



# THE CROWN NEWS

August 2023 Vol. 47 No. 8

## Pastor's Corner

*Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." – John 13:34*

Church of the Apostles has been on a long journey to the place at which we currently find ourselves. We believe God is still speaking and speaks to and through each of us. Our challenge comes when our wisdom disagrees. Then we need to recognize our interdependence – how we need one another to move forward. As a community we are called to discern how we are following God and creating God's kin-dom on earth. The vision we look towards is one which creates the best outcome for humanity and the earth recognizing they are gifts from God for God's purposes.

At this point, the Vision Writers have created a first draft of the new vision and mission based on the core values we heard, and our Council has made suggestions to expand and clarify two points. Once the new vision and mission are affirmed by the Council, they will be shared with you. The most common core values we heard from the Jeremiah Project teams and leaders created the following statement:

We embody God's Love through:

- Inclusive Refuge
- Compassionate Justice
- Environmental Advocacy

We believe that God's love is stronger than fear.

We value social justice and inclusion.

We are called to care for our environment as God's creation.

May these core values guide our ministries!

Blessings & Peace,

*Pastor Kathryn Kuhn*



**ABE BRESLIN**  
**ACOUSTIC CONCERT**

**AUGUST 13TH**  
**3 PM IN RADER**  
**PARK PAVILION**

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

## In This Issue

- Message from Executive Committee, [pg. 2](#)
- Church Happenings & News, [pg. 3](#)
- Community Outreach, [pg. 4](#)
- Implementation Team Update, [pg. 5](#)
- A Musical Note, [pg. 6](#)
- Weekend at the Park, [pg. 7](#)
- Birthdays & Anniversaries, [pg. 8](#)
- Flower Sponsors, [pg. 9](#)
- Financial Giving Report, [pg. 10](#)

# A Message from the Council Vice President

*Who Moved My Cheese*, a book I read and studied in the late 1990s, keeps coming to my mind recently as I engage with committees and membership of Church of the Apostles. If you aren't familiar with the book, written by Spencer Johnson, it is an allegorical tale about mice and humans in a maze looking for "cheese", which is representative of happiness and success. Once the cheese is found all are happy and content, eventually the cheese runs low, and change occurs. The mice seek out a new cheese supply while the humans, fearful of leaving the comfort of what they are accustomed to, keep going back to the empty supply. Eventually one of the humans realizes that fear of the unknown has taken over, and the only way out of a bad situation is to embrace the motto: What would you do if you weren't afraid?



In our world today there appears to be much to fear. Explosions, pandemics, mass shootings, prejudice, hate... the list could be endless. As people of faith, God is the answer to our fears. A loving God who is working for the good of all people. The Bible reminds us in Isaiah 41: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Church of the Apostles is amid great change. My hope for the future of Church of the Apostles is that the fear, which change brings, is acknowledged and conversations occur to help each of us with the transitions ahead. Perhaps a guiding principle will be: **What would you do if you weren't afraid?**

-Written by Karen Braun, Vice President of the Council, Church of the Apostles

## Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date on church events and watch past services



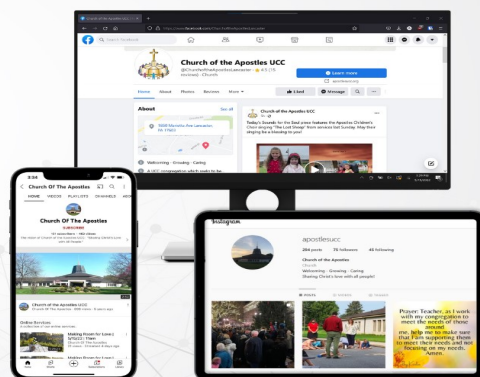
ChurchoftheApostlesLancaster



ChurchoftheApostles



ApostlesUCC



# Church Happenings and News

---

## Compassion Team

One in five Americans faces a mental health challenge. One out of seven Americans struggles with addiction. These are overwhelming figures, and for the folks who struggle with mental health challenges, these figures are daily reality. Furthermore, we know that families, friends, workmates, and neighbors of people experiencing mental health challenges are also affected. Recognizing that we are not alone, and that compassionate care is available, are the first steps in gaining and maintaining mental health.

