



# THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 50 No. 5



*"The Earth is the Lord's and  
all that is in it."  
- Psalm 24:1*

## Pastor's Corner

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### Let's Be Friends

   @ApostlesUCC

On Sunday, May 24, we will gather for worship at the **Bachman Center at 10 AM to celebrate Pentecost** and recognize our graduates. This marks our first Sunday away from our sanctuary as we begin our renovation project, which is expected to be completed in August.

Because it is Pentecost, I invite you to **wear red as we worship together**. Red reminds us of the "tongues of fire" and the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon the church. I hope you will mark your calendars and join me in this joyful expression of the day.

Throughout the summer, our worship will center on a series titled **"Sacred Earth, Sacred Work."** As environmental steward-

ship is one of our core values, we will explore biblical stories of creation and reflect on our call as caretakers of the Earth. The Bachman Center allows us to take in God's creation even as we worship, which will add to our time together.

In being more environmentally-conscious, our summer worship will also take on a simpler form. Lars Potteiger, our Director of Music, will prepare a collection of hymns and songs celebrating God as Creator and the beauty of nature, which we will use throughout the season. Also, the office and I will work to reduce our weekly bulletin to save on paper. To keep our set up simple, we will not be using a projector and screen.

It is our hope that this simpler, more **environmentally mindful approach to worship** will be a refreshing and meaningful variation for the summer season.

Blessings & Peace,  
*Rev Kathryn Kuhn*

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

9  
MAY

## Community Game Night

📍 Main Lobby at 6 PM

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

10  
MAY

## Prayer Vigil for Peace & Healing

📍 Holy Spirit Lutheran Church at 5 PM

Gathering for prayer, healing, & hope for our divided country.



*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful servants of God's grace in its various forms." - 1 Peter 4:10*

## BOARD NEWS

Have you wanted to volunteer for something but didn't due to the fear of it meaning you are committed until the day you drop? I can relate. I think it isn't an uncommon suspicion based on how church life has "been done" traditionally. I bring glad tidings! **The time for fear is done.** You can commit to helping for an event and you can just help with that event that year. You can serve on the Church Board for just that one term. You can come to a Mocktails and Meaning session without committing to attending them all (I have come to several, not all). You can come for one session of the Spiritual Support Group without needing to attend every month. Church is found any time that we are in community with each other. If our community is only found for that brief hour on Sundays, **we unintentionally limit what we can do together, relationships we can build, change we can make.**

Society and commitments keep us so busy, often leaving little time for anything "extra." Despite all of our busy-ness, letting go of fears can help us see many ways **we can help to build the community of COA.** If you haven't been as engaged as you'd like to be, consider what first small step you can take even if it is bringing one item for a fellowship table on a Sunday (like I did for Easter Sunday).

Blessings, *Allisoa Carr* (Board Member)

## JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB!

Book Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2 PM in the Parlor, 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!

★ May Cancelled

★ June 9th, 2026: A Murder in Paradise by Richard Gehman

★ July 14th, 2026: The Judges Tale by Jill Kintner

## May Mocktails & Meaning™

### *Behind the Scenes of Human Trafficking*

Join us for our May 21, 2026 Mocktails & Meaning™ gathering at 6:30 PM for a powerful and eye-opening conversation led by Brad Orteni, Eastern USA Regional Director of ZOE International and Coordinator of the Berks and Lancaster County Human Trafficking Task Forces. Drawing on his experience as a former Ephrata Police Detective, his work with federal and county child exploitation task forces, and his international work combating trafficking in Thailand, Brad will take us behind the scenes of human trafficking in Lancaster County. This session will explore how traffickers recruit and control victims, the psychological realities of trauma bonding, and how local task forces respond through both enforcement and prevention. Time will be set aside for questions and dialogue. We'll be serving a Mai Tai Mocktail as we engage this important and impactful conversation. Register by Scanning the QR Code.



