

ATONEMENT METHODIST CHURCH

# CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER 2024

## **To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

*"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift."*

*Second Corinthians 9:15*

Together we have received many, numerous, even countless blessings, benefits, and gifts as children of God. We, who have come to know and follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, invest our time, treasure, and talent in the Kingdom of God here on Earth. Our appreciation to God inspires us to be ever increasingly thankful: causing us to worship God more passionately, while loving extravagantly and witnessing boldly!

According to Psalm 68:19, everyday God is loading us up:

*"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits."*

And above all is God's "unspeakable gift," the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ! As we seek God, we will find even more of God! We discover again and again reasons to love God and to live and honor God every day! Our God is totally awesome and worthy of all praise and thanksgiving! "Even though we have never seen God, we love God, and we rejoice with inexpressible, unspeakable and glorious joy..." (First Peter 1:8). Hallelujah! God's actions of love, grace, faithfulness, and loving-kindness to us compel us to whisper, to speak, to shout, to cry out and proclaim:

*"Yes! The LORD has done amazing things for us! What joy!"* (Psalm 126:3).

I love these Bible verses!

Everyday God's mercy is new!

*His steadfast love never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."* Lamentations 3:22-23

Jesus, Messiah humbled Himself to become human and suffered unimaginable agony as He shed His blood for our sins and separated Himself from His Father in order to rescue us from sin and death. This Christmas season, pause and think about what amazing things Jesus has done for you! Just as astonishing is all that God has done and continues to do for our beloved Church, Church family, and the greater Claymont area! Put your thanksgiving into action for Jesus this Christmas! Share your joy and gratitude in tangible ways that can change a life! Let's do it, Atonement Church! Say "Yes!" to God to make this Christmas a very special one to someone in need of God's kind of hope and love!

Happy and blessed Merry Christmas to you and your families! Thank you all for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness that brings glory to God in the Highest!

***Merry and blessed Christmas to you all!!***

*Pastor Amy*

## DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

### ADVENT

**DECEMBER 1, 2024**

#### **FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - HOPE & HOLY COMMUNION**

Scripture Reading: Romans 15: 13  
Message Title: "How to Have Hope"

**DECEMBER 8, 2024**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT - PEACE**

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 10  
Sermon Title: "Peace On Earth"

**DECEMBER 15, 2024**

#### **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - JOY**

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 39-45; 56  
Message Title: "Surprised By Joy"

**DECEMBER 22, 2024**

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - LOVE CANTATA - 9AM**

Scripture Reading: TBD  
Message Title: "TBD"

**CHRISTMAS EVE - 7PM**

#### **ADVENT CANDLE - CHRIST CANDLE**

Scripture Reading: Christmas Bible Readings  
Message Title: "Jesus"

## LITURGIST SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

- December 1: Traditional - Pastor Amy  
The Branch - Pastor Amy  
December 8: Traditional - Ellie Kwick  
The Branch - Pat DeFeo  
December 15: Traditional - Linda Cobourn  
The Branch - Laura Calzone  
December 22: Traditional- Arlene Skotnicki  
The Branch- Mark Peters  
December 29: 5th Sunday - Pastor Amy

## JOHN WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

Sunday, January 5th, 2025 - 9am & 11am. Let us begin our New Year with the blessing of God. Holy Communion will be shared.

## A WORD FROM THE LAY LEADER

The Scriptures bring us Joy during the Christmas season and so much more. Christmas should be a time to reflect – remember God's love He has for us. As God has loved us, we need to love our neighbors. We need to celebrate the hope, peace, love, and joy He gives us freely. What special gifts they are! We need to reflect on the baby born in the manger, our Savior given for us; He is the Messiah, the Lord – Emmanuel. Think about the trust Mary and Joseph must have had. How does your trust in God measure up to theirs? We need to trust His divine will for us, His is greater than ours ever could be. We need to be people of faith and joy, and in the light and hope that Christmas brings us. We are called to be the light of the world for Jesus. How are you doing in letting His light shine through you? How can you encourage and build someone else up? Give God all the glory for everything you have. Glory to God in the highest! God wants us to have peace and encourages us. He tells us "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. For with God nothing is impossible." How do you see God's hand working in your life?

