



# THE CROWN NEWS

December 2024 Vol. 48 No. 12

## Pastor's Corner

*The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us."*

Happy New Church Year! The church year begins with Advent 1, which falls on December 1st this year. Once again, we enter this season of longing and anticipation for our Savior, Christ Jesus. Advent is a reflective time when we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, setting intentions to embody these qualities in the world.

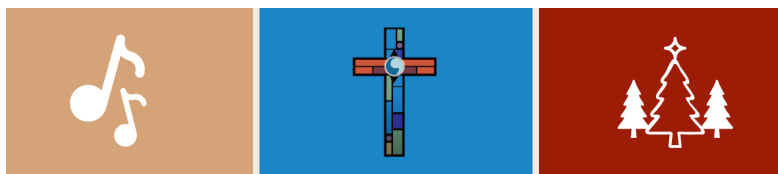
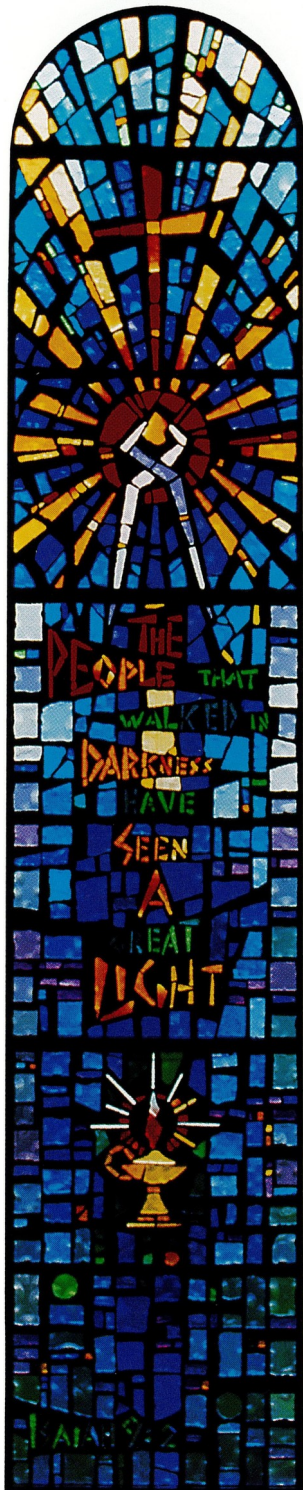
Here at Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ, we believe in building the Beloved Community—a community that welcomes all and honors each person's journey as we walk together toward Christ. We recognize that these can be unsettling times, with changes happening faster than we remember. In many ways, we are like the people we encounter in scripture who, under the Roman Empire's occupation, longed for something better.

In a season filled with distractions, let us choose to slow down, simplify, and be present to what surrounds us. Let us be grateful for what we have received and generous in meeting others' needs, just as Jesus did.

May we have a season filled with hope, peace, joy and love!

Blessings & Peace,

*Pastor Kathryn Kuhn*



## Carols of Comfort & Hope

You are warmly invited to a peaceful service of scripture, prayer, and music, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This service offers a time to reflect on God's promises through Christ and to rest in a loving, supportive environment. Following the service, there will be an opportunity for private, individual prayer for those who wish to participate.

**Tuesday December 10th**

**At 3 PM**

**Church of the Apostles Sanctuary**

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## A Message from the Council Vice-President

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As we approach the new year, we are excited to share some significant developments regarding our church's governance. After much prayer, discussion, and thoughtful consideration, our congregation has voted to adopt new bylaws that will guide us in 2025 and beyond. These changes reflect our commitment to transparency, accountability, and a shared vision for our community.

As we implement these new policies, we believe they will strengthen our church community and help us fulfill our mission more effectively. Our goal is to foster an environment where every member feels valued and empowered to contribute to our shared vision.

