

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

First Sunday of Advent

Celebration of Baptism & Communion

November 30, 2025

11:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "We Thank You, Lord" *arr. L. Larson w/Geoff Atkinson*

WORDS of WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS and BIRTHDAYS

PRAYER CONCERNS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Pityk Family

Leader: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread." His name was Jesus. Mary, his mother, laid him in a feeding trough to rest. Soon, he would grow up to be called the Bread of Life. He would fill their hungry bellies; then, he would feed their hearts with love and truth.

Today, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

All: As we light this candle we are reminded that, from the manger, hope is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, the Bread of Life.

*** HYMN #86** "The People Who Walked in Darkness" vs. 1, 4, 5

CALL TO CONFESSION

Kathy Wilson

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

God who cares for every sparrow and every child, we confess the enormity of the world's hunger feels overwhelming. We do not know what to do about famine and starvation, so we look away and distract ourselves from suffering people and all creatures, great and small. We confess we neglect small acts of generosity because the problems seem so big. We confess we shrink back from true solutions because the sacrifices seem too great. May

your hope compel us to make choices reflecting our love for our neighbors and creation. You take our feeble efforts and magnify your glory. May the world be fed with hope. Amen.

*** DECLARATION OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROPHETIC LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5 CEB OT p. 631

MOMENT OF WORD AND WONDER Kids Bells

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of God's children

Nolan Bryan Mascio

Lucas Vince Mascio

Jessica Carwile

Profession of Faith Apostles' Creed pg.35
Thanksgiving
Baptism
Blessings
Welcome

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

Reception of New Members

Presentation of Jessica Carwile

Welcome

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 14:13-21 CEB NT p. 16

PREACHING OF THE WORD "From the Manger, Hope Grows"

We Respond to God's Word

*** HYMN #501** "Feed Us, Lord"

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory

“Give Thanks”

Smith

Doxology #606

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion (unison)

Gracious God, thank you for this special meal of communion. You have given us the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and we are thankful for the strength they give us. Thank you for being with us—from the beginning of the world, to the baby Jesus in the manger, to this moment right here. You are always loving and faithful. Holy Spirit, help us as we go out, so we can be kind like Jesus and share your love with a world that needs it. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN #115 “Away In a Manger”

* CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“”

Jacobs

- Please stand in body or spirit

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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 Tues. & Wed. 9:30-4:00

Please call for appointments.

