

ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH

# CONNECTIONS

December 2023

## *Eternal Hope Not Wonderful Hope. . .*

*"The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people, for today in the city of David (Bethlehem) there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11)*

Our Lord Jesus came to earth to live among us, to be one of us. From before time existed as we know it, Jesus' mission was to teach us of the Father, to rescue us from sin, and to perform miracles and healings so that people would come to faith in God. *"For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent Jesus into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him."* (John 3: 16-17NLT). Jesus stayed focused on His Father's business, as we attempt to do the same.

This Christmas let your heart be ruled by the love of Jesus Christ. God's love in us is the power behind our preaching, teaching, serving, and witnessing to God's love. We live in a fallen world a lot like the one Jesus entered into 2,000 years ago. Do not let this world steal God's gifts of love, hope, joy, and peace in your lives. Let our hearts be ruled by the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus showed us the greatest love ever known as He gave His life for us! Let us join together with sincerely grateful hearts, especially on these four Sundays in Advent and Christmas Eve. God's purpose for Christmas remains the same: to win souls for Jesus Christ through God's great grace and love.

*May Almighty God, Father-Son-and Holy Spirit, richly bless you and your loved ones this Christmas season! And may our Faithful God continue to protect and bless Atonement Methodist Church. Let God's love cause you to sing of God's precious peace, jubilant joy, and real hope in your life. What a Savior! Hallelujah! Amen.*

*Jesus is the Reason for the Season!*



## VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

*Ring a bell...help change a life*

**NEXT SATURDAY**  
Atonement Church  
joins the Salvation Army's  
**RED KETTLE SEASON**  
at the Claymont Food Lion  
Saturday, December 9th  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Sign up at the Welcome Center.

### **WINTER LIFE GROUPS...**

Coming in January, we will have Winter Life Groups. Contact Pastor Cliff to host or lead a Life group. (302) 588-7823



## **Why Did Jesus Come?**

1. He came to fulfill prophecy. *"I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill"* (Matthew 5: 17)
2. He came to seek the lost. *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost: (Luke 19: 10)*
3. He came to save the lost. *"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost" (Matthew 18: 11)*
4. He came to serve. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve: (Mark 10: 45)*
5. He came to give his life as a ransom. *"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20: 28)*
6. He came that men might have life more abundant. *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10: 10)*
7. He came to reveal the Father. *"Jesus said to him, 'He who has seen Me has seen the Father'" (John 14: 9)*
8. He came to do the will of God. *"Then He added, 'Look, I have come to do Your will'" (Hebrews 10: 9).*

Be sure to take a moment to look up the Bible verses over your Christmas Holiday.

## **MESSAGES FOR DECEMBER 2023 ADVENT SEASON**

### **DECEMBER 3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Sermon Title: "Wonderful Hope"

Advent Candle - HOPE

Lighting - Randy and Linda Kein

### **DECEMBER 10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **TRADITION WORSHIP - CANTATA**

Scripture Reading: John 1: 6-14

Sermon Title: "True Light"

Advent Candle - PEACE

Lighting - Mark Peters and Todd Bezilla

### **DECEMBER 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DRAMA - Both Services**

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 46-55

Sermon Title: "Song of Thanksgiving"

Advent Candle - JOY (light pink candle)

Lighting - Lee Bird and Billy Cole

### **DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING Worship at 9 & 11 am**

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-14

Sermon Title: "Christmas Treasures"

Advent Candle - CHRIST CANDLE

Lighting - Betty Wilbur and Fran Hershberger

### **DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT THE BRANCH - 6:30 PM**

#### **TRADITIONAL - 8:00 PM**

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-19

Sermon Title: "The Second Coming of Christ"

Advent Candle - CHRIST CANDLE

Lighting - Amy and Mark Peters

## **ALL SAINTS - Nov. 5th, 2023**

All Saints list of names to be recognized.

1. Richard Defeo - January 12, 2023
  2. Jean Eck - January 27, 2023
  3. John Ellixson, Sr. - November 14, 2022
  4. Larry Friday - November 18, 2022
  5. William Grant - December 8, 2022
  6. James McQuage - September 25, 2023
  7. George Miller - February 18, 2023
  8. Joy Peters - April 14, 2023
  9. Andrea Ridgik - October 10, 2023
  10. Bob Richards - April 11, 2023
  11. Anna Rose\*
  12. Delvert Snyder - March 24, 2023
- \*Atonement Church recognizes Anna Rose's graduation to glory.