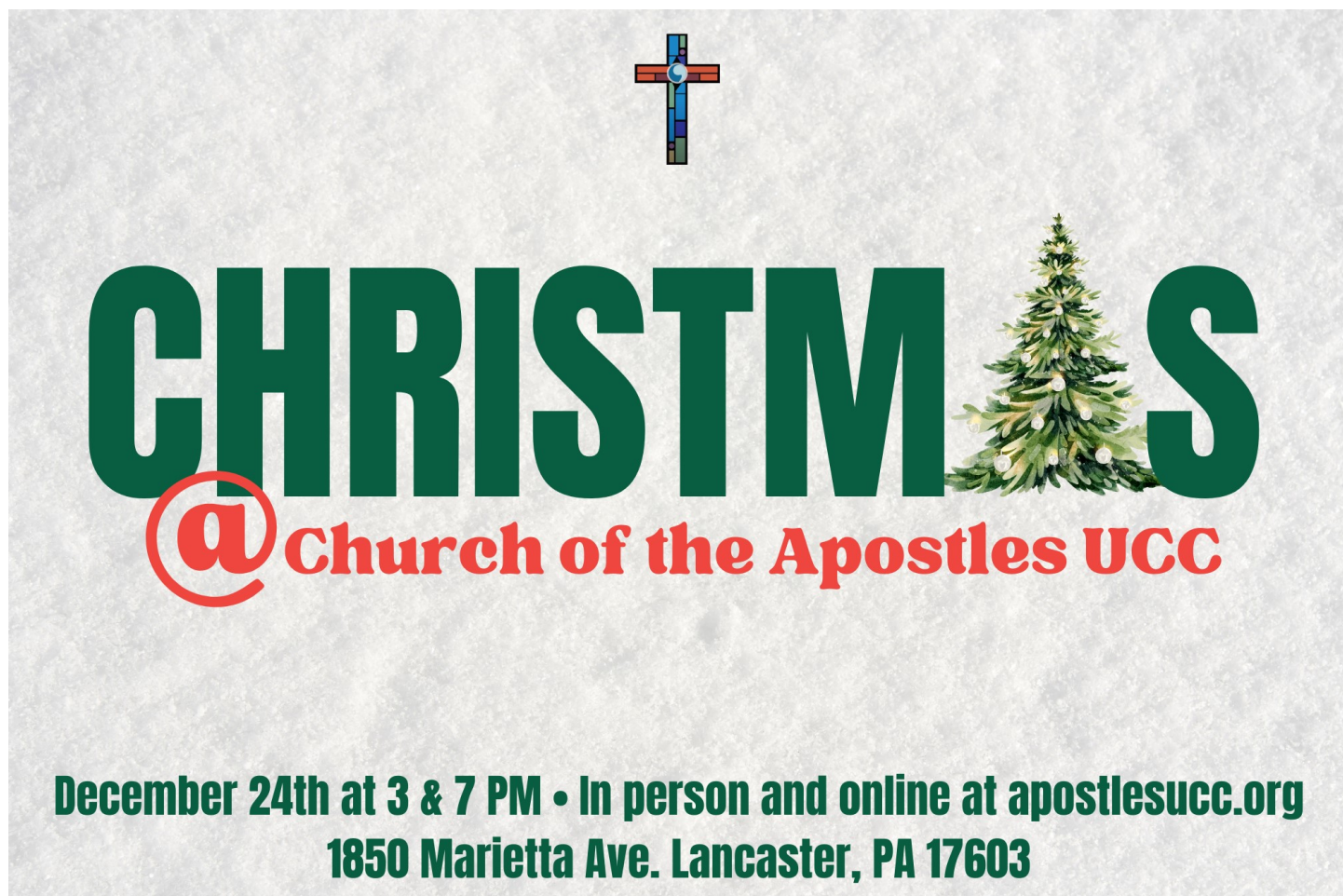
We invite you to join us in this journey of transformation. Your involvement is crucial as we strive to make our church welcoming, inclusive, and a safe space for all.

As we transform from Council members to Board members, in 2025, please extend gratitude to those who have faithfully served your Church and will be leaving their role on Council at the end of 2024. Those members are: Earl Cardellino, Nancy Steger, Steph Moore, Louis Zabel, and Karen Braun.

