



THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 49 No. 9



"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."
- 1 Timothy 6:18

*Sample Rendering

Where Welcome Grows Update

Inside this Issue

- ▶ Preschool Returns, Pg. 5
- ▶ Outreach Collections, Pg. 6
- ▶ Sunday Happenings, Pg. 8
- ▶ Get Involved, Pg. 11

Let's Be Friends



Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have already raised \$111,798.77 for our *Where Welcome Grows* capital campaign, with an additional \$110,000 pledged for 2026, bringing our total to an inspiring **\$221,798.77**, toward our goal of \$260,000! This is a powerful testament to the love and commitment our congregation has for this sacred space.

Plans are moving forward, carpet, Luxury Vinyl Planking (LVP) flooring, and new pew fabric have been selected, and samples will be available to view in the Narthex. Each choice is made with care so our sanctuary can be a warm, inviting, and beautiful place of worship for generations to come.

We have sent **34 thank-you cards** to donors so far, including 16 given in memory of John Eshbach, and each gift, no matter the size, is a vital part of this shared vision.

As we celebrate this progress, we invite you to consider what you can give, whether a one-time gift or a pledge, as a reflection of how much you want this church to be a place where welcome truly grows for decades to come. Every contribution, offered from the heart, brings us closer to completing the renovations that will carry our ministry into the future.

Let's keep the momentum going! You can follow our updates and learn more at: apostlesucc.org/wherewelcomegrows

Together, we're not just funding a project, we're building a legacy of welcome.

Joy & Grace, *Melissa Kosman*

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

7
SEPT

Schreiber Pediatrics Duckie Dash
 📍 Community Way & Apostle Way
 Join Schreiber for a family-focused day packed with racing, games, food & fun!

13
SEPT

Community Game Night
 📍 Rader Park Pavilion at 6 PM
 Bring your favorite board or card game and a friend.



BOARD NEWS

One of the greatest blessings of our congregation is the wide range of gifts and passions we bring together. Each of us has something unique to offer, and when we share those gifts, our church family flourishes. That's why ministry teams are so important, they give us the chance to serve in ways that are meaningful and life-giving.

We already have many wonderful teams at work: our Property and Finance committees keep our church running smoothly, the Inclusive Church team helps us live out our welcome, the Compassion team seeks to be a listening presence, and the Environmental Team encourages us to care for God's creation. Groups like *Mocktails and Meaning* provide fellowship and deep conversation, while the *Worship Team, Worship Band, Choirs, Technology team, and our dedicated Ushers and Greeters* make our Sunday services welcoming and vibrant.

But there is always room for more! Consider joining the Hospitality Team, which will help with some of the simplest, and most joyful, forms of ministry: brewing the coffee on Sunday mornings, coordinating refreshments after services, and supporting special events with food and fellowship. These small acts of care create a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all who walk through our doors.

As you reflect on your own passions, consider where God may be nudging you to serve. Whether you feel called to join an existing team or to step into hospitality, your involvement matters. Together, we can shape ministries that reflect the love and joy of this congregation. Contact the office for more information about joining one of our teams.

Blessings,

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!

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

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

★ November 11th, 2025: Tisha by Robert Spent

COA Children's Library

Reopening this Month!

The COA Children's Library (Room 207) will reopen in September! Each Sunday, the library will be open for children and families to browse and sign out books, with a collection that includes storybooks for young children, chapter books for elementary readers, religious titles, and special topics like adoption, divorce, or the loss of a pet.

For help finding something specific, contact Linda Lewis at LLewis103@comcast.net or stop by the library after worship. Simple directions for checking out books are posted on the desk, we look forward to seeing children explore the shelves again!

Inclusive Church Focus: Audism

Hearing Loss & Deaf Inclusion

This month, our Inclusive Church topic is **Hearing Loss and Deaf Inclusion**. Hearing loss can take many forms and have different causes, and each person's experience is unique. Some individuals use hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other devices, but the benefits of these tools vary widely.

