



THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 49 No. 7



Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! – Psalm 150:1

PASTOR'S CORNER

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Let's Be Friends



@ApostlesUCC

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have heard Christ's call to be inclusive and generous, to advocate for social justice and environmental care, and to provide a safe space for those who feel afraid or powerless. We live out this call by worshiping in God's sanctuary and by opening our building to the wider community, recognizing that this sacred space is not ours alone.

After 50 years of ministry, and 45 years of worship in our sanctuary, our space now requires significant repairs in order to continue serving both our congregation and community. The flooring on the stage has become unsafe, with soft spots developing beneath the Steinway piano and in areas where choir members stood. As a result, we have not used the stage for

several months. Additionally, our sound system is outdated, still relying on 1980s technology.

As we renovate the stage area, we are committed to making it **inclusive and accessible to all**. This means expanding the stage to include ramps instead of stairs, which will require the temporary removal of pews and permanent modification of the pew sections closest to the stage. Due to the age of the current carpet, it cannot be re-stretched or reused, so new flooring will also be installed.

The total cost for this renovation, along with replacing the building's chiller, is projected to be \$365,000. The good news is that our capital campaign, **Where Welcome Grows**, has already raised \$96,000, with an additional \$100,000 pledged. We know that reaching our goal will take faith, prayer, and generosity. A prayer for this capital campaign is included in this newsletter. I invite you to join me in praying and believing that God will provide what we need.

Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

12
JULY

Community Game Night

📍 Rader Park Pavilion at 6 PM

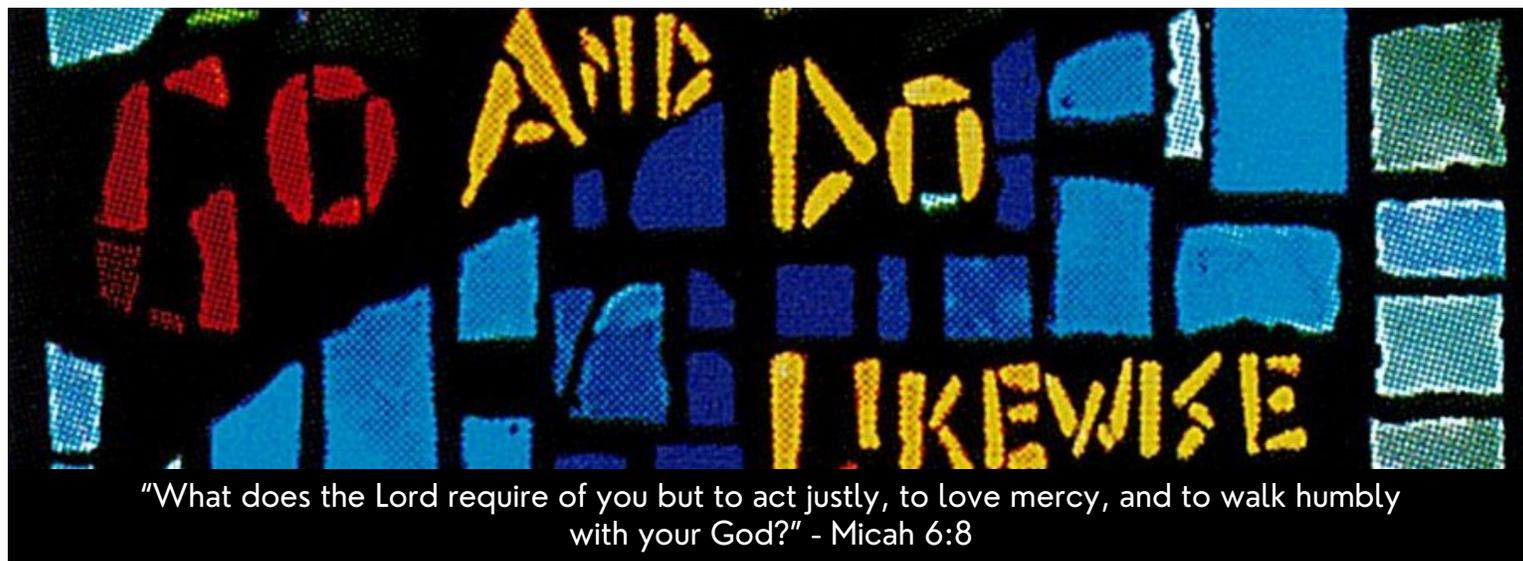
Bring your favorite board or card game and a friend.

