



**Church of the Apostles, UCC**  
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[www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



Non-Profit  
**Organization**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**Permit No. 1065**  
**Lancaster, PA**

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

### Church of the Apostles Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn L. Kuhn ext. 8201  
[kathrynk@apostlesucc.org](mailto:kathrynk@apostlesucc.org)

#### Associate Pastor

The Rev. Joseph Motz ext. 8202  
[josephm@apostlesucc.org](mailto:josephm@apostlesucc.org)

#### Youth Leader

Jonathan Paredes

#### Director of Music Ministries

Lars Potteiger ext. 8203  
[larsp@apostlesucc.org](mailto:larsp@apostlesucc.org)

#### Director of Adult Choirs & Instrumental Music

Nathan Sheffer

#### Bell Choir Director:

#### Children's Choir Director

Breanne Zipko

#### Technology Specialist

Jonathan Shaub

#### Sexton

Larry Rongione

#### Interim Communications & Administrative Coordinator

Beth Thompson ext. 8200  
[office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)

#### Finance & Member Services Coordinator

April Fisher ext. 8207  
[finance@apostlesucc.org](mailto:finance@apostlesucc.org)

#### Property Manager

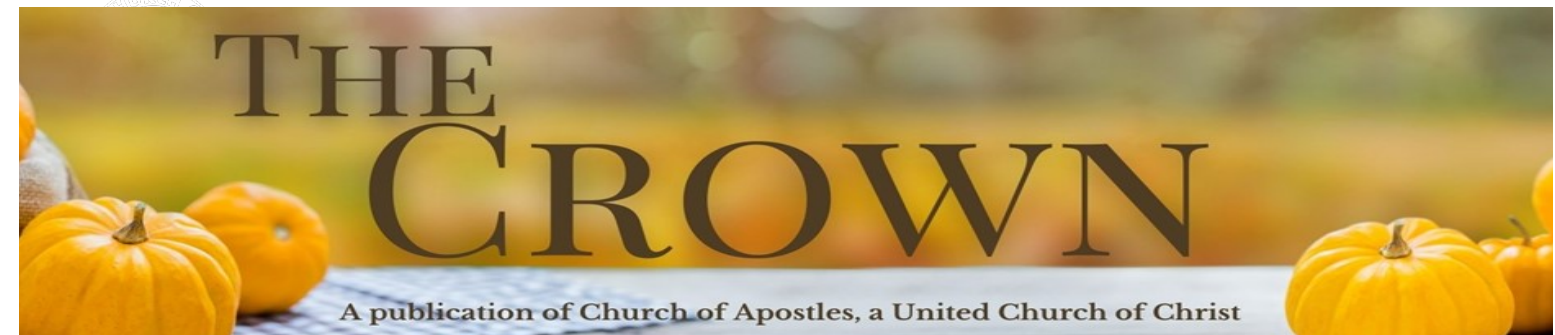
Eric MacLaren ext. 8214  
[ericm@apostlesucc.org](mailto:ericm@apostlesucc.org)

#### Church Council President

Christa DiDomenico

The Crown Newsletter

November 2020



November 2020

Vol. 42 No. 11

## From the Pastor....

Dear Friends,

We are at a very unique place in our history with a full staff of talented people to help the church minister in a larger way to our community and grow. As you received your budgets, you could tell that we are putting additional funding into staffing to thank those who have been here and to attract the quality people we have brought on to join them.

I often hear two very different messages within the congregation. One is a message of concern about the level of deficit spending for which the church prepares each year. Although we have done this for some time, our investments continue to grow and we have not been adversely affected. In addition, it is important to remember that the church's financial situation cannot be compared to an individual or family's plan because the church is never meant to retire. Rather we are called to faithfully use our resources to be "Sharing Christ's Love with All People" as our current vision states. This means we are to be meeting people where they are and offering them love and care that is not found elsewhere, particularly right now. Our congregation continues to answer the call to be ones who want to make a difference in our community.

Another message I hear is that we will run out of people before we run out of money. This is a valid concern and is why it is time to spend some money on staffing to see how the additional staffing may positively influence our message and connections to the community. If the money was meant for a "rainy day," it is raining and the Spirit is calling us to find new and inventive ways to do ministry. Our online presence has helped us reach people who would not walk into our building without knowing what message they will hear inside. This is the time when we are called to reach out to the millennials who have not looked at church before but want somewhere to find hope. It is time to reach out to those who were told they were not worthy of being part of other churches.

