

## AUMC

### *A Community in Faith Where Active Adults Can Grow and Thrive*

#### HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

June 2019

Dear Friends,

It has been a blessed 5 years at Atlantic UMC! As I reflect on my time with you some highlights come to mind, including the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year-long celebrations, baptizing and confirming Atlantic's children and youth, as well as some adults – in the ocean no less! In addition to being part of the beautiful liturgical traditions and music of the 10:00 am service, I have also enjoyed the informality of the praise service. It was a real blessing when this service agreed to worship at Shenanigans on the boardwalk during the summer. In these ways, and more, you have lived your faith and touched the lives of Ocean City's many visitors. I have so appreciated your willingness to try some new approaches to living the gospel in this day and time. To the church leaders, I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to partner with you. I have already received so many well wishes from you, including the farewell celebration that will happen this Sunday. Thank you for thinking of me, for your generosity in making sure that Andy and I are provisioned for our journey across country, and for the chance to say goodbye. I appreciate all the people that have worked together to put this in place.

As I prepare to depart, I pray that my time as your pastor has encouraged you, challenged you, and helped you to grow more deeply in your faith.

As you know Rev. Joe Barth (Pastor Joe) will begin his ministry at Atlantic in early July. There will be substitute clergy covering the pulpit from June 9-30<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Bill Sterling will handle pastoral emergencies. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Bill for all he has done to support my ministry at Atlantic during these years.

On Monday morning, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Andy and I will load up our jeep and head toward the desert southwest. Like so many of you, we will now begin to experience life at a slower pace in a new location. We don't know what lies ahead, but we are thankful we can head into this new adventure together. We are sure God will find new ways for us to serve as time goes on.

Blessings and peace, Pastor Patty and Pastor Andy



We will be blessed daily by  
this view from our front patio!

## **Our Macedonian Call**

Have you been in the place where you didn't know which way to go? I'm not talking about directions on the road, but, directions in life. Advice in where to go and what is your path in the world.

In Acts 16, the Apostle Paul was spiritually at a roadblock. The Holy Spirit prevented him from traveling north, and then prevented him traveling south, and so now he is hemmed in against the sea at Troas. In Paul's day Troas was a Roman colony and an expansive trading city. After the Romans, Troas was abandoned, then it was used as a quarry, and now it sits dormant, overgrown with oak trees. Sleeping in Troas, Paul had a vision. A man was standing in Northern Greece and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Paul heeded the vision and left the next day. The story has come to be known as "The Macedonian Call."

I know how Paul felt, and how perplexed he must have been in lacking any direction. In 1985, I was working for The Bank of Palmerton. A small bank with only two branches centered in Palmerton, PA. I was being trained as the Junior Cashier, and would be cashier and an officer of the bank when the cashier retired in a few months. I was finishing up my degree in Business Administration, and that is when the call came. It wasn't a vision or dream, it was a voice inside saying, "You will be a runner and a worker in the field of the Lord." Does God still speak? Yes, in a myriad of ways.

By this time, I was married to my late wife, and we were expecting twins. Going into the ministry was not the path I had laid out for my life! Wendy and I just bought a house in Palmerton, and she was working at a bank in the Lehigh Valley. I, we, had a choice of staying in banking and saying no to the call, or follow the call and leave two very good jobs. We decided to follow the call. I went back to college and then graduated on the same day with a Bachelor's degree in ministry and an Associate's degree in business administration.

Every day I was faced with a choice, and so are you. Continue in the path of the call or turn back. What is this calling I speak of? It is the call to follow Jesus! To take up your cross and to be sent where the Lord wants to send you. To follow your call you will need three things: acceptance, willingness and obedience. You can't say 'yes' to the call unless you are also willing to say 'yes' to those three as well. You will never know where the call will take you, that's up to God. Rest assured that wherever the call leads you, the Almighty has a plan for your life to bring God glory.

In 1912, John Harper was a minister in the church of Scotland, and he boarded a ship to America. The ship was called the Titanic. Those who were saved from the icy waters, reported that Rev. Harper preached the Gospel to the very end. The survivors also reported that Rev. Harper made sure his sister and daughter were in a lifeboat, and as the Titanic began to sink, he preached the Gospel and admonished people to be prepared to die. As he was floating in the icy water with a life jacket on, another man was near him, and Rev. Harper asked him, "Are you saved?" "No, I'm not saved!" the desperate man replied. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!", Harper shouted. One survivor gave the report that Rev. Harper, knew he could not survive very long in the icy water, so he took off his life jacket and threw it to

someone else and said, "You need this more than I do!" Rev. Harper never made it to America, instead, God had a different destination in mind – home! To the very end, he was accepting, willing and obedient to the call.

