

Connections

Word of Grace...from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3: 22-23

As we enter into the New Year of our Lord, 2022, many of us leave behind the pain and sorrow of 2021. It has been a time of fear, worry, and disease. For others, it has been the best year of their lives. Yet, many around the world and locally, have had a season of great heartache and loss. Whether we know it or not, whether we believe it or not - God has carried us through the deep waters.

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." Isaiah 43: 2. WE are yet alive!

The Bible is filled with God's promises that help us to stay focused on God as our Helper! May our prayer life reflect those men and women of the Bible, who prayed and found God's counsel, wisdom, and hope during their times of greatest need. Thank God for carrying you through your trials, tribulations, and difficulties. May we be ever more aware of our need for God and His strength and power, available to us on our toughest days.

God assures all God's people: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* Jeremiah 29:11.

Let us hold onto God's promises! Let us rest in our Heavenly Father's loving embrace as Immanuel, "God is with us." This Hebrew name appears in the Book of Isaiah as a sign that God will protect God's people. May these reminders propel us into a New Year, 2022 for we walk into the future with Jesus our Savior and Friend. "So we say with confidence, *"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*"

Hebrews 13: 6-8.

Pastor Amy Peters



P.S. Thank you, thank you, and thank you again, Atonement Church! Mark and I so appreciate your prayers, your support and word of encouragement during our illness over Christmas. God took very good care of us.

SAV



A card or phone call to our Homebound friends would Certainly brighten their day!

FEBRUARY

- 3 Samantha Blevins
Jackie Wanstall
- 5 Ken Persing
- 8 Tim Armstrong
- 9 Ron Schmidt
- 11 Marc Peters
- 12 Irene Parker
- 19 Nancy Furman– Hargis
- 22 Pastor Amy
- 26 Timmy Armstrong

Helen Albright 302-764-0684
16 N. Rodney Drive
Wilmington, DE 19809

Jean Eck 302-764-2309
c/o Debbie and Bob Clark
2 Bell Hill Road
Wilmington, DE 19809

Marty Hargan 302-798-5781
Captains Deck
7807 Governor Printz Blvd.
Claymont, DE 19703

Gerri Kaut 302-654-5587
244 Sandra Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

Frank Kerr 302-798-7601
8 Fairfield Road
Claymont, DE 19703

Darla Laramore 302-439-4814
319 Chapel Ave, Apt A
Claymont, DE 19703

Barbara Lee 609-802-2488
1302 Lighthorse Lane
Claymont, DE 19703

Florence McDowell
2215 Shipley Road, R24
Wilmington, DE 19803

Jim McQuage 302-478-1358
4 Dolores Ct
Wilmington, DE 19810

Jack Scott 610-485-6574
1310 Cherry Street
Boothwyn, PA 19061

February Message Series

God's Word

February 6

"The Bible and You"
2 Timothy 3: 13-17

February 13

"Pay Attention"
Hebrews 2: 1-4

February 20

"Power in the Word"
Hebrews 4: 12-13

February 27

Pastor Jeff Preaching

*"Kindness is like snow—it
beautifies everything
it covers."*

**Make A Friend, Be A Friend,
Bring a Friend to Atonement Church.**

155th Anniversary Celebration

United Methodist Church of the Atonement (UMCA)

November 13, 2021 - Held in Fellowship Hall (Built 1927)

What a wonderful celebration evening was had by all who attended the 155th anniversary of Atonement church. To every person who did anything to make that happen, I am truly humbled and thankful! As I mentioned that evening, there is no "I" in Event Planner. It was a culmination of each and every person pitching in and helping.

Planning the event took the core planning team, set up / take down teams, caterer, food donations, kitchen clean up, speakers, AV, music (including two flash mob songs), special visitors and our very own senior VIPs. There were even attendees who came up to me and asked what they could do and then pitched right in that evening. One volunteered to drive a couple of people home. Another did a store run when oops, we forgot what?! I could go on and on. You know who you are and what you did. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Each and every person there was celebrating UMCA -- our 155 yesteryears, things we do today and inspirations yet to come!

Thanks be to God and volunteers one and all.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas season.

