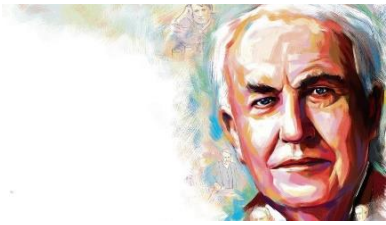


December 2019

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE:

Those Who Sat in Darkness



One hundred and forty years ago, the world witnessed the very first demonstration of a bamboo filament creating the incandescent lightbulb. On October 21, 1879 Thomas Edison's light bulb burned continuously for thirteen and a half hours. By Christmas, his light bulbs lasted for 40 hours and Edison lit up his home and laboratory. On New Year's Eve of the same year, Edison had plans for Christie

Street. It became the first street to be lit by incandescent light bulbs with the help of a power system designed by Edison.

Even before the light bulb, Thomas Edison was proclaimed the “**Wizard of Menlo Park**”. In November 1877, he invented the phonograph. It was simple machine that allowed a person to speak into a diaphragm. The diaphragm was attached to a pin and this pin made indentations onto a paper wrapped around wood. What were the first words spoken into the phonograph? Those first words by Edison was the rhyme, “Mary had a Little Lamb”. This is the invention that made him world famous, and attracted visitors from around the world. Soon thereafter, Edison expanded his machine shop into a full laboratory and it became known as the “Invention Factory” at Menlo Park.



The Bible reveals another area that was lit up with God's light. The gospel of Matthew records it in chapter four, verses 15 & 16:

Matthew 4:15-16 ¹⁵ "In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined." (NLT)

This is a beautiful and powerful image! Death casts a shadow that every human being must deal with. A shadow is caused, of course, by an object coming between us and the sun. So, for the Jewish people, death as standing between us and the sun, and it casts a long, dark shadow over

the face of the land. This shadow covers a gloomy and dreadful area, where death and sin reigns. When I read this passage about death's shadow, I am reminded of Psalm 23, verse 4: *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."* (NAS)

According to this passage, Galilee is depicted as an especially dark country. The inhabitants of Galilee were viewed by others as proverbially ignorant and stupid. (not my words, but seen from historical accounts and Mark 14:70). They had a coarse and outspoken manner of speech, and they were viewed as lacking both manners and morals.

What this means is, God chose the most despised, poor sinners to live among! Instead of seeking out the rich and powerful, he lives and ministers to the needy, the ignorant, and the despised. He sets an example for all of us; it is our duty to seek out those who are also sitting in darkness, and bring the gospel-light to them. There is no part of the world, that is so despised or God-forsaken that cannot be given the gospel of light and love! Just as Jesus chose to enlighten them, it is our privilege to enlighten others. Any person that we may falsely believe is too far from receiving the grace of God and walking in the light of his love, really isn't and never was!

BACKPACK – BRENDA WIMPERIS

Our Back Pack Program needs help!

AUMC is very proud to say that one of the local community missions we support is the ***Back Pack Program***. AUMC needs to physically help this program!

So far this year, we have 30 children who attend Ocean City Elementary School who need food every weekend. The number of children has traditionally increased as we continue through the fall months. Many of their parents are seasonal workers but off-season earn less than poverty level salaries and it's a known fact, through the school system, that these children don't have enough food to eat on weekends. Our ***Back Pack Program*** packs breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks ~ enough food for these children to eat for a weekend.

Debbie Priestley, owner of Designing Windows, through her Facebook page, receives donations from her friends and local businesses to support this program. Debbie goes shopping every two to three weeks and buys all the food. The weekly cost averages about \$450.00. The total cost per year averages \$17,000. Martha Circle donates \$1,000.00 to this program and several church members have donated from time to time.

Since we began in September, we've only had one volunteer and the administrator ~ from our church~ to help pack our bags. Sometimes a volunteer from Community Church comes to help also. ***We pack bags on Thursday mornings from 8:30 – 9:15 in our church social hall. We need volunteers to pack on Thursday mornings. We accept monetary donations in any amount from individuals. If you have any time to give, please come and help us!***

BAZAAR NEWS – PAM ZORN

A huge thank you to everyone for participating in our "fun-raiser" Christmas Bazaar! It was a great success but most importantly brought everyone together sharing God's love.

