

“God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:9

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We have all been through many trials and tests, but our faith has gotten us through to this time of giving thanks. Thanksgiving will look and feel a little different for us all, but we hope you find a way to celebrate knowing you and your loved ones are surrounded by God’s Love.

Happy Thanksgiving!

The church office will be closed until 11:00am Monday for the holiday.

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Worship Live online Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

on APC’s Facebook page at

www.Facebook.com/AbseconPresby

This Sunday is the beginning of the Season of Advent, a time of preparation and expectant waiting for the celebration of the arrival of the Christ Child. Pastor’s sermon is titled “The Messianic Message” from Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV) and 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 available for you in the attached bulletin.

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If you or someone you know from church is sick or hospitalized, please notify the office at 609/641-3759 so Pastor Drew can reach out to you.

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Please Keep These Requests in Prayer

For your wisdom where we gather, protection from the virus and consolation as we grieve change.

For those with COVID, those mourning loved ones lost, and those working on medical answers to end this pandemic.

For peace, cooperation, and integrity in our political process.

For the lonely and isolated, the angry and afraid, especially those struggling with mental illness.

For the marginalized who are excluded based on their wealth, race, gender or other biases, both personal and institutional.

For the hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked, sick and imprisoned.

For all on our standing prayer list, those with chronic health conditions and those with long-standing concerns.

For these the individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon: Judy Stebbins, Stan Weir, Bob Gillis, Donna Hughes, Rob Perry, JoAnne Morgan, Robin McBrearty, Christopher Green, Diane Ford, Dorie Keener, Patti, Jim & Devon Morris, Jim Price, Dirk Williamson, Wayne & Ruthann Grier, Darryl, Kristen and Quentin, John King, Rich Hardy

Continued prayers always for:

Rita Abelson, Bill Tilley, Elaine Risley, Frances Weir, Louise Speitel, Dan Hughes, Gail, Emilia Carboy, Irene Smith, Aiden & Wendy Licolli, Kathy Boyte, Minerva Stadlmeir, Jean Delesantro, Jerry Hoenes, Betsy Cunius, Marjorie McGuigan, Rich & Rob, Doris Steele, Essie Newell, Joyce Pfeiffer, Don & Lucy Croneberger, Marie C. & Carmen DeVece, Olga Davies, Marge Loeb, Carol Thomas, Jim Mong, Edith Budd, Carol DeLaurentis, Ellen Plum, Mildred Felsberg, Virginia Loeb, Lisa Mazza

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All Christmas Angel Tags for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project have been claimed and many of you are shopping. Thank you!

Gifts can be dropped off by calling the office between 11a-2p weekdays OR at the open drop off on Wednesday, December 2 from 11 a-2 p. (As in the past, presents are not to be gift wrapped.)

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Stewardship Responses Needed

Last week, the annual Stewardship Campaign letters were sent out with a prayer pledge, a talent bank form, and a financial pledge card. Will you please commit to five more minutes of prayer each day for the future of this church? Will you share your talents and areas you would like to serve? Will you let us know what you hope to give in the coming year. **You are the church and your commitment is vital to our future as a church.**

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Annual Christmas Card Exchange

Even though the pandemic has kept us from gathering on Sundays as one big family, we can still preserve our traditions. Share your Christmas joy with your church friends and family by dropping off cards for them during the church's office hours, weekdays from 11 am to 2 pm, or from 9 to 11 am on a Saturday before Christmas (December 5th, 12th and 19th).

The cards will be sorted and packaged for everyone to pick up the week of Christmas, on Monday or Tuesday between 11 am and 2 pm, on Wednesday, December 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and on Thursday, Christmas Eve, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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Gift of the Magi Fund

If making out cards for some or all of the 150+ households in our church family is too much, or if you want to give a gift in honor of your church friends, make a donation to the 2020 Magi Fund. ***The proceeds will go to Sister Jean's Kitchen*** and a card will be given to every person and household in the church from you. Give online or by mail before December 17th so that cards with your name on them can be put in the bags.

