



THE CROWN NEWS

October 2024 Vol. 48 No. 10

A Message from the Executive Committee

We have been on a journey for the last four years. Some have said we weren't going fast enough, and some have said we are going too fast. But almost everyone is reacting in some way to the changes. Let's revisit where we have been.

In late 2020, the Growth Taskforce was proposing that the Congregation participate in the Jeremiah Project to help us define a new common mission. In 2021, as part of leading into that initiative, we held two different sessions where members read the book, *Transforming Congregational Culture*. Continuing to recognize the need for change, in 2022, we began interviewing consulting companies to help us in our journey. We chose Agile Church who conducted a detailed assessment of our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Agile made a number of recommendations for us that the Implementation Team reviewed and with feedback from the congregation, those recommendations were prioritized and sorted into a rough timeline for implementation.

One of those recommendations was to move to one service which we have done. There were some who had concerns about that move and perhaps we can still improve Worship, but there is energy now in the Narthex before and after the combined service as we come together. In the past, there were comments that we were two congregations: the 9:15 and the 10:45 congregations. This is just one recommendation of 30+ that we were given.

In 2023, a large number of the congregation chose to participate in the Jeremiah Project. From that discernment exercise, the congregation defined our core values and chose a new mission and vision intended to guide us in our service together and to focus our ministries in the world.

We believe that God's love conquers fear and prioritize social justice, inclusion, and environmental care. Following Jesus' example, we aim to be an inclusive and generous church that advocates for the marginalized and creates a safe space for all. Guided by God's love, we welcome everyone, serve compassionately, and champion both environmental and social justice



We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.

– Maya Angelou

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A Message from the Executive Committee Cont'

As we continue to implement these recommendations, maybe it is becoming more real to everyone. Change can be scary, and it can be exhilarating, sometimes both at the same time. As we approach the end of 2024, we will be asking you to approve By-law changes and Governance changes. For decades, we operated under a Commission-based structure and now we are asking you to move to a Ministry Team based focus. Council believes that this will allow us to be more flexible in the ministries we offer to our internal and external communities. If you are interested in a particular mission that fits into our mission and vision and have others who want to work with you on that, you can move forward without having to attend a monthly Commission meeting. And when that mission may end, you just disband your team. Ministry Teams will be accountable to Pastor Kuhn.

As we looked at the budget for 2025, we did some streamlining and some minor cuts. We recognize as a congregation that we cannot continue to pull money endlessly from our endowment funds and that we will need to increase our giving and/or revenue options or make some serious cuts in the future. When we look at our internal giving, there is a small percentage of congregational members who are providing most of our financial gifts. That is not sustainable long-term.

We have been and still are on a journey of change. That journey is becoming more real now for some of us. If you have questions, please reach out to Church Council, to our Church Administrator, Melissa, or to Pastor Kuhn. As we continue to evolve, if we try things that don't work, we'll adapt and revise as necessary. Continue to give us your feedback and most importantly, stay involved and find ways to live into our new mission and vision.

- Cathy Kenlin, Council Treasurer

A Message from Church Administrator

As members of Christ's family, we are called to embrace a transformative mission: to extend love to our neighbors, nurture discipleship, extend care to others, and above all, to follow the example set by Jesus. Through your generosity, the Church of the Apostles is dedicated to fulfilling this sacred mission.

Moving forward, we are excited to introduce a narrative budget—a living portrayal of the ways you are moving the mission and vision forward. This approach complements the traditional line-item details with narratives that illustrate how your contributions are transforming lives within our community.

Each segment of this budget will paint a vivid picture of COA's ministries and their impact on organizations, individuals, and families. It will highlight the profound value of your support and illuminate the positive changes experienced by those who benefit from our ministries and your generosity.

Through the narrative budget you'll discover how your generosity is transforming lives and creating lasting connections through our ministries. Throughout the year, we'll keep you informed with updates during Sunday Services, on Social Media, and in The Crown.

We invite you to share your personal stories about how a ministry has touched your life or the life of someone you know. Your experiences are powerful and help illuminate the impact of our collective efforts. If you have any questions about the narrative budget or wish to contribute a story, please reach out. Your voice and insights are invaluable as we continue to live out our mission and vision.

Melissa Kosman
Church Administrator
Admin@apostlesucc.org

Church Happenings and News

Warm Wear for Winter: Coat Collection for Our Community

As the cold weather approaches, we are excited to continue our tradition of collecting coats and warm winter gear for those in need. Starting in October, we will be accepting donations of gently used or new coats, gloves, mittens, and hats to support individuals and families in our community.

