

# APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Epiphany Sunday ~ Communion

January 5, 2025

11:00 a.m.

## We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "Come, All Ye Shepherds" E. Butler

### WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN #134 "Joy to the World" v. 1

### BIRTHDAYS

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

One: How did you get here?

*Right Side: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.*

*Left Side: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.*

*Right side: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.*

*Left side: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.*

**All: I crawled, kissing the earth below me.**

One: Tell me again. How did you get here?

**All: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.**

One: Welcome home. This is God's house. There is room for you here.

**All: Let us worship our gracious God.**

\*HYMN #150 "As With Gladness Men of Old"

CALL TO CONFESSION Jerri Mollick

#### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are

days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

#### \* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (*responsively*)

One: Dear travelers, no matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside of God's love. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**All: Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

\*GLORIA PATRI #581

#### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### We Listen to God's Word

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

#### MOMENT OF WORD & WONDER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 43:16-21

PREACHING OF THE WORD "The Road Isn't Straight"

### We Respond to God's Word

\*HYMN #151 "We Three Kings"

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a with-us God, a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through every bump and turn. And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot always see: a path home by another way. Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes. We look for God's fingerprints in the world.

We trust that there are paths still unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down. And like the Magi, we dare to follow. May it be so, Amen.

**Invitation to Offer Ourselves in Ministry**

**Offertory "The Little Drummer Boy"** arr. C. Tornquist

**\*Doxology #606**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Insert*

**We Go Forth to Serve**

**\*HYMN #136**

**"Go! Tell it on the Mountain!"**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE "O Little Town of Bethlehem"** H.S. Livingston, Jr.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

**ACOLYTE TODAY: AVERY ZUKAS**

*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**

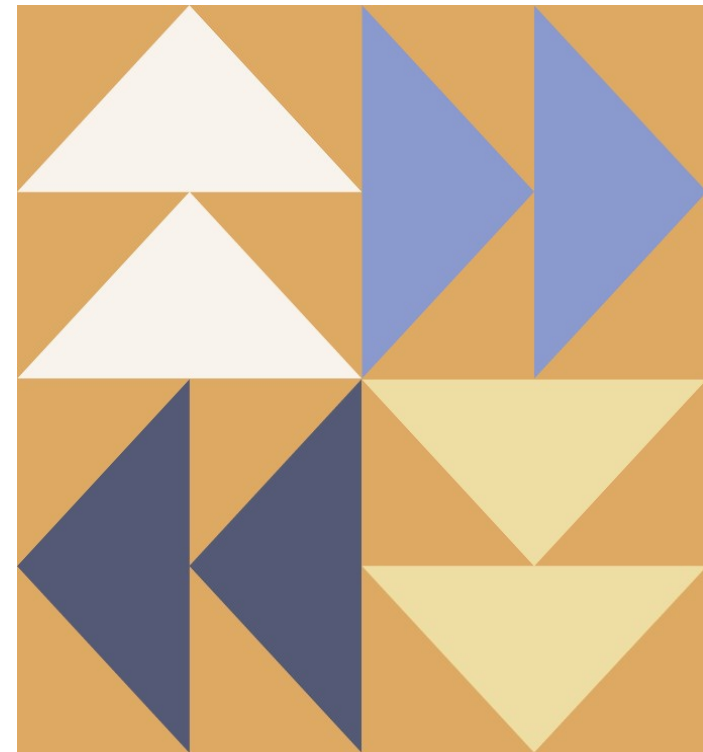
**Website: [www.apollopresby.org](http://www.apollopresby.org) E-mail [office@aupc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@aupc.comcastbiz.net)**

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



**FOR THE BEGINNING**

**— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —**



The triangles in this quilt square point in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to light our way.

## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Josh, Amber, Hunter, Gunner and Harper Hanus  
Kathy Heller  
Faith Friend: Nick and Sue Arnoldy  
Our Church: Pastor Niki  
Church(s): Kiskiminetas Presbytery Office and Staff  
Presbytery: Northern Waters (Synod of Lakes & Prairies)  
Denomination: International Council of Community Churches  
Nation: Cape Verde - Praia

**IMMEDIATE** Ron's surgery, LaRue Mumaw family, Jordan, Caitlyn, Joe Mazur, Joyce M. traveling mercies, Wesson, 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.**



## January 5, 2025 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

|                 |                              |                 |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>SUNDAY</u>   | Worship, Youth Sunday School | <b>11:00AM</b>  |
| <u>THURSDAY</u> | <b>Ministry Team</b>         | <b>9:30 AM</b>  |
| <u>FRIDAY</u>   | Kid's Krafts                 | <b>6:30 PM</b>  |
| <u>SUNDAY</u>   | Worship, Youth Sunday School | <b>11:00 AM</b> |



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

January 5 ~ Amy Shupe & Derek Hilty

January 12 ~ Bill Speer & \_\_\_\_\_

January 19 ~ Amy Zukas & \_\_\_\_\_



### FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY

**ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRPERSONS: PLEASE SEND ELECTRONICALLY YOUR END-OF-YEAR REPORTS TO THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, 1/24. ALL REPORTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CONGREGATION/CORPORATION FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING. PACKETS. THANK YOU.**



## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

**PASTORAL and LORD'S PRAYER**

**WORDS of INSTITUTION**

**SHARING of the BREAD and the CUP**

**PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (unison)**

**May the cup and loaf continue to nourish us as we go forward into this new year. May the light of the first Epiphany lead us in faith, truth, and courage as we continue to follow you in the world. May our lives bring you glory as they guide others to you. Amen.**