To help spread awareness and foster inclusion, we're excited to share that Allison Carr will be using American Sign Language during worship on Sept. 21st. This will be a beautiful opportunity for our congregation to experience ASL in worship and to learn more about how we can be a welcoming space for all.

For more on Hearing Loss visit apostlesucc.org/inclusive-refuge or the Narthex display

Mocktails & Meaning™

Food Insecurity in Lancaster, PA

On Thursday, September 18th at 6:30 PM, Church of the Apostles UCC will host our next Mocktails & Meaning™ session in the Main Lobby, focusing on food insecurity in Lancaster County and the potential impact of federal budget cuts.



Guest speakers Paige McFarling from the FoodHub and Rev. Dr. Matthew Lenahan, Director of the Wittel Farm Growing Project, will offer insights into the services they provide and how proposed policy changes could affect their ability to meet community needs. Many are unaware that nearly 40% of Lancaster County residents fall into the ALICE category, Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, meaning they work but still struggle to afford basic necessities and often don't qualify for benefits. This conversation will highlight the challenges and local responses to hunger and food access.

As always, we'll enjoy a signature mocktail together, this month's drink is a refreshing [Strawberry Basil Spritzer](#). Register by Scanning the QR Code!

YOUTH

PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION (AGES 3 - 3RD GRADE)

Back Indoors, Back Together!



Our Primary Faith Formation (ages 3–3rd grade) returns to Room 304 on Sunday, September 7 after a wonderful summer in Rader Park exploring how nature and science connect us to God. Children will begin in worship with their families, then walk together to class following Children’s Time with Rev. Kuhn. Led by **Judy Waltman** with help from **Marina Mattern**, this ministry thrives when more hands are involved, we are actively seeking volunteers to teach or assist. If you feel called to help nurture the faith of our children, please contact the church office

today to get involved!

September Schedule:

- Sept. 7 – God is our Shepherd
- Sept. 14 – God is our Refuge (*Julie Rhoads & Linda Lewis teaching*)
- Sept. 21 – God is our Helper
- Sept. 28 – God of Justice

ROOTED IN FAITH (4TH - 8TH GRADE)

New School Year, New Rooted in Faith!

We’ll kick off Year 5 of our Christian Formation program for grades 4+ on Sunday Sept. 21 at 9:55 sharp in Room 308! All youth in grades 4 and up are welcome to join us for more faith, fun, fellowship, movie parties, kitchen takeovers, and yummy snacks! Watch your mailbox for your welcome-back letter, and bring your Bible and reusable water bottle to class; we can’t wait to see you all again on Sept. 21!

YOUTH GROUP (4TH - 12TH GRADE)

Moving Into Room 306!

With school back in session, the Apostles Youth Group is kicking off its fall with two big meetings. Join us on Sunday Sept. 7 from 6-8 PM as we move our group from the former Youth Center to our new home in Room 306 of the Education Wing! Then meet us back in Room 306 on Sunday Sept. 21 from 6-8 PM as we plan our activities for the upcoming school year! Our last big event, our Youthlympics/cookout/campfire/campout on August 2-3, was a huge success with a dozen youth and a dozen adults joining in the fun; what will be up next on our agenda? Come share your insights and help us get settled into our new space!





CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!

APOSTLES COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL UPDATES



Apostles Community Preschool is excited to begin its **60th year of serving the Lancaster community** on Wednesday, September 10. This year, we look forward to welcoming approximately 140 children, ages 2-5. Our program includes four Tot (2-year-old) classes, three classes for 3- and 4-year-olds, and three Pre-Kindergarten classes. We are grateful to have our full staff returning to teach, nurture, and inspire our students.

School drop-off will take place from 8:55 to 9:15 AM in both the front and back parking lots, and pick-up will be from 11:20 to 11:35 AM. These are busy times, particularly during the first few weeks as students settle into their new routines, so we appreciate your patience and cooperation.

