



# THE CROWN NEWS

May 2024 Vol. 48 No. 5

## Pastor's Corner

*"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." – 1 John 4:7*

The commandments of God are to love God and ourselves. The command to love others feels particularly difficult right now as our society is SO divided. When I hear our legislators say they won't consider a bill if THEY don't get something out of it, I am saddened and frustrated which does not place me in a good place to love them. AND that does not change the command. The command is not to love only those who think, look, and act like I do. It is not about only loving the people on my "team." We are called (or maybe a better word is challenged) to find ways to make space for others – even our "enemies" (Matthew 5:44).

When I think about the overarching themes of the Bible, I hear a call to be more welcoming and inclusive. I hear the call to make more room at the table or make the table bigger. From the beginning, God has been encouraging us to work together, care for each other and help the ones who are struggling (in biblical language: the widow, the orphan and the prisoner). We have identified inclusive refuge and compassionate justice as core values of our congregation, and I see us practicing this more and more as we gather. We CAN choose not to mimic the actions and opinions of our society and care for people as they are. And when we do so, we are helping to create the Kin-dom of God here on Earth.

Blessings & peace,

*Pastor Kathryn Kuhn*

## Connection & Community Potluck



Join us at the Lancaster Interfaith Coalition picnic on Sunday, May 5th from 1-3 PM at Pavilion 21 in Lancaster County Park. The pavilion is equipped with a kitchen and electric to keep dishes warm, and it's covered to ensure we're set regardless of weather. Children are welcome! Please RSVP and list your dish on Sign Up Genius to help us plan:

[tinyurl.com/InterfaithPotluckRegistration](https://tinyurl.com/InterfaithPotluckRegistration)

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## A Message from the Executive Committee

Welcome to May! May is known for many things ... May flowers, blooming of dogwood trees, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day ... the list goes on. Here at Church of the Apostles, May is Anniversary Month. May 18, 1975, was the beginning of the Church of the Apostles. May 2024 is the forty-ninth anniversary of COA. Think of all that has occurred at COA in those forty-nine years. Some of you have been long-time members while others are newer to the congregation. The difference Church of the Apostles has made is evident all around the campus and in the broader community.

As forty-nine years is celebrated, Church of the Apostles has a Vision and Mission to guide the entrance into the fifth decade. There is a Governance Team working to move the leadership structure and commission work into new directions. There are many new initiatives and programs sprouting at COA, as well as the continuation of many long-standing missions and ministries.

Additionally, preparations are taking place to celebrate Church of the Apostles fiftieth anniversary in 2025. There is a Fiftieth Anniversary Committee formed under the leadership of Donna Carr working to plan the celebration of fifty years. Members of the committee include Arlene Gaudioso, Julie Berkow, Steve Wilson, Linda Lewis, and Jeannie Clausen. The committee would welcome anyone interested in helping with ongoing planning. If interested, please contact Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285.

Currently the committee is working on collecting memorabilia from the five decades of COA. Church members with material such as pictures, programs, books, etc. that could be loaned to the committee for the display are asked to bring memorabilia to the church office with the owner's name attached. Other events in the works are a celebratory dinner, a Rader Park fun day, an art show, and an anniversary concert.

This May let's celebrate forty-nine years of ministry and many more to come!

Many Blessings,  
Karen Braun, Council Secretary

JOIN US!

**MOCKTAILS  
& MEANING**

5.16.24  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

**HOMELESS YOUTH**  
w/ Lancaster County  
Housing Authority

**MOCKTAILS - DISCUSSION - COMMUNITY**

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

# Church Happenings and News

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## April Showers Bring May Flowers (And Veggies Too!)

Calling all green thumbs and aspiring gardeners! Church of the Apostles UCC's Seeds for Hope gardens need YOUR help to continue growing our bountiful harvest for local food pantries. Did you know we donated about 1000 lbs of fresh vegetables in 2023? No gardening experience or large time commitments required – we'll provide the training and only ask for one hour a week of your time. Join us in this good cause and make a difference in our community! Contact our garden coordinator, Carol Nielsen, at (717) 391-2815 or [carolathomestead@gmail.com](mailto:carolathomestead@gmail.com) to volunteer. Let's roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty together!

