



THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 49 No. 8



*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."
— Acts 2:4*

ONE SPIRIT, MANY CHURCHES

Inside this Issue

- ▶ ONA Team Update, Pg. 3
- ▶ Terrific Tuesdays Wraps Up, Pg. 5
- ▶ Refugee Fund, Pg. 6
- ▶ 50 Acts of Kindness Update, Pg. 11

Let's Be Friends



A beautiful sign of God's movement is unfolding right here at Church of the Apostles. Beginning **August 3**, **four churches** will be worshipping regularly on our campus. These congregations represent a wide diversity of cultures, languages, and generations, reaching people beyond our own demographic and reflecting the vibrant mosaic of God's kingdom.

This isn't just a practical use of space or rental income, it is a **Spirit-led fulfillment of our mission and vision.**

At Church of the Apostles, UCC, we strive to follow Jesus' example through **inclusivity, generosity, and advocacy.** We are witnessing that vision come to life in real time.

- **Inclusive Refuge** – Our facilities are becoming a spiritual home where all can come as they are.
- **Compassionate Justice** – Supporting these churches helps build a more equitable and welcoming faith community.
- **Environmental Advocacy** – Through shared use of our space, we extend sustainable hospitality to multiple communities.

As we celebrate this movement of the Spirit, we're also excited to introduce a new initiative from our **Inclusive Team**. Coming soon to the Narthex will be an **Inclusive Church Resource Display**, with monthly tabletop signs featuring reflection questions on one side and practical ideas for inclusion on the other.

Let us give thanks for the movement of the Holy Spirit—bringing diverse communities together, making room for all, and reminding us of the beauty of God's Beloved Community. Let us keep praying for our congregation, for the new churches, and for the continued work of welcome we are called to embody. **This is what it looks like when welcome grows.**

Joy & Grace, *Melissa Kosman*

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

2
AUG

Youthlympics & Campout

📍 Rader Park at 3 PM

Join our Youth Group for fun, fellowship, and friendly competition.

9
AUG

Community Game Night

📍 Rader Park Pavilion at 6 PM

Bring your favorite board or card game and a friend.



"Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame... Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled." - Luke 14:21, 23

COVENANT DRAFT

As disciples of Jesus, Church of the Apostles UCC recognizes that we are to love one another as Jesus loved us. Claiming this mission, we are called to:

- Provide a welcoming and safe space for all to come as they are
- Stand for social justice, working toward a more equitable and compassionate world
- Care for our environment as a precious gift of creation from God.

We believe that each of us is created in the image of God, worthy of love and respect, without inferiority or superiority. None of us is without sin. Each of us is striving to grow in faith, in our relationship with God and with one another. We recognize that we will fall short and that we can only seek to be better. We understand that being in community with others allows us to share our joys and our burdens supporting one another in our journeys.

We welcome and value everyone to fully participate in our community regardless of their age, race, culture, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, economic class, education, addiction history, or incarceration history. All are welcome at our table, fully participating in our church life, worship and mission as both members and as leaders.

In a divided world, Church of the Apostles understands the value of diversity in God's creation and seeks to share God's love in ways that bring about understanding, compassion and justice. We celebrate the gifts and talents within each of us. We seek to use our gifts to fulfill our mission as disciples of Jesus inviting all to join us in that work.

ONA TEAM UPDATE

The Inclusive Church Team continues to meet regularly, in person and via email, to help our congregation live more fully into our mission of becoming a truly inclusive church and a safe, welcoming space for all.

Together, we've been reflecting on several key areas:

- Improving access to restrooms and other facilities for greater **physical accessibility**
- Creating a more **comfortable and supportive environment** for families with children
- Communicating in ways that **affirm people of all backgrounds and gender identities**
- Offering compassion and understanding to those with **hidden disabilities** and other challenges
- **Supporting our youth and their families** as they explore and grow in their faith journeys

We believe that being an inclusive church means not just welcoming others but fully embracing all who join us in ministry and community.

