

Connections

Word of Grace...from the Pastor

"Yes! The Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!" Psalm 126:3

I am so very grateful for all the good things going on at Atonement Church! Atonement Church is making an impact in the Claymont Community and Beyond, fulfilling its mission to

"Connect the Claymont Community and Beyond to Christ."

I still believe God has given us a mandate and a priority to *"Go! And make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I AM with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28: 18-20). In June we had the honor of sharing a substantial monetary gift with Samaritan's Purse and the Sunday Breakfast Mission, which will provide much needed funds to Ukraine, as well as downtown Wilmington. Both of these parachurch organizations are faith-based and work across denominations to share the Gospel and meet the needs of people in love. Also in June, Atonement families from Kidmo and the S.U.R.G.E youth group enjoyed an evening at Bellevue State Park's fishing pond (see photos in this newsletter). What fun! The kids loved it and all of them had the thrill of catching a fish or two! Thanks to Tom Sterling for sponsoring this event.

Atonement's Annual Celebration of Baptisms and Church Picnic held on July 31st was great fun, fellowship and food! We had four first time baptisms and about 12 persons who remembered their baptism, including Pastors Amy and Jeff! What a beautiful and memorable day it was! Once again, thanks to all the Trustees and Hospitality Team for making this a wonderful success.

In August, we had a great team of helpers with the Knollwood Community Sports Camp, 2022 (also known as Vacation Bible School). Even though it was extremely hot the week Sports Camp was held, it was very cool how everything worked out so well! Thanks to every single person who made contributions in any way to this Evangelistic outreach to the kids. The elementary age students really enjoyed the sports, the half-time break with lots of snacks, and best of all- they were hungry and thirsty to learn more about Jesus in their small groups. They insisted we come back again for Bible study this Fall, which we are working on adding another Bible study to the two already in progress at the Community Center.

Finally, Atonement Church in partnership with the Knollwood Community Center, sponsored 4 students to attend Camp Pecometh this summer. These young people had the times of their lives and parents were very grateful. Together with the community center, a back-to-school party in Knollwood offered students free book bags, school supplies, and children's books! Almost 100 book bags were given away! These Knollwood outreach efforts are funded by inheritance money left to HOPE Community Church. Thanks be to God for the mission work of Atonement Church! It's been a great summer in so many ways.

I am looking forward to all the good things God has in store for us this Fall! We have truly enjoyed God's favor in our worship, fellowship, and missional work. Oh, how I hope and pray that Atonement Church will carry on its legacy.

in Jesus' Name.

Pastor Amy Peters



September

- 7 Perry Blevins
- 9 Victoria Hofferth
- 11 Bob Clark
- 14 Lynn Armstrong
- 15 Nathan Lang
- 17 Ken Northwood
- 19 Marian Humphrey
Pat Jenkins
- 20 David Lang
- 22 Sarah DeBerardinis
- 23 Beth Smith
- 25 Lois Hopper
Arlene Skotnicki
- 26 Christine Ryan
- 27 Paula Knutson
- 30 Frank Kerr



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

Sarah Deberardinis 302-322-4046
142 Dunsinane Drive 302-482-5175 (cell)
New Castle, DE 19720

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 & 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 & Marge McQuage 302-478-1358
4 Delores Court
Wilmington, DE 19809

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

September Message Series Evangelism Series

September 4
Labor Day Weekend & Communion
"Saved By Grace"
Ephesians 2: 8; Romans 10: 9-10

September 11
Cliff Werline preaching
"The Power of Your Testimony"
Revelation 12: 11

September 18
"The Great Banquet!"
Luke 14: 16-23

September 25
"The Four Spiritual Laws"
John 3: 16; Romans 6: 23;
John 14: 6; John 1: 12

Fall Jubilee

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday
October 21, 22, & 23**

ATONEMENT CHURCH'S

**Guest Evangelists & Pastors
Kenny Davis and Kim Davis**

**IT'S GOING TO BE
HOLY SPIRIT WONDERFUL!**

Saturday, September 24th

Dinner and Discussion on Disaffiliation
Welcome Center at 5:30pm

Come! Join your Atonement Church family
for further discussion on the UMC split.
Your attendance and your voice is important!