This year, our collection will benefit several local organizations:

- **Children's coats and gear** will be donated to students at Wheatland Middle School and Martin Elementary in the School District of Lancaster.
- **Men's coats** will go to The GateHouse in Lititz, a non-profit addiction recovery center that has specifically requested sizes Large, XL, and XXL.
- **Women's coats** will be donated to a local women's shelter to help provide warmth and comfort during the colder months.

As you clean out your closets or upgrade your winter wardrobe, consider donating your gently used items to this great cause. Donations will be accepted from the beginning of October until the end of February and can be placed in the tall white laundry basket under the Outreach bulletin board near the hospitality table. Thank you for giving the gift of warmth to those in need this winter season!

Want to Help Our Church Grow in Just 10 Minutes a Week?

We're looking for friendly volunteers to sign welcome cards for new neighbors in our community, inviting them to check out Church of the Apostles. It's a quick and easy way to make a big impact—just 10 minutes a week! You could be that friendly face to sit with or someone they can ask questions.

If you're interested in helping out, please contact Don Hess at donhess39@gmail.com.

Join Our Photography & Videography Team!

Are you passionate about capturing special moments? We're forming a team of amateur photographers and videographers to help document our church's special events and Sunday services. Whether you're skilled with a camera or simply enjoy taking photos, your talents can make a difference!

How It Works:

- **Flexible Involvement:** There are no upfront commitments. For each event, we'll reach out with details, and you can decide if you're available to help.
- **Equipment:** Bring your own camera, or use our GoPro, which we can provide training for if needed.

Ready to lend your skills? Email Paityn Nissly at office@apostlesucc.org to join our team. Let's capture the heart of our community together!

New Picnic Spot in Rader Park!

Looking for a peaceful place to enjoy the crisp autumn air? The Property Commission has created a charming picnic area in Rader Park! Nestled in a grove of nut trees just beyond the Seeds of Hope garden shed, you'll find a 6-person picnic table and a coal-burning grill, available 24/7 for public use. It's the perfect spot to relax, take in the beauty of the season, and enjoy the fall breeze. Be sure to stop by and check it out!



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

- **October 8, 2024:**
James by Percival P. Everett
- **November 12, 2024:**
The Fairleigh Field by Rhys Brown
- **December 10, 2024:**
The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende
- **January 14th, 2025:**
The American Queen by Vanessa Miller

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.



Preschool News

Preschool began its 59th year a few weeks ago! Our 135 children and 18 staff members are off to a great start! We spent the first few weeks learning our classroom routines, getting to know our friends, and learning to play together. Our September curriculum theme, which will continue into October was "Community Helpers." We learned about the world around us, helpers in our neighborhoods and met new friends in our own school community.



Our Nature Explorers Enrichment Program is underway on Tuesday afternoons. Our Pre-K friends will enjoy all that Rader Park has to offer!



We have a lot of fun events and activities planned for the first part of the year-- a visit from the Rohrerstown Fire Company during Fire Safety Week, a school-wide nature program from Lisa Sanchez of Lancaster Parks and Recreation, Pre-K visits to Homestead Village, our fall outing to Cherry Hill Orchard, and our annual Halloween Parade at the end of October. We are looking forward to another amazing year of learning and growing through God!

Maggie Biggs
Director
Apostles Community Preschool

JOIN US!

MOCKTAILS & MEANING

10.17.24
6:30 - 8:30 PM

SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION
w/ Ashley Ramsey from Mental Health America

MOCKTAILS - DISCUSSION - COMMUNITY

www.apostlesucc.org/MocktailsMeaning



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC
PRESENTS OUR 3RD ANNUAL

HALLOWEEN *Parade* & PARTY



▶ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2024 ◀



PARADE

Steps Off at 1 PM

STARTING IN OUR FRONT PARKING LOT, WE WILL WALK THROUGH HOMESTEAD VILLAGE AND END IN RADER PARK.



GAMES

2-3:30 PM

GAMES FOR CHILDREN WILL BE AVAILABLE IN RADER PARK. ALL CHILDREN WILL WIN A PRIZE FOR PLAYING.



COSTUME CONTEST

2:30 PM

ENTER OUR COSTUME CONTEST TO WIN PRIZES FOR SCARIEST, FUNNIEST, MOST CREATIVE, AND BEST GROUP COSTUMES.



ICE-CREAM & TRACTOR RIDES

3-4 PM

ENJOY A FREE FROZEN TREAT AND TRACTOR RIDE BRINGING GUESTS BACK TO THEIR VEHICLES IN THE PARKING LOT.

**ALL AGES WELCOME! REGISTER NOW
AT APOSTLESUCC.ORG**

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC
1850 MARIETTA AVE.
LANCASTER, PA 17552

A Musical Note

WITH
LARS POTTEIGER

We are singing a weekly theme song during our services throughout October, aligning with our seasonal themes of love and unity. This month, our song is "Lean on Me," written by Bill Withers and released in 1972. Inspired by Withers' upbringing in a close-knit community in West Virginia, the song became a hit with its powerful message of friendship and support. It reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 and has since become an anthem of unity, often covered by artists and featured during times of crisis and social movements.