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, **all preschool hallway doors will be locked from 9 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday**. If you need to enter the building during these hours, please use the main church entrance and check in at the church office to be escorted by staff, remembering to **wear your name tag**, so preschool staff can easily identify you. After 2 PM, the doors closest to the Sanctuary will be unlocked to provide access to the west wing for afternoon activities. All doors, including interior glass double doors, must remain closed, and exterior doors should never be propped open. For special arrangements, please contact **Preschool Director Maggie Biggs** or **Church Administrator Melissa Kosman**.

We are grateful for your continued support and prayers and look forward to a safe and joyful year filled with learning, growth, and community.



@Apostles_Community_Preschool



OUTREACH

Food Bank & Saturday Breakfast Ministry

This September, Church of the Apostles is continuing to support our community by collecting non-perishable food items for the **Hempfield Area Food Pantry in Landisville**. This pantry serves hundreds of families each month. In July alone, it provided food for 2,254 individuals, including 673 children, 1,117 adults, and 464 seniors.

OUR IMPACT

\$1103

Refugee Fund



This month's most-needed items include canned corn, red beets, spinach, tuna, black beans, kidney beans, pinto beans, baked beans, fruit of all varieties, chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, tomato paste, and tomato sauce. Additional requests include bagged lentil beans, large jars of peanut butter and jelly, cereal, and rigatoni or penne pasta. Donations may be placed in the grocery cart in the narthex. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Donations as of Publishing

The **second part of our September giving opportunities** is support for our **First Saturday Breakfast Ministry**, which has been serving a hot meal on the first Saturday of every month since 2000. For 25 years, a team of 10-15 dedicated volunteers has gathered at First Reformed UCC on Orange Street in Lancaster to prepare and serve breakfast. On August 2nd alone, they welcomed 99 guests with a warm meal and a spirit of hospitality.

While the Parish Resource Center provides some supplies, the ministry still costs about **\$250 each month** to purchase the rest. Your donations go directly toward feeding our neighbors, and your time and talent are always needed to keep this ministry thriving. To volunteer, contact **Julie Berkow** at jberkow6@comcast.net. Monetary donations may be made through **Realm, Vanco**, or by cash/check designated for the *First Saturday Breakfast Ministry*.

How Will YOU Give In September? Physically, Financially or With Your Time?

Volunteer with Power Packs



Looking for another easy way to fight food insecurity in Lancaster? **Power Packs** needs volunteers to help transfer food packs from its Greenfield warehouse to Martin School on Wednesdays at 1:15 PM, starting mid-September. Moderate lifting is involved.

Interested? Contact **Julie Berkow** at (717) 419-5195 or jberkow6@comcast.net.



A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

In our fall worship series, we are exploring how to see life more fully and embrace the richness of God's flourishing abundance. We have free will. We can ignore the beauty around us and see life as a glass half empty, but we also have the choice to recognize the richness in our lives and embrace it through faith. That shift in perspective can make all the difference.

One of my favorite iconic American musicians is Stevie Wonder. In 1976, he recorded a landmark album, *Songs in the Key of Life*. The themes on this recording cover a wide range of topics, from social issues to joy and celebration, as well as both romantic and spiritual love.

One of the standout songs on the album is "As." While it can be read as a love song to another person, on a deeper level it speaks to the greater interconnectedness of love—between people and between humanity and God. The central message is that the speaker's love will endure forever. Wonder uses hyperbole and paradox to convey the permanence of love:

"We all know sometimes life's hates and troubles
Can make you wish you were born in another time and space
But you can bet your life times that and twice it's double
That God knew exactly where he wanted you to be placed"

This verse acknowledges the pain and hardships of life but offers the reassuring truth that you are where you need to be, and that God is present with you in your time and place. It's both comforting and lifegiving, an antidote for those moments of doubt when we long for reassurance.

I hope this season is one of lifegiving abundance for you, and that you are able to see and embrace the richness of God's love and presence in your life!

Peace & Blessings,

Lars



Church of the Apostles UCC

DRUM CIRCLE

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2025 AT 3 PM

GRASS BEHIND CHOIR ROOM

SUNDAY HAPPENINGS

Back-to-School Sunday - September 14th

Blessings for Students, Teachers & Youth Leaders



Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks and bags to worship on **Sunday, September 14**, for a special blessing as they begin a new school year. Books will be distributed to children in our COA Faith Formation program.

