

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, March 5, 2023

JOHN 3:1-3

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The third and final New Member Class will be today immediately following the service in Cobb Lounge.

Upcoming Events

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Two groups are meeting in Cobb Lounge and studying "The Chosen" Season 2.
Wednesday morning at 10:30 am with Rita Abelson
Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm with Tina Harvey.

PASSOVER SEDER

will be held at Absecon United Methodist Church on March 12, 2023 at 5:00 pm On Sunday, March 12, from 5 to 7 PM, they will be joined by a Rabbi to lead the Seder! This is a family-friendly event.

**Please RSVP by this Sunday, March 5, 2023
609-641-1265**

SERVING THIS MORNING:

Lay Assistant:

Nancy Sooy

Ushers:

Rita and Vic Abelson

Attendance Last Week:

Worship - 51

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)

Rev. Dr. Scott Morschauser

is with us again this Sunday
as our Temporary
Pulpit Supply Minister

Sermon Title:

"Snake-Eyes"

John 3:1-14

EASTER POT LUCK LUNCHEON

Sunday March 26, 2023

immediately following our morning service.

There will be a sign up sheet in the atrium which will list attendees
and what pot luck dish they will be bringing.

It will be a time of fellowship and fun!

BLOOD DRIVE

April 7, 2023 - 1:00-6:00pm

HOLY THURSDAY / GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

will be held at Absecon United Methodist Church

April 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm

COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

will be held at Heritage Park

April 9, 2023 at 6:30 am

SPRING BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 9:00am.

Please reserve the date and sign up in the Atrium. Details to follow.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

on April 27, 2023

LIFELINE HEALTH SCREENING

They will be returning on Tuesday, May 9, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Prayers of the People

Each week the people of God at APC join in prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition to pray as one community for needs in the church. Praying for others keeps our focus outward and opens us up to know the will of God in our own lives. Consider making these prayer lists part of your daily prayer life. Doing so, may just help your feelings of isolation. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit brings others, even strangers, closer to you.

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, Maddie Caracozzo, Don Croneberger, Robin Deaver, Julie Dougherty, Jerry Falivene, Cathy Follansbee, Wendy Garwood, Christopher Green, Carol and Dave Guenther, Hackney-Will Family, Alex Hall, John Harvey, The Hughes Family, Carol Johnson, Carol McDowell, The Family of Marjorie McGuigan, Jim McManus, The Morris Family, Lisa Nagle, Gary Price, Sue Minerva Stadlmeir, Bill Young, Stan Weir.

Continued prayers always for:

Rita Abelson, Kathy Boyte, Edit Budd, Emilia Carboy, Lucy Crongerger, Darryl, Kristen and Quetin, 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

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MARGE McGUIGAN

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Marinella Funeral Home—102 N 3rd St, Hammonton, NJ 08037

Visitation 10:00—11:00

Service at 11:00 Reverend John Nurnberger will be officiating.

Unknown Heroes . . . By Lisa Whitaker

Tucked away in a mountain camp in Central Asia, a group of 40 Jesus-lovers gathered to learn about leadership, discipleship and what it means to dream God's dream for their people.

I arrived at this primitive yet full of life camp a few weeks ago. By primitive I mean, no heat, no hot water, squatty potties, no showers. By full of life, I mean precious people who love God deeply and have given their lives to follow Him.

I was invited to this camp, where a small team was holding a Leadership Training School for about 40 staff from this Central Asian country. Many of the staff are part of the Discipleship Training Schools we offer in our mission and I was asked come and share about the schools and really just be available to the staff for questions and any input they may need

After arriving, I learned that two of the local staff had been part of a team that had been arrested for their faith and held captive for 52 days a few years ago. I sat down with this staff to hear their story. The male staff, (I'll call him "H"), is facing many challenges to this day due to the trauma he experienced. The female staff, ("S") told me soon after their were captured and falsely charged, she heard the guards talking to each other about what they should do with the two female members of the team. As they were talking, she prayed and asked the Lord to protect them from any sexual assault. I waited as she continued fearing the worse. She smiled shyly and said, "God heard my cry and we were treated much better than the guys. The guards did not beat us or assault us in any way. It was almost like they were afraid of us." Then her smile faded as she shared, "The guys on the other hand, were tortured and beaten daily".