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

October 20th at 3 PM: 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.

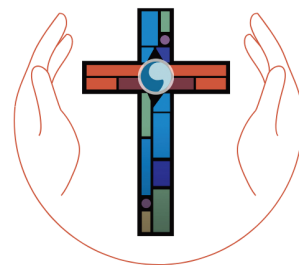
December 8th at 3 PM: Formed in 2011, the Vintage Brass Quintet is active in the greater Harrisburg, PA area. They offer a wide range of music, from Bach to Gershwin and Elvis to Billy Joel, including classical, show tunes, jazz, and pop. Their Christmas programs include well-known carols and holiday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

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

An Old Ministry Revived



We are excited to announce the revival of a beloved ministry at Church of the Apostles UCC. Our shawl and blanket ministry has been brought back with a fresh new name—the **Caring Hands Ministry!** This ministry is currently made up of five dedicated volunteers who crochet and knit soft shawls, baby blankets, and lap blankets. Each item is lovingly crafted, and a small label is sewn on, stating it was made by COA.



For those who attended worship on August 25th, you may have witnessed the special moment when Rev. Kuhn blessed the first two shawls. Each comfort item is wrapped with a blessing card and placed in a basket in the coat room. These items are available for members to take for themselves or to give to friends, family, or neighbors who may need a little extra comfort and care during challenging times.

Caring Hands Ministry Needs Your Help!

If you enjoy crocheting or knitting, we invite you to join us. There is no set timeframe or pressure; simply create these comfort items as you have time and deliver them to the main office or Rev. Kuhn. Your contribution could make a big difference in someone's life. To learn more or to volunteer your crafting skills, please reach out to Bernie Fickes at berenicefickes4@gmail.com or call (717) 925-9155. Let's continue to spread love and comfort together!



Inclusive Church Team Updates

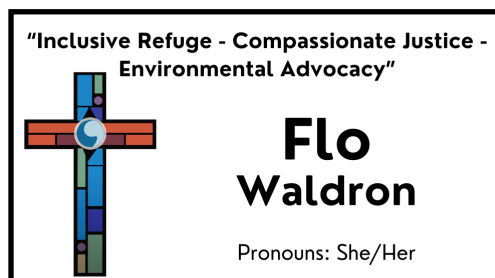
How Are We Living Our Inclusive Refuge?

Join the Inclusive Church Team in Fellowship Hall before Worship on **October 6th** at 9 AM for a light breakfast and a meaningful conversation about one of our core values: Inclusive Refuge. In our Jeremiah groups, we recognized that we are called to be inclusive and generous, welcoming people as they are. We invite you to a congregational conversation about how we're doing in this area and what we could improve or focus on in the future. Share your thoughts and help shape the next steps. After our conversation, we'll remain in Fellowship Hall and worship together for the 10:00 AM service. Use the QR Code to Register!



One Step Towards a More Inclusive Refuge: The Power of Pronouns

Now that our new logo has debuted, have you requested an updated name tag from the church office yet? If so, did you ask to have your pronouns included?



I used to think that sharing my pronouns with people seemed like overkill. I was born female, I have always identified as female (albeit one who grew up constantly fighting “female” stereotypes), and surely everyone **MUST** know I’m female – so what’s the point?

But the more time I spend with my kids’ friends, the more I realize that ***this issue is as important to their generation as defying gender stereotypes was for me growing up, or civil rights activism was to generations before mine.*** By including “she/her” pronouns on my nametag, I help to normalize this behavior, so that those who **DON’T** use more common “she/her” or “he/him” pronouns feel more comfortable being their authentic selves within our congregation.

And if we can’t feel safe being ourselves at COA, with its commitment to being an Inclusive Refuge for all, then where **CAN** we feel safe? Please consider this small but important gesture to help some of today’s most afraid and marginalized in our community feel safer and more welcome at Church of the Apostles.