Much of this important work is already underway. The Compassion Team is available to support those in need. Many in our congregation have added their preferred pronouns to name tags. Our Youth Ministries are being renewed with fresh energy and vision. And our Capital Campaign is focused in part on improving our sanctuary and restroom accessibility.

The Church Board has recently reviewed and approved a **draft** Covenant developed by the Inclusive Church Team that expresses our commitment to inclusion. The Board has encouraged us to share this draft with the congregation for your feedback and reflection. Once we've gathered input and feel confident that the Covenant reflects the shared values of our church family, we will submit it to the national UCC Committee on Open and Affirming Churches (ONA). If approved, this would officially designate us as an *Open and Affirming* congregation.

As always, our focus remains on creating a community of inclusiveness and safe spaces for all.

You can learn more about our ongoing work in the new Inclusive Church Resource Area in the Narthex.

We warmly invite your thoughts, questions, and participation in this process. Please feel free to reach out to Monica Daniels or Cathy Kenlin to share feedback or get involved.

Inclusive Church August Topic

Understanding Ageism in Inclusion

Ageism is often an overlooked barrier to true inclusion. It appears when older adults are excluded from events, resources, or conversations, intentionally or not, or through dismissive language like "too old to learn." These messages can impact confidence, well-being, and belonging. Let's challenge ageist assumptions and ensure that people of all ages feel valued, included, and empowered to contribute.

For more on Ageism, visit apostlesucc.org/inclusive-refuge or the Narthex display

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP

Youth-Led Campout & Summer Games

The Apostles Youth Group invites you, yes, YOU!, to join us for a day of all-ages fun in Rader Park on **Saturday, August 2**. We'll start at 3 PM at the Youth Center with games and activities for everyone (the more the merrier!), followed by a potluck cookout at the Pavilion from 6–8 PM, and a campfire with s'mores at the Pine Grove from 8–10 PM. After that, you're welcome to pitch a tent and camp overnight in the park with us. Friends and family who aren't part of COA are welcome, too!

To sign up, register on **Realm** as soon as possible or by scanning the QR code. We can't wait to share some summer fun with our church family, and that includes you!



Youth Group Joins Game Night Fun! For our second Youth Group meeting in August, we're joining the entire Apostles family for our monthly Game Night! Bring your favorite board game, a snack to share, and your family and friends, **everyone is welcome**. Game Night will be held in the pavilion at Rader Park (1899 Apostles Way) from 6 to 10 PM. Come join the fun!

SUMMER FAITH FORMATION

Exploring God's Truth Through Science

Our Primary Faith Formation class (Ages 3 - 3rd Grade) is having a great summer exploring stories of God's love and power in beautiful Rader Park, and we're not done yet! We'll continue to meet outdoors through August and on the first Sunday in September. Each week includes a Bible story, hands-on activities, and time to explore God's creation.

Here's what's coming up:

- **August 3:** *Red Sea Splits* – When We Worry, God Gives Us Rest
- **August 10:** *Manna and Quail* – God Shows Love Through Food and Water
- **August 17:** Special Presentation with Naturalist Lisa Sanchez
- **August 24:** *Ark of the Covenant* – There Are Many Ways to Worship God
- **August 31:** *Jesus Teaches About Prayer* – God's Power is Found in Prayer

Kids can be dropped off in Rader Park before the 10 AM worship service, just look for the Faith Formation sign near the Pavilion!

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!

★ **August 12th, 2025:** Before We Forget Kindness by Toshikazu Kowaguchi

★ **September 9th, 2025:** The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line by Maj. Gen. Mari Eder

★ **October 14th, 2025:** The Divorce Party by Laura Dare

Keep Our Community Healthy

Free Vaccine Clinic Returns September 28th

We're excited to once again partner with Melissa Koehler of Hillcrest Pharmacy to offer no-cost vaccines to our community! This year's clinic will provide both regular and senior flu shots, along with Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.

Join us after worship on **Sunday, September 28**, to get your vaccines and help keep our community safe and healthy.

