



THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 50 No. 6



"You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the human heart..."
— Psalm 104:14-15

Pastor's Corner

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Let's Be Friends

   @ApostlesUCC

This psalm of praise to God our Creator and Provider reminds us to be grateful for the many ways God continues to meet our needs through the natural world. As a congregation, we take this calling seriously, understanding our role as caretakers of what God has given us. In that spirit, our Board has named that Rader Park, its ministries, and the stewardship of the land as a priority for this year.

In April, the Board and the Environmental Team welcomed the Rev. Dr. Matt Lenahan, Director of the Wittel Farm Growing Project at The Wittel Farm in Elizabethtown, as a special guest. Dr. Lenahan shared with us the importance of developing a land management plan for Rader Park - one that could connect us with environmental organizations in our region for

funding and volunteer support. He will be providing us with guidance on these groups and how we might partner with them.

Perhaps most meaningful was the shift in perspective he invited us to consider through these questions: **What does the land need us to do? What would benefit the land? Less disturbance? Human intervention?** These questions encourage us to listen more carefully and discern how we can best care for this sacred space.

As we move forward, we invite you to connect with the Environmental Team if you feel called to be part of this important work in Rader Park.

Blessings & Peace,
Rev Kathryn Kuhn

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

6

JUNE

Lititz Pride Festival

📍 727 Furnace Hills Pike at 11 AM

Hosted by Lancaster County Chooses Love, admission is Free!

10

JUNE

Lancaster Pride Festival

📍 Penn Medicine Park at 12 PM

Join Church of the Apostles at the 18th Annual Pride Fest!



"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us"
- Psalm 90:17

VIEW FROM THE BOOTH

For many people, what we do in the sound booth is a big mystery. All the buttons, switches, lights, and wires make it look very complex, so allow me to shine a light on **what the heck we do up there**.

For one thing, there's more than just sound in the Sound Booth. There are three basic jobs to be done each week during the service: sound, slides, and streaming. The sound role is what people traditionally think of: muting and unmuting mics, adjusting volume levels, and making quick adjustments so that disruptions to services are kept to a minimum.

The slides are prepared ahead of time during the week, then advanced at the right moments on Sunday for sermons, prayers, and songs. **This job requires close attention and good timing.**

The streaming job is also fairly simple. There are four cameras placed around the sanctuary, and each can pan, tilt, and zoom with a joystick. Input also comes from the slides and sound to send the service to go out to YouTube and Facebook for those who can't join in person.

The current rotation is Jaben Jury (who also preps and directs), Bill Stock, Luci Stoltzfus, and myself. Beth Thompson will be joining us after we return from renovations.

Speaking of which, we will be taking a very simplified setup while we're in our temporary home in the Bachman Center, just a single steady camera and no screens.

Jim Stoltzfus (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!

★ **June 9th, 2026:** [A Murder in Paradise](#) by Richard Gehman

★ **July 14th, 2026:** [The Judges Tale](#) by Jill Kintner

June Mocktails & Meaning™

Equity Demographics in Lancaster, PA

Step into an evening of learning and reflection at our June Mocktails & Meaning™ session on **June 18th at 6:30 PM**, featuring the YWCA of Lancaster and a focused look at **Racial Equity Demographics of Lancaster County**. This conversation will explore the data behind our community—highlighting disparities, trends, and opportunities for growth—while inviting us to consider how we can be more informed, engaged, and equity-minded neighbors. Sip on a refreshing Grapefruit Paloma mocktail as we engage in meaningful dialogue and deepen our understanding together. Please note that **due to ongoing renovations, seating is limited**, so we encourage you to register early. Mocktails & Meaning™ will pause for the summer after this session and return in the fall.



Bernhardt-Elmer Scholarship Winner

Supporting Future Dreams

Church of the Apostles is pleased to announce that this year's Bernhardt-Elmer Scholarship has been awarded to **Vincent Edmond** of the Bilombele Refugee family. Vincent received a **\$2,500 scholarship** to support his continuing education at **Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology**.

The Bernhardt-Elmer Scholarship helps support graduating students as they continue their educational journeys, and we are proud to invest in Vincent's future. Congratulations, Vincent, and blessings as you begin this exciting new chapter!

Show Your COA Pride

Wear Your Welcome Wherever You Go

We're excited to debut a new Church of the Apostles t-shirt design! These shirts are perfect for wearing while volunteering at church events or simply showing your COA pride out in the community.

