

September 2020 Vol. 42 No. 9

September

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From the Pastor

n the articles I have written over the last few months, you might have picked up on a question stirring in my soul. "How are we to be church in this time?" With fall upon us and the corona virus still redefining daily life, how do we meaningfully engage in ministry that provides hope and life without needing things to return to "normal?" I ask this question because I believe we are being called by God to be bearers of light and hope in the world, even in times when physical distancing is an integral part of loving our neighbor.

This question has left me to wonder if we could create an intergenerational opportunity for people to connect with each other and with God. At same time, it would be great to allow flexibility for the uniqueness of peoples' lives. And it would be even better if people saw the opportunity not simply as "a good churchy thing to do" but an opportunity to be the healthier person they want to be.

So what could we do? How about an Apostles Walk/Run 5K Club that would start this September 8th and conclude on November 8th with a just for fun (maybe charity) 5k walk/run event?

How would it work? Each Tuesday and Thursday, starting September 8th I will post a Facebook Live devotion and walk/run guide on the church's Facebook account. Individuals would then have the opportunity to tune in to the live broadcast or watch it at a later time. While the devotion feeds our soul's need for hope and encouragement, the running/walking guide will feed our body's need to be active in healthy and consistent ways. On Sunday's we'll do the same thing, with the opportunity to gather at a common starting point to walk/run with the support and encouragement of others (or to continue one's individual training).

To celebrate this dedicated time of spiritual reflection and intentional care of our being, the plan is to hold a low key walk/run 5K (possibly on our church campus). Imagine how awesome it would be to share in a physically distanced event where we can cheer on each

Continued on Page 2



Motz Continued

other – walkers and runners, young and a bit more vintage – aware of the physical and spiritual journey we've all been on for the previous nine weeks!

At first pass this might not sound like "church." And yet the core components of scripture, prayer, reflection, relational community, celebration, and invitation stand at its center. Therefore let us run together the race that is set before us in witness to the God who is still speaking and calling us in this time.

If you don't have Facebook and would like to become involved contact the church office or me directly and I will get you everything you need. If you have Facebook look for the Apostles Walk/Run 5K Club Event, mark that you are going, and then be sure to share on your news feed. There are friends and family who might never walk into our church who just might need these nine weeks of spiritual reflection and physical care.

With Christ's Joy,

Pastor Motz

are about to embark on a journey into unchartered territory. A scene that may look familiar, however is filled with unknowing. As the fall approaches there are so many anxieties that fill the community. What does school look like for my kids? What do sports look like at the high school, college, and professional level? What does the campaign season hold? Is it safe to go to the polls? Is it safe to vote by mail? Returning to the office...??? What is the right decision???

I have seen and been part of many discussions online regarding most of those questions and quite a few I have not named. Everyone seems to have an opinion about how to proceed or more appropriately how YOU should proceed. When having these "debates" (and I used the word loosely) online, it seems that words are thrown with such ease. Words that cut deep, sting, and have you questioning your own decisions. One thing that seems to be missing is Grace. The Grace to have different opinions. The Grace to hear and not respond. The Grace to do what your mother always

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Worship Schedule

Online Sunday Worship at: https://apostlesucc.org/sermons

10 AM Outdoor Worship ServicePlow Circle at Front Church Entrance

7 PM VespersPavilion in Rader Park

s ewardship

Giving Report for July 2020

The cash flow for month ending July 31, 2020 was negative (\$106,464.48) for the year 2020. Same time last year was negative (\$63,594.68). Operating Expenses year through July 2020 were \$366,246.91, Revenue \$259,782.43. Same time 2019 \$338,043.85 for Expenses, \$274,449.17 for Revenue.

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

October Crown: 9/17/20.

Requests for the creation of flyers or inserts: 2 weeks prior to the bulletin publishing date requested. . .one week in advance if flyer or insert is ready-to-go



told you - "if you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say anything at all!

