



THE CROWN NEWS

January 2024 Vol. 48 No. 1

Pastor's Corner

If you are a Dungeons & Dragons fan, Matthew chapter 2:1-12 is a Bible story for you. As church tradition has developed, these 3 Wisemen, Kings or Magi—usually depicted in historical Christian art as different races—follow the prophecy of a bright star as the sign to the newborn king of the Jews in Bethlehem from the East with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for baby Jesus. When they arrive in Jerusalem to ask King Herod about this event, no one in Herod's court knows what these visitors are talking about. Deceitful Herod sends them to find the baby and asks them to let him know too so he can also worship him. In reality, he is already planning on killing the baby because he does not want to lose his throne. In a plot twist after they visit Jesus, they have a dream and are warned to go back home a different way and not go back to Herod.

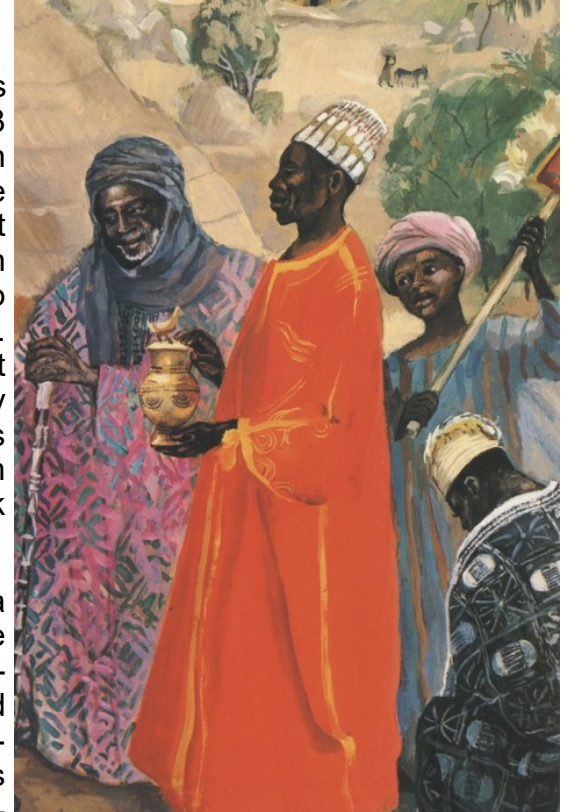
The historical accuracy of these visitors is that they are from a male priest line in the Persian Zoroastrian religion. Fun fact, the word Magi is plural for Magus. Darius the Great, ruler of the Persian empire (522-486 BCE) at its height, is the earliest recorded user of this term in this context. The Magi are known to study astrology, have knowledge of science, and have magical powers and is why Magi have become synonymous with magicians. History attributes that the Magi learned of the prophecy of the star, a sign of the newborn king of the Jews, from Jewish text that was written in Babylon while the Jews were in exile and gathered and wrote the Hebrew Bible.

In this coming year, you see the signs at Apostles. You see what is stirring and what is changing at the church. Like these Magi from the East that saw the sign and invested themselves in the event, do not be a spectator to history at Apostles. Find ways to use your talents and gifts to be part of the story in the coming year. I pray that God begins to give you all opportunities to find your place in our community of faith as active participants in making our vision and mission a reality.

Save the date! Join us on Saturday, January 27th, at 9:30 AM for my Ecclesiastical Council, a crucial step toward my ordination. All members and friends of COA are warmly invited to attend.

Blessings,

Jonathan Paredes



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A Message from the Executive Committee

One of the key elements of our new vision and mission is “Inclusive Refuge.” What does that mean to you? To me, it means that when we encounter someone else, we see them as a child of God, someone who is deeply loved and uniquely cherished by God – just as we are.

Do I always see and treat people that way? No, not always. The driver who didn’t believe the right lane was closed at the 222 on-ramp and decides to cut back in front of me at the last minute is not someone I immediately recognize as a child of God. But after thinking and just maybe saying some choice words, I say a quick prayer that they get to their destination safely.

In today’s world, inclusiveness is not something that is always valued. It is not uncommon for someone to use the word “woke” as a derogatory term when they see someone else trying to be inclusive and even considerate of another’s experiences and beliefs. And that is why I think it is even more important that we, as a church, practice inclusiveness. Christianity today is often seen as exclusionary and judgmental. But who did Jesus exclude? If we are truly to follow in Jesus’ example, we are to welcome and accept all who would want to join us.

