

ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2024

PASTOR'S LETTER

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off- for all whom the Lord our God will call." ACTS 2: 38

In the book of Acts we discover the biblical community and the fellowship of the first believers. Ephesians 2:19-20 further describes this ideal church, "...you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone."

To this fellowship of believers in the book of Acts, truth mattered: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship..." In their fellowship was unity of focus and purpose, while they shared all that they had and took care of one another in love. Their Christian conversion was a transfer of their allegiance from the culture of legalism and religiosity to the Kingdom of God here on earth. But these first Christians did not leave Judaism because they saw themselves as Jews experiencing the fulfillment of historic promises. They were the first Messianic Jews by faith in Jesus.

Scripture goes on to say in verse 46, "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved." Wow! This is a pastor's dream come true! How about it, Atonement Methodist Church? It was a new era for the beginnings of Christianity. As we enter February, this second month of this New Year, may we be a reflection of this biblical community that Christ gave His life for. All to the glory of God! Amen.

Walking together with you,

Pastor Amy

LENTEN STUDY FOR 2024 begins on Wednesday, February 21

Meeting at 1-2pm in the Welcome Center
Library & 7-8pm in the Choir Room

Book Study "40 Days of Decrease: A Different
Kind of Hunger. A Different Kind of Fast" by
Alicia Britt Chole. Facilitator Pastor Amy.

Hungering for a fresh Lenten/Easter experi-
ence, "40 Days of Decrease" guides us daily
in our relationship with God so to live in awe
of Christ's resurrection. Over the 40 days of
Lent, you will study Jesus' unique ways to
abandon the world's ways and embrace life
in the Kingdom of God. This daily devotional
includes a devotional reading, questions for
reflection, suggested readings from the book
of John, and journaling space to respond.

Study guide is \$10.00. Contact Pastor Amy for
information

GLOBAL METHODIST ESSENTIALS...

of Christian Belief are found in The Apostle's
Creed, which affirms God as Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit. The Creed affirms belief in the
church, the communion of saints, forgive-
ness, the resurrection of the body (Jesus' and
ours), and eternal life. This creed has served
the Church across centuries, and it suffices as
a statement of basic Christian truth claims.

Atonement Methodist Church thrives with a
clear sense of identity and purpose. We must
be clear about who we are, what we believe,
and what our goals are fulfilling God's Great
Commandment and the Great Commission
as disciples of Jesus.

Christian and Methodist Essentials are:

1. Sin – The essence of sin is willful disobedi-
ence to the declared will of God. Sin remains
the great curse of human life. Able to be
restored only by a supernatural work of God.
2. Free Will – Through God's grace, God
makes it possible for us to turn from sin and
accept Jesus Christ.
3. Justification by Faith – We are made right
with God by faith in Jesus Christ.
4. Sanctification – By the power of the Holy
Spirit we can experience the new birth. God
will even restore the divine image within us,
tarnished by sin. We should expect to experi-
ence the gift of perfect love (sanctification).
5. Sacraments – Baptism and the Lord's
Supper are means of grace, whereby the Holy
Spirit empowers us and lead us into salva-
tion.
6. Scripture – Scripture is inspired by God
to lead us into salvation. It is the true rule of
Christian faith and practice, infallible in all
matters related to salvation and life.

*Excerpts from Good News Magazine Nov/Dec. pg.15, David F. Watson,
GMC Elder.)*

Spaghetti Dinner

*Sponsored by S.U.R.G.E.
Students and Volunteers*

Friday, February 9th @ 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall

\$8.00 per adult/6-10yrs \$4.00/11-up \$8.00



*Celebrate God's love
together with friends.*



ASH WEDNESDAY

SERVICE February 14th at 6:30PM. A time of preparing for Lent by receiving Holy Communion &/or the receiving of ashes. It's a great night to invite a friend.

