



THE CROWN NEWS

September 2023 Vol. 47 No. 9

Pastor's Corner

The Plentiful Harvest Motif in scripture

Summer is almost over! The comment either gives you relief or ramps up your anxiety. Kids are back to school and life is taking a new rhythm. But not just yet! Most of you horticulturalists are now reaping the harvest of all the work done in your gardens. It is the final gift of summer. You will be able to enjoy the bounty of the time, energy, and finances invested in this project of love. It is amazing to see how a few tomato seeds grow into a plant and then end with more than enough tomatoes. The Bible is very clear and adamant on this illustration as it pertains to money and generosity.

I am always annoyed by the sower in the parable. How can someone just go around scattering seeds wherever and without purpose? He must really not care or he must really be bad at his job. Either way it doesn't matter because if we use our reason and logic he will starve by the end of the year. His harvest won't be enough. He should have been absolutely careful in his seed sowing. What Neanderthal plants a garden that way? He's not going to have the neat rows of crops. I definitely do not recommend this guy or his style as a gardener. The most annoying part is that the generously scattered seeds produced a large harvest.

The prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 17, in the middle of a famine that he caused by stopping rain from falling, goes to the foreign city of Zarephath and there encounters a widow that is planning to bake the last loaf of bread with the last of her resources, eat it, and then wait to die of starvation. The prophet set before her a request. Make the bread but give it to him instead. In faith she does that and God provides enough food for Elijah, her, and her son to last the rest of the famine.

Even Paul, who is always complicated, is simple in reiterating the motif. "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, *so that* by always having enough of every-thing, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8). I don't need to do any deep homiletics. Paul is saying to the rowdy Corinthians, give abundantly, get abundantly. How simple is that? Unfortunately, I've reached my word count limit and I can continue to write an entire book on the scripture references of the blessings of living in generosity and not in fear. Even though we are at the end of summer and it's time to gather our garden crops. Fall is the time the church returns together after the summer breaks and vacations. What better time to start sowing generously into the church with your time, energy, and resources. God promises over and over again that sowing into good works with cheer finds favor with God.

Be a blessing as you are blessed,
Jonathan Paredes
Designated Associate Pastor



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A Message from the Council Treasurer

There was a movement decades ago called “What Would Jesus Do?” and people wore bracelets with WWJD on them. A Kansas preacher, Charles Sheldon wrote a book in 1987 titled, *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* It sold over 30 million copies and a youth group in Michigan apparently started the bracelet craze in the 1990’s. You may have had a bracelet or t-shirt that said WWJD.

I found another movement that started after WWJD called HWLF which stands for “He Would Love First.” As we look at what is emerging from our self-examination through the Jeremiah Project, isn’t that what we have defined for ourselves as we try to live into what God is calling us to be and do? When we say we want to offer Inclusive Refuge, Compassionate Justice, and Environmental Advocacy, we are saying we want to love first. Without judgement, we want to love the other and in love, we want to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect. In return for God’s gift of the world and the love God has for us, we want to ensure that we are good stewards of the earth and our environment. God is love and we want to extend that love to everyone.

I also found an article by Nadia Weber-Bolz, a Lutheran pastor, coincidentally released last week. I’ve enclosed the link below for your reference. She argues that when you are struggling in life, asking yourself what would Jesus do, isn’t necessarily comforting and can make you feel that you are lacking in faith. We are often told that if you have enough faith, you could get out of the boat, like Peter did, and you could walk on water. Nadia argues that we sometimes make things harder for ourselves than we need to. No one told Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water; he chose to do that himself. Nadia also says that what we believe is what we will see. When life is crashing down around you, that doesn’t mean that God is far away, but we should instead see that Jesus is walking towards us, telling us not to be afraid. And that it is more important to remember what Jesus has done rather than to try and see what Jesus would do in that situation. Peter had seen Jesus heal people, calm the seas, raise a child from the dead and feed 5,000 people with a small basket of fish and bread. But with the storm crashing around him, he forgot what Jesus had done and began to sink into the water. When he called out for Jesus to save him, Jesus immediately reached out his hand and helped him into the boat.

