

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, January 21 2024

MARK 1:16-20

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.



As you all know, we now have beautiful new front doors, Those of you that have keys to the front door, please call the office at 609-641-3759 between 10:30 and 1:30 for important instructions regarding opening and locking the doors. Thank you.



**SERVING
THIS MORNING:**

LAY ASSISTANT:
Rev. John Scotland

USHERS:
Nancy Sooy and Diane Kleiner

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

Worship – 43

Sunday School - 6

SUNDAY WORSHIP

at 10:30 In Person or Online
on APC Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/
abseconpresby](http://www.facebook.com/abseconpresby)

MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

Judy Fiocco

SERMON TITLE:

“A Great Catch”

Mark 1:14-20

REV. JUDY FIOCCO BIOGRAPHY

I was born to devout Roman Catholic parents in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, the middle of seven children. I attended Catholic school (Mater Dolorosa and Little Flower) from kindergarten through high school. I graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's degree in social work. The most important event of my life was a mystical experience of God as LOVE during Mass in a Catholic Church in Kentucky, where I was part of a mixed lay/religious community the summers before and after my senior year of high school. Ultimately, I couldn't accept the concept of a punishing God which seemed intrinsic to Roman Catholic theology (at least as it was taught to me at the time). In addition, the fact that women were prohibited from the priesthood further alienated me from the Catholic Church. Believing in the Divine Spark within, I also attended the Quaker Meeting in my neighborhood while living with my parents during college.

In 1983, I moved to Georgia to work at the Community Center of South Decatur through Partners for Global Justice, an ecumenical mission group. That position was not fully funded, so I moved to a position at the Southern Regional Office of Amnesty International in Atlanta. At the Community Center, I met Larry Jones, whom I eventually married. We have been partners in life and ministry ever since. I started attending his church: Oakhurst Baptist in Decatur. I returned to school to become a speech-language pathologist (SLP). In 1987, we moved to Summerville, GA as educators. There we became active in the Summerville Presbyterian Church. The experience with them deepened and strengthened my Christian faith. In 1989, we moved back to the Atlanta area where Larry's sons still lived. I became even more active in worship and mission at Oakhurst Baptist and worked as a school based SLP for ten years. In 1999, after Larry retired early, we moved to Cherry Log, GA where we became active in Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which was pastored by the Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock. I worked as both teacher of the Deaf and SLP in a nearby school system there for two years.

In 2001, Larry's son Joshua, now in the Coast Guard, was stationed on Oahu, in Hawaii. Through the grace of God, I secured a position as an SLP at the Hawaii School for the Deaf. God also led us to the Church of the Crossroads (United Church of Christ), where we became very active and where I realized that God was calling me to full time ministry. After a time of discernment, searching and preparation, we moved to Berkeley, CA so I could attend the Pacific School of Religion from which I graduated in 2008 with a Master of Divinity.

In October 2008, we moved to Boonville, Missouri, where I became pastor of Evangelical United Church of Christ. I pastored them for nearly 5 years until the congregation accepted the fact that they could not indefinitely support a full-time minister. By God's grace, I found work at the Missouri School for the Deaf as an SLP, where I worked for 6 years. In 2017, my mother died. My parents had moved to Somers Point many years before, but all my siblings still lived (and live) in the Greater Philadelphia area. In 2019, Larry and I moved to Somers Point to live near my father who is to this day, still strong, sharp and healthy.

In South Jersey, we found and loved the church family at Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church. I have worked in several temporary school positions in this area, both as a teacher of the Deaf and SLP. I never thought I would pastor again, in part because I had decided to "stay put" in this area and normally being called to a church involves moving away. When my work schedule started easing up and the need for pulpit supply became obvious, I got on the pulpit supply list. My joy overflows whenever I lead worship. On September 25th, a friend asked me to apply to her church as pastor. My reaction was two-fold: yes, I felt the thrill of being called to pastor again, but no, not at her church. God-incidentally, the next Sunday was my first time to preach at Absecon and I fell in love. You seemed to love me too, and I immediately pursued becoming your pastor. I am thrilled that your PNC has selected me and thank God for what feels like "a match made in heaven." Thank you for your warm welcome and over the top enthusiasm! I believe that the Holy Spirit has brought us together and will guide us in every way for many years to come!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Tina Harvey

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

1:00 pm - 6:00pm

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Luncheon immediately following the meeting

Prayers of the People

Each week the people of God at APC join in prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition to pray as one community for needs in the church. Praying for others keeps our focus outward and opens us up to know the will of God in our own lives. Consider making these prayer lists part of your daily prayer life. Doing so, may just help your feelings of isolation. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit brings others, even strangers, closer to you.

