



THE CROWN NEWS

February 2024 Vol. 48 No. 2

Pastor's Corner

February is a time of the year when we are forced indoors and invited to slow down by the weather. It is a time when farmers are planning their yearly harvest and a time when we can reconsider those New Year's resolutions. It is time to reflect on our lives and consider how well we are following the ways of Christ, caring for ourselves and those with whom we connect.

As this Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, we are called specifically to consider the condition of our heart and the Spirit's encouragements. For what does your heart truly long? What is the Spirit whispering to you? In what ways are you being invited to strengthen and deepen your faith?

We often talk about giving something up for Lent. But it wasn't until the 11th century that the practice of penitence was part of a Lenten journey. So rather than giving something up, what might we take up for Lent? Could you add time in prayer to your schedule? Could you challenge yourself to daily scripture reading? Can you look for opportunities to help others in the community? Can you commit to smiling at each person you see and silently offering them a blessing? I'm not suggesting that we take on large tasks, but that we put more of God's love into the world. How might you do that?

May Christ guide us on our Lenten journey!

Blessings & peace

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn



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Update on Jonathan Paredes



In case anyone missed it, Jonathan has taken a part-time position as bridge pastor at Salem UCC of Rotherstown. He is still a member of our congregation and is willing to assist with any project or events where he could be helpful, but the position with Salem adds to his resume for when he talks with churches in Connecticut.

Once he receives a call from a church, we will have the privilege of ordaining him in our sanctuary. Hopefully, this will happen prior to them moving to Connecticut.

A Message from the NEW Council President

It's hard to believe that we are already into the second month of this new year. For many, this is when New Year's resolutions begin to fall by the wayside. It's so much easier to fall back into old patterns than to work towards creating new habits. This year, I am challenging each of us to avoid returning to the status quo in the life of Apostles. 2023 was a big year for us! Led by the Holy Spirit, we came together to create a new vision and mission statement. 2024 is the year we begin to live into that vision.

As a church that seeks to follow Jesus' example, we are called to be inclusive and generous, advocate for social justice and environmental care, and a safe space for those who feel afraid or powerless. This is going to be a year of growth while we seek out opportunities to bring this vision into fruition. Sometimes growth is scary and, at times, a little uncomfortable. That's okay. Let's learn to sit in discomfort as we listen for the spirit moving through our congregation. Together, we can make a difference in our community. Let's get to work!

With hope and love,

Johanna Baker, Council President

"Listening for God" Group

Throughout the Lenten season, Pastor Kuhn is launching two new groups centered around the theme 'Listening for God,' each lasting for six weeks. An in-person gathering is scheduled for Saturdays from 10-11:30 AM (starting 2/17/24), and the other will convene on Zoom on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 PM (starting 2/21/24). These groups aim to guide participants in reflecting on their lives and tuning into the voice of Christ within, fostering an awareness of God's presence. Pastor Kuhn seeks to strengthen faith and unearth deeper truths through meaningful conversations, a rarity in our culture. Both scripture and poetry will be used to open ourselves to the Spirit's voice. Registration is available on Realm or by emailing/calling the church office, specifying your preferred session.

JOIN US!

2.15.24
6:30 - 8:30 PM

**MOCKTAILS
& MEANING**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

w/ Steve Brown, Brandon Harter,
and Jim Stoltzfus

MOCKTAILS - DISCUSSION - COMMUNITY

www.apostlesucc.org/MocktailsMeaning

Church Happenings and News

Joyful Relocation Update for The Bilombele Family

As shared by Pastor Kuhn, the Refugee Welcome Team successfully assisted the Bilombele family in relocating to a more spacious apartment. Special thanks to all involved, including Steve & Monica Daniels, Jim Wherley, Jim, Jack, and Luci Stoltzfus, and Holly Kleimo for furniture assistance. If you'd like to send a card to the family, contact the office or Linda Lewis for their address.



Unfortunately, in light of the current housing market challenges, Bileman-ga may encounter difficulties with the monthly rental payments. The church, committed to assisting sponsored refugee families, has set up a fund. To contribute, send a check to Church of the Apostles with "Refugee Fund" marked. Your support will help the Bilombele family as they build a new life in America.

Winter Gear Collections: Keep the Warmth Coming

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to all those who have contributed coats, scarves, gloves, and other items for the students at Wheatland Middle School. Two substantial bags of donations have already been delivered, eliciting immense gratitude from both teachers and students. Please continue to support us by dropping off your donations in the marked bin in the Narthex. The collection period will extend until March. Thank you for your generosity!

