

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, March 31, 2024

JOHN 20:1-10

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.



**SERVING
THIS MORNING:**

LAY ASSISTANT:
Louise Speitel

USHERS:
Mary Bew and Betty Lloyd

**ATTENDANCE
LAST WEEK:**
Worship – 55
Sunday School - 11

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

SERMON TITLE:
“Called by Name“

John 20:1-18

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson
Wednesday evening Bible Study will resume in mid April.
Details to follow.



PIZZA AND PARABLES PLAYING AND PRAYING

YOUTH GROUP

Friday, April 12, 2024 at 6:00-9:00pm

Led by Pastor Judy

All Middle and High School aged youth are welcome!

Meet us in the Church Sanctuary at 6:00pm

Let us know if you have special dietary needs (e.g. Can't eat cheese, gluten, tomato sauce).

Pizza toppings will be decided when we get together.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 9:15-10:15am in Cobb Lounge

Led by Pastor Judy's husband Larry Jones and Elder Gwen Monhollen

The first Biblical text they will study is the small but important epistle "Philemon".

LIFELINE SCREENING

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

One day community health screening event

PRAYER LIST

Please see the Bulletin for the Prayer list.

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.

COFFEE MINGLE

Please join us!

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, March 17, 2024

General

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$306.24
Envelopes Designated	\$890.00
Initial Offering - 2024	\$1.00
Per Capita - 2024	
Energy	\$10.00
Easter Offerings	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Energy	
General Total	<hr/> \$1,207.24

Benevolence

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$35.20
Envelopes Designated	\$60.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$5.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - One Great Hour of Sharing	
Mission Bouquet - Easter	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Benevolence Total	<hr/> \$100.20

Capital Expenditures

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$10.56
Envelopes Designated	\$245.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
On-line Fund Raiser	
Capital Total	<hr/> \$255.56

Combined Total	<hr/> \$1,563.00 <hr/>
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Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

March 31, 2024

JOHN 20:1-10



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

Early on the first *day* of the *week*, while it was still *dark*, *Mary Magdalene* came to the tomb and saw that the *stone* had been *removed* from the tomb. So she *ran* and went to *Simon Peter* and the other disciple, the one whom *Jesus loved*, and said to them, 'They have *taken* the *Lord* out of the tomb, and we do not *know* where they have *laid* him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the *tomb*. The two were *running* together, but the other disciple *outran* Peter and *reached* the tomb *first*. He *bent* down to look in and saw the *linen* wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, *following* him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings *lying* there, and the *cloth* that had been on Jesus' *head*, not lying with the linen *wrappings* but *rolled* up in a *place* by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and *believed*; for as yet they did not *understand* the *scripture*, that he must *rise* from the *dead*. Then the disciples *returned* to their *homes*.

Grateful We Serve A Living God

By Lisa Whitaker

This past trip was filled with some unexpected twists and turns as well as tragedy. The plan was for me to go to a country in Central Asia for two weeks to both help with a training conference and then teach a workshop on staffing our Discipleship Training Schools. As I was making my plans and getting ready to submit my papers to obtain a visa for this country, I was contacted by my friend who was going to co-lead the workshop week. She had applied for a visa and it was denied. I was taken aback by this news because it never occurred to me that she wouldn't receive her visa. The implication was that I was now leading this workshop week by myself with over 70 participants. It was a battle for me to obtain my visa as well - I ended up arriving to the country just in time to do the week of the workshop. Thankfully, the friends where I was teaching the week before were very kind in letting me stay there while I waited.

The staff that I was able to share with during the workshop are simply precious. They do not get a lot of outside training as most of them have never been out of their country. They were so grateful to me and must have thanked me one hundred times for coming. I was struck by a conversation I had with one young lady - she is in her early 20's, She comes from a very non-Christian part of her country and has faced interrogation many times. She told me that the secret police had contacted her right before our workshop and asked her to come to the police station. She told them she was traveling and they said, fine, come in when you return. I asked her what she was going to do? She said, "I'll go in, my Dad will go with me". She said it so matter of factly. I then said, "And what will you say to them?" She said, "I'll tell them, I will speak about Jesus and you can do to me whatever you want, but I'm not stopping." I asked, "What will they do?" She shrugged and said, "Hopefully nothing, they are trying to scare me, but I will not back down". I was so moved by her fiery spirit and determination to share the gospel in very challenging and threatening circumstances.

