



Church of the Apostles
United Church of Christ

May 2025

THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 49 No. 5



PASTOR'S CORNER

Inside this Issue

- Reducing Waste at COA, Pg. 3
- Graduates Needed, Pg. 4
- Living Our Mission, Pg. 9
- Snapshots of Our History, Pg. 11

Let's Be Friends



@ApostlesUCC

Over fifty years ago, there were many conversations about possibilities for the future of the church, and specifically, St. Paul's United Church of Christ and St. John's United Church of Christ. The future they envisioned officially became Church of the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday, May 18, 1975. With the United Church of Christ motto, "that they may all be one." (John 17:21), they brought together like-minded Christians to create a campus for the benefit of the Lancaster community with services for the aging and young families.

It is "upon their shoulders" that we stand as inheritors of their creations and their wisdom as we look forward to next 50 years of the church. Our Board has been taking its role very seriously this year and is focused on seeing Rader Park usage

maximized, a "Growing Young" initiative to restart family ministries, and being an inclusive, safe space to all person regardless of abilities, ethnicities, gender or sexual orientation.

On **Sunday, May 18, 2025**, we will join together to celebrate our heritage and legacy that we are creating. To assist with the worship, we have three former members who went into the ministry coming. They are the Rev. William P. Worley, the Rev. Ann Few and the Rev. Karen Lovelace. We are also inviting representatives of many of the community organizations with which we have partnered over the years. At the top of this list are Homestead Village and Schreiber Pediatrics, of which we work most closely. I hope you choose to attend this service to celebrate all the ways in which we have been sharing Christ's love.

I invite you to join us for the many celebration, activities and events that are outlined in this newsletter as we celebrate our heritage and continue the work of becoming the Beloved Community which Christ Jesus has always intended us to be.

Blessings & Peace,

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

3
MAY

Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble

📍 Sanctuary at 4 PM

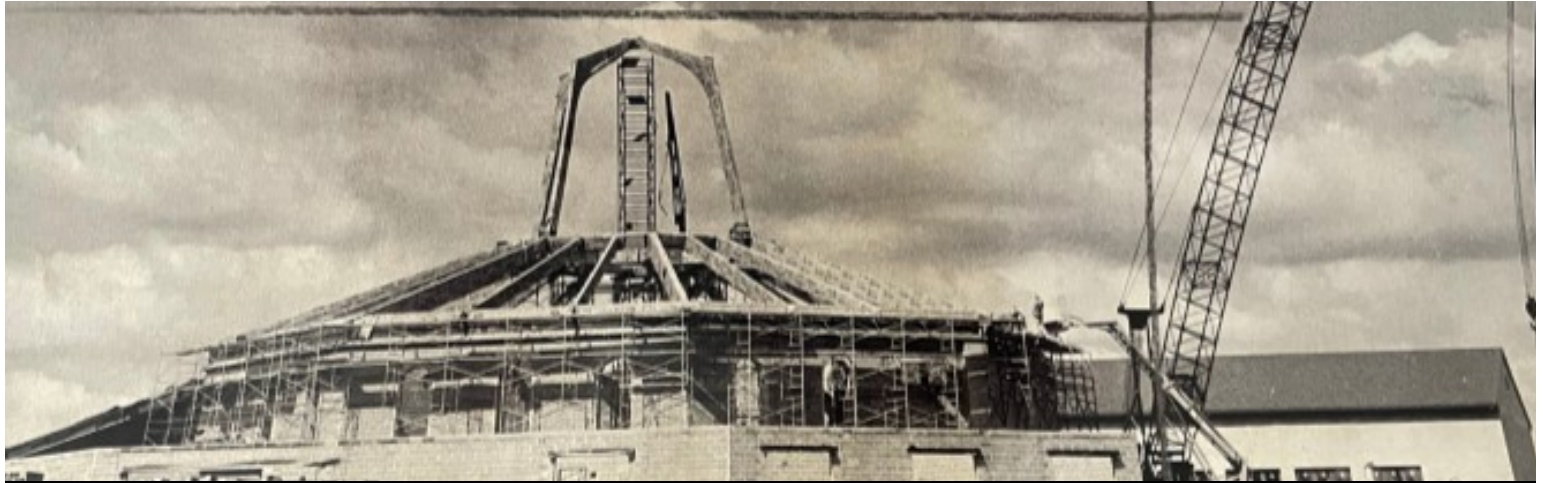
Advanced ringers and diverse music, redefining traditional handbell sound.

