



THE CROWN



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

From the Associate Pastor

January 2021

Vol. 42 No. 13

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**Connect with us
Virtually!**



“It’s probably going to get worse before it gets better.”

I know! These are not the words you want to hear. These are not the words that uplift the spirit or give strength to the soul. And they certainly are not the words you want plastered on the front page of the Crown or at the beginning of your Pastor’s message. But it is biblical, and it is a reality that if we are not honest with ourselves about we could end up in an even worse place.

First, the biblical perspective. I always find it troubling, and yet telling, that one of the primary readings after Christmas is the murder of the innocents (Matt 2:16-18). After the hosannas have been sung, the Christ candle lit, and the little baby Jesus silently rests in the manger, the world responds. Matthew doesn’t record the number of children killed in and around Bethlehem by Herod’s fear filled rage. All we know is that what was proclaimed as the salvation of the world took flight to hide in Egypt as the voices of sorrow and grief filled the air. And yet what remained true is that the light that had come, was still present, and the darkness had not overcome it.

As we enter into 2021 we have the normal post-Christmas grief, sorrow, regret, fears, and depression to deal with. We face the same reality of January’s long, dark, cold days that normally challenge our mental and spiritual health. But this year, as Christmas wanes and the world’s darkness creeps back in, it does so with the weight of ten months of isolation, ten months of infection rates and death counts that have been steadily increasing, ten months of raging discord and division, and so little of the spiritual and communal practices that have grounded and centered us in the living truth of the Light of Christ that even now stands in our midst.

So yes, it is probably going to get worse before it gets better. And yet the light still shines. Christ is still present. A vaccine is being administered. The days are getting longer. The time is growing shorter to when physical community can once again be a point of joy filled celebration.

With both the light and the darkness being the truth of the days ahead, I believe one of our primary works will be that of intentionally orienting ourselves to more clearly see the light even as we walk through the valley of darkness. To do otherwise could easily leave anyone with their eyes so downcast that they become lost in the darkness even as the light shines out in the sky.

From the Associate Pastor*continued*

To this end I have provided some suggestions to consider on how to keep your eyes focused on the light even as we travel this stretch of darkness. Feel free to move beyond the list, but do be sure to set a plan that will work for you.

In all things my prayer for you is to be well, to care deeply for yourself, to claim spaces and practices of healing and wholeness, and to know that none of us needs to journey alone. As Christ's body we stand here to support and care for one another as we seek to reflect the love God has poured into this world and into each of our lives.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,

Pastor Motz

Spiritual Practices to Consider:

- Instead of one prayer session each day, try multiple mini-prayer sessions strategically placed throughout the day
- Instead of rising with your alarm, commit to speaking three, honest gratitudes before your feet hit the floor
- Intentionally invite God to daily join you in cup of coffee or tea (attempt to accomplish nothing for 5-10 minutes other than being aware of God surrounding and being with you)
- Join in a 4-6 week covenant with someone to pray together (or at a common time) for 10-15 minutes each day.
- Wear a bracelet or other item to serve as a physical reminder of God's presence (be intentional about touching it throughout the day and offering prayers as you do so)
- Begin a practice of journaling, walking, counseling, or spiritual direction

Financial Commitments For 2021

If you have not yet returned your financial commitment card for 2021 to the church office, please do so as soon as possible using the stamped envelope provided in the mailing from the Stewardship Commission. With the return of your commitment card you will be joining the dozens of other households who have shared their pledges of faith, hope, and love for God's ministry to be lived out through Church of the Apostles.

With Thanks,

The Stewardship Commission



Giving Report for November 2020

	November 2020	November 2019
Cash Flow	(\$101,805.69)	(\$79,842.32)
Operating Expenses	\$606,160.11	\$527,469.82
Revenue	\$361,639.90	\$407,538.04

From the Council President

"When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flock.....

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost

To heal the broken

To feed the hungry

To release the prisoner

To rebuild the nations

To bring peace among people

To make music in the heart"

-Howard Thurman

It has been a time like no other we've experienced in our lifetimes. This pandemic has upended our lives, our families, our traditions and our worship. But throughout this difficult time, acts of kindness, compassion and caring are happening.

