



# THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 49 No. 10



*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, but encouraging one another."  
- Hebrews 10:24-25*

## YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

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*Let's Be Friends*

@ApostlesUCC

**As** a church, we are called to embody Christ's love by creating a community of welcome, care, and spiritual growth. Every story of impact reminds us why Church of the Apostles matters, **not only on Sunday mornings, but in the everyday moments when God's love is most needed.** The following testimony from Laura and Mic Bender, is one example of how COA continues to live out this calling.

*"There is no question that our lives have been significantly shaped by Church of the Apostles. From the first time we visited, we felt welcomed. In the early years, as we struggled to start a family, our attendance drifted. Yet on the day of our daughters' emergency birth, Pastor Kathryn found us at the hospital. Even though we had not been attending regularly,*

*she showed up with compassion and support. That moment made it clear COA would be our church home. In the years that followed, we became members, had our daughters baptized, and joined in children's choir, pizza nights, and committees. When the pandemic disrupted our rhythm, our connection to COA wavered, but the church's care never did. During a recent health challenge, members reached out with cards, meals, and prayers. Our neighbor Flo stepped in with support, and Pastor Kathryn continued to walk alongside us as a trusted friend and confidant. We know that, no matter what lies ahead, COA will be there with open arms."*

Stories like this remind us why COA exists. **We are called to be a community that supports one another through both joy and challenge,** that nurtures faith across generations, and that shares Christ's love with the wider world. The congregation's generosity sustains our ministry, strengthens our mission, and ensures COA will remain a place of faith and hope for generations to come. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift today, or renewing your annual pledge to help us continue this vital work. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the life of our church and in the lives, we touch together.

With Gratitude, *Melissa Kosman* (Church Administrator)

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

11

OCT

## Community Game Night

📍 Rader Park Pavilion at 6 PM

Bring your favorite board or card game and a friend.

27

OCT

## Forum on Homelessness

📍 75 E James St. Lancaster at 7 PM

Shaarai Shomayim will host a forum with elected officials' and a Q&A.

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR,  
EVEN IF THEY DON'T  
LOOK LIKE YOU,  
THINK LIKE YOU,  
LOVE LIKE YOU,  
PRAY LIKE YOU.**

## BOARD NEWS

I write to you to share how impressed I am with the youth of this church, as I reflect on last month's Blessing of the Backpacks and Honoring Teachers service. Our youth led worship, reading scripture, praying, and preaching.

With so much division in our politics and tragedy in the news it can be difficult to remain optimistic about our future, but our young folks volunteering to lead a sermon themselves shows their character. It's often said they're growing up in a difficult time, and they didn't shy away from hard topics. We hope our Pre-School, Rooted and Faith Formation Classes, Summer Series' and events at Rader Park give young people in our Church and our community a strong foundation to make a positive impact on the world.



Special thanks to Allison, Kimberly, Isaac, Violet, Brody, and of course Nathan for delivering the sermon. Talking in front of a group of people isn't easy for everyone, and we're grateful.

Thanks also to our teachers, Rooted and Faith Formation leaders, and school support staff. Our prayers are with you all on a successful school year ahead.

Blessings,

*Jim Stoltzfus* (Board Vice-President)

P.S. If you weren't able to worship with us on September 14th, I highly encourage you watch a replay of the service on YouTube. (Watch at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZETzi2vzGyU>)

## 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!

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

★ **November 11th, 2025:** Tisha by Robert Spent

★ **December 9th, 2025:** Let Us March by Shara Moon

## Help Needed for Halloween Event

*Volunteer with games, crafts, or snacks*

On Saturday, October 18th, we're hosting a Halloween Movie Event at COA! While this event will be more low-key than previous years, it's still a wonderful opportunity to connect with our neighbors and share in the fun. We're looking for volunteers to help with games, crafts, and snack sales (all proceeds will benefit the **UCC Neighbors in Need Fund**).

To sign up, email [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) or call (717) 392-5718. Thank you for helping us make this event a meaningful and festive community gathering!

## Mocktails & Meaning™

*Climate Action & Sustainable Farming*

Church of the Apostles invites you on October 16th at 6:30 PM to evening of conversation and community as we welcome back **Rev. Dr. Matthew Lenahan**, Director of the **Wittel Farm Growing Project**. This session will focus on sustainable farming and the practical steps individuals and communities can take to combat climate change.



