



# THE CROWN NEWS

June 2024 Vol. 48 No. 6

## Pastor's Corner

Since our Healthy Church Check-up in the fall of 2022, we have been on a path towards being a healthier congregation. Some of the actions which we have already taken because of the check-up were the congregational work to discern a new Mission & Vision statement, the merging of our two services into one, and the redecoration of our lobby and parlor areas. Another major piece of the check-up was to reorganize our structure to remove the bureaucracy which had crept into it. Our current structure was put in place when we were a much larger congregation and has become an obstacle to timely and efficient decision making.

The goal of our re-structuring is to free members to be involved in ministries rather than administration which is why we have been encouraging commissions to consider how they could become ministry teams. We want and need ministries to still happen, but ministries do not need a formal meeting and recorded minutes to be effective. Actually, they are more effective with their time spent doing the work of the ministry. This is why there has been conversation about commissions "going away," although we will still need to have a finance committee and a property committee.

Administration will be handled by staff who are paid and can be held responsible for getting the work done. This is one of the reasons behind hiring a Church Administrator, a position included in the 2024 budget approved by the congregation last November, who will oversee the "business-end" of our work together while I will oversee the ministries. Ministries will report to me when they have done work which can be as easy as a text or email and I will report on all ministry work to the Board. For this to take place, we will need a new set of by-laws which the Council is hoping to have to you in the fall for a vote at our November congregational meeting.

Our Penn Central Conference is also considering a structure change by merging with the Penn West, Penn Northeast, and Pennsylvania Southeast Conferences to become one Keystone Conference. This is the topic of our Annual Meeting at Penn State on June 7-9<sup>th</sup>. In my absence on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Milton Gockley will be leading worship and preaching.

Blessings & peace,

*Pastor Kathryn Kuhn*

## Reconnect with Your Faith this Summer



Back by popular demand! Our Listening for God sessions are returning for six weeks this summer, starting June 19th, from 7-8:30 PM. Join us on Zoom, even if you're traveling. Each week, participants will read scripture and listen for God's wisdom with Rev. Kathryn Kuhn. Connect with others and nurture your faith.

Journaling is encouraged. Register by using the QR Code to the left or contact the office for the Zoom link.

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# A Message from the Executive Committee

“For you created my inmost being;  
 you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
 your works are wonderful,  
 I know that full well.  
 My frame was not hidden from you  
 when I was made in the secret place,  
 when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. “  
 - Psalm 139:13-15

About fifteen years ago, I had a female relative who was in high school when she was told by her church that homosexuality was a sin and that anyone who was gay was going to Hell. Struggling with coming to terms with her homosexuality, she made plans to kill herself. Luckily one of her friends told her parents and they were able to intervene. She checked herself into a mental health facility two hours from her home – the only available bed in the entire state – and worked through her depression and suicidal thoughts. This year, she happily married her partner.

In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriages needed to be recognized in the US. But in today’s climate, I fear there is organized oppression being focused against the LGBTQA+ community and the Supreme Court has openly stated that perhaps the laws enabling same-sex marriage should be re-evaluated.

Homosexuality existed in Jesus’ time, but he did not explicitly speak against it. Gender roles were very different back in those times. Biblical text that discusses homosexuality is more about oppression and taking advantage of those with less power which directly correlates with Jesus’ teachings about not taking advantage of the poor and those who were marginalized by the “system.” Jesus always taught inclusivity, not exclusion.

The Trevor Project estimates that more than 1.8 million LGBTQ+ people between the ages of 13-24 seriously consider suicide every year in the US and at least one attempts suicide every 45 seconds. Within the last year, three transgender young adults in Lancaster committed suicide. If we believe that God knows us, has knit us together in our mother’s womb, do we believe that God could make a mistake in our sexuality? How do we act within Jesus’ teachings and make our congregation and our campus a safe place for all? My grandson, Hunter, wanted one of the Safe buttons put on his church nametag. To explain to him what it meant, I told him that by wearing it, he was telling other people that he was a nice person and would not make fun of anyone. How can we also be people who are nice and welcoming to all?

