



THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 50 No. 3



"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." - James 1:19

Pastor's Corner

Inside this Issue

- ▶ March Mocktails, Pg. 3
- ▶ One Great Hour of Sharing, Pg. 6
- ▶ Easter Egg Hunt, Pg. 8
- ▶ Annual Garage Sale, Pg. 9

Let's Be Friends

   @ApostlesUCC

Lent is a sacred season of reflection in the life of the church. This year, we invite you into a practice of **"Press Pause & Listen."** Our scriptures will guide us through stories of people who bring their questions to Jesus. What questions are on your heart? What do you long to ask?

To "Press Pause" is to make space for rest and honest reflection. **What is receiving most of your time and energy right now?** Are there relationships, commitments, or practices that you long to hold more closely? What might need to shift in order for that to happen? As life grows busier in the warmer months, Lent offers us a grace-filled opportunity to choose how we want to live when competing demands arise.

Listening is the second invitation of this season, and it has two parts. First, **we are called to listen for God's "still small voice,"** which is often drowned out by the noise of daily life. Giving yourself time to listen to what God is calling you toward. Second, we are invited to **listen more deeply to one another.** In conversation, it is easy to focus on expressing our own opinions. Yet compassion grows when we slow down enough to truly hear the fears, hopes, and struggles of others. Understanding begins with listening.

As we share together, may we grow in faith, deepen in love, and **continue building the Beloved Community.**

In hope, peace, joy, and love,

Pastor Kathryn Kuhu

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

14
MAR

Community Game Night

📍 Main Lobby at 6 PM

Bring a game, snack, and friend for a fun night of fellowship at COA.

15
MAR

Prayer Vigil for Healing

📍 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 4 PM

A time for expressing hope and praying for peace and healing for our country.



*"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."
- Proverbs 31:31*

CELEBRATING WOMEN AT COA

When I served as a chaplain at York Wellspan in 2018 - 2020, I heard several times from patients, "I never saw a woman pastor before." Many Christian denominations do not permit the ordination of women. The United Church of Christ, however, has ordained women since the end of the 19th century.

At Church of the Apostles, we have been blessed with many strong female leaders, as both clergy and lay leaders. In our early years, **Nora Smith** and her husband Jan joined the newly formed Church of the Apostles because they felt COA encouraged them to both question and grow their faith. Later, Rev Glenn Rader walked Nora up the steps to the Lancaster Theological Seminary to enroll and after her 1981 graduation, she accepted a call to COA to be our third minister specializing in Christian Education.

When the **Rev. Heather Griffin** joined us in late 2015 as an Associate Minister and **Rev. Kathryn Kuhn** was named Senior Pastor, the Lancaster newspaper did an article on a local church led by two female pastors. In 2026, this situation would not be as news-worthy!

COA has been blessed with many female lay leaders. **Janet and Glenn Rader** founded a preschool at St John's in 1965 which became Apostles Community Preschool after the merger. **Dr. Dorothy Kroehler** led the Preschool until 1985 when **Bonnie Eshbach and Susan Sensenich** assumed leadership. Many women have continued to grow and nurture this ministry to our community. We have been led by many strong women as Council Presidents, Council Officers and Commission Chairs.

But many women do not feel that their voices are being heard today. There is a reason that "mansplaining" is a common term in today's world. With the backlash against DEI, women in leadership positions are not always viewed as qualified. There also seems to be a growing trend of social influencers who are encouraging what is called the "Trad Wife" – where women are encouraged to stay at home and focus their efforts on the home and on childcare allowing their husbands to be the primary decision maker.

Blessings,

Cathy Kenlin and the Inclusive Church Team

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!

★ **March 10th, 2026:** All The President's Money by Megan Gorman

★ **April 14th, 2026:** The Measure by Nikki Erlick

★ **May 12th, 2026:** Killing the Borens by C Cree

March Mocktails & Meaning™

Artificial Intelligence in Education

Be part of our March Mocktails & Meaning™ gathering on Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 PM, as we welcome Dr. Oliver Dreon, Professor of Educational Foundations at Millersville University, for a timely conversation on **Artificial Intelligence in Education**. With more than thirty years in public education, Dr. Dreon brings a broad and thoughtful perspective on how technology is reshaping classrooms and learning. Together, we'll explore the opportunities, challenges, and big questions AI is raising for students and educators alike. We'll be sipping a refreshing **Pineapple and Cucumber Juice** mocktail while we engage this important topic, with time set aside for questions and discussion. Register now on Realm or by scanning the QR Code.



