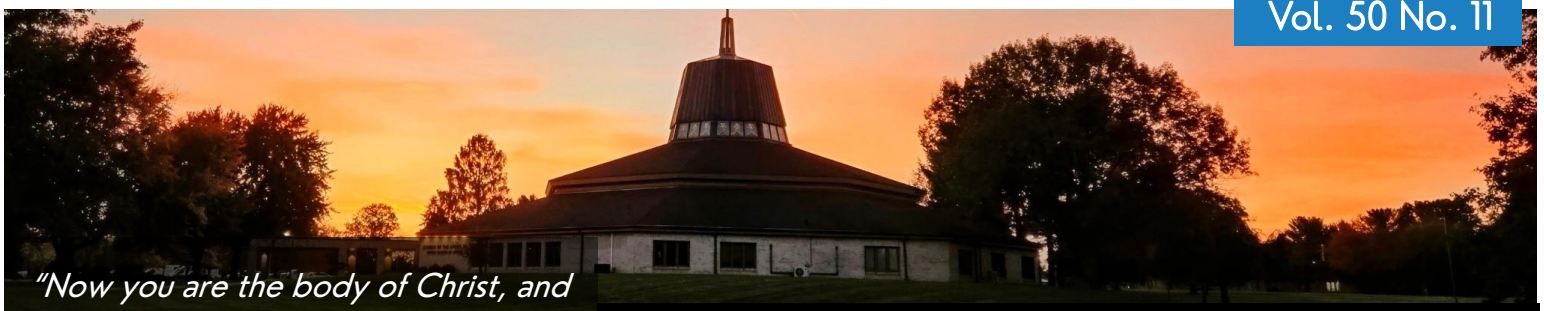
Church of the Apostles
United Church of Christ

November 2026

THE CROWN NEWS

Vol. 50 No. 11



"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
- 1 Corinthians 12:27

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Let's Get Connected

@ApostlesUCC

BOARD NEWS

Every year, our Annual Meeting gives us a chance to pause, celebrate where we've been, and look ahead to where God is calling Church of the Apostles next. On **Sunday, Nov. 15**, we'll gather in the Sanctuary immediately following worship to reflect on 2026 and make important decisions for the year ahead.

We'll recap the past year, look toward 2027, consider and vote on the proposed 2027 budget, and vote on our slate of candidates for the 2027 COA Board:

- **Steve Daniels**
- **Jennifer Eaton**
- **Terry Wilson**

All three candidates are nominated for their first three-year term. We'll also select our delegates to the Association/Conference: **Cathy Kenlin and Mark Achtermann**.

Have questions? Board officers will be available in the Narthex following worship on **Nov. 1 and Nov. 8** to talk through the agenda and answer questions. Board officers are Cathy Kenlin, Treasurer; Johanna Baker, Secretary; Jim Stoltzfus, Vice President; and Michele Wherley, President.

Your presence matters. A quorum is required to conduct the business of the church, and your participation helps shape the future of our shared ministry. **Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of this important conversation.**

Unable to attend in person? Members may participate online. Please email Church Administrator Melissa Kosman at admin@apostlesucc.org by **Wednesday, Nov. 11** to register for the online meeting. Instructions will be provided after registration.

Blessings,

Michele Wherley (Board President)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

