

THE LISTENING POST

J U N E 2 0 2 4



As I write this, we are in the middle of the week before Memorial Day weekend, the “unofficial” start to the summer season. It’s hot and sticky and sunny. I know summer has an official date on the calendar, but wow. I think we’re there already.

I used to lament some of the summer season, particularly when I worked as a youth minister. Ministering to an affluent population, I had families who would stay at their lake cabins most of the summer, youth who went off to various camps, or just multiple vacations throughout the season with family and friends. It was a bummer to me because I would miss those families and our interactions.

As I’ve gotten older, I have realized that not only are there ways to stay connected (text messages, phone calls, fun cards, etc.), but I also more easily recognize the need for rest and connection amongst those we love. And sometimes, that happens more easily during a

time of relaxation, ease, even lackadaisicalness.

There are numerous times in scripture in which we see that rest is essential. Jesus often went off by himself to rest and to pray (Mark 1, Luke 5, Matthew 14, for examples). When the prophet Elijah was on the run for his life and depressed, the Lord God reminded him to have a snack, drink some water, and take a nap (1 Kings 19). We often forget that taking time to rest is one of the ten commandments given by God to the people of Israel (Exodus 20.) I would encourage you to even read about rest and the celebration of Jubilee in the book of Leviticus. Rest is paramount to our mental and physical health, as well as our spiritual health.

However, connection remains important too. And so when we take our times away during the summer to rest, how are we continuing to remain connected to one another, as well as to our Triune God? Phone calls and texts and visits and cards are great. But let’s try a fun practice too, shall we?

During worship on Sunday, June 2nd (our next communion Sunday), each family will receive a small Jesus figure. Imagine him to be a representative of our church family, if you will. During your summer travels, activities, or lazing abouts, you are encouraged to take a photo of your “Jesus-With-Me” and send an email to the church office or text it to Pastor Niki to be shared on our social media pages throughout the summer. We’ll also keep track on one of our church bulletin boards to see all of the great places that you bring Mini Jesus to this summer. Allow your Mini Jesus to be your reminder that your church family is praying for you, and that the Holy Spirit is always with you. Let’s have fun and a wonderful summer season, no matter when it starts and ends for you.

Blessings,
Pastor Niki



- 4 Marlene Coking
- 6 Clay Altemose, Patty Pavetti
- 7 Brenna Knox
- 8 Taylor Guthrie
- 18 Zach Bush
- 21 Helena Snedecor
- 22 Emery Brooks, Derek Hilty
- 24 Vivian Bush, Paul Dering
- 27 Glenna Hall
- 30 Mary Ellen Hollabaugh

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



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

We'll be taking a summer hiatus. See you in September and, in the meantime, we have a NEW playground right in the sanctuary for little ones to enjoy.



YOUTH GROUP

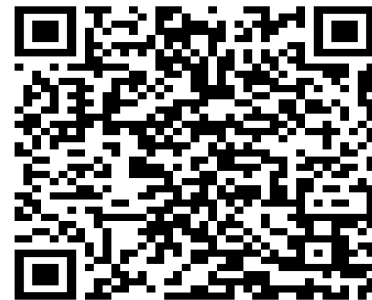
We have a couple more activities planned for this year's end. We encourage our current members to bring some friends next year. It's only right to share the fun!



VBS Help Needed & Information – Our

Apollo Community VBS is July 8-11, 2024 from 5:45 pm - 8:15 pm. Closing worship and program are on July 11. VBS will be held here and we are seeking help for any and all nights! Clearances are required. Scan QR code for registration form!

Additionally, we are seeking donations of cases of small water bottles, Capri Sun drinks, and applesauce pouches. Please drop off any donations in the church nursery for Pastor Niki to take to BSPC. Thank you!



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:

- June 7 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James

Catholic Church Activity Center
(behind the Church)

- o June 17 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- o June 19 (Wed), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (distribution) volunteers at 7:30 – 8:00 AM - public at 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford (see above)



After the last counting day/pizza party we realized that we are only ½ way to our goal of a mile of pennies. Thank you for getting us this far and we

hope you keep sending us every cent you have (ha ha)! After reaching a mile of pennies, the total will be donated to HAVIN.

Thank you, Christian Ed



Community Compassion

Community Compassion: (as of May 24)

Food: 2 families (6 bags food; 3 Naser vouchers)

Financial: 3 families (Rent-\$300, Utilities-\$250, 2 gas certs)

Purchased 8-\$20 gas certificates from AJ Tire = \$160)



We have completed our 6th year for Food 4 Kids and are hoping that we can continue with our 7th year in September.