Shirts are **\$20 each** and available in **unisex sizes XS–3XL**. Orders are being coordinated by Inclusive Church Team leader **Cathy Kenlin**. To order, email cmkenlin@comcast.net or call/text (717) 940-0364.



COMMUNITY CARE INCLUDES ONLINE SAFETY

Over the past several weeks, Church of the Apostles members and staff have seen an increase in scam emails, fake text messages, suspicious phone calls, and online fraud attempts. Many scams today are designed to look trustworthy and urgent, often pretending to come from pastors, churches, banks, delivery companies, or even friends and family members.

One common church-related scam involves a fake email or text pretending to be from a pastor or staff member asking for gift cards, donations, or emergency help. Please remember: **COA staff will never ask you to purchase gift cards, send cryptocurrency, or provide sensitive financial information through email or text message.** If something feels unusual, slow down and contact the church office directly before responding.

It's also important to know that some scams don't require you to "do" anything obvious. Simply clicking a link in a text or email can sometimes give scammers access to your computer or personal information. Because of this, always pause and think before opening any link or attachment, even if the message looks familiar or urgent.

Here are a few quick ways to protect yourself online and by phone:

- Double-check email addresses and phone numbers
- Be cautious of urgent language like "Act Now!" or "Don't tell anyone"
- Never click suspicious links or attachments
- Do not share passwords, banking information, or verification codes
- When in doubt, call the organization directly using a trusted number

Scammers often target older adults, faith communities, and people who are simply trying to help others. Staying informed helps protect not only ourselves, but our neighbors as well.

Helpful resources for scam prevention and reporting include:

- [Federal Trade Commission Scam Alerts](#)
- [AARP Fraud Watch Network](#)
- [FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center](#)

Let's continue looking out for one another and creating a safe, informed, and connected community.



\$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

OUTREACH

Throughout June, Church of the Apostles will be collecting donations for **Pet Pantry of Lancaster County**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping pets and their families stay together through affordable veterinary care, pet food assistance, adoption services, and rescue support. Their work provides compassionate care for animals while supporting people facing financial hardship in our community.

OUR IMPACT

\$115

Strengthen the Church

Donations as of Publishing

This month, we've been asked to focus on some of their most needed everyday supplies. While these items may not seem exciting, they are essential to the daily reality of running a shelter and caring for animals in need. Requested donations include **paper towels, bleach, laundry detergent, puppy pads, and Purina Pro Plan Adult Dog food (any flavor, any size bag).**



Donations can be dropped off throughout June. Thank you for helping care for both pets and the people who love them through this important outreach ministry!



PET PANTRY
of lancaster county



Apostles Academy
of Arts & Sciences

A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

This summer, we are focusing on creation as a theme in worship. The music we sing each week will celebrate the wonders of the natural world and the many marvels found in all that God creates. One of the hymns we will sing is a personal favorite of mine and has an interesting story behind its creation.

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" was written by Cecil Frances Alexander and first published in 1848 in a collection titled *Hymns for Little Children*. It was one hymn in a series she wrote to help teach children the Apostles' Creed. In particular, this hymn focuses on God as the creator of the natural world.

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.*

The simple, joyful language of this teaching hymn makes it easy for children to sing and understand, while still being deeply meaningful for adults. Alexander was a poet and one of the most influential hymn writers of the 19th century. Other well-known hymns she wrote include "Once in Royal David's City" and "There Is a Green Hill Far Away."

In addition to writing many beloved hymns, Alexander lived out her Christian faith through acts of service. She visited the sick and the poor and provided food, warm clothing, and medical supplies to those in need. She and her sister also helped establish a school for deaf children in Dublin, Ireland.

Blessings,

Lars

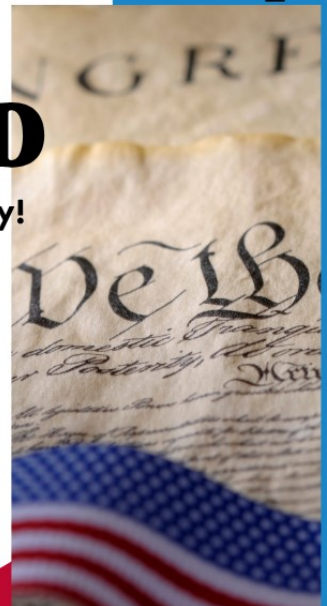
LIFT YOUR VOICE TO GOD

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary!