To help those facing mental health challenges, Church of the Apostles has begun a series of initiatives to educate and support. A Compassion Team has been formed to carry out these initiatives, with your help. A permanent library of resources is being collected. Do you have books or other materials that have been helpful to you in developing mental health? Please consider donating copies to the library. Look for the donation box in the coat room.

A support group of compassionate listeners is forming. Are you a good listener with some free time to help someone in need? Please contact the Compassion Team by calling Donna Carr (717-475-5285) or Ellen Schellenberger (717-945-4057). Our goal is to have someone on call one day of each week. We will provide the training you need to be an effective and safe listener,

Want to know more about mental health and mental health support? Quarterly potlucks focusing on specific mental health issues begin in October. Are you a good cook? You can support mental health with your contribution to the potluck table.

---

## Zoom Sessions on Hold for TTWG

Currently we have no registrations for the *Tuesday Tussles With God* zoom gathering for 7 pm Tuesday evenings, so that zoom session is currently on hold. When registrations are received for the Tuesday evening zoom sessions, we will resume. If you wish to participate via zoom link please register with the Church of the Apostles office by phone (717-392-5718) or email ([office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)). We'll conclude our current study of the Gospel of Luke on August 8 and after a short break will move on to another study soon "to be determined". Suggestions for the new study are welcomed. Please contact Les Helmeczi (717-926-5026 call or text) or email: [leshelm2@gmail.com](mailto:leshelm2@gmail.com).

---

## “Becoming an Apostle”

If you have been visiting with us and are interested in helping us discern God's call on us as a community, we invite you to consider joining us in membership. There will be classes held October 22-November 12 and new members will be received on Sunday, November 19. If you have been an online worshiper, we want to make this available to you also, so it will be a hybrid gathering. Please email Rev. Kuhn to participate at [kathryn@apostlesucc.org](mailto:kathryn@apostlesucc.org).

---

## Faith Formation Teachers Needed

Our Faith Formation classes will begin in October and meet during the 10AM worship service.

*Rooted in Faith* – Grade 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Rooted explores what it means to be a Christian with faith, fun and food. Flo Waldron is the teacher with Audrey Markle assisting.

Primary Class – Ages 3 to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We use the *Shine* curriculum. This curriculum engages in imaginative, interactive Bible storytelling. Judy Waltman is the teacher from January to May. **We urgently need a teacher and helper for October, November and December.** Commitment can be for whatever time fits into your schedule, once or twice a month, etc. Please call the office (717-392-5718) to volunteer!

**More on pg. 11**

## 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 or not. Below are our upcoming books and days. Any questions? Contact Clara Kosmela at (717) 569 - 9960.

- **August 8, 2023:** *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult

## Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Looking to grow your spiritual practices with daily prayer, scripture, and reflection? The Upper Room is a great resource provided by the church to aid you in knowing and experiencing God more fully. Pick up a copy any Sunday at the Welcome Center or call the church office if you need a copy mailed to you. The devotionals are free with donations being welcome.

## Community Outreach

### UCC | **NEWS** DIGEST and General Synod

Do you want to learn more about the greater United Church of Christ and what they are doing? The UCC sends out regular emails called "UCC News Digests". To sign-up for these emails visit [ucc.org/news](https://ucc.org/news) and fill out the form located on the right side of the webpage.

Most recently, the UCC held their 2023 General Synod meeting with the theme "Making All Things New". This theme is especially relevant in the life of Church of the Apostles as we search for a new vision statement. To learn more about the General Synod meeting please visit [generalsynod.org](https://generalsynod.org).