Learn how farming practices can transform soil into a carbon sink, capturing carbon before it's released into the atmosphere, and discover how everyday choices at home can make a meaningful environmental impact. Our featured mocktail for the evening will be a refreshing Virgin Mojito. **Register today:** Scan the QR code or visit our website to save your spot.

## Inclusive Church Focus: LGBTQ+

*Welcoming the LGBTQ+ Community*

This October, our Inclusive Church focus highlights how we can better welcome and support the **LGBTQ+ community**. Many LGBTQ+ people have experienced rejection or harm from faith communities, and Christ calls us to offer a safe, loving, and affirming space where everyone knows they are a beloved child of God. Inclusion starts with listening, learning, and honoring people's identities, even when it feels unfamiliar or challenging.

As part of this focus, Church of the Apostles will be tabling at Millersville Pridefest on **October 16**, connecting with our neighbors and showing God's love in action. We will also host a Q&A after worship on **October 12** to discuss our Inclusive Church Covenant and answer any questions.

To learn more about our Inclusive Church Initiative, read our **Inclusive Church Covenant**, or explore LGBTQ+ inclusion, visit the display in the Narthex or [apostlesucc.org/inclusive-refuge](http://apostlesucc.org/inclusive-refuge).

# YOUTH

## PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION (AGES 3 - 3RD GRADE)

### *Acts of Kindness & October Schedule*

The Faith Formation class recently shared an Act of Kindness with the Rohrerstown Fire Company by **baking chocolate chip cookies and creating handmade thank-you cards**. During the visit, firefighter Chris gave the children a close look at the equipment, explaining that it takes just two minutes for firefighters to put on their gear, gear that doubles their weight! Chris also demonstrated the Jaws of Life and even let the kids try holding this powerful tool.

Faith Formation meets each Sunday after Children's Time in Rm 304. In October, our lessons include:

- Oct 5: Solomon Builds the Temple
- Oct 12: King Josiah
- Oct 19: Fall of Jerusalem
- Oct 26: Promise of a New Jerusalem

All children are welcome to join us as we learn, serve, and grow in faith together.



## ROOTED IN FAITH (4TH - 8TH GRADE)

### *Growing Together in Faith this Fall*

Rooted in Faith for grades 4 and up meets most Sundays at 9:55 AM in Room 308 with snacks, fun, and fellowship. We won't meet on the second Sundays of each month or on October 5. Join us again on **October 19!** Want email updates? Contact [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) to get connected.

## YOUTH GROUP (4TH - 12TH GRADE)

### *New Space, New Season!*

The Apostles Youth Group has a new home in Room 306 and is ready for a fun fall! All youth grades 4+ (and friends) are welcome to join us on the **first and third Sundays from 6–8 PM**. October 5 will be a game night, so come ready for fun and fellowship! We've got lots planned that you won't want to miss. To get email updates, contact [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)



**A**postles Community Preschool is excited to begin its **60th year of serving children and families in our community!** This fall, we welcomed **135 children and 17 staff members**, and together we are off to a wonderful start.

During the first few weeks, our students focused on building classroom routines, making new friends, and learning how to play and work together. Our fall curriculum themes include **Farm, Fire Safety, and Nocturnal Animals**, giving children the chance to explore God's creation, learn about the helpers who keep us safe, and discover the wonders of animals that come out at night.

Our **Nature Explorers Enrichment Program** is also underway on Tuesday afternoons, where our Pre-K students have the opportunity to enjoy and learn from all that **Rader Park** has to offer.

We have a full calendar of activities planned for the months ahead, including:

- A visit from the **Rohrerstown Fire Company** during Fire Safety Week
- A school-wide nature program with **Lisa Sanchez** from Lancaster Parks and Recreation
- Pre-K class visits to **Homestead Village**
- Our annual fall outing to **Cherry Hill Orchard**
- The always-anticipated **Halloween Parade** at the end of October

We are looking forward to another joyful year of learning, growing, and celebrating God's love together!

