

ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH

# CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK.....

*"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18*

One of my favorite quotes from the theologian, Martin Luther, declares this truth: "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." The season of Spring is such a burst of life, color, creativity and all the wonder of Spring that is God's gift to us during Easter celebrations. And an even greater gift from our benevolent and generous God is the majesty and splendor of the cross of Jesus Christ.

For Easter 2024 let us parallel this declaration of God's glory and power in nature to the cross of Jesus. Yes, there is beauty in both! Do not miss out on the rewards, the richness, and the grace of the cross of Christ Jesus, while joining with all creation the death and resurrection of God's one and only Son. The cross has brought us conversion, pardon, deliverance, healing and eternal life in Christ. Remember Jesus on the cross; He was beaten, bloodied, and brutally murdered. Truly, gaze upon and contemplate the price Jesus paid to save us from sin and self.

My hope of Easter is that the cross will touch our hearts with God's love while bringing transformation to our lives. Truly, taking time to stop, to gaze, and to comprehend the depth, the height, the width, and the length of God's endless love for you on display through the cross. The resurrected body of Christ is the same body that died on the cross! God's love and mercy will find you at the cross. Of your own free will, can you tarry a while as we go through these last weeks of Lent? While you take a moment for Jesus, search on your phone/computer for Fanny Crosby's hymn titled, Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross. Her lyrics call us to walk every day in the shadow of the cross. The lyrics encourage us to watch and wait, hoping, and trusting to reap the reward in store for those who keep near the cross. Jesus, keep us near Your cross, we pray. Resurrection Day is coming!

With joy in the journey,

*Pastor Amy*

# CALLING ALL CANDY LOVERS

*(and those of us who wish we could  
still eat candy like a child)*

**WHO:** Atonement members are requested  
(if able) to bring

**WHAT:** A bag of PREWRAPPED small candy  
(small enough to put inside plastic eggs)

**WHERE:** Leave at the Welcome Center be-  
hind the desk

**WHY:** For the youth Easter Egg Hunt to be  
held at Knollwood

**WHEN:** Please deliver to church no later than  
March 17

All children\* are invited to attend the party. It  
will be held Saturday, March 23, at the Knoll-  
wood Community Center (rain or shine). Start  
time will be 1:00pm where we will open with  
a prayer, learn of Christ's last week on earth,  
his death on the cross and his triumphant as-  
cension to Heaven. We will then share a small  
snack\*\* and go hunt eggs on the lawn\*\*\*  
next to the community center.

\*Approximate ages 3 - 11

\*\*We could also use donations of individual  
snack packs and juice boxes. We are antici-  
pating about 45 children.

\*\*\*If it's a rainy day, we will gather eggs in-  
side the center

I thank you in advance for any donations to  
help make this a day of learning about Jesus  
while having fun and fellowship together.

- Roberta Berger

**REBECCA'S CIRCLE** is meet-  
ing March 13th at 10 am at Marge McQuage's  
home. The address is 4 Dolores Drive, Wilm.,  
DE 19810 (3020478-1358)

## 2023 Ministries & Accomplishments Day Apart Results

Left United Methodist Church  
Stayed Open  
Perseverance  
Fight in Community  
Knollwood Community Center  
Stood in God's Word  
Obeyed God  
Stepped out with/God/Word  
Salvation Army  
SURGE  
Financial Stewardship  
Making a Lot New  
Small Groups  
Prayer  
Evangelism  
Jubilee  
Baptism/Pool  
Picnic  
SPRC!! Perseverance  
Lion's Xmas Parade  
All Rebecca Circle Ministries  
Attribute: Courage!  
Faithfulness  
New Members Class  
Members Leaving  
Graduations to Glory  
Visitors  
New Believers  
New Staff - Jeff, Brenda, David & Amanda  
Pruning  
"Growth"  
Unity  
Finances  
God Saved Atonement Methodist Church  
Healing  
Miracles  
Prayer Meetings  
Prayer Chain  
Prayer Quilts  
Cliff & Spiritual  
Knowlwood to Sunday School  
Young Adults  
Youth  
Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes  
Seamon's Center