Please prayerfully consider how we will move forward together!

Blessings & peace,

*Pastor Kuhn*



Message from the  
Council President

Education

Parish Life

Outreach Ministry

Reopening Guide

Birthdays & Anni-

Connect with us  
virtually at

[www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)



From the Associate Pastor

Reflecting on Ministry in the Covid Era:  
What is to be celebrated? What have we yet to consider?

Before Covid, about 85% of churches were in decline, 94% were not keeping up the population growth rate. The worship, activities and mission efforts of most churches were not reaching new people in our communities. In some areas of the country, only 10% of people were worshipping anywhere.

Then March came and Covid hit. I want to applaud the efforts of so many pastors and lay people who have made some quantum leaps in getting their churches online for worship, study groups and other gatherings. The technology learning curve has been steep and many of you are tired or exhausted from that transition.

But now that you have made that leap, I want to ask a hard question. What has really changed in your ministry? What I see in many churches is that what was being done in person has simply been transported online. The worship and programs that were not connecting with new people pre-Covid, are the same things now appearing on websites, Facebook, etc. In many cases, all the effort is still going to those who are already members and believers. The number of churches in decline has not changed since March.

But what about all those folk in our communities who don't have a faith experience or know of the value of being part of a church? I believe the next phase of change/adaptation is to do a deep-dive into the needs of the next group in your community that you want to reach. Out of that research, can we then really begin to change how we worship, what groups we offer and what mission efforts we make, based on their needs and not just our own? Such change is going to require lots of prayer and a willingness to try new things, some of which will work and some that will not. This work is not easy, but we can learn how to really connect with our mission field and make new disciples; something that wasn't happening in most churches Pre-Covid.

You have done a great job of moving into 21st Century technology. Will you now adapt that technology to connect with people who are currently far away from your church?

Provided by: Nickerson Coaching – Volume 186 – October 1, 2020

Paul Nickerson is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, who has worked in Conference Ministry in New England and currently provides congregational coaching in vitality, reaching new people, and effective stewardship.



Indoor Service  
10am Sundays  
Online Sunday Worship at:  
<https://apostlesucc.org/sermons>

stewardship

Giving Report for September 2020

	September 2020	September 2019
Cash Flow	(\$168,358.77)	(\$59,907.33)
Operating Expenses	\$506,744.18	\$437,978.00
Revenue	\$338,385.41	\$378,070.67

**PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES**  
December Crown: 11/15/20.  
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

Council Members

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**  
**President: Christa DiDomenico**  
Ph: 717-575-8210 • Email: [christadi@live.com](mailto:christadi@live.com)

**Vice President: Donna Carr**  
Ph: 717-475-5285 • Email: [skeet-carr@comcast.net](mailto:skeet-carr@comcast.net)

**Treasurer: Andy Smith**  
Ph: 717-615-1649 •  
Email:[andy.smith@bbandt.com](mailto:andy.smith@bbandt.com)

**Secretary: Jeanne Clausen**  
Ph: 717-201-9330 • Email: [jeannie.joel@gmail.com](mailto:jeannie.joel@gmail.com)

**COMMISSION CHAIRS**  
**Education Commission**  
(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 306)  
Chair: Judy Waltman  
Ph: 717-285-7395 • Email: [jlwaltman@comcast.net](mailto:jlwaltman@comcast.net)

**Outreach Commission**  
(Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, every other month/Parlor)  
Chair: Jane McCartney  
Ph: 717-392-4844 • Email: [spmccart-](mailto:spmccart-)

**Parish Life Commission**  
(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 304)  
Co-Chair: Clara Kosmela  
Ph: 717-468-3492 • Email: [joli6291@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:penquindiva@verizon.net)

Prayer Chain

**Link 1:**  
**Steve & Monica Daniels** (717) 299-6007 or [monicadaniels54@gmail.com](mailto:monicadaniels54@gmail.com)  
**Lynn Steedle** (717) 390-4152 or [ccsteedle@gmail.com](mailto:ccsteedle@gmail.com)

