



# Our Friendly Visitor

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

## *Christmas in July*

Due to increased shipping costs, it is no longer feasible for our church to mail "Christmas in July" Christmas gift bags to ASELSI in Guatemala. However, ASELSI does still have their annual Christmas party. We would like to continue to support this event which brings so much joy to the people that Aselsi serves!

Throughout the month of July, you will find Christmas offering envelopes in your weekly *Mainstay*. Please use these envelopes to donate whatever amount you would have spent on the Christmas bags. (Make checks payable to Absecon UMC.)

At the end of July, we will send our offerings to ASELSI. ASELSI leaders will shop locally, as well as pack and distribute the gifts.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Susan Hackett at 609-641-1706.



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

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

### *See inside for ...*

Local Church News ..... pages 2-5

Missions ..... pages 6-9

Praise in the Park ..... page 10

## Summer Communion Offerings

### July

July's communion offering is designated for ASELSI Ministries in Chichicastenango, Guatemala.



You have been wonderful in expressing your support for this cause (donating shoes, turning cookies into milk, supporting Christmas in July, and so many other things)! Please continue to pray for ASELSI and their vital, meaningful ministry.

### August

Our August offering is earmarked for Lisa Whitaker and her ministry with YWAM. Please see Lisa's update on page 6 of this issue.

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## Rescue Mission Item of the Month

Our July and August Rescue Mission donation requests are towels/washcloths, personal care items, socks and underwear, along with band-aids, first aid products, and sun screens. As always, used clothes and shoes are needed.



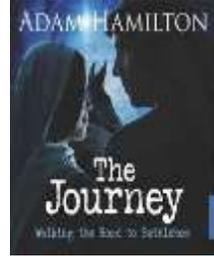
Containers are in the Atrium, Narthex, and Great Hall for all items. *Thank you for all you do for this mission.*



*(Also, the church office will be CLOSED on July 8, 9, and 12. The office will be open on July 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.)*

## Monday Night Bible Study

Monday night Bible study is on a hiatus for the summer and gearing up for our next study: *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton. The study explores the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus Christ with a video that actually “walks” us through the roads to Bethlehem as we follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and others.



First, join us on Monday, September 30, as we “restart” our study with a Make & Take Paint Party with Life Expressions Decor’s Liz Sabath at 7 p.m. (More details to come!) Then on Monday, October 7, in the Memorial Room at 7 p.m., we will begin the first chapter of our new study. (Cost of study book and materials - \$15.)

We certainly hope you can join us! Any questions, contact Barb Sabath at 609-412-5398 or [sabathsabby@gmail.com](mailto:sabathsabby@gmail.com).

## Bible Studies

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

**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)). (*This study is on hiatus for the summer.*)

**New Grounds** -- For women, meeting the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in Room U303 (with nursery provided). Contact Abby Lahr ([akdavis1993@gmail.com](mailto:akdavis1993@gmail.com)) for more info.

## AUMC on Social Media



@abseconumc

## Senior Lunch

Our summer **Senior Lunch** is scheduled for Friday, August 2, at 12 Noon. All Seniors (men, women, couples, singles) are invited to join at the China Sea in Absecon.

We've been having a wonderful time together! If you like, bring a friend. If you know of someone who needs a ride, bring them with you or let us know!



Please RSVP to Becky Lincoln (609-748-0827) or Sue Reitmeyer (609-652-1390 or [sreitmeyer@verizon.net](mailto:sreitmeyer@verizon.net)). We hope to see you!!

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## Upcoming Board/Committee Meetings

<b>Missions</b>	Sunday, July 7	7 p.m.	Memorial Room
<b>Trustees</b>	Monday, July 8	7 p.m.	Allen Room
<b>Investment</b>	Tuesday, July 26	7 p.m.	Memorial Room
<b>Senior Center Advisory Board</b>	Tuesday, August 6	7 p.m.	Memorial Room
<b>Trustees</b>	Monday, August 12	7 p.m.	Allen Room

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## Summer Saturday Blood Drive

Because we have been so successful at our past drives, we've been asked to roll up our sleeves on Saturday, August 24, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. A Saturday date gives those who haven't been able to donate on Mondays the opportunity to be part of our team. I'm also asking you to bring along a friend to help expand our donation base. We'll be serving egg casserole, monkey bread and other sweet treats!



You can call or text Donna Hill at 609-335-7109 for your appointment time or go online at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org). Select either the date or code UMCAbsecon to schedule.

## United Methodist Women Update

- “Faithful Fingers” (Prayer Shawl Ministry) work meetings will be held on Mon., 7/1 and 8/5, at 10 AM, and on Thurs. nights, 7/18 and on 8/15 at 7 PM, in room U303.



Please come in through the Atrium entrance.

We’ll be working on our special projects over the summer months, “purple baby hats,” “blue hats for

teens/adults,” red *Santa-like newborn hats*,” and “Peyton Heart project.” 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 July and Aug. Rescue Mission donation requests are towels/washcloths,

personal care items, socks and underwear. As always, used clothes, socks, and shoes are needed. Containers are in the Atrium, Narthex, and Great Hall for all items.

