



THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 49 No. 11



*"Now choose life, so that you
and your children may live"
- Deuteronomy 30:19*

CHOOSING LIFE TOGETHER

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Let's Be Friends



Throughout this fall, we have been prayerfully considering what it means to live or die as a congregation. The invitation from God through Scripture is clear: *"Choose life!"*

On Sunday, November 16, following worship, we will have the opportunity to make this choice together at our Annual Meeting. During this important time, we'll vote on three matters that will shape our shared future:

- The Draft ONA Covenant for becoming an Inclusive Church
- The "Where Welcome Grows" Sanctuary Reno Project
- The 2026 Budget

The **ONA Covenant** expresses our commitment to live out Jesus' call to love. Too often, some have been welcomed only to find limits placed on their full participation. In this covenant, we affirm that God's love is for *all people* and that we seek to be a community where everyone is welcomed, encouraged, and empowered to share their gifts.

The **sanctuary renovation project** will address safety and accessibility needs, create a more welcoming and beautiful space for worship, and breathe new life into a sanctuary that has served us faithfully for 45 years.

Finally, through the **budget**, we will discern how to sustain our ministries and mission in ways that reflect both our faith and our stewardship.

This is a sacred moment in the life of our congregation, a time to listen for God's leading and to choose life together: life for our community, our ministry, and all those who will come after us.

Blessings & Peace, *Pastor Kathryn Kuhn*

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

8
NOV

Crafter's Marketplace

📍 Fellowship Hall from 9 AM - 3 PM

Over 25 talented local vendors offering gifts for everyone.

9
NOV

Community Game Night

📍 Youth Center at 6 PM

Bring your favorite board or card game and a friend.



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." - Psalm 107

BOARD NEWS

November is typically the time when most Americans become hyper-focused on thankfulness. Ideally, we **feel and show gratitude throughout the year (every day)**. The hustle and bustle of life often make it harder to be aware of all we have to be thankful for. Stress can be a big blanket that makes even the smallest things invisible. To try to counteract stressors, we may commonly recite, "count your blessings" or "too blessed to be stressed."

A good friend of mine challenged the use of the word 'blessing.' If I speak from my place of privilege as being blessed, it gives a subtle message that if there are folks experiencing struggles and strife that they are in turn not blessed by God. As we have discussed often in recent days, language and words matter. Speaking from a place of gratitude for what we have doesn't have that same hidden undertone.

This November season, and all throughout the year, I am grateful for a church community that is willing to be uncomfortable to make other people feel more comfortable. People who are learning that language and words matter and are striving to always be learning. As Maya Angleou said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." Church of the Apostles, thank you for walking with me and your brothers and sisters on this journey.

Blessings,

Allison Carr (Board Member)

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!

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

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

★ **January 13th, 2026:** The Hello Girls by Eliz Cobbs

Crafter's Marketplace

Holiday Shopping, Treats, & Community

Join us for the Church of the Apostles UCC Annual Crafter's Marketplace on **Saturday, November 8th, from 9 AM - 3 PM** in Fellowship Hall and surrounding hallways! Enjoy over 25 local vendors offering unique gifts for everyone on your list and support small businesses in our community.

Treat yourself at the **Apostles Adult Choir Bake Sale**, featuring pies and cakes. Bakers, please drop off donations **Friday, November 7th, 9-11 AM** via the Fellowship Hall doors (C2). We'll also have a concession stand with hot dogs, soup, and soda. Donations of hot dogs, buns, and soda are welcome, sign up at the Hospitality Table on Sundays or contact Doris Robb at (717) 203-5154.

Come for a day of shopping, sweet treats, and connection with neighbors, we can't wait to see you!

Mocktails & Meaning™

Neurodiversity & Inclusion



Join us on **Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 PM** in the Main Lobby for an engaging Mocktails & Meaning™ session with **Kurt Iobst**, Global President of Neuroforce BRG. Kurt will lead a conversation on **neurodiversity and inclusion**, sharing practical ways we can create more welcoming spaces for individuals with Autism, ADHD, OCD, Down Syndrome, and other neurodivergent experiences. This month's featured mocktail is a cozy **Autumn Harvest Punch**. Register on Realm or by scanning the QR Code.

