

ABIDING PEACE Connections

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I Need More...FAITHFUL FRIENDS



A friend is someone who knows all about me and likes me anyway. Have you heard that description of a friend? How would you define what a friend is? Are you happy with the friends you have? Do you wish you had more friends, or different kinds of friends, or that your friendships were healthier or more helpful?

People might define friends in various ways, but one thing is certain. God designed people with a need for friendship. When he created the first man, he offered this observation: “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). We naturally feel the need that God observed, but faithful friends might be hard to come by.

In the internet world friends often call each other *BFF's*—Best Friends Forever. But those same friends often turn on each other and end up more as enemies than as friends. No matter how well someone knows you and likes you, there really is no friend who knows all about you. Your innermost secrets remain locked within you, and there are deeper feelings than anyone could ever understand.

God wants you to know what you might have suspected all along. He does know all about you. He observes that you need someone to whom you can pour out your heart, and he is willing to be that one.

But do you want God to be a BFF, when deep down you know what he knows about you? As his own Word says, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves” (1 John 1:8). Few of us would make such a claim, but the good news is that God still wants to claim us as friends, despite our shortcomings.

That is why Jesus Christ, God’s Son, came into the world long ago. He came to do what only the best of friends would do—he came to lay down his life for you. He came to stand in for you and take whatever punishment God’s justice demanded for your sins. And God accepted his own Son’s sacrifice to wipe out the guilt of your sin.

That is why God invites you to see him as your best friend. He knows all about you, and he knows everything that you need. He extends his love to you without conditions, for the sake of his Son’s death on the cross.

You will not find a more faithful friend than God. Look to the living God and learn more about his faithfulness and his love. The more you learn, the more you will find that he is a true Friend that you can always trust.

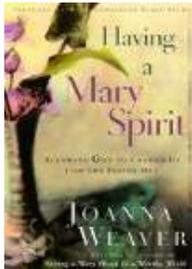
Upcoming Events at Abiding Peace

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2013, please let us know if there is any way that our church family can serve you and/or your family. We would love to hear your thoughts, ideas, or prayer requests!

New Women's Bible Study

You long to serve God with grace and strength, to reflect Christ in every word and action. Yet you find yourself continually struggling to bring that vision to life in your daily walk.



In this life-changing book, Joanna Weaver, author of the perennial bestseller, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, directs your gaze past your own shortcomings to the God who stands ready, willing, and able to make a new woman out of you. She equips you with biblical insights and practical tools to partner with Christ, inviting him into the hidden places of your soul and giving him full permission to redeem and renovate. A new women's bible study at Abiding Peace will explore this book on Thursday mornings, beginning **January 17th**. Call 847-931-7300 for more information.

Time of Grace TV Ministry

We invite you to tune in **Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on WJYS Channel 62** for *Time of Grace*.

Time of Grace is an outreach media ministry led by Pastor Mark Jeske, of St. Marcus



Lutheran Church, one of our sister churches in Milwaukee, WI. Visit www.timeofgrace.org for more information.

Abiding Peace Online

We invite you to check out our website (www.abidingpeace.org). You will find Faith



Related Q & A with topics that are updated regularly such as: Divorce, Forgiveness, Prayer, Bible Study, End of the World, Heaven and Hell, and much more!

There are also daily devotions, bible studies, a calendar of upcoming events, and many other aspects.

Sunday Worship at Abiding Peace

8:00 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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