Warm  
 Regards,

Cathy  
 Kenlin

JOIN US!

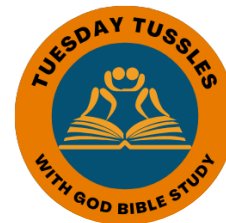
6.20.24  
 6:30 - 8:30 PM

IMMIGRATION:  
 FACTS & FICTION  
 w/ Church World Services  
 Lancaster

MOCKTAILS - DISCUSSION - COMMUNITY

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

# Church Happenings and News



## Dive into the Gospel of Mark at Tuesday Tussles With God!

Join us on Tuesday mornings in June and July as "Tuesday Tussles With God" explores the gospel of Mark. Our hour-long sessions will convene at 10:30 am in the Burkholder Chapel of the main building. Known as "the gospel of the hidden Messiah," Mark's narrative sheds light on what mattered most to the earliest Christians, offering a raw faith and a glimpse into the earliest written stories about Jesus. Bring your Bible (or we can provide one) and participate as your schedule permits. Already registered? No need to re-register. Participants who register via Church of the Apostles [717-392-5718 or [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)] with contact info will receive advance study materials. Let's embark on this enlightening journey together!

## Call for Memorabilia: 50th Anniversary Celebration

As we gear up for Church of the Apostles UCC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May 2025, we need your help! We're collecting memorabilia and photos for display. Please drop off items in the office, tagged with your name and phone number if you want them returned. You can leave them during office hours or on Sunday mornings at the volunteer's desk inside the office door.

Exciting events are being planned, including a slide show, celebration dinner, family picnic in Rader Park, art show, and concert. If you'd like to join the committee or help with a specific event, contact Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285.

Thank-you for your continued support!

a revry original film

# THE GROVE



Church of the Apostles UCC 

Join us for a **FREE** showing of:

# THE GROVE

A documentary about one church in a small Appalachian town, that dared to believe that love is love.

**30 JUNE**

**START 12:00 PM**

**1850 MARIETTA AVE. LANCASTER**

For More Information: [www.Apostlesucc.org](http://www.Apostlesucc.org)

## 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

- **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

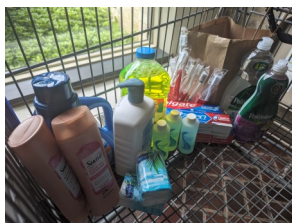
## Upper Room Daily Devotionals

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

### Final Call for Donations: Support the Apostles Assistance & Period Packs!

We're still collecting for the Apostles Assistance Fund and the Period Packs Project! Bring in donations of pads, tampons, liners, and gallon-sized Ziploc bags by June 7th for Rev. Kuhn to take to the Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting.



Our Assistance Fund is running low on personal and home supplies, and they go quickly when available. Check the Outreach bulletin board for needed items to help us stock up. Donations can be placed in the LARGE caring cart in the Narthex.

### Annual Garage Sale Donations to Good Causes!

Our annual garage sale raised an impressive \$8,466.30! Here's how the funds are being dispersed:

- \* UCC Disaster Relief (as needed): \$1,000
- \* UCC Disaster Relief (United States): \$1,000
- \* Refugee Aid (Bilombele Family): \$2,000
- \* Pastor's Assistance Fund: \$1,000
- \* Off the Streets: \$250
- \* Tenfold: \$250
- \* Property Signs: \$250

The garage sale committee will meet in October to decide on the allocations of the remaining funds. Thank-you for your generous support!

### Bilombele Family Update

The Refugee Welcome Team is happy to announce that Bilemanga, mother of Shukuru and Vincent, has started a full-time custodial job at Lancaster Mennonite High School. We're currently working on her transportation needs. Thank-you to everyone who has donated to the Refugee Fund for her rent. We still need donations, as her new income won't fully cover rent. Please write checks to "Refugee Fund" to contribute. Your support is greatly appreciated.



