

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, January 22, 2023

MATTHEW 13:31-32

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

on the following holiday:

February 20th - President's Day

LOST AND FOUND

We have a watch, a couple of umbrellas, eye glasses and many keys. If you are missing any of these items, please come to the office. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

FELLOWSHIP SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, February 4, 2023
5:00 - 7:00 pm

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION OF THE ABSECON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Immediately following the Service.

Pizza will be served at the conclusion of the meetings.

LIFELINE HEALTH SCREENING

They will be returning on Tuesday, May 9, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

SERVING

THIS MORNING:

Lay Assistant:

Bill Keener

Ushers:

Loretta Metz and Betty Price

Attendance Last Week:

Worship - 38

Sunday School - 7

Sunday Worship at 10:30

In Person or Online on
APC Facebook page at
[www.facebook.com/
abseconpresby](http://www.facebook.com/abseconpresby)

Lisa Whitaker

is with us this Sunday
as our Temporary
Pulpit Supply Minister

Sermon Title:

"Mustard Seed Moments?"

Psalm 126:1-6

Matthew 13:31-32

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 individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon.
- † For those on our standing prayer list and for the needs of your church not listed here, including those intentions held in our hearts and those shared in the comments of Facebook.

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

The Family of Katie Beem, Skip Bellino, Kathy Bordanora, Olive Brown, Don Croneberger, The Family of Ginny Davenport, Robin Deaver, Julie Dougherty, Jerry Falivene, Cathy Follansbee, Wendy Garwood, Christopher Green, Carol and Dave Guenther, Michael Guerrieri and Family, Hackney-Will Family, Alex Hall, John Harvey, The Hughes Family, Carol Johnson, Carol McDowell, Marjorie McGuigan, Jim McManus, The Morris Family, Lisa Nagle, Gary Price, Minerva Stadlmeir, Bill Young, Stan Weir.

Continued prayers always for:

Rita Abelson, Kathy Boyte, Edith Budd, Emilia Carboy, Lucy Cronberger, Darryl, Khristen and Quentin, Olga Davies, Carol DeLaurentis, Jean Delesantro, Marie C. and Carmen Devece, Gail Driscoll, 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

**Please join us for
*Coffee Mingle***

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.



Deposit made January 13, 2023

General

Loose

Envelopes Undesignated \$696.00

Envelopes Designated \$1,185.00

Per Capita \$228.00

Initial Offering \$12.00

Fellowship Y/E Donation

Christmas Donation

On-line Undesignated

On-line Designated

On-line Fuel

General Total \$2,121.00

Benevolence

Loose

Envelopes Undesignated \$80.00

Envelopes Designated \$90.00

Mission Evangelism Y/E Donation

Christmas Eve Food Bank

On-line Undesignated

On-line Designated

On-line Sister Jean's

Benevolence Total \$170.00

Capital Expenditures

Loose

Envelopes Undesignated \$24.00

Envelopes Designated \$330.00

Bricks (Memorial)

On-line Undesignated

On-line Designated

Capital Total \$354.00

Combined Total \$2,645.00

Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

January 22, 2023

MATTHEW 13:31=32



Words in the puzzle are printed in *bold italics*

He *put* before them another *parable*: ‘The *kingdom* of *heaven* is like a *mustard seed* that someone took and *sowed* in his *field*; it is the *smallest* of all the seeds, but when it has *grown* it is the *greatest* of *shrubs* and becomes a *tree*, so that the *birds* of the *air* come and *make nests* in its *branches*.’

Word of the Year

In the last 10 years or so, I have prayed about a word for the year that would keep me focused and remind me of what God is speaking regarding the year ahead. In the past few years, a few examples I have had are: Hope, Joy, Hesed (a Hebrew word that means loving-kindness), and last year was Explore. It is always interesting to me how after I prayerfully choose the word, it seems like it appears everywhere - maybe that is me being attuned to that word, or maybe it is a confirmation from the Lord that THAT IS my word.

This year, as I was praying, the word SOW came to my heart. I was reading in Ecclesiastes 3:2 and the phrase, “a time to sow” just jumped out at me. (Some translations say “a time to plant”).

