

THE LISTENING POST

NOVEMBER
2025



Pastor Niki's Ponderings

This past Sunday, I started our mid-fall series entitled "Grateful Hearts, Open Hands." I'm excited about this series for a few reasons. The first is that I get to share the pulpit with other people in our church family. I've asked these individuals to come up and share their own story about how God calls them to be "managers of God's stuff", how they have seen God supply their needs in hard times, the tangible ways in which they have seen God use the giving of others to plant seeds of faith in next generations, and how naming Jesus as King of our lives means that we serve him by serving others. Hearing from those who sit in the pew with us can mean a great deal to people, including me as your pastor. We get to hear about the ways that the Spirit has moved in your life, which can be an encouragement for those listening (that's reason 2!)

There's another reason. You see, I find that it can be hard to be grateful at times. Sure, we thank God for our family, our friends, maybe our home. We have cute little prayers we say at the table for meals. But expressing our gratitude becomes more difficult when we don't see family as often as we'd like, or maybe we don't have much of a family at all, for all kinds of reasons. We feel lonely more than loved. Things in our home keep breaking, and it becomes a nuisance or real financial difficulty to keep up with all the breaking things. Our dollars don't stretch as much as they once did. We start to focus on what we don't have, what we wish we could do, who we wish was still sitting with us. I'll admit, it's been a hard year for me to focus on being grateful for who and what I have. And I know many of you are struggling too. It's hard to express thanks when things aren't going the way we want or need.

I came across a book earlier this year entitled "God's Gift of Generosity," by Karl B. Travis. And early in the book, I read this statement: "Finding cause for gratitude is redemptive because gratitude connects us to the source of all blessing, God. Gratitude...joins us to God's generous heart." (18-19.) I'm learning that expressing gratitude to God isn't JUST about giving thanks or being generous with things like money or time or my gifts or whatever for all that God does for me. All that we have is from God, true. God holds nothing back. But God isn't looking to settle some debt with us; generosity isn't meant to be a transaction between us and God. It's about being transformed by the very idea that God wants us to use all that and to change the world WITH us. Everything we give, everything we share, should lead us to know God more deeply and join WITH God in helping others do that too.

As you can probably gather, there's been a lot of praying and learning and reflection behind the scenes for this series. Each person I asked to share was chosen prayerfully and intentionally. The practices each week, the gratitude calendar in your newsletter and on our social media page, all of it has come out of a lot of heart work. And I pray that all we hear and learn in these next few weeks brings meaning to your hearts as well.

Blessings,
Pastor Niki <><



2. Harper Hanus, Scott Hollabaugh
4. Joey Perona, Ben Smoyer
5. Brian Lopovsik
7. Sam Mullooly
8. Mariana Shurina, Charles Thompson
11. Wendy Travis
12. Miranda Gartley, Cathy Hubbard, Shirley Mumaw
13. Derek Kaminski
14. Tyler Marangoni
16. Fallyn Hannigan
17. Shelly Hilty
18. Amber Hanus
19. Lilly Shupe, Shawne Sosnick
20. Adam Piper
23. Carol Kopnicky
25. Ruth Filer, James Hilty
27. Joanne Hreha
29. Mike Mollick

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



All kids are Welcome each Sunday @ 10 AM in our NEW classrooms! The holidays and Jesus' birthday are right around the corner. Give a friend a special gift – invite them to Sunday School to join us in our happiest of seasons!!

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:

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



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 "New Baby" baskets 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

COMMUNITY COMPASSION



AUPC Emergency Fund

OCTOBER FOOD - 2 families; 4 bags groceries;
1 Naser voucher

OCTOBER FINANCIAL - 2 families; Utilities for
total of \$387.20



We have 56 kids enrolled in Food 4 Kids so far. It was decided to give additional enrollment forms out to Pre-K thru third grade to make parents aware that they can still enroll their children if necessary. Our next packing day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4.



~Candy

Christmas Concert benefiting Food 4 Kids will be held at Apollo United on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 PM, Free Will Offering. See more info on last page.



Beginning October 26 through November 30, we will be accepting donations for the Apollo Area Food Bank's Annual Christmas Turkey Drive. A \$20

donation will buy a nice-sized turkey for a family in need. A donated Christmas Turkey also serves two purposes: Giving someone a Merry Christmas meal and feeding your joyful heart!

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



Next Reception will be Sunday, October 12

WE'RE BACK!

Free Community Program

- Everyone Welcome

Friday, Nov. 14,

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

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



Bulletins

used to defray copying costs of our weekly bulletin.

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



Much hard work has paid off!!

Thanks to Rummage Sale Chair Person Bill
Speer, those who set up, donated items,
manned the kitchen, made the food and
baked goods, sorted tons of items, and then
did it all in reverse –

**All efforts and donations brought in over
\$3,200 for our General Fund.**

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

Join us in person or
livestream on YouTube.



**World Communion Sunday
November 2, 2025**



**OUR SAINTS who have returned home
to the CHURCH TRIUMPHANT.**

LaRue Mumaw ~ December 22, 2024
John Robert "Bob" Reed ~ June 21, 2025

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### **RECOGNITION OF OUR LONG-TERM MEMBERS**

Frank "Nick" Arnoldy ~ 74 Years  
Nancy Reynolds ~ 86 Years



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

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



Children's Bell Choir



**We're Back!**

Please contact Miss Shelly if you're  
interested in The Children's Bell Choir

**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** *Kim, Ashley & Ben, Ronan, Luke, new baby ☺, Melinda, Shannan K., Elaine Newton, Eddie, Ed Bortz, Knox Kanish, Debbie, Vinny, Chynna Finoli and CJ Williams, \*JOY for Missy.*

**CONTINUING** *Denny Travis, Pastor Jodon, 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, Family of Colton, Family of Buddy Riggle, Sr., fire at AUPC.*

**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



## Christmas Tea 2025

**Tickets are still available for Saturday's, Nov. 22 Tea.**  
We are pleased to announce that the Friday Tea has been **SOLD OUT!!**

**Tickets will continue to be sold at the church on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 AM – noon. \$25**





**THE KISKI VALLEY  
COMMUNITY BAND**



**ALONG WITH THE  
APOLLO UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IS PRESENTING A **FREE**  
VETERAN'S TRIBUTE  
CONCERT, **FRIDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 14, AT 7:00 PM****

**APOLLO UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN  
401 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, APOLLO  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!****

**DURING THE CONCERT  
YOU WILL HAVE AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
DONATE  
TO A FREE-WILL  
OFFERING BENEFITING  
THE  
APOLLO LION'S CLUB  
ANNUAL VETERAN'S  
DINNER.**

# Christmas Concert

Get into the Christmas Spirit AND support a great cause! All proceeds to benefit the Food4Kids program in the Apollo-Ridge School District.



**Dec. 6**

- LIVE MUSIC BY CHAD TOLAND
- BASKET RAFFLE
- 50/50 RAFFLE

Contact below for  
tickets

Apollo United PC  
401 First St.  
M-F 9am-2pm  
724-478-4807

Indigo Market  
2107 River Rd.  
Sun-Sat 7am-2pm  
724-596-1007

**Apollo United Presbyterian Church  
401 First St. Apollo**

A Love Offering will be taken for our musician  
and Food4Kids.

Contact below for  
tickets

Quality Life Services  
151 Good View Dr.  
M-F 8am-4:30pm  
724-727-3451

Boiling Springs PC  
1668 PA-56  
Tues/Thur 3pm-6pm  
724-478-1523

