



VIEW

from the lake

The newsletter of ABIDING PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Budd Lake, N.J.



From the Pastor

Faithful, Brave Space

I first encountered the concept of “Brave Space” in 2018 and I have lost track of how many people I have shared it with since. The term comes from a poem by Mickey ScottBey Jones, called Invitation to Brave Space:

**Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space”
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we
know.
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But
It will be our brave space together,
and
We will work on it side by side**

The poem is not a specifically Christian invitation, but it is one of the best descriptions I have ever read of the life Jesus calls us to share as his church.

It begins by addressing the problem with a longing for “safe space,” which – I believe – is a danger for many Christian communities. We want to feel safe ourselves, and we want to promise safety to others. But the truth is that Jesus does not promise us safety; in fact, he promises the opposite. Taking up our cross is not about safety, and we cannot go out into the world to make disciples and remain safe at the same time. We all need safety at times, of course, but we also need to be challenged. We need to grow. This is the heart of the life of faith.

May, 2022

**June Newsletter Deadline
May 16, 2022**

*Worship: 10:00 am
Online/In-Person*

**For hospitalization or other
pastoral care needs, please call
Pastor Serena at 908-458-3940**

OUR MISSION & PURPOSE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supporting and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ and nurtured by the Holy Spirit.

Phone: 973-691-9393
Website: www.abidingpeacechurch.org

Continued on page 2

COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Jackie King
Vice President	Shelli Skeels
Secretary	Sheeba David
Treasurer	Nick Senior

Council Members

Sandy Carlson	Cindy Pawlo
Sheeba David	Ken Schwier
Maria Jerez-Kearney	Nick Senior
Jackie King	ShelliSkeels
Heather Nilsen	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	George Pawlo
Financial Secretary	Nita Persson
Messengers Dancers	Mary Kasakove
Mutual Ministry	Heather Nilsen
Property	<i>Vacant</i>
Social Ministry	Sibylle Schroeder
Seniors	Sibylle Schroeder
Stewardship	Nick Senior
Worship & Music	Mary Kasakove

OUR STAFF

Pastor:

Serena Rice
Cell: 908-458-3940

Music Director:

Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Strobel
office@abidingpeacechurch.org

Continued from Page 1—Pastor's column

Second, the poem calls us to confession. Confessing that we have been wounded and that we have caused wounds in others is a sacred work that opens us up for both grace and healing. It eliminates the chance for us to hide behind false images of ourselves, and it reminds us that we need to examine our own actions as well as being aware of the scars that warp our responses to those around us.

Third, it highlights the gospel work of listening to the voices on the margins. This is what Jesus did every time he challenged the religious orthodoxy of the pharisees, or ate with sinners, or told a story with an unexpected hero. And, of course, his modeling of this way of challenging problematic systems and prejudices lies behind Paul's instruction to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), which is also echoed in the poem.

Most essentially, however, it is the poem's focus on the work of transformation that speaks to the life of Christian faith. The understanding that our goal is not about arriving at perfection, but about the journey: the work of growth, and learning, and love. And the awareness that such work must be cooperative. We have to commit together, with courage, to be people of the gospel, so that all of us can grow closer to the love and truth that Jesus calls us to.

This vision of the Christian life in community reflects my hope for Abiding Peace. It is the reason that our Reconciling in Christ process is called "setting the table for all to be fed." Ultimately, we don't want to just open the doors wider, or make the table longer, so that everyone is included. The journey of faith is about all of us deepening our connection to Christ and to each other by practicing Brave Space together.

~ *Pastor Serena*

Unfinished Object Night
May 9 * 7:00 pm



Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night at 7:00 pm. For information and to make sure it's on - call Sibylle at 973-691-1910.

Faith Kitchen Shopping List for May 3

Ham/Green Beans/Potatoes

- ~ Ham
- ~ 4 large cans whole potatoes
- ~ 2 extra large bags of frozen green beans

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, May 1.