As we move forward to fulfill God’s call for us as a congregation, let’s remember to not only move forward in love but with the full expectation that God will give us what we need to fulfill that call. Let us move forward without fear by remembering what Jesus has done. Let us extend Jesus’ love fully to each other and to everyone around us and remember “He Would Love First.”

<https://thecorners.substack.com/p/the-case-against-wwjd-bracelets>

Warmest Regards,

Cathy Kenlin

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



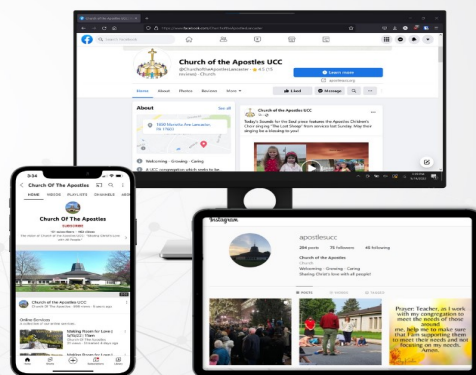
ChurchoftheApostlesLancaster



ChurchoftheApostles



ApostlesUCC



Church Happenings and News

Hawaiian Wildfire Relief

As people of faith, we want to help those who have been affected by the wildfires in Hawaii. Our denomination is reaching out to the churches there. Offerings and collections taken through our local church can be sent to the Conference Office where they will work to distribute the funds to devastated areas and those in need. Individuals may also donate directly through the Conference website, bit.ly/hcuccrelief

Mocktails & Meaning in the Narthex

Starting in October, Church of the Apostles will be hosting Mocktails & Meaning, a social group forming to discuss current topics while sipping on delicious mocktails. The purpose of the group is to provide an opportunity for community - to discuss current topics of interest both in terms of learning more about them but also considering the different nuances of each topic in terms of who benefits and who might be hurt by the current system/process. Our first topic in October will be Education Funding in Pennsylvania, future topics include Artificial Intelligence, Bail Reform, Affordable Housing, Immigration, Women's Healthcare, and Green Energy. Registration is available on Realm for our first session on October 19th from 6:30-8:30 PM. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact Cathy Kenlin at cmkenlin@comcast.net.



Dining Around Fall 2023

Do you want to meet more members of our congregation? Join the Dining Around group. You can join as an individual, a couple or a family. The groups will be for approximately 8 people and will share 4 meals together over a 6-month period starting in October 2023. The groups will be randomly selected. The meals can be anywhere—someone's home, a park, or a restaurant. Please sign up in Realm or by contacting the church office.

“What’s Cooking” Group

As part of our worship series “Come to the Table” this fall, Rev. Kuhn would like to create a group that meets some of our great cooks in the congregation via Zoom. She is willing to come to your house and make a video of you creating one of your favorite dishes and hear about why hospitality and cooking, in particular, is important to you. Then she will create a schedule for members to gather via Zoom on Wednesday evenings to watch the video, talk about what is made and explore the questions together. This is an opportunity to build more community within the congregation as we get to know one another better and receive some of the great recipes from our friends. If you are interested in the “What’s Cooking?” group, please sign up on Realm or call the office at (717) 392-5718. This group will begin in late September based on participation.

Harvest Home Sunday, September 10th

“Come ye thankful people, come raise the song of harvest home, all is safely gathered in, ‘ere the winter storms begin”

The end of summer heralds the season of harvest festivals when farmers begin to reap the rewards of their labor through the growing season. There are many people whose lives are weighed down with the strain of poverty and food insecurity. As we rejoice in the abundant blessings that God intended for all people, let us share from what we have been graced with, with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Your donations of non-perishable foods may be placed at the altar on Sunday, September 10th during our 10 AM worship service. Monetary gifts may be placed with your special offering envelope for Harvest Home/Food Bank or made online through Realm or Vanco.

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.