MUSIC NOTES

Dear Friends at Atonement,



Did you know Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year?? When I realized this, it took a minute to process!! With this early start time in mind we've decided to approach the Easter cantata a little differently. Rather than perform an extended work on Palm Sunday, the Sanctuary Choir will sing a segment of a cantata with its accompanying narration each of the 5 Sundays in Lent. Then on Palm Sunday we will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with traditional hymns and anthems. The cantata we've selected is entitled "The Way of the Cross Leads Home" by Mary McDonald. Seasonal singers are still welcome to participate. The catch is you need to sing every Sunday during Lent, not just on Palm Sunday! Please consider joining us on Thursday evenings at 7pm and see how much fun you can have making a joyful noise unto the Lord! See you soon, Maria Bezilla

Walking With Jesus Blog is in need of creative writers. The blog is on the church's website (atonementchurch.net) Linda Cobourn originated this blog and is looking for help. She will come along side you in order that you may share one of your "Walking With Jesus" stories. (610-485-5157)



Happy Birthday February

- Feb. 3 - Samantha Blevins
- Feb. 3 - Jackie Wanstall
- Feb. 6 - Lyn Needs
- Feb. 8 - Tim Armstrong
- Feb. 9 - Ron Schmidt
- Feb. 12 - Irene Parker
- Feb. 19 - Nancy Furman-Hargis
- Feb. 24 - Joel Ogorek
- Feb. 25 - Russel Schmidt
- Feb. 26 - Timmy Armstrong

LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPES

Lent is the season before Easter when for forty days we remember Christ's forty days in the wilderness. The primary focus is on rededication of ourselves to the Christian life as a preparation for Easter. An important way of expressing that love is through the giving alms, a/k/a "offerings" of time, treasure, or your talents/gifts from God. Let us refocus our lives on Christ during this Lent in order to appreciate more than ever the sacrifice Christ made on Calvary's cross. This year's Lenten Offering envelopes will be available Sunday, February 11th on the high-hat tables and Welcome Center desk.

GRIEFSHARE

We are pleased to announce that we would like to begin a new ministry small group called Griefshare. This is for people who are bereaved or have otherwise suffered a loss and who would like to be in a group designed for God's healing power to soothe and restore you. We have a very experienced couple (Bruce and Deb Gayley) who have agreed to come and lead this at our church. We have two possible times to offer you: Wednesday daytime or Wednesday evening. We will choose one time based on your response. We would like to start this ministry as soon as possible this month, in February when all the pieces come together. If you want to come to the first informational meeting, or if you are interested, please see Pastor Amy, Pastor Cliff, or sign the clipboard in the foyer.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7



SOUPer Bowl Sunday SOUP SALE

Sunday, February 11, 2024

After 9am & 11am Worship Services

***Volunteer to make /donate your favorite
Soup/Stew/Chili - \$7.00 per quart***

Please support this
"Rebecca Circle" Fundraiser

Contact: Becki Daswick @ (302) 743-8746
Debbie Clark@ (302) 764-2309
Arlene Skotnicki@ (302) 764-4384

REBECCA'S CIRCLE is meeting February 14th at 10 am at the church. Rebecca's Circle is sponsoring the soup sale on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th.

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!

Toiletries Needed for Persons in need:

Atonement Church has been providing essentials of soap, shampoo/creme 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.

ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Everyone is welcome to these meetings!

Tuesday February 6th at 7pm:

Worship Committee in Library

Monday February 12 at 7pm:

Finance Team in Room 102

Tuesday February 13 at 7pm:

Leadership Team in Room 102

Tuesday February 20 at 7pm:

Trustees in Room 102

As needed- the SPRC committee meets. Contact Chair Tom Baily, if necessary.



Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

—Colossians 1:9

One of the inspiring things about the earliest churches that were following The Way (Jesus) is that they were small, tight-knit, shared much love, and were passionate about evangelism. They had a message in the Good News that was so incredible that they could not keep it to themselves. That message was about death from life, forgiveness from sin, holiness, and loving God and neighbors. I'm thankful they chose to share that Good News with the communities in which they were located, and with each other as they worshiped, broke bread together, shared what they had, and prayed fervently for each other.

When the Apostle Paul was unable to physically be with the churches he had a hand in birthing through his own evangelism and spreading the Good News, he prayed for them. And not only Paul, but those with Paul, and everyone who Paul could tell about these new gatherings of believers. When Paul prayed, it was more than, "Lord, protect them..." Paul and his companions prayed specifically that God would fill them with knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. That's a very specific prayer for these new believers who were growing in faithfulness and what it meant to leave their old lives behind and follow a man who lived, died, rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, AND who was/is praying for them, as well. Paul constantly and consistently prayed that the believers in the churches in that region would have their minds and hearts expanded more and more so that Jesus became more and more the center of all they did and said.