27
JULY

Hymn Sing w/ Lars Potteiger

📍 Sanctuary at 3 PM

Come lift your voice to God in song.



"What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8

BOARD NEWS

In recent board meetings, we've been reflecting on how we can "grow young" as a church, and how we can build a community that is vibrant, relevant, and lasting. A concern surfaced: Will our efforts seem disingenuous if our only goal is to fill the pews? I was struck by a video clip from Carey Nieuwhof, a voice for church revitalization, who asked: *Is your goal simply to grow a church, or to build one that your children and grandchildren will love?*

We know our answer. Our hearts are set on creating a church that endures, not just in numbers, but in purpose and love.

So, what's next? In a county filled with churches, what makes ours unique and how do we share that? Carey encourages us to stop thinking about reaching *everyone and start focusing on someone. Who is the one person in your life who needs the love, acceptance, and grace our church offers?*

It's easy to assume everyone we know already has a church. Or to think it's the job of the Pastor or Board to "grow" the congregation. But what if each of us reached out to just one person? Someone who has been hurt by the church because of their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or background, someone who needs to know they are beloved.

Pray about your "one." Let's build a church that lasts by sharing God's love, one invitation at a time.

In Grace,

Johanna Baker, Board 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!

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

★ **August 12th, 2025:** Before We Forget Kindness by Toshi-kazu Kowaguchi

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

Update on the Bilombele Family

Summer Adventure & Fun Opportunities

As summer kicks off, we wanted to share the latest from the Bilombele family!

Bilemanga continues working at Lancaster Mennonite School, now on a day shift for summer. Vincent, 18, just finished his junior year at McCaskey and will start auto mechanics at Willow Street Vo-Tech this fall. He's working for a landscaping company this summer.

Shukuru, 12, invited his cousin Jango (from our former refugee family now in Macon, GA) to Lancaster for the summer. Tom Lewis recently visited them in Georgia and brought Jango back. The boys are loving soccer and have a summer goal: **mowing yards!** If you or someone you know could use some extra help, let us know at (717) 333-1327.

Thanks for following along with their journey and supporting them!

Soak Up Summer In Rader Park

Explore, Relax, & Connect with Nature

This summer, we invite you to take full advantage of the **beautiful green space at Rader Park!** Our park is the perfect place to gather with friends and family for a picnic, enjoy a peaceful day of fishing, or simply take a stroll with your dog. With several picnic areas scattered throughout, there's a cozy spot for everyone to enjoy a meal or a moment of rest in the shade.

Rader Park is **free and open to the community**, and we'd love to see it bustling with visitors this season. Whether you're planning a get-together or just need a quiet day in nature, we hope you'll make Rader Park a part of your summer fun!

Volunteers Needed for Food Bank Delivery

Got 30 Minutes on a Monday? You Can Make a Big Difference!



Help us fight hunger one delivery at a time! Each week, our **Seeds of Hope Garden** provides fresh produce to the Landisville Food Pantry, but we need your help getting it there.

We're looking for a **Monday morning driver** to pick up the produce and drop it off at the pantry (no unloading required, the pantry volunteers take care of that part!). It's quick, easy, and *so* meaningful.

Interested in being a weekly hero?

Call **Carol Nielsen** at (717) 391-2815 or Contact the church office at (717) 392-5718.

Let's keep those veggies rolling and our community fed!

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP

Youth-Led Campout & Summer Games

Get ready for a weekend of fun, food, and fellowship as our COA youth invite the entire church to a **Churchwide Campout & Youthlympics** in Rader Park, happening Saturday, August 2 to Sunday, August 3!

Join us for an afternoon of wild and wacky games, think wiffle ball, three-legged races, and more! Stick around for a potluck dinner, then gather 'round the campfire for s'mores before settling in for an overnight campout under the stars.

Tentative Schedule:

3-6 PM: Youthlympics games outside the Youth Center

6-8 PM: Potluck cookout at the Rader Park Pavilion

8-10 PM: Campfire + s'mores

10 PM: Overnight campout

Come for a few hours or stay the night, whatever fits your summer vibe! Friends and family welcome!

