

THE CROWN



A Publication of Church of the Apostles, A United Church of Christ Congregation

August 2021 Vol. 45 No.8

From the Associate Pastor

“..What must I do to be saved?” –Acts 16:30

For many individuals this scriptural quote is a powder keg of responses ranging from upmost love to utter scorn. By using it in my article header I am risking people completely skipping this article because of the ways in which they have seen and/or experienced its abuse. But there is more here than what meets the eye.

A few years ago I heard a perspective-changing sermon while worshipping with a Lutheran congregation. The pastor spoke of how salvation, in its Greek form, can be translated as healing. And not just any healing, but a holistic healing akin to being fully found in God’s shalom (peace). When understood this way, the question asked in the above Acts quotes is not, “How do I get to heaven?” Instead, the question is, “How do I enter into God’s healing and life-giving presence now and for the rest of my days?”

I’ve heard from many people how they don’t want to go back to the life they were living before the pandemic. It was too busy and scattered, it was too disconnected from what really mattered, and it was leaving people hopelessly empty inside. And so, the question many of us need to be asking is, “What must I do to be saved? What must I do to enter into God’s healing and life-giving presence now so that it may be the truth of my days?”

The Church Wide Book Study, with its nearly 30 participants, is one way in which we are inviting people to prayerfully enter this question both on a personal level and the way in which we are living out our discipleship together as God’s church. For the longing is that in our walk with Christ and in our partnership with his church what we will find is life and healing, love and joy, hope and strength, courage and companionship, and service that speaks to the depth of our soul’s passion and God’s heart.

As we continue to move through this time of transition, may we set our hearts on the Lord Jesus Christ and the life of salvation to which we are being called.

Yours In Christ,
Rev. Joseph A. Motz



**PASTOR JOSEPH
MOTZ**

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A Message from the Council President

In a recent Facebook post, I read the following story about a pastor who was visiting a rural church men's breakfast. The group asked an old farmer to say the grace for the meal.

He prayed: "Lord, I hate buttermilk." The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. Next, the old gentleman said "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the man continued "Lord, I don't really care for raw white flour." The pastor glanced around the room and saw that others were growing concerned as well.

But then, the man added: "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them.....I love the biscuits that come out!!! Lord, when life gets hard and we don't like what comes up or when we don't understand, help us to relax and wait until you are done mixing. The results will probably be better than the biscuits. Amen"

In this simple prayer, there is great wisdom when it comes to the condition of the world or handling life's complications. Stay strong my friends, because when things get tough, remember that the Lord is mixing several things together and the outcome will be better in the end. When we worry about life's situations (or the direction of the church), it makes sense to remember who's mixing things up and who is in charge.

Blessings,
Donna Carr

August Preaching Schedule

August 1: Pastor Kuhn

August 8: Pastor Kuhn

August 15: Jonathan Parades

August 22: Pastor Motz

August 29: Pastor Kuhn



STAY CONNECTED!

Our Worship services will continue to be available online via our [Website](#), [Youtube](#), or [Facebook](#) as we resume in-person worship. For bulletins and more information visit www.apostlesucc.com/sermons.

Worship services can also be accessed toll free via the Worship by Phone Line at
888-440-0106

In the Know...

Parish Life Book Club

Book Club meets in the Narthex on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm! Please consider joining us whether you have read the book (s) or not. Below is our upcoming books and days Any Questions? Contact Clara Kosmela at (717) 569 - 9960. :

- **August 10th:** CASTE by Isabel Wilkerson.
- **September 14th:** John Lewis and the Power of Hope by John Meachum
- **October 12th:** The Residence by Kate Anderson Brower
- **November 9th:** Dearly Beloved by Cara Well
- **December 14:** Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters by Jennifer Chiaverni

Preschool

For our upcoming school year, we are in need of Styrofoam trays that veggies and baked goods come in; any size is fine. Also we would appreciate used and cleaned aluminum foil pie pans. These are used for the children's daily art projects. You may leave them in a plastic bin labeled "Preschool Trays" which will be placed in the narthex near the stairs. Thanks for your kind donations.

Important Updates

Realm

Connecting the congregation through the new online directory, giving you direct access to your offering and personal contact information, and providing communication tools, Realm is here to support you and the congregation as whole in living out God's ministry. And the best part is that we are just beginning to implement all of what Realm has to offer! In the coming months we will be developing groups and skills and interest to better connect you with the growth opportunities and passionate call God has placed upon your heart.



If you are a member, here are some things to know right now:

Return Information Update Forms: In mid-July we mailed every household forms to update your household and personal information. Your completing and returning of these forms is integral in ensuring we have up-to-date, accurate information needed to be in good relationship with you.