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY**

"Christmas Cards" will be presented by our Sunday School students and it tells the story of the first Christmas. Sunday, December 17th at both worship services. Special thanks to all adults for the team effort. May we all be blessed with this special presentation.



## **Happy Birthday December!**

- Dec. 10 - Ed Fisher  
Dec. 10 - Jane McClure-Fisher  
Dec. 15 - Brian Anderson  
Dec. 17 - Miata Freeman  
Dec. 21 - Gregg Ryan  
Dec. 25 - Betty Wilbur  
Dec. 28 - Karen DeJong  
Dec. 29 - Maria Bezilla  
Dec. 29 - George Maris

## JUST WORDS

Linda Waltersdorf Cobourn, EdD

“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. (Jeremiah 30:2) There have always been words in my heart, swirling around and arranging themselves into stories and poems, illustrating the joy and the sorrow of spousal caregiving, parenting an autistic son, and adjusting to widowhood. Just words. Nothing more.

This past year, Jesus has shown me just how important those words are. The words I write in both the church blog and my own website bring hope to others. The words tell my readers, You are not alone. Jesus is with you. Jesus tells me that my words matter. You can follow me and my words at [lindaca1.substack.com](http://lindaca1.substack.com)

## Christmas Is Coming...

Join us on Christmas Eve for morning worship services as usual at 9am & 11am with Pastor Amy bringing a Christmas message of love and hope for all ages.

December 10th at the 9am service the Atonement Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir will sing their annual Christmas Cantata.

The evening of Christmas Eve there will be 6:30pm Branch Candlelight & 8pm Traditional Candlelight. Families and Friends are most welcome!

P.S. Hoping to have a children's time at 6:30pm service. Contact Bonny Jones to learn more. (302-798-3345)

## News on Atonement's Food Closet

Due to the price of food, we continue to help the hungry weekly. Please help with donations of boxed potatoes, gravy (chicken or turkey), pancake mix and syrup, cereal, spaghetti sauce and pasta, peanut butter and jelly. Our Food Ministry monies also contribute to other items. No canned vegetables, please. Donated items can be placed in the shopping cart outside the Nursery.



## Toiletries Needed for Persons in need:

Atonement Church has been providing essentials of soap, shampoo/crème rinse, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste and brush, and men's and women's deodorant. Please label any donations "Toiletries for Atonement" and leave at Welcome Center desk.

## Keep Christ in Christmas Nativities Display

The Church of the Ascension in Claymont, DE invites you to enjoy an exhibit of nearly 200 Nativities that reflect the traditions of Christian faiths from many cultures around the world. Saturday, Dec. 9 - noon to 6:00 pm Sunday, Dec. 10 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm 3717 Philadelphia Pike in Claymont Join hundreds of other visitors over the past twenty years who have made this a part of their annual holiday traditions. Donations of non-perishable foods for the Claymont Food Closet are welcome!

**The Deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, December 17th.**

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

Brenda Stephens

atonementmc@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.

## **12 NOON PRAYER TIME**

**Wherever you may be, let us join with the Global Methodists daily to stop and pray the Lord's Prayer at noon time. Please ask God to bring peace to Jerusalem, as well. This is our time to pray for our world!**



## **Ministry of Poinsettias**

Order your Christmas Poinsettias plants that will adorn our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall areas for Christmas.

Poinsettias will be in memory or in honor of loved ones - names will be listed in the bulletin. Plants will be delivered in time for Dec. 17th worship and remain until after Christmas Eve services on the 24th, which you then can take home to enjoy.

Cost is \$9 for a 6.5" red poinsettia. Order form can be found in the bulletin.

Deadline: December 10th.



## **The Years of Job**

Barbara Lee

I have endured eight surgeries, one in 2019 and seven have been from 2021 through 2023. I'm the past 2 1/2 years, I had 6 spinal surgeries, 3 in 2023. I feel much like Job with his pains, sores, and complaints to God as he's cursed the day of his birth. However, I discovered faithful friends and my brothers and sisters from Atonement Church who have served as His hands by doing things which I can no longer do. Some friends have demonstrated His compassion as I learned to be humble, to follow Him, and to believe that I'm in the middle of a struggle which will end with my full healing in His time.