If anyone has an extra ham you don't need, please call me and let me know, 973-459-0908. I have extra Thrivent money to buy more.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder, Social Ministry



Sunday Scripture

May 1

Acts 9:1-20
 Psalm 30
 Revelation 5:11-14
 John 21:1-19

May 22

Acts 16:9-15
 Psalm 67
 Revelation: 21:10, 22—22:5
 John 14:23-29

May 8

Acts 9:36-43
 Psalm 23
 Revelation 7:9-17
 John 10:22-30

May 29

Acts 16:16-34
 Psalm 97
 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,
 20-21
 John 17:20-26

May 15

Acts 11:1-18
 Psalm 148
 Revelation 21:1-6
 John 13:31-35

Senior Meeting Schedule 2022

The Senior Planning Meeting/Tea Party will be held on Wednesday, May 18 beginning at 2:00 pm. Please come and join us!

All are welcome.

CROSS ROADS

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Cross Roads Camp Summer Opportunities

Work at Camp This Summer!

If you know any young adults (aged 18 and up) who are looking for a meaningful summer job that will build their faith and connect them to community, tell them about Crossroads camp! Applications for the Cross Roads Summer Staff 2022 are LIVE! They are hiring awesome young adults who would be a great fit for any of our open positions next summer. Employment runs from mid-June through mid-August 2022. [Click here](#) to apply or to download a flyer to share with young adults in your community.

Summer Camp Registration Is Open

Registration for Summer Camp 2022 at Cross Roads is now open! Explore all the offerings for youth in grades 2-12 as well as family camp programs on the [Cross Roads website](#). You will never regret a week spent building faith and community at Cross Roads.

May Birthdays

5 Shelli Skeels
 11 Jackie Schwier
 27 Catherine Blackburne
 Maria Kearney

May Anniversaries

24 John & Sue Stirrat

Pastor Serena's April Schedule

In addition to posted hours in the office, Pastor Serena is also available to the congregation by cell phone or e-mail during the week: (908) 458-3940; pastorserena@optimum.net. Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

Week of April 25 – May 1

- Wednesday, Apr 27: 10:30am—8:30pm
- Saturday, Apr 30: 11:00pm—3:00pm:
Memorial service for Bob Peterson
- Sunday, May 1: 9:00am—2:00pm

Week of May 2 – May 8

- Wednesday, May 4: 10:30am-8:30pm
- Friday, May 6: 2:30pm-8:30pm (Synod Assembly)
- Saturday, May 7: 8:30am-12:30pm (Synod Assembly)
- Sunday, May 8: 9:00am-12:00pm

May 9 – May 15

- Wednesday, May 11: 10:30am – 8:30pm
- Sunday, May 15: 9:00am – 1:00pm

May 16 – May 22

- Monday, May 16, 10:00am – Wednesday, May 18: 12:30pm (SHAPE Retreat)
- Wednesday, May 18: 1:30pm-8:30pm
- Saturday, May 21: 3:00pm-7:00pm (Anniversary Celebration)
- Sunday, May 22: 9:00am-12:00pm

May 23 – May 29

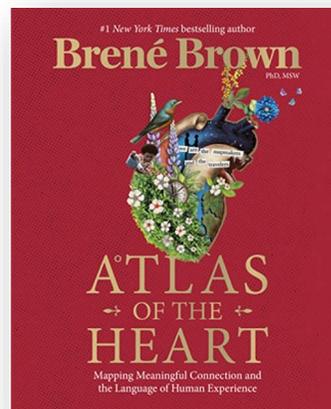
- Wednesday, May 25: 10:30am-8:30pm
- Sunday, May 29: 9:00am-12:30pm

May 30 – Jun 5

- Wednesday, June 1: 10:30am-8:30pm
- Sunday, Jun 5: 9:00am-2:30pm

Summer Book Club

Based on the education interest survey, it looks like our Summer Book Club read this year will be *Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown. We don't have the meeting(s) scheduled yet, but if you want to get started on the reading, you can order it online or pick it up at most book stores.



Our Abiding Peace History in Words and Photos Brought Up to the Present

This final installment of our 50th + 1 Anniversary historical series brings us up to the years of the pandemic, 2020 to the present. There are many more photos in our albums on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/photos>.

Also, if you get this by email but didn't get the late 70's "Welcome to Abiding Peace" pamphlet last month because the file was too big, it's now in two parts. The first is attached and the second will be in a following email.