EMERGENCY DOOR EXIT

The back doors of Atonement's sanctuary are designated as emergency exit doors, effective immediately. For the safety of our congregation, we are identifying this for emergency use only. Sorry for any inconvenience. We are trying take preventive safety measures and appreciate your cooperation. (Per Trustees)

Connections

**The Deadline for the next
newsletter is September 19th**

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

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS MOVIE FOR SEPTEMBER :
Sunday September 18th at 3 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Free popcorn and refreshment.

An epic journey, faithfully adapted to modern-day English. The pilgrim, Christian, faces distractions, challenges, and perils at every turn of the way. But ends victorious, with helpful guides, as he stays on the narrow path to the distant Celestial City (Heaven). Enjoy the movie and fellowship as preparation for October's message series on our spiritual journeys.



**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



SURGE Youth group has started back. We meet Friday at 7-9pm. Pastor Jeff Peters is the Youth Director. SURGE is open to all middle and high school students. SURGE offers a place to be yourself, fellowship with others, do service projects and learn more about your journey with Christ. For more information contact Pastor Jeff at 302-932-1878, text or call and email at Jeffrey.peters98@gmail.com.

Attention: All Ladies of Atonement Church!

Starting September 19th Rebecca's Circle will Start an exciting new year. Arlene Skotnicki and Debbie Clark will be Co-Leading the group and we are super excited about the plans God has for us as we do our part of "Connecting the Claymont Community and beyond to Christ". We are hoping that our September meeting will be a brain-storming and planning meeting. Our Circle hopes to meet the 3rd Monday of every month @ 7:00 in some of our members homes. We will be doing a Bible Study, so if you know of any good ones bring your ideas with you. We also want to do outreach and support Atonement Church in projects that they are doing. We have a lot of ideas and can't wait to get started. We will be meeting this month at Arlene Skonicki's house, 311 Lighthouse Rd. Wilmington, DE 19809. Please call Arlene at 764-4384 or email her At arleneskotnicki@gmail.com to let her know if you can make it. We can't wait to see you.



USED CAR NEEDED:

One of our young adults is looking for a used car, one that is in good shape and gently used! He is a wonderful, hardworking young man who has saved money for this purchase. Call the Church office or Pastor Amy (302-218-5896).

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEFF

After a long Summer of our congregation's youth clamoring to return, the SURGE Youth Group has finally begun again as of Friday, August 19th. It was a joy to see all the kids again and to have them all come together in fellowship again, and for us all to begin discussing and planning what this year would look like as we all continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and as the Body of Christ. We are in discussion of various ways that we can begin to expand our activities as the youth group, with a focus especially on how we can begin to enter more into the service of the Church, seeking how the youth might serve our congregation and our community in order to give of ourselves as Christ gave Himself for us. We are still trying to think of ways to begin acclimating the youth into this part of the Church's life, and what would be feasible with our given resources, abilities, and schedules, and while we have a few really good ideas so far of where to start, I hope that anyone in the congregation that has any ideas or opportunities they may have access to will feel free to contact me with them, or even help us to set out on these paths. One place we will definitely be starting in is assisting the food ministry that our Church has been carrying out for so long, where we will have the youth begin bagging and taking inventory of our food closet stocks, so that we can do what we can to support this vibrant and critical ministry that our congregation is involved in. So far, we have also seen many members of our youth group who have been away for a while make their returns, and we have hopes of others returning to us as well in the near future, which will only serve to build up this wonderful youth group and expand our ability to grow together as the Body of Christ, as well as hopefully new members, as we have also been encouraging the youth to begin involving their friends and other family members. Anyone in the congregation who knows of any youth of the appropriate age, either that you're acquainted with or who is a part of your family, please feel free to put me in touch with them, or to send them out to youth group some Friday night, and we will be overjoyed to receive them, and to incorporate them into this holy and wonderful fellowship.