As we embark on this new chapter, we want to take a moment to wish you all a blessed Christmas holiday and a joyful New Year. May this season bring you peace, hope, and renewed faith as we prepare for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead in 2025.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our church community. Together, let us embrace these changes and work towards a brighter future.

In Christ's Love,  
Lou Gaudio  
Council Vice President



**CHRISTMAS**

**@ Church of the Apostles UCC**

**December 24th at 3 & 7 PM • In person and online at [apostlesucc.org](http://apostlesucc.org)**  
**1850 Marietta Ave. Lancaster, PA 17603**

# Church Happenings and News

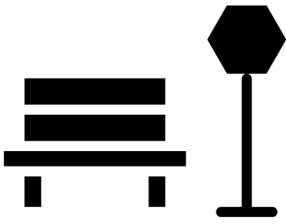
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## Capture the Year: 2025 Calendar

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team is creating a special 2025 calendar featuring photos from the past 50 years of Church of the Apostles as well as upcoming events. To help us determine how many to order, we're gathering interest now. These 8x11.5 wall calendars will be available for \$20 each. If you'd like to reserve a copy, please sign up through the office or by scanning the QR Code to the right. Responses are needed by December 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure delivery before the new year.



## 50th Anniversary Bench Project



The 50th Anniversary Committee is planning a memorial bus stop bench on Marietta Ave. with a shaded area to welcome bus riders and serve as a symbol of our commitment to inclusivity. If you'd like to contribute, contact Donna Carr at (717) 475-5285.

**Additionally Save the Date:** Join us for the 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on Saturday, May 17th, at the Bachman Center! Tickets will be available for purchase in early 2025!

## The Crown Newsletter Goes Digital in 2025

As we move into 2025, we're excited to announce that the Crown Newsletter will transition to a digital format. Here's what you need to know:

1. **This is the last mailed copy:** The newsletter you are holding will be the final physical copy sent to all members on our mailing list. However, physical copies will still be available at the church for pickup.
2. **Email Subscription:** The Crown will be emailed to all members and friends who are subscribed. Unsure if you're on the list? Contact the office at (717) 392-5718 or email [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) to check.
3. **Digital Access:** All Crown articles will be available on our website at [apostlesucc.org](http://apostlesucc.org), and we'll be posting updates throughout the month on our Facebook and Instagram pages (@ApostlesUCC). Be sure to follow us!
4. **Submitting Articles:** You can still submit articles for the Crown by sending them to [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) by the 15th of the month before publication.
5. **Why the Change?** As part of our commitment to environmental advocacy and stewardship, we are reducing paper waste and carbon emissions. By cutting back on printing and mailing, we can better use our resources to protect the environment and align with our vision and mission.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we make this transition. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to the office.

## 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

- **December 10, 2024:**  
The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende
- **January 14th, 2025:**  
The Great Divide by Christina Henriquez
- **February 11th, 2025:**  
In the Garden of the Beasts by Erik Larson

## 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

November at Apostles Community Preschool was a month filled with gratitude, friendship, and community outreach. We cherished the opportunity to count our blessings and express our thankfulness for everything we have. Here's a look at some of the highlights from our November activities:



One of the most anticipated events of the month was our annual school-wide Thanksgiving Friendship Feast. This joyful gathering included participating in a school-wide prayer, sharing a friendship trail mix, and dancing the Turkey Pokey!

In the spirit of giving, we collected food for our local community food bank and participated in gathering toys for the Toys for Tots program. This "Caring and Sharing" project was a wonderful opportunity for our preschoolers to learn about empathy and generosity, contributing to those in need in our community.

As we move into December, our focus shifts to preparing for the joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus. This time of year is always bustling with excitement and activities at ACP. Our days are filled with seasonal stories, festive songs, and joyful playtime, all contributing to the holiday spirit. The children engage in various creative projects, making beautiful decorations and gifts. We dedicate a lot of time to rehearsing for our annual Christmas Show, which is a highlight of the season. COA members are invited to our Christmas Show: Joy to the World any day Wednesday 12/18 - Friday 12/20 at 10:30 AM.

