



Church of the Apostles
United Church of Christ

August 2026

THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 50 No. 8

While gathering in a home with many villagers, a paralyzed man was lowered through the roof to be healed by Jesus. Upon experiencing this, Jesus said to the man, "I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home" – Mark 2:11

Pastor's Corner

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Let's Be Friends



@ApostlesUCC

As summer draws to a close, we look ahead with gratitude and anticipation to the new beginnings that September will bring.

First, we hope to return to worship in our **newly renovated sanctuary**. We give thanks for all who made this project possible and look forward to once again gathering in that sacred space, where we have so often experienced God's presence among us.

Second, we will begin a new chapter in our "Where Welcome Grows" journey. As we celebrate the completion of our sanctuary renovations, we will also begin an intentional process of discerning how God is calling us to deepen our impact in the

wider community. Together, we will explore how we **can more fully live into our vision and mission as Christ's church**.

Finally, we will begin a new worship series exploring what it means to be a changemaker. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus transforming lives through compassion, courage, and hope. He also invited his disciples to join him in that work, and that invitation continues today.

For this series, I **define a changemaker as someone who takes faithful risks and puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others**. Together, we will explore stories that reveal Jesus' compassion, collaboration, creativity, and ability to empower others—qualities that continue to shape faithful discipleship.

I invite you to join us on this journey as we reflect on how Jesus is calling each of us to become changemakers in our own time and place. As we listen to scripture and discern God's leading together, may we grow more deeply into our shared calling: to be inclusive and generous, advocates for social justice and environmental care, and a safe space for those who feel afraid or powerless.

Blessings & Peace, *Rev Kathryn Kuhn*

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

4
AUG

Millersville National Night Out
📍 100 Municipal Drive from 6-8 PM
Connecting neighbors, first responders, and local organizations.

15
AUG

People Power: Reclaiming our Voice
📍 Penn Square from 11 AM -12:30 PM
Hear from local candidates, register to vote, & prepare for the 2026 mid-terms.



"How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious..." - Psalm 104:24-25

BOARD NEWS

I'm writing this from a North Carolina beach where our family, from Iowa, Alabama, and Pennsylvania, has gathered. We span generations, from age 63 to almost 3. We thought we had missed the July 4th fireworks, but someone offered an unexpected, probably illegal, display we could watch right from our porch.

I shouldn't like the beach. The humidity frizzes my hair, the heat drains me, and sunscreen stings my eyes. And yet I come back as often as I can. Because even with all its inconveniences, **the beach is one of the places where the Divine feels close.** The waves calm me. Lightning crackling above the storm surge reminds me of the power woven into creation.

Last year, my oldest grandson watched his first New Jersey sunrise, the sun rising as a bright red globe over the horizon. I watched him watching it, and I realized that each generation is given its own first glimpse of wonder.

Being here with my family reminds me that **the Sacred doesn't only show up in grand miracles.** The presence of the Holy is often found in shared moments: in fireworks we weren't expecting, in sunrises we've seen a hundred times, but our grandchildren are seeing for the first, in the simple gift of being together.

The beach may not be comfortable, but it is holy to me— because the Divine meets me here, and because family gathers here. And sometimes that's all the reminder I need of the goodness that holds us. I pray that you also have a place where you are able to connect to the Holy and find wonder within the routine.

Cathy Kenlin (Board Treasurer)

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!

★ **Aug. 11th, 2026:** The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

★ **Sept. 8th, 2026:** Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

★ **Oct. 13th, 2026:** Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Vaccine Clinic

Stay Healthy This Fall

Church of the Apostles is partnering with **Hillcrest Pharmacy** to host a Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic following worship on **Sunday, September 27**. Pharmacist Melissa Koehler will be on site to administer vaccines.

To ensure enough vaccines are available, **please register in advance**. You can sign up by scanning the QR code, visiting **Realm** under Events, or by contacting the church office at **(717) 392-5718** or office@apostlesucc.org. If registering through the office, please let us know whether you plan to receive the flu vaccine, the COVID-19 vaccine, or both.



Environmental Team Update

Growing Our Environmental Impact

Church of the Apostles' Environmental Team, now led by **Mark Achtermann**, continues to explore meaningful ways to care for God's creation both on our campus and throughout the community. Current efforts include caring for our native plant areas, identifying ways to reduce our environmental footprint, and exploring future projects that support our mission of environmental advocacy.

Do you have ideas or a passion for creation care? The Environmental Team welcomes your input! If you'd like to help shape future projects or learn more about the team's work, plan to attend the next meeting on **Thursday, August 13, at 6:30 PM** in the **Compassion Corner (Room 107)**. Everyone is welcome!