Some of us attended the Hempfield Community Belonging Initiative where we heard how our Jewish and Muslim neighbors feel excluded and isolated, and even threatened at times. But religion is not the sole reason people may feel excluded in their community. People may feel excluded for many reasons: being a single parent; being a person with a disability; being a person of a different race or a different economic class; being unemployed for a long period of time; being a member of the LGBTQ+ community; being a convicted felon; being a survivor of domestic violence; being a refugee or non-citizen; being a person experiencing health issues including mental health concerns; or one of many other reasons.

When people come to Church of the Apostles, how can we welcome them and ensure that they feel that our congregation is a safe space for them to be who they are? How do we provide an opportunity and the space to grow and to be nurtured in their Christian faith?

Sincerely,

Cathy Kenlin - Council Treasurer



JOIN US!

MOCKTAILS & MEANING

1.18.23
6:30 - 8:30 PM

BAIL REFORM
w/ Jason Perkowski

MOCKTAILS - DISCUSSION - COMMUNITY

www.apostlesucc.org/MocktailsMeaning

Church Happenings and News

Formation of 50th Anniversary Committee

We're thrilled to announce the formation of a committee dedicated to planning our congregation's 50th anniversary celebration for May 2025. Committee members include Donna Carr, Julie Berkow, Arlene Gaudio, Jeannie Clausen, Steve Wilson, and Linda Lewis. We're exploring various ways to commemorate this milestone, from dinners and picnics to historical displays and concerts.

We invite you to get involved! Your input is crucial for planning activities and projects. We'll also need assistance in implementing events and are seeking loans of items like photos and programs that reflect our church's five decades of history. If you're interested in contributing or assisting during the celebration in May 2025, please contact Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285.

Honor Bricks Campaign Extended until March 1st, 2024

Did you happen to miss the launch of our Honor Bricks campaign back in November? No need to worry, as this campaign is still ongoing, and we are welcoming applications for bricks until early March 2024! We're thrilled to announce the introduction of Honor Bricks, allowing us to pay homage to veterans across all branches of the military and emergency personnel. This impactful initiative is a collaborative venture between Team River Runners and Church of the Apostles UCC.



These commemorative bricks will find their permanent home in the Honor Garden, situated between the Pavilion and Pond in Rader Park, alongside a flagpole generously donated by TRR. To participate in this meaningful gesture, you can acquire a brick for \$125. Order forms are available in the office, and we gladly accept checks made out to COA with "Honor Brick" written in the memo line. Additionally starting on January 7th, we will expand payment options to Realm & Vanco! Ensure you grab a form today to secure your spot in our honor garden at Rader Park!

Tuesday Tussles with God: Exploring Forgiveness

Discover the mysteries of forgiveness with our Tuesday Tussles with God Bible study! Starting January 9th, join our insightful discussions every Tuesday from 10:30 -11:30 AM in Burkholder Chapel at Homestead Village. Learn with us what forgiveness truly means, how to achieve it, and explore biblical insights on reconciliation. Let's journey together towards understanding and embracing forgiveness. Please register by emailing the office at office@apostlesucc.org. See you there!

Carry Our Vision & Mission

Have you picked up your free keychain card yet? Show your ongoing support for Church of the Apostles by grabbing a free keychain card featuring our new Vision and Mission! Find them conveniently placed in the Narthex, inside a bowl at the nametag display. For your added convenience, if you'd like one mailed to your home address, please email the office at office@apostlesucc.org.



Supporting Our Community: Food Bank and Apostles Assistance Needs

Church of the Apostles UCC is seeking support for our Food Bank and Apostles Assistance programs. The Food Bank urgently requires donations of peanut butter, cereal, canned tuna, Tuna Helper, boxed stuffing, mac & cheese, canned fruit, crackers and canned chicken, while the Apostles Assistance program is in need of essentials like laundry detergent, paper products, hair care items, cleaning supplies and toothbrushes. Donations can be dropped off in the small caring cart in the coat room.

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.

- **January 9, 2024:** The Other Family Doctor 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.

Church Happenings and News Cont.

Planning Meeting for Revived Bazaar: Jan 24!

The Church Craft Group is eager to bring back the "Christmas in the Country" bazaar, albeit on a smaller scale. A planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24th, at 7 PM in Room 305 (Craft Room). They welcome everyone to join in shaping this event, set to take place on Saturday, November 9th, 2024. Excitement is building, with vendors from last year's craft show expressing their enthusiasm to return, and several church members keen on orchestrating a refreshed version of the traditional bazaar.

All are encouraged to attend this meeting. For additional information, please feel free to contact Bernie Fickes at (717) 925-9155 or via email at berenicefickes4@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you on January 24th!



HOPE FOR UKRAINE

Allina Kay will share her experiences working with vulnerable children in Ukraine, shedding light on the conditions they face. Notably, she will discuss the "Shade For Children" mission, a heartfelt initiative aimed at building a new cottage to provide 8-10 orphaned or deprived children with a loving and nurturing environment.