- Thank you again, for your participation in the “No Baby Wet Behind” collection of diapers and supplies for our local Family Service Assoc. Enough different size packages of diapers gave us **1704 individual diapers**,

39 individual packages of wipes, 13 packages of ointment and shampoos etc. Your



generosity is amazing. Thank you to all who contributed to this important project.

- July 25 is the yearly Women’s Day at the South Seaville Camp Meeting. Festivities run from 12:30 – thru the afternoon. The keynote speaker is Rebecca Small, writer – speaker - singer. Dinner is available at the end of the afternoon. If interested, please contact Sue R. for more info.
- Do you have any thoughts or new ideas for activities and or projects? We’d love to hear from you.

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

Sue Reitmeyer (609-652-1390)  
[sjreitmeyer@verizon.net](mailto:sjreitmeyer@verizon.net)

Linda Babcock (609-646-5675)  
[nanababs09@gmail.com](mailto:nanababs09@gmail.com)



## Walking Ancient Paths

I arrived a few days early to Herrnhut, Germany, due to changes in my overseas flight. My unexpected early arrival gave me some much needed time to prepare and explore. I found myself wandering through the amazing German forest and soaking in the story of the Moravians, a group of Christians that had settled in the village back in the summer of 1722. This group had fled persecution from what is now the Czech Republic and were welcomed by the hospitality of a Christian man, Count Nicholas Zinzendorf. As they began to build homes and establish a village, they named it Herrnhut, meaning “The Lord’s Watch,” desiring the Lord to watch over them and promising they would watch for the Lord.

One of the paths I wandered down was called the sculpture path. This path had pieces of art created along the way that represented some of the story of the Moravians. It began with a large sign that read - I Am the Way - GO. A station that stood out to me was one that was a series of pillars in the form of people. The first set of pillars looked very angry as the people at the top faced each other. The second set had the people looking away from each other and the third set of pillars had the people disassembled in a heap at the base of the pillars. The story is told that after the Moravians had settled in Herrnhut for a while, they began to bicker, fight and disagree with one another. Count Zinzendorf warned them that as believers, they must learn to love one another despite their differences. One day as many of them were walking to church they became convicted of their division and hatred toward one another. They began repenting as they were walking to church and when they arrived to the church building they found that the Holy Spirit was moving in a very “Pentecost” sort of way. They decided to pray for 24 hours a day for one week. God was so moving among their group, they extended the 24 hour prayer time to a month ... and then a year ... and in the end, the Moravians prayed for 24 hours a day for 100 years.

Many moves of God, mission work, and growth in Christianity around the world in those 100 years credited the success of their work to the prayers of the Moravians. John and Charles Wesley were great influenced by the Moravians as was William Carey with his work in India.



*Lisa and the German DTS Group*

I took my class that I was teaching back to the sculpture path later in the week. As this group of young missionaries was preparing to GO, they walked along the path soaking in the story of fellow Christians from 250 years ago. I am certain that we are also a fruit of the Moravians 24 hour prayers. I am quite sure that they prayed for future generations who would also watch for the Lord and GO!

What a privilege to be a part of God’s meta-narrative, to see it first hand and to help others realize that we stand on the shoulders of and walk along the paths of many who have faithfully gone before us.

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There are lots of stories to tell you from the past few months. If you have some time, please stop by the Turquoise Table this summer and we can catch up! The Table is in my front yard; you can't miss it!

Thank you for your prayers and support ... I'll include my fall schedule in the next newsletter.

Love,

*Lisa Whitaker*

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## *Greetings from Guatemala*

Love and blessings upon blessings from Chichi! Happy Summer! I pray that you are enjoying some much better weather and a whole lot of sunshine. The rains have come to Guatemala. This is our rainy season. Everything is green and beautiful.

I am praying for each and every one of you, think about all of you often, and keep each of you in a very special place my heart.

Romans 8: 28-29 - "We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him ..."

God uses problems to draw you closer to Him. God has a purpose behind every problem. The Bible says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those who are crushed in spirit." Problems force us to look to God and depend on him instead of ourselves. God's plan for your life involves all that happens to you, including your mistakes, your sins, and your hurts. God knows what is best for you and has your best interests at heart. "Rejoice in the Lord always." No matter what is happening, you can rejoice in God's love, care, wisdom, power, and faithfulness (author Rick Warren).

The month of May kept me running! God provided lots of activities and ministry opportunities for me. I started off the month in Montellano, near the coast, at Clinica Ezell. I was there helping to recover and take care of 69 surgical patients that had general and gynecological surgeries that week. It was a wonderful week with an amazing team, but exhausting due to the patient load, nurse shortage (does that sound familiar), lots of hours, and the heat and humidity. I love every minute of it though! I will return there again in August, if all goes well.

