

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

5th Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

11:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "The Living Bread" R. Blake

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Jerrilyn Mollick

JOYS AND CONCERNS

BIRTHDAYS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

All: we were like those who dreamed.

One: Our mouths were filled with laughter,

All: our tongues with songs of joy.

One: It was said among the nations,

All: The Lord has done great things for them.

One: The Lord has done great things for us,

All: and we are filled with joy.

*** HYMN #714 "God of the Fertile Fields"**

CALL TO CONFESSION Kathy Wilson

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Ever-Present God, you offer us restoration and wholeness, yet we resist you. We reduce the purpose of this life to the amount of stuff we can retain, and we disregard the damage done to our planet, our neighbors, and to ourselves in the process. We confess that we would rather remain as we are than risk the change that results from your presence in our lives. In this season of Lent, help us to realize just how much we depend on one another. Guide us to reorient our lives towards your goodness

and your joy. And as you do, we ask that you renew us, restore us, and remain with us, as you always have.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROPHETIC LESSON Isaiah 43:16-21 OT p. 672

MOMENT OF WORD AND WONDER

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:1, 3-9, 18-23 NT p. 13

PREACHING OF THE WORD "Cultivate"

We Respond to God's Word

*** HYMN #531 "Seed, Scattered and Sown"**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

Invitation to Offer Ourselves in Ministry

Offertory "God Who Made the Earth and Heaven" P.L. Harris

*Doxology #606

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion (unison)

Giving God, living Lord, you have fed us with your body.
You have poured out your life that we might live. We thank
you, for we have tasted your goodness in this meal. Fed,
we are strengthened; filled, we are renewed to share the
abundance of your love with a hungry world. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN #457 "How Happy Are the Saints of God"

* CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE "My Faith in Thee is Sure" J.S. Bach

*Please stand in body or spirit

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 Tues. & Wed. 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

Jerrilyn Mollick, Custodian

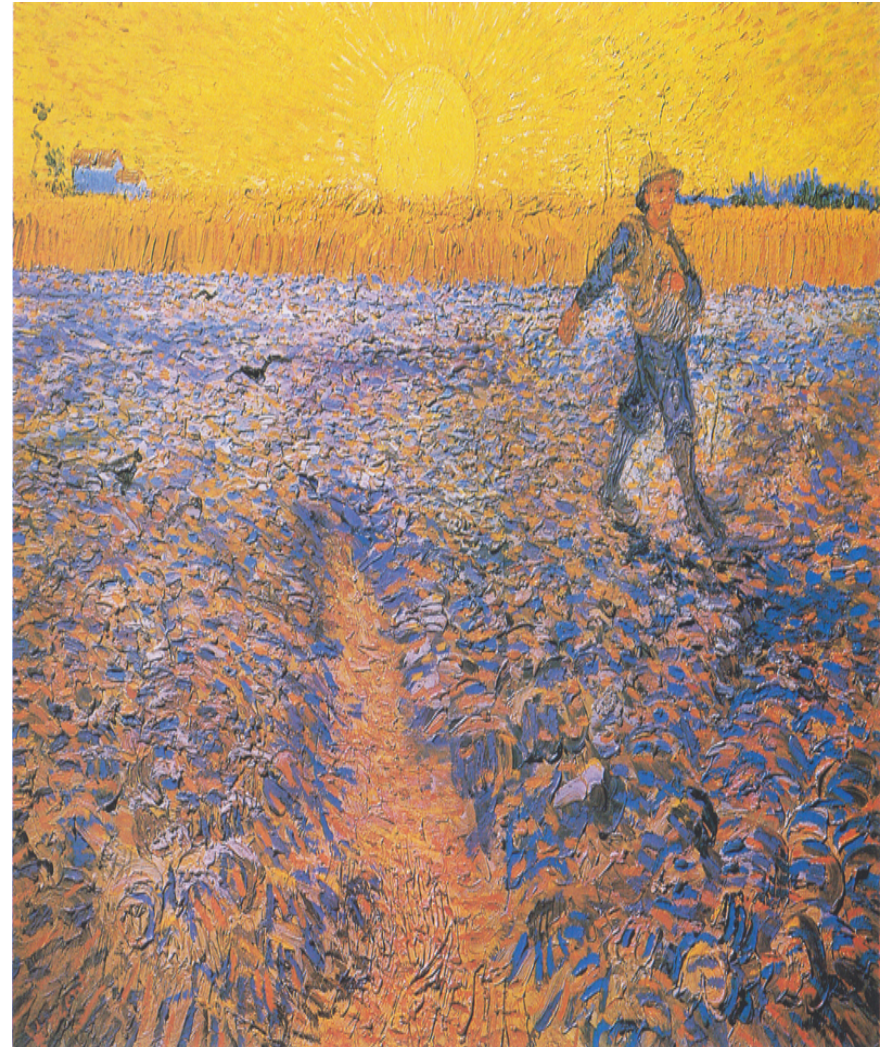
Church Address: 401 First Street, Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

