



abundant life

living. growing. fruitful.

2026

Annual Meeting



GETABUNDANTLIFE



2026 ANNUAL MEETING WELCOME

LIVING FAITH. GROWING FAITH. FRUITFUL FAITH.

Grace to you,

You are receiving this packet because you are a valued part of our church body. The Word of God shows us that each of us is unique and valuable.

It is our hope in the coming year that you will discover this living, growing and fruitful relationship that the LORD Jesus has created you for. There are two important moments in every life: The moment that a life is created by the Lord, and the moment that a life discovers *why* it was created by the Lord. We were created by God and created for God.

Please look through this packet. Be reminded of God's faithfulness to see us through each season and be encouraged about the journey ahead. We are a church that began 40 years ago in this little area of upstate NY. Over the years we have seen lives transformed by the power and the love of Jesus and the gospel message. We look forward to seeing God do even greater things in the days and seasons ahead.

We are excited to be on this great adventure with you. You are a special part of the plan of God for our region. You are loved.

Blessings to you in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Brandon, MaeLeah & The ALF Elder Team



HOW WE COMMUNICATE AT ABUNDANT LIFE

WEBSITE



getabundantlife.com

- EVENT LISTINGS
- SERMON ARCHIVES
- LEADER INFO
- ONLINE GIVING
- CHURCH-RELATED CONTENT



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SOCIAL MEDIA



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- LIVE SUNDAY SERVICES
- PHOTOS
- EVENT INFORMATION

CHURCH APP



church center

- SIGN UPS
- CALENDARS
- ONLINE GIVING
- GROUP INFO



TEXT MESSAGING



Church Text Messaging

- WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS
- SIGN UP INFORMATION
- ENCOURAGEMENT



FILL OUT A CONNECT CARD TO GET SETUP FOR CHURCH MESSAGING VIA TEXT

BULLETINS



E:Life Bulletin

- WEEKLY INFORMATION
- NEWS
- LINKS TO CONTENT



Paper Bulletin

- WEEKLY UPDATES
- SERMON NOTES
- AVAIL. AT SUNDAY SERVICE



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Abundant Life Established in 1986



@GETABUNDANTLIFE

MISSION & VALUES

“ OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To bring people into a living, growing and fruitful relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with His Church.

VALUE STATEMENTS

1. **We Value the Bible.** We value the Bible and believe that it is the infallible word of God, the final word of conduct and faith for all who call Jesus Christ their Lord. Ps 119:89, 2 Tim 3:16-17, John 1:1, Ps 138:2

2. **We Value Prayer.** We believe that a truly believing people will always be a praying people. That it is each believer's privilege and responsibility to pursue a healthy, consistent prayer life with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Col 4:2, Eph 6:17-18, 1 Tim 2:1-2

3. **We Value the Family.** We value and honor the placement of the family as a pillar in the church and community. We recognize the high value of our children and the importance of passing our faith unto the next generation.

Eph 5:22-25, Ps 127:3-5, Deut 6:6, Eph 3:14-15

4. **We Value the Local Church.** We value the importance of membership in a local church. We believe that it practically demonstrates accountability and commitment to the Body of Christ and its mission.

Acts 2:42-43, Heb 10:24-25, 1 Tim 3:15

5. **We Value Unity.** We value the endeavoring to keep the unity. We understand that we must lay down our lives, attitudes, and preferences for the sake of our mission, which is to show Christ to the world.

Phil 2:5-8, Ps 133:1-2, John 17:11-12, 1 Cor. 1:10

6. **We Value Biblical Government.** We believe that the biblical form of church government is plurality of elders. Here, that is a team of Elders led by a Senior Elder (Pastor Brandon). They carry the authority and weight of responsibility for the care of the local church.

1 Peter 5:1-3, Num 11:24-25, 1 Tim 3:1-2, Eph 4:11-13

7. **We Value Financial Support:** We see it as an honor and responsibility to financially support the local church by the obedience and faithfulness of its members. The church being the storehouse of tithes to help do the work of the ministry in each unique community. Mal 3:10-11, 1 Cor 16:2, Matt 23:22-24

8. **We Value Evangelism.** We value the harvest. We believe it is our responsibility to help the saved grow and the lost to be found. Matt 28:19, 1 Peter 3:15-16, Acts 1:7-8

9. **We Value the Presence of the Holy Spirit.** We cooperate with the Holy Spirit to lead our lives in all we do. Welcoming and honoring the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit is of great importance to us. Acts 2:38-39, Acts 1:8, Rom 8:14-15

TENETS OF FAITH

1. We believe in One God, maker of all things and being in Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, became incarnate, was begotten by the Holy Spirit, was born of a virgin and is fully God and fully man.
3. We believe the Bible - in its entirety - is the divine Word of God and the infalliable rule of faith and conduct.
4. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, the eternal life of the saved and the eternal punishment of the lost.
5. We believe in the personal salvation of believers through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
6. We believe in water baptism by immersion for believers.
7. We believe in divine healing and restoration through the power of God.
8. We believe that the Holy Spirit is present, working and powerful in the lives of believers.
9. We believe in the Christian's hope - the imminent personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.



2025

INFO FROM OUR PREVIOUS YEAR OF MINISTRY AT ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

>10%

more than 10% of all of our finances go to support the spread of the gospel in our region and beyond.

>400

unique views each week on our online media through social media channels.

>20

20 ministries within our local church body that serve the needs of others both in our community and around the world.

90%

active members involved in serving in some capacity at Abundant Life.

1/3

of our church family is under the age of 18.