To register, scan the QR code or contact the church office at office@apostlesucc.org or by phone. Let's stay healthy together!



Buzzing with Joy in Rader Park

Terrific Tuesdays Wraps Up a Fun-Filled Program

This year's **Terrific Tuesdays** (formerly known as Wacky Wednesdays) brought Rader Park to life with the theme "*Pollinators in Rader Park*." Over the course of four weeks, 29 children, most from the wider community, gathered to learn all about bees, butterflies, and caterpillars.

Each session featured a themed story read by special guests, hands-on crafts, and a tasty snack. The series concluded with an exciting visit from Lisa Sanchez, a Naturalist with Lancaster County Parks, who shared fascinating insights and critters with the children.

Terrific Tuesdays continues to be a wonderful way to engage families and share the beauty of Rader Park with our neighbors. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated volunteers who made it all possible: **Linda Lewis, Monica Daniels, Audrey Mar-**

kle, Doris Robb, and Barbara Achtermann, and to our guest readers **Pastor Kuhn, Holly Kleimo, and Jen Eaton.**



Shining Bright at National Night Out

Join Us August 5th for National Night Out in Millersville

Mark your calendars, National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5! Church of the Apostles will be at Millersville's community celebration from 6-8 PM handing out free flashlights, keychains, and stickers, and raffling off a certificate toward a facility rental at the church. Stop by our table, say hello, and connect with neighbors as we spread some light and community spirit!

OUTREACH

In August, we're focusing our efforts on the Refugee Fund to support the Bilombele family. Your donations will help cover essentials like rent, bills, household needs, and transportation.

Bilomanga (mom) works in custodial services at Lancaster Mennonite High School, but her income barely covers rent for herself and her two sons. The family was recently gifted a car, which now brings new costs like insurance and, eventually, gas once Bilomanga and her son Vincent receive their licenses. For now, they rely on public transit or rides from others.

Vincent, 18, is working in landscaping this summer to help with bills and will attend McCaskey's Career & Technology Center this fall to study auto mechanics. He also plans to play his final varsity soccer season at McCaskey.

Shukuru, the youngest, will start 6th grade at Lincoln Middle School and continue playing soccer with the Lancaster Lions, an important outlet for learning English and making friends.

If you have questions about the family's needs, feel free to contact Tom (717-333-1246) or Linda (717-333-1327) Lewis.

Thank you to all who've supported the Refugee Fund, whether through financial gifts or household donations. Many of you may remember the Mlasi family, whom we helped until their move to Georgia last winter.

To contribute, please clearly mark donations as **"Refugee Fund."** Gifts can also be made via **Realm** or **Vanco**. Every contribution helps this family feel secure and supported in their new home.





A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

Jazz music has always spoken to my soul. I remember the first time I heard it in my early teens with my father, and it had a profound impact on my life. Shortly afterward, I began taking jazz piano lessons and felt an immediate call and connection to this music, something I hadn't experienced in my previous musical studies.

We will be celebrating jazz music in our worship service on the last Sunday of August. I find that reimagining worship music through the lens of jazz can be both invigorating and revitalizing. It brings a freshness and newness to music that might otherwise feel familiar. So, what does jazz have to do with faith?

One of the hallmarks of jazz is its emphasis on improvisation. This, in itself, is an act of faith. It requires trust, in the moment, in the music, and in oneself. I was taught to read music from an early age, so when my teacher first asked me to improvise, I was scared. What do I play? Where do I start? With further study, I began to understand more about melodies, harmonies, and musical forms. These structures became the foundation upon which improvisation could take place.

Improvisation, like faith, also requires practice. It doesn't "just happen." Growing in faith is a similar process, one that calls for discipline, diligence, and persistence. Over time, these qualities can be transformative. I struggled with improvisation at first, but with consistent practice, it became easier, and I found myself able to express ideas more fully at the piano.

