

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Isaiah 35:1-2

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**Sunday Worship
at 10:30 a.m.**

In Person

OR

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

Rev. John Nurnberger
"How Do You Picture Joy"

Matthew 11:2-11
Isaiah 35:1-10

Lay Assistant: Loretta Metz
Ushers: Bob and Barbara Hudak

Attendance Last Week:
Worship – 42
Sunday School - 8

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HONORING DAN HUGHES - VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Saturday, December 17, 2022

As you know Dan Hughes passed away on September 15th of this year. On Saturday,

December 17 at 10:30 a.m. we will be honoring Dan Hughes as our Veteran of the Year at the Wreath-Laying Ceremony. It will take place at the Columbarium. Our cemetery will join more than 3,500 participating groups across the country as we remember, honor and teach. We will be joined by the Mayor of Absecon as well as members of the VFW.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

ANNUAL TRADITION OF HONORING OUR VETERANS AT HOLIDAY TIME

As we prepare to gather with family and loved ones to celebrate the holidays, we must not forget those that have left us. That is the meaning behind the commemoration of National Wreaths Across America Day.

National Wreaths Across America Day is a day to remember our fallen U.S. veterans by placing wreaths on their graves, and saying the names of the fallen, so as to not forget their sacrifices. Wreaths are laid as family and friends remember both those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who currently serve in the armed forces.

The Annual Holiday Tradition of honoring America's lost veterans will take place not only at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, but at over 3,500 locations across the U.S. and worldwide in 2022. This important day is an annual event that takes place every year on the third Saturday in December. This tradition helps family members, friends, neighbors and volunteers all across the country lay wreaths at the gravestones of those who have served our country.

National Wreaths Across America Day has a simple mission: "Remember fallen U.S. veterans; honor those who serve; and teach your children the value of freedom."

SESSION SPOTLIGHT – DECEMBER 6 MEETING

Our Christmas decorating is not quite complete – we will be putting up a tree in Madden Hall and hope that everyone will leave unwrapped mittens, gloves, hats and especially socks under the tree for the homeless. This collection of gifts will be taken over to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission during Christmas Week.

Our November 9 Blood Bank drive was able to provide 26 units of blood to our hospitals. Thank you to all who donated and our next drive will be on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 in Madden Hall.

The Deacons delivered 29 dinners and desserts to our shut-ins on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. And they will be delivering about 30 Christmas meals. Thank you to the Deacons for all they do!

The Nominating Committee is in need of all our help – please, if you are called, prayerfully consider your response. The PNC is diligently working to find our next pastor so let's do our part – when asked, serve our church as an Elder, Trustee or Deacon.

The 2023 Budget for the Absecon Presbyterian Church was presented to the Elders. After a brief review, it was unanimously approved.

The Elders also discussed our concern about members and friends whom we have not seen in Church or online. A group of us will be reaching out to ask when they will be returning to our Sunday morning services and letting each person know they have been in our prayers and thoughts and are greatly missed.

Our Annual Meeting will be on January 29 – please mark this date on your calendar.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Each week of Advent is represented by a candle in our wreath.

Sunday, December 11	Advent week 3	Joy:	Shepherd's Candle (pink)
Sunday, December 18	Advent week 4	Love:	Angel's Candle (purple)
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve:		Birth of Jesus (white)



Upcoming December Events

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Two groups are meeting in Cobb Lounge and studying "The Chosen."

Wednesday morning at 10:30 am with Rita Abelson

Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm with Tina Harvey.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR BABY JESUS

Sunday, December 11, 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE LED BY REV. NURNBERGER

Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 3:30 pm

THE CHRISMON TREE

Our church Christmas tree is decorated with white and gold Christian symbols called Chrismons. The word Chrismon is a combination of two words – MONograms of CHRIST. Our first Chrismon Tree was made by the Mariners group and put on display on December 16, 1973.

Chrismons, as Christmas tree decorations, were originated for use in the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957 and since then they have been used in many countries throughout the world. In order to make the tree more meaningful and expressive to those who would see it, the decorations were made in the form of symbols which have been used by Christians since the time of the early church. These symbols were incorporated into many designs which you see on our tree.

Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold, white symbolizing Christ's purity and perfection, gold His majesty and glory. The tiny lights remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world.

May your Christmas be blessed with a new awareness of the love Christ brings to each of us as you share in the symbolism of our Chrismon tree. And remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season.



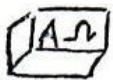
Chi (X) Rho (P) with Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω) – XP stand for the first two letters of the Greek word Christos (XPISTOS). Alpha and Omega are the beginning and the ending of the Greek alphabet.



Latin Cross with Alpha and Omega – The Latin Cross is the form most often used by the church to denote the cross on which Christ died. The early church often combined the A and Ω with the cross to declare the divinity of the Savior.



