

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

11:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "He Has Come for Us" M. Andrews/J. Ingram

WORDS of WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS and BIRTHDAYS

PRAYER CONCERNS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Carwile Family
One: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread." His name was Jesus. After his birth, Mary, his mother, witnessed the shepherds glorifying and praising God, filled with joy at what they had seen. She treasured these things in her heart.

All: First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

One: Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

All: Today, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.
(light the pink one!)

One: As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, joy is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, Bread of Life.

*** HYMN #107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn!"**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Joyce Wildi

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

God of abundant grace, in this season of Advent, we confess the times we've sought our own happiness or

comfort at the expense of others. We have had times when we have forgotten true joy comes from sharing our abundance. Help us to keep striving toward a life of compassion and generosity. Likewise, we confess the times we have neglected our own joy, treated ourselves unkindly, worked when we should have rested, and abandoned the interests and hobbies we cherish. Let the expectant joy of Advent inspire us to return to ways that bring us joy. Amen.

*** DECLARATION OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROPHETIC LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10 CEB OT p. 663

MOMENT OF WORD AND WONDER

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 19:1-10 CEB NT p. 82

PREACHING OF THE WORD "From the Manger, Joy Grows"

We Respond to God's Word

*** HYMN #127 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" vs. 1-2**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed pg 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory "Breath of Heaven" arr. C. Tornquist

Doxology #606

***Prayer of Gratitude for God's Abundance** *(unison)*

Loving God, these gifts and offerings are a reflection of our commitment to Christ's peace. May they provide sustenance to those in need and extend your love and justice throughout the world. Bless the generosity of this

community, prompting us to compassionately share in building a world where the hungry are filled. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN #115 "Away In a Manger"

* CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE "I Will Glory in the Lord" R. Anderson

- *Please stand in body or spirit*

Wrapping our community in God's love, one person at a time.

We believe that we are all ministers supported by:

Rev. Niki Atkinson – Office Hours Tues. & Wed. 9:30-4:00

Please call for appointments.

E-mail pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net

Amy Shupe, Organist; Joel Varga, Assistant Organist

Zach Bush, Trumpeter Sam Mullooly, Trombonist

Linda Truffa, Office Administrator

Jerrilyn Mollick, Custodian

Church Address: 401 First Street, Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

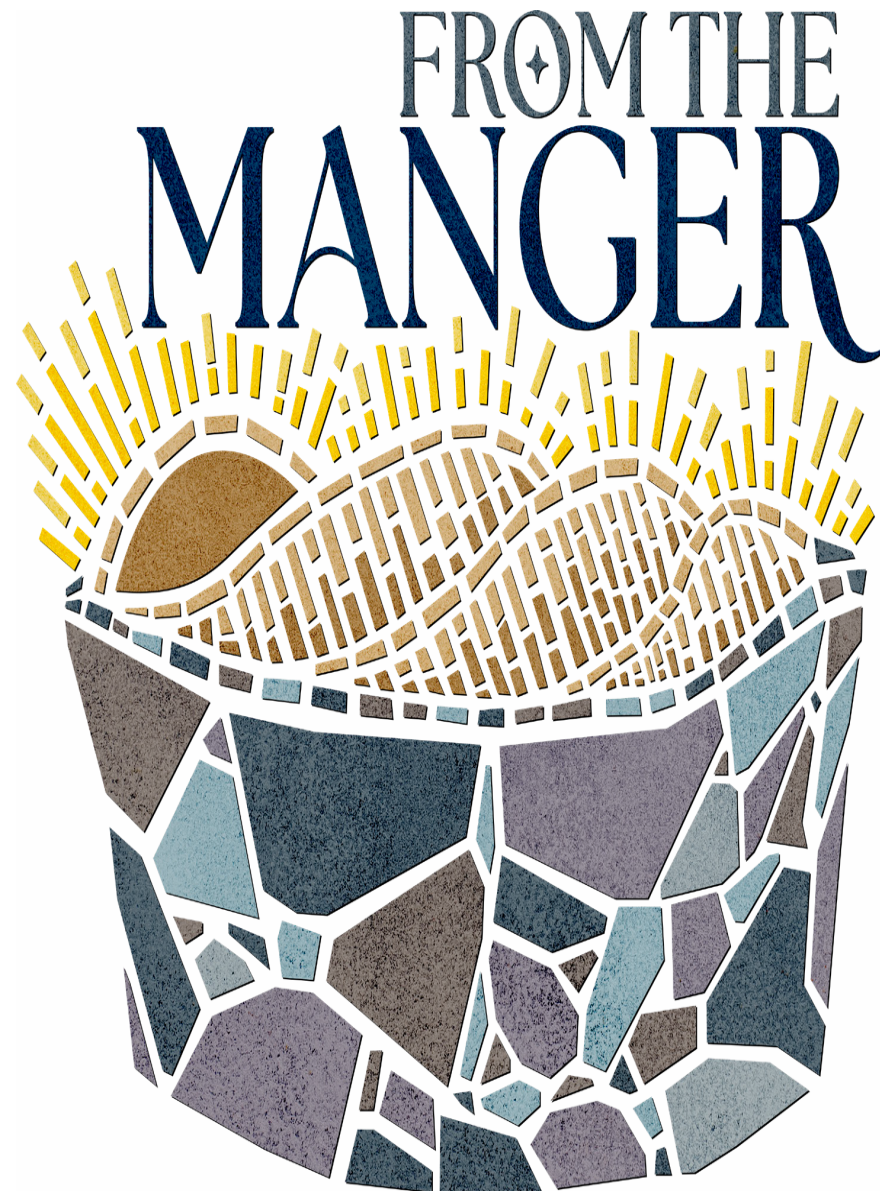
Church Phone: 724-478-4807 Fax: 724-478-2708

Website: www.apollopresby.org E-mail office@aupc.comcastbiz.net

Office Hours: Holiday Schedule in bulletin

Today's Acolyte ~*Caleb Flickinger*

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a **Congregational Meeting, TODAY, December 14**, immediately following worship for the purpose of ELECTION OF OFFICERS and RECEIVING THE 2026 BUDGET.