Thanks again to Pastor Serena for writing this most recent installment in our history. Of course, the future contains our history yet to be written. Thanks be to God!



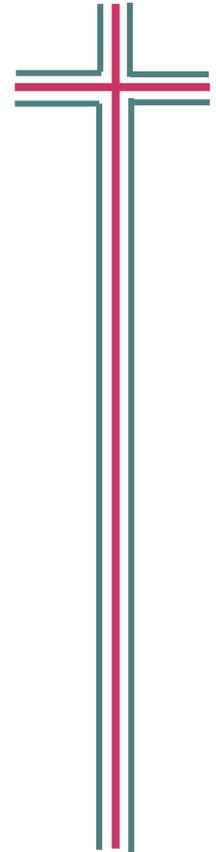
2020 – 2022: Adaptation

Abiding Peace entered the second decade of the 21st Century feeling fairly stable and secure. Our membership and pledging were growing. Pastor Serena's call had transitioned from a 2-year internship placement to a settled call. We had helped to establish a new interfaith fellowship in the town that was fostering new relationships and community conversation. We joined a select group of congregations from the Synod as part of a Leadership for Faithful Innovation Grant and our Guiding Team was exploring the ways that God might be calling us to try new things and new approaches to living out the gospel in our town. Everything seemed poised for a time of growth and mission.

Then, in March 2020, the full reality of the pandemic hit, and gears had to shift dramatically. With the help of a small, but dedicated, team we taught ourselves how to do digital ministry practically overnight. We pivoted to remote worship, first with a cell-phone camera, and then adding in streaming software, video recordings, and blended music tracks (thanks to our musician Ben, our volunteer soloists, and our expert sound tech, Ray). Pastor Serena's husband, Tyler, spent hours researching all the functionalities of OBS streaming software in order to build our capacity for truly integrated worship, even when we could not gather together. By the time pandemic conditions had eased to the point that we could begin gathering in-person again, we had a whole new set of skills and an internet outreach that reached far beyond the local area and the usual crowd. The switch to zoom meetings opened up more flexibility for meeting schedules and Bible study participation. The chance to offer a mid-week children's program grew our Sunday school offerings and new children were engaged in the congregation. Changes that we never would have pursued if the virus had not made them necessary proved to offer new opportunities for connection and growth.

This experience of the benefits that can come from even difficult changes helped to encourage the congregation to begin the process of exploring Reconciling in Christ (RIC) status – the designation of ELCA congregations that are fully open and inclusive of LGBTQ+ siblings and other traditionally marginalized communities. In Spring of 2021 the church Council agreed to explore the process, and the full congregation was invited to participate in exploratory conversations, including a Loving Dialogue on the ELCA 2009 social statement on Human Sexuality, and a community assessment of where we already stood in terms of inclusion. A Core Team was formed to guide the journey, and began the work of education, intentional conversations, and assessment. The process has brought in speakers and panelists from other inclusive Lutheran churches and hosted opportunities for learning and story-sharing. It has also begun to attract new worshippers for whom finding an inclusive and affirming congregation is important.

At just a little over two years in, the 2020 decade has already presented some of the biggest challenges of our congregation's history, but it has also provided us with the chance to experience God's faithfulness and our community's capacity for faithful, and faith-affirming adaptation. Whatever the rest of the decade brings, we will bring to it a spirit of gratitude for the chance to continue the work of being God's church in this time and place.



Participants in Palm Sunday slides, 2020

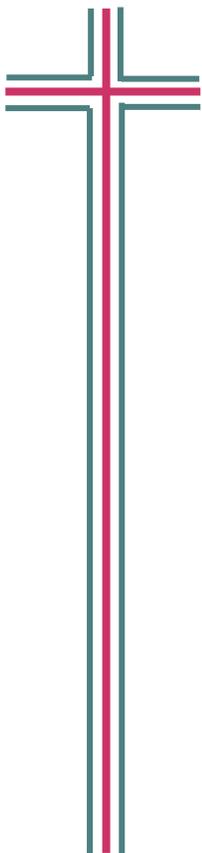
Pastor Serena, Day of Pentecost

Interfaith gathering for social justice, Summer 2020



Pastor Serena, Pentecost

APLC online



1st Pastor, Jim Parks and Charter members with Pastor Serena



Quilt service project, 2021



Blessing of the Animals & Garage Sale, 2021



Ash Wednesday, 2022



Start of our 50+1 anniversary year, May 16, 2021

Let's Celebrate

It is time for us to celebrate our fifty-one years as Abiding Peace. Fifty-one years of praising God and serving our community in God's name.

