

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, May 12, 2024

ACTS: 1:6-11

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'



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:
Rita Abelson

USHERS:
Bob and Barb Hudak

**ATTENDANCE
LAST WEEK:**
Worship – 52

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:
"Looking for Jesus"

Acts 1:1-11
Luke 22:44-53

SESSION SPOTLIGHT

May 7, 2024

Upcoming events: Pastor shared plans for gatherings for potential new members and/or those interested in learning more about us as a congregation and as a member church of the Presbyterian Church USA. (See next week's Pastor's Page)

During discussion on how we as members of the Presbyterian Church UDA (PCUSA) differ from the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA), all present agreed that the sermons preached by our pastor have been consistent with the theology and message of the PCUSA,



A huge thank you to the Deacons for their gift to our church – three new vacuum cleaners (one for each floor). This will make Lynn's life much easier and for all of us who struggled to bring the vacuum down and up a flight of stairs and then carry the unit on one's back.!



The community garden – This year's vegetable garden is just about ready to be planted and will need watering and weeding. If you would like to help, please see Tina, Sandy or Deb. Last year, the garden yield was over 240 pounds, which was donated to the Food Bank.

Accepted with sadness the resignation of Scott Sabo as Elder and President of the Corporation and JoAnn Sabo as Deacon.

The Mission Committee Chair announced with joy that they met with missionary Lisa Whitaker to finalize her living in the Bakely House beginning later this year.

Please make your calendars for **May 26** when Larry Jones will preach on his favorite Bible passages – Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-15 with Pastor Judy as our Worship Leader.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

† Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson

† Starting 05/08/24 Every other Wednesday evening at 6:30 with Tina Harvey
The Study is on the book of Daniel.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on 05/12 and 05/19. Class will resume on 05/26.

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 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.

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.

GAME NIGHT (For All Ages*)

Sunday, June 9th from 6:00 to 8:00pm 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.

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* 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 28, 2024 and April online giving

General

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$235.77
Envelopes Designated	\$455.00
Initial Offering - 2024	
Per Capita - 2024	
Energy	
Online - Undesignated	\$2,317.05
Online - Designated	\$19.64
General Total	\$3,027.46

Benevolence

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$27.10
Envelopes Designated	
One Great Hour of Sharing	
Online - Undesignated	\$266.60
Online - Designated	
Benevolence Total	\$293.70

Capital Expenditures

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$8.13
Envelopes Designated	\$215.00
Spring Fundraiser	
Online - Undesignated	\$79.90
Online - Designated	
Online Spring Fundraiser	
Capital Total	\$303.03

Combined Total	\$3,624.19
-----------------------	-------------------

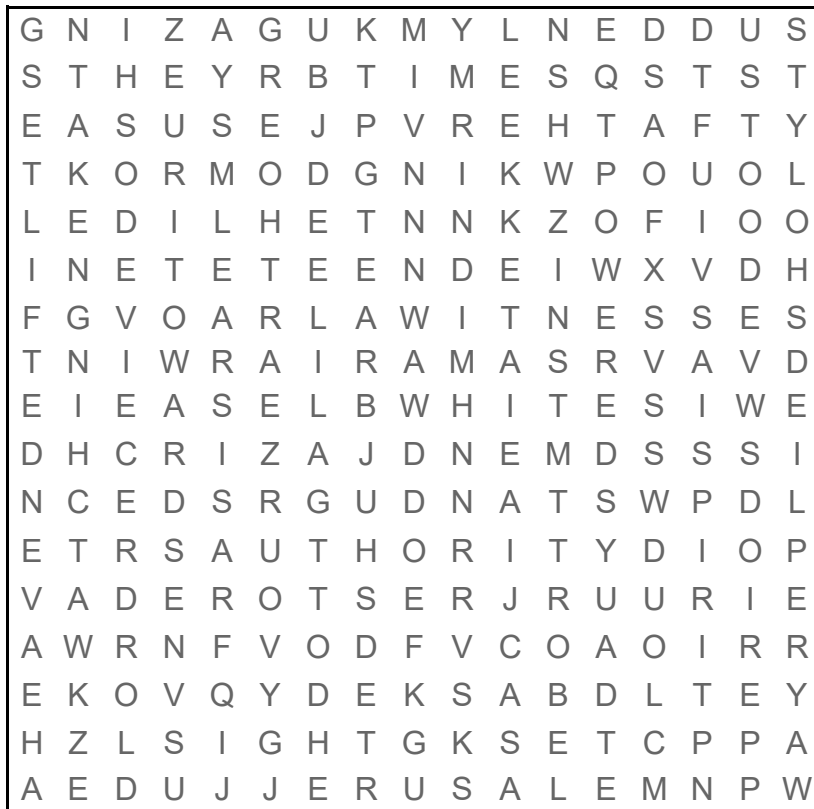
Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

May 12, 2024

ACTS: 1:6-11



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

So when they had come together, they ***asked*** him, '***Lord***, is this the time when you will ***re-store*** the ***kingdom*** to ***Israel?***' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the ***times*** or ***periods*** that the ***Father*** has ***set*** by his own ***authority***. But you will ***receive power*** when the ***Holy Spirit*** has come upon you; and you will be my ***witnesses*** in ***Jerusalem***, in all ***Judea*** and ***Samaria***, and to the ***ends*** of the ***earth***.' When he had said this, as they were ***watching***, he was ***lifted*** up, and a ***cloud*** took him out of their ***sight***. While he was going and they were ***gazing*** up towards ***heaven***, ***suddenly*** two men in ***white robes stood*** by them. ***They*** said, '***Men of Galilee***, why do you ***stand*** looking up ***towards*** heaven? This ***Jesus***, who has been ***taken*** up from you into heaven, will come in the same ***way*** as you saw him go into heaven.'

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 gentlemen 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

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.



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. |
— — — — —

***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 24, June 14 & June 28
from 6 to 9 PM**



Dear Friends,

Over the years, I have been made acutely aware that there are those of us for whom Mother's Day is a painful time. Perhaps some of you have longed to have children but could not; maybe you've lost your child or children due to death, estrangement or other causes; your children cause you heartbreak or anxiety, or your own mother (or loss of her) has caused you a lot of pain...

For those of you for whom this is the case, I hold you in my heart and lift you in prayer. I believe that as Jesus said to the people of Jerusalem, "...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings...", God's love is timeless, maternal and unconditional. God's wings/heart/hands hold all of us. May you be comforted by God's boundless love for you and your loved ones which surpasses all understanding.

I hope that most of you reading this do find this to be a day of celebration and thanksgiving. Even though in some ways I feel I've dodged a bullet because Larry and I were not able to have children between us, (I worry enough, thank you very much!) I know that God used me to "mother" students, stepchildren, parishioners, grandchildren (not by biology but by heart), nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews etc. I also know that though I cannot see my own saintly mother, she is with me in the heavenly realm which is much closer than we realize.

So, whether this day brings joy or pain, know that we are all part of one family, held together by the amazing love of God as revealed in our beloved Jesus. God bless you, my sisters, brothers, siblings! Thank you for the familial love you continue to extend to Larry and me. Thank God for the blessing of people who have embodied and continue to express God's great love for us!

Love,
Your Pastor, *Judy*

