

APRIL 28, 2024

Abiding Presence

Lutheran Church

Connecting people to Christ through Community

From the Desk of Pastor Keseley, Senior Pastor

Summer is the busiest time of the year at Abiding Presence! So far, we have:

- 214 preschool and elementary camper registrations for our 8-weeks of summer camp
- 40 registrations for our two teen camps (Amazing Race and Musical Theater)
- 25 Counselors-in-Training (7th-9th grade)
- 13 Abiding Fellows (10th-12th grade)
- 17 College-Age Interns.

That is over 300 registrations for our summer faith formation ministry. And, it isn't even May yet! We know those numbers will keep rising as summer approaches.

As a church, Abiding Presence prioritizes faith formation. We believe living out Jesus' call to make disciples takes intentionality and creativity. Disciples are not made by accident. Raising up the next generation of followers looks like:

- teaching them about Jesus and allowing them to experience God at work in their lives
- sharing the power and authority Jesus gives
- sending them out into the world to practice living as Christ's hands and feet
- offering opportunities for prayer, support and reflection.

This is Jesus' model that we see in the ninth chapter of the Gospel of Luke. It worked for Jesus and it is working for us at Abiding Presence, especially through our vibrant children, youth and college-age ministry.

Our budget reflects our priority of forming faith in the next generation of followers of Jesus. As a congregation, we dedicate \$100,000/year in wages for our Abiding Fellows (10th-12th grade) and College-Age Interns. Countless other dollars go into programing costs as well as staffing/pastoring.

Our operating budget covers some – but not all – of the expenses of our summer faith formation ministries. Hence, we are launching the ***BIG Faith for a BRIGHT Future*** campaign (see the back page for details). This campaign invites the whole congregation to share in the investment and the joy of making disciples.

BIG Faith for a BRIGHT Future is not just about financially supporting our ministry. It is also about relationship building, prayer and passing down the faith. When you sponsor one of our high school Abiding Fellows or College-Age Interns you will be introduced to that young person, hear what they did that day/week/summer and pray for one another.

We believe the future of the church looks ***BRIGHT*** with our young people leading the way. When these young people take their ***BIG*** faith out into their daily lives, we think the future of the world looks ***BRIGHT***, too. We are making disciples who will go out into the world to be Christ's hands and feet.

I hope you will join me in contributing to our ***BIG Faith for a BRIGHT Future*** campaign. Pray for our summer ministry, invest as you are able and continue to be Abiding Together.

The altar flowers this morning are given by Ms. Michaela and her husband, Kyle, in joyous celebration of their second wedding anniversary.



Sunday, May 26 One Outdoor Worship Service at 9:45 a.m.

The outdoor worship service is a favorite Abiding Presence summer tradition. We'll worship outside together. Bring a lawn chair, blanket and/or popup tent, if you have one. We will have plenty of chairs and tents up as well. Worship will be casual, festive and allow us to praise God for God's creation. Following the service, we will have an epic bagel bar with all the toppings. The church will provide the bagels and beverages. We will invite you to sign up to bring a topping or use your creativity to bring something to share you think would taste great on a bagel. We also need help with set up and clean up. Signup at tinyurl.com/MayBagelBar.



Abiding Presence
Mental Health

Sarah Tran, MSW

stran@abidingpresence.net

Abiding Presence Therapist in Residence

Abiding Presence believes mental health matters, which is why we have a Therapist in Residence. Our Therapist in Residence provides professional short-term and long-term therapy for those connected to the Abiding Presence community. The cost is \$75/session paid through the therapist's confidential online portal.



OWLs welcomes all older, wiser Lutherans and friends. Ages of people who gather range from late 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s+.

RSVP to heather@abidingpresence.net or call the church office 703-455-7500.

May Monthly Luncheon

Tuesday, May 14 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Join us in Bailey Hall for lunch and "Conversation Across Generations." Our college-age interns will join us for lunch and discussion at each table.

May Offsite Excursion

Tuesday, May 21 from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Meet at Abiding Presence and carpool 20 minutes to Pohick Episcopal Church for a private tour. The home church of George Washington and George Mason, Pohick Church was established prior to 1724 as the first permanent church of the colony north of the Occoquan.



How Does Our Garden Grow?

With Lots of Volunteers! You may have seen our raised beds on Britford Drive have gotten a refresh

over the last few weeks. Our Pantry volunteers have been busy preparing the soil, setting up soaker hoses and planting the beds. All of the produce from these gardens will go to the Abiding Presence Food Pantry. The beds were planted with bell peppers, cherry tomatoes, two varieties of eggplants, strawberries, yellow squash, green squash, and cucumber. As they grow, we need volunteers to weed, prune plants, and pick crops. If you, your family, or a group of friends are interested in helping, even if you can only do it occasionally, please contact the church office at office@abidingpresence.net. We have seasoned gardeners ready to show you what to do. This is a great opportunity to lend a hand when it's convenient for you.