Improvisation also teaches us to live fully in the moment. We cannot dwell in the past or anticipate the future when we're truly present. Playing the same song can lead to drastically different interpretations from one performance to the next. The melody and chord structure may remain the same, but the way we move through them can shift each time. In our walk of faith, it's much the same: accepting what is, rather than clinging to what we think should be, is essential. Only when we let go and stay present can we be open to the gentle murmur of God's Spirit in our lives. And it's then that we become truly free to live in peace and joy in God's presence.

I pray that our jazz worship will be as much a blessing for you as it is for me. Let's make a joyful noise!

Blessings,

Lars



UPCOMING APOSTLES ACADEMY PERFORMANCE

Join us at Schellenberger Pavilion in Rader Park on **Sunday, August 17th at 3 PM** for an outdoor concert with **Bad Publicity**, a high-energy rock trio from Reading, PA. With a sound blending rock, jazz, and metal, they'll bring the summer vibes to life as they gear up for their second album release.

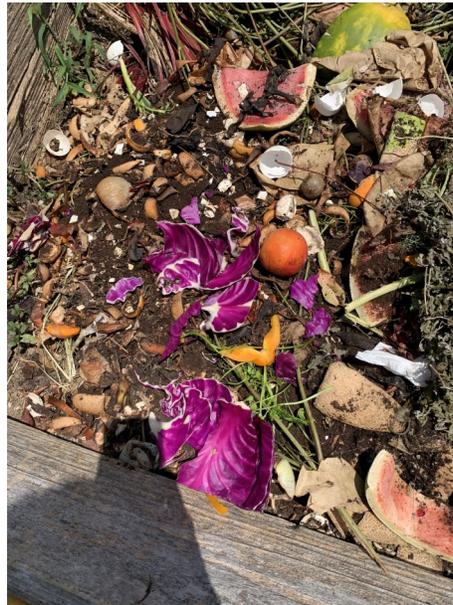
This concert is **free to attend**, with a freewill offering in place of tickets. Bring a lawn chair, relax, and enjoy the music!

50 ACTS OF KINDNESS UPDATE

We love seeing how our COA community is living out our mission through our 50 Acts of Kindness! From donating blood and reducing plastic waste to writing encouraging notes and composting your organic trash, every act makes a difference.

There's still time to join in! **Grab a sticky note from the window in the Narthex** and sign your name next to an act of kindness. There are options for all ages, even our youngest Apostles!

Let's keep the kindness going for our 50th Anniversary! Share your photos and stories with Melissa at admin@apostlesucc.org. We'd love to feature your act in our celebration!



LIVING OUR MISSION: NATHAN MOORE

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 Nathan Moore, a COA teen who's helping breath new life into our youth group. Keep reading to learn more about Nathan and what inspires him to volunteer.

How long have you been a member of COA?

I have attended COA my whole life, so 17 years.

Which volunteer roles do you have at COA?

I lead our youth group for students in grades 4 through 12 and also play drums in the praise band during worship services.

What volunteer work do you do outside of COA?

Outside of COA I have volunteered at Oregon Dairy Farm Days and as a Mountville Baseball Coach.



What aspect of volunteering do you find the most fulfilling?

I volunteer because the church community has always been there for me and my family, and I want others to know I'm there for them too. What I find most fulfilling is seeing how grateful people are, even for the smallest acts of kindness. It's a powerful reminder that no matter how little you do, it can make a big difference in someone's life.



What is a fun fact about you?

I like parallel parking.

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

I would love to volunteer with former NFL quarterback, Tim Tebow.

