



THE CROWN NEWS

July 2024 Vol. 48 No. 7

Pastor's Corner

Welcome to summer and to our budget and by-laws writing season! Actually, when the word "by-laws" is said in our midst, it tends to stop the conversation and almost evoke panic. We have a history of re-writing the by-laws. The most recent effort was in 2012 and became a herculean effort. So, I understand why we can be reticent to go there again; however, our by-laws require the bureaucracy we are trying to eliminate. It is my hope that the new by-laws will be a stream-lined set which merely define our structure and how the power is shared.

When it comes to the budget process, it will be quite different without the commissions submitting budgets to the Council. Instead we will be working towards a zero-deficit budget, which will take some years, but which uses your giving, our rental income, conduit funds, and our special and general endowments to fund our ministries. Our ministry priorities will be based on our Vision to be "inclusive and generous, advocates for social justice and environmental care, and a safe space for those who feel afraid or powerless." We also need to acknowledge, that as our facility turns 50 years old, there are updates and repairs which need to take place. It is our plan to get a separate improvements budget and capital campaign to you by the first quarter of 2025.

I realize these are significant changes in how we function as a church; however, the systems we have relied on for many years are no longer meeting the challenges before us. We will be working to be transparent with you and hope that you will support the changes as we continue to be faithful to Christ's call on our life together.

Blessings & peace,

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

Meet Our New Church Administrator



Melissa Kosman grew up in the Chicago area but has called Massachusetts home for the past two decades with her family. In late 2023, she and her husband made a move to Pennsylvania, and have been busy discovering all the Keystone State has to offer. As a devoted mother to her daughter and son, Melissa brings with her eight years of experience as a Children's Pastor in Nashua, NH. In her free time, you'll likely spot Melissa indulging her love for the outdoors through hiking, kayaking, and gardening, or traveling to visit family and friends.

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A Message from the Council President

In July, we celebrate the independence of our Nation. We are fortunate to live in a country that values liberty and justice, but lately, I've been thinking about a different kind of freedom.

In 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Paul writes "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

This passage speaks to the profound liberty we experience through the Spirit of the Lord. It is a freedom that transcends societal limitations, reaching into the depths of our souls to liberate us from sin, guilt, and fear. This spiritual freedom empowers us to break through human prejudice in order to embrace diversity and cultivate compassion.

One way to do this is by welcoming all those who walk through our doors. I am hoping to create a "Welcome Team" to examine how we greet visitors. This team would work to update gift bags for visitors so they can learn about who we are and set new welcoming guidelines. Anybody who feels called to be a part of this team can reach out to me, call the office, or write "Welcome Team" on the back of your Check-in card on Sunday morning. We would especially love to hear from those of you who are newer to our congregation.

As we grow in our relationship with God, let us make sure our judgments reflect the love and compassionate justice of the Divine, allowing us to be an inclusive refuge for all.

Sincerely, Johanna Baker

*You're invited to our
Open House!*



Details:

- Samaritan Center North Market: 33 N Market Street, Fourth Floor, Lancaster, PA 17603
- Friday, July 12, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Ribbon-cutting and remarks 12:15 p.m.
- Meet and greet with our therapists, tour the new space, and enjoy light refreshments

Join us on **Friday, July 12, 2024** at 33 N Market Street to celebrate the opening of **Samaritan Center North Market**. Stop by between **12 p.m. and 4 p.m.** to meet some of our therapists, tour our new space, and enjoy light refreshments – in the comfort of air conditioning! We'll kick things off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 12:15 p.m., followed by remarks from **Steven Schedler**,

Samaritan Center Executive Director.

We hope to see you there!



Samaritan Center offers hope and healing through professional counseling while respecting personal and spiritual values.

Church Happenings and News

Office Staff Availability

With the start of our new church administrator we'd like to remind you of our office hours and staff schedules. Melissa (admin@apostlesucc.org) is available 9-1 M-Th, Paityn (office@apostlesucc.org), our communications coordinator, is available 9-1 M-Th, and April (finance@apostlesucc.org), our finance coordinator, is available 9-1 M-W. To ensure availability, we recommend calling or emailing before stopping by, as our staff may be on vacation or unavailable. As a reminder our office number is (717) 392-5718.

Discover Life Groups at COA

Curious about Life Groups? Join us for a picnic in Rader Park on Sunday, August 18th, at 5:00 PM to learn more!

Enjoy a covered dish picnic and an informal Q&A session with current Life Group members: Donna and Skeeter Carr, Allison Carr, Robin Lucey, Barbara Achtermann, and former members John and Cathy Speitel. Experience the small group support and community that Life Groups offer. For more details or to sign up, contact Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285. We look forward to seeing you there!



Join Us for Wacky Wednesdays in July

Families, it's not too late to dive into the summer fun with Wacky Wednesdays! Our free summer reading program for kids from preschool through third grade continues throughout July at Rader Park, 1899 Apostles Way, Lancaster, PA 17603, from 10-11:30 AM. Caregivers are kindly asked to accompany their children. Don't miss out on this fantastic summer program! Use the QR Code to the right to sign-up! Upcoming dates and themes:

- **July 3rd:** Discover Frogs & Toads
- **July 10th:** Learn about Ducks & Birds
- **July 17th:** Special guest Lisa Sanchez, a Lancaster County Parks Naturalist, will bring special displays for children to touch and learn about.



