



# THE CROWN NEWS

December 2023 Vol. 47 No. 12

## Pastor's Corner

*"Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" – Luke 2:19*

Advent and Christmas offer us time to reflect on our relationship with God and how we live it out. This seems particularly important this year as we see the evil in our world and how systems we have long trusted are failing us. However, God created us as social beings so our social infrastructure is a piece we can consider and work on during this season and into the new year.

Our worship series for this season is called "The Gift of Being Present" and will remind us that the greatest gifts we can give to one another are our time and attention. Rather than going along with our consumeristic culture, we can choose to invest in developing relationship with our neighbors and those we encounter as we go about our lives. As we build these relationships, we can also share how important our faith is and how our church family strengthens and supports us.

We will be doing the season a bit different from our other liturgical brothers and sisters in Christ as we started the last week of November and on Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) we will only have our 3 pm and 7 pm services. Recognizing that some of us may need to gather Sunday morning on December 24 also, I will host a time of prayer and reflection at 10 AM in our parlor. If this would be helpful to you, I hope you will choose to join us!

In the face of the challenges of our lives, we welcome Jesus to be born into our lives again!

Blessings & Peace,

*Pastor Kathryn Kuhn*

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## 2023-2024 Schedule

DEC 2, 2023 @ 3PM

PHILADELPHIA HANDBELL ENSEMBLE  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF RON BELLAMY

JAN 28, 2024 @ 3PM

ROSS ELLISON, ORGANIST

MAR 3, 2024 @ 3PM

ALBRIGHT CHAMBER SINGERS

APRIL 28, 2024 @ 3PM

SILVER, WOOD, AND IVORY

ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC  
A FREWILL OFFERING WILL BE  
TAKEN IN LIEU OF TICKETS



## A Message from the Executive Committee

December brings with it the beginning of Advent, a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Here at Church of the Apostles, December finds us at a time of preparation to live into the vision and mission affirmed by the congregation in October. Just as Advent can be a hectic time of decorating, gift buying, baking, meeting with friends and family, the process of living into the vision and mission has much work to be done. New teams have begun work on analyzing the Church's governance, the most effective and efficient marketing practices to spread the vision and mission to the larger community, and the work to be an inclusive church for all people seeking to follow Jesus and the teachings of the Bible in a safe environment. The six commissions of the church begun the work of aligning goals to the new vision and mission of the church. In the weeks and months ahead leadership in all areas of the church will be looking for input on the best practices to fulfill the mission and vision of Church of the Apostles. We move into 2024 striving to live our core values: inclusive refuge, compassionate justice, and environmental advocacy. Advent is an exciting time, may the excitement for this season at Church of the Apostles fill your heart.

### Honor Bricks for Veterans

As Christmas approaches, we're excited to share that we've launched a new campaign this November, just in time for the holiday season. We are now offering memorial bricks to honor veterans from any branch of the military. This initiative is a collaborative effort between Team River Runner and Church of the Apostles. These memorial bricks will find their place in an Honor Garden nestled between the Pavilion in Rader Park and the Pond, alongside a flagpole graciously donated by TRR. For those interested in participating, Honor Bricks are available for \$125, and order forms can be obtained in the office, with checks as the sole accepted payment method. They make a truly meaningful Christmas gift for any veteran in your life.



# MOCKTAILS & MEANING



12.21.23

6:30 - 8:30 PM

CHRISTIAN  
NATIONALISM

w/ Dr. Greg Carey

MOCKTAILS - DISCUSSION - COMMUNITY

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

# Church Happenings and News

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## Christmas Service for Children

We invite you to our second Christmas Service for Children on Friday, December 22nd, starting at 6 PM in the sanctuary. In the spirit of coziness and fun, we encourage both children and adults to wear their pajamas. Join us as we explore the characters of the Nativity through engaging activities and stories designed to captivate young minds. This event is open to children of all ages, so bring your little ones and embrace the festive holiday spirit!