5

churches we partner with and come together with multiple times per year for community building and worship in Boonville

40+

years of serving the community of Boonville and surrounding communities with the gospel.

25+

Churches represented at this year's Abundant Life women's conference.

150+

First time guests since September 2025

~45

Average children under 12 weekly in Kids Church at Abundant Life.

50+

Churches that Pastor Brandon & Pastor Dan work with through North Country Ministers Fellowship.

50+

Students (Grades 7-12) who have attended youth events this year.

**AREAS WE
SUPPORT
FINANCIALLY**

OUTREACH

**COMPASSION
INTERNATIONAL**

AREA NEEDS

**WILLOW
NETWORK**

**IDENTITY
MISSION**

**WEBSTER
FAMILY**

WYCLIFFE

HOVING HOME



We sponsor impoverished children internationally. We provide them with gospel centered care and support .

We support our local community needs as they arise (disaster, loss, etc)

We support Willow Network crisis pregnancy centers of Oneida and Lewis County

We support the efforts of Jorge & Tara Garcia as they spearhead a Christ-Centered foster care and family preservation program in Honduras.

Missionaries to Asia. We support their family as they work to spread the gospel to unreached people.

We support Amanda Nuvoung as she helps with Bible translation efforts in SE Asia.

We support the Hoving Home, a place for women in need. This is an intense discipleship program.

***Please note that we also support many needs that come up as people in our community and region have obstacles that they face. We support these needs financially and also relationally. **

2026 CHURCH BUDGET \$300,000 FOR 2026

	2026	2026%	2025	2025%	Change +/-
Expenses Administrative					
Church Liability Insurance	\$6,700.00	2.23%	\$4,000.00	1.33%	\$2,700.00
Workmen's Compensation	\$1,200.00	0.40%	\$1,855.12	0.62%	-\$655.12
Contract Services (NC Tax)	\$1,920.00	0.64%	\$1,500.00	0.50%	\$420.00
Total Expenses Administrative	\$9,820.00	3.27%	\$7,355.12	2.45%	\$2,464.88
Employee Benefits					
Medical + Vehicle Flex Account (H+P)	\$5,500.00	1.83%	\$4,500.00	1.50%	\$1,000.00
Retirement (P)	\$5,000.00	1.67%	\$5,000.00	1.67%	\$0.00
Life Insurance (P)	\$800.00	0.27%	\$400.00	0.13%	\$400.00
Total Benefits	\$11,300.00	3.77%	\$9,900.00	3.30%	\$1,400.00
Salaries & 1099					
NYS Tax (Unemployment)	\$330.00	0.11%	\$1,300.00	0.43%	-\$970.00
Federal Withholding	\$450.00	0.15%	\$5,000.00	1.67%	-\$4,550.00
Employee Salary	\$111,860.90	37.29%	\$113,484.00	37.83%	-\$1,623.10
Pension Fund	\$30,000.00	10.00%	\$30,000.00	10.00%	\$0.00
SSI (Staff) + Taxes	\$2,500.00	0.83%	\$6,000.00	2.00%	-\$3,500.00
1099 Labor (Contract)	\$6,000.00	2.00%	\$6,000.00	2.00%	\$0.00
Total Salaries & Retirement	\$151,140.90	50.38%	\$161,784.00	53.93%	-\$10,643.10
Additional Ministry Expense					
Guest Speakers	\$4,500.00	1.50%	\$1,500.00	0.50%	\$3,000.00
Pastor Conferences / Retreat	\$1,500.00	0.50%	\$1,500.00	0.50%	\$0.00
Leadership Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	0.17%	\$500.00	0.17%	\$0.00
Pastor's Education	\$500.00	0.17%	\$500.00	0.17%	\$0.00
Added Ministry Expenses	\$7,000.00	2.33%	\$4,000.00	1.33%	\$3,000.00
Facilities and Equipment					
Building Maintenance and Improvements	\$5,000.00	1.67%	\$5,000.00	1.67%	\$0.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$1,000.00	0.33%	\$1,000.00	0.33%	\$0.00
Lawncare & Landscaping	\$4,000.00	1.33%	\$4,000.00	1.33%	\$0.00
Plowing	\$7,000.00	2.33%	\$7,000.00	2.33%	\$0.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$2,000.00	0.67%	\$2,000.00	0.67%	\$0.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$6,000.00	1.90%	\$6,000.00	2.00%	\$0.00
Facilities and Equipment Total	\$25,000.00	8.33%	\$25,000.00	8.33%	\$0.00
In House Ministries					
S.E.T.U.P. Team	\$3,200.00	1.07%	\$3,200.00	1.07%	\$0.00
Sight and Sound	\$2,500.00	0.83%	\$2,500.00	0.83%	\$0.00
Welcome Center	\$500.00	0.17%	\$500.00	0.17%	\$0.00
Promotions / Print	\$750.00	0.25%	\$750.00	0.25%	\$0.00
Worship Team	\$1,000.00	0.33%	\$2,000.00	0.67%	-\$1,000.00
Men's Ministry	\$750.00	0.25%	\$750.00	0.25%	\$0.00
Women's Ministry	\$600.00	0.20%	\$750.00	0.25%	-\$150.00
Stream Team	\$500.00	0.17%	\$500.00	0.17%	\$0.00
Youth	\$2,500.00	0.83%	\$3,000.00	1.00%	-\$500.00
Kids Ministry + Nursery	\$2,500.00	0.83%	\$5,000.00	1.67%	-\$2,500.00
Café	\$1,000.00	0.33%	\$1,000.00	0.33%	\$0.00
Total In House Ministries	\$15,800.00	5.27%	\$19,950.00	6.65%	-\$4,150.00
Outreach Ministries					
Reach Ministry Budget (REACH Account)	\$23,500.00	7.83%	\$27,500.00	9.17%	-\$4,000.00
BAM Funding (General Act)	\$2,000.00	0.67%	\$2,000.00	0.67%	\$0.00
Bibles (General Act)	\$500.00	0.17%	\$500.00	0.17%	\$0.00
Appreciation Dinner (General Act)	\$4,000.00	1.33%	\$4,000.00	1.33%	\$0.00
Total Outreach Ministries	\$30,000.00	10.00%	\$34,000.00	11.33%	-\$4,000.00
Miscellaneous Funds & Fees					
Community Bank Fees	\$750.00	0.25%	\$750.00	0.25%	\$0.00
Planned Savings	\$30,000.00	10.00%	\$31,000.00	10.33%	-\$1,000.00
PCO Giving Fees	\$2,200.00	0.73%	\$2,200.00	0.73%	\$0.00
PCO Subscriptions	\$1,020.00	0.34%	\$0.00		
Total Miscellaneous	\$33,970.00	11.32%	\$33,950.00	11.32%	\$20.00
Operational Costs					
Trash Service	\$1,200.00	0.40%	\$900.00	0.30%	\$300.00
USPS Rental	\$300.00	0.10%	\$300.00	0.10%	\$0.00
Electricity	\$4,500.00	1.50%	\$3,200.00	1.07%	\$1,300.00
Security	\$1,000.00	0.33%	\$500.00	0.17%	\$500.00
Propane (Heating)	\$6,000.00	1.90%	\$8,000.00	2.67%	-\$2,000.00
Phone & Internet	\$1,500.00	0.48%	\$1,500.00	0.50%	\$0.00
Website / Social Media	\$1,000.00	0.32%	\$1,000.00	0.33%	\$0.00
Total Operations	\$15,500.00	5.17%	\$15,400.00	5.13%	\$100.00

