

ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2024

A Word from the Pastor's Heart....

"...the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest."

(Luke 8:15)

The Apostle Paul writes this greeting in almost all of his New Testament letters: "May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace." Like Paul, I am always thanking God for all of you and the gracious gifts God has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Through Jesus, God has enriched our church in every way...now we have every spiritual gift we need as we eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1: 4-7)

Atonement Methodist Church - friends and constituents, together we are united in our destiny. According to the Bible, our destiny is to be God's adopted children and live our lives as praise and glory to God. As God's children, we are to be transformed day by day into the image of Jesus! Yes, it is that simple! God is not interested in our accomplishments and works here on earth. Together we are to share God's love, grace, and the Gospel to our fellow humankind.

As we move into the Fall, let us hold onto this summer teachings of God's Word on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and the Parable of the Sower. Good seed of God's Word is being sown here at Atonement- resulting in good-hearted people who love God and love others as God loves them. Let us keep the faith as we "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God": our Heavenly Father, our Savior Jesus, and our wonderful counselor and helper, the Holy Spirit. To God be the glory! Amen.

Following our Savior together,

Pastor Amy

MESSAGES: September – December 2024

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

Labor Day Weekend

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 6: 10-12

Message Title: Labor of Love

No Sermon Hymn with Communion

Liturgist: Pastor Amy at both services

SERMON SERIES "THE BOOK OF JOEL"

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Scripture Reading: Joel 1: 1-12

Message Title: "National Tragedy"

Sermon Hymn: O Jesus, I Have Promised #396

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Scripture Reading: Joel 1: 13-20

Sermon Title: "A Call to Repentance"

Sermon Hymn: Nothing But the Blood #362

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Scripture Reading: Joel 2: 1-11

Message Title: Judgment Is Coming

Sermon Hymn: "Where He Leads Me" #338

SEPTEMBER 29TH FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION

ONE SERVICE AT 10:00

Brunch To Follow

Scripture Reading: Joel 2: 12-17

Message Title: "Getting Right With God"

Opening Worship Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 110#

Sermon Hymn: Be Thou My Vision 451 #

Closing Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River 723 #

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

THE BOOK OF JOEL, CONTINUES

OCTOBER 6, 2024 HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Scripture Reading: Joel 2: 18 – 27

Message Title: "The Mercy of God"

Use patchwork/quilted paraments

OCTOBER 13, 2024

Scripture Reading: Joel 2: 28-32

Sermon Title: "Day of the Lord"

Sermon Hymn: Breathe on Me, Breath of God #420

OCTOBER 20, 2024

Scripture Reading: Joel 3: 1-16

Message Title: "The Day of the Lord's Judgment"

Sermon Hymn: Sermon Title: The Battle Hymn of the Republic" #717 Verses 1, 3, 4, 5

OCTOBER 27, 2024

Scripture Reading: Joel 3: 17-21

Message Title: "Reign of God"

Sermon Hymn: Blessed Assurance #369

NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES: GRACEFUL GIVING

NOVEMBER 3, 2024 HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

Election is Coming

Scripture Reading: TBD

Sermon Title: Praying & Voting

November 10, 2024

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 8: 1-12

Message Title: Generosity Encouraged

Sermon Hymn: Take My Life, and Let it Be #399

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Message Title: "Sowing Generously"

Message Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God #102

Use Doxology # 95

NOVEMBER 24, 2024 SUNDAY BEFORE THANKS- GIVING

Scripture Reading: TBD

Message Title: TBD

Sermon Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #139

NOVEMBER 28 THANKSGIVING DAY

DECEMBER SERIES ON ADVENT

*FIFTH SUNDAY ON DECEMBER 29

One worship service at 10:00am

ALPHA IS COMING! We are now preparing to launch a small group series this Fall called the Alpha course. The Alpha course is based around answering some of the key questions at the heart of the Christian faith. The topic is how to find deeper purpose in life. These small groups will meet here at the church. Each meeting begins with sharing a meal and fellowship around the tables, followed by a twenty-minute video. After that is a discussion of the topic at each table. The course will start in mid-September and run for about eight weeks.