Youth: Help Us Plan!

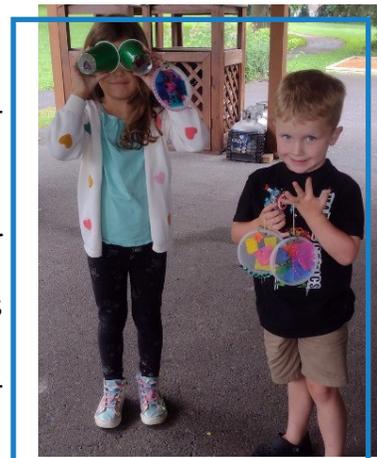
Join our Youth Group meeting on Sunday, July 27 from 6–8 PM to help plan the fun. Bring ideas, energy, and friends!

SUMMER FAITH FORMATION

Exploring God's Truth Through Science

Our Primary Faith Formation class (Ages 3 - 3rd Grade) is spending summer mornings in Rader Park with fun, faith-filled activities each week!

- **July 6** – *Abraham & Lot*: God made the land in amazing ways! We'll play games, get messy, and do a volcano experiment.
- **July 13** – *Moses & Bitter Water*: We need God more than water, join us for water games, fun facts, and planting marigolds.
- **July 20** – Special visit from naturalist **Lisa Sanchez** from Lancaster County Parks!
- **July 27** – *Sun Stands Still*: Explore how God is always with us through games and activities.



WHERE WELCOME GROWS: OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO REBUILD, RECOMMIT, AND WELCOME ALL

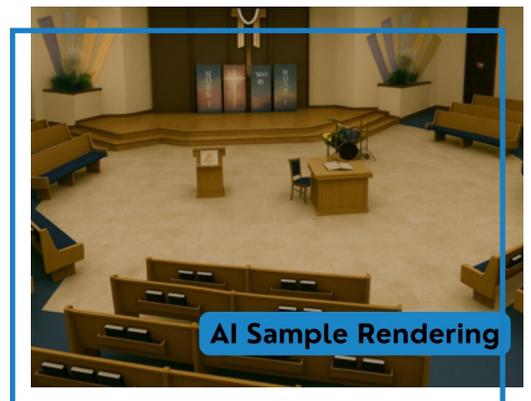
*"In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."
 – Ephesians 2:21-22*

As we celebrate 50 years of faith, community, and justice, we are launching "Where Welcome Grows: The 50th Year Renewal", a capital campaign to renew our sacred space for the next generation. **Our sanctuary has been the heart of our church**, and this renovation ensures it reflects who we are today: welcoming to all, rooted in love, and committed to justice and sustainability. In addition to revitalizing the sanctuary, **the campaign will also support essential infrastructure updates**, including the installation of a new chiller to ensure comfort and energy efficiency. Together, we're not just restoring a building. We're creating a space that tells our story and invites others into it, see the changes we plan to make below.

Rebuild Stage	Update Pews	New Finishes	New Audio
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded & reinforced to support the piano Handicap Accessible New Flooring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Cushions & Fabric Original Wood Finishing Restored Remove & Reposition Segments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carpet Luxury Vinyl Planking Wall Coverings on Organ Pipes & Tech Booth Railing Around Organ Additional Plan: Accessible Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Audio Equipment for Singers & Band New Monitors New Wiring, Speakers, and Floor Jacks

The Cost Breakdown:

- General Conditions: \$23,141.50
- Demolition: \$5,923.00
- Concrete: \$19,067.00
- Organ Railings: \$5,900.00
- Carpentry: \$16,678.20
- Finishes: \$96,099.20
- Pews: \$67,125.50
- Electrical: \$5,900.00
- Communications/Audio Work: \$14,952.00
- Excavation: \$4,018.30
- Contingency for Inflation & Unforeseen Issues: \$50,000
- Chiller Replacement (After Insurance Payout): \$56,000
- Total = \$365,000



AI Sample Rendering to show change in flooring colors.

