

⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

James 2:5



Abington Presbyterian Church

September 8, 2024

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Homecoming Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Homecoming Sunday
ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
September 8, 2024

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*

*God who guides us,
you ask us to give our whole selves to you,
but we live in a world that claims we should hold
different priorities.
As we seek faithfulness amidst all that demands
our attention and affection,
teach us what it means to be centered in your love. Amen.*

PRELUDE

Pastorale op. 19

César Franck

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

A wandering people
wondered what their new life would be like,
and Moses said:

You shall love the Lord with all your heart.

Generations later,
leaders argued over which rules were most important,
and Jesus reminded them:

You shall love the Lord with all your soul.

And in this world
that so often feels broken,
we recognize God's call:

You shall love the Lord with all your might.

With heart, soul, and might, let us worship God.

*HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

(* - Indicates all who are able may stand)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God,
we know this, your Greatest Commandment:
love the Lord with heart, soul, mind and strength;
love your neighbor as yourself.

**These words dwell in our hearts
and rest on our lips.**

And, yet, we are so slow to act upon them.

When we encounter neighbors in need
we are quick to pass judgment,
even though love demands empathy.

We see your children suffering,
but are too busy, too weary to respond,
even though love demands compassion.

We see unjust systems that strip others of dignity
but believe we are powerless to effect change,
even though love demands action.

And whenever we do not treat our neighbors
as we ourselves would hope to be treated,
we do not love you fully.

Forgive us, Lord.

**Transform our hearts,
restore our souls,
and renew our minds,
so that we might be faithful
to your commandments.**

***SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

... Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***RESPONSE HYMN 492**

You Belong to Christ

YOU BELONG TO CHRIST

**You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia, alleluia, 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.**

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 6:1-9
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

OT p. 163

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 12:28-34
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NT p. 49

SERMON

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN 44 Like A Mother Who Has Borne Us

AUSTIN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and
buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again
from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall
come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

ANTHEM

I Choose Love

Mark A. Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace. I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise. I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Each petition of the prayers invite us to live into God's model of love as part of our baptismal identity, and we will respond each time echoing the anthem's final line.

(Sung) **We choose love.**

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 **Our Love Can Mend a Broken World** *Tom Trenney*
The anthem is a setting of juxtaposed texts by William Penn and composer Tom Trenney.

The world seems so eager to threaten, but love remains patient and kind.
The world strives for wealth, might, and power, but love longs for soul, heart, and mind.

The world plays a loud, clanging cymbal, but love sings its still, small voice.
The world delights in bearing false witness, but love, in the truth, will rejoice!

Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.

The world makes our genders unequal, but love treasures every design.
The world lets our colors divide us, but love makes the rainbow its sign.

The world harms with guns and with weapons, but love gives the captive release.
The world often hungers for violence, but love always thirsts for our peace.

Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.

The world shuns the immigrant's hunger, but love feeds the poor refugee.
The world argues, "They're not my children," but love says, "My child, come to me."

Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.
Our love can mend the world.

*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 766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

McKEE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sinfonia to Cantata 29

J. S. Bach

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

Liturgist: Bill Price

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Chapel Choir: Ruth Sall & John Sall, co-directors

Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

Guest Substitute Organist: Wesley Parrott

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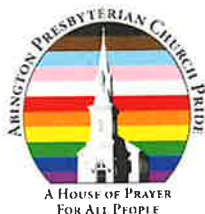
The Prayer before Worship and the Call to Worship are from *Call to Worship* (Volume 57.1), published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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

In need of special prayers this week: Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Judy Meissner, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Sally Hardy, Katie Link, Ted Hyczko, Jen Klauder (friend of Cindi Willis), Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Mary Ann Wherry, Victor V. Johnson, Jr, Richard Decembrino family, Olive Biggs, Stephen Krewson, Carmina Gagliardi (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), David Cardwell (brother of Bob Cardwell), Thubi Kolobe (friend of Thembeke Mason), Barbara Burke (friend of Jeff Bates), Donald Wolf, Linda Doyle, Amy Gould, Marlyn Whyte, Sharon Robson (friend of Kimberly Browne), Ernie Arnold, Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Ruta DeLong, Louis Ogren (great nephew of Sandy Hostetter), Marilyn Ming (sister of Carolyn Ming)..

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.

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: sniesenthompson@apcusa.org

Web Site: www.apcusa.org

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, M.Div., Th.M., Pastor/Head of Staff

Tia McCoun, M.Div., Congregational Care Associate

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

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

Ashley Rossi, M.Div., & Justin Feil, Youth Fellowship Coordinators

Sunday School for all ages resumes on September 15th.
Middle School, Confirmation Parent Meeting, and Adult Forum will take place at 8:45 a.m.
Preschool Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m. and children in grades K-5th are invited to go to Sunday School following the children's moment.
Come and join us.



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

Homecoming Sunday: TODAY (Following 10am Service)

Join us today for our annual Homecoming party celebrating the start of the new program year!