18
MAY

50th Anniversary Service

📍 Sanctuary at 10 AM

Celebrating 50 years of faith, fellowship & community impact.



"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" - Ephesians 4:12

BOARD NEWS

Sunday, May 18th will mark the formation of Church of the Apostles (COA). I have been asked to reflect on this occasion because I am a member from the time of the merger and a past Council President. COA was formed by the merger of two congregations: St John's UCC which was located on Wheatland Ave (just across Brubaker Run) and St Paul's UCC (which was located at the intersection of N. Duke St and E. Orange St in downtown Lancaster).

Rev. Glenn Rader led St John's and Rev. Nevin Schellenberger led St Paul's. These two pastors had a vision for a new church that could enhance the spiritual life of its two congregations as well as act as a community partner to further the mission of Christ in serving others.

Skeeter and I were married at St John's in 1971 and were there when the plow was being pulled to break ground for our current church. We have been blessed to see our children be baptized, grow up attending our preschool and be confirmed at COA.

Our church has grown in many ways and though its current membership number is less than in the post-merger years, COA is a congregation that has evolved and strengthened as a vital part of the Lancaster Association and the Penn Central Conference. We have survived some internal as well as external cultural changes in these past 50 years and I am confident that we are well positioned to be here for the next 25 years and beyond.

Donna Carr

Former Council President

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!

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

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

★ July 8th, 2025: We'll Prescribe You A Cat by Syou Ishda

For More Upcoming Books
[Click Here](#)

Reducing Waste at COA

Our Move to Reusable Cups and Plates

Our Environmental Team is exploring ways to cut down on waste during Fellowship time—starting with a possible switch to **reusable cups and plates**. While we assess the feasibility of this change, we encourage everyone to **bring their own reusable travel mugs or water bottles** to help reduce disposable waste.

If we move forward with this switch, we'll need a **team of volunteers** to help run dishes through the dishwasher and put them away. If you're interested in lending a hand, please reach out to **Rev. Kuhn**. Together, we can take another step toward caring for our planet!

Grow Hope, Feed Families

Lend a Hand at our Seeds of Hope Garden this Summer

The Seeds of Hope Garden is flourishing, but we need your help to keep it thriving! Last year, volunteers harvested **over 1,000 lbs of fresh produce** for the Hempfield Food Pantry. Want to make a difference? Join us **after worship from 11 AM to noon**—contact Carol Nielsen at carolathomestead@gmail.com to get involved!

2025 Annual Garage Sale Success

Coming Together, Giving Back

The 2025 Annual Garage Sale was a great success, raising an incredible **\$7,064.60** thanks to the many volunteers and generous donors! Items for sale included household goods, clothing, and a variety of food items like hot dogs, cookies, and drinks. **Around 85 volunteers** helped with sorting, pricing, setup, cashiering, and clean-up. The event brought together members of the church and community, creating a wonderful spirit of teamwork and fellowship.

Unsold clothing was donated to Grace Baptist Church for their free clothing giveaway, and books were given to the Lancaster Public Library. **Proceeds from the sale will support both the Apostles Assistance Fund and the UCC Disaster Relief Fund.**

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this fun and meaningful event!

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP

Campfire, S'mores , & Summer Fun Ahead!

Youth in grades 4–12, get ready for some **fireside fun!** Join us Sunday, May 4 at 6 PM at the Youth Center for a **campfire and s'mores night** (weather permitting, we'll walk to the pine grove together). We'll be back in the Youth Center for our regular meeting on May 18 from 6–8 PM — bring a friend! Looking ahead, summer youth group dates are June 1, 15 (Youthlympics!), and 29 (possible fireworks night!).

ROOTED IN FAITH

Wrapping up the Year with Movie Fun!

May means movie fun for our ROOTED class (grades 4–8)! On May 4, students will create a short video using Canva to share what they've learned from our Acts study this year—please bring a device ready to use Canva. We'll worship with our families on May 11, and celebrate the end of the year with a movie party and extended class time on May 18. (More details coming soon!)

PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION

Growing in Faith & Fun Together!

This May, our Primary Faith Formation class continues to explore what it means to live out love and peace:

- **May 4** – *We Can Choose Love, Even When it is Hard* – Kids will create a "Love is..." wreath.
- **May 11** – *We Can Work for Peace*
- **May 18** – Celebrating the **50th Anniversary of Church of the Apostles**
- **May 25 & June 1** – No class due to Memorial Day weekend

Starting **June 8**, Primary Faith Formation will move outdoors to **Rader Park!** Parents can drop off students before worship for learning, exploration, and connection in nature.

