



# Our Friendly Visitor

*the monthly newsletter of the United Methodist Church at Absecon*

## Community Thanksgiving Worship

The Absecon/Galloway Clergy Fellowship is holding its annual Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 20, at 7 p.m., at the Church of St. Mark and All Saints (429 S Pitney Rd, Galloway). Refreshments will be served after the service.

Pastor Drew Mangione from the Absecon Presbyterian Church will be speaking.

Let's join together with our friends and neighbors to thank God for His care and provision throughout the year.



Our church calendar is available 24/7/365 on our website:

<http://www.abseconumc.com/calendar.htm>

### *See inside for ...*

Local Church News .....	pages 2-6
Letter from Lisa .....	pages 7-8



## November Communion Offering

Our November Communion Offering supports Carol Angelo, a member of our church who is serving in Guatemala.

Carol has 47 years of experience as a registered nurse and has been in Guatemala for eight years at Aselsi Ministries International. In November she will be spending another week at Clinica Ezell, a medical, dental, and surgical clinic facility near the western coast of Guatemala. Each month a team of about 50 people come from the US including surgeons, anesthesiologists, OR techs, nurses, and nurses' aides. They usually do anywhere from 80 to 100 surgeries. The patients pay very little if anything. The surgeries are paid for by donors in the states.

Carol surprised us a few weeks ago with a visit! She is now happily back and home (and back to work) in Guatemala.



## Bible Studies

**Women** -- Monday, 7 p.m. in the church's Memorial Room.  
Contact Barb at [sabathsabby@gmail.com](mailto:sabathsabby@gmail.com).

**Men** -- Wednesday, 7 p.m., in our church Memorial Room.  
Contact Dave Wade at 609-404-7868.

**Everyone** -- Wednesday, 10 a.m., in our church Memorial Room. Contact Sheree Kachnic ([skachnic@yahoo.com](mailto:skachnic@yahoo.com)) or Donna Hill ([dhill57@comcast.net](mailto:dhill57@comcast.net)).



**New Grounds** -- For women, meeting in Room U303 with nursery provided. Next meeting on Tuesday, November 13, at 6 p.m. Call or text Jessica Nava (609-338-9961) for more info.

---

## Leaf Raking Party



Leaves will soon be falling and your Trustees will be holding their annual leaf-raking party. Start your arm exercises and get your rakes ready. Remember pick-up trucks are also needed.

It will be a Saturday morning in December - and we hope the weather cooperates.

Watch for further announcements.

Hope to see you there!!

Lynn Caterson, Chair  
Board of Trustees

---

## Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the scholarship money, it will help a lot. College is going well.

Thanks again,  
Braden McNeill



## Annual Church Conference

This year, our Church Conference will be held this Saturday, November 3, at St. Peter's UMC in Ocean City. This is the meeting where we review the accomplishments of the past year, elect new officials for the church, set the goals for the coming year, approve the 2019 budget, and approve the pastor's salary package for 2019.



Gather at St. Peter's by 8:45 a.m. for refreshments. Our session will be completed by 11:15.

All AUMC members have a vote at this meeting and are invited (and encouraged!) to attend. If you have questions about Church Conference, please contact Rev. Miller at: [miller.chris@comcast.net](mailto:miller.chris@comcast.net).

---

## Rescue Mission Item of the Month



Our November Rescue Mission donations are frozen **turkeys** and nonperishable Thanksgiving food items. Suggestions include canned onions, cranberry sauce, vegetables etc. Let's help the Mission reach as many needy families as possible!

As always, used clothes, socks and shoes are needed. Containers are in the Atrium, Narthex, and Great Hall for all items. Thank you for all your help with this ongoing project.

---

## AUMC on Social Media



Instagram

@abseconumc

## Faithful Fingers Report!

This has been a wonderful year for Faithful Fingers. Our prayer shawl ministry is thriving, and we really appreciate the support and encouragement of the mission team and the entire congregation!

So far in 2018, we have made or had donated to us over 2000 items, including prayer shawls, hats, scarves, baby blankets, socks, gloves and mittens, as well as handmade toys and quilts. In addition to this, we appreciate the generosity of the mission team in giving us funds to purchase a cabinet. As you can imagine, with all these donations, we really need storage.