Also among our group there was a Western leader who was part of the organizing team. He had been arrested in 1985 in Asia with a group and held in prison for 9 days, again falsely accused because of his faith. In his situation, it had become national news back then and the United Nations became involved because the country he was in had gone against the UN human rights act by arresting this small team. Thankfully they were not beaten, but were in a cell for the 9 days waiting to see if anyone knew of their arrest. It was a true miracle how the international community found out about them (ask me in person, as it is too long to share here). It was truly a miracle !

Meeting these precious friends reminded me that there are people all over the world who have suffered greatly for their faith and so many of them are completely unknown to us. They faithfully love and serve our Lord, willing to risk their lives, comfort, material wealth and more so that others may know Jesus personally.

When I think of heroes - these are the people I think of. Heroes of the faith, whose names are worthy of being among the list in Hebrews 11:33,34, *"who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weaknesses were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight"*.

This group in the mountains of Central Asia were so grateful that we had come to meet with them. They told me this was the first time they had so many international leaders from our mission in one place with them. For them, that was so validating and encouraging. In reality, I am the one so blessed and encouraged by the privilege of meeting them and calling them my brothers and sisters in Christ. Eternity is going to be so much richer with their presence, their exuberant worship, their passionate prayers, their beautiful smiles.

Please take a moment and pray for these friends, especially “H” and “S” as they continue to work through the trauma of being held prisoner. Also, please pray for wisdom for me as I try to connect them with our international family and help to resource them as they dream of beginning schools, projects and ministries that will serve their country and bring the light of God’s kingdom into the darkness.

Thank you for being a part in encouraging and loving on these heroes - someday, either here or in eternity, you will get to meet them and you will be blessed!

Much love and appreciation,
Lisa

Spring Schedule:

March 9-18	Teaching in Middle East
March 20-26	Teaching in Budapest, Hungary
March 27-April 16	Ministering in Croatia / Celebrating Easter with local church
April 17- 30	International DTS Centre Meetings in South Africa
May 1	Return Home



TO ALL READERS:

Gerry Hoenes left Joanie with a large selection of excellent books.
Call her to make arrangements to go over and select any books you wish.
Joanie’s number is 609-641-1839.

Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

March 5, 2023

JOHN 3:1-3



Words in the puzzle are printed in *bold italics*

JOHN 3:1-3

Now there was a *Pharisee named Nicodemus*, a *leader* of the *Jews*. He came to *Jesus* by *night* and said to him, '*Rabbi*, we know that you are a *teacher* who has come from *God*; for no one can do these *signs* that you do apart from the *presence* of God.' *Jesus answered* him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the *kingdom* of God without being *born* from above.'

OFFERINGS

For those members and friends who use the Presbytery Foundation Online Giving program, there are no notifications about the special offerings which are part of our weekly envelopes. There are five of them in each box: **Initial Offering, Per Capita, and three for Energy (one in January; the second, late September; and, the third, early December).**

At the front of each box are the Initial Offering envelope to cover printing costs and a Per Capita envelope (*Per Capita Tax Per Each Member \$38*). The Per Capita amount is our individual memberships (based on 145 members) to the Presbyterian Church, which was sent to our Presbytery in early February (\$5,365.00 based on 145 members). They, in turn, forward a portion to the General Assembly and the Synod of New Jersey; the balance used by the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey. **Yes**, we already have made our payment for this year; but, **No**, we did not receive sufficient envelopes to cover the payment. If you give online, please make your payment as a **“Special Need”** donation and under **Note** indicate it is for **Per Capita**. If you give, using the weekly envelopes, please don't forget the Initial and Per Capita envelopes.

