

**APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

**Resurrection of the Lord  
Easter**

**March 31, 2024**

**11:00 a.m.**

**We Gather in God's Name**

**PRELUDE** "Triumphal Alleluia" B. Harlan

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**UNLOCKING OF THE ALLELUIA CHEST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Linda Gould

**Leader:** Look! A sliver of light across the horizon – the miracle of a new day.

**People:** See! The stone is rolled away, and the angel calls from within.

**Leader:** Feel! The freedom of our souls and the wonder of the Messiah's gift of new life.

**People:** Hear! The hallelujahs as we declare to the world, "He has risen!"

**Hymn #232** "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!"

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** O God, you raised Christ from the tomb and shattered the powers of sin and evil. Raise us from the tombs of our sin, O Lord, and bring us to new life in you. You bring us good news of Easter joy. Forgive us when we cannot hear it. You send us out to share your love. Forgive us when we cannot carry it. You cast a vision for peace and justice. Forgive us when we cannot imagine it. Forgive us when we stand in its way, for you are the God of the empty tomb, the one who makes all things new.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*GLORIA PATRI #581**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**We Listen to God's Word**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**EPISTLE LESSON** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 NT p. 176

**MOMENT OF WORD AND WONDER**

**GOSPLE LESSON** Mark 16:1-8 NT p. 54

**SERMON** "What Happens Now?"

**We Respond to God's Word**

**\*HYMN #245** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

**\*Affirmation of Faith** Apostles' Creed p. 35

**INVITATION TO OFFER OURSELVES IN MINISTRY**

**Offertory** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" J. Stainer

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Gratitude for God's Abundance**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER** p. 35

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (unison)** Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion—oneness of heart, love for neighbors,

forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**We Go Forth to Serve**

\*HYMN #246 "Christ is Alive"

\*BENEDICTION by Jan Richardson

POSTLUDE "Hallelujah! Christ Arose!" H. S. Livingston, Jr.

\*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](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

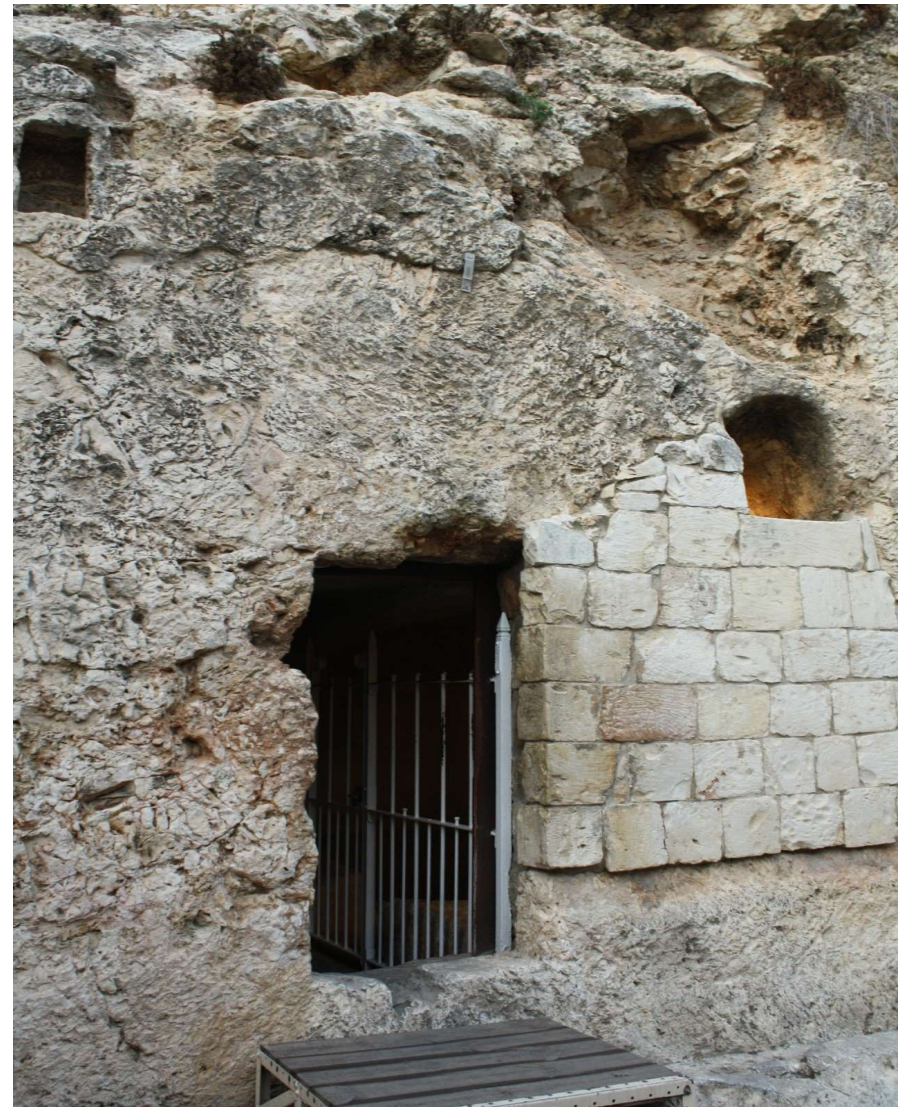
Website: [www.apollopresby.org](http://www.apollopresby.org) E-mail [office@aupc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@aupc.comcastbiz.net)

