

General Congregational Profile
Abington Presbyterian Church
Abington, PA
Relating to Organist/Accompanist Position 2024

Abington Presbyterian Church is blessed with a wide-ranging worship and concert music ministry which includes a graded choir program, comprehensive handbell program, symphony orchestra, and a substantial concert series, *Music at Abington*. The congregation is well-known for its long-standing commitment to excellence in liturgy and music.

Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson serves APC as Designated Pastor and Head of Staff. Other colleagues of the professional staff include Chaplain Tia McCoun, Congregational Care Associate, Ruth Ideen-Sall, Director of Christian Education, Children's Ministries and Choirs, and John Sall, Director of Music Ministries.

Founded in 1714, Abington Presbyterian Church continues to serve its local community and the world through the varied gifts of an increasingly diverse congregation welcoming people of varied backgrounds. The church recently completed a significant elevator/accessibility capital campaign, has an active anti-racism committee, and enjoys community advocacy and congregational events by the APC Pride group (LGBTQ+ allies).

The organist/accompanist works closely with the Director of Music Ministries, to whom they are responsible and with whom they play an integral role in the planning and leadership of music ministry. The diverse aspects of music ministry provide leadership and support for worship through music of integrity from various traditions, support of the scriptures, and collaboration and integration with the focus of each service. The music, whether for organ, piano, handbells, other instruments, choir, or congregation serves to support the total experience of worship.

The sanctuary's pipe organ was originally installed by M.P. Moeller in 1969 with 58 ranks. It was given a partial upgrade in 1996, converting to a digital relay and combination action with some tonal augmentations. In 2014, Robert Gladden & Assoc. oversaw a total refurbishing and expansion including a new Walker digital relay and combination action, new four-manual console, and expansion of all divisions of the organ to 77 pipe ranks and 26 digital ranks. Congregational hymns, choral anthems, and organ repertoire represent a rich variety of traditional masterworks and new musical expressions of worship, faith, beauty, and humanity. *Music at Abington*, in its 53rd Season, annually presents performances by our choirs and the Abington Symphony Orchestra, a month of "Tuesday Noon" recitals in partnership with the local AGO chapter, and guest performances by a wide variety of musicians including professional chamber groups, handbell and gospel choirs, children's programs, solo recitals, and jazz. Major works in recent years have included the Mozart, Duruflé, Brahms, Rutter, and Fauré Requiems, Hadyn's *Creation*, Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Brahms' *Nänie*, and newly commissioned works by Timothy Shaw and Peter Hilliard. There is a strong history of solo organ recitals by both the resident organist and guest artists along with organ concertos and symphonic works with the orchestra.