## **GOD IS AT WORK IN OUR CHURCH!**

ATONEMENT CHURCH is building on its vision to

***“Connect the Claymont Community and Beyond with Christ!”***

### **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

***Sunday, December 10th at 9am***

worship is a perfect time to bring a friend! Atonement’s Annual Christmas Cantata will be presented by our Sanctuary Choir under the direction of our music director, Maria Bezilla. What a beautiful way to hear the story of Christmas in song. There’s opportunity for Christmas carols to be sung by all!

### **How Has Jesus Changed Atonement This Year?**

Laura Calzone

The Atonement family has seen trials, heartache, and many spiritual battles. As a family we have stood strong by standing on the Rock. Believing the Bible is the truth, we have been faithful in prayer and seen God answer many them. People have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, miracles have occurred, people are prophesying and having visions. God is blessing us in countless way! I have seen so many people step up and serve our Father. Thank God for all God is doing and has done here. Let us all reflect on the “Reason for the Season.” I’m excited to see what our Heavenly Father has in store for us!

- Monthly mid-week Wednesday worship service in the chapel
- Fall Festival & Tent Meeting
- New staff: Brenda Stephens, David & Amanda Lang, Jeff & Karen Knoettner,
- Sunday School for Grades 4-7th
- KIDMO restart for Grades K-3
- Laity Sunday with Testimonies
- S.U.R.G.E. Fall Kickoff at Ramsey’s Farm
- Door of HOPE Baby Bottle Campaign
- Urban Promise Banquet with 8 attendees
- Knollwood Kids Bible Studies weekly
- Outreach monies to Wayne Hendrickson, Door of HOPE, Salvation Army, Gideon’s International, Chosen People’s Ministry, Operation Christmas Child (130 boxes),
- Claymont Christmas parade,
- Atonement Food Closet-distributions of food
- Choir Room bathroom updated
- Knitted goods to Door of HOPE and Knollwood children
- Seaman’s Center Christmas boxes
- Thanksgiving for 30 families

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> SURGE 7 - 9pm	<b>2</b> <b>Claymont</b> <b>Christmas Parade</b> AA Meeting 8:30pm
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> AA Meeting 7:30pm	<b>5</b> Prayer Group 9am Worship Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>8</b> SURGE 7 - 9pm	<b>9</b> AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
<b>10</b> Worship Service 9am & 11am <b>Christmas-</b> <b>Cantata</b>	<b>11</b> Finance Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7:30pm	<b>12</b> Leadership Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>15</b> SURGE 7 - 9pm	<b>16</b> AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
<b>17</b> Worship Service 9am & 11am <b>Kid's Xmas Play</b>	<b>18</b> AA Meeting 7:30pm	<b>19</b> Trustee's Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>22</b> SURGE 7 - 9pm	<b>23</b> AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
<b>24</b> Worship Service 9am & 11am Evening Services 6:30pm & 8:00pm	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b> AA Meeting 7:30pm	<b>26</b> AA Meeting 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>29</b> No SURGE	<b>30</b> AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
<b>31</b> 5th Sunday 10am One Service						



*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 Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19809

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

**Lois Hopper** 302-798-4812  
711 W. Birchtree Lane  
Claymont, DE 19703

**Gerri Kaut**  
Lodge Lane  
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

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

**Phil Komorny** 302-798-3264  
9 Marion Avenue  
Claymont, DE 19703

## **Jesus Changed My Life**

by Valerie Pilkington

Like all things in my life, I associate with lyrics. Jesus can and will turn mourning into dancing and give beauty for ashes. God turns shame into glory and God is the only one who can.

I yearn to be more like Jesus. I have learned LIFE happens...sometimes we take 3 steps forward and 2 back; and that's okay. The more I remind myself of God's Word and God's promises, the more I believe it. The joy of the Lord is my strength. Life is good with God, but eternal life is better! I am deeply loved, greatly blessed, and highly favored! Thanks be to God!



### **Atonement Methodist Church**

3519 Philadelphia Pike  
Claymont, DE 19703  
[www.atonementchurch.net](http://www.atonementchurch.net)  
[atonementmc@gmail.com](mailto:atonementmc@gmail.com)

Pastor Amy Peters, Lead Pastor  
302-218-5896

Cliff Werline, Assistant Pastor  
302-588-7823





**Atonement**  
METHODIST CHURCH  
WORSHIP PASSIONATELY  
LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY  
& WITNESS BOLDLY