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## Winter Gear Drive

Hey COA community! Let's come together and share some warmth with middle school children (grades 6-8) who need winter gear. We're collecting hats, scarves, gloves, and gently used sweaters and coats suitable for both girls and boys aged 12-16. Find the donation box by the Outreach Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

Our collection runs through the end of March, so you have plenty of time to contribute. Questions? Reach out to Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285. Thanks for your support!

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## Children's Shopping Night & Elf Delight (6 - 7 PM)

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 5th, as we invite you to our Children's Shopping Night and a delightful Cookies with Elves event! Kids will have the exciting opportunity to pick out gifts (ranging from \$1 to \$5) for their entire family, including beloved pets.

Following the shopping spree, friendly elves from the Lancaster Flute Ensemble will enchant us with Christmas music and children can write letters to be sent to Santa. We'll also have scrumptious treats to enjoy and a creative station for making "Reindeer food". Please note that this event is exclusively for congregation and preschool families.

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## Preschool Christmas Program

Apostles Community Preschool would like to invite all members of Church of the Apostle to their Christmas Performances on Monday, December 18th & Tuesday, December 19th. The students will be performing "Joy to the World" as our annual Christmas program. Shows begin at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary.

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## Invite a Friend to Church

Christmas is a time when those who do not ordinarily attend worship will consider it. Particularly for those who are older, it is a time of remembrance and reflection on our greater purpose. People want to belong to something that is greater than themselves. So, let's invite them to join us! We do not speak or act like the Christians they see in the media. We are called to be welcoming to all without judgment. Please take time to consider the people with whom you are in contact. Who is looking for words of hope this season?

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## Blue Christmas Service

If the holiday season proves challenging for you, consider tuning in for our annual Blue Christmas Service. Together, we'll reflect on the profound gift of God in Jesus Christ and recognize that Christmas may carry a different sentiment this year. The service won't be broadcast live; however, you can watch the full recording on our YouTube and Facebook pages, available on December 20<sup>th</sup>!

## 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.

- **December 12, 2023:** Horse by Geraldine Brooks
- **January 9, 2024:** The Other Family Dictator by Karen Fine
- **February 13, 2024:** Village of the Third Reich by Julia Boyd & Angela Patel
- **March 12, 2024:** A Living Remedy by Nichole Chung

## 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.



## Christmas Memorial Flowers



Church of the Apostles will again be beautifully decorated for the 2023 Advent and Christmas season.

The wonderful decorations in the sanctuary, narthex and other areas are funded by the congregation as memorials or in honor of family members and friends.

You are invited to make a memorial offering in any amount to help with the cost of these decorations. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office on or before December 20th, 2023.

A memorial insert will be included in all the bulletins for the services on December 24th, listing the donors and the persons honored or memorialized.

You may then take a poinsettia plant with you, if you wish, from the *narthex* after the 3 PM service and from the narthex or sanctuary after the 7 PM service, or anytime during the next week. Thank you so much.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$

Presented by

In memory of:      In honor of:      (Please circle one)

PLEASE BRING OR MAIL TO THE CHURCH OFFICE ON OR BEFORE  
DECEMBER 20, 2023



## Inclement Weather Announcements

Winter has arrived! As a congregation, our policy is generally to follow the Hempfield School District. In the event of office closure or the inability to safely hold worship or other events we will post on WGAL-TV 8 and their app. We will also

include a message on the office phone and a post on Facebook when there is a closure or delay.





# Preschool News

During the month of November at Apostles Community Preschool we counted our blessings and gave thanks for all that we have. We had our annual school-wide feast with Friendship Trail Mix and danced "The Turkey Pokey" and Pastor Kuhn and Jonathan led our school-wide prayer. We also collected items for the COA food bank for our "Caring and Sharing" project. December will be spent preparing for the birth of Jesus! This is a very busy and fun few weeks at ACP. We have tons of fun reading, singing, playing, and creating during this season. We also spent a lot of time practicing for our annual Christmas Show!




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## 2024-2025 Preschool Registration

Registration begins for current students/families on November 27th, 2023. Church members and former ACP families can register throughout the month of December by contacting Jeannie Clausen, [jclausen.acp@gmail.com](mailto:jclausen.acp@gmail.com). Registration will open to the general public on January 8th, 2024.

