

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Church office hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 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.

MONDAY NIGHTS

Please participate in our weekly men's and women's gatherings at ALC **every Monday at 6:30 p.m.** Childcare is provided.

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 following praise and worship. Senior High students leave the sanctuary and go to 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 rooms 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.

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

Abundant Life Church

Week of May 16, 2021 A.D.

Cultivating Our Own Image

“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” — Ephesians 4:17–24

The word ‘Gentiles’ earlier referred to Christians of different racial and cultural backgrounds, but here ‘Gentiles’ means the human world outside the Christian group. We live in the human world. The constant struggle for Christians is how to live in the world without being tainted by it. Paul describes the cultural context surrounding the first Christians throughout the Roman Empire as given over to sensuality, indulgence in impurity, and the lust for more (19). Do we recognize our own society? The answer has to be both no and yes. Those of us fortunate enough to live in western-style democracies and particularly, like me, in middle-class suburbia, know that our neighbors are decent, charitable, morally upright people. That is because in the past, Christians have been the salt of the earth and their influence on society is still discernible today.

But my teenaged grandchildren are growing up in a world where self-indulgence is becoming the norm. Celebrities are the new heroes: their opulence, their plastic surgery, and their sex lives pervade our TV screens. Children encounter questions about their sexual orientation in primary school. They are constantly besieged by the media urging them to ‘just do it’. People on social media post happy images, photo-shopped to depict themselves always looking beautiful. Today’s reading tells us that self-images are deceptive, not only to others but also to ourselves. The image we must cultivate is the image into which God wants to shape us, characterized by righteousness and holiness, words rarely posted on Facebook or Instagram. We must indeed cultivate a new image and not the world’s image but God’s image.

Taken from the May 12, 2021 reading in ENCOUNTER WITH GOD.

Quote of the Week

“God does not just give to us grace. God gives to us Jesus who is the Lord of grace.” —Joni Eareckson Tada

Announcements

CONNECT SUNDAY Everyone has a ministry; do you know yours? Join us on Sunday, May 23rd to begin your journey growing, having fellowship, serving, and being the hands and feet of Jesus. This will be your opportunity to meet and talk with our ministry leaders and volunteers. They can answer your questions and help you get connected within the Body of Christ.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY: A new Bible study, “Kingdom Woman” by Drs. Tony and Lois Evans and their oldest daughter, Chrystal Evans Hurst, will begin Monday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m. Please sign up in the lobby or on our website www.myabundantlife.org.

CHRISTIANITY 101 – “Discovering Church Membership” – will be held on Thursday, May 20th at 6:15 p.m. in room 12-13. This class is required if you wish to become a member of ALC. However, if you attend the class, you are not required to become a member. Please sign up in the lobby or by visiting the homepage of our website.

CHRISTIANITY 201 – “Discovering Spiritual Maturity” – Thursday, May 27th at 6:15 p.m. in room 12-13. You must have taken Christianity 101 before you take this class. Learn how to grow in your prayer and devotional life. Please sign up online from our website homepage or in the lobby.

MEN’S BREAKFAST will be held **Saturday, May 22nd at 8:00 a.m.** This is a great opportunity for men to connect, laugh, talk, and grow in their faith! Please sign up in the lobby or online from the homepage of our website, myabundantlife.org.

MEN’S RETREAT The ALC Men’s retreat will be June 25-27 at Teen Quest Ranch in Somerset. The cost will be \$129 per person for lodging and meals. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. Your wife will be glad you did! (P.S. Scholarships are available. Please tell Courtney if you would like to receive one.)

ON-GOAL SOCCER CAMP Will be held **June 22-26, 2021** at Menarcheck Field, Fayette County Youth Soccer Club, 201 Township Dr Ext, Uniontown, PA 15401. For more info visit: www.ongoal.org/camp-page-uniontown-pa

- **HOST HOMES ARE NEEDED** for the soccer coaches for the week of June 20 – 27. If you have a spare bedroom and are willing to open your home to these wonderful young teachers, please sign the sheet in the lobby or call Tammy at 724-437-2588. You will be blessed!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATE This year’s VBS will be July 19th-23rd. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available from the information booth during both Sunday worship services. Please speak with the info booth volunteer to request a device if you need one.