Please Keep These Requests In Prayer

The prayer book is on the table in the vestibule by the side entrance to the sanctuary.

Please write any requests/praise items you wish to be included in prayer during worship.

Keep in mind that Facebook comments and requests read by the minister during worship are being recorded for broadcast and can be heard by the general public worldwide. For the privacy of those you are praying for, consider using just a first name or making your prayer requests general in nature.

† For victims of gun violence and their families

† Peace in Ukraine, Middle East and other countries experiencing conflicts.

† For God's guidance as we continue the process of calling a new pastor.

† Members of our armed services.

† For confidence to know that in the struggle, God is with us.

† For renewed commitment to God's purpose in us all.

† For us to come together in the bond of self-giving love.

† For renewed energy in finding our place in God's church,
as people who pray, share and volunteer.

† For wisdom and discernment when facing the unknown.

† For God's church to embrace the poor and marginalized,
to see God's image and be God's image in this broken world.

† For a revival in our faith to live boldly for God's Kingdom.

† For these individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon.

† For those on our standing prayer list and for the needs of your church not listed here, including those intentions held in our hearts and those shared in the comments of Facebook.

For these the individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon:

Skip and Sarah Belino, Kathy Bordanora, Maddie Caracozzo, The Carpenter Family, Chip Channell, Don Croneberger, Robin Deaver, Jerry Falivene, Cathy Follansbee, Billy Fornwalt, Wendy Garwood, Christopher Green, Carol and Dave Guenther, Margareta Gustafsson, John Harvey, Jack and Dee Heil, The Hughes Family, Carol Johnson, Susan Lobrano, Bob Kitchell, Walter Koteles, Sr. Carol McDowell, Jim McManus, Sam Mitchell, The Morris Family, Lisa Nagle, Jan Rogiers, Minerva Stadlmeir, Dave Stebbins, Judy Stebbins, Sandy Sylvester, Ann Marie Taggart, Stan Weir, The Family of Doug Winkler, Bill Young.

Continued prayers always for:

Rita Abelson, Kathy Boyte, Edith Budd, Emilia Carboy, Lucy Cronberger, Darryl, Khristen and Quetin, Olga Davies, Carol DeLaurentis, Jean Delesantro, Marie C. and Carmen Devece, Gail Driscoll, Kavonna and Essence, Dorie Keener, Eric Lajeuness, Aiden and Wendy Licolli, Marge Loeb, Robin McBrearty, JoAnn Morgan, Essie Newell, Rob Perry, Joyce Pfeiffer, Marilyn Rosado, Irene Smith, Georgina Umoren, Mary Umoren and Family, Ethel Washington, Frances Weir, Dirk Williamson

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The Prayer Shawl Group meets the first Saturday of every month at 9:30am in Madden Hall. All are invited who enjoy knitting or crocheting or who would like to learn.

Please join us for

Coffee Mingle

All are welcome to gather in Madden Hall following Sunday worship.

Brought to you by your Church Family and Fellowship Committee.

Help is needed with set up, clean up, and providing baked goods, cookies, etc.

If you are able to assist in any way please sign up on the clipboard in the vestibule.



Weekly Tally Sheet - January 8, 2024

General

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$2,440.35
Envelopes Designated	\$780.00
Initial Offering - 2024	\$8.00
Per Capita - 2024	\$152.00
Energy	
Christmas Gifts	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Energy	
General Total	<hr/> \$3,380.35

Benevolence

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$280.50
Envelopes Designated	\$60.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - One Great Hour	
Mission Bouquet	
Sister Jean's	
Gift to the Magi	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Benevolence Total	<hr/> \$340.50

Capital Expenditures

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$84.15
Envelopes Designated	\$225.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
On-line Fund Raiser	
Capital Total	<hr/> \$309.15

Combined Total	<hr/> \$4,030.00
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Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

Words in a straight line left to right or top to bottom

January 21, 2024

MARK 1:16-20



Words in the puzzle are printed in **bold italics**

As *Jesus* passed along the *Sea of Galilee*, he saw *Simon* and his *brother Andrew* casting a net into the *lake*—for they were *fishermen*. And *Jesus* said to them, ‘*Follow* me and I will *make* you *fish* for *people*.’ And immediately they left their *nets* and *followed* him. As he went a little *farther*, he saw *James son* of *Zebedee* and his brother *John*, who were in their *boat mending* the nets. *Immediately* he *called* them; and they *left* their *father* Zebedee in the boat with the *hired men*, and followed him.



OLGA DAVIES

Olga's eyesight is failing.