BELLS – BILLIE WALL

December 8, 2019

**Atlantic Bell Choir
3:00 p.m.**

**Singing, Ringing,
Playing Along!**

**An afternoon of carols, special music of the season
and delight!**

**Tea and Cookies
will follow the concert!**

**We will see you there!
Billie Wall and the Atlantic Bell Choir**

CHANCEL CHOIR – JUNE TODD

It is a warm day to be writing about Christmas! It has been a year since I fell and broke my leg. Thanks again for all the prayers and kindness you have shown to me.

The choir will present a short cantata on Sunday, December 22 Called “Candles and Carols, by Mark Hayes. Our guest flautist, Barbara Dau will be back to play for us on Sunday December 1st, 8th and Christmas Eve. Sincere thanks to her for giving up her time and talent.

It was a thrill to have Jennifer Wills with us and her her lovely voice. Jennifer and her mother, Sue, sang here for many years and always helped me present a professional children’s Christmas Eve pageant. I have many fond memories of those “musical “events. I hope some of you do, also.

Dates to remember:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 – COMMUNION -BOTH SERVICES

10:30am service:

Anthem “Prepare the Way’ with a duet by Mary Price & Tom Hemmick
Barbara Dau, Flautist

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

10:30am Service - Music by the Atlantic Bell Choir; Barbara Dau, Flautist

3:00pm – Bell Concert

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

– 7:30pm – Pine Tones Concert – “Everywhere, Christmas Tonight”
love offering will be received

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:30am and 10:30am – Children from Ellen Whittemore’s class will be singing
10:30am – Anthem: “Advent Alleluia”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 10:30am “Carols & Candles” Cantata

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – 7:00pm – Family Christmas Eve Service of carols and candlelight.
Music by Barbara Dau on flute and soloists.

CHRISTMAS CARDS – BILL & LINDA JONES

Christmas Card Mailbox for AUMC Family

There is a “mailbox” system for church members/constituents available in the Fellowship Hall beginning December 1st. Just place your “labeled” Christmas Cards in the boxes (alphabetical order) AND then be sure to check for “received” cards ~ regularly. Cards not picked up by January 1st will be thrown away.



Cards for AUMC staff may be placed in their church mailboxes, located in hallway:

Pastor Joe Barth; Dot Simpson, Church Administrator; June Todd, Director of Music; Billie Wall, Director of Bell Choir; Mike Purnell, Custodian; Paul Bulvin, Praise Team Member; Chris Wilk, Audio/Video Tech; Ellen

Whittemore, Nursery Attendant.

MEN’S RETREAT – BILL JONES

Atlantic UMC is hosting a Men’s Retreat to allow men of our congregation to gather together for fun, fellowship and Christian discussion. We will meet from Friday thru Sunday, February 7-9, 2020 at the Retreat Center at Camp Pecometh. Pastors Joe Barth and Bill Sterling will lead a discussion on the topic of “King David – God’s Man”. The cost of the weekend will only be \$100.00 per person with the Christian Education Endowment Fund providing the remainder of the cost. I will begin taking reservations after November 24th. If you are interested please call me at (410) 703-5304 or e-mail me at wjonesesfj@comcast.net. If you have any questions please contact me.



MARTHA CIRCLE – BRENDA WIMPERIS

Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 10th for our monthly meeting beginning at 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Snack refreshments will be supplied but feel free to bring your own light lunch. We invite all ladies of AUMC to join us as we discuss this year’s holiday charity project and future “fun” and “fund” raising endeavors.

If you have any questions, contact Brenda Wimperis at 410-812-3121. Hope to see you all there.

MISSIONS – JOANN WAYSZ

The Mission Committee will once again be partnering with Worcester GOLD for their Helping Hands for the Holidays program. We will be sponsoring 8 "at risk adults" and 7 children. When the names and gift suggestions become available, they will be posted on a tree in Tilghman Hall. Worcester GOLD is asking that toys not include weapons or electronics and that the price of our purchases not exceed \$ 50.00. The date for return of the packages will be posted in the Sunday bulletin.

Our congregation's response to this program in previous years has been overwhelming. Looking forward to another Christmas celebration of giving to our neighbors in need. Thank you

SAVE THE DATE(S):

January 16, 2020



Atlantic United February 13, 2020

Methodist Church

March 12, 2020

Annual Soup Sales

Please call Becky Yates at 301-275-2526 or
Larry Yates at 301-412-0376 with questions.

