

Ministry for the week of May 19, 2024

1 message

Atlantic Highlands Navesink United Methodist Church <ahumcoffice@102591326.mailchimpapp.com> Wed, May 15, 2024 at 11:14 AM
Reply-To: ahumcoffice@gmail.com
To: ahumcoffice@gmail.com

Hope Anchors The Soul

At the Atlantic Highlands Navesink Church
A Seaside Sanctuary

Love God - Love People - Welcome All

96 Third Ave, Atlantic Highlands NJ
www.anchorumcnj.org
ahumcoffice@gmail.com
732-291-0485



**9:15 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship In Person
and Streaming Online
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School**

Quinn Chapel Hands Only CPR 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Annual Conference via Livestream 7:00 p.m.
visit gnjumc.org/ac2024/.**

Streaming online via [Facebook](#)

YouTube worship available for viewing after Noon Sundays
[YouTube](#)

For Bulletin, **Podcast** or more information visit www.anchorumcnj.org



Atlantic Highlands Navesink Family and Friends,

We only have few topics left to explore. During worship we will cover, “Are You Afraid of the Future?” Next week here in the newsletter we will

cover questions about heaven which will include a conversation about Jewish, Muslim, and Christianity. For today, we explore the question, **“why does the Lord give some people who are not able to provide for a child, give them his grace and not give to a couple who desperately want a child?”**

I think it’s important to have some clarity around this question: a child is not God’s grace. God’s grace is forgiveness which we can, and do, experience at every point of life in one way or another. Grace is entirely independent of one’s parental status. A child is not God’s grace.

So, why does God give children to those who can’t provide for them but doesn’t give children to those who desperately want children?

This is a question that is hard to answer. It’s one I spend quite a bit of time asking myself. For the roughly 20% of couples who are intentionally looking to conceive, our standard answers do not satisfy the question. Even if you’re looking at couples who have experienced infertility and are looking to adopt, there are an estimated of 1-2 million couples waiting in the US alone and roughly 110,000 have completed the adoption process each year. Not to mention the process can be between \$20,000 and \$45,000. There are many couples who are looking to have children and are unable or delayed at becoming parents. There are just as many who have lost children to illness and tragedy.

And yet, there are over \$400,000 children in foster care. Sometimes they are in foster care temporarily as their parents walk through a significant challenge in their personal lives that has impacted their ability to care for their children. Sometimes, reunification never happens. Sometimes, they are orphaned with no additional family willing to take them in. And sometimes, it’s because biological parents recognize that they are unable to adequately care for a child.

Often when we talk about children, we say that “children are a gift from God.” When someone is experiencing any of this pain, we tell them to “keep on praying.” We remind them of the story of Abraham and Sarah who desperately wanted a child, and trusted God to give them one. Their story is one with a

happy ending. But even if those seeking to be parents pray fervently, faithfully serve, and trust in God, they don't always get the child they are hoping for. Even though our current medical technology provides ways for parents to have biological children in ways that we could not expect but not everyone has access to these treatments or a desire to engage in these complex procedures. Plus, illness and tragedy do strike, causing parents to lose their child in utero and after they are born.

This is the moment where it is really important to remember that we live in a world that has been tainted. It is a world in need of redemption, *and* it is actively being redeemed. A part of me wants to say that children go to those who can't seem to provide because of choices that the parents made. Because of those choices, there are children who are not receiving the care they need. So, those children are temporarily removed from the care of their parents while the parents get the help they need. With our gift of free will, this is going to be difficult to change.

That said, the UMC fully supports families and children who are a part of the foster care system as well as those who have made the difficult, and brave, choice to relinquish care of their child because they know that they cannot provide what the child needs. I wonder if part of that redemptive process is when those who can provide for a child, taking in and working with the children and families who reside in the foster system, or outright adoption.

That said, I wonder if the answer to this question is not about God, and more about us. Why don't we, as a society, see non-traditional forms of parenthood as valid options of a family's journey? I know having biological children is a completely different experience than fostering or adoption. I know the process of IVF is entirely different than what we would call natural conception. And some may be saying, "how could someone who hasn't had any of these experiences be speaking about it at all?" This is a question at the forefront of my mind many days because I may one day fall into the category of desperately wanting, but unable to have.

I wonder if it's not a question of God giving, but God responding to people who are hurting and us joining in that response.

Check back next week for more!