- Roberta Berger

UMCA Special Events Planner



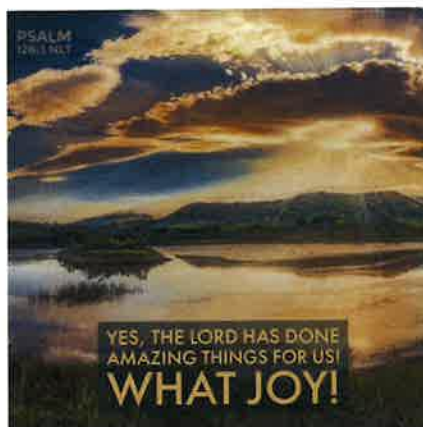
The Deadline for next newsletter is Feb . 17

Please send all information to be included in the newsletter to:

Lynn Peters
umcatonement@comcast.net.

If you leave anything for the newsletter in the Church Office, please put your name on it so I know who to contact if I have a question.

Thank you, Lynn Peters



United Methodist Church of the Atonement

3519 Philadelphia Pike

Claymont, DE 19703

www.atonementchurch.net

302-798-8472

Lead Pastor Amy Peters

302-218-5896

Youth Pastor Jeff Peters

302-932-1878



Bible in a Year

We would like to recognize those who have completed reading the Bible in 2021: Laura Calzone, Bill Grant, Mark Peters, Cindy Scalise, and Arlene Skotnicki

ATONEMENT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Christmas Bazaar was a huge success! Thanks to all who contributed and participated in our 2021 Bazaar. Because of everyone's generosity we profited \$846 in just a short period on Sunday from 8:30am until 4:30pm. Thanks to Pastor Amy for her support of this activity & the foresight to extend Bazaar from closing from 2:30 to 4:30. That allowed people attending the 3pm Christmas Concert to browse and purchase items. What a blessing ... \$846 will surely cover postage for a lot of Operation Christmas Child boxes!!!

FREEDOM FAITH MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

From Youthful Desire to Godly Devotion
The next generation of leaders
(17 to 30ish yr. old)

DATE:
February 19, 2022
10 AM TO 5:00 PM
(DOORS OPEN @ 9:30)

LOCATION:
New Life Church
2712 Old Milltown Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19808

REGISTER ONLINE AT
<https://www.freedomfaithministries.org>

COST: \$20 at the door
(cash or check)

LUNCH BREAK: 12:00 to 1:00
(LUNCH NOT PROVIDED)

SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

SPEAKERS



REV. MIKE & MARIA OSMAN



Andrew & Christina VanDyke



Kaleb Moten



2022 Committee on Nominations

Leadership Team

(Lay Leadership Team):

Lead Pastor: Amy Peters

Youth Pastor: Jeff Peters

Lay Leader : Mary Ryan

Ex-Officio Lay Delegate: Tom Bailey

Kathy Delacy, Ed Hearn,

Mark Peters,

Laura Calzone, Steve Calzone

Karen DeJong, Shirley Ibrahimovic

Cliff Werline.

Pastor Staff Parish Relations

Committee:

Class of 2022

Nancy Furman Hargis

Fay McCall

Steven Ashiara

Class of 2023

Crystal Eckenroad

Debbie Clark

Audrey McCullough

Class of 2024

Pat Defeo

Walter Mitchell

Tom Bailey—Chair

Ex-officio (with Vote):

Mary Ryan

Committee on Finance:

Chair: Kathy Delacy

Treasurer: Ed Hearn

Ex-officio: (with vote):

Tom Bailey

Pastor: Amy Peters

Youth Pastor: Jeff Peters:

Finance Secretary: Matt Yoder

Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

Lay Member to Annual

Conference: Tom Bailey

Chair of Trustees:

Mark Peters

SPRC: Tom Bailey

Recording Secretary:

Marc Peters

Members at Large:

Class of 2022

Marc Peters

Class of 2024

Mike Jones

Lisa Perry

Richard Perry

Board of Trustees:

Class of 2022

Whittona Burrell

Gregg Ryan

Ron Schmidt

Class of 2023

Adam Golden

David Lang, Jr.

