

The APC Pandemic team continues to monitor community conditions related to the pandemic in order for us to gather as safely and as openly as possible for worship.

We have adjusted some of our safety protocols recently.

For outdoor worship:

- We are now allowing masks to be optional after you have found your seat for worship.
- We urge those not yet vaccinated to continue to wear masks at this time.

For indoor worship:

- While worshipers are in their pews, masks are now optional, except all are to be masked while singing, since singing is a significant way to spread airborne germs. The congregation is now invited to sing whenever there are music offerings and not just at the end of it. In summary, be masked as you enter, while you are singing, and as you exit the sanctuary. We urge those not yet vaccinated to wear masks throughout their time in the building.
- We continue to practice social distancing and we urge people to refrain from shaking hands or offering hugs.

We continue our worship registration for both services so we would have the information necessary for contact tracing if necessary. And, as always, please do not attend in person if you are not feeling well that day.

Thanks for helping us to show our love for our neighbors through these efforts to keep one another safe!

From the Pandemic Work Team which consists of the following people:

Medical Professionals: Frank Sandstrom, MD; Michelle Feil, MSN, RN

Church Council Representatives: Suzin Weber, Carolyn Koch, Don Brooks

Church Facility Expertise: Gary Koch, John Miller

From the Staff: Rev. Aaron Twitchell, John Sall, Ruth Sall, Barb Foy, Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

2021 Second Quarter Contribution Statements

The contribution statements were mailed or emailed this past week.

Please check your mail or email. Emailed statements will have the following message in the "From Line" and "Subject line" since they are sent through our vendor, CCIS:

From line: support @ccissoftware.com

Subject line: Contribution Detail - Etc.

If you changed your email, please send an email to bettyg@apcusa.org requesting your email to be updated including whether "individual name and/or family update".

Thank you! Any questions, please contact Betty Gwiazdowski in the Church Office.

GEMMA SERVICES changes lives by transforming hope into action for children, youth and families facing emotional and behavioral challenges. Those served often are impacted by loss, unexpected challenges, or serious traumas such as abuse, neglect and/or addiction. Gemma Services offers education programs, mental health services in residential and community settings, foster care, adoption services and prevention programs. (gemmaservices.org)

2021 Backpack and School Supply Collection

July 5 through August 9

Help children served by Gemma begin school on the right foot!

SUPPLY LIST

Backpack – gender neutral

3 composition books

4 pocket folders

1 box of pencils

1 large eraser

1 box crayons

1 package colored pencils or markers

2 glue sticks (no paste or liquid glue)

Please bring your filled back pack to APC and leave it outside the church office no later than August 9. Any questions, please contact Mission Council (Georgene at gapilling25@gmail.com).

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Located in Germantown, **Face-to-Face** has evolved into a multi-service organization that offers free services to more than 2,500 low income and homeless individuals each year. Its mission is to provide for the health, well-being and stability of the surrounding community. Face-to-Face houses a nurse managed Health Center, Social Services Center, Legal Center, Neighborhood Arts Studio and Summer Camp program. Guests can take hot showers onsite in the Washeteria and receive a new set of clothes. Chef Altenor prepares hot meals five days a week, served in the Dining Room, family style. There are many volunteer opportunities. You can help prepare and serve meals in the Dining Room or work in their vegetable garden. If you are not able to volunteer onsite, you can make casseroles or sandwiches at home and drop them off. You can also donate shampoo, soap and other items for toiletry bags or purchase sweatpants, tee shirts, and underwear for distribution at the Washerteria.

If you would like to volunteer with Face-to-Face, you can go directly to their website or go through the APC website where you will find a link to their volunteer hub.

### **Changes for anti-racism events this summer**

After careful consideration of a number of factors, the Anti-racism Team has decided to postpone its Story Sharing sessions until the fall. We want these opportunities to be available to as many people as possible, so with additional time for planning and after the summer travel season has subsided, we know the series will be a great success. Please stay tuned for updates.