Spring Clean for Community

Get ready for spring cleaning! Church of the Apostles UCC is gearing up for our annual garage sale and we'd love your donations. Whether it's clothes, dishes, small appliances, collectibles, children's toys, or even furniture – we welcome it all! For the full list of accepted items, visit apostlesucc.org/coa-annual-garage-sale/. Hold onto your items until March when we'll announce the start of donation collections through our Crown Newsletter. Let's make this garage sale a community success!



Become a Flower Sponsor

Have you observed the recent absence of Flower Sponsors in the past few months? Flowers play a vital role in our Sunday morning worship, offering a beautiful symbol to honor and remember those who have greatly enriched our lives. Without sponsors, these flowers cost the church \$60 per week. To become a flower sponsor, kindly fill out the sponsorship form found in the monthly Crown newsletters or reach out to the office via email at office@apostlesucc.org or by phone at (717) 392-5718. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Support Our Community with the Apostles Assistance Fund

Rev. Kuhn frequently encounters various requests for financial assistance, and your generous contributions to the Apostles Assistance Fund can make a significant impact on someone's life. To donate monetarily, please consider using Vanco, Realm, or special giving envelopes (extras located in the Narthex).

In addition to financial support, those in need often receive a bag of personal goods and food. The Apostles Assistance Fund collects donations of personal and home care supplies, placing them in the small grocery cart in the coatroom throughout the year. We also welcome non-perishable food items for those facing food insecurity, to be placed on the gray cart in the cloakroom. Your generosity in supporting individuals in our community who require assistance is truly appreciated.

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.

- **February 13, 2024:** Village of the Third Reich by Julia Boyd & Angela Patel
- **March 12, 2024:** A Living Remedy by Nichole Chung
- **April 8, 2024:** Kindred by Octavia Butler

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.

Church Happenings and News Cont.

Lancaster Association Music Fest on February 4th

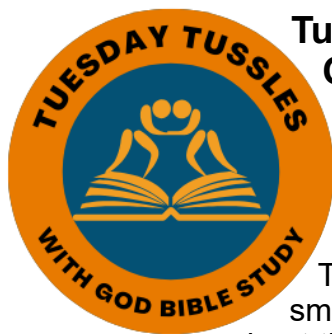
Join us for a delightful afternoon of music and fellowship at the Music Fest, hosted by the Lancaster Association of the Penn Central Conference. The event will take place at Church of the Apostles UCC on Sunday, February 4th, from 2 to 4 PM in our Sanctuary. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with others in our community and appreciate the diverse music ministries and talents of congregations in the area. Indulge in snacks, desserts, and refreshments prior to the performances scheduled to start at 2:30 PM. We look forward to sharing this celebration of music with you!

Stepping Into Inclusivity in 2024

Embarking on our journey to embody the spirit of our new Vision and Mission Statement, Church of the Apostles is thrilled to become an 'Inclusive Refuge.' As a safe haven for ALL individuals, we aim to extend our welcome to everyone, irrespective of their LGBTQ+ identity, race, culture, age, ability, family structure, or economic status, among others. To enhance inclusivity, 2024 will bring exciting initiatives, including movie screenings with discussions, small group meetings akin to the Jeremiah Project, educational speaker events, and opportunities for one-on-one conversations with our Inclusive Church Team members.

To foster an open dialogue, we value your feedback. What excites you? What concerns you? Do you have questions about how these changes might impact our church or what is expected from you? Share your thoughts, questions, or concerns via email at inclusive.church.coa@gmail.com. You can also connect with any members of the Inclusive Church Team (found in Realm) or directly with Pastor Kuhn.

Join us on this exciting journey toward a more inclusive and vibrant community!



Tuesday Tussles w/ God: Prophets of the Old Testament

Join us for 'Tuesday Tussles With God' at 10:30 AM in the Burkholder Chapel on Feb. 13, 20, 27. This engaging series invites you to delve into the messages of three major Minor Prophets from the Old Testament - Hosea, Amos, and Micah. Despite their small size, these prophets deliver powerful messages about the predictable consequences of deeds. Let's explore their timeless wisdom and discover how their words resonate with us today. All residents and friends are welcome. For advance materials, please register with Church of the Apostles at 717-392-5718 or office@apostlesucc.org, or contact Mark Achtermann or Les Helmeczi.