ACP will be hosting an Open House from 6 -7 PM on January 10th, 2024 where prospective families will have the opportunity to visit our school and meet our teachers! Spread the word to family and friends!

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## SPOTLIGHT ON COA GRADUATES

After graduation we often lose touch with our students as they move on to college, careers, etc. Our goal is to shine a spotlight on what some of those graduates are doing this Winter.

**Connor Kendig** is half-way through his freshman year at Lafayette College in Easton, PA. **Tristin Neiderer** is at Messiah College, recovering from a leg injury. **Kameron Fickes** is taking a "gap year" before college. He's started his own business, "Kam's Power Washing". You can go right to his Facebook page for more information. We also learned that **Alexa Neiderer** chose to enroll at Philadelphia Osteopathic College this fall. The rigors of program leading to a D.O. makes her life full!

Speaking of full lives, **Nathan Sheffer**, having just tucked away a Masters in Special Education, is plunging into a PhD program. He still smiles while balancing teaching at Mennonite High School, leading Choir and instrumental music for us here at COA, and being present for his family.

**Jonathan Paredes** is using his newly minted M.Div. from LTS as our "Designated Associate Pastor". In October he completed all the paper work required for consideration for ordination in the UCC Denomination. Jonathan's Ecclesiastical Council Meeting will be in early 2024, stay tuned for more details.

# A Musical Note

WITH  
LARS POTTEIGER

Of the many carols sung at Christmas, few are as well known and beloved as “Silent Night.” Translated into over 300 languages and performed in a variety of musical styles, this carol had humble origins in a small Austrian town before it became well known around the world. The text was written by the young Austrian priest, Joseph Mohr, in 1816 commemorating the peace that had finally come after the Napoleonic Wars had ravaged Europe. He revisited the poem several years later in the winter of 1818 when the river Salzbach flooded the church he was serving. The organ was sadly damaged in the flooding thereby preventing music for Christmas, so Mohr contacted his friend, teacher and church organist Franz Gruber to compose a melody for the text of “Silent Night.” The duo then sang it with a guitar accompaniment played by Mohr after the conclusion of the Christmas Eve service, as guitar was not permitted in church services at the time.

The song may have remained known only within the local community if it weren’t for the organ repairman who came to the church to repair the organ after the flood. He took a copy of “Silent Night” back to his village where it was sung by different choirs in that area and also spread throughout Europe by two traveling families of folk singers. One of these traveling folk ensembles, The Rainer family, debuted the carol in 1839 in New York City. Subsequently, the carol was also translated and disseminated by traveling missionaries. One of the most touching stories surrounding the significance of this carol occurred during WWI on Christmas Eve in 1914. Europe was once again ravaged by war. On this most holy night, a truce was declared, and Germans, French, English, and American soldiers put down their weapons for the night and celebrated the holiday in the trenches. They sang “Silent Night” in their respective native languages and had a moment of respite from the bloodshed and destruction, showing in a powerfully profound way how this carol speaks to the universality of our shared humanity even in the most difficult of circumstances.

The Apostles Academy is excited to announce the following upcoming events:

- Academy teacher Eldonna Filardi’s voice and piano studio will have their Christmas recital on Dec. 16th at 2PM in the sanctuary. (No freewill offering will be taken at this recital)
- Dr. Ross Ellison will give a concert of varied organ music on Jan. 28th, 2024 at 3pm in the sanctuary. Dr. Ellison is a renowned organist and a professor of music and organ at Millersville University. He has also held several positions as an organist and choirmaster in the Lancaster and Harrisburg region. A freewill offering will be taken in lieu of tickets for this concert.

Blessings and Peace,

Lars

# Community Outreach

## Holiday Gifting Ministry

Join us in spreading holiday joy to the students at Martin Elementary School. We're thrilled to collect gifts for **60 students** who could use our support. To be a part of this heartwarming ministry, select a gift tag from the Outreach Bulletin Board, purchase the suggested gift, wrap it, attach the gift tag, and return it to the designated Caring Cart.

