

July 2024

# VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

## WE NEED ALL FOUR SEASONS

by Pastor Serena

Even before record heat waves, I was never a huge fan of New Jersey summers. My childhood in California spoiled me with the joy of dry heat, and I just cannot stand the humid stickiness every time I walk outside or the need to always have a rain-out alternative when planning outdoor activities. If it were under my control, I would be delighted to stretch out our state's temperate, flower-filled weeks of spring to last at least until July and advance the beginning of fall's cooling breezes and changing leaves to start sometime mid-August. A few weeks of summer steam would be plenty for me.

Much as I dislike humidity and heat waves, however, I would not eliminate summer entirely. **Because we need all four seasons.**

It's a sentiment I encountered recently in one of Maddox's favorite book series. The books chronicle the adventures of four clans of wild cats in a fictional forest, whose lives in many ways revolve around the cycles of the seasons. At one point, the question is raised about whether nature got it wrong, as it would be better to have no season of winter when the elements are harsh and food is scarce. The response from one of the wise leader cats is an emphatic "No." Despite the hardships, winter is necessary. It gives time for the forest to rest and restore before the abundance of new life in the spring.

This scene in the story has stuck with me because it illustrates some deep truths that have relevance beyond the world of fiction.

One truth is the reminder that in determining what has value we need to consider more than just our individual comfort and experiences. Sometimes the things that we find difficult are necessary in a larger scheme, and we will find them easier to bear if we embrace that perspective. The other truth is the recognition that there is purpose in every season (whether actual or metaphorical) because of its role in the balance of the whole.

When we apply this truth to spirituality, it reminds us that the life of faith is not supposed to be experienced as a perpetual spring (or summer, autumn, or winter...whichever appeals most to you). We need variation in our spiritual path as well: times of obvious growth and abundant joy, but also times that move toward rest and apparent fallowness; times with extra light and activity, and times of quiet and stillness in which to ask our deepest questions. Life is cyclical by design. We need the variation, and embracing this need will help us to find life in whatever season we are currently experiencing. If we spend the "summers" feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, and longing for everything to slow down, we will not appreciate the gifts of light and opportunity. If we bemoan the cold and seeming lifelessness of "winters" in our faith, we will lose out on the chance for rest and reflection. There is a gift in each season if we will find it.

So, through the heat and stickiness of this summer, and through the flurry of tasks associated with our church's partnering efforts, I am trying to remind myself that every season has value. There are opportunities to learn and to find life in this moment. Thanks be to God.

**Worship: 10:00 AM**  
**Online/ In-person**

August 2024 newsletter deadline: 7/27  
Any news/ photos can be sent to Erin  
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

### Our Mission and 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. we are a reconciling in christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

Phone: 973-691-9393 Website: [www.abidingpeacechurch.org](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)

July

## Food Pantry Needs for July

- Parmalat Milk
  - Rice
  - Vegetable Oil
  - PB & Jelly
  - Canned Fruit
  - Juice
  - Hot-Dogs and buns
  - Soups
  - Vegan/vegetarian protein options
  - Toiletries
  - Bread
  - Meatballs
- (proteins & breads must go directly into freezer)

### Our Staff

Pastor:  
Serena Rice  
pastorserena@optimum.net  
c: 908-458-3940

Music Director:  
Ben Schroeder  
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:  
Erin Porter  
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

# COUNCIL & MINISTRY

## Officers

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Cindy Pawlo  
Heather Nilsen  
Jackie King-Palermo  
George Pawlo

## Council Members

Cindy Pawlo  
Ken Schwier  
Shelli Skeels  
Sibylle Schroeder  
Heather nilsen

Jackie king-palermo  
Maria Jerez-Kearney  
Charlie Palermo  
Aaron Hyndman

## Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts  
Christian Ed. & Youth  
Evangelism  
Fellowship  
Finance  
Financial Secretary  
Messengers Dancers  
Mutal Ministry  
Property  
Social Ministry  
Seniors  
Stewardship  
Worship & Music

Sibylle Schroeder  
Heather Nilsen  
Aaron Hyndman  
Demetria Laird  
George Pawlo  
Nita Persson  
Mary Kasakove  
Heather Nilsen  
Vacant  
Sibylle Schroeder  
Sibylle Schroeder  
Nick Senior  
Mary Kasakove

## Office Hours

Pastor Serena will hold office hours on Thursdays in July. As always, check weekly bulletins and Monday e-blast for updates on the times she is scheduled to be in the office. 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.

