

# THE LISTENING POST

DECEMBER  
2024

## Pastor Niki's Ponderings



To our beloved church family,

By the time some of you read this (depending on the delivery schedule of this newsletter), I will be back in the pulpit and in the office, observing the season of Advent with you...a season of waiting and anticipation, of hope for things to come. Hope can be in short supply for many of us in various seasons of our lives. Illness, financial hardships, general malaise at society, and even just the changing back of the clocks that plunges us into more darkness are all things that can contribute to a more difficult search for hope. I get it.

In the midst of a hard season in the life of my family, and for me personally, you are one of the things that brings me hope. I am so grateful for the gift that you have given to aid our family in funeral expenses for my dad. In the middle of unexpected awfulness, your generosity brought light to us. I am always holding you in prayers of

thanksgiving for all of the ways you have cared for me and for us in this time.

But I've also seen various Facebook posts in the time that I've been out. I have seen pennies counted for an organization that helps families find hope in their darkest of times. I have seen the Word of God shared while remembering the saints who have gone before us in the last year. The light that is carried in and out of the sanctuary every Sunday that reminds us that the Spirit of God is always with us, joining us in worship and going out ahead of us as we journey into the world to share love and hope with a world that is hurting.

As we enter a time of seasonal darkness, let us also remember that we prepare to enter a new church year with the start of Advent. And we start the year always with hope and anticipation at the gift to come to us. Light in the arrival of the Christ child.

See you soon,  
Pastor Niki



1. Devi Grant
4. Connor Lopovsik
5. Heather Heller, Mary Mancini
7. Aaron Varga
9. Hunter Hanus, John Moats, Jody Smoyer
11. Hayden Brooks
12. Gunner Hanus
13. Chris George
14. Josh Hanus, Sarah McCormack, Joyce Mollick
16. Nick Arnoldy, Claire Brooks, Kathy Wilson
17. Michael Motosicky
18. Emily Burg, Riley Gartley
19. Tyler Guthrie
20. James Detman, Declan McManus
22. Candy George, Benjamin Mumaw
24. Alonzo Beard
25. June Thompson
26. Kim Bush, Knox Kanish
30. Maddie Smoyer, Gladys Varga
31. Luke 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.*



*We're Back . . .  
If you want to ring, call the church office!*



**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. For more information, contact the church office.

Child Evangelism Fellowship  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
For AUPC and Community Kids!  
**SUNDAY, DEC. 8**  
Immediately following worship.



Then, following the CEF Christmas Party, parents & kids, family members and church friends are invited to make a small caroling loop through Apollo's downtown leaving from the church at approximately 2:00 PM. Plans include returning to AUPC for Hot Chocolate. We hope to see you and you and you there!



The kids already have the Christmas Spirit and have been rehearsing Sundays. **Dress rehearsal for the play will be Sat., December 14 at 10:00 AM. Following rehearsal, the Sunday School Christmas Party will be held at Noon.**

*Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters and friends are invited to the performance on **Sunday, December 15, during worship**, after which there will be a fellowship reception. Won't you join us as the kids offer you "Just a Little Christmas?"*

## 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:

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



**Food 4 Kids**  
A Community Sponsored Program

Thanks to TJ Lucas for filling in more and more. Thanks also for all the volunteers who have stepped up to help in Ron's areas. Now more than ever, we are filling the gap. Thank you for your continued support for the many children we help.

Candy

### COMMUNITY COMPASSION

October: Food—None;  
Financial: 2 families; Utilities \$300;  
Donation to Samaritan's Purse for Hurricane Victims: \$1,000.00

## MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



11 local churches and the Apollo Area Lions Club walked and/or donated to this year's Crop Walk. Grand Total was \$4,616.66. AUPC raised \$1,332.90 of that and 25% will be coming home to the Apollo Area Food Bank in the amount of \$1,154.17. Super job by one and all. (now we have a total to beat next year ☺)



Friday, December 13,  
6:30 PM  
KIDS KRAFTS  
HAS RETURNED!  
2<sup>ND</sup> Friday, Sept - Jun

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Quarterly Meeting –  
Saturday, December 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

## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

### WHERE WE STAND at the END of OCTOBER 2024



October Income: \$10,161.81  
October Expenses: \$11,254.66  
October Income to Expenses: \$1,262.77

YTD Income: \$107,490.01  
YTD Expenses: \$109,919.12

YTD Income to Expenses: -\$2,429.11

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

Join us in person or  
livestream on YouTube.