Our youth have done many wonderful things this Summer, but as for myself, I just finished a 3-month chaplaincy internship that I was doing at Christiana Hospital in Newark. While tiring and quite difficult in many ways, it was an extremely rewarding, fulfilling, and affirming experience, and I saw God at work in so many ways even in the darkest and most painful of situations. I feel blessed that I have been able to acquire such experiences and growth through the Holy Spirit and by God's grace, and I hope that I will have the opportunity to utilize these new gifts within our congregation, to be of greater service to this Body of Christ.



FALL LIFE GROUPS COMING SEPTEMBER 15 – NOVEMBER 16

A **Life Group** is a gathering of 3-8 people on a scheduled time with the common purpose of discovering and growing in the possibilities of an abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Why join a Life Group? To connect with God and other Christians as followers of Jesus.

What kind of Life Groups are there? Bible study, DVD & Book studies, service and mission groups, affinity groups, fellowship and prayer groups.

When and Where? This is determined by the Host & Facilitator. Life Group display will be in the Welcome Center after Labor Day to learn more and sign up.

LIFE GROUP NEEDS HOST AND FACILITATOR

Lee Strobel's *THE CASE FOR HEAVEN (AND HELL)* is an investigation of the evidence for the existence of heaven and hell. Lee makes the case about heaven, hell, and near-death experiences—giving understanding of the afterlife that makes the difference in how you live today. Anyone interested in a short term study to learn more about this topic? Atheist-turned Christian and award winning editor of the Chicago Tribune provides evidence for an afterlife that actually exists. Looking for facilitator and host for this Life Group: a 5-week study, DVD led, and host place can be in our Church library. Hoping for a Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. group, meeting in the Church, if necessary. Contact Pastor Amy 302-218-5896.

Coming Sunday, September 25th! LIFE GROUP KICKOFF!

Below is a list of current Life Groups, or the possibility of current groups. See the display in the Welcome Center or in Sunday's bulletin to check day, time, location and leaders for Fall Life Groups. Groups run 4-8 weeks, finishing up the week of November 13th.

Affinity Groups

Bell Choir
Sanctuary Choir
Knitting for a Need
Prayer Quilts
Walking Friends

Study Life Groups

Discipleship Explored: Philippians
40 Days: Prayer for the Lost
DVD/Book: Case for Heaven
DVD/Book: The Return of the Gods
Pizza Pals

Prayer Groups

Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am
Saturdays 9:00-10:00 am

Women's Group -

Rebecca's Circle

Men's Group -

The League

Service Life Groups

Knollwood After School Bible Study (Thursdays)
Knollwood Life Group—Service Projects

WRITE WITH JESUS
By Linda Waltersdorf Cobourn, EdD

Do you have a "Jesus story" to share? Everyone does! For the past six months, our church blog, "Walking with Jesus" has featured my own experiences with the Lord. Now that the site is up and running smoothly, it's time to invite others to share their own walks! Has God done something special in your life? Tell us about it! Have you felt a special closeness to God? Write about it! Has God blessed you in a specific way? Shout about it! Would you like to let others know about your relationship with God? Teach them about it! My plan is to gather a group of people who would like to share in the blog ministry. You don't need to be a writer to participate, you just need to have a story to tell of God's goodness in your life. In the upcoming small groups cycle, I'd like to lead a class on "blogging for Jesus." Interested? Please contact me at linda.cobourn05@gmail.com.



Sunday, September 11th in honor of Patriot's Day, Holy Rosary is having its annual memorial service at 3:00pm at Holy Rosary Church for this 21st Anniversary. Atonement Church is invited to come, honor, and pray for all those who gave their lives in the Global War on Terrorism. Also, it is a time to thank and honor all the community servants who were first responders to the tragedies associated with 9-11.

On Sunday, September 11th, Atonement Church will take time during its Worship Services to remember and pray for First Responders and their families who suffered tremendous loss on that day.

HEY KIDS & PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & GUARDIANS
ATONEMENT'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
IS DOING A NEW THING THIS FALL!

