



# Our Friendly Visitor

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

## *Choir Rehearsals Resume September 12*

Have you ever thought of joining one of our choirs? Just come to the Choir Room at rehearsal time and you'll be welcomed with open arms! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays (unless otherwise announced).

For more information, please contact Priscilla at 609-377-5718.

### **Cherub Choir**

*age 4 through 2nd grade  
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.*

### **Chancel Choir**

*grades 3 through 6  
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.*

### **Senior Choir**

*adults of any age  
7:30 p.m.*



## September

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

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

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Dear Friends,

Those in church leadership feel it is important for the pastor to interact with Sunday School students and their parents. Therefore, we have been looking to recreate our winter Sunday morning schedule in a way that will allow this, while still meeting the needs of our worship and Sunday School staff.

This new schedule will begin with our normal worship change on the first Sunday after Labor Day and run until Father's Day of next year.

Please know that your presence and prayer support is a blessing.

Grace and peace,

*Chris*

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## September Communion Offering

September's communion offering is designated for Christian Education here in our local church.

Our offerings help purchase curriculum and supplies for our Sunday School, KidPraise and other educational classes and Bible studies that are held throughout the year.



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## Backpack Ministry



Do you or do you know someone who needs help filling that list of supplies the children need for school? Our backpack ministry is stocked and ready to help!!! Email or text your list to Liz Sabath ([tullymars22@comcast.net](mailto:tullymars22@comcast.net) / 609-892-3190) or Tonya Neuweiler ([ejsmom@juno.com](mailto:ejsmom@juno.com) / 609-457-6742) and they will get it ready for you.

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## Men's Bible Study

Our men's Bible study will begin a series on the book of Revelation on Wednesday, September 5, at 7 p.m. in our Memorial Room. Questions? Please contact David Wade at 609-335-5734.



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## Church Nursery Workers



The church nursery is looking for some new recruits. You need to be willing to spend time with little ones while their parents can spend time in worship. This is not a fulltime position, but it is paid. Please contact Sue Reitmeyer if you are interested. Contact info is 609-652-1390 and [sjreitmeyer@verizon.net](mailto:sjreitmeyer@verizon.net).

## New Grounds

We invite you to our new Bible study, New Grounds. We are a group of women in our 20s, 30s, 40s, etc. ... who find ourselves “in-between”—in-between seasons of life... in-between piano lessons and soccer practice... in-between life’s obstacles—all of us at a point in our lives where fellowship and church community is so important.

We are hoping that New Grounds can be a space where we can talk openly about life’s challenges, and learn together how to continue to walk in the path of Christianity and instill the same in our family. We welcome you to the table, and hope that you will join us in conversation, fellowship, tears, and laughter as we all reach for new grounds for our faith. Childcare will be provided.



*Then Jesus became explicit, “Lazarus died. And I am glad for your sakes that I wasn’t there. You’re about to be given new grounds for believing. Now let’s go to him.” John 11:14-15 (MSG)*

Our first meeting was on Tuesday, August 21. Please watch for announcements regarding our next meeting. Need more info? Call or text Jessica Nava at 609-338-9961.

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## AUMC on Social Media



## Rescue Mission Item of the Month

Our Sept. Rescue Mission donation requests are first aid products and over the counter medications. Suggestions are band aids, antibiotic ointments, wipes, aspirin, Tylenol, cough syrups, sunscreens, nasal sprays, etc.



Containers are in the Atrium, Narthex, and Great Hall for all items. *Thank you for all you do for this mission.*

## Upcoming Board/Committee Meetings

<b>Trustees</b>	Monday, Sept. 10	7 p.m.	Allen Room
<b>SPRC</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 11	7 p.m.	Pastor's Office
<b>Finance</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 18	7 p.m.	Memorial Room
<b>Church Council</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 25	7 p.m.	Memorial Room

## United Methodist Women Update

- **Did You Know????** Every woman in our church family is a member of our Absecon UMW. We are all "Sisters in Christ." Our activities vary, they include Faithful Fingers, Bible Studies, women's retreats, Rescue Mission collections, diaper drives, funeral receptions, and others. 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. Do you have any thoughts or new ideas for activities and or projects? We'd love to hear from you.
- "Faithful Fingers" (Prayer Shawl Ministry) will **NOT** be held on Labor Day, Mon., 9/3. We will meet on Thurs. night, 9/20, at 7 PM, in room U303. Please come in through the Atrium entrance. We continue with our on-going project, "**purple baby hats**." The purple hats are given out nationwide as a deterrent to Shaken Baby Syndrome. 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. If you would like to participate, please contact Linda or Sue, or of course just come.
- Our Sept. Rescue Mission donation requests are first aid products and over the counter medications. As always, used clothes, socks, and shoes are needed. Containers are in the Atrium, Narthex, and Great Hall for all items.



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)

## Letter from Lisa

I want to say a huge thank you once again for your on-going support and generosity through personal gifts and the communion offerings. Your financial support as well as your prayers have allowed me to continue to GO and reach out to so many year after year. For this month's news I am sharing my fall schedule and asking if you would please continue to pray. I have given dates of my trips or events that are in the calendar as of now - I may add a few more speaking engagements but this is what is on my schedule. It truly amazes me how God continues to open doors - you all are such a big part as you give and pray. I did want to share a follow up to a previous note I wrote back in June about my friends in Croatia. They DID have their beautiful baby girl - Amariah Hope - her name means "promised by God" and guess what - she was born on MY Mom's 91st birthday! How cool is that!