Although online is a much worse environment for hateful speech – anonymity will give some the protection they need to say what they never would to your face – it is spilling out into the world around us. The fact that we are human allows for us to never be right one hundred percent of the time. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

We all have the grace of God, for by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8); but do we have each other's? Do we offer grace to others.... To the person that cut you off in traffic, to the bully spouting their hurt at others? More importantly, do we offer grace to the family member that does not agree with us or the loved one that just wants our attention?

So as we walk through the next few months, I challenge you all to extend the Love and Grace of God in an intentional way. For how we make others feel is what is most important in this life. And maybe the person that cut you off in traffic just really has to go to the bathroom!

Grace and Blessings,

Christa DiDomenico

"How we make others feel is what is most important in this life."



September 20

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 20th after the 10:00 AM Plow Circle worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is voting on Bylaws changes. The Bylaws changes involve reducing the number of people on the Nomination Committee as well as the term/age of the Youth council representative.

You will be getting a letter with all the specifics at least 10 days before the meeting. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. The rain date will be the following Sunday, Sept. 27. You can contact anyone on the Council with questions.

Donna Carr



Food Truck September 20th • 11 AM

Parish Life has arranged to have Mara-Leo's Italian food truck in the church parking lot from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm on Sept 20, the day of the congregational meeting.



COA Book Club Resumes Meetings

The COA Book Club will resume meeting the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2 PM in the parlor. On September 8th, we will discuss *Defending Jacob* by William Landy. On October 13th, we will discuss *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout. Please consider joining us. Any questions, please call Clara Kosmela, 717-569-9960.

Heritage and Horizons Fall Session Canceled until Spring

The Heritage & Horizons sessions, scheduled for this Fall, have been canceled. We appreciate the willingness of the presenters to postpone their presentations until our Spring sessions. New information will be included in the Crown and on the church web site when we will be able to host these meetings in our church. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning Heritage & Horizons, please contact Betsy Bischoff by email at albetsybischoff@gmail.com.

50th Church Anniversary Renovation Project Under Consideration

To help celebrate our church's 50th anniversary, we are considering performing some renovations to the sanctuary, narthex and bathrooms in the office hallway. To accomplish this, a 50th anniversary renovation team is being formed, and Herb Forry is looking for volunteers to join the team. If interested, please contact him at: Phone: 717-201-7863 Email: heforry@comcast.net

Calling All Veterans

This year we want to honor our veterans by including their pictures in the service on Sunday, November 8. If you or one of your household's members are a veteran, please send a picture to the church office for compilation at webmaster@apostlesucc.org. Pictures may be in uniform or not. We will also celebrate veterans who have died if you send their picture. Let us celebrate those who have risked their lives for our country.



O N L I N E

Electronic Giving Upgrade - Sneak Peek on New Features

Understanding the need to provide greater ease, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness to our e-giving options, we are excited to be in the final stages of officially launching our updated and expanded system.

Some of the system highlights include a new secure giving portal on our donate page, a free mobile app called "GivePlus+" available for Android and Apple devices, the ability to customize recurring contributions, electronic fund transfers from saving and checking accounts (most cost-effective option) and through debit and credit cards, and a range of funds to give towards. Plus the transaction fees are roughly 4 times less expense than our current PayPal system.

If you want a sneak peak, go to our donate page now: https://apostlesucc.org/donate or download the mobile app. The system is fully functional and ready to be used during this sneak peek as we finalize the web page design and other finishing touches.

~Stewardship Commission



Harvest Home Sunday, Sept 13th

By Linda Schock

In celebration of God's Autumn bounty, you are invited to share a portion of it with those less fortunate. We ask each member of our church family to bring non-perishable food and/or fresh produce from your home garden on Harvest Home Sunday, September 13th.

Monetary gifts may go into your special offering envelope for Harvest Home/Food Bank and brought to church or mailed in.

These donations will support our COA Food Bank and Hempfield Food Pantry in Landisville, (where our *Seeds of Hope* garden produce is delivered each week.)