Class of 2024

Mark Peters

Marc Peters

Mary Richards

Education Team:

Pastor Amy Peters

Pastor Jeff Peters

Ellie Kwick

Vicky Packard

Krista Anthony

Becky Daswick

Valerie West

Music

Director of Music:

Maria Bezilla

Outreach Team/Missions;

Pastor Amy Peters

Karen Dejong— Chair

Jane Anne Weist

Earl Pullman

Evangelism Team

Chair: Cliff Werline

Pastor Amy Peters

Pastor Jeff Peters

Kathy Bailey

Tom Bailey

Laura Calzone

Rebecca Daswick

Pat Defeo

Bill Grant

Mark Peters

Liz Tryens

Sandy Vidro

Worship Team:

Chair: Steve Calzone

Pastor Amy Peters

Pastor Jeff Peters

Altar Guild: Fran Hershberger

Chief Usher (Traditional):

Lynn Peters

Chief Usher (Branch): Mary Ryan

Communion Stewards:

Arlene Skotnicki, Cindy Pascuzzo

Greeter Coordinator:

Alberta Maris

Music Director:

 Maria Bezilla

Linda Keim

Acolytes: Lynn Peters

Altar Flowers: Lynn Armstrong

Audio/Visual Coordinator:

Joseph Pukatsch

Livestream Coordinator:

Christopher Peters

Steven Simpson

Contemporary Worship Leader:

Laura Calzone/Marc Peters

Hospitality Coordinator:

Mary Ryan

Newsletter: Lynn Peters

United Methodist Youth (SURGE):

Pastor Jeff Peters

SURGE Volunteers

Tom and Patty Bailey

Pat DeFeo

Karen DeJong

Alberta Maris

Lynn Peters

Arlene Skotnicki

Scholarship Team:

Chair: Mark Peters

Stephen Ashira

Adam Golden

Amanda Scarborough

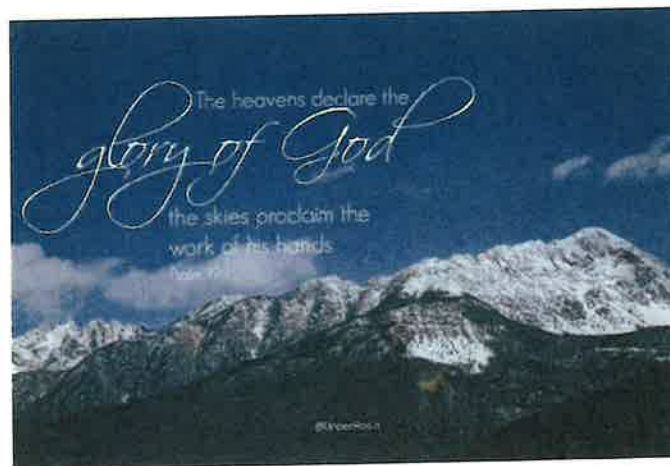


The Life Group CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED went very well. For seven Wednesdays this Fall, we had as many as 35 people come to our church to have dinner with us and to engage in a discussion about Jesus. A good number of these people had never been to our church and in fact don't attend church anywhere. Everyone learned more about the redemptive work of Christ and what it means for all of us. This course gave everyone in the church a good way to reach out to their unsaved or unchurched relatives, friends, neighbors, or acquaintances. At least one of the guests, after being given a tour of the church and a personal invitation, is now coming to services. Another man has been working to repair the stucco of Atonement's education building.

Many of the people that you are in relationship with may not necessarily come if you invite them to a church service, but if you invite them to a dinner, they are much more likely to come. Furthermore, the fact that the format is a small group discussion around the dinner table makes it completely different than the standard (and rejected by much of the world) church format. Today especially, people crave relational connection, and courses like Christianity Explored and the Alpha Course offer that. The shared meal and friendly atmosphere can open the hearts of people that may not normally be open to a discussion about the faith. It also enables people who are fearful about not knowing what to say if they got into any in-depth discussion about their faith. With this course, all that was done was to invite prospect friends to come to the dinner, and everything else happened as God worked around the table.