August Birthdays

- 8.1 Carla Williams*
- 8.2 Betty Plamjack
- 8.4 Erin Szalczyk
- 8.6 Donna Bechtold
- 8.7 Teigan Rohrbaugh
- 8.9 Kathy Barto*
- 8.9 Luane Morrison
- 8.9 Duke Gabriel
- 8.10 Beverly Williams
- 8.11 Kandi Fickes
- 8.13 Kathy Duffey
- 8.13 Linus Whittington
- 8.14 Virginia Brown
- 8.14 Chris Conrad
- 8.16 Adrienne DeLaney*
- 8.18 Bernie Fickes
- 8.18 Bill Stock
- 8.19 Pat DiDomenico
- 8.19 Judith Frable
- 8.24 Teresa Wilson
- 8.28 Nancy Hungerford*
- 8.29 Pat Hess
- 8.29 Doris Robb
- 8.30 Kate Kendig

*90+ Birthday's

August Anniversary's

- 8.2 Jim & Elizabeth Stoltzfus
- 8.2 Wade & Debby Walburn
- 8.8 Dennis & Dot Lippart
- 8.9 Jane & Steve McCartney*
- 8.9 Cliff & Stephanie Rampaul
- 8.10 Larry & Judy Waltman*
- 8.14 Les & Karen Helmeczi*
- 8.16 Joe & Sandy Weidel*
- 8.20 George & Donna Bechtold*
- 8.21 Skeeter & Donna Carr*
- 8.25 Tom & Linda Lewis

*50+ Anniversary

WORSHIP FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

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

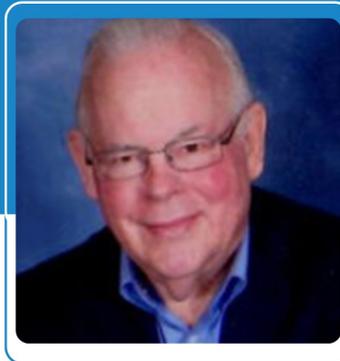
To sponsor, email office@apostlesucc.org or complete a form in the Church office. The suggested donation is \$60, but any amount is appreciated.



SPONSOR THROUGH VANCO

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

IN LOVING MEMORY



JOHN ESHBACH

August 1941 - June 2025

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS MADE BY:

- Donna & Leroy Carr, Milton Gockley,
- Malissa & Kenneth Weikel,
- Rev. William P. Worley,
- Duane & Katherine Weiss, Michelle Bright,
- Joan Leedy, Fred Killian,
- Mary & Eugene Buckwalter,
- Ann Miller, and John Singer.

| | June 2025 | June 2024 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| YTD Revenue | \$199,524.10 | \$193,436.08 |
| YTD Investment Transfers | \$45,543.90 | \$41,940.00 |
| YTD Operating Expenses | \$315,071.29 | \$334,898.27 |
| Net YTD Operating Income | -\$70,003.29 | -\$99,522.19 |

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR APOSTLES?

Check out where some of our members and staff spent their summer! Whether traveling near or far, they brought love, kindness, and a spirit of welcome wherever they went.



Allison Carr explored the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher in Ireland.



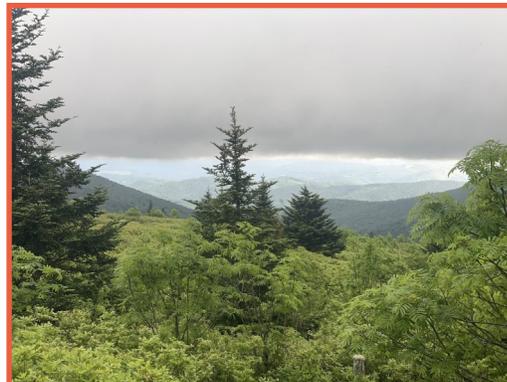
Bernie Fickes visited her grandson in New Providence, Rhode Island where he attends college.



Clara Kosmela soaked up the summer sun at her family's camp in Vermont.



The Waltman's checked off their bucket list at Niagara Falls in New York.



Melissa Kosman hiked through the Virginia stretch of the Appalachian Trail.



Paityn Nissly visited the manatees in Crystal River, Florida.

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



Church of the Apostles UCC

Crafter's MARKETPLACE

Prepare to discover the perfect handmade holiday gift from one of our over 30 vendors!

-  Saturday **November 8, 2025**
-  Start From **9 AM - 3 PM**
-  Church of the Apostles UCC
1850 Marietta Ave.



MORE INFORMATION

www.apostlesucc.org

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