



Church of the Apostles
United Church of Christ

April 2025

THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 49 No. 4

"He is not here; he has risen!"
– Luke 24:6

PASTOR'S CORNER

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Let's Be Friends



@ApostlesUCC

As nature awakens with new life, we celebrate the new life and freedom we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday, April 13**, and we invite you to join us for the following services:

Maundy Thursday – April 17 at 7 PM

We will gather in the **main narthex** to reflect on Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Through Scripture from Luke's Gospel, we'll hear Jesus redefine greatness and foretell Peter's denial. Holy Communion will be shared around the tables with gluten-free crackers and grapes.

Good Friday – April 18 at 7 PM

This service, held in the **sanctuary**, will focus on the difficult yet powerful scriptures recounting Jesus' arrest, trials, and crucifixion. Facing the Holy Week windows, we will experience the fading light of the day as we remember Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of love.

Outdoor Easter Service – April 20 at 7 AM

Join us at the **Schellenberger Pavilion** in **Rader Park** to celebrate the resurrection amidst the beauty of creation. As nature awakens, we will rejoice in Jesus' love and grace. Holy Communion will be shared.

Easter Service – April 20 at 10 AM

Celebrate with us in the **sanctuary** as we proclaim: **Christ is risen!** Luke's account of the resurrection will be shared, and Holy Communion will unite us as God's Beloved Community.

Mark your calendars and prepare your hearts for freedom in Christ!

Blessings & Peace,

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

12
APR

Easter Egg Hunt at 10 AM

📍 Fellowship Hall

Family fun, prizes, and free pictures with the Easter Bunny - rain or shine!

27
APR

POWER Town Hall at 4 PM

📍 Fellowship Hall

Join POWER Interfaith for a conversation on Education Justice.



"Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you" - Isaiah 41:10

BOARD NEWS

On March 1st, 2025, there was a news article on the Nightly News at 6:30 PM. It was about a cheer-leading competition in Dallas. Apparently, there was some kind of loud noise. The attendees panicked and began frantically running out of the building shouting that there was a shooter in the building. I watched this in disbelief because there was no shooter. I was astounded at the level of fear produced by nothing but a loud noise.

This whole scenario stayed with me for days because fear is a very real topic of conversation lately. But this fear is often generalized and unable to be named. There are always real things in our lives that do deserve a healthy fear. But often times the fear becomes a nameless and ubiquitous part of our life. As children of God, we have an advantage over non-believers when it comes to fear. We know that we are loved and protected, fortified and guarded, and sheltered and saved.

The difficulty with our faith comes in allowing it to be part of our daily life and not just an abstraction that we believe on Sunday. We must find a way to embrace the love of Jesus Christ on Sunday and live our Monday through Saturday differently because of it. In these times of upheaval we have to remember that we have nothing to fear. God will protect us always. Let's choose faith and love and let go of fear and dread.

Karen Culp,

Board Member

JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB!

Book Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2 PM in the Narthex, and we'd love for you to join us! Whether you've read the book or not, you're welcome to come for engaging discussions and fellowship.



For questions, contact Clara Kosmela at (717) 569-9960. Happy reading!

★ April 8th, 2025: The Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke

★ May 13th, 2025: When Women Ran Fifth Avenue by Julie Satow

★ June 19th, 2025: American Heroes by James Patterson & Matt Eversmann

For More Upcoming Books
[Click Here](#)

Maximize Your Giving

Support the Church, Not the Fees

Did You Know? You can maximize your gift by setting up recurring giving through your bank account! ACH transfers from your savings or checking account only cost the church 45¢ per transaction—compared to up to 3.99% for credit card payments. Help your full gift go further by switching today!

Busy Season Ahead!

Your Patience is Greatly Appreciated

As we enter one of the busiest seasons at Church of the Apostles, we are preparing for several exciting events, including Easter services and the Easter Egg Hunt, our Annual Garage Sale, our 50th Anniversary Celebration, and the Family Picnic in June. Our office is hard at work to ensure each of these events runs smoothly.