# HOPES & DREAMS

The Leadership team met on March 2nd where we discussed the hopes, dreams and visions for Atonement Church in 2024. Personally I have hopes and dreams for each one of you for this Lenten season. That each of you would do something for yourself that will grow your relationship with God. Reflect upon what Jesus did for you! He suffered and endured so much for you! He was crucified for you! He rose from the dead for you! He gave us a precious perfect gift ~ The Holy Spirit. He saved your life! What does all this mean to you?

If you would die today, would you hear Jesus say, "job well done my good and faithful son?" Are you asking Jesus to keep working on you? What do you need to do to take a step closer to be more like Jesus? After all, He gave everything out of LOVE for you! You can start by giving him your heart and ask him to guide and teach you the way. Seems so easy doesn't it but yet we make it so hard when it doesn't have to be. Think about it?

Shalom,  
Laura Calzone

**Thank You** to Atonement's Worship Team for all their hard work and planning during this Lenten season. Most appreciated are the Flower Ministry, the stripping of the altar, and the music ministry. It is truly a team effort and on a weekly basis, there are many compliments on our worship services. Special thanks for the Lord's Prayer Drama on March the 3rd. Sincerely Pastor Amy.



## Happy Birthday March!

March 1 - Mary Anne Komorny  
March 7 - Debbie Clark  
March 7 - Pat Draper  
March 14 - Mary Ryan  
March 15 - Doris Kerr  
March 16 - Amanda Smith  
March 19 - Andrew Joubert  
March 23 - Gail Austin  
March 23 - Mark Peters  
March 24 - Gretchen Ellixson  
March 30 - Pat DeFeo  
March 30 - Pat Ogorek  
March 31 - Steve Calzone

## 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.

## LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPES

This is a friendly reminder to turn in your lenten envelopes to the offering baskets or the church office.

**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)

# EASTER 2024 SCHEDULE

## ***PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP***

Sunday, March 24  
9 & 11 a.m.

## ***MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE***

Thursday, March 28 6:30p.m.  
Special Guest – Elisabeta Karp  
(From Chosen People Ministries)  
Presenting “Isaiah 53”  
With Holy Communion

## ***GOOD FRIDAY***

Friday, March 29, 2024  
Guest Speaker- Mark Peters  
Special Music – Valerie Pilkington  
“Message of the Crucifixion:  
According to the Gospel of John”

## ***EASTER SUNDAY***

Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ!

***MARCH 31ST*** Worship 9 & 11 a.m.  
Refreshments between services  
Special Music by the Sanctuary Choir, Bell  
Choir and Trumpet soloist Chris Briody.

## ***HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY***

Sunday, April 7th at Worship  
Traditional 9am & The Branch 11a.m.  
Let’s celebrate Jesus’ resurrection with this  
service of praise and laughter as Jesus has  
risen from the grave. The joke is on the devil!

## **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 Jeru-  
salem, as well. This is our time to pray  
for our world!

## **SPECIAL EASTER BRUNCH BETWEEN SERVICES**

Following the Traditional Worship service and  
before The Branch worship , you are welcome  
to enjoy an Easter Brunch in our Welcome  
Center beginning at 10:00am. A donation  
sign-up sheet for the brunch is on the easel  
in the Welcome Center. Easter is a beautiful  
day for commemorating the Resurrection of  
Jesus and enjoying the family of God here at  
Atonement. Let us enjoy our time of commu-  
nion.

## **ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH TRADITION – EASTER CROSS**

On Easter Sunday morning our cross will  
be in the front yard near the Pike waiting to  
be decorated with Spring flowers, real and  
artificial. Every year we do this so all of Clay-  
mont will know that Jesus is Alive! The cross  
is empty, His grave is empty- Jesus is Alive!!  
Thanks to our Trustees for helping put out  
the cross. Glory to God!

