

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”

*John 14:15-17*



## **Abington Presbyterian Church**

May 14, 2023

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Sixth Sunday of Easter

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter    May 14, 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 forgiveness.*

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**      *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

K' A Mura

*Fela Sowande*

**LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;  
**sing the glory of our Savior's name.**  
Let us offer to the Lord our glorious praise.  
**May all God's creatures extol the Creator;**  
and shout praises for our Lord's wondrous grace.  
**Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN 366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

(\* - Indicates all who are able may stand)

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, we confess before you and each other,  
that our lives are not pure and holy  
apart from the cleansing we have from the work of Christ.  
And we confess that too often Christ in us is hidden by our actions,  
that wound rather than heal,  
that tear down rather than build up.  
Open our eyes, that we may see you in the all people everywhere.  
Open our mouths to speak good rather than evil of our neighbors.  
Open our hearts to a desire to follow Jesus in full obedience  
to your will and your way.  
We pray trusting in your forgiveness and  
in the power of your Holy Spirit to lead and guide us  
in paths of justice and righteousness  
for your name's sake. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

\*RESPONSE HYMN 243

Be Not Afraid

BE NOT AFRAID

**Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!**

**Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!**

\*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.**

ANTHEM

Give Us Hope

*Jim Papoulis, arr. Nunez*

Listen to the sound of my voice. Can you feel the beat of my heart?

Listen to the questions I have. Listen to me.

It's all very simple to see what we need.

Give us hope, my voice is calling. Can you see? Look in my eyes.

Can you feel, my hand is reaching. Give us hope and we'll show you the way.

Listen to the sound of my voice, Calling. Can you feel the beat of my heart? Pounding.

Listen to the questions I have, Listen. Listen to me.

We are the future, help us believe.

Give us hope, my voice is calling. Can you see? Look in my eyes.

Can you feel, my hand is reaching. Give us hope and we'll show you the way.

Take my hand, now look in my eyes, tell me what you see.

Give us hope...

## WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*All Grades are dismissed to Sunday School*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM

Psalm 66:8-20

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:22-31

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:15-21

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A PRESENT PRESENCE

*The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton*

\*HYMN 293

Loving Spirit

OMNI DIE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,**

**sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,**

**and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world**

**the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,**

**to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,**

**to unmask idolatries in church and culture,**

**to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,**

**and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,**

**we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks**

**and to live holy and joyful lives,**

**even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,**

**praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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 ANTHEM**

**If Ye Love Me**

*Philip Wilby*

*The Chancel Choir offers and anthem based on verses from today's Gospel reading John 14:15-18.*

**If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you  
another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; e'en the Spirit of Truth.**

**And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

**I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.**

**\*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 282

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jubilo

*Dan Locklair*

The composers of today's organ prelude and postlude dedicated these compositions to their mothers. Happy Mother's Day!

Hearing assistant devices are available in the Narthex, please see an usher for assistance.

**Worship Leaders:**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton

**Liturgist:** Tia McCoun

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

**Chancel Choir:** John Sall, director

**Organ:** Erik Meyer

**Permissions:**

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**In need of special prayers this week:** Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), 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), Peggy Savage, John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Jim Holman (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Paul Costello Family, Mary Ann Wherry, Judy Sharff (friend of David & Diane Faust), Kirby Lawrence Hill, Miriam Whitten, Carol Young (friend of Bill Gustafson), Amy Gould.

**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: [jthornton@apcusa.org](mailto:jthornton@apcusa.org)**

**Web Site: [www.apcusa.org](http://www.apcusa.org)**

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

**Mrs. Tia McCoun, *Congregational Care Associate***

**Ruth Ideen-Sall, *Interim Director of Christian Education***


**John Sall, *Director of Music Ministries***

**Eric Meyer, *Organist***

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

10:00 AM	AGE/GRADE	ROOM	TEACHER	TOPIC	Pick Up
	Birth– 2 year olds	110-112	Childcare	Childcare	110-112
	Preschool	221	Sue Parsons	Mother's Day Craft	221
	K—2nd Grades	Parish Hall	Dads	Games for Mother's Day	Parish Hall
	3rd—5th Grades	Parish Hall	Dads	Games for Mother's Day	Parish Hall

*Children ages 30 months through 5<sup>th</sup> grade attend Sunday School during the 10am service. Preschool classes start at 10am and are listed in the grid. Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders start the worship service with their families and proceed to their classrooms after the Children's Moment. All children are welcome to attend Sunday School. If you are a visitor today, please feel free to accompany your child to his or her classroom.*



**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.

Nursery

### Christian Education Offerings

**8:45am**

- Middle School Sunday School at 8:45am in the Parish Hall basement. All 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join us.
- Adult Education at 8:45am in the Parlor.
- For more information contact Ruth Sall at 215-887-4530 or [rsall@apcusa.org](mailto:rsall@apcusa.org).



**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

**Adult Forum Series for Spring: *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding***

8:45 Sunday mornings, May 14, 21 June 4, 11, 18 in the Parlor.

What does it mean to be a Presbyterian Christian in the world today? God calls us to explore and to work together continually to grow in faith and understanding, but how? Join us in a six-part course, as we explore and celebrate the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition of faith.

