



THE CROWN NEWS

March 2024 Vol. 48 No. 3

Pastor's Corner

Where is Christ leading your heart? This has been the theme of our season of Lent which invited us to be listening more closely, "letting go" or "giving up" the pieces of our lives which we try to hide or pretend do not exist, and "take up" or "be up to" something good as an act of our faith in Jesus Christ.

On Ash Wednesday, I talked about "giving up" some of the muck of our lives that prevents us from fully being the people God created us to be. When we are weighed down by regret, embarrassment or shame, we may miss opportunities to make a difference. We do not need to consider ourselves less than enough because of choices we made or circumstances that happened to us. So, forgiving ourselves may be our first step. Remembering not to judge each other may be another step. Allowing ourselves to recognize and feel the grief we carry over disappointments and losses will move the grief to a level where it carries less power over us. All of these actions are part of the descending path Christ asks us to "walk" with him, so that we may "rise" with him to the hope, peace, love and joy of life God intends.

This is the time to acknowledge our heartbreaks and be present with one another as a community. Be a listening ear to one who is struggling and seek out another to be your listening ear. Consider calling someone from our Compassion Team as they are committed to confidentiality and have identified their willingness to listen. Or if you are a listening ear for someone else and need support or resources, call or stop by the Compassion Corner to find other places where help can be found.

Our mission is to welcome and include people as they are! May we compassionately care for one another as well as the guest who walks in the door!

Blessings & peace

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

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Church of the Apostles UCC Invites you to:

HOLY WEEK

"WHERE IS CHRIST LEADING YOUR HEART?"

Mar 28 • Maundy Thursday • 7 PM
Mar 29 • Good Friday • 7 PM
Mar 31 • Easter Sunrise Service in Rader Park • 7 AM
Mar 31 • Easter Worship • 10 AM

1850 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

A Message from the Council President

Greetings Apostles Friends,

In last month's Executive Crown article, I challenged all of us to leave the status quo behind and step into what the future holds for COA. This month, I'd like to highlight how far we have come in the last year and a half.

- We have a new Vision and Mission statement after completing the Jeremiah Project!
- We have moved to a single, blended service and improved our streaming services.
- We have redesigned our Narthex and saw the return of the weekly Fellowship Table.
- Our marketing team is reaching out to the community.
- Our Inclusive Church team is working to make COA a welcoming, safe space for ALL.
- Our Governance team is exploring options to reduce barriers in ministries.
- We are seeing more visitors and growing Faith Formation classes.
- We continue to utilize over 20 acres of Rader Park, and generously share our resources.
- We have thriving adult education events and a concert series that brings visitors to COA.

Earlier this year, a gentleman who attended the handbell concert with his wife, called the office looking for a lost item. He shared with the office volunteer one of the best compliments for our church. He said "Your church is alive!" He could feel the vibrant energy as soon as he walked into the building. If you're feeling energized and have an idea for a ministry team, reach out! I can't wait to see what the next year and a half holds for us!

With hope and love,

Johanna Baker, Council President

JOIN US!

3.21.24
6:30 - 8:30 PM

**MOCKTAILS
& MEANING**

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE
w/ Dr. Sharee Livingston

MOCKTAILS - DISCUSSION - COMMUNITY

www.apostlesucc.org/MocktailsMeaning

Church Happenings and News

Five Decades of COA

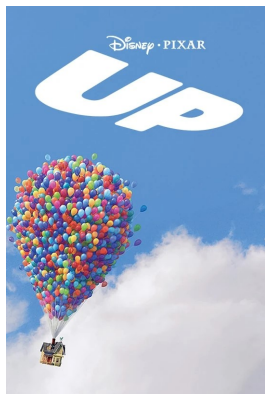
As Church of the Apostles prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in May of 2025, we're reaching out to our community for memorabilia to create a special display titled "Five Decades of COA." Do you have photos, programs, or other materials from COA's history? Drop them off at the church office labeled with your name. Contact Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285 for inquiries, to join our planning committee, or to volunteer as a "worker bee" to help make our celebratory events a success! From a celebratory dinner to a fun day in Rader Park, a concert, and an art show, there's something for everyone to get involved in as we honor five decades of COA's impact and community spirit.

