

## *AUMC*

*A Community in Faith Where All God's Children Can Grow and Thrive*

*September, 2020*

### ***The Whole Armour of God*** ***Part #1***

The “Armor of God” is one of the most beloved Pauline images. It is an extended metaphor the apostle sets forth for our encouragement and instruction. It is encouraging because it lays out defensive and offensive equipment to remain faithful and utilized by God. It is instructional because it tells us what we need to arm ourselves with.

**Ephesians 6:10-17** <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (ESV)

Here are some pastoral reflections on this magnificent analogy of faith:

**1) The Enemy:** Paul teaches us that the enemy, the TRUE enemy we all face as Christians is not one of flesh and blood, but a spiritual enemy. The Devil! Along with all of his forces of evil, the devil is our true opponent. The ‘rulers, authorities, and cosmic

powers' are various ranks of evil spirits which do his bidding and mean to harm us.

This is both comforting and terrifying! It's comforting to know that the real enemy is NOT my fellow human, as annoying or perturbing, or even as fearful as he/she may be. The problem is, we often develop a mindset of hostility with other people. Along with the Psalmist we can say, "what can man do to me?"

It is also truly terrifying to think that an entity as powerful as Satan himself is out to get us! Scripture says he's a roaring lion looking for someone to devour! It also pictures him as a fearsome dragon. Surely he is powerful, devious, and has many devices and tactics with which to do us harm. Surely he wants us to suffer, die, and ultimately to be finally condemned to the eternal punishment along with himself and his angels. Misery loves company, I guess.

But God provides us with help, protection, defensive and offensive weapons in this great spiritual struggle and warfare. Put on the whole armor of God! That is, make use of ALL, and take comfort in ALL the implements God affords you:

**2) The Belt of Truth:** Truth is the foundation of everything we believe. Jesus Christ himself claims to be the truth (along with the way and the life (John 14). There is no falsehood in him (John 7:18), or in the Word of God in which we trust. God will never deceive you, unlike the Devil, the Father of Lies. And this belt, fastened around us, holds everything together.

**3) The Breastplate of Righteousness:** The breastplate covers the vital organs, including the heart. The enemy would love nothing better than to get at your heart. He wants to darken and harden your heart by way of sin. He wants to steal the faith from your heart. But the righteousness of Christ covers you. It keeps your life safe in him. He who was pierced for your transgressions will keep you from the piercing accusations of Satan, and present you holy and blameless on the Day of Christ – the end, when you stand before Jesus.

Today, realize who is your true enemy and wrap truth around your waist and put Christ's righteousness over your heart. God has given you these implements to keep you safe and preserve your soul. In other words, they are absolutely necessary!

In Jesus' Love,  
Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Barth, Pastor

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*Unable to attend worship on Sunday:*

You can download and listen to the sermon at:

<https://atlanticumc.org/>

*Or view the video of the service (downloaded on Sunday afternoons)*

<https://www.facebook.com/ATLANTICUMCOC>

**FROM THE LAY LEADER, ROBERT (BOB) JOHNSON...**

The Salisbury District Lay Academy will be held via Zoom technology beginning on Monday, September 28, 2020 and will end on Monday, November 2, 2020. The following link has more information:

<https://www.pen-del.org/eventdetail/salisbury-district-fall-lay-academy-14139752>.

The Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference will be held over several sessions, primarily using Zoom technology. The following sessions are available for all members.

Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 pm – Zoom – Salisbury District Meeting with the Bishop and pre-conference conversations.

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 pm – Zoom Annual Conference information session to further explain the budget, district re-alignment and nominations.

Friday, November 13, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Zoom Annual Conference (also live streaming).

Other sessions are restricted to voting members only.

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR – JUNE TODD**

It's so good to see members and friends back in church. I really miss working with the choir but I do hear some singing coming from the congregation. I want to thank my daughter Mary for all her weeks of singing and all the other guest soloists who have helped this past month. I don't know when we'll be able to have choir rehearsals again but I look forward to the day. Thanks for your support and your prayers for me and my family. I am so thankful to be part of a warm welcoming church family. A special thanks to Pastor Joe and Terry for continuing to guide us through this Stressful time. Blessings to all June

### **THRIFT SHOP – PAM ZORN**

If you have been thinking about helping in the Thrift Shop, now is your chance. We need help cleaning and restocking Tuesday after 2 pm Sept 15; Wednesday Sept 16 all day; and Thursday Sept 17 all day. Please email me and let me know when you can help. If you had considered helping at Soup Sale, this is a chance to give that time back. We will wear masks. Thank you in advance.