Abiding Presence Adult Faith Formation

Abiding Table, Sunday, April 28
from 10:05-10:50 a.m. in Bailey Hall
Gather at tables with coffee and snacks for faithful conversation. Simply show up to participate!

Sunday Morning Adult Fellowship Table Top Games Group

**Sundays, through
May 19
10:05-10:50 a.m.
in Classroom #5**



A low key small group of adults gathers each Sunday for conversation and games. Grab a cup of coffee in Bailey Hall on your way to join the group. They play a variety of tabletop games for which no experience is necessary. Group Leader: Thomas Saddington.



Study Group
Sundays, through May 19
7:00 p.m. at the Fraedrich's House

The Adult Study Group is back this spring reading *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian McLaren. This is an unflinching look at what the church has gotten wrong and gotten right through history into present day. The point is not to convince anyone one way or the other, but to consider how do we become more human (whether we stay Christian or not) and how to live into the example set by Jesus Christ. The group is led by David Lewis and Craig Fraedrich. RSVP to attend at tinyurl.com/APSpringBook.



Caring for God's Creation

*Let's Change our Ways to Care for
God's Creation together.*

In honor of Earth Day, April 22,
the Creation Care Team is
participating in a Cleanup

Challenge. We have a trash bag for every household to take home. Go around your neighborhood and fill up your trash bag, then take a picture of your filled bag with your family and send it in to office@abidingpresence.net. Help us accomplish our goal of 200 filled trash bags by our congregation.





abiding kids!

Michaela Putnam-Kwon, Children & Family Minister
michaela@AbidingPresence.net
AbidingPresence.net/Kids



THE TODDLER CREW

The Toddler Crew
Sundays at 10:05 a.m.

Calling all 2-year-olds and newly turned 3-year-olds for a special Sunday School class just for you! Ms. Michaela and her Abiding Fellow helpers have a brand new toddler Sunday School workshop to help engage our littlest kiddos in faith. We will sing songs, read a story, pray and play.

Babies & Grown-Ups Sunday School Class Sundays at 10:05 a.m.

This class is geared toward engaging our littles in faith and supporting their grown-ups. No sign-up required, just come as you are. Grownups stay with their little ones during this class.

Preschool Sunday School

Ages 3 by January 31, 2024 through Pre-K

We can't wait to learn about Jesus through Bible stories, activities, and play.



Tuesdays
5:15-6:00 p.m.

Open to Kindergarten - 4th Grade
Register at AbidingPresence.net/kidsmusic

Elementary children sing, play, move and pray each week with Dr. Dave and Ms. Nicole. New friends are always welcome to attend!

Mainly Music

Wednesdays, through May 22
10:30-11:30 a.m.

AbidingPresence.net/mainlymusic

Mainly Music is for children birth through pre-K and their parent or caregiver. Each week we have a 30-minute music session followed by a time for snack, free play and making new friends. The drop in cost is \$5/family.

Elementary Sunday School Kindergarten - 6th Grade 10:05-10:50 a.m.

- Club K-1 Art (Kindergarten-1st Grade)
- Club K-1 Games (Kindergarten-1st Grade)
- Create Like Jesus (2nd-5th Grade Art)
- Play Like Jesus (2nd-5th Grade Games)
- Minecraft Like Jesus (2nd-5th Grade)
- Confirmation Kickstart (6th Grade)





Rev. Kelsey Kresse
Associate Pastor for Youth & College-Age
PastorKresse@AbidingPresence.net
abidingpresence.net/youth

SPRING

Wednesday Night Music & Youth Group (7th-10th grade)

Join Dr. Dave for Youth Music at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Youth Music & Youth Group overlap from 6:30-6:45 p.m. for devotions. Then Youth Group kicks off with pizza, relationship building and a project, wrapping up at 8:00 p.m.

SUMMER

Amazing Race Camp (rising 7th-12th grade)

July 29 - August 2 from 9:00-4:00 p.m.

Amazing Race Camp will be a week long experience racing through Washington D.C. Each day will center around a service project or faith formation adventure across the city. Drop off and pick up at the Springfield Metro Station. Cost: \$70/person. More information and registration at AbidingPresence.net/amazingrace.

Abiding Fellows (rising 10th-12th grade) Stipend Summer Program

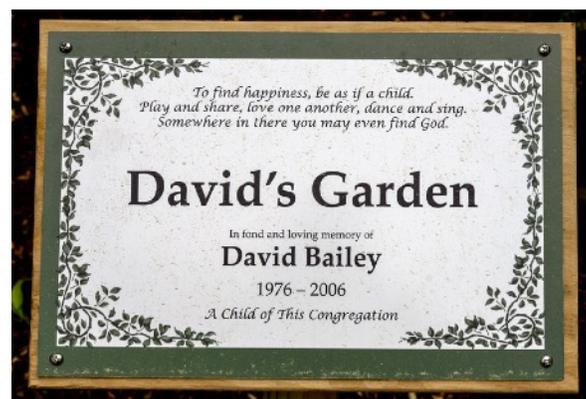
Abiding Presence offers high school students paid summer internships through our Abiding Fellows program. Fellows will be summer camp counselors, gather every morning for devotions, experience weekly faith formation, build relationships, and develop their leadership skills. For more information and an application visit abidingpresence.net/abiding-fellows-application.