Prayer for the Capital Campaign:

Holy One, as you continue to call us to be your people, we turn to you for blessing and guidance. We cannot do this without you. You are the One who brought water from the desert and manna from the skies—our Provider and Sustainer. Now, we trust that you will also provide what is needed to renew your sacred spaces, so that your ministries may continue to flourish in this place. Strengthen our faith, make a way where there seems to be none, and bless this work of revitalization. In your name, we pray. Amen.

OUTREACH

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, and in the spirit of living out our mission and vision, Church of the Apostles launched a yearlong initiative: **50 Acts of Kindness**. For 50 years, this church has been a place of blessing for individuals, families, and the wider community. Now, in gratitude and joy, we're offering 50 acts of kindness back into the world around us.

So far, **17 individuals have signed up to complete 20 different acts of kindness**. From composting and donating to an animal shelter, to recycling plastic bags and more, these acts are already making a beautiful impact!

With six months left in the year, we have plenty of time to keep the kindness going. Our goal is 50 acts and that means we need **30 more acts** completed. We'd love to see **30 more people** sign up!



Challenge yourself to pick an act nobody has chosen yet! Whether it's writing a thank-you note to a teacher, handing out cold water to unhoused neighbors, or dreaming up your own creative way to share love, every act matters.

To participate:

- Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex
- Take a photo (if you can!) while doing your act

Email your photo and a short description to admin@apostlesucc.org

If you've already signed up, we'd love to hear from you! Please share, in your own words or with a picture, how your act of kindness went.

We'll continue to celebrate your stories in our newsletters and on social media as we live out Jesus' command to "love your neighbor."

Let's keep the kindness growing!



A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

As part of our church's mission to be a place of inclusive welcome for all people, we will sing one of my favorite songs during the month of July: "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" by Mark Miller. This song serves as both a declaration and an invitation, emphasizing the presence of divine love and radical acceptance.

Mark Miller wrote this piece in the early 2000s in response to the need for music that reflects the open, welcoming, and affirming spirit of progressive Christian communities. It is often sung during moments of welcome, prayer, and community healing in worship settings.

One of my favorite parts of the song occurs in the refrain, where the melody and harmony rise together to create a powerful musical peak—a moment of lift and release. It's a truly beautiful and moving experience that gives me chills every time our voices reach that point in the music.

Miller, who frequently composes for the United Methodist Church and other mainline denominations, uses his music to advocate for justice, particularly around LGBTQ+ inclusion and racial equality. This song embodies his theological commitment to radical hospitality and God's all-encompassing love.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!
We bless your holy name.
O alleluia, sing alleluia!
There's a spirit of love in this place.

Blessings,
Lars



UPCOMING APOSTLES ACADEMY PERFORMANCE

Join us at Church of the Apostles on Sunday, July 13th at 3 PM for an afternoon of extraordinary music with Berks Sinfonietta! As part of our Apostles Academy of Arts 2025 Summer Concert Series, this talented chamber orchestra will bring "Gershwin Comes Alive" to the stage, celebrating the iconic works of George Gershwin.

Founded in 2014, Berks Sinfonietta is a unique intergenerational orchestra, bringing together young professionals, advanced students, and seasoned musicians to create inspiring performances. Their dedication to musical excellence shines through in every note, making this a concert you won't want to miss!

This event is **free to attend**, with a **freewill offering** taken in lieu of tickets. Come and enjoy the magic of Gershwin's music in a stunning live performance!



SAMARITAN
CENTER



DANCE

for Mental Health

5-week class: July 3rd - July 31st

Thursdays: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church

No dance experience necessary!

**Registration coming soon*

LIVING OUR MISSION: CLARA KOSMELA

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 Clara Kosmela, a dedicated supporter of Church of the Apostles and its ministries. Read on to learn how Clara's passion and hard work embody our mission.

How long have you been a member of COA?

I joined sometime around 1956. Harold Shaar taught music at Manheim Twp. High School and was St. Paul's choir director. He drove myself and others from Neffsville to church.

Which volunteer roles do you have at COA?

I've served on Council and have been the Chair of the Annual Garage Sale for 11 years. I'm a member of the Apostles Academy of Arts and Sciences and lead the COA Book club. I've also sung in the church choir for many years.