## Asking the Hard Questions

### *Small Group to Continue with Deklan Lewis*

This meaningful series, begun by our seminary intern Deklan Lewis, will continue in May as Deklan has accepted our offer to stay on as an intern. Each session will include a short video clip followed by thoughtful discussion. To prepare, participants are encouraged to see *Project Hail Mary*, now in theatres. Join the conversation on Monday, May 18 at 10 AM or Thursday, May 28 at 6 PM in the Parlor.

## Worship Reminder

### *Sanctuary Renovations Begin May 20th!*

Exciting changes are on the horizon as our Sanctuary renovations begin on May 20. Our final worship service in the Sanctuary will be on May 17, and we invite all who are able to stay after worship to help remove Bibles, hymnals, and other materials from the pew racks.

Beginning May 24, worship will move to the Bachman Center. For those joining us online, please note that audio and visual quality may be lower during this temporary transition.

We look forward to this time of renewal and will continue to share updates as the project progresses, including when we can return to our newly renovated Sanctuary. Thank you for your flexibility and support!

# YOUTH

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

### *May Schedule*

Our Primary Faith Formation class for ages 3 through 3rd grade meets after Children’s Time in worship in Room 304. **May is our final month before summer break!** On May 31, we’ll gather in Rader Park with Lisa Sanchez for a special end-of-year celebration. We look forward to seeing everyone again in September!

- **May 3:** We Can Be Disciples of Jesus
- **May 10:** Give Us Our Daily Bread
- **May 17:** We Can Forgive & Be Forgiven
- **May 24:** No Class
- **May 31:** Special Event in Rader Park with Lisa Sanchez

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

### *Wrapping Up The Year*

**ROOTED** in Faith (grades 4+ Christian Formation) has spent this year exploring how we turn to God in challenging times, and **May brings our final gatherings before summer break.**

- **May 3:** Room 308, 9:55 AM – Regular class (bring your Bibles and water bottles!)
- **May 10:** No class (spend Mother’s Day in worship with your families)
- **May 17:** Room 308, 9:30–11:30 AM – End-of-year movie party (note the extended time!)

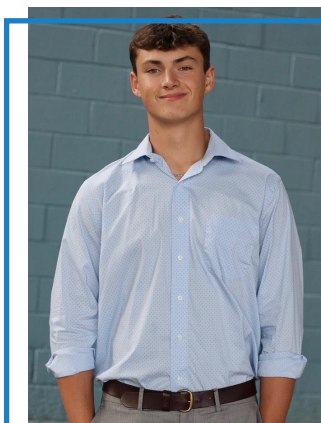
Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate and wrap up another wonderful year together!

## CONGRATS COA GRADS

*Celebrate Our COA Graduates with us on May 24th in Worship!*



**Jared Braun**  
Millersville University  
BA in History



**Mason Koehler**  
Hempfield High School



**Laurel Marx**  
Lehigh University  
BA in Environmental Studies + Earth & Environmental Science

### **Other Graduates**

- Will Newport  
*Hempfield High School*
- Nathan Moore  
*Hempfield High School*
- Cole Kendig  
*Warwick High School*
- Vincent Edmund  
*McCaskey High School*
- Haley Breslin  
*Arizona State University*
- Nathan Sheffer  
*Liberty University*



## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS! APOSTLES COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL UPDATES

As we approach the final days of the 2025–2026 school year at Apostles Community Preschool, we are filled with gratitude for another wonderful year. This year was one filled **with creativity, music, learning, and friendships**, all while celebrating our 60th anniversary serving the Lancaster community.

This spring, our 2 yr. old and 3+4 yr. old preschoolers delighted their families during our annual Spring Sing and Art Gallery Show, proudly sharing their voices and showcasing artwork created throughout the year. Our Pre-K classes honored their moms with a heartwarming Mother's Day celebration and made a final visit to our **cherished "grand-friends" at Homestead Village**. For the third year, we will celebrate our Pre-K students as they take their next big step to kindergarten with a graduation ceremony in the sanctuary on the last day of school, May 12.