If you would like to call or visit,

her new address is:

Meadowview Nursing Home Room #182A

Northfield, NJ 08225

609-645-5595

MARGE LOEB

If anyone would like to send Marge a card, her new address is:

Marge Loeb, Floral Creek Room 25A

600 Township Line Road, Yardley, PA 19067

DON CRONBERGER

If anyone would like to send Don a card, his new address is:

Don Cronberger, c/o Spring Home at Galloway Room D9,

Galloway, NJ 08205

MINERVA STADLEMEIER

If anyone would like to send Minerva a card, her new address is:

Minerva Stadlemeier, c/o Seashore Gardens Room 257B

Galloway, NJ 08205

MISSON EVANGELISM:

One of the Mission Evangelism Outreaches is to our church family in Pakistan. Below are a few pictures of their times of fellowship and worship. Please keep them in prayer.





American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Lolla Chiropractic Center
Absecon Presbyterian Church

Hall
208 New Jersey Ave.
Absecon, NJ 08201

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Lolla Chiro to schedule an appointment.

**Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20
Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/heart**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2017 The American National Red Cross

[853] - Order ID: 1513077 - Item ID: 745565 - Qty: 1 of 1 - US77 4 - 2023-APL 1137 - APR22 - 256648

Sister Jean's Food & Clothing Pantry

Believe it or not, the otherwise helpful government program SNAP, does not cover these essentials!?!

There is a big demand for dish soap and toilet paper and other cleaning products. They need the sizes for home use, not bulk containers as these are for individuals. Even just grabbing a few items at a dollar store will help. Don't forget dish cloths and sponges... you know, the essentials.





Please help
replenish our
homemade soups
and breads for
our shut-in
members.

— — — — —
| LABEL your soups and breads and |
| please, DO NOT use nuts in your |
| receipes as many people have an |
| allergy to them. |
| Please put DATE on label. |
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Tips for Healthy Eating on a Budget

Get the biggest nutrition bang for your buck

- **Plan out a few meals** for the week and make your shopping list based on these ingredients.
- **Choose meatless meals.** Plant proteins such as beans and tofu are generally more affordable than meats and fish.
- **Don't shop on an empty stomach.** Munch on a piece of fruit or some nuts before entering the store.
- **Allow for flexibility in your shopping list** if fresh produce or poultry and fish are on sale, purchase extra quantities and freeze them for later use. Meats, fish, bananas, berries, avocados, broccoli, cauliflower, and corn freeze well.
- **Purchase nonperishable foods in bulk.** It may cost more up-front to buy "family-sized" products like whole grains, lentils, and dried beans, but the cost per unit is usually cheaper.
- **Buy store-brand items.** They're generally cheaper because less money is spent on advertising and fancy food labels.
- **Use what you have before buying more.** Take inventory of all the food in your kitchen twice a month. Bring forward the buried items and plan meals based on these ingredients.

Low cost, nutritious foods:

Proteins

Beans, Peas, Lentils (dried, frozen, canned)
Canned fish (tuna, salmon, sardines)
Lean ground turkey, Chicken thighs (remove the skin)
Peanut butter, Low-fat cottage cheese
Tofu, Eggs

Produce

Leafy greens (kale, collards)
Whole heads of lettuce or cabbage
Broccoli, Radishes, Carrots
Apples, Bananas
Frozen unsweetened fruit
Frozen or canned vegetables (no salt added)

Whole grains and pastas

Store-brand high-fiber cereals (plain shredded wheat, bran)
Whole rolled oats
Whole grains (brown rice, millet, barley, bulgur)
Whole grain pasta

Snacks

Peanuts, Popcorn cooked in an air-popper, String cheese

It's not too late
to get your
Flu Shot
Protect Yourself
and Others

Free Flu Vaccination

for adults 18 years and older

No appointment
needed

Walk-In Tuesdays
9am - 12noon
201 S. Shore Rd, Northfield

Walk-In 3rd Tuesday
10am - 12noon
310 Bellevue Ave, Hammonton

Pediatric Flu Vaccination
for children 6 months – 18 years old
Available by appointment.
Call 609-645-5933

Beat the Winter Blues

Feeling sad when the weather and seasons change is common. To beat the winter blues, get moving. 20 minutes of activity four times a week has been shown to lift your mood. Get out in the sunlight or brightly lit spaces, especially early in the day. Set your alarm clock and stick to a sleep routine. Try to spend time with family and friends. Eat healthy foods and avoid overloading on sugar and carbohydrates like cookies and candies.

See a mental health professional if sadness doesn't go away or interferes with your daily life. For mental health resources visit www.mhaac.info. If you or someone you know is struggling or having thoughts of suicide, call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org. In life-threatening situations, call 911.

