

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

11:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE

"He Is Born"

arr. C. Tornquist

WORDS of WELCOME

MINUTE 4 MISSION

Candy George

ANNOUNCEMENTS and BIRTHDAYS

PRAYER CONCERNS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Kaminski Family
One: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called, Bethlehem, or "House of Bread." His name was Jesus. After his birth, Mary, his mother, was amazed at all that was being said about him and the community's outpouring of love.

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

One: Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

All: Then, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

One: Today, we light the candle of love. Love is the care and connection binding us together with each other and God.

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

*** HYMN # 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1, 3, 7**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Joyce Wildi

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

Ever-loving and compassionate God, you have shown us how to love. You sent your Son to teach us, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Love requires us to care for others. We confess we have turned our eyes away from suffering. Love abounds in shared meals and conversation. We confess we have, at times, avoided interaction and common tables. From creation, you have demonstrated your love through a beautiful world with enough resources for all to thrive. We confess we have hoarded resources and fenced ourselves in. From the manger, you have shown us love that visits all people. Teach us to love, that we might be true disciples of the one who showed us how to love. May the world be fed with love. Amen

*** DECLARATION OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:25-33 CEB

NT p. 59

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"The Christmas Story for Kids"

We Respond to God's Word

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

pg 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE When you hear "we pray" please respond: "Loving God Hear Our Prayer."

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**Offertory "Once in Royal David's City" H.S. Livingston, Jr.
Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Gratitude for God's Abundance (*unison*)**

God, our Loving Parent, your love compels us to give because you gave. We give to our loved ones, to our neighbors, to people we will never know, and to our church. We trust you will give us the wisdom to use these offerings to grow seeds of love in the world. Show us how best to steward the resources you have so graciously given us. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN #105 "People, Look East"

* CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE "Jesus Messiah" arr. C. Tornquist

- *Please stand in body or spirit*

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

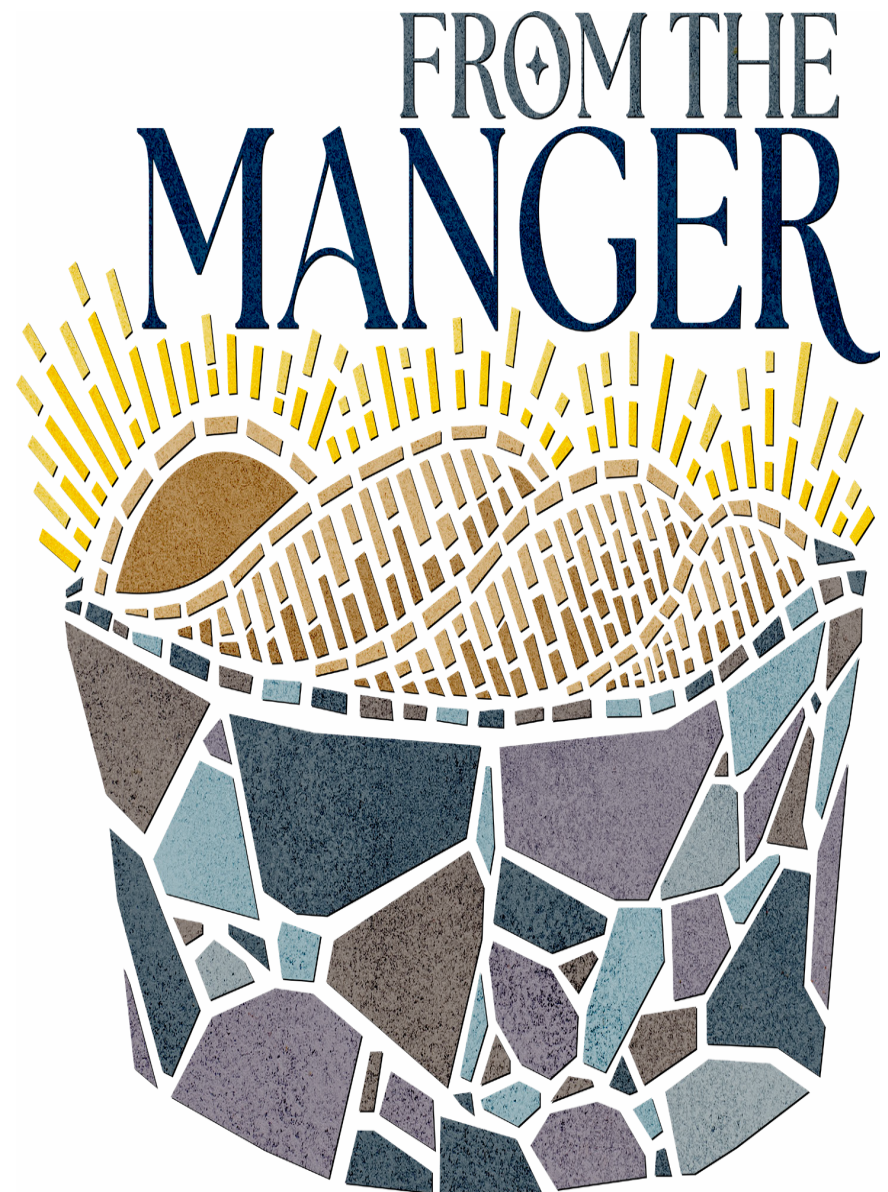
Church Phone: 724-478-4807 Fax: 724-478-2708

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

Office Hours: Holiday Schedule in bulletin

Today's Acolyte ~ Avery Zukas

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a **Congregational Meeting, TODAY, December 21**, immediately following worship for the purpose of **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** and **RECEIVING THE 2026 BUDGET.**



Love Grows.

