

# This Week at Abiding Presence

## Sunday, 4 January 2026

<b>8:30 - 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Breakfast	Gym
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Sunday School	Various
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Life of Faith Table Talk	Gym
<b>11:00 - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
5:30 - 6:30 PM	AA Freedom Group - Open Meeting	Gym Classroom
7:00 - 8:00 PM	ACA LPG Recovery Meeting	Gym Classroom

## Monday, 5 January 2026

9:00 - 9:45 AM	Coffee with the Pastors	APLC Zoom
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Men's Chorus Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Guitar Ensemble	Choir Room
7:15 PM - 8:15 PM	AA Freedom Group	Gym Classroom

## Tuesday, 6 January 2026

9:15 - 9:30 AM	Day School Chapel	Sanctuary
9:30 - 12:30 PM	LWR Quilters	Room 207
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Staff Meeting	Conference Room
6:00 - 7:00 PM	ACA Recovery Meeting	Gym Classroom
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Troop 90 Meeting	Gym
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Worship Arts & Music MAT Meeting	Room 206

## Wednesday, 7 January 2026

9:15 - 9:30 AM	Day School Chapel	Sanctuary
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Day School Magic Show	Gym
5:30 - 6:30 PM	Wonderful Wednesday Pizza	Gym
6:00 - 6:30 PM	Cherub Choir	Room 6B
6:00 - 6:45 PM	Children's Chapel Choir	Choir Room
6:00 - 6:45 PM	Youth Handbells	Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Gym Classroom
7:00 - 8:30 PM	High School Buzz	Youth Room
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir	Sanctuary

## Thursday, 8 January 2026

9:15 - 10:15 AM	Day School Board Meeting	Room 206
11:45 - 12:45 PM	Faithful Folders	Conference Room
5:30 - 6:30 PM	Primary Purpose CA - Recovery Meeting	Gym Classroom
6:00 - 9:30 PM	Alamo Squadron Meeting	Gym
7:15 - 8:15 PM	AA Freedom Group	Gym Classroom
7:30 - 8:00 PM	Stewardship Meeting	APLC Zoom

## Friday, 9 January 2026

7:15 - 8:15 PM	AA Freedom Group	Gym Classroom
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## Saturday, 10 January 2026

9:15 - 10:15 AM	AA Womens BB Study	Gym Classroom
10:00 - 12:00 PM	George Gaytan Guitar Lessons	Library
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Women's AA	Gym Classroom
<b>5:30 - 6:30 PM</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>

## Sunday, 11 January 2026

<b>8:30 - 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Breakfast	Gym
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Parking Lot Forum	Gym
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Sunday School	Various
<b>11:00 - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
5:30 - 6:30 PM	AA Freedom Group	Gym Classroom
7:00 - 8:00 PM	ACA LPG Meeting	Gym Classroom

[WWW.APLC.ORG](http://WWW.APLC.ORG)

Learn more about Abiding Presence. Sign up for coming events, calendar, online giving.



APLCSA

# TAKE HOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the week of

**Jan. 4-11, 2026**

## Welcome

We are glad you are worshipping today.

**If you are visiting, Welcome!** We'd love to know you are here and be able to be in touch - the Welcome Team in blue vests are here to assist you.

**All are welcome to receive communion.** Those choosing not to receive the sacrament may come forward for a blessing and assurance of God's promises. Individual communion cups are available in the narthex.

**Families and children of all ages** are welcome in worship. Booster seats and activity bags filled with items to help little ones participate are located at the back of the sanctuary. A **nursery** is available for infants through age four during Sunday worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday evening.

**Large print bulletins** and **hearing assistance devices** are available. Ask a Welcome Team member.

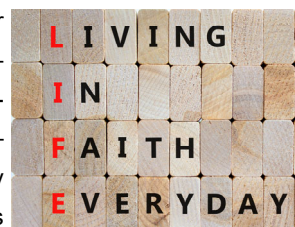
**Restrooms** are located at the back of the sanctuary and in the office/nursery area.

**Breakfast** is served in the gym on Sunday morning from 9:00 - 10:30 AM. You are invited to share a meal and fellowship around the tables. Free will offerings help defray costs.