If you haven't already discussed an event, collection, or special request with staff, we kindly ask that you hold any large requests during this time. Your understanding and patience allow us to focus on creating meaningful experiences for our community. Thank you for your continued support during this busy season!

50th Anniversary Dinner

Tickets on Sale Now

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of faith, fellowship, and community at Church of the Apostles!

Date: Saturday, May 17, 2025

Time: Doors open at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM

Location: Bachman Center, 633 Community Way



Get Your Tickets Now!

Enjoy a catered meal with your choice of turkey, beef, or stuffed shells, plus delicious sides and dessert. The evening will include a special slideshow and guest speakers reflecting on our journey together.

Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased on Realm until April 28th or in person on Sundays through April 13th (cash sales require exact change). Sponsoring a seat or table for someone in need is also available on Realm. If you need a sponsored ticket, contact Rev. Kuhn at kathryn@apostlesucc.org or (717) 392-5718 ext. 8201. Let's celebrate this milestone together—get your tickets now by scanning the QR code to the left!

YOUTH

ROOTED IN FAITH

Youth Group is Springing Into Action!

The COA Youth Group is off to an exciting start! By the time you read this, our March 30 kickoff pizza & Bible study party will be in the books! Earlier this month, a dynamic group of about a dozen youth gathered at the Youth Center to plan an action-packed 2025 calendar under the enthusiastic leadership of Nathan Moore, along with Stephanie Moore and Flo Waldron.

This isn't just for church kids—youth from **Apostles**, other area churches, and even those who don't attend church at all came together to shape an exciting year ahead! Along with **Bible reflections**, they're gearing up for **bonfires**, **tailgates**, **game nights**, **service projects** (including Wittel Farm and our own **Seeds of Hope Garden**), and even a **New Year's Eve lock-in**!

Want to be part of the fun? Youth in grades 4-12 are invited—no church experience needed! Contact the church office to get on the mailing list and bring your friends along!

PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION

Journeying Through Holy Week

April is an exciting month for our Primary Faith Formation class as they dive into the powerful story of **Holy Week and Jesus' resurrection**. Through engaging lessons and hands-on activities, the children will explore the significance of the **Last Supper** and the **Easter story** using **Resurrection Eggs**—a creative and interactive way to help bring these sacred events to life.



But learning isn't the only thing happening in the classroom! The students are also busy preparing a **special skit** to share in worship, bringing their lessons to life for the entire congregation.

Picture: Our Primary Faith Formation students hosted the **Hospitality Table on March 9th**, joyfully welcoming and serving our church family. We are so proud of their growing faith and leadership!



A big thank you to Monica and Steve Daniels and Jennifer Eaton for visiting and reading to our preschoolers during Read Across America Week! We loved having guest readers and celebrating with fun activities like Topsy Turvy Tuesday and Wacky Wednesday. The children had a blast dressing in silly outfits, creating fun art projects, playing games, and enjoying beloved Dr. Seuss books.

Our Pre-K classes also hosted a special event, inviting dads, grandpas, and other male role models for a memorable day together. At the end of the month, our teachers held parent-teacher conferences to share the wonderful progress our preschoolers have made.

Additionally, our Pre-K enrichment class, Nature Explorers, has returned to Rader Park on Tuesday afternoons, where we are embracing the signs of spring and the beauty of nature.



We're thrilled to share that ACP is completely full for the 2025-26 school year, with a waiting list for all classes! As we enter the final six weeks of school, we're excited for the fun activities ahead. Stay tuned for our final 2024-25 school year update in the May Crown!

DID YOU KNOW?

During school hours, all members and guests must stop by the main office to be escorted to the West Wing, even if they have a key. Members should also wear name tags when in preschool areas, and all church activities should take place after preschool hours.



