

# Absecon Presbyterian Church

## PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

*Sunday, April 28, 2024*

### 1 JOHN 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.



### CHOIR SINGERS

If you would like to be part of our new Choir, please see Rick DeKarski after the church service.

### USHERS AND LAY ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in being an usher, please see Mary Bew.

If you are interested in being a Lay Assistant, please see Janet Gee.

### SERVING THIS MORNING:

**LAY ASSISTANT:**  
Louise Speitel

**USHERS:**  
John Carsone  
and Betty Price

### ATTENDANCE

#### LAST WEEK:

Worship – 55  
Sunday School – 5

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

at 10:30 In Person or Online  
on APC Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/  
abseconpresby](http://www.facebook.com/abseconpresby)

### REV. JUDY FIOCCO

### SERMON TITLE:

“Sent”

Acts 8:26-40

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

† Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson

† Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Tina Harvey

The Study is on the book of Daniel.

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### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15am in Cobb Lounge  
Adult Bible Study will be led by Pastor Judy's husband Larry Jones  
and Elder Gwen Monhollen.

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### **GAME NIGHT (For All Ages\*)**

Sunday, April 28th from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the church.

Please bring a snack to share if you want to munch.

See Pastor Judy Fiocco or Tina Harvey if you have any questions.

\*Children under 11 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

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### **PIZZA AND PARABLES PLAYING AND PRAYING YOUTH GROUP**

Friday, May 3, 2024 at 6:00-9:00pm

Led by Pastor Judy

**All Middle and High School aged youth are welcome!**

Meet us in the Church Sanctuary at 6:00pm

Let us know if you have special dietary needs (e.g. Can't eat cheese, gluten, tomato sauce).

Pizza toppings will be decided when we get together.

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### **LIFELINE SCREENING**

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

One day community health screening event.

Please sign up on the sheet for appointment times.

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### **BBQ**

Sunday, May 19, in Madden Hall, immediately following the church service.

Church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

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## **PRAYER LIST**

Please see the Bulletin for the Prayer list.

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## **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP**

The Prayer Shawl Group meets the first Saturday of every month at 9:30am in Madden Hall.  
All are invited who enjoy knitting or crocheting or who would like to learn.

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## **COFFEE MINGLE**

Please join us!

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.

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Sunday, April 14, 2024

**General**

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$643.80
Envelopes Designated	\$1,005.00
Initial Offering - 2024	
Per Capita - 2024	
Energy	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
<b>General Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$1,648.80</b>

**Benevolence**

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$74.00
Envelopes Designated	
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$7.75
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
<b>Benevolence Total</b>	<b>\$81.75</b>

**Capital Expenditures**

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$22.20
Envelopes Designated	\$200.00
Spring Fundraiser	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online Spring Fundraiser	
<b>Capital Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$222.20</b>

<b>Combined Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$1,952.75</b> <hr/>
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# Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

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

April 28, 2024

**1 JOHN 4:7-11**



Words in the puzzle are printed in **bold italics**

*Beloved*, let us love one *another*, because love is from God; *everyone* who loves is *born* of God and *knows* God. Whoever does not love does not *know* God, for God is *love*. God's love was *revealed* among us in this *way*: God sent his *only Son* into the *world* so that we might *live through* him. In this is love, not that we *loved* God but that he loved us and *sent his* Son to be the *atoning sacrifice* for our *sins*. Beloved, since *God* loved us so *much*, we also *ought* to love one another.

## THE LATEST NEWS FROM LISA WHITAKER

In this last trip, I was teaching and sharing in a Muslim nation, a Christian nation and a Buddhist/Hindu nation. In every nation, there was an obvious cry to connect with “a god”. The Muslim call to pray 5 times a day and their yearly ramadan fast, the church bells that pealed loudly on Easter morning following a century old tradition of remembering Christ’s walk to Golgotha and the larger than life statues of the various Hindu/Buddhist gods all were blatant signs to connect with a “higher power”.

In theory we all know that humanity searches for meaning and purpose. As I travel to these far corners of the earth, I can testify to the truth of that theory. People long to find a purpose in life. They long to believe that there is “someone” or “something” greater.

As I have been pondering this, I was reminded of something that happened many years ago when I first went to Russia after the Soviet Union fell. Our outreach team went to a part of Russia that had not seen many foreign visitors during Soviet times. We were quite the spectacle as we sang, did dramas and handed out Bibles to school children per request of the local schools. One day I was walking down the street with one of our translators, an older gentleman in a suit walked up to me and said, “Are you a foreigner?” I said, “Yes, I am”. He asked, “Where are you from?” I said, “the United States.” He then said something very interesting. He asked, “oh America, so you believe in God?” I was taken back, but quickly replied, “Yes, I do believe in God.” He said, “Tell me about Him, we were told He doesn’t exist, but please, tell me?” What a privilege it was to share with this man about our amazing God.

I find that hunger to know God is still very real. People in very isolated villages in the world have an innate sense that there is “Someone” they are to be connected to, in relationship with or to whom they must serve. I have been reminded on this trip of Jesus’ words in Acts 1 before He ascended.

**“You will be my witnesses . . . even to the remotest parts of the earth”**

Thank you for praying for me and supporting me as I have the privilege of going to some of these remote places. There are so many who have never heard, even in our own backyard, but certainly in places we have never heard of - and yet Jesus said to GO! I will continue to GO as long as I can and am so grateful for all you do to allow me to go. What a gift to share who He is with others.

