

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Church office hours are Monday through Friday 9 - 5 p.m.
Announcements for the bulletin are due by Thursday at 5 p.m.
Small Groups meet various nights in homes and at the worship center.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT!

Join us every Wednesday for your mid-week spiritual refill! The service starts at 6:15 p.m. with praise & music followed by a mini sermon to get you through the rest of the week. There are classes for children grades 1 – 8. Senior High (Grades 9 – 12) continue with youth group after the praise & music.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Middle School (Grades 6-8) meets on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Senior High (Grades 9-12) meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

† 7:10 – 7:30 a.m. - Radio Program on WMBS 590 AM

† 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. – Refreshments & Fellowship in the lobby.

† 9:00 a.m. – Worship service in the sanctuary.

† 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. – ROOM 5 - NURSERY (ages 0 – 3)

9:15 a.m. ROOM 6 – 1st & 2nd Grades
 ROOM 7 – Preschool and Kindergarten
 ROOM 9 – 3rd thru 5th Grades
 ROOMS 8, 10 and 11 – Adult Sunday School Classes

10:20 – 10:45 a.m. – **BREAKFAST CLUB** for grades 6 – 8 in Room 14 and grades 9 – 12 in the youth room which is room 12-13.

† 10:20 – 10:45 a.m. – Refreshments & Fellowship in the lobby.

† 10:45 a.m. – Worship service in the sanctuary

† 11:00 a.m. ROOM 7 – Preschool thru 1st Grade
 ROOM 9 – 2nd thru 5th Grade

Watch us on **Cornerstone Network** Pittsburgh Faith & Family Channel WPCB DT 40.2 or **Atlantic Broadband Channel 119** on Saturday at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

Are available from the information booth during both Sunday worship services. Please see the information booth volunteer to sign-out a device if you need one.

Prayer Chain: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Cindy Dawson Home: 724-564-5893 Cell: 724-208-5437
Email: prayerchain@myabundantlife.org
Church Office: (724) 425-9700

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Govern

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom in heaven” (Matthew 16:19)

Everyone thought the religious leaders had the keys of the kingdom. They were the ones with authority. They were the ones who open and shut doors (but mostly shut them). They were the ones who defined what was legal and what wasn't, and their definitions were narrow. Their authority offered no life.

Jesus held the keys to the true kingdom, and His followers must have been astonished when He shared them. Clearly Jesus had spiritual authority--His miracles and messages were evidence, and He confirmed Peter's declaration a verse earlier. But a band of fishermen, a tax collector, and other's at society's margins? Who would entrust them with the authority of the messianic kingdom of the living God?

Jesus did, and the people of God have carried the keys of the kingdom ever since. The church has argued about whether the words were addressed to Peter or to all followers of Jesus, but they were echoed two chapters later for the body at large. We're left with an unambiguous statement that some degree of divine authority has been given to human beings in relationship with Jesus-- not to wield apart from Him but to exercise with Him. In other words, we are once again His appointed governors of this world, just as our first parents were first appointed to be. Whatever of our stewardship that was lost in Eden has now been returned.

The difference between Eden and now is that our first parents did not govern a broken world full of evil. We do, and we have our hands full-- so much so that we often assume helplessness and defer to God. But he calls us back into partnership with Him to make decisions that impact earth. We have a huge responsibility.

Whatever the keys of the kingdom are, they imply a sacred stewardship and an invitation into more authority than we might be comfortable with. Step into it. Be a human agent of the divine will. And pray, speak, and act with the awareness of His full backing.

Quotes of The Week

“You are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven. You are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.”

~ Vance Havner

“The kingdom of Satan retreats only as the kingdom of God advances.”

~ John Stott

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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