As you know, we have reached out to find someone to take over the Food 4 Kids program. I am happy to tell you that Pastor TJ Lucas has agreed to take on this much needed responsibility. TJ was instrumental in putting together this program from the very start. She is pastor for Trinity Reformed Church of Christ in Scottdale

and also the chaplain at Quality Life Services in Washington Township. She lives in Vandergrift and has two young girls. Ron and I are not dropping out just yet, but will be helping TJ along the way as long as we are able--along with our faithful volunteers. A big 'Thank You' to all of you who have supported this program in so many ways!

Brightest Blessings, Candy and Ron



CLEAN ~ UP BUCKETS

When introducing this important mission project a while back, it wasn't realized just how overwhelming it all seemed!! We provided what seemed to be an

endless list of supplies for the buckets and most people thought "How can I purchase all those items?"

So On to plan "B"! **These much needed buckets, that will remain local, will be "filled" by the month.** Each month 2 items will be requested for the buckets. Everyone donating will be buying the same 2 items. The next month two more items on the list will be selected, and so on, until by November, the bucket(s) will be full. Local tragedies occur with no schedule and no warning. Our schedule will have assistance ready for the unexpected. We will be providing a small gesture that will make an enormous impact to those trying to recover from the unexpected.

**June's Items: 1 32 to 64 oz. or 2 25oz. bottles of liquid laundry detergent.
5 scouring pads (no stainless or pads with soap – please remove from package)**

**July's Items: 1 pair work gloves: cotton with leather palm or all leather.
1 16-34 oz. bottle of disinfectant dish soap**



MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



Join us for the next Fellowship reception after worship on Sunday, June 9.



COME AND BROWSE AND STAY FOR LUNCH. INDULGE YOUR SWEET-TOOTH AT OUR BAKED GOODS SALE. CHECK OUT OUR STOCK OF GREETING CARDS.



KIDS KRAFTS
SEE YOU IN THE FALL!
All kids welcome, so bring some friends!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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

PW Quarterly Meeting –
Saturday, June 1 @ 9 AM
Regular Meeting



STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of APRIL 2024

April Income: \$9,309.28
April Expenses: \$11,150.04
April Income to Expenses: \$-1840.76

YTD Income: \$48,088.30
YTD Expenses: \$51,665.12

YTD Income to Expenses: -\$6,576.82



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM
Join us in person or live on Facebook.

Communion

Schedule: Sunday, June 2

Let us
WORSHIP
Together

Planning Ahead! - We will have a joint worship service together on **Sunday, July 7th at 10am** with our siblings in Christ AT Boiling Springs Presbyterian Church. Communion will be celebrated, a covered dish lunch will be shared, and decorating for VBS will happen! Make sure you join us that morning for a joyous time of worship!

– **On Sunday, August 11**, the Apollo Community Worship Service will be held at New Beginnings

UMC in Spring Church at 10:30am with a potluck lunch to follow. AUPC is asked to bring desserts to share. Members of the Apollo Ministerium will be leading worship, with Rev. Niki Atkinson preaching that morning. *There will be no scheduled service at AUPC that morning as we worship with our community's siblings in Christ.*



Attention All Acolytes: If you have an interest in being an acolyte throughout the summer months, please see Miss Shelly or sign up on the sheet in the vestibule.



On behalf of Mugombwa congregation , I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

We are happy to tell you that all congregation and our families are feeling well.

We hope that you, your congregation and your family are doing well.

We are happy to tell you that we celebrated Pentecost and it was so good. We were guided by the Word of God from the book of Acts 2:1-18; we found that we also need the Holy Spirit to be able to preach the gospel everywhere.

We wish you all the best, Holy Spirit be upon you.

Dative NYIRANSENGIMANA

Pastor Samuel Habarurema
Minister of EPR Mugombwa parish

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 *Patty Pavetti great-aunt again, Eric, Sierra Kane graduating Magna Cum Laude 😊, Barry & Glenna 56 years!, Mat Hilty Defensive Player of the Year! 😊, Family of Anna Kanish, Michael Ost family, Chris and Cassie traveling mercies, Kelcey and kids 😊, Hall's neighbor adoption 😊, Thanks from Niki for birthday celebration, Bill Mumaw family.*

CONTINUING *Sam, family of Diane Magnes, Lisa, Joy! New leadership, TJ Lucas helping Ron & Candy F4K.Christine's spinal problems, Sarah, Family of Jim Crawford, Israelis, family dance joy!, Eric, Jodi Smoyer, Heather, Mary Harbison family, Debbie, Curt Cyberling, Joe, Kim Liska, Joe Suain,*

ONGOING Donnie Riggle, Gary Harkcom, Donna Fry, Matt Summerhill, 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.



LOOKING AHEAD:

- June 7 & 8 Rummage Sale
- June 30 Church Kickball Game
- July 7 Joint Worship Service with BSPC
- July 8 – 11 Community Bible School at BSPC
- August 11 Community Worship Service at NBMC
- September 8 Annual Church picnic at Owen's Grove

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Parents,
grandpa
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