My prayer for all of you – "May the God of Hope fill you all with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Happy New Year!

Shalom,  
Laura Calzone  
Lay Leader

Thank you! It is with a very grateful heart that I thank you for the most amazing year, 2024. I so appreciate your prayers and your contributions to our church. Pastor Appreciation was over the top! Sincerely, Pastor Amy.

## CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

**Saturday, December 14 Atonement joins the Salvation Army with its Red-Kettle Collection** from 9-4pm at the Claymont Food Lion. Sign up at the Christmas table in the Welcome Center to ring the bell for one-hour increments! The Salvation Army is such a worthy ministry as it helps so many people in so many ways.

**Sunday, December 22:** 9am during the Traditional Worship Service our Sanctuary Choir will present this year's **Christmas Cantata**, "What Sweeter Music- A Festival of Carols." What a blessing and a beautiful presentation of the Christmas story in music. It's a great day to bring a friend!

**Tuesday, December 24:** One Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7pm. Families and children are welcome! It will be a celebration of the Christmas story with Scripture, carols and candles.

**Sunday, December 29th:** Fifth Sunday Celebration with on service at 10:00am.

**HOPE IS BORN POSTCARDS** are available for Atonement Church to invite, invite, and invite some more people to visit Atonement this Christmas season. The extra-large postcard has a beautiful message of love, peace, and hope for all! It invites our Claymont community to the Christmas Cantata (the Christmas story in song) on Sunday, December 22nd and the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 7pm. Please, take the postcards and pass them out to family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and acquaintances. Let the holy message of Christmas touch the hearts of our guests. Hope is born and His Name is Jesus!

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE** outreach continues for the month of December. We are collecting donations towards recovery after hurricane damage in the southern states. Checks can be made out to Samaritan's Purse and put in the brass collection plates in the Welcome Center or Sanctuary. Please label your envelope "Hurricane donation." Donations also can be made on their website. There's also a large, blue water jug for all coins (or dollars). This area is still suffering loss in many ways. As God has blessed us, let us reach out to our neighbors down south and bless them!

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*By Robert Louis Stevenson*

"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good wishes with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings. Teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Your children. And may the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful hearts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be  
upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty  
God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.  
Isaiah 9: 6*

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

### **it's not too late to join!**

Wednesdays from 1-2pm in the Welcome Center Library. This Bible study unpacks Psalm 91, which is an affirmation for God's people. Even in the worst of times, countless people have been able to trust in God for His protective care- found in Psalm 91. God truly is our shelter in the storms of life.

## **WINTER LIFE GROUPS COMING**

**IN JANUARY....**and we will be trying something new for Life Groups! Everyone is invited to John Wesley's "Class Meetings." They are a life group experience for up to 10 people per group. Male and female will gather together for fellowship and a time to put our faith into practice. The Class Meeting is an excellent means for church renewal, for such a time as we live in. This study is one way to develop deeper connections with one another and even more so- with our Triune God! This powerful approach is being reclaimed and found effective for all ages. Along with Pastor Amy, a small group learned more about this "new," yet (Old) kind of Life Group. The most important ingredient of a successful class meeting is a group of people who are willing to take an interest in each other's lives, and who are interested in growing their relationship with Jesus. The goal is for helping people to come to know, and experience God's grace in greater ways.