We are not able to be together in the same way, but our challenge until the covid crisis subsides (and vaccinations give us some measure of protection) is to find that way to do the work Mr Thurman was talking about:

First in our own congregation by reaching out to others through phone calls, sending notes or e mails and acts of kindness that may help them such as a grocery run or preparing a meal for them. And ask that person if you can remain connected to them for any needs or a listening ear to be available.

Then, secondly, in our community by getting involved in giving acts as you are able: donate time or talent to a cause, donate food to our food bank or the Apostles Assistance closet, or Water Street collection that is going on right now through our Outreach Commission.

My goal as your new Council President is to help us all to find those ways to be the hands, feet, ears, mouth and heart of God for our congregation.

I have been so proud to be a member of COA for over 50 years and I know we can all rise to this occasion to reach out to reconnect until we can physically reconnect later in this coming year.

Wishing you health and peace!!

In Christ, Donna Carr

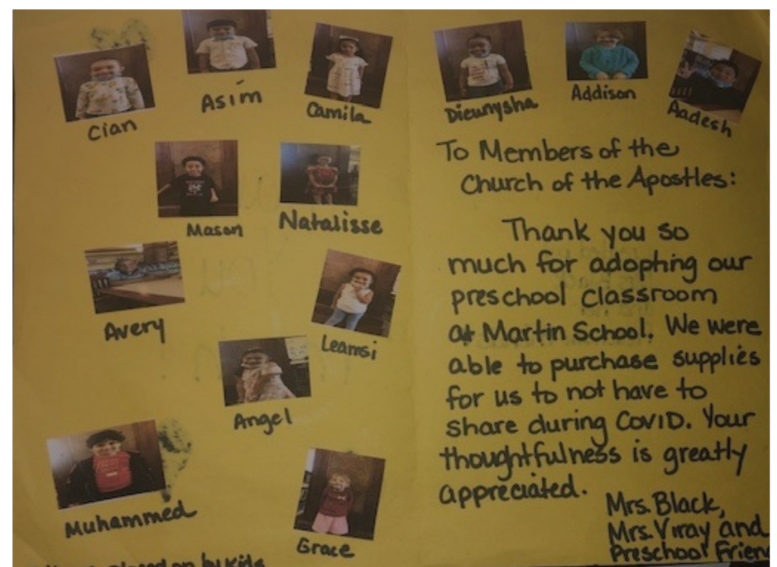


NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

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](#)



Thank you so much!

Created by Mrs. Black and her Preschool Friends!

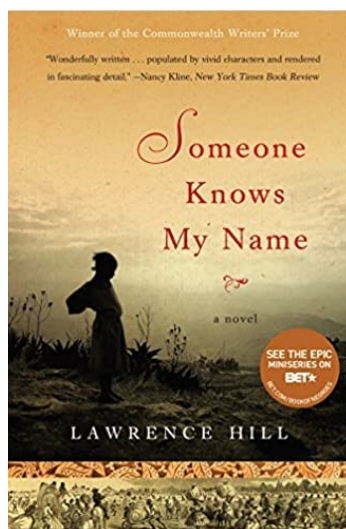
Parish Life

The COA Book club continues to meet the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 in the Parlor. We wear masks and observe social distancing. We will be discussing on January 12th Someone Knows My Name by Lawrence Hill. In Feb. When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin.

March, Guilty Wives by James Patterson. Please consider joining us whether or not you read the book.

Any questions call Clara Kosmela

717-569-9960.



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.



Apostles Community Preschool

717-392-5598

1850 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603



We want to thank Katie Zellers for her compassionate leadership and wish her the best in her new position.

We will miss her greatly!

ACP Board of Directors



2021 Giving Envelopes – Now available for pick up at the church main entrance.

Pick up times in January will be every Monday-Thursday, 9 AM – 12 PM
January 11th – 13th 5:30 PM - 7:00PM

Life Touch Directories Available – If you had your photo taken by Life-touch 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. Pick up times will be every Monday-Thursday, 9am – 12pm, in January, and from 5:30-7:00pm January 11th – 13th. Also, every member has access to the online mobile directory by contacting the church office for log in information.