### UCC History and Polity

From September 17 through October 8, Rev. Kuhn will be offering a class on the history and polity of our denomination and how it has affected who we are and how we operate as a church. Based on the apology to the African Christian Convention which has always been part of our denomination, although not acknowledged, we will be studying this newly acknowledged "stream" of our history. This is designed as an introduction for those who are not familiar with our history as well as a refresher and illuminator for those who have known it. The class will meet in the parlor and via Zoom from 3-4 PM on those Sundays.

**Ice Cream SOCIAL**

2023

**AUGUST 20**

**MISSION & MINISTRY PLANNED EVENT**

Join the Penn Central Conference from 3:30-5:30 PM and indulge in ice cream while hearing from various ministries and ministry partners.

**SCHELLENBERGER PAVILION  
IN RADER PARK**

1899 APOSTLE WAY, LANCASTER PA 17603



Greetings from the Implementation Team!

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, our Vision Writers got to work crafting new Vision and Mission statements for Church of the Apostles. It's easy to forget just how far we've come in this process so I've created a graphic to help bring some perspective. We began with the Jeremiah Project small groups.

At the group facilitator workshop all of your thoughts and dreams for the church were consolidated into statements and phrases. These phrases were shared with all and participants each chose three statements they felt best represented their small group. This process was repeated for our Core Values, Vision and Mission. Barbara Achtermann carefully tallied the votes and typed the handwritten words.

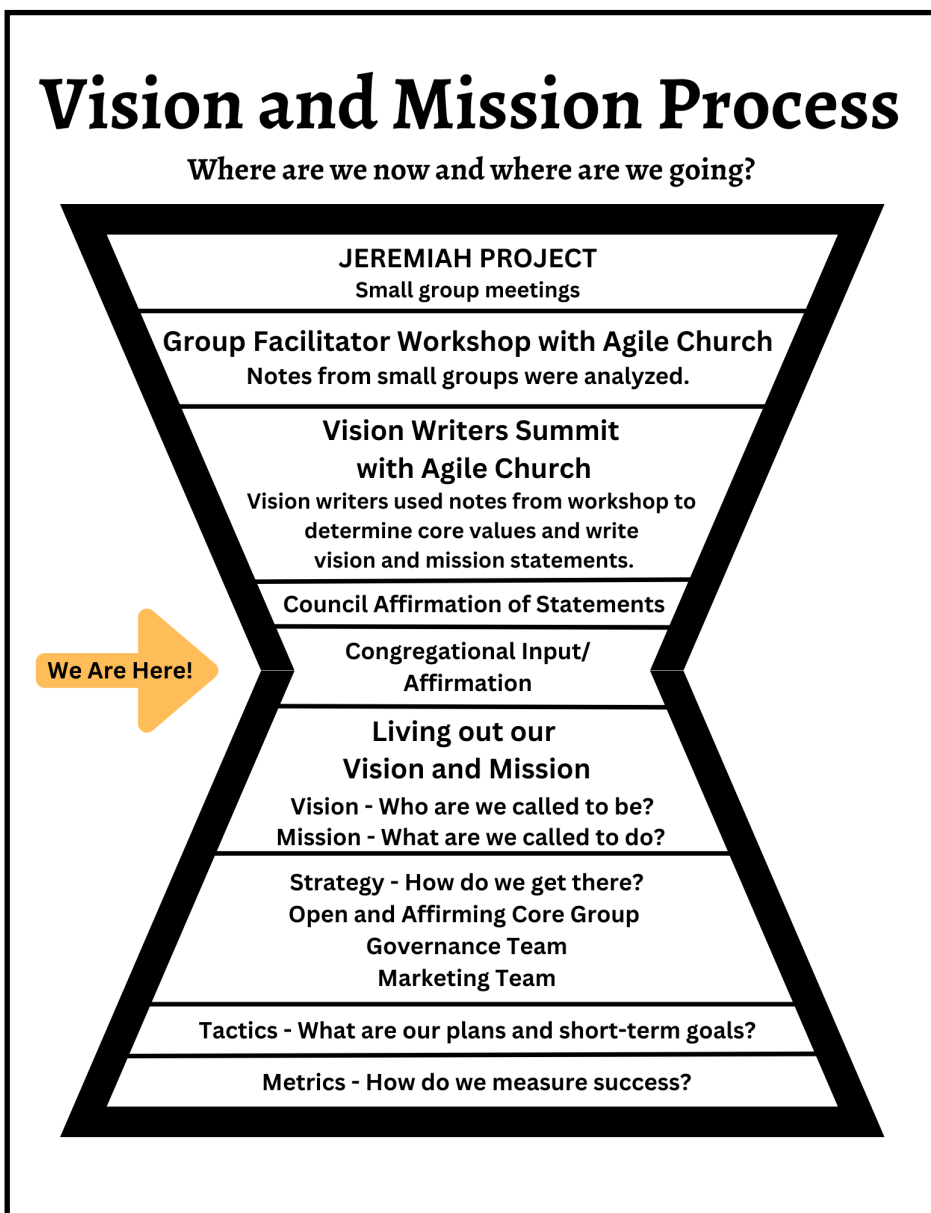
All of that information was passed on to the Vision Writers prior to their writing summit with Agile Church. Jeannie Clausen, James DeBord, Lou Gaudioso, Milt Gockley, Jim Stoltzfus, Flo Waldron and Terry Wilson worked incredibly hard to ensure that the words used in the new statements authentically captured the values set forth by the congregation. As the scribe for the summit, I saw firsthand the consideration that went into each and every word, but ultimately, it was easy to come to a consensus. That's because it all came from you!

