

18 Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you
not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19

WE ARE THE CHURCH



Abington Presbyterian Church

October 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Commitment Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Commitment Sunday
ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
October 20, 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*

*Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise. Amen.*

PRELUDE

Beach Spring – Setting

Janet Linker

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord gathers us from east and west,
north and south.

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good!

Come, O people—
draw near and hear the words of the Lord.

We come with gratitude and praise!

*HYMN 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

(* - Indicates all who are able may stand)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy –
all that we do, and all that we are
should be a joyful response to your grace.
Yet, we do not live out of constant gratitude.
We harbor resentment for what we lack.
We blame you; we blame others.
We doubt your compassion, even your power.
We find it hard to give of ourselves
in generous expressions of gratitude and praise.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Heal and restore us
so that we may return to you with a right spirit.
Help us to live the holy and joyful lives
you call us to live.**

*SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE

The Church Song (We Are the Church)

Jay Beech



We are the Church, the bod-y of our Lord;



We are all God's child - ren, we have been re-stored.

*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 Grades are dismissed to their classes.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 12:4-12
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NT p. 174

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:16-21
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

OT p. 672

HYMN 76 Do Not Be Afraid

ISAIAH 43

*The congregation is invited to sing the hymn refrain from the scripture reading.
The choir will lead the verse.*

SERMON

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

ANTHEM

From Generation to Generation

Tom Trenney

The Chancel Choir sings an anthem with a text by the composer that incorporates some of Isaac Watts' familiar Hymn #687 "O God, Our Help In Ages Past."

From out of darkness you have shown us light; your Word has been a lamp unto our way.
O God, from the beginning, you have been our life; you've led us to this day.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
your love is faithful and steadfast from generation to generation.

We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves, becoming one beloved community.
We long to bring your justice, freedom, peace. You lead us on this day!
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
your love is faithful and steadfast from generation to generation.
We pray that all who seek God's grace may find Christ's welcome here.
Lord, be our children's children's strength as year succeeds to year,
from generation to generation. Lord, lead us from this day!
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
your love is faithful and steadfast from generation to generation. Amen.

*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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth ..." (Isaiah 43:19a)

*Where do you see signs that God is doing a new thing—in your own life, in our community of faith, and/or in our world? Where do you **long** to see signs that God is doing a new thing, and yearn for the Spirit to bring healing and hope?*

During our time of prayer, we invite you to write or draw your prayers for yourself, your loved ones, our community of faith, and/or our world. Your prayer could be one word, or many words; it could be an image or a doodle. Remember—even when we don't know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words (Romans 8:26). We invite you to lift your prayers of gratitude, of hope, and/or of lament by writing or drawing them on the yellow strip of paper in your bulletin.

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.

OFFERING: PROCESSION OF GIFTS

All that we have is a gift from God. So, with gratitude, we return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

As we sing Hymn 700, we invite you to present your gifts to God by coming forward and placing your prayers, your offering, and/or your 2025 Commitment Card in the basket on the communion table. Ushers will be available to collect the gifts of those not joining the procession. Each and all of these gifts are an expression of your gratitude, your hope, and your commitment to the work and witness of Jesus Christ.

*HYMN 700

I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

*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.**

*LITANY OF DEDICATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Generous God,

We give you thanks and praise for your many gifts to us.

You are the source of all good things:

**light and life,
grace and generosity,
gentleness and joy,
peace that surpasses understanding,
and love that bears all things.**

These all flow from you— the Lord and Giver of Life.

You have given us so much.

**So, with thanksgiving,
we give you but thine own
and offer our lives in service to your kingdom.**

We give to you our treasure—

**the gifts of open hands and open hearts,
offered freely so that your love may be widely known.**

We give to you our prayers—

**our gratitude, our joy,
our deep hopes, our desperate pleas,
all entrusted to your care and faithfulness.**

We give to you our commitments for the coming year —
**and, with them, our confidence
that you will use us—time, talents, all—
to continue your story of grace.**

We dedicate this offering, and our very lives,
to the work of your kingdom here on earth.

