



THE CROWN



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

From the Senior Pastor

"It is an understatement to name that this has been a challenging year. A year ago we were just beginning to hear of a virus in China and thought we were protected from it. We thought it would not come here. How silly that sounds now! Why did we think we were so untouchable?"

Our congregation is being held together by our worship services accessed online or by phone and the committees and small groups who meet usually online. We are longing for greater connection and that is the focus for our Council this year. Under Donna Carr's leadership we are specifically looking at how we can grow our connections through other options that do not involve any large group in-person gatherings. We are also looking at how we may become clear on our vision and mission which will guide our work together.

Pastor Motz has been working with a group to choose a new data base as ours is very cumbersome and does not give us easy access to data or to even the information we need for mailing this newsletter in a consistent manner. We ask for your patience with receiving either no newsletter or one for each person as we work with the current data base until we move to a new one. Unfortunately, there has been too much turnover within the office personnel and no formal procedures on how data was entered. We want you to know efforts are being made to remedy this issue.

With all this said, it sounds like "bad news" but I want to argue these are the types of issues to deal with during this quieter time within the congregation. Just as the farmers are planning their gardens and choosing the seeds and where to sow them, we are also considering what "seeds" we may "plant" or "sow" in our community to know more about who we are. There are still people looking for a place that helps them understand their true purpose and belong to something that is bigger than any of us. There are people looking to "come home" to a faith community which they left during the years of hypocrisy, when we did not behave in very Christ-like ways. This is our challenge and part of our call.

The last time that I met with the Confirmation Class we were answering the question, "What is the point of the church?" After reading and discussing some scripture passages and naming the types of things we do together as a church, I asked them this question, "What is it that we, as Church of the Apostles UCC, do best?" And their answers were: *We welcome and accept people as they are. We are like an extended family. We make a difference in the community. This is how our youth see us. How might we more faithfully and actively live into this?*

February 2021

Vol. 43 No. 2

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Council President

Council Updates

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Outreach Ministry

Member Spotlight

Birthdays &

Anniversaries

and much more...

Connect with us
Virtually!



From the Sr. Pastor**continued**

Please check out the upcoming events for the Lenten season named in this newsletter as we look to create greater connections and grow with one another in our love of Jesus Christ!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Kuhn

Spiritual Practice to Consider:

As we enter the season of Lent, we will be focusing on the *Passion of Jesus*, the events of the last week of his life. The picture here is a rendition of him entering Jerusalem done by John August Swanson based on Mark 11:1-11. Spend some time looking at the picture. Now choose one of the people in the painting or see the scene in your mind as you read the scripture.

What do you notice? What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel? How does Jesus make you feel in his presence?



Use this prayer or one of your own to connect with and share your thoughts and feelings.

*We stand at the gate,
hesitant and uncertain.*

*Will we join the parade, risking
our reputation along with Jesus?
Or will we play it safe?*

*Forgive our fear, our indecision,
our apathy.*

*Such moments in life are not easy,
O God, yet we know you are with us.
You entered our story through Jesus,
now help us to enter fully
into the story of your kin-dom on earth
as it is in heaven. Amen*

[http:// diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56544](http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56544)

Original source: www.johnaugustswanson.com

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Know this: You may join the parade at any time, no matter how slow you've been to say "yes." You are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved by a God who wants you to live fully.

**Giving Report for December 2020**

	December 2020	December 2019
Cash Flow	(\$128,328.80)	(\$73,572.06)
Operating Expenses	\$658,597.81	\$594,171.75
Revenue	\$530,269.01	\$520,599.69

From the Council President

It is winter-time in many ways in our lives. Because of the pandemic, we're struggling with feeling lonely, uncertain and fearful about our health and the health of those we love. We're worried about the future of our country because of the political turmoil and headlines on a daily basis. And...of course, we're in the winter season: a time of cold and darkness.

Looking for devotions on winter to center me, I found these thoughts in "The Christian Woman" online:

Just like the earth goes through seasons of winter, spring, summer and fall, so do we. It's usually during the winter season that we can get discouraged. Everything looks dreary, bare and dead. Its not dead. The trees don't die in the winter, they're just resting. They are using the winter period to build up reserves for the coming springtime. The fields would never be able to produce a harvest if the water table was not replenished by the winter snow.