As Chair of the Parish Life Commission, I've worked alongside the Parish Life Team to organize events like the Bazaar in November, coordinate food for the Hospitality Table, maintain the kitchen (including cleaning and checking for outdated food), and support members with cards, transportation, and meals. I've also managed the kitchen and first aid/AED policies, hosted funeral receptions, prepared for flu shots, and organized Dining Around gatherings.

What volunteer work do you do outside of COA?

I volunteer with the Women's Club of East Petersburg as the treasurer.



What aspect of volunteering do you find the most fulfilling?

I enjoy interacting with others and when it helps a cause that makes it more special.

What is a fun fact about you?

I have collected 206 cruets and made 16 hooked rugs from scrap wool.

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

I would like to volunteer with Princess Diana. She helped causes that others did not want to get involved with. She was a caring mother who used her influence to help others.

July Birthdays

- 7.2 Ellen Schellenberger
- 7.3 Tristin Neiderer
- 7.5 Frank Wilson
- 7.6 Earl Cardellino
- 7.8 Dustin Koehler
- 7.10 Julie Berkow
- 7.10 Eva Johnson*
- 7.11 Mischelle Van Buskirk
- 7.11 Oliver Hull
- 7.13 Andy Appel
- 7.13 Jared Braun
- 7.15 Nancy Payne
- 7.20 Joan Hansel*
- 7.21 Jean Heidig
- 7.21 Melissa Koehler
- 7.22 Judy Waltman
- 7.25 Doris Krammes
- 7.26 Emily Sheffer
- 7.27 Jeannie Clausen
- 7.28 Bonnie Bechtold
- 7.31 Will Newport

*90+ Birthday's

July Anniversary's

- 7.3 Lou & Arlene Gaudioso*
- 7.5 Don & Julie Berkow
- 7.5 Erin & Chris Rohrbaugh
- 7.9 Scott & Steph Moore
- 7.10 Abe & Leigh Breslin
- 7.14 Chuck & Marsha Erisman
- 7.17 Jim & Linda Eaton*
- 7.17 Bill & Kristi Newport
- 7.18 Dean & Suzie Witmer*

*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

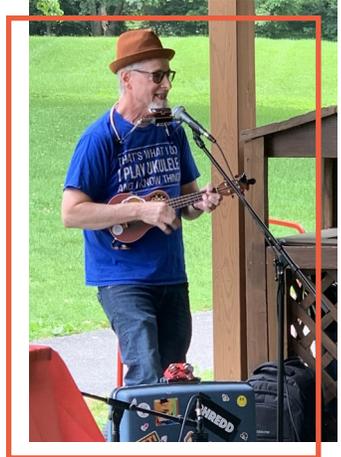
Contributions can be made via check, cash, **Vanco**, or **Realm**.

	May 2025	May 2024
YTD Revenue	\$166,509.04	\$171,053.86
YTD Investment Transfers	\$45,543.90	\$41,940.00
YTD Operating Expenses	\$267,249.05	\$278,702.14
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$55,196.11	-\$65,708.28

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS AT CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC

Church of the Apostles UCC has been busy this summer living out our mission of love, inclusion, and community!

On **June 8th**, we kicked off summer with a vibrant **Community Picnic in Rader Park**. Featuring delicious food, games, a fishing lesson at the pond, and a lively performance by Phredd One Man Band. Special thanks to Lou Gaudio for manning the grill and serving up hot dogs to our hungry guests!



Just a few days later, on **June 14th**, COA members, Jane McCartney, Holly Kleimo, and Monica & Steve Daniels, took to the streets of downtown Lancaster during the **No Kings Rally** to hand out free water bottles. Offering kindness and refreshment to all. We believe in showing up with love and a welcoming presence wherever we go.

At the end of the month, on **June 28th**, we returned to Lancaster for the **Pride Festival**, once again sharing water, Pride pins, and open-hearted hospitality as a visible sign of our inclusive faith.



Want to get involved in our outreach efforts this summer and beyond? Contact **Melissa Kosman** at admin@apostlesucc.org. Let's keep the momentum going!



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.

LIFT YOUR VOICE TO GOD

July Hymn Sing - All Are Welcome!

Join Music Director, Lars Potteiger, for an uplifting Hymn Sing on Sunday, July 27th, at 3 PM in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to celebrate in song and community. Don't miss this joyful event!

Church of the Apostles UCC
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