DATE: 9TH JANUARY, 2024 AT 6:30 PM
LOCATION: CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC, 1850 MARIETTA AVE.
LANCASTER, PA 17552

For More Information: www.apostlesucc.org



SPEAKER:

ALLINA KAY

REGISTER NOW



Preschool News

The children at Apostles Community Preschool had a fun, festive, faith-filled month of December! They learned about the true meaning of Christmas and celebrated the birth of Jesus through hands-on activities and sharing their blessings by giving to others.


At any given moment this month, you could hear the sweet sound of children's voices singing "Silent Night," "Go Tell it on the Mountain," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!" The children also performed "Joy to the World" for our annual Christmas Performance. They did a fabulous job and certainly sang their little hearts out. Our Pre-K classes also visited our grand friends at Homestead Village to spread some Christmas cheer!

Our Open House will be on January 10th from 6-7 PM. Please spread the word to family and friends! Spots are filling up fast for the 2024-25 school year!

We wish everyone a very blessed and happy New Year!

WE CAN DO THIS!!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE
FOIL-WRAP
GOODNE
GENEROUS
HELPING
FAIRNESS
WE CAN CHANGE
FOOD IS THE BEST
ULTIMATE
FOOD IS THE BEST
FOOD IS THE BEST

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
**APOSTLES COMMUNITY
PRESCHOOL**

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH | 4-8PM
130 ROHRERS TOWN RD STE 10, LANCASTER, PA, 17603

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **PBCBRXN**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



Preschool Christmas Shows 2023

A Musical Note

WITH
LARS POTTEIGER

When I think about New Year's resolutions, what tends to come to mind are tired cliches: losing weight, quitting something in life that no longer serves, or taking up a new hobby or interest. While all of these can be beneficial resolutions, the concept of resolving to do something differently in the new year isn't necessarily something we talk about as it relates to our faith. What if one of your resolutions for the new year could convict you to grow in your faith?

Adopting a new faith practice is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your relationship with God. Perhaps there is something you've always wanted to try and have yet to do so. You could make a commitment to read your Bible more regularly and spend more time in prayer. There are guided devotional and prayer resources available online or in print, or you might pick and choose different parts of the Bible to read on your own in a more freeform fashion. Another option might be to mindfully focus on how you are giving. This could be anything from monetary gifts to giving of your time and talents. A resolution of this sort can be a great opportunity to reflect on how you prioritize giving in your life and how it can most effectively help to serve others.

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

- 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.

ORGAN CONCERT

Special Performance :

Ross Ellison

28
JANUARY

3 PM IN
SANCTUARY



- The Albright College Chamber Singers will perform a concert of choral music on Mar. 3rd, 2024 at 3pm 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 3pm in the sanctuary.

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

Peace,

Lars



1850 MARIETTA AVE
LANCASTER, PA 17603



Update Recurring Electronic Gifts

Now is an opportune time to verify that your recurring electronic gift aligns with your intentions for 2024. If you are not currently utilizing recurring gifts, this is an ideal time to consider this option. Please note that the church office does not adjust electronic gifts, even if you have modified your pledge for 2024.

For Vanco Users, there are two options for you to consider:

1. Continue with Vanco, either by updating or confirming your existing recurring gift.
2. Cancel your recurring gift and transition to using Realm for your electronic giving.

For Either Option:

1. Log into your Vanco account:
 - A. Online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YGMP/home>
 - B. Or through VancoMobile App.
2. Select "Profile" and then "Transactions" to view and/or edit your recurring gift.

For First Time Realm Contributors:

1. Log in to your Realm account, Contact the office if you don't have a login.
 - A. Online: <https://onrealm.org/apostlesucc/signin>
 - B. Or through the Realm Connect App
2. Create a recurring gift by selecting "+Give" or "Give Now" and follow the prompts.

For Existing Realm Users:

1. Log in to your Realm account, view ways above:
2. To view your scheduled giving
 - A. Select "Giving" and either "Scheduled" or "History" (If using the Connect App).
 - B. Edit or cancel by selecting the three dots to the right of the scheduled gift.
3. Create a recurring gift by selecting "+Give" or "Give Now" and choose "Give Multiple Times."

If you encounter issues, please feel free to call April Fisher, our Finance Administrator at (717) 392-5718 ext. 8207.

For those who use envelopes for your giving, envelopes will be in the hallway outside the office door. They will be in alphabetical order by last name.

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.

- **January 4th:** Mark Achtermann, (717) 823-3398
- **January 11th:** Holly Kleimo, (717) 413-2322
- **January 18th:** Robin Lucey, (917) 747-7755
- **January 25th:** Milt Gockley, (717) 892-8376

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.