Joy Grows.

"The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told." Luke 2:20

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Lani, Emma and Brenna Knox
Carol Kopnicky

Faith Friend: Nancy Reynolds

Our Church: Staff
The Churches of the Kiskiminetas Presbytery

Presbytery: Albany (Synod of Northeast)

Denomination: African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Nation: Western Sahara – La'youn

IMMEDIATE *Mark & Kasey Gizzler & family, Mary, Kristen, family of Sandy, family of Jim Dunmire, Gene Griffith, Debbie, Dave Highfield, Ron in church ☺, Dolores, beautiful sanctuary at Christmas, Ken Bowman, Jess's grandfather, Christmas Tea JOY!, Melinda here ☺, Family of Frank Lombardi, mary, KVCB ☺, Ronan, Ashley, Dan Pepler, Wendy, Ashley, Patty Pavetti, Janelle, Danny, Doris Patterson, Perona family.*

CONTINUING *Laura's brother-in-law, people of Jamaica, Jeff, Shirley Jackson, John Moats, Diane & Jim Detman on the loss of Diane's father, Kim, Ashley & Ben, Ronan, Luke, new baby, Melinda, Shannan K., Elaine Newton, Eddie, Ed Bortz.*

ONGOING

Nora, Eric Ribar, Missy, Katie, Donnie Riggle, Gary Harkcom, Bill & Linda Crabtree, Frank Kovak, Josh Hanus, Shannon Pruss, Chris Hilker, Carol Gallagher, Linda Gould, Snedecor family, Alan Shockey, Bonnie Machak, Lani Knox, Nick Arnoldy, Benjamin Mumaw, Sean George.

MINISTRY All those affected by the Coronavirus, flu, and RSV and those working in the health care field, first responders, research, and government. Food 4 Kids, AUPC Deacon's Emergency Fund, Support for our church, EPR Mugombwa; Victims of violence and natural disasters; President Donald Trump, our country, other world leaders, our church and its leaders, the war & military personnel, wounded military at home and in hospitals, terrorist victims, Kiskiminetas' Rwanda Partnership

Christmas Eve Service
7:30 PM
"Lessons & Carols"

Today's bulletin is given **In Loving Memory of Harry Bush and Caleb Altmire and their shared December 16 birthday**, from The Bush Family.

December 14, 2025 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY Sunday School **10:00 AM**
Worship-3rd Sunday of Advent **11:00 AM**

MONDAY-THURSDAY Dance Clik Parties downstairs

WEDNESDAY SESSION **7:00 PM**

FRIDAY Office Closed

SATURDAY Kid's Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal **10:00 AM**
"Happy Birthday Jesus" Kid's Party **12:00 PM**

SUNDAY Sunday School **10:00 AM**
Worship-4th Sunday of Advent **11:00 AM**
Kid's Christmas Program ~ ***Wear Jammies!***

SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS

December 14 ~ Laura Uncapher & _____
December 21 ~ Glanna Kanish & Scott Hollabaugh
December 28 ~ Derek Hilty & Glanna Kanish

Children's Advent Bulletins and Advent Calendars for anyone are available in the vestibule.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE! We are so pleased that the playground has been such a big hit! Parents, here are a few reminders: *An adult must be with the child (children) *If toys are brought from home, soft & quiet is best *It is the adult's responsibility to clean up after their children-this is not our custodians responsibility.
THANKS!

**Thanks A Lot! Your
generosity has raised \$505 for
the
Apollo-Ridge Area
Food Bank's Annual
Christmas Turkey Drive!
Well done and
Merry Christmas!**

**CHURCH OFFICE 2025 HOLIDAY HOURS
OFFICE CLOSED:
Fridays, Dec. 12, 19
Tuesday, Dec. 23, Wed. 24, Thurs. 25 & Fri. 26
December 29 thru January 2
OFFICE WILL REOPEN MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026**

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTERS WITH CALENDARS
and
separately THE GRATITUDE CALENDARS are
available in the vestibule under the bulletin board.**

The downstairs of the church has been
reserved Monday, Dec. 15 through
Thursday, Dec. 18 for the Dance Clik
Class Christmas Parties!
Merry Christmas to Candi, her staff and
dancers!
It's a Blessing to have you in our
buildings!

**Pastor Niki is looking for a few individuals who plan to attend our
joint worship service with BSPC on 12/28 at 10:00 am, being held at
AUPC. We are in need of some readers during worship.
Text/Email/Call her ASAP. Thank you!**



**Please note: Participants in the
play will have their dress rehearsal
on Saturday, December 20
at 10:00 AM. After rehearsal,
around noon, we will have our
annual children's "Happy Birthday,
Jesus" party in the social room.
ALL Sunday School children are
invited to the party😊! A light lunch,
crafts, games and a story will lead**

up to Jesus' birthday cake!
Volunteers are needed ~ call Amy
Zukas if you can help.