

# Connections

## *Word of Grace from the Pastor....*

In order to resolve the decades-long controversy in our denomination over biblical authority and interpretation, the time has come for Atonement Church to prayerfully consider whether to stay with the United Methodist Church (UMC) or to join the new Global Methodist Church (GMC). This decision will be made by a vote of our congregation at a time still yet to be determined.

I have been asked numerous times why we have not been actively pursuing this topic over the past two-plus years. Well, we have been exceedingly diligent in following this! We have been continually praying, gathering information, waiting patiently for details, and discussing options that are constantly changing since the 2019 UMC's Special General Conference.

At that time it was agreed by the UMC to address the "Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation" (the Protocol) and bring it to a vote at the 2020 General Conference. The Protocol was widely believed to pass to allow churches to amicably separate from the UMC and join the GMC. The Protocol as well as numerous documentations are available in our church office as well as online.

The UMC meets every four years with the world-wide General Conference. This conference sets the "rules" of the UMC and are reflected by changes made in our Book of Discipline, and not surprisingly, the 2020 General Conference was postponed due to COVID. Since that first cancellation, there has been pandemic interference along with a vast amount of misinformation that has now led to a third postponement. The 2020 General Conference is now scheduled for 2024. There is no longer an amicable separation in place.

This situation has brought out the worst behavior of some leaders, much like we see today in our own country's politics. Therefore, the time is here for us to learn together and explore our options in order to make an informed prayerful decision. I implore all of us to pray and continue praying for the separation of the United Methodist Church that is inevitable at this time. A house divided cannot stand (Matt. 12: 25).

The challenges we face are many, such as understanding the depth of the division facing the UMC over what we believe and how we live out our beliefs. Included are the different sets of rules for disaffiliation which differ from one conference to another. The bulk of the financial burden to disaffiliate at this time would require Atonement to pay two years of apportionments (currently about \$38,000 per year, x2 about \$76,000). For some annual conferences, the burden and obligation of other financial payments include 50% of all church assets: mission and memorial funds, buildings and land.

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**MAY**

**Message Series**

**“Psalms of Worship”**

**May 1**

Holy Communion

“God’s Glory”

Psalm 8: 1-9

**MAY 8**

**MOTHER’S DAY**

“God’s Revelation”

Psalm 19: 1-14

**May 15**

“Born Again”

Psalm 27: 1-14

Cliff Werline preaching

**MAY 22**

“The Lord God and King”

Psalm 29: 1-11

**MAY 29**

Memorial Day

“To God Be the Glory”

Psalm 150: 1-6

Pastor Jeff preaching



*In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

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

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

**Adrian Dejong** 302-793-1068  
2402 Garfield Ave  
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 and Doris Kerr** 302-798-7601  
8 Fairfield Road  
Claymont, DE 19703

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

**Florence McDowell**  
2215 Shipley Road, Room 24  
Wilmington, DE 19803

**Jim and Marge McQuage**  
4 Delores Court  
Wilmington, DE 19809

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

**Anna Shewbrook**  
Kutz Home  
704 River Road  
Wilmington, DE 19809



She is clothed in strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:25-26

Parkway Church

Continued from page 1

The theological divide between the United Methodists and the Global Methodists produces competing visions for the Kingdom of God. In order to live out what God has called Atonement Church to be, we share the same vision, values, beliefs, and missional efforts. We hold onto the Covenants of God's Word, knowing we can flourish as we remain true to God's will and plan for humankind.

The bottom line is that many other denominations have split over biblical integrity. My hope and prayer for Atonement Church is and has always been to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and see people being saved by grace, set free, and healed to live out their lives as I have, with one hand holding the Bible and one hand outstretched to help people.

May God pour out His grace and mercy on Atonement Church as we enter into this season of change.

In His Service,

*Pastor Amy*



**PECOMETH CAMPERSHIPS:**  
**Summer is right around the corner.**



- 3 **Jeremy Ryan**
- 5 **Fay McCall**
- 8 **Tom Bailey**  
**Todd Bezilla**
- 11 **Voni McMinn**
- 17 **Walt Mitchell**
- 19 **Daniel Yoder**  
**Elijah Scarborough**
- 26 **Nathan Yoder**
- 31 **Valerie Pilkington**

Yes, Camp Pecometh will be open this summer for Summer Camp. Why not sign your child or grandchild up for summer camp? The 2022 Summer Camp Program registration is open. A week of camp is filled with faith, fun and fellowship in a Christian community where they make new friends, grow spiritually and gain confidence. Atonement is offering basic camperships of \$599.00 to the youth of our church; however, campers are responsible for the \$50 registration fee. If the registration fee is a hardship for families, contact the church office to have it waived. You can find more information at [pecometh.org](http://pecometh.org).

