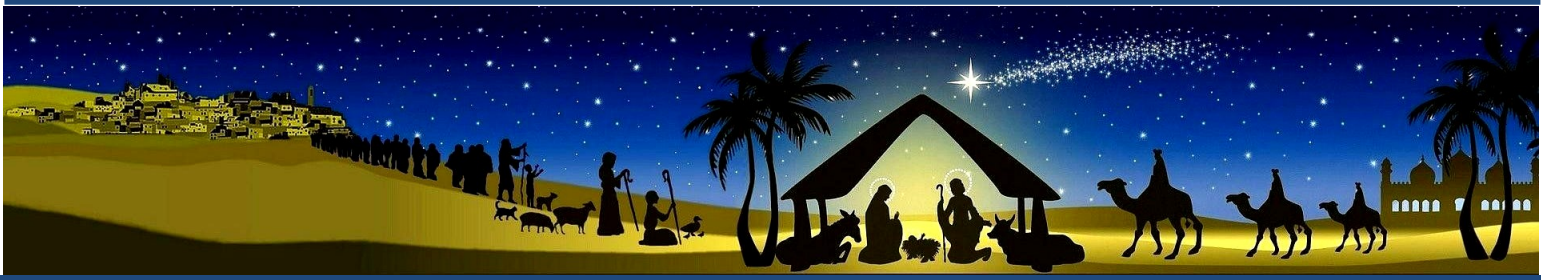
- 8:00 am Meditation Monday

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

- 5:15 pm Youth Group New Year's Eve Celebration





Community Sharing

*Thank
you*



Dear Education Commission,

I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities you all have provided for me at Church of the Apostles. I am especially thankful for the scholarship; it will most definitely go to good use!

Love,
Alexa Neiderer

Dear COA Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful yellow rose bouquet delivered by Linda Carr in honor of my recent 90th birthday. It was much appreciated.

My husband, Paul, is now living in the memory care of Personal Care here at Luther Acres. He is fine physically, after a few weeks spent in the Health Center.

Sincerely,
Vera Hocker

Dear COA Family

Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received. They are very pretty and last a long time. I also would like thank you all for the flower I received in memory of my mother on All Saints Day.

— Susan Shaak

Dear COA Family,

I really appreciated your lovely flowers that were sent every Sunday to bring beauty and loveliness to my room.

— Kit Gregory



Prayer List

Do you have a prayer intention that you would like the church family to pray for? Please contact the church office to have your loved ones added to this prayer list.

Church Office: 717-392-5718
E-mail: maryt@apostlesucc.org

Continued Strength and Healing:

Kit Gregory, Marianne Deaner;
Ken Shenberger; Carol Horn

Protection:

Kit Gregory's grandson, Remi, and military personnel serving at home and abroad

For the intentions of all church members, volunteers, church staff and friends of Church of the Apostles during this Advent/Christmas



Church of the Apostles Lay Leadership

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Christa Didomenico Conrad
 Ph: 717-575-8210 • Email: christadi@live.com
 VicePresident: Donna Carr
 Ph: 717-475-5285 • Email: skeetcarr@comcast.net
 Treasurer: Andy Smith
 Ph: 717-615-1649 • Email: andy.smith@bbandt.com
 Secretary: Barbara Achtermann
 Ph: 717-824-3265 • Email: bachtermann@comcast.net

COMMISSION CHAIRS

Education Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 306)
 Chair: Judy Waltman

Outreach Commission

(Meets 2nd Monday, every other month/Parlor)
 Co-Chairs: Julie Berkow
 Ph: 717-394-8233 • Email: jberkow6@comcast.net
 Co-Chair: Jane McCartney
 Ph: 717-392-4844 • Email: spmccartney@comcast.net

Parish Life Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 304)
 Co-Chair: Clara Kosmela
 Ph: 717-468-3492 • Email: joli6291@yahoo.com
 Co-Chair: Donna Carr (as listed under VP)

Property Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 305)
 Chair: Herb Forry
 Ph: 717-201-7863 • Email: heforry@comcast.net

Stewardship Commission

(Meets the second Thursday of the month/ Rm 304)
 Chair: George Alspach
 Ph: 717-201-2526 • Email: galspach@aol.com

Worship Commission

(Meets the first Tuesday of the month/Rm 111)
 Chair: Bernie Fickes
 Ph: 717-925-9155 • E mail: penquindiva@verizon.net

Church of the Apostles Prayer Chain

Link 1:

Steve & Monica Daniels (717) 299-6007 or monicadaniels54@gmail.com
 Lynn Steedle (717) 390-4152 or ccsteadle@gmail.com

Link 2:

Harriet Latschar (717) 859-1535
 Mary Ellen Bachman (717) 393-8922
 Susan Shaak (717) 872-2987
 Doug Nutt (717) 283-2937

Link 3:

Annette Rohloff (717) 394-0424 or rextthomas@comcast.net
 Bev Keller (717) 898-2146 or bek0914@aol.com
 Cindy Williams (717) 572-3808 or clwjbwilliams@gmail.com
 Nancy Steger (717) 617-2635 or nancyasteger@gmail.com

Link 4:

Kit Gregory (717) 299-6677 or kitpaulgregory@gmail.com
 Jean Heidig (717) 394-8733 or geojean6@gmail.com
 Donna Carr (717) 397-3605 or skeetcarr@comcast.net





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www.apostlesucc.org

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Church of the Apostles Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn L. Kuhn ext. 8201
kathrynk@apostlesucc.org

Interim Pastoral Associate

Stephanie Dorsey ext. 8202

Pastoral Intern

Jonathan Paredes ext. 8202

Director of Music Ministries

Cynthia Kahler ext. 8203
cindyk@apostlesucc.org

Director of Adult Choirs & Instrumental Music

Nathan Sheffer

Bell Choir Director:

Ron Bellamy

Children's Choir Director

Johanna Baker

Technology Specialist

Jonathan Shaub

Sexton

Larry Rongione

Communications & Administrative Coordinator

Mary J. Tunison
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