

THE LISTENING POST

JULY-AUGUST
2026



Pastor Niki's Ponderings

"Music is the universal language of humanity."

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"My heart, which is so full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary."

-Martin Luther

"I will sing of your love and justice; to you, LORD, I will sing praise."

-Psalm 101:1

There is something that happens when we are exposed to music. Soft, loud, fast, slow, instrumental, lyrical, percussive sensations, light shows, however it is we experience music, it makes an impact.

I don't know the first song that I ever listened to as a baby, but I do know that one of my earliest concerts was Richard Marx at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, in June of 1988. My parents have told me that I was trying to clamber up on stage like all the other preteen/teen girls in the crowd (mind you, I was a newly minted 6 years of age. My chances of beating through that kind of crowd were slim.)

There was something about singing along with other people who were just as excited as I was that stuck with me.

Growing up, I didn't really attend church, but I loved singing with the chorus in school. From 5th grade through my senior year of high school, I loved every minute of working with a group to sing as best as we could. We always had such a wide variety of music too. Multiple languages, chamber music, chorus-ified Disney hits, musicals, and even some spirituals and "church-y" music. It was always my favorite class of the day, no matter what.

Music has real power and significance in our lives, both individual and collective. That is especially evident in the church. There is an entire book of the Bible that is all songs (The Psalms.) There are songs sprinkled throughout Scripture. Hymns are one of the ways in which we teach the great truths of our Christian faith: who God is, what God has done through Jesus Christ, why we praise God, and who/what the Church is called to be in all times and places with the Holy Spirit empowering us on the journey.

Through the rest of the summer, we will spend each week in a particular "favorite" hymn. We'll hear its story, the scripture that inspired it, and reflect upon its meaning for our own faith. Take a look in the newsletter...if you have a story you'd like to share about a particular hymn on that Sunday, get in touch with me. It would be so wonderful to hear each other's stories about a hymn has spoken to your hearts.

Blessings, Pastor Niki <><



3. Emily McManus
4. Jacob Hilty
5. Debbie Rupert
7. Sue Arnoldy, Emma Knox
8. Linda Slicker
9. Pat Sharrar
13. Helena Snedecor, Amanda Flickinger, Joel Varga
15. Mathew Hilty
16. Brenda Kaskan
17. Lydia Summerhill
19. Alex Dunmire



- 7. Max Snedecor
- 12. Dennis Travis, Laura Uncapher
- 19. Walt Smail, Valerie Thompson
- 22. Kelcy Jackson
- 23. Richard Painter
- 27. Marcie Painter
- 28. Melinda Miller
- 30. Bob Kane
- 31. Jeff Bush

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School will resume on Sept. 20 with RALLY-DAY kicking off the 2026-2027 Sunday School year! See you soon!

Apollo Community VBS

Animals Abound!

Wild Stories about God's Love

Held at Boiling Springs Church; 1668 Pa-56 Spring Church

MON. JULY 13 - THUR. JULY 16

5:45 PM - 8:15 PM

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Interactive Bible Stories
- Exciting Games & Activities
- Creative Crafts
- Music & Singing
- Friendship & Fun

CONTACT US
(724) 478-1523
boilingspringschurch@yahoo.com

All kids welcome!



MISSION

- ✓ Remember to pass along the message while you DO the mission. Meals-on-Wheels (412-400-0975) – drivers, cooks, prep people daily on M – W – F. St. Vincent de Paul (724-478-1113) M-Sat

Food bank opportunities:

- Jul 3/Aug 7 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- Jul 13/Aug 17 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- Jul 15/ Aug 19 (Wed), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (distribution) volunteers at 7:30 – 8:00 AM - public at 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford (see above)

COMMUNITY COMPASSION



AUPC Emergency Fund

End of May 2026 Assistance Totals:
3 Families helped with food. 3 helped with utilities, rent, and Gasoline certificate, total \$620.