Some of you may have heard about a terrible bus accident that occurred last month in Tanzania, Africa. Eleven of our Youth With a Mission missionaries were killed and eight more injured. It was a sobering reminder of how quickly things can change and how fleeting this life truly is.

As we celebrate Easter this year, I am challenged by both these stories - my new friend who is bravely standing up to the secret police and my fellow YWAM missionaries who lost their lives while serving in Africa. Jesus understands both of these scenarios. He was falsely accused and He gave his life for us. It is a much needed reminder that we serve a God who understands the challenges of life on this earth. He not only understands but he lived in and through the challenges and in the end overcame death.

During Lent and Easter, I am inspired as I listen to music that proclaims the truth of who Jesus is and what He did for us. Songs like, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow . . .", or I Know My Redeemer Lives . . . and many more.

May you all have a meaningful Holy Week and Easter celebration. Please remember in these times to pray for those who sacrificially celebrate Easter and those who will be celebrating this Easter with an empty chair at the table. (Both in our own community and in places around the world).

I am so grateful that our faith leads us to HOPE and we know that no matter what happens on earth, we will rule and reign with Jesus in the New Heavens and the New Earth. Life is truly worth the living because He LIVES !

Happy Easter and as always thank you for your prayers and ongoing support!

Lisa

Lisa's April/May Schedule 2024

April 4-20 - India - Staff retreat and Staff training

April 21-25 - Louisville , Ky - teach in School of Ministry Development

April 25- May 13 - Home in Absecon

May 13 - 18 -Fly to Central Asia- Central Asian staff gathering

May 19-24 -Wiler, Switzerland - Teach in DTS

May 25-29 - I may stay in Switzerland with a friend or go early to my next place

May 29-June 8 - Middle East- Telios Discipleship Course



EASTER FLOWERS

Pat Allen: In Memory of Her Parents - Blanca and Joel Allen

Mary Bew: In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bew and Mr. Cameron Lockard

Janet Gee: In Memory of Catherine and Joseph Oteri

In Honor of Her Children and Grandchildren

Donna Hughes: In Memory of Mr. Walter (Dan) Hughes, Mrs. Barbara Hughes and Walter V. Hughes

Betty Lloyd: In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Earl H. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lloyd and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lloyd

Ann Wallace: In Memory of Her Parents and Alex Hall

Fran Weir: In Memory of Her Grandson Austin Werner

In Honor of Her Children Stan, Ann, Mae and Kathy

Amanda Winter: In Memory of Her Father Bruce Winter

Sharon Winter: In Memory of Her Husband Bruce Winter

EASTER MISSION BOUQUETS

Betsy Eberhard: In Memory of Her Parents Gus and Ruth Eberhard

Donna Hughes: In Honor of Joseph (Clyde) Hughes

Dottie McCaffrey: In Memory of The Mung Family

In Honor of The McCaffrey and McElwee Families

Loretta Metz: In Memory of Her Husband Bill, Mother Beatrice Johnson, Brothers Albert and Gene and Sister Lucinda Conner

Fran Weir: In Memory of Her Parents and Brothers

Sharon Winter: In Memory of Her Husband Bruce Winter

***ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL AGED YOUTH
ARE WELCOME!***

*Pizza & Parables &
Playing & Praying*

Meet us in the Church Sanctuary at 6pm

Let us know if you have special dietary needs.
(e.g. can't eat cheese, gluten, tomato sauce)

Toppings will be decided when we get together.

Friday evening, April 12th from 6 to 9 PM.

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. |
— — — — —

Peanut Butter and Jam Sandwiches Ministry



Urgent need for jam!



We need volunteers to make sandwiches!

We need donations of peanut butter and/or jam!

Just leave the jars in the kitchen with a note saying it's for PB&J Ministry.

We need donations to purchase fresh bread!

Questions?

Please see or call Betty Price at 609 457-5155.

Your gifts and/or time will be very much appreciated!