One of the most anticipated traditions of the season is **Icky Sticky Goo Day**. We also enjoyed watching caterpillars transform into butterflies while spending time outdoors in the beautiful spring weather.

Our always-popular **Summer Camp** begins the week of **May 18** and runs for three fun-filled weeks. Each morning, our preschoolers will explore the beauty of Rader Park through nature walks, crafts, singing, water play, and plenty of outdoor fun.

We wish all COA members and families a joyful and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back the week of September 8 as we begin the 2026–2027 school year!

*Maggie Biggs*

Preschool Director

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



@Apostles\_Community\_Preschool



# OUTREACH

## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH: SENT FORTH IN LOVE

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering is a special United Church of Christ initiative that builds up the Body of Christ by supporting leadership development, youth ministry, new church starts, and innovation in existing congregations. Gifts are shared between our Conference and the national setting, multiplying the impact of every donation.

You can give through [Realm](#), or by using an envelope marked for Strengthen the Church. Your generosity helps strengthen and grow the church for today and the future.

### OUR IMPACT

**\$419**

Disaster Relief

**\$7,086.79**

Garage Sale  
(Donated to Anchor Lancaster)

Donations as of Publishing



### Baby Shower Reminder

Help us support local moms and babies through the Healthy Beginnings Plus Program at LGH by donating items like **baby wipes, powder, shampoo/body wash, onesies, diapers**, and more. For specific needs, grab a tag from the bulletin board and return your donation by **Sunday, May 31st**. Thank you for sharing care and love with families in our community!

### 2026 Annual Garage Sale: A Generous Success!

Our Annual Garage Sale was a wonderful success, raising **\$7,086.79**, all of which will be donated to Anchor Lancaster. This incredible outcome was made possible by the **many dedicated volunteers** who gave their time and the generous donations that filled our tables with great finds.



Apostles Academy  
of Arts & Sciences

# A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

This Easter season, we are focusing on dance in worship. Movement can connect us to God and to music in unique and meaningful ways. One of my favorite hymns that beautifully uses dance imagery is "Lord of the Dance" by Sydney Carter, written in 1963.

Carter, an English poet, folk musician, and hymn writer, was influenced by English folk traditions, themes of social justice, and a desire to present theology with fresh, accessible imagery. He set the text of "Lord of the Dance" to the American Shaker tune "Simple Gifts." The Shakers are known for their use of physical movement and dance in worship, making this pairing especially fitting.

Carter wrote about his inspiration for the hymn: "I see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality. By Christ I mean not only Jesus; in other times and places, other planets, there may be other Lords of the Dance. But Jesus is the one I know of first and best. I sing of the dancing pattern in the life and words of Jesus."

His concept of presenting Christ as the "Lord of the Dance," leading humanity through life, shapes a unique hymn. Each verse follows a different part of Christ's life—from birth through death and resurrection—and offers a distinctive perspective through its imagery. Jesus is not often described as a dancer in the hymns we sing, but this image invites a fresh way of thinking about his life and presence among us.

In dance there is freedom, expression, movement, rhythm, and joy. I find it meaningful to imagine Jesus moving with us through life in these ways.

Blessings,

*Lars Potteiger*

## LIFT YOUR VOICE TO GOD

**May Hymn Sing - All Are Welcome!**

Join Music Director, Lars Potteiger, for an uplifting Hymn Sing on Sunday, May 17th, 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  
1850 Marietta Ave  
Lancaster, PA 17603

[office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)





**\$5**  
PER CHILD

# TERRIAC TUESDAYS

**SPLASH INTO STORIES, CRAFTS, AND HANDS-ON FUN AT RADER PARK AS WE LEARN ALL ABOUT WATER!**

**TUESDAYS: JUNE 16, 23, 30 & JULY 7 FROM 10-11:30 AM**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER NOW**



 (717) 392-5718

 [www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

# INCLUSIVE CHURCH FOCUS

## Understanding & Supporting Invisible Illnesses

**B**eing thoughtful about people with invisible disabilities requires intentional awareness. Because these conditions are not immediately visible, they are often misunderstood or overlooked. Yet roughly one in four adults lives with a disability, and most of these are not apparent. It is important to assume, in any shared space, that someone may be navigating an invisible disability—even if no outward signs are present.