Reconnect with Your Faith This Summer – Register Anytime!

Back by popular demand! Our Listening for God sessions are returning for six weeks this summer, continuing through July 24th 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.

Rev. Kuhn encourages registration even if you missed the first two sessions in June. Connect with others and nurture your faith. Journaling is encouraged. Register using the QR Code to the left or contact the office for the Zoom link.

Join Our Environmental Action Team!

Are you passionate about making a difference for the environment? Join us on Thursday, July 18th, 2024 at 1 PM in the Parlor for an organizing conversation. We'll discuss our shared interests and explore ways to partner in ministry to benefit our property and the greater community. If you can't attend, please speak with Rev. Kuhn to share your interests and get connected with others working in those areas. Let's work together for the well-being of our planet!

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

- **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.

Community Engagement

Shaarai Shomayim Kids Transform Rader Park

On Tuesday, June 11th, children and teens from Congregation Shaarai Shomayim volunteered at Rader Park. They split into three groups to rake under the memorial trees, assist Carol Nielsen and Betty Reiff in the gardens, and rake under the trees in the Apostles front parking lot. A huge thank-you to them and our volunteers for their efforts! Together, we can keep our park a beautiful space for the community to gather.



Celebrating Our Generosity

The generosity of the Church of the Apostles UCC congregation has enabled us to donate feminine hygiene products to Lancaster County Food Hub and Water Street Mission. Together, we make a real difference!



Rev. Kuhn Shared with Congolese Congregation

On Sunday, June 16th, Rev. Kuhn had the privilege of teaching a class on the Parables of Jesus with the Congolese congregation at the Friends Meeting House on Tulane Terrace. Invited by Pastor Isaac, Rev. Kuhn shared her insights on the Parables of Loss: The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son. With the help of an interpreter and Swahili-translated notes, Rev. Kuhn connected deeply with the congregation. The session was filled with thoughtful questions, warm hospitality, and the joyful music of the Spirit's presence. Rev. Kuhn cherished the opportunity to engage with such a vibrant community of faith.

Mocktails & Meaning on Summer Break

Mocktails & Meaning is taking a short summer break to give our participants, mocktail makers, and hosts time to relax and enjoy their summers. We'll be back in September! Keep an eye out for more information on our return, including exciting topics and hosts for the fall and winter seasons. Cheers to a refreshing summer!

Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting Recap

This year our annual meeting was in State College on June 7-9th. During the gathering, we heard from our Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, about the state of our conference. Overall, she made the point that we are a conference made up of small churches. We currently have 167 churches with an average membership of 135 and an average worship attendance of 48. Unfortunately, 23% of our churches no longer financially support our conference or denomination; however, we are one of 53 churches in the conference who are 5 for 5 congregations. This means that we financially support the five offerings of the United Church of Christ (Our Churches Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund). Last year our donation to the conference was \$52,451. It was also named that there are 100% scholarships for any UCC member wishing to pursue a Master's level degree in religious studies in Lancaster.

This year we were joined by the Penn West, Penn Northeast, and Pennsylvania Southeast conferences as we continued our conversation about merging into one Keystone conference. Both the joys and challenges of the merger were raised. With the challenges, we were asked to consider possible steps to minimize any adverse effects and ideas were given. The actual vote to merge will be this fall on November 9th. If any conference votes against the merger, it will not move forward. If there is a positive vote, the motion to merge will be put to our General Synod in June 2025.

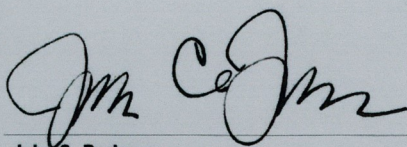
Thank You!

To the members of

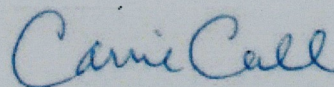
Church of the Apostles UCC, Lancaster

for being a **5 for 5 Congregation** of
the United Church of Christ in **2023** .

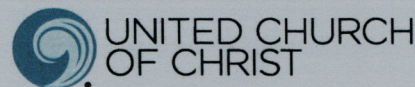
5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.



John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ



Conference Minister
Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call
Penn Central Conference



A Musical Note

WITH
LARS POTTEIGER

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

In continuing with our summer theme of how we can be better stewards of the environment, I'd like to take a look at the history of another hymn that features themes of nature and creation in its text. "All Things Bright and Beautiful" is a cherished hymn written by Cecil Frances Alexander, an Irish hymn writer and poet, in 1848. Published in her collection Hymns for Little Children, the hymn was intended to teach children about the opening lines of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The lyrics celebrate the splendor of God's creation, using simple and joyful language to describe various aspects of nature as expressions of divine craftsmanship.