WE GIVE IN 3 WAYS AS MEMBERS

TITHES

TITHE, MEANING
10%, GIVING TO
SUPPORT THE
MINISTRY OF
ABUNDANT LIFE.

OFFERINGS

AN OFFERING GIVEN
ABOVE AND
BEYOND A REGULAR
TITHE TO A NEED
THAT IS PRESENT.

ALMS

GIVING TO
SOMEONE IN NEED
AS AN ACT OF
COMPASSION, TO
HELP ANOTHER.

ELDER TEAM

PASTOR BRANDON & MAELEAH PITTS

elder / lead pastor

PASTOR DAN & JOANN TABOLT

elder / senior leader

ANDY & LYDIA HUNTRESS

elder

BILL & PAM SMITH

elder

DARREN & TRACY LALLIER

elder / deacon overseer

DEACONS

CARL & DEB WIDRICK

PEGGY KIRK

TERRY & SHAWN HITT

JOE BRINKERHOFF

DERRICK & HOLLY MOSHER

CORY & CHRISSEY CLAUDIO

JASON & MANDI CRONISER
Kids

ERIC & KATIE WALDO
Youth

SUPPORT STAFF

LYDIA HUNTRESS

Office Manager

PEGGY KIRK

Finances

PETER GILBERT

Maintenance Volunteer

BETHANY LALLIER

Facilities Volunteer

PASTOR MIKE WEBSTER

Church Overseer

TEAM LEADERS

HOSPITALITY TEAMS

Melissa Carpenter

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Linda Busler

SECURITY TEAM

*Jason Croniser
Eric Waldo*

PRAISE & WORSHIP

MacLeah Pitts

STREAM TEAM

Andrew Huntress

MEN'S GROUP

Andrew Huntress

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Pam & Bill Smith
& Team*

NURSERY

*Pam & Bill Smith
& Team*

REACH

Pastor Dan Tabolt

THE BELIEVER'S TRACK

Elder Team

S.E.T.U.P. TEAM

Peggy Kirk

PRAYER CHAIN

Rita Vanderwalker

SUNDAY PRAYER

Elder Team

SIGHT & SOUND

Isaiah Smith

LIFE GROUPS

Pastor Brandon

CAFE

Kristin Williams

USHERS

Joe Brinkerhoff

WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA

Pastor Brandon

WOMEN'S GROUP

Anne Huntress

YOUTH GROUP

*Eric Waldo
& Team*

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

YOUTH TEAM

Our youth team has been doing an **amazing** job with our kids this year. This team consists of Lydia Huntress, Eric Waldo (Leader), Cory & Chrissy Claudio, Alex Majewski, Don Davis, Mikhail Sokoloff (seasonal support), Brenda & Elby Bielby (Transportation support).

KIDS TEAM

Our Kids Team serves so many kids every week **faithfully!** They include: Pam & Bill Smith (Leaders), MaeLeah Pitts, Ruth Dias, Mandi Croniser, Lori Lee.

JASON CRONISER

Jason will be serving as a **deacon** over our kids team this coming year.

ERIC WALDO

Eric will be serving as a **deacon** over our youth ministry.

RITA VANDERWALKER

Rita joins us to serve as our **prayer communication leader** and is our main point of contact in communicating requests through the Prayer Chain.

MINISTRY REPORTS

CAFE TEAM

Cafe 2025 Ministry Report

Team Leader: Kristin Williams

Baristas: Kristin and Chris Williams, Teresa Merritt, Marie Wood, Candace Haney, Jan Bornemann, Chrissy and Addison Claudio

Bakers: Linda Busler, Debbie Liddle, Kristin Williams, Addison Claudio, Peggy Kirk, Teresa Merritt, Christine Waldo, Cheryl Bielby, et al.