Our goal is to have six tables of about six people each. We have already put together a very good team of people to handle the procurement and set up of the food each week. **WE STILL NEED TWO OR THREE MORE TABLE LEADERS.** If you are interested in learning more about being a discussion leader or assistant leader, please see Pastor Cliff or Pastor Amy.

SOMETHING NEW *"The Class Meeting"* is a Small Group experience in an eight-week meeting with Pastor Amy. This will be a time of sharing and learning more about discipleship, while experiencing God's transforming presence in our lives; and how it brings newness to a person's spiritual walk. We will talk about our lives in God, while experiencing the assurance of God's love that will breathe new life into our connection with God. Our emphasis is on our journey with God. Questions? Day and time to be determined by participants. Contact Pastor Amy 302-218-5896

S.U.R.G.E. is starting on Friday, September 13

Meeting in the Youth Room.

Time: 7 to 9 pm

Leaders: David and Amanda Lang, Tom and Patty Bailey, Corrine Coates & volunteers

"BUILDING ON THE VISION OF ATONEMENT CHURCH"

"Connecting the Claymont Community & Beyond to Christ"

Over the years Atonement Methodist Church has been blessed by gifts given through estate planning. During uncertain days like these, we often evaluate what is really important to us in this world. The life and ministries of Atonement Church are very important to the health and welfare of Atonement, as well as the entire community. Your donation through legacy giving will bring honor to the Lord, as well as financial help to Atonement's vision and mission. There are ways for you to contribute directly to the General Operating Budget, the Memorial Fund for Worship and the Building Fund. Your legacy gift leaves real hope for sustaining the future of Atonement.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 8TH! YAY GOD!!!!

Please keep our Sunday School children in your prayers! **Kidmo** is for grades Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. **The Tweeners** Class is for Grades 4th-6th.

URBAN PROMISE MISSIONARIES

This summer, Atonement provided housing to 3 different groups of missionaries from churches located in Western Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Messiah College (near Harrisburg). Families, teenagers, and college students worked tirelessly on projects at Urban Promise locations. Our guests were very complimentary on our facility and hospitality during their visit. Each group joined us for worship, enriching our Sunday with their presence. Atonement has been busy with ministry this summer! We were blessed as much as our guests were!

THANK YOU TO KNITTERS

Did you know that Atonement Church has a small group of knitters and crocheters who supply new born baby caps and blankets? Babies baptized here at Atonement receive these beautiful handmade items as well as new babies born at the Door of Hope Pregnancy Center. Free yarn is available. To learn more, contact the Church Office. (302-798-8472)

SAVE THE DATE FOR REBECCA CIRCLE

All Atonement women are welcome to join Rebecca Circle for a great time of fun & fellowship. Mark your calendars for 9/11 at 10:00 to meet at the home of Arlene Skotnicki, 311 Lighthouse Rd, Wilmington. We share a program, do a little business and enjoy light refreshments. Come see what we're all about. Questions: Arlene Skotnicki 302-268-4262 or Debbie Clark 302-650-7926.

VERY IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT: In recent months there have been a number of people who have had allergic reactions to perfume, colognes, scented soaps and lotions. Reactions have been varied, but not insignificant. Did you know that fragrance sensitivity and allergic reactions affect approximately one-third of the population, with nearly 10% of the population having allergic reactions? Because of the health issues at stake, would you be willing to consider God's House a fragrance-free zone? Some of our church family are having to leave because of trouble breathing and headaches. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.
Mark 9: 37

KNOLLWOOD SPORTS CAMP

2024

God's Game Plan was the theme this year as we made God's plan-our plan for following Jesus. God's plan begins with "belief" in God, adding these ingredients to stay in love with God: "Prayer," "HOPE in God," "Joy in Jesus," and "Sharing God's Love" with others! The Bible memory verse was Jeremiah 29:11; while basketball, volleyball and flag football seemed to be the favorite sports. Thanks to all helpers, volunteers, hospitality, arts and crafts, set-up and take-down, and mascot-Mega! Thanks for co-leaders, small group leaders, and actors for drama! Big thank you to our donor of 10 pizzas on Thursday night! 80 slices disappeared in record time for our crowd of 40 kids that night. ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

