

THE LISTENING POST

SEPTEMBER
2026



Pastor Niki's Ponderings

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

As we move into September, I find myself thinking about these words that make up the mission statement of AUPC.

It is easy to think of a church's mission in terms of everything we do. We worship. We gather for fellowship. We teach. We serve. We feed people. We care for our neighbors. We visit and pray. We welcome people through our doors. All of these things matter.

But the mission of AUPC should also remind us that underneath everything we do is something even more important: love.

Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbor. Simple enough, but also vague and undetermined. How in the world do we

love everyone? And perhaps it is why those last five words of this mission are there: "one person at a time."

We don't have to change the whole world all at once. Sometimes wrapping someone in God's love means noticing the person who is sitting alone. It means making a phone call to someone who hasn't been feeling well. It means welcoming a new face at worship and learning their name. It means listening when someone needs to talk. It means providing a meal, offering a helping hand, praying with someone, or simply reminding another person that they are not alone.

Sometimes we may never know the difference a small act of kindness makes in someone's life. And that is okay.

God has never asked us to measure our faithfulness by how impressive our accomplishments look. Jesus often worked through individual encounters: a Samaritan woman at a well, a tax collector sitting in a tree, a blind man by the roadside, children brought to him. Again and again, Jesus saw the individual person in front of him.

Maybe that is part of what the mission of AUPC can help us do, too.

See the person in front of us. Love the person in front of us. Serve the person in front of us.

There will always be more needs than we can meet. There will always be more people who need help than we have time or resources to help. We cannot do everything. But we can do something. And we can trust that God can take the small things we offer and use them in ways we may never see.

As we begin this fall at Apollo United Presbyterian Church, I hope we will continue asking ourselves a simple question: "How can I wrap this person in God's love today?"

It might happen here at church. It might happen at work, at school, at the grocery store, in our neighborhoods, or around our own kitchen tables.

And perhaps, one person at a time, we will discover that we really can make a difference—not because we have all the answers or because we can fix everything,

but because we are willing to share the love we have first received from God.

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

May those words be more than our mission statement. May they become the way we live.

Pastor Niki <><



6. Cathy Piper-Bikle
7. Ron George
10. Deana Waters
14. Gil Filer
16. Cynthia Bidlak, Lani Knox
19. Shirley Dick, Rylee Hannigan
26. Ashleigh Hannigan
29. Linda Ault
30. Bennett Zukas

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School will resume on Sept. 20 with RALLY-DAY kicking off the 2026-2027 Sunday School year! ALL KIDS WELCOME! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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:

- Sept. 4 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- Sept. 14 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- Sept. 16 (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

Year-to-Date totals through July 2026

Assistance Totals:

17 Families helped with food. 11 helped with utilities, rent, and/or Gasoline certificates, total \$3,118

Have a new neighbor or new baby in the neighborhood



The Mission Ministry Team would like to extend its community outreach by

offering "Welcome" to 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 office hours fluctuate. THANKS!



MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



The Apollo-Ridge Girls Volleyball Team will be having an eat-in or take-out Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at AUPC

on Saturday, Sept. 12, 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Cost: \$10 Dinner includes: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Beverage & Dessert.



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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Quarterly Meeting –
Saturday, September 12 @ 9:30 AM
Saturday, December 12 @ 9:30 AM

2026 Christmas Tea
Friday & Saturday
November 20 & 21



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.

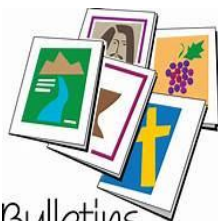
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of JULY 2026



July Income: \$9,099.20
July Expenses: \$11,044.24
July Income to Expenses: \$1,945.04
YTD Income: \$72,709.72
YTD Expenses: \$87,647.26
YTD Income to Expenses: -\$14,937.54

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.



Bulletins

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



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

Communion
Sunday, September 6



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!



THE AUPC BELL CHOIR
WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED
ON SEVERAL SPECIAL
OCCASIONS
THROUGHOUT THE
COMING YEAR.

PRACTICES WILL BE SCHEDULED IN RELATION
TO PERFORMANCES. NEW RINGERS ALWAYS
WELCOME. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CALL
THE OFFICE OR CONTACT MIKE MOLICK.



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.



With more info to follow, here's what's coming up:
 Oct. 4 ~ World Communion Sunday, World Communion Offering, Crop Walk for Hunger. **Oct. 31** (after Session

approval) **Trunk or Treat 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.** November 20 & 21 Annual Christmas Tea, Deck the Halls (volunteers needed). **December Festivities: Sundays of Advent, Christmas Joy Offering, Children's program, Christmas Eve Service and Merry Christmas.**

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 *Candy's 60th class reunion ☺, Ray's son (stroke), Tim and Glenna, Ron & Candy's 57th ☺, family of LaRue, family who lost baby, Mark Gizler, Flood victims, Bill home from hospital, Carol Kopnick, Cailen World Champion, family of Samantha McCutcheon, Bryan Dillick, Mariane Altmeyer, Shannan.*

CONTINUING *Nancy, Scott & Cathy Hubbard, Debi Harker and family on death of her stepfather Don Funk, Luke Kanish, Carol Kopnick, Family of Ashley, Butch and Donna 56th anniversary, 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,*

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