Have a new neighbor or new baby in the neighborhood

The Mission Ministry Team would like to extend its community outreach by offering "Welcome" and residents new to the area and to those with an addition to their family. Although still in the early stages, we are asking for your help in identifying families that might fit these categories. Please message/contact Pam McMunn at 724-664-8303



Our 10th year will begin this September. As the new school year will be here before we know it, we are currently accepting donations (expiration dates good through October 2026 and beyond) of single-serving food items.



Examples: Mac & Cheese, fruit cups, pudding, etc. We are housed in the Apollo United Presbyterian Church. Please call 724-478-4807 before bringing in your donations as summer hours fluctuate. THANKS!

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



ALL KIDS WELCOME
TO
KIDS KRAFTS
A FREE COMMUNITY
PROGRAM
SEE YOU IN
SEPTEMBER

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW Quarterly Meeting –
Saturday, June 13 @ 9:30 AM
Regular Meeting**



If you're looking for unique cards for any occasion, please check out the variety available in the vestibule made by our own Craft Ladies. Cost is 3 for \$2 or \$.75 each.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of MAY 2026



May Income: \$13,123.82
May Expenses: \$11,525.18
April Income to Expenses: \$1,598.64
YTD Income: \$55,991.50
YTD Expenses: \$63,398.31
YTD Income to Expenses: -\$7,406.81

Don't forget . . . You may purchase/sponsor a bulletin, at any time during the year , to remember/honor a loved one. Donations of \$20 per bulletin are requested. Your donation will be used to defray copying costs of our weekly bulletin.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM
Join us in person or
live stream on YouTube

SUMMER SERMON SERIES



Based on a congregation survey of
FAVORITE HYMNS,
Pastor Niki will have hymn-based sermons highlighting the theme or focus of the top favorites. Series begins Sunday, July 12
Come see where your favorite(s) ranked.

Communion

Sunday, August 2

COME AS YOU ARE

BIBLE STUDY

Summer Edition

Jonah: A story of
grudges and grace

Every Tuesday in
August at 7pm
Boiling Springs
Presbyterian Church
1668 PA-56
Spring Church, PA

Every Thursday in
August at 10am
Apollo United
Presbyterian Church
4011st St.
Apollo, PA

Any and all are welcome to attend;
same material will be at both offerings



CHANGING of the GUARD

Many thanks to
Peggy Landon for her
years of Bell Choir leadership. Peggy will
continue to ring with the Bell Choir but the
roll of leader/conductor has been turned
over to Mike Mollick.

Mike has played for numerous years with
the Bell Choir and beginning this June, he
will be leading the group. While change is
happening, it is the perfect time for new
and returning members to pull on their
gloves and ring-a-ling with Mike.

Look for an upcoming organizational
meeting where ringers will have input
concerning practices, music, number of
performances, etc.

Apollo Ministerium Worship SERVICE

On Sunday, August 9 at 10:30 AM,
The Apollo Area Ministerium will be
having a community, multi-church
worship service at New Beginnings
United Methodist Church, 1559 PA
56, Apollo, PA 15613. Join us to hear
the choir that will be formed from
various churches. Following the
service, a Fellowship Lunch will be
offered. Attendees are requested to
bring cold side dishes. Also, bring
your lawn, camp, or folding chairs.

AUPC Acolytes

*A schedule for the upcoming year will be
developed soon. If you served last year,
you will automatically be contacted.*

If you're new and wish to serve, please

*Call the office @ 724-478-4807 to
provide your name and phone number.*

*New Acolytes will have a short training
and returning Acolytes may wish to have*

*a refresher. Carrying the "light of
Christ" is an important job and seeing
the congregation smile as you do so is
important too! Thanks to all of you who
serve. See you in September!*





Coming in September
Friday 25th & Saturday 26th
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Clean, useable items will be accepted through Sunday, Sept. 20. All items must be taken downstairs and neatly arranged behind the curtain on the stage. On Wednesdays, during the months of June and August, from 4 to 6 PM, Bill Speer will be at the church and available to assist with large items or help if you are unable to negotiate the stairs. If those dates and times aren't convenient, an appointment may be made. (no assistance will be available in July) All other donations not requiring assistance may be brought to the church Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM up to the Sept. 20 deadline.