Preschool News

It's hard to believe that we are already half-way through the school year! Time flies when you are learning and having fun together!

The children and staff at ACP "Blasted Off into the New Year" for 2 weeks in January! Our little astronauts learned about the sun, moon, and stars. We learned about our solar system and the planets that orbit the sun. Our students had a "blast" experiencing this unit through space-themed art, music, and science!

Dinosaurs Rock! Apostles preschoolers also become paleontologists! We "dug" into science and dinosaur facts in our new unit, "Dinosaurs Rock!" Nothing sparks curiosity and imagination in preschool minds like the fascinating and amazing world of the dinosaurs. How big were they really? What are fossils? What does it mean to be extinct, and why did it happen? We all learned a lot together in during this exciting unit!

The Preschool held a very successful Open House for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. We currently have a limited number of openings available. Are you or anyone you know looking for a loving, caring, high-quality educational preschool experience for your child? If so, registration is still open and we would be honored to be your child's first school experience. Please contact Jeannie Clausen, jclausen.acp@gmail.com, for more information regarding registration.



Panera FUNDRAISING

Help support us!
Apostles Community Preschool

February 13, 2024
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT
130 Rohrerstown Rd, Lancaster, PA

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

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*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. **Services vary by cafe.

25% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED



Church of the Apostles UCC

STAMPS FOR VETERANS

We are still collecting used (cancelled) stamps off of envelopes to save for veterans. Stamps can be dropped off in the office during posted office hours.

If you have any questions please reach out to

Linda Eaton at (717) 393-0274

A Musical Note

WITH
LARS POTTEIGER

There are many beautiful Lenten hymns that give us an opportunity to reflect in worship as we walk through our Lenten journey. One of these, “What Wondrous Love Is This”, speaks to me through the use of text repetition and a melody composed in the haunting dorian mode. This hymn has a unique and memorable sound with an interesting story behind its evolution.

Originating in the American South, the text of the hymn was first published in 1811 in a camp meeting songbook by an unknown author. Hymnals at this time typically lacked musical notation, so text for hymns were often sung to well known melodies. The melody used for “What Wondrous Love Is This” was a popular English song titled “The Ballad of Captain Kidd,” written about the tales of the swashbuckling 17th century pirate, William Kidd. This hymn text and popular melody were first published together in the 1840 edition of The Southern Harmony and have been used in combination ever since.

While this hymn has a gravity that is typical of hymns for the Lenten season, the final stanza points to Christ’s resurrection that comes at Easter, offering us both beautiful imagery and hope on our Lenten journey:

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

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

- The Albright College Chamber Singers will perform a concert of choral music on March 3rd, 2024 at 3 PM in the sanctuary under the direction of Dr. Derrick L. Thompson. This ensemble is one of Albright’s premier vocal ensembles and is known for performing compelling concerts of stylistically diverse repertoire.
- Silver, Wood and Ivory is a duo that consists of Tracy Dietrich performing on different flutes and recorders and her collaborator, pianist Cindy Wittenberg. This duo performs sacred and classical music that is beautiful and engaging. The Academy is proud to host this duo in concert on April 28th, 2024 at 3 PM in the sanctuary.

A freewill offering will be taken in lieu of tickets for these concerts.

Blessings,

Lars

2024 NON-PLEDGE GIVING SCHEDULE

February 14th	Ash Wednesday
February 18th	Apostles Assistance Fund
March 17th	One Great Hour of Sharing
March 24th	Maundy Thursday, Good Friday
May 26th	Strengthen the Church
June 16th	Lancaster Theological Seminary
September 18th	Harvest Home/Food Bank
October 6th	Neighbors in Need
December 8th	UCC Christmas Fund
December 24th	Bethany/Hoffman Homes

Black History Month in Lancaster

As we honor Black History Month, Church of the Apostles UCC proudly stands as an inclusive community that seeks to provide refuge for those who feel powerless or afraid. This month, we are committed to embracing and celebrating the rich tapestry of Black history and culture.

Below you will find volunteer opportunities, outreach ministries, and events within Lancaster City, amplifying our commitment to community service and support.