We've been able to bless so many others with these things:

- A big box was sent to Bangwe Babies Mission in Malawi, including hats and baby blankets.
- We donated two large bags of children's hats to Galloway Township Public Schools for their guidance counselors to distribute to children in need.
- Approximately 300 purple baby hats were donated to Click4Babies-NJ campaign to help teach child abuse prevention
- Neptune Lions Club received about 50 hats and some scarves for their fall clothing giveaway for the needy in their community.
- Many red, white and blue items are ready to be delivered to the veteran's home in Vineland.
- Toys and prayer shawls were donated to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center for use in pediatric emergencies and for use by the chaplains.
- Baby items and hats are being given to The Unforgotten Haven in Blackwood, an agency which supplies the underemployed and needy in a large area of western New Jersey.
- Mental Health of Atlantic County has requested 200 hats, as well as some scarves and gloves to give to their clients in group homes at Christmas time. We're on it!
- As always, during the fall and winter months, large donations of hats and scarves will be made to Atlantic City Rescue Mission and Covenant House, Atlantic City.





## United Methodist Women Update

- “Sisters in Christ”, thank you for the wonderful support you give to our activities and projects. Faithful Fingers, Bible Studies, women’s retreats, Rescue Mission collections, diaper drives, UMCOR collections, funeral receptions, and others all depend on **you**. We are so grateful for your loving support. Do you have any thoughts or new ideas for activities and or projects? We’d love to hear from you. If you would like to receive an email or phone call when help is needed, or help with one of our ongoing projects, please let us know.
- “Faithful Fingers” (Prayer Shawl Ministry) will be held on Mon., 11/5, 10 AM in room U303. We will also meet on Thurs. night, 11/15, at 7 PM, in room U303. Please come in through the Atrium entrance. We always need shawls, lap robes, baby blankets and hats/scarves for all ages. If you need yarn at any time, please check the closet in the church nursery. It is amazing how our items reach out and touch people with God’s Love. If you would like to learn how to knit or crochet, please come. We absolutely love when we have “new fingers” come and join us.
- Thank you to all who helped with the UMCOR donations. Sharing your love is much appreciated.
- Our Nov Rescue Mission donation - **TURKEYS** and nonperishable Thanksgiving food items. Please call Sue Reitmeyer, 609-652-1390, or email [sjreitmeyer@verizon.net](mailto:sjreitmeyer@verizon.net), to schedule a drop-off time for the frozen turkeys. The final date for the turkeys is Mon., 11/19. As always, used clothes, socks, and shoes are needed. Containers are in the Atrium, Narthex, and Great Hall for all items
- Yes, it’s time to prepare for the **Christmas Angel Tree**. The tree will be in the Atrium on Sun., 11/18. Please stop by and grab a tag off the tree. All gifts need to be returned by Sun., 12/16.
- **Please hold the date!!** Our next Women’s Retreat will be held Feb. 15-17, 2019.



God bless you and please continue to pray how you can be active or support us.

Sue Reitmeyer (652-1390)  
[sjreitmeyer@verizon.net](mailto:sjreitmeyer@verizon.net)

Linda Babcock (646-5675)  
[nanababs09@gmail.com](mailto:nanababs09@gmail.com)

---

## Upcoming Board/Committee Meetings

<b>Trustees</b>	Monday, November 12	7 p.m.	Allen Room
<b>Finance</b>	Tuesday, November 13	7 p.m.	Memorial Room

## The Battle is Real!

“My purse, my purse ...” - I heard Eileen’s panicked voice. As I swung around to see what the hullabaloo was about, I caught a glimpse of her black purse dangling from the hands of a young man in a white t-shirt riding on the back of a black motorcycle.

We had just minutes earlier walked out of the girl’s home we were visiting. We had met with not just the assistant director, which was our plan. We met with the main director, the assistant director and the woman in charge of following up with the girls after they leave the home. We had sat for an hour and half, discussing what happens to the 80 girls that are living in this home - it is like an orphanage, although some of the girls are not orphans, they have just been rejected by their family for some reason or another. Eighty girls - from the ages of 5-18, living in a very institutional like building, yet cared for as best as this government-run facility can manage. The directors explained to us that according to their religious law, adoption is illegal. According to their government laws, the girls must be sent out of the home on their 18th birthday. Not a very welcomed birthday gift for sure. Hope for family and future is dim at best. We discussed what it takes to help these girls receive a continuing education. Through the generosity of some friends, I had taken close to \$1,000 over to help with housing, food and necessities so a few of the girls can continue their studies and have a place to live. A friend of mine that lives there will manage the funds to see that the girls get what is needed.