7 NOV

Lancaster Watershed Forum

Elizabethtown College at 8:30 AM

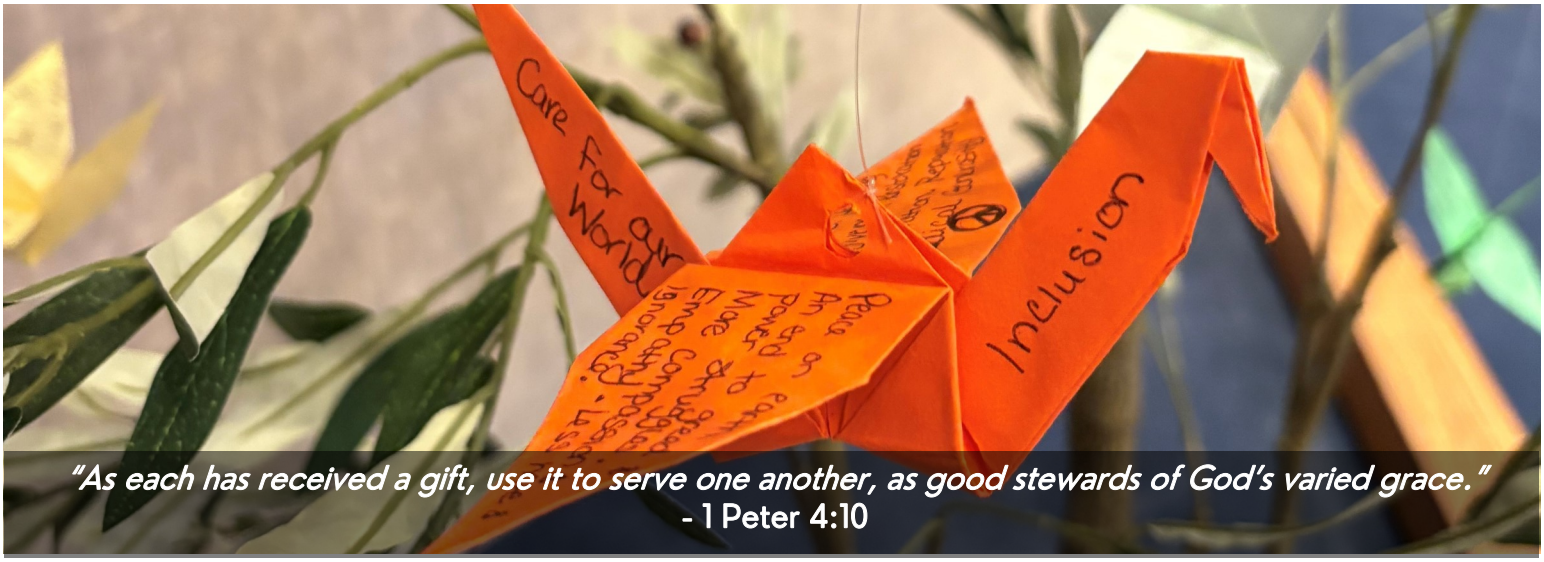
Collaborate, share ideas, and discuss key environmental issues.

30 NOV

Almost American Film Screening

Wheatland Presbyterian at 6:30 PM

Highlighting stories of immigrants fighting to keep their families together.



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
- 1 Peter 4:10

BECOMING CHANGEMAKERS

This season, we have been reflecting on how Jesus was a changemaker in his time and what it means for us to be changemakers today. Beginning this month, we invite you to pay attention to the people, needs, and situations you encounter or hear about throughout the week.

During Sunday worship, as part of our Joys & Concerns, we will share the needs and concerns we have noticed. Together, we will pray and discern how Christ may be calling us to respond and **what we can do to make a difference.** These decisions will be made together as a community of faith, trusting that God will guide us as we listen and respond.

So, keep your eyes and hearts open to what is happening in our community and throughout the world. **Consider the gifts, relationships, and resources we have that could help meet these needs.** As followers of Jesus, we are called not only to notice where change is needed, but also to respond with compassion and action. Together, we can be changemakers who make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Blessings & Peace,

Rev Kathryn Kuhn (Senior Pastor)

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!

★ **Nov. 10th, 2026:** The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

★ **Dec. 8th, 2026:** A Judges Tale by Janet Kintner

Crafter's Marketplace

Support 20+ Local Artisans & Crafters

Get a head start on your holiday shopping at the 2026 Crafter's Marketplace at Church of the Apostles UCC on **Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 AM–3 PM** in Fellowship Hall. With more than 20 local crafters and artisans, you'll find unique handmade gifts, thoughtful treasures, and something special for yourself while supporting small businesses and talented makers in our community.