Worship by Phone Yard Signs – 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. To pick up your yard sign stop by the church office any Monday-Thursday, 9am – 12pm, or from 5:30-7:00pm January 11th – 13th.

Outreach

Thank you for those who donated!
-Barbara Achterman



Merry Christmas from the Children and Staff

This year has been a long, strenuous one in so many ways. You, and others from our Hoffman Community, have joined together to help us manage through an unforeseen pandemic as we continue treating children in need. Your support means so much to the children and staff at Hoffman Homes for Youth, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to our mission.

We are looking forward to the new year and all that we will accomplish together!

Children Sing Their Version of the Twelve Days of Christmas

[Listen Now!](#)

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!



Thank you to very special donors who donated blow up decorations to lift the children's spirits!

Santa and Mrs. Claus dropped off gifts for the children and listened to the kids sing carols as they drove by!

Thank you to all of our donors who helped ensure the children received their individual and residence gifts!



Hoffman Academy's winter spirit week included so many fun activities. On Tuesday,

Children got creative and crafted handmade ornaments to decorate the tree in the administration building. How cute is this?!

Congratulations to Ms. Weller-Meck's class for taking 1st place in the door decorating contest at Hoffman Academy!

MISSION TO THE HOMELESS

Special Offering

January 17th

"Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

This month we will be collecting our annual Mission to the Homeless offering on January 17th. Over the years, this offering has helped support the efforts of local and national nonprofits who assist those who struggle with homelessness in one form or another.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation in 2020, donations of \$900.00 each were made to the Lancaster Food Hub (previously Lancaster County Council of Churches) and Clare House. The LFH provides clothing and fresh and healthy food to hundreds of families each week which has been particularly critical during these unprecedented times. It also partners with St. Mary's Church to offer relief from the cold to women and children through its Winter Overnight Shelter that runs from December through March. Clare house provides safety, housing, and supportive services for women and children. While at Clare House, residents are provided the tools, training, and connections necessary to help stabilize finances, build savings, and secure sustainable housing.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Outreach Commission

A Musical Note

Music can easily become embedded in our cultural experiences. Anything from hymns that we sing in church to songs we hear while shopping, music enters in to many of our day to day activities. In jazz music there are standards - pieces that historically came from Broadway and have become part of the Great American Songbook - recorded by countless numbers of artists from a variety of genres. Most cultures have some type of folk music tradition. This music can become so ingrained in the culture that created it that sometimes the original individuals that created the music are lost to history and the music itself is associated not with the individual but the culture that created it.

Music in the church also has standard repertoire that becomes established in different church communities and traditions over time. As we celebrate Epiphany in the church, I would like to take a look at a hymn that I consider to be a traditional part of this church season, "We Three Kings," and explore where this "standard" originated before it became ingrained in the musical worship life of many Christian communities. "We Three Kings" is a unique hymn of all the songs sung in the season of Epiphany because it is truly American in origin. Its writer, John H. Hopkins, Jr., was born in Pittsburg, PA and became one of the leading Episcopal church musicians of his time. He penned both the text and music while rector at Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, PA around 1857. It was rare in this time period for a writer of a carol or hymn to write both the words and music. "We Three Kings" was originally written for a Christmas pageant and became so popular among Hopkins' friends and family that he decided to publish it in 1863 in a book titled *Carols, Hymns, and Songs*.

This carol was also the only carol that came from the United States written in English for almost a century until other folk oriented carols entered the repertory of American carols. Hopkins also gave "We Three Kings" a unique twist as it relates to musical harmony and overall tone of the carol. He paints the text beautifully by writing the music in modes and harmonies associated with the Near and Far East. This is a very rare compositional approach for a piece by an American writer from the mid-19th century. Early American music was in its adolescence at this time and most American music was still following European modes and styles.

I have always found this carol to be one of great beauty and mystery. This carol is also a song that tells a story about a journey of kings and the gifts they brought to a baby in a manger.

May the light that the Magi followed to the Christ child fill your heart with peace, joy, and hope this Epiphany!