March Inclusive Church Topic

Women's History Month

March's Inclusive Church focus invites us to celebrate **Women's History Month** and honor the countless ways women have shaped Church of the Apostles, our community, and our world. From clergy and lay leaders who have guided decisions, to those who taught our children, organized ministries, and offered care in quiet, faithful ways, women have long been a steady and creative force in the life of COA.

We invite you to take time this month to **explore the names of the women who have helped make COA what it is today**, displayed in the Narthex. To learn more, explore the Q&A cards in the Narthex or visit apostlesucc.org/inclusive-refuge.

Thinking Spring

Garden Plots Available in Rader Park

Would you like to cultivate your own garden? Church of the Apostles has a limited number of **garden plots available** in Rader Park for the 2026 growing season. For more information contact Marty Holmes at martyholms@aol.com or call (717) 517-8867.

Remembering Bev Keller

Saturday, March 14th at 1 PM in the Parlor

For those who wish to remember Bev, share stories and celebrate her involvement within the congregation, we are having a time of sharing. Please bring **some of your favorite cookies** to share as we fondly remember **all the ways Bev cared for us**.



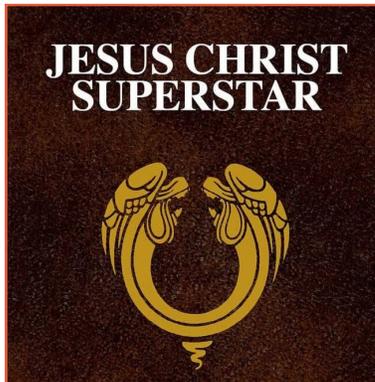
YOUTH

PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION (AGES 3 - 3RD GRADE)

March Schedule

As we move through March, our **Primary Faith Formation** class (ages 3 through 3rd grade) will begin preparing our hearts for Easter through powerful stories from Jesus' life and ministry. Each Sunday after Children's Time in Room 304, our youngest disciples will explore how Jesus reveals God's love in meaningful and memorable ways.

- **March 1:** Jesus shows the power of God (Water into Wine)
- **March 8:** Jesus offers living water
- **March 15:** Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life
 - **Note:** Our class will host the Fellowship Table this Sunday
- **March 22:** Jesus shows us how to serve
- **March 29:** Jesus' arrest and death, including our annual Palm Sunday parade



ROOTED IN FAITH (4TH - 8TH GRADE)

From Scripture to Screen: Exploring Jesus' Final Days

The youth in ROOTED, our grades 4-8 Christian Formation class, will spend Lent reading about the events leading up to Jesus's crucifixion in the Gospels. After studying Jesus's final days through Biblical accounts, we'll spend the final Sundays before Easter (March 22 and 29) comparing the Gospel narratives to the storyline of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which we'll watch in class. Want weekly email updates? Contact office@apostlesucc.org.

YOUTH GROUP (4TH - 12TH GRADE)

Egg Stuffing & Movie Nights

All youth grades 4+ are invited to join Apostles Youth Group on **March 1 and March 15** from 6-8 PM in Room 306. For our service project this month, we'll watch movies while **helping stuff eggs** for the Apostles Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your friends and help make this event extra special for the younger children in our community! For more information on our Youth Group visit apostlesucc.org/faith-formation.



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS! APOSTLES COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL UPDATES

February was packed with fun and learning at Apostles Community Preschool as we skated into the excitement of the **Winter Olympics** and spread lots of **Valentine's Day** cheer. Throughout the month, the children "trained" like Olympians, jumping, balancing, racing, and participating in teamwork games inspired by winter sports. These activities supported gross motor development while encouraging cooperation and perseverance.

As Valentine's Day approached, our focus shifted to **kindness, friendship, and caring for others**. Through age-appropriate stories, simple crafts, and thoughtful classroom activities, children explored what it meant to be a good friend and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Later in the month, we switched gears for Rhyme Time with Dr. Seuss. The children dove into silly rhymes, playful language, and favorite stories that built phonemic awareness and fostered a love of reading.

We were also excited for our Pre-K students to be welcomed back to Homestead Village, where they reconnected with their grand-friends as we headed into the spring season. These visits provide **meaningful intergenerational connections** that are special for both the children and residents.



To top it all off, all students enjoyed a fun and **engaging performance by Phredd**, which brought lots of laughter and smiles to our school community.

From moving our bodies, to sharing smiles, to celebrating the joy of words, February was a month full of energy, learning, and heart at ACP.

Maggie Biggs

Preschool Director

mbiggs.acp@gmail.com



@Apostles_Community_Preschool



OUTREACH

At Church of the Apostles, we are called to live out our mission of inclusive refuge and compassionate justice, and **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is one meaningful way we do that together. For over 75 years, this special United Church of Christ offering has helped bring hope and healing to people facing poverty, disaster, displacement, and injustice across the United States and around the globe.