@Apostles_Community_Preschool



OUTREACH

OUR IMPACT

\$828

For One Great Hour of Sharing

Donations as of Publishing

Our Annual Garage Sale is coming up on **April 25th & 26th**, and we need your help to make it a success! This sale not only provides great finds for our community but also makes a meaningful impact—**funds raised will support the Apostles Assistance Fund and the UCC Disaster Relief Fund for the California Wildfires**. Whether you help with setup, pricing, sales, or cleanup, every effort contributes to making a difference both locally and across the country. There are many ways to get involved:

1. Donate Items: Drop off sellable items from **April 21st-23rd, 9 AM – 9 PM**, and **April 24th, 9 AM – Noon** by Fellowship Hall. For a list of donatable items, [Click Here](#).

2. Sort & Price: Help us sort, price, and display items any time between **9 AM – 5 PM** from **Monday, April 21st – Thursday, April 24th**. Contact Cindy Williams at (717) 714-0716 to sign up.

3. Food Donations: Keep shoppers fueled by donating hot dogs, buns, sodas, chocolate cake with peanut butter icing, cookies, and more! Sign up in the Narthex and bring your donation between **April 21st-24th** to the kitchen.

4. Cashiers Needed: Volunteer to cashier for a few hours on **Friday or Saturday** during the sale. We'll provide a price list to make it easy! Call Doris Robb at (717) 203-5154 to sign up.

5. Shop & Share: The easiest way to help? **Come shop and spread the word!** Join us April 25th & 26th and invite your friends by sharing our [Facebook Event](#).

Thank you for helping us make this year's sale a success!



Church of the Apostles UCC

Annual Garage Sale

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 | 8-2 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 26 | 8-1 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL, 1850 MARIETTA AVE.
LANCASTER, PA 17603



Get great deals on household goods, antiques, collectibles, toys, furniture & so much more.

A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Apostles Assistance Fund
 Food & Drinks will be available for purchase.

For More Information:
 (717) 392 5718
office@apostlesucc.org



A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

This Easter season, the theme for our services is freedom and how this concept shapes us spiritually. The thread song for the season is "I Will Take the Cup" by Cynthia Cummins. She wrote this piece in 1997, and it was later arranged by Christopher Walker in 2000 for the Jubilee Mass Choir in San Francisco. The song is a setting of Psalm 116, specifically verses 12–13 and 15–18.

Psalm 116

12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

16 Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.

17 I will sacrifice a thanksgiving offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.

18 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

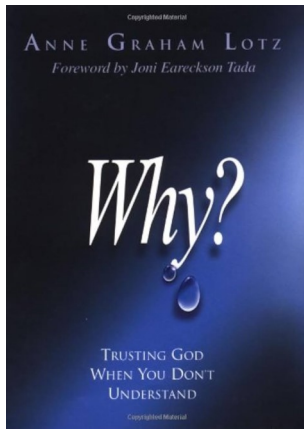
In this excerpt from Psalm 116, the psalmist expresses deep gratitude and commitment to God for His goodness and salvation. The psalmist acknowledges God's blessings and vows to honor Him by offering thanks, calling on His name, and fulfilling promises made in the presence of others. This passage highlights the value God places on the lives of His faithful servants and emphasizes a life of public worship, gratitude, and service.

Blessings, Lars



UPCOMING APOSTLES ACADEMY CONCERT

We are thrilled to present a special performance by the **Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble (PHE)** on May 3rd, 2025, at 4 PM. This distinguished community ensemble, composed of auditioned, advanced-level handbell ringers from the greater Philadelphia area, will deliver an unforgettable concert. PHE's repertoire spans original compositions, classical transcriptions, and diverse musical genres, showcasing their mastery of **advanced ringing techniques that go beyond traditional handbell sounds**. This free concert, generously provided by the Apostles Academy of Arts and Science, will include a free-will offering in lieu of tickets. Join us for this extraordinary event celebrating both our anniversary and the art of handbell music!



