

THE LISTENING POST

OCTOBER 2025

Pastor Niki's Ponderings



What does it mean to be grateful, to express your gratitude to another?

As we head into the actual fall season, this question comes to my mind ever more frequently. Leaves start turning orange and brown, pumpkins are everywhere, and I question almost daily if it's okay to put away my summer clothes and break out the leggings and cozy sweaters I crave so much. First, I'm grateful that I'm in the position to say I have enough clothing that I can switch things from season to season. And that I have the space in which to store those clothes. But how do I show that? To whom should I be saying "thanks for the blessing of drawers under my bed to store things?"

Maybe it sounds like a trivial thing to ponder, but the topic of gratitude certainly is not. Gratitude is everywhere in scripture. Psalms of thanksgiving, joy at the promises God has made after the flood, the promise of

offspring to Abraham and Sarah fulfilled, and even before the last meal Jesus shares with his disciples, we are told that he gives thanks. The apostle Paul shares his gratitude in each of his letters to churches that have supported him financially and prayerfully. But that doesn't always tell us...what comes after the gratitude?

At the end of October, we'll be starting a season of exploring gratitude and generosity. In worship, we'll hear about the ten lepers who were healed, but only one came back to give thanks to Jesus. We'll learn why contentment with what we have is important for our health. And we'll see what Jesus asks us to do in response to what God has given to us.

Look forward to your November newsletter for helpful tools like a Thankfulness Calendar (for ALL ages), a daily prayer you can use through the month, as well as some other practical ideas. I'm excited to hear what ideas YOU come up with too!

Blessings,
Pastor Niki <><



1. Nathan
3. Pat Kipp
6. Gretchen Kepple
13. Ron Hreha
14. Gabby Beard
15. Annette Lopovsik
17. Harrison Goughenour
20. Jon Smoyer
22. Drew Hreha
23. Carole Kennedy
25. Robert Altmire
28. Chris Hannigan
30. Zachary Hreha

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



All kids are Welcome each Sunday @ 10 AM in our NEW classrooms! Fun is scheduled for both age groups as we learn about love and kindness and how Jesus shows the way. Be kind and ask a friend to join us. We'd love to meet them!

MISSION

**ATTENTION:
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL:
APPLY AT FOOD BANKS, MEALS ON
WHEELS, FOOD 4 KIDS, HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY**

You get the idea!

Local Mission Happenings...

- ✓ 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:

- Oct. 3(Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- Oct. 13 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- Oct. 15 (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

August: Food - 2 families; 4 bags **Financially** - 3 families; \$950 rent **September:** (as of 9/25)

Food - None **Financially** - 1 family; \$275 rent

We are underway and in our 8th year for the Food 4 Kids program. So far we have 55 kids enrolled. Our first packing day was September 24 with 16 volunteers helping and the first distribution to the kids will be Friday, September 26. Our next packing day will be Wednesday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m. Your support is greatly appreciated.



~Candy

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

VIRTUAL CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

October 5th ~ Get sponsors, walk on you own, or just donate! **Clearly marked donations** may be turned in to AUPC office.

WE'RE BACK!

Free Community Program - Everyone Welcome

Friday, Oct. 10,

6:30 PM

KIDS KRAFTS

has a spot for YOU!

2ND Friday, Sept -June

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW Quarterly Meeting –
Saturday, December 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

2025 PW CALENDAR of EVENTS

November 21 & 22 ~ Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 13~Quarterly Mtg. 9:00 am

*Thanks to everyone for helping to make the
Soup & Salad Bar a Success!
We took in over \$600.00*

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of AUGUST 2025

August Income: \$8,964.03

August Expenses: \$8,703.65

August Income to Expenses: \$260.38

YTD Income: \$78,871.13

YTD Expenses: \$95,107.99

YTD Income to Expenses: -\$16,236.86

**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.

RUMMAGE SALE

BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST SALE

WE'VE EVER HAD . . . What a variety of categories from clothing to furniture, health care items to tools, housewares to holiday decorations, and the list goes on! Come see for yourself **FRIDAY, OCT. 10 and/or SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 9AM – 2 PM**

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

Join us in person or livestream on YouTube.



**World Communion Sunday
October 5, 2025**



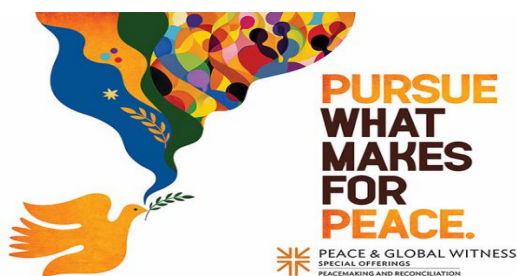
**Acolytes are underway and
are doing a spectacular job!**

**Thank you for your service!
You make the congregation
Smile every Sunday!**

We're Back! Please contact Miss Shelly if you're interested in The Children's Bell Choir.



New members are invited to Wednesday night 6 PM practices in our beautiful chapel. Dates and times will be announced in our weekly bulletins.



Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

- 25% retained by congregations to support peacemaking efforts in their local communities.
- 25% retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts at the regional level.
- 50% supports peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness.

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.

IF WANTING TO ADD NAMES TO THE BELOW LIST DURING THE WEEK, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

IMMEDIATE Sue Ellen and Nick Arnoldy, *Traveling mercies for the Kiski Band, Charlie Kirk family, Ed Brown family, Peace on Earth, Emily, Anne Cloonan, The John Kanish family, Jim Gallagher, Jim, Becky, family of John Ault, thanks from Jerri for the cleaning help, David Churchill, Traveling mercies for Chris & Cassie, Family of Colton, Family of Buddy Riggle, Sr., fire at AUPC.*

CONTINUING Ron & Candy 56th Anniversary, Pat, Jim, Missy, Carol, *Back-to-School kids.* Butch Schrecengost, Victims and families of Clairton US Steel accident, Shirley Dick, Paula Petrulak, Family of Tom Hoffer, Family of Kim McCain, Lenny Shellhammer, Eric. **Lenny, Pastor Phil, Mat Hilty, Michelle, Jim, Carol Kopnick.**

ONGOING

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

