

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

11:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "Psalm of Redemption" Smith

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Jerri Mollick

(Written by Rev. Dr. Bruce Reyes-Chow in "Everything Good About God is True")

Leader: What does the church do when we gather?

People: **Woven together in moments momentary and lingering . . .**

Leader: to worship God,

People: **to know what it is to belong,**

Leader: to celebrate the jubilation of life,

People: **to grieve when life is loss,**

Leader: to lament and to confess,

People: **to forgive and to be forgiven,**

Leader: to worship, to pray, to march, to nap,

People: **to argue, to ponder, to weep, to laugh.**

Leader: to discern the mind of Christ and the will of God,

People: **to love the other as the world would not want us to love ourselves,**

Leader: to affirm and proclaim that we belong to one another,

People: **and in turn we belong to God.**

***HYMN #725** "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the

comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to "me and mine." Yet you offer the grace of life abundant, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! We worship a God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Proclaim the good news with me:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 5:5-10 NT p. 221

MOMENT OF WORD AND WONDER

GOSPLE LESSON John 12:20-26 NT p. 106

SERMON "Really Following"

***HYMN #816** "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

***Affirmation of Faith** *(from The Heidelberg Catechism)* insert

JOYS AND CONCERNS

BIRTHDAYS

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER p. 35

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory "By the Blood" Machen

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Gratitude for God's Abundance

We Go Forth to Serve

*HYMN #767 "Together We Serve"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Every Generation" Wickersheim

*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 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 Friday – 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

TODAY'S ACOLYTE: TYLER THOMA

The Board of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church Association has awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the FOOD 4 KIDS MINISTRY. Food 4 Kids will be receiving quarterly disbursements from the Ethel L. Verney Fund. We are grateful to our friends at First Evangelical Lutheran in Apollo for applying for and securing this magnificent grant.



**"Cross with Wheat Chaff"
Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN**

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more."

Jeremiah 31:33-34

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Jim Hilty and Debbie Rupert
Derek, Shelly, Jacob and Mathew Hilty
Faith Friend: Darla Tamski
Our Church: PW
Church(s): Marienville and Mt. Tabor Churches
Pastor Boyd Edmondson Rwanda: Mututu/Birembo
Presbytery: Pittsburgh (Synod of The Trinity)
Denomination: American Baptist Churches in the USA
Nation: Uruguay – Montevideo

IMMEDIATE Sam Deliek, Candy Graham and family, Bill Schriber family, Cathy Piper-Bikle, Chelsea, Nancy Campitella, Cathy, family of Dorothy Hancock, Eddie, Scott and Nancy Hubbard, **Marge Bernat, Matt, Soup donations ☺, patient with kidney disease, Carol Kopnicki ☺, Sidney Jones family, Kim Altmire, Linda Gould, Ann Cloonan, Dwayne S. traveling mercies & also for Stephanie's brother.**

CONTINUING Jim Crawford, Charlie Kukalis family, Florence Truffa family. Mike Mollick, Jackie, Roberta, Tina, Melissa, Sue, Brenna Knox, **Jim G. ☺, Marlene, Donnie Riggle, accident victims, Noreen, Jim, David Watkins family, Kim Liska, Fred Crawford, Magill Family.**

ONGOING Gary Harkcom, Donna Fry, Matt Summerhill, Bill & Linda Crabtree, Frank Kovak, Josh Hanus, Shannon Pruss, Mary Harbison, 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.

Soon you will be seeing new (traffic) signs on the church property. This is to limit some of the liberties our neighbors have been taking regarding our property. The signs are meant to protect church property and reduce our liability in the event of accidents. The signs will also be a means of protecting unattended children who use the church property without permission and will help to protect the children in our programs and participants in the DanceClik. As members or friends of AUPC we will allow non-church hour parking with prior notice and permission. If you have a need to use our parking lot for an extended period of time, please contact the office. Thank you, Building and Grounds

March 17, 2024 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>SUNDAY</u>	Worship & Youth Sunday School	11:00 AM
	VBS Planning meeting	12:30 – 2 PM
<u>MONDAY</u>	Youth Group	6:30 PM
<u>TUESDAY</u>	Lenten Study	10:00 AM
	*Financial Procedure Review Committee	6:30 PM
	*Packets for this meeting are in your mailboxes.	
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	Crafters	9:00 AM
	Prayer Shawl Knitters	10:00 AM
	BSPC	12:00 PM
	Lenten Service & Luncheon	
<u>SUNDAY</u>	Palm Sunday Worship with Children's Choir & Palms	11:00 AM

Dear Congregation,

As you may have noticed, our church family has a lot of children coming to worship with their families. We're so glad that our AUPC family is growing and we want to make sure our kids have some great things to read while they're here! Children's books (especially ones about our faith) have come a long way in recent years and we would love to update some of our shelves in the nursery and children's classrooms. Below is an Amazon Registry Link where you can find many books that we are hoping to use in updating our collection. The books will ship directly to the church, where they can also be nameplated in honor or memory of someone you love. (Please note this in an email to Pastor Niki or the church office!) Thank you so much for your generosity and love of our youngest members of our church family! <https://shorturl.at/qrCEJ>

SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS

March 17 ~ Carol Kopnicki and Laura Uncapher

March 24 ~ Laura Uncapher and Shelly Hilty

EASTER, March 31 ~ Shelly Hilty and

A special welcome to our visitors. If you are seeking Christ, we trust you will find Him; if you are sorrowing, we pray you will receive comfort; if you are troubled in spirit, we pray you will gain the blessings of peace; if you are discouraged, we pray you will find hope in our Lord. If you are seeking a spiritual home, we invite you to consider uniting with us.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Q1: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A1: That we are not our own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Because we belong to him, Christ, by the Holy Spirit, assures us of eternal life and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for God.

COMING UP!

PALM SUNDAY with Children's Choir ~ March 24 ~ 11 AM

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE with COMMUNION
7:00 PM @ AUPC This is a joint service with BSPC and
included is a covered dish dinner, downstairs, at 6 PM.**

EASTER SUNDAY ~ March 31 ~ OGHS Offering



We're not quite penniless, but we're almost centsless and we have a counting and rolling day planned for Sunday, May 5 after worship!

HELP!! We're still trying to collect a mile of pennies for Havin.

Please add your 2 cents to this project so we can continue "rolling" this project along. And, to "coin" a phrase, "a penny saved is a penny earned", but a mile of pennies does some saving.

Thank you, Christian Ed



The Session has approved a spaghetti dinner for Thursday, April 11, 2024. Volunteers are needed for the dinner, but we also need the support of the congregation, friends and family to make the fundraiser a success! So please put the event on your calendars!

I have a reservation sign-up sheet in the vestibule. Reservations will not be necessary, but they sure do help in planning!

Also, there is a sheet to sign up for volunteering to help with the event, also in the vestibule. If you are able to help, please let us know. We will need people to make desserts, to set up, to clean up and to help serve the meals. All help is appreciated. Last year's dinner brought in over \$1,700! Let's try and top that! See you all at the dinner!

Thanks, Amy Shupe

**3RD ANNUAL FAMILY DANCE
Saturday, April 13 ~ 6 - 8 PM**



If you're a 2 person family or your family can fill a van, **ALL families** are welcome to dance the night away.

More information will be available closer to the date. Hope **YOU** can come!