**Link 2:**  
**Mary Ellen Bachman** (717) 393-8922  
**Susan Shaak** (717) 872-2987  
**Doug Nutt** (717) 283-2937

**Link 3:**  
**Annette Rohloff** (717) 394-0424 or [rexthomas@comcast.net](mailto:rexthomas@comcast.net)  
**Bev Keller** (717) 898-2146 or [bek0914@aol.com](mailto:bek0914@aol.com)  
**Cindy Williams** (717) 572-3808 or [clwjbwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:clwjbwilliams@gmail.com)  
**Nancy Steger** (717) 617-2635 or [nancyasteger@gmail.com](mailto:nancyasteger@gmail.com)

**Link 4:**  
**Jean Heidig** (717) 394-8733 or [geojean6@gmail.com](mailto:geojean6@gmail.com)  
**Donna Carr** (717) 475-5285 or [skeetcarr@comcast.net](mailto:skeetcarr@comcast.net)



JOIN THE PRAYER MINISTRY. . .



November Celebrations



Date	Name
11/14/1953	Clay & Barbara Butzer *
11/14/1964	John & Bonnie Eshbach *
11/24/1966	Ken & Sara Kimmel *
11/23/1968	Ludmil & Clara Kosmela *
11/17/2001	Tim & Molly Leedy
11/10/2005	Rev. Joseph & Jessica Motz
11/09/1996	Larry & Erika Neiderer
11/26/1999	Matt & Patricia Rineer
11/07/2008	Nathan & Emily Sheffer
11/27/2010	Dan & Mary Walters
11/06/2020	Keith & Jennifer Watkins

Happy Birthday! \*90+ Birthdays

11/14	Aument, Louise W.
11/9	Bender, Allison
11/9	Bender, Kimberly
11/17	Bravo, Mrs. Sara
11/25	Breslin, Leigh
11/26	Brown, Pamela
11/29	Carr, Donna
11/01	Clausen, Holden
11/30	Daniels, Monica
11/14	Daniels, Stephen
11/14	Dowling, Catherine
11/24	Eaton, Jennifer A.
11/17	Eaton, Linda
11/11	Flynn, Daniel
11/21	Frankhouser, Robert
11/23	Frey, George
11/09	Ghaffari, Kevin
11/08	Hackenburg, Sam
11/24	Kimmel, Sara Jane
11/27	King, Anna*

11/30	Leonard, Randy
11/05	Leser, Michael
11/10	Liepa, Doris Ann *
11/08	Moran, Thomas
11/09	Morrison, Jocelyn
11/02	Newport, Bill
11/08	Perry, Robert *
11/09	Reindollar, Shirly
11/16	Reinhardt, Molly
11/18	Beth Thompson
11/26	Jennifer Thompson
11/22	Sheffer, Evelyn
11/16	Schenke, Clara *
11/13	Smith, Josephine Margaret
11/26	Steedle, Lynn *
11/4	Stoltzfus, Benjamin
11/23	Walburn, Bryce John
11/24	Walburn, Wade
11/5	Waltman, Noah
11/13	Watkins, Jennifer
11/4	Wilfong, Reece
11/15	Wylie, Barbara
11/12	Zipko, Breanne

From the Council President

It has been one of those years that seems to have lasted for- ever, yet I also am wondering how it is that I am writing my November Crown article? My thoughts as I sit and stare at a blank computer screen seem to be divided. Do I rehash the way the year has gone, the struggles we all have overcome and the fear of where this virus will lead us over the winter season? Or...do I talk about the upcoming holidays and the twist that our “new normal” will bring this year? It seems that any subject that we talk about today has to have the Covid disclaimer. This year is different from any other in our lifetime, and it needs to be noted in certain circumstances. However, right here, right now; I feel I am called to put all that aside and speak as though this was any other Thanksgiving letter to you. For even without Covid, we continually bounce between the trials and tribula- tions, the peace and the joy.

It is November, the month where the emphasis of the season is being thankful. Gifts and joys are hard to see through the lens we have on at this moment, and that is why it is even more important to be thankful with a grateful heart at this time. That is a phrase I have heard and used more times than I can count. I started to wonder what makes a grateful heart....so I googled it. The first result was from Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry and after reading it I felt I needn't look any further. Its says: “A Grateful Heart is a loving heart... A heart becomes grateful when it experiences the significance of the Love of Christ. A person develops a deeper appreciation for the life he or she has been given, even amidst diffi- culty.” It reminds me of “what doesn't kill you makes you stronger”. And does it? Does strife and difficul- ty eventually lead you to being grateful for having had the experience?