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## Annual Garage Sale: A Community Success

A heartfelt thank-you to all 74 volunteers who helped with pricing, sorting, cooking hotdogs, cashiering, counting money, and cleaning up at our Annual Garage Sale! Your hard work, combined with the generous sales we made, raised a fantastic total of \$8,466.30! We deeply appreciate every effort—your support and dedication are what made this event a success.

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## Calling All Graduates!

The Education Commission is excited to celebrate your achievements during our worship service on Sunday, May 19th at 10 AM. Whether you're completing high school, college, technical school, or any other educational program, we want to honor your hard work and success. Please contact the church office at (717) 392-5718 or [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) with your graduation details, degree, post-graduation plans, and a photo for inclusion in our June Crown publication.



Additionally, if you are a confirmed member and a high school senior, don't forget to apply for the 2024 Helen Elmer and Frank Bernhardt Scholarships. Applications and further information are available on our website or in the church office. Scholarship applications are due by May 13th. Let's celebrate your journey and prepare for the exciting steps ahead!


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## 50th Anniversary Memorabilia Needed

As we gear up for our 50th anniversary in May 2025, we're on the hunt for memorabilia to create a special "Five Decades of COA" display. Have any old pictures, programs, or other materials you're willing to loan? Drop them off at the church office labeled with your name, and we'll take care of the rest! Contact Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285 with any questions. Plus, if you're interested in helping with ongoing planning, we'd love to have you join our team! Let's make this anniversary one to remember together!

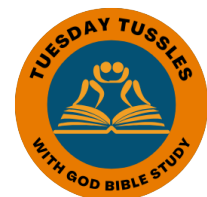
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## Call Ahead for Smooth Sailing

 A reminder to call ahead before visiting the office. By doing so, you help us prepare and dedicate focused attention to your needs. If the staff member you wish to see is unavailable, we will gladly schedule an appointment at a convenient time for you. Thank-you for your cooperation in making our office run smoothly.

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## Explore the Book of James



Tuesday Tussles with God will resume on Tuesdays in May with an engaging study of the book of James, exploring themes of faith, community, and perseverance. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors to join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in Burkholder Chapel at Homestead Village. To receive advanced preparation materials please email [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org). No need to re-register if you're already signed up. We are looking forward to our discussions in May!

## 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

- **May 14, 2024:** [The Art Thief](#) by Michael Finkel
- **June 11, 2024:** [The Radcliffe Ladies Reading Club](#) by Julia Bryan Thomas
- **July 9, 2024:** [The Paris Assignment](#) by Rhys Bowen
- **August 13, 2024:** [The Women](#) by Kristin Hannah

## 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.

## Outreach Projects

### Empower Change: Strengthen the Church Offering 2024

Support the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations with the Strengthen the Church offering. Your contribution fuels the UCC's commitment to creating a just world by investing in new ministries and practices that address local community needs.

As God calls our congregations to innovate and evolve, your generosity will help plant new churches, inspire fresh ideas in existing ones, and nurture the spiritual growth of our youth and young adults. Targeting the offering for Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, 2024, but any offering marked for this cause in May will be forwarded to the National UCC on our congregation's behalf. Give through Realm, Vanco, or special offering envelopes. Let's make a difference together!



### Apostles Caring Cart Ignites TWO New Donation Drives

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Apostles Caring Cart Ministry's recent collection for Hershey Mill Home! The donations were greatly appreciated, and Rev. Kuhn blessed them on April 28th, sending them off with extra hope and care from our congregation.

Looking ahead, we have two important donation drives starting in May:

1. **Apostles Assistance Fund:** Help restock personal and home care supplies. Drop off your donations in the LARGE Caring Cart. Ideas for donations are available on the Outreach bulletin board.
2. **Period Packs Project:** Collecting women's hygiene products like pads, tampons, sanitizers, and gallon Ziplock bags for distribution at the Conference Annual Meeting. Please place items in the large white laundry basket under the Outreach bulletin board by June 7th, 2024.

Your generous donations make a significant difference in our community—thank-you for your continued support!

### Narcan/Naloxone Kits

Thanks to a generous donation from the Hempfield Community Initiative, we now have Narcan/Naloxone packs available. Narcan can be used on anyone found unresponsive and will reverse the affects of an opioid overdose. Kits are stationed near AED systems in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and Youth Center, with an additional kit in the office behind the volunteer desk. While we hope they're never needed, inform Rev. Kuhn or the office if used for prompt replacement.