Erin will hold her office hours on Thursday of each week from 9:00-12:00. She can always be reached via email: aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

## Pastor's July hours

### July 1 - July 7

On vacation through 7/4  
Sunday, 7/7: 9:00am-1:00pm

### July 8 - July 14

Thursday, 7/11: 10:00am - 8:00pm  
Saturday, 7/13: 9:30am - 12:00pm (onsite for funeral)

Sunday, 7/14: 9:00am-1:00pm

### July 15 - July 21

Thursday, 7/18: 10:30am - 8:30pm  
Sunday, 7/21: 9:00am-1:00pm

### July 22 - July 28

Thursday, 7/25: 10:00am - 8:00pm  
Sunday, 7/28: 9:00am-3:00pm

### July 29 - Aug 4

Thursday, 8/1: 10:00am - 8:00pm  
Sunday, 8/4: 9:00am-1:00pm

## July Readings

**7/7:** Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13

**7/14:** Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29

**7/21:** Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**7/28:** 2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 145:10-18, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

## Thanks a bunch!

Thanks to Sandy, Sibylle, Charlie, Demetria, Doug, Mary, Cindy and Ellen for their donations to the church garden. Thanks to Abiding Presence who left plants! Hope many in our community will be able to partake in the variety of fruits and vegetables (even if that includes the birds and bunnies!). - Sue Stirrat

Dear Abiding Peace family, we want to thank you for all your prayers, love, help, gifts and cards in the last few months. You were there with us through all these difficult months, when Mike got sick and the Immunotherapy just didn't work. You were there with us getting ready for his service, and to clean back up afterwards and you are still there with us and for us - Thank you so much - Sibylle and family

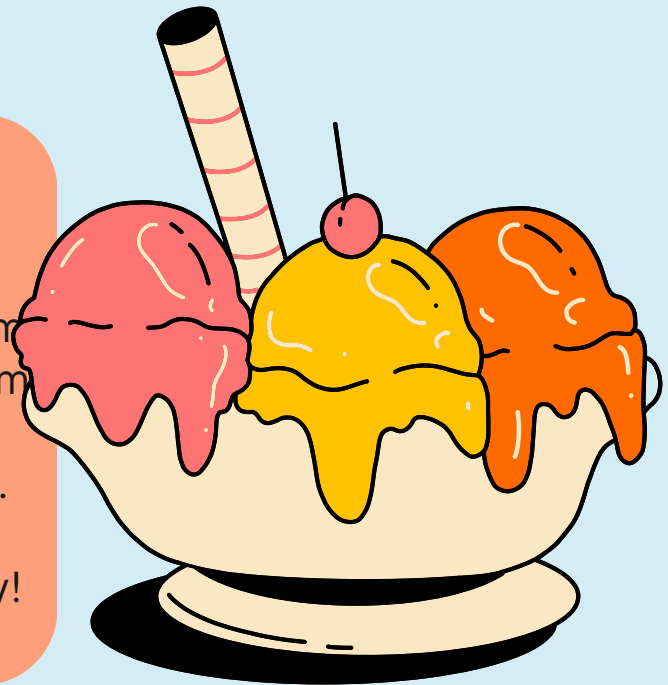
Check out the newest members of the APLC family!



## NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY!

We will be celebrating National Ice Cream Day on Sunday, July 21st with an ice cream social. The church will provide the ice cream, you bring your favorite toppings.

What a great way to cool off on a hot day!  
See you there!



## Sign Messages Wanted!

Want an easy way to help the church reach out to our community? Use your creativity to suggest new sign messages. Send your ideas to Pastor Serena.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are in the process of updating the church directory this Spring, which means that we need your updates. Please e-mail the updated information to [aplcbuddlake@gmail.com](mailto:aplcbuddlake@gmail.com) if you have:

**New address**

**New phone number**

**New e-mail address**

**New photo (optional)**

Thank you for your help! The directory is the easiest way to make sure the congregation can get in touch with each other.

## INTERGENERATIONAL VBS & GREEN TEAM SUNDAY – JULY 28

While our Sunday School program is taking a break for the Summer, we are planning a special intergenerational day of learning and fun for the whole congregation on **Sunday, July 28**.

And to make it extra special we are combining the effort with a launch of our new Green Team effort as part of the Bishop's Challenge for this year.

Here's what all that will involve:

- Special elements in worship (including a skit) to introduce the theme of the day: "God's Good Creation."
- Introduction of the Green Team effort in our congregation.
- A community lunch, including meatless options to introduce ways we can change our eating to reduce our environmental impact.
- Games, crafts, and learning stations to engage young and old in learning about creation and ways to honor God's design and help others.