***Maggie Biggs***

Preschool Director

[mbiggs.acp@gmail.com](mailto:mbiggs.acp@gmail.com)



@Apostles\_Community\_Preschool



# OUTREACH

## Cozy Coats for Kids: Let's Keep Every Child Warm

This fall, we're teaming up with Apostles Community Preschool to make an even bigger impact, because no child should be cold this winter! Our Cozy Coats for Kids outreach is collecting new and gently used coats and jackets for children from preschool through 8th grade.

### OUR IMPACT

# \$860

Food Bank Donations

Donations will be accepted starting the first Sunday in October and will continue through early December, allowing us to distribute coats before the winter chill sets in. Drop your contributions in the tall white laundry baskets under the Outreach bulletin board, and we'll sort and share them with families in need.

Donations as of Publishing



Let's join together to wrap kids in warmth and care this season!



## UCC Neighbors in Need

On Sunday, October 5, we will receive the annual UCC Neighbors in Need special offering, but gifts will be accepted all month long. This nationwide UCC fund supports ministries of justice and compassion, including initiatives for racial equity, advocacy for the unhoused, and grants for community projects that bring hope and healing.

Last year, our congregation donated \$1,625, helping to make a tangible difference in communities across the country. Let's continue that impact by giving generously throughout October.

## THANK YOU NOTE

On Behalf of Penn Medicine LG Healthy Beginnings Plus,

Please send our sincerest thanks and gratitude to the members of Church of the Apostles who so generously donated to our healthy beginnings plus program recently. The beautiful baby clothes, diapers, baby wash, blankets, crib sheets, etc. will be given out to our families in need. **Your kindness is the good this world needs right now!** Thank you for your compassionate giving! Sincerely, Carrie Bair





Apostles Academy  
of Arts & Sciences

# A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

World Communion Sunday was first celebrated in October 1933 to highlight worldwide Christian unity through the sharing of Holy Communion. The idea came from Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr, a Presbyterian minister, who introduced the observance during the Great Depression as a way to encourage fellowship across denominations in a time of social and economic hardship. Originally called International Communion Sunday, it invited Christians everywhere to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the same day, fostering a shared sense of faith.

At Church of the Apostles, one of the hymns we often sing to celebrate communion is "One Bread, One Body" by John Foley, SJ. An American Jesuit priest and composer, Foley wrote this hymn in 1978 with a simple, repetitive melody designed for congregational singing. Its adaptability to guitar, piano, or organ helped it spread widely in both Catholic and Protestant communities.

The text, inspired by 1 Corinthians 10:16–17, emphasizes the Eucharist as a unifying act, Christians gathered around one table, partaking in one bread:

**"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."**

The enduring power of this hymn lies in its ecumenical message, rooted in Scripture and expressed in inclusive language. It reminds us that, despite differences in denomination or practice, we are united in faith with Christians around the world. In an era when divisions often seem sharper than unity, "One Bread, One Body" calls us to reconciliation and to gather as one at Christ's table.

Blessings,

*Lars*



## UPCOMING APOSTLES ACADEMY CONCERT

Join us on Sunday, October 12th, at 3 PM in the sanctuary as we welcome The Malta Band of Lancaster! Enjoy an afternoon filled with fantastic music and community fun. This event is **free to attend**, with a **freewill offering** taken in lieu of tickets.

## MEET DEKLAN, PASTORAL INTERN

This academic year, we welcome **Deklan Lewis** as Rev. Kathryn's intern as part of his third year at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Deklan is passionate about **community ministry** and hopes to connect with members who want to make a difference in Lancaster through meaningful projects and outreach. He will also assist in worship and share his musical gifts on guitar.

Deklan's faith journey has been shaped by both joy and loss. Inspired by his father, a guitarist and carpenter whose music and faith left a lasting impression, Deklan grew up surrounded by songs of Jesus and the mysteries of faith. After his parents' divorce and his father's passing when he was in seventh grade, Deklan experienced firsthand how God carries us through life's valleys as well as its peaks.



A single father to an awesome teen and two cats, Deklan brings warmth and real-life experience to his ministry. As a member of the **LGBTQIA+ community**, he hopes to use his life experiences and education to build bridges between the church and the world, fostering dialogue, healing, and truly inclusive spaces.

You can connect with Deklan on **Sunday mornings** or by email at [Deklanjaylewis@gmail.com](mailto:Deklanjaylewis@gmail.com), he would love to hear your ideas for community projects or simply share a conversation.