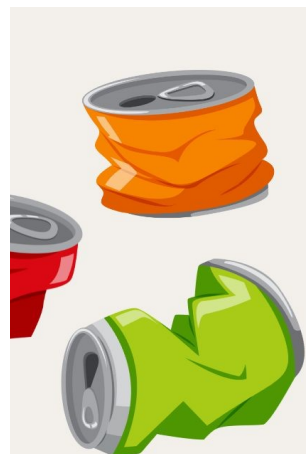
**Two essential reminders:** please sign your name next to your tag number, and ensure that all gifts are brought to the church no later than December 17th. If you have any questions, directions are available on the board. Thank you for your generous support of this fantastic gifting initiative!

## Supporting Youth at Bethany and Hoffman Homes

Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf and Hoffman Homes for Youth in Littlestown, both part of UCC Homes for Youth, have evolved from their origins as orphanages to become dedicated centers for the care and treatment of children and youth who have faced trauma, abuse, neglect, and severe mental health challenges. Bethany serves over 300 children and youth annually, while Hoffman Home provides support for up to 110 youth and young adults.

These young individuals receive personalized treatment plans aimed at nurturing trust, self-awareness, and fostering lifelong recovery. Remarkably, these homes have achieved a 95% success rate, enabling youth and young adults to return to their homes or care groups. It's a testament to the incredible work being done here.

We are fortunate to have such vital resources in our community, and your generous support can make a significant difference in these valuable ministries. Consider making a donation through Realm, Vanco, or Special Giving Envelopes to help us continue supporting these young lives on their path to recovery.



## Church of the Apostles UCC CAN COLLECTION

We are saving aluminum cans to be returned to the recycling center for profit! Cans can be dropped off at the Youth Center at Rader Park in the large marked bin. Please have them in a plastic bag if possible. Thank-You for your continued support of this program.

## Compassion Team's

### Listening Sessions

On September 23rd, 2023, the Compassion Team received training from Liz Grubb of Mental Health America, focusing on non-judgmental listening and offering resources for professional help. To arrange a private, confidential session with our flexible team, consult the posted schedule, with Thursdays as preferred days. Contact the assigned person for the week to coordinate a suitable time.

- **December 7th:** Robin Lucey, (917) 747-7755
- **December 14th:** Donna Carr, (717) 475-5285
- **December 21st:** Holy Kleimo, (717) 413-2322 & Mark Achtermann, (717) 823-3398
- **December 28th:** Barbara Achtermann, (717) 824-3265

## Compassion Corner

Following the 10 AM service, the Compassion Corner will be accessible for anyone interested in exploring books and other mental health materials. This resource will only be open on the second Sunday of the month and can be found in the Associate Pastor's office. A Compassion Team member will be on hand to assist you in locating what you require.





