

Connections

Word of Grace...from the Pastor

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” (Psalm 103: 1-2, a Psalm of David). Another psalm of David declares: *“Sing to the LORD, all you godly ones! Praise His holy Name.”* (Psalm 30:4). David continues to express his gratefulness to God in Psalm 95, verse 2, *“Let us come to Him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to Him.”* Again and again David communicates the biblical theme of thankfulness, as found in Psalm 26, verses 6b through 8a: *I come to Your altar, O LORD, singing a song of thanksgiving and telling of Your wonders. I love Your sanctuary, LORD, the place where Your glorious presence dwells.”*

The prophet Isaiah also calls us to sing to God with grateful hearts throughout his writings. In chapter 12, verse 5, the mighty prophet of God writes: *“Sing to the LORD, for He has done wonderful things. Make known His praise around the world.”*

Paul, the Apostle, joins in the unending hymn of thanksgiving and praise to God throughout the New Testament. Ephesians 5:20 encourages us to *“...give thanks for everything to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* In everything, for all times, and living by the Holy Spirit’s power and presence, we choose to be grateful to God- come what may. Can we really be thankful to God in days of suffering, disappointment, and tribulation such as we live in at this time? YES! In fact, we must immediately give thanks to God in all things so that we keep our hearts from complaining, worrying, and fear. Thanksgiving defeats the devil’s lies. Thanksgiving brings glory and honor to God as we trust in God, leaning into our faith. *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* (First Thessalonians 5:18). Grace and gratitude come from the same root word. If we have God’s grace, then we should be most grateful for all that God brings to us, His children. Did you know that the two words, thank and think, come from the same root word? May we think more on God’s unconditional love for us to be more thankful than ever to the lovingkindness of God.

Happy, Blessed, and Joyful Thanksgiving to Everyone,

Pastor Amy

P.S. As we continue the discernment process for Atonement Church’s moving forward under the umbrella of Methodism, your prayers are sought-after for wisdom and understanding in this matter.



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

November

- 1 Petra Young
- 1 Joey Brumbaugh, Jr
- 2 David Lang, Jr.
- 8 Caleb Lang
- 12 Roberta Berger
- 13 Alberta Maris
- 15 Milford Kumorteh
- 19 Gil Wilbur
- 21 Vonnie Anderson
- 23 Maureen Boland
- 24 Mary Jane Copley
- 26 Vicky Packard
- 27 Cheryl Blevins
Donald Lockwood
- 30 Phil Calzone

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
Lodge Lane Assisted Living
1221 Lodge Lane
Wilmington, DE 19809

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



“Whom have I in heaven but You? And
earth has nothing I desire besides
You.”
Psalm 73:25

Thursday Knollwood Bible study

Dear Atonement Church,

Greetings from the Knollwood Bible study, which meets on Thursday afternoon in the Knollwood Community Center.

You should always live in the Truth! And always love one another, according to the book in the Bible, First John. Never trust in the evil doers because they tell lies about God's truth. Truth and love will get us to heaven. We have much more to say about Jesus: mercy, grace, and peace.

Amen and Amen.

The Deadline for next newsletter is Nov. 21

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

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Claymont, DE 19703
www.atonementchurch.net
302-798-8472

Lead Pastor Amy Peters
302-218-5896

Youth Pastor Jeff Peters
302-932-1878

November Message Series “Thanks-Living” (Stewardship)

November 6

“All Saints Day”
Pastor Jeff preaching
Genesis 28: 10-22

November 13

Pastor Cliff Werline preaching

November 20

Christ the King
Pastor Amy preaching at
The Traditional worship service
Pastor Cliff Werline
preaching at The Branch worship service

November 27

First Sunday of Advent
“Hope”

“Give as freely as you have received.”
Matthew 10:8 The Living Bible

Claymont Christmas Parade



Save the date! Saturday December 3rd at 10:00am

It's time to show our Christmas joy to the Claymont Community! If you are able, dress in the spirit and colors of Christmas and meet at Maple Lane School at 9:30am sharp in order to walk the parade route to Food Lion to represent Atonement! Call either church office at 798-8472 to learn more or sign up at the Welcome Center. We are also looking for donations of candy to give out at the parade.