- **September 12, 2023:**
Now and Then Friends
by Kate Hewitt
- **October 10, 2023:**
The Letters by Luanne Rice & Joseph Moninger
- **November 14, 2023:**
Once A Crooked Man
by David McCallum
- **December 12, 2023:**
Horse by Geraldine Brooks

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

CROCS for Kenya

Thank you so much for all of your donations for ABBA'S HOUSE that we have received so far. We are going to continue to collect through September.



Donations needed are

Crocs, socks, underwear, pens and pencils, jump ropes, children's vitamins, band-aids, and children's Tylenol. We are also collecting long cotton skirts for the girls ages 5 to 18. Also, if you have any extra fabric in your home, they can use that for sewing projects. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to our church and write ABBA'S HOUSE in the memo line. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Outreach ministries!

Prayer for Hawaii

It came so fast God, relentlessly driven by winds and we were so vulnerable. Escaping with the clothes on our backs. Lives in tatters. Homes gone. Businesses gone. Jobs gone. Lives lost. Where do we go to even raise our prayers when our *hale pule* became a burnt victim to the ravages of the fire? There is so much loss, so much that one day was there and is now ashes. Comfort us in our tears and carry our heavy hearts in our time of sorrow.

Eventually *Ke Akua*, (our energy) will turn to rebuilding our homes, our businesses, our jobs, our lives. Walk with us during the long recovery that lies ahead. We will become frustrated by bureaucratic red tape and supply chain delays and price gouging. We will fume and shake our fists and we will cry even more tears. Yet, the journey will not be as overwhelming with you by our side.

Bless O God, those fighting these wildfires and those fires yet to come during this dry season. Grant wisdom and insights to our government officials—county and state—as they navigate how best to administer the government response. Lift up on wings our pastoral leaders as they give spiritual nurture to those depleted by these fires.

May we root ourselves in you God, knowing your Spirit groans with ours. Grant us succor in this time and in the days ahead. *'Amene*.

- David K. Popham, UCC Conference Minister for Hawaii

Public Education in PA

If you care about public education in Pennsylvania, you will want to know that a hearing by the Basic Funding Education Commission is happening in Lancaster to hear from the community about the inequity of our schools. This hearing will take place on September 21 with the time and place to be announced. If this is of interest to you, please let Rev. Kuhn know so she can keep you informed when more details are known. You can also check their website for information:

<https://www.basiceducationfundingcommission.com/>



Preschool News

Apostles Community Preschool will begin the 2023-24 school year on September 11th! We look forward to welcoming approximately 130 2-5 year old children. We are offering three tot classes, three classes of 3 and 4 year olds, and four classes of Pre-Kindergarten. This year we have five new teaching assistants. Katie Enoch, Jill Raspanti, Jessica Pavelko, Andrea Pagliai, and Christina Frey will be joining our staff this year. Jeannie Clausen has been named Assistant Director and will continue to handle registrations.

As a reminder, our school drop-off takes place from 8:55 - 9:15AM in both the front and back parking lots and pick-up times are from 11:20 - 11:35AM. Please be aware that this will be a busy time around the church property.

Also, we kindly ask for your patience and cooperation as ALL doors, including the interior glass double doors, will be locked during our school hours. Please do not unlock any exterior doors or prop open any doors during school hours. If you need access to the building, please use the front church entrance. We also ask that any "business" not related to the preschool take place outside of the preschool hours of 9:00AM - 2:00PM. If necessary, please contact the preschool administration to make arrangements to access the building during school hours. Thank you for your understanding as keeping our children and staff safe is our top priority.

Maggie Biggs, Director
mbiggs.acp@gmail.com

Jeannie Clausen, Assistant Director
jclausen.acp@gmail.com



Schreiber Pediatric Appeal for Volunteers

Schreiber Pediatric has reached out to us as they need volunteers to help cover their staffing needs in their childcare rooms for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This is for volunteers to work with their staff. If you have some time and energy to volunteer, they are interested in talking with you. A child abuse and criminal history clearance will be needed.