Inclusive Church Focus: Neuroableism

Inclusion Begins with Listening, Learning & Challenging Assumptions

This November, our Inclusive Church focus turns to Neuroableism, the discrimination or prejudice against people who are neurodivergent, including those with autism, ADHD, learning differences, and other neurological variations. **Creating inclusive communities means recognizing and valuing the many ways people think, process, and experience the world.**

As part of this focus, we invite you to join us for a special **Mocktails & Meaning** session on Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 PM in the Lobby with **Kurt Iobst from Neuroforce**. Together, we'll explore how to recognize neuroableism and take meaningful steps toward inclusion in our communities.

To learn more about our Inclusive Church Initiative, visit the display in the Narthex or explore resources online at apostlesucc.org/inclusive-refuge.

YOUTH

PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION (AGES 3 - 3RD GRADE)

November Schedule

Our Primary Faith Formation class continues to explore how we live out our faith each week! In November, children will learn important lessons about seeking God, finding hope, and making good choices.

- Nov 2: We can seek & know God
- Nov 9: We can have hope through God
- Nov 16: We can speak up for what is right
- Nov 23: We can choose what is right
- Nov 30: We can celebrate God's faithfulness



All lessons take place after Children's time in Room 304. We can't wait to see the children grow in faith & understanding!

ROOTED IN FAITH (4TH - 8TH GRADE)

Growing in Faith & Self-Compassion

This fall in ROOTED, our older youth have been exploring **self-compassion** and **learning to turn to God in times of trouble**. Through 1 Corinthians 12, we discovered that everyone has unique gifts that contribute to the body of Christ, and in Psalm 32, we learned that being honest with God brings healing and peace.

Coming up in November, our next **Kitchen Takeover!** We'll be baking sweet reminders of how prayer can bring comfort in difficult times, stay tuned for details!

YOUTH GROUP (4TH - 12TH GRADE)

Fun in Our New Space

Youth Group is loving our new meeting space in Room 306! We meet the first and third Sundays of every month from 6-8 PM. October kicked off with a game night, and though our campfire was canceled due to high winds, we enjoyed s'mores, brownies, and apple cider indoors. All youth in grades 4-12, and their friends, are welcome to join us on November 2 and 16 in Room 306!



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS! APOSTLES COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL UPDATES



October was an exciting month of learning and discovery at ACP! We began the month by focusing on Fire Safety. The children practiced fire drills, learned how to call 9-1-1, and practiced Stop, Drop, and Roll. A special thank-you goes out to our firefighter friends from the **Rohrerstown Fire Department**, who visited our school to teach us how to stay safe and show us their impressive equipment. We are so grateful to these community heroes for taking the time to visit and share their knowledge with us!



As autumn settled in, the children explored fall themes, learning about autumn colors and how animals prepare for hibernation. We also explored the fascinating world of nocturnal animals! Through hands-on activities, the children discovered the amazing adaptations that help owls, bats, raccoons, fireflies, and other nighttime animals thrive in the dark. To wrap up the month, we celebrated with our traditional Halloween Parade and classroom celebrations, a highlight for students, staff, and families alike!



In November, our focus will turn to friendship and helping others. The children will take part in service projects by collecting items for the **Landisville Food Bank, Toys for Tots, and Cozy Coats for Kids**, and we'll celebrate together during our Friendsgiving Celebration. Please save the date for our annual Christmas Program, taking place December 17, 18, and 19 at 10:30 AM. We warmly invite all church members to join us for one of these special performances!

Finally, registration for the 2026–2027 school year for current and former families begins in December. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling, please contact Jeannie Clausen at jclausen.acp@gmail.com for more information.