And come hungry! **Good Eats Catering** will be on-site serving BBQ sandwiches, artisan grilled cheese, and more. Stop by for some shopping, stay for lunch, and make a day of it.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials

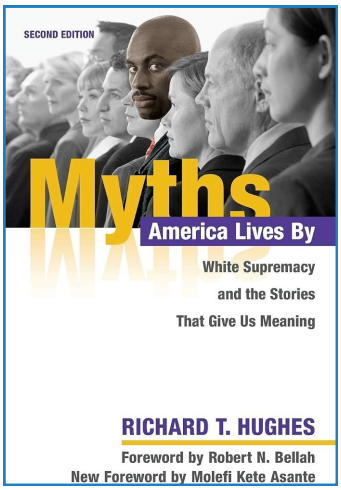
Honoring Those We Carry With Us This Season



Our poinsettia Christmas memorial tradition is returning this year! You can sponsor a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, friend, or someone from our community. **Forms will be available in the Narthex** throughout November and December, as well as in bulletins on Nov. 22 and 29 and Dec. 6 and 13. If you would prefer a digital form, email office@apostlesucc.org to request one. More details and the deadline for contributions will be included in the December Crown.

Lancaster Interfaith Coalition Book Group

Exploring the Stories and Myths that Shape American Life



Looking for an opportunity to learn, reflect, and engage in meaningful conversation beyond Sunday morning? The Lancaster Interfaith Coalition is offering a six-session book group led by LIC member Heather Gehron-Rice, M.Div., exploring *Myths America Lives By: White Supremacy and the Stories That Give Us Meaning* by Richard T. Hughes.

The group will explore six myths Hughes identifies as central to the American experience, considering how these stories have shaped our nation and how they continue to influence our understanding of identity, faith, history, and community. The group meets **Mondays at 6 PM on Zoom**, beginning Nov. 9. Registration is required, and the book can be purchased through your favorite bookseller.

Upcoming sessions: Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, and Apr. 12, with a makeup session scheduled for May 10.

Register at: https://conta.cc/3UiB9gb

YOUTH

PRIMARY FAITH FORMATION (AGES 3-3RD GRADE)

Exploring God's Presence, Peace & Light



Faith Formation welcomes children ages 3 through 3rd grade each Sunday after Children's Time in worship. In Room 304, Judy Waltman will explore God's presence, peace, and joy with our youngest learners while beginning to look ahead to Advent.

- **Nov. 1:** God Hears Us
- **Nov. 8:** God Brings Joy
- **Nov. 15:** God Helps Us Choose Peace with Our Neighbors
- **Nov. 22:** God Helps Us Choose Peace with Our Families
- **Nov. 29:** Jesus Brings Light to the World

ROOTED IN FAITH (4TH-8TH GRADE)

Exploring Worship, Faith, & What It Means to Follow Jesus

Rooted welcomes students in grades 4–8 each Sunday in the Compassion Corner (Room 107), where they'll explore questions about faith, worship, and how we live out what we believe. This month, they'll also begin looking ahead to Advent.

- **Nov. 1: What Is All Saints Sunday?**
- **Nov. 8: Why Do We Pray?**
- **Nov. 15: What Is Confession?**
- **Nov. 22: Why Do We Serve?**
- **Nov. 29: What Is Advent?**



APOSTLES COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL UPDATES

October was a busy and exciting month at Apostles Community Preschool! We welcomed the Rohrerstown Fire Company for a special visit during Fire Safety Week, giving our students the opportunity to learn about fire safety and the important work of our community helpers. Our Parent Council also hosted its annual Dance-a-Thon fundraiser, bringing our school community together for a fun event in support of our preschool. We wrapped up the month with our annual Halloween parades and classroom parties!

In November, we are focusing on **kindness, gratitude, and giving back to our community.** The children will celebrate World Kindness Day and explore ways to be kind and caring toward others. We will also enjoy our annual Friendsgiving celebrations as we talk about friendship and the many things we are thankful for.



Our students will continue building connections beyond the classroom with visits to our Grand-friends at Homestead Village. We also look forward to meeting with Pastor Kuhn for special story-time, prayers, and songs in the sanctuary. These experiences help our children build relationships, strengthen their sense of community, and grow in their understanding of faith.

As part of our Caring and Sharing unit, ACP families will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots and food for the Hempfield Food Pantry. These activities give our students a meaningful opportunity to learn about helping others and making a difference in their community, even at a young age.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Church of the Apostles community and for the ways we work together to help our children learn, grow, and share God's love with others!