Join Music Director, Lars Potteiger, for a Patriotic Hymn Sing on Sunday, June 28th at 3 PM in Rader Park. All are welcome to celebrate in song and community. Don't miss this joyful event!

Rader Park Pavilion
1899 Apostle Way
Lancaster, PA 17603

office@apostlesucc.org

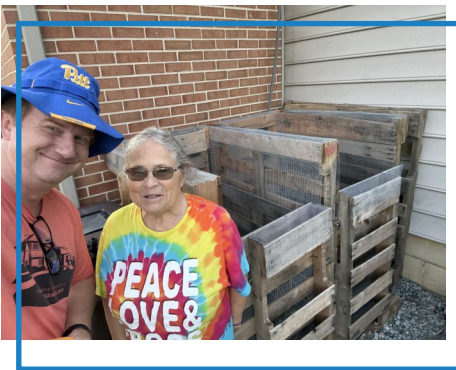


50 ACTS OF KINDNESS RECAP

As we wrap up our 50th Anniversary year, we want to take a moment to thank everyone who participated, shared stories, donated items, volunteered time, or simply looked for ways to brighten someone else's day during the Fifty Acts of Kindness initiative.



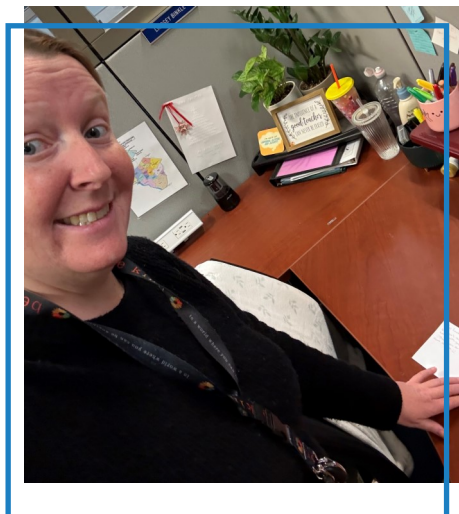
Kindness is often defined as “the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate,” but as a church family, we know it is even more than that. Kindness is love put into action and sometimes it begins long before an action ever takes place. It begins in the way we think about and treat one another. As an Open and Affirming church, we strive to lead with compassion, respect, welcome, and understanding for all people. Choosing empathy over judgment, assuming the best in others, offering grace, and making space for every person to feel valued are all acts of kindness too.



Author Henry James once wrote, “Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” Those simple words remind us that kindness is not meant to be occasional; it is meant to become part of who we are.

Some of the acts completed during this initiative were large and organized, while others were quiet moments seen only by the person receiving them. Each one mattered. Together, they reflected the heart of Church of the Apostles and the values we hope to carry forward into the next 50 years.

As our anniversary year comes to an end, may we continue building a culture of generosity, compassion, and service — remembering that even small acts and thoughts, done with love, can make a lasting difference.



INCLUSIVE CHURCH FOCUS

Pride Month

I'd like to share the story of one of my family members. He knew at the age of eight that he was "different." Living in a conservative coal-mining region of the state, he hid his true self into his early 20s, terrified that he would be found out. On the outside, he was successful: good grades, lots of friends, Senior Class President, and an athlete. He dated girls to keep up appearances.

After college, he began working with troubled youth. In those days, as he puts it, "Queers should never work with youth." Feeling even more pressure to keep his sexuality a secret, he fell into a deep depression. He sought help from a therapist and from his parish priest. The therapist was somewhat helpful, but his priest told him that he would go to Hell if he became a practicing homosexual.

Aunt Letty, a woman of deep faith and a devout Catholic, saw he was struggling even though he never shared his secret with her. She told him that God never makes a mistake and because of that, he had great purpose in life and that he was to be who he was meant to be. He immediately felt a sense of hope and lightness come over him. The very next day, he met the man who would become his husband, and he gradually came out to his family and friends.*

Many of our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers have been deeply hurt by the Church. We have members who will be attending Lititz Pride and Lancaster Pride to share Letty's message:

*For it was you who formed my inward parts;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*
- Psalm 139:13-14

May all of us feel that sense of hope and lightness knowing that God loves us completely.