I was reading a book that beautifully describes what it means “to sow “. Here is an excerpt that spoke to me:

“Life is about sowing. The function of each succeeding generation is not to demand change, it is to prepare for it. The function of one generation is to make change possible for the next. The real function of each generation is to sow seed that will make a better world possible in the future. ‘Let us plant dates even though those who plant them will never eat them’, Rubem Alves wrote. ‘We must live by the love of what we will never see’ . . . Such disciplined love is what has given prophets, revolutionaries and saints the courage to die for the future they envisaged. Even in the face of the impossible, we must act as if the miracle will come tomorrow” - from *For Everything A Season* by Joan Chittister - p.71

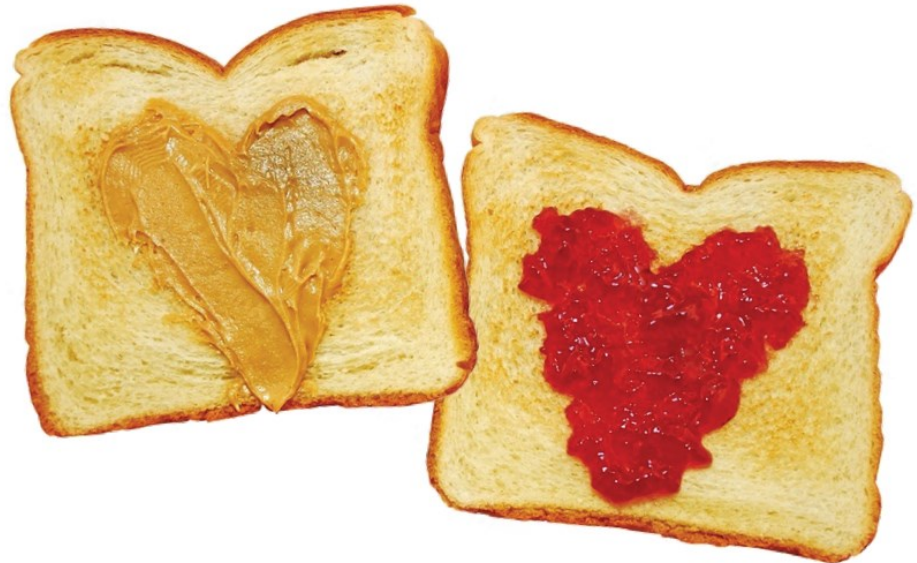
As I prepare to GO this year, I want to go in such a way that I am sowing seeds that will bear fruit both in the near AND the far future. I don’t want to get caught up in the instant gratification, but rather looking to the larger story of God and sowing seeds that will bear fruit in 10, 50 or maybe even 100 years from now. I will be going to some remote places this year, to some places that you don’t often hear about. I have a deep sense that God is asking me to go and sow seeds in these somewhat “forgotten places”.

I look forward to sharing with you about these people and places that though the world has forgotten, God has not forgotten. Would you pray with me that the seeds I sow and scatter would fall on good soil (Matthew 13:8) and that God would use those seeds of encouragement, hope and love to bring forth much fruit for His kingdom both here on earth and in heaven.

Below is a short schedule for the next few months. Thank you for your prayers and support.
Lisa Whitaker

January 25	Flight Philadelphia to London and on to Middle East
January 27-Feb 4	With friends in Middle East
February 4	Return flight to London
February 6-10	European Leader’s Gathering for YWAM in England
February 10	Flight to Central Asia
February 11-18	With friends in Central Asia
February 18/19	Flight back to London and then home
February 26-Mar 3	Teaching in Louisville, Kentucky

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.

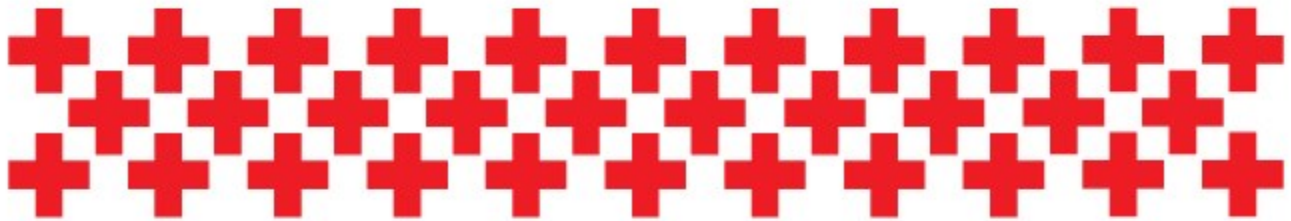
Your gifts and/or time will be very much appreciated!

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.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Lolla Chiropractic Center** **Absecon Presbyterian Church**

Hall
208 New Jersey Ave.
Absecon, NJ 08201

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Lolla Chiro to schedule an appointment.

Warm hearts. Warm thoughts. Give in February for a \$10 Gift Card by email, thanks to Amazon. And, automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for 2 to Clearwater Beach, FL. Includes travel, hotel, gift card and more! Terms : rcblood.org/heart

[45] - Order ID : 1462234 - Item ID : 6463197 - Qty : 1 of 1 - 000063246 - 2023-APL-0584 - APCD - 208623

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, February 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Salad

Pasta with Red or White Sauce

Bread

Coffee and Ice Tea

Cost of admission?

Bring a dessert to share.

