



**MAY 5, 2024**

# Abiding Presence

## Lutheran Church

*Connecting people to Christ through Community*

### From the Desk of Pastor Keseley, Senior Pastor

Today is Youth Sunday, an annual Abiding Presence tradition. Our teens in grades 7-12 have been learning about worship and writing liturgy these past several weeks. Now, they will have the chance to lead us in worship. The highlight of our service will be the senior faith reflections that are offered by our graduating high school seniors. Get ready to be inspired! This is one of my favorite services of the year.

Currently, we have about 75 7th-12th graders involved in youth ministry at Abiding Presence. That is a significant number of young people! It is the result of the entire congregation's commitment to and investment in faith formation for this age group. Thank you for all the ways you are making ministry possible.

On the back page of these announcements, you will see a list of thank you's to specific adults who are involved in youth ministry in big ways. Trusted adults

make a difference in the lives of young people and we are blessed to have many of them here. Maybe one of the things that is most exciting is that our investment in their faith formation doesn't end when these young people graduate high school. They will graduate into our vibrant college-age ministry that will keep them connected to faith and the church.

*When I was lonely, God provided me with a congregation of family.  
When I was hungry, God gave me Mr. Bleicken's Sunday School feasts.  
When I was devoid of purpose, God gave me the Abiding Fellows program where high school students teach our church's youth. At William and Mary, I will be studying education because of what God has provided.  
-Ben Drake, class of 2024*

Last Sunday we launched our **BIG Faith for a BRIGHT Future** campaign (see the next page for details). This campaign invites the whole congregation to share in the investment and the joy of making disciples of high school and college-age students. The initial response was phenomenal. So far, we have commitments totaling over \$12,000. Thank you!

And, there is still time to sponsor one of our high school Abiding Fellows and/or college-age interns for a day, a week or the whole summer. Ben Drake's words from his senior reflection brought tears to my eyes this week. Through you, God has - and will continue - to provide. At Abiding Presence, we are changing lives and making disciples. What a joy to do this holy work with you.

The altar flowers this morning are given by Kay Myers to the Glory of God and in honor of mothers and mother figures in all forms.

# ***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](https://abidingpresence.net/brightfuture)



# Abiding Presence Adult Faith Formation

## Abiding Table

**Sundays through May 19**

**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. The group is led by David Lewis and Craig Fraedrich. RSVP to [office@abidingpresence.net](mailto:office@abidingpresence.net).



## Outdoor Worship & Bagels

**One 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. 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. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/MayBagelBar](http://tinyurl.com/MayBagelBar).



*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](mailto: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.



## Thrivent Action Teams Needed

We've got BIG plans this summer! One of the ways you can support those plans is by sponsoring a Thrivent Action Team. All Thrivent members have access to two \$250 Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year. If you are a Thrivent member, we would love to help you put those action teams to use. Contact Pastor Keseley, Senior Pastor, for more details.



*Sharon Downs*  
Financial Secretary &  
Food Ministry Coordinator

and  
*Melody Light*  
Office Assistant

ARE CELEBRATING

**15 YEARS**



ON THE ABIDING  
PRESENCE TEAM

## Anniversary Reception

### Celebrating the Ministry of Sharon & Melody

During the Abiding Table  
Sunday, May 19  
10:05-10:50 a.m.  
Bailey Hall

Volunteer to help with the reception by contacting  
Heather Pace in the church office at  
[Heather@abidingpresence.net](mailto:Heather@abidingpresence.net)



Michaela Putnam-Kwon Children & Family Minister  
[michaela@AbidingPresence.net](mailto:michaela@AbidingPresence.net)  
[AbidingPresence.net/Kids](http://AbidingPresence.net/Kids)



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

Open to Kindergarten - 4th Grade  
Register at [AbidingPresence.net/kidsmusic](http://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!



**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 are ready to 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.

**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)

**Mainly**  
Music  
Wednesdays  
through  
May 22  
10:30-11:30 a.m.

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 and play.. The drop in cost is \$5/family.



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](http://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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/APCIT2024).



Sharon Downs  
Food Ministry Coordinator  
Sharon@AbidingPresence.net  
[abidingpresence.net/food](http://abidingpresence.net/food)

## Get Involved

### Volunteer on a Saturday

Food Pantry distribution  
(2nd & 4th Saturday)

[tinyurl.com/APFood2024](http://tinyurl.com/APFood2024)

### Volunteer on a Thursday

Food Pantry setup Email Sharon Downs  
[sharon@abidingpresence.net](mailto:sharon@abidingpresence.net)

OR

Kids Pantry Night

Thursdays before the 2nd & 4th Saturday

## 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.

**Meat, dairy and eggs** are purchased with financial donations. Make a financial donation at [AbidingPresence.net/give](http://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!