**Acts 16:9** "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (NAS)

In Jesus' Love,  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Barth

### **BELL CHOIR – BILLIE WALL**

The Atlantic Bell Choir has begun its summer sabbatical and we have all been blessed as we rehearsed for participation in worship over the 2018/2019 season. The experience of playing is one that we share with much joy though, at times, trepidation! Our rehearsals are full of laughter, sight reading of new pieces, wondering if we will EVER enjoy playing THAT piece! With the help of our divine bell coach up above, we usually do learn the selection and enjoy playing it more than we ever thought we would!

We played in the Ocean City Area 3 Festival at the Powell Convention Hall in March. The selections for the festival bring many challenges. Learning new techniques, following a new director, and rehearsing at least 8 hours with the other 400 ringers is exhilarating! We enjoy the fellowship of fellow ringers and the experience offered in our own back yard!

I cannot pass up this chance to ask each of you to prayerfully consider joining our "band of bellers"! I think I have mentioned the fun that we can have learning new selections. It is also a challenge for some who play two, or more positions, when someone is absent. We welcome those who would like to learn how to hold a brass bell as you would an ice cream cone, tilting it forward to produce the proper sound, without dropping the ice cream on the floor! We would be delighted to have new members.

Have a summer filled with laughter, blessings and delight of the Lord who allows us to share our gift of music with our family at Atlantic.  
Peace be unto you, Billie Wall, Director of Handbells

### **BOOK CLUB – JACKIE STERLING**

The Book Club will be reading "A Women's Place" by Lynn Austin during the summer. It's a novel about four women who go to work in a factory during WWII and how it affects them. We will meet again in September.

### **CHANCEL CHOIR – JUNE TODD**

The Chancel choir will continue to rehearse and sing until July 7, the first Sunday when Dr. Barth will be here. Many thanks to Barbara and Bob Johnson for hosting the end of season choir part. Delicious food and great fellowship!

Congratulations to Patty and Andy on their retirement. Sincere thanks for all you have done for Atlantic. It was great working with you. Thank you for your inspiring ministry and your friendship. I wish you good health and happiness in your retirement.

## THRIFT SHOP – BILL & LINDA JONES

In spite of the many days of rain and persistent local construction the Thrift Shop is having a very good year thanks to the many worthwhile donations we receive and the dedication of our many volunteers. We really do appreciate all of the people who give their time to staffing the shop. Without them this endeavor could not continue.

As we begin to see more students in the shop it is a reminder that we are always in need of extra help especially on Saturdays. If you could donate a couple of hours, one or two Saturdays per month, this would be a big help as many of our regular volunteers are scheduling their vacations or entertaining company. Please give us a call if you can be of any assistance.

*Summer worship times – May 26th thru September 1st*  
*Informal (Boardwalk) 8:30 am*  
*Traditional (Sanctuary) 10:00 am*

### June Birthdays!!

June 2 – Sherry Dare  
June 6 – Verla Hammond  
June 8 – Kurt Marx  
June 10 – Moira Biddle  
June 10 – Bob Eastman  
June 14 – Charlotte Montgomery  
June 15 – Terry Hoption  
June 15 – Les Munro  
June 26 – Adele Biel  
June 29 - George Godfrey



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## **Monthly Report of Trustees Activities and Work Projects Status**

### **Month of June 2019**

Board of Trustees of Atlantic United Methodist Church reports the following:

Hello all. We appreciate and thank everyone who continues to give us feedback and ideas of repairing and improving our Church building and campus. We appreciate and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

We ask everyone to help us out by continuing to be vigilant when you are in or around our building. We ask if you see something that needs the attention of the Trustees such as a leaking water source, lights out, broken window(s), equipment or appliances not working, heating or air conditioning not working, or any other concern to please let us know.

#### **PARKING LOT ISSUES:**

##### **Update Parking Signs in Parking Lot to Accommodate Enforcement and Towing of Violators:**

New Signs have been placed at both entrances.

These signs are in addition to the required signage by Ocean City Government to be able to accommodate the towing of violators who park illegally on Church property in our parking lot.