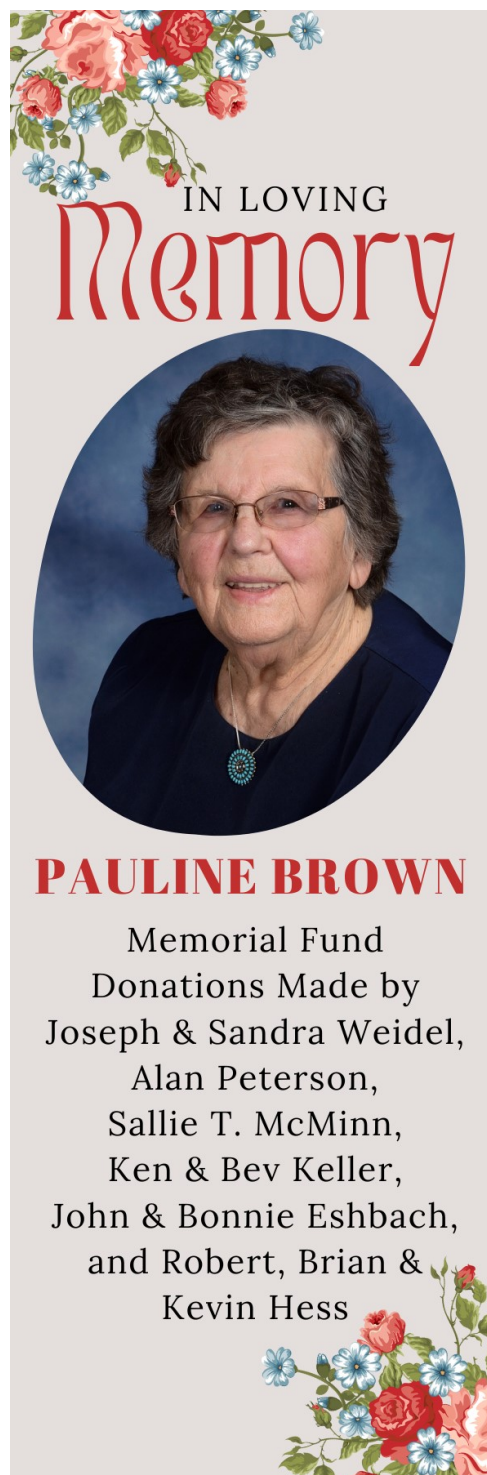
12/2	Janie Cardellino
12/6	Conner Braun
12/6	Kitty Flynn
12/7	Andrew Laymon
12/9	Stella Newport
12/9	Robert Schulmeister
12/10	Emma Carr
12/13	Beverly Hoffman
12/13	Linda Schock
12/16	Louise Zabel
12/16	Liviah Bracken
12/16	Carol Emig
12/17	Hunter Laymon
12/18	Mary Crozier*
12/18	Jim Wherley
12/19	Mike Hess
12/19	Kirsten Kepple
12/19	Stephanie Rampaul
12/20	Connie Souders
12/21	Cathy Kenlin
12/21	Holly Kleimo
12/21	Donna Maxwell
12/21	Marie Wenner*
12/23	Joyce Smedley*
12/23	Laurey Williams
12/24	Rich Braine
12/26	Molly Walters
12/27	Erin Rohrbaugh
12/27	Pat Cover*
12/27	Ed Fuller
12/28	Don Hess
12/29	Stephen Lockey
12/31	Kelly Zipko

\*90+ Birthdays



12/16	Kelley & Steve Brown
12/21	Dan & Bernie Fickes *
12/23	Peter & Mischelle VanBuskirk
12/31	Rev. Kathryn & David Kuhn

\*50+ Anniversary







**Please Use the Form to the  
Right to Sponsor Flowers in  
January.**

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

Please send articles for the January  
edition of the Crown by  
Friday, December 15th to  
[office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org).

Please be aware that articles **MUST** be sub-  
mitted by the 15th 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)**

# 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 305)

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 the Parlor)

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

	October 2023	October 2022
YTD Revenue	\$517,798.70	\$686,784.13
YTD Operating Expenses	\$566,703.57	\$602,356.59
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$48,904.87	\$84,427.54

## 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) 584-6791
Doug Nutt	(717) 753-8564
Cindy Williams	(717) 715-0716



Thank-you to the Church of the Apostles UCC Halloween Parade committee members for a fun and lively community event for families, children, and Homestead Village residents. We were glad to have the opportunity to participate! Hocus, pocus, unicorns, and skunks,

*Jim + Linda  
Bear*

### Children's Corner in the Sanctuary

A special thank you to Monica & Steve Daniels for the new "Children's Corner" banner so families can find our children's area easily. Your commitment to the congregation is appreciated!

Blessings, Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

## FAITH FORMATION

### Every Sunday

*ROOTED FOR GRADES 4TH-8TH AT  
9:55AM IN RM 308.  
**NOT MEETING DEC. 10TH OR 24TH.***

*PRESCHOOL - 3RD GRADE IN ROOM 306  
FOLLOWING CHILDREN'S TIME*



# 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!

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Lancaster, PA

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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)