Maggie Biggs

Preschool Director

mbiggs.acp@gmail.com



@Apostles_Community_Preschool



OUTREACH

HOLIDAY GIFTING MINISTRY

This Christmas, we're collecting gifts for 40 students at Martin Elementary School to help spread holiday joy to children in need. Here's how you can participate:

OUR IMPACT

\$818

UCC Neighbors in Need

- Starting Sunday, November 16, choose a gift tag from the poster on the **Outreach bulletin board**.
- On the back of each tag, you'll find the student's name, age, and a gift suggestion.
- **Write your name** next to the tag number on the sign-up sheet so we can keep track.
- Purchase the suggested gift, wrap it, and **secure the name tag** to the package.
- Place the wrapped gift in the **LARGE Caring Cart** in the Narthex by **Sunday, December 14**.

Donations as of Publishing



Thank you for helping bring joy to children in our community this Christmas season!



COZY COATS

For Kids

Our Outreach Team is collecting new and gently used coats and jackets for children from preschool through 8th grade.

 **Donation Accepted:**
October - Early December

 **Drop Of Location:**
Laundry Basket in Narthex

 **More Information:**
www.apostlesucc.org





Apostles Academy
of Arts & Sciences

A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

Written in 1978 by Henry Smith in Williamsburg, Virginia, "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" was inspired by 2 Corinthians 8:9 and born out of the songwriter's own season of hardship and gratitude:

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." - 2 Corinthians 8:9

Though Smith faced vision loss and unemployment, he penned this simple yet profound song as a declaration of thankfulness for God's grace in Christ.

Smith originally wrote the song for his local church, Williamsburg New Covenant Fellowship, where he first performed it. The tune is straightforward and meditative, with a refrain that repeats the call to "give thanks with a grateful heart." He made a few recordings for friends but never expected it to gain wide attention. Its rise came unexpectedly when a visiting missionary took a recording of the song overseas, where it quickly spread through church networks in the United States and abroad. Later published by Integrity Music in the early 1980s, it became one of the earliest contemporary praise choruses to achieve global popularity.

Its heartfelt refrain -"Let the weak say, I am strong; let the poor say, I am rich"- offers a timeless reminder that true gratitude flows not from circumstance, but from God's unchanging goodness.

Peace & Blessings,

Lars



UPCOMING APOSTLES ACADEMY CONCERT

Join us for a beautiful afternoon of music with the *Lancaster Flute Ensemble* on **Sunday, November 16th at 3 PM** in the Sanctuary. This talented group showcases a wide range of flutes and an equally diverse repertoire, from classical to contemporary, that's sure to delight audiences of all ages.

ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS

Your Voice Matters - Save the Date!

Join us after worship on November 16th for our Annual Congregational Meeting, where your voice helps shape the future of Church of the Apostles! We'll vote on the 2026 Budget, our new Inclusive Church Covenant, and the allocation of funds raised for the *Where Welcome Grows* Sanctuary Capital Campaign.

Agenda Highlights:

- Overview of 2025 Board Initiatives – *Johanna Baker*
Growing Young • Rader Park • Inclusive Spaces
- Approval of the ONA Covenant – *Cathy Kenlin*
- Approval of the proposed 2026 Budget – *Johanna Baker*
- Vote on use of *Where Welcome Grows* campaign funds – *Johanna Baker*
- A Year in Review: Reflecting on 2025 and looking ahead to 2026 – *Pastor Kuhn*

To prepare, join us Sunday, November 9th, for an **Informational Session** to discuss the budget, covenant, and capital campaign. Your presence and input ensure our shared ministry continues to grow in purpose and faith.

		2025	2025	Proposed
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>6 months</u>	<u>2026</u>
Expense Budget Summary				
	Administration	587,800.00	272,947.38	552,096.91
	Worship	12,800.00	Conduit use	14,210.00
	Education	2800.00	Conduit use	2300.00
	Parish Life	500.00	Conduit use	500.00
	Property	130,500.00	Conduit use	130,600.00
	EXPENSE TOTALS	734,400.00		<u>699,706.91</u>
Income Summary				
	Offerings	331,000.00	162,406.86	325,000.00
	Rentals	52,200.00	27,518.86	50,000.00
	Investments - Equity Premium	102,763.00	45,543.90	43,740.00
	Preschool	0.00	7000.00	8000.00
	Craft Show & Garage Sale	0.00	4598.38	4600.00
	Academy	0.00	0.00	6,400.00
	Conduits	70,000.00	N/A	0.00
To Balance Budget	General/Special Endowments	178,437.00		261,966.91
	INCOME TOTALS	734,437.00	247,068.00	<u>699,706.91</u>