The hymn has been set to several tunes, with "Royal Oak," adapted by Martin Shaw in 1915 being the most recognized. Its vivid imagery, message of gratitude, and reverence for God have made it a staple in Christian worship. Cecil Frances Alexander, who also wrote other well-known hymns like "Once in Royal David's City," has ensured the hymn's place in numerous hymnals, recordings, and adaptations, maintaining its popularity across generations.

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

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 this concert.*

Peace,

Lars

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 2024

**JOEL
MAKECI**

FREE CONCERT

AT CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC

1850 MARIETTA AVE. LANCASTER

🕒 3 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

MORE INFO: [APOSTLESUCC.ORG/CONCERTS](https://www.apostlesucc.org/concerts)

Thank-You, You're Welcome, and Goodbye!

It's hard to believe it's been six years since I first sat in the parking lot and wondered about Church of the Apostles. I asked if it would be a safe place, if it would be the right place, and if I would learn anything or had anything to share. After leaving and returning a few times, I now have an answer. I can confidently say that my time at Apostles was a time of growth and healing. I have learned a lot about the imperfect church still being holy and divine. This church has welcomed me and my family. From my first day as a jaded Christian accidentally finding my way to seminary to my recent ordination, you have all made a place for me, allowing me to grow and learn.

As Lucy, the boys, and I begin a new chapter in our lives and continue doing ministry at First Church of Christ in Bethany, CT, I want to thank all of you. Thank-you for the laughs, the trust, the conversations, and especially the love you have shared with me. An extra special thank-you to Pastor Kuhn for listening to the Holy Spirit and allowing me space to find my way and voice. Your time and conversations have been an investment in my life. Thank-you to the families that have allowed me to share life with them and their students. Thank you for all the friendships and memories.

"So, what can I say except you're welcome. Come to think of it, honestly, I can go on and on. So, you're welcome and thank you." - Maui

Until next time, because we have eternity,

Jonathan, Lucy, Milo, and Luca

Ordination Pictures



Photo Credit: Jill Craven & Rev. Kuhn

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:

- **July 11th:** Holly Kleimo, (717) 892-7022
- **July 18th:** Milt Gockley, (717) 892-8376
- **July 25th:** Robin Lucey, (917) 747-7755

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.



7/1	Kay Thomas *
7/2	Ellen Schellenberger
7/3	Tristin Neiderer
7/4	Patrick Carr
7/4	Helen Ebersole
7/5	Frank Wilson
7/6	Earl Cardellino
7/8	Dustin Koehler
7/10	Julie Berkow
7/10	Eva Johnson *
7/11	Mischelle Van Buskirk
7/13	Andy Appel
7/13	Jared Braun
7/15	Nancy Payne
7/17	Judy Ruppert
7/19	Dominic Williams
7/20	Joan Hansel
7/21	Jean Heidig
7/21	Melissa Koehler
7/22	Judy Waltman
7/24	Donna Lockey
7/25	Doris Krammes
7/25	Karen Williams
7/26	Emily Sheffer
7/27	Jeannie Clausen
7/28	Bonnie Bechtold
7/31	Will Newport

*90+ Birthdays

7/3	Lou & Arlene Gaudioso *
7/5	Julie & Don Berkow
7/5	Erin & Chris Rohrbaugh
7/9	Scott & Stephanie Moore
7/10	Abe & Leigh Breslin
7/11	Glenn & Helen Ebersole *
7/14	Chuck & Marsha Erisman
7/17	Jim & Linda Eaton *
7/17	Bob & Gail Frankhouser
7/17	Bill & Kristi Newport
7/18	Dean & Suzie Witmer *

*50+ Anniversary

In Memory of:



Gerie Nease
 May 1928 - April 2024
 MEMORIAL FUND DONATION MADE BY:
JOE & SANDY WEIDEL

In Memory of:



Shirley Miller
 February 1937 - April 2024
 MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS MADE BY:
**FRANKLIN D. MILLER,
 KEN & BEV KELLER,
 JOHN & BONNIE ESHBACH**



July
FLOWER SPONSORS

July 21st
In Loving Memory of my
Parents, Charlotte & Perry Zahm
 By Carol Nielsen

Have an Article for the Crown?

Please send articles for the August edition of the Crown by Monday, July 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

(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

	May 2024	May 2023
YTD Revenue	\$212,993.86	\$217,853.77
YTD Operating Expenses	\$278,702.14	\$275,681.18
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$65,708.28	-\$57,827.41

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



Dear Church of the Apostles Members,

Thank-you so much for adopting our kindergarten class at Martin School. The games and supplies we purchased made our year extra fun! We really appreciate your generosity.

Thanks,

Mrs. Telesco's Class

Martin School

Kindergarten '23-'24



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

Pastor 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

Church Administrator

Melissa Kosman ext. 8211
admin@apostlesucc.org

Communications Coordinator

Paityn Nissly ext. 8200
office@apostlesucc.org

Finance Coordinator

April Fisher ext. 8207
finance@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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Church of the Apostles, UCC
1850 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603-2398
Phone: 717-392-5718
Email: office@apostlesucc.org
www.apostlesucc.org

