

THE LISTENING POST

APRIL 2025

Pastor Niki's Ponderings



We've been talking a lot about power during this season of Lent. I've shared in my preaching and in last month's newsletter the ways in which Jesus turned power on its head when he walked this earth. And in the next few weeks, we will get to gather and observe the day in which the seemingly indisputable power of death did not get the last word.

At times, I fear that we have become too accustomed to the story of Easter. I don't know if it's the chocolate crosses or the green plastic basket grass that never seems to stay in the trash, but I think perhaps it has become one of those

"we've heard this so often, we know how it goes" stories. Modern medicine keeps us healthier and alive longer than at any point in history. Defeating death almost feels like something that's done on a regular basis in ambulances and operating rooms. There's a lot of power in the scientific knowledge that we now have at our fingertips. And yet, as many of us know, sometimes even that is not enough to defeat death for the ones we love.

For all of the power that we wield, for all of the power that is held over our own heads and lives, there is nothing that is equal to the power that was shown that morning nearly two thousand years ago. Life overcame death. Joy overcame sorrow. Love overcame hate. We cannot forget that. No matter what, we cannot forget that.

Let us continue to love with the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

-Pastor Niki





1. Franklin Mullooly
4. Sara Kerr
6. Amy Shupe
7. Macie Arnoldy, Shawn Hilty
8. Lynn Hemke
14. Don Summerhill
15. Richard Miller
16. Ken Hileman, Jerri Mollick
17. Preston Ribar
22. Dannika Austin
23. Charise Varga
25. Carol Fulton
27. Emberly Finoli
28. Peggy Landon
30. Jordan Guthrie

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.

EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY

We've been informed that the bunny will be hiding eggs in AUPC's sanctuary on April 4th. So, we'd love to invite all kids to help find them on Saturday, April 5th from 2 – 4 pm. During that time we'll have our annual kid's Easter Party. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** We're excited to see you and hope you're excited to come. Great day to bring a friend or meet a new one!!

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:

- Apr. 4 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- Apr. 14 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- Apr. 16 (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

February - Food; none

Financial (3 families) \$600 Rent;
\$100 cash; 4 - \$20 gas certificates

March – Food; none

Financial - \$1,000 church member

From Mission Local Discretionary Fund –
\$2,000 church member

Our enrollment has climbed to 79! Our next packing day will be Wednesday, April 16 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*

We are pleased to announce that Food 4 Kids has received another blessing from the SW PA Lutheran Synod, via the Ethyl Verney Grant program. The grant is for \$9,950 and will be distributed quarterly to Food 4 Kids. This is the second time the SW PA Lutheran Synod has so generously responded to the needs of this “back pack” program which provides food for elementary students on weekends during the school year. (This volunteer program has no administrative costs. All donations are used for program supplies.)

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



**Free Community Program -
Everyone Welcome
Friday, April 11,
6:30 PM**

KIDS KRAFTS

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

Graduate Sunday is just around the corner. If you are associated with anyone graduating this year and would like to have them recognized on Graduate Sunday, please call the office with their name and from where they are graduating. We'd love to honor them!

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

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

\$\$ 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. **We welcome your commitment to help lower the cost to the church.** *Thank You!*

AUPC FINANCIAL UPDATE—

I would like to keep you all apprised on the financial status at AUPC. Last Wednesday, the Session approved the following critical building maintenance updates: \$39,600 for the purchase of two new boilers for the Education Building, \$5,774 for ceiling replacements in two rooms in the sanctuary building, and \$3,200 for painting in those two rooms (later lowered to \$3,000). Because our Building Fund balance was approximately \$27,000, we voted to close two \$11,000 c.d.'s (at penalty) to come up with the difference. This leaves our Building Fund at a near \$0 balance. Another much-needed project for the near future is repairing the steps to the upper parking lot. The Building and Grounds Team is currently getting bids for that project. PW voted on Sunday, March 23, to donate \$3,000 to the Building Fund, and our spaghetti dinner grossed \$1,371.25 towards that fund as well. Many thanks to those who organized and worked at the dinner, and to

the very active women's organization for stepping up to the plate! We ARE blessed that we had savings to complete these projects. God is good!

I also have to let you know that we are showing a shortage each month with income vs. expenses. That shortage at the end of February was \$3,222.10, year-to-date. Of course, our utility bills are killing us during the winter months, and we should see some relief with the Spring weather.

We would like you to consider making a donation to our Building Fund to shore up that Fund, and to consider a small increase in your regular giving as you are able.

♥ **Malachi 3:10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."**

We are so blessed to have a wonderful, compassionate congregation and a beautiful sanctuary and education building, and to continue to reach out into the community and the world to support our mission statement--"Wrapping our community in God's love, one person at a time." Thank you, dear friends!

Amy Shupe,
Treasurer

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

Join us in person or
livestream on YouTube.



**Schedule: Sunday, April 6
Maundy Thursday, April 17 at BSPC
Easter Sunday, April 20**

**Palm Sunday @ AUPC
April 13 @ 11:00 am
Fellowship Reception**

**Maundy Thursday Service @ BSPC
7:00 pm. Communion will be served.**

HE IS RISEN

**Easter Sunday
Service
20 @ 11:00 am
AUPC**

**April
at**

**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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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

A VISIT FROM RWANDA

Pastor Samuel from our partner church in Mugombwa has made plans to be here on Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday, May 25, to lead worship with Pastor Niki.

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 *Karen's brother Gary, Sara Kerr, Pastor Niki's step-dad in remission ☺, Butch, Butch & Donna's son, 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 Kopnicky.*

CONTINUING *Frank Flickinger, Natalie, The family of Donna Fry, Families of health care workers at UPMC York, Eric, Glenna Hall, Dan P., Betty, Mindy, Sally, Cathy Hubbard,, domestic violence victim.*

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.*

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Many thanks to John Fouse and his fantastic crew who made AUPC’s recent Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser a great success! Thanks also to all those who donated the many, delicious desserts. And, we’d be remiss to not thank all our local businesses who generously donated food and supplies, making this event possible. Finally, thanks to all of the eaters, without you we wouldn’t have raised \$1,371.25 for our building fund. *GRAZIE!!*****

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. For general information, contact the church office at 724~478~4807.

Beginning Friday, June 6, 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.

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