In my experience, yes. But that gratefulness was not gifted to me as a prize at the end of the bad chap- ters of my life. I have had to work to find the meaning and significance of it all. I have had to choose to not dwell in the sorrow and negativity of those times. At the lowest times, when I am carried by God, I have to choose to have an open heart, and to appreciate the experience. This is not natural, and it is not easy but “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” Proverbs 3:5-6.

The bad times make us who we are, they shape our character and lay the foundation for growth. For when you are buried deep, consider yourself a seed – and bloom. There have been studies proving that emotions are contagious, and other peoples moods can be as easy to catch as their germs. And 6 feet is not nearly a big enough barrier for a truly grateful heart. Be thankful for the opportunity to grow. Come to the Thanksgiving table with joy and love and watch it spread.

Blessings,

Christa DiDomenico



**Annual meeting**  
Sunday, Nov 15 following 10 AM worship  
Sanctuary

Save the date and plan to be part of electing Council members, voting on the budget and a proposal for live-streaming equipment, and hearing about the ministries over the past year.  
Your attendance and vote is IMPORTANT!



In Memory of..

All Saints Day

Rev. Mary Alice Butkofsky  
Richard Carr  
Kathy Clark  
Cristene Sue Dormer  
Nancy Fitzkee  
Rev. Dr. Donald Freeman  
Norma Jean Frey  
Fred Geiger, Jr.  
Geraldine Gibbs  
Catherine Gregory  
Marie Herr  
Marian Hough  
Rev. M. Melvin Hough  
Mary Jean Irion  
William Irwin  
Norma Kaye  
Judy Maust  
Raymond Plourde  
George Robb, Sr.  
John Silknetter  
Marion Stehman  
Patricia Sawka  
Marion Webb  
Ruth Wilson  
Marilyn Williams



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 office@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 ho have risked their lives for our country.



Parish Life

The COA Book Club has begun meeting the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2 PM in the parlor. We will be discussing THE GIVER OF STARS by Jo Jo Moyes on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> Please consider joining us. Any questions, please call

Revised Church Directories are soon going to arrive! Individual copies will be placed in an envelope with your name and placed on tables outside the church office to be picked up when you attend worship. Any directories not picked up by the end of November will be mailed. As usual, the Mobile Directory remains a quick and easy way to look up member's information. The link to download the mobile directory is available on the church webpage. Contact the church office for the access code. Any questions, please contact

Donna Carr.

The November 8th, 1:30pm 5K and half 5K registration is now live. Registration is free for this fun event, but you do need to register to participate by Wednesday, Nov. 4th. Family and Friends are welcome to participate even if they had not been a part of the 9 weeks journey of training and spiritual growth. Signup below by clicking [HERE](#)

With Blessings,  
Pastor Joe Motz

Outreach

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.

**Meals on Wheels:** Parish Life has contracted with Meals on Wheels to provide temporary assistance with delivered meal service to members of the congregation who are shut in or recuperating from illness or injury and are unable to prepare healthy meals for themselves. Please contact either of the Pastors to give the needed information to arrange this interim supportive service.

**Apostles Assistant 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.

Apostles Caring Carts

Thank you to all who have been donating so generously to the ongoing ministries in the Apostles Caring Carts. The next ministry is a collection of donations for Water Street Rescue Mission in support of their giving project called Welcome Home Kits.

These kits are assembled and presented to their guests when they transition out of their residential program into community living. These kits consist of essentials for the home and are distributed to the guests by the case management team. I think that this giving ministry will be a great holiday giving ministry for COA since we are not able to do our usual holiday gifting ministry due to COVID. Current needs right now for these Welcome Home Kits are: pots and pans, cooking utensils, dish towels, hot pads, can openers, and laundry baskets.

These items are expected to be NEW. Donations of the above needed items will be collected in the large Caring Cart in the Narthex when the church reopens. We will collect for Water Street until the end of January. We are continuing to collect food, home care products, and personal care products for the Apostles Assistance Fund in the small Caring Cart outside the cloak room. This is an ongoing collection. Thank you for your generous participation in our many wonderful Outreach ministries! We could not serve those less fortunate without your continued support.

Thank you! Stay well! Jane McCartney

SUNDAY School Update

The early childhood and primary classes meet every week in Fellowship Hall.

Older elementary class (4th grade-6th grade) will also meet every Sunday in room 310. EXCEPTION - Nov. 1 Dale is out of town so those children will stay in worship.