"Around Town"

July 11 – Old Fashioned Country Gospel Hymn Sing – 6:00 pm- Grace Assembly of God

July 18 – Spaghetti Dinner – 4 to 6 pm
New Beginnings UMC \$12

August 1 – Old Fashioned Hymn Sing –
Heilman Emmanuel Lutheran
Ford City – 6:30 to 8 PM

August 1 – Family Fun Day – 11am – 3pm
Kennedy Park, Vandergrift
Petting Zoo, live music, etc.

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

“DINNER AND A BAND”

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
401 1ST ST, APOLLO

DINNER anytime between
5PM & 7PM

Sandwiches, Salads, Chips & Snacks,
Desserts & Beverages
Sold Separately or Save With Our
“FULL-MEAL-DEAL”

THE KISKI VALLEY COMMUNITY BAND

at 7:00 PM



Free-will Offering for the BAND!
Dinner Proceeds Will Support
AUPC's General Fund.





THEN SINGS MY SOUL

God's Love for Us

JULY 12

"HERE I AM, LORD"
ISAIAH 6:1-8

JULY 19

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"
LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

JULY 26

"HOW GREAT THOU ART"
PSALM 8, 86, 145, ISAIAH 40:26-28

AUGUST 2

"AMAZING GRACE"
ROMANS 5, 1 CHRONICLES 17:16-17

AUGUST 16

"WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"
JOHN 15:12-17, PROVERBS 18:24,
PHILIPPIANS 4:1-7

AUGUST 23

"IN THE GARDEN"
JOHN 20:1-18

AUGUST 30

"THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"
ISAIAH 53:3-12, JOHN 19:17-25,
1 PETER 2:21-25

*August 9 is our community worship service at 10:30am at New Beginnings UMC

JOIN THE COMMUNITY FOR A MORNING OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 @ 10:30AM
NEW BEGINNINGS UMC, SPRING CHURCH
WITH MEMBERS OF UAMA (UNITED APOLLO MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION)
PICNIC & FUN FOLLOWING WORSHIP

BOILING SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

thru Aug. 16 for A-R District

- PENCILS
- PAPER
- ERASERS
- MARKERS
- BACKPACKS
- NOTEBOOKS
- RULERS
- GLUE STICKS
- CRAYONS
- COLORED PENCILS
- BINDERS
- ELMER'S GLUE
- DRY ERASE MARKERS
- CONSTRUCTION PAPER

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT BSPC ON WEDNESDAYS 7:30-8:30PM, SUNDAYS 8:30AM-10AM, THE WEEK OF JULY 13-16 9AM-8PM, OR BY APPT.

Prayer List! How it works: Please list prayer concerns on the back of the attendance card found in your bulletin. We will place these names on our "Immediate" prayer list for three weeks. The *newest names will appear in italics*. On the third week we will **'bold' the name**. The prayers of concern will then move to the "Continuing" list and will remain there three more weeks and then rotate off, unless otherwise requested. If you don't see a name that had previously been there and that person still requires prayer, please list the name again. Also, please list spelling corrections, if needed.

IMMEDIATE *Ron George, family and friends of Gus Couknas, Vicki, Mary Kay, Jean, Becca, Newt, family of Nick, Amy Shupe, Dance Clik Recital ☺, Ronan ☺, Rachel, Dave's return of cancer, family of Linda Rollinson, National Cancer Survivor Day ☺, Dave Kiebler, Joyce Mollick, Bethany, Anthony grad from Annapolis, Melissa, Mac McMunn.*

CONTINUING *Candy George, Kim Liska, Joyce Mollick ☺, Joey 1st Holy Communion, Lois Learn, NC lung cancer victim. Carol Kopnicky and the family of Holly Austin, Scott Hubbard, Quinn, Ron George, Barry Hall, Erica & Melanie, Carol says thanks, Marlene Black & family death of brother, Traveling mercies for Jeff Bush, Kim, Mary Lou Kowalski, Sean engaged ☺, Aubrey, Zach Bush congrats ☺, Laura Antonelli & family.*

ONGOING *Shannan, Nora, Eric Ribar, Missy, Katie, Eddie, Donnie Riggie, 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*