If you would like to help out with the lunch, skit, or VBS stations, please be in touch with Pastor Serena.

If you are interested in learning more about the Green Team, contact Jackie & Charlie Palermo.

## SUMMER BOOK CLUB

And the Summer Book is.....(drumroll) *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

As our congregation is seeking to empower our mission through partnership with other people and organizations, an important part of this growth is to recognize the ways that God is active and working in the world beyond the scope of traditional "ministries."

Our hope is that this book will help us in that work of recognition. The book's summary states:

*Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life. In An Altar in the World, Taylor shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.*

The book club, as always, is open to anyone who is interested, whether or not you read the book (but it is definitely a book worth reading if you have the time). The schedule for meetings is below. All will be offered on zoom, although folks are welcome to join me at church, if you are able.

**Session 1 (Introduction & chapters 1-4): Thursday, July 18 @ 7:30pm**

**Session 2 (chapters 5-8): Thursday, August 8 @7:30pm**

**Session 3 (chapters 9-12): Thursday, August 29 @ 7:30pm**

## Illuminating Campaign Results Begin

The first project of the first level of our "Investing to Thrive" campaign is completed! When you next visit our church grounds at night, you'll see that the parking lot and exterior lighting is improved, an important safety priority. Thanks to George Pawlo for working with the contractor to get this done, and thanks to all supporters of our campaign to help our congregation be a more welcoming and partnering place.

July

## JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

7/6 - Christina & Chris Belfiore  
 7/14 - Stef  
 7/19 - Jim & Kathy Tangen



Did we miss a milestone? Please email Erin (aplcuddlake@gmail.com) to keep us up to date!

## SENIOR EVENTS

July 17 Games  
 Aug 21 Pool party at Pawlo's  
 Sept. 18 "UFO of God: The Extraordinary True Story of Chris Bledsoe"  
 Oct. 18 Halloween Party  
 Nov.29 Christmas/Holiday Party  
 This schedule is open to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>7/1</b>	<b>7/2</b> Faith Kitchen 9:00am-12:30pm	<b>7/3</b> AA 6:30 PM	<b>7/4</b>	<b>7/5</b>	<b>7/6</b>
<b>7/7</b> Worship 10:00	<b>7/8</b> Worship & Music Committee @ 1:00pm via Zoom Partnering Team Meeting @ 7:00pm via Zoom	<b>7/9</b>	<b>7/10</b> Outreach Team meeting @ 6:00pm via Zoom AA 6:30 PM	<b>7/11</b>	<b>7/12</b>	<b>7/13</b> Memorial service for Rex Twining @ 10:30 am
<b>7/14</b> Worship 10:00 Celebration Sunday @ 11:00am	<b>7/15</b> UFO Night @7:00pm	<b>7/16</b>	<b>7/17</b> Senior Ministry Games 2:00 PM AA 6:30 PM Council meeting via Zoom @ 7:30pm	<b>7/18</b> Summer Book Club, meeting #1 @ 7:30pm	<b>7/19</b>	<b>7/20</b>
<b>7/21</b> Worship 10:00 Ice Cream Sunday Social @ 11:00am	<b>7/22</b>	<b>7/23</b>	<b>7/24</b> AA 6:30 PM	<b>7/25</b>	<b>7/26</b>	<b>7/27</b>
<b>7/28</b> Worship 10:00 Intergenerational VBS Sunday, 10:00am - 2:00pm	<b>7/29</b>	<b>7/30</b>	<b>7/31</b> AA 6:30 PM			

**July 2024  
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

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

	7/7	7/14	7/21	7/28
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sandy Carlson	Sandy Carlson	Sandy Carlson	Sandy Carlson
<b>Counter</b>	Anna Santino	George Pawlo	Sandy Carlson	Ursula Schroeder
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	Mary Kasakove	Sue Stirrat	Doug Laird	Demetria Laird
<b>Lector</b>	Sheeba David	Maria Jerez	Demetria Laird	Roy Persson
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Cindy Pawlo	Howard Corneilson	Maria Jerez	Sibylle Schroeder
<b>Usher/Greeter / Acolyte</b>	Sibylle Schroeder	Cindy Pawlo	Mary Kasakove	Sandy Carlson
<b>Soloist</b>	Shelli Skeels	Sheeba David	Sue Stirrat/ Aaron Hyndman	Howard Corneilson
<b>Accompanist</b>	George Pawlo	Mary Kasakove	Praise Band	Karen Coates
<b>Livestream Assistant</b>	Tyler Rice	Ray Mueller	Sheeba David	Tyler Rice

**BREAD BAKING:** Demetria Laird