Sonshine Sunday will still be uploading to the Facebook Group

Thank you,  
Judy Waltman



Dear Church of the Apostles ,  
Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,000.00 on 10/19/2020! Because of you, our teachers and students will have the supplies they need for their classes this year. Our teachers are always so grateful to have their classrooms adopted! With your donation and others like yours, you are supporting more classrooms than ever!

Thank you so much for your support!  
Sincerely, Sandi Mauer  
Program Manager  
Lancaster Education Foundation



Worship, Prayer and Sharing

Worship Schedule

We will continue to worship online as we start indoor worship on November 1st. We also have the worship by phone option, please see the information in the Crown.

Online worship will be continuing as our Video Task Force looks at options for upgrading our system for live-streaming.

November Preaching Schedule

Nov 1 —Rev. Kathryn Kuhn  
Nov 8—Rev. Joseph Motz  
Nov 15—Rev. Kathryn Kuhn  
Nov 22—Beth Thompson  
Nov 29—Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Worship by Phone – Anywhere, Anytime, with Any Phone

Over the last month we’ve been hearing praise worthy reviews of our phonelivestreaming service. What people have discovered is that it really is as simple as dialing 717-607-1850 in order to listen to a worship service. Plus, you can listen at any time, any day of the week due to the audio library function of this service.

Even if you have internet access, we invite you to check out this service. You may know someone (member or not) who would benefit from being connected to the worship of this congregation that feeds the soul through music, voice, and prayer. Thank you for sharing this opportunity with others!

Please note, we will begin premiering worship services at 10am on Sunday morning. That means if you opt in to receive a call when we are “live,” you will automatically receive a call on Sunday’s at 10am

Still Time to Enter to Win a FREE \$25 Gift Card

At the November 15<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting we will be raffling off four \$25 gift cards as part of our promotion encouraging individuals to explore our secure, easy to use, and cost effective electronic giving option. Reducing time and costs associated with financial administration, this giving option allows us to better steward God’s gifts for ministry. To learn more, email Pastor Motz,

[josephm@apostlesucc.org](mailto:josephm@apostlesucc.org), to register for one of our live zoom demos that will be held, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 4:30pm or Tuesday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:30am.

To enter to win one of the Stauffers, Lowes, Giant, or Target gift cards, give electronically by November 12<sup>th</sup>. By signing up for a recurring gift, you’ll gain five additional raffle chances. Simply go to [www.apostlesucc.org/give](http://www.apostlesucc.org/give) for our secure online portal or download the GivePlus+ app for android or apple devices (then search for Church of the Apostles). Giving either way enters you into the raffle. Thank you for checking out this giving option as we seek to better steward the gifts and resources entrusted to God’s ministry.

HAPPY FALL!  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THE APOSTLES CRAFT GROUP IS HOLDING A MINI BAZAAR SATURDAY NOV 14, 9:00AM - 12:00PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. LOTS OF FALL AND HOLIDAY DECORATIONS ALONG WITH HATS AND SCARVES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY, EVEN BOOTIES FOR THE SMALLEST MEMBERS. COME AND SEE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON EVEN THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 9:00AM - 12:00PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. PLEASE ENTER THE BUILDING AT THE KITCHEN DOOR, HAND SANITIZER, MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE IN PLACE. SEE YOU THEN!



Parish Life



**Chicken Corn Soup-** To abide by Covid protocols, a very limited team of volunteers will be making 1 batch (approximately 100 quarts) of chicken corn soup. The cost is \$8.00 (Covid Upcharge J) with a limit of 3 quarts. Please PREORDER by emailing Julie at [jbarkow6@comcast.net](mailto:jbarkow6@comcast.net) or calling her at 717-419-5195.

**Apple Dumplings-** Betsy Bischoff and the selected team will also be abiding by Covid protocols to bake apple dumplings. \$7.00 (2 in a pan) with a limit of 3 pans per order. please PREORDER by emailing Betsy at [albetsybischoff@gmail.com](mailto:albetsybischoff@gmail.com) or calling her at 717-584-5153.

Church of the Apostles UCC Trunk or Treat Thank you!

We had 100 kiddos from members, preschool, and friends come through our Trunk Trail! There were ten amazingly decorated trunks! And delicious ice cream treats for all! Bags were pre-filled by volunteers with treats, candies, toys, and other goodies. We received a grant to help fund the event, and also received a few donations from members and the community, including "free kids meal" coupons from Isaacs, free pretzel coupons from Philly Pretzel factory in Lititz, and 2 free bounce passes from the Bounce Kraze which were put in a door prize drawing for attending families. Thank you to all the trunks, volunteers, and donors for helping to host a safe event for the families! Thank you for those who could participate!