Details for the January 16, 2020 Soup Sale

For January we will be preparing and selling Chicken Noodle Soup, Navy Bean Soup, Egg Salad Sandwiches and Ham Salad Sandwiches.

Both soups will be sold as small and large for both dining in and take-out.

All sandwiches will be available for dining in and take-out and pints of both Egg Salad and Ham Salad will be available for take-out.

Activities week of January 13:

Monday, January 13

Receive order from Supplier

Tuesday, January 14

Cook chicken

Wednesday, January 15

Prepare vegetables and salads

Thursday, January 16

SOUP SALE

Sign-up sheets for these activities will be available Sunday, November 24. Please consider how you can assist in making this a successful event for Atlantic United Methodist Church.

**Monthly Report of Trustees Activities and Work Projects Status
Month of December 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.

Church Building Security:

If you are using the Church, or the last one to leave after an event or meeting, please make sure the Building is locked, and secure.

We have asked the weekly ushers, greeters and any trustee members that may be in church to please coordinate and make sure that the Church building is completely locked before leaving.

If you unlock or open a door, please close it and relock it after you're done.

Please Do not prop open any doors with wedges.

Trustee Members:

Welcome to our new members for the upcoming year.

Here are the AUMC Trustees:

Chairperson:

Larry Yates Class of 2020

Members:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Laurie Brucki | Class of 2022 | Linda Jones | Class of 2020 |
| Pam Buckley | Class of 2022 | Ed Kreige | Class of 2022 |
| Grover Collins | Class of 2021 | Tim McGuire | Class of 2020 |
| Jeff Facello | Class of 2021 | Bill Wimperis | Class of 2021 |

Church Building HVAC:

We are still experiencing incidents lately that we have found the HVAC Thermostats adjusted below or above our normal settings. This causes several problems, particularly when the building is vacant;

It overworks our systems.

It increases our HVAC Bill dramatically.

It makes the building spaces uncomfortable when the building is opened.

We kindly ask all users that if you adjust the thermostat for a meeting, function, or service that you return it to its originally set reading of 72 degrees in Summer and during the winter 60 degrees.

The following is a report of our activities, repairs, etc. since the last newsletter:

Purchase 2 Electronic Device Chargers:

We purchased 2 electronic device chargers. These chargers are located in 2 separate locations of the Church, they will facilitate the charging of cell phone, laptops, i-pads, etc.

STATUS: COMPLETED October 24, 2019

Work done by/purchased by Trustees.

We purchased 2 privacy door blinds for the Church Administrator's Office and the Pastor's Office.

STATUS: COMPLETED October 24, 2019

Work done by Designing Windows.

Enhancement/Improvement to the AV in Sanctuary:

There was several requests and a need for improving the AV/Visual needs in the Sanctuary. We had a 55" TV donated by a Church Family for this. We purchased all the mounting hardware for this, and at the same time we installed another larger monitor for the Church Administrator's office to improve our surveillance cameras monitoring.

STATUS: COMPLETED October 30, 2019

Work done by Trustees and Mr. Jason Austin

Emergency Repair of broken Freezer in Scullery:

There was freezer in the Scullery that needed immediate emergency repair.

STATUS: COMPLETED November 4, 2019

Work done by EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair.

Emergency Repair and Replacement of the Flat portion of our roofing over ladies' room on Main Level:

There was an immediate emergency repair/replacement of the leaking flat portion of the roofing over the ladies' room on the main level of Church.

STATUS: IN PROGRESS As of November 6, 2019 –

**Hopefully project will be completed by End of
November**

Work being done by Lovett Industries – Commercial Roof Repair Systems.

Emergency Repair of Dishwasher in Scullery:

There was a report that the dishwasher was not level and in need of repair. – EMR was called and responded. They found the dishwasher was level and not in need of repair.

STATUS: COMPLETED November 13, 2019

Work done by EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair.

Yearly Contract for Maintenance and Bi-Annual Inspection of All Kitchen and Scullery Equipment:

There was a yearly contract prepared and signed with EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair company to handle all of our Kitchen and Scullery Bi-Annual Inspection, Repair and maintenance.

STATUS: COMPLETED November 13, 2019

Work done by EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair.