In May, cousins Shukuru and Jango played in the Lancaster Lions Club Soccer Tournament. Their team earned second place, and both boys received medals. Shukuru was a standout with eight goals, while Jango scored two and showcased his skills as a goalie. Both boys did a fantastic job and were a joy to watch!

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC



# WACKY

## Wednesdays

STARTING JUNE 19TH LEARN ABOUT WHAT LIVES IN & AROUND THE POND AT RADER PARK, FROM TURTLES TO HERONS WE WILL SPEND 4 WEEKS EXPLORING THE POND. ON JULY 17TH WE WILL BE JOINED BY LISA SANCHEZ FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION.

**AT RADER PARK**

1899 APOSTLES WAY  
LANCASTER, PA 17603

FROM 10 - 11:30AM



REGISTER USING THE LINK OR QR CODE  
[apostlesucc.org/wacky-wednesdays](https://apostlesucc.org/wacky-wednesdays)

# A Musical Note

WITH  
LARS POTTEIGER

Care of the natural environment is an act of stewardship; caring for God's green earth and natural spaces are gifts that we should pass on to future generations. While there are no easy solutions to being more "green" in day-to-day life, modern living offers many conveniences that most of us would not want to give up entirely (most of us aren't willing to give up electricity or our automobiles), we can be more mindful of our used resources and find better ways to build a more sustainable future. Our theme in summer worship is to examine how we as a church can be better stewards of the environment. One of my favorite hymns, Henry Van Dyke's "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee", uses a beautifully poetic text to describe nature and God's creation.

Van Dyke was a Presbyterian minister and an English professor. Inspired by the beauty of the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts, he wrote the text for this joyous hymn in 1907. Van Dyke insisted that this text was to be sung to the melody of Ludwig van Beethoven's final movement of his Ninth Symphony. The poetry he penned celebrates the awesome wonder found in God's creation, while creating wonderful juxtapositions of Christian faith with the natural world through metaphor and simile. Some of my favorite imagery in this hymn occurs in the first verse:

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee  
God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee  
Op'ning to the Sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness  
fill us with the light of day

Van Dyke reflected on his inspiration for writing the text of this hymn: "These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time—hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope."

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

Jazz pianist Lars Potteiger and his New York Trio, bassist Dmitry Ishenko and drummer Rob Mitzner, will give a concert on June 9th at 3pm in the sanctuary. Potteiger's playing has been described by George W. Harris of Jazz Weekly as "always imaginative, adventurous and fully integrated into the music without a wasted note or a flash of virtuosity for its own sake."

Joel Makeci is a Lancaster-based Congolese American singer, songwriter and bandleader. He will perform with his band on August 25th at 3pm in the sanctuary. From refugee camps in Tanzania to stages across the United States, Joel has brought his artful blend of rock, rumba and gospel to appreciative audiences everywhere. Joel and the eight-member New Generation Gospel Band put on a high energy show, featuring tight grooves, soaring vocal harmonies and joyful music that transcends cultural and linguistic barriers like only the best music can.

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

Peace,  
Lars

## Meet One of Our Newest Members



### Leah Carr (Joined Nov. 19th, 2023)

Leah Carr, a nurse practitioner at The Heart Group, joined COA in Fall 2023. Originally from York, PA, she and husband Steve relocated to Lancaster in 2018 after completing graduate studies. They adore their 2-year-old daughter, Grace. Leah enjoys family time, beach trips, and cheering for Philly sports. Grateful for the warm welcome, Leah cherishes being part of the church family.

## Community Events

### Celebrate Lancaster Water Week with Nature Walks & More



Church of the Apostles UCC is hosting one of the 60 events planned for Water Week. On the schedule is the "Sacred Habitats Nature Walk" from 8-10:30 AM on Saturday June 15th in Rader Park, organized by the Lancaster Conservancy and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. Participants will learn about watershed care and the creation of wildlife habitats along Brubaker Run.