## **THE DOOR OF HOPE FUNDRAISER IS COMING!**

DOOR of HOPE is a pregnancy center here in  
Wilmington and Newark that offers free pre-  
natal and pregnancy care, along with family  
support and holistic caring. Atonement’s  
clean well water change collection and The  
Branch’s change collection for missions will  
donate their monies collected in the months  
of April and May. Please add Door of HOPE to  
your prayers for these two months. The work  
they do is priceless! Babies’ lives are saved  
and families find help. Atonement Church is  
partnering with the DOOR of HOPE, offering  
life-affirming support.

## A Day Apart Reflections

Our day apart to review and forecast Atonement Church's climate was convened on Saturday, March 2nd. The six hour meeting held between the twelve of us on our leadership team was most resourceful and beneficial for the spiritual growth and health of our congregation. Our team reviewed the events, challenges, and successes from 2023; strengths and weaknesses our church possesses; evaluated our church's ministry departments; and presented new opportunities to aspire to in 2024.

My thoughts about what transpired during our Saturday session is that with the variety of tangible ideas cultivated, along with the abundance of spiritual insight, Atonement Church is on course for a momentous spiritual break-out in 2024!

Now that we have navigated through and beyond the disaffiliation process with the UMC, our leadership team's collective prayers and spirit-led motivations are for increasing our church's growth (spiritually & numerically); creating new life groups and life group leaders; expanding evangelism within the confines of Claymont and beyond; improving our marketability; and praying for new opportunities to flourish in 2024. Space does not allow me to enumerate upon as to how we are planning to achieve each aforementioned objective. Conversely, Pastors Amy, Cliff, and our leadership team are praying for God's objectives to be revealed in accordance with His plans and purposes for Atonement Church. Additionally, our prayers are for others from within our fellowship to pray individually as to where the Holy Spirit may lead each of you into partnering up onto our leadership team. The verse of scripture I