Our Church Nursery will lovingly be caring for children ages 5 and under during our worship services: from 9-10 and 11-12 Noon.

The Early Elementary students will be meeting for KIDMO in the Church Nursery during the Branch Worship, 11-12 Noon, as well. These children will be having Bible Study together, snack, and activities/crafts related to their lesson for the day.

For young people in Grades 4-7, Mrs. Valerie West will be leading Bible Study with other adult volunteers that have a heart for our youth! The pre-teen youth will be meeting in the S.U.R.G.E Youth Room from 11-12 Noon.

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6- "Train up a child in the way they should go (teaching them to seek God's wisdom and God's will for their abilities and talents), and when they are old they will not depart from it."

WALK TO EMMAUS

What is the Walk to Emmaus? The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program to strengthen the church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. It is a non-denominational 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciples of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. It is offered in the fall and spring,

The Walk to Emmaus is offered through local Emmaus groups around the world, including the USA, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Germany and India.

Emmaus is an experience in which Christians of all sorts come together. It is a weekend that gives participants an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of their faith in God, to receive the transforming grace of our Lord, to relate closely with other persons who are seeking a deeper faith, and to rededicate their lives as members of the body of Christ called to ministry in the world.

For additional information you can contact Laura Calzone at 302-353-2761.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The will of God is not like a magic package let down from heaven by a string...the will of God is far more like a scroll that unrolls everyday. The will of God is something to be discerned and lived out every day of our lives. It is not something to be grasped as a package once and for all. Our call, therefore, is basically not to follow a plan or a blue print, or to go to a place to take up a work, but rather to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

By Paul Little's booklet "Affirming the Will of God"

EMPOWERMENT MINISTRY GROUP

The Empowerment Ministry Group is a group of people with disability and no disabilities that meet the last Sunday of every month at 12:15 p.m. in Room 102. This group is to help the disabled see themselves as God does and mainstream them into the church family and provide a safe place for fellowship. Empowerment is defined as being given the power and authority to accomplish a task.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

September 25, October 30, November 27, December 25—dinner, and January 29.

Learn more, contact Liz Tryens at 302-246-0383.

Getting To Know Cliff Werline

My name is Cliff Werline. I was essentially raised to be an atheist, but in April 1985 I got saved and began to follow hard after God. The church I attended was led by Gary Whetstone, an apostle who had been to Rhema Bible School. I very quickly became an altar minister, home group leader, and evangelism leader. The church exploded from a handful of people to over 1000 in those two or three years because there was a constant stream of salvations, people being baptized with the Holy Spirit, and miracles of all kinds. I also spent nearly 10 years holding services and preaching the Word at a rehab center called the Peniel Recovery Center and at the Sunday Breakfast Mission. Currently, I am semi-retired. For Atonement Church, I lead the Evangelism Team. I also oversee the development of Life Groups and assist Pastor Amy in developing Atonement Church to be all that God intends for it to be.

**THE WILL OF GOD WILL NEVER TAKE ME
WHERE THE GRACE OF GOD WILL NOT PROTECT ME.**

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Back-To-School Prayer

Dear God,

Please bless all children in this new school year. Give them strength to learn, concentrate and act in love towards their classmates. Watch over them at home and at school. When days become challenging, grant them peace and relaxation, knowing that Your patience, wisdom and courage is excellent in every way. Guide them in their mind, thoughts and body so they may use the knowledge gained to build your kingdom. We thank you for this new school year and ask that you bless the students, families and faculty that make school such a wonderful place.

In your name we pray!





Pastor Amy presenting check to the
Sunday Breakfast Mission



5TH SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
7/31



5TH SUNDAY BAPTISM
BY IMMERSION



BAPTISM OF KINSLEY MARIE CLOUGH



Pastor Amy and Mark outing with the
grandchildren



Fishing outing at Bellevue Park



Abby Calzone at Fishing with Tom Sterling.