Cathy Kenlin and the Inclusive Church Team

*This story was shared with permission



June Birthdays

- 6.1 ~ Pam Smith
- 6.2 ~ Darrell Schock
- 6.3 ~ Mark Reinhardt
- 6.4 ~ Tim Stirling
- 6.5 ~ Debby Walburn
- 6.6 ~ George Alspach
- 6.6 ~ Les Helmeczi
- 6.6 ~ Stephanie Moore
- 6.6 ~ Alexa Neiderer
- 6.6 ~ Dot Lippart
- 6.7 ~ Ann Berkow
- 6.7 ~ Stephen Carr
- 6.8 ~ Violet Koehler
- 6.10 ~ Barb Golden
- 6.10 ~ McCoy Rohrbaugh
- 6.12 ~ Wilma Klingler*
- 6.18 ~ Luke Bahling
- 6.19 ~ JoAnn Kerst*
- 6.19 ~ Joe Weidel
- 6.19 ~ Carol Gabriel
- 6.23 ~ Kathy Zerby
- 6.23 ~ Bill Hager
- 6.27 ~ Leroy Carr
- 6.27 ~ Grace Carr
- 6.27 ~ Chase Rampaul
- 6.29 ~ Laura Bender
- 6.29 ~ Karen Braun
- 6.29 ~ Mike Schaeffer

*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 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**.

June Anniversary's

- 6.3 ~ Mike & Sharon Schaeffer
- 6.5 ~ Karen & Ken Whittington
- 6.7 ~ Nils & Wende Stenman
- 6.9 ~ Jack & Cathie Oliphant*
- 6.9 ~ Larry & Judith Frable*
- 6.14 ~ Joe & Christina Bahling
- 6.14 ~ Roger & Janice Morris*
- 6.20 ~ Chris & Brenna Bracken
- 6.21 ~ John & Barbara Wylie*
- 6.21 ~ Kate & Kerry Kendig
- 6.27 ~ Jere & Joyce Baker
- 6.29 ~ Samantha & Darren Hackenburg

*50+ Anniversary's

	April 2026	April 2025
YTD Revenue	\$123,571.06	\$139,145.35
YTD Investment Transfers	\$43,000.00	\$0.00
YTD Operating Expenses	\$222,377.41	\$218,043.56
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$55,806.35	-\$78,898.21

BUILDING HOPE BEYOND OUR WALLS

Over the last fifty years, Church of the Apostles has regularly planned and completed charitable projects that go above and beyond the many acts of service carried out by our church members. One especially memorable effort was a **mission trip to Honduras in early 2014**.



COA learned of plans to build a school for the village of Los Ranchos de Esquimay, located in southwest Honduras. In a short time, members of the congregation generously responded to the request for financial support to help build the school. Unlike schools in the United States, schools in rural Honduras are often small village buildings with one or two classrooms, recently electrified and designed to serve 50 to 60 students. Grades 1 through 6 are typical, as many children have limited opportunities beyond helping support their families.

Life in rural Honduras is often lived at a subsistence level. Families work small plots of poor soil to raise vegetables and may also care for pigs, goats, or chickens. When children return home from school, they are expected to help with daily chores. Many students walk several miles to and from school each day. While the school building had electricity, most homes did not. Air conditioning was simply not a reality.

In January 2014, **eight members of our church traveled to Honduras**. After flying into the country, they drove to the town of Pespire, where they stayed in the area's only hotel. Temperatures regularly climbed into the mid-90s and higher, so air conditioning in the rooms provided welcome relief. A local family that had long worked with mission groups owned a restaurant and generously provided meals and safe drinking water throughout the visit.



Church of the Apostles raised more than \$10,000 to build the school. While construction costs in Honduras were lower than in the United States, wages for workers were also correspondingly low. The completion of "our" school became a true celebration for the community. Local dignitaries attended, along with the school's teachers—often no more than four—who proudly celebrated with their students. The children gradually overcame their shyness and warmly connected with our group. They were especially **delighted to receive the backpacks collected by COA members for each student**.

This special project was truly unforgettable. The eight members who traveled to Honduras continue to hold fond memories of their week there. Likewise, the many church members who contributed funds and donated backpacks remain committed to the spirit of generosity and freely giving to others.

STAFF

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Nathan Sheffer

Technology Specialist

Jaben Jury

Property Manager

Eric MacLaren
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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. 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