BLACK ROCK RETREAT CENTER SUMMER CAMP

On July 14-19, seven Middle School students attended the summer camp program at Black Rock Retreat Center. By God's grace, the purchase of a 12-passenger van just days before, allowed the Youth Directors, David and Amanda Lang to transport the young people to Black Rock. On board were Essence and Mia Lewis, Hannah Robles, Matthew and Noah Lang, and Gaige and Caidence Bishop. Their camp experience was funded by the Shirley Wilson legacy monies received in 2022. Thank You to all who helped gather supplies, did shopping, encouraged and supported this missional effort!

WHY DO I WANT TO JOIN ATONEMENT

CHURCH? My first time I came to the church I sat in one of the pews. I said I feel right at home. Everyone in the congregation welcomed me with open arms. "Lord it's good to be back home." *Donna Prendergast*

PRAYING FOR LEADERS

(Excerpts from Billy Graham: How To Pray For Our Leaders) "We should never take for granted our freedom to pray. It is not too late to ask the Lord to bring revival to American and transform the hearts of those who seek to undermine the values our nation was founded upon."

- Give _____ (Name) discretion, foresight, and understand in making decisions. (1Chronicles 22:12)
- Protect _____ (Name) from the influence of the evil one. (2Thessalonians:3:3)
- Deliver _____ (Name) from opinions contrary to Your Word. (Psalm 119:105).
- Guard _____ (Name) from harm, and bless and protect their family. (Psalm 21:11; Ezra 6:10).
- Give _____ (Name) the courage to do the right thing even when urged to do the wrong thing. (Proverbs 2: 11-15).
- Grant _____ (Name) a heart of compassion toward those they lead and serve.

WHO TO PRAY FOR: President, Vice President, Senators, Congressional Reps, Supreme Court, Military, Governor, State Reps, Mayor, Police, and Others.

JOIN THE TEAM at Knollwood Community Center! Afterschool Program BIBLE STUDY. Beginning with the Story of David, the boy who trusted God. MONDAYS 4-5pm, Elementary Grades K-5. Starting Monday, September 12

QR CODE - Atonement now has a QR Code that will make giving to the church easier. Aim the camera on your phone on the code and it will take you to Atonement's Giving Page on our website. And then, continue to follow the prompts. No App necessary!



ATONEMENT'S SUMMER OUTREACH "500 TRACTS CHALLENGE"

Consider this: 89% of Christians today have NEVER passed out a Gospel tract. Most of us are not a witness to those we love, work with, visit, live next door to or meet at church. So, let the track do the talking! Studies show that tracts are very effective ways to reach people. According to Chick Tracts, illustrated Gospel tracts are very successful in spreading God's Word around the world. Don't give up on passing out your ten tracts this summer! If you did not receive tracts to join our 500 Challenge, more tracts are available from The Evangelism Team. Goal is to give out 500 tracts before the end of summer, September 22nd!

SINCERELY, THANK YOU

In their time of grief, the families of Fay McCall and Arlene Skotnicki send their appreciation to Atonement for expressions of prayers, love, concern and support. We are grateful for such a loving church family. If you or a family member are in need of pastoral or congregational care, please let Pastor Amy or the Church office know.

12 NOON- THE LORD'S PRAYER

As part of the Global Methodist Church, everyone is invited to stop at 12 Noon sharp, if possible, and take a moment to pray with all our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. The Lord's prayer is the perfect prayer model, so if time permits, why not take a moment and ponder the different segments of the prayer and go deeper with God. May God bless the Global Methodist Church worldwide as we all devote this time of prayer to God.

