

THE LISTENING POST

MARCH 2025

Pastor Niki's Ponderings



“Power, properly understood, is the ability to achieve purpose. It is the strength required to bring about social, political, or economic changes.”

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“With great power comes great responsibility.” - Uncle Ben to Peter Parker aka SpiderMan

I've thought a lot about power recently. As a light-skinned individual (ghost-like in the winter months, honestly), there is definitely a certain amount of privilege that I carry in our country. But I'm also a woman, and women have been described in all kinds of ways that lend to being seen as “less powerful” or having less privilege in a male-dominated society. I'm also in a male dominated profession, with many women having come before me to lobby for and fight for the ability to stand in a pulpit and preach the gospel, even though it was women who preached the gospel first (they found the empty tomb, remember?) We're used to believing that power is meaningful for getting things

done, and if you want things done, you've got to have connections with powerful people to get them done.

God is powerful. We read in scripture that God shows up in pillars of smoke and fire. God parts entire bodies of water for others to pass through without getting wet. God rains fire from heaven to light up a soaking wet altar of wood. God is so powerful that mountains are said to crumble if God wills it. God created something from nothing. God can get it done because God has got the power.

So why in the world did our all-powerful God show up as a fleshy, vulnerable, dependent baby named Jesus? Is it because babies dictate the schedules and sleep of their caregivers, and in that way wield all the power? Did God want to be an all-powerful baby? Of course not.

Jesus had all the power of God. Jesus healed people who couldn't see or walk. Jesus cured sickness and death. Jesus turned water into wine (good wine, at that.) Jesus could multiply food for those who were hungry. Jesus could have snapped his fingers and rid the earth of those who didn't agree with him when he told them what the kingdom of God was really like.

He didn't. Nearly every story we read about the interaction of Jesus with others in the gospels shows us an inversion of the world's understanding of power. Jesus flipped tables in the temple courts, he spent time with sinners and lepers. He even told people they should go last, not first, and that love was the best way.

Jesus had power, but used it in a different way than what we've come to be told by the world is the right way. I'm not saying Jesus was Spiderman, but he knew that with great power, came great responsibility. His Abba in heaven had entrusted it to him and rather than be tempted to use it for fame, fortune, and royal rule (as Satan approached him in the wilderness), he showed the world a better way.

During Lent, we'll step away from the lectionary to explore some of the ways in which Jesus “turned over tables,” ending finally with the biggest table-turn of all, defeating death on Resurrection Sunday. If you're interested, I'd encourage you to work through the devotional, “Turning Over Tables” by Kathy Escobar. Some of our series will be based on what's shared in her devotional, as well as the scriptures for each week.

I look forward to journeying through Lent with you, learning how to flip some tables together.

-Pastor Niki



1. Geoff Atkinson, Alex Kaminski
2. Glenna Kanish
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
22. Dylan Zelonka, Carl Zukas
23. Tatiana Shurina, Jackson Snedecor
25. Christine Jacobson
27. Lyanna Atkinson
29. Kelly Altemose
30. Sean George, Cassie Snedecor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Sunday School is back!
Two classes will be available, upstairs, each Sunday 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. *Volunteers with appropriate clearances*

will be welcome to assist our teachers.

Performances (generally) the last Sunday of each month!

YOUTH GROUP

Calling all kids Middle school through 17 years old are welcome to participate in monthly meetings, coming soon, filled with conversation, Bible reading and fun activities in and out of the church. We also participate in various service projects. You don't need to have a relationship with this church . . . we'll build one! For more information, contact the church office.

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. 7 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- Mar. 10 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- Mar. 12 (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

AUPC Emergency Fund

January - None

February (as of 2/11/25) - Food; none
Financial (2 families) \$300 Rent; \$100
cash; 4 - \$20 gas certs.

Currently we have 75 kids enrolled. Our next packing day will be Wednesday, March 19 at 3:00 p.m. We have various jobs that our volunteers would love to share with you. For instance, picking up food from our suppliers, transporting food bags to the school, unpacking our supplies and stocking the shelves and packing for the kids delivery days, and shopping (sometimes our orders don't reach us in a timely manner and volunteers go to Sam's Club, etc. to fill the void.) Whatever you might do will be greatly appreciated! *Candy*

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

St. Patrick's Day themed Reception, March 9

Free Community Program - Everyone Welcome

**Friday, March 14,
6:30 PM**

KIDS KRAFTS

has a spot for YOU!
2ND Friday, Sept - June



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Quarterly Meeting –

**Saturday, March 8 @ 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

Friday, May 9 ~ Spring Salad Bar
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

First fundraiser of the year

SPAGHETTI DINNER

**Saturday, march 22
4:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Ticket Pre-sale on Sunday after church & by calling
724-478-4807**

Walk-ins welcome!