As we approach our Annual Meeting, I find myself giving thanks for all that God has done among us this past year, and for the ways the spirit continues to call us forward. Before we gather to reflect and dream together, I wanted to share a few highlights that show how we are living into God's vision for us as a congregation.

Inclusive & Generous - God's love has been made visible in so many ways this year.

- Through our Saturday Morning Breakfast Ministry, we served meals to 1,120 neighbors in need. Each plate offered with compassion and dignity by a faithful crew of volunteers.
- Our Youth Group has come to life again, giving our young people and their friends a place to grow in faith, friendship, and service.
- We welcomed more than 150 guests through out free community events for young families, opening our doors wide in joy and hospitality.
- We offered space for "The Unsinkables" band, under the direction of Nathan Sheffer, to rehearse and share their debut performance, a beautiful example of creativity and community flourishing together. "The Unsinkables" is comprised of current and former Schreiber Pediatric students.
- And each week, we continue to share our building with four other congregations, bearing witness that Christ's love truly knows no boundaries.

Advocate for Social Justice - Our call to love our neighbor led us to deeper understanding and courageous conversation.

- Our Inclusive Church Team invited us to learn about and stand with those who are oppressed, widening our awareness and compassion.
- Mocktails & Meaning hosted conversations monthly on social justice topics which were well attended by the community.
- Through POWER Interfaith and Millersville University, we took part in thoughtful dialogues around LGBTQ+ inclusion and the challenge of Christian Nationalism, seeking to live out a faith grounded justice and grace.

Care for the Environment - In gratitude for God's creation, we took new steps toward stewardship and renewal.

- Our newly formed Environmental Team has brought back recycling bins and reduced our consumption of paper goods by inviting the congregation to bring their own mugs for fellowship time, small but faithful acts of care that remind us creation itself is sacred.

As we move into 2026, we do so with gratitude and hope, continuing to build a community where welcome truly thrives.

- **Youth Center Transformation** - We are excited to transform the youth center into a Retreat Center, a welcoming space for reflection, connection, and the peace of Rader Park.
- **Caring for Creation** - Our Environmental Team is beginning a native plant garden, creating a home for pollinators and nurturing God's creation for future generations.
- **Where Welcome Grows Campaign** - Since May, the Where Welcome Grows Campaign has raised \$192,000 toward our \$268,000 goal of renewing the Sanctuary. This work is more than renovations, it's about creating a sacred space that tells our story and invites all to belong.

Each of these moments tells a story of God's Spirit at work, through your hands, your generosity, your prayers, and your faith. As we look to the year ahead, may we continue to listen for God's call, trust in God's provision, and join together in the joyful work of sharing Christ's inclusive and transforming love.

Blessings & Peace, *Rev Kathryn Kuhn*

November Birthdays

- 11.1 ~ Holden Clausen
- 11.2 ~ William Newport
- 11.3 ~ Leah Carr
- 11.6 ~ Roger Morris
- 11.8 ~ Ann Thea Beck
- 11.8 ~ Samantha Hackenburg
- 11.9 ~ Allison Bender
- 11.9 ~ Kimberly Bender
- 11.9 ~ Jocelyn Morrison
- 11.9 ~ Molly Reinhardt
- 11.10 ~ Doris Liepa*
- 11.12 ~ Breanne Cornielle
- 11.13 ~ Josephine Smith
- 11.14 ~ Steve Daniels
- 11.14 ~ Benja Stoltzfus
- 11.15 ~ Barbara Wylie
- 11.16 ~ Clara Schenke*
- 11.17 ~ Linda Eaton
- 11.18 ~ Beth Thompson
- 11.22 ~ Evelyn Sheffer
- 11.24 ~ Wade Walburn
- 11.24 ~ Jennifer Eaton
- 11.25 ~ Leigh Breslin
- 11.26 ~ Lynn Steedle*
- 11.26 ~ Jennifer Thompson
- 11.29 ~ Donna Carr
- 11.30 ~ Monica Daniels
- 11.30 ~ Randy Leonard