## **Outreach Ministries for 2024**

\*Rebecca's Circle  
Able Ministries  
Alpha Course  
Black Rock Retreat Camp  
Cell Phones for Soldiers  
Chosen People /Jews for Jesus  
Wesleyan "Class Meeting"  
Claymont Fire Company  
Claymont Food Bank  
Clean Water Project for Samaritan's Purse  
Door of HOPE  
Friendship House \*  
Gideons International  
Guideposts for Military\*  
Knollwood Community Center  
Kenny Davis Ministries  
Lion's Glass collection  
Little Library Box at Dart Bus Stop  
Operation Christmas Child  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
Prayer Room  
Red Bird Mission\*  
Salvation Army  
Samaritan's Purse  
Seaman's Center  
Society of St. Andrew\*  
Sojourner's Place\*  
Stockings for Soldiers\*  
Sunday Breakfast Mission\*  
Urban Bike Project\*  
Wednesday Bible Study

## **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)

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Happy and blessed  
Merry Christmas  
to all the families  
and people of this  
Claymont area!  
And a healthy  
and spiritually  
prosperous year  
be yours!  
Sincerely meant!

## **SURGE FALL FESTIVAL**



## **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. 22th 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 15th.



**VOLUNTEER  
BELL RINGERS  
NEEDED!**

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

Atonement Church  
joins the Salvation Army's  
**RED KETTLE SEASON**  
at the Claymont Food Lion  
Saturday, December 14th  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sign up at the Welcome Center.

**CONGRATULATIONS to  
Caleb Lang who is  
in Marine Boot Camp!  
Keep him in prayer.**

## “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.

**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!



**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.



## Happy Birthday December!

- 9 - Kyle Kinch
- 10 - Ed and Jane Fisher
- 11 - Steve Prendergast
- 17 - Miata Freeman
- 25 - Betty Wilbur
- 27 - Cliff Werline
- 28 - Karen Dejong
- 29 - Maria Bezilla

**WALKING WITH JESUS BLOG** WALKING WITH JESUS BLOG for Christmas! Locate the blog at [Atonementchurch.net](http://Atonementchurch.net) One of our Church Wordsmiths, Linda Cobourn, is doing something special! Wondering about the Magi from the East? Check it out! Linda is an extra-ordinary channel of God’s love!

## CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION – 21ST ANNUAL KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS NATIVITY DISPLAY

3717 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE 19703  
December 14th & 15th - Saturday hours: 12 PM - 6 PM; Sunday hours 10 AM - 4 PM  
This event features more than 100 Nativities from many countries and cultures, created from the materials available, and reflecting the traditions of Christian faiths around the world.

**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](mailto:wakeupcall@seedbed.com). It is a Global Methodist publication that is an encouraging way to begin your day.



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

**Helen Albright** 302-764-0684  
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**Adrian Dejong** 302-793-1068  
2402 Garfield Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19809

**Millie Dyson** 302-588-8232  
2016 Naamans Road, Apt A6  
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**Marty Hargan**  
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**Lois Hopper** 302-798-4812  
711 W. Birchtree Lane  
Claymont, DE 19703

**Gerri Kaut**  
Lodge Lane  
1221 Lodge Lane  
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9 Marion Avenue  
Claymont, DE 19703

**Darla Laramore** 302-439-4814  
319 Chapel Ave, Apt A  
Claymont, DE 19703

**Walter & Barb Mitchell** 302-479-5879  
3336 Morningside Drive  
Wilmington, 19810

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

## **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**

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

# DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bible Study 1:00pm ALPHA 6:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> SURGE 7 - 9pm	<b>7</b> CHRISTMAS PARADE 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
<b>8</b> Worship Service 9am & 11am Sunday School 10:10am Class Meeting 3:00pm	<b>9</b> Finance Meeting 7pm	<b>10</b> Prayer Group 9am Leadership Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>11</b> Rebecca's Circle 10am Bible Study 1:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> SURGE 7 - 9pm	<b>14</b> SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
<b>15</b> Worship Service 9am & 11am Sunday School 10:10am Class Meeting 3:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Prayer Group 9am Trustees Meeting 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>18</b> Bible Study 1:00pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> SURGE 7 - 9pm	<b>21</b> Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
<b>22</b> CANTATA 9am Worship Service 9am & 11am Sunday School 10:10am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7pm AA Meeting 7pm	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Prayer Group 9am AA Meeting 8:30pm
<b>29</b> 5th Sunday Worship Service 10am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE AA Meeting 7pm				