THANKSGIVING DINNER, 2021

Atonement Church will be giving out Food Lion gift cards as we did previously. When considering the many circumstances facing the church at this time, it has been decided by the Leadership Team not to serve meals. Anyone in our congregation in need of a gift card, contact the Church office at 302-798-8472.



DISAFFILIATION UPDATE

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus - who is the Christ! This is an update concerning Atonement's disaffiliation process from the United Methodist Church (UMC). Before I go any further, please, please, know and understand that to disaffiliate from the UMC it can only be accomplished by a vote of the members of the church! Contrary to misinformation that has been spread, Atonement's Leadership Team, early on in this process, unanimously agreed to follow the Book of Discipline (BOD) and adhere to its protocol regarding this most important decision. We are maintaining that by obeying paragraph 2553 of the BOD.

The most recent announcement by our conference Board of Trustees has been instrumental in this process. Previous to October 18th, the conference Board of Trustees had insisted on churches to pay half of their property value as well as other fees (explained later) to disaffiliate. To Atonement, that equated to be a nearly 3.5 million dollar cost. There are reasons far too many to explain here why the conference Board of Trustees "dropped" this charge to disaffiliate, however, I would be glad to speak with anyone as to why this dramatic change occurred.

So as it now stands, to disaffiliate Atonement would be required to pay 2 years of apportionment (approximately 75 thousand dollars) in addition to a yet to be determined amount for an unfunded pension contribution to retired pastors. Your Leadership Team is in agreeance to these terms and they truly believe this is the right way to proceed.

For more than two years now, there have been continuous prayer meetings, every Saturday and Tuesday morning with six to twelve attendees, seeking God's will on this matter. The consensus has been that through this time of discernment, that Atonement will be much better able to continue its mission of "*Connecting the Claymont Community and Beyond to Christ*" by disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church and becoming part of a new denomination, the Global Methodist Church (GMC). To continue as a vibrant body of Christ, we need to change.

If you are confused or fearful of what changes are happening in the UMC, I implore you to google and watch Rob Renfro's video series concerning the differences between the UMC and the GMC. There are 6 videos, each around 12 minutes in length, discussing why the UMC is dividing, differences in the Bible, regarding sexuality, and differences about Jesus Himself. Rob is the lead pastor of a 6,500 member UMC in Texas that just weeks ago voted by a margin of nearly 95% to disaffiliate.

Again, the disaffiliation process can only be continued after a vote of Atonement's members. There will be plenty of notice given as to when that will happen.

In His Service,

Mark Peters
President UMCA Trustees

YOUTH AND PASTORAL INTERN REPORT

My second full year serving in these roles have been similarly productive and efficacious in what we have been able to accomplish. Within the Youth Group, while our membership has remained fairly consistent, we have had a number of new young people that while no longer maintaining regular attendance due to a variety of reasons were able to spend periods of time with us. While their time in the youth group was temporary for various reasons, I feel that we were able to provide a positive influence, environment, and experience for these youth, which I hope had a lasting impact on them as their paths led them elsewhere. We have also been privileged to periodically welcome the friends of our more regularly attending members throughout the year, which has again allowed us to broaden the group we have been able to reach with our activities, fellowship, and learning opportunities. Our longer-term members have also continued to demonstrate a growing understanding and devotion to their faith journeys and their relationships with God and with one another in the Body of Christ. This year, our new goal has been to strive to further our dedication to service both within the Church and in the greater community, exposing our young people to what it means to truly serve those in need, to contribute with their individual gifts within the Body of Christ, and to do mission in whatever spheres we have been equipped and called to serve. Currently we are trying to start more locally, to first serve our congregation in order to better integrate and expose the youth group with the rest of our Church family, but it is our hope that we will soon be able to broaden these contributions to extend both to our surrounding community and beyond. We have also been blessed to recently make a number of improvements to our youth room and its facilities, and we currently have additional plans to acquire further resources to enable a greater range of more creative instructional methods for our lessons. As always, this instruction is being directed at teaching the youth about the Bible and their relationships with God in ways that will better equip them to utilize their learning in their given contexts and everyday lives, and I am continually striving to do so in ways that will serve their unique means of learning. It is my hope that these youth will feel such an impact from their experiences here that they will feel led to bring even more of their friends and loved ones out to have the same experience, and to learn more about God in the way that they have. It is also my hope to ensure that the youth will be brought more and more into the sphere of the larger congregation, and to never be viewed as separate, but as brothers and sisters together in the Body of Christ.