There will be a buffet dinner, commemorative video, and the opportunity to share memories and fellowship.

Saturday, May 21 at Holiday Inn Budd Lake*

3:15 Social hour with cash bar

4:30 - 7:00 Buffet dinner

Cost of the dinner is \$50/person, \$25 for children 5-11 (under 5 free).

If cost is a barrier, scholarships are available. Contact Pastor Serena.

RSVP by May 1

to Demetria at normandy1956@optonline.net with number of adults and children attending

Mail payment by check to:

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828

or add to your regular giving envelope. Please specify it is for the dinner.

Anniversary Worship Service

Sunday, May 22 - 10:00 am

Sunday worship will celebrate the faithful journey of this congregation, and the promise of God's continued faithfulness going forward. We will use the Abiding Peace liturgy composed by Benjamin Schroeder.

For overnight accommodations:

Rooms are available at Super 8 in Budd Lake. Rooms will be held until May 1.

Pictorial Directory is Coming!

A fifty-year celebratory directory is also being generated as part of the observance. All current and past members and friends of Abiding Peace are welcome to participate. For information, please contact Howard Corneilson at hgcorn@optonline.net. Please see details next page.

*** Holiday Inn Budd Lake**

1000 International Drive North

north of Route 46 at International Drive, or off Interstate 80 at exit 25

Pictures Needed

There is still a few days to get pictures for our Pictorial Directory. The directory will include both members, family members who have left home but want to be included (these would be included separately from the family), former members who would like to be included, and any friend of the congregation who attends or participates in livestream worship.

Have fun with it! Submit a photo that reflects your personality or interest (although studio photos are fine as well). Just make sure to send a picture in which the faces are the most prominent (not distant full body pictures). Digital pictures (preferred) can be sent to hgcorn@optonline.net or physical pictures (along with a method of contacting you) may be dropped off at the church at:

305 US Highway 46
Budd Lake, NJ 07828-2804

The following is the list of things that should be included with the picture:

* Required	† Strongly Recommended	Optional
Name (as it will appear) *	Address † Mailing address (if different) †	Phone number – please indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home • Cell – for whom if more than one individual
		Email address – please indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If shared address • For whom if an individual address
		Congregation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For members – how long you have been a member (if you remember) • For non-members – your current congregation (and location)
		Anything else you feel relevant

A display of what will be printed will be sent to you for your approval prior to publication.

50th Anniversary Committee

Abiding Peace Talent Show from 22 Years Ago Available to View

In Sept. 2000 Abiding Peace held its first of two "Talent/No Talent" nights. The first one was recorded in its entirety and, as part of our anniversary celebration, has been posted online. It is "unlisted" on YouTube which means that to watch it you need this link: <https://youtu.be/sPTFAJeKmg0>. The video's description lists the 17 acts in the program. Demetria and Sue singing "All for the Best" from Godspell at 56:50 is not to be missed!