Online Logins: If you have not received an email inviting you to log into Realm, contact the church office with your current email address and we will send you an invite to register.

Help Is Available: We want you to feel confident in your use of Realm. In-person help and online training videos are available. Let us know and we will help you!

Connect App Available: Realm can be accessed through a regular internet browser or through the Connect App which is available at Google Play or the App Store. Note: the Connect app is designed for communication and basic contact information management. For your full profile view use the internet browser log-in.

COA Garage Sale

This year's sale will happen Friday Sept 24th (Noon to 6pm) and Sat Sept 25th (8am to 1:00pm) WE NEED YOUR HELP! It is time to mark your calendars. Every church member is asked to help in as many ways as you can:

- Donate items Sept 20-23, 9am - 9pm
- Help sort, price, and fold Sept 20-23, 9am - 5pm
- Cashier on days of the sale Friday Sept 24, Noon - 6pm and Saturday 25, 8am - 1pm.
- Help refold clothes Friday Sept 24, 5pm - 7pm
- Help pack up items Saturday Sept 25, 1pm

Our sale two years ago made over \$6,000 due to many factors: donations, helpers, and customers. This year will be different, but let's do the best we can. More details to come! In the meantime, plan how many ways you can help. Cindy Williams will schedule workers during the week and Doris Robb will schedule cashiers. We do have a shed for storage of sale items for people unable to donate Sept 20 - 23. Call Clara Kosmela at 717 569-9960.

A Special Thank You

Riding Out the Storm

In regard to the pandemic, you've probably heard the saying, "We're all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat." At the Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting in June, Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Carrie Call continued this analogy by describing each congregation as being a different boat. Some yachts or larger cabin cruisers, like Church of the Apostles, were able to quickly adapt to online worship services, Zoom meetings and creative opportunities to minister to one another. Others were small dinghies who lacked the equipment, finances or the technical expertise to move to online worship.

But regardless of their resources, all churches in the PCC faced stress caused by uncertainty and the need to suddenly adapt well-established worship methods into new COVID-19 suitable formats. The conference received a large number of requests this year from clergy who were feeling overwhelmed and anxious. At the Annual Meeting, the conference asked congregations to consider how they could provide shore leave and respite to their ship's captains.

The Executive Committee wants to publicly thank Pastor Kuhn, Pastor Motz and Lars Potteiger for their leadership, creativity and adaptability during the pandemic. In gratitude, we have given each of them some extra vacation days for 2021 to allow them time for rest and rejuvenation.

We also thank the many other lay leaders and staff members who worked together to steer our ship through the storm. Church of the Apostles not only survived the storm, but has found new ways of sharing our ministry as well as extending new opportunities for worship and spiritual formation.

Council Corner

Council continued discussion on the congregational book study, [Transforming Congregational Culture](#) by Anthony Robinson. Members of the Growth Task Force who have read the book found it relevant and felt it would meet our congregation where we are at today. The book study will last six weeks, will be offered at several times during the week and will target reading 20 pages a week. After the book study, Council will decide if they want to move forward with an investigative team to identify a partner, like Agile Church, to help us explore possible future directions and growth opportunities for Church of the Apostles.

As part of the discussion about our future direction, during the last few months, there has been some conversation about the Christian Behavioral Covenant that our congregation created and signed years ago. The original document is hanging on the wall by the church office. We have revisited this several times over the past decade or so and it was made part of the formal church policy in November, 2013. Some view this covenant as a historical document and some view it as a living document that is integral to them today.

A brief training session was provided to Council members for the Realm church management software by Pastor Motz. We also discussed and approved modifications to some church policies, including the Facility Usage Policy. The safe church policy is still under review with the Education Commission.

In the update of the Penn Central Conference Annual meeting, it was noted that Hartman Center has been posted for sale. The PCC is partnering with the Lutheran Camping Association and there are numerous camping opportunities available if you are interested. The PCC experienced some personnel transitions, but now feel that they are fully staffed to meet the needs of their member churches. They are focusing more on providing excellence in leadership by providing robust clergy on-going education and creating partnerships and sharing resources.

Pastor Kuhn is exploring if there would be mutual benefit in partnering with the Parish Resource Center in terms of our renting space to that organization for some of their retreats and meetings.

Upcoming Events for Families:

Compassion Camp

August 15th
6 pm - 8 pm

For members and the community, adults & children, join us as we learn what it means to be compassionate for all of God's Creation! There will be stations in the park for the families or individuals to participate in with various activities, including Vespers in the Pines! Dinner will be provided! Please register by [clicking here](#), or by contacting us at office@apotlesucc.org

Family Science in the Park

September 19th at 6pm.

