

THE LISTENING POST

MARCH
2024



A few years ago, when sharing with my Gramma about watching the new Mr. Rogers film starring Tom Hanks (a man she and I both adore), she recounted to me a story from my early childhood. She marveled at my behavior while watching Mr. Rogers and once asked me what I loved about his show. And I apparently said to her "Because, Gramma, he's talking TO ME. I listen to him and he listens to me." I found that fascinating, as I had learned that when Mr. Rogers looked into the camera during filming, he always pictured a child and looking into their eyes, as though they were right there with him. His attentiveness, his directness, it was all intentional for those who watched and participated in his neighborhood. And, at least for me, he succeeded in this.

I recently started a book about the simple faith of Mr. Rogers (yes, I'm finding time to read...sometimes.) This summer, not only do I plan to do a series of sharing about some of the theology and faith of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood in worship, but we will be

having a Vacation Bible School themed around Mr. Rogers and his neighborhood this July. So I've downloaded a few books to refamiliarize myself with this gentle giant of a man.

In the first portion of this book, the author (Amy Hollingsworth), begins with a quote from Fred Rogers: "And so, for me, being quiet and slow is being myself, and that is my gift." To me, that indicates that Mr. Rogers was perhaps a man of great patience. He spent so much of his life in the company of children, I can't imagine patience not being a part of who he was. Patience was always a struggle for me and I think, because of that, is why I always had a lot going on. For a few years there, I worked full time in youth ministry, part time at an apartment complex, and attended seminary full time. I struggled to sit still for too long. Until my spiritual formation class required us to do 3 silent, half day retreats. Silent. No talking. No music. Not even instrumental music. It was, for me, BRUTAL. I wondered if a nap would count. (It didn't.)

That was more than ten years ago. I've changed a lot since then. Am I always slow...no. I still struggle to slow down. It's a concentrated effort to pause and reflect. But the quiet? I crave it. I stay up far too late sometimes and enjoy the peace and quiet of our home. I drive to church sometimes with zero music or podcasts. I've particularly enjoyed embracing quiet during this season of Lent. It's become a spiritual discipline for me, in a way.

We are not all who we were ten years ago. The world certainly isn't, that's for sure. Are there things that you embrace now that you balked at then? Are there ways in which you have remained the same as always? I take comfort in the fact that God's patience is overwhelming with me, and that God remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. Even if I (and the world) keep on changing.

Blessings, Pastor Niki



- 1 Geoff Atkinson, Alex Kaminski
- 5 Chloe Shupe
- 6 Vivian Shaeffer
- 7 Ellie Finoli
- 8 Stanley Travis
- 10 Cindi Contie
- 11 John Bittner
- 12 Don Dick, Bob Reed
- 16 Ed Bortz
- 18 Candi Kaminski, Maiah Teter
- 19 Katrina Koenig, Skip Mumaw
- 21 Denise Diskin
- 22 Dylan Zelonka, Carl Zukas
- 23 Tatiana Shurina, Jackson Snedecor
- 27 Lyanna Atkinson
- 29 Kelly Altemose
- 30 Sean George, Cassie Snedecor

Sunday. Classes are determined by age. Our volunteer teachers have all required clearances and are anxious to introduce or continue to teach your child about Jesus. The children participate in plays 2 times per year and sometimes attend special activities in the sanctuary. If you or someone you know would like to have a child participate, call the church office at 724.478.4807.

YOUTH GROUP

This group is a Bible-based group for all youth ages Middle School, Junior High, and High School up to 18. Activities and field trips will be planned throughout the year. Service projects will be done periodically and the group will be in charge of at least one Worship Service during the year. As the teens are not funded by the church, sanctioned fund raisers will also be planned. Group will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 PM.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



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

Attention: There will be no Sunday school on EASTER SUNDAY. Sunday school classes are held on the 2nd floor of the Christian Ed building shortly after 11 am each



Thanks to our wonderful congregation, our cookie bakers and our Youth Group Leaders, the February 4th Hot Chocolate bar was a huge success. After expenses, we netted \$151.29 to use for future projects/outings.