1. What is the vision for the ministry you serve in for the coming year (2026)?

In the up coming year I'd definitely like to continue to expand our team as well as plan some events. Example a soup and sandwich event.

2. What were some of the obstacles you faced during this unique year, 2025?

It would be great to be able to add to our team, especially Baristas. Plenty volunteer to be Bakers.

3. Do you have any needs presently in this ministry (volunteers, resources, etc)?

Volunteers

4. How can our elder team support you better? (Will not be included on the annual report, but responses to this question will be given to our elder team)

Perhaps some advice on how to get more volunteers.

It's been such an honor to serve as the Café Ministry leader here at ALF this year! We've welcomed new volunteers, added fresh displays, and upgraded our serving dispensers – and every week our amazing Baristas and Bakers help create a warm, cozy space where coffee, treats, and conversation bring people together.

As we head into next year, I'm excited to grow our Barista crew and start hosting some fun food-and-fellowship events – kicking things off with a cozy soup-and-sandwich luncheon after service!

"Encourage one another and build each other up."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

One cup, one cookie, one conversation at a time.

MINISTRY REPORTS

KIDS CHURCH TEAM

Children's Ministry 2025 Report

Team Leader: Dan and Danah Ernst

Team Members: Pam and Bill Smith, MaeLeah Pitts, Ruth Dias

In 2025, our children's ministry saw an average of 40-50 kids each week for our Sunday morning services (continued growth!). We welcomed new families and kiddos to the mix and saw some transition out of Children's Church and into our Youth Program. Our 4-classroom setup consists of Nursery (0-2), "Littles" (3-4), "Middles" (Kindergarten-3rd Grade), and "Olders" (4th Grade-6th Grade). We utilized the "Hands-on Bible" curriculum to best meet the developmental needs of each age group.

This summer, MaeLeah spearheaded "Candy Land", our Vacation Bible School Program. We had several church members volunteer their time for our 3-night event in August. The children also performed in the Christmas program and did a wonderful job taking us through the Christmas story.

Our Nursery Program continues to be busy! Our colorful and interactive nursery room allows children 0-2 to play and interact with other children their age while families have the opportunity to stay in the church service and hear the message. A new TV has been purchased and will be mounted on the wall so parents/staff will be able to view the service in the comforts of the nursery. We have a nursing mothers room to allow privacy for moms and their babies.

Please pray for all of our kiddos and the Children's Ministry Team as we step into 2026! If you are a member of our church and want to find out how to serve in this ministry, please contact Bill or Pam Smith.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way that he should go; when he is old he will not depart from it."

Blessings, Dan and Danah Ernst

MINISTRY REPORTS

CLEAN TEAM

Ministry Name:

Clean Team Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Lisa Davis

Ministry Team Members: Kevin Felshaw, Anne Huntress, Peggy Kirk, Andrew Huntress, Lydia Huntress, Craig Merritt, Teresa Merritt, Pastor Brandon Pitts, MaeLeah Pitts, Linda Acee, Shasta Wilcox, Darren Lallier, Tracy Lallier, Eric Waldo, Katie Waldo

Clean Team Vision:

1. To serve the Lord and the Church Body by maintaining the clean and polished appearance of the earthly building of worship for the benefit of the members and visitors.

2. To act as a ministry space for those who wish to serve the Lord utilizing one outlet for the spiritual gifts of Helps and providing a spring board for others to find their own place of service in the church ministry.

3. To serve as one of the many eyes for the elder team, etc., for potential repairs, etc..

Obstacles:

Needs:

1. The biggest need is as follows: Volunteers to cover monthly cleaning. We are in dire need of some help. Someone to aid with recruitment or to steer people our way would be great. This is a great get-your-feet-wet-in-ministry opportunity!

1. a. Please note: The bulk of the volunteers we have are from the Elder Team / Church Leaders. Without them, we would not have a very large Clean Team.

While we dearly appreciate their help, we also feel bad for relying on them and taking up time from their other duties.

Administrative documentation to have a week or two notice before it is due to go through it, as well as some potential instructional documentation on what is required/expected by the documents.

MINISTRY REPORTS

CONNECT CENTER

Connect Center

Team Leader: Melissa Carpenter

Team Members: Pam Smith & Tracy Lallier

The Connect Center is the front door of Abundant Life. It is often the very first place a guest feels seen, heard, and welcomed - and the place where regular attenders find clarity, direction, and their next step.

As we look ahead to 2026, the vision of the Connect Center is simple but powerful: to create a warm, informed, and intentional connection point where every person feels confident, cared for, and invited into deeper community.

This team exists to remove confusion and replace it with confidence. Whether answering questions, highlighting upcoming events, or helping someone discover how to get involved, the Connect Center helps people move from "just visiting" to "this feels like home."

In the coming year, the Connect Center is committed to:

- Enhancing the first-time guest experience so every visitor feels personally welcomed and well-informed
- Serving regular attenders by clearly communicating what is happening at Abundant Life and how they can participate
- Becoming a stronger on-ramp for connection, service, and belonging
- Growing the team so more people can be part of creating a friendly, organized, and approachable church environment

The Connect Center is essential because connection does not happen by accident - it happens through intentional people who love others well. Melissa, Pam, and Tracy faithfully serve with warmth, clarity, and consistency, helping ensure that no one feels lost in the crowd.

If you are looking for a meaningful way to serve, love people, and help others take their next step, the Connect Center is always ready to welcome new team members. Stop by, say hello, and be part of the connection.