Nocturnal Animals with Lisa Sanchez followed by an "Owl Prowl"! Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details!



Education & Family

August Sunday School Schedule

August 1	LIVE GREEN	Let's talk about recycling/Create a bottle cap mural
August 8	ACT GREEN	God created man/Caring for God's Creation Blooming Flowers Experiment & Water Brigade Race
August 15	YOUR TURN	Thanking Nature/Art Project with Mr. D
August 22	WATER	Visit from Naturalist Lisa Sanchez
August 29	TURN GREEN	Praise God for His Creation

Green Team Update



The Green Team has joined with other churches and community members through POWER Interfaith to create a Lancaster team that will address and work on the issue of Climate Justice. We will continue to update the congregation as our work develops.

We have recently signed the Partner Congregation Pledge for Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. We are pledging to be good stewards of the land and waters of the Chesapeake and help protect our shared watershed. Check out the pledge and what it means here:

[https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/
sign_our_partner_congregation_pledge](https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/sign_our_partner_congregation_pledge)

If you're interested in joining the Green Team or helping with any of the work or programs happening, please contact Hannah Royer. hannahmen-gel@gmail.com

Interested in Donating?

Food Bank Needs:

green beans, corn, peas, applesauce, pancake mix, pancake syrup, large grape jam

Apostles Assistance Needs:

dish liquid, laundry detergent, wash cloths, deodorant, paper towels, toilet paper

Stamps for Veterans!

Remember we are still collecting used (cancelled) stamps off of envelopes to save for Veterans. Stamps can be dropped off in the office in a box labeled stamps. If you have any questions, please reach out to Skip Rhodes at (717) 872-5913.

Community Outreach

Market Basket

Are you willing to earn 5% cashback for our church just by purchasing your usual groceries? At absolutely no cost to you! We hope so! That's why our sale of Grocery cards here at COA continues undaunted while covid safety precautions are loosened a bit.

On the first and second Sundays of each month, you may order (with payment by cash or check) Stauffers (\$50), Giant (\$50), or Weis (\$50) Grocery Cards. Some cards may be available for immediate purchase and use. Purchased cards are useable the same as cash at the appropriate grocery stores. The benefit is that the church gets a 5% return from our bulk purchases of cards. These additional funds are then used to support our Outreach programs.

There are a couple of ways to purchase grocery cards currently:

1. You may order cards (with payment at time of order) OR (to be paid for upon receipt) to be picked up on the first two Sundays of the following month. Cards may be ordered **in the narthex** or on the sidewalk outside on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of August as well as succeeding months, following each worship service. Simply complete an available order form, attach your payment (check payable to COA with Market Basket on the memo line) or cash, and place it in the appropriate box located on the table.
2. You may order cards for immediate purchase and pickup (we often, but not always, have some extra cards beyond the number that have been pre-ordered) by phoning Karen Helmeczi (717-299-2972) or emailing to kjhelmeczi@gmail.com. Arrangements can be made to pick up and pay for these cards (check to COA as above or cash) on Sunday mornings or other convenient times or at the Helmeczi residence in Homestead Village (1832 Westcott Drive) very near the church or other negotiated location.

Please call Karen Helmeczi at 717-299-2972 or email kjhelmeczi@gmail.com if you have any further questions.



Team River Runner will be returning to Church of the Apostles from August 8-15, 2021. This program builds confidence and resilience in children living with blindness, and their families, by teaching them how to kayak as a family while partnering them with Veterans living with disabilities. As in the past we will be looking for volunteers to assist throughout the week. In collaboration with COA we have developed creative and innovative ways for you to share your times and talents. This event is fast approaching, but It may not be too late to help out!

For more information contact Jennifer Eaton directly at Jennifer.eaton@teamriverrunner.org or at 717-617-7549



Music Ministry

Director Update and Choir News



This past year has been a challenge for musicians as well as choral and instrumental directors throughout the world. We were not alone in the fight to adapt and discover new ways to make meaningful music in worship. One of the adaptations we had to make early was with choir. The choir has been a fixture at Church of the Apostles for many years and their absence certainly was felt. If you participated in the late services during April – June you may have heard the choir but did not see anyone singing in the sanctuary. Nathan Sheffer and the choir met on Thursday evenings during this time for their first rehearsals in over a year. At these rehearsals they pre-recorded all of the hymns used for worship. This was an attempt to go back to what was missing during COVID...live music! With that said, in September we will celebrate the choir's physical return. The first retreat since January 2020 is now scheduled for August 28 from 9am – 12pm at the Sheffer household. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a morning of singing and fellowship. We would

love to see you there. If you would like to join us please reserve your spot. Please email Nathan Sheffer (noshief@yahoo.com) or Lars Potteiger (larsp@apostlesucc.org).