Repair of Exhaust Fan on Roof from Storage Area on 2'nd Floor of Building:

There was a broken exhaust fan on the roof of the building from the storage area used by Thrift Shop – It was discovered that the Thermostat was broken beyond repair. – Royal Plus Electric responded, The part is on order and are handling the repair.

STATUS: IN PROGRESS As of November 13, 2019 – Hopefully project will be completed by End of November

Work done by Royal Plus Electric.

Repair of Overhead Porch Light Exhaust Fan on Roof from Storage Area on 2'nd Floor of Building:

There was a broken overhead porch light on the 4th street side of the Church. It was discovered that the Light was broken beyond repair. – Royal Plus Electric responded, The part is on order and are handling the repair.

STATUS: IN PROGRESS As of November 13, 2019 – Hopefully project will be completed by End of November

Work done by Royal Plus Electric.

Repair of Flood Lights on Roof of Church that Illuminate the Steeple and Cross:

There are broken flood lights on the roof of the Church that are supposed to illuminate the Steeple and Cross. It was discovered that the Lights were broken beyond repair. – Royal Plus Electric responded, The parts are on order and are handling the repair.

STATUS: IN PROGRESS As of November 13, 2019 – Hopefully project will be completed by End of November

Work done by Royal Plus Electric.

Repair of Ice Machine in Scullery:

The ice machine in the Scullery continues to have problems by shutting off and not making ice. – The current machine is out of warranty and would be very costly to fix. We are exploring the replacement of this machine with a larger, more reliable and efficient commercial grade Ice Machine that will also be in the Scullery. EMR responded, They are locating us an ice machine that will fit our needs and will be handling the installation of the machine when purchased.

STATUS: IN PROGRESS As of November 14, 2019 – Hopefully project will be completed by End of November

Work done by EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair.

Repair of Sealing Gaskets on Doors of the Large Refrigerator under the work table in Kitchen:

There is a problem with the gaskets on the large refrigerator under the work table in the kitchen. They are very old, worn out and not sealing. This causes leaks when the doors do not close and seal properly and we have lost food products in the past, as well as costly repairs to the refrigerator when it overheats. It was discovered that the seals need to be replaced. – EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair responded, The parts are on order and are handling the repair.

STATUS: IN PROGRESS As of November 14, 2019 – Hopefully project will be completed by End of November

Work done by EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair.

Emergency Repair of Cooling Tower on Roof of Church Building:

There was a water leak discovered on the exterior roof of the building. It was discovered that it was coming from the Cooling Tower. Atlantic Refrigeration was called and responded. They handled the repair.

STATUS: COMPLETED November 14, 2019

Work done by Atlantic Refrigeration.

Emergency Repair of Heating Boiler System:

There was a heating problem that shut down one of our boilers. The other boiler was utilized as an alternative. It was discovered that the boiler needed repair. OC Comfort was called and responded. They handled the repair.

STATUS: COMPLETED November 14, 2019

Work done by OC Comfort.

NEAR FUTURE/PLANNED PROJECTS & WORK – SHORT TERM:

Kitchen Spice Rack:

Plan to purchase and install a larger more efficient Spice Rack in the Kitchen.
Cost of \$85.00

STATUS: PENDING Work to be done in 2020 after the Kitchen is painted.

To be purchased and installed by Trustees

This rack will hold all our essential spices and be much easier to access It also keeps us in Health Department compliance by keeping them up off the counter shelves where they are currently. This is another step making working in the kitchen much easier, and convenient.

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

The Church campus has needed a through cleanup/fixup for a long time. We plan on finishing on the upper level first then do the remainder of the building. 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 Cleanup/Fixup day(s)

STATUS: PENDING Work to be done in 2020 by way of Church Wide Workday to be held. Work to be done by Trustees and other Church Volunteers.

EXTENDED - FUTURE/PLANNED PROJECTS & WORK – LONG TERM: - APPROVED 2020 BUDGET ITEMS

Painting of the Kitchen walls and cabinets, Scullery, and Tilghman Hall walls:

This will include the painting of the walls in the kitchen, cabinets in the kitchen, walls in the scullery, and walls in Tilghman Hall.

STATUS: PENDING To be completed by January of 2020 if possible.

Work to be done by A.J. Ketterman Painting Company.