And throughout the year, please do not forget the three Energy envelopes that we count on to cover our utility bills. Again, for those giving online, please indicate a **“Special Need”** donation and under **Note** indicate it is for **Per Capita**. If you give, using the weekly envelopes, please don't forget the Initial and Per Capita envelopes.

And throughout the year, please do not forget the three Energy envelopes that we count on to cover our utility bills. Again, for those giving online, please indicate a **“Special Need”** donation and under **Note** indicate it is for **Energy**.

OUR TREASURER

Anne Hyatt, our Treasurer, has advised us that she will be resigning her position to enjoy her retirement. We will miss Anne very much and wish her all the very best!

Sandy Shinsato, Personnel Chair, has asked if anyone knows of someone who would like to join our staff as Treasurer. It is a part time position (about 6 hours a week); requiring knowledge of Quick Books and ADP payroll inputting and reporting; and preparing, issuing and mailing checks.

If you have someone to recommend, please call Sandy in the evening (609 948-0251) or email her (smay1020@gmail.com).

Deposit made February 24, 2023

General

Loose Envelopes Undesignated	\$1,613.85
Envelopes Designated	\$745.00
Per Capita	\$78.00
Initial Offering	\$1.00
Energy	\$10.00

General Total	\$2,447.85
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Benevolence

Loose Envelopes Undesignated	\$185.50
Envelopes Designated	\$80.00
Mission Evangelism Y/E Donation	

Benevolence Total	\$265.50
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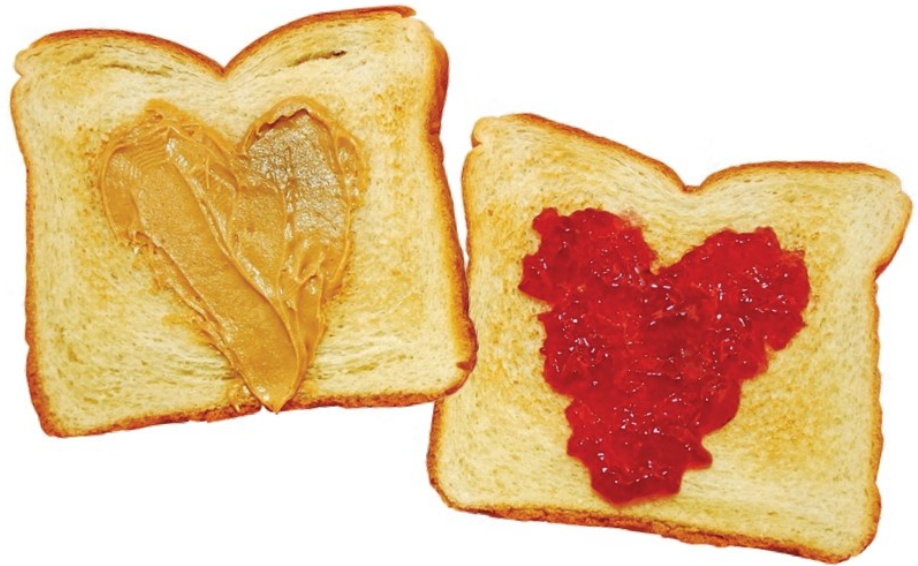
Capital Expenditures

Loose Envelopes Undesignated	\$55.65
Envelopes Designated	\$350.00

Capital Total	\$405.65
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Combined Total	\$3,119.00
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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.



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 |
| receipes as many people have an |
| allergy to them. |
— — — — —

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Lolla Chiropractic Center**

Hall
208 New Jersey Ave.
Absecon, NJ 08201

Friday, April 7, 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.



Be cool. Give blood. Come give April 1-23 for an exclusive American Red Cross and PEANUTS T-shirt featuring Snoopy as the coolest beagle in town, Joe Cool! Get yours, while supplies last - then show off your cool, kind spirit.

[445] - Order ID: 1476101 - Item ID: 6621514 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 000006037 - 2023-APR-07-2023 - 20:458

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

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