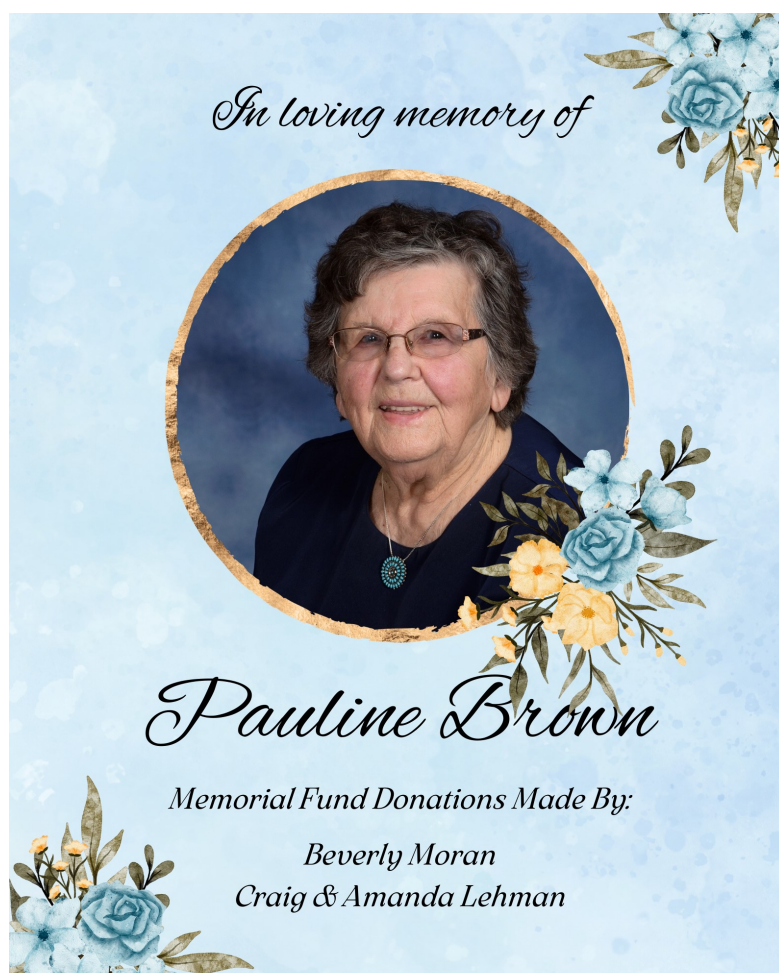
1/2	Dick Cunningham
1/3	Cathie Oliphant
1/4	John Wylie
1/6	Ashley Walburn Hull
1/7	Chris Braun
1/8	Bernie Ochs
1/10	Arlene Gaudio
1/11	Wende Stenman
1/12	Dorothea Greenawalt*
1/14	Liam Dubs
1/16	Donald Koontz*
1/17	Delayne Breslin
1/17	Vincent Kuhn
1/19	Karen Helmeczi
1/21	Carol Burkholder
1/22	Jennifer Eyrich
1/24	Andree Goldman
1/24	Weston Koehler
1/29	Lois Millhouse
1/30	Caela McCooey
1/30	Jack Stoltzfus
1/31	Gabe Bravo
1/31	Chuck Erisman
1/31	Andy Smith

*90+ Birthdays



1/19	Stephen & Donna Lockey
1/31	Mike & Beth Buckwalter

*50+ Anniversary





Please Use the Form to the Right to Sponsor Flowers in February.

Have an Article for the Crown?

Please send articles for the February edition of the Crown by Monday, January 15th to office@apostlesucc.org.

Please be aware that articles **MUST** be submitted 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: 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 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.

Financial Report

	November 2023	November 2022
YTD Revenue	\$544,438.44	\$712,949.50
YTD Operating Expenses	\$620,792.49	\$657,167.87
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$76,354.05	\$55,781.63

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



ROOTED Kicks off 2024 with Kitchen Takeover

Concluding our exploration of Jesus' origin story, ROOTED, our Christian Formation class for grades 3-8, invites students to a Kitchen Takeover on January 7th. Embrace the cooking adventure as we come together in the church kitchen to bake a traditional Mexican Kings Cake in celebration of Epiphany. Remember to bring your water bottles, aprons, and hats. You can drop in anytime between 8 AM and 10 AM to join in the culinary fun! Please note that regular 9:55 AM classes in Room 308 will resume on January 14th.

FAITH FORMATION

Every Sunday

*ROOTED FOR GRADES 4TH-8TH AT
9:55AM IN RM 308.*

KITCHEN TAKEOVER ON JAN. 7TH

*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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