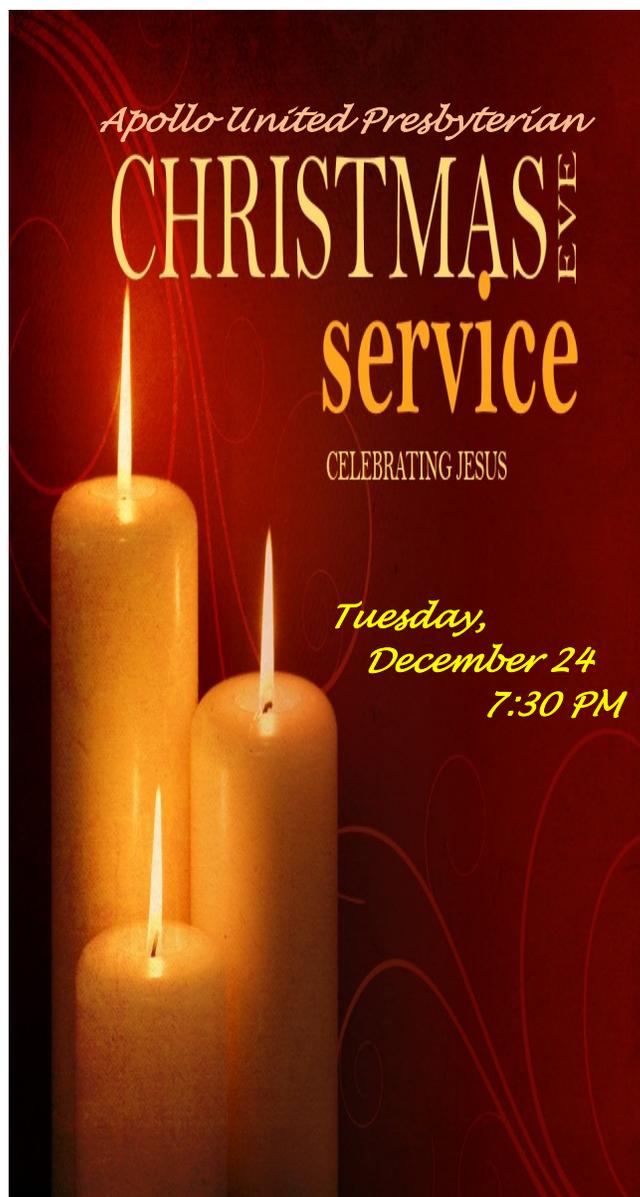
Schedule: Sunday, December 8

### 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](mailto: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](http://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 February 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 by January 20.

Thank You ~ Stewardship and Finance





The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**Prepare the Way with your offering.**

## What's New.....

### .....Around the Church?

**Weeds were pulled, bushes pruned, and garden cut back thanks to volunteers at our clean-up day.**

**Security cameras have been installed and are up and running.**

**A new cold-patch barrier was put around the base of the church in the parking lot in an effort to prevent water entering the basement.**

**New signage has been added throughout the church and Christian Ed buildings for easier navigation through our buildings for visitors.**

**Plastering and painting was completed in the large dining area downstairs where a radiator had been removed.**

**Bids are being secured for various outdoor maintenance.**

Many other projects are in various states of completeness – we'll keep you posted!

*Thanks to our many volunteers and to Derek Hilty and Scott Hollabaugh from Building & Grounds.*

**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** *Ann Cloonan, Nancy, Missy "Hurley", LaRue Mumaw, Jerry Travis family, Carwile's nephew Liam, Jordan, Ron George, Veterans, John ☺, Bill Toland family, Jess Carwile ☺, Lisa B. ☺, Jim Eckenrod, Nancy, Pastor Niki's step-father Dave.*

**CONTINUING** , *Don Dick, Brenda Kaskan, Pat and Ann Cloonan, Darlene S., John Williams, Tracy, Alex Dunmire, voters, Lilly, Jim, Linda, Donna, Judy.*

**ONGOING** Bob Reed, Donnie Riggle, Gary Harkcom, Donna Fry, Bill & Linda Crabtree, Frank Kovak, Josh Hanus, Shannon Pruss, 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.