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://AbidingPresence.net/joseph)



At its April meeting last Sunday, the Council reviewed financial reports, approved the previous meetings' minutes and heard a report from the Senior Pastor on the church's active ministry.

The Abiding Presence ELCA Fund for Leaders seminary scholarship for 2024-2025 was designated to Seminarian David Lewis, a member of Abiding Presence.

Planning continued to help the congregation recognize three significant staff anniversaries this calendar year. Sharon Downs, Financial Secretary & Food Ministry Coordinator, and Melody Light, Office Assistant, will both celebrate 15-years on the staff team on July 1. A reception will be held in their honor on Sunday, May 19. Please contact Heather Pace in the church office if you can help with the reception (see page 4).

David Chávez, Music & Worship Minister, will celebrate 10-years on the staff team on September 15. In recognition of Dave's anniversary, the Council has offered him a paid commission to write a piece of music. This piece of music will debut on September 15 alongside a celebration of Dave's ministry.

The parsonage lease was discussed. The current lease terminates on June 15. Conversations are underway with the Afghan family we resettled into the parsonage last year to determine if a lease extension is possible.

The Council's next meeting is Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m.

## Church Council

Mike Dyson, President  
Marlys Loyer, Vice President  
Joe Ignazzitto, Secretary  
Monique Fraedrich, Treasurer  
Laurie Anderson  
Chad Davis  
Kelsey Hunt  
Dan Powell  
Colleen Vesely  
Rev. Meredith Keseley, Senior Pastor

## Financial Update

In the spirit of transparency and good fiscal management, I want to share with you that at its April council meeting the Church Council voted to ease the restriction on dedicated account 3730 – Youth Gathering. This change was discussed with the Finance Committee prior to the Council's action.

This donor restricted dedicated account was set up many years ago (before my time as your pastor) as a savings account for the ELCA triennial Youth Gathering. The youth would save over the course of three years to offset the significant cost of attending the gathering.

Due to the pandemic, the ELCA Youth Gathering was postponed and then cancelled in 2021. There is an ELCA Youth Gathering scheduled for this July. Pastor Kelsey and I explored sending a group to the event this summer. The significant cost (over \$1,500/person for a 5-day event) and the impact to our vibrant congregational summer youth program made the ELCA Youth Gathering a less than attractive opportunity for our congregation, especially the youth we talked with about it. We decided to not send a group to this 5-day event and focus instead on the ministry we do all summer long here through our Abiding Fellows and College-Age Interns.

Currently there is a balance of \$3,226.40 sitting in dedicated account 3730 – Youth Gathering. No new money has been deposited into the account since the end of 2020. These funds are the result of fundraising efforts within the congregation prior to 2020 and seed money left from previous ELCA Youth Gathering years.

Rather than leaving the money sitting unused for at least another three years, the Church Council voted to put the money to use for this summer's Abiding Fellows program. We feel that using the money toward the summer Abiding Fellows program is in keeping with the spirit of the account's prior donations - summer youth faith formation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

-Pastor Keseley, Senior Pastor



# THANK *for investing in* *our youth* YOU

*Youth Ministry at Abiding Presence is the result of a lot of people within the congregation who go out of their way to invest their time, passion and resources in our young people. Thank you to these key leaders who are making ministry happen.*

## **Confirmation Mentors**

Ryan Clendening  
Sue Franke  
Chris Franke  
Josh Schaeffer

## **9th Grade Mentor**

Phil Franke

## **Youth Music Mentors**

Craig Fraedrich & Chris Franke

## **Youth Group Mentor**

Susan Urias

## **Tech Booth Mentors**

Richard Allabaugh  
Duke Taylor

## **Confirmation Family Group Leaders**

Renee & Zach Williams  
Colleen Vesely & Rajko Ilincic  
Laura & Steve Rasmussen  
Ben Keseley

*And, thank you to our teens who turn around and invest their time, passion and resources in the children of the church through the Abiding Fellows program. Our teens are the role models and faith examples for the children of the church, and that makes a big difference. What goes around, comes around at Abiding Presence!*