The coming weeks promise to be busy, fun-filled, and memorable as we celebrate and prepare for this special time of year. Everyone at Apostles Community Preschool is looking forward to a wonderful December! Merry Christmas from all of the preschool staff!

## 2025-2026 Registration:

Registration begins for current students/families on November 25, 2024. Church members and former ACP families can register throughout the month of December by contacting Jeannie Clausen, [jclausen.acp@gmail.com](mailto:jclausen.acp@gmail.com). Registration will open to the general public on January 6, 2025.

ACP will be hosting an Open House 6-7pm January 15, 2025 prospective families will have the opportunity to visit our school and meet our teachers! Spread the word to family and friends!







JOIN US FOR A



# Children's CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
STARTING AT 10 AM



CHILDREN WILL LEARN ABOUT THE  
CHRISTMAS STORY FROM REV. KUHN,  
SING CLASSIC CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND  
ENJOY DELICIOUS COOKIES AND HOT  
COCOA. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE FREE PHOTOS  
WITH SANTA!

Visit our website for more details  
[www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)



# A Musical Note

WITH  
LARS POTTEIGER

I wish I could return to the awe and wonder I felt at Christmas as a child—the excitement that would wash over me on Christmas Eve as I anticipated the food, presents, and time with family. As we grow older, it's easy for other emotions to overshadow the holidays; stress and busyness can replace the joy and anticipation that once naturally filled our hearts.

To-do lists and holiday obligations can make us look forward to January 1st more than the holidays themselves, turning Christmas into just another task to add to our already busy schedules. So, how can we reconnect with our inner child and recapture that joy?

Start by remembering what brought you joy as a child. Maybe making a favorite dish or baking Christmas cookies can help you embrace the holiday spirit. Revisiting hymns or songs from your youth can evoke cherished memories and holiday cheer. Thoughtful, personal gifts can also be meaningful—the best ones are often filled with sentiment rather than a large price tag.

Watching a Christmas movie from your childhood is another way to reignite that enthusiasm, bringing back fond memories and the magic you once felt. However you choose to reconnect with the season, I hope you find that sense of wonder and see Christmas through the eyes of your inner child once more.

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

**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.

**January 19th, 2025 at 3pm** (or January 26th at 3pm in the event of inclement weather on January 19th): Rizzetta's Tones is a Celtic Americana band featuring twin hammer dulcimers, silver flute, whistles, guitar, bass, melodions, button accordion, bouzouki, mandolin, autoharp, ukulele, bodhrán, djembe, and other percussion. All members contribute lead and backing vocals, performing a mix of poignant and humorous songs. Their repertoire spans traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, the USA, and beyond.

**February 2nd, 2025 at 3pm:** Hänsel & Gretel is a perfect musical confection and the ultimate story for children of all ages. This tale of unruly siblings overcoming deprivation and questionable parenting decisions, narrowly escaping being eaten, and defeating an evil witch through courage and wit is brought to life by Berks Opera Company in collaboration with Albright College.

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

Peace and Blessings,

Lars

# December Giving Opportunities

## Holiday Gifting Ministry



Our Holiday Gifting Ministry is back, and we're excited to continue this tradition of spreading joy! Tags are now available for you to claim on the Outreach bulletin board. Simply write your name next to the tag number you choose. Gifts should be returned by Sunday December 15th. We look forward to another year of this amazing ministry and are grateful for the generosity of our community in making the holidays brighter for students at Martin Elementary.

## Bethany/Hoffman Homes

Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf and Hoffman Homes for Youth in Littlestown, both part of UCC Homes for Youth, have evolved from their origins as orphanages to become dedicated centers for the care and treatment of children and youth who have faced trauma, abuse, neglect, and severe mental health challenges. Bethany serves over 300 children and youth annually, while Hoffman Home provides support for up to 110 youth and young adults.

These young individuals receive personalized treatment plans aimed at nurturing trust, self-awareness, and fostering lifelong recovery. Remarkably, these homes have achieved a 95% success rate, enabling youth and young adults to return to their homes or care groups. It's a testament to the incredible work being done here.