You may contact Schreiber Pediatric directly at: (717) 393-0425.



A Musical Note

WITH
LARS POTTEIGER

New Ways of Ministering With Our Gifts

As we begin a new season of music making, I am reflecting on new avenues of ministry through music and how this can connect the Lancaster community with our congregation. Music speaks to people in a variety of ways in worship: through choir or congregational singing, meditative instrumental music, or contemporary praise choruses. While all these approaches to music-making are meaningful to faithful attendees, I've recently been pondering how I can better use music to reach those who are not engaged in Sunday morning worship.

A church service is an excellent way to foster community, togetherness, and connectivity, but music also has the opportunity to minister to people in a variety of alternate settings. I see potential opportunities to serve the homeless, people in care facilities, and veterans with musical gifts. Do you have a gift that you might use in outreach? I challenge you to consider new outlets for a ministry which you are passionate about.

The Apostles Academy is excited to announce two upcoming events this fall:

Multi-media artist and storyteller Bill Hager and his troupe will return to Church of the Apostles on Oct. 21st, 2023 at 7pm in the sanctuary for a special double feature premier of two tales. Mr. Hager will tell the stories of Medusa and the Pearl of Poseidon and Bridgid O'Callahan and the Turquoise Prince and then talk about the behind the scenes process that went into the creation of both the oral and photographic stories.

Former Apostles' Handbell Director Ron Bellamy and the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, which he currently directs, will perform a Christmas program on Dec. 2nd, 2023 at 3pm in the sanctuary. This is one of the premier handbell ensembles in the tri-state area comprised of advanced-level ringers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

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

Peace and Blessings,

Lars



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.

The implementation team has exciting news!

Council has unanimously agreed to proceed with presenting our new vision and mission statement drafts to the congregation.

Beginning **on September 10th**, a member of the Vision Writing team will share how only your input from the Jeremiah Project was used to identify our core values.

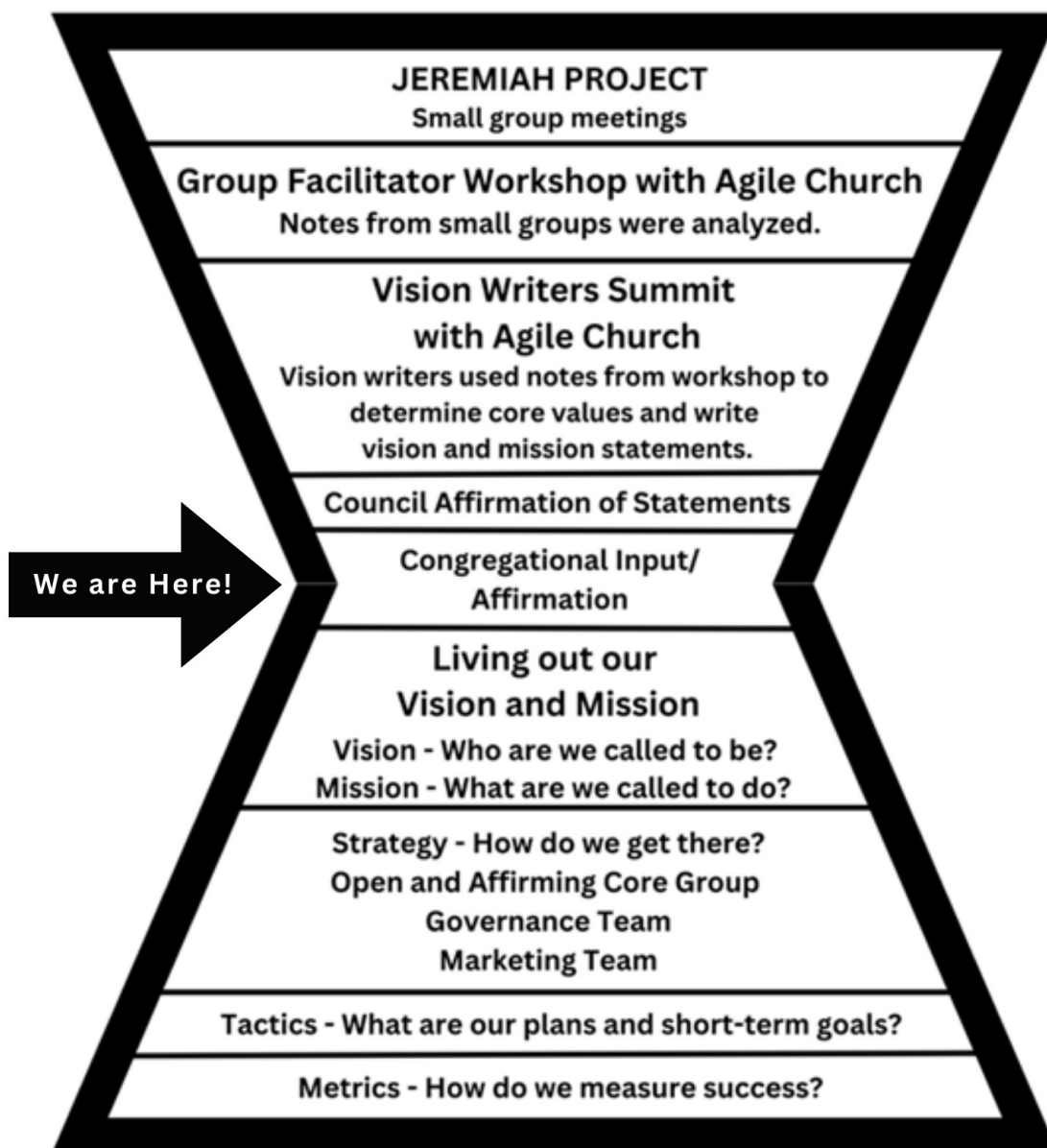
On September 17th, you will learn how the core values informed the creation of the vision statement.

