

“John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.”

Mark 1:4-5

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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 we light the second candle on the Advent Wreath – the candle of Peace. Pastor’s sermon is titled “To Be the Kingdom is to Confess” from Isaiah 40:1-11 (NASB) and Mark 11:1-8 (NRSV) available for you in the attached bulletin.

This is a Communion Sunday. Please have the elements prepared for each member of your household before service. Your participation in the communion does not require the communion wafers and grape juice. Use what you have at home that you think best represents in your context the bread and wine used by Jesus.

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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 those who gave blood collected at APC on Thursday and all who give blood to save lives.

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

Judy Stebbins, Stan Weir, Rob Perry, JoAnne Morgan, Robin McBrearty, Christopher Green, Diane Ford, Dorie Keener, Patti, Jim & Devon Morris, Bob Gillis, Dirk Williamson, Darryl, Khristen and Quentin, Kavonna & Essence, Gail and Bubba Driscoll

Continued prayers always for:

Jim Price, Donna Hughes, Rita Abelson, Bill Tilley, Elaine Risley, Frances Weir, Louise Speitel, Dan Hughes, 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

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Session Spotlight for December

1. The Deacons and their delivery team gave twenty-four (24) Thanksgiving dinners to members and friends of our congregation. This was made possible by the Barbara Hughes Memorial "Give Back" Fund.
2. Session has approved the 2021 Budget which will be shown in our Annual Report along with 2020 Income and Expenses. Stay tuned for a date and time for the Annual Meeting.
3. Christmas Eve Service will be a Festival of Lessons and Carols live on Facebook at 6:00 p.m. Please join Pastor Drew, Rick and our singers in singing all the carols we love and listening to the Christmas readings.
4. Magi Gift – please mark your checks and/or envelopes with Magi Gift or Sister Jean's. If you wish to contribute electronically, please mark the "Special" box and indicate under "Notes" it is for the Magi Fund or Sister Jean's.

5. The Mission / Evangelism Committee will be sending \$500 to our Pakistan ministry. This gift is desperately needed to purchase food for its members, and we know their minister and congregation will be so incredibly grateful for our donation.

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We want to send in a big Thank You to the Deacons for the premade Thanksgiving dinners. They were delicious. We really enjoyed them.

Patti Jim and Devin Morris

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A Train Car Called “Grace”

Lisa Whitaker

Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin is 1100 acres of beauty - complete with 2 golf courses, sports fields, ropes course, chapel, prayer towers, homes, cabins, conference buildings and more all located around Green Lake, the deepest lake in Wisconsin. Ironically, with all of this to offer it has been a ghost town this summer due to Covid.

When our small group of Master’s students was searching for a good place to meet, it was obvious that God brought this place to our attention. It formerly was owned by the American Baptist Association and hosted thousands of people annually for conferences, retreats, camps and other activities. I was astounded when we arrived, to see how huge it was and how empty it was.

Our small group of 16 students and staff were able to meet together for over 2 weeks in one of the Green Lake lodges. We literally had the entire place to ourselves. It was a perfect location to have classes, take walks, study, pray and allow God to speak to each of us.

One of the things I loved was the many historical elements of this property. An original Log Cabin built in the 1840’s still stands - a testament to the building skills back then! But what really captured my imagination was a train car on the property. A train car called - GRACE.

“Grace” is one of 7 train cars that was used back in the 1920’s, 1930’s and 1940’s as a mobile chapel. This train car - complete with a chapel in one half of the car (pews, organ and altar) and a space for housing the “missionaries” in the other half. The housing section looked much like an RV set up with bunks, a small kitchen and a seating area. The train traveled across America, from West Virginia to California establishing Sunday Schools and beginning small churches and congregations. The couples that served as the missionaries, lived for years on

the train, traversing the country proclaiming the Good News and teaching the Bible.

Imagine living back in the depression with so much uncertainty and the threat of wars. Imagine a train pulling up in your town with the words Chapel of GRACE written across the side. Imagine what it was like for people to gather and hear good news. Imagine how significant it was to hear of God's love and His purpose for their lives. Imagine the children being taught Bible stories . . . can you see it? Can you hear the train whistle and see the kids come running?

I was so inspired by this innovative way to literally carry the Good News of Jesus from one side of a country to another. It made me think of the miles and miles of train tracks around the world. The Trans-Siberian, from Moscow to Vladivostok crosses 8 time zones. The former Orient Express routes from Paris to Istanbul are still possible by train. India, China and all of Europe can be reached by train. I once took a 5 day train ride from Krasnodar, Russia to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I am grateful for the inspiration of history. I'm grateful to learn about creative ways to tell others about Jesus! I'm grateful to hear of the risks they took and the sacrifices they made. Two of the couples spent more than 9 years on the train - I thought 5 days was long !

Join me in praying for God to continue to give inspiring ideas and ways to reach the world with the Good News of Jesus. Join me in praying for the church to step out in faith in these uncertain times, to take risks and to make sacrifices. I'm inspired afresh, by a train car called GRACE, to share God's GRACE with others, I hope you are too!

Lisa

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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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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 Nov. 21-27 + November Online Giving:

General

Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$81.78
Envelopes Designated	\$1,340.00
On-line Undesignated	\$2,307.67
On-line Designated	\$49.00
Per Capita	
Initial	
Energy	
General Total	\$3,778.45

Benevolence

Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$9.40
Envelopes Designated	
On-line Undesignated	\$265.25
On-line Designated	\$98.00
Mission Bouquet	
Sister Jean's	
Benevolence Total	\$372.65

Capital Expenditures

Loose	
Envelopes Undesignated	\$2.82
Envelopes Designated	\$450.00
On-line Undesignated	\$79.57
On-line Designated	
Winter Fund Raiser	\$295.96
Cemetery	
Capital Total	\$828.35

Combined Total **\$4,979.45**

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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!