### Lisa's Fall Schedule 2018

*Here is an overview of my fall schedule with some specifics for prayer. Thank you for standing with me in prayer as I go. I am encouraged by all that God is doing in these different areas and the privilege I have to invest in these lives!*

**Aug. 30 - Sept. 10** - Harvester Wilderness Writer's Workshop Kodiak, Alaska  
This is an opportunity for me to pursue writing a book, a collection of stories from my 27 years with YWAM. I also feel like the people I meet during this workshop will be very significant. There are only 15-20 participants - we will all be together on an island off of Kodiak, Alaska. Prayers appreciated concerning that week, but also what that week might lead into for the future. It is going to be videotaped by RightNow media for an 8 week Bible study entitled - "Your Story for God's Glory." I am so excited! My sample manuscript will be critiqued and reviewed by the group!

**Sept. 16th** - Speaking at Calvary Chapel Hammonton Sunday School

**Sept. 26 - Oct. 8** - North Africa - visiting a Girl's Home and leading a Women's Retreat. I have raised some money to help with the girls who are aging out of the home, which is like an orphanage. Please pray as we meet with the director and those who are working with the girls. The retreat will be for women

working in this country from different organizations - we are expecting between 10-15 women. Eileen Benner will be joining me on this trip.

**Oct. 11-16** - Women's Retreat - Oriental, North Carolina - This is a group of about 20 women from a friend's church in Raleigh, NC - The theme is Your Story, God's Story - similar to the retreat I did for my Master's Capstone project.

**Oct. 19-22** - Hawaii Mission Reunion - Lynchburg, VA. - This is the 50th year reunion of the summer team ministry to Hawaii that I participated in 1985, 1987, and 1989 - my first mission experiences. The leaders of this ministry are former professors and friends of mine. They continue to support me. It will be amazing to be together and remember all God has done in and through these summer outreaches. Mom will be going with me on this trip.

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**October 27** - United Methodist Women Luncheon, St. Peter's UMC - Ocean City, NJ - Speaking at this event.

have been staffing now for the last 3 years. Eileen Benner will also be serving at this event.

**October 28- Nov. 2** - Teaching in School Of Ministry Development - Louisville, KY.

**Dec. 1-9** - Teaching on the 'Life of Jesus' in DTS North Cascades, WA. This is a topic I have been teaching now for the last few years and it really helps the students discover the Bible in a fresh way. One of the things I always pray is that they would finish the week with a greater hunger for God's word, a deeper love for and new perspective of Jesus!

**Nov. 7-20** - Master's Graduation, Burtigny, Switzerland - this is the Master's program I

I plan on being home the rest of December and into the New Year.

I am so grateful for your prayers -

*Lisa Whitaker*

## *Greetings from Guatemala*

Summer Greetings from Chichicastenango! Actually it is winter here, and our rainy season. Everything is green and beautiful. My yard is like a little piece of paradise. A variety of flowers, plants, and flowering trees are abundant. The hummingbirds and butterflies frequent my yard most of the day. God's creation is amazing!

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...." Ephesians 6:7 & 8

"Yet, what ultimately matters most will not be what others say and think about your life but what God does." Rick Warren

"For God is greater than our hearts and He knows everything." 1 John 3

Many people have asked me, "Are you still a missionary?" Yes! Absolutely! And a nurse as well.

A lot of changes have taken place, in me and my ministry, since I arrived in Chichicastenango eight years ago. When I first came my focus was on the Father's Heart Clinic at Aselsi, nursing, and medicine. Now my focus is discipleship, evangelism, care, love, and service to those not only at Aselsi, but within my family and friends here, my neighborhood, and the community.

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I felt God wanting me to make some changes...to step out in faith. With God's help I have been able to take my ministry to a new level. He has me stepping out of my comfort zone, and my call to Chichicastenango is developing and evolving over time. My Savior, Father, faithful Friend has opened many doors for new ministry.

I was reluctant, apprehensive, and a little scared to be honest. All these changes....will I be able to continue to be an effective missionary and servant? WOW! What a ride! God is in control, He knows everything, and has a great plan! There are so many needs, so much love to share, so much care to give, and God/Christ/The Holy Spirit to bring to the lives of so many! My life is exciting, full to overflowing and busier than ever! I never, ever imagined at the age of almost sixty eight, I would be living in a third world country doing full time work for God and loving these precious people. What an experience and opportunity. I know this is not the life some would choose, but I love everything about it!



Thank you for continuing to love me, understand my call, and support me with your thoughts, prayers, and financial assistance. I appreciate you partnering with me in my ministry, more than you will ever know.

I pray for all of you as well and all the work you are doing to serve those in God's kingdom. We are all so blessed to be His children.

Love you, miss you, and am keeping you in my heart.

Blessings always,

*Carol Angelo* (and Suzy too!)

cangelo50@yahoo.com





# 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.*

*\* This schedule begins on September 9 \**

## 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)

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