My weeks are busy dedicating one full day per week to work in a Medical Clinic with Health Talents International. Another day I participate in a feeding program



*Carol and a patient*

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with Manos de Jesus for an afternoon. I have two Bible studies per week, Spanish class, and I visit children in the orphanage in my neighborhood one morning or afternoon a week. Several times a month I make cakes and cookies in my home to serve to friends, bless neighbors, or sell to individuals or groups. My kitchen is one of my “happy places.” Love keeping busy! I want to live my life to the fullest serving God and others.



*Women's Group*

Each month I get together with some of the women in my neighborhood to celebrate birthdays and special occasions. We have a lot of fun! May was my month to cook! I spent two days, standing in the kitchen, preparing a huge garden salad, lasagna, toasted garlic bread, cheesecake with cranberry topping, and hibiscus tea for 16 people and served them all, as well. I was pleased with the results, but quite tired. The next day I decided to rest, but in the afternoon spent almost 2 hours, bending over, working in my yard.

The next morning, Friday I could hardly move and had excruciating pain in my rear end and down the backs of both legs. I called my friend the physical therapist to come check me and help me. She determined that she felt it was muscular with nerve compression. We called my orthopedic surgeon who felt the same but told Jenn I had over done it “big time.” I ended up in bed for the next two days or so with strict orders to do nothing, use ice, and take medicine. Gradually during the following week the pain eased up and I was moving around better. Saturday my friend took me into Guatemala City to meet my doctor, Dr. Edgar. He did a thorough exam, told me I needed to slow down, and take better care of myself. I stayed in his home for the weekend with his family, so he could watch me. We had a lovely time together. Monday he took me to the hospital for CAT scans of my pelvis, hips, and lumbar spine along with lots of other studies I have annually. Results: My latest hip replacement joint is loose. About eight months ago I dislocated it and it had returned to position simultaneously, but not completely. I also have issues with my lower and upper lumbar spine. Probably years of abuse from my nursing career! Praying that with physical therapy, more rest, decrease in activities, and medicine, my hip will return to its rightful place and the back will be better. I am taking it slow and being careful, but I will not give up and want to live my life fully!!! I am a fighter! Guess I “ran” a little too much last month!

I don't know if you remember my little boy Wilmer that I sponsor in pre school. Please pray for him and his family. After a 6 month battle with cancer his 23 year old mother died. Wilmer (five years old) and his brother (eight months old) are with his step father. I pray for protection and a near normal upbringing for them.



*Carol and Wilmer*

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I am asking for prayers for my 91 year old aunt who is struggling with congestive heart failure and high blood pressure. Auntie B Bingham is like my second mother and always has been. I spend a lot of time with her when I return to NJ. (See photo of Auntie B.) I adore her and just want her to be comfortable.

Today is the 50th anniversary of my high school graduation. This September I will be returning to NJ to visit family and friends, and to attend my 50th high school reunion from Millville Senior High School. Where have the years gone!

I miss all of you a great deal. I appreciate, more than you will ever know, your continued love, friendship, prayers, encouragement and support. Have a great summer!

Blessings and love always,

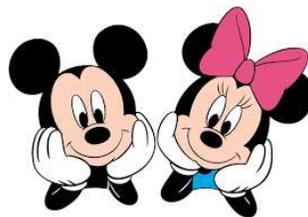
*Carol*

Carol Jane Angelo RN  
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Chichicastenango, Guatemala  
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## Summertime is Vacationtime

How do you like to spend your summer?



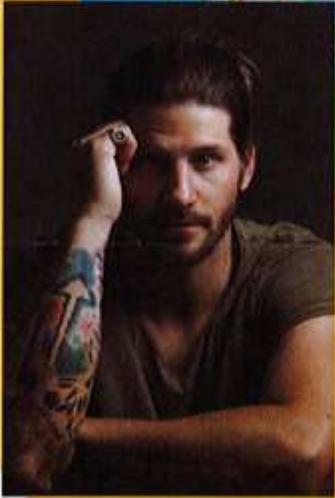
Please remember this summer, while you're off enjoying adventures with your friends and family, your church is still back home here in Absecon. We are open nearly every day, providing ministry space to our Senior Center, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Adult Children of Alcoholics. We will have two worship services on Sundays (from Father's Day through Labor Day weekends), and our music ministry continues throughout the summer months.

We hope that you have lots of fun in the sun this year, but also please remember that the church will be open. If you plan to be away for a few weeks, it would be a blessing if you would keep up with your tithes and offerings during that time.

Thank you!

**PRAISE**  
IN THE  
**PARK**

**MUSIC FESTIVAL**



**David  
Dunn**

**AUG  
10TH**

11:30AM-5:00PM

Cape May County Park & Zoo

# Our Summer Worship Schedule

## Sunday

9:05 a.m. – Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary  
9:15 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. – Contemporary Worship in the Great Hall

*Childcare is available during each Sunday service.*

## Our Church Staff

*Pastor:* Christopher L. Miller  
*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

### Facebook

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### Instagram

[www.instagram.com/AbseconUMC](http://www.instagram.com/AbseconUMC)