Spaghetti (meat or marinara)

Bread & Butter – Salad

Dessert – beverage

Adults \$12 Children under 10 \$6 Under 3 free

Take-outs available

Proceeds benefit the AUPC Building Fund

\$\$ PER CAPITA \$\$

Through Feb. 17 this year we have received \$1605.68. Thank you to those who have paid their per capita. Last year at this time we had received \$2,267.90 so we're a little behind and our commitment this year is

\$4,159.44. To date, our monthly payment due will be \$255.38 vs. last year's monthly payment of \$143.47. **CHANGES for Newsletter delivery in 2025.** In order to continue moving forward with responsible fiscal policies, some things must change. We are moving toward not continuing with bulk mailings as there is both a permit and monthly mailing cost. New options to receive 2025 newsletters are via your private email, our church website, picking up a copy in the vestibule, or having a single copy mailed to your home if you don't have an email or computer. ***If you wish to receive *The Listening Post* by email, please email the church at office@aupc.comcastbiz.net and include your name and email address. *If you'd like to read the newsletter on line at www.apollopresby.org or pick up a copy at the church, you won't need to do anything. *If you wish to have a copy mailed to you, please call or email the church office with your name and current address.** Beginning in **January 2025**, there will be no bulk mailing of *The Listening Post*. In order to continue to receive this publication, please choose from the selections above. Thank You ~ Stewardship and Finance

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

March 5-April 20, 2025 Ending hunger, repairing after disasters, and promoting the self-development of all people.

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

AUPC will be participating in OGHS again this year. We will be promoting giving with short, informational Minutes 4 Mission throughout March. You can give online, use your OGHS envelope from your boxed set, or your regular giving envelope and write OGHS on the "other" line. We will accept your donation, however we receive it, and then we will get it to where it needs to go. **THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!**

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



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



**Schedule: Sunday, March 2
Ash Wednesday, March 5**

**SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR ALL
LENTEN ACTIVITIES BEGINNING MARCH
5.**

Holy Week Meditation Stations

REFLECT UPON THE EVENTS OF JESUS' LAST WEEK THROUGH A SERIES OF PRAYERFUL EXPERIENCES, ALL AT YOUR OWN PACE.

**BOILING SPRINGS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
1668 PA-56, SPRING CHURCH

SUN. 4/13 - 1PM-4PM
MON. 4/14 - 9:30AM-4PM
TUES. 4/15 - 9:30AM-6PM
WED. 4/16 - 9:30AM-4PM
THUR. 4/17 - 12PM-9PM



Who's Who on SESSION?

Lead by Rev. Niki Atkinson, your current Session Members and their area(s) of service are listed below.

Derek Hilty ~ Admin Team: Building & Grounds Chair and Stewardship & Finance.

Scott Hollabaugh ~ Admin Team Chair & Building & Grounds

Glenna Kanish ~ Ministry Team (combination of Membership & Outreach, Ministry and Christian Ed.)

Pam McMunn ~ Mission Co-chair

Joyce Mollick ~ Mission Co-chair

Amy Shupe ~ Admin Team: Stewardship & Finance Chair, Church Treasurer

Bill Speer ~ Admin Team

Laura Uncapher ~ Admin Team & Clerk of Session

Amy Zukas ~ Ministry Team chair, Christian Ed. chair

Carl Zukas ~ Personnel chair

If you have a question, comment, etc. you now know who to contact.

All of these folks and their contact information is in your directory.

LEADERSHIP IS OFTEN TOUGH!

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 *Glenna Hall, Carole Kennedy, Dan P., Betty, Mindy, Sally, Cathy Hubbar, domestic violence victim, LaRue Householder family, Howard, Jordan Perona's surgery, Nancy Joyce's surgery, Maria Bearer, Zukas family, Ann Cloonan's friend, Kim Stankkus, Shannon Ebner, Don Pepper, Presbytery of Kiskiminetas(General Presbyter Search Committee) search for 2 Prebyters, family of Clarence, Eric, Kim Liska surgery, family of Bea Blystone.*

CONTINUING *Butch, Peggy, Karen, Art Summerhill family, Lee Lookabaugh family, Martha Jane Wilkinson, Family of Nancie Allen, Vivian, Debbie McDivitt, Middle East Hostages, Diane Grant, California fires, Kirk, Lisa, Scott & Nancy Hubbard, LaRue Mumaw family, Jordan, Caitlyn, Joe Mazur, Wesson, 3 yr old Nora, Tim Kanish, Joy: Concordia Faith Friends doing well ☺, Pastor Niki's step-dad Dave.*

ONGOING *Katie, Bob Reed, Donnie Riggle, Gary Harkcom, Donna Fry, 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.*