MINISTRY REPORTS

HOST / GREETER TEAM

Team Leader: Melissa Carpenter

Team Members: Mark Reece, Holly & Derrick Mosher, Pam & Bill Smith, Tracy & Darren Lallier, Jen & Eric Lawrence, Darlene & Jim Regetz, Terry & Shawn Hitt, Scott & Lisa Bronson, and Rita V.

The Host Ministry sets the tone for every Sunday at Abundant Life. Long before the worship begins or the sermon is preached, this team is already doing ministry - opening doors, offering smiles, and helping people feel at ease the moment they arrive.

As we look toward 2026, the vision of the Host Ministry is to create an atmosphere where every person feels noticed, welcomed, and genuinely glad they came. Whether someone is walking through the doors for the very first time or has been part of Abundant Life for years, the Host Team helps turn an ordinary arrival into a meaningful first connection.

This ministry is about more than greeting - it is about hospitality with purpose. In the year ahead, the Host Ministry is focused on:

- Creating a consistently warm and welcoming first impression every Sunday
- Helping guests feel comfortable, confident, and cared for from the moment they arrive
- Supporting regular attenders by fostering a friendly, relational environment
- Strengthening teamwork and visibility so no one feels overlooked or disconnected

The Host Ministry is essential because belonging often begins at the door. The faithfulness of this team ensures that Abundant Life feels less like a building and more like a family.

As we move into the coming year, the team is also excited to grow. Serving as a Host is one of the best ways to meet people, build friendships, and be part of creating a culture of hospitality that reflects the heart of our church.

If you're looking for a simple but powerful way to serve and connect, the Host Ministry would love to welcome you. Stop by and see Melissa to learn more.

MINISTRY REPORTS

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Ministry Update 2025

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13 ESV)

We are looking to focus on building a living, growing and fruitful relationship between the men of our church and the Lord Jesus Christ in the next year and therefore into our marriages, families, community, country, and world with integrity and strength that ONLY comes through the Holy Spirit and the Saving Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Last Year:

- 1) Adding Prepare/Enrich as an option for discipling marriages.
- 2) Men's Breakfasts on the third Saturday of each month with a devotion led by a different member each month.
- 3) Added reminder texts and phone calls the night before.
- 4) About 20 men and boys attend each month with great fellowship and conversation.

The Next Three Months: [Jan, Feb, Mar]

- 1) Looking to Add Members to the Leadership Team.
- 2) Adding Men's Discipleship Meetings midweek.
- 3) Looking at Dates in March for a bonfire.
- 4) Continued depth to our fellowship and conversation.
- 5) Focus on inviting new church attendees and members with individual discipleship and accountability partners.

MINISTRY REPORTS

PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer Chain - Vision & Impact Report

Ministry Leader: Rita Vanderwarker

Team Members: 60+ faithful intercessors

The Prayer Chain is the unseen but essential backbone of spiritual care at Abundant Life. Rooted in Galatians 6:2, this ministry exists to bear one another's burdens by lifting the needs of our church family to the Lord in prayer.

This past year marked a season of transition and strengthening for the Prayer Chain. Leadership was passed with care and faithfulness, and the ministry moved to the Clearstream communication platform, allowing prayer requests and praise reports to be shared more reliably and consistently.

As of November 1, nearly 140 prayer requests and praise reports have been sent through the Prayer Chain - a powerful testimony to the faithfulness of those committed to praying and the trust of those submitting requests.

Looking ahead, the Prayer Chain is focused on:

- Faithfully supporting the vision of the church by supporting its people
- Improving clarity around how to submit prayer requests and join the Prayer Chain
- Maintaining clear, timely, and effective prayer communication
- Keeping this ministry active, healthy, and supportive of the church body

Though the team does not meet in person, it remains deeply connected through shared prayer and purpose. This ministry continues to stand as a quiet but powerful expression of care, faith, and unity within Abundant Life.

MINISTRY REPORTS

REACH TEAM

Ministry Leader: Erin Slegaitis-Smith
Team Members: Outreach Committee Team

The REACH Team exists to move Abundant Life beyond the walls of the church and into our community and world. This ministry embodies our church vision by living on mission through service, growing faith locally and globally, and bearing fruit as we serve others in the name of Jesus.

2025 Highlights

This past year, the REACH Team continued laying the groundwork for meaningful outreach by strengthening awareness of the ministry and the causes we support. A key focus was helping our church better understand who we partner with and how missions and outreach fit into everyday discipleship, not just special trips or events.

While much of the work happens behind the scenes, the heart of the ministry remained clear - to help our church see outreach as a lifestyle, not a program.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we move into 2026, the REACH Team's primary vision is to expand local service opportunities while continuing to stay engaged globally. The team is passionate about creating more accessible, hands-on ways for people to serve right here in our community, while also remaining connected to the broader mission of the Church worldwide.

Future goals include:

- Increasing awareness of local outreach opportunities
- Making it easier for people to get involved without needing to travel
- Becoming more active and visible in both local and global communities
- Inviting more people to experience missions through practical service

Needs & Opportunities

To continue growing, the REACH Team is seeking:

- More volunteers who are interested in serving locally
- Greater visibility of outreach opportunities within the church
- Clear onboarding and training for new team members, especially around procedures and financial request processes

One of the ongoing challenges is the perception that involvement requires global travel. A key goal moving forward is to remove that barrier and clearly communicate that missions begins locally.

Our Heart Moving Forward

The dream of the REACH Team is simple and bold - to see Abundant Life actively engaged in serving both near and far, with clear pathways for everyone to participate. As more local opportunities are created, the team believes outreach will become a natural and joyful expression of who we are as a church.