Volunteer Drivers Needed for Bilombele Family

The Bilombele family, whom we are assisting from Tanzania, has relocated to Frederick St. near the Lancaster Science Factory, and Shukuru, age 11, needs transportation to Wharton Elementary on Mary St. for school. We're urgently seeking volunteers to drive Shukuru to and from school until the end of the academic year, with slots available on Tuesdays (3:20 pm), Wednesdays (8:15 am), Thursdays (3:20 pm), and Fridays (8:15 am and 3:20 pm). Any assistance you can provide would greatly alleviate the burden on Tom Lewis, who has been managing much of the transportation alone. Please contact Linda Lewis at (717) 333-1327 or llewis103@comcast.net if you're able to help. Thank you for your generosity and support.

COA Earth Day Clean-up

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and join Church of the Apostles UCC on April 7th at 10:30 AM for our Rader Park & Brubaker Run Clean-Up. Starting by the garden shed in the park, let's unite from 10:30 AM to Noon to beautify our community space. Embrace our mission of environmental care and advocacy as we dive into the work of caring for God's earth. Let's make a difference together!



Up, Up, and Away Movie Night!

Get ready to soar to new heights at Church of the Apostles UCC's free movie screening of Disney & Pixar's Up! Join us on Friday, March 15th, starting at 6 PM in the sanctuary for a fun-filled evening of adventure and inspiration. As we explore how we can "Be UP to something good" this Lent, bring your friends, family, and a sense of adventure for a memorable movie night with your church family! Snacks and refreshments will be available for attendees! Please Register on Realm if you plan to attend!

Garden Plots in Rader Park

Looking to cultivate your own garden? Church of the Apostles UCC offers garden plots available in Rader Park! Choose from plots sized at 20' x 20' and 20' x 40', renting for \$10 & \$15 respectively for the growing season. Rental forms are accessible at the office or welcome center and can be returned during office hours with payment. Start your gardening journey with us today!

Egg-citing Easter Egg Hunt!



Join us for a hopping good time at our annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd at 10 AM! Bring the whole family for a morning of fun in the Fellowship Hall parking lot (or indoors if it's rainy!). This event is open to the entire community, so please invite your friends, family, neighbors, and even your fellow church family!

We're also seeking donations of pre-filled Easter eggs, small candies & toys, and packs of plastic eggs for our volunteers to fill. Drop your donations in the marked bin in the narthex. Let's make this year's hunt egg-ceptional!

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.

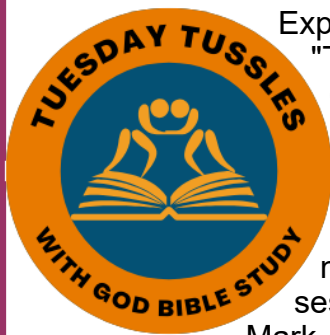
- **March 12, 2024:** [A Living Remedy](#) by Nichole Chung
- **April 8, 2024:** [Kindred](#) by Octavia Butler

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.

Tuesday Tussles With God: Unlocking Romans



Explore the Epistle to the Romans with us during "Tuesday Tussles With God" in March and April. Join our discussions on Paul's gospel presentation to the Roman world every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 in the Burkholder Chapel. To receive study prep info, contact Church of the Apostles at (717) 372-5718 or office@apostlesucc.org. (No need to register again if you've joined previous 2024 sessions.) Questions? Reach out to Tussles leaders: Mark Achtermann or Les Helmeczi.

How Will You Contribute to Our Garage Sale's Success?

Church of the Apostles' eagerly anticipated Annual Garage Sale is right around the corner! Mark your calendars for Friday, April 5th, from 8 AM - 2 PM, and Saturday, April 6th, from 8 AM - 1 PM. As we gear up for another huge sale, we're asking for every member to consider how they can lend a hand. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Donate Items:** Drop off your Donations at Fellowship Hall from April 1st to April 4th.
- **Volunteer:** Assist with pricing, sorting, folding, cashiering, or packing up unsold items.
- **Donate Refreshments:** Sign up to provide hot dog rolls, sodas, chocolate cake with peanut butter icing, or cookies.
- **Shop the Sale:** Shop during our two-day sale! In 2023 the money raised during our sale was donated to various charities or used for in-house projects.

For questions, information, or to volunteer, contact Clara Kosmela at (717) 569-9960. Let's come together as a community to make our Annual Garage Sale a resounding success!