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'PHASE 1' LIMITED REGATHERING

For the time being, every Sunday, 10 socially distant seats will be available, each for up to two (2) members of a household, to attend services in person. We ask that if you wish to attend, you do so aware of the risks and take steps to limit risk to others.

Attendance will require registering in advance, from Monday at noon of each week to Thursday at 2 p.m. If you come, but are not registered, you will not be let in and then directed to watch online. Full adherence to the official policy is critical to protect you and the church. There can be no exceptions.

Everyone will be required to wear a cloth or medical mask at all times, including from their car to the building. You will be checked in and have your temperature taken. A box will be there to receive your offering, if you choose to bring it with you.

Seats will be assigned at least 6 feet apart and everyone is required to maintain that distance

at all times. **Attendees may respond softly to prayers under their masks but must refrain from singing.** There will be no fellowship, Sunday School or any after service gathering.

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Other Ways to Join Worship

Do you or someone you know struggle with using Facebook for Sunday services? Facebook is ideal because we can interact with each other, but if you or someone you know does not have an account, you can still see the services live and throughout the week via our Web site:

www.AbseconPresby.org

If you or someone you know is not connected to the Internet at all, we will mail the bulletin and sermon out midweek. Call the office to add a name and address for the mailing.

And every Monday, afternoon the previous Sunday's sermon will be available by phone to listen day or night at your convenience by calling this number: (609) 212-0313.

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Wednesday Morning Prayer

Throughout these months of being socially distant, this Morning Prayer Ministry has continued to meet via Zoom to lift up the names of all who are affiliated with the church and the specific prayer requests that you send in.

If you have a request for prayer or would like someone who you love to be included in prayer, please call the church or send an email to PrayerAPC@gmail.com.

If you would like to join the prayer group go to <https://bit.ly/PrayerAPC> at 8:30 a.m. on **Wednesday** mornings.

Wednesday Zoom

Every week Pastor Drew checks in with the congregation through Zoom, a free program for your smart phone, tablet or computer. Usually, around 10 to 15 individuals stop in to chat with each other about what's going on in our lives and in the church. If you would like to join in, please call the office for the link, which is protected with a password to ensure that you are safe.

Pastors of the Absecon-Galloway Ecumenical Community offer a weekly Facebook prayer group Thursdays at Noon. All are welcome to sign into Facebook and use the link below to meet with our local pastors in prayer. This works the same as our online worship.

<https://www.facebook.com/YourChurchesTogether/>

What can I give?

The church is one body with many parts. Each of us has something different to offer in terms of time, talent and treasure.

Please consider giving your time by calling and checking in on fellow church members, including friends, but also those you do not talk to regularly.

Please consider giving your talent, by considering ways your skills may help to alleviate the strain put on us all by this pandemic.

Please consider giving your treasure by mailing in your tithes and your offerings. Mail your checks to:

Absecon Presbyterian Church
208 New Jersey Avenue
Absecon, NJ 08201

You can also give your gift online at:

www.AbseconPresby.org/give

All gifts made Online are safe and secure through the Presbyterian Foundation. At this time, gifts to the General Fund and Benevolence are what is most needed.

Giving received November 14-20:

General

Loose

Envelopes Undesignated \$1,057.05

Envelopes Designated \$170.00

On-line Undesignated

On-line Designated

Per Capita

Initial

Energy \$30.00

General Total \$1,257.05

Benevolence

Loose

Envelopes Undesignated \$121.50

Envelopes Designated \$280.00

On-line Undesignated

On-line Designated

Mission Bouquet

Sister Jean's

Benevolence Total \$401.50

Capital Expenditures

Loose

Envelopes Undesignated \$36.45

Envelopes Designated \$25.00

On-line Undesignated

On-line Designated

Winter Fund Raiser

Cemetery

Capital Total \$61.45

Combined Total \$1,720.00

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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!