This month, you will have the opportunity to sit with the proposed Vision and Mission statements. You will have a chance to share your thoughts with the Vision Writers. All opinions are welcome, however, the Vision Writers will not make any changes without careful and prayerful consideration in order to preserve the integrity of the process.

Once the Vision and Mission are affirmed by the congregation the real work begins. How exciting! I have personally felt a shift in the energy of the church. I hear it in your singing during the service and I see it in your smiles during fellowship. The Spirit is moving through us! Let's keep the momentum going!

Sincerely,

*Johanna Baker*



# A Musical Note

WITH  
LARS POTTEIGER

## Songs of Thankfulness to Develop an Attitude of Gratitude

Gratitude is an important part of our faith. This ability to be thankful for people, events, and blessings in our lives is good for both our physical and mental well-being, as well as an important part of our spiritual formation. Gratitude is also contagious: when we express it to others, they are also more likely to gift it forward. The scriptures offer us wisdom and guidance on how we can grow a spirit of thanksgiving in our hearts.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Worship songs offer inspiration in nurturing a transformative attitude of gratitude. The popular worship song "Forever" by Chris Tomlin speaks to thankfulness:

"Give thanks to the Lord our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good, He is above all things  
His love endures forever"

According to Tomlin, this iconic praise song was not written quickly. He was able to write the verses swiftly enough, but the chorus took significantly longer to work out. In total, the song took four years to complete.

There are also numerous hymns of praise and thanksgiving that offer insight and encouragement in developing gratitude. "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" written by Joachim Neander is one such hymn:

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
praise him in glad adoration."

Neander wrote this hymn around the year 1680. He was a prolific hymn writer, writing approximately 60 hymns before he died of tuberculosis at the age of 30. May we strive as a community to grow our faith through acts of gratitude in all things.

The final concert in the Apostles Academy Summer Concert Series is as follows:

August 13th at 3pm - Church of the Apostles' very own guitarist and vocalist Abe Breslin performs classic rock and popular hits in an acoustic format. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the sanctuary. A freewill offering will be taken in lieu of tickets for this concert.