You may feel "dead," but you aren't. Your "sap" is just low!!! Think about this season as a time of rest and rebuilding. Even the environment is showing some signs of improvement as the pandemic has forced the human race to withdraw from its busyness and manufacturing. You've been given time to read, rest and reflect. You've been given a gift of appreciation for all the things we usually take for granted: a coffee date with a friend, a party, a meaningful worship service, a hug.....human contact. But now, we have the gift of technology to use like computers, cell phones and services like ZOOM or Face Time. We are building the various ways our worship services can be shared such as worship by phone, and YouTube and Facebook recordings and soon live-broadcast worship. We are reaching out to

our members, but more than that....we are reaching others in our community who are looking for a loving, caring congregation.

Take advantage of this season for re-connection to yourself and then reach out and reconnect to others in whatever ways feel comfortable to you. Call them on the phone, write a note, offer to run an errand, drop off homemade baked goods to your neighbor or your fellow COA friend or acquaintance. Help to build up their reserves to weather this winter season. This season will not last forever. Remember the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1..."To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven"

In Christ,
Donna Carr



Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

Inclement Weather Announcement

As a congregation, our policy is generally to follow the Hempfield school district. In these unusual times when the school may be virtual, we will post on WGAL-TV 8 and their app if we are going to cancel a large in-person event or worship when we are safely able to meet.

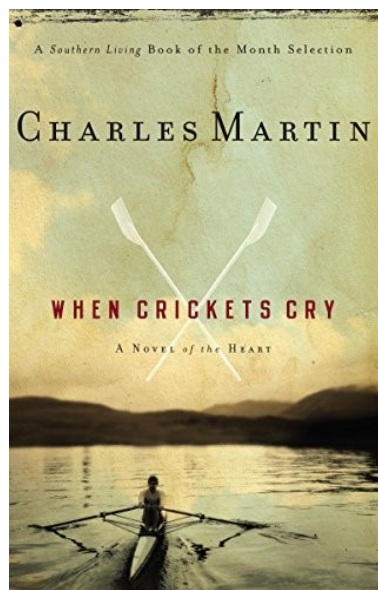
[Click here for Link to Weather Closings](#)



Parish Life

The COA Book club continues to meet the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 via Zoom. In Feb. When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin. March, Guilty Wives by James Paterson. Please consider joining us whether or not you read the book.

Any questions call Clara Kosmela 717-569-9960.



Apostles Community Preschool

717-392-5598

1850 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

Apostles Community Preschool is currently hiring for the 2021-2022 School Year. We are looking for a Director of Apostles Community Preschool. This is a part-time position (about 25 hours per week).

A degree in either Early Childhood or Elementary Education is required. Please send your resume to kzellers.acp@gmail.com.



2021 Giving Envelopes, Lifetouch Directories and Worship by Phone Yard Signs

Now available for pick up at the church main entrance. Please call the church office at (717) 392-5718 to arrange a time to pick them up. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 AM—1 PM but items may be placed in our wooden drop box by the right hand door under the portico.

If you had your photo taken by Lifetouch for any of the last two photo directories your new directory is available for pickup at the church. If you did not have your photo taken, regular print directories are available for you to pick up.

The online Lifetouch Directory was unavailable while they updated it. They have promised that it will become available again soon and be there until June 2021. We hope to have a new online directory through a new data based by then.

Share the gift of letting people without internet or smartphones know they can still be connected to a worshipping community. The stories from our listeners are ones filled with joy and thanks. Pick up a yard sign and display your commitment to Church of the Apostles proudly in your yard!

Outreach**Special Offering for February**

If you have a box of offering envelopes, you will find one for February 21st marked Apostles Assistance Fund. If you use the E- giving you will find this offering there. The pastors get many requests for emergency assistance, especially during this pandemic. People can obtain financial help as well as food, home care supplies, and personal care products. Financial donations can be made through this Special Offering.

Food and supplies for personal and home care can be donated on Donation Fridays from 10:00 until 2:00 in the Caring Carts outside of the main entrance under the portico. Donation Fridays will continue as long as the church is locked. Once the church opens for indoor services, the Apostles Caring Carts will be found in the Narthex next to the Outreach bulletin board.

Thank you for your generosity which enables us to help those in need!

