

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends
and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have
found my sheep that was lost."

Luke 15:6



Abington Presbyterian Church

September 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Homecoming Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Homecoming Sunday September 11, 2022

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*

We rejoice, loving God, that you reach out to us wherever we are. Thank you for valuing us enough to work for needed reconciliation. Grant that we be strengthened this day in hearing and responding to your Word of grace. Amen.

PRELUDE **Grand-Choeur Dialogue** *Eugene Gigout*

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

There is good news for us to celebrate this day –
God's faithfulness and steadfast love are active in our lives and in the world around us!
There is good news for us to celebrate this day –
God's grace overflows for us with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus!
There is good news for us to celebrate this day –
God's goodness invites us through the Spirit to celebrate in joyful worship and service!

*** HYMN 619** **Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven** **LAUDA ANIMA**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God,
we find it difficult at times
to place our trust in you.
Too often we look at the world,
and see only violence, pain, destruction,
and signs of hopelessness and despair.
Too often we rely on our own strength,
our own plans, our own devices,
rather than trusting in your hand to hold us,
your love to sustain us,
and your wisdom to see us through.
Forgive us, Holy One, when we wander from your ways.
Help us turn to you when we are lost,
that we might find our home in your gracious love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ came into the world to save sinners.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory be to God!

*HYMN 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)

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 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

ANTHEM

Listen, God is Calling

trad. Kenyan worship song

The Chapel Choir invites the congregation to hear the Word read and proclaimed in a traditional worship song from Kenya which is included in our hymnal as #456.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Something to Celebrate

The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

* HYMN 74

When God Restored Our Common Life

RESIGNATION

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

***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 & 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

(You can leave your offering in the plates at the exits or use the QR code to go to APC's giving page or you
can mail your gifts to the church office.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Make Our Church One Joyful Choir

Jonathan Crutchfield

*Thomas Troeger wrote and published this hymn/poem using the metaphor of a choir for the whole Christian Church. The
metaphor illumines the role song and prayer play in shaping the Christian community by inspiring, humbling,
sustaining, and sending us.*

Make our church one joyful choir on this glad and festive day
And by song invoke the fire that invites our hearts to pray:
'Shape us, Christ, to live and claim
all it means to bear your name.'

Bend us low by song and prayer, low enough to lift the cross
And to take the weight and bear love's uncounted final cost.
Shape us, Christ, to live and claim
all it means to bear your name.

Lift us up by song and prayer till the way we deal with loss
And our acts and words of care trace the pattern of your cross:
Shape us, Christ, to live and claim
all it means to bear your name.

Bend us, lift us, make us strong, send us out with wind and fire,
So the world may hear the song that we offer as your choir:
'Shape us Christ, to live and claim
all it means to bear your name.'

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN 475

Come Thou Fount

NETTLETON

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Te Deum

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Liturgist: Alice Price

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

Chapel Youth Choir: Ruth Sall and John Sall, co-directors

Organ: Erik Meyer

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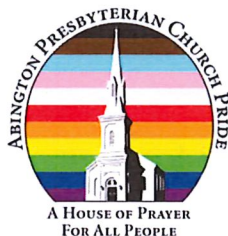
"Listen, God Is Calling (Neno lake Mungu)" words and music Kenyan worship song transcribed by Howard S. Olson, 1987. Arranged in this printing by Austin C. Lovelace, 1987, from a collection of Swahili hymns for international use *Tumshangilie Mungu*. English Trans. © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira (admin. Augsburg Fortress) Music Arr. © 1987 Austin C. Lovelace (admin. Augsburg Fortress). Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-729335. All rights reserved.

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In need of special prayers this week: Doris Boerner, Ira Greenbaum (nephew of Marlyn Whyte), Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Judy Meissner, Susan Johnson, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Erma Yerkes, Joseph May, Victor Johnson III (Pete Johnson's nephew), Laurie Betts, Sally Hardy, Katie Link, Kevin Alexander (Betsy Alexander's son), Jennifer Edward (friend of Nick Cupo), Karen Dirks, Marilyn DeBacco (mother of Barb Foy), Ted Hyczko, Todd Smyth, Victor Johnson Jr. (Pete Johnson's brother), Peter Mason (John Waters' nephew).

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.



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: klhill@apcusa.org

Web Site: www.apcusa.org

The Reverend Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill, *Head of Staff*

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*

Homecoming is TODAY!

Join us after the 10am worship service for our annual party today celebrating the start of the new program year!

There will be hotdogs, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones and fun fellowship for all ages. There will be a Moon Bounce and games with great prizes for kids and live jazz music. And there will be a dunk tank to raise funds for some of our mission partners. It will be a lot of good, clean fun!