Hannah Royer

Getting to know Pastor Joe

11/2 Monday 12:00 - 12:45 pm  
Lunch in the Narthex (BYO)  
5-8 households (max at 15 people)

11/4 Wednesday 7:00-7:40 pm  
Zoom Get to Know You Bingo  
5-8 households (max at 15 people)

[SIGN UP CLICK HERE](#)

QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL [JEANNIE.JOEL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JEANNIE.JOEL@GMAIL.COM)

Saturday Morning Breakfast

While it is not a hot meal, the Saturday Breakfast ministry is back in a modified form serving the food insecure in Lancaster. On October 3rd, 4 volunteers handed out "breakfasts to go" to 40 guests at First Reformed church. Set up outside and wearing masks and gloves, bagged breakfasts of cereal, milk, juice, snack, and fresh fruit were distributed. While not ideal, this looks like the format we will be using for the months to come. It felt wonderful to be serving others again.

Power Packs Project

Founded in 2004, the Power Packs Project was created to ensure that low-income children are well fed over the weekend and ready to learn at school on Monday. They serve 45 schools in 13 school districts in Lancaster and 3 school districts in Lebanon. With 500 volunteers this organization serves over 1600 families. Church of the Apostles has supported Power Packs since 2007 and we have partnered with Elizabeth Martin School for the last ten years.

Power Packs has a different format this fall. This year to abide by covid protocols, each Wednesday volunteers pick up pre-boxed “packs” of healthy food at the warehouse for each family and deliver them to Martin School. School staff then distribute to the families later in the day. Demand for Power Packs at Martin has increased since Covid jumping from 24 families last year to 36 families being served this year



Parish Life

A Musical Note “Music isn’t just a pleasure, a transient satisfaction. It’s a need, a deep hunger; and when the music is right, it’s joy. Love. A foretaste of heaven. A comfort in grief. Is it too much to think that perhaps God speaks to us sometimes through music?

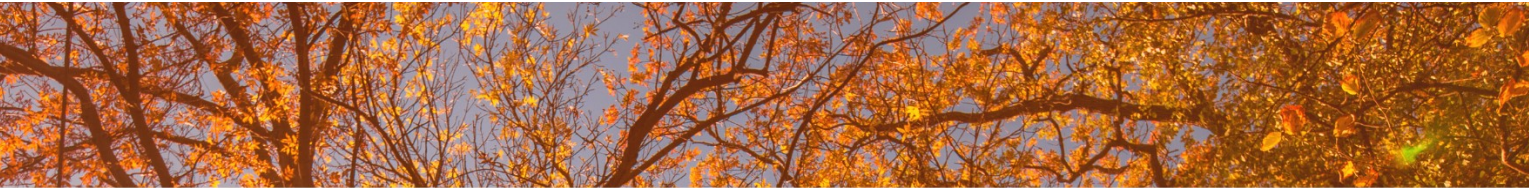
How, then, could I be so ungrateful as to refuse the message?” - Orson Scott Card I fell in love with Orson Scott Card’s quote when I first read it. He captures a sentiment which I’ve always felt to be true: there is music for every season in life. I don’t think I’m alone in this sentiment, as Card’s quote is featured on quite a few quotable quote websites pertaining to music. But what about the second part of the quote? That part doesn’t have that feel good sentiment that is in the first part. Have I at times allowed an ungrateful attitude to skew my view of music or the message in a work of art? As much as I don’t want to admit it, it most certainly has. I believe that God speaks to us through music in many ways. What message are we to hear? I hold the belief that music, or any great work of art for that matter, can offer the individual or individuals experiencing the work a variety of insights and experiences. That’s what separates great music from music that is merely pleasurable and transient; it allows us to arrive at a variety of observations and perspectives.