Maggie Biggs
Preschool Director
mbiggs.acp@gmail.com

@Apostles_Community_Preschool

OUTREACH

Holiday Gifting Ministry

This holiday season, we're once again helping provide Christmas gifts for 40 students at Martin Elementary School. If you'd like to participate, here's how:

- **Choose a tag:** Beginning Sunday, Nov. 15, select a numbered tag from the poster on the Outreach bulletin board. Each tag includes a student's name and a suggested gift.
- **Write your name down:** Please write your name next to the number of the tag you selected. This helps us keep track of which students have been matched with a gift.
- **Purchase and wrap the gift:** The gift suggestion will be written on a removable sticky note. After purchasing the gift, wrap it and securely attach the student's tag.
- **Return your gift:** Place your wrapped gift in the Caring Cart in the Narthex **no later than Sunday, Dec. 20.**
- **Delivery:** Gifts will be delivered to Martin Elementary School on Monday, Dec. 21.

OUR IMPACT

$330

UCC Neighbors In Need

Donations as of Publishing



2025 Holiday Gifting Ministry

Winter Warmth Collection



Get your winter donations in by the end of November!

We're collecting **new and gently used coats and jackets, along with new hats, gloves, and scarves**, for children in kindergarten through 8th grade. These winter items will be distributed between Martin and Wheatland Elementary Schools in Lancaster City.

The collection ends November 30! Getting donations in by the end of November gives us time to sort and distribute the winter gear before the first snowfall and, most importantly, before the temperatures really drop. Let's make sure local kiddos have the warm clothing they need to head into winter ready to bundle up! Donations can be placed in the white laundry baskets in the Narthex.

Apostles Academy of Arts & Sciences

A MUSICAL NOTE

With Music Director, Lars Potteiger

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" is a joyous song of thanksgiving that celebrates God's bounty in our lives. This hymn was written by Fred Kaan in 1975 and set to a Jamaican folk melody adapted by Doreen Potter. That same year, the hymn became associated with the World Council of Churches, helping to establish its use in worship services around the world.

The hymn tune is called LINSTEAD, named after the Jamaican folk song "Linstead Market," on which it is based. The melody originated in Jamaica's lively folk music tradition known as mento, which often features storytelling and rhythmic accompaniment. When this hymn is sung, it is often accompanied by percussion instruments that highlight the lively Caribbean rhythms of the melody.

This hymn is frequently used in communion and Thanksgiving services. Its text calls us to unity around Christ's table, where we break bread together. Kaan was born in the Netherlands and lived through the Nazi occupation during World War II. He later became a pastor and, as a pacifist, wrote numerous hymns that explore themes of peace, justice, and social responsibility.

My favorite stanza of this hymn is the final one. It calls us to go out and serve others in a spirit of love after we have been nourished at Christ's table.

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Blessings & Peace, *Lars*



UPCOMING APOSTLES ACADEMY CONCERT

Join Music Director **Lars Potteiger** for a fun, hands-on **drum circle** in the Sanctuary! **All ages are welcome**, and **drums will be provided;** bring your energy and love for rhythm! **November 15th at 3 PM in the Sanctuary.** Come drum with us and feel the beat of community!

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UCC

WHERE WELCOME GROWS

ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC, MAGIC, ART, FOOD, AND COMMUNITY AS WE CELEBRATE HOW WELCOME CONTINUES TO GROW. COME AS YOU ARE, ADD YOUR MARK, AND CELEBRATE THE JOY OF INCLUSIVE CHURCH.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT 11:30 AM

1850 MARIETTA AVE. LANCASTER PA



BOBBI CARMITCHELL
Music at 11:35 AM



VICTOR CAPECCE
Magic at 12:15 PM



DEKLAN LEWIS
Music at 1 PM

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF WIDER WELCOME!