**Interested in joining Abiding Presence?** The next New Member Orientation will be in February. Contact the church office to learn more about this place of grace. Childcare is provided.

## LIFE OF FAITH QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When you encounter injustice or suffering in your everyday life—whether in the news, in your community, or in a personal relationship—what would it look like to carry "Christ's light" into that darkness through one specific action this week?



Use **#MyFaithStory** on social media to share your life of faith story with others. APLC's Life of Faith Initiative is a reminder that every moment is an opportunity to Seek God and serve others, everywhere and everyday beyond the church.

14700 San Pedro Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78232

(210) 494-8884  
[www.aplc.org](http://www.aplc.org)



APLCSA



**Sunday**  
Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
Breakfast 9:00 - 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 - 10:45 AM

**Saturday**  
Worship 5:30 PM

# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

See a complete calendar at [APLC.ORG](http://APLC.ORG)

## THIS WEEK

### LIFE OF FAITH TABLE TALK

*Sunday, Jan. 4 | 10:00 - 10:30 am | Gym*

Join the Life of Faith team at the designated tables in the gym during breakfast and share a little faith with new and old friends. Learn more and discuss how we practice a life of faith each and every day.

### COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS

*Monday, Jan. 5 | 9:00 - 9:45 am | APLC Zoom ID: 2104948884*

Join the pastors each Monday for coffee and conversation about the previous worship experience, sermons, and future lessons. All are welcome!

### MEN'S CHORUS REHEARSAL

*Monday, Jan. 5 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm | Sanctuary*

Join this lively group of male singers that meets occasionally to practice an uplifting song for worship the following Sunday. If you love to sing without lengthy rehearsals, this is your chance! Contact Pastor Steve at [stevec@aplc.org](mailto:stevec@aplc.org) for details.

### GUITAR ENSEMBLE

*Monday, Jan. 5 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm | Choir Room*

Connect and create music together with other musicians of all skill levels in this new and growing acoustic guitar ensemble! Contact David White at [davidw@aplc.org](mailto:davidw@aplc.org) for additional information.

### TEXAS RAMP PROJECT BUILD

*Saturday, Jan. 10 | 8:30 - 12:00 pm | Off Campus*

Join others as the Abiding Presence Ramp Project team builds a wheelchair ramp for those in need! For more details, reach out to Spike Hubenak at [spikehube@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spikehube@sbcglobal.net).

## COMING SOON

### PARKING LOT FORUM

*Sunday, Jan. 11 | 10:00 - 10:45 am | Gym*

Make plans to attend this forum on the proposed parking lot. Members of the parking lot committee and council will be available to address questions, comments, and concerns.



### CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

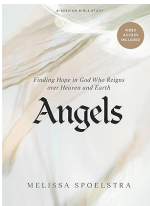
*Sunday, Jan. 25 | 10:00 am | Gym*

Make your voice heard! We need at least 75 members to vote on the 2026 budget. Contact the church office with questions. All are welcome!

### ONLINE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Begins January 26 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | APLC ZOOM*

Join the women of Abiding Presence for this online Bible study about angels. Learn who they are, what they do, and what they have to do with you through "Angels: Finding Hope in God Who Reigns Over Heaven and Earth" by Melissa Spoelstra. The book is available at Lifeway or Amazon. For more information, contact Lisa Scarlett at [lisascarlett@gmail.com](mailto:lisascarlett@gmail.com).



### NEW MEMBER CLASS

*Feb. 1, 8, and 15 | 10:00 - 10:45 am | Room 206*

Want to make Abiding Presence your church home? Join this engaging three-week series to learn more. Call (210) 494-8884 to RSVP—childcare is available for your convenience.

## IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Miguel Cortinas  
Dan Decker  
Linda Fisher  
Taylor Hall

Joanna Kelley  
Kirby Mask  
Rob Spence  
John Viargues

Linda Viargues  
John Wade  
Family and Friends  
of Ruth Jaroszewski

To submit a prayer request, either visit [aplc.org](http://aplc.org) or fill out a card found in the pew racks. Put the card in the prayer box in the narthex or give it to an usher. Names are included on the prayer list for four weeks. Notify our office of any ongoing prayer needs.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** – Are you experiencing a difficult time? A Stephen Minister can provide confidential, Christian care. Contact Stephen Ministry Leaders, Gizelle Henriksen & Sheryl Stanton or ask Pastor Heather for more information.