In some ways, the Global Methodist Church is new and we're still learning what it means to follow Jesus together in this new way. Even more so, the Northeast Provisional Annual Conference is but a week old! What that means, specifically, is that we all need to be praying for each other, "...asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Just like the early church, we will make mistakes and things will happen slower than we want. Our churches will keep growing and learning how to be Global Methodists, as we center all we do on Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. And, remember, Jesus is praying for us as well, as we see in John 17. By the power of prayer, we will be inspired to worship, love, and witness as agents of a holy God who loves us and wants the world to know that.

I'm praying for you! Let's go!

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH NEWS

- In January, **THE DOOR OF HOPE** Pregnancy Center received 6 bags of hand knitted and crocheted baby and children's hats/caps and blankets. Thanks to our behind the scenes knitting and crocheting group who are truly appreciated by **The Door of HOPE**. Anyone else interested in "Knitting For A Need," the Church Office would be happy to get you connected. Free yarn available for your use.

In 2023, **THE DOOR OF HOPE** OFFERED 295 Free Pregnancy tests, 307 free ultrasounds, served 329 clients and had 86 babies born with their help.

- **SAMARITAN'S PURSE** collected a total of 11 million shoeboxes to be delivered to more than 100 countries around the world. All to the glory of God! Over the past 30 years, more than 50 million children have been reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! And we got to help! Google Samaritan's purse at samaritanspurse.org and learn more how to help this vital ministry.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. Corinthians 13:13

The Deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, February 25th.

Please send all information to be included in the newsletter to: Brenda Stephens - atonementmc@gmail.com

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.

LOOKING TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOUR CHURCH?

The Worship Committee is looking for a few very friendly people to help as Greeters and Ushers at both 9 and 11am services! You would need to come in to church one half hour earlier than your worship time and bring your smile and welcoming spirit with you! For the Traditional service, talk to Arlene Skotnicki and for The Branch, talk to Laura Calzone. This is one of the most important tasks of a church- to have a warm and friendly welcome! Is God calling you to join the team? We need you!

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

December 31, 2023

All bills are paid and no outstanding debt for Atonement Methodist Church as we close out the year of our Lord, 2023. Furthermore, the checking and savings accounts have carried over monies to go into our New Year to spread the Good News that Jesus saves! Atonement Church's financial statements for the year end of 2023 are available at the Welcome Center desk. Special thanks to all Atonement members, friends, and guests who invest in Atonement's ministries, programs, and leadership!

LOOKING FOR AN AWESOME DEVOTIONAL????

Every morning one is delivered free of charge to your email address: The Wake-Up Call! This is a Global Methodist devotional available to all at wakeupcall@seedbed.com.

P.S. Learn more and get connected to the Global Methodists with social media with the GMC Website, Global Methodist Church at www.northeastgmc.org or on Facebook: Northeast Global Methodists.



ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

*A card or phone call to our homebound friends
would certainly brighten their day!*

The purpose of the Atonement Methodist Church is to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ that we will be able to offer to people near and far, by word and deed, the saving love of God in Christ.

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

As servants of God, we are sent into the community to reveal the love of God and demonstrate words and deeds, that we may be renewed after the image of our Creator. To be able to minister in Christ's name is a gift and a task. The gift is God's grace, the task is unstinting service. We are sent out by Christ to live and work together, to profess our faith to the community in order that they might hear the Word of God.

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2402 Garfield Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19809

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7807 Governor Printz Blvd.
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Pastor Amy Peters, Lead Pastor
302-218-5896

Cliff Werline, Assistant Pastor
302-588-7823

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 AA Meeting 8:30pm
4 Worship Service 9am & 11am	5 AA Meeting 7pm	6 Prayer Group 9am Worship Committee in Library 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	9 Spaghetti Dinner 5:30pm	10 AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
11 Worship Service 9am & 11am Soup Sale after worship	12 Finance Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	13 Leadership Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Rebecca's Circle 10am	15 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	16 SURGE 7 - 9pm	17 AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
18 1st Sunday in Lent Worship Service 9am & 11am	19 AA Meeting 7pm	20 Trustee's Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	21	22 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	23 SURGE 7 - 9pm	24 AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
25 2nd Sunday in Lent Worship Service 9am & 11am	26 AA Meeting 7pm	27 AA Meeting 7pm	28	29		