OUR IMPACT

\$931

Souper Bowl Sunday

\$515

Apostles Assistance Fund

This offering follows the example of the early church, where believers shared what they had to care for neighbors in need. OGHS continues that tradition today by supporting trusted partners who provide **disaster relief, refugee assistance, community development, and essential care**. Through OGHS, lives are changed in places like Italy, where refugees find welcome and support; Afghanistan, where people receive critical medical care; and Cambodia, where communities are working to prevent human trafficking and build brighter futures.

Donations as of Publishing

When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, we join with churches across the country in a shared act of generosity. **Each gift, no matter the size, becomes part of something larger**, extending compassion far beyond our walls. OGHS is more than an offering. It is our love offering to the world, and a powerful way for Church of the Apostles to continue loving our neighbors, near and far. To give, please use your **giving envelopes marked for "OGHS"** or **donate online through Realm**.





A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

Change my heart oh God

Make it ever true

Change my heart oh God

May I be like You

You are the potter

I am the clay

Mold me and make me

This is what I pray

Eddie Espinosa wrote "Change My Heart, O God" in the early 1980s, composing what he felt was a prayer set to music for people to sing with prayerful intent. He did not intend it as a performance piece, but rather as something that could be sung during a more reflective moment of a worship service. This makes the song a fitting choice for Lent, a season of personal reflection.

The text of this piece is repetitive, allowing people to sing it with relative ease and focus more on connecting with God in worship. Espinosa's inspiration for writing the song came from a meditation on David's prayer of repentance in Psalm 51:

*Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

This prayer inspired the text, which was then set to music that is melodically and harmonically simple, allowing people to connect with and sing the song easily. Because the text is both scriptural and non-denominational, the song has become popular and is widely used across many denominations.

Peace and Blessings,

Lars

Guitarist Wanted. Get Paid to Play!

Church of the Apostles is looking for a guitarist to join our praise band and play in worship during weekly Sunday services. This is a **paid position** and a great opportunity to share your gifts and be part of a vibrant music ministry.



Ready to plug in? Contact Lars Potteiger at larsp@apostlesucc.org or (717) 392-5718 ext. 8203 for more information.

**Relay For Life of Lancaster County & Church of the Apostles UCC
Presents**

Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast, & Spring Vendor Market



Church of the Apostles UCC

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster

Doors Open at 8:45am

Egg Hunt begins promptly at 9am
(free for all ages)

The hunt will be on the grass directly in front of the main parking lot on Apostle Way. Bags will be provided to ensure a fair collection for all ages. Please do not bring a basket.
Rain or shine. If it rains, the hunt will move indoors to our Sanctuary.

Easter Bunny arrives at 9:30am

Breakfast: 9am-11am

\$10 per person ages 13 & up | \$5 per person ages 2-12 | under 2 years old free

Photos with the Easter Bunny: 9:30am-12pm For Donation

Raffle Area: 9am - 11:30am

(tickets available for purchase. Winners announced at 12pm)

Kids Crafts and Spring Vendor Market:

9am-12pm, Free to General Public

Vendor Space \$35

To reserve vendor space contact Sharon Groff at sgroff56@gmail.com

Questions? Contact stephanie.white@cancer.org

Scan the QR Code
Shown for
complete details
and tickets



COA ANNUAL GARAGE SALE 2026

Here's What You Need to Know!

Our Annual Garage Sale is coming up **April 10th and 11th, 2026**, and it's just around the corner! This beloved event offers great finds for our community while supporting meaningful causes. Proceeds will benefit the ministries of Church of the Apostles that live out our mission of Inclusive Refuge, Compassionate Justice, and Environmental Advocacy.

There are many ways you can help make this year's sale a success:

Donate Items: Drop off clean, sellable items in Fellowship Hall from **April 6th through 8th, 9 AM - 9 PM, and April 9th, 9 AM - Noon**. No large furniture donations will be taken.

Sort & Price: Join the fun of preparing treasures for the sale any time between **9 AM - 5 PM, April 6th -9th**. Contact Cindy Williams at (717) 714-0716 to volunteer.

Food Donations: Help feed our shoppers! Sign up in the Narthex to donate hot dogs, buns, baked goods, drinks, and more, and bring items to the kitchen during collection week.

Cashiers Needed: Volunteer for a cashier shift on April 10th or 11th. Contact Doris Robb at (717) 203-5154 to sign up.

Shop & Share: Come browse, find a treasure, and invite your friends to join you!

Thank you for helping turn gently used items into hope, help, and healing for others.