On September 24th, you will hear how the core values and vision statement provided us with our marching orders, the mission statement.

We want you to have time to be able to sit with these new statements and consider what they mean to you. Beginning in October, you will all have the opportunity to begin asking questions for clarification. The vision writers will also be available after certain services in order to address your questions. **Please make an effort to attend church in September** to learn about the writing process. The implementation team is excited to begin these discussions with you!

Vision and Mission Process

Where are we now and where are we going?





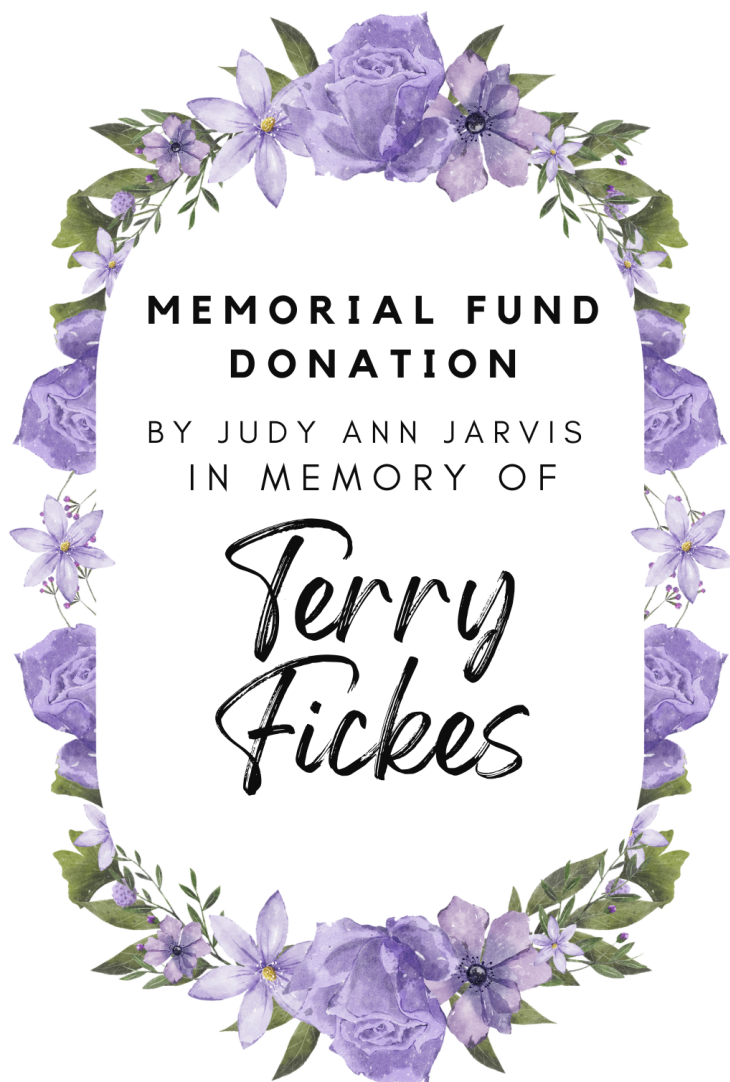
9/2	Christa DiDomenico
9/3	Ruth Senior*
9/8	Cathleen Bernhardt
9/8	Matthew Sweigart
9/9	Cristina Bahling
9/9	Larry Waltman
9/11	Karen Wallach
9/13	Mic Bender
9/14	Bev Keller
9/17	Barbara Achtermann
9/17	Lou Kosmela
9/20	Bev Moran
9/21	Betty Reiff *
9/22	Tom Lewis
9/22	Sedona Watkins
9/24	Sharon Shaeffer
9/25	Marsha Erisman
9/25	Ken Keller
9/25	Mathew Rice
9/25	Maeson Sheffer
9/27	Debbie Belsinger
9/28	Debra Sickles
9/29	Flynn Clark
9/29	Jonathan Paredes
9/30	George Bechtold

*90+ Birthdays



9/1	Tim & Sue Stirling
9/6	Mic & Laura Bender
9/6	Daniel & Kitty Flynn
9/7	Samantha & Darren Hackenburg
9/10	Jeannie & Joel Clausen
9/16	Nick & Sara Bravo
9/17	Adam & Sara Zipko
9/23	Randy & Lisa Sweigart
9/30	Bev & Ken Keller *

*50+ Anniversary





**September 3rd
In Loving Memory of Betty
Holmes**

By Marty Holmes

**September 10th
In Loving Memory of
Nellie Lewis**

By Tom & Linda Lewis

Have an Article for the Crown?

Please send articles for the October edition of the Crown by Friday September 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**