Sun of Righteousness – “But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness shall arise, with healing in his wings.” Malachi 4:2

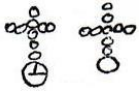


Cornerstone – “Christ Jesus Himself being the chief corner stone.”

Ephesians 2:20



Iota Chi (X) – I, the first letter of the Greek word for Jesus. X, the first letter of the Greek word for Christ.



Orb with Cross Triumphant – the world united under Christ’s dominion.



Greek Cross – A cross with arms of equal length.



Eight pointed star – This design refers to man’s regeneration through Holy Baptism.



Circle symbolized Eternity – This Chrismon says by the resurrection (butterfly) of the Christ (X) from the death of the cross (+), we may look to eternal life (O) with Him who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God (Trinity) in a world without end.



The Trinity in Eternity



Cross and Chi – The Chi (X), first letter of Christ, combined with the cross (+).



Shepherd’s Crook with Alpha and Omega – The Good Shepherd.



Iota Eta Sigma on Greek Cross – IHS, first three letters of Jesus in Greek IHSUS.



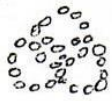
Iota and Chi woven through two circles – The outer circle refers to the infinite life, the inner one to the infinite.



Stylized Fish and Fish in a Circle – ICHTHUS (IXOYC) the Greek word for fish, is an acrostic on the first letters of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior. Christians have been using the fish to symbolize the Christ since the second century. Fish were drawn on the walls of the catacombs to direct worshippers to meeting places.



Three Fish united to form a Circle and Triangle – The triangle form suggests the Trinity and the circle, Eternity.



Three Entwined Circles – the Trinity.



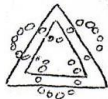
Cross in Eternity



Jerusalem or Crusader Cross – This cross appeared on the shield of the Crusader Kings of Jerusalem.



Serpent on a Tau Cross – As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up. John 3:14



Triangle and Trefoil – Two symbols for the Holy Trinity



Epiphany Star and Rose – The rose symbolizes the Nativity, Christ's humanity, and the star refers to His divinity.



Celtic Cross



Lamb with Banner of Victory – Isaiah was the first prophet to refer to God the Son as the sacrificial lamb. Here the lamb is depicted with the banner of victory over sin and death.



Crown – Symbolized the Kingship of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Please Keep These Requests In Prayer

**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.**

Keep in mind that Facebook comments and requests read by the minister during worship are being recorded for broadcast and can be heard by the general public worldwide. For the privacy of those you are praying for, consider using just a first name or making your prayer requests general in nature.

- † For victims of gun violence and their families
- † For the situation in Ukraine and World Leaders
- † For the refugees and children of Ukraine and for the Ukrainian Church
- † 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:

Olive Brown, Don Croneberger, Robin Deaver, Julie Dougherty, Jerry Falivene, Cathy Follansbee, Christopher Green, Michael Guerrieri and Family, Kathy Hackney-Will, Alex Hall, John Harvey, The Hughes Family, Carol Johnson, Betty Lloyd, Carol McDowell, Marjorie McGuigan, Jim McManus, The Morris Family, Lisa Nagle, Gary Price, Minerva Stadlmeir, Stan Weir.

Continued prayers always for:

Rita Abelson, Kathy Boyte, Edith Budd, Emilia Carboy, Lucy Cronberger, Darryl, Kristen and Quentin, Olga Davies, Carol DeLaurentis, Jean Delesantro, Marie C. and Carmen Devece, Gail Driscoll, Kavonna and Essence, Dorie Keener, Eric Lajeunesse, Aiden and Wendy Licolli, Marge Loeb, Robin McBrearty, JoAnn Morgan, Essie Newell, Rob Perry, Joyce Pfeiffer, Marilyn Rosado, Irene Smith, Judy Stebbins, Doris Steele, Georgina Umoren, Mary Umoren and Family, Ethel Washington, Frances Weir, Dirk Williamson

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Marge McGuigan is currently residing at United Methodist Communities Assisted Living at the Shores, formally known as Wesley Manor which is located in Ocean city. Marge

loves visits from friends and family and can be found attempting to exercise her legs in the hallways or finding a sunny spot to stay warm. Her mind and spirit remain sharp, but her eyes have been failing her to the point that she is very limited in what she can do or see now. Health-wise Marge has had her ups and downs but is currently on the mend and hoping to move to a more independent living arrangement within the complex. Please keep Marge in your prayers, and if you're in Ocean City feel free to stop in for a visit.

If you would like to send her a card, the address is:

Marge McGuigan - Room #222
c/o United Methodist Communities Assisted Living at The Shores
2202 Bay Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226

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Please join us each Sunday for

Coffee Mingle

All are welcome to gather in Madden Hall
following Sunday worship

brought to you by your Church Family and Fellowship Committee.

If you are able to provide baked goods, cookies, etc. (homemade or from the store)
and juice please sign up on the clipboard in the vestibule.

Helpers are also needed for set up and clean up.