Let's Stay Connected

Getting Your Emails to the Right Place

To help us respond to your questions as quickly as possible, please **do not reply** to church-wide emails such as the **E-Weekly**, **Come Sunday**, or other special event emails. These messages are sent through our email marketing system, and replies may not reach the staff member you're trying to contact. Instead, please email the appropriate staff member directly:

Communications/Paityn Davis: office@apostlesucc.org

Church Administration/Melissa Kosman: admin@apostlesucc.org

Finance/Jennifer Isenberg: finance@apostlesucc.org

If you don't receive a response in a timely manner, please feel free to call the church office at **(717) 392-5718** to confirm that your email was received. Thank you for helping us ensure your questions and requests reach the right person as quickly as possible!

INCLUSIVE CHURCH FOCUS

Growing Older, Growing Together

As a young adult, I've started noticing something I didn't think much about when I was younger: my parents, grandparents, and the people around me are changing. The people who once seemed unstoppable now take a little longer to get where they're going. Some live with arthritis or chronic pain, while others navigate life after a stroke or rely on mobility aids like walkers or wheelchairs. It's a reminder that **disability isn't always something we're born with**. For many people, accessibility becomes more important with age.

Watching my own family navigate these changes has also changed the way I approach my work as Communications Coordinator. I find myself asking questions I may not have considered before. **Is this font easy to read? Are directions clear? Will everyone know where to go? Is there another way we can communicate this information?** Accessibility isn't only about ramps and automatic doors. It's about making sure everyone has the opportunity to participate, connect, and belong.

I've also come to appreciate the small accommodations that often go unnoticed by those of us who don't need them. My stepdad, who uses a wheelchair following a stroke, reminds me how meaningful features like the power-assisted restroom doors at Church of the Apostles can be. At my wedding, something as simple as a golf cart allowed my grandmother and stepdad to reach the ceremony and fully share in the celebration comfortably. These weren't extravagant gestures. They were thoughtful accommodations that made participation possible.



Paityn's Step-Father & His Service Dog

Church of the Apostles has already taken meaningful steps to create a more accessible campus, and I believe we can continue asking ourselves an important question: **What else can we do?** Could clearer signage, larger print materials, accessible seating, or additional transportation assistance help someone feel more comfortable? What barriers might we not notice because we've never experienced them ourselves?



The reality is that if we're fortunate enough to grow older, many of us will experience changes in mobility, vision, hearing, strength, or endurance. Accessibility isn't simply about meeting the needs of a few. It's about preparing a church where all people can continue worshipping, serving, and belonging throughout every stage of life.

As you walk through Church of the Apostles this month, I invite you to ask yourself: **If I experienced changes in my mobility, hearing, vision, or strength tomorrow, would I still feel welcomed, included, and able to participate fully?** If the answer isn't "yes" for everyone, then there is still room for us to grow. Together, we can continue creating a church where every person is welcomed with dignity, compassion, and belonging.

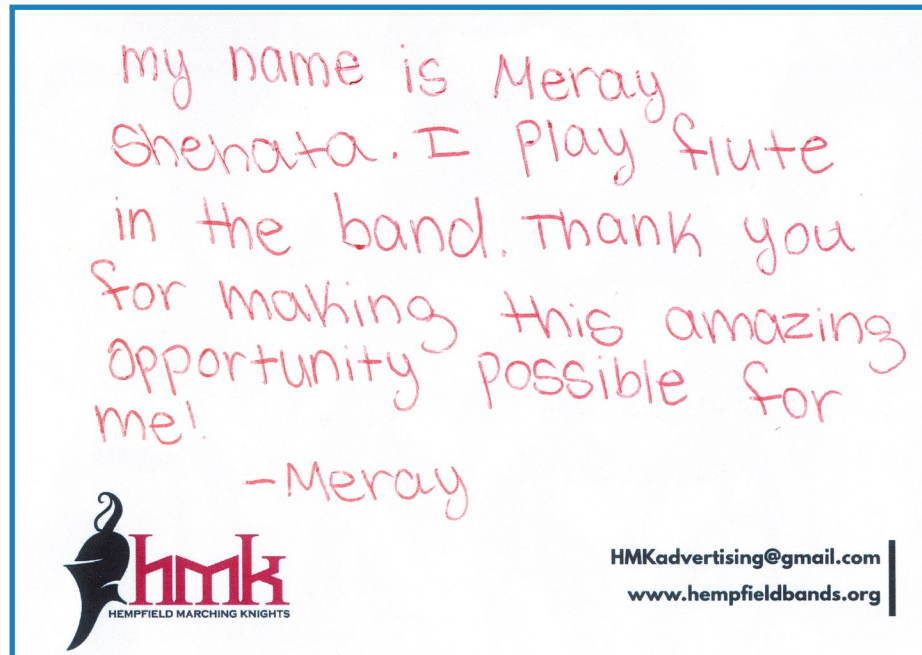
Paityn Davis

Communications Coordinator

MUSIC THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

When you attend a Church of the Apostles concert, you're doing more than enjoying an evening of beautiful music; you're helping create opportunities that extend throughout our community. Donations received through our concert series help support the musicians who share their talents with us while also allowing us to invest in the future of music education and accessibility.