Blessings friends,
Pastor Nicole

Annual Conference



This weekend on May 19th – 21st, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will be celebrating the ministry that has occurred throughout the conference, celebrating retiring, newly ordained and commissioned clergy, and others who have answered the call to ministry as a vocation. Be in prayer for Carolyn Conover who represents this church during the business portions of the conference. For livestreams of all worship services (including ordination) and plenary sessions visit gnjumc.org/ac2024/.

Sunday, May 19 - at 7:00 p.m. Livestream

Monday, May 20 - from 8:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. Livestream

Tuesday, May 21 - from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Livestream

Special Charge Conference



There will be a Special Charge Conference to finalize the church name change on June 3rd at 7 pm via Zoom. The Zoom link will be available the week before.

"Questions to God" Series

Let me know if you missed out on the last few weeks and want to know more! Check out the link below as our podcast explores "What is the Bible and Why are There So Many Versions?" Join in this week for more exploration on infertility below and "Are You Scared of the Future?" during worship!

<https://bit.ly/Hope-Anchors-the-Soul-Ep-16>

Job Opportunities

Job Opportunities

Atlantic Highlands UMC is looking for an **Audio-Visual Coordinator** and a **Worship Musician**.

If interested, please fill out an application at

anchorumcnj.org/job-opportunities

Or call 732-291-0485

Staff positions of Worship Musician and Audio-Visual Director are opening up this summer. Find out more information at

anchorumcnj.org/job-opportunities

Ordination Celebration



SPR is planning a celebration for Pastor Nicole's Ordination.

ALL ARE INVITED

On June 2nd at the Navesink Firehouse at 2:00 p.m.

Food will be served.

Monetary, peanut & gluten free desserts & donations welcomed.

Email ahumcoffice@gmail.com

to **RSVP by May 19** or use QR code



Suggested donation - \$25 p/adult \$20 p/child

Questions? Text Vicki Molokie at **917-693-6436**

Come join us in the celebration of Pastor Nicole's ordination.

Please **RSVP by May 19th**.
Drop your donation at the office or in the church mailbox.

<https://form.jotform.com/220255095374152>

Podcast

“Hope Anchors the Soul”

Join Pastor Nicole and Connor as they talk about forgiveness and music

bit.ly/Hope-Anchors-the-Soul-Ep-16



Hope Anchors the Soul

We are looking for special guests to unpack the sermon through questions you have! Schedule your time with our Audio Visual Director, Connor Hackett, today!

Fellowship

Sundae's on Sunday



NICHOLAS CREAMERY,
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS
JUNE 9 @ 1:00 p.m.

Promotion Sunday



Sunday, June 9



AHNUMC YOUTH GROUP
Sunday, June 2

At 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Grades 6 - 12

Scholarship



Thank you to all our bakers, vendors and shoppers at the Town Wide Yard Sale. We had tons of happy customers, the vendors and bake sale table did very well and we raised over \$200 for our scholarship fund!

See you next year

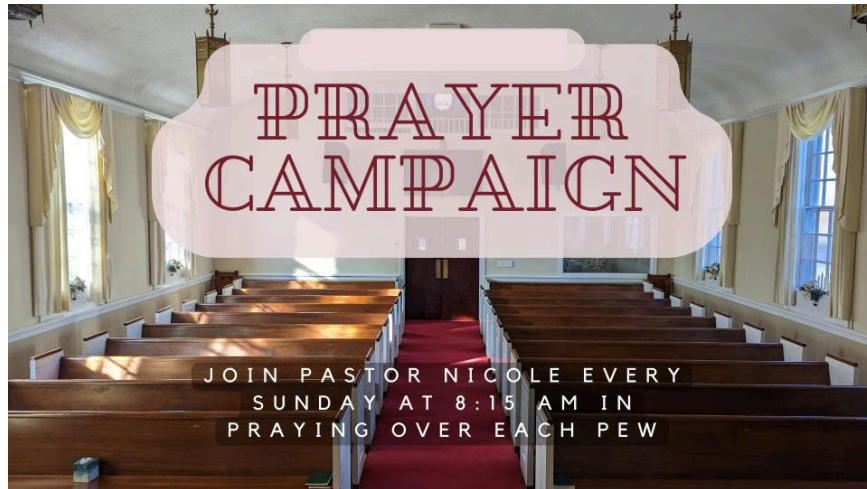
PEACE LIGHT

The Peace Light

Keep the flame alive!
Sponsor a peace light today!