[pamzorn@comcast.net](mailto:pamzorn@comcast.net)

### **MISSIONS – JOANN WAYSZ – PENNY MILLER**

After many years of Atlantic UMC heading up the Backpack Program under the excellent leadership of Debbie Priestly and Brenda Wimperis, we are now turning over this role to Buckingham Presbyterian Church in Berlin. This summer Coastal Community Church has supported Buckingham in making sure these needy students have several meals each week.

Many members of Atlantic have supported the backpack program over the years with monthly contributions and they are certainly still needed. Please be assured that you can still write your check to AUMC and designate the amount of funds you would like donated to the Backpack Program and they will be transferred each month by our treasurer. Thank you for supporting this very worthwhile program!

AUMC continues to support Worcester G.O.L.D. in their mission to provide children with essential school supplies with a \$200.00 donation.

### **DONNA HOLDREN PRAYER SHAWL - JOANN WAYSZ**

The basket containing the mini prayer shawls has been relocated to the pew at the back of the church for easier access. The larger shawls are still located in the chapel. During this time of responsible distancing, if you know of someone who would benefit from having a shawl, please contact the church office or Joann Waysz and a shawl can be mailed to that person with a note saying it was

requested by you. There are so many things we cannot do for our friends and neighbors but this can be easily handled.

**MARTHA CIRCLE – BRENDA WIMPERIS**



Martha Circle will be meeting at Church on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. The plan is to meet outside ~ please bring your own beach chair. If the weather doesn't allow us to meet outside, we'll meet in the Sanctuary where the pews are already sectioned off for safe distancing. Masks are optional outside BUT are required

inside.

*Allow extra time for a longer than usual meeting because:*

We need to review our Financial and Mission Status, go back to February of 2020 and approve minutes, have an election for the incoming Board; and discuss meeting status going forward etc.

We'll "reveal" our Prayer Sisters from last year and "draw" new Prayer Sisters for this year 2020-2021.

We're also planning a **"SHARE/COMFORT"** session so we all can express our thoughts and concerns, relating to our lives, during this Corona Virus Pandemic.

If you can't attend this meeting, and need assistance with Prayer Sister "reveal" and/or want to be included in this year's Prayer Sister "draw" ~ contact Brenda Wimperis at 410-812-3121.

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Martha Circle Members are cautiously optimistic that we're going to be able to "host" an

Outdoor Christmas Mart

Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 3:00

Church Parking Lot!

We are currently surveying all our Circle Members to be sure we have the "necessary support" to continue moving forward. Once we receive the survey results ~ a final decision will be made!



We are working with a diagram of our parking lot to create a safe flow of attendees ~ while also maintaining safe distancing for our volunteers! *Masks will be required!*

**To continue moving forward with our plans, we need volunteers**

- ~ young, strong volunteers
- ~ think of your neighborhood high school students
- ~ or your teenage grandchildren
- ~ or yourself

**who can volunteer on Saturday, October 17th set up from 7:00 am till 8:30 am**

set-up includes: setting up tent's with sandbags; carrying out and setting up tables; carrying out merchandise (from church) for sale.

**AND THEN we need help to knock down/put away at 3:00 pm ~after the event.**

Since this is an outdoor event ~ no "pre" set up is possible! We have received approximately 6-7 beach tents and possibly two portable generators for us to borrow!

**We will be offering:**

**Carry Out lunches of our Traditional "Chicken Salad" Sandwiches**

**Joe Cain's (awesome) Vegetable Beef Soup**

**Hot Dogs and desserts ~ all carry-out ~ all to go!**

**For shopping opportunities, we'll have:**

**Christmas Home Place with all your holiday décor needs**

**Take & Make including brand new Christmas Merchandise**

**Traditional Bakery Delights & Gifts with all types of  
homemade baked goodies**

**Vintage and Gently Used Jewelry**

**Silent Auction (possible)**

**Thrift Shop will be Open that Saturday!**

**If you can assist in any way, please contact Brenda Wimperis at 410-812-3121**

## Monthly Report of Trustees Activities and Work Projects Status Month of September 2020

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

Hello all. Welcome back to Church Services. Even though we were still challenged with the Covid restrictions and safety protocols, we are back. The Trustees and the Greeters/Ushers from Worship committee appreciate everyone who continues to help us make our worship services run efficiently and in compliance with all the social distancing, masks, and CDC requirements. THANK YOU EVERYONE.

The facilities are still officially closed during normal business hours, The Church Administrator and Pastor will be returning to their full-time office hours on August 24<sup>th</sup>, but there is still limited admission to the building it is controlled and restricted to persons who must enter. There is still no social gatherings or outside use of our building. The Thrift Shop has reopened with increased safety protocols.