The REACH Team invites anyone with a heart for service, compassion, and mission to take a step in and be part of what God is doing through Abundant Life.

MINISTRY REPORTS

SETUP TEAM

Special Events Team Unifying People
Team Leader: Peggy Kirk

The S.E.T.U.P. Team serves as the hands and feet behind many of the moments that bring Abundant Life together. While much of their work happens before and after events, their impact is felt in the relationships that are formed and strengthened every time the church gathers.

The vision of the S.E.T.U.P. Team is to create meaningful opportunities for fellowship where relationships can grow and community can flourish, all while glorifying Jesus Christ in everything they do. Through faithful service and practical support, this team helps transform ordinary events into spaces where connection happens naturally.

2025 Highlights

2025 was a full and fruitful year for the S.E.T.U.P. Team. From Fellowship Sundays to seasonal gatherings and special events, this team faithfully set up, served, and cleaned up time and time again - not out of obligation, but out of love for the church body.

The S.E.T.U.P. Team supported:

- Fellowship Sundays
- Winter and Summer Picnics
- Lenten Luncheon
- Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations
- Ministry Fair
- Fundraisers and special, unplanned events

Their consistent presence made it possible for people to gather, linger, and build meaningful relationships across generations.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As the church looks to 2026, the S.E.T.U.P. Team will continue supporting many of these same gatherings while remaining available for special events as they arise. The heart of the ministry remains the same - to help create environments where love is expressed through service and community is built through shared time together.

Inspired by John 13:34, this team understands that loving one another often begins with simply making space for people to connect.

An Invitation to Serve

If you have a heart to serve behind the scenes and enjoy helping create moments where others can come together, the S.E.T.U.P. Team is a perfect fit. This ministry is a powerful reminder that when we serve faithfully in practical ways, God uses those moments to strengthen the body of Christ.

MINISTRY REPORTS

SIGHT & SOUND

Sight & Sound Team - Vision & Impact Report
Team Leader: Isaiah Smith

The Sight & Sound Team plays a critical role in creating distraction-free, engaging worship experiences at Abundant Life. While much of their work happens behind the scenes, their impact is felt every time a lyric appears clearly on screen, a voice is heard without strain, and the message of the Gospel is communicated with clarity.

2025 Highlights

2025 was a year of progress, problem-solving, and adaptability for the Sight & Sound Team. Key upgrades included the purchase of two new wireless microphones - one dedicated to the primary worship vocalist and one for speaking and preaching - both of which have significantly improved consistency and sound quality during services.

The team also supported the continued growth of the Kids Worship Team. As participation expanded, additional equipment needs emerged and were creatively met through a combination of personal gear and donated resources, ensuring that growth never stalled due to technical limitations.

At the same time, the team navigated aging infrastructure challenges. As certain components began to degrade, solutions like wireless HDMI connections were implemented to maintain projector performance and service reliability. These fixes allowed services to continue smoothly while longer-term solutions are explored.

Looking Ahead to 2026

In the coming year, the Sight & Sound Team is focused on stability, prevention, and excellence. Plans include setting up a new computer system, reorganizing equipment, and proactively addressing potential failure points so technical issues never become distractions during worship or teaching.

The goal is simple - to stay ahead of problems before they impact a service.

Needs & Opportunities

The greatest need for the Sight & Sound Team is people. This ministry is in urgent need of dedicated volunteers who are willing to serve behind the scenes and pursue excellence together. No prior experience is required - training is provided for everything from running slides to managing live sound.

There are also opportunities for those who feel led to support financially or through equipment donations.

In addition, the team values input from the congregation. Feedback about volume, clarity, visuals, or anything that feels out of place is welcomed and appreciated. Continuous improvement happens best when everyone is paying attention together.

An Invitation to Serve

If you enjoy technology, problem-solving, or simply want to help services run smoothly, the Sight & Sound Team is a powerful way to serve. This ministry ensures that nothing stands in the way of people hearing, seeing, and responding to what God is doing in each service.

MINISTRY REPORTS

STREAM TEAM

2025 Ministry Highlights

Throughout 2025, the Stream Team saw significant growth across every major platform. Many first-time guests shared that they watched a livestream before attending a service in person, reinforcing the importance of this ministry as a front-door to Abundant Life.

Digital Growth Metrics

Platform	2024	2025
Facebook Followers	725	781
Facebook Views	10.8K	17.5K
Facebook Watch Time	577 hrs	934 hrs
YouTube Subscribers	175	224
YouTube Views	3,400	7,300
YouTube Watch Time	917.8 hrs	2,000 hrs

Additional highlights from 2025 include:

- Continued improvement in sound quality and live mixing
- A consistent streaming rhythm with worship and teaching roles clearly defined
- Resolution of major copyright issues to prevent livestreams from being taken down
- Reliable streaming of Sunday services and select special events

Looking Ahead - Next Steps (Jan-Mar)

In the first quarter of 2026, the Stream Team is focused on strengthening sustainability and growth through:

- Formalizing documentation and procedures to train new volunteers
- Adding livestream comment moderators to engage and encourage online viewers
- Exploring the purchase of dedicated streaming equipment to reduce reliance on personal devices
- Editing sermon clips for Facebook and YouTube Shorts to expand digital reach

Why This Ministry Matters

The Stream Team plays a critical role in helping people stay connected when they cannot attend in person, while also serving as an entry point for new guests. By combining technology, creativity, and faithfulness, this ministry helps ensure that encouragement, teaching, and worship are accessible to everyone.