Compassion Team Update

Concerned about a friend or family member navigating mental health challenges or stress? It's common to feel exhausted and anxious when supporting loved ones through difficult times. Remember, you don't have to carry the weight alone. The Compassion Team is here to offer a listening ear and share helpful resources. If you'd like to schedule a confidential chat, simply reach out to the designated contact person for the week. March's schedule can be found on pg.7 of the Crown. For any inquiries, feel free to speak with Ellen Schellenberger or Donna Carr.

Indoor Hymn Sing Along During Earth Day Celebration

Mark your calendars for April 7th for our Earth Day clean-up event! Starting at 10:30 AM, Rev. Kuhn will guide volunteers to Rader Park for those able to assist. Meanwhile, in the sanctuary, Music Director Lars Potteiger will lead hymns for those who prefer to stay indoors. Join us for a day of community service and celebration of our planet!



Preschool News

During the month of February, love was in the air and in the eyes of every Apostles Preschool child. We focused on Loving Yourself (taking care of our minds and bodies). It was also Dental Health Month. Dr. Sardina from Sardina Dental Group visited ACP to talk about taking care of our pearly whites! We had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day and exchanging cards and goodies with our friends. At the end of the month Pre-K classes visited Homestead Village to spread some love to our grandfriends.



As a ministry of Church of the Apostles UCC, we'd like to share how ACP lives out the Mission and Vision of COA:

- * We have a reputation with the IU-13 for being very diverse and welcoming to students with functional needs. Many of our students receive support services from early intervention and IU-13.
- * We have a diverse student population consisting of various races, ethnicities, religious beliefs, and economic backgrounds.
- * We work closely with our parent council to ensure that all fundraising is done respectfully to account for families who may not have extra money to give.
- * We offer scholarships for families in need.
- * We participate in collecting food for the COA Food Bank and hats, gloves, etc. for children in SDOL.
- * We use inclusive language in our registration paperwork, handbook, and other communication.
- * Environmental programs are presented by Lisa Sanchez through our Nature Explorers Program in Rader Park.
- * We serve our students and families with compassion every day.



Church of the Apostles UCC NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

We are collecting old newspapers for donation to That Fish Place that Pet Place in Centerville. All newspapers can be left outside the office on Sundays or dropped off in the office from 9-1PM Monday-Thursday.

This is an on-going collection!

A Musical Note

WITH
LARS POTTEIGER

I was musing about some of the traditions that we use for different holidays: the Christmas tree, Thanksgiving turkey, and Easter lilies. I began to wonder how the lily has become so synonymous with the celebration of Easter. What is the connection between the two?

The lily is mentioned in the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus mentions the flower in his Sermon on the Mount. The Song of Solomon also refers to the lily as an allegory of the relationship between God and the faithful. The lily also is a symbol of purity often associated with the Virgin Mary. Even the manner in which this plant grows is filled with Easter symbolism. The lily lies dormant as a bulb and sprouts to produce a beautiful, sweet smelling flower, akin to Christ's resurrection on Easter morning. And the way the flowers grow on the Easter lily resemble trumpets; instruments that are often used to add to the festive nature of the Easter celebration.

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

Silver, Wood and Ivory is a duo that consists of Tracy Dietrich performing on different flutes and recorders and 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.

The Malta Band will give a concert on May 19th at 3pm in the sanctuary. This group is one of the oldest concert bands in the Lancaster area and is led by Bo Weaver, conductor and Frank Risell, assistant conductor. This ensemble performs traditional concert band repertoire, jazz, and modern musical works arranged for concert band. (A freewill offering will be taken in lieu of tickets for these concerts.)

Blessings,

Lars



**ALBRIGHT
CHAMBER SINGERS**



**GET READY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE
MUSICAL EXPERIENCE!**

The Albright Chamber Singers are a renowned vocal ensemble known for their exquisite harmonies and captivating performances.

 **MARCH 3, 2024
3 PM IN SANCTUARY**

 **1850 MARIETTA AVE.
LANCASTER, PA 17603**

Outreach Projects

The Outreach Commission extends heartfelt gratitude to the Church of the Apostles congregation for your generous contributions to the ABBA House Mission in Kenya and the Adopt a Classroom program in the School District of Lancaster. Your support enabled us to donate \$1,875 to ABBA House, facilitating improvements to their water system and providing clean water to more individuals. Additionally, LEF (Lancaster Education Fund) received \$2,005 for the Adopt a Classroom program, benefiting early education classes at Martin Elementary School and Carter and MacRae Elementary School. With your help, we are able to support nine classrooms! Thank you for your ongoing generosity towards our Outreach ministries!