There will be hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, and fun fellowship for all ages. There will be a Moon Bounce and games with great prizes for kids. The new Pop-a-Shot will be available for shooting some hoops. Also back by popular demand, the Dunk Tank! We will be doing a Dunk Tank fundraiser with proceeds to benefit Face to Face. Cash or Venmo will be accepted.

All church councils, committees, interest groups, and music groups will have informational tables set up outside.

Come with your sun hat and see what is happening at APC and enjoy a great time of food, fellowship and fun!

Celebrating our "Pandemic Babies"

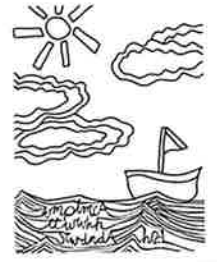
A beloved custom of this congregation is to celebrate the birth of a new baby by placing a rose on the chancel during worship. Unfortunately, with the move to virtual worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic, there are many children of the church whose births were not acknowledged with a rose. We joyfully returned to this practice earlier this year and would now like to include a belated celebration of our "pandemic babies" on September 15. If you welcomed a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild between March 2020 and March 2024, and would like that child's name listed in the bulletin to accompany our bouquet of roses, please email the following to Susan Schied at sschied@apcusa.org by Wednesday, September 11.

Child's Name
Parents' Names
Date of Birth

Families of the children born during the pandemic are invited to take a rose following worship on September 15.

Adult Bible Study—Beginning September 15th at 8:45 a.m. in the Parlor.

The study of Hebrews is for anyone who has ever felt their faith challenged to its very core. Join us for an engaging and dynamic dive into the New Testament book of Hebrews, one that has often been avoided by Christians because of its complex themes, including whether believers can lose their salvation. With a solid and convincing grounding in the Old Testament, the author of Hebrews presents the most comprehensive argument in Scripture for who Christ is and what he accomplished for our salvation and eternal security.



Youth News

September 15

First youth group and parent meeting from 4:00-5:30 p.m. If you are a parent/guardian new to APC or youth group/chapel choir, you can get all the information you need at this meeting and ask all your burning questions as you navigate this new frontier!

IMPORTANT CONFIRMATION INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES WITH RISING 8TH & 9TH GRADERS:

This year we will be combining the 8th and 9th grades for Confirmation. If your youth are going to be in either 8th or 9th grades this year, please mark your calendars for a Parent-Student Meeting at 9:00 AM on Sunday September 15 in Parish Hall. Please expect an email from Bill Stock, Confirmation coordinator, to confirm your family's participation. You can also email Bill at stockwm@hotmail.com with any questions.

Refreshing Mountain Camp Fall Youth Retreat Sept. 27-29, 2024

Who: 6th—12th grade youth

When: Friday 9/27 meet @ 6:00 p.m. @ APC
Sunday 9/29 return to APC @ 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$100 per youth (Scholarships available)

What: High Ropes Course & Zip Line
Teambuilding Adventure
Movie, Campfire w S'mores, Worship, and Games!!!



Check out the website: www.refreshingmountain.com

Questions? Contact...

Justin Feil 215-512-4946 or justinfeil4@gmail.com

Or Ashley Rossi 215-870-7170
pastorash80@gmail.com



To register:

Fill out **APC Parental Consent Form** and
Refreshing Mountain Release Form
(available on the weekly email)

Return forms and \$100 payable to APC or online,
to the Church office or Justin Feil by
SUNDAY 9/22

Participation in Music Ministries at APC

There are ways for almost anyone and everyone to participate in music ministry at APC. If you have questions about any of these opportunities please contact listed leaders or John Sall, Director of Music Ministries:

jsall@apcusa.org

Choirs for All Ages

Cherub Choir (grade K-2) Wednesdays 4:15 - 4:55. Sing monthly. Director Ruth Sall (rsall@apcusa.org)

Carol Choir (grade 3-5) Wednesdays 5:00 - 6:00. Sing monthly plus some special Christmas program and musical. Director Ruth Sall (rsall@apcusa.org).

Chapel Choir (grade 6-12) Sundays 6:00 - 7:15. Sing 3x per month plus special programs and spring tour. Co-directors John Sall (jsall@apcusa.org) and Ruth Sall (rsall@apcusa.org)

Chancel Choir (adults) Thursdays 7:30 – 8:30. Weekly worship plus special concerts. Director John Sall (jsall@apcusa.org)

Oratorio Choir (community choir) Thursdays 8:30-9:30. Sing 2-3 special concerts and programs each year. Director John Sall (jsall@apcusa.org)

Handbell Choirs for All Ages

Joyful Bells (grade 3-5) Wednesdays 4:15 - 4:55 intro to ringing. Ring 2-3x in year. Interim Director John Sall (jsall@apcusa.org)

Festive Ringers (grade 6-12) Sundays 11:15 - 12:15. Ring 5-6x plus spring tour. Director Shirley Keiter (skeiter@apcusa.org)

Celebration Ringers (adults) Wednesdays 6:30-7:30. Ring 5-6x per year. Interim Directors Shirley Keiter (skeiter@apcusa.org) and John Sall (jsall@apcusa.org)

Instrumental Music

Abington Symphony Orchestra (high school youth and adults) Mondays 7:30-9:30. 4-5 concerts per year. Director John Sall (jsall@apcusa.org)

Worship accompanists and soloists (all ages and instruments) Anytime as coordinated together for worship in collaboration with Music Director John Sall (jsall@apcusa.org)

To contribute to a *Thank You, Erik!* Purse, please make all donations before September 15. Anyone who gives online needs to use the “Special Gifts” line and complete the additional information needed which would be “Erik Meyer’s purse”.





