

²³ “But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Matthew 13:23



Abington Presbyterian Church

July 16, 2023

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

7th Sunday after Pentecost

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

A time for quiet preparation before worship

Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus, that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

PRELUDE

Prelude on Nettleton

Erik Meyer

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;

**for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.**

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**We will be glad and exult in you;
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

***HYMN 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

(* - Indicates all who are able may stand)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O gracious and gentle God,
God of peace, Father of mercy, God of all comfort:
we confess before you the evil of our hearts;
we acknowledge that we are too inclined
toward anger, jealousy, and revenge, to ambition and pride,
which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings between others and us.
Too often have we thus offended and distressed you, O long-suffering Father.
Forgive us this sin and permit us to partake of the blessing
you have promised the peacemakers,
who shall be called the children of God.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***HYMN OF PRAISE 581** **Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *Greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.*
The peace of Christ be with you ...**And also with you.**

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All Children are welcome to attend Summer Sunday School in the Children's Choir Room.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 55:10-13**
The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING **Psalm. 65**
The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 13:1-13**
The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **A BOUNTIFUL RETURN** *The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton*

***HYMN 67** **My Song Forever Shall Record** **PUER NOBIS NASCITUR**

RECEPTION Of A NEW MEMBER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **The Apostles' Creed** *Hymnal p. 35*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

THANKSGIVING and SENDING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Irish melody

*DOXOLOGY

HYMN 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*HYMN 714

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

***BENEDICTION**

PRELUDE

Ciacona in E minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton

Liturgist: Tia McCoun

Children's Message: John Sall

Special Music: Samantha Ford, oboe; Charlie Ford, guitar

Organ: Erik Meyer

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We warmly welcome Tia McCoun into the membership of Abington Presbyterian Church today.

In need of special prayers this week: Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Judy Meissner, Susan Johnson, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Victor Johnson III (Pete Johnson's nephew), Laurie Betts, Sally Hardy, Katie Link, Jennifer Edward (friend of Nick Cupo), Karen Dirks, Marilyn DeBacco (mother of Barb Foy), Ted Hyczko, Peter Mason (John Waters' nephew), Shawn London (William Coles' daughter), Bill Kostik (Shelia Jackson's brother), Gordy Hawkinson (Nick Cupo's Uncle), Jen Klauder (friend of Cindi Willis), Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Jim Holman (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Paul Costello Family, Mary Ann Wherry, Kirby Lawrence Hill, Miriam Whitten, Carol Young (friend of Bill Gustafson), Gina Marshall (Cynthia Browne's sister-in-law), Bob Browne (Len Browne's brother), Carol Mason (sister-in-law of John & Shirley Waters), Russell Warner (son-in-law of Mary DeVan).

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

In Loving Memory
of
Helen Porter
07/31/1924 - 07/08/2023

Joys: Our church family would like to celebrate and share joys in our midst including the arrival of a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild in your family. Please let Susan in the office know about these happy events that we may share here.

We share prayers of joy and thanksgiving with **Alice and Bill Price** celebrate the wedding of their daughter **Sarah Wingert to Joseph Ogden** on 6/23/2023.

We share joy and prayers of thanksgiving on the recent birth of Henley Leyla Kirk, granddaughter of **Carol Gabay**, and daughter of Hillary and Robbie Kirk.



Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God's infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Founded 1714

1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001

Phone: (215) 887-4530 Fax: (215) 887-5988 E-mail: jthornton@apcusa.org

Web Site: www.apcusa.org

The Reverend Dr. James W. Thornton, Head of Staff

Mrs. Tia McCoun, Congregational Care Associate

Ruth Ideen-Sall, B.M., Interim Director of Christian Education

John Sall, M.M., Director of Music Ministries

Eric Meyer, Organist

The Rev. Ashley Rossi & Justin Feil, Youth Fellowship Coordinators

Simple Gifts 8:00am Service is moving outdoors for the summer beginning Sunday, June 4th.



Outdoor Worship Service



Nursery Care— is offered for children birth through toddler in the nursery and the toddler rooms (110 and 112)

Summer Sunday School— for children preschool through 2nd grades. Come join a one-room-schoolhouse class every Sunday at 10am in the Children's Choir Room located under the sanctuary in the basement. Children will enjoy playing together, hearing a Bible story, doing a short craft, eating a snack, and conclude with time on the church playground. Older children are welcome to be helpers during the class, as well. For more information, please see Mrs. Sall.



This Sunday Pastor Jim will look at two NT scriptures which he refers to as “*you must be joking.*” Are we really to take these seriously? Maybe the problem is that the common understanding of these passages is not at all what they mean! I hope you’ll take the time to attend these important conversations.

The APC's Anti-Racism Team will have a Book Study in August on Tuesday evenings at 7PM in the church parlor. The featured book will be “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander. The book is available in paperback and is 312 pages long. All are welcome!