Church of the Apostles  
United Church of Christ

# MINISTRY FAIR 2025

FIND A PLACE TO CONNECT & SERVE

SUNDAY  
OCT 26  
AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP

# SUNDAY HAPPENINGS



## Clergy Appreciation Sunday

*Celebrate Rev. Kuhn's 20 Years of Service*

Join us on **Sunday, October 12** as we honor Rev. Kuhn for her **20 years of faithful ministry** with Church of the Apostles. Her love, guidance, and joy have touched every corner of our congregation, and this is our chance to say thank you. We invite everyone to **bring a card of appreciation** to worship that morning. Share a favorite memory, a word of gratitude, or simply your thanks for her dedication to our church family.

## All Saints Sunday

*Honoring Loved Ones Near and Far*

On **Sunday, November 2**, we will gather in worship to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have passed, within our congregation, among our families and friends, and throughout the wider world. This sacred service invites us to give thanks for the saints who have shaped our lives and faith.

If you would like someone included in our **memorial slideshow**, please send a **photo, date of birth, and date of passing** to Paityn at [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org) by **Monday, October 28**.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

*Your Voice Matters - Save the Date!*

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 16**, when we will gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting to vote on the **2026 Budget**, our **new Inclusive Church Covenant**, and to spend the funds raised for the **"Where Welcome Grows"** capital campaign for the Sanctuary renovation. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of Church of the Apostles, and your participation makes a difference.

To prepare, our Board will host an **Informational Session on Sunday, November 9**, where you can ask questions about the budget, learn more about the covenant, and hear updates on the capital campaign. Your presence and input ensure that every decision reflects the heart of our community. **Be involved, be heard, and help guide our next chapter together!**

## October Birthdays

- 10.2 ~ Audrey Markle\*
  - 10.2 ~ Adam Zipko
  - 10.3 ~ Linda Lewis
  - 10.3 ~ Jim Jolly
  - 10.3 ~ Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
  - 10.3 ~ Cait Stenman
  - 10.4 ~ Kerry Kendig
  - 10.4 ~ Mark Achtermann
  - 10.4 ~ Dennis Lippart
  - 10.7 ~ Cooper Bahling
  - 10.8 ~ Jim Stoltzfus
  - 10.10 ~ Bonnie Medved
  - 10.11 ~ Vera Hocker\*
  - 10.13 ~ Mary Walters
  - 10.16 ~ Robin Lucey
  - 10.16 ~ Heather Rice
  - 10.16 ~ Jack Oliphant
  - 10.18 ~ Abe Breslin
  - 10.19 ~ Doug Nutt
  - 10.21 ~ Reid Clausen
  - 10.21 ~ Wanda Bomberger
  - 10.22 ~ Johanna Baker
  - 10.22 ~ Robert Gifford
  - 10.23 ~ Lisa Christoffel
  - 10.23 ~ Nancy Ann Steger
  - 10.24 ~ Sandy Weidel
  - 10.26 ~ Connor Kendig
  - 10.27 ~ Mackenzie Cornielle
  - 10.28 ~ Brenna Bracken
  - 10.30 ~ Elizabeth Stoltzfus
  - 10.31 ~ Clara Kosmela
- \*90+ Birthday's

## 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](mailto: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**.

## October Anniversary's

- 10.2 ~ Deb & Jay Aukamp
  - 10.4 ~ Mark & Erin Szalczyk
  - 10.8 ~ Beth & Jennifer Thompson
  - 10.11 ~ Darrell & Linda Schock\*
  - 10.18 ~ Stephen & Monica Daniels
  - 10.19 ~ David & Pamela Smith
  - 10.21 ~ Randy & Luane Morrison
- \*50+ Anniversary

	August 2025	August 2024
YTD Revenue	\$261,099.68	\$259,756.02
YTD Investment Transfers	\$111,043.90	\$166,940.00
YTD Operating Expenses	\$440,510.53	\$475,911.09
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$68,366.95	-\$49,215.07

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC



# HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for a free indoor movie night featuring Disney's Spooky Buddies, plus games, snacks, and fun activities for kids!



SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 18TH



DOORS: 3 PM  
MOVIE: 3:15 PM



FELLOWSHIP  
HALL



More Info at [apostlesucc.org](http://apostlesucc.org)

# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

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