- Flo Waldron & The Inclusive Church Team

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 September Schedule Below:

- **October 3rd:**
Ellen S, (717) 945-4057
- **October 10th:**
Donna Carr, (717) 475-5285
- **October 17th:**
Barbara A, (717) 824-3265
- **October 24th:**
Milt Gockley, (717) 390-9116
- **October 31st:**
Ellen S. (717) 945-4057

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.



| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 10/2 | Audrey Markle |
| 10/2 | Adam Zipko |
| 10/3 | Linda Lewis |
| 10/3 | Jim Jolly |
| 10/3 | Rev. Kathryn Kuhn |
| 10/3 | Cait Stenman |
| 10/4 | Kerry Kendig |
| 10/4 | Mark Achtermann |
| 10/4 | Dennis Lippart |
| 10/5 | Richard Ochs, Jr. |
| 10/7 | Cooper Bahling |
| 10/8 | Jim Stoltzfus |
| 10/10 | Bonnie Medved |
| 10/11 | Vera Hocker * |
| 10/13 | Mary Walters |
| 10/16 | Robin Lucey |
| 10/16 | Heather Rice |
| 10/16 | Jack Oliphant |
| 10/18 | Abe Breslin |
| 10/19 | Douglas Nutt |
| 10/21 | Reid Clausen |
| 10/22 | Joanna Baker |
| 10/22 | Robert Gifford |
| 10/23 | Lisa Christoffel |
| 10/23 | Nancy Ann Steger |
| 10/24 | Sandy Weidel |
| 10/26 | Connor Kendig |
| 10/27 | Mackenzie Cornielle |
| 10/28 | Brenna Bracken |
| 10/30 | Elizabeth Stoltzfus |
| 10/31 | Clara Kosmela |

*90+ Birthdays

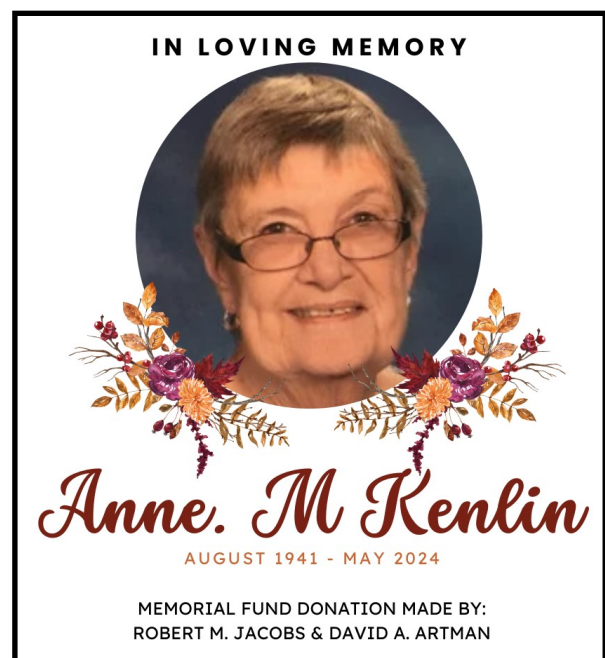
| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 10/2 | Deb & Jay Aukamp |
| 10/5 | Louise & Thomas Aument |
| 10/8 | Beth & Jennifer Thompson |
| 10/11 | Darrell & Linda Schock |
| 10/18 | Stephen & Monica Daniels |
| 10/19 | David & Mary Schick |
| 10/19 | David & Pamela Smith |
| 10/21 | Randy & Luane Morrison |
| 10/29 | Richard & Bernice Ochs * |

*50+ Anniversary

Have an Article for the Crown?

Please send articles for the November edition of the Crown by Tuesday, October 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.





Sponsor Altar Flowers and Enhance Our Worship Experience

Do you find that the weekly flowers on the altar add to your worship experience? If so, please consider sponsoring these flowers. Your donation could celebrate a special occasion, such as an anniversary, birthday, or the birth of a child. It could also be in memory of a loved one or simply because you appreciate the beauty they bring to our worship.

The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$60 per week. Donations can be made via check, cash, Realm, or Vanco. If you're unable to fill out a flower sponsorship form, please email office@apostlesucc.org to ensure your sponsorship is included in The Crown and weekly bulletins.

Your support helps keep our altar vibrant and beautiful, enriching our worship experience each week. Thank you for your generosity!



SPONSOR THROUGH VANCO



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 \$60; 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

| | August 2024 | August 2023 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| YTD Revenue | \$259,756.02 | \$257,268.77 |
| YTD Investment Transfers | \$166,940.00 | \$149,772.47 |
| YTD Operating Expenses | \$475,911.09 | \$412,674.29 |
| Net YTD Operating Income | -\$49,215.07 | -\$5,633.05 |

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 |



Help Shape Young Minds!

We are seeking additional teachers to cover our primary Faith Formation class for the following dates: October 6th and every Sunday in November. If you have a passion for guiding our youth and are interested in volunteering, we would love to have you join us!

Please contact Judy Waltman at jlwaltman@comcast.net if you can help. Please note that state clearances are required by law to work with our youth. For more information about these requirements, visit apostlesucc.org/volunteer.

Your support in nurturing the next generation is deeply valued!

Faith Formation

Every Sunday

Preschool - 3rd Grade in **Rm 306**
Following Children's Time

Rooted for Grades 4th-8th at
9:55 AM in Rm 308



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

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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Lancaster, PA

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