Scan the QR code for summer camp and 2023-2024 pictures on our troop website.



Are you interested in adventure, opportunities in leadership, camaraderie, and service to your community?

Come join Troop 1! We are a goals-oriented, accomplishment-focused Boys BSA Troop that meets in the APC Rec Room, located by the children's playground, on Mondays from 7:15-8:30pm (Boys must be 10 years old in 5th grade to join).

You want to enjoy the outdoors, but you're not sure how? Don't worry! No camping experience necessary. Troop leaders and fellow scouts will help you prepare for and support you during our camping trips! Our 2024-2025 opening events include Outdoor Rock Climbing and Intro to Whitewater Rafting! (must be a registered boy scout to participate)

Our first meeting on Sept 9th is a welcome back BBQ (7:15-8:30pm). Come check us out, ask us questions, and hang out with the scouts and other parents to learn more about the exciting activities and trips we have planned for the 2024-2025 school year.

All troop leaders have completed Youth Protection Training and attained all required clearances to work with youth per BSA policy.

Interested in learning more? Come find me (Mariam Freeman-Scoutmaster) or Allen Tsung and Jesse Freeman after service, or send your questions to email trooponeabington@gmail.com!

The next Women's Gathering will be held on Thursday, September 19th at 5:30 p.m. at Longhorn Steakhouse located at 817 Old York Road, Jenkintown.

To RSVP or answer any questions, please contact Sheila Jackson at dljskj@gmail.com.



Our next book is **West with the Night** by Beryl Markham and will be discussed on Sept. 19th in the Parlor at 7 p.m.

Family Communion Class

A class for all children in K-7th grades and their families to experience and explore the meaning and welcome of the Lord's Table. We will bake bread, make wine, find symbols of Communion in the Sanctuary, and much more.

Sunday, September 22

3:00 – 4:30pm

Parlor

Questions- contact Mrs. Sall at rsall@apcusa.org





Whalerider Intergenerational Movie Night
Intergenerational Movie Night: Whalerider, PG-13
Friday, September 20th
6:30pm, Parish Hall

Sponsored by Congregational Life and the Unity Taskforce

A contemporary story of love, rejection and triumph as a young Maori girl fights to fulfill a destiny her grandfather refuses to recognize. Set in beautiful New Zealand, Whalerider explores the life of 12-year old Pai who feels called to lead her tribe and how she faces and challenges traditional expectations. Rated PG-13

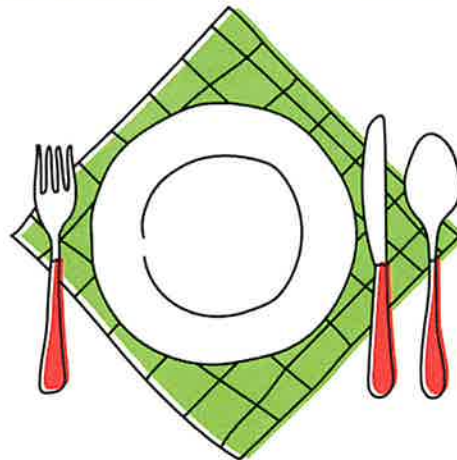
**Calling all
chefs & servers!**

Saturday September 28th

**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**

Contact Don Brooks at dmkabrooks@comcast.net



Deacon's Blood Drive - Our next blood drive will be held on September 28th from 8a.m. - 1p.m. in Parish Hall.

Here is the link to sign up: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Abington%20Presbyterian%20Church>

Also, folks who come to donate will receive a \$15 e-gift card: rcblood.org/fall.



The Presbytery of Philadelphia and the
Session of Abington Presbyterian Church
invite you to celebrate the installation of

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

as Designated Pastor
Sunday, September 29, 2024
at 3:00 p.m.

Reception to Follow



Hi, Neighbor!

Hello, APC! Let's get to know
our neighbors at church! Scan
the QR code here to complete
a brief form to get a name tag
printed! We are encouraging
everyone to wear name tags so
we can greet and welcome one
another!



Thank you!

APC GIVING

	YTD 7/31/24	YTD 7/31/23	Annual 2024 Budget
Revenue	\$423,589	\$374,945	\$657,000
Disbursements	\$420,779	\$378,758	\$762,500
(Deficit)/Surplus	\$ 2,810	(\$3,813)	(\$105,500)

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