COMPASSION TEAM'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

This month's book, *Why?* by Anne Graham Lotz, explores one of life's most difficult questions—not just out of curiosity, but from a place of deep despair. When we doubt whether God can or will help us, Anne encourages us to approach our questions with curiosity rather than frustration. She leads readers to discover that the answer isn't simply "because"—it's "I AM." Through scripture and reflection, she reminds us that God is always present, all-knowing, and deeply loving.

April Mocktails & Meaning

Education Funding in PA

We are delighted to welcome Beth Reeves back to Church of the Apostles for our next Mocktails & Meaning on Thursday, April 17th, at 6:30 PM! Beth, from POWER Interfaith Lancaster County, will lead an engaging discussion on Education Funding in Pennsylvania, exploring the challenges and opportunities for equitable reform.

Enjoy meaningful conversation over this month's signature mocktail: [Banana Brunch Punch!](#)

Beth Reeves is a dedicated advocate for **education justice**, serving as Chair of POWER Interfaith Lancaster County's Education Justice Team. With years of experience as a school-based occupational therapist and a passion for addressing systemic inequities, she brings valuable insight into this critical issue.



Join us for an evening of thoughtful dialogue and community connection! Register by [Clicking Here!](#)



Introducing the Compassion Team

Milt Gockley

A longtime member of the Lancaster community, Milt brings a wealth of experience to the Compassion Team at Church of the Apostles. With a background in pastoral ministry, he has served in a variety of church settings, gaining valuable insight into providing compassionate care and support. His time on the national staff of the United Church of Christ further deepened his commitment to service. As a patient listener, Milton

offers thoughtful observations and guidance, empowering individuals to navigate their own paths forward. He is honored to be part of the Compassion Team and looks forward to contributing to this vital ministry.

Thank you to the Compassion Team for being a supportive resource for our members!

HOMESTEAD VILLAGE EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Homestead Village invites you to take part in three special events this April, celebrating the environment right in our shared backyard.

- **April 8, 2 PM – “Birds in Our Backyard”** (Bachman Center) Learn about local bird species with resident birdwatcher Allan Pawlikowski.
- **April 13, 1 PM – “Kiss the Ground” Documentary** (Chapel) Explore the importance of healthy soil and regenerative agriculture in this eye-opening film.
- **April 22, 2–4:30 PM – Earth Day Celebration** (Bachman Center & Rader Park) Take a guided tour of five nature stations, with refreshments and displays available at the Bachman Center. Walk, ride in a golf cart, or explore displays indoors in case of rain.

For more details, stop by the Bachman Center on event days. Hope to see you there!



GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

Are you interested in growing flowers and/or Vegetables?

Looking to cultivate your own garden? Church of the Apostles UCC offers garden plots available in Rader Park! Plots are 20'x20' and rent for \$15 for the season. Rental forms are accessible at the welcome center and can be returned during office hours with payment.

Start your gardening journey with us today!

April Birthdays

4.2 Barbara Bimson
 4.3 Sallie McMinn
 4.4 Michael Buckwalter
 4.4 Aria Rampaul
 4.4 Lois Schousen*
 4.5 Beth Buckwalter
 4.6 Jim Eaton
 4.6 Allison Weiser
 4.6 Sunshine Whittington
 4.9 Randy Sweigart
 4.11 Cole Bravo
 4.11 Jane McCartney
 4.13 Kristi Newport
 4.14 Ethan Smith
 4.14 David Miller
 4.15 Peter Schmiechen
 4.16 Joyce Baker
 4.16 Katherine Seiler
 4.18 Susie McCooey
 4.20 Ashley Laymon
 4.20 Richard Millhouse
 4.21 Larry Neiderer
 4.22 Kamron Fickes
 4.23 Lou Gaudioso
 4.23 Janice Morris
 4.28 Dawn Zipko

*90+ Birthday's

April Anniversary's

4.7 Holly & John Kleimo
 4.14 Don & Pat Hess*
 4.21 James & Connie Souders
 4.23 Kathy & Randy Johnston

*50+ Anniversary

WORSHIP FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Enhance our worship with the beauty of flowers by sponsoring them in honor or memory of a loved one.