## **UPDATE ON WAYNE HENDRICKSON**

Wayne Hendrickson, his wife and 3 children arrived safely from Ukraine into America and are now staying with his mother. They are looking for a different living situation, a house to rent or to purchase. Their daughter is enrolled in Red Lion Christian Academy. Wayne's wife's brother, Ostop, is on the front line in the Ukrainian army and is in need of prayer coverage. Wayne's wife and daughter are applying for their green card to help them travel more efficiently between the two countries. Wayne hopes to return to Lviv and asks for helping prayers in all these matters.

*O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136: 3-4*

## **CHRISTMAS AT SEA 21-22**

The generous spirit of over 127 contributors—church groups, clubs, scouts, businesses, individuals, families, and numerous anonymous donors, made the 2021 Christmas at Sea program a resounding success. In all, 1060 ditty boxes were delivered to ships starting in November through February. The crews receiving the gift boxes were elated because many on the ships had now received a gift during the holidays. Thanks to Atonement Church's donations and to Randy Keim for coordinating our efforts.

**HELP NEEDED**...one of our Senior Citizens is in need of a studio or one bedroom apartment, preferably in this North Wilmington area. Contact is Pastor Amy, 302-218-5896.

## **Q & A about *The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation***

**Between Worship Services SUNDAY, MAY 22 FROM 10:10 – 10:50 am in Sanctuary**

After working for years to renew and reform The United Methodist Church, in late 2019, theological conservatives joined with leading UM Church bishops and leaders to develop an amicable plan to divide the UM denomination. That plan was to be approved at the 2020 General Conference, but the General Conference (world-wide) has been three times postponed. As a result, the Transitional Leadership Council decided to launch the Global Methodist Church, while advocating the passage of the Protocol at the General Conference, now scheduled in 2024.

Included is a list of websites for you to visit and learn more about this all-important matter. Pastor Amy will be scheduling more Chat & Chews, Q & A's, and venues that vary in day and time for all to have the answers they need before any vote will be taken. Atonement Church will ultimately have a church conference and vote to move forward in the way of the Lord. Amen.

**Global Methodist's Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

**Global Methodist's Vision:** To join God in a journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of Christ to all people, and to helping each person reflect the character of God.

**Websites for more information**

[goodnewsmag.org](http://goodnewsmag.org)

[globalmethodist.org](http://globalmethodist.org)

[wesleycovenant.org](http://wesleycovenant.org)

[Wespath.org](http://Wespath.org)

[umca.org](http://umca.org)



**Oh, BABY!**

**It's the Baby Bottle Benefit**

**For The Door of HOPE!**

**May 1 thru May 15**

A faith-based, medical facility operating under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician, providing pro-life ministries. Your donation will help women choose life for their unborn child. This Mother's Day, celebrate life for babies! Offerings can be made using Door of Hope envelopes, or designate in check memo or outside of plain envelope. Donations may be mailed into office as well.



Our church choir and special guest trumpeter, Jill Bacon, performing Easter morning.



Fellowship time between services.

## BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

5/2	at 7:00 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant High School Instrumental Concert
5/3	at 7:00 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant High School Instrumental Concert
5/5	at 7:00 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant High School Choir Concert
5/7	at 7:00 p.m.	Concord High School Instrumental Concert
5/9	at 7:00 p.m.	Talley Middle School Choir Concert
5/10	at 7:00 p.m.	Concord High School Choral Concert
5/16	at 7:00 p.m.	Talley Middle School Instrumental Concert
5/19	at 6:30 p.m.	Brandywine High School Dance Show



### Knollwood Sports Camp 2022

Summer is quickly coming upon us! Who will help with our annual Vacation Bible School, also known as Sports Camp? The children are already asking if we can have Sports Camp. We would need snack people, leaders, amateur coaches, small group leaders for the Bible study portion, and setup/takedown help. It will take a team effort! Contact Pastor Amy who will be happy to help! 302-218-5896.