E-mail pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net

Amy Shupe, Organist; Joel Varga, Assistant Organist

Zach Bush, Trumpeter Sam Mullooly, Trombonist

Linda Truffa, Office Administrator

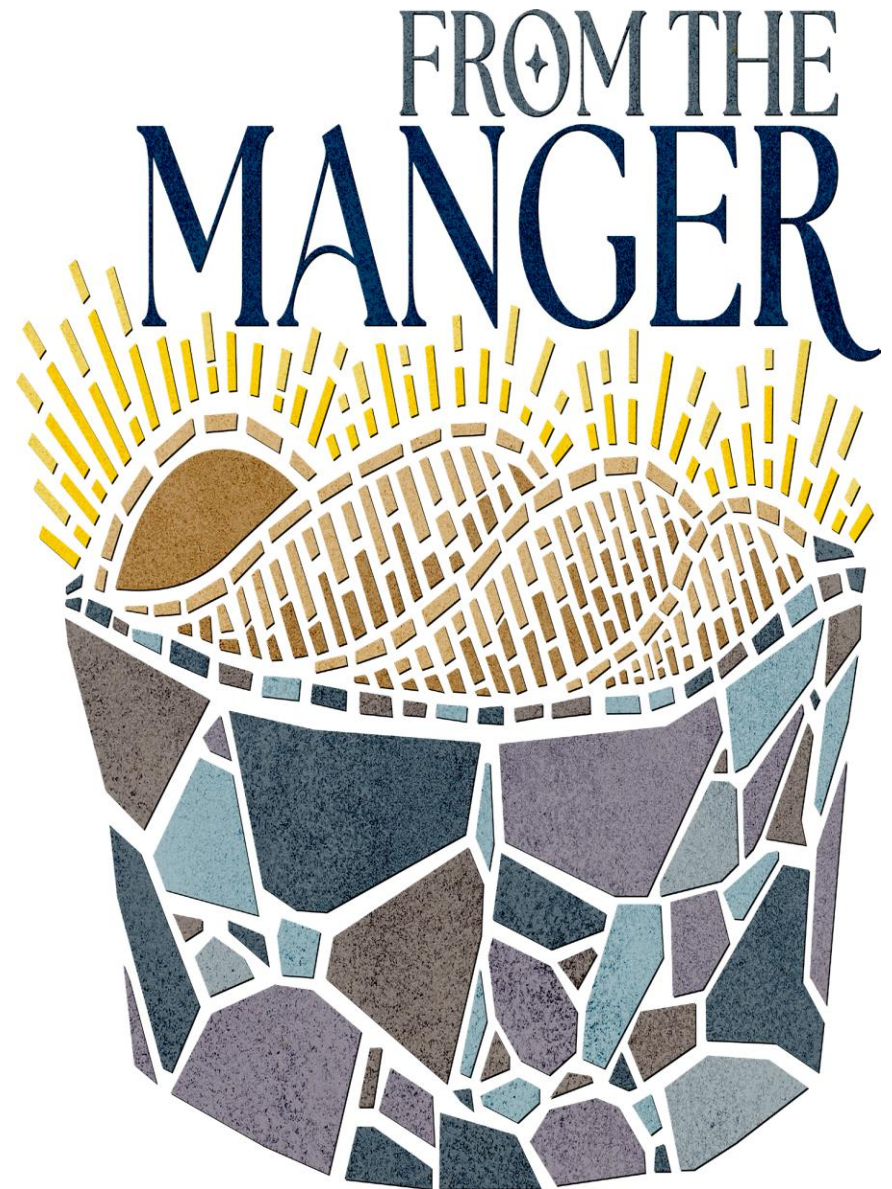
Jerrilyn Mollick, Custodian

Church Address: 401 First Street, Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

Church Phone: 724-478-4807 Fax: 724-478-2708

Website: www.apollopresby.org E-mail office@aupc.comcastbiz.net

Office Hours: Holiday Schedule in bulletin



Hope Grows.

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.” Luke 2:7

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Carole Kennedy
Sara J. Kerr
Faith Friend: Shirley Mumaw
Our Church: Mission Team
The Churches of the Kiskiminetas Presbytery
Presbytery: Shenandoah (Synod of Mid-Atlantic)
Denomination: National Council of Churches of Christ in USA
Nation: Tunisia - Tunis

IMMEDIATE Ken Bowman, Jess's grandfather, Christmas Tea JOY!, Melinda here ☺, Family of Frank Lombardi, Mary, KVCB ☺, Ronan, Ashley, Dan Pepler, Wendy, Ashley, Patty Pavetti, Janelle, Danny, Doris Patterson, Perona family, **Laura's brother-in-law, people of Jamaica, Jeff, Shirley Jackson.**

CONTINUING John Moats, Diane & Jim Detman on the loss of Diane's father, Kim, Ashley & Ben, Ronan, Luke, new baby, Melinda, Shannan K., Elaine Newton, Eddie, Ed Bortz, **Knox Kanish, Debbie, Vinny, Chynna Finoli and CJ Williams, *JOY for Missy.**

ONGOING

Nora, Eric Ribar, Missy, Katie, 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

November 30, 2025 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>SUNDAY</u>	Sunday School	10:00 AM
	Worship-1 st Sunday of Advent	11:00 AM
<u>FRIDAY</u>	Office Closed	
<u>SUNDAY</u>	Sunday School	10:00 AM
	Worship	11:00 AM



TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER!

Christmas Poinsettia order forms are in the vestibule. If you would like to donate to the Apollo Area Food Bank in honor or in memory of someone in lieu of purchasing a poinsettia, **please use the poinsettia order form and simply list FOOD**

BANK on the form and then fill in your other honoring or remembering info. The cost will be at least the same as the price of the plant. And if you wish, you may do both!

SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS

December 7 ~ Laura Uncapher & Amy Zukas

December 14 ~ Laura Uncapher & _____

December 21 ~ Glenna Kanish & Scott Hollabaugh

December 28 ~ Derek Hilty & Glenna Kanish

**Children's Advent Bulletins and Advent Calendars
for anyone will be available in the vestibule.**

Today's Acolyte ~ Adelynn Carwile



Beginning October 26 through November 30, we will be accepting donations for the Apollo Area Food Bank's Annual Christmas Turkey Drive. A \$20 donation will buy a nice-sized turkey for a family in need. A donated Christmas Turkey also

serves two purposes: Giving someone a Merry Christmas meal and feeding your joyful heart.

CHURCH OFFICE 2025 HOLIDAY HOURS

OFFICE CLOSED:

Fridays, Dec. 5, 12, 19

Tuesday, Dec. 23, Wed. 24, Thurs. 25 & Fri. 26
December 29 thru January 2

OFFICE WILL REOPEN MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTERS WITH CALENDARS and separately THE GRATITUDE CALENDARS are available in the vestibule under the bulletin board.

Shhhhhh I heard a rumor that there will be kids in pajamas on Sunday, Dec. 21, in your SANCTUARY! Santa says they are doing a Christmas Play for you. Shhhhh . . .



Christmas Concert

Get into the Christmas Spirit AND support a great cause! All proceeds to benefit the Food4Kids program in the Apollo-Ridge School District.



Dec. 6

- LIVE MUSIC BY CHAD TOLAND
- BASKET RAFFLE
- 50/50 RAFFLE

Contact below for tickets
Apollo United PC
401 First St.
M-F 9am-2pm
724-478-4807

Indigo Market
2107 River Rd.
Sun-Sat 7am-2pm
724-596-1007

Apollo United Presbyterian Church
401 First St. Apollo

A Love Offering will be taken for our musician and Food4Kids.

Contact below for tickets
Quality Life Services
151 Good View Dr.
M-F 8am-4:30pm
724-727-3451

Boiling Springs PC
1668 PA-56
Tues/Thur 3pm-6pm
724-478-1523



YOU CAN ALL BE AUPC "CHRISTMAS HELPERS!"

**Please consider joining us to help with our annual "Hanging of the Greens" On Saturday, November 29 at 9 a.m. Many hands make light work, and it's always a fun and festive time!*

We hope to decorate this year's sanctuary Christmas tree with nativity-themed ornaments. Please bring your nativity ornaments in between now and November 30 and place them in the donation box in the vestibule. Our Sunday School kiddos are invited to stay after worship on **November 30 and decorate the tree—they'll love seeing the ornaments you choose! Following the holiday, ornaments can be picked up on the table at the back of the chapel for you to take home and use on your tree.*

In addition to decking our sanctuary tree, we would love to have a variety of nativities on display this year. If you'd like to participate, please plan to join us for the **"Hanging of the Greens" on November 29 to set up your nativity. Please make your own judgement based on the size of your nativity and which pieces you bring; only the main figures are necessary. If you have questions, please reach out to any member of the Ministry Team or to Pastor Niki.*

**Sunday, December 21 worship will include our annual children's Christmas program. Help us get in the holiday spirit and wear your jammies to worship that Sunday! Our kids will be sharing a "bedtime story" this year. Join us for a brunch-style reception following worship, too!*

Kids participating in the program will have their **dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 20 at 10 a.m. Immediately following, around noon, our annual children's "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Christmas party will be held in the social room. A light lunch, crafts, games and a story will be provided—complete with birthday cake! Cleared volunteers are needed; please reach out to Amy Zukas if you'd be willing to help out.*



On Sunday, November 2nd, we remembered those who have gone before us for All Saints' Sunday. We also recognized individuals who have been members of our church for many years. Our typical practice is to recite the names of those celebrating their 50 year membership anniversary, , 60 year, and then 70 years and then each year thereafter. We use a program to keep track of this information. Unfortunately, it had not been updated and we failed to recognize Butch Schrecengost, one of our members who has been here for 71 years. We apologize for this error and are thankful it was brought to our attention. **Happy 71st membership anniversary, Butch!**

-Rev. Niki Atkinson