We are fortunate to have such vital resources in our community, and your generous support can make a significant difference in these valuable ministries. Consider making a donation through Realm, Vanco, or Special Giving Envelopes to help us continue supporting these young lives on their path to recovery.



## UCC Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund provides vital support for retired clergy, lay employees, and their families, helping with bills, health insurance, and emergency needs. Your generous gifts bring hope to those who have served faithfully in ministry for many years. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a big difference in easing the financial burdens faced by retired clergy living on small pensions. Let's spread the JOY of giving this season and show our gratitude for those who have devoted their lives to God's work. Give today through your Church of the Apostles envelope, check, cash, Vanco, or on Realm. Thank you for making a difference!

## 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 December's Schedule Below:

- **December 5th:**  
Barbara A, (717) 824-3265
- **December 12th:**  
Donna Carr, (717) 475-5285
- **December 19th:**  
Robin L. (917) 747-7755
- **December 26th:**  
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.



12/2	Janie Cardellino
12/6	Conner Braun
12/6	Kitty Flynn
12/7	Andrew Laymon
12/9	Stella Newport
12/9	Robert Schulmeister
12/10	Emma Carr
12/13	Beverly Hoffman
12/13	Linda Schock
12/16	Louise Zabel
12/16	Liviah Bracken
12/16	Carol Emig
12/17	Hunter Laymon
12/18	Mary Crozier*
12/18	Jim Wherley
12/19	Mike Hess
12/19	Kirsten Kepple
12/19	Stephanie Rampaul
12/20	Connie Souders
12/21	Cathy Kenlin
12/21	Holly Kleimo
12/21	Donna Maxwell
12/21	Marie Wenner*
12/23	Joyce Smedley*
12/23	Laurey Williams
12/24	Rich Braine
12/26	Molly Walters
12/27	Erin Rohrbaugh
12/27	Pat Cover*
12/27	Ed Fuller
12/28	Don Hess
12/29	Stephen Lockey
12/31	Kelly Zipko

\*90+ Birthdays

12/16	Kelley & Steve Brown
12/23	Peter & Mischelle VanBuskirk
12/31	Rev. Kathryn & David Kuhn

\*50+ Anniversary

### Have an Article for the Crown?

Please send articles for the January edition of the Crown by Sunday, December 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.





DECEMBER  
FLOWER  
SPONSORS

**December 29th**  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**Candy Cunningham**  
 By Dick Cunningham



**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](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

## 2025 Pledge Cards Due

Pledge Card Sunday was November 24th, but there's still time to submit your pledge and support our mission of generosity in the community and beyond! Extra pledge cards are available at the Information Table. For those who use giving envelopes, they are now ready for pickup on the table outside the office, organized alphabetically by last name. Interested in setting up online giving? Contact April in the Finance Office at [finance@apostlesucc.org](mailto:finance@apostlesucc.org) to schedule an appointment. Thank you for your continued support!

## Financial Report

	October 2024	October 2023
YTD Revenue	\$316,943.69	\$318,026.23
YTD Investment Transfers	\$166,940.00	\$199,772.47
YTD Operating Expenses	\$585,437.63	\$566,678.77
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$101,553.94	-\$48,880.07

## 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



## Calling All Middle School, High School, and College Students!

Are you free over **MLK Day weekend (Jan 17-19, 2025)**? Join youth and young adults from the Penn Central Conference of the UCC at Hartman Center for an unforgettable **Winter Retreat!** Several from our congregation are already attending—will you be next? Scholarships are available, and the registration fee covers **lodging and all meals**.

Interested? Contact ROOTED teacher **Flo Waldron** ASAP to coordinate transportation (717-823-2493 or [waldr005@alumni.umn.edu](mailto:waldr005@alumni.umn.edu)). **Register by Dec. 2** for a big discount! Visit **Penn Central Conference Winter Retreat** for details. Come for faith, food, fun, and fellowship with youth from COA and across Central PA. Don't miss this amazing weekend!

# 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**  
Not Meeting on 12/8



# 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

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