**Take and use us,
that our hands may reach out in service,
that our feet may walk in the way of Christ,
and that our words may proclaim good news.**

This we pray in the name of Christ, who gave us words to pray:

**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**

*HYMN 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Wilbur Held

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

Liturgist: Juliet Palumbo

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

Organ: Shirley Keiter

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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, Ted Hyczko, 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 Browna), Ernie Arnold, Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Marilyn Ming

(sister of Carolyn Ming), Eugenia Velazquez (Iris Long's mother), The Weir Family, Judson Edwards (family member of Craig & Carole Jean Nicholson).

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

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

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN LIFE

October 20, 2024

10:00 AM				
AGE/GRADE	ROOM	TEACHER	TOPIC	Pick Up
Birth– 2 year olds	110-112	Childcare	Childcare	110-112
Preschool	221	Sue Parsons	Baby Moses	221
K—5th Grades	Youth Lounge	Ruth Sall	Teaching Church	Parish Hall

Children ages 30 months through 5th grade attend Sunday School during the 10am service. Preschool classes start at 10am and are listed in the grid. Kindergarten through 5th 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).

Adult Bible Study

Book Bans and the Freedom to Read—Sunday, October 27th at 8:45 a.m. in the Parlor. Requests to ban books are at the highest level ever! In 2023 alone, over 9,000 books were challenged in the United States. Let's talk about the implications for us as parents, grandparents, teachers, librarians, and citizens.

Dedication Sunday—TODAY

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign is in full swing.

If you did not bring your completed Commitment card with you, there are Commitment cards in the pew pockets. You are invited to present your 2025 commitment card during the offering.

Thank you for your commitment to support the ministry and mission of Abington Presbyterian Church and to further Christ's work in the world.

**DEDICATION
SUNDAY**

Fall Cleanup - TODAY from 3:30-5:30 p.m.



Fall Cleanup will be predominately EXTERIOR leaf/branches cleanup around the property and in the cemetery. Please come with rakes and gloves (if you have extra rakes and gloves, please bring them in case others may need them.)

Theology on Tap—Wednesday, October 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Human Robot (200 York Road, Jenkintown)

Theology on Tap is calling on all those interested in enjoying local brews and engaging in hearty conversation. ALL persons are welcome, and drinks are OPTIONAL. We are listening to the podcast series *The Bible For Normal People*, which is described as “a weekly podcast talk show having serious talks about the sacred book.” The series also includes *Faith for Normal People* episodes that are meant to bring “wisdom and expertise to questions of faith and how we live it.” Listen to the following podcasts, and be prepared to share your reflections and questions!

Podcast: The Bible For Normal People (by Peter Enns and Jared Byas)

[Faith] Episode 41 (7/8/24): Regina Shands Stoltzfus – A Nonviolent Faith (53 min)

[Faith] Episode 47 (10/14/24) – Lee C. Camp – America Can Never Be a Christian Nation (57 min)

Want to RSVP or Get More Info? Contact Nick Allgyer at ntal07@gmail.com



APC is again hosting the Presbytery-wide Fall Fest on Saturday, October 26! This year's equipping event is entitled "Hope-filled Leadership for a Disruptive Season". As the entire APC campus will be utilized on this day, we are asking for volunteers to help welcome visitors from dozens of churches in the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Please sign up to help as you are able using the Signup Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B44AEA82EA31-51473106-fall>

Also we encourage you to register for the event as well. As a volunteer, you will certainly have time to attend a few breakout sessions (and you will get an awesome t-shirt).

<https://presbyphl.org/fall-fest-2024-hope-filled-leadership-for-a-disruptive-season/>



If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to email Bill Price at waprice59@gmail.com.