Peace and Blessings,

Lars

Church of the Apostles  
a United Church of Christ congregation



**Church of the  
Apostles UCC**

# WEEKEND AT THE PARK

**Back-to-school camp-out in  
Rader Park**

**FOR ALL AGES**

**August  
26th -  
27th**

## Weekend Schedule

**Aug. 26th**

12-3 PM Arrival  
3-5 PM Family Games  
6 PM Fellowship Dinner  
7:30 PM Worship Service

**Aug. 27th**

9 AM Compassion Camp  
10 AM Worship in Rader Park  
11 AM Potluck Lunch

## Campsite

**Rader Park Pine Grove  
1899 Apostles Way**

## More Info

**Scan Here**



Contact Us: Phone +717-392-5718 Email: [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)



8/1	Carla Williams
8/2	Betty Plamjack
8/3	Laurel Marx
8/6	Donna Bechtold
8/7	Teigan Rohrbaugh
8/9	Kathy Barto *
8/9	Luane Morrison
8/9	Stephen Noland
8/10	Beverly Waltman
8/11	John Eshbach
8/11	Kandi Fickes
8/13	Kathy Duffey
8/13	Linus Whittington
8/14	Virginia Brown
8/14	Chris Conrad
8/16	Adrieanne DeLaney
8/18	Bernie Fickes
8/18	Bill Stock
8/19	Pat DiDomenico
8/19	Judith Frable
8/19	David Schick
8/19	Jonathan Shaub
8/20	Alexander Watkins
8/22	Tom Weaver
8/23	Dan Fickes
8/24	Teresa Wilson
8/28	Nancy Hungerford *
8/29	Pat Hess
8/29	Doris Robb
8/30	Kate Kendig

\*90+ Birthdays

8/2	David & Karen Longenecker
8/2	Jim & Elizabeth Stoltzfus
8/2	Wade & Debby Walburn
8/9	Jane & Steve McCartney
8/9	Stephanie & Cliff Rampaul
8/10	Judy & Larry Waltman
8/14	Les & Karen Helmeczi *
8/16	Joe & Sandy Weidel *
8/20	George & Donna Bechtold *
8/21	Skeeter & Donna Carr *
8/25	Tom & Linda Lewis *

\*50+ Anniversary







**Please use the form to the right  
to sponsor flowers.**

### *Have an Article for the Crown?*

Please send articles for the September  
edition of the Crown by  
Friday August, 18th to  
[office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org).

Please be aware that articles **MUST** be  
submitted by the 14th and be less than 200  
words. All articles must include a Who,  
What, Where, When, Why and How. If you  
have any questions please direct them to  
the Administrative & Communications  
Coordinator, Paityn Nissly.



Flowers are an integral part of our worship  
service. Not only providing a physical  
symbol of beauty during our worship, but  
allows us to honor and remember the cloud  
of witnesses who have enriched our lives.  
The cost of our flowers and bulletins  
averages about \$110 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, fill out  
the form below and place it in the offering  
plate or send it into the office. Please  
include your sponsorship donation with this  
form or check the box below if making your  
donation online through Realm.

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

☐ Check here if sponsorship donation  
has been made online.

**Please place this form in the church  
office or an offering plate.**  
**If you have any questions please  
contact the office:**

**(717) 392 - 5718 or**  
**[office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)**

**or**  
**Bonnie Eshbach**  
**(717) 569-0213**

# COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

**President: Lou Gaudioso**

Ph: 717-371-4402

Email: ajgaud@comcast.net

**Vice President: Karen Braun**

Ph: 717-471-5987

Email: karenbraun87@gmail.com

**Secretary: Johanna Baker**

Ph: 717-799-0001

Email: Johanna.baker@yahoo.com

**Treasurer: Cathy Kenlin**

Ph: 717-940-0364

Email: cmkenlin@comcast.net

**Education Commission**

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in room 304)

Chair: Judy Waltman

Ph: 717-285-7395

Email: jlwaltman@comcast.net

**Worship Commission**

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

Chair: Bernie Fickes

Ph: 717-925-9155

Email: berenicefickes4@gmail.com

**Parish Life Commission**

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm at 1866 Villa Court)