1. Register this month for the Race Against Racism on April 27th! For over 25 years, the Lancaster community has united to eliminate racism and empower women with YWCA Lancaster. Register now at ywcalanaster.org/Raceagainstracism/
2. Join the AACA for their Black History Month Fashion Show on Feb 3, 2024, at 5:50 PM at Lincoln Middle School. Celebrate local designers, models, and entertainers as they showcase empowerment through preservation. This inclusive event challenges traditional fashion norms, celebrating black beauty, style, and their impact on popular culture.
3. Consider volunteering with local organizations dedicated to promoting equality and eradicating race-based discrimination. Some opportunities are available with organizations such as NAACP Lancaster, Crispus Attucks Community Center, and YWCA Lancaster.
4. Support the Church of the Apostles UCC Assistance Fund this month, providing financial aid for local community members with bills, rent, food, and more. Donations can be made through Realm, Vanco, or by using Special Giving Envelopes located in the Narthex.

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.

- **February 1st:** Mark Achtermann, (717) 823-3398
- **February 8th:** Donna Carr, (717) 475-5285
- **February 15th:** Barbara Achtermann, (717) 824-3265
- **February 22nd:** Ellen Schellenberger, (717) 945-4057
- **February 29th:** Ellen Schellenberger

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.



2/1	Nils Stenman
2/3	Brody Moore
2/4	Kelley Brown
2/4	Nick Bravo
2/4	Jill Craven
2/5	Larry Frable
2/6	Marianne Deaner
2/6	Susan Stirling
2/6	Mason Koehler
2/7	Dale Marx
2/8	Glenn Ebersole
2/9	Joy Angevine *
2/9	Lisa Ann Sweigart
2/10	Kathy Johnston
2/13	Cole Kendig
2/13	Dorothy Freeman
2/14	Mary Ellen Bachman *
2/14	Miles Clausen
2/15	Emerson Brown
1/16	Joe Bahling
2/16	Nora Bravo
2/18	Michele Wherley
2/23	Deb Aukamp
2/24	Shirley Miller
2/27	Rasma Pakalnins *

*90+ Birthdays

No Anniversaries in February

Dear Pastor Kuhn & Church of the Apostles,

I appreciate the cards you all have sent me. It is hard not to join you all for celebrating the birth of Christ. I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and peace in our divided world. In my heart, I am with you.

Best Wishes,

Andree Goldman



**Please Use the Form to the
Right to Sponsor Flowers in
March**

Have an Article for the Crown?

Please send articles for the March
edition of the Crown by
Thursday, February 15th to
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**

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

President: Johanna Baker

Ph: 717-799-0001

Email: Johanna.baker@yahoo.com

Vice President: Lou Gaudioso

Ph: 717-371-4402

Email: ajgaud@comcast.net

Secretary: Karen Braun

Ph: 717-471-5987

Email: karenbraun87@gmail.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 2nd 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.

Last month's Mission to the Homeless special offering had raised \$467 as of the publishing.

Financial Report

	December 2023	December 2022
YTD Revenue	\$420,195.26	\$563,099.01
YTD Operating Expenses	\$680,664.40	\$709,788.71
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$260,469.14	-\$146,689.70

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



Eating Our Way Through Jesus's Origin Story

ROOTED's first Kitchen Takeover of the 2023-2024 year was a delicious success! Our grades 3-8 Christian Formation class has been studying Jesus's "origin story" all fall, by comparing the accounts in the four Gospels (spoiler alert: Mark starts with the beginning of Jesus's ministry, NOT His birth!). In preparation for our Kitchen Takeover, we ended our last class of 2023 by reading Matthew's story of the arrival of the "Three Kings," along with Jesus and His family's flight to Egypt.



Eight ROOTED youth celebrated Día de Reyes (Three Kings' Day, or Epiphany) in the church kitchen on Jan. 7, where they learned to make a Rosca de Reyes (Kings' Cake), which is traditional breakfast food on Three Kings' Day in Mexico. As we learned in ROOTED, in many Spanish-speaking parts of the world, Christmas is strictly a religious holiday, when families attend church; people then exchange gifts on Epiphany (not Christmas) in honor of the Magi's gifts to Baby Jesus. Along with our Kings' Cake, we sampled fresh papaya with lime juice and star fruit. We had a lot of fun learning – and tasting! – how Christians in other cultures commemorate Jesus's birth.

FAITH FORMATION

Every Sunday

ROOTED FOR GRADES 4TH-8TH AT
9:55AM IN RM 308.
NOT MEETING FEB. 11TH

PRESCHOOL - 3RD GRADE IN RM. 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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