

THE LISTENING POST

MAY 2025

Pastor Niki's Ponderings



Spring is my favorite season of the entire year (and not just because I'm a May baby!) As the days grow longer and the earth awakens in a burst of color, we are reminded that spring is a season of renewal, promise, and hope. The daffodils bloom, the trees bud, and the birds return with their cheerful songs—all of creation seems to join in a joyful chorus declaring, "He makes all things new!" (Revelation 21:5). It's a beauty to behold (even if I need to double up on my Zyrtec to truly enjoy it!)

Just as nature is being refreshed, so too are we called to renew our hearts and lives in Christ. Spring invites us to step outside, to breathe deeply, and to reflect on the ways God is working in and around us. It's a perfect season to let go of the things that weigh us down and embrace the new

beginnings God offers and to be reminded of the blessings we share as a church family.

Here at Apollo United Presbyterian Church, we're embracing the energy and joy of spring with creativity and love. I am personally energized by the conversations amongst our elders and teams about finding ways to be a part of our community, from participating in the parade fun on July 5 in Apollo for Independence Day weekend, and planning a big Christmas concert outreach with our partners in ministry at Boiling Springs Presbyterian Church in December. We're also continuing to be in ministry and worship God alongside others, like our upcoming Presbyterian Heritage Sunday on May 18th with BSPC, our ever-exciting Apollo Community VBS on July 7-10, and the second annual Apollo Ministerium Community Worship Service & Picnic on August 10th at New Beginnings UMC. Each Sunday, I am overjoyed to see the faces of God's children, of all ages, excited to see one another and finding ways to help each other grow in faith and love. From community events and fellowship opportunities to worship services and mission outreach, we have so much to look forward to in the seasons ahead.

Let us enter this season with hearts open to growth, creativity, and love. May we be rooted in faith, blossoming with kindness, and always reaching toward the light of Christ. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Wishing you a joyful and hope-filled spring!
Pastor



2. Shannon Pruss
4. Shannon Ebner, Kaitlin Thompson
5. Pastor Niki
9. Amy Zukas
14. Lindsay Coulter
16. Kathy Heller
18. Caleb Flickinger, David Truffa
20. Nancy Curci
23. Charise Varga
21. Rose Bush, Braden Chetsko, Nancy Joyce
22. Barb Hurley

Performances (generally) the last Sunday of each month!

SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR~END CELEBRATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nursery is available to parents. Young children may attend during worship.

The nursery is available to parents, if needed, and the PrayGround will be open for little ones or those needing a break

from

the pew.

Please feel free to take advantage of these spaces while Sunday School is dismissed for the Summer.

Thank You.

Celebrating a Great Year



MISSION

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:

- May 2 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- May 12 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- May 14 (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

March: Food – 1 family, 3 bags food, 2 Naser vouchers
Financial – 3 families, \$555 Rent; \$1,000 Purchased 8 can openers for the pantry with a \$10 anonymous donation.

We now have 76 kids enrolled. Our next packing day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23. Only two more packing days left in this school year. Reminders for packing days will be on the monthly calendars which can be found on our website www.apollopresby.org

We are pleased to announce that Food 4 Kids has received another blessing from the SW PA Lutheran Synod, via the Ethyl Verney Grant program. The grant is for \$9,950 and will be

distributed quarterly to Food 4 Kids. This is the second time the SW PA Lutheran Synod has so generously responded to the needs of this “back pack” program which provides food for elementary students on weekends during the school year. (This volunteer program has no administrative costs. All donations are used for program supplies.)

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



**Free Community Program -
 Everyone Welcome
 Friday, April 11,
 6:30 PM
 KIDS KRAFTS
 has a spot for YOU!
 2ND Friday, Sept - June**

Graduate Sunday is just around the corner. If you are associated with anyone graduating this year and would like to have them recognized on Graduate Sunday, please call the office with their name and from where they are graduating. We'd love to honor them!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW Quarterly Meeting –
 Saturday, June 14 @ 9 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

Friday, May 9 ~ Spring Salad Bar
Saturday, May 17 ~ Secret Sisters Luncheon
Saturday, June 14 ~ Quarterly Mtg. 9 am
Friday, September 12 ~ Fall Salad Bar
Saturday, September 13 ~ Quarterly Mtg. 9 am
November 21 & 22 ~ Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 13 ~ Quarterly Mtg. 9 am

SANDWICH & SALAD BAR



**PW Annual Spring
Sandwich & Salad
Bar**

**Friday, May 9
11 AM – 1:30 PM**

**\$9 PER PERSON INCLUDES
SANDWICHES, SALADS,
DESSERTS & BEVERAGES.**

BEST LUNCH IN THE VALLEY!

"Save the Date!" — The 2025 Secret Sisters Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 17th at Falsetti's Villa Restaurant in Cadogan, PA at 11:30

AM. All women of the church, member or non-member, are invited to become a Secret Sister for a one-year term. Those that are currently "Sisters", and those who wish to become a "Sister" for the coming year, are encouraged to attend the luncheon. The purpose of a Secret Sister is to communicate, support and encourage the chosen Sister throughout the year by sending cards, and occasionally, if desired, giving a small gift for special occasions. In addition, the most important job is to keep that Sister in your daily prayers. We also exchange small gifts at the end-of-the-year luncheon.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of MARCH 2025

March Income: \$9,556.70
March Expenses: \$17,287.26
March Income to Expenses: \$-7,730.56

YTD Income: \$32,431.13
YTD Expenses: \$43,308.57
YTD Income to Expenses: -\$10,877.44

***Don't forget .
. You may
purchase a
bulletin , 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 bulletins.***

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM
Join us in person or
livestream on YouTube.



Sunday, May 4

DID YOU KNOW? There is a 'Prayer Request Box' located in the upper parking lot of our church. Request forms are located in a container just below the box. If you know someone who needs prayer, just fill out the little form, lift the lid of the box and insert. A member of the Mission Team checks the box weekly and will include your prayer request at Worship the next Sunday.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God—that if we ask anything, according to His will, He hears us.'
1 John 5:14

Beginning Friday, May 30, the office will be closed on Fridays through Labor Day weekend. Summer office hours for the public will be Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

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 *Gary Harkcom, Barb Hurley & Missy, Peggy's sister, Butch's surgery April 22, Dale Piffer family, Todd, Dave, Martha Jane Wilkinson, Pat Jackson, Curt, Denny, Pat's friend is grandfather, SE Asia earthquake victims, Christine's knee replacement, Karen's brother Gary, Sara Kerr, Pastor Niki's stepdad in remission ☺.*

CONTINUING *Butch, Butch & Donna's son Dwayne, Bruce for healing, welcome back Ron ☺, Krystle's safe travels ☺, Pastor Niki's deer encounter.*
Alan Shockey, Carole Kennedy (home), Niki's brother & sister-in-laws wedding☺, Pize, Carol Kopnick, **Frank Flickinger, Natalie.**

ONGOING Missy, Katie, Bob Reed, 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.