MINISTRY REPORTS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry - Vision & Impact Report

Team Leader: Anne Huntress

Support: Mandi Croniser

The Women's Ministry at Abundant Life exists to create meaningful connection among women in a way that is encouraging, authentic, and centered on growing together in Christ. This ministry recognizes that every woman's season looks different and seeks to meet women where they are - with grace, flexibility, and genuine care.

2025 Highlights

Throughout 2025, the Women's Ministry continued to provide a welcoming space for connection and spiritual growth, with an average of 15 or more women attending monthly gatherings. These meetings fostered encouragement, conversation, and shared faith, even as attendance fluctuated due to the varied demands of work, childcare, scheduling, and personal comfort in social settings.

The team remained intentional about reaching beyond meetings, recognizing that ministry does not only happen in a room, but also through personal touchpoints and ongoing encouragement. Looking Ahead to 2026

As the ministry looks toward the coming year, the vision is to expand opportunities for connection while remaining relational and accessible. Beginning in February, an additional monthly gathering will be introduced on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, creating more space for teaching, discussion, and spiritual growth.

Plans for the year include:

- Deepening spiritual discussion through guided studies
- Offering a wider variety of connection opportunities beyond monthly meetings
- Exploring special activities such as shared meals, service projects, creative gatherings, and retreats
- Increasing personal outreach through cards, phone calls, and visits to support all women of ALF

Needs & Opportunities

To continue strengthening this ministry, current needs include:

- A meaningful, heartfelt, and approachable book or study to guide monthly discussions
- A small leadership team of 2-3 women with a heart for supporting and serving the women of the church
- Improved communication through consistent email and text reminders to keep women informed and encouraged

In addition, awareness of women's conferences and teaching opportunities would help expand resources and speaker variety in the future.

An Open Invitation

The Women's Ministry is committed to walking alongside every woman at Abundant Life - whether she is able to attend gatherings regularly or not. If you would like to be involved, receive updates, or need support, please reach out to Anne Huntress to be added to the communication list.

This ministry remains rooted in connection, care, and growth - trusting that God will continue to strengthen relationships and faith among the women of our church.

MINISTRY REPORTS

YOUTH MINISTRY

Team Leader: Eric Waldo

Team Members: Lydia Huntress, Alex Majewski, Corey and Chrissy Claudio, Don Davis, Mikail Sokoloff, Brenda Bielby (transportation).

The Abundant Life Youth Ministry exists to help every teenager know Jesus, find a spiritual family, and courageously carry His life into their everyday world. This ministry is built on relationships, discipleship, and creating a space where students feel welcomed, valued, and challenged to grow in their faith.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, a dedicated and passionate leadership team established a consistent Youth Group environment where teens could belong and grow together. Weekly Sunday night gatherings became a reliable rhythm, drawing an average of 15-20 students who were eager to learn about Jesus and build meaningful friendships.

Throughout the year, students participated in:

- Weekly Sunday night Youth Group
- Summer activities supported by the church family
- The Encounter Conference in Utica
- Weekend connection events such as hiking Bald Mountain

These experiences helped students deepen their faith, strengthen relationships, and experience church as a place where they are supported and encouraged.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As the ministry looks toward 2026, the focus is on growth, consistency, and deeper discipleship. The goal is to welcome more Abundant Life and area youth into regular participation while continuing to strengthen spiritual foundations and peer connections.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Keeping Christ at the center through weekly Sunday night gatherings
- Participating in the Vine and Encounter Conferences
- Introducing mid-week virtual sessions for spiritual growth and connection
- Offering fun and relational activities such as ice skating and summer sessions

An Invitation to Support

Youth Ministry is a vital part of the future of Abundant Life. Church members are invited to pray, volunteer, and support this ministry as they are able. The team remains eager to welcome new students, volunteers, and future youth leaders who want to invest in the next generation.

MINISTRY REPORTS

LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups at Abundant Life exists to move people from rows to relationships. While weekend services gather us together, groups are where spiritual family is formed, faith is strengthened, and people are known, supported, and disciplined in meaningful ways.

Across every group expression at Abundant Life, the shared goal is simple - to help people grow in Christ through authentic relationships and consistent connection.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, Groups Ministry continued to play a vital role in fostering community throughout the church. Through a variety of group environments, people of all ages and stages found space to belong, be encouraged, and grow spiritually.

Groups served the church by:

- Creating consistent rhythms of connection outside of Sunday services
- Providing relational environments for prayer, encouragement, and discipleship
- Supporting spiritual growth through discussion, study, and shared experiences
- Offering care and connection for those unable to engage in every church-wide gathering

From prayer-focused connection to age-specific and interest-based groups, these environments helped ensure that no one had to walk their faith journey alone.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we move into 2026, the vision for Groups Ministry is to strengthen consistency, increase accessibility, and widen participation across the church.

Key goals include:

- Expanding group opportunities that meet people in different seasons of life
- Making it easier for new people to find and join a group
- Encouraging leaders and hosts who have a heart for relational ministry
- Reinforcing that groups are central - not optional - to spiritual growth

The focus will be on helping people take intentional next steps toward community, whether through weekly gatherings, seasonal groups, or short-term connection opportunities.

Why Groups Matter

Spiritual growth happens best in the context of relationships. Groups Ministry supports the vision of Abundant Life by helping people live connected lives, grow in their faith, and bear fruit together as the body of Christ.

These groups serve as the relational backbone of the church - where care is given, faith is lived out, and lives are changed through shared commitment to following Jesus.