Recently, the Apostles Academy of Arts & Science was able to donate to the **Hempfield Foundation**, and we received a heartfelt handwritten thank-you note from a student who was impacted by this support. This is a reminder that the gifts shared at our concerts can have a lasting ripple effect, helping students continue to learn, grow, and pursue their passion for music.



As we prepare for our upcoming fall concert series, we invite you to share these opportunities with your friends, family, neighbors, and community. When you invite someone to attend a concert, you're not just sharing an enjoyable evening; **you're helping support musicians, encourage students, and strengthen the arts throughout Lancaster County.**

Blessing of the Backpacks

Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on **Sunday, August 23** for our **Blessing of the Backpacks** during the **10 AM worship service** in the Bachman Center. Together, we'll offer a blessing over our students, teachers, and the tools they'll use throughout the school year, praying for a year filled with learning, growth, friendship, and joy. We hope you'll join us as we send them into a new school year surrounded by God's love and encouragement!



OUTREACH

Our Apostles Community Preschool Supply Drive continues throughout August! Help us prepare our youngest Apostles for a successful school year by donating items from the preschool's Amazon Wishlist or by purchasing much-needed classroom supplies (<https://conta.cc/4vWhZK9>). Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



OUR IMPACT

16 Rolls of Paper Towels
263 fl oz Laundry Detergent
30lbs of Dog Food

Donated to Pet Pantry of Lancaster

Donations as of Publishing

As we look ahead, we're excited for another season of compassionate giving. Here's a preview of what's coming:

- **September:** Support the **Hempfield Area Food Pantry** with non-perishable food items and monetary donations to help neighbors facing food insecurity.
- **October:** Give to the **UCC Neighbors in Need Offering** while we begin collecting **warm winter gear** for students at Martin Elementary School.
- **November:** Our winter gear collection continues as we also prepare for our annual **Christmas Gift Ministry**.
- **December:** Help brighten the holidays through our **Christmas Gift Ministry** for Martin Elementary students and support **Bethany Homes** with financial donations.

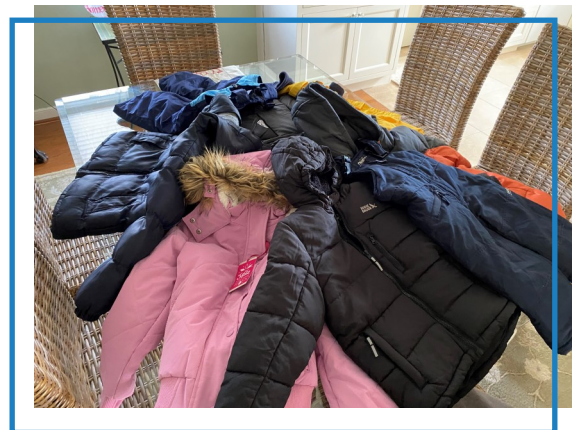


Donations to Pet Pantry 2026

Watch future editions of **The Crown** for collection details and specific donation needs. Thank you for helping Church of the Apostles continue to share Christ's love through compassionate, generous giving all year long.




Bethany
 Children's Home





A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

One of the hymns we are singing this summer as part of our series on creation and God's natural world is Catherine Cameron's "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens," written in 1967. Cameron paired this modern text with the older hymn tune HOLY MANNA, an American folk hymn tune most commonly associated with "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship," written by William Moore in 1825.

At the time Cameron wrote this hymn, public awareness of environmental issues was growing, and concerns about pollution and the misuse of natural resources were becoming part of broader conversations about caring for the environment.

Rather than simply praising the beauty of nature, Cameron emphasizes humanity's responsibility toward creation. She reminds us that people often misuse God's gifts and that Christians are called to be faithful stewards of the earth.

*God, who stretched the spangled heavens,
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space;
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you.
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.*

After this opening verse of praise to God the Creator, Cameron goes on in the remaining verses to encourage us to care for God's creation, cultivate gratitude for the natural world, and recognize our shared responsibility to care for the earth for the sake of future generations. Through this hymn, we are called to both stewardship and justice in our care of the natural world. Stewardship reminds us that the earth is not ours to own but God's gift for us to care for faithfully. Justice calls us to consider how our actions affect future generations and to preserve the beauty and health of creation for those who come after us.

