

THE LISTENING POST

J U N E 2 0 2 5

Pastor Niki's Ponderings



I really enjoy celebrating Pentecost in the church. Everyone's wearing red, there's a feeling of jubilation in the air, we get to read and relive some of the wonder that the followers experienced on the day the Holy Spirit was given to the church. People may blow bubbles, share pinwheel crafts, or carry ribbons through the

aisles (all evidencing the wind that blew in that day.) Here's what else I love about Pentecost...

1. Happy Birthday! Many of us view this day as the official birth of the church. The many who received the Spirit that day went on to share about the love and salvation offered by Jesus Christ. We are the result of that and are called to do the same in the time and place we find ourselves. We love a Triune God who offers us love and freedom.
2. A Promise Kept – Jesus promised his disciples that he would not leave them without comfort, but that the “Advocate” would follow and be with them and all who followed the Way. That Advocate was the Holy Spirit, whose coming was foretold by Jesus and in scripture. The giving of the

Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of that promise made by Jesus. We love a Triune God who keeps promises.

3. Unity & Diversity – One of Lyanna's favorite books as a toddler was a Sesame Street one called “We're Different, We're the Same.” In it, you'd have a page that said something like “We all have hair.” And the images on the page would show blue hair, fuzzy hair, black hair, straight hair, spiky hair, etc. The Holy Spirit unites all of us in the church, no matter how different we may be, and brings us together as one in Jesus Christ.
4. Mission & Prayer – The Holy Spirit isn't a holy “Jiminy Cricket” (aka conscience). The Holy Spirit is God's power given to each one of us to further the kingdom here “on earth as it is in heaven.” Listening to the Spirit helps us to figure out how we proceed in a situation, how we serve most effectively in our communities, and how we live like Jesus.
5. Authenticity & Love – God has called us to live in this world as lights in darkness, as a city on a hill. God created us all, but we aren't all the same. The Spirit helps us to live as who we are created to be, with all of the incredible gifts God has given to us to share in this world. And to do that with love.

When I teach confirmation classes, or talk to people about the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is often the most difficult for people to describe or understand. As we celebrate Pentecost as a church, and even as we enter the summer months, let us be reminded that the Holy Spirit is always with us, always calling us to be the church, and always with us to push a little bit forward in how we reach outward to those around us. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Niki



SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR-END CELEBRATION

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
27. Glenna Hall
30. Mary Ellen Hollabaugh

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

The nursery is available to parents, if needed, and the PrayGround will be open for little ones or those needing a break

from

the pew.

Please feel free to take advantage of these spaces while Sunday School is dismissed for the Summer.

Thank You.

Celebrating a Great Year

Especially since Sunday School will be on summer hiatus, we invite you to take advantage of the Pray Ground in the sanctuary for your little ones during worship.

Yes, caregivers can still enjoy worship during summer months, but just sitting in a different pew! While your children are enjoying the Pray Ground, we ask that an adult (caregiver) remain with them. Also, we kindly ask that adults and children leave the Pray Ground as sparkling as you found it. Enjoy and Thank You!

Don't forget about our Sunday School Celebration Party on June 1, which will begin during Sunday School and continue until 1pm. But hey! Parents and Caregivers! You're invited to come to the Conference Room/"Old Yellow Sunday School Classroom"/Classroom next to the sanctuary after worship that day to have a conversation about Sunday School for 2025-2026 and beyond. Please join Pastor Niki and others for the conversation immediately following worship. Thanks!

Looking for a way to help with our Apollo Community VBS this year? We've got some great ways to be a part of it, even if you can't be there that week.

1. Please consider donating any of the following items: small bottled waters, Capri Sun juice bags, applesauce packets
2. Our theme is "Holy Holidays!" If you have any fun yard decorations, buntings, easy set up trees, etc. that you are okay with loaning for our decor, please get in touch with Pastor Niki to set up a drop off time. Please also LABEL your decorations with name and phone number (light brown masking tape or painters tape works well for this.)
3. Share about VBS with others in the community. We are so thankful that we get to offer this wonderful week of fun for no cost to those kids who come to meet Jesus and make new friends! Share that love with others!

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 6 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
 - June 9 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
 - June 11 (Wed), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (distribution) volunteers at 7:30



COMMUNITY COMPASSION

AUPC Emergency Fund

April: Food – 2 families, 3 bags food, 1 Family Naser vouchers for diapers.
Financial – 1 Family, \$300 Utilities

Another successful school year has ended and we look forward to providing A-R kids with backpack, weekend nourishment in '25-'26. Reminders for packing days will be on the monthly calendars which can be found on our website www.apollopresby.org **THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!!**

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



Free Community Program -
Everyone Welcome
Friday, June 13,
6:30 PM

KIDS KRAFTS

has a spot for YOU!
2ND Friday, Sept - June
See you in the fall!

Graduate Sunday is June 8. We will be honoring Baylee Davis, Kiski Area Graduate, granddaughter of Mike and Jerri Mollick.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Quarterly Meeting -
Saturday, June 14 @ 9 AM
Regular Meeting

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

2025 PW CALENDAR of EVENTS

Saturday, June 14 ~ Quarterly Mtg. 9 am
Friday, September 12 ~ Fall Salad Bar
Saturday, September 13 ~ Quarterly Mtg. 9 am
November 21 & 22 ~ Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 13 ~ Quarterly Mtg. 9 am

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of APRIL 2025

April Income: \$10,906.70
April Expenses: \$13,245.25
March Income to Expenses: -\$2,338.55

YTD Income: \$43,333.97
YTD Expenses: \$56,553.82
YTD Income to Expenses: -\$13,219.85

Don't forget . .
You may
purchase a
bulletin , any time
during the year ,
to
remember/honor
a loved one. Donations of \$20 per
bulletin are requested. Your
donation will be used to defray
copying costs of our weekly
bulletins.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM
Join us in person or
livestream on YouTube.



Sunday, June 1

DID YOU KNOW? There is a 'Prayer Request Box' located in the upper parking lot of our church. Request forms are located in a container just below the box. If you know someone who needs prayer, just fill out the little form, lift the lid of the box and insert. A member of the Mission Team checks the box weekly and will include your prayer request at Worship the next Sunday.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God—that if we ask anything, according to His will, He hears us. *1 John 5:14*

Beginning Friday, May 30, the office will be closed on Fridays through Labor Day weekend. Summer office hours for the public will be Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

ANNOUNCING EARLY! – MAKE YOUR PLANS!
On Sunday, July 27th at 6:00 PM, the Apollo United Presbyterian Church is happy to present THE KISKI VALLEY COMMUNITY BAND
This group of musicians range in age from 14 to 80+ and meet each Tuesday to practice the one thing they all love . . . playing music. Their concerts are "free-will offering" with proceeds going to purchase music which expands their repertoire.

During the performance there will be food items for sale. Hot dogs, snacks, baked goods, & beverages will be available. Come for dinner and entertainment!
Everyone Welcome! Bring a friend!



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 Gary Harkcom, Barb Hurley & Missy, Peggy's sister, Butch's surgery April 22, Dale Piffer family, Todd, Dave, Martha Jane Wilkinson, 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 stepdad in remission ☺.

CONTINUING Butch, Butch & Donna's son Dwayne, Bruce for healing, welcome back Ron ☺, Krystle's safe travels ☺, Pastor Niki's deer encounter.

Alan Shockey, Carole Kennedy (home), Niki's brother & sister-in-laws wedding☺, Pize, Carol Kopnick, Frank Flickinger, Natalie.

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.