Plus, our **Summer Reading Program** returns! This year, it will be held on **Tuesdays starting in late June**. Sign-ups and details will be shared in next month's Crown—stay tuned!





As we approach the final days of the 2024–2025 school year at Apostles Community Preschool, we're filled with gratitude for another wonderful year—one full of creativity, music, learning, and lasting friendships.

This spring, our tot and three and four year old preschoolers delighted their families during our annual Spring Sing and Art Gallery Show, proudly showcasing their voices and artwork from throughout the year. Our Pre-K classes celebrated their moms at a heartwarming Mother's Day. They also made a final visit to our beloved "grandfriends" at Homestead Village—such a special part of our year. This is the second year that we will honor our Pre-K graduates who are heading to kindergarten with a special graduation ceremony held in the sanctuary on the last day of school—May 14th!



One of the highlights of the spring is our fun tradition, Icky Sticky Goo Day—an exciting, messy way to wrap up the year with joy and giggles.

(Be sure to check out the next edition of The Crown for photos from all these memorable moments!)

Our always-popular Summer Camp kicks off the week of May 19 and runs for four fun-filled weeks. Each morning, our preschoolers will enjoy the beauty of Rader Park through nature walks, crafts, singing, water play, and plenty of outdoor adventures.

We wish all COA members and families a fun-filled and restful summer! We look forward to returning the week of September 8th to kick-off our 60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY and the 2025–2026 school year!



@Apostles_Community_Preschool



OUTREACH

OUR IMPACT

\$7,064.60

Garage Sale

Donations as of Publishing



Strengthen the Church Offering

Building Up the Body of Christ

In 2024, Church of the Apostles raised \$1,175 for the Strengthen the Church Offering, a denomination-wide initiative that supports leadership development, youth ministry, new church starts, and innovation in existing congregations. The funds are shared between our Conference and the national setting of the UCC—multiplying the impact of every gift.

Thank you to all who contributed! If you'd still like to give, donations can be made online through [Vanco](#) or Realm, or by using a Strengthen the Church envelope available at the church.

Giving Back to Mothers in Need

Showering Moms with Love This Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the incredible journey of motherhood, but for some women, that journey begins with uncertainty and financial hardship. That's why we're hosting a **Baby Shower** for the mothers enrolled in the **Healthy Beginnings Plus** program at LGH, which supports low-income moms with healthcare, education, and emotional guidance as they welcome their little ones.



From **May through June**, you can help these new moms by participating in our Baby Shower ministry! Simply take a **baby foot** from the poster on the Outreach bulletin board, purchase the item listed, and place it in the **Caring Cart in the Narthex** by the end of June.

Let's celebrate Mother's Day by spreading kindness to those beginning their motherhood journey—whether it's their first, second, or fourth time. Thank you for making a difference!



A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

The Church of the Apostles Hymn was written by Evelyn Albertson in 1981 for our newly formed church. The lyrics reflect on the founding of our congregation and how the faith of our church's founders inspired them to establish this new community. Her original words were set to the tune of *Melita*. We will sing this hymn as part of our fiftieth anniversary celebration.

Melita, composed by John Bacchus Dykes in 1861, is a solemn and majestic hymn tune best known for accompanying the lyrics of *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. Dykes, an English clergyman and accomplished organist, named the tune after the island of Melita (modern-day Malta), referencing the Apostle Paul's shipwreck as described in Acts 28. Known for his rich, harmonically expressive style, Dykes wrote over 300 hymn tunes. *Melita* remains one of his most enduring works, especially in maritime and military traditions.

Peace,
Lars

You're Invited to a Multimedia, Double Feature Presentation
BY RETURNING PHOTOGRAPHER AND AUTHOR, WILLIAM HAGER

Saturday, May 10, 2025
7:00 PM
(Doors Open 6:30 PM)

Free Admission. Limited Seating.

Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603
To reserve your seat, please call 717 278-7800

FEATURING THE TALENTS OF:
Jenna Weaver, Amanda Trauger, and Kelly Mann

Evangeline
Guardian of the Muted Forest

Gaul Castle had only one resident, the powerful, young sorceress, Evangeline. An enchanted place known as the Muted Forest held many secrets and bordered the castle on all sides. The mysterious maiden often took 'night walks' through the wooded area to protect it from malevolent forces. One night, as she reached the very heart of the forest, she sensed an unfriendly presence. Something was looming over her shoulder!