Summer Plans

1. **July as Community Experiments Month.** Speaking of brave space, our church Council has modeled it for our whole community. Pastor Serena presented a request to Council for a mini-sabbatical (4-weeks of consecutive, unpaid leave this Summer) in order to recover and recharge from the strain of pandemic pastoring and parenting. Council approved the leave (amending it to partial-pay leave), but that's not the brave part. While recognizing the need, they could have still approached the prospect of a month without a pastoral presence with anxiety. Instead, they got excited. They recognized that a month without our "usual scheduled activities" creates an opening for the members of our community to dream and experiment together. "What might we do with this month?" became the theme of the conversation. So, while Pastor is away (July 4-31), be thinking about what you might want to organize or participate in as a community of faith! Share your ideas with Jackie Palermo (our Council President), or reach out to others who might be interested in your idea, or just brainstorming together!
2. **Family Camp.** In the middle of August, Pastor Serena will be serving as the Chaplain at nearby Crossroads Camp (the Outdoor Ministry program of the Lutheran Synod, and Episcopal Diocese). Unlike the kids camps of earlier in the Summer, August 14-21 is "family camp," a chance for households of all ages and types (no kids required) to gather together at camp for learning, fellowship, worship, and time in nature. The Rice family has been going every year that it has been offered since 2017 because it is such wonderful time together, and they would love to see some of their Abiding Peace family there this year. Family Camp has two sessions: Sunday – Friday (**August 14-19**), and Friday – Sunday (**August 19-21**). You can sign-up for one or both. Price is very reasonable depends on the accommodations you choose (The Christ Center is like hotel living – private bedrooms and baths; or you can choose cabin camping, with a shared bath house). Plus, the food is excellent! If you are interested, talk to Pastor Serena for more information, or register at <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/family-camp/>



MAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A REPLACEMENT IF YOU CANNOT SERVE.

MAY	ASSISTANT MINISTER	USHER	SOLOIST	LIVESTREAM
1	Mary Kasakove	Sandy Carlson	TBD	TBD
8	Doug Laird	Ken Schwier	TBD	TBD
15	Sheeba David	Cindy Pawlo	TBD	TBD
22	Mary Kasakove	Sibylle Schroeder	TBD	TBD
29	Demetria Laird	Sandy Carlson	TBD	TBD

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Jackie Palermo

BREAD BAKING: None



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Those who are sick or in need: Those who are sick or in need: Emily Wager, Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Kenneth Johanson, Karen Qualls, Nancy Ayotte, Elfriede & Dick Kiesling, Sheeba David, Cora Pawlo, Jim Tangen, Elizabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Dan Scouten, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis, the Appel family, Jackson Cook, Arthur Schenk, Donna Fahy, Joey Scollins, Tanya Jones, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Chris Bauer

Those who are expecting: Chris and Marie Laird

Those in mourning: George & Janet Schroeder on the death of Janet's son Hans, friends and family of Walter Pasuco, friends and family of Rudy Oeckinghaus, those mourning David Coyne, the VanHouten family, Millie Miller on the death of her sister, the Scalora and Crescenzo families on the death of Jeanne's cousin Sandy, the Scalora family on the death of Pat's sister Sally, the family of Gary Siess, the family of Jim Cook, the family of Bryce Rosen, the family of Betty Curlander, the family of Jay Mohundro, the family of Carla Schechner, the family of Steve Sammarco, the Laird family, the Gasparine family, the Biunno family, the family and friends of Brian Asong, the Ayotte family on the death of sister-in-law and aunt Sandy Olson, the Cortese and Tangen families, the Peterson family

MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 3RD SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person Service 11:30 am Confirmation class	2 6:00 pm Children's Church 7:30 pm NA Mtg.	3 9:00 am Faith Kitchen 7:30 pm RIC Core Team	4 12:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Writing the Anniversary Service Prayers	5 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) 6:30 pm NA Organizers Meeting 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 Synod Assembly (via Zoom/YouTube)	7 Synod Assembly (via Zoom/YouTube)
8 4TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:30 am Mother's Day Coffee Hour	9 6:00 pm Children's Church 7:30 pm NA Mtg. 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night 7:30 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting	10 7:30 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting	11 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Intergenerational Committee Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm Women of the Gospels Study: Elizabeth	12 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 5TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:30 am Inclusion Story-Sharing Session	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00 pm Children's Church 7:30 pm NA Mtg.	17	18 2:00 pm Senior Planning Meeting/Tea Party 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Women of the Gospels Study: Mary	19 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 3:00 pm Anniversary Celebration @ Holiday Inn
22 6TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Anniversary Webcast Worship/In-Person	23 6:00 pm Children's Church 7:30 pm NA Mtg.	24 12:30 pm Sign Committee Meeting	25 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Women of the Gospels Study: Woman at the Well	26 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 7TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person Service 11:15 am In-person Sunday School	30 7:30 pm NA Mtg.	31				