Jane McCartney
Outreach Commission Chair



Outreach**Market Basket**

Grocery cards



Our sale of Grocery cards is continuing. However, with the church closing for an indeterminate time, we will need to revert to telephone & email orders.

When purchasing groceries, if you use our grocery cards, it costs you nothing extra, but provides income to the Church. Please contact me by telephone or email and arrange for payment & pick up.

If you wish to order any SKH, Giant, or Weis cards for March please call me 717-299-2972 or email kjhelmeczi@gmail.com with your order.

Please note if you pay by check, please write Market Basket on the memo line.

Thank you, Karen Helmeczi

Give to Special Offerings Electronically

More than just a way to give to the General Fund, electronic giving now allows you to give to special offerings like February's Apostles Assistance Fund, ongoing food bank contributions, or a host of other special offerings. Giving options are updated monthly to ensure you can support the missions and ministry that speak to your heart.

If you haven't done so already, be sure to check out our e-giving options today. It is safe, secure, and a simple way to give, especially when we cannot physically gather.

GIVE PLUS⁺
Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Worship

Burning of the Palms

On Sunday, February 14th, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall parking lot for the burning of the palms as we create ashes to be distributed for our Ash Wednesday service. If you are one who appreciates receiving ashes, you may wish to take part in this meaningful service in a COVID-minded outdoor event which will include wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing.



Photo by Ahna Ziegler on Unsplash

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Vespers

We will gather for worship on Zoom for Ash Wednesday and weekly vespers from 6:30-7 PM. This will include scripture reading, prayers and small group conversations. On Ash Wednesday, we will include a liturgy of "Blessing of the Ashes" and time to apply them together. The Zoom link will be shared in the Weekly Announcements email. To access this via the phone, call the church office for the meeting ID number and password. The phone number to be called is: (301)715-8592. Tolls may apply if you are not using a cell phone.

Worship Videos Encouraged

As we try to connect with one another we are inviting you to submit a brief video of your response to each of these questions in February. Our Sunday morning worship theme for Lent will be *Entering the Passion of Jesus* as we use the entire season to focus on the events of Holy Week and what we learn about Jesus through them.

2/21—The Parade

If you had been alive at the time of Jesus, what about Jesus would have drawn you to the parade?

2/28—The Temple

When have you been challenged to stand up for something you believed was right?

We Have Heard You

The worship leaders have heard you and your desire to have two worship services with differently styled music as we did prior to COVID. The pastors and music leaders are in conversation and working with the Re-opening Team to plan how and when this can happen. When we begin, we want it to be a schedule that will continue once we begin gathering for in-person worship and allow time for "high-touch" areas to be sanitized between services. Notice will be given as it will also affect the times of the online and Worship by Phone options.

Updated Video System

We have begun using the updated video system so that we are prepared to do a live broadcast when we return to in-person worship for those who are not able to physically join us.

Worship, Prayer and Sharing

Worship in person is currently online or by phone beginning at 10 AM each Sunday. All services are archived to allow viewing at later times or later in the week. This is true for all online worship formats and the worship by phone option.

February Preaching Schedule

February 7 Rev. Kuhn
 February 14 Rev. Kuhn
 February 21 Rev. Motz
 February 28 Rev. Kuhn

PHONE: Call **717-607-1850** to listen or play back archive services.

Online through our website:

<https://apostlesucc.org/worship-times/>

Youtube Channel: All previous services will be available via our [Church of the Apostles YouTube Channel](#)

Facebook Page: [Church of the Apostles](#)

New Membership Database Being Tested

After finding two excellent church management software systems, we are in the process of test running one of the systems to determine if it is the right match for us. Over the next month we will be “kicking the tires” and testing the advertised functions to ensure the system is easy to use, provides for our needs, and is capable of enhancing our ministry capacity. At the end of the month, we will determine if we will move forward fully with this particular software system or if we will move to its competitor.

Communications Coordinator Position

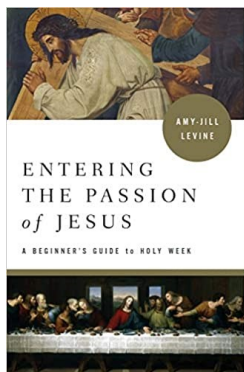
The Executive Committee, which functions as our personnel committee, is currently interviewing candidates for our Communications Coordinator. Beth Thompson, our seminary intern, has stepped back to focus on her social media objectives. Pastor Motz is currently responding to email, publishing bulletins, and managing the church calendar. Pastor Kuhn has the newsletter and Council packet. We hope to have this filled in the near future.