Replacement of the Kitchen vent fan:

This fan is an integral part of convection oven and the stove top cooking stove in the Kitchen. The current fan is very old, and on its last legs. It is rusted and in need of immediate replacement to keep it functioning. It broke in June of 2019 and a temporary repair was done to hold us till funds were hopefully available this year.

STATUS: PENDING To be completed by January of 2020 if possible.

Work to be done by EMR Commercial Kitchen Repair Company.

Flooring in Choir Room & Music Office:

We explored the removal the current Carpet and Flooring in the Choir Room and Music office. There has been leaks in this area over the years, the carpets suffered from mold and mildew, they have been cleaned but still smell very badly, they are also very old. These floors need to be replaced as soon as possible to diminish or eliminate the potential health hazards they bring with them.

STATUS: PENDING To be completed by January of 2020 if possible.

Work to be done by O.C. Floor Gallery.

On the Church Calendar

Meetings & Special Events

December 8 – 3:00pm - Bell Choir Christmas Concert
December 10 – 11:45am – Martha Circle
December 13 – 7:00pm - Pine Tones Concert
December 24 – 7:00pm - Family Christmas Eve Service
January 16 – 11:00am – 1:00pm - Soup Sale
January 28 – 6:00pm – Administrative Council
February 7 – 9 – Men’s Retreat – Camp Pecometh
February 13 – 11:00am – 1:00pm -Soup Sale
March 12- 11:00am -1:00pm - Soup Sale

Recurring

Sunday

8:30 -Informal Worship
9:30am – Adult Sunday School
10:30am – Traditional Worship

Monday

6:30pm—Bell Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday

9:30am Bible Study with Bob Johnson/Jack Moore

Wednesday

6:00pm—Bible Study with Pastor Bill (Final study – December 4th)
7:00pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

8:30am—Backpack Ministry

Friday

11:00-am—1:00pm—Soup Kitchen
1:00pm—Donna Holdren Prayer Shawl Ministry

December Birthdays

December 1 – Matt James
December 2- Tom Zimmer
December 4- Joyce Baker
December 5 – Jack Moore
December 6- Jeffrey James
December 23 – Larry Yates
December 27 – Mary Eastman
December 28 – Frances Robinson
December 30 _ Frank Wright
December 31 – Pat Parks
December 31- Chuck Strang

MERRY CHRISTMAS

November 20, 2019

Greetings All,

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services has recently developed a youth mentoring program that will serve 6th graders through high school seniors, with the goal of improving academic performance, social outcomes and ultimately graduation rates for school children. The program is seeking volunteer mentors interested in serving the community through mentor-based leadership and we need your help!

The Worcester County Board of Education will partner with Worcester Youth to play a vital role in identifying students with warning signs of disengagement from school, such as truancy, low grades or behavioral issues. The Board will communicate with the agency to find youth participants suitable for the new initiative. Studies demonstrate youth mentoring programs are effective at improving school attendance, performance, social skills, graduation rates and ultimately greater employment opportunities. While Worcester County graduation rates are much better than statewide averages, roughly 30 students drop out of Worcester County Public Schools annually.

We are requesting mentor applicants interested in helping children succeed in school and enhancing opportunities for life outside of school. Potential candidates may include: young professionals, business leaders, school teachers, social workers, nurses, police, veterans, retirees, faith-based community members, civic groups, philanthropic individuals, government officials and WYFCS supporters.

Mentors candidates will be interviewed, receive a background check and participate in approximately 10 hours of training from WYFCS before being matched with a student and meeting the child's family. Volunteer mentors will meet face-to-face with their mentee at least twice per month and attend a group meeting at least once per month. Mentors will be asked to commit to one year of participation after assignment and will receive ongoing support from the program coordinator. Mentors will meet with the student to ensure they have the tools and resources to be successful in school. Those resources may include tutoring, referral to counseling, and navigation of social and family support resources.

If are you or a member of your organization is interested in becoming a youth mentor, please contact us by calling 410-641-4598 or by emailing us at shine@gowoyo.org.

Thank you for your support,
Deborah Dean-Colley



Deborah Dean-Colley
Communications Coordinator
Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc.

Phone: 410-641-4598 | Fax: 410-641-4696
Email: ddean-colley@gowoyo.org | www.gowoyo.org
124 North Main Street Suite C, Berlin, MD 21811

*All is calm,
All is bright.*

