

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Matthew 1:18-21

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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
"Dreams and Decisions"

Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25

Lay Assistant: Janet Gee
Ushers: Ann Wallace and Betty Price

Attendance Last Week:
Worship – 40
Sunday School - 7

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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."

CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIAS

Ann Wallace in memory of her parents.

Pat Allen in loving memory of her parents: Blanca and Joel Allen

Bob and Barbara Hudak in memory of their parents: Bob and Patricia Hudak

Richard and Deborah Fredricks

Betty Lloyd in memory of: Mr. and Mrs. Earl H. Lloyd

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lloyd

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lloyd

Loretta Metz in memory of: Bill Metz

Richard and Helen Older in memory of: Dr. and Mrs. L. Older and Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Diorio

Mary Bew in memory of: Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bew and Mr. Cameron Lockard

Janet Gee in memory of: Catherine and Joseph Oteri
in honor of: Her children and Grandchildren

CHRISTMAS MISSION BOUQUETS

Dottie McCaffrey in memory of the Mong Family: Harry and Pearl,
Jean, John, Jim, Donald and Wayne.

Betsy Eberhard in memory of her parents: Ruth and Gus Eberhard

Barbara Miller in memory of: Her loved ones.
in honor of: Her Church Family. Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.



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

Sunday, December 18 Advent week 4 Love: Angel's Candle (purple)

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve: Birth of Jesus (white)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

The cards will be sorted and packaged for everyone to pick up on Sunday, December 18th or Christmas Eve, December 24th.



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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE LED BY REV. NURNBERGER

Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 3:30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

The Offering on Christmas Eve will go to the Food Bank in Egg Harbor Township

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Facebook will post the Christmas Eve service at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 25th

NEW YEARS DAY

To welcome in the New Year there will be a church service with communion

on January 1 with Reverend Joel Buckwalter

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Monday, December 26, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023

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.



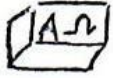
Chi (X) Rho (P) with Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω) – XP stand for the first two letters of the Greek word Christos (XPISTOS). Alpha and Omega are the beginning and the ending of the Greek alphabet.



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

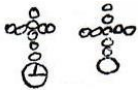


Cornerstone – “Christ Jesus Himself being the chief corner stone.”

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.



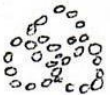
Iota and Chi woven through two circles – The outer circle refers to the infinite life, the inner one to the infinite.



Stylized Fish and Fish in a Circle – ICHTHUS (ΙΧΘΥΣ) 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.



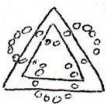
Cross in Eternity



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



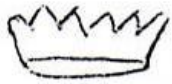
Epiphany Star and Rose – The rose symbolizes the Nativity, Christ's humanity, and the star refers to His divinity.



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:

Katie Beem, Olive Brown, Don Croneberger, Robin Deaver, Julie Dougherty, Jerry Falivene, Barbara Ferguson, Cathy Follansbee, Linda Gonzales, Christopher Green, Michael Guerrieri and Family, Hackney-Will Family, Alex Hall, John Harvey, The Hughes Family, Carol Johnson, Betty Lloyd, Carol McDowell, Marjorie McGuigan, Jim McManus, The Morris Family, Lisa Nagle, Gary Price, Annie Richardson, 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, Barbara Ferguson, Kavonna and Essence, Dorie Keener, Eric Lajeuness, 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

MATTHEW 1:18-21

Words in a straight line left to right or top to bottom
December 18, 2022



Words in the puzzle are printed in *bold italics*

Now the *birth* of *Jesus* the *Messiah* took place in this way. When his *mother* Mary had been *engaged* to *Joseph*, but before they lived together, she was found to be with *child* from the *Holy Spirit*. Her *husband* Joseph, being a *righteous* man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her *quietly*. But just when he had *resolved* to do this, an *angel* of the *Lord appeared* to him in a *dream* and said, ‘Joseph, son of *David*, do not be *afraid* to take *Mary* as your *wife*, for the child *conceived* in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a *son*, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will *save* his people from their *sins*.’

Deposit made December 9, 2022

General

Loose

Envelopes Undesignated

\$667.29

Envelopes Designated

\$705.00

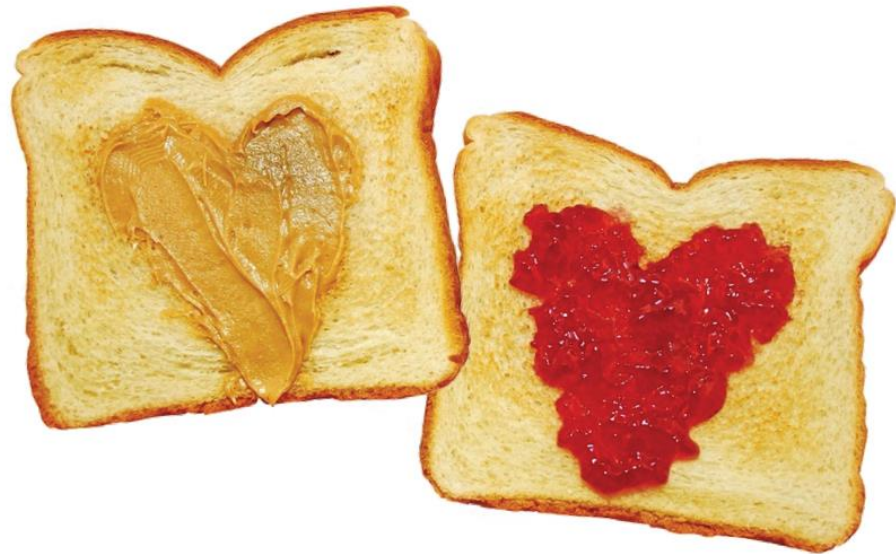
Per Capita

Initial Offering

Energy	\$53.00
Christmas Offering	
On-line Undesignated	
On-line Designated	
On-line Fuel	
General Total	\$1,425.29
Benevolence	
Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$76.70
Envelopes Designated	
Prayer Shawl	
On-line Undesignated	
On-line Designated	
On-line Sister Jean's	
Benevolence Total	\$76.70
Capital Expenditures	
Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$23.01
Envelopes Designated	\$300.00
Bricks (Memorial)	
On-line Undesignated	
On-line Designated	
Capital Total	\$323.01
Combined Total	\$1,825.00

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 Eve

Candlelight Service

**A Festival of Lessons
and Carols**



Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 3:30 PM
