

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, May 5, 2024

ACTS: 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.



*The flowers today are in loving memory of
Marian and Meatro (Mickey) Hawran
given by their daughters, Allison, Carol and Laura.*

**SERVING
THIS MORNING:**

LAY ASSISTANT:
Bill Keener

USHERS:
Rita and Vic Abelson

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

Worship – 46

Sunday School – 5

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:

"Even On the Gentiles!"

John 15:9-17

Acts 10:44-11:18

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

† Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson

† Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Tina Harvey

The Study is on the book of Daniel.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday 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.

PIZZA AND PARABLES PLAYING AND PRAYING YOUTH GROUP

Friday, May 3, May 24, June 14 and June 28, 2024 at 6:00-9:00pm

Led by Pastor Judy and Tina Harvey

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.

LIFELINE SCREENING

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

One day community health screening event.

Please sign up on the sheet for appointment times.

BBQ

Sunday, May 19th, in Madden Hall, immediately following the church service.

Church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Friday, June 7th at 5:30-7:30 in Madden Hall

VACATION

Teresa Barone will be away from Monday, May 13th through Monday, May 20.

The office will *not* be open every day.

Ann Wallace will be here some of the times during the week
if you need anything that can't wait until May 21st.

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 21, 2024

General

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$290.58
Envelopes Designated	\$905.00
Initial Offering - 2024	
Per Capita - 2024	
Energy	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
General Total	<hr/> \$1,195.58

Benevolence

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$33.40
Envelopes Designated	\$60.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$5.56
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Benevolence Total	\$98.96

Capital Expenditures

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$10.02
Envelopes Designated	\$110.00
Spring Fundraiser	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online Spring Fundraiser	
Capital Total	<hr/> \$120.02

Combined Total	<hr/> \$1,414.56 <hr/>
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Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

May 5, 2024

ACTS 10:44-49

G B I D R A E H L L E F V U S B C
D P U B A P T I Z I N G W O E N W
E E I N V I T E D A Y S O A V K G
S T Y P E O P L E E S W R S E S N
I E A O V N P Q Z O P B D T R U I
C R T T I R I P S Y L O H O A S K
M E S B A P T I Z E D U R U L E A
U T S I R H C P I H Y R L N E J E
C C R O W A T E R Z G C I D S K P
R L T V V V B Q H M R H X E P D S
I H E H T D E V I E C E R D I E G
C D B E L I E V E R S K Y N R R I
E O V L D L O H H T I W C Z I E F
N G X W P T O N G U E S K G T D T
A E X T O L L I N G E M O C Y R N
M Y U P O U R E D I I O R N B O T
E M D W T Y S E L I T N E G W E V

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

While *Peter* was still *speaking*, the *Holy Spirit fell* upon all who *heard* the *word*. The *circumcised believers* who had *come* with Peter were *astounded* that the *gift* of the *Holy Spirit* had been *poured* out even on the *Gentiles*, for they heard them speaking in *tongues* and *ex-tolling God*. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone *withhold* the *water* for *baptizing* these *people* who have *received* the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ So he *ordered* them to be *baptized* in the *name* of *Jesus Christ*. Then they *invited* him to *stay* for *several days*.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM LISA WHITAKER

In this last trip, I was teaching and sharing in a Muslim nation, a Christian nation and a Buddhist/Hindu nation. In every nation, there was an obvious cry to connect with “a god”. The Muslim call to pray 5 times a day and their yearly ramadan fast, the church bells that pealed loudly on Easter morning following a century old tradition of remembering Christ’s walk to Golgotha and the larger than life statues of the various Hindu/Buddhist gods all were blatant signs to connect with a “higher power”.

In theory we all know that humanity searches for meaning and purpose. As I travel to these far corners of the earth, I can testify to the truth of that theory. People long to find a purpose in life. They long to believe that there is “someone” or “something” greater.

As I have been pondering this, I was reminded of something that happened many years ago when I first went to Russia after the Soviet Union fell. Our outreach team went to a part of Russia that had not seen many foreign visitors during Soviet times. We were quite the spectacle as we sang, did dramas and handed out Bibles to school children per request of the local schools. One day I was walking down the street with one of our translators, an older gentleman in a suit walked up to me and said, “Are you a foreigner?” I said, “Yes, I am”. He asked, “Where are you from?” I said, “the United States.” He then said something very interesting. He asked, “oh America, so you believe in God?” I was taken back, but quickly replied, “Yes, I do believe in God.” He said, “Tell me about Him, we were told He doesn’t exist, but please, tell me?” What a privilege it was to share with this man about our amazing God.

I find that hunger to know God is still very real. People in very isolated villages in the world have an innate sense that there is “Someone” they are to be connected to, in relationship with or to whom they must serve. I have been reminded on this trip of Jesus’ words in Acts 1 before He ascended.

“You will be my witnesses . . . even to the remotest parts of the earth”

Thank you for praying for me and supporting me as I have the privilege of going to some of these remote places. There are so many who have never heard, even in our own backyard, but certainly in places we have never heard of - and yet Jesus said to GO! I will continue to GO as long as I can and am so grateful for all you do to allow me to go. What a gift to share who He is with others.

Blessings, Lisa

Updated Schedule for May/June

May 13 - 17 -Fly to Central Asia- Central Asian staff gathering

May 17-24 -Wiler, Switzerland - Teach in DTS

May 25 - 28 - Fly to next location in the Middle East and connect with a former student and her family.

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

June 9-10 - Fly home



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

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

*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 evenings:
May 3, May 24, June 14 & June 28
from 6 to 9 PM**

SUNDAY, MAY 19

**Immediately following church service
in Madden Hall**



Church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

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. |
— — — — —



Dear Friends,

I just finished reading a book “You’re Not Listening: What You’re Missing and Why it Matters” by Kate Murphy. In it the author talks about the importance of truly listening to others and how RARE it is in our society to do so. In fact, the more and more we are addicted to our smart phones and tablets, the less we pay attention to the person in front of us, whenever in fact there is an actual person in front of us!

But, truly listening to another person, without judgment, without thinking about what we’re going to say next, without looking to see what time it is, is a GIFT! It’s a gift for both the listener and the speaker. It’s a gift I’ve been trying to give as many of you as I can, and your trust and openness to me is an honor and a gift to me as well! Many of you who have given me the privilege of visiting with you have apologized again and again for taking so much of my time when in fact it is an utter joy to connect with you!

I’ve been thinking about the fact that you don’t need a seminary degree or to be ordained to be a good listener. In fact, some of us who have that degree or that status are the worst listeners! It does take patience, willingness and time though. It takes putting our own ego aside and appreciating the person in front of us. It takes practice and commitment. But just think if ALL of us committed to do just that! To “Listen with the Ears of Your Heart” as St. Benedict taught. Just think how much happier we would all be if we all did this more and more! In fact, Absecon Presbyterian might truly become a Lighthouse of Joy for Atlantic County and beyond!

So, be mindful of your own listening practices. And remember, if you haven’t yet reached out to me to plan a time where I can truly get to know you, it’s not too late. You can text, email or call the office to set up a visit. In the meantime, know that there is ONE who is always there to listen to your heart, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! God bless you all!

Blessings,
Your Pastor, *Judy*