In other news! Nathan Sheffer is headed into his tenth year as the choral and instrumental director for Church of the Apostles. He has grown tremendously since 2012 but this summer he celebrates two specific milestones. One is the completion of an M. Ed. in Music Education from Kutztown University. Sheffer began this journey in the fall of 2019 and during his studies was both inducted into the Delaware Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame as well as, Alpha Epsilon Lambda. The latter organization is the National Honors Society for Graduate and Professional Students recognizing Nathan for his leadership and outstanding academic accomplishments. After graduation he further celebrated as he was accepted into the Ed.D. program at Liberty University. Beginning in August 2021, he will pursue his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction: Instructional Design and Technology. Please congratulate Nathan as you see him in worship.

A MUSICAL NOTE WITH LARS POTTEIGER

We have some special musical events occurring during the month of August at COA. The Apostles Academy of Arts and Sciences is proud to present Morgann Davis' flute students in recital on August 22nd at 3pm in the sanctuary. Other students from the Academy will also join us for worship to share their musical gifts throughout the month of August.

If you or anyone you know would like to share of your time and musical talents to help enliven our worship during the month of August, please contact me at larsp@apostlesucc.org. Also, be on the lookout in the September Crown for more information about special performances coming up this fall and winter as part of the Academy Concert Series.

Blessings,
Lars



Carla Williams	8/1
Deborah Accomando	8/2
Ingeborg Kepple	8/2
Elizabeth Plamjack	8/2
Laurel Marx	8/3
Donna Bechtold	8/6
Luane Morrison	8/9
Stephen Noland	8/9
Beverly Waltman	8/10
John Eshbach	8/11
Kandi Fickes	8/11
Ronald Accomando	8/13
Kathy Duffey	8/13
Linus Whittington	8/13
Virginia Brown	8/14
Chris Conrad	8/14
Bernie Fickes	8/18
Bill Stock	8/18
Judith Frable	8/19
David Schick	8/19
Alexander Watkins	8/20
Thomas Weaver	8/22
Dan Fickes	8/23
Dan Lockey	8/23
Jeremy Bischoff	8/24
Terry Wilson	8/24
Nancy Hungerford	8/28
Pat Hess	8/29
Doris Robb	8/29
Kate Kendig	8/30

**90+ Birthdays*



Happy Anniversary!

Wishing these perfect pairs
a perfectly happy day.

8/2	Jim & Elizabeth Stoltzfus
8/2	Debby & Wade Walburn
8/2	Dave & Karen Longenecker
8/8	Terry & Kandi Fickes
8/9	Jane & Steve McCartney
8/9	Cliff & Stephanie Rampaul
8/10	Larry & Judy Waltman
8/14	Les & Karen Helmeczi*
8/16	Joe & Sandy Weidel*
8/20	George & Donna Bechtold*
8/20	Don & Karen Culp
8/21	Skeeter & Donna Carr*
8/25	Tom & Linda Lewis
8/28	Herb & Patty Forry

** 50+ Anniversaries*

Wondering Where to Send Articles for the Crown?

Please send articles for the August edition of the Crown to Schuyler Nissly, the Administrative and Communications coordinator by Sunday August 15 at: office@apostlesucc.org. Articles sent after the deadline will not make it into the September edition of the Crown so be prompt!

AUGUST WORSHIP FLOWER SPONSORS



In loving Memory of

- ♦ Michael W. Steger by his wife, Nancy
- ♦ John Markle by his wife, Audrey
- ♦ Robert Miller by his wife, Shirley
- ♦ Mr. & Mrs. Dan Fickes, Sr. and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Spangler on the birthdays of their children by Dan & Bernie Fickes
- ♦ My parents Norma and John Bachman, my brother, John Jr., and my sister Ann Louise by Mary Ellen Bachman

Want to Receive the Crown Digitally?

If you would like to update your preferences on how you are receiving the Crown whether that be digitally, print, or both, please contact us at office@apostlesucc.org or directly update your preferences through your Realm login and by signing up for our emails right on the home page at apostlesucc.org



Flowers are an integral part of our worship service. Not only providing a physical symbol of beauty during our worship, after the service they are given as a symbol of love and caring to a member of our community who is unable to be with us physically. The cost of our flowers and bulletins averages about \$140 a week. Our suggested contribution for sponsoring flowers and bulletins is \$35; however, any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor flowers, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it into the office. You can also sponsor flowers online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YGMP/campaign/C-YH1E>. A thank-you letter will be sent following your sponsorship with directions for sending in your donation. Thank you for your support in this important ministry.