How fortunate the Church is to have Betty Price and Jo-ann Weller who meet every other Thursday at 8 a.m., in the Church kitchen and make peanut butter and jam sandwiches for the Rescue Mission in Atlantic City. Maybe you could give them a helping hand.

Be assured, the Rescue Mission patrons appreciate everything that they receive.



APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

About 18 million adults have an alcohol use disorder (AUD), a condition that applies to people who have strong cravings for alcohol, can't control their drinking, show withdrawal symptoms if they stop drinking, and continue to drink despite health or other alcohol-related problems. AUD can range from mild to severe, and can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, profession, or financial status.

Unfortunately the stigma that still surrounds alcohol use may prevent people from getting the help they need. Stigma refers to the negative thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs about people or groups based on characteristics that set them apart from others, such as mental health conditions including AUD. Stigma can cause people to downplay how often they drink, how much they drink, and the impact drinking has on their life.

Identify your drinking habits Excessive alcohol use includes binge drinking and heavy drinking.

- Binge drinking = 5+ drinks for men and 4+ drinks for women within a 2-hour period.
- Heavy drinking = 14+ drinks for men and 7+ drinks for women within a week.

Understand the dangers of alcohol Excessive alcohol use increases a person's risk of stroke, liver cirrhosis, alcoholic hepatitis, cancer, and other serious health conditions. It leads to risk-taking behavior, such as driving while impaired and unprotected sex. Alcohol also increases the risk of death from car crashes, injuries, homicide, and suicide.

If you think you may have a problem It is important to overcome stigma, be honest about your drinking habits, and seek support from a health care provider. Online screening tools are available to help you understand if you are at risk, visit: www.cdc.gov/alcoholCheckYourDrinking

Resources for More Information

- * **Atlantic County Office of Addiction Services**
609-645-5932
- * **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)**
800-604-HELP
- * **Al Anon 888-944-5678** nj-al-anon.org
- * **Reach NJ (844) 732-2465**
nj.gov/humanservices/reachnj
- * **Rethinking Drinking**
rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov

Help Reduce Stigma

- Avoid negative labels
- Listen without judging
- Treat people with respect
- Be supportive
- Speak up when others use stigmatizing language
- Be kind
- Help educate others
- Share your story

ATLANTIC COUNTY
PROUD TO BE
STIGMA - FREE

Words to Avoid

- Alcoholic, Addict, Junkie
- Drug Habit
- Abuse
- Clean/Dirty
- User
- Recovering Addict

Words to Use

- Person with Alcohol Use Disorder
- Substance use disorder
- Misuse or harmful use
- Actively/not actively drinking/using
- Person in risky use or misuse
- Person in active recovery



Atlantic County Division of Public Health: Working for Healthy People and Healthy Communities

Atlantic County Executive
Dennis Levinson

Atlantic County Board of Commissioners
Maureen Kern, Chairwoman



Dear Friends,

Hallelujah! Let us join in celebrating the Resurrection of our Savior!

And likewise, let us celebrate the ways He is working in our lives! Here are some things I want to make you aware of:

On Friday, April 12th, from 6 to 9PM, I, assisted by Tina Harvey, will lead a Youth Group at the church, beginning with prayer and get-to-know each other activities in the sanctuary. We will then move to other areas of the church, eat pizza, study the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and have more fun activities. We hope this will be the first of many youth gatherings! This will be for Middle and High School aged youth, all of whom are welcome! No registration required!

Then, beginning on Sunday, April 14th from 9:15 to 10:15 AM and continuing each week into the foreseeable future, my husband Larry Jones and Elder Gwen Monholland will be leading an adult Bible Study in the Cobb Lounge. The first Biblical text they will study is the small but important epistle "Philemon". Future books or letters from the Bible will be determined based on the interest of the members of the class. Come, enjoy fellowship and explore and engage Scripture with these two wonderful leaders!

Later in April we also hope to begin having Friday game nights. Stay tuned for more details! If any of these activities appeal to you, or if you'd like to talk to me about other interests, please let me know. Remember, I still want to meet with as many of you as want to meet with me. To meet, email, call the office or text me. If the need is an **urgent*** one, (*see last week's pastor's page) you can call me on my cell phone. (510) 548-8125. pastorapc@comcast.net.

Lovingly,

your Pastor, *Judy*