Invisible disabilities vary widely, including chronic pain, autoimmune conditions, neurological and cardiac conditions, neurodivergence, mental health conditions, and sensory impairments. Many fluctuate, making it difficult for individuals to predict their capacity or commit consistently.

Because disclosure is personal, individuals should not be expected to explain their needs to everyone. Instead, **we should normalize supportive environments. Flexibility and empathy matter:** offer options when possible, normalize changing plans, and avoid assumptions about what others can or cannot do.

Practical planning can reduce barriers. Share agendas or expectations in advance so people can prepare. Offer hybrid or remote participation options when possible. Build in breaks and allow people to step away without drawing attention. Use clear, accessible communication—both spoken and written—and avoid relying solely on one format. Be mindful of lighting, noise, and strong scents, which can trigger symptoms for some individuals. When planning events, include accessible, comfortable seating; easy exits; and a variety of foods to accommodate allergies.

Equally important is cultivating trust. Believe people when they share their experiences; respect boundaries; and create simple, private ways to request accommodations.

Small, consistent actions make spaces more accessible—and more humane—for everyone.

*From the Inclusive Church Team*



## May Birthdays

- 5.2 ~ Ruth Neuman\*
- 5.3 ~ Allison Carr
- 5.4 ~ Cindy Williams
- 5.5 ~ Bonnie Eshbach
- 5.6 ~ Flo Waldron
- 5.8 ~ Dillion Walters
- 5.9 ~ John Hess
- 5.10 ~ Haley Breslin
- 5.10 ~ Lisa Romano
- 5.16 ~ Allison Alspach
- 5.17 ~ Erika Neiderer
- 5.20 ~ Carol Nielsen
- 5.22 ~ Finn Conrad
- 5.27 ~ Nina Bahling
- 5.27 ~ Nate Sheffer
- 5.29 ~ Karen Culp
- 5.31 ~ Karen Youtz

\*90+ Birthday's

## May Anniversary's

- 5.1 ~ Breanne & Carlos Cornielle
- 5.4 ~ Dick & Loris Cunningham
- 5.14 ~ Mark & Molly Reinhardt
- 5.15 ~ Earl & Janie Cardellino\*
- 5.25 ~ Erik & Ashley Laymon
- 5.28 ~ Dick & Lois Millhouse\*
- 5.31 ~ Flo Waldron & Mike McCooey

\*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](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**.

	March 2026	March 2025
YTD Revenue	\$98,895.67	\$97,282.15
YTD Investment Transfers	\$0	\$0
YTD Operating Expenses	\$162,400.98	\$168,458.25
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$63,505.31	-\$71,176.10

## THE STORY OF OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Every Sunday when we walk through the doors of Church of the Apostles, we are welcomed by a well-kept campus and the beauty of Rader Park. What many don't see are the **countless hours of planning, problem-solving, and hands-on work that have made it possible.** For the last 50 years, the Property Committee and Property Manager, have been shaping the spaces where our ministries flourish.

