



# THE CROWN NEWS

August 2024 Vol. 48 No. 8

## Pastor's Corner

*All who believed were together and had all things in common;  
they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.  
— Acts 2:44-45*

In the New Testament, there's considerable guidance on how the early church should treat one another, but little on its organizational structure. Yet, a few passages hint at their collaborative efforts and mutual care. Central to this was a deep trust in each other's intentions when seeking assistance, which is foundational to our current structural changes. These changes were recommended by our Governance team following the insights from the Comprehensive Health Check.

To prioritize openness and trust, I want to transparently share our plans to address some concerns you may have. We are making three key changes to our operations:

- 1. Communication and Accountability:** Instead of formal commission meetings and detailed minutes, ministries will now communicate directly with Melissa, our Administrator, or me upon completing tasks. Stewardship, Property, and Outreach ministries will report to Melissa, while Worship, Education, and Parish Life ministries will report to me. Melissa and I will then update the Council on our collective progress.
- 2. Financial Transparency:** Teams will no longer autonomously create budgets based on projections. They must now submit requests for specific ministry funds before spending. This ensures financial decisions are guided by collective oversight and trust in our shared goals.
- 3. Council Oversight:** The Council's role will evolve to oversee church operations by establishing policies aligned with our Vision & Mission. These policies will serve as a framework built on mutual trust to guide us forward. The Council will further enhance trust by setting annual goals aligned with our Vision & Mission, and plan for the future.

Additional information on the structural and governance changes are available from the church office from the book [Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership](#) by Dan Hotchkiss.

We understand that these changes diverge from past practices, but we believe they will foster a deeper sense of unity and trust as we collectively pursue the Vision & Mission according to Christ's teachings.

Blessings & Peace,

*Pastor Kathryn Kuhn*

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# A Message from the Council Vice-President

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## Embracing Diversity - Church of the Apostles: A Church Where Everyone Belongs

At COA we have identified Inclusive Refuge as a prominent core value. Diversity is a blessing that enriches our lives and strengthens our communities. As we gather in our sacred space we are to be a welcoming community and a safe space for all to come as they are. Each one of us is a unique creation, shaped by our experiences, beliefs and backgrounds. These are the differences that make us whole and complete.

In a world that often seeks to divide us, our church stands for unity and acceptance. Regardless of race, gender, age, or social status, each individual will be valued and accepted here. We recognize that each person brings something special to our community, and it is through understanding and embracing these differences that enable us to grow stronger together.

Let us open our hearts and minds to new perspectives and to the richness of human experience. By listening to one another with compassion and empathy, we create a safe space where everyone can be themselves without fear or exclusion.

In our church, we celebrate the truth that we are all children of the same loving Creator, deserving of love, kindness, and dignity. As we come together in fellowship, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a community where everyone belongs, just as they are. Let us pray that our actions reflect the inclusive love that knows no boundaries and welcomes all with open arms.

Lou Gaudio

Vice President, Church Council

## Food Bank Needs

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Our food bank urgently needs the following supplies to last until our annual food bank collection in September:

- **Peanut Butter or Peanut Butter Alternatives**
- **Tomato Products**
- **Pasta**
- **Rice**
- **Macaroni & Cheese**
- **Soups**
- **Canned Meats** (Tuna, Spam, Etc.)
- **Breakfast Items** (Cereals, Pancake Mix, Breakfast Bars)
- **Laundry Detergent** (Pods or Liquid)
- **Paper Towels**
- **Toilet Paper**
- **Dish Soap**



Please do not donate canned beans or fruit as we have a surplus. Consider other local food banks for these items. We also need an additional volunteer to help in the food bank. If you can assist, please contact the office. Your generous donations will help keep our food bank stocked until September. Thank you for your continued support!

# Church Happenings and News



## Rise & Realm: Breakfast & Learn

Save the date for Tuesday, September 17th, 2024, at 10 AM in the Narthex! Join us for a special breakfast event hosted by Paityn Nissly, our Communications Coordinator. Learn how Realm can benefit our congregation and ministries, participate in a Q&A session, and enjoy a light breakfast with coffee, tea, and juice. RSVP by emailing [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) or by using the QR code to the right to register on Realm. If you can't make it, consider making an appointment with Paityn to learn more about Realm. We hope to see you there!

## 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!



## Supporting the Refugee Fund

In August, we are focusing our efforts on supporting the Refugee Fund to assist the Bilombele and Mlasi families. This collection will ensure that we can provide essential support for their needs, including school supplies, Christmas gifts, rent, and other necessities. Please ensure that all checks or cash are clearly marked with "Refugee Fund" to ensure proper allocation. Donations can also be made through Realm & Vanco. Your generous contributions will directly impact these families, helping them to thrive in our community. All donations are due by September 1st.