Angel Island

The year is 1839. A young French girl is rendered unconscious when her ship runs aground on an unchartered island in the Mediterranean Sea. She awakes to discover that her captain and crew are missing. After days of searching, hope of reuniting with those onboard begins to wane. The only sound is the crashing of the surf and the cry of the gulls... but she is not alone.

All Donations will go to [Chasing the Rainbows](#), Supporting and Uniting Baby Loss Survivors

UPCOMING APOSTLES ACADEMY PERFORMANCE

Join Church of the Apostles on May 10th at 7 PM in the Sanctuary for a special presentation by member, photographer, and author Bill Hager. Bill will share two captivating stories, *Evangeline: Guardian of the Muted Forest* and *Angel Island*. Don't miss this unique storytelling experience! This is a free performance, and all donations from the free-will offering will go to [Chasing the Rainbows](#), a nonprofit organization that supports individuals affected by infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant loss.

Celebrating Our 2025 Grads

Honoring Accomplishments, Embracing New Beginnings



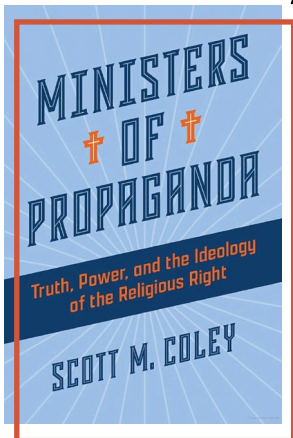
Graduation season is here, and we want to **celebrate all our amazing graduates** at Church of the Apostles! If you or a loved one is graduating, please email the office at office@apostlesucc.org with your name, school, and future plans. You're also welcome to include a photo to be featured in the June Crown. We will celebrate all graduates in worship on **Sunday, June 1st**. Let's honor this exciting milestone together!

May Mocktails & Meaning

With Scott M. Coley

Join us on **May 15th at 6:30 PM** in the Narthex at Church of the Apostles UCC for our next Mocktails & Meaning session featuring guest speaker Scott M. Coley.

Scott is the author of *Ministers of Propaganda: Truth, Power, and Ideology of the Religious Right* and a lecturer in philosophy at Mount St. Mary's University. He brings a compelling perspective to the intersection of faith, politics, and culture. While the specific topic for the evening is still to be announced, it's sure to be both timely and thought-provoking.



As always, we'll enjoy meaningful conversation alongside our featured mocktail—this month's drink is a refreshing Watermelon Agua Fresca. To register, **Scan the QR Code**.



Introducing the Compassion Team

Mark Achtermann

Mark Achtermann joined the Compassion Team because he believes compassion is at the heart of the Christian calling. Though naturally shy, Mark deeply values connection with others—especially during life's difficult moments. His background includes work as a musician, educator, and historian, and he brings a thoughtful, caring presence to all he does. Mark is currently a Member in Discernment toward ordination in the United Church of Christ.

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

LIVING OUR MISSION: JANE MCCARTNEY

Each month, we invite you—our congregation and community members—to share how you're embodying our vision and mission of **inclusive refuge, compassionate justice, and environmental advocacy**. This month, we're spotlighting Jane McCartney, a longtime COA member who not only volunteers at the church but also in our broader community. Read on to learn how Jane is living our mission.

How long have you been a member of Church of the Apostles UCC?

I joined Saint John's UCC Church in 1978. The merger with Saint Paul's had already taken place but we were still worshipping in our separate churches until the building of COA was completed and ready for our two congregations to move in.



Why do you continue to volunteer?

After retiring from teaching, I was excited to spend time doing what I wanted to do rather than what I was required to do. Volunteering is a wonderful way to connect with members of my church family, as well as members of my community.

What aspect of volunteering do you find most fulfilling?

Volunteering is a passion for me. It brings me joy to spread joy to others. There is so much need in our community and I know that we can not fill all of those needs but we can certainly try to fill as many as possible.

Which volunteer roles do you have at COA?

I am the chair of the Outreach Commission, which I absolutely love. My volunteer roles include managing the Apostles Caring Cart Ministry, delivering donated clothing to the HUB downtown, taking towels and pet food to the Pet Pantry, ushering once a month, and organizing food donations for the large food pantry in Landisville. I also make meals for families with new babies or those in need due to health reasons, shop and provide transportation for a church member who doesn't drive, and participate in the monthly breakfast ministry downtown. Additionally, I serve as a 'bartender' for our popular Mocktails & Meanings events!