INCLUSIVE CHURCH FOCUS

Hospitality: Where Welcome Grows

Hospitality is something many churches are known for, and we often think of it as coffee hour or a time of fellowship. **But true hospitality goes far beyond refreshments and conversation**. It begins the moment someone drives into our parking lot. Is the entrance easy to find? Can a visitor locate the restrooms? Are people available to offer a friendly greeting and help? Are signs easy to find and read? And just as importantly, how are people treated by those they meet?



When approaching someone we don't know, we need to be mindful of the assumptions we make. I have heard from members who felt embarrassed when they asked someone if they were a visitor, only to discover that they were a member! Instead, we can begin with a warm greeting or a simple question: "How are you?" "It's good to see you today!" or "Is there anything you need?" These small gestures help people feel seen and welcomed without making assumptions.

As we live into **our calling to be a church "Where Welcome Grows,"** we also need to be mindful not to assume someone's gender. Now, I'm going to put on my old "English teacher hat"! I've often heard the argument that "they" and "them" are plural pronouns. While that is true, we have also long used these pronouns when a person's gender is unknown. Think about how naturally we say, "They cut me off!" when referring to the driver of the car ahead of us, whose gender we don't know.



So, please be willing to practice using they/them when you are uncertain about someone's gender. If a person prefers different pronouns, they can let you know. Making this small effort can help create a kinder conversation and a more welcoming experience.

We profess that God loves all people, and we are called to do the same. May we continue learning, growing, and putting that love into practice so that ALL people feel welcome, respected, and at home here.

Blessings & Peace,

Rev Kathryn Kuhn (Senior Pastor)

November Birthdays

11.2 ~ Bill 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
11.17 ~ Sara Bravo
11.18 ~ Beth Thompson
11.22 ~ Evelyn Sheffer
11.24 ~ Wade Walburn
11.24 ~ Jennifer Eaton
11.25 ~ Leigh Breslin
11.26 ~ Jennifer Thompson
11.29 ~ Donna Carr
11.30 ~ Monica Daniels
11.30 ~ Randy Morrison

*90+ Birthday's

November Anniversary's

11.7 ~ Nate & Emily Sheffer
11.9 ~ Larry & Erika Neiderer
11.23 ~ Clara & Lou Kosmela*

*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**.



	September 2026	September 2025
YTD Revenue	$244,788.29	$285,294.92
YTD Investment Transfers	$214,000.00	$111,043.90
YTD Operating Expenses	$500,174.07	$488,639.45
Net YTD Operating Income	-$41,385.78	-$92,300.63

A WELCOME FOR A NEW HOME

Making others feel welcomed doesn't always mean welcoming them into your own space. Sometimes, that welcome comes in the form of a housewarming gift, received in their own space.

This summer, we cleaned out the Parish Life closet, which held an abundance of dishes, cups, and platters. While the dinnerware held great memories of meals shared, the bowls and plates now sat empty and forgotten. What once held BBQs and community meals (a few of the plates still had evidence of past meals!) now held only memories.



With a focus on helping our neighbors, we knew we could give those dishes a second chance. We could have easily donated them to Goodwill, which would have been fine, but we wanted to make a more personal impact and live out what it means to be a church community **Where Welcome Grows**. So, we turned to Off the Streets, a volunteer-run organization that helps provide hope and dignity to people experiencing homelessness as they transition to permanent housing.

Thanks to members who volunteered their time, we were able to assemble packs of dishes in settings of four, six, and eight. Each pack also includes a postcard with a personal message welcoming the recipient to their new home.

In October, we made our first delivery of dish packs to Off the Streets—and, as it happened, the very first recipient was scheduled to receive a set that same day! We hope these dishes will become part of many good meals and happy memories, reminding each recipient that their new home is a place where they are welcomed and that their community cares.

Want to learn more about Off the Streets and the work they do in Lancaster? Visit otslancaster.org to learn more about how they help people move from homelessness into permanent housing.

This is one small example of how **Where Welcome Grows** continues beyond our own walls. A plate, a bowl, or a cup may seem like a simple thing, but when offered with care, it can become part of a new beginning—**and a reminder that welcome can grow wherever we choose to plant it.**

Melissa Kosman (Church Administrator)

OFF THE STREETS
From homelessness to home

STAFF

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Praise Band Director
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