Chair: Clara Kosmela

Co-Chair: Louise Zabel

Ph: 717-468-3492 / 717-984-6604

Email: joli6291@yahoo.com / ldvilla@comcast.net

**Property Commission**

(Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 630 pm in the Parlor)

Chair: Tom Weaver

Ph: 717-205-7335

Email: tom.weaver.24@gmail.com

**Stewardship Commission**

(Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm in room 304)

Chair: George Alspach

Ph: 717-201-2526

Email: galspach@aol.com

**Outreach Commission**

 (Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7 pm every other month in the Parlor)

Chair: Jane McCartney

Ph: 717-392-4844

Email: spmccartney@comcast.net

## Giving Report

Thank you for your continuing generosity to God's ministries. Your ongoing, regular contributions allow us to live out the mission and calling gifted to us by God. Through you, lives are being touched, grace is being offered, healing is being nurtured, and the transformative reign of God is being shared.

## Financial Report

	June 2023	June 2022
YTD Revenue	\$245,714.81	\$301,766.83
YTD Operating Expenses	\$337,140.16	\$355,340.89
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$91,425.35	-\$53,574.06

## 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.

Steve/Monica Daniels	(717) 299-6007 or monicadaniels54@gmail.com
Lynn Steedle	(717) 390-4152 or ccsteedle@gmail.com
Bev Keller	(717) 898-2146 or bek0914@aol.com
Nancy Steger	(717) 617-2635 or nancyasteger@gmail.com
Jean Heidig	(717) 394-8733 or jean.heidig@gmail.com
Donna Carr	(717) 397-6305 or skeetcarr@comcast.net

Mary Ellen Bachman	(717) 393-8922
Susan Shaak	(717) 872-2987
Doug Nutt	(717) 753-8564
Cindy Williams	(717) 715-0716



Dear Congregation at Church of the Apostles

Thank-you so much for the book and gift card. I really appreciate it!

Sincerely,  
Cannon Kendig

### Faith Formation Continued...

Let's talk about Faith Formation. Faith Formation is the process by which our faith grows, and our lives are shaped by God's love. Faith Formation class is a great way to set a foundation of faith for our children. What a rewarding and important opportunity it presents for Faith Formation teachers.

The Shine curriculum teacher's guide lays out a simple plan for each week. It includes a Bible story, prayers, games, crafts, and a worksheet for each child. Teachers are offered weekly compensation. In addition, teachers are required, by Safe Church policy, to obtain criminal and child abuse clearances. The office staff can assist with obtaining.

## Tuesday Tussles With God

Join Mark Achtermann  
and Les Helmeczi on  
Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in Burkholder  
Chapel at Homestead Village.

Contact the church office at  
[office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) or (717) 392-5718 to join



# Church of the Apostles Staff Directory

## Pastors and Leadership

### **Senior Pastor**

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

### **Designated Associate Pastor**

Jonathan Paredes ext. 8202  
jonathanp@apostlesucc.org

## 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 Cornielle

## Office

### **Finance Administrator**

April Fisher ext. 8207  
finance@apostlesucc.org

### **Administrative & Communications Coordinator**

Paityn Nissly ext. 8200  
office@apostlesucc.org

## Operations

### **Property Manager**

Eric MacLaren ext. 8214  
ericm@apostlesucc.org

### **Sexton**

Larry Rongione

### **Technology Specialist**

Jaben Jury

## Connect With Us!



## Need Spiritual Inspiration?

Visit us at  
[www.apostlesucc.org/faith-and-inspiration](http://www.apostlesucc.org/faith-and-inspiration)  
for our service bulletins, sounds for the soul and more!

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

Church of the Apostles, UCC  
1850 Marietta Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17603-2398  
Phone: 717-392-5718  
Email: [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)  
[www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