### LIFE WELL PLANNED: A THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WORKSHOP

*Saturday, Jan. 31 | 8:00 - 12:00 pm | Gym*



This practical, supportive workshop is designed to help older adults, caregivers, and families prepare for end-of-life decisions with clarity and confidence. Scan the QR code to register for this event.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

*Feb. 20-22 | Off Campus*



Enjoy a transformative retreat with women from Abiding Presence in 2026! Experience spiritual growth through fellowship, study, delicious food and heartfelt connections. More details are coming this month.

### WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY RETURNS JAN. 7

Kick off the new year with Wonderful Wednesday on January 7! Come for food and fellowship. There's something for everyone, regardless of age. All are welcome!

#### Dinner is served 5:30 - 6:30 pm

6:00 - 6:30 Cherub Choir, Room 6B

6:00 - 6:45 Children's Chapel Choir, Choir Room

6:00 - 6:45 Youth Handbells, Sanctuary

7:00 - 8:30 Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary

7:00 - 8:30 Confirmation Class, Gym Classroom

7:00 - 8:30 High School Buzz, Youth Room

**Breakfast is served in the gym each Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:30. Come and share time around the tables getting to know other Abiding Presence families.**

January 04 - (HS Youth) - Breakfast Tacos

January 11 - (Mitch Dorn) - Omelets, French Toast, Bacon

January 18 - (Ron Njus) - French Toast, Bacon

January 25 - (Bostick) - Eggs, Hashbrown, Sausage



**January 3 - January 4, 2026**

The Epiphany of Our Lord

*Abiding Presence*  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
A PLACE OF GRACE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

14700 SAN PEDRO AVENUE, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232 | 210.494.8884 | [APLC.ORG](http://APLC.ORG)



# Welcome to Worship

Prelude

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimm, BWV 645*

J.S. Bach

(Awake, the voice is calling us)

*Stand*

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

☑ Amen.

☞ Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☞ Reconciling God,

☑ we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

☞ God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✙ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

☑ Amen.

Gathering Hymn– ELW 275

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

## Greeting

☒ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ And also with you.

## Canticle

## Christmas Gloria

setting by Rory Cooney

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Cantor:

and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father *Refrain*

Cantor:

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen. *Refrain*

## Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☒ Amen.

## Welcome and Announcements

### First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible page 602

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

☐ Word of God, Word of life.

☒ Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

### *Psalm 72*

Hal Hopson

#### Refrain



*Epiphany/General:* We, too, bow down. In one voice we raise,



ev - er to sing un - end - ing praise.

### Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Pew Bible page 950

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

☐ Word of God, Word of life.

☒ Thanks be to God

## Children's Message

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation

*The congregation will sing the refrain as directed by the cantor.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

**Cantor:** *We have observed his star | at its rising, and have come to | worship him.*

### Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible page 783

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

☒ Glory to you, O Lord.

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

☐ The gospel of the Lord.

☒ Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

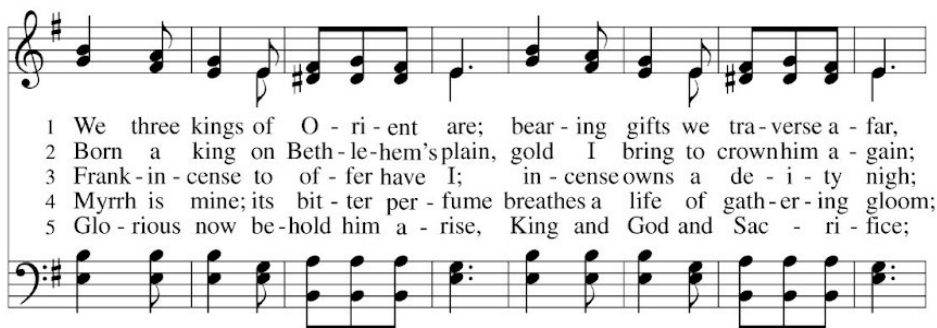
### Sermon

Rev. Heather Hansen, Associate Pastor

*Want to dive deeper? Join the Pastors for coffee on Monday mornings via Zoom. 2104948884*