# Preschool News

We are quickly approaching the last few days of the 2023-2024 school year at Apostles Community Preschool. It has been another fantastic year filled with art, music, laughter and friendship.

Our preschoolers sang their hearts out and proudly displayed their artwork from throughout the year for their families at our Spring Sing and Art Gallery Show. Our Pre-K classes celebrated their moms with a special Mother's Day Tea and dads with "Donuts with Dads" days. Pre-K classes also visited Homestead Village and our "grandfriends" for the last time this year. One of the most fun ACP traditions, Icky Sticky Goo Day, was a great way to end the school year. New this year, we honored our Pre-K students who will be moving on to kindergarten with a graduation ceremony in the sanctuary. (Look for pictures from these fun events in the next edition of "The Crown".)

Our ever-popular Summer Camp will begin the week of May 20<sup>th</sup> and run for 4 weeks. Our preschool friends will enjoy beautiful Rader Park every morning with nature walks, crafts, singing, water fun, and play!

We wish everyone a fantastic summer and we look forward to the 2024-25 school year beginning the week of September 9th!




## 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.

# A Musical Note

WITH  
LARS POTTEIGER

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

-James K. Manley

We celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th this year. Pentecost may not be as familiar a celebration as Christmas or Easter, but is an important holiday none the less in the church. This is the day that the Holy Spirit appeared before Peter and the other Apostles, as promised by Jesus in John 14:26:

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” is a well known hymn celebrating the Holy Spirit, written by U.C.C. pastor James K. Manley in 1975. He wrote this song after completing the first draft of his doctoral thesis. Inspired by his theological studies and after having a self described “born again” experience, Manley penned the lyrics for this song that are full of biblically based Pentecostal imagery and ideas: wind blowing, stirring of the soul, and the contrasting qualities of restlessness and placidness encapsulated by both wind and sea. These lyrics, set to a folksong-inspired melody and chord progression help to make this hymn modern in style and feel. It is often led on guitar instead of piano or organ, instruments more traditionally used for accompanying hymns.

Peace,  
Lars

**MAY 19**

**MALTA BAND  
OF LANCASTER**

**3PM IN THE SANCTUARY**





# Meet Some of Our Newest Members

## William (Bill) Hager (Joined Nov. 19th, 2023)



Bill hails from a storied Lancaster lineage, linked to Christopher Hager, founder of America's oldest family department store and Fulton Opera House. After marrying Cheri Rose in 1982, Bill pursued Theatre at DeSales University. His diverse career spans entertainment at Host Farm Resort to pioneering cellular communications in Lancaster. Recently retiring from marketing, he now serves as Ministry Relations Director at Blessings of Hope, providing meals worldwide. Bill's a prolific author, photographer, and cherished member of Lancaster's Sertoma Barbeque Club. Join us on June 1, 2024, as Bill presents his "photostories" benefiting local charities. All are welcome!

## Julie Rhoads (Joined Nov. 19th, 2023)



Julie Rhoads, Vice President for Health and Nutrition at Community Action Partnership of Lancaster, leads impactful programming to combat food insecurity and promote food justice across the county. A dedicated mom to Isaac, 9, and Sloane, 6, Julie enjoys watching sports (cheering for the Birds and Phillies!), taking neighborhood walks with their dog Ashburn, and traveling with her family. Both kids are piano enthusiasts, while Sloane also delights in the church choir and gymnastics.

## Lisa Romano (Joined Mar. 24th, 2024)



Lisa Romano, born and raised in Lancaster, grew up attending Grandview United Methodist Church, where her family has deep roots. After completing her education at Lancaster Country Day School and Mount St. Mary's University, she moved to Washington, DC, building a career in event planning. Love brought her back to Lancaster with her husband, Brian, whom she married in 2015. The couple returned permanently to Lancaster in 2021 with their two sons, Wyatt and Conall. Wyatt now attends Conestoga Elementary, while Conall enjoys his days at Apostles Community Preschool.

## Dean & Suzie Witmer (Joined Mar. 24th, 2024)



Suzanne (Suzie) Witmer, a retired English and reading specialist from Henderson Harbor, NY, cherishes family time in Lancaster with husband Dean. Graduating from SUNY Geneseo and completing graduate studies at SUNY Oswego, she taught remedial reading for 35 years. Now, she enjoys open water swimming, biking, and reading Sherlock Holmes stories. Suzanne is an active Meals on Wheels volunteer and Lasagna Love baker. Dean, a former Biology teacher and Tampa boat sales owner, now enjoys family moments, attending grandchildren's events, and church life with Suzanne.

