

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Third Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Play

December 15, 2024

11:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "Some Children See Him" arr. J.M. Martin

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

ADVENT READING and LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

The Kanish Family: Glenna, Knox and Lennon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

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

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

One: May it be so! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Chapel Bells

CALL TO CONFESSION Mike Mollick

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make

a difference. I ask myself, *What could these two hands do? What could this one voice say?* Shake me free of my own self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI #581

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3:7-16 NT p. 60

PREACHING OF THE WORD Children's Christmas Play
"JUST A LITTLE CHRISTMAS"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Located beneath Weekly Prayer Concerns

We Respond to God's Word

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

INVITATION TO OFFER OURSELVES IN MINISTRY

Offertory "Come Into the Stable" J. Although
Doxology p. 606

Prayers of Gratitude for God's Abundance

We Go Forth to Serve

*HYMN #109 "Blest Be the God of Israel"

*CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE "Forest Green" arr. D. Wood

*Please stand in body or spirit

ACOLYTE TODAY: AVERY ZUKAS

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

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 E-mail office@aupc.comcastbiz.net

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



“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

*Liturgy for this series is adapted from materials written by
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org*

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: John Fouse and Kathy Wilson
Amber, Josh, Miranda and Riley Gartley
Faith Friend: Pat Sharrar
Our Church: Presbyterian Women
Church(s): Clinton Church Moderator: Adam Clever
Presbytery: Northern Plains (Synod of Lakes & Prairies)
Denomination: Hungarian Reformed Church in America
Nation: Cameroon - Yaounde

IMMEDIATE *Connie Kepple, Bev Blystone, Families of house fires, Betty Bateman, Katie, Jennie Baustert family, Steve Pavetti family, Adam Greece family, traveling mercies for Melissa & family.*

CONTINUING *Ann Cloonan, Nancy, Missy "Hurley", LaRue Mumaw, Jerry Travis family, Carwile's nephew Liam, Jordan, Ron George. Veterans, John ☺. Bill Toland family, Jess Carwile ☺, Lisa B. ☺, Jim Eckenrod, Nancy, Pastor Niki's step-father Dave.*

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.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?" Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

**All: In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:
Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.
Instead, hold fast to hope. Roll up your sleeves.
Feed the hungry. Tend the garden. If you have two coats,
give one away. Do the good that is yours to do.
In doing so, you will see God. For this we believe: small
acts of love can make a difference.
Amen.**



Today's bulletin has been given In Memory of the shared December 16th birthdays of Caleb Altmire and Harry Bush from Kim and Rose Bush.

December 15, 2024 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<u>SUNDAY</u>	Worship, Youth Sunday School	11:00AM
	Children's Christmas Play & Reception	
<u>MONDAY</u>	Eastern Star Banquet downstairs	5 - 7 PM
<u>TU-WED-TH</u>	Dance Clik downstairs	Evening
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	SESSION	7:00 PM
<u>FRIDAY</u>	Office Closed	
<u>SUNDAY</u>	Worship, Youth Sunday School	11:00 AM



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 15 ~ Bill Speer & Derek Hilty

COMING UP:

TODAY Dec. 15 ~ Kids Christmas Play & Reception
Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Service ~ 7:30 PM

Thank You

We couldn't have done it
without you!

*Miss Shelly, Laura Uncapher,
Glenna Kanish, Laura
Antonelli, Amy Shupe, all of
our parents and families, and
YOU, for supporting
all that we do!*

We Wish You a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!



"Just a Little
Christmas"

Children's
Program



Just A Little Christmas

Narrator 1: Hayden Brooks

Narrator 2: Willow Torres

Narrator 3: Knox Kanish

Narrator 4: Claire Brooks

Narrator 5: Avery Zukas

Mary: Isabella Hall

Joseph: Preston Ribar

Angel 1: Lennon Kanish

Angel 2: Claire Brooks

Shepherd: Adelynn Carwile

Sheep: Sophia Pityk

Angel 3: Avery Zukas

Wisemen: Gavin Motosicky,

Edward Hall, Willow Torres

King Herod: Knox Kanish

Angel 4: Devini Grant

Angel 5: Claire Carwile

Roman Soldiers: Caleb Flickinger

and Emery Brooks

Cow: Aurora Torres

Cat: Natalie Uncapher

Donkey: Mia Uncapher

We need “just a little help” with “JUST A LITTLE CHRISTMAS.” **The children will sing the first verse of the hymns** and we’d like the congregation to join in singing the second and third verses with the children.

AWAY IN A MANGER

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay

2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus. Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven, to live with Thee there. +

SILENT NIGHT

*Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

2. Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

3. Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