Great music can even lead us to a change in vantage point about the work overtime. I have experienced this as someone that both creates and experiences music as a listener. On a first listening, I may not be receptive to the message present. I may even dislike what I’m experiencing. But through repeated listening and time, I may be able to experience the message in the work more fully and relate to it on a more personal level. Sometimes pieces that I intensely dislike on a first hearing can become a favorite for me over time and with repeated listening. So how can we hear and embrace the message which is present in music when we are ungrateful and closed off? By listening as we do in prayer: with an open heart, mind, and spirit. God has the power to open doors in our lives. Are we able to truly listen and receive this wonderful gift of God’s spirit instead of shutting it out? I would like to invite you to some performances during the month of November that COA is hosting:

November 7th at 3pm: Nathan Sheffer, Ron Bellamy, and I will present an online concert. This concert will be accessible through the church’s website and other media pages and will remain online after 3pm if you are unable to attend at that time.

November 21st, Bill Hager: will present a dramatic multimedia story for families with young children in the sanctuary at 7pm entitled “**The Nanny in the Manor House.**” Mr. Hager tells the Mary Poppins story with a twist; the children have all grown up. After he tells the story, he will give a talk about what went into the creation of this story and will give the audience a behind the scenes look at his creative process. I hope that you are able to join the Apostles’ community for these performances. May God’s love fill you with peace, joy, and an open heart and ears!

Lars



DEAR CHURCH MINISTERS & FRIENDS,  
I APPRECIATE AND THANK YOU FOR MANY FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS. ALL YOUR CARDS, VISITS, PRAYERS AND SUPPORT GIVEN TO ME FOR MANY TIMES KNOWING I HAD TO LEAVE ELDERWOOD SR. LIVING CORP. LIVING THERE FOR SIX AND A HALF YEARS. I'M STARTING ANOTHER DIFFERENT STYLE OF LIVING IN A BEAUTIFUL AND QUIET HOME. I'M FINALLY WITH FAMILY AND CAN SEE SO MANY BIRDS, DEER, CATS, AND DOGS. I'M SO BLESSED AND GRATEFUL FOR A NEW FRIEND WHO GETS ME A MEAL AT LUNCH. I AM ANXIOUS TO COME TO CHURCH AS SOON AS THE "EPIDEMIC" CEASES.  
GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME!!!  
IN CHRISTIAN LOVE,  
MARIANNE DEANER

Festival of Christmas

The story of the first Christmas only happened because people said “Yes” to God. Any of the characters could have disagreed and the story would have included different names and places. This year’s celebration of Christmas will be a COVID version and depends on you saying “Yes” to participate at the level to which you are being called. So here are some ways in which you may want to participate in this year’s Festival of Christmas.

Nativity scenes (Crèches):

We are inviting you to share with us a nativity scene that you own so that it can be included in displays within our main narthex. It is our hope to create at least two areas where several different nativity scenes are displayed for people to see while they are in the building during the Advent/Christmas season. We would love to have nativity scenes that represent different cultures or places as we broaden our minds on the significance of Jesus’ birth to the world.

Luminaries:

For Christmas Eve it would be nice to have luminaries along the driveway. In order for this to happen, we need individuals or families who agree to be responsible for creating and, or setting up some luminaries that night and then taking them away by the following Sunday. To participate, please call the church office and let us know how many you are willing to do. We will create a package with the supplies you’ll need. You can be creative and cut out designs on your bag to make it extra special!

Caroling around Homestead:

Homestead Village is willing to let us set up some fire bowls at strategic places on the campus so that folks could sing with masks and proper distancing for the residents who cannot come out to experience some Christmas spirit on Christmas Eve. Please call the church office and let us know if you are interested in this piece.

Advent Wreath Stations:

This year during Advent we will be placing each of the four Advent candles at a separate station in the sanctuary. Each station we will then have a letter from a Christmas story character telling how they have hope through Jesus’ birth. The Christ candle will be on the Communion table with the manger for people to write their own story of hope because of Jesus. By doing all the stations, families will be able to create a Christmas ball of items symbolizing each of the stations. The Advent stations will be available to the congregation and community by registration on December 20, 21, 22, 23, and 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 PM with pre-recorded music and on Christmas Eve from 6:00-6:50 with live music. To attend, please call the church office for a time slot.

Fire bowls:

As Christmas Eve attendance far exceeds our indoor COVID capacity, we will have a simple service of no more than 30 minutes outside at the portico entrance as we did during our outdoor worship. We will have a live brass band to play carols and LED candles for the playing of “Silent Night.” To help keep folks a bit warmer, we are asking for individuals who have patio fire bowls and are willing to bring them out and tend to them on the grass and driveway areas to let us know. It would be lovely to be able to warm up by a fire as we listen to the story and are reminded of this very special night!