Worship by Phone: Call (717) 607-1850

- Full worship services with music, hymns, liturgy, and sermons
- A worship library of the 9 most recent services
- Available to anyone on any phone at any time
- Option to have the system call you each Sunday at 10am when the worship service begins (great for a reminder or if you are located outside of the local calling area)
- Option to receive a print version of the bulletin mailed to your home in advance of the service (bulletins are also available online)



Education



ADULT EDUCATION LENTEN CLASS

Amy-Jill Levine is a Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University. Some of us enjoyed a study based on her CD lectures several years ago.

Her new CD: *“Entering into the Passion of Jesus”* will be the basis for six study sessions during Lent.

Dr. Levine says in her introduction: “In every good story, there is history, and there is risk; and the stories of Holy Week, also called Passion Week, are brimming with both history and risk. If we get the history wrong, we will misunderstand what the Gospel writers are trying to tell us. The risk brings the anticipation, the danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.”

Each session will look at a particular risk Jesus takes during Holy Week.

1. Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
2. The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
3. Teachings: Risking Challenge
4. The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
5. The Last Supper: Risking Loss of Friends
6. Gethsemane: Risking Redemption.

In what way are Christians today risking these things as well?

The first risk is for you to sign up for one or all of these 6 sessions. Sessions will be offered from 10 to 11am each Wednesday, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, via ZOOM. A book is also available. Sign up by calling the Church Office on, or before Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. You will be sent the Zoom link when you sign up.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

ARE YOU ENROLLING IN COLLEGE OR TECH SCHOOL FOR THE FALL?

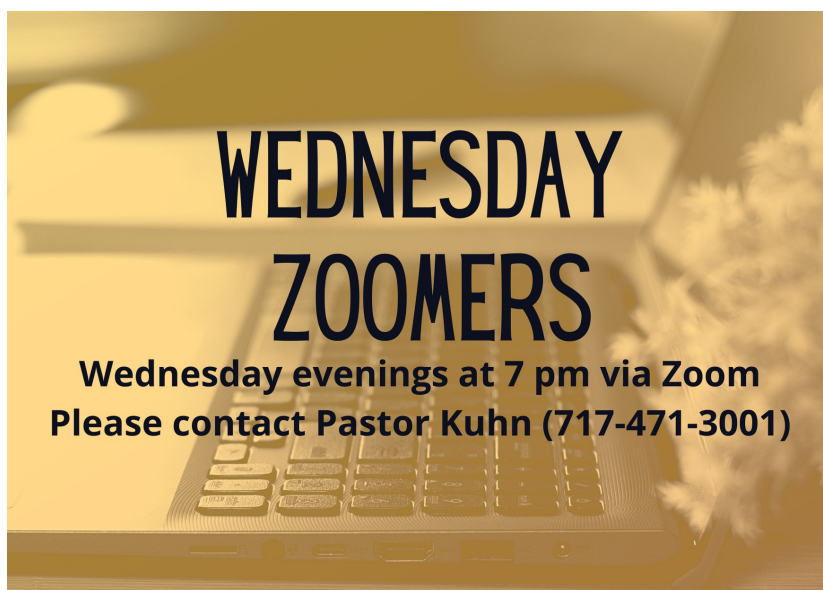
2021 Scholarships Available

Church of Apostles has two scholarships to award to 2021 High School Graduates.

The Helen Elmer Scholarship is awarded to an active member of the Church of Apostles who has enrolled in a four-year college. It was established by Carl and Helen Bernhardt in honor of Helen's mother. The Kenneth Bernhardt Scholarship, created by the Kenneth and Evelyn Bernhardt family, is open to any High School graduate who plans to attend a Technical School.

Applications can be found on the Church web site: apostlesucc.org. Choose “About Us”, and scroll down to “Youth”. Applications are also available in the Church Office. Applications should be received by the Church (online, or by mail) by April 30, 2021.

Scholarship winners will be announced by May 15, 2021.