Please enjoy these pictures of the children on a visit to Pine View Dairy Farms!



## 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

- **August 13, 2024:** The Women by Kristin Hannah

### \*Start of New Season\*

- **September 10, 2024:** The Art Thief Movie Showing
- **October 8, 2024:** James by Percival Everett
- **November 12, 2024:** The Fairleigh Field by Rhys Brown
- **December 10, 2024:** The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende

## 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

## Family Events Survey

Attention Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, and care-takers of children! We need your input to help us plan exciting family events for the upcoming fall & winter. Please take a moment to fill out our brief 4-question survey. Simply scan the QR code to the right to share your ideas and preferences. Thank-you for your participation!



## Dear Church of the Apostles UCC,

Thank-you so much for the generous donation of books for Hamilton's Little Free Library! Our students love to read year-round and having these books allows our students and community to borrow these books to read. It is very popular in the summer months with limited access to libraries in our area. Thank-you again for this kind gift!

Greatly Appreciated,

Hamilton Elementary School

## Governance Q&A

The Comprehensive Church Health Check highlighted the need for a more efficient governance structure. This led to the creation of a Governance Team, headed by Karen Culp, tasked with researching various church governance models and recommending the best option to the Council. Currently, we operate as a "Board-Centered Congregation," which has resulted in unclear lines of authority and limited accountability.

Based on the recommendation accepted by Council, we are transitioning to a "Staff-Centered Congregation" model. This shift empowers our staff with authority and holds them accountable for ministry activities. The goal is to establish a healthy and sustainable congregational system that fosters growth. For those interested in learning more about the "Staff-Centered Congregation" model, background information is available upon request from our office.



Recognizing that these structural changes may raise questions, we invite you to submit your inquiries throughout August. Responses will be provided during September and October. You can submit questions using the QR code to the left or in the bulletin, or by contacting the office directly. We understand that these changes may be unfamiliar, and we aim to be transparent and address any concerns you may have.

**REP. MIKE STURLA AND  
REP. ISMAIL SMITH-WADE-EL'S**



# Back to School EVENT



Scan here  
to register  
online today

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED & AVAILABLE  
NOW UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024**  
[WWW.REPMIKESTURLA.COM](http://WWW.REPMIKESTURLA.COM)  
OR [WWW.REPIZZY.COM](http://WWW.REPIZZY.COM)

**SUNDAY,  
AUGUST  
18**

**12 P.M. -  
2:30 P.M.**

**Clipper Magazine Stadium  
650 N. Prince Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603**

Registration will run from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with festivities continuing until 4 p.m. and ending with a free Barnstormers game at 5 p.m. Reps. Sturla and Smith-Wade El's staff will also be on site to answer questions about state-related issues.

Parents and guardians must register their children, kindergarten through eighth grade, to receive a free:

- Backpack
- Clothing
- Other Items
- Shoes

Anyone interested in volunteering, donating or contributing to the event in any way can contact Francis Miliano in Rep. Sturla's Lancaster office at (717) 295-3157 or [fmiliano@pahouse.net](mailto:fmiliano@pahouse.net).

# A Musical Note

WITH  
LARS POTTEIGER

This is my Father's world:  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.

"This Is My Father's World" is a hymn penned by Maltbie Davenport Babcock, an American minister known for his poetic and musical talents. Inspired by his frequent nature walks around Lake Ontario near his home in Lockport, New York, Babcock often remarked, "I'm going out to see my Father's world," reflecting his deep appreciation for the natural world. Originally part of a sixteen-verse poem, the hymn was published posthumously in 1901 by Babcock's wife, Catherine, in a collection of his writings. Franklin L. Sheppard, a close friend of Babcock, later set the poem to music, adapting a traditional English melody, TERRA BEATA ("Blessed Earth").

The hymn's lyrics celebrate the beauty and sanctity of creation, acknowledging God's hand in the natural world. Over the years, "This Is My Father's World" has become a beloved hymn in many denominations, frequently sung in worship services and special occasions that focus on the environment and stewardship of the earth. Its enduring appeal lies in its simple yet profound expression of faith and appreciation for the world as a reflection of God's glory.

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

**August 25th at 3pm:** Joel Makeci is a Lancaster-based Congolese American singer, songwriter and bandleader. 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.