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I believe that I have been continuing to grow in my role as intern pastor, and I have learned a great deal both about what it means to serve God in this area of ministry, as well as about myself and my calling. Following training in a hospital chaplaincy position, I have felt even more prepared and equipped to see to the needs of those that are sick, injured, or isolated, and the experience has poured over into my other acts of ministry in ways that I am continuing to discover. Given my present academic focus, I am seeking to grow not only in my ministerial abilities and involvement, but also in the deepening of my spiritual walk, and all of the ways that it interacts with the ministry and service that I am engaged in. The Atonement Church family has continued to be an immense blessing to me as I've continued to pursue my calling and seminary education, and I hope that in all that I do, both for the youth and the broader congregation, that I will also be a blessing for them as well.

Pastor Jeff Peters



YOUTH GROUP

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

THIS Friday, November 4

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Cost- \$10 for adults; \$5.00 for children (5 - 11)

For tickets call the Church office at 302-798-8472, Pastor Jeff at 302-932-1878 or Lynn Peters at 302-798-4812.

Take Out Will Be Available

REBECCA CIRCLE

The Rebecca Circle is planning to have a table with free cookies and hot chocolate at the Christmas parade this year, scheduled for December 3 at 10:00 a.m., They are asking for donations of cookies, either homemade or store-bought. The cookies are needed by Thursday, December 1, and can be dropped off in the Welcome Center.



ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE:

All are welcome to join us for our Annual Charge Conference on **Saturday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m.** We will be hosting the Charge Conference with several other churches. Rev. Joe Archie, District Superintendent will be leading this meeting.

BLOG WRITERS NEEDED!

Everyone has a God story to tell! These words are from C.H. Spurgeon: "God's story has many pages, including one with your name on it. One day, the last page will be written. His book will close. Until then, anyone who wants to can have their story included in His story." Your story needs to be included to help others in their journeys. Please join Dr. Linda Cobourn and interested writers in the library after the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, November 13. The meeting will be brief and set some guidelines for writing our church blog, "Walking with Jesus".

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Next Saturday all are welcome to join us for our Annual Charge Conference **at 1:00 p.m.** We will be hosting the Charge Conference with several other churches. Rev. Mary Brown will be leading this meeting.



BLESS THE LITTLE CHILDREN AND BE BLESSED BY GOD!

SHOEBOXES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Information and supplies can be found at the OCC Table in the Welcome Center.

If you don't have a spare shoe box, the preprinted OCC boxes are available again this year. If you don't want to fill a box you can donate supplies or you can write a check to help with postage to mail the boxes to their final destinations. The cost is \$9 a box. (Checks need to be made out to Samaritan's Purse with OCC postage in the memo line **DO NOT MAKE CHECKS OUT TO THE CHURCH**) Donated items or filled boxes can be left in the Welcome Center. Just be sure to clearly mark your items with "Donations for OCC boxes"

If you need ideas for filling your box there are suggestion sheets available on the info table. Remember when you are shopping-no liquids, no glass and no war themed items. They will be removed at the sorting center in Baltimore so please select approved items so everything you choose makes it to the child who receives your box!