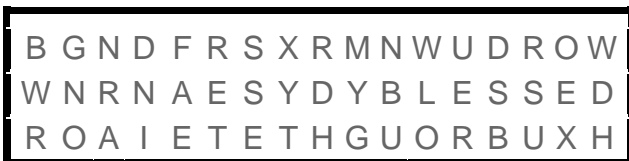
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Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

December 11, 2022





Words in the puzzle are printed in *bold italics*

When *John* heard in *prison* what the *Messiah* was doing, he sent *word* by his *disciples* and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to *wait* for another?’ *Jesus* answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you *hear* and see: the *blind receive* their *sight*, the lame walk, the *lepers* are cleansed, the *deaf* hear, the dead are *raised*, and the *poor* have good news *brought* to them. And *blessed* is anyone who takes no *offence* at me.’ As they went away, Jesus *began* to speak to the *crowds* about John: ‘What did you go out into the *wilderness* to look at? A *reed* shaken by the *wind*? What then did you go out to see? Someone *dressed* in soft robes? Look, those who wear *soft robes* are in royal *palaces*. What then did you go out to see? A *prophet*? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is *written*, “See, I am sending my messenger *ahead* of you, who will *prepare* your way before you.” Truly I tell you, among those *born of women* no one has arisen *greater* than John the *Baptist*; yet the least in the *kingdom* of heaven is greater than he.

Deposit made December 2, 2022 and November online giving

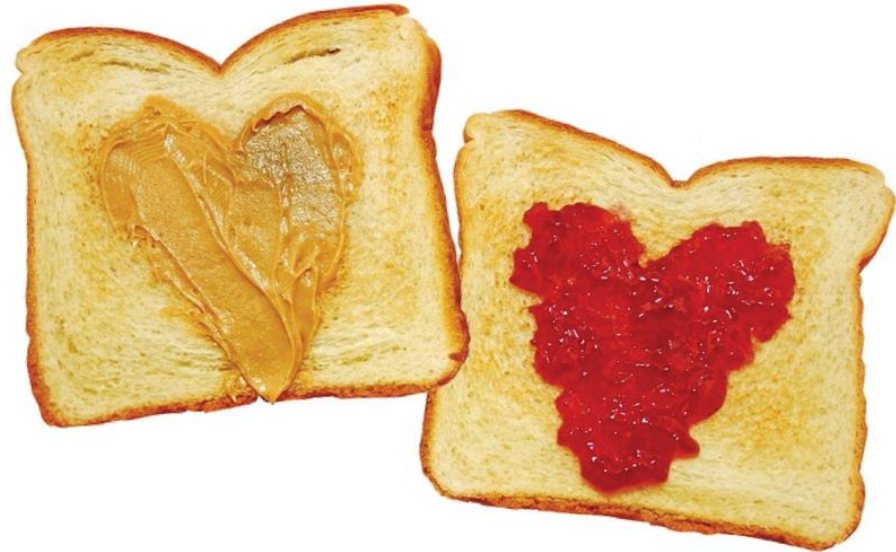
General

Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$226.20
Envelopes Designated	\$780.00
Per Capita	
Initial Offering	
Postage	\$20.00
Christmas Offering	\$100.00
On-line Undesignated	\$1,273.06
On-line Designated	

On-line Fuel	
General Total	<u>\$2,399.26</u>
Benevolence	
Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$26.00
Envelopes Designated	\$105.00
Prayer Shawl	
On-line Undesignated	\$146.33
On-line Designated	
On-line Sister Jean's	
Benevolence Total	<u>\$277.33</u>
Capital Expenditures	
Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$7.80
Envelopes Designated	\$530.00
Bricks (Memorial)	
On-line Undesignated	\$43.90
On-line Designated	
Capital Total	<u>\$581.70</u>
Combined Total	<u><u>\$3,258.29</u></u>

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!

Peanut Butter and Jam Sandwiches Ministry



Would you like to volunteer making the sandwiches?

Would you like to donate peanut butter and/or jam?

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

Monetary donations will help with our purchases of 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 John Harvey, 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.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

We will once again be beautifying our sanctuary this Christmas season with poinsettias. To give a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill in the form below and **return it to the church office by Sunday, December 11, 2022**. The cost is \$7.00 each. Make checks payable to the Absecon Presbyterian Church and write "Poinsettia" on the memo line.

I would like to order _____ poinsettia(s) to be dedicated as follows:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of:

Given By: _____ Phone: _____



MISSION BOUQUET ORDER FORM

Mission Bouquet donations in the amount of your choice will once again be received. A plant will not be placed on the altar. Instead, all funds donated will go to our Mission programs and projects of the church. If you would like to give a Mission Bouquet, please fill in the form and **return to the church office by Sunday, December 11, 2022**. Make checks payable to the Absecon Presbyterian Church and write "Mission Bouquet" on the memo line.

I would like to order _____ poinsettia(s) to be dedicated as follows:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of:

Given By: _____ Phone: _____