"You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel." Luke 2:31-32

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Household: Peggy Landon
Bonnie Machak

Faith Friend: Pat Sharrar

Our Church: PW

The Churches of the Kiskiminetas Presbytery

Presbytery: Boston (Synod of Northeast)

Denomination: American Baptist Churches in the USA

Nation: Zambia - Lusaka

IMMEDIATE Doris Patterson family, Thunder Robinson, Kind family who lost baby, Aiden Miller family, Mark & Kasey Gizzler & family, Mary, Kristen, family of Sandy, family of Jim Dunmire, Gene Griffith, Debbie, Dave Highfield, Ron in church ☺, Dolores, beautiful sanctuary at Christmas, Ken Bowman, Jess's grandfather, Christmas Tea JOY!, Melinda here ☺, Family of Frank Lombardi, mary, KVCB ☺, Ronan, Ashley, Dan Peppler, Wendy.

CONTINUING Ashley, Patty Pavetti, Janelle, Danny, Doris Patterson, Perona family. Laura's brother-in-law, people of Jamaica, Jeff, Shirley Jackson, John Moats, Diane & Jim Detman on the loss of Diane's father, Kim, Ashley & Ben, Ronan, Luke, new baby.

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

Christmas Eve Service
7:30 PM
"Lessons & Carols"

Today's bulletin is given **In Loving Memory of my mother, Elizabeth Kiebler**, from Joyce Wildi.

December 21, 2025 CHURCH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>SUNDAY</u>	Sunday School	10:00 AM
	Worship-4 th Sunday of Advent	11:00 AM
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	CHRISTMAS EVE "Lessons & Carols"	7:30
<u>THURSDAY</u>	* MERRY CHRISTMAS*	
<u>SUNDAY</u>	Worship	10:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS
December 21 ~ Glenna Kanish & Scott Hollabaugh
December 28 ~ Derek Hilty & Glenna Kanish

IMPORTANT MESSAGE! We are so pleased that the playground has been such a big hit! Parents, here are a few reminders: ***An adult must be with the child (children) *If toys are brought from home, soft & quiet is best *It is the adult's responsibility to clean up after their children-this is not our custodians responsibility.**
THANKS!

CHURCH OFFICE 2025 HOLIDAY HOURS
OFFICE CLOSED:
Tuesday, Dec. 23, Wed. 24, Thurs. 25 & Fri. 26
December 29 thru January 2
OFFICE WILL REOPEN MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

Pastor Niki is looking for a few individuals who plan to attend our joint worship service with BSPC on 12/28 at 10:00 am, being held at AUPC. We are in need of some readers during worship. Text/Email/Call her ASAP. Thank you!



***“We Wish You a Merry
Christmas”***

***We wish you a merry
Christmas***

***We wish you a merry
Christmas***

***We wish you a merry
Christmas and
a Happy New Year!***

***Good Tidings we bring to
you and
your kin!***

***We wish you a merry
Christmas and
a Happy New Year!***



***“ The Christmas Story
for Kids”***

#114 “Away in a Manger”

CONGREGATION PLEASE JOIN IN AFTER VERSE ONE!

“THE CHRISTMAS STORY for KIDS”

OUR PJ SINGERS:

Lyanna Atkinson
Claire Brooks
Hayden Brooks
Adelynn Carwile
Clare Carwile
Knox Kanish
Lennon Kanish
Sophia Pityk
Preston Ribar
Mia Uncapher
Natalie Uncapher
Avery Zukas

THE SONGS:

#119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”

CONGREGATION PLEASE JOIN IN AFTER VERSE ONE!

***OUR
READERS:***

Geoff Atkinson
Claire Brooks,
Hayden Brooks,
Avery Zukas,
Glenna Kanish

OUR HELPERS:

*Many thanks to our Sunday school
staff,*

Miss Shelly and Miss Amy.

*Thank you also to our kid “herders” and “jack-of-
all-trade” helpers who jumped in
where and when needed,
Mr. Geoff and Miss Glenna.*

***A HUGE THANK YOU to our
Teacher/ChoirDirector/Frazzled
Grandma, LAURA UNCAPHER, for***



sharing her singing skills and “patience?” with the kids.

*Our kids are blessed to have “The Helpers”
and all of the Sunday School staff!*

THE BEGINNING

In Honor of

Hope - Peace - Joy

Our Children and Grandchildren
from
Don & Lydia Summerhill

**A special gift was given to the
Apollo-Ridge Area Food Bank in
honor of my
brother, Alan Shockey, and sisters,
Brenda Kaskan and Marcia Costa**
From Shirley Dick

In Loving Memory

A. Dean & Kathryn Orr *from Nancy
Russo*

**Our parents, our brothers, and our
son**

Matthew *from Don and Lydia Summerhill*

**Lenore & Tom Muffley, Mary Kolish
&
Walter F. Smail** *from Amy Shupe & Walt
Smail*

**Dr. Lyndon H. Landon, Jr., Dora &
Sam
Gallagher, Nancy L.
Macakanja, Wilda B.
Guthrie** *from Peggy*

Landon

**Mr. & Mrs. Blair
Kiebler, Mr. & Mrs.
Lawrence Wildi, John Wildi**
from Joyce Wildi

**Layden Wilson, Frank & Edna
Adams,**
Layden & Margaret Wilson *from*
Kathy
Wilson

All of Our Loved Ones *from Ron &
Candy*
George

Loved Ones *from Linda Gould*

Rick Kopnicky *from Carol Kopnicky*

Our Parents *from The*

Richard Miller Family

**A. Dean & Kathryn
Orr** *from Deana Waters*

**A special gift was given to the
General
Fund In Memory of Louise Montali**
*from her daughter & husband, June &
Eugene*
Bicego

**A special gift was given to the
AUPC
Food Pantry In Memory of Loved
Ones**
from Don & Shirley Dick.