## 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 **Donna Carr (717) 475-5285** to be connected to the assigned person for the week and coordinate a suitable time.

## 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.



5/3	Allison Carr
5/3	Russell Weiser
5/4	Cindy Williams
5/5	Bonnie Eshbach
5/6	Flo Waldron
5/7	Cindy Bischoff
5/8	Michael Preston
5/8	Dillion Walters
5/9	John Hess
5/10	Haley Breslin
5/10	Chic Hungerford *
5/10	Lisa Romano
5/14	Dennis Eyrich
5/14	Milo Paredes
5/14	Luca Paredes
5/16	Allison Alspach
5/17	Erika Neiderer
5/18	Lois Masho *
5/20	Carol Nielsen
5/22	Finn Conrad
5/27	Nina Bahling
5/27	Nate Sheffer
5/28	Gail Frankhouser
5/29	Karen Culp
5/31	Karen Youtz

\*90+ Birthdays

5/1	Breanne & Carlos Cornielle
5/4	Dick & Loris Cunningham
5/14	Mark & Molly Reinhardt
5/15	Dennis & Jennifer Eyrich
5/15	Earl & Janie Cardellino *
5/20	Judy & Rodney Ruppert
5/25	Erik & Ashley Laymon
5/28	Dick & Lois Millhouse *
5/31	Flo Waldron & Mike McCooley

\*50+ Anniversary

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Here are 3 ways Church of the Apostles is here to support your mental health!

Our Compassion Team is available weekly to talk



Our Compassion Corner filled with mental health resources is open every Sunday of the month



We actively share local resources for Mental Health Awareness



Learn More at  
[Apostlesucc.org/about-us/  
member-care](http://Apostlesucc.org/about-us/member-care)





Flowers are an integral part of our worship service. Not only providing a physical symbol of beauty during our worship, but allows us to honor and remember the cloud of witnesses who have enriched our lives. The cost of our flowers and bulletins averages about \$110 a week. Our suggested contribution for sponsoring flowers and bulletins is \$35; however, any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor flowers, fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it into the office. Please include your sponsorship donation with this form or check the box below if making your donation online through Realm.

Thank you for your support in this important ministry,

Worship Commission

I would like to sponsor flowers on the following date:

---

“In honor of” or “In memory of”

---



---



---

Your name

---

Phone number

---

Check here if sponsorship donation has been made online.

**Please place this form in the church office or an offering plate. If you have any questions please contact the office:**

**(717) 392 - 5718 or [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)**

**To Sponsor Flowers please fill out the form to the right and drop it in the offering plates on Sunday or in the office drop-box.**

*Have an Article for the Crown?*

Please send articles for the June edition of the Crown by Wednesday, May 15th to [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto: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.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

## President: Johanna Baker

Ph: 717-799-0001

Email: Johanna.baker@yahoo.com

## Vice President: Lou Gaudio

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

(Contact Pastor Kuhn for more Information)

## Property Commission

(Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 630 pm in the Parlor)

Chair: Tom Weaver

Ph: 717-205-7335

Email: tom.weaver.24@gmail.com

## Stewardship Commission

(Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Parlor)

Chair: George Alspach

Ph: 717-201-2526

Email: galspach@aol.com

## Outreach Commission

(Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7 pm every other month in the Parlor)

Chair: Jane McCartney

Ph: 717-392-4844

Email: spmccartney@comcast.net

## Giving Report

Thank you for your continuing generosity to God's ministries. Your ongoing, regular contributions allow us to live out the mission and calling gifted to us by God. Through you, lives are being touched, grace is being offered, healing is being nurtured, and the transformative reign of God is being shared.

## Financial Report

	March 2024	March 2023
YTD Revenue	\$96,879.12	\$107,488.74
YTD Operating Expenses	\$160,466.72	\$195,997.11
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$63,587.60	-\$88,508.37

## 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



### Bilombele Family Pictures

Who is this cool dude? It's Shukuru after a school field trip.



Vincent & Shukuru visiting with the Lewis' grandsons on Easter

# FAITH FORMATION

Every Sunday

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

**EPIC MOVIE PARTY MAY 12TH**  
**NOT MEETING MAY 19TH**

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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