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

**TODAY'S ACOLYTE: HUNTER HANUS**

**Community Compassion**

When food is given out from our emergency pantry, normally we also give out one or two \$15 Naser vouchers. Up to \$15 worth of food items that we cannot provide, lunchmeat, milk, etc., can be purchased at Naser's and Bill Naser is to bill AUPC for that amount. **Since the voucher method has been initiated, Bill has discounted nearly \$2,000 instead of billing us. Bill's generosity has been a blessing for AUPC and our community.**



*The Garden Tomb, Jerusalem*

*Photograph by Rev. Niki Atkinson, taken in October 2015 on pilgrimage*

The Garden Tomb is one of two well-known and possible sites of the burial of Jesus. The Garden Tomb is located adjacent to a rocky knoll known as "Skull Hill."

## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Dolores Hilty  
Scott and Apryl Hodges  
Faith Friend: Nick and Sue Arnoldy  
Our Church: Session  
Church(s): Schrader Grove & Freeport Churches  
Rwanda Partner: Rambi Pastor: Adam Clever  
Presbytery: Redstone (Synod of The Trinity)  
Denomination: Christian Church Disciples of Christ in USA  
Nation: Venezuela - Caracas

**IMMEDIATE** Kiski Musical joy, Chester Ferracio family, Niki's father, Marilyn Repasky, Kirk Siverling, Cindy, Linda's shoulder, Butch and Donna Schrecongost, Clarissa Dill Family, Joelene, Family and friends of Jane Perkins, 8-yr-old John, Kim Altmire, Tim Kanish, 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.**

**CONTINUING** Matt, Soup donations ☺, patient with kidney disease, Carol Kopnicki ☺, Sidney Jones family, Linda Gould, Ann Cloonan, Dwayne S. traveling mercies & also for Stephanie's brother, Charlie Kukalis family, Florence Truffa family. **Mike Mollick, Jackie, Roberta, Tina, Melissa, Sue, Brenna Knox.**

**ONGOING** Donnie Riggles, Jim Crawford, Marge Barnat, 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.



*Your Easter flowers may be picked up immediately following worship. Please see Kathy Wilson if you don't remember how many or which kind.*

## March 31, 2024 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>SUNDAY</u>	EASTER!	11:00 AM
<u>MONDAY</u>	Easter Monday <b>Office Closed</b>	
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	Crafters	9:00 AM
	Prayer Shawl Knitters	10:00 AM
<u>THURSDAY</u>	Youth Group Practice	6:00 PM
<u>SUNDAY</u>	<b>Youth-Led Worship/Communion (no Sunday school)</b>	11:00 AM

### COMMUNION SERVERS

**Sunday, March 31, Easter: Scott Hollabaugh, Bill Speer, Amy Zukas, Laura Uncapher**

**Sunday, April 7: Derek Hilty, Shelly Hilty, Mariana Shurina, Sam Mullooly**

### SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS

March 24 ~ Laura Uncapher and Shelly Hilty

EASTER, March 31 ~ Laura Uncapher and Amy Zukas

April 7 ~ Bill Speer and Shelly Hilty

April 14 ~ Laura Uncapher and Amy Zukas

**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.



## COMING UP!

EASTER SUNDAY ~ March 31 ~ OGHS Offering  
YOUTH LED SERVICE ~ April 7  
SPAGHETTI DINNER ~ April 11 ~ 4 to 7 PM  
KIDS KRAFTS ~ April 12 ~ 6:30 PM  
ANNUAL FAMILY DANCE ~ April 13 ~ 6 to 8 PM  
YOUTH CLEAN-UP NIGHT ~ April 15 ~ 6 PM



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 Haven. 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*

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. For 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



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

## 3<sup>RD</sup> 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!

### **A Note on Holy Week Scriptural References to “The Jews”**

As Christians, we live under the burden of a sad and violent history of anti-Semitism, in the sobering shadow of the Shoah (Holocaust), and with the painful awareness of current events in Israel/Palestine. It is important to us to be clear about what our sacred texts mean when they make reference to “the Jews,” especially during Holy Week, when we contemplate Jesus’ death.

When the crucifixion narratives speak of “the chief priests and leaders of the people,” they are referring to officials who collaborated closely with the Roman systems of oppression, and were viewed with contempt by much of the Jewish community of their time. They are never to be identified with the Jewish people as a whole, past or present.

It may be helpful to recall the cultural context of our Christian scriptures, emerging as they did from a small, originally Jewish community of believers in Jesus, who for reasons of faith in him as the Messiah, were eventually “put out of the synagogues” (John 9:18-23), their places of worship. In John’s usage especially, “the Jews” functions as a technical term for those among the people who did not accept Jesus as Messiah. It is a term that reflects the growing antagonism and mutual recrimination that developed in the latter part of the first century between church and synagogue. The gospels’ use of the term “the Jews” should never be understood, therefore, as a blanket condemnation of Jews in particular or in general.

It is one of the bitter ironies of history that our sacred texts have been used to justify the persecution of the covenant people who were and are forever God’s beloved.

Written by Rev. Dr. Jr. Mary Luti, retired seminary professor and UCC pastor

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