Anna Anderson Fishing at Bellevue with Tom Sterling



Zoe Coates Fishing at Bellevue with Tom Sterling



Steven Simpson at Camp Pecometh



Andrea Ryan arriving at Camp Pecometh



Joey Brumbaugh at Camp Pecometh with friend Austin



Steven and Ryan Simpson on vacation at Lake Norman



Lynn Peters on vacation with her husband celebrating their 30th anniversary at the Finger Lakes

Let Us Help Our Young People Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus Our Savior!

The Knollwood Community Center was a busy place this summer with Atonement/HOPE Community Church providing funding for 15 students to attend 8 weeks of 4-H Summer Camp. Funds were also provided to send 4 Knollwood students to Camp Pecometh this summer for a week of fun, friends, and learning about Jesus! The three boys and one girl had the time of their lives and of course, they didn't want to come home on Friday! Our church hosted and sponsored the annual Mega Sports Camp from August 1 to August 4. It was a great Vacation Bible School! Thanks be to God for all the helpers, including Coaches, Group Leaders, the Mega Mascot (who did a great job!), hospitality helpers, donors of food and sport supplies: I CANNOT THANK ALL THE MANY WORKERS ENOUGH FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT OUTREACH! Most recently, the Knollwood Community Center sponsored a Back-to-School event, which distributed almost 100 backpacks, school supplies, and free books for the students of Knollwood! Once again, Atonement Church was able to sponsor this effort with funding from the Shirley Wilson inheritance. I thank God for everyone, who did the least to the greatest of things to make this year's Sports Camp a success.

Sincerely appreciative,

Pastor Amy.



HOW, DEAR LORD, MY GOD CAN I BETTER BE A LIGHT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD?

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
soup, rice, pasta
crackers
apple sauce, pasta sauce,
Pancake mixes and syrup
jelly and peanut butter
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!



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).



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.

To The Atonement Church Family,

This serves as an introduction to the following transcript from Rob Renfroe, President of Good News, and a Methodist pastor. The transcript is from the first video in a series of 6. I ask all of you to please watch these videos as they clearly and concisely explain what has happened and what is happening to the United Methodist Church and why it is happening.

In the video Rob states that: ***“For the past 40 years I have been a United Methodist pastor. I never thought I would be anything else. But I have decided that it’s time to leave the UMC because the UMC has left me. More importantly, the UMC has in many, many ways left Wesley. And even more importantly than that, the UMC in many, many ways has left the Bible. Here’s the first thing I hope you’ll hear. The United Methodist Church as you have known it is going away.”***

I sincerely hope that you all would watch these 6 videos; they are all about 12 to 15 minutes in length. The United Methodist Church is splitting and we all need to know what is happening before we decide to either stay with the UMC or to disaffiliate and become a Global Methodist Church. There will be a church conference most likely this fall, with our District Superintendent, where a vote will take place. Before making a decision we all need to be well informed and these videos are extremely helpful in that.

On YouTube search for “Rob Renfroe Videos” to find the 6 videos. It is suggested that they be watched in numerical order. If you have not attended one of Atonement’s 6 gatherings (there will be more) that address this issue you really owe it to yourself to watch these videos.

I end this message with words from Rob Renfroe: ***“So, you need to learn about this division and you need to make a decision. Doing nothing is doing something. Making no decision is making a huge decision – it’s deciding to become part of a much more theologically progressive denomination. One, I believe, that in just a few years will have very little in common with the United Methodist Church you joined. I know that’s a dramatic claim and if you don’t know how divided our church is regarding our most important beliefs, that claim will sound like an alarmist exaggeration. That’s why we’re creating these videos – so you can understand the issues before you, the options you possess, and what the best course is for you and your church.”***

Mark Peters
President, Trustees

Hi Friends, My name is Rob Renfro. I am the president and publisher of Good News, a renewal group within the United Methodist Church that has worked to keep the UMC moored to the historic Christian faith and our Wesleyan heritage for the past 55 years.

Let me tell you a story. In 1832 a Methodist Circuit Rider by the name of James Stevenson preached in the home of Samuel Doak McMahan. The McMahans lived in a small community in what is today East Texas. At the time it was land belonging to the Mexican Government and Protestant preaching was illegal there. But Peterson came anyway and Samuel McMahan who up to this time had spent much of his life playing cards and drinking, heard the Gospel. And he was changed.