Various congregational ministries will have information tables set up outside. Come see what is happening at APC and enjoy a great time of food, fellowship and fun!

Please stay after worship for Homecoming festivities!



Christian Education Offerings beginning September 18th

8:45am

Middle School Sunday School at 8:45am in the Parish Hall basement. All 6th - 8th graders are welcome to join us.

Confirmation class led by Bill Stock and Karen Hoyle. Student and parent meeting is on 9/18.

Senior High Dialogue at 8:45am in the Parish Hall basement. All 10th-12th graders are welcome to join us.

Adult Education at 8:45am in the Parlor. (see blurb below for more information)



10am

Preschool Sunday School Class will begin on September 18th at 10am. We are moving back to the nursery school rooms for class. Join us in Room 221 each Sunday. All children from 2 and a half through pre-k are invited to this class.

Kindergarten through 5th Grade Sunday School will begin on September 18th. All children attend worship with their families until the children's moment when they are dismissed for Sunday School. Each week children are taught about a Bible story through various workshops that rotate- music, games, art, cooking, video are all possibilities. Classes will be divided by K/1st, 2nd/3rd, and 4th/5th grades.

For more information contact Ruth Sall at 215-887-4530 or rsall@apcusa.org.

Adult Education beginning September 18th, a weekly series led by Suzin Weber at 8:45am in the Parlor. Suzin is a PhD Candidate in Organizational Leadership at Palmer Seminary. The class she will lead this fall focuses on the Book of James in the Bible and James, the brother of Jesus:

James the Just, brother of the Lord Jesus, was the leader of the Church in Jerusalem from 43-62 C.E., when he died a martyr's death. He led the church during a time of great social turmoil much like our own. Violent protests erupted in the streets, people decried the social injustices they saw all around them, and many wanted to overturn a government that they saw as illegitimate. Plus, the missionary work of the Apostle Paul was bringing foreigners into the Church in droves, making the Aramaic-speaking Christians in Jerusalem fear that they were in danger of being replaced. How would God want His people to respond to these crises? The call came to James to try to sort it all out, drawing on principles from the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus. Join us as we study this often overlooked but very important and relevant Apostle of the First Century Church.

If you are behind on your giving to the church because of the summer months, the Stewardship Council hopes you can get caught up. That would help the offering receipt and cash flow numbers. Thank you!



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

All nursery volunteers will be vaccinated and wearing masks.
Our limit per room is 4 children.

WOMEN GATHERING

Let's get together for some good food and outdoor socializing and we'll make plans for the year ahead!

Thursday, September 22nd
at 5:30 pm
at
Vintage Bar & Grill
1116 Old York Road
Abington

If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Sheila Jackson -
dljskj@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!



Music Ministry is resuming rehearsals and wants to invite and welcome you to join in this opportunity. Recent research continues to produce more and more evidence of the emotional and physical benefits participating in choir and other musical endeavors. (Google it!) We would love to include you in this ministry, the only requirements are your interest to be a part of working together, and willingness to grow and learn. Opportunities for almost everyone are part of our music ministry:

For children:

Cherub Choir (grades K-2). Rehearse Wednesdays 4:15-4:55. Begin 9/14
Carol Choir (grades 3-5). Rehearse Wednesdays 5:00-6:00. Begin 9/14
Joyful Bell Ringers (grades 3-5). Rehearse Wednesdays 4:15-4:55. Begin 9/14

For youth:

Chapel Choir Middlers (grades 6-8) & Chapel Choir Senior Highs (grades 9-12).
Rehearse Sundays both apart and together 6:00-7:15. Begin 9/18
Festive Youth Ringers (grades 6-12). Rehearse Tuesdays 7:30-8:30. Begin 9/13
Abington Symphony Orchestra (advanced students by audition). Mondays 7:30. Begin

9/12

For adults

Chancel Choir (for Sunday worship leadership). Rehearse Thursdays 7:30. Begin 9/8
Oratorio Choir (for special programs and events). Rehearse Thursdays 8:30. Begin 9/22
Celebration Ringers Bell Choir. Rehearse Tuesdays 8:30. Begin 9/13
Abington Symphony Orchestra. Mondays 7:30. Begin 9/12

Music

To express interest or to get more information, contact John Sall at jsall@apcusa.org.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Save a Life. Give Blood

Mark your calendars for our fall American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, October 1, right here at APC!

We have a great track record of recruiting many donors and we'd love to have your help!

Watch for sign ups and additional information and please plan to donate, Sat. October 1 between 8:00am and 1:00pm!

You can find out more info about youth group and get a calendar of events at...