## Hymn of the Day

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*


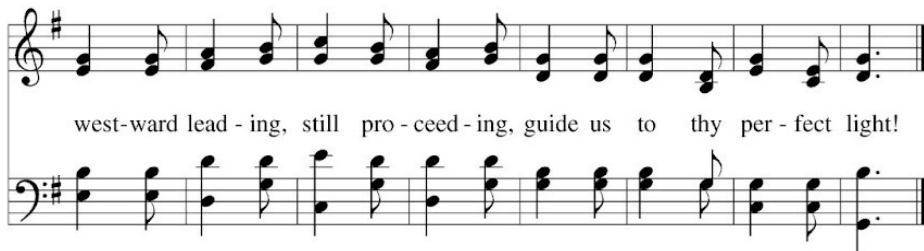
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

*Refrain*


Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## Apostles' Creed

☐ Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

☑ I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

☐ Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*Each petition ends:*

☐ Hear us, O God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

☑ **Amen.**

## Sharing God's Peace

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

*Greet one another with a sign of God's peace saying **Peace be with you** or similar words.*

Sit

## Offering Message

Safely give online. Tap Give  in the app or scan the QR code.



## Offering Music

*Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie, Op 13*

Maurice

*Duruflé (Prelude on the Introit of Epiphany)*

*David White, organ*

Stand

Offertory Response – ELW 885

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

## Offering Prayer

☒ God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

☒ Amen.

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are written below each staff, aligned with the notes.

☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major. The melody is more complex than the previous section, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below each staff, aligned with the notes.

## Eucharistic Prayer

☐ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

## Words of Institution

☐ Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☐ With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

☑ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

☐ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Sit*

## Invitation to Communion

**HOLY COMMUNION** *Abiding Presence welcomes all to this communion table. Communion is received by intinction. Communicants receive the wafer and then dip it in the chalice or come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers are also available. Individual communion cups are available in the narthex. Ask a welcome team member for assistance.*



*The CERAMIC chalices hold wine.  
The CRYSTAL chalices hold grape juice.*

## Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn—ELW 279

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*Stand*

## Communion Blessing

☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

☐ Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

☐ Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

☐ Amen.

*Ministers come forward to receive communion kits*

## **Sending of Communion**

*If you are experiencing a difficult time, a Stephen Minister can provide confidential, Christian care. For more details or to contact the Stephen Ministry, visit [apl.org/connect/stephen-ministry](http://apl.org/connect/stephen-ministry).*



☐ Gracious God, let your love be known through these Stephen Ministers as they carry your Word and Sacrament to those who cannot be here. May those who receive this Holy Communion be strengthened, encouraged, and sustained by the community we are together as the body of Christ.

☑ **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

☐ The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✝ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

☑ **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn—ELW 302**

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

## **Dismissal**

☐ Glory to God in the highest!

☑ **And peace to God's people on earth!**

☐ Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

## Paean on GLORIA

*David Lansky*

*David White, organ*

## Anointing For Health and Wellbeing

*Following worship today, Abiding Presence offers the opportunity to have a pastor pray with you for your specific needs for healing of body, spirit, or relationships. You are invited to come to the chancel following worship to receive prayers and anointing.*





# Serving in Worship

<b>Assisting Minister</b> Sophie Rainville Mona Klein Steve Johnson	<b>Lector</b> Michele Scherzer Elly Henry Karen Palafox  <b>Altar Guild</b> Sophie Rainville, Gizelle Henriksen Julie Koehler, Sarah Sanchez Sally Mask, Kim Wolf	<b>Sound</b> Tom Cucolo Ron Njus Crystal Coleman  <b>Video</b> Jason Scarlett  <b>Welcome Team</b> Number 1
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## New at Abiding Presence?

We'd love to connect and help you find your way in this community of grace.  
Send us a message and we'll be in touch.



*Rev. Steven Cox, Senior Pastor*  
*Rev. Heather Hansen, Associate Pastor*  
*David White, Minister of Music*  
*Mike Ceyanes, Minister of Youth*  
*Sigrid Stern, Music Associate*

*Denise Barritt, Business Administrator*  
*Crystal Coleman, Multimedia Coordinator*  
*Rene Baeza, Sexton*  
*Ale Kleinert, Day School Director*