If you have any questions, call Linda Schock at (717) 569-3837.

With gratitude and thanks to Almighty God for the rich bounty that He bestows upon us.

~ The Outreach Commission

Penn Manor School Furniture Arrives Safely, Pledges Still Needed

by Andy Appel

The good news is the Penn Manor school furniture has safely arrived in Honduras and plans are being made for distribution. When this has been accomplished, we'll see pictures!

The less good news is Apostles' pledge for this effort [\$13,000.00] is currently about \$5,000.00 below fulfillment. We understand these are very difficult times right now, but **PLEASE** make an effort to fulfill our promise. . .the bills need to be paid.



Caring Carts Receive Many Donations

The large Caring Cart has been used quite generously since our church has been in lockdown! Thank you so much to all of you who have donated pajamas, supplies for Water Street Rescue Mission, which were delivered in purple totes, and trial size toothpastes for the Penn Central Conference to assemble Care Kits.

You have all continued to donate generously even though our church has been locked! The small Caring Cart will continue to be used on Donation Fridays to collect donations of food, personal care items, and home care supplies for the Apostles Assistance Fund. Thank you!



Outreach Donations Assist ABBA House Orphanage/School in Kenya

Randy Leonard visited and volunteered at an orphanage/school in Kenya called ABBA House in January. The Outreach Commission donated money to Randy to buy school supplies for these students at the orphanage. Randy read some of their notes of thanks at our last meeting. Two of the notes are addressed to the congregation of COA so I would like you all to be able to read them.

From Kelvin Kelvaso...

Hi Randy's church. Thank you so much for your support to ABBA and more so to the kids. I am Kelvin Kelvaso. I just graduated from high school heading to campus to pursue math on September. I do request for your prayers in my education. It was nice to receive from you and my Almighty God. Bless you all. Bye bye.

Thank you a lot. Kelvin

From Ruth...

Hi, my name is Ruth. I graduated from high school this year and attained a good grade for joining university. I want to study piloting. I like reading novels and singing. One of my dreams is that one day I may go to Middle East and bring one family to know Jesus.

I am 18 years old and I am a good Christian. I am saved and I love Jesus as my personal Savior. I am requesting for your prayers that I shall be able to join a good university where I should be able to study my course. I am hoping that one day I shall be able to travel abroad and see how you people are doing. Lots of love.

Yours sincerely, Ruth

Outreach Continued on page 9



Adopt a Virtual Classroom to Help Local School District

By Donna Carr

The coronavirus pandemic has significantly upended schools and the way they operate. This challenge could extend into the next school year, when tax revenue losses could bring sharp cuts in educational funding. In light of this, the federal government provided \$16.2 billion in the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help fund public education. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced July 29 that she is also awarding \$180 million in grants to 11 states to support virtual coursework, training for remote instruction, and electronic devices. While this federal funding is beneficial, it is not sufficient to cover all potential state budget cuts. Schools still need a helping hand.

Church of the Apostles has a long-standing relationship with Martin Elementary School through Power Packs and Christmas gift giving. Members are invited to consider giving monetarily to this effort of adopting one or more classrooms. Checks should be made payable to the Lancaster Educational Foundation and can be sent to the church office. Be sure to note, "Lancaster Educational Foundation and Martin Elementary School" in the memo line of the check. Donna Carr will collect all the checks to be presented to them on behalf of COA.

For those who prefer online giving, this option is also available on the Lancaster Educational Foundation web site:

https://lancastereducation.com

When giving online, please indicate that the donation should go to **Church of the Apostles/Martin Elementary**.

To kickoff this project, the Outreach Commission has agreed to sponsor three kindergarten classes at a cost of \$250 each! If several members wish to band together to contribute toward this cause, please contact Donna as she will be coordinating this effort.

For more information, contact Donna Carr:

Phone: 717-475-5285

E-mail: skeetcarr@comcast.net



Sunday School Holds Book and Bible Presentation 9/13

Celebrate Sunday School at the 10 am worship service on September 13th with a book and Bible presentation.