The next year a religious society was formed in their home. Not long after that Samuel was made the class leader and then became licensed as a local pastor. In 1837 the congregation built its first house of worship, a small log chapel. That chapel was McMahan's chapel, the oldest Methodist church in Texas.

I tell you that story because Samuel Doak McMahan was my great, great, great, great grandfather. I am a Methodist. I have never been anything but a Methodist. I have never wanted to be anything but a Methodist. And I will never be anything but a Jesus-loving, grace-trusting, Bible-believing, grateful-as-all-get-out for John Wesley Methodist. Since I was 12 years old I have been a United Methodist.

For the past 40 years I have been a United Methodist pastor. I never thought I would be anything else. But I have decided that it's time to leave the UMC because the UMC has left me. More importantly, the UMC has in many, many ways left Wesley. And even more importantly than that, the UMC in many, many ways has left the Bible.

Here's the first thing I hope you'll hear. The United Methodist Church as you have known it is going away. It is dividing into two denominations. One is called the Global Methodist Church. It's a new denomination but it affirms what Methodists have believed since the time of Wesley: The Bible is the word of God. Jesus is the only-begotten Son of God and the Savior of the world, and whatever the Holy Spirit reveals in the future will always be in keeping with what Jesus taught and with what is revealed to be God's will in the Bible.

The other denomination will retain the name of The United Methodist Church but it will not be the same church you have known. One of our most highly respected bishops told his annual conference the United Methodist Church will become more liberal, the only question is how fast and how far it will go.

So, you need to learn about this division and you need to make a decision. Doing nothing is doing something. Making no decision is making a huge decision – it's deciding to become part of a much

more theologically progressive denomination. One, I believe, that in just a few years will have very little in common with the United Methodist Church you joined.

I know that's a dramatic claim and if you don't know how divided our church is regarding our most important beliefs, that claim will sound like an alarmist exaggeration. That's why we're creating these videos – so you can understand the issues before you, the options you possess, and what the best course is for you and your church.

These videos are designed to be relatively short, taking one topic at a time. But before we're done you'll learn about how many of our bishops and pastors and seminary professors deny that the Bible is God's word, teach that Jesus is not the Savior of the world, and are working for the church to adopt a liberalized sexual ethic that embraces and celebrates what the Bible tells us is contrary to God's will. So, I hope you'll watch each one.

Why are we at a place where separation is necessary?

Some people have said, I can't believe that we are going to split just because we have different ideas about homosexuality. That is not why we are separating. We have had differences of opinion regarding sexuality for 50 years. And those different beliefs have not led to separation.

Here's how Tom Oden describes the differences that have led us to where we are. Dr. Oden was one of the most brilliant and influential theologians of the 20th century and early 21st century. He was the Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology and Ethics at Drew University for 25 years. In his book *Turning Around the Mainline* (The mainline churches are churches like the UMC, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church and others) he writes:

Mainline churches stand today not merely in a crisis of *numbers*, but in a deeper crisis of *faith*. Though often portrayed as a crisis of politics or demographics or moral values or sexuality, it is more profoundly a crisis of biblical authority and theological integrity.

Powerful voices within the denominational leadership grossly diminish Christian teaching, refuse to follow reasonable discipline democratically arrived at, and discriminate unfairly against those who disagree with them.

Permissive leadership often looks the other way as opinions gain currency that are obviously contrary to ancient and historic Christian teaching. No one calls them to task. Sometimes it appears that no one can.

What has led us to the point that separation is our only option?

Dr. Oden states that it's our leadership that undercuts what the church has taught for 2000 years. It's our leadership – in the UMC that's primarily our bishops – who do not enforce our beliefs and who in fact promote doctrines contrary to what we say believe and who encourage pastors to engage in practices that the church has said we cannot condone. Some bishops even punish pastors and churches who speak up for our traditional, biblical beliefs. And no one can hold these bishops accountable.