The next meeting of the History Book Club will be Thursday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor. We will be discussing

Revolutionary Characters: What made the Founders Different by Gordon S. Wood

and

Founding Mothers: The Women who Raised our Nation by Cokie Roberts. Join us!

APW Book group will meet Tuesday, August 3 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

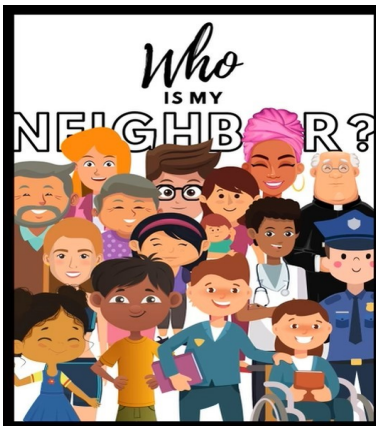
This month's selection is Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid. Cindy Miller will lead the discussion. A reviewer in *The Atlantic* describes the book as "a comedy of good intentions...that lays bare issues of race and class in contemporary America." It begins with an incident of racial profiling in an upscale grocery store--the protagonist, a black woman, is accused of kidnaping the white toddler whom she babysits. From there, the story becomes a social satire about privilege and racial bias. Anyone who would like to be placed on the email contact list for this women's book group, please email Joanne Welsh, moderator, at [jtwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:jtwelsh@gmail.com). We'd love to have new members.

Hi APC Families of children and youth,

We are excited to announce the return of VBS and NACK camps this summer! We have a long tradition of excellent summer programming for children with opportunities for youth volunteerism. Thankfully, we will be returning to our favorite programs, with some changes for the pandemic, of course. We are opening registration to APC families first and ask that you register as soon as possible. Due to the pandemic protocols, we have limited space this year and will not be able to accommodate last-minute additions. I am hopeful that all our APC families and our Abington community families will be excited to return for a two great programs!

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) AUGUST 2-6, 9AM TO NOON

#### Who is My Neighbor?



Rising Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grades (fall 2021)

\$25 per child, \$50 cap per family

All VBS activities will take place outdoors at the Abington Presbyterian Church block, rain or shine!

(In the event of a thunderstorm, we have a plan to be indoors safely)

All children, shepherds, teachers and staff will be masked for VBS  
Snack will be provided and mask breaks throughout the morning

Register at <https://forms.gle/bFnBSPyBMRVANKHV8>

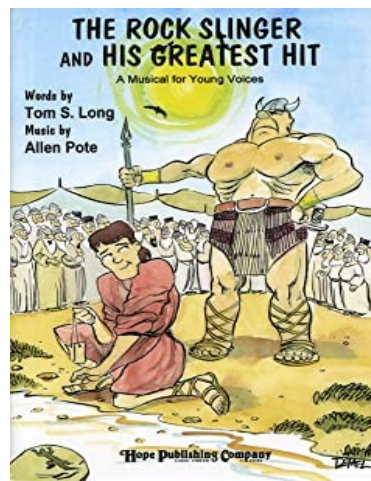
Youth volunteers (grades 7-12) please contact Pastor Aaron Twitchell at [atwitchell@apcusa.org](mailto:atwitchell@apcusa.org).

### Noah's Arts Camp for KIDS! NACK Camp

Musical: *The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit* (Based on the Bible story of David and Goliath!)

August 23-27, 29

9am to 4pm



Rising 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders (this is a change of ages for the pandemic)

\$75 per camper, scholarships available

All NACK activities will take place outdoors at the Abington Presbyterian Church block, rain or shine!

(In the event of a thunderstorm, we have a plan to be indoors safely)

All children, counselors, teachers and staff will be masked for NACK camp.

Snack will be provided and mask breaks throughout the day.

Register online <https://forms.gle/JKPdPK8mcTtktdKUA>

For more information or questions, please contact Ruth Sall at [rsall@apcusa.org](mailto:rsall@apcusa.org)