Congregational Updates**February Celebrations****Reach Out and Connect Challenge**

During these times when we are all missing the connections we normally have with other people, please take it as a personal challenge to make a list of three people from within the congregation to contact each day. The birthday list beside this article may be a place to start.

Whether you write a short note, send a card, or call them on the telephone, find a way to connect with those you know and those you do not know as well. Naming that you would like to pray for them and asking if there is anything in particular they would like named in the prayer is a good place to start.

Take the challenge and see how your life is changed in the process! We are the light bearers for ourselves and others!



In Remembrance for those who have died

Peggy Kreider—Jan 3

Paula Wilson—Jan 19

Ginger Maclaren—Jan 23
(Eric Maclaren's mother)

Happy Birthday!

Date	Name
1	Roberta Stock
1	Jere Baker
1	Nils Stenman
3	Brody Moore
4	Jill Craven
4	Kelley Brown
4	Nick Bravo
4	Stephanie Albert
5	Larry Frable
6	Marianne Deaner
6	Susan Stirling
6	Mason Koehler
7	Dale Marx
8	Glenn Ebersole
9	Joy Angevine *
9	Lisa Ann Sweigart
13	Dorothy Freeman
13	Cole Kendig
14	Mary Ellen Bachman
14	Miles Clausen
16	Joe Bahling
16	Nora Bravo
17	Nancy Young *
19	Kelli Forry
20	Kristine Martin
22	Ginny Godfrey*
23	Deborah Aukamp
23	Kathy Zerby
24	Shirley Miller
27	Rasma Pakalmins*
27	Eric MacLaren

* 90+ Birthdays

Council Members

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Donna Carr

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Email: skeetcarr@comcast.net

Vice President: Stephanie Moore

Ph: 717-330-8892

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Treasurer: Andy Smith

Ph: 717-615-1649

Email: andy.smith@bbandt.com

Secretary: Cathy Kenlin

Ph: 717-940-0364

Email: cmkenlin@comcast.net

COMMISSION CHAIRS

Education Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month)

Chair: Judy Waltman

Ph: 717-285-7395

Email: jlwaltman@comcast.net

Outreach Commission

(Meets 2nd Monday, every other month)

Chair: Jane McCartney

Ph: 717-392-4844

Parish Life Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month)

Co-Chair: Clara Kosmela

Ph: 717-468-3492 • Email: joli6291@yahoo.com

Co-Chair: Donna Carr

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

Property Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month)

Chair: Herb Forry

Ph: 717-201-7863

Email: heforry@comcast.net

Stewardship Commission

(Meets the second Thursday of the month)

Chair: George Alspach

Ph: 717-201-2526

Email: galspach@aol.com

Worship Commission

(Meets the 1st Monday of the month/narthex)

Chair: Bernie Fickes

Ph: 717-925-9155

Email: penguindiva@verizon.net

JOIN THE PRAYER MINISTRY...

SURRENDER AND LET GOD WORK

LINK 1

Steve & Monica Daniels

Lynn Steedle

717-299-6007

717-390-4152

monicadaniels54@gmail

ccsteedle@gmail.com

Link 2

Mary Ellen Bachman

Susan Shaak

Doug Nutt

717-393-8922

717-872-2987

717-283-2937

let go

Link 3

Annette Rohloff

Bev Keller

Cindy Williams

Nancy Steger

717-394-0424

717-898-2146

717-572-3808

717-617-2635

rexthomas@comcast.net

bek0914@aol.com

blwjbwilliamse@gmail.com

nancyasteger@gmail.com

Link 4

Jean Heidig

Donna Carr

717-394-8733

717-475-5285

jean.heidig@gmail.com

skeetcarr@comcast.net

MAY WE PRAY FOR YOU?



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A Stephen Ministry Congregation



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kathrynk@apostlesucc.org

Associate Pastor

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

Youth Leader

Jonathan Paredes

Director of Music Ministries

Lars Pottieger ext. 8203
larsp@apostlesucc.org

Director of Adult Choirs & Instrumental Music

Nathan Sheffer

Interim Bell Choir Director

Lars Pottieger

Children's Choir Director

Breanne Zipko

Technology Specialist

Jonathan Shaub

Sexton

Larry Rongione

**Acting Communications & Administrative
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finance@apostlesucc.org

Property Manager

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ericm@apostlesucc.org

Church Council President

Donna Carr