Blessings, Lars



New Members

Louise and Dale Zabel moved from Skaneateles, NY to Homestead Village in late 2018. Dale retired from Thomas J. Lipton having enjoyed a career as a food scientist. Louise was an executive assistant for a relocation firm in Basking Ridge, NJ. The Zabels fantasized for years about owning a B&B. Soon after retirement they moved from NJ and purchased an 1837 home overlooking Skaneateles Lake, one of NY's Finger Lakes. For many years they enjoyed their B&B, sailing, Rotary and their Lutheran church. Louise served as secretary of the church for 16 years. With advancing years Dale and Louise were anxious to relocate and be closer to their PA family, especially their daughter and 13 year old granddaughter in West Chester. At the time of the move to PA serious medical problems resulted in Dale becoming a resident of Radcliff House. Louise is nearby in a Homestead Village Villa.



Terry and Frank Wilson moved to Lititz in the summer of 2019 from Hanover, PA. Terry is a retired elementary teacher from York City School District and Frank is a retired Systems Analyst with Penn National Insurance in Harrisburg. Previous members of Grace UCC and Emmanuel UCC in Hanover. Looking forward to an active retirement lifestyle in Lancaster County.

Beth and Jennifer Thompson started attending Church of the Apostles in November. Beth is a 3rd year graduating student from Lancaster Theological Seminary, where she has focused her studies on social justice and ministry through social media connections. She is currently fulfilling her Field Education requirements as the Seminary Intern at COA. Jennifer accepted a position two days before the COVID lockdown as the Vice President of Advancement for the Lancaster Seminary. They have three adult children that live in Philadelphia and Lancaster cities, and a 9lb Shih Tzu that rules the house.



Worship, Prayer and Sharing

Worship in person is suspended until further notice. Starting January 3rd, each Sunday's Worship service will be available for viewing beginning at 10am. All services will be 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.

January Preaching Schedule

January 3 Rev. Kuhn
 January 10 Rev. Kuhn
 January 17 Rev. Kuhn
 January 24 Rev. Motz
 January 31 Rev. Kuhn

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

Online through our website:

<https://apostelsucc.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](#)

Taking Steps to Strengthen the Body of Christ

With the start of the new year, the church will begin a major upgrade to its member database and management software in order to more effectively, and efficiently, empower this congregation to be the living body of Christ. The new functionality will include a member app by which you will be able to update your personal and family information, receive notifications, and reach out to other members. We will be adding a "Child Check-in" function to support a multitude of safety protocols within the educational programming. There will be a shepherding app to enable a team approach to pastoral care. And the system will function in a way that allows print and electronic communication to be easily managed based upon the preferences and needs of individuals. Plus the new system will cost less to operate than our existing system.

Look for more information in the February newsletter as we begin to setup and develop this new ministry tool.

Worship by Phone – Anywhere, Anytime, with Any Phone

Since the start of December use of the worship by phone option has taken off and the feedback continues to be incredibly positive. To join in, simply call the church's dedicated worship line (**717-607-1850**).

Some of the features of the system include

- Full worship services with music, hymns, liturgy, and sermons
- A worship library of the 9 most recent services (available 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)

There is no restriction to the use of this service. Therefore please share the worship number (**717-607-1850**) with friends, family, and neighbors who might benefit from being connected with a worshipping community.



Outreach

Electronic Giving Grows In Ease & Use



More and more people are discovering the ease of electronic giving as worship has shifted to being completely online or by phone. If you haven't

tried it, now is a great time.

To give electronically, go to apostlesucc.org/give. Scroll down to "Give Online." You can give with or without creating a log in, You can set up recurring gifts or just give one time. You can give to special offerings, the General Fund, Memorials, or a host of other giving options.



Don't forget about the Grocery Cards for your next trip to Stauffer's, Weis, and Giant.

Purchases made with these cards cost you nothing extra, but generate additional income for the church. If you would like to make arrangements to purchase any of these, or would like more information, please contact:

Karen Helmeczi **717-299-2972**

Email: kjhelmeczi@gmail.com

My address is: **1832 Westcott Drive**

All checks will still be made out to COA with Market Basket on the note line.