Remember -  
our fallen heroes.  
They are the reason  
that we are free.

## Five Ways to Keep Growing After Easter...from Pastor Amy

Keep growing "YOU"...don't neglect your spiritual growth in new and creative ways.

Get involved in Outreach! Help around church with gardening, mentoring a new Christian or youth! Do something to improve our church or our world!

Witness to one person a week. Let someone know God loves them! Offer to pray for them, right there for 30 seconds! I bet they won't turn you down!

Do something for yourself- GO FOR A WALK! Your heart will be healthier in so many ways!

Reach out to Atonement's elderly and homebound. Every month they are listed in the Connections newsletter and your call/visit/card could make their day!

*"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11)*

With the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, Atonement Church enters into the church season of Eastertide. We also experience the 50 Great Days between Easter and Pentecost Sunday. May it be a time of happiness, blessings, and rejoicing for us- Easter people! God says in God's Word that followers of Christ can have heavenly joy, regardless of circumstances! "A happy heart is good medicine *and* a joyful mind causes healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." (*Proverbs 17:22 AMP Bible*). Our April 24th worship hour of Holy Humor Sunday had us remembering how God turned the table on the devil with an Easter surprise of raising Jesus from the grave! It was a day of laughter for the redeemed of Christ who danced and sang for their liberation from sin and death! Thanks to all who shared in the fun with a joke! Here's one last one, told at The Branch by Steven Simpson: Why did Adam and Eve have to do math every day?....."Because God told them to go, and be fruitful and multiply!" Hold onto God's joy!

Interpretation from one of Atonement's aspiring theologians

For 1 Corinthians 15: 9-10

True humility is not convincing yourself that you are worthless, but recognizing God's work in you. It is having God's perspective on who you are and acknowledging His grace in developing your abilities and gifts. Recognizing God's work in me is recognizing His light and life in me. Simply mind blowing! Wrap your mind around this for a while today!

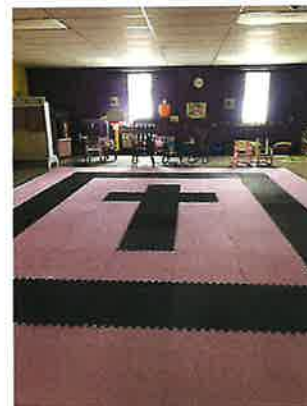




SURGE continues to go well. Recently we've been focusing a great deal on the ordering of the Bible's contents, both to create a deeper and more effective understanding of the broader narrative of the Gospel, as well as to assist our youth in better locating, contextualizing, and understanding what's going on in the Bible at any given point. We have found some success, though the process has revealed to me that too many of our youth have not been adequately exposed to trying to learn about what is in the Bible, let alone deepening their understanding and recollection of its message and verses. As such, I have renewed my efforts to focus in on these matters, to give our youth the background in the Bible they need to best apply it to their lives, and fortify their knowledge so they may stand firm in their faith and beliefs. SURGE will be wrapping up soon for the Summer, though the date is still unclear. We will likely be hosting an end of the school year lock-in soon, possibly on May 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, though we are not yet certain about this. While I would love to attempt to plan out some Summer activities for the youth, but I do not believe my availability this Summer will be conducive to doing so. As part of my Seminary education, I will be spending the Summer doing a Clinical Pastoral Education internship at Christiana Hospital as a chaplain, an experience that I'm sure will be massively beneficial for me, though one that I know is going to be very time and effort intensive in its demands. As I look ahead to the upcoming semesters, I will also be engaging in my Theological Field Education courses at Atonement, which will allow me to perform another mandated internship within the bounds of our Church, given that I am actively employed here, and could not reasonably divide my time with another congregation. This will involve some congregational participation, in which I will need to pick some people at our Church to assess me as part of a committee, which I'm hoping some of our fellow congregants will be willing to assist me with. I am also currently scheduled to preach a number of times this Summer, which I'm hoping will give me further opportunities to share God's Word with you all, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I continue to be thankful to have this opportunity to serve in ministry in this Church I have grown up in, and for all the support I receive not only from this congregation, but for the experience and support this position has given me towards my education. I hope I will continue to serve satisfactorily and joyfully on behalf of all of you.