**September 29th at 3pm:** The Temple Avenue Jazz Band is an entertaining and energetic jazz group that plays a "straight-ahead" style of jazz. They perform their own versions of popular jazz standards from the Great American Songbook, as well as little-known gems.

**October 20th at 3pm:** The Lancaster Flute Ensemble, formed in 2016, currently has over 20 members from Lancaster, York, Elizabethtown, and Lebanon. The ensemble features a variety of flutes, including piccolos, C flutes, alto and bass flutes, and contra bass flutes. Their repertoire spans classical, popular, sacred, and folk music, with original arrangements by founding member Ray-Michael Kauffman.

**December 8th at 3pm:** Formed in 2011, the Vintage Brass Quintet is active in the greater Harrisburg, PA area. They offer a wide range of music, from Bach to Gershwin and Elvis to Billy Joel, including classical, show tunes, jazz, and pop. Their Christmas programs include well-known carols and holiday tunes. Much of their music is specifically arranged for the ensemble.

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

Peace and Blessings, Lars

# Important Campus Rules & Guidelines

We kindly ask that everyone visiting our campus please take a moment to review and follow the guidelines for our building and Rader Park.

**1. Smoke, Drug, and Alcohol-Free Campus:** Our campus is free of smoke, drugs, and alcohol. Please refrain from using any of these products while visiting.

**2. Weapons Policy:** For everyone's safety, please refrain from bringing weapons onto our property, including but not limited to guns, knives, sling-shots, bow and arrows, and air rifles.

**3. Personal Property:** Church of the Apostles is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal belongings left on our premises. Found items will be kept in our lost and founds for up to two months before donation or disposal.

**4. Pet Safety:** All pets, including dogs and cats, must be leashed or contained for their safety and the safety of all guests.

**5. Leave No Trace:** As an environmentally conscious congregation, we practice leave no trace on our campus. Please dispose of trash in the proper receptacles and refrain from disturbing natural habitats in Rader Park. This includes avoiding actions such as moving rocks in Brubaker Run that disrupt the flow of water, or breaking branches off trees.

**6. Facility Use Requests:** Any building usage, including the Schellenberger Pavilion and the Youth Center, must be requested via a Facility Use Request form. Submit the form to the office or email it to [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org).

**7. Firepit Use:** To use the firepit located in the pine grove, you must complete a Facility Use Form and a Campfire Procedure Form. At this time fires are suspended due to the prolonged drought.

**8. Kitchen Use:** If you plan to use the kitchen, please follow our rules outlined in the Facility Use Form, which must be completed before use.

**9. Preschool Hours:** During preschool hours, members & guests must visit the office to be escorted through the preschool wing. It is encouraged to conduct business after school hours (9-2 Monday-Friday).

**10. First-Aid and Emergency Equipment:** First Aid equipment, including AED machines and Narcan kits, are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Please inform the office or property manager if these supplies are used, for replenishment and record-keeping.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our campus safe and enjoyable for everyone.

## 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:

- **August 1st:** Barbara Achtermann, (717) 824-3265
- **August 8th:** Robin Lucey, (917) 747-7755
- **August 15th:** Milt Gockley, (717) 892-8376
- **August 22nd:** Robin Lucey, (917) 747-7755
- **August 29th:** 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.