Blessings, Lisa

Updated Schedule for May/June

May 13 - 17 -Fly to Central Asia- Central Asian staff gathering

May 17-24 -Wiler, Switzerland - Teach in DTS

May 25 - 28 - Fly to next location in the Middle East and connect with a former student and her family.

May 29-June 8 - Middle East- Telios Discipleship Course

June 9-10 - Fly home



**OLGA DAVIES**

Olga's eyesight is failing.

If you would like to call or visit,  
her new address is:

Meadowview Nursing Home Room #182A  
Northfield, NJ 08225  
609-645-5595

**MARGE LOEB**

If anyone would like to send Marge a card, her new address is:

Marge Loeb, Floral Creek Room 25A  
600 Township Line Road, Yardley, PA 19067

**DON CRONBERGER**

If anyone would like to send Don a card, his new address is:

Don Cronberger, c/o Spring Home at Galloway Room D9,  
Galloway, NJ 08205

**SUNDAY, MAY 19**

**Immediately following church service  
in Madden Hall**



**Church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.**

**Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.**



# Sister Jean's Food & Clothing Pantry

**Believe it or not, the otherwise helpful government program SNAP, does not cover these essentials!?!**

**There is a big demand for dish soap and toilet paper and other cleaning products. They need the sizes for home use, not bulk containers as these are for individuals. Even just grabbing a few items at a dollar store will help. Don't forget dish cloths and sponges... you know, the essentials.**





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 |  
| recipes as many people have an |  
| allergy to them. |

| Please put DATE on label. |  
— — — — —



## APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

About 18 million adults have an alcohol use disorder (AUD), a condition that applies to people who have strong cravings for alcohol, can't control their drinking, show withdrawal symptoms if they stop drinking, and continue to drink despite health or other alcohol-related problems. AUD can range from mild to severe, and can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, profession, or financial status.

Unfortunately the stigma that still surrounds alcohol use may prevent people from getting the help they need. Stigma refers to the negative thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs about people or groups based on characteristics that set them apart from others, such as mental health conditions including AUD. Stigma can cause people to downplay how often they drink, how much they drink, and the impact drinking has on their life.

**Identify your drinking habits** Excessive alcohol use includes binge drinking and heavy drinking.

- Binge drinking = 5+ drinks for men and 4+ drinks for women within a 2-hour period.
- Heavy drinking = 14+ drinks for men and 7+ drinks for women within a week.

**Understand the dangers of alcohol** Excessive alcohol use increases a person's risk of stroke, liver cirrhosis, alcoholic hepatitis, cancer, and other serious health conditions. It leads to risk-taking behavior, such as driving while impaired and unprotected sex. Alcohol also increases the risk of death from car crashes, injuries, homicide, and suicide.

**If you think you may have a problem** It is important to overcome stigma, be honest about your drinking habits, and seek support from a health care provider. Online screening tools are available to help you understand if you are at risk, visit: [www.cdc.gov/alcoholCheckYourDrinking](http://www.cdc.gov/alcoholCheckYourDrinking)

### Resources for More Information

- \* **Atlantic County**  
*Office of Addiction Services*  
609-645-5932
- \* **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)**  
800-604-HELP
- \* **Al Anon 888-944-5678** [nj-al-anon.org](http://nj-al-anon.org)
- \* **Reach NJ (844) 732-2465**  
[nj.gov/humanservices/reachnj](http://nj.gov/humanservices/reachnj)
- \* **Rethinking Drinking**  
[rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov](http://rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov)

### Help Reduce Stigma

- Avoid negative labels
- Listen without judging
- Treat people with respect
- Be supportive
- Speak up when others use stigmatizing language
- Be kind
- Help educate others
- Share your story

**ATLANTIC COUNTY  
PROUD TO BE  
STIGMA - FREE**

### Words to Avoid

- Alcoholic, Addict, Junkie
- Drug Habit
- Abuse
- Clean/Dirty
- User
- Recovering Addict

### Words to Use

- Person with Alcohol Use Disorder
- Substance use disorder
- Misuse or harmful use
- Actively/not actively drinking/using
- Person in risky use or misuse
- Person in active recovery



Atlantic County Division of Public Health: Working for Healthy People and Healthy Communities

Atlantic County Executive  
Dennis Levinson

Atlantic County Board of Commissioners  
Maureen Kern, Chairwoman



Beloved,

Our closing hymn in this morning's worship service is "Pass It On". I hope you know the tune so that you can sing along in your heart while you read this. (If you don't, maybe you can look it up on YouTube!) Have you heard the saying "Singing is praying twice!"? So many of our prayers become part of us because they are sung! This is one of my favorites and it's perfect for this congregation AND for this time of year!

Pass It On (#557)

(Words and Music by Kurt Kaiser)

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it: you spread God's love to every-  
one, you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding, the birds begin to sing, the  
flowers start their blooming;

That's how it is with God's love, once you've experience it: you want to sing, it's fresh like  
spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found—on God you can depend, it matters  
not where you're bound;

I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know:

The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

Pass it on!

Joyfully Yours,

*Judy*