All teachers and school staff are invited to receive a blessing during worship, and our youth group will lead the service with **Nathan Moore delivering the sermon**. Come celebrate and support our students, teachers, and youth leaders!

Join Our Church Family

Discover How You Can Live Out Our Vision & Mission

Are you interested in joining Church of the Apostles and living out our Vision & Mission? Speak with Rev. Kuhn to learn more about becoming a member and joining our community.

New members and those considering membership are invited to a casual **Meet & Greet on Sunday, September 21**, after worship (around 11:15 AM) in the Parlor. Enjoy a snack, meet our Board, and connect with others in the community.

Sunday Safety Update

Entering the Building for Worship

With the change in building use, we are updating our Sunday morning door procedures. For worship, **all guests and members should enter through the main doors under the portico (A1)**. The choir door (C8) will also be unlocked for members, while the church meeting in Room 305 will unlock the West Wing doors (A3) for their congregation. The preschool hallway will remain open on Sunday mornings.

To ensure the safety of our children, youth, and teachers, all **Faith Formation classroom doors will remain locked during class time**. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe!

Coffee Volunteer Needed

Help Us Brew Coffee on Sundays



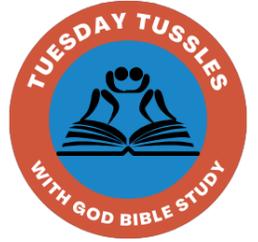
We're looking for one dedicated volunteer each Sunday, to start the coffee pots during Sunday worship. The pots will be prepped for you, **just turn them on to brew so everyone can enjoy coffee after the service**. Anyone can do it, and it's a simple way to help our community! If you can take on this simple task, please contact the office or speak directly with Rev. Kuhn.

STAY CONNECTED & GET INVOLVED

Tuesday Tussles With God

Revelations Study

Join us this fall as Tuesday Tussles With God explores the vivid imagery and enduring themes of the biblical book of *Revelation*. Led by **Mark Achtermann** (M.Div. student at Lancaster Theological Seminary) and **Les Helmeczi** (retired UCC clergy), this study begins **Tuesday, September 9 at 10:30 AM** in the Burkholder Chapel at Homestead Village.



We'll use *Faithful & True: A Study Guide to Revelation* by Dr. Greg Carey, with a free copy provided to all registrants. Register through Church of the Apostles: (717) 392-5718 or office@apostlesucc.org.

Help Us Shine in Millersville

Be the Face of Apostles at Saturday in the Park

On Saturday, September 20, Church of the Apostles will be at *Saturday in the Park* in Freedom Memorial Park, connecting with 400+ neighbors. Millersville has no Open & Affirming churches, this is our chance to represent and share God's inclusive love!

We'll provide everything you need to host our table, greet visitors, and offer a kid-friendly game. **Just bring your smile and energy.**

Volunteer by calling the office at (717) 392-5718 or emailing Melissa at admin@apostlesucc.org.

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!

Retirement Announcement

Larry Rongione Retires after 17 years

After faithfully serving as Sexton at Church of the Apostles since September 2009, Larry Rongione has decided to retire. For nearly 17 years, Larry has cared for our sanctuary and narthex, prepared the church for worship each week, and made sure Sundays were filled with warmth and coffee. He was always a welcoming face at the door.



September Birthdays

- 9.2 ~ Christa Smeigh
- 9.3 ~ Ruth Senior*
- 9.8 ~ Matthew Sweigart
- 9.9 ~ Christina Bahling
- 9.9 ~ Larry Waltman
- 9.11 ~ Karen Wallach
- 9.13 ~ Mic Bender
- 9.13 ~ Suzie Witmer
- 9.14 ~ Bev Keller
- 9.17 ~ Barbara Achtermann
- 9.17 ~ Lou Kosmela
- 9.20 ~ Bev Moran
- 9.21 ~ Betty Reiff*
- 9.22 ~ Tom Lewis
- 9.24 ~ Sharon Shaeffer
- 9.25 ~ Marsha Erisman
- 9.25 ~ Ken Keller
- 9.25 ~ Matthew Rice
- 9.25 ~ Maeson Sheffer
- 9.27 ~ Debbie Belsinger
- 9.28 ~ Rev. Debra Sickles
- 9.30 ~ George Bechtold