CIT Camp Week (rising 7th-9th grade)

Rising 7th-9th graders are invited to be Counselors in Training during one of our weeks of camp this Summer. For all the details and a sign up visit tinyurl.com/APCIT2024.



Thank you for making the David's Garden Sign Blessing such a special moment last Sunday!



This morning is "Noisy Offering" where we will collect change dropped into metal buckets. Our noisy

offering this morning will go to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). The ELCJHL serves as a catalyst for peace, works as bridge builders among the nations, and seek to be brokers of justice, ministers of reconciliation, and apostles of love.





Sharon Downs
 Food Ministry Coordinator
 Sharon@AbidingPresence.net
 abidingpresence.net/food

Food Pantry Donations

Guests who come to the Abiding Presence Food Pantry receive produce, meat, dairy, eggs, snacks and assorted other items. We feed roughly 200 households at each pantry distribution. That means we need a LOT of food!

Produce is donated to us free through our partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank.

Meat, dairy and eggs are purchased with financial donations. Make a financial donation at **AbidingPresence.net/give and choose "Food Pantry."**

Snacks are donated in-kind. Drop off at the church anytime individually prepackaged snacks and one gallon Ziploc bags. We are always in need of more snacks!

Abiding Together, we are building a community - and a world - where all are fed.

Get Involved
 Volunteer on a Saturday
 Food Pantry distribution (2nd & 4th Saturday)
tinyurl.com/APFood2024
 Volunteer on a Thursday
 Food Pantry setup Email Sharon Downs
sharon@abidingpresence.net
 OR
 Kids Pantry Night
 Thursdays before the 2nd & 4th Saturday



Donation Request: Gallon Ziploc bags and pre-packaged snacks. We give out the snacks shown (left) at every Pantry and your donations keep us stocked to fill this need. Add them to your Costco or grocery list or send them through Amazon directly to the church.



Our Thursday volunteers packaging oranges and pears for Pantry guests.



Thank you to the Cardinal Forest Giant for a generous donation of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups and various meats and bakery items. While staple food items are essential, it's nice to offer these special treats to our Pantry guests.



Preschool Camps 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Come for one week or for all three! Open to children age 3 by the first day of camp through rising kindergarteners. Children should be potty trained before the start of camp, which is to say, we understand accidents happen but our staff isn't able to change diapers.

Registration is **LIVE!**

Each week of camp is \$70/camper

(Preschool Camp 1 is \$60).

Scholarships are available.

Camp fees are due at time of registration and are non-refundable.

**May 28-31 Preschool Camp 1:
Time Travelers**

**June 3-7 Preschool Camp 2:
Bug Camp**

**June 10-14 Preschool Camp 3:
Color Camp**

Elementary Camps 12:00-3:00 p.m.

For more information and to register visit
AbidingPresence.net/camp

Come for one week or for all five! Open to rising kindergarten through 5th grade. Rising 6th graders can sign-up for our new Counselor-in-Training Camp.

June 17-21 Camp 1: Bible Doughnuts

June 24-28 Camp 2: Camp "Do Justice"

July 8-12 Camp 3: Space Camp

July 15-19 Camp 4: Camp Underdogs

July 22-26 Camp 5: Bible Olympics

Questions?

Reach out to our
Children & Family Minister,
Michaela Putnam-Kwon, at
Michaela@AbidingPresence.net

Joseph AND THE Amazing
Technicolor
Dreamcoat

**MUSICAL THEATER DAY CAMP
for RISING 6th-12th GRADERS**

July 15-19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Performance: July 19 at 4:00 p.m.

at Abiding Presence

6304 Lee Chapel Rd., Burke, VA 22015

Tuition: \$125/student (need-based scholarships available)



Sign up at AbidingPresence.net/joseph

BIG FAITH FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

Be Part of the Excitement at Abiding Presence this Summer



BE EXCITED

*Summer is the most exciting time of the year at Abiding Presence. We invest in faith formation in **BIG** ways because we believe the future of the church looks **BRIGHT** with these young people leading the way.*

GET INVOLVED

*The whole congregation is invited to help create opportunities for **BIG** faith this summer. Sponsor a teen or college-age young adult for a day, a week or even the whole summer. You can be the reason their faith takes root as they form faith in our summer day campers.*



WATCH THEM SHINE

Sponsor a Day: \$115 (college-age)
\$70 (High School Abiding Fellow)
Sponsor a Week: \$575 (college-age)
\$350 (High School Abiding Fellow)
Sponsor the Summer:
\$4,500 (college-age)
\$1,750 (High School Abiding Fellow)

LEARN MORE & SIGN UP TO BE A SPONSOR AT ABIDINGPRESENCE.NET/BRIGHTFUTURE