In the early 2000s, the committee focused on the basics: lawn care, snow removal, and repairs large and small. Clean-up days and the "Adopt-a-Plot" garden program became traditions, while big projects like gutter replacements, a new oil tank, and kitchen improvements kept the church running smoothly. At the same time, dreams were taking shape. **Rader Park's first gazebo was built as an Eagle Scout project, marking the beginning of a beloved ministry space.**

As the years went on, major upgrades followed: refurbishing Fellowship Hall, replacing windows, repairing chimneys, and installing new lighting systems. **In 2010, the church roof was replaced, a project embraced unanimously by the congregation.**



Building of Schellenberger Pavilion

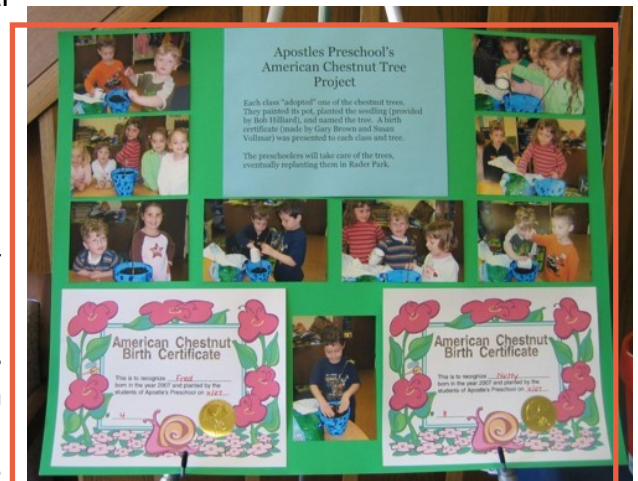
Meanwhile, Rader Park blossomed into a hub of ministry. Walkways, gardens, and the Schellenberger Pavilion were added, while Vacation Bible School, preschool camps, and stream studies brought life and laughter to the grounds. One member reflected that "on summer evenings, the park was alive with children's voices", proof that **the dream for Rader Park had come true.**

Transitions also marked this era, including welcoming property manager Eric MaLaren, whose skill and steady leadership guided the committee through countless projects.

By the mid-2010s, the committee began thinking long-term. Strategic planning laid out a 10–15 year vision for both the church campus and Rader Park, including expanded facilities to support ministry and community use. At the same time, members emphasized stewardship, conducting energy audits, launching recycling and composting programs, and negotiating cost-saving contracts.

In recent years, LED lighting has brightened our worship and grounds, preschool classrooms have been refreshed, and the property manager's house has been renewed. Rader Park continues to be a place of growth, now with playgrounds, gardens, and gathering spaces that welcome all generations.

**The Property Committee's work over the last 25 years has been one of quiet service, deep care, and the conviction that even the smallest act, from tightening a bolt, planting a flower, or replacing a bulb, is an instrumental part of the Church's ministry.**



ACP American Chestnut Project

# STAFF

## Senior Pastor

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn  
[kathrynk@apostlesucc.org](mailto:kathrynk@apostlesucc.org)

## Church Administrator

Melissa Kosman  
[admin@apostlesucc.org](mailto:admin@apostlesucc.org)

## Communications Coordinator

Paityn Nissly  
[office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)

## Finance Coordinator

Jennifer Isenberg  
[finance@apostlesucc.org](mailto:finance@apostlesucc.org)

## Music Director

Lars Potteiger  
[larsp@apostlesucc.org](mailto:larsp@apostlesucc.org)

## Praise Band Director

Nathan Sheffer

## Technology Specialist

Jaben Jury

## Property Manager

Eric MacLaren  
[ericm@apostlesucc.org](mailto:ericm@apostlesucc.org)

## Sexton 2

Tasha MacLaren

## Office Hours & Staff Emails

### *Reach the Right Person at the Right Time*

Our church office is open **Monday-Thursday, 9 AM-1 PM**. Because not all staff are available during those hours, please call before stopping by to be sure someone can assist you.

The office is **closed on Fridays**, and staff are not in the building. For Friday needs, email is the best way to receive a response. To help us respond quickly, please double check that your email is going to the correct staff member. Thank you for helping us stay organized and connected!



## 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.

## Supporting Our Community

### *Ways the Compassion Team is Here for You!*

Our Compassion Team is dedicated to providing support, understanding, and care to 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** - Members may 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**