

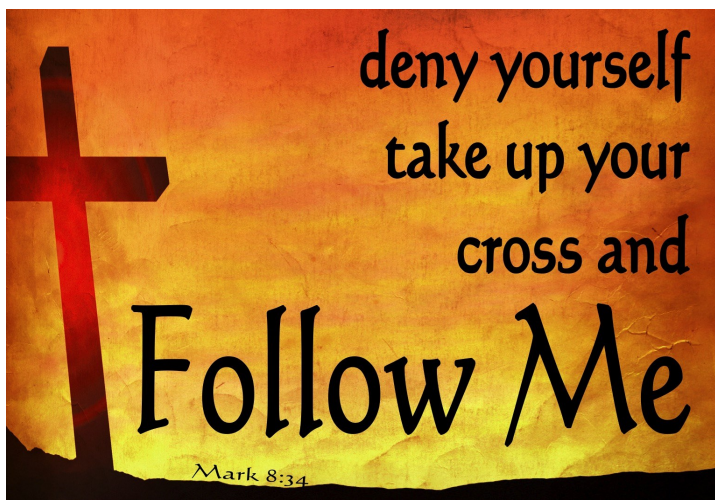
# Absecon Presbyterian Church

## PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

*Sunday, February 25, 2024*

### MARK 8:34-37

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?



### EASTER FLOWERS

The order form is on the last page of the Bulletin and Bits and Pieces.

The florist has a deadline of March 10th for all Easter flower orders so please submit your order form no later than Sunday March 10, 2024.



### SERVING THIS MORNING:

**LAY ASSISTANT:**  
Ann Wallace

**USHERS:**  
Tina Brown and Helen Older

### ATTENDANCE

**LAST WEEK:**  
Worship – 35  
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)

### REV. JUDY FIOCCO

is with us again this Sunday  
as our Temporary  
Pulpit Supply Minister

### SERMON TITLE:

“The Things of God”

Mark 8:31-38

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Tina Harvey

\*\*\*\*\*

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS, DEACONS AND TRUSTEES

Sunday, February 25, 2024

by Rev. Judy Fiocco

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMMUNION AND REV. JUDY FIOCCO'S FIRST SERVICE AS OUR NEW MINISTER

Sunday, March 3, 2024

The service will be followed by lunch and to welcome Rev. Judy.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, March 18, 2024

1:00 pm - 6:00pm

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## HOLY THURSDAY

March 28, 2024 at 7:00pm

Combined service with the Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church congregation at Absecon Presbyterian Church. The music will be by the OHPC choir, the sermon will be by Rev. Judy and communion will be served.

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## GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024 at 2:00pm

Combined service at Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church with Rev. John Nurnberger leading the service.

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### *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.
- † 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, The Family of Jean Delesantro, Robin Deaver, Baby Dom, Jerry Falivene, Cathy Follansbee, Billy Fornwalt, Wendy Garwood, Christopher Green, Carol and Dave Guenther, Margareta Gustafasson, John Harvey, Jack and Dee Heil, The Hughes Family, Carol Crisafulli Johnson, Susan Lobrano, Bob Kitchell, Walter Koteles, Sr. Carol McDowell, Jim McManus, The Morris Family, Lisa Nagle, Jan Rogiers, The Family of Minerva Stadlmeir, Dave Stebbins, Judy Stebbins, Sandy Sylvester, Ann Marie Taggart, Stan Weir, The Family of Bruce Winter, The Family of Richard Wood.

**Continued prayers always for:**

Rita Abelson, Kathy Boyte, Edith Budd, Emilia Carboy, Lucy Cronberger, Darryl, Khristen and Quetin, Olga Davies, Carol DeLaurentis, 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

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### **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.



## Sunday, February 11, 2024

### General

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$885.66
Envelopes Designated	\$755.00
Initial Offering - 2024	
Per Capita - 2024	\$38.00
Energy	\$25.00
Christmas Gifts	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Energy	
<b>General Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$1,703.66</b>

### Benevolence

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$101.80
Envelopes Designated	\$50.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - One Great Hour	
Mission Bouquet	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
<b>Benevolence Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$151.80</b>

### Capital Expenditures

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$30.54
Envelopes Designated	\$245.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
On-line Fund Raiser	
<b>Capital Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$275.54</b>

<b>Combined Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$2,131.00</b> <hr/>
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# Word Search Puzzle

From [WhenWeWordSearch.com](http://WhenWeWordSearch.com)

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

February 25, 2024

**MARK 8:34-37**



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

He *called* the *crowd* with his *disciples*, and said to them, 'If any want to *become* my *followers*, let them *deny themselves* and take up their *cross* and *follow* me. For *those* who want to *save* their *life* will *lose* it, and those who lose their life for my *sake*, and for the sake of the *gospel*, will save it. For what *will* it *profit* them to *gain* the *whole world* and *forfeit* their life? *Indeed*, what can they *give* in *return* for their life?



**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

## FEEDING THE VERY POOR IN PAKISTAN

These pictures are from our mission in Pakistan.

Sajid (our mission director) said the money our church sent was so very important as it was used to feed the very poor and hungry in a rural area. They wore their very best clothes to celebrate this generous gift of food and were so very grateful for our help.







