

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.
Men's & Women's Bible Studies meet Monday nights at 6:30 p.m.
Midweek Worship service Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday at Abundant Life Church

- † **7:10 - 7:30 a.m.** Radio Program on WMBS 590 AM
- † **8:45 - 9:00 a.m.** Refreshments & Fellowship in the Lobby
- † **8:50 & 10:35 a.m.** Rooms 12/13
Drop off Pre-K thru 5th grade for Kid's Church
- † **9:00 a.m.** Worship service in the Sanctuary

- † **9:00 & 10:45 a.m.** ROOM 6 - Nursery (ages 0 - 3)
ROOM 7 - Pre-K to K (Only 9:00 a.m.)
ROOMS 12 & 13 - 1st thru 5th Grades
ROOM 10 - JR High (grades 6-8) begins after the hymns

- † **9:30 a.m.** ROOMS 8 & 11 - Adult Sunday School Classes

- † **10:20 -10:45 a.m.** Refreshments & Fellowship in the Lobby
- † **10:45 a.m.** Worship service in the sanctuary

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.

Are You Discouraged or Devoted?

"When Jesus heard this, he said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy."

– Luke 18:22-23

Have I ever heard Jesus say something difficult and unyielding to me? Has He said something personally to me to which I have deliberately listened— not something I can explain for the sake of others, but something I have heard Him say directly to me? The "rich young ruler" who is mentioned in these verses understood what Jesus said. He heard it clearly, realizing the full impact of its meaning, and it broke his heart. He did not go away as a defiant person, but as a man who was sorrowful and discouraged. He had come to Jesus on fire with zeal and determination, but the words of Jesus simply froze him. Instead of producing enthusiastic devotion to Jesus, the words of Jesus produced heartbreaking discouragement. And Jesus did not go after him, but let him go. Our Lord knows perfectly well that once His word is truly heard, it will bear fruit sooner or later. What is so terrible is that some of us prevent His words from bearing fruit in our present life. I wonder what we will say to Jesus when we finally make up our minds to be devoted to Jesus on that particular point? One thing is certain—Jesus will never throw our past failures back in our faces.



ABUNDANT LIFE
C H U R C H

Abundant Life Church exists to exalt Jesus (**worship**), to teach the Bible (**grow**), to share the gospel (**reach**), to love one another (**connect**), and to serve the Lord (**serve**).

God of Fellowship

"All the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade." –Acts 5:12

When God works powerfully and visibly, His people want to get together to share their experiences. When the Spirit fills His servants with love and awe, there's rarely an urge to be isolated. We want to celebrate the drama unfolding around us, and we usually like to enjoy our celebration together. If we don't like being around other Christians, something is wrong.

But that is sometimes the case, isn't it? There are times when God's people have a tendency to distance themselves from one another rather than come together in fellowship. When a church is struggling, when life is hard, when trials abound, or whenever it seems that God is not as near as we'd like Him to be, staying away from the fellowship is often easier than getting deeper into it.

The problem isn't other people. We frequently think it is. We project a disenchantment with God onto those around us. But deep in our hearts, we may feel that we are missing something.

If we feel far from God, we don't want to be around a bunch of people who can't relate. We don't want to be reminded that there is a closer relationship with Him that we are missing. The fellowship of the saints is uncomfortable to those who don't feel like a saint.

If it has seemed easy to stay away from fellowship with your church family lately, resist the urge to do so. Realize that the problem may be nothing more than a deep wish to see more of God in your life and a reluctance to be around those who do see more of God. But the way to see more of God in your life is for us to come together with fellow believers. When God shows up, it's usually a community experience.

God did miracles in the book Acts, and the people celebrated. As they came together, God did more miracles. *There's a connection between the gathering of believers and experiencing the glory.* Do everything you can to tap into the fellowship of God's glory.

The above article is from the [Indeed](#) daily reading for August 17, 2022.

Quote of the Week

"Obedience is the key that opens every door." –George McDonald

Announcements for the Week of August 21, 2022

VBS THANK YOU - This VBS was the first "big" event we have ever been a part of and to say that we are blown away by the amount of dedication, positive people, and love that each and every volunteer came out with every day, would be an understatement. We are so beyond thankful and so blessed by each "lifeguard" that came out and showed these kids Jesus! Whether you showed kindness, prayed for, cared for, or spoke of Jesus—these children and their families knew that He was the center of it all. Thanks to each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts for making this VBS SO special and such a success. You all are so loved and so appreciated! – Love, Hannah & Maria

YOUTH GROUP FALL KICK-OFF – We are welcoming in the new 6th graders on Wednesday, August 24th. Join us at 6:15 p.m. for worship in the sanctuary, then we will meet in the Kid's Church room (Room 12) for the Fall Kick-Off. All parents & guardians are asked to attend the kick-off with your children.

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST is Saturday, August 27th at 8:00 a.m. This is a terrific opportunity for men to connect, laugh, talk, and grow in their faith! Please sign up in the lobby or online if you plan to attend.

NEW MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING AUG 29TH - Amen is a 6 Week Study of The Story of Scripture from Eden to Eternity. Do you struggle to connect the dots between the Old and New Testament? Are you wanting to learn how each book of the Bible points to Jesus? Scripture tells one, big, cohesive story and this study will help you discover it. This study is perfect for couples or singles. **Childcare is available.** To learn more and/or to sign up online, please go to Signups in the church app, or our website, www.myabundantlife.org, or you can sign up at the Information Room.

CHRISTIANITY 101 - "Discovering Church Membership" - will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 6:15 p.m. 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 online or in the lobby if you plan to attend.

SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE TRIP - 6 TICKETS AVAILABLE! - The Monday Night Women's Bible Study Group is organizing a trip to see David at Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster on Saturday, September 17th, and we are inviting the ladies of ALC to join us! We will be carpooling. The cost of the ticket to the show is \$80 per person. We also ask that you help cover the cost of gas and tolls for the carpool drivers. If you would like to attend and/or help drive, please call or email Kim at 724-425-9700 or kim.rhodes@myabundantlife.org.

ASPIRE GIRLS' NIGHT - 1 Bible Teacher - 1 Comedian - 1 Musician is Friday, September 23 from 7-10 p.m. at Community Church in Irwin. You'll laugh, you'll learn, you'll worship, and you'll leave refilled! Admission is \$20 per person. Please sign up in the lobby so that we know how many tickets to purchase. Don't forget to invite your female family and friends!