Don't miss this event and many others. For more information and to pre-register, visit [lancasterwaterweek.org](https://lancasterwaterweek.org)



### Lancaster Pride Festival 2024

Lancaster Pride is thrilled to announce its 16th Annual Pride Festival, taking place on June 15, 2024, at the Lancaster County Convention Center and expanding the festival into the streets along Vine and Queen. This year's theme, "Our Streets Are Open to All," celebrates the diverse and resilient spirit of the LGBTQ+ community, with expanded outdoor activities to enhance the festive atmosphere.

For more information visit: [lancpride.com/lancaster-pride-festival/](https://lancpride.com/lancaster-pride-festival/)



## 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!

## 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. See the June Schedule Below:

- **June 6th:** Milt Gockley, (717) 892-8376
- **June 13th:** Barbara Achtermann, (717) 333-5792
- **June 20th:** Donna Carr, (717) 475-5285
- **June 27th:** Holly Kleimo, (717) 892-7022

## 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.



6/1	Pam Smith
6/2	Darrell Schock
6/3	Mark Reinhardt
6/4	Tim Stirling
6/5	Debby Walburn
6/6	George Alspach
6/6	Les Helmeczi
6/6	Stephanie Moore
6/6	Patricia Moran
6/6	Alexa Neiderer
6/7	Ann Berkow
6/8	Violet Koehler
6/8	Linda Mason
6/10	Barb Golden
6/10	McCoy Rohrbaugh
6/12	Wilma Klinger
6/18	Luke Bahling
6/18	Nettie Cimadamore
6/19	JoAnn Kerst*
6/19	Joe Weidel
6/19	Morgan Wilfong
6/23	Kathy Zerby
6/23	Bill Hager
6/26	Walter Kreider *
6/27	Leroy Carr
6/27	Chase Rampaul
6/29	Laura Bender
6/29	Karen Braun
6/29	Gail Noland
6/29	Mike Schaeffer

\*90+ Birthdays

6/3	Mike & Sharon Schaeffer
6/5	Karen & Ken Whittington
6/7	Nils & Wende Stenman
6/9	Larry & Judith Frable *
6/9	Jack & Cathie Oliphant *
6/14	Roger & Janice Morris
6/14	Joe & Christine Bahling
6/20	Chris & Brenna Bracken
6/21	John & Barbara Wylie *
6/21	Kate & Kerry Kendig
6/27	Jere & Joyce Baker
6/29	Chuck & Nancy Hungerford *

\*50+ Anniversary



**IN MEMORY OF:**



**Shirley Miller**

February 1937 - April 2024

Memorial Fund Donations  
Made by:

Mary Ellen Bachman,  
Walter & Darla Miller,  
Joseph & Sandra Weidel







**Please Use the Form to  
the Right to Sponsor  
Flowers for July 2024  
and Beyond.**

*Have an Article for the Crown?*

Please send articles for the July edition of the Crown by Saturday, June 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.



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)**

# 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

(No Upcoming Meetings)

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

	April 2024	April 2023
YTD Revenue	\$144,316.46	\$170,581.65
YTD Operating Expenses	\$225,218.37	\$221,956.42
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$80,901.91	-\$51,374.77

## 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



### Faith Formation Teachers Needed!

We need additional teachers and helpers for summer Faith Formation in Rader Park. Judy Waltman will lead two Sundays each month, with Audrey Markle providing snacks and water. Judy will kick things off by teaching on June 2, 9, and 16. The lessons are simple and easy to follow, with plenty crafts and activities available on Pinterest.

Open Dates: June 23 & 30, July 28, August 11 & 25.

That's just 5 open teaching slots! Please contact Judy Waltman at [jlwaltman@comcast.net](mailto:jlwaltman@comcast.net) for more information. We look forward to a wonderful summer together!

# FAITH FORMATION

Every Sunday

*PRESCHOOL - 3RD GRADE IN  
RADER PARK FROM 10-11 AM*

*ROOTED FOR GRADES 4TH-8TH IS ON  
BREAK FOR THE SUMMER OF 2024*



# 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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Phone: 717-392-5718  
Email: [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)  
[www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

