

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com
abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Heart and Head

January 18, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Pam Stearns

Welcome

Prelude Fugue on "Ave Maris Stella" Jean-François Dandrieu

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: We come, ready to serve you with our head AND with our heart.

Leader: Convince us, Lord, to love every part of us the way you do.

People: Remind us, Lord, that both our hearts and our minds are essential to who we are. And you created us this way. Amen.

Hymn**Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love**

1. Blest be the dear u - nit - ing love that
 2. Joined in one spir - it to our Head, where
 3. O may we ev - er walk in him, and
 4. We all are one who him re - ceive, and
 5. Par - tak - ers of the Sav - ior's grace, the

will not let us part; our bod - ies may far
 he ap - points we go, and still in Je - sus'
 noth - ing know be - side, noth - ing de - sire, noth -
 each with each a - gree, in him the One, the
 same in mind and heart, nor joy, nor grief, nor

off re - move, we still are one in heart.
 foot - steps tread, and do his work be - low.
 ing es - teem, but Je - sus cru - ci - fied!
 Truth, we live; blest point of u - ni - ty!
 time, nor place, nor life, nor death can part.

Opening Prayer

God of our whole selves, today we ask you to stir our hearts and meet our minds. We offer ourselves fully so that your grace might wash over all of who we are – leaving no part behind. Form us into thoughtful and compassionate disciples so that our very lives tell the story of your love to the world. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

Aubrey, Avery, and William Stearns
 "The Baptismal Covenant II" Hymnal Page 39

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Chorus Bind Us Together

Bind us together Lord,
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together Lord,
Bind us together, bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King:
There is only one body, that is why we sing:

Bind us together Lord,
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together, bind us together in love.

Senior Choir Sing Joyfully Don Marsh

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson Mark 12:28-31

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Message

Heart and Head

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory Medley arr. John Innes

Doxology Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with

me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was

meant to be. *With God our cre-a-tor,

chil-dren all are we. Let us

walk with each oth-er in per-fect har-mo-ny.

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment
now. With ev - ery step I take, let
this be my sol - emn vow: to take each mo - ment and
live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

Benediction

Postlude

O Worship the King

J. Michael