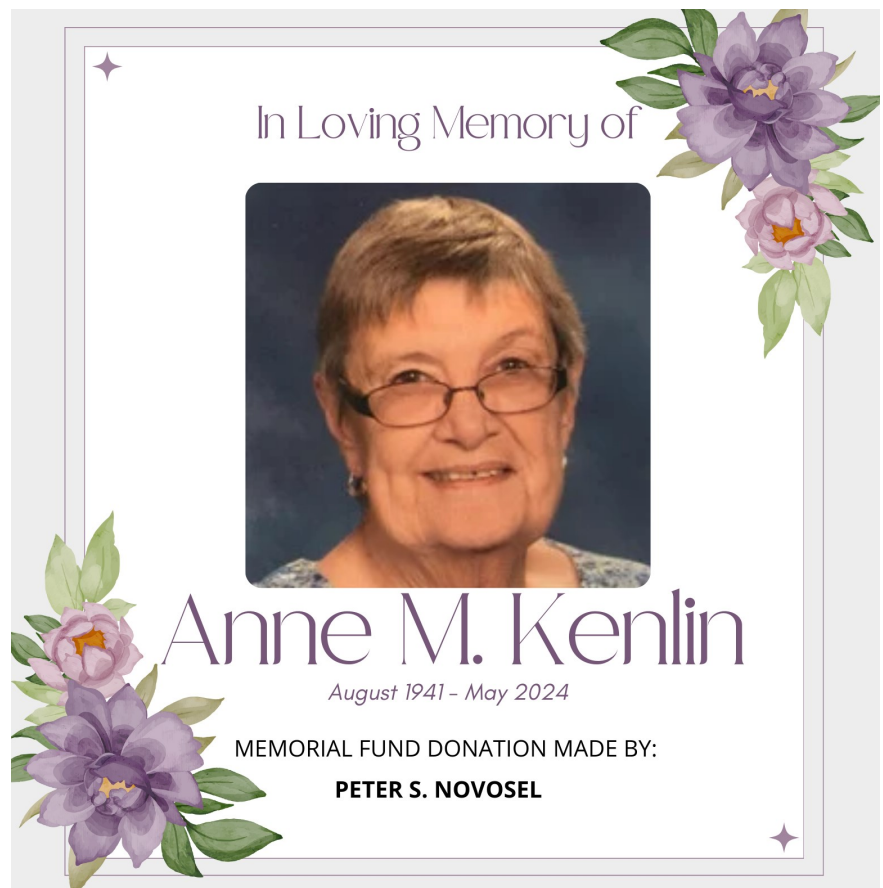


8/1	Carla Williams*
8/2	Betty Plamjack
8/3	Laurel Marx
8/6	Donna Bechtold
8/9	Kathy Barto *
8/9	Luane Morrison
8/9	Stephen Noland
8/10	Beverly Waltman
8/11	John Eshbach
8/11	Kandi Fickes
8/13	Kathy Duffey
8/13	Linus Whittington
8/14	Virginia Brown
8/14	Chris Conrad
8/16	Adrienne DeLaney
8/18	Bernie Fickes
8/18	Bill Stock
8/19	Pat DiDomenico
8/19	Judith Frable
8/19	David Schick
8/22	Tom Weaver
8/23	Dan Fickes
8/24	Teresa Wilson
8/28	Nancy Hungerford *
8/29	Pat Hess
8/29	Doris Robb
8/30	Kate Kendig

\*90+ Birthdays

8/2	Jim & Elizabeth Stoltzfus
8/2	Wade & Debby Walburn
8/9	Jane & Steve McCartney
8/9	Stephanie & Cliff Rampaul
8/10	Judy & Larry Waltman*
8/14	Les & Karen Helmeczi *
8/16	Joe & Sandy Weidel *
8/20	George & Donna Bechtold *
8/21	Skeeter & Donna Carr *
8/25	Tom & Linda Lewis *

\*50+ Anniversary







**August 11th**  
**In Loving Memory of our Parents,**  
**Charles & Arlene Keiter, &**  
**Frank & Polly Klunk**  
 By Judy & Jeff Klunk

**August 18th**  
**In Honor of our 53rd Anniversary**  
 By Donna & Skeeter Carr

*Have an Article for the Crown?*

Please send articles for the September edition of the Crown by Thursday, August 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 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

	June 2024	June 2023
YTD Revenue	\$235,376.08	\$245,714.81
YTD Operating Expenses	\$334,898.27	\$337,140.16
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$99,522.19	-\$91,425.35

## 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 <a href="mailto:monicadaniels54@gmail.com">monicadaniels54@gmail.com</a>
Lynn Steedle	(717) 390-4152 or <a href="mailto:ccsteedle@gmail.com">ccsteedle@gmail.com</a>
Bev Keller	(717) 898-2146 or <a href="mailto:bek0914@aol.com">bek0914@aol.com</a>
Nancy Steger	(717) 393-7856 or <a href="mailto:nancyasteger@gmail.com">nancyasteger@gmail.com</a>
Jean Heidig	(717) 394-8733 or <a href="mailto:jean.heidig@gmail.com">jean.heidig@gmail.com</a>
Donna Carr	(717) 397-6305 or <a href="mailto:skeetcarr@comcast.net">skeetcarr@comcast.net</a>

Mary Ellen Bachman	(717) 393-8922
Susan Shaak	(717) 584-6791
Doug Nutt	(717) 753-8564
Cindy Williams	(717) 715-0716



# 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](http://www.apostlesucc.org/faith-and-inspiration)  
for our service bulletins,  
sounds for the soul and more!

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Organization  
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PAID  
Permit No. 1065  
Lancaster, PA

Church of the Apostles, UCC  
1850 Marietta Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17603-2398  
Phone: 717-392-5718  
Email: [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)  
[www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