We will present books and bibles to children age 3, in kindergarten and those in the 3rd grade. Those children who will be receiving books will be notified with a postcard.

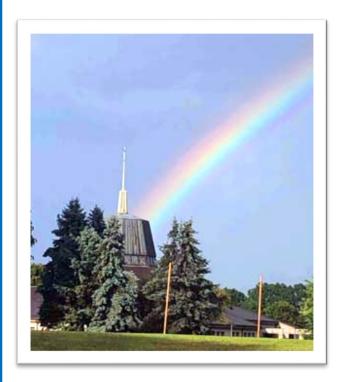


Photo of rainbow over Church of the Apostles by Barbara Golden



Worship, Prayer and Sharing

September Preaching Schedule

Sept 6: Rev. Kuhn
Sept 13: Rev. Kuhn
Sept 20: Rev. Motz
Sept 27: Rev. Kuhn

Online Worship

Pre-recorded worship services continue to be made available every Sunday morning for worshipping at home or on the go. You can view on the service at:

Web Site:

https://apostlesucc.org/sermons

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheApostlesLancaster YouTube:

www.youtube.comchannelUC4hLE8sf9 UuZgsh48PxREA

Worship at Plow Circle • Sundays • 10 am

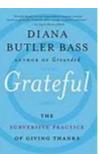
Join with others by the main entrance of the church for an outdoor worship that maintains physical distancing while uniting us as the body of Christ. Please wear a mask. Bring your own lawn chair, if you are able. A limited number of chairs will be provided. And remember to maintain physical distancing with individuals not in your household. Restrooms by fellowship hall will be available, through the west narthex. In case of inclement weather, the service will be broadcast live on 98.1 FM, allowing individuals to listen in their car.

Outdoor Vespers • 7 pm

Enjoy an inspirational evening of prayer and reflection, in preparation for the week ahead. Vespers is offered at the Schellenberger Pavilion in beautiful Rader Park. Please wear a mask, remember to maintain physical distancing, and bring a chair if preferring not to sit at the picnic tables.

Wednesday Zoomers

Series on Gratitude • 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Gratitude has the power to shape and transform our lives as we practice gratitude and receive gratitude from others. In a video discussion series with author Diana Butler Bass, we will delve deeper into the norms and practices of gratitude while discovering how gratitude impacts the life we are

living right now. Contact the church office to receive access to the video content. This series will run from July 22nd to Sept. 9th with introductory discussions this week. All are invited!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jack Kepple; Family of Dr. Ronald Krak; Alan Dickerson; Clyde Holbein; Erika Neiderer's mother, Judy Maust; Linda Stoltzfoos & her family; Donna Carr's brother, Earl; People of Beirut impacted by the explosion; The daily death toll of the virus; Willful negligence that puts people at risk; for all "front line" workers; for those suffering with the virus and their families; for school officials, teachers & parents

FOR SAFETY & PROTECTION: Remi Gregory (the late Kit Gregory's grandson), and all military personnel serving at home and abroad; All of our health services personnel and frontline essential workers

If you have a prayer intention that you would like added to this prayer list, please contact the church office at:

Phone: 717-392-5718

E-mail: webmaster@apostlesucc.org or write a note with your intention and put in the brown drop box outside the main front doors to the church.



Interfaith Pilgrimage • Online Experience of Lancaster Interfaith Coalition

This is an intentional journey into sacred spaces and practices.

Sunday, September 13 Church of the Apostles YouTube visit & 1 pm discussion

For more information or to sign up, email: <u>Lancasterinterfaithcoalition@gmail.com</u>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Lancaster-Interfaith-Coalition-1407214655960552/

Additional dates and times will be coming in October and November to explore the Islamic Community Center and the Unitarian Universalist congregation.

Outreach

Continued from page 5 & 6

COA FOOD PANTRY

Needed items: Rice (1 lb bags), pasta (including elbow macaroni), , egg noodles, Ramen noodles, canned soup, canned vegetables/tomatoes, tuna, jams/jellies (18 oz. jars), peanut butter, tomato sauce, etc.