To sponsor, email office@apostlesucc.org

or complete a form in the Church office. The suggested donation is \$60, but any amount is appreciated.



SPONSOR THROUGH
VANCO

Contributions can be made via check, cash, Vanco, or Realm.

IN LOVING MEMORY



ANNA RUTH KING

November 1925 - February 2025

MEMORIAL FUND DONATION MADE BY:

Julie K. Atkins,
 Lee Gerdes & Ruth Bieley,
 Mary E. Gerdes,
 Mary Ellen McComsey,
 and Christine Foley

	February 2025	February 2024
YTD Revenue	\$68,273.05	\$70,107.51
YTD Investment Transfers	\$0	\$0
YTD Operating Expenses	\$110,836.64	\$102,928.15
Net YTD Operating Income	\$42,563.59	\$32,820.64

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR HISTORY: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

The land for the location of Church of the Apostles was deeded in 1717 to Hans Brubaker by William Penn. From that time until 1978, it had belonged to the Brubaker family, covering a span of nine generations, with Aaron and Arlene Brubaker the most recent owners and residents of the farm.

Hans Brubaker and his ancestors originated in Switzerland. The land records here as well as other sources often make mention of them as "Swissers." From Switzerland the Brubakers migrated to Palatinate and Strasburg, Germany, and eventually sailed for America. They were among the Mennonites who were attracted to Lancaster County in the early eighteenth century.



The farmhouse on this property was built in three sections over a period of years. The oldest section is to the east side, erected in the 1740's. Two other sections were added as they became needed for the family farm.

The rest of the property around the farmhouse contains a large white barn with several silos, a smaller house used by the tenant farmer, a garage, a workshop, several sheds, corn bins, and a chicken coop. A large lawn graces the area and a pond is in the meadow.

- From Oct. 31, 1978 Newsletter



Easter Memorial

FLOWERS

DUE APRIL 14TH

Forms in Bulletins and in the Narthex
Please Drop Off in Church Office

Honor a Loved One This Easter

Sponsor a memorial flower to adorn our beautiful sanctuary on Easter morning. Memorials will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin, and some flowers will be shared with members in nursing homes. The remaining flowers are available for the congregation to take after worship.

STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Church Administrator

Melissa Kosman

Communications Coordinator

Paityn Nissly

Finance Coordinator

April Fisher

Music Director

Lars Potteiger

Adult Choir Director

Nathan Sheffer

Children's Choir Director

Elizabeth Stoltzfus

Technology Specialist

Jaben Jury

Property Manager

Eric MacLaren

Sexton

Larry Rongione

Sexton 2

Tasha MacLaren

To contact our staff directly visit apostlesucc.org/staff

SHARE YOUR STORY

Be featured in the next Crown Newsletter!

We want to hear from you! Share how you're living out our Vision & Mission, making an impact in our community, or contributing to our ministries. To submit your story, email the Communications Coordinator, Paityn Nissly, at office@apostlesucc.org by the 15th of the month for consideration in the next issue. Space is limited, but we'll do our best to feature as many articles as possible.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us Pray with You!

We are honored to pray for you through life's ups and downs. You can share your prayer requests on your connection card during Sunday services or email them to office@apostlesucc.org. Please let us know if your request can be shared or should remain private for our prayer chain. Together, we lift our hearts in prayer to support and encourage one another.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Partnering to Make a Greater Impact

We're excited to share an update on our Food Bank! We have partnered with Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Landisville, which served **1,541 people in February alone**. To better support our community, all collected items will be donated to local food banks serving higher-demand populations. Donations can be placed in the marked cart in the coat room.

Current greatest needs: canned meat, tomato paste, soups, cereal, and peanut butter.

Stay tuned for our collection kick-off in September!