**"FLAVORS OF FALL"
FIFTH SUNDAY BRUNCH –
SEPTEMBER 29, 2024
11:15AM (FOLLOWING WORSHIP)
WELCOME CENTER (FOOD LINE)
ROOM 102 (SEATING)**

What do you love to eat when the weather turns cooler outside? Please consider donating a dish to share or sign up to clean up after brunch. All donations should serve 10-12 people and be in a disposable container. (or take home your dish after the brunch) Invite a friend to worship and brunch. Matthew 25: 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

**EXTRA SPECIAL NEWS FOR
ATONEMENT METHODIST
CHURCH!**

On Saturday, July 6th, Atonement purchased a 2022 Ford Transit van with 12 seats and lots of extra features that were suggested in the planning over the past 4 years for this big purchase. With some 52,000 miles on the odometer, the van is in almost excellent shape! In fact, we were one of three buyers interested in obtaining the van. Thanks be to God that our salesperson, Larry, had a "good feeling about us" and since we were going to pay for the van in full- he helped us get everything in order to buy the van within 72 hours. Thanks to all who worked on making this van ministry become a reality; especially Amanda Lang who found the van and orchestrated the deal! ALL expenses for the van are being covered by the inheritance money of Shirley Wilson, including five years of maintenance, gas, insurance, etc. The van has been paid for in full and also has an extended warranty, as well.



**SAMARITIAN'S PURSE WATER
PROJECT**

continues as Atonement collects coins and donations to fund the Clean Water Wells projects. Samaritan's Purse tells us on their web site that 748 million people live without access to clean water. Atonement's coin collection (in the blue water jug in the Welcome Center and in the mason jar up front at The Branch) have accumulated thousands of dollars for the Clean Well water project. Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters (as well as cash or checks) are most welcome!

FOR ATONEMENT'S CHURCH

FAMILY... Check out the Happy Birthday display outside the Nursery. On the Master List check for your name and birthday to make corrections if necessary. If your name is not on the master sheet, then follow directions on the display to fill our card with name and birthday date, not including year. Please make sure your writing is easy to read, so to minimize mistakes.



KNOW
the truth
PROTECT
the truth
RECOGNIZE
your identity
OWN
your identity
BELIEVE
the gospel
AND'
PREACH
It to yourself
EVERYDAY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

is in full swing here at Atonement Methodist Church! A BIG thankyou to all who donated to O.C.C. during the past months. Your donations make it possible for us to fill more Christmas boxes that will make their way to children all over the world! We are still collecting donations for items previously mentioned as well as 8 oz. plastic cups, small plastic bowls, and flip flops. The Dollar stores are a great source of these items at an affordable cost! Thanks again for all Atonement's support for O.C.C. Seeing the films of children receiving these boxes will not only warm your heart but give meaning to all those donations during the year!

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 September!

3- Chris Reinhardt
7- Perry Blevins
7- Beth Ann Friday
9- Victoria Bezilla-Hofferth
11- Bob Clark
13- George Billy-Attoh
13- Mike Jones
14- Lynn Armstrong
15- Nathaniel Lang
20- David Lang, Sr.
22- Sarah DeBerardinis
23- Bonnie Jones
25- Arlene Skotnicki
27- Paula Knutson

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.

WAKE-UP CALL: A daily devotional that is great! Wake-Up Call sets the pace for a good and Godly day. Join your brothers and sisters of Atonement Church every morning with the wakeupcall@seedbed.com. It is a Global Methodist publication that is an encouraging way to begin your day.

ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

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Claymont, DE 19703

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atonementmc@gmail.com

Pastor Amy Peters, Lead Pastor
302-218-5896

Cliff Werline, Assistant Pastor
302-588-7823



*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
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Gerri Kaut
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Phillip Komorny 302-798-3264
9 Marion Avenue
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

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 7pm	4 Urban Promise 9am to 4pm	5	6	7 Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
8 Worship Service 9am & 11am Sunday School 10:10am	9 Finance Meeting 7pm	10 Prayer Group 9am Leadership Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	11 Rebecca's Circle 10am	12	13 SURGE 7 - 9pm	14 Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
15 Worship Service 9am & 11am Sunday School 10:10am	16	17 Prayer Group 9am Trustee's Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	18	19	20 SURGE 7 - 9pm	21 Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
22 Worship Service 9am & 11am Sunday School 10:10am	23	24 Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 7pm	25 ALPHA	26	27 SURGE 7 - 9pm	28 Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
29 10am Worship 5th Sunday Sunday School 10:10am	30					