

Because We Care

Breakthrough covid has hit pastors, sessions and congregations of our Presbytery now more than any other time during this pandemic. Out of our concern for the health and safety of the entire congregation, and due to the current spike in positive covid cases and the spread of the Omicron variant, we want to remind you of our current guidelines which are still in effect. We strongly encourage masks be worn by those attending church services who are either unvaccinated or immune-compromised. For anyone vaccinated/boosted, we are still observing our Covid 19 Guidelines in place since May 2021, which are wearing a mask when singing, staying seated in the open pews, and observing six feet of distance between yourself and others.

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Immediately they left their nets and followed hm.

Matthew 4: 20

Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Matthew 4: 22

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Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

In Person

OR

**Online on APC's Facebook page at
www.Facebook.com/AbseconPresby**

Rev. John Nurnberger

Sermon: *"Will You Come and Follow Me?"*

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 27

New Testament Reading: Matthew 4:18-22

Lay Assistant: Jackie Rosen

Ushers: Tina Brown & Ann Wallace

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Worship: 27

Sunday School: 2

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Please Keep These Requests In Prayer

Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of Elaine Risley who passed away Jan. 19 following a brief hospital stay.

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.

For all who are mourning the loss of loved ones, especially during this holiday season.

For God's guidance as we continue the process of calling a new pastor.

Members of our armed services.

For an end to this pandemic, protection for those most at risk.

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 the individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon:

The Family of Elaine Risley, Jim Morris, The Seltzer Family, Lynn Derman, Bill Young, Kathy Bordonaro, Don Croneberger, Debora Wong, Lisa Nagle, Christopher Green, Patti & Devon Morris, Jim McManus, Ethel Washington, Jean Delesantro, Cathy Follansbee, James Beatty, Jun & Family, Olive Brown, Dan Hughes, Stan Weir

Continued prayers always for:

Marilyn Rosado, Luca Leech, Rita Abelson, Desiree DePasquale, Gail Driscoll, Mary Umoren & Family, Dorie Keener, Judy Stebbins, Rob Perry, Robin McBrearty, JoAnne Morgan, Marge Loeb, Kavonna & Essence, Darryl, Kristen and Quentin, Dirk Williamson, Jim Price, Frances Weir, Emilia Carboy, Irene Smith, Aiden & Wendy Licolli, Kathy Boyte, Betsy Cunius, Marjorie McGuigan, Doris Steele, Essie Newell, Joyce Pfeiffer, Lucy Croneberger, Marie C. & Carmen DeVece, Olga Davies, Edith Budd, Carol DeLaurentis

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Session Spotlight – January 18 Meeting

1. Our Worship Chair read a letter received from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry approving Rev. John Nurnberger as our Long-Term Pulpit Supply beginning May 1, 2022.
2. Deacons continue to deliver homemade soups and breads to our shut-ins. Your soup and bread contributions are very much appreciated by all.
3. During our February 6 communion service, our new Elders, Deacons and Trustees will be ordained and installed.
4. The Annual Meetings of the Congregation and the Corporation will be held following our service on Sunday, February 6, 2022. At the conclusion of the meetings, there will be a luncheon and time for fellowship.
5. It was learned by those delivering the Mission Study questionnaire that there were others in our congregation who are ill and in need of our prayers. Rev. Scotland asked that the Elders keep these members in our daily prayers and then he closed our meeting praying not only for them but for each and every one of our congregation.

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The Annual Meeting
of the Congregation and Corporation
will be held Sunday, Feb. 6,
following worship.

We hope to have copies of the annual report available for you Sunday, Jan. 30.

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Volunteers are currently distributing **member surveys**.
These are needed by our **Mission Study Team**
to complete their responsibilities as part of the search
for your new pastor. Your input is Important!
Please return your completed survey as soon as possible.
Thank you!

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The Morris family would like to thank the Deacons for our Christmas gift. Also, Betty Price for bringing the gift, our cards, and our calendar to us. We would also like to thank Debora and Don Wong for bringing out our surveys and waiting for them. It's greatly appreciated.

Extra prayers are requested as Jim heads into surgery on February 7th.

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It's not too late to return your **2022 Stewardship pledge card** and Talent Bank form! Your pledge is an estimate of giving for the year and provides the Finance Committee with information on how your gifts compare to estimated expenses.

Thank you in advance!