Our Church parking lot is very small and has always been an attractive place to park free of charge for people who do not want to pay to use the Town paid parking facilities.

Since the paid parking started April 1<sup>st</sup>, we are once again starting to see an increase in people parking their vehicles in our parking lot and going to the Boardwalk, or other locations downtown that is not related to our Church. This will get worse as Summer arrives and brings many more people to Town.

**Our Church lot is private property and is to be used solely for Church Service, Thrift Shop, Church Events, Church Meetings, and Church Business. We are forced to look for solutions to our illegal parking dilemma.**

**Therefore, we have placed new additional signage at each entrance about the proper usage of our parking lot. These signs will also warn people illegally using our lot that their vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.**

We will ensure that persons who illegally park their vehicles on our lot are in fact in violation of our posted signs before we call the towing company to remove them. But **illegally parked vehicles will be towed**. Illegal Parking on Church Property IS UNACCEPTABLE, IT TAKES PARKING PLACES FROM STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, CONGREGANTS, VISITORS, PATRONS OF THRIFT SHOP, etc.

**As far as AUMC congregants go, THIS WILL NOT AFFECT THE WAY WE COME AND GO ON A DAILY BASIS. NOTHING CHANGES FOR US.**

The policy of using our lot to park and go off property by **PLACING A RECENT AUMC CHURCH BULLETIN ON THE DASH OF THEIR VEHICLE WHEN PARKING ON CHURCH PROPERTY WILL REMAIN THE SAME. BUT PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IF YOU PARK ON THE LOT, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PLACE A RECENT AUMC BULLETIN DISPLAYED ON THE DASH OF YOUR VEHICLE IN CLEAR VIEW TO PREVENT TOWING.**

**\*\*\* The second concern regarding the parking lot is during Sunday Service.**

We ask congregants to please leave the 3 visitor spaces that are marked for visitors for visitors. We have permission to park free of charge in the City Hall Lot, and the Police do not enforce the parking lot on 4th street until after 1:00 p.m. on Sunday's. Please use these areas for overflow parking and leave the visitor parking spaces available for visitors.

We continue to work very hard to stay on top of the repairs and address everything we can as quickly as we can. As the old saying goes **"If You See Something, Say Something"**.

**Since our last report, below is an updated status report of our activities work projects:**

**Repair the Hymnal, Bible, Pencil, envelope holders, etc. on all Sanctuary Pews:**

Several of the larger racks needed remounting. They tend to fall off easily. Some smaller pencil/pen racks were either broken or missing. We ordered and installed new ones. The larger racks were remounted to make them stronger and sturdy.

**STATUS: COMPLETED April 29, 2019**

Work done by Trustees

**Power Wash the Exterior of the Church Building & Thrift Shop:**

Power Washing of the North, East, and West sides of the Church building including the Thrift Shop, sidewalks, etc. The building has lots of mold, mildew and algae growing on the bricks, stucco, and sidewalk entrances.

**STATUS: COMPLETED May 15, 2019**

Work being done by Ocean Waves Soft Wash Power Washing, Inc.

**Windows in the Church Administrator's Office & the Pastor's Office:**

Replace the 4 windows in the Church Administrator's office and the Pastor's Office. They are not functional, they will not properly lock and create a security risk and vulnerability to break-in's, they all leak the outside elements of rain, snow, air, heat, and cold to enter and escape.

**STATUS: IN PROGRESS HOPEFULLY TO BE COMPLETED IN JUNE 2019**

Work being done by Window World.

**Church Wide Work Day/Clean-Up, Fix Up - FALL:**

The Church campus has needed a through cleanup/fixup for a long time. We plan on finishing on the upper level in the Fall. We are hopeful we will have enough volunteers to get everything done within a couple of days.

Plan to do a complete cleanup, painting (as needed), and fixup. Of the meeting/classrooms on the upper level. This will be done in coordination with our planned Fall Cleanup/Fixup days in the Fall of the year.

**STATUS: PENDING Work to be done in Fall 2019 by way of Church Wide Workday to be held**

**Saturday October 5, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Work to be done by Trustees and other Church Volunteers.

**(PLEASE PLACE THIS SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR)**

**AUMC Mascots** welcome visitors to the Church Office. Stop by and pet them. Very friendly, but may bark when they sense negativity!



ONE KIND WORD  
can change  
someone's  
entire day

The Golden Rule