What volunteer work do you do outside of COA?

Every year as a family, we collect funds for Clare House, Milagro House, Hershey Mill Home, and the Pet Pantry in memory of our daughter and son-in-law. We call this our Day of Smiles. I am so proud and grateful to be able to tell you that we collected a grand total of \$20,522 this past February for our nineteenth Day of Smiles!

What is a fun fact about you?

I go parasailing at a thousand feet every summer in the Outer Banks and it never gets old!

Which famous person (past or present) would you volunteer with?

A famous person who I would love to volunteer with is Oprah Winfrey. She is generous, kind, and full of joy which I feel to be contagious.

May Birthdays

5.3 Allison Carr
 5.4 Cindy Williams
 5.5 Bonnie Eshbach
 5.6 Flo Waldron
 5.9 John Hess
 5.10 Haley Breslin
 5.10 Lisa Romano
 5.16 Allison Alspach
 5.17 Erika Neiderer
 5.18 Lois Masho*
 5.20 Carol Nielsen
 5.22 Finn Conrad
 5.27 Nina Bahling
 5.27 Nate Sheffer
 5.29 Karen Culp
 5.31 Karen Youtz

*90+ Birthday's

May Anniversary's

5.1 Breanne & Carlos Cornielle
 5.4 Loris & Dick Cunningham
 5.14 Molly & Mark Reinhardt
 5.15 Janie & Earl Cardellino*
 5.25 Ashley & Erik Laymon
 5.28 Lois & Dick Millhouse*
 5.31 Flo W. & Mike McCooey

*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:

Steve & Jenny Sheaffer

	March 2025	March 2024
YTD Revenue	\$97,282.15	\$96,879.12
YTD Investment Transfers	\$0	\$0
YTD Operating Expenses	\$168,458.25	\$160,466.72
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$71,176.10	-\$63,587.60

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR HISTORY: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

In 1974, a committee was formed to review names for the merged church. The results of the voting are as follows, with 567 votes returned:

Church of the Apostles received **356 votes**;

Church of the Psalms received 83 votes;

Church of the Servants received 58 votes; and

Church of the Parables received 32 votes;

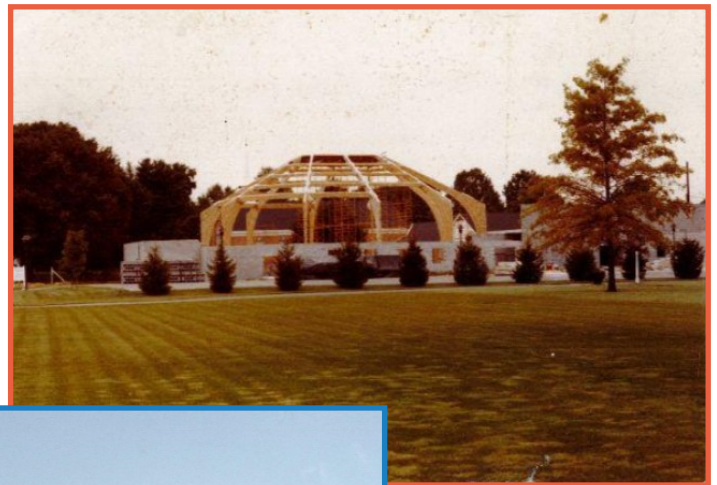
In addition, 10 votes (write-in) were cast for the name Wheatland;

4 votes (write-in) were cast for other names and 24 ballots were returned with no choice indicated but with comments.

The name Church of the Apostles is a good solid name. An apostle is an ambassador, an envoy, one who represents the sender. The first intimate followers of Jesus are known as apostles. Today we are the apostles of Christ. We are charged with the responsibility of spreading the Gospel by word and deed. Both St. Paul's and St. John's were named after the apostles. John was the beloved apostle; Paul, having seen the resurrected Christ on the Damascus Road also declared himself an apostle."

From the Church Newsletter

("The Gargoyle" from St. Paul's and "The Mirror" from St. John's),
June 19, 1974



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.

Join Church of the Apostles

YOUTH GROUP

Meeting May 4th and 18th
6 PM in the Youth Center

Learn More at apostlesucc.org