**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 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

	July 2023	July 2022
YTD Revenue	\$276,830.35	\$276,522.27
YTD Operating Expenses	\$410,216.92	\$435,460.07
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$133,386.57	-\$158,937.80

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 for all the prayers for a successful surgery and recovery. I would appreciate your continued prayers for my recovery. I am looking forward to being back in church.

Yours in Christ,

Glenn Ebersole

*Yours In Christ
Glenn*

Dear Congregation at Church of the Apostles ,

Thank-you for all the cards for my 90th birthday celebration!

Warmest Regards,

Eva Johnson



Dear COA Members and Leaders,

On behalf of Susquehanna Valley Team River Runners, I want to say thank-you. Which doesn't seem like a lot for the amount of generosity and support of the 'Kids Are Outta Sight' Program. Without your support this event would not be possible. We all truly appreciate everything COA has done for us. From the bottoms of our hearts and boats, THANK-YOU! - Jen Eaton and River

Dear COA and Apostles Academy,

Thank-you to COA and the Academy for hosting me on August 13th for my concert in Rader Park. It was great to see so many people out supporting music and the work of the Academy. I especially appreciated all of those who came dressed in Orange (my favorite color!). It was truly heart-warming to feel so much support. I hope everyone had a great time as I know I had a blast playing for you all!!

- Abe Breslin



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
for our service bulletins, sounds for the soul and more!

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