Pastor Jeff Peters

**WOO HOO!! YIPPEE! WAY TO BE!** Thanks to Andrew and Vivian, two high school volunteers who spent hours at Atonement Church over their Spring break to make our church even more special! They totally refurbished our church library, cleaned and organized our Education Supply Room on the second floor AND totally cleaned, sanitized and organized our Nursery for OUR children. They also spent several hours reorganizing our AV equipment- labeling it and organizing it. Finally, they cleaned out our Carol Choir/Resource room on the first floor and prepared it for the trustees to renovate. Special thanks to Grandma Arlene Scotniki who suggested Atonement to Andrew and Vivian!  
KUDOS TO ALL!



## **MEDIA ADDICTION...DID YOU KNOW?**

*Teen screen time per day is 16 hours.*

*Teens spend only 16 minutes per day of educational content*

*Students check social media 100 times per day.*

*1 in 8 gamers are addicted.*

*Kids with smartphones- 100% more likely to view pornography.*

Poor emotional wellbeing leading to mental health crisis, including depression, isolation, & anxiety disorders.

Learn more [www.DelawareFamilies.org](http://www.DelawareFamilies.org)

### **Newsletter Deadline is May 23**

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.

### **United Methodist Church of the Atonement**

3519 Philadelphia Pike  
Claymont, DE 19703

[www.atonementchurch.net](http://www.atonementchurch.net)

302-798-8472

Lead Pastor Amy Peters  
302-218-5896

Youth Pastor Jeff Peters  
302-932-1878



## **The National Day of Prayer: Praying for Our Nation**

Our nation is in a time of turmoil and uncertainty — in our government, our economy, our churches, our health care. Please intercede for our country. Let's cry out to God on behalf of the people in our land.

**THURSDAY MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 10:00-12:00 NOON IN CHURCH SANCTUARY**

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

### **Key Points**

- People across our nation are turning their backs on God.
- If Christians humble themselves before God, GOD will heal our land.
- God's Word commands us to pray for all those who are in authority.

**Scripture Study** 1 Kings 18:21-39; Psalm 133: 1-3; Nehemiah 1:3-11; Isaiah 64:9  
Joel 2:12-13; Matthew 18:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Ephesians 4: 1-6

## **SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES**

**Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 Wesley Covenant Association 6th Annual Conference** simulcast at Cornerstone UMC in Bear. RSVP before event: \$15.00. Learn more at [WCA.org](http://WCA.org) or contact Church office.

**Thursday through Saturday, June 16-18 Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference** Event will be on Zoom, contact the Church office for more information.

# Essence of Dance

*a choose your own ending opera*



Students at UrbanPromise Academy have been working with soprano Elizabeth Joy Kelly to write a script weaving together eight opera arias. The project, entitled *u choose*, is a creative and innovative framework inviting the audience to participate in a choose your own ending opera. Performances will feature a chamber ensemble. Elizabeth is a recipient of an individual artist grant through the Delaware Division of the Arts American Rescue Plan.

**Friday, May 13th @ 1pm**

Church of the Atonement  
3519 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE



**Sunday, May 15th @ 5:30pm**

Church of the Atonement  
3519 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE



*u choose* 



This concert is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com.

# 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 can not give out food past the expiration date. Please check the expiration date before donating to our food closet. Thank you!



## 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. We have collected \$4,120.40 to date

Water jugs for your coins can be found the Welcome Center



Anyone that has a flag that can no longer be flown or anyone that has a flag that needs to be disposed of can contact Steve Calzone (302) 898-9816 who will properly dispose of the flag.



Our newly established Disabilities Ministry and Support Group has already made an impact on Atonement Church. This group meets the last Sunday of each month in Room 102 at 12:15 after The Branch worship. The members have stepped right up to the plate to be greeters and help those in need to use the new stair chair on Sunday mornings. Also, Liz Tryens, (coordinator of this group) invited a guest speaker for the April meeting, Dr. Susan Koogan, who spoke to a full room of very interested people. Her wisdom and counsel were excellent for everyone in attendance. It is not easy to navigate the medical field with chronic health issues. Dr. Sue said she would be happy to return to Atonement and help this ministry continue to provide valuable support to those in need.

*God could not be everywhere, and therefore, he made mothers. Rudyard Kipling.*