Worship Commission

I would like to sponsor flowers on the following date:

“In honor of” or “In memory of”

Your name

Phone number

Please place this form in the church office or an offering plate.

If you have any questions please contact:

Jean Heidig 717— 394 — 8733

Wilma Klingler 717— 584 — 6430

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

President: Donna Carr

Ph: 717-475-5285

Email: skeetcarr@comcast.net

Vice President: Stephanie Moore

Ph: 717-330-8892

Email: smmoore331@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Smith

Ph: 717-615-1649

Email: andy.smith@bbandt.com

Secretary: Cathy Kenlin

Ph: 717-940-0364

Email: cmkenlin@comcast.net

Education Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall)

Chair: Judy Waltman

Ph: 717-285-7395

Email: jlwaltman@comcast.net

Worship Commission

(Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the Narthex)

Chair: Bernie Fickes

Ph: 717-925-9155

Email: penguindiva@verizon.net

Parish Life Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in Room 308-310)

Chair: Clara Kosmela

Ph: 717-468-3492

Email: joli6291@yahoo.com

Property Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in Room 305)

Chair: Herb Forry

Ph: 717-201-7863

Email: heforry@comcast.net

Stewardship Commission

(Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Narthex)

Chair: George Alspach

Ph: 717-201-2526

Email: galspach@aol.com

Outreach Commission(Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm every other month in the Parlor)

Chair: Jane McCartney

Ph: 717-392-4844

Email: spmccartney@comcast.net

Giving Report

E-Giving Continues to Grow

The ease of our e-giving option is evident in electronic contributions having nearly doubled from this time last year. Plus contributions for memorials, special offerings, and out-of-state gifts are growing every month. Now is a great time to check out e-giving! Discover the ease and versatility that has people continuing to give electronically for all their faith-filled gifts to God's ministry. Give at www.apostlesucc.org/give

	June 2021	June 2020
Revenue	267,003.31	233,591.71
Operating Expenses	339,154.55	310,489.71
Net Operating Income	(72,151.24)	(76,898.00)

Church of the Apostles Prayer Chain

If you have a need or concern for yourself or others, please call or email any person on the Prayer Chain and your request will be sent through all the links of the chain and the power of prayer will be a blessing to you and yours.

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
Susan Shaak (717) 872-2987
Doug Nutt (717) 283-2937

Link 3:

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

Link 4:

Jean Heidig (717) 394-8733 or jean.heidig@gmail.com
Donna Carr (717) 397-6305 or skeetcarr@comcast.net



Upcoming Special Events

COA Events

- All of August: Church Wide Book Study
 - In person on Sundays from 10:00am - 10:50am or Wednesdays from 11:00am - Noon. Zoom sessions on Thursdays from 7:00pm - 8:00 pm. Please note that we will not be meeting 8/8 - 8/15, take the week to catch up on reading! The next session will be on Wednesday August 18th.
- Sunday August 15, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Compassion Camp in the Rader Park Pavilion
- Sunday September 19 at 6:00pm, Owl Watch with Lisa Sanchez in Rader Park
- Friday September 24 from Noon - 6:00pm & Saturday September 25 from 8:00am – 1:00pm, Annual Garage Sale
- Tuesdays from September 26 - October 26, Heritage and Horizons - watch for more information to come!

Community Events

- August 8-15, Hartman Center Spirit Week, for more information visit <https://pccucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HCSpiritbrochure2021.pdf>
- August 21-22, Mt. Gretna Outdoor Art Show (<https://mtgretnaarts.com/>)
- August 23-28, Elizabethtown Fair

Church of the Apostles Staff Directory

Pastors and Leadership

Senior Pastor

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

Associate Pastor

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

Youth Leader

Jonathan Paredes

Music

Director of Music Ministry & Interim Bell

Choir Director

Lars Potteiger ext. 8203
larsp@apostlesucc.org

Director of Adult Choirs & Instrumental

Music

Nathan Sheffer

Children's Choir Director

Breanne Zipko

Office

Communications and Administrative

Coordinator

Schuyler Nissly ext. 8200
office@apostlesucc.org

Finance Administrator

April Fisher ext. 8207
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Operations

Property Manager

Eric MacLaren ext. 8214
ericm@apostlesucc.org

Sexton

Larry Rongione

Technology Specialist

Jonathan Shaub

Connect With Us!



Need Spiritual Inspiration?

Visit us at
www.apostlesucc.org/faith-and-inspiration
for weekly devotionals, sounds for the soul and more!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation



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