An Invitation

If you are looking to grow deeper in your faith, build meaningful relationships, or help others do the same, Groups Ministry offers a place for you. Whether by joining a group or helping lead one, there is room for everyone to participate in what God is doing at Abundant Life.

MINISTRY REPORTS

USHERS

Leader: Joe Brinkerhoff

The Ushers Ministry at Abundant Life serves as a quiet but essential presence during every gathering. This team helps create a safe, orderly, and welcoming environment so that worship and ministry can happen without distraction. Their service allows people to focus fully on encountering God.

2025 Highlights

Throughout 2025, the Ushers faithfully served week after week, helping services run smoothly from start to finish. Their responsibilities included welcoming attendees, assisting with seating, supporting offerings, and being attentive to the needs of the congregation during services. Beyond logistics, ushers played an important role in hospitality and care - noticing when someone needed assistance, helping guests feel comfortable, and providing calm leadership during busy or unexpected moments. Their consistency and attentiveness helped create a sense of peace and order in every service.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As Abundant Life continues to grow, the Ushers Ministry is focused on strengthening readiness, consistency, and care. The goal for the coming year is to ensure that every service remains welcoming, well-supported, and prepared for both regular attenders and first-time guests.

Priorities moving forward include:

- Continuing to provide a distraction-free worship environment
- Strengthening coordination and communication among ushers
- Being prepared to assist guests, families, and special needs
- Supporting safety and flow during services and special events

Why This Ministry Matters

Ushers help set the tone for worship by serving with humility, awareness, and faithfulness. Their presence communicates care, preparedness, and respect for the moment God is creating in each gathering. While often unseen, their role is critical to the health and effectiveness of the church.

An Invitation to Serve

The Ushers Ministry is a great place to serve for those who value order, hospitality, and helping others feel at ease. If you have a heart to serve quietly but meaningfully, this ministry offers a powerful way to support the life and mission of Abundant Life.

MINISTRY REPORTS

WORSHIP

Leader: MaeLeah Pitts

The Praise & Worship Ministry at Abundant Life exists to lead the church into the presence of God through authentic, Spirit-led worship that glorifies Jesus and invites people of all ages to respond to Him. Worship is not just a moment in our services - it is a formative practice that shapes hearts, builds faith, and unites generations.

2025 Highlights

Throughout 2025, the Praise & Worship Team faithfully served week after week, creating an atmosphere where the church could worship freely and encounter God together. The team demonstrated flexibility, preparation, and a heart for excellence, supporting both Sunday services and special gatherings across the church calendar.

A significant highlight this year was the continued growth and impact of the Kids Worship Team. What began as an intentional investment in our children has become a powerful discipleship tool. Kids Worship has helped our children learn how to worship Jesus confidently, understand biblical truth through music, and experience church as a place where they belong and can actively participate.

Not only has Kids Worship impacted our children, but it has also enriched Sunday services. Seeing children lead and participate in worship has encouraged the entire congregation, reminding us that worship is for every generation and that faith is being passed on in real and visible ways.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look to the coming year, the Praise & Worship Ministry is focused on depth, development, and discipleship. This includes continuing to raise up worship leaders and musicians, strengthening team rhythms, and intentionally investing in the next generation.

Key goals for 2026 include:

- Continuing to develop and support the Kids Worship Team as a core part of discipleship
- Creating opportunities for kids to participate and lead in worship settings, including Sundays
- Strengthening collaboration between adult worship teams and Kids Worship
- Maintaining a worship environment that is spiritually focused, accessible, and welcoming

Why This Ministry Matters

Worship shapes theology, forms identity, and teaches us how to respond to God. By investing in both adult and kids worship, Abundant Life is intentionally discipling the next generation while strengthening the faith of the entire church body.

The Praise & Worship Ministry helps ensure that worship at Abundant Life is not just something we attend, but something we participate in together.

An Invitation to Serve

If you have a heart for worship - whether through music, vocals, tech support, or mentoring the next generation - there is a place for you on the Praise & Worship Team. This ministry continues to welcome new voices, new musicians, and new leaders as we worship the Lord together.

MINISTRY REPORTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Team Leader: Linda Busler

The Thursday Morning Intercessory Prayer Team serves as a faithful spiritual foundation for Abundant Life. Gathering early each Thursday from 6:00-7:30 am, this team consistently comes together to seek the Lord on behalf of the church, its people, and the wider community.

2025 Highlights

Throughout 2025, this group demonstrated remarkable faithfulness and commitment. Week after week, they prayed intentionally for church leadership, ministries, families, needs within the body, and matters affecting our local community. While their work happens quietly and out of sight, its impact is deeply felt throughout the life of the church.

This team plays a vital role in covering services, outreach efforts, and leadership decisions in prayer, trusting God to guide, protect, and strengthen Abundant Life.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As the church looks ahead, the Thursday Morning Intercessory Prayer Team remains committed to consistent, focused, and Spirit-led intercession. Their continued heart is to pray boldly and faithfully, standing in the gap for individuals and for the direction of the church as a whole.

The team will continue to:

- Intercede for the spiritual health and unity of the church
- Pray for the needs of individuals and families
- Lift up our community and outreach efforts
- Seek God's guidance for leadership and future direction

Why This Ministry Matters

Prayer is foundational to everything we do at Abundant Life. This team helps ensure that decisions, ministries, and moments are covered in prayer long before they unfold. Their commitment reflects a deep trust in God and a willingness to serve in a powerful yet unseen way.

An Invitation

Those who feel called to intercessory prayer and are able to commit to early morning gatherings are welcome to learn more. This ministry is a reminder that faithful prayer fuels the life and mission of the church.