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A Note from Lisa Whitaker

February 2022

When I was a teenager, I was an avid reader. I still do love to read, but it seemed in my teens you couldn't pry the books out of my hands! I loved historical fiction and at one point read a trilogy by Eugenia Price about St. Simon's Island, Georgia. I became totally a part of the life on that island as I read the books. I pictured the lighthouse, the church and the beautiful beaches as she described this little island off the coast of southern Georgia. I said in my heart, "someday I'm going to visit St. Simon's island."

Fast forward to 2021, a mere 40 years later. Molly Boyd, a friend who used to live up here had moved to Hartwell, Ga. Molly had suggested I speak at her new church's women's luncheon, which I did in November of 2020. At the time due to COVID, the ladies were hesitant to have an overnight retreat, so we did a luncheon with our eye towards a weekend retreat in the future. Sometime in the middle of 2021, the ladies from First United Methodist Church, Hartwell, Ga. contacted me and asked me to speak at the weekend retreat they were planning in January of 2022. I accepted the invitation, but at that point did not know where the retreat would be. A few months later, they contacted me again and said, ok, all is planned. We are having the retreat at Epworth Retreat Center on St. Simon's Island!!!!!!

I wish I had a picture of my face when I heard that. A wish in my heart from 40 years ago was about to come true. Now, I know that might sound silly. What I was immediately reminded of is that God knows the longings in our hearts. He hears the whispers we speak only to ourselves. Not only was I going to St. Simon's Island, Ga., but I was getting to go and do something I truly enjoy doing and that is being a part of retreats.

Let me tell you, St. Simon's did not disappoint. What a lovely island, chock full of history, quaint cafes and shops and LOTS of undeveloped natural beauty. The retreat center where we stayed is a Methodist retreat center that serves hundreds of people throughout the year. We were among the first guests they had after being closed for COVID. We had 50 ladies attend the

retreat. I enjoyed sharing about the importance of story and how our life story is part of God's grand narrative.

It was a wonderful weekend and a good reminder of God's goodness in the midst of difficult times. He responded to a desire of my heart from 40 years ago. He provided a beautiful, safe place for us to gather. He met with us as we met with one another. The beauty of the ocean, the sunsets, the new friendships and the time away was exactly what we all needed. It was a wonderful way to start off 2022.

Next stop is Cape Town, South Africa. I will be teaching in a Discipleship Training School, attending global leadership meetings for our mission and staffing an on-site intensive for the Master's program I am helping to lead. I certainly would appreciate your prayers for this time away. My schedule is full, and I am so grateful for your continued support.

Many blessings,
Lisa

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Severe Blood Shortage

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis—its worst blood shortage in over a decade.

Your donation is desperately needed.

What is causing the blood shortage crisis?

- 10% overall blood donation decline since March 2020.
- 62% drop in college and high school blood drives due to the pandemic.
(Student donors accounted for 25% of donors in 2019 and accounted for just 10% during the pandemic.)
- Ongoing blood drive cancellations due to illness, weather-related closures and staffing limitations.
- Additional factors like a surge of COVID-19 cases and an active flu season may compound the already bad situation.

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at APC will be Wednesday, Feb. 9 in Madden Hall from 2p - 7P.
(sponsor code Lolla Chiro)

To schedule an appointment sign up online at
www.redcrossblood.org,

OR call 1-800-REDCROSS
(1-800-733-2767)

for an appointment which fits your schedule.

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Thank You!

Deposit made on January 14, 2022

General

Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$400.20
Envelopes Designated	\$595.00
Per Capita	\$114.00
Initial Offering	\$10.00
Energy Needs	
Sunday Altar Flowers	
Memorial Money	
Christmas Flowers (Poinsettias)	
On-line Undesignated	
On-line Designated	
On-line Christmas Eve	

General Total	<hr/> \$1,119.20
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Benevolence

Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$46.00
Envelopes Designated	\$70.00
Thanksgiving	\$25.00
Mission Bouquet	
On-line Undesignated	
On-line Designated	
On-line Sister Jean's	
On-line Magi Gift	

Benevolence Total	<hr/> \$141.00
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Capital Expenditures

Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$13.80
Envelopes Designated	\$185.00
Fund Raiser	
On-line Undesignated	

On-line Designated
On-line Fund Raiser
Capital Total

\$198.80

Combined Total

\$1,459.00

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Please know that we love each and every one of you, and you continue to be in our prayers.

Stay safe –
Follow Official Guidelines –
and Know You Are Loved!