We will be using the study guide "Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding" published by the PCUSA. Through readings, discussion, and prayer we will explore aspects of theology, church, worship, spirituality, discipleship, and social righteousness, and how these are significant for our faith.

See Ruth Sall to obtain a copy of the study guide. Extra copies will be available at class time. Sessions will be facilitated by Charlotte Dean and Peter Dykstra and are open to high school age students and adults. Hope you can join us!



**Youth News:**

Today 5/14/23

There is no youth group or choir today so all can celebrate Mother's Day.



Put these dates on your calendar to attend....VBS youth activities.

Following VBS each day will be a youth activity. Whether you are helping out with VBS or not, come be a part of the fun. There is NO COST to attend. Please RSVP to [justinfeil4@gmail.com](mailto:justinfeil4@gmail.com) by June 19 if you will be attending.

June 26 - Mini-golf and Dairy Queen

June 27 - Pennypack hike and Rita's

June 28 - Bowling and bowling alley lunch

June 29 - Movie and pizza

**BEACH DAY:** August 19, 2023 will be APC Youth Beach Day in Ocean City, NJ! Spend the day together at the beach. More details to follow.

**Doing some Spring cleaning?** If you come across unused greeting cards, notecards, birthday, and sympathy cards, we would appreciate your donations. There is a simple brown box on the filing cabinet outside the office marked "Cards" to place them in. Thank you.

End-of-Year Picnic info:

June 11<sup>th</sup> after worship- save the date for the end-of-year church picnic.

On the Church Street lawn, next to the Education Building. Food, fellowship, and fun.

We hope to see you there. More information coming soon!

Congregational Life Council



2023 GRADUATES, Let us hear from you!

If you have a 2023 graduate of a high school or above program, please send the name of the graduate, where they graduated from, and their degree or area of certification, etc. to [justinfeil4@gmail.com](mailto:justinfeil4@gmail.com). Thanks!!!





APC is excited to offer VBS for preschool and elementary age children this summer. We are planning on a pre-school class, K-4th grade traditional VBS rotations of crafts, games and more. A middle school VBS will focus on 5th and 6th grade Service Projects for the local community.



Operation Restoration VBS  
June 26-29: 9am - noon  
Registration Deadline: June 9, 2023  
Age: 3 years old (must turn three by June 1, 2023) through 6th grade  
Cost: \$25 per child or \$50 per family

Check made payable to APC or through online giving  
(To Pay Online: Go to <https://apcusa.org/give/donate/> and select Program/Event Fee.  
Please include VBS Fee and your child's name on page 2.)

Questions regarding registration, please contact Blythe Palumbo  
at [blythep42@gmail.com](mailto:blythep42@gmail.com) or Ruth Sall at [rsall@apcusa.org](mailto:rsall@apcusa.org)



## NOAH'S ARTS CAMP FOR KIDS (NACK!)

Our annual musical theater and arts camp is coming soon! Camp will be held July 24-28 from 9 am to 4 pm daily, with a performance on July 30 at 10 am Sunday worship. The family preview is Friday, July 22 at 4 pm. NACK is a fun all-day day camp for rising 2nd to rising 8th graders. Campers attend art, movement, music, handbells, and drama workshops while working toward a performance on Sunday with a Friday family preview. Campers bring lunch and enjoy outdoor recreation every day.

Ages: rising 2nd through 8th graders (fall '23)  
Date/time: July 24-28, 9 am to 4 pm  
Family preview: July 28 at 4 pm (after camp)  
Performance: July 30 during the 10 am worship  
Cost: \$75 per child



Follow the QR code to the registration information page



## Theology on Tap

### When:

7:30pm on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

### 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. Over the coming months, we will reflect on the Apostles' Creed after listening to 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:

Feb 9, 2023 – ST12: What is the Goal of the Christian Life? (29 min)

May 5, 2023 – ST16: What Do I Do with Mean Christians? (30 min)

### Want to RSVP or Get More Info?

Contact Nick Allgyer at [nta107@gmail.com](mailto:nta107@gmail.com)







at Music  
Abington presents

7:30 p.m. Friday, May 19, 2023

# Abington Symphony Orchestra

performing Michael Daugherty's *Once Upon a Castle*  
and other works

John Sall, director  
Erik Meyer, organ

Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Road, Abington PA  
livestream option available at [www.apcusa.org/MusicAtAbington](http://www.apcusa.org/MusicAtAbington)  
free childcare • fully accessible • free will donations received




This project was supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.






APC Deacons Family Summer  
Support Food Drive

# HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION



In support of families in need during the summer, please drop off non-perishable items in the orange food pantry bins. High need items are:

- 
- Dishwasher tablets
  - Dish soap
  - Laundry detergent tablets
  - Cleaning supplies (glass or multi-purpose cleaner)
  - Tall kitchen garbage bags
  - Ziploc totes, size extra large or jumbo

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**MAY 14  
TO  
MAY 28**

All donations will be  
dropped off to Family  
Promise Montco PA

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[www.fpmontco.org/donate-items](http://www.fpmontco.org/donate-items)



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