The other benefit of this arrangement is that we are training and raising up small group leaders; we had a leader at each of six tables. The leaders are Pastor Amy and husband Mark, Sandy Vidro, Tom Bailey, Pat Defeo, and me. We are seeing good fruit from Christianity Explored already.

Cliff Werline



Life is a circle of happiness, sadness, hard times, and good times. If you are going through hard times, have faith that good times are on the way.

Urban Promise **Urban Promise Luncheon** is the second

Tuesday of February 8. We are in need of volunteers to help keep this outreach going! We are in need of help in preparing the lunches on Tuesday morning and donations of **fruit and dessert**. Call Lynn in the church office if you are able to help in any way. **THANK YOU!!! GOD BLESS YOU FOR FEEDING THE HUNGRY.** Donations can be left in Welcome Center.

CHESTER BETHEL THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers on Mondays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Please contact the Thrift Shop at 302-475-3022 if interested.

TRANSPORTATION:

If you are interested in providing transportation to members to come to church on an as-need-basis, please contact the church office.



URBAN PROMISE
W I L M I N G T O N

Urban Promise feeds their Upper Academy breakfast. They are in need of cereal bars, fruit (bananas and apples) and granola bars. If you would like to donate, please leave it at the Welcome Center desk. Monetary donations are also welcome, checks made out to Urban Promise.





Thanking God for Atonement's Sanctuary Choir and this year's Christmas cantata! Encore! Encore!



Knollwood Students are in costume already for acting out the story of the birth of Jesus



Knollwood Community Center annual Christmas party with Archmere students, Santa, presents, snacks, and the Grinch, too! A great time for all!



Kidmo kids singing happy birthday to Jesus at the Branch Worship Service



Elizabeth Kelly's Christmas Concert at Atonement.

FOOD CLOSET MINISTRY

Our Food Closet serves many people in our church and community. On average, we are handing out 20 bags/month. We want to continue serving our community and beyond but need your help.

We are currently in need of:

cans of fruit and vegetables
soup
crackers
apple sauce
pasta sauce
jelly and peanut butter
rice and instant potatoes



Please note that we cannot give out food past the expiration date. Please check the expiration date before donating to our food closet. Thank you!



BOOK COLLECTION:

Archmere Academy students built a community library box which is located right outside the front of the church near the bus stop. We are asking for donations of books for all ages. They can be new or used books. You can leave them in the library box or drop them off in the Welcome Center.

Change for Clean Water



Thank you for your continuous support to provide a pure-water drinking well to a country where uncontaminated, clean water is desperately needed.

Water jugs for your coins can be found the Welcome Center area. (Any coin or bill will gladly be accepted). In 2021, we collected \$227.70 to date for a total of \$3847.05.



FEBRUARY 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 Worship Mtg 7:00 AA Meeting	2 7:00 SPRC Meeting	3 6:00 Knollwood Teens Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 Pizza Pals 7:00 SURGE Youth Group	5 9:00 Evangelism Prayer Meeting 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30 AA Mtg
6 10:10 Ellie Kwick Feedback Session "The Bible and You"	7 7:00 AA Mtg	8 7:00 Leadership Mtg 7:00 AA Mtg	9	10 6:00 Knollwood Teens Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00 SURGE Youth Group	12 9:00 Evangelism Prayer Meeting 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30 AA Mtg
13 10:10 Ellie Kwick Feedback Session "Pay Attention" Hebrews 4: 12-13	14 7:00 Finance Mtg 7:00 AA Mtg	15 7:00 Trustees Mtg 7:00 AA Mtg	16	17 6:00 Knollwood Teens Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00 SURGE Youth Group	19 9:00 Evangelism Prayer Meeting 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30 AA Mtg
20 10:10 Ellie Kwick Feedback Session "Power in the Word" Hebrews 4: 12-13	21 7:00 AA Mtg.	22 7:00 AA Mtg	23	24 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 SURGE Youth Group	26 9:00 Evangelism Prayer Meeting 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30 AA Mtg
27 Pastor Jeff Preaching 10:10 Ellie Kwick Feedback Session	28					Traditional Worship Service 9:00 a.m. The Branch Worship Service 11:00 a.m.