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

Website: www.apollopresby.org E-mail office@aupc.comcastbiz.net

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

ACOLYTE TODAY: ALEX KAMINSKI



Sower at Sunset

c. 1888

Vincent Van Gogh, 1853-1890

Kroller-Muller Museum

Otterlo, Netherlands

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57797>

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Joan Orr
 Rich and Marcie Painter

Faith Friend: Nancy Reynolds

Our Church: Session
 The Churches of the Kiskiminetas Presbytery

Presbytery: East Tennessee (Synod of Living Waters)

Denomination: United Methodist Church

Nation: The Gambia - Banjul

IMMEDIATE *Todd, Dave, Martha Jane Wildinson, 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 step-dad in remission ☺, Butch, Butch & Donna's son Dwayne, Bruce for healing, welcome back Ron ☺, Krystle's safe travels ☺, Pastor Niki's deer encounter.*

CONTINUING *Alan Shockey, Carole Kennedy (home), Niki's brother & sister-in-laws wedding☺, Pize, Carol Kopnick, Frank Flickinger, Natalie, The family of Donna Fry, Families of health care workers at UPMC York, Eric.*

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.*

SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS

April 6 ~ Derek Hilty & Glenna Kanish
April 13 ~ Glenna Kanish & Amy Shupe
April 20 ~ Pam McMunn & Laura Uncapher

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!

April 6, 2025 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY Worship, Youth Sunday School **11:00AM**

TUESDAY **Ministry Team** **1:00 PM**
Mission Team **6:00 PM**

WEDNESDAY Lenten Service & Luncheon **12:00 PM**
 at Quality Life Services

FRIDAY Kids Krafts **6:30 PM**

SATURDAY Easter Egg Hunt @ Quality Life Serv. **10:00 AM**

SUNDAY Worship, Youth Sunday School **11:00AM**
 Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday Service @ BSPC, April 17, at 7 PM

Palm Sunday ~ April 13 at 11 AM

Easter Sunday ~ Communion

April 20 at 11 AM

Beneath the Bulletin Board in the Vestibule:

***APRIL NEWSLETTERS w/CALENDAR**

"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. More info to come in May about the annual luncheon.

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”... Matthew
28:19**

On Sunday, April 27, we will be welcoming a speaker from Gideons International. All loose offerings will be donated to the organization. *We hope you will be generously share with this historic Christian organization. Your donation will assist the Gideons to reach those who are lost and in need by spreading The Good News both personally and in print.*

Thank You.

**Sunday, April 27, We Welcome to the Pulpit
Rev. Liddy Gerchman Barlow.**

The Rev. Liddy Barlow is a creative and passionate servant of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church in all its complicated diversity. She works to bring Christians of all traditions together to make visible our true unity as the Body of Christ.

In April 2014, Rev. Barlow became the first woman to be installed as Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. She reports to the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives, who represent 28 Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox church bodies throughout greater Pittsburgh. As Executive Minister, Rev. Barlow sets a vision for Christian Associates and manages all of the organization's projects and relationships.