When the meeting finished, we invited two of the girls to come with us to the market to get a cup of tea and visit some more. I was taking a picture of the girls in front of some beautiful flowers, when I heard Eileen yell out in panic.

We chased after the motorcycle on foot for a short distance. Realizing the futility of running after a motorized vehicle we stopped and let it all sink in - Eileen lost her passport, driver’s license, credit cards, cash and cell phone. We immediately went in search of a police officer and found one tucked away in a VERY sparse office in the middle of the market - picture here a desk and chair - nothing on the desk, just a desk! Thankfully we had a university student with us who spoke English. She had translated at our meeting with the directors and she stayed with us to help with the police. We were sent to a main police station where we spent the next 3 hours or so filling out a report. There are lots of little things to share with you about being in a foreign police station - the fact that very few of the policeman wore uniforms - the guy who took care of us came sauntering up in a NY Yankees t-shirt! They tried a few times to separate us - wanting to take Eileen by herself to an office to try and identify the thief, but we squashed that idea. Besides, the very generic description we could give them was a teenage guy in a white shirt on a black motorcycle. That pretty much described 95% of the motor bikes in the city!

All in all, the police were nice to us and kept apologizing that this happened and told us we were welcomed in their country! After an additional 3 1/2 hours in the police station the next morning - I walked away with the cell phone number of one of the detectives of the criminal division. He told us **WHENEVER** we are in his city, if we need anything to call! Now, some might just do that as a courtesy - this guy has no idea that I will be back and just might take him up on that if I need to!

*(continued on next page)*

*(continued from previous page)*

The short conclusion to this story is that we were able to go to the US consulate and Eileen received a new emergency passport in one hour's time! We headed back to where our next planned event was being held, a retreat for some of the foreign workers. It was a 5 hour drive, but we made it in plenty of time to rest up and greet the women coming the next day!

Both the interaction with the directors from the girls home AND the women's retreat went as well as we could have hoped. We are so grateful for those of you who knew about this and prayed. We were also reminded that we are in a battle - that loving these girls and helping to provide a bright future for them is NOT what the enemy of their souls wants. It was obvious from the beginning that this trip was a real act of pushing against darkness - so we did - "Jersey girl style" and only by God's grace and protection.

Thank you for continuing to stand with me as I go - both Eileen and I felt the Lord's protection on us and knew we were being supported in prayer.

In November, I will teach in a school in Louisville, KY, and then head to Switzerland for the final graduation of the Master's program I have been staffing these last 3 years.

Blessings to you all,

*Lisa Whitaker*

And let the peace of *Christ* rule in your hearts ...



... to which indeed you were called in one body. And be *thankful*.

*Colossians 3:15*



# Our Worship Schedule

## Sunday

8:15 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary  
9:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship in the Great Hall  
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School (for those age 3 [by October 1] and up)  
11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

*Childcare is available during each Sunday service.*

## Our Church Staff

*Pastor:* Christopher L. Miller

*Pastor Emeritus:* Dr. Rollo A. Michael

*Director of Music:* Priscilla Cunningham

*Praise Team Director:* Bob Coulon

*Office Manager:* Kay Stadlmeir

*Office Assistant:* Linda Babcock

*Nursery Director:* Sue Reitmeyer

*KidPraise Leader:* Cassie Poulsen

*Director of Senior Center:* Donna Payne

*Custodians:* Ragip and Jemile Suka

## Publication Deadlines

**Our Friendly Visitor** (monthly e-newsletter) – the 20th of each month.

**The Mainstay** (weekly newsletter for worship services) – each Wednesday at 12 Noon.

**Tidings** (weekly email newsletter) – each Thursday at 12 Noon.

## Website

[www.abseconumc.com](http://www.abseconumc.com)

## Email Address

[abseconumc@comcast.net](mailto:abseconumc@comcast.net)

## Mailing Address

100 Pitney Road, Absecon, NJ 08201

## Office Phone

609-641-1265