December 1, 2020

Dear Members of the Church of the Apostles,
I would like to thank you for your amazing generosity and choosing to adopt our classroom. I am new to the district and the funds will greatly help me purchase items for our classroom. During this difficult time, things like this remind us of the kindness of the human spirit.

While my students are not in the building right now, once they return I will be able to better assess our needs and put your donation to good use. The photos below are from earlier this year, the students were working on a science experiment making a spin art machine. Wishing you many blessings this Holiday Season!

My Best,

Heather Contreras

Heather Contreras

3rd grade teacher, Elizabeth R Martin School
School District of Lancaster



From our 3rd grade class...

December 2020



Your support of Heifer International ensures families around the world have the resources and opportunities to create the warm and joyful futures they deserve — futures where they do not have to worry about where their next meal will come from or if they'll have enough money to cover unexpected expenses. And for that, you deserve a warm and joyful holiday season, too! Thank you for supporting Heifer and believing in our mission.

Happy Holidays!

To all the members of
Church of the Apostles United
Church of Christ,
Season's greetings from everyone
at Heifer!

~Melanie Kepner

Dear Donna,

On behalf of the Lancaster Education Foundation, please pass along our thanks to your team at Church of the Apostles for your most recent donation! Your donation allows two more classrooms at Martin to be adopted! Thanks again for your partnership! - Eryn Barington.

LET

Parish Life**January Celebrations****Carol Horn Remembrance**

It is with great regret that we admit to missing Carol Horn in our list of remembrances for All Saints Sunday. Carol was a member of our congregation for eleven years. During that time, she worshipped regularly at the 10:45 service, especially when her best friend Pat Aichele was alive. Carol enjoyed working at the Garage Sale, making soup for the bazaar and helping in the kitchen during funeral receptions. Carol was always there with a smile and helpful hand. Her presence is missed!



Happy Anniversary

Gifford, Robert & Christine	1/14/1972
Lockey, Stephen & Donna	1/19/1985
Buckwalter, Michael & Beth	1/31/1981

Happy Birthday!

Name	Birthdate
Bohr, Josephine	1/24
Bomberger, Geraldine	1/1
Braun, Chris	1/7
Breslin, Delayne	1/14
Brukholder, carol	1/21
Cunningham, Richard	1/2
Dubbs, Liam	1/14
Erisman, Chuck	1/31
Eyrich, Jennifer	1/22
Forry, Herbert	1/3
Gaudio, Arlene	1/10
Gifford, Christine	1/12
Goldman, Andree	1/24
Greenawalt, Dorothea	1/12
Helmeczi, Karen	1/19
Koehler, Weston	1/24
Koontz, Donald	1/16
Kuhn, Vincent	1/17
McCoey, Micaela	1/30
Millhouse, Louis	1/29
Motz, Olivia	1/22
Ochs, Bernice	1/8
Oliphant, Catherine	1/3
Robb, Almore	1/13
Smith, Andy	1/31
Stenman, Wende	1/11
Stoltzfus, Jack	1/30
Stump, Gail	1/6
Wylie, John	1/4
Zabel, Dale	1/4

Council Members

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Donna Carr

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Email: skeetcarr@comcast.net

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Ph: • Email: smmoore331@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Smith

Ph: 717-615-1649 •

Email: andy.smith@bbandt.com

Secretary: Cathy Kenlin

Ph: •

Email: cmkenlin@comcast.net

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 •

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

Ph: 717-475-5285

Email: skeetcarr@comcast.net

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

(Selected January 4th)

Chair:

Ph:

Email:

JOIN THE PRAYER MINISTRY. . .

SURRENDER AND LET GOD WORK

LINK 1

Steve & Monica Daniels

717-299-6007

monicadaniels54@gmail

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ccsteedle@gmail.com

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Donna Carr

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skeetcarr@comcast.net

let go

MAY WE PRAY FOR YOU?



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A Stephen Ministry Congregation



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Associate Pastor

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

Youth Leader

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Bell Choir Director

Lars Pottieger (Interim)

Children's Choir Director

Breanne Zipko

Technology Specialist

Jonathan Shaub

Sexton

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Donna Carr