

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, April 21, 2024

JOHN 10:14-16

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.



CHOIR SINGERS

If you would like to be part of our new Choir, please see Rick DeKarski after the church service.

USHERS AND LAY ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in being an usher, please see Mary Bew.

If you are interested in being a Lay Assistant, please see Janet Gee.

**SERVING
THIS MORNING:**

LAY ASSISTANT:
Debbie Wong

USHERS:
Nancy Sooy
and Diane Kleiner

**ATTENDANCE
LAST WEEK:**
Worship – 55

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:
“Oh, How Foolish I Was!”

Psalm 23
John 10:11-18

APRIL SESSION SPOTLIGHT

Pastor Judy shared with Session that she had visited 23 parishioners this past month (both those who attend and homebound, serving the latter communion). If you would like to visit with Pastor Judy, please call the church, send an email to pastorapc@comcast.net or drop your contact info into the offering plate.

Her three main areas of concentration will be ***Worship, Youth*** and ***Visiting with parishioners***. To date, she has begun to visit our congregation, held a youth group gathering last Friday evening and will meet again this Friday evening, and is working with Tina Harvey on growing our Christian Education program.

Picture Church Directory – Louise Speitel will chair this project which will require help from many of us so please say that you will assist if she asks you.

Spring Fundraiser – The cemetery staff has a new John Deere mower, and the Property Committee is obtaining bids for new gutters on the church building. Our goal is \$15,000! Stay tuned for more details!

Deacons' Offering Envelopes – Please write either your name or your envelope number on the Deacon's Envelopes (in your pew holder). This will help us give you credit for the donations. ***And a big thank you from the Deacons for all your gifts!***

Online Giving – should you wish to donate online, here is the sign-up information:
www.AbseconPresby.org/give

All gifts made online are safe and secure through the Presbyterian Foundation. At this time, gifts to the "Greatest Needs" are most needed. Please visit the website and follow its prompts. And thank you for all your gifts of time and talents!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson

Starting April 24th, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Tina Harvey
The Study is on the book of Daniel.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday starting April 14th from 9:15 to 10:15am in Cobb Lounge
Adult Bible Study will be 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".

GAME NIGHT (For All Ages*)

Sunday, April 28th from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the church.

Please bring a snack to share if you want to munch.

See Pastor Judy Fiocco or Tina Harvey if you have any questions.

*Children under 11 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

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, April 7, 2024

General

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$996.15
Envelopes Designated Initial Offering - 2024 Per Capita - 2024 Energy Easter Offerings Online - Undesignated Online - Designated Online - Energy	\$1,285.00
General Total	<hr/> \$2,281.15

Benevolence

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$114.50
Envelopes Designated	\$120.00
One Great Hour of Shar- Online - Undesignated Online - Designated	
Online - One Great Hour	
Mission Bouquet - Easter	
Online - Undesignated Online - Designated	
Benevolence Total	<hr/> \$234.50

Capital Expenditures

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$34.35
Envelopes Designated	\$375.00
Online - Undesignated Online - Designated	
Online - Undesignated Online - Designated	
On-line Fund Raiser	
Capital Total	<hr/> \$409.35

Combined Total	<hr/> \$2,925.00
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Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

April 21, 2024

JOHN 10:14-16



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

I am the ***good shepherd***. I know my own and my ***own know*** me, just as the Father ***knows*** me and I know the ***Father***. And I ***lay down*** my ***life*** for the ***sheep***. I have other sheep that do not ***belong*** to this ***fold***. I must ***bring them*** also, and they will ***listen*** to my ***voice***. So there will be one ***flock***, ***one*** shepherd.



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

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 |
| recipes as many people have an |
| allergy to them. |
| Please put DATE on label. |
— — — — —



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





Oh, How I LOVE this Church Family!

The way of the world these days seems to be to disagree and leave the relationship we're in (family, friendship, church, online community etc.). We then live in our own little silos and only speak to those who agree with us. The world becomes more and more polarized and hatred and intolerance grows.

By contrast, here at Absecon Presbyterian Church, we don't give up on each other that easily! My very devout Roman Catholic father says, "When Protestants disagree with each other, they just break off and form another church!" And to an extent, he's correct! Even if a new church isn't formed, people just join another church; there are so many to choose from!

Unfortunately, though, many people DON'T just join another church. Sadly, the same reasons that drove them away from one church might make them feel they don't belong in any other church. And worse, the hurts they feel from the experience at "church" sometimes even keeps them from having a healthy relationship with God!

That's why it is SO important to try to love each other as ourselves. To try, by the grace of God, to understand what our siblings must be going through and to reach out in love, praying before and as we do, for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To listen without judgment. Yes, sometimes, the healthy thing IS to break off a relationship. But way more often than not, God calls us to stay together, to work things out. Whether we agree with each other or not.

I LOVE that two people came to me with concerns about my recent sermon and we are in dialog. THIS is how to be the beloved community. Let us pray that we don't lose another member and that some members who have left return to us. Let us pray that those new folks whom God is calling here find their way here. And let us live in a way that God can make all this possible through us! Thanks be to God!

God Bless You All!

Your Pastor, *Judy*