Blessings,

Lars



Church of the Apostles UCC

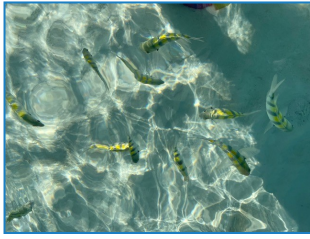
DRUM CIRCLE

AUGUST 9TH AT 3 PM

IN THE RADER PARK PAVILION

WHERE WE GO TO RECHARGE

The Church of the Apostles staff share their favorite vacation spots!



Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Eleuthera, Bahamas is one of my favorite places to relax and recharge. Its beautiful beaches and crystal-clear turquoise waters make it easy to slow down and enjoy God's creation. One of my favorite memories is watching colorful fish swim right around my feet while standing in the water.

Melissa Kosman (Church Administrator)

I've been fortunate to travel throughout the U.S., Europe, and even the Middle East, so choosing a favorite destination is impossible. Every trip has offered something memorable in its own way. Instead, I like to think my favorite place is still out there waiting to be discovered. After all, the best adventure might be the next one!



Paityn Davis (Communications Coordinator)

Knoebels has been a favorite vacation spot for my family for generations. Every summer, we rent a cabin and spend a few days enjoying the rides, relaxing together, and, of course, grabbing a pickle on a stick! My husband and I even spent our honeymoon there. It's a tradition that brings our family together year after year.

Jennifer Isenberg (Finance Coordinator)

Our family's trip to Walt Disney World this past June was one we'll never forget! From exciting rides to special moments like my son's first haircut, the vacation was filled with memories we'll cherish for years to come. We can't wait to go back and make even more magical memories together.

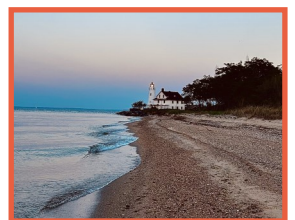


Lars Potteiger (Music Director)

Cape May, New Jersey, has been my favorite vacation spot since childhood. Between the beautiful beaches, charming Victorian homes, and peaceful atmosphere, it's a place that holds some of my fondest memories. Every visit feels like a chance to slow down and enjoy the simple things.

Deklan Jay Lewis (Pastoral Intern)

One of my favorite places to visit is Cove Point Lighthouse in Maryland. It's a beautiful beach with peaceful views of the Chesapeake Bay, and one of the best parts is searching the shoreline for shark teeth. It's the perfect place to relax, explore, and enjoy a little adventure along the water.



MAKING A SPLASH AT TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

This summer, Rader Park was filled with curiosity, creativity, and plenty of water fun during **Terrific Tuesdays**! Centered around a water theme, this four-week summer program welcomed **11 children and their caregivers**, including COA families and community members from beyond our congregation.



Each Tuesday morning began with a guest reader sharing a story connected to the theme, followed by hands-on crafts, water play, and a snack. Children created marble paintings, ocean jars, sailboats, grass head plants, and even made rain on paper umbrellas. One of the biggest highlights was fishing in the pond, giving children the chance to explore and connect with the natural world right outside their doors.

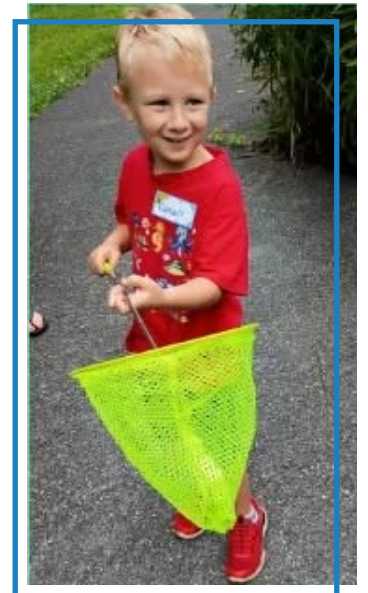
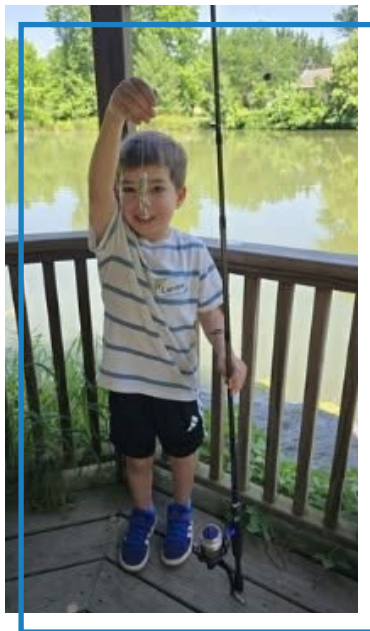
The summer wrapped up with a special visit to Brubaker Run alongside naturalist Lisa Sanchez, where children learned more about the environment around them.