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

GARAGE SALE

APRIL 10 & 11, 2026

FRIDAY 8 AM - 2 PM
SATURDAY 8 AM - 1 PM

For More Information: www.apostlesucc.org

March Birthdays

- 3.2 ~ Pat Sullenberger*
 - 3.2 ~ John Wallach
 - 3.3 ~ Betsy Bischoff
 - 3.5 ~ Judy Jarvis
 - 3.9 ~ Susan Shaak
 - 3.10 ~ Anya Sheffer
 - 3.11 ~ Scott Moore
 - 3.13 ~ Marty Holmes*
 - 3.14 ~ Max Koehler
 - 3.14 ~ Kathleen Stoyer
 - 3.14 ~ Wyatt Romano
 - 3.16 ~ Pat Shane
 - 3.16 ~ Peter VanBuskirk
 - 3.17 ~ Jean Cunningham*
 - 3.18 ~ Hunter Hackenburg
 - 3.18 ~ Sharon Schaeffer
 - 3.19 ~ Chris Bracken
 - 3.10 ~ Mara Pakalnins
 - 3.21 ~ Jan Baker
 - 3.21 ~ Isabella Cornielle
 - 3.22 ~ Milt Gockley*
 - 3.22 ~ Erik Laymon
 - 3.23 ~ Luci Stoltzfus
 - 3.27 ~ Randy Morrison
 - 3.27 ~ Caroline Rice
 - 3.29 ~ Loris Cunningham
 - 3.30 ~ Gary Brown
 - 3.31 ~ Nathan Moore
- *90+ Birthday's

March Anniversary's

- 3.1 ~ Frank & Teresa Wilson
 - 3.11 ~ Dustin & Melissa Koehler
 - 3.16 ~ Ken & Bonnie Medved
 - 3.21 ~ Gary & Ginny Brown*
 - 3.22 ~ Chris & Karen Braun
- *50+ Anniversary'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 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.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS 2026

Memorial Flowers will again adorn the Sanctuary on Easter morning, April 5. If you would like to place a memorial, please **complete the form** available in the weekly bulletins or in the Narthex, and return it with your check to the church office by **Monday, March 30**

Memorials will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Some of the flowers will be taken to our members in nursing homes. We encourage those who make memorial donations to **take a flower pot** with them after the service on Easter morning.

	January 2026	January 2025
YTD Revenue	\$378,781.12	\$386,813.74
YTD Investment Transfers	\$221,043.90	\$291,940.00
YTD Operating Expenses	\$633,294.63	\$699,176.12
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$33,469.61	-\$20,422.38

EDUCATION TEAM THROUGH THE YEARS

For the last 25 years, the Education Team at Church of the Apostles has offered classes and events designed to **deepen spiritual journeys for all ages**. Along the way, the team has adapted through changing attendance patterns and shifts within the wider UCC church, remaining rooted in flexibility, creativity, and care.



From **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** and **Wacky Wednesdays**, which serve both COA families and the wider community, to adult education offerings like *Who Is My Neighbor*, the Education Team has consistently created spaces for learning and connection. During the pandemic, Faith Formation teachers recorded weekly online messages to help children stay connected, and today **Summer Faith Formation** continues in Rader Park, centered on nature and God's creation.

Faith Formation for children and youth remains a central focus. **Primary Faith Formation**, led by Judy Waltman, nurtures faith for our youngest learners, while **ROOTED**, led by Flo Waldron, supports students in 4th grade and above as they explore Scripture more deeply, including study in the book of Acts. The team also supports adult faith formation, including **Tuesday Tussles With God**, which meets Tuesdays at Homestead and is led by Mark Achtermann.



In addition, the Education Team adopted a **Safe Church** policy and provides training for all who work with children and youth. Clear goals for Christian Education were established, and **Sunday School was renamed Faith Formation** to better reflect a lifelong approach to spiritual growth. Through all of this, the Education Team continues to provide a welcoming, supportive, and engaging environment where faith can grow at every age.



STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Church Administrator

Melissa Kosman

Communications Coordinator

Paityn Nissly

Finance Coordinator

Jennifer Isenberg

Music Director

Lars Potteiger

Praise Band 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.

Supporting Our Community

Ways the Compassion Team is Here for You!

Our Compassion Team is dedicated to providing support, understanding, and care to everyone in our community, no matter where you are in your walk of life. We offer several confidential resources designed to help nurture your mental and spiritual well-being.

- **Confidential Listening Sessions** - Set up a private time of listening, understanding, and compassion with one of our trained Compassion Team members.
- **The Compassion Corner** - A collection of materials focused on mental health, grief, and other challenging life topics located in Rm 107.
- **Monthly Spiritual Support Group** - Meeting every 2nd Thursday at 10 AM, this gathering will provide a space for shared encouragement and community.

**WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 AM
IN-PERSON OR ONLINE**