APC Fun, Friends & Fellowship - Pumpkin Carving Tuesday October 29 at 7:00PM

This has been a beloved annual tradition for many of us who first met when we were in the MYKids group (Mothers of Young Kids) - but those "kids" aren't so young anymore, and our group has changed and grown in many ways. We invite all women of APC to join us at the home of Sherry Aikens, our pumpkin carving queen extraordinaire. Just bring your cleaned pumpkins. She will have tools and patterns to share. You are invited to bring a beverage or snack to share, and Sherry will be providing soup and cheese & crackers. Reach out for more information or to RSVP to Michelle Feil @ 215-512-1246 michellefeil74@gmail.com or Jennie Colt @ 267-237-4713 jennie.colt@gmail.com



Music
at Abington presents

Ruth Sall & Friends Musical Story Time

a 50-minute program for children of all ages

all attendees are
encouraged to wear
costumes!

Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 4:00 P.M.

Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Road, Abington PA

livestream option available at www.apcusa.org/MusicAtAbington

• fully accessible • free will donations received

Medicate Seminar—Tuesday, October 29 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Parlor.

Free Seminar! Confused about Medicare supplement plans and how to evaluate which plan is best for you? In this one-hour seminar, Brad Davis, an expert in Medicare supplement insurance, will help you make sense of it and will also explain the new options for 2025.

Unity Task Force to Meet on October 27th in the Parlor after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

All are welcome to attend a meeting of the Unity Task Force. Thembeke Mason will be present as well as Ray Torres and Eileen Gilkenson who will speak about their experiences in accompanying Thembeke to her home country of South Africa. There will also be time to discuss future plans and projects for the Unity Task Force. Everyone is encouraged to attend and share ideas for how the Unity Task Force can celebrate the values of tolerance and unity for all. Light refreshments will be served.

Questions? You may contact Joanne Bates--jandjbates215886@gmail.com or Bonnie H. Zetick--bhzetick@aol.com.

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION—Thursday, October 31 at 9:15 a.m.

Please join the Committee for Older Adult Ministries, APC members, non-members and friends for a Halloween event. Our Nursery school children will parade around the church parking lot and the church hallways dressed in their Halloween costumes. The parade begins at the nursery school entrance off the upper parking lot. After the parade, children and guests will assemble in the Parish Hall where the children will perform their Halloween songs. The 4-year-old class will remain in the Parish Hall. We will share a snack and make a craft together. The craft will be put in the Deacons Thanksgiving baskets. Treat yourself to a morning of Halloween fun!



God has given each of us the gifts needed to serve as Elders and Deacons.

Please contact Sandy Hostetter, chair of the Nominating Committee, at shostetter@comcast.net if you would like to share your time and talents as part of this vital ministry.

All Saints' Sunday—November 3rd, 2024.



All Saints' Sunday is a time when we remember the saints of our congregation who have died in the last year. We will read aloud the names of church members who have died since All Saints' Sunday in 2023. Everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of those they have lost either this year or in prior years.

2024 3rd Quarter Contribution Statements

The 3rd quarter contribution statements will be mailed shortly; look for them in your email or mailbox.

Please review them carefully and contact Jackie with any comments.

Emailed statements will have the following message in the "From Line" and "Subject line" since they are sent through our vendor, CCIS:

From line: support@ccissoftware.com
Subject line: Contribution Detail - Etc.

If you changed your email, please send an email to jthurlow@apcusa.org requesting your email to be updated including whether "individual name and/or family update".

Thank you! Any questions, please contact Jackie Thurlow in the Church Office.

Weekly Bible Study

Interested in digging a little deeper into the Bible texts used for worship? You're invited to join the Wednesday morning Bible Study group! The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 7:45-8:45 in the church parlor. Each week we read and discuss the passages planned for the following Sunday, led by different members of the group. No advance sign-up or preparation required. . If you'd like to get an email listing the week's passages a day or two before the study each week, just call the church office or email sschied@apcusa.org.

APC GIVING

	YTD 9/30/24	YTD 9/30/23	Annual 2024 Budget
Revenue	\$520,394	\$473,811	\$657,000
Disbursements	\$547,591	\$518,195	\$762,500
(Deficit)/Surplus	\$ (27,197)	(\$44,383)	(\$105,500)

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!



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