*90+ Birthday's

September Anniversary's

- 9.1 ~ Tim & Sue Stirling
- 9.6 ~ Mic & Laura Bender
- 9.7 ~ Sam & Darren Hackenburg
- 9.10 ~ Jeannie & Joel Clausen
- 9.17 ~ Adam & Sara Zipko
- 9.23 ~ Randy & Lisa Sweigart
- 9.30 ~ Bev & Ken Keller*

*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

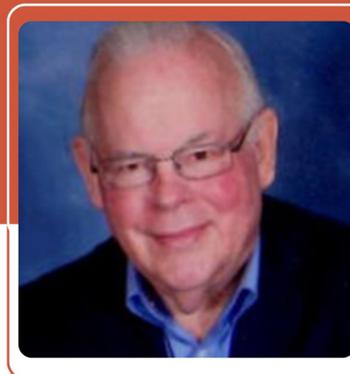
or complete a form in the Church office. The suggested donation is \$60, but any amount is appreciated.



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:

High Company,
 Andy Appel, Karyn & Ken Belanger,
 Bev Moran, Fred & Mary Lou Keller,
 Margaret & Max King,
 Joel & Tricia Patterson,
 Carolyn Steedle, and Richard Braine

| | July 2025 | July 2024 |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| YTD Revenue | \$235,561.39 | \$232,621.20 |
| YTD Investment Transfers | \$45,543.90 | \$166,940.00 |
| YTD Operating Expenses | \$385,739.40 | \$413,221.29 |
| Net YTD Operating Income | -\$104,634.11 | -\$13,660.09 |

LIVING OUR MISSION: MYSTERY VOLUNTEER

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 shining the spotlight on one of our incredible volunteers who embodies the spirit of generosity, compassion, and community. This month, our **Living Our Mission Volunteer** has chosen to remain anonymous, so we're celebrating them as our **Mystery Volunteer!**

How long have you been a member of COA?

Since becoming a COA member in 2003, this dedicated volunteer has been an inspiring example of what it means to live a life of service. For them, **volunteering isn't just something they do, it's part of who they are.**

"It's how I was raised," they shared. "I grew up watching my mom volunteer with the Fire Company, and when I was old enough, I joined her. My dad didn't formally volunteer, but he was always lending a hand whenever someone needed help. My parents were the ones everyone turned to." That early example of kindness and generosity shaped a lifelong commitment to helping others, and today, they're passing that same spirit forward.

Which volunteer roles do you have at COA?

At COA, they wear many hats, each one an opportunity to connect, encourage, and make a difference. From serving at the Saturday Breakfast Ministry to helping with Faith Formations in the summer, supporting Rooted, and working with the Youth Group, their energy and dedication are truly contagious.

What volunteer work do you do outside of COA?

Their passion for service doesn't stop at COA's doors. In the past, they and their husband volunteered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, where they helped coordinate events with as many as 100 participants. Whether in large gatherings or quiet, one-on-one moments, they believe every act of service creates a ripple effect that reaches farther than we realize.

What aspect of volunteering do you find the most fulfilling?

When asked what makes volunteering so fulfilling, they light up: "I really enjoy the whole process, the preparation, gathering supplies, executing the plan, but most of all, I enjoy being with and serving people."

What is a fun fact about you?

Outside of volunteering, they love spending time with Emmi, the sweet and friendly cat they adopted during COVID. "She's my gift from Heaven."

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

When dreaming about volunteering alongside someone famous, they'd choose Mother Teresa, a fitting inspiration for someone who lives by the same spirit of compassion. They'd also love to work alongside Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, admiring his dedication to helping communities recover from devastating floods.

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 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.



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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