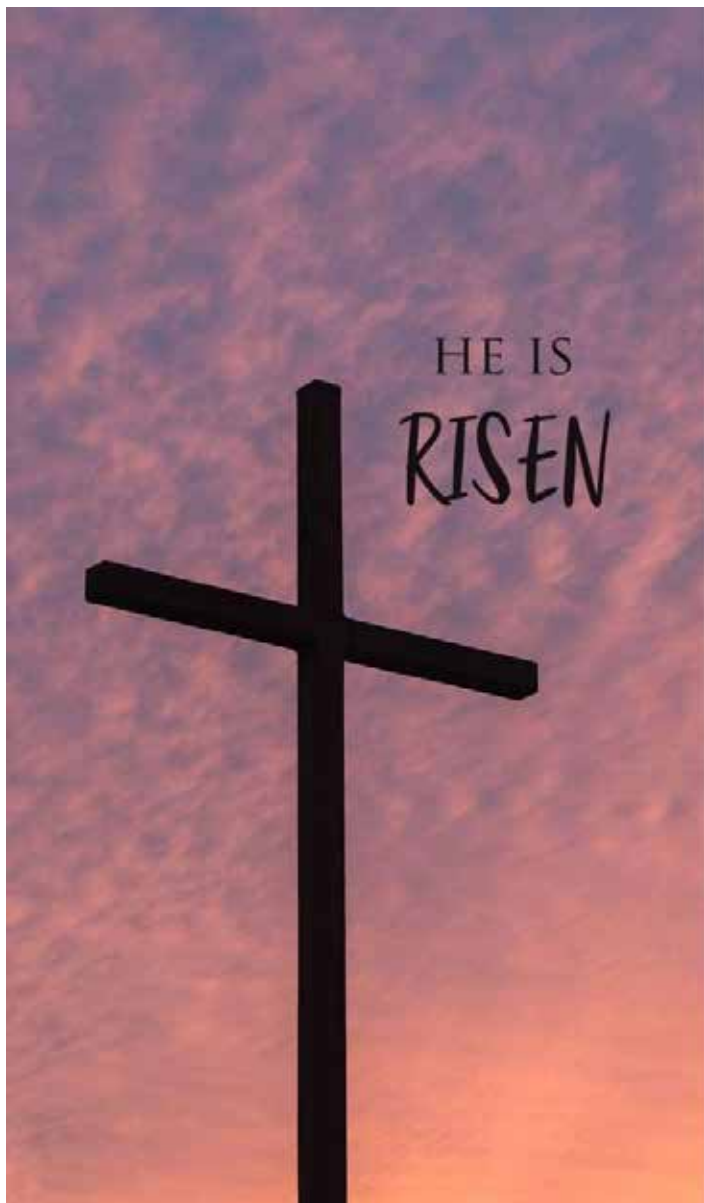
*(Continued from previous column)*

referenced during last Sunday's service, still resonates within me from Matthew 9:37-38; "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

May God inspire and raise up "new laborers" to partake in His plans and purposes for Atonement Church in 2024.

In His Service,  
Tom Bailey

**Trustees News** There is always something to report about maintaining and improving Atonement's beautiful property. Thanks to the gifts from all the wonderful congregants (past and present), your Trustees have been very busy this year! In 2022, extensive weather proofing of the exterior of the education building was completed. This paved the way for the current restoration on the first floor of fourteen interior window areas. This included the removal of loose stucco, installation of new materials, extensive patching, and color-matched painting. The Storage Room behind the Sanctuary (formerly Carol Choir room) has received a long overdue upgrade. Dilapidated cabinets have been removed, holes have been patched, and fresh paint applied. Still more to come in the future about this space! Throughout the building we are replacing fluorescent and incandescent lighting with energy efficient LED bulbs. The new tubes and bulbs are brighter, they eliminate the need for ballasts, and they have a tremendous life cycle. As of the end of February over 125 bulbs have been replaced! More on this will be updated in following Connections Newsletters.



## **LOOKING TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP AT KNOLLWOOD**

Pastor Amy is looking for a few good men to co-lead Bible Study on Monday nights from 6 to 7pm. These ten to twelve middle and high school students need a positive role model in their lives. During the hour there are refreshments followed by Bible Study. Your help be required once a month, if I can get four men. Also required is a love for God and a heart for children.

Contact Pastor Amy at (302) 218-5896

## **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](mailto: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](http://www.northeastgmc.org) or on Facebook: Northeast Global Methodists.

**GRIEF SHARE** has started on Wed. @ 6:30 pm. meeting in the youth room. Everyone is welcome to join at any time. The door is always open for new friends. You can find help for your hurting in this class. Go to the website for more information. [Griefshare.org](http://Griefshare.org)

## **The Deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, March 24th.**

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

## **A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER FROM YOUR ATONEMENT FAMILY AND PASTORS**

Jesus said... "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" *John 11:25-26 NKJV*



## **ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

*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**  
4200 Verona Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19808

**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

The purpose of 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.

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 unwavering service. We are sent out by Christ to live and work together and to profess our faith to the community in order that they might hear and respond to the word of 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

# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT Worship Service 9am & 11am	<b>4</b> AA Meeting 7pm	<b>5</b> Prayer Group 9am Worship Committee in Library 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> AA Meeting 8:30pm Prayer Group 9am
<b>10</b> 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT Worship Service 9am & 11am	<b>11</b> Finance Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>12</b> Leadership Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>13</b> Rebecca's Circle 10am	<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> 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT Worship Service 9am & 11am	<b>18</b> AA Meeting 7pm	<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> PALM SUNDAY Worship Service 9am & 11am	<b>25</b> AA Meeting 7pm	<b>26</b> AA Meeting 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 pm	<b>29</b> GOOD FRIDAY 12 noon	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> EASTER Eater Brunch 10 to 11am						