

**APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22, 2024**

**11:00 a.m.**

**We Gather in God's Name**

**PRELUDE** "Come Again, Emmanuel" arr. P.M. Liebergen

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**ADVENT READING and LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE**

The Hanus Family: Josh, Amber, Hunter, Gunner and Harper

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.**

One: Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

**All: May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone. May the truth in these lights help us begin again.**

One: May it be so! Amen.

**HYMN #85 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Carl Zukas

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, You paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion

lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*GLORIA PATRI #581**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**We Listen to God's Word**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

NT p. 1

**MOMENT OF WORD AND WONDER**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 1:46-55**

NT p. 57

**SERMON**

**"Hope Is Worth the Risk"**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare:  
"My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*HYMN #100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER P. 35

INVITATION TO OFFER OURSELVES IN MINISTRY

Offertory "Why Was He Born in a Stable?" M.W. Posegate  
Doxology p. 606

Prayers of Gratitude for God's Abundance

**We Go Forth to Serve**

\*HYMN #88 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

\*CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE "Sing We Now of Christmas" N. Cain

\*Please stand in body or spirit

**ACOLYTE TODAY: GAVIN MOTOSICKY**

PLEASE GET A NAME TAG FROM THE VESTIBULE.  
It will help our visitors know who we are and  
we will also know our visitors by name.

*Wrapping our community in God's love, one person at a time.  
We believe that we are all ministers supported by:*  
Rev. Niki Atkinson – Office Hours Wed. & Fri. 9:30-4:00

Please call for appointments.

E-mail [pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net)

Amy Shupe, Organist; Joel Varga, Assistant Organist

Zach Bush, Trumpeter Sam Mullooly, Trombonist

Linda Truffa, Office Administrator

Dan Tomlinson, Custodian

Church Address: 401 First Street, Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

Church Phone: 724-478-4807 Fax: 724-478-2708

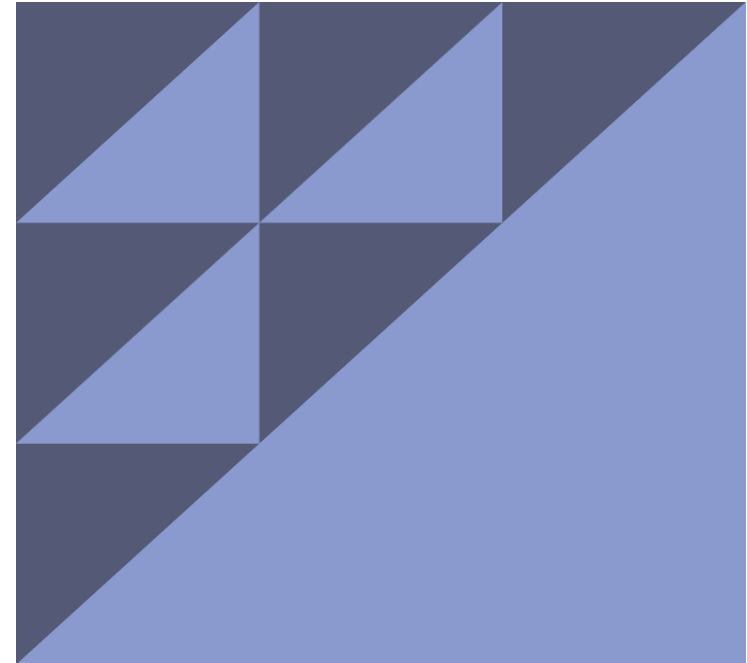
Website: [www.apollopresby.org](http://www.apollopresby.org) E-mail [office@aupc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@aupc.comcastbiz.net)

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday – 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM



**FOR THE BEGINNING**

— HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK —



This traditional quilt square design is called "birds in the air." Sometimes when we take a risk, hope takes flight. At times it may feel like you're falling, but you'll find that, in God's embrace, you are flying.

## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Ron, Candy, Sean, Chris & Cassie George  
Barry and Glenna Hall  
Faith Friend: Darla Tamski  
Our Church: Session  
Church(s): Allegheny Church Moderator: Jeri-Lynne Bouterse  
Presbytery: Northern Plains (Synod of Lakes & Prairies)  
Denomination: Hungarian Reformed Church in America  
Nation: Cameroon - Yaounde

**IMMEDIATE** Most profitable Christmas Tea to date ☺, 3 yr old Nora, Tim Kanish, Joy: Concordia Faith Friends doing well ☺, Pastor Niki's step-dad Dave, Connie Kepple, Bev Blystone, **Families of house fires, Betty Bateman, Katie.**

**CONTINUING** Jennie Baustert family, Steve Pavetti family, Adam Greece family, traveling mercies for Melissa & family .Ann Cloonan, Nancy, Missy "Hurley", LaRue Mumaw, Jerry Travis family, **Carwile's nephew Liam, Jordan, Ron George. Veterans, John ☺.**

**ONGOING** Bob Reed, Donnie Riggle, Gary Harkcom, Donna Fry, Bill & Linda Crabtree, Frank Kovak, Josh Hanus, Shannon Pruss, LaRue Mumaw, 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 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 Joe Biden, 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.

Get your tissue paper ready and wrap up some boys and girls under ware, socks, T-shirts, sweatpants etc. Anything that the school nurse at Apollo Elementary School would need to make a little one's day a little easier after a romp in the rain, or a slide in the mud, or a bathroom or illness emergency. These items, when appropriate, would allow a child to continue his/her school day or travel home clean and dry. **White gifts may be placed in the vestibule and will be collected through Epiphany Sun.**



A Christmas gift has been received from Gene and June Bieego In Memory of June's mother, **Louise Montali**. Philip and Kimberly Protheroe has sent a gift In Memory of Tom Orr and Jacob Dunmirz.

## December 22, 2024 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>SUNDAY</u>	Worship, Youth Sunday School	<b>11:00AM</b>
<u>TUESDAY</u>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<u>SUNDAY</u>	Worship, Youth Sunday School	<b>11:00 AM</b>

The office will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 2.



We're hoping you'll help decorate our special tree. Again this year, AUPC will be giving the gift of warmth to Apollo-Ridge students. Mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves will help warm not only the body but the hearts of many. Donations will be taken to the Apollo-Ridge school nurse on

January 11. We hope to be sharing the warmth with boys and girls of all ages and sizes. Your gifts will be warmly appreciated ☺. Thanks!

## SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS

December 29 ~ Shelly Hilty & Laura Uncapher  
January 5 ~ Amy Shupe & Derek Hilty



**FIRST  
WEEK OF  
FEBRUARY**