Please come and add your voice to this important discussion: August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th - don't worry if you have to miss one or two sessions due to vacation or other obligations, your participation would still be encouraged and impactful.

A Memorial Service for Ruth McClung will be held on Friday, July 21st at 11:00AM in the auditorium of Rydal Park Senior Living Community (1515 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046).

Youth News:

DATE CHANGE FOR BEACH DAY: Beach Day will be Saturday, August 26 for all youth going into 6th grade up to Class of 2023. We will spend the day in Ocean City, N.J. Meet at APC at 8 a.m. Return by 11 p.m.



10th Annual Soaker 5k -- sign up to run/walk or volunteer

Abington Presbyterian Church will host its 10th running of the Summer Soaker 5k on Saturday, July 22. The race begins at 8:30 a.m. Participants can sign up online at runtheday.com, and will receive a high quality, very soft T-shirt if registered by July 7. Proceeds this year benefit the Child Guidance Resource Centers, which provides mental health services to Philadelphia area youth.

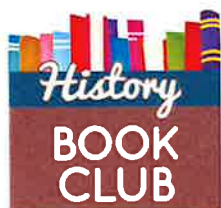


Volunteers are needed to help at registration and the finish area as well as directing participants along the race course. Volunteers should email justinfeil4@gmail.com to help. Please sign up by June 30 so you can receive a volunteer shirt in the correct size.

BOOK DISCUSSION: Wednesday, July 19 @ 6:30p @ Cyndi Miller's house in Jenkin-town.

The book being reviewed is "Ella's War" written by a local author known to many of us in Abington. It is a poignant story of love, loss and sacrifice set along the coastal shores of Delaware during a time in history that tested the resilience of the human spirit in the face of insurmountable odds. It looks at not only the soldiers fighting the war but the families who were left behind to carry on. The book follows the main character, Ella, and her son Reese, on a journey that depicts many difficult choices that needed to be made due to the circumstances of WWII and how they can affect our lives and outlook on the future. What would you have chosen at a time where the only way to keep your home was to trust the enemy in your own backyard?

Please join us for a lively discussion and a small meal. You are welcome even if you haven't read the book. The camaraderie will be worth it RSVP to Cyndi Miller @ crmiller@gmail.com or Lisa Goetz-Spitko @ goetzspitko@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



Our next book is

One Giant Leap: The Impossible Mission That Flew Us to the Moon by Charles Fishman (480 pages).

Our next meeting is Tuesday July 25 at 7PM in the Parlor.

Summer Reading? Ella's War

Our friend and local writer, Rusty Allen just released his first book entitled Ella's War, a historical fiction set in Delaware during WWII. We invite you to join us on Wednesday, July 16th over some light fare to discuss and celebrate. We'll meet at the Miller's at 6:30PM and you can pick up Rusty's book at the new Capricorn Book Shop in Jenkin-town. <https://capricornbookshop.com/> Hope to see you-- Cindy Miller crmiller56@gmail.com and Lisa Goetz Spitko goetzspitko@gmail.com



GEMMA SERVICES changes lives by transforming hope into action for children, youth and families facing emotional and behavioral challenges. Those served often are impacted by loss, unexpected challenges, or serious traumas such as abuse, neglect and/or addiction. Gemma Services offers education programs, mental health services in residential and community settings, foster care, adoption services and prevention programs.
(gemmaservices.org)

2023 Backpack and School Supply Collection

June 19 through July 31

Help children served by Gemma begin school with all the right stuff!

SUPPLY LIST

Backpack – ***gender neutral please!***

3 composition books

4 2-pocket folders

1 box of pencils

1 large eraser

1 box crayons

1 package colored pencils or markers

2 glue sticks (no paste or liquid glue)



Please bring your filled back pack to APC and leave it outside the church office no later than July 31st. Any questions, please contact Mission Council (Georgene at gapilling25@gmail.com).

Theology on Tap

When:

7:30pm on Wednesday, July 19th

Where:

Human Robot

208 York Rd, Jenkintown, PA

Overview:

Theology on Tap is calling on all those interested in enjoying local brews and engaging in hearty conversation. We will reflect on various topics covered in conversations between Dr. A.J. Swoboda (professor at Bushnell University) and Dr. Nijay Gupta (professor at Northern Seminary) on the podcast *Slow Theology: Simple Faith for Chaotic Times* (available wherever you get your podcasts). For our next session, listen to the following episodes:

July 22, 2021 – S3E2: Can We Believe in Hell and the God Who Created It? (38 min)

May 19, 2023 – ST18: The Good News of Heaven (A Tribute to Pastor Tim Keller). (33 min)

Want to RSVP or Get More Info?

Contact Nick Allgyer at nta107@gmail.com



This QR Code takes you to the donation page on our APC website



SCAN ME