Rev. Barlow is ordained in the United Church of Christ, and is a member of the national Manual on Church working group and the state-wide Keystone Working Group.

Rev. Barlow grew up in Keene, New Hampshire and attended Mount Holyoke College. After teaching sixth grade in Rocky Mount, North Carolina with the Teach for America program, she earned a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School. Prior to her ministry at Christian Associates, Rev. Barlow served congregations in downtown Pittsburgh and North Huntingdon. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Gregory, a robotics entrepreneur, and their two children.

AUPC FINANCIAL UPDATE—

I would like to keep you all apprised on the financial status at AUPC. Last Wednesday, the Session approved the following critical building maintenance updates: \$39,600 for the purchase of two new boilers for the Education Building, \$5,774 for ceiling replacements in two rooms in the sanctuary building, and \$3,200 for painting in those two rooms (later lowered to \$3,000). Because our Building Fund balance was approximately \$27,000, we voted to close two \$11,000 c.d.'s (at penalty) to come up with the difference. This leaves our Building Fund at a near \$0 balance. Another much-needed project for the near future is repairing the steps to the upper parking lot. The Building and Grounds Team is currently getting bids for that project.

PW voted on Sunday, March 23, to donate \$3,000 to the Building Fund, and our spaghetti dinner grossed \$1,371.25 towards that fund as well. Many thanks to those who organized and worked at the dinner, and to the very active women's organization for stepping up to the plate! We ARE blessed that we had savings to complete these projects. God is good!

I also have to let you know that we are showing a shortage each month with income vs. expenses. That shortage at the end of February was \$3,222.10, year-to-date. Of course, our utility bills are killing us during the winter months, and we should see some relief with the Spring weather.

We would like you to consider making a donation to our Building Fund to shore up that Fund, and to consider a small increase in your regular giving as you are able.

- ♥ **Malachi 3:10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."**

We are so blessed to have a wonderful, compassionate congregation and a beautiful sanctuary and education building, and to continue to reach out into the community and the world to support our mission statement-- "Wrapping our community in God's love, one person at a time." Thank you, dear friends!

Amy Shupe,
Treasurer

Lent Opportunities

apollopresby.org

Apollo United Presbyterian Church

401 First St., Apollo



ASH
WEDNESDAY*

March 5

Joint worship
w/Boiling
Springs PC

7:00 pm
Worship

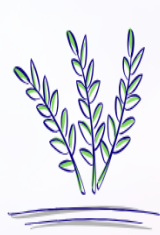
*Communion will be
served
ALL are welcome



EASTER EGG
HUNT

April 5
2:00pm -
4:00pm

All ages are
welcome to
attend



PALM
SUNDAY

April 13
11:00 am

Service will be
streamed
youtube.com/
@apollopresby



MAUNDY
THURSDAY*

April 17
7:00pm

Joint Worship
AT Boiling
Springs PC

*Communion will be
served
ALL are welcome



EASTER
SUNDAY*

April 20
11:00 am

Service will be
streamed
youtube.com/
@apollopresby

*Communion will be
served
ALL are welcome

Lenten Worship & Luncheons

brought to you by the members of the Apollo Ministerium



March 12
12:00pm

First Lutheran
Church
214 N.
Pennsylvania
Ave.
w/Rev. T.J.
Lucas of
Quality Life
Services



March 19
12:00pm

Spring Church
Lutheran
3623
Lutheran
Church Road
w/Rev. Niki
Atkinson of
Apollo &
Boiling Springs
Presbyterian
Churches



March 26
12:00pm

New
Beginnings
UMC
210 Rainbow
Lake Road
w/Rev. Phil
Ramstad of
First Lutheran
Church



April 2
12:00pm

Apollo United
Presbyterian
401 First St.
w/Rev. June
Jeffries of New
Life Baptist
Church



April 9
12:00pm

Quality Life
Services
153 Goodview
Drive
w/Pastor
Erika
Rabickow of
Apollo Free
Methodist
Church