APOSTLES ASSISTANCE FUND—Current needs: Laundry detergent, hand sanitizer, liquid & soap, shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brushes, toilet paper, paper towels, plastic wrap & other dry goods. Financial gifts also appreciated.

LANCASTER MASK SEWISTS - Donna Carr is working with Lancaster Mask Sewists which is a volunteer effort of 250+ community volunteers who sew masks by donation for health and human services staff. They are working on providing backup supplies of masks to all 16 school districts school nurses. Items needed include 100% cotton fabric, thread, floral wire, bias tape, elastic (1/4-1/2"). Gift cards to Joann Fabric store also gratefully accepted. Items can be picked up or brought into Donation Friday marked for Donna Carr. Call Donna with any questions (717-475-5285)

DONATION FRIDAYS

From 10 am – 2 pm you are invited to bring your food, personal hygiene, and financial donations to the church. All items are to be place in a cart out the main church entrance. Ring the door bell, and return to your vehicle. Barbara Achtermann or Bernie Fickes will wave to you as a thank you as you drive away: mission accomplished! If you are in need of food or household goods, please call the church office and schedule an appointment at 717-392-5718.



September Celebrations



Happy Anniversary

** 50+ Anniversaries

Date	Name
9/1/2002	Timothy & Susan Stirling
9/6/2008	Michael & Laura Bender
9/6/1975	Daniel & Kitty Flynn
9/9/1999	Timothy & Stephanie Albert
9/10/2011	Joel & Jeannie Clausen
9/16/2014	Sara & Nick Bravo
9/23/1989	Randy & Lisa Sweigart
9/30/1961	Kenneth & Beverly Keller **

Happy Birthday!

* 90+ Birthdays





Council Members

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Christa DiDomenico

Ph: 717-575-8210 • Email: christadi@live.com

Vice President: Donna Carr

Ph: 717-475-5285 • Email: skeetcarr@comcast.net

Treasurer: Andy Smith

Ph: 717-615-1649 • Email:andy.smith@bbandt.com

Secretary: Jeanne Clausen

Ph: 717-201-9330 • Email: jeannie.joel@gmailcom

COMMISSION CHAIRS Education Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 306)

Chair: Judy Waltman

Ph: 717-285-7395 • Email: jlwaltman@comcast.net

Outreach Commission

(Meets 2nd Monday, every other month/Parlor)

Chair: Jane McCartney

Ph: 717-392-4844 • Email: spmccartney@comcast.net Ph: 717-925-9155 • E mail: penquindiva@verizon.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

Prayer Chain

Link 1:

Steve & Monica Daniels (717) 299-6007 or monicadaniels54@gmail.com

Lynn Steedle (717) 390-4152 or ccsteedle@gmail.com

Link 2:

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

Link 3:

Annette Rohloff (717) 394-0424 or rexthomas@comcast.net Bev Keller (717) 898-2146 or bek0914@aol.com

Cindy Williams (717) 572-3808 or clwjbwilliams@gmail.com (717) 617-2635 or nancyasteger@gmail.com Nancy Steger

Link 4:

Jean Heidia (717) 394-8733 or geojean6@gmail.com Donna Carr (717) 475-5285 or skeetcarr@comcast.net





Church of the Apostles, UCC

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation



OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Scan to send a one-time gift.

Church of the Apostles Staff

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Associate Pastor

The Rev. Joseph Motz ext. 8202 josephm@apostlesucc.org

Youth Leader

Jonathan Paredes

Director of Music Ministries

Lars Potteiger ext. 8203 larsp@apostlesucc.org

Director of Adult Choirs & Instrumental Music

Nathan Sheffer

Bell Choir Director:

Ron Bellamy

Children's Choir Director

Breanne Zipko

Technology Specialist

Non-Profit

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Christa DiDomenico Conrad