Join Pastor Nicole in praying for this faith community!



Food Pantry

Thank you Atlantic Highlands Community for participating in the National Post Office Food Drive. It was a huge success!



Church Calendar

Please Join With Us In Mission and Ministry

Thursday, May 16

Food Pantry

Bible Study

9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

Food Pantry	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 19	
Service of Worship In Person & Online	9:15 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Quinn Chapel CPR Class	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Annual Conference via Livestream	7:00 p.m.
visit gnjumc.org/ac2024/ .	
Monday, May 20	
Annual Conference via Livestream	8:30 - 5:45 p.m.
Girl Scouts	3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Trustee Meeting	7:00 p.m.
AA Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21	
Annual Conference via Livestream	8:30 - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 22	
Open Door	9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Al Anon Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 23	
Food Pantry	9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Food Pantry	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 26	
Service of Worship In Person & Online	9:15 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Monday, May 27	
Church Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
AA Meeting	7:00 p.m.



OFFICE HOURS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - for the week of May 19

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	9 to 12 p.m.
Wednesday:	9 to 12 p.m.
Thursday:	9 to 12 p.m.
Friday:	Closed

Want to meet with Pastor Nicole? Click here to sign-up: <https://calendar.app.google/J9BFBmqRxE1W7ETf8> If none of these times work for you, send an e-mail at pastornicolehamilton@gmail.com or a text to (732) 359-2189 to find a different time.



We Pray For.... For the community, for those that are hungry & the World.

Our Maturing Disciples.... Connie Binder, Dave Hermanson, Edythe Daley, Janet Hofmann, Lynda Abrams, and Bob Schoeffling.

Our College Students... Abigail Spears, Emma Strehl, Patrick Seeley, Megan Seeley, Nick Donahue, Christopher Carrier, Josh Winters, Alyssa Curry, Rett Schnoor, Scott Melski. and Ellie Conover

We Keep in Prayer: Our family, our friends, neighbors, the church, the community, the world, and all God's children everywhere.

****Prayer warriors are made up of 12 disciples . This team of disciples will pray from the privacy of their homes for any request.**

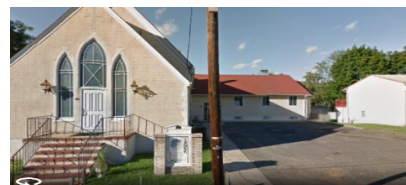
Contact the Office if you have a request to share.

If you know someone is in the hospital or needs pastoral care, please contact **Pastor Nicole at 732-359-2189 or email pastornicolehamilton@gmail.com.**

Thank you for helping us care for all our members!

Community News

**QUINN CHAPEL AME CHURCH,
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NJ
Needs Our Help!**



Greetings Friends, Family, Sister Churches and Neighbors,

This is an invitation to attend 3 - American Heart Association workshops to help Quinn Chapel AME Church raise funds for church repairs.

****No cost to participate.**

Quinn Chapel simply needs your attendance and participation in 3 workshops (two workshops on Zoom and one in person).

The first Zoom session is the "Meaningful Engagement & Reaching Out to Your Peers" – FRIDAY APRIL 19 at 7PM on Church Zoom – 966 983 670 code 260849

Each participant is required to complete online survey to verify attendance

- Online Workshop Two “Emergency Preparedness Part One” – FRIDAY, APRIL 26th at 7 PM on Church Zoom
- In- Person Workshop Part Two - Hands Only CPR with Mannequins –
***Date & location to be announced
- Attend all 3 Sessions and your name will be entered for an opportunity to win a \$50 gift card
- ***Quinn Chapel needs to reach 500 people for each session to receive the funds for church repairs
- Please help us invite people to attend the Zoom sessions and In-person – Hands Only CPR event

Thank you in advance and God Bless!

Pastor Natalie Mitchem and the members of Quinn Chapel AME Church

Denominational News

Helpful Links

- [United Methodists of Greater New Jersey](#)
- <https://tinyurl.com/pdjuy6eb> Newsletter
- [The Upper Room](#) devotionals.
- [Greater New Jersey Facebook Page](#)
- [UMC Global Ministry](#) - Connecting the church in mission
- [UMC Church and Society](#) - Exploring our calling for personal and social holiness for justice.
- [UMC Discipleship Ministries](#) - Resourcing for making disciples



Share



Forward

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United Methodist
96 3rd Ave
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-1233

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