KICKOFF OF YOUTH FELLOWSHIP AND PARENT MEETING: 9/18/22

WHO: All rising 6th-12th graders AND their parents

WHEN: Sunday, Sept 18th at 4:00 pm - 5:30 (Parents may get out sooner than that)

WHAT: Get all the information/logistics about youth fellowship and choir!!

WHY: Some reasons to come to youth group, even if you've never come before...

Youth group is not school!

Youth group is drama free!

Come as you are - no special prep required and all are welcomed and supported!

We will split often into senior high and junior high so you are surrounded by peers.

5:30- Dinner for Youth provided by Worship and Music Council

6:00- Chapel Choir Rehearsal for all singers 6th-12th grades



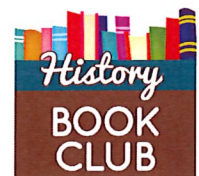
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday is always a joyful day at APC with the ways the congregation has shared breads from all over the world symbolizing our connectedness with Christians wherever they are located.

This World Communion Sunday, October 2nd, we will also be dedicating an eight-foot-tall peace pole on the church grounds with the message, "May Peace Prevail On Earth," written in eight different languages. We hope you will make a special effort to be present on this special day!

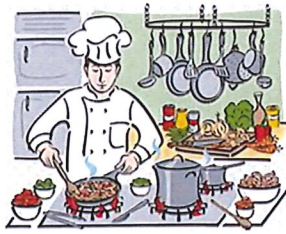
The next book is: **Leonardo De Vinci** by Walter Issacson (576 pages).

Our next meeting is Tuesday Sept. 27 at 7PM in the Parlor.



For any APC bookkeeping needs, please reach out to Jackie in the finance office.

Her email address is bookkeeper@apcusa.org



Calling all chefs and servers! Mission Council has two opportunities to serve!

Saturday, September 17th

Where: Face to Face Mission, 123 East Price Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19144

When: Cooking from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM or Serving from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

How: Contact Don Brooks at dmkabrooks@comcast.net

Sunday, September 25th

Where: APC in the Parish Hall

When: After the 10:00 AM Service

We encourage you and your families to stop by the Parish Hall after worship on Sunday, September 25, to make two or three PB&J sandwiches or to fill sandwich bags with snacks and drinks. The goal is 100 lunches. They will be delivered to Face to Face and help to ensure that hungry members of the Germantown community can enjoy a nutritious meal during times when hot meals are not being served in the on-site dining room.

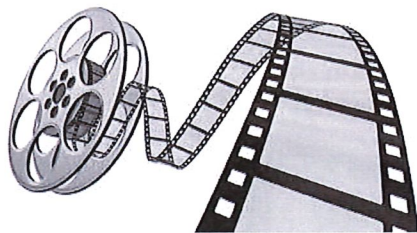
Be a part of the ushering team at APC



Older adults, young people, and even parents with their children are welcome to join and serve with us as our congregation continues to grow. *Anyone with a smile and warm heart is qualified!*

Ushers commit to being present one Sunday per month to greet and hand out bulletins to members and visitors as they arrive for worship. We make ourselves available to assist visitors and the elderly as needed. Parents, this is the perfect opportunity to teach and demonstrate good social skills to your children. Young people and seniors can give back to APC by being a small but critical part of our worship experience. Our hope is to build a team of committed ushers to reflect the welcoming and inclusive spirit we are building here at APC.

Please feel free to contact Eric Gildner at gildneres@gmail.com or the church office with any questions you might have



Have you always felt that you are the next Cecil B. DeMille or Steven Spielberg? Have you always wanted to work behind the camera? Have you always wanted to say, "I want to thank The Academy..." Well, the Stream Team is looking for you! We need some folks who are interested in helping stream the Sunday 10:00 AM Service. It requires a little more than an hour on a Sunday and you would work behind the camera one and maybe two Sundays a month as your schedule allows.

To learn more, contact Don Brooks at dmkabrooks@comcast.net, Chris Ellis at ctellis@comcast.net or Glenn Hostetter at hostetter@comcast.net.

So, ready, set and action!

The Stream Team

The APC Pandemic team has these updated safety protocols to match community conditions:

Masks are now optional in church facilities (including during singing).

You are encouraged to maintain some social distancing in where you choose to sit.

There is a full-time mask section on the lectern-side rear portion of the sanctuary (section where the video equipment is) for whoever wants to use it. This section is still using the color-coded guidance for social distancing.

Thanks to all for your cooperation. We show our love for God and neighbor by being sensitive to the needs of others.

The Pandemic Work Team consists of the following people:

Medical Professionals: Frank Sandstrom, MD; Michelle Feil, MSN, RN

Church Council Representatives: Suzin Weber, Carolyn Koch, Don Brooks

Church Facility Expertise: John Miller

From the Staff: John Sall, Ruth Sall, Barb Foy, Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

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