*90+ Birthday's

November Anniversary's

- 11.2 ~ Peter & Katherine Seiler
- 11.7 ~ Nate & Emily Sheffer
- 11.9 ~ Larry & Erika Neiderer
- 11.23 ~ Clara & Lou Kosmela*

*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.

November 2nd

In Memory of Colleen E. Gockley
by Milt Gockley

	September 2025	September 2024
YTD Revenue	\$285,294.92	\$288,794.01
YTD Investment Transfers	\$111,043.90	\$166,940.00
YTD Operating Expenses	\$488,639.45	\$529,250.29
Net YTD Operating Income	- \$92,300.63	- \$73,516.28

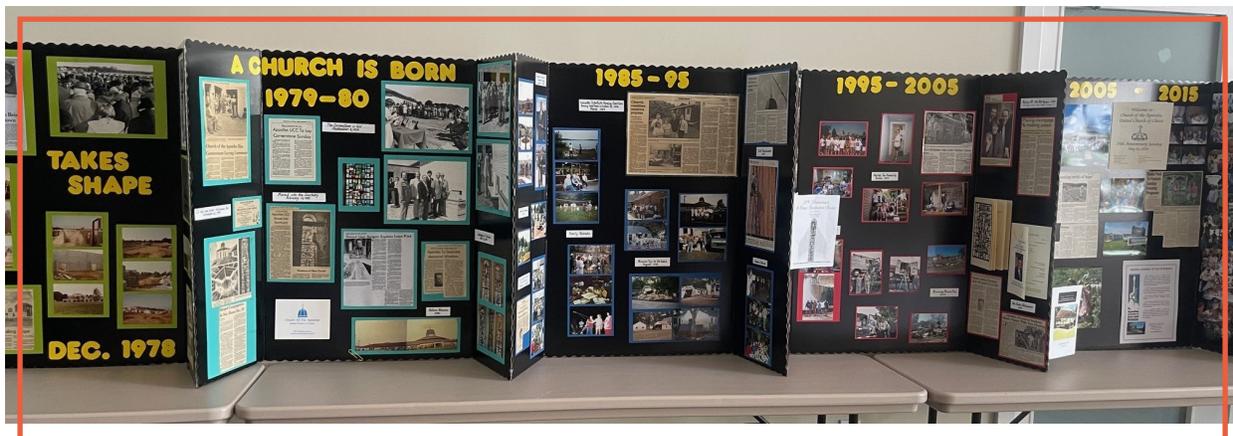
CELEBRATING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

As we reflect on the 50th anniversary of Church of the Apostles, we want to extend our **deepest gratitude to the committee** whose dedication and hard work made our year of celebrations possible. From planning and coordinating events to communicating our milestone to the congregation, their efforts have truly honored this special occasion.

Over the past year, the committee helped organize the 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in May, the Family Picnic in June, the Art Show, a Concert, and a serial historical display. In the coming months, look for a **series of articles in *The Crown*** submitted by past and current leaders, highlighting the rich history of COA, especially over the last 25 years.

We would like to give a special thank you to Team Leader Donna Carr for her exceptional leadership and guidance throughout the planning process. Please also join us in thanking Julie Berkow, Arlene Gaudioso, Linda Lewis, Steve Wilson, Mark Achtermann, and staff members Lars Potteiger, Melissa Kosman, and Pastor Kuhn for their dedication and service.

Your collective efforts have made this milestone truly memorable for our entire church family.



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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!
Join Us to Celebrate the Reason for the Season



December 6th, 2025 at 10 AM

Church of the Apostles UCC • 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster

Scan the QR Code for More Information & to Register

For Children of All Ages!

Games, Crafts, Cookies, Cocoa, & FUN!