Note: No toothpaste or food of any kind is allowed. Both of these items are now on the unacceptable list. In addition all items must be new. No used items please.

Schools supplies are all on sale so it's a perfect time to buy them for your boxes. The kids love getting school supplies and they are greatly appreciated. And if you are looking to fill a box with a nice selection of items but are tight on funds, the dollar store is a great place to shop. You can fill a box with all sorts of fun stuff for the kids at a very reasonable price!

Filled boxes must be brought in no later than Tuesday, Nov. 15. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** After that they will have to wait until next year.

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

HELP! There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for those that would like to volunteer to fill shoeboxes on **Thursdays, Nov. 3 and Nov. 10 at 1:00 p.m.** We will also need extra help on **Thursday, Nov. 17th** at 1:00 p.m., getting the packed boxes ready for delivery. Please sign up to help at the Welcome Center.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Bailey at 302-290-1122.

PSALMS WRITTEN BY OUR 4TH-7TH GRADE SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY CLASS

PSALM: THANK YOU

¹Thank you God for letting me wake up today. I love you since you helped me be a believer and a good person. ²The gift of having a family and food is the best gift you gave me. ³You healed me, you saved me, you believed in me, thank you, God. ⁴You, Heavenly Father helped my family be believers, forgiving and loving. ⁵You gave life to everyone. Thank you for your heavenly deed. ⁶The Wonderful Bible that made me a believer, a savior, and a defender. ⁷I love you God. You forgive my sins. Your Heavenly books made me a good person. ⁸You were sacrificed on the cross for our sins. Even though we sin everyday. We are forgiving by you. ⁹Thank you for everything, God. In Jesus' name we shall pray, Amen.

HYMN

What he does for me. He forgave me for my sin.
And he died for me. We feel it in our hearts, Lord.
We feel it in our feet. Oh, Lord, thank you for what you do for me.

HYMN

Jesus is one nice guy. He bring life and has died on the cross for us.
We can live with him, we can talk with him. He's awesome, awesome.
He gave us life once so we can learn his prayer, we say AMEN!

PSALM: I'M THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING

God you are my rock because I'm so thankful for my life. Thankful for my family.
Thankful for my sister. I'm thankful for my school. I'm thankful for my friends.

9/11

They hold their breath as the damage is done.
The air becomes hard to breath, but dirty air is everywhere.
The ground broken with deep cracks, embers falling, shattered glass everywhere.
Screams of horror above and below.
Transportation through the sky comes crashing down.
One of two towers falls close behind the second.
The watchful eyes could only watch.
Lives were sacrificed for a picture in somebody's head.
The victims risk it all, knowing they won't make it home.
The heroes fighting not knowing the outcome.
The world watching holding their breaths.
Others running away in terror, in the fear of the crossfire.
People praying for their loved ones to be in no harm. Many lives were lost.
What day did this all happened you ask?
It was called nine-eleven a holiday celebrating the brave souls who died in that attack
and the fallen towers a day anyone alive then would never forget.

Andrea Ryan

Nightmare

The horrors of hands crawling up the skulls. The skull giving of flashes of the past
all alone nobody insight not even a shadow, heart racing breathing uneven mind
spiraling. Lighting strikes, a evil cackle echoed off the walls, walking around biting
my tongue as the floor creaks. Scenario after scenario which one will be. Locked
in, no way-out screams are soundless like the wind. No clock, how much time has
passed? Hands grasp my shoulders my heart leaps in fear. The face horrifying
burning my skull, as I become their next victim. Hope slowly depleting, thunder
rumbles as I back away towards the locked window. something drags my foot and
drags me away. I gasp sitting up in a fright eye flickering around, grabbing my
glasses everything becomes clear.

Only a nightmare nothing but fiction, I sighed in relief my heart at ease, starting the
day shaky that all right

It was only a nightmare.

Andrea Ryan

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
raman noodles



Please note that we cannot give out food past the expiration date. Please



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.