## TEACH AND LEARN - LEARN AND TEACH - A BEAUTIFUL COMBINATION

by Lisa Whitaker

My first teaching assignment on this trip was in the beautiful country of Georgia. It was my first time there. The class was made up of all young women and the staff was a mixture of men and women. My topic was the Life of Jesus.

There is no greater satisfaction when teaching than hearing the following from one of your students - "I have found myself falling more in love with Jesus this week as we learn about His life". Boom - that right there is enough to spur me on for another few decades at least! It was a wonderful time with the young women. Several spoke either Russian or English, so I was able to communicate with just about everyone without a translator.

The leaders of the school know how much I love history so on one of my free afternoons they took me on a bit of a history tour. I learned about how Georgia became identified as a Christian nation - the story is inspiring.

A young Christian woman named Nino from Cappadocia, Turkey went to Georgia in 320 AD, some say as a slave, others say specifically to preach the gospel. Regardless, she was sought out by the Queen who was very ill and had heard of Nino's faith. Nino prayed for her and the Queen was healed. This led to the Queen converting to Christianity and asking to be baptized. Her husband King Mirian III was not impressed with this conversion by his wife and threatened to divorce her. Apparently God had other plans!

The King went out on a hunting expedition and was struck blind due to total darkness and fog in the woods. He was desperate and frightened. In his desperation, he cried out, in his words, "to the God of Nino" - and he prayed, *"If indeed that Christ, whom the captive (Nino) has preached to my wife, is God, then let Him now deliver me from this darkness, that I too might forsake all gods and worship Him."*

As soon as he finished the prayer, the fog lifted, light appeared and the King was able to find his way back home. As a result of this miracle, the King renounced idolatry and was baptized as the first Christian King of what is now Georgia (it was called Iberia at that time). In 326 AD, King Mirian III made Christianity the state religion and proclaimed Iberia (Georgia) a Christian nation.

I was able to visit the grounds where he had the first cathedral built in 379 AD.

Nino is a heroine to the Georgians and there are well over 100,00 young women named Nino in Georgia presently.

It was a privilege to both teach about Jesus and learn about Nino in my visit to Tbilisi, Georgia. I find it so important to pass on these treasured stories of the great community of saints/friends of the past who have gone before us. It is because of them that we have a story to tell.

It is because of their faith and obedience, we too are inspired to go and share, to pray for people and to be an instrument in God's hands to see His kingdom come and his will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Thank you for your continued prayers and on-going support, Next month I will share of yet another hero of the faith whose grave I had the opportunity to visit just last week.

Stay Tuned!  
Lisa

## **SCHEDULE FOR MARCH/APRIL**

**March 2** - Return Home

**March 16 - 22** - Middle East

I am staffing a course. I will participate in 3 on-site intensives in the next 5 months

**March 23 - April 3** - Croatia - Co-leading a retreat focused on Easter and the Walk of the Cross that takes place on the island of Hvar, Croatia

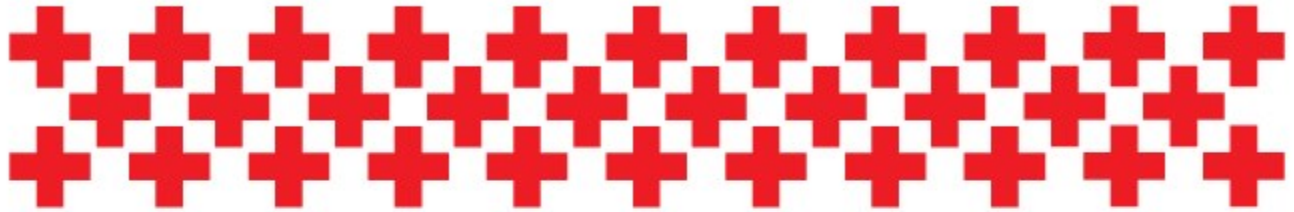
**April 4-19** - India - Helping in a transition/training of leadership with some of our Discipleship Training School leaders from India and Nepal

**April 20-25** - Louisville, Kentucky - teaching in a School of Ministry Development

**April 25** - Return Home

**American Red Cross**

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



**Blood Drive**  
**Absecon Presbyterian Church**

Hall  
208 New Jersey Ave.  
Absecon, NJ 08201

**Monday, March 18, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: APC to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.  
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.  
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

**Come to give March 1-24 for a \$10 e-gift card to a pet supply merchant of choice! Give blood, treat your pet & make a paw-sitive impact this spring. PLUS automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$3K gift card (5 winners)! Terms: [rcblood.org/Pets](http://rcblood.org/Pets).**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

©2017 The American National Red Cross

# 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. |  
— — — — —



## 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](http://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](http://988lifeline.org). In life-threatening situations, call 911.





**EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM**

Honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter plant for our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. (A variety of spring flowering plants have been pre-ordered.) Orders **MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024**, and may be submitted with payment by mail or in the offering plate. Plants can be taken home following the Easter Sunday Service on March 31, 2024. The remaining plants will be shared with our shut-ins.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your flower choice: Tulip(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Lily (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Plants at \$7.50 each** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**MISSION BOUQUET FORM**

All funds donated as a "Mission Bouquet" will go to our Mission work of our church. If you would like to give a donation in any amount, please fill in the following and **RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024**. Checks are to be made payable to the Absecon Presbyterian Church with "Mission Bouquet" on the memo line.

I would like to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in a Mission Bouquet to be dedicated as follows:

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