Terrific Tuesdays would not be possible without the many volunteers who helped create a welcoming space for children and

families: Linda Lewis, Donna Carr, Holly Kleimo, Barbara Achtermann, Doris Robb, Audrey Markle, Allison Weiser, Brody and Stephanie Moore, and Benja Stoltzfus.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this summer of discovery in Rader Park such a success!

Judy Waltman (Primary Faith Formation Leader)



August Birthdays

8.1 ~ Carla Williams*
 8.2 ~ Betty Plamjack
 8.3 ~ Laurel Marx
 8.4 ~ Erin Szalczyk
 8.6 ~ Donna Bechtold
 8.7 ~ Teigan Rohrbaugh
 8.9 ~ Kathy Barto*
 8.9 ~ Luane Morrison
 8.11 ~ Kandi Fickes
 8.13 ~ Kathy Duffey
 8.13 ~ Linus Whittington
 8.14 ~ Virginia Brown
 8.14 ~ Chris Conrad
 8.16 ~ Adrieanne DeLaney*
 8.18 ~ Bernie Fickes
 8.18 ~ Bill Stock
 8.19 ~ Pat DiDomenico
 8.19 ~ Judith Frable
 8.24 ~ Teresa Wilson
 8.28 ~ Nancy Hungerford*
 8.29 ~ Pat Hess
 8.29 ~ Doris Robb
 8.30 ~ Kate Kendig *90+ Birthday's

August Anniversary's

8.2 ~ Jim & Elizabeth Stoltzfus
 8.2 ~ Debby & Wade Walburn
 8.8 ~ Dot & Dennis Lippart
 8.9 ~ Jane & Steve McCartney*
 8.9 ~ Stephanie & Cliff Rampaul
 8.10 ~ Judy & Larry Waltman*
 8.14 ~ Les & Karen Helmeczi*
 8.16 ~ Sandy & Joe Weidel*
 8.20 ~ Donna & George Bechtold*
 8.21 ~ Donna & Skeeter Carr*
 8.25 ~ Linda & Tom Lewis*
 *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.

Contributions can be made via check, cash, or Realm.

Help Shape the Future of COA

Do you have strong opinions about what this Church should do more of...or less of? Would you like more say in decisions made? Great news, we're looking for **three members** to join the Church Board next year.

Serving on the Board involves a monthly meeting and occasional communication between meetings. We focus on high-level guidance so that individual ministry teams can handle the day-to-day coordination. It's a great way to get to know other leaders at Church of the Apostles and advocate for your priorities and vision for how we can best live out God's mission for the church.

Through the Jeremiah Project, we collectively focused our mission on **inclusive refuge, compassionate justice, and environmental advocacy**. The Board's role is to live out those values and keep the Church focused so we can have the greatest possible impact on our members and community. If this inspires you, or you'd simply like to discuss the possibility with no commitment, let me know. I'd love to hear from you.

Tim Stoltzfus

	June 2026	June 2025
YTD Revenue	\$179,488.18	\$199,524.10
YTD Investment Transfers	\$134,000.00	\$45,543.90
YTD Operating Expenses	\$320,351.87	\$315,026.29
Net YTD Operating Income	-\$6,863.69	-\$69,958.29



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

GRAND *Reveal*

OF THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES SANCTUARY

AUGUST 30TH

11:30 AM

As a member of Church of the Apostles, you're invited to an exclusive first look at our newly renovated Sanctuary! Join us as we gather to bless this renewed sacred space, celebrate this milestone together, and enjoy fellowship following the blessing. We look forward to sharing this special moment with you before we welcome the wider community.



1850 MARIETTA AVE. LANCASTER PA 17603

STAFF

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Church Administrator

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Communications Coordinator

Paityn Davis
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Finance Coordinator

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Music Director

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Praise Band Director

Nathan Sheffer

Technology Specialist

Jaben Jury

Property Manager

Eric MacLaren
ericm@apostlesucc.org

Sexton 2

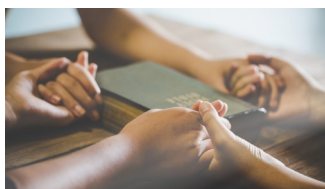
Tasha MacLaren

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. 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