There's a lot there and we'll get to it later in this series, but what I hope you'll hear as we get started is that this division is not primarily about sexuality. It's about what we believe regarding the Bible, what we believe about Jesus, and how the church is now in the control of bishops and pastors who do not support traditional, Wesleyan beliefs.

One bishop has gone on the record and said: "We're not going to have a schism. We already are in schism." Twelve of our annual conferences have already said they will not live by our Book of Discipline. Many of our bishops refuse to enforce it. We've been in schism for many years already.

A little history and we'll be done with this first video. Our differences that are most talked about and best known do regard sexuality. That's because we don't vote at General Conference on God the Father, Jesus our Savior, or the work of the Holy Spirit. But we do vote on sexuality. We have voted on sexuality at every General Conference every four years since 1972. That's nearly 50 years. The debates that we have had every four years have been heated and harmful.

In 2016, we finally decided that we shouldn't go on this way, and a special General Conference was called for 2019. It was devoted to this one issue and it was agreed that it would settle once and for all how we would move forward. At that called Conference in 2019, what's called the traditional position was affirmed once more. That position says that all persons possess sacred value and are welcome in our churches, but the practice of homosexuality is contrary to Christian teaching, our pastors cannot marry gay persons, and practicing gay persons cannot be ordained as pastors.

But those who disagreed with this traditional view not only excoriated the United Methodist Church in full page ads in many of the country's largest newspapers, they and their progressive bishops simply declared they would not live by the Book of Discipline and they would do whatever they thought best, including ordaining practicing gay persons and marrying gay couples.

The church was in crisis!

Miraculously a group of level-headed persons began to meet and an agreement was reached for an amicable separation. Known as the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, it was scheduled to be adopted at General Conference 2020. It had the support of every caucus group within the UMC, traditional, centrist and progressive. But because of Covid General Conference 2020

was delayed until 2022 and the protocol was not voted on. Then this spring it was put off altogether until 2024.

At that point the new traditional Methodist option of the Global Methodist Church was launched. Many biblical pastors and churches, especially those with liberal bishops, told us they simply could not wait any longer so on May 1st of this year, the GMC was formed for Methodists who want to hold onto the key doctrines that Methodists and orthodox Christians have held throughout the history of the church.

There is a path in the Book of Discipline for churches that want to leave. But that path goes away in a year and a half. And for most of us, the least costly way forward is something we must begin right now within the next few months. I'll explain more later.

Here's where we're going in this series.

Next

All I've ever wanted to be is a Jesus loving, Bible believing, grace trusting, grateful for John Wesley, committed to the historic Christian faith Methodist, who is in ministry with others who are like-minded and want to bring people to saving faith in Jesus. I am convinced to do that, I will need to leave the UMC and join the Global Methodist Church. And I believe you will, too.

To stay the same, we'll need to change from what will be a much more liberal United Methodist Church to the Global Methodist Church which accepts the Christian faith as it has been taught for 2000 years and which holds fast to our Methodist heritage and doctrines. Please watch our other videos and make your own decision. And, please share these videos with others in your church. You're in my prayers.



SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30-12:30 Nursery 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday School (Ages 5-12)				1 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00 SURGE	3 9:00 Evangelism Mtg 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30 AA Mtg
4	5 HAPPY LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 AA Mtg.	6 9:00 Prayer Group 7:00 AA Mtg.	7	8 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 SURGE	10 9:00 Evangelism Mtg 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30 AA Mtg
11	12 7:00 Finance Mtg 7:30 AA Mtg	13 7:00 Leadership Mtg. 7:00 AA Mtg	14	15 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 SURGE	17 9:00 Evangelism Mtg 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30 AA Mtg
18 3:00 Movie Matinee	19 7:30 AA Mtg.	20 7:00 Trustee Mtg 7:00 AA Mtg	21	22 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00 SURGE	24 9:00 Evangelism Mtg 10:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 5:30 Covered Dish Dinner - Disaffiliation 8:30 AA Mtg
25	26 7:30 AA Mtg.	27 7:00 AA Mtg	28	30 7:00 Choir Rehearsal		