From the bottom of our mugs, thank you!
AUPC Youth Group ©

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:

- Mar. 1 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- Mar. 18 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- Mar. 20 (Wed), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (distribution) volunteers at 7:30 – 8:00 AM - public at 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford (see above)



Community Compassion

Community Compassion (as of 2/23/24)

Food: 2 families, 5 bags groceries, 3 Naser vouchers

Financial: 2 families, \$250 Rent, 2-\$20 gas certificates.

Food 4 Kids
A Community Sponsored Program

Our enrollment is holding at 83 students. We are so grateful for the response for financial support that enables this program to continue. We are also pleased to have a few new volunteers on packing days: Ken Carnahan, Ed Mannella and Pam McMunn. Our next packing day will be Wednesday, March 13 at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



Join us for the next Fellowship reception after worship on Sunday, February 11. Grab some delicious foods and settle in for the Annual Meeting while enjoying your goodies.



The new Church Directories will be here soon!! There is no cost to members for a directory, however, if you would like to make a small donation to help defray the church's cost, that would be much appreciated. Simply use the "other" line on your giving envelope and write in "directory".
Thank You!

KIDS KRAFTS

Kids Krafts on Friday nights @ 6:30 PM
Always the 2nd Friday of each month.

This month, Friday, March 8



DONATIONS OF GENTLY USED ITEMS MAY BE TAKEN TO THE CHURCH AT ANY TIME NOW. ITEMS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE STAGE DOWNSTAIRS.



The Easter Bunny always seems to find his way to AUPC right around the 3rd Saturday of March. This year we're expecting him around March 16th so we're planning an Easter Egg hunt in the church on that day beginning at 1:00 PM. All kids are welcome to hunt for eggs filled with candy and other surprises. Hope to see you there!



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, March 9 @ 9 AM
Regular Meeting**



SESSION

At the February Meeting:

**Session approved Eastern Star's use of the dining facilities on December 16.*

**Session approved electing Laura Uncapher as Clerk of Session and Amy Shupe as Treasurer.*

**Session approved Pastor Niki's 1st week of vacation, April 15-21, 2024.*

**Session approved the purchase of 4 wall hanging soap dispensers and 2 automatic paper towel dispensers.*

**Session approved a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for Thursday, April 11.*

**Session approved a Rummage Sale fundraiser for June 7 and 8.*

**Session approved using \$1,250 from the Abiding Memorial Fund for the website design and maintenance for 1 year.*

**Session approved the process of exploring the purchase of a humidistat for the sanctuary piano*

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of JANUARY 2024



January Income: \$13,555.39
January Expenses: \$13,283.52
January Income to Expenses: \$271.87

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WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS

11:00 AM

Join us in person
or live on
Facebook.



**Communion Schedule:
Sunday, March 3**

LENTEN STUDY

COME to the TABLE

**Held mornings and/or evenings at
Boiling Springs or Apollo United
Presbyterian Churches
Beginning February 15
(see included schedule & topics)**



Lenten Mid-day, Wednesday
Services and Luncheons:

*March 6, 12:00 PM @ New Life
Baptist Church, Apollo

*March 13, 12:00 PM @

First Lutheran Church, Apollo

*March 20, 12:00 PM at Boiling
Springs Presbyterian



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
SUNDAY, MARCH 24 @ 11:00 AM
at AUPC. Children's Choir will
sing! EVERYONE WELCOME!



MAUNDY THURSDAY

EVENING SERVICE at AUPC
7:00 PM



HAPPY EASTER
Morning Service at 11 AM
Come celebrate with us the
miracle of His Resurrection!

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 *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, **Jim Crawford, Charlie Kukalis family, Florence Truffa family.***

CONTINUING *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, **William Hileman family, Frank Crawford family, Barb Jones family, Larry Johnson family, Children's play ☺, Christie, family of Bob Rae, all who have lost loved ones, Michael Gerheim 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*

Thank You **Dave and I, along with our family, wish to thank everyone for the immense out-pouring of love from our AUPC church family on the occasion of Dave's mother's death. Thank you doesn't express our appreciation for the numerous cards, phone calls, visits, food (Oh the food!), memorials and prayers. Our family was blessed to have Florence for so many years and blessed to have all of you at the time of her passing.**

With Love, Linda