One Great Hour of Sharing: March 17th, 2024

Join us in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing this March! Dating back to 1946, this initiative raises funds for disaster relief, providing essential aid such as clean water, food, education, and health care to those in need worldwide. With your generosity, we can make a meaningful impact. You can contribute by donating physically on Sunday, March 17th, or electronically through Vanco or Realm. Remember, donations can be made throughout March. Let's come together to share our blessings and help those in need. Thank you for your consideration and support of our continuous mission to provide **Compassionate Justice!**



Spread Love with the Apostles Caring Cart

Join the Outreach Commission in supporting the Hershey Mill Home in Mountville, a group home for mentally challenged adults over 55. With 38 residents and numerous needs, your generosity can make a significant difference. For the next two months, we're collecting specific items to support them. To participate, simply take a sticky note from the poster on the Outreach bulletin board, purchase the item written on the note, and place it in the LARGE Caring Cart by the last Sunday in April. Thank you for spreading love to those in need!

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.

- **March 7th:** Mark Achtermann, (717) 823-3398
- **March 14th:** Barbara Achtermann, (717) 824-3265
- **March 21st:** Ellen Schellenberger, (717) 945-4057
- **March 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 is open every Sunday of the month and can be found in the Associate Pastor's office. A Compassion Team member will be on hand on second Sunday's to assist you in locating what you require.



3/2	Pat Sullenberger*
3/2	John Wallach
3/3	Betsy Bischoff
3/3	Allison Carr
3/5	Judy Jarvis
3/9	Susan Shaak
3/10	Anya Sheffer
3/11	Scott Moore
3/13	Marty Holmes
3/14	Max Koehler
3/14	Kathleen Stoyer
3/16	Patricia Shane
3/16	Peter VanBuskirk
3/17	Jean Cunningham*
3/18	Hunter Hackenburg
3/18	Sharon Schaeffer
3/19	Chris Bracken
3/20	Mara Pakalnins
3/21	Jan Baker
3/22	Milt Gockley*
3/22	Erik Laymon
3/23	Luci Stoltzfus
3/27	Randy Morrison
3/27	Caroline Rice
3/29	Loris Cunningham
3/30	Gary Brown
3/31	Nathan Moore

*90+ Birthdays



3/1	Frank & Teresa Wilson
3/11	Dustin & Melissa Koehler
3/16	Kenneth & Bonnie Medved
3/18	Stephen & Gail Noland*
3/21	Gary & Ginny Brown*
3/22	Chris & Karen Braun

*50+ Anniversary



Easter Memorial Flowers Order Form

Attached is my contribution of \$_____ for Easter decorations and flowers.

Presented by: _____

'In Memory Of' or "In Honor of" (Circle One)

Please Return this completed form to the office or place in the offering plates on Sunday



March 3rd

**In Loving Memory of our Parents,
Burnell & Mary Helen Rebert**

And Carl & Jean Kleimo

By Holly & John Kleimo

March 10th

**In Honor of Joyce Seitz & Diane
Strobeck**

By Leah Carr

Have an Article for the Crown?

Please send articles for the April
edition of the Crown by
Friday, March 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: 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.

Financial Report

	January 2024	January 2023
YTD Revenue	\$37,818.79	\$40,150.35
YTD Operating Expenses	\$51,401.62	\$51,415.91
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$13,582.83	-\$11,265.56

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) 393-7856 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



Score! Our Souper Bowl Sunday Success Blitz



A huge shout-out to everyone who helped make our Souper Bowl Sunday collection for the Apostles Breakfast Ministry and Hempfield Community Pantry a roaring success! Our little leaders from the Primary Faith Formation group scored big with \$422 in donations, not to mention the cart they filled with food donations for the Hempfield Pantry! Whether your team won or lost the big game, we can all agree that this was a major win for our community!



FAITH FORMATION

Every Sunday

ROOTED FOR GRADES 4TH-8TH AT
9:55AM IN RM 308.
NOT MEETING MARCH 17TH

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
kathrynk@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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