We continue under the guidelines and directives set forth by the Federal Government, CDC, State of Maryland, Worcester County, and Town of Ocean City, and our Conference leadership and Bishop.

### HVAC & UTILITIES:

We need your help with our Church Building HVAC & UTILITIES: HVAC is always an issue, and since our building is closed most of the time, we must conserve energy and watch our utilities. There have been occasions of late the lights have been left on. Please help us and turn off the lights when you are done using them.

**We ask everyone to please avoid changing or adjusting the readings on the thermostats and observe the settings on all thermostats of 74 in the summer and 67 in the winter.**

We understand there may be times that you have to adjust the thermostats or turn on lights when you're in the building and using them, but If you must change the settings or turn on lights please return them to the original settings, and turn off the lights. The bills for HVAC and electric can be exceedingly high and this would be helpful. – Thank You.

### CHURCH PARKING LOT USEAGE:

Improper use of our Church Parking lot continues to be an issue. We have had illegally parked vehicles towed from our lot, and we will continue to do so as

well as monitor the lot and tow illegally parked vehicles. The tow fee is \$450.00.  
**PLEASE REMEMBER: When you use our parking lot please display either a Church bulletin when available, or an AUMC Congregant parking pass** (these look just like the cover of a bulletin but says “AUMC congregant parking – 2020”  
We have had these passes printed and they are available in the Church Office. If you would like one, please contact the office and Dot will make sure you get one.

#### REPAIRS:

##### **Hinges on Drop Off Door to Thrift Shop Broken:**

The hinges for the door to the Thrift Shop Drop Off area were rusted and broken; the door was coming off. - We installed new hinges and re-hung the door.

**STATUS: COMPLETED August 12, 2020** Work done by Jay Hastings.

##### **Broken Pipes in Boiler Room:**

There were broken pipes leading from the cooling tower on the roof of the building to the boiler room. The pipes were replaced and redirected to the outside of the building to eliminate the possibility of leaking again and causing future flooding which occurred this time

**STATUS: COMPLETED August 12, 2020**

Work done by 5 Star Plumbing.

##### **Broken HVAC Thermostat in Sanctuary:**

There was a broken/nonfunctioning thermostat in the Sanctuary of the Church. It was repaired by Atlantic Refrigeration.

**STATUS: COMPLETED August 12, 2020**

Work done by Atlantic Refrigeration Plumbing.

##### **Repair and Reinstall the Church Sign on Philadelphia Ave:**

The Electric Church Sign on Philadelphia Ave was blown over by high winds during a storm in November, 2019. The sign was removed and taken to Selby Sign Company for repair.

**STATUS: COMPLETED August 12, 2020**

Work done by Selby Sign Company.

##### **Leaking roof in Sanctuary of Church above the Altar:**

There is a leak above the altar in the Sanctuary – Repair is scheduled when the roofing company is available to respond to fix the roof.

**STATUS: PENDING**

Work Scheduled to be done by Chesapeake Roofing.

*I would like to thank the church for all your thoughts and prayers  
🙏, especially Martha's Circle for all the cards. It really means alot.  
Thanks, Jeff Facello*

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER:** Paige Beal, Robert Biel, Laurie Brucki, Pam Buckley, Betsy Clark, Norman Connell, Ruth Ann Esham, Jeff Facello, Gary German, Renee Greene, Larry Holdren, Henry Hungerford, Marilyn James, Betty Rose Kurka, Louis Parsons, Roger Marino, Milly Marx, Marvin Steen, Richie Tesar, Helen Trivits, Betty Turk, Paul Wall, Alfreda Warren, First Responders.

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**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- September 5 – Steven Hoffman*
- September 6 – Linda Jones*
- September 6 – Bill Jones*
- September 7 – Maura Vlachos*
- September 8 – Bob Johnson*
- September 9 – Mike Trivits*
- September 11 – Helen Trivits*
- September 17 – Cliff Berg*
- September 17 – June Todd*
- September 22 – Bonnie Mitrecic*
- September 23 – Tim McGuire*

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**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 & TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**10AM-2PM**

*THRIFT SHOP CLOSED SEPTEMBER 16 & 17 FOR RESTOCKING*

**GRAND REOPENING WITH EVERYTHING FALL & WINTER**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 - 10AM- 2PM**

**From the Church Office**

**We have had numerous requests for an updated *AUMC Church Directory*. Please provide the contact information you would like to have included in the directory by returning this form to the church office by September 30th. *AUMC Church Directory* will only be available to active members and constituents.**

**Name:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Telephone (home)**

**Telephone (cell)**

**Email Address**