

AUMC

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

December 2020

What Did the Father Feel?

A year and a half ago, all of my children moved out of the house. I helped to move my youngest son into a house he is renting in Pocomoke City. This much easier than the oldest son leaving home. I drove down to Atlanta, Georgia with all of the belongings he would use for his first year at Georgia Tech. After unpacking the vehicle and getting him situated in his dorm room, I had the fifteen-hour drive back home. I must have cried for the first hour going north!

Have you ever tried to think about Christmas from the perspective of God the Father? From before the foundation of the world his greatest delight was in his son. Jesus tells us that it was the Father who sent him: **John 6:44** For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. (NLT)

St. Augustine suggests that the reason God created the universe in the first place was that from all eternity the loving relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit was so intense, dynamic, and overflowing that God wanted to share it with us.

So, God created human beings made in God's own image – people who could love and be loved. He wanted a family!! And, before he ever created us, God saw our rebellion and the devastation that would inevitably follow it. God saw what we would do to the world he made, and to each other, and the way we would spurn his love. Yet, despite all of the contention that would come into the world, God still said, "I love you." The only way we would ever believe in God's love, and allow love to change us, was for God to come in person and accept every form of mistreatment and rejection – and still love us from a manger to the cross.

The Son's work on earth is accomplished, but God's work through us is never over! So, before Jesus was crucified, He sends us! **John 17:18** Just as you (the Father) sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. (NLT)

God saw that his children were in deep trouble – all of us!! Our own choices brought the trouble upon us, so God came in the flesh to take their place. But, guess what?? Many, many are still in trouble! We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and realize God's faithfulness of abundant love comes to each one of us. The Father's goal through the Son, and then through us – is to reconcile all people to the Father and Son (and, of course, the Holy Spirit!) The Son's purpose from the Father is transferred to us. We must never forget this is the Main Thing this Christmas Season and all year long. So, I often ponder, what did the Father feel when he sent the Son?

AND also, what did the Son feel when he sends us? The same as any father, sad but realizing this is their purpose in life. Rediscover your goal in life again, or for the first time, to be found in God's goal!!

In Jesus' Love



Rev. Dr. Joseph Barth, Pastor

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>

INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Paige Beal, Robert Biel, Laurie Brucki, Betsy Clark, Grover Collins, Norman Connell, Jeff Facello, Gary German, Renee Greene, Sue Harting, Nancy Hendricks, Larry Holdren, Henry Hungerford, Marilyn James, Betty Rose Kurka, Rick Manick, Roger Marino, Milly Marx, Joyce Shaffer, Linda Short, Jerry Simpson, Richie Tesar, Helen Trivits, Betty Turk, Paul Wall, Fred Waysz, Bonnie Wykosky, Larry Yates, First Responders.

FROM THE LAY LEADER, ROBERT (BOB) JOHNSON)

The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference was held virtually using Zoom and live streaming. The Memorial Service and Ordination Service were held in-person but by ticket only, understanding that all social distancing and other health precautions will be observed. To say that this Annual Conference was unique is an understatement.

There was a vote regarding the procedure for the conference which was modified from years past due to using Zoom. Other normal business items were passed with overwhelming votes regarding minimum pastor salaries for 2021, setting pre-1982 past service rates for the Board of Pensions, and designating rental/housing allowances for retired or disabled ministers.

The conference voted to go to three districts from the current four effective July 1, 2021. The bishop will have the final say on what churches are assigned to which district. Details and the potential church alignments are available on the conference web site. This is basically a cost cutting measure. In light of that, a 2021 conference budget was passed reflecting a seven percent reduction from the 2020 budget.

Four churches invoked section 2553 of the Book of Discipline to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church. They are: Calvary UMC, Milford, DE; Groome UMC, Lewes, DE; Nelson Memorial UMC, Hebron, MD; and Antioch UMC, Princess Anne, MD. All were approved by the conference.

At the laity session, the following were elected to lay leadership positions: Carlene Phoenix as Conference Lay Leader, Yvonne Jackson as Associate Lay Leader, and Phyllis Hardy as Salisbury District Lay Leader.

MISSIONS – JOANN WAYSZ – PENNY MILLER

The missions committee wishes you all a healthy blessed Christmas and thank you for all of your support through this unusual year. The underserved of our community recognize your generosity and appreciate it so much. In this holiday season where things are so different, it is sometimes difficult to remember that NOTHING can separate us from the love of GOD.

We were able to distributed chicken dinners at Thanksgiving to members of our community through the generosity of Mountaire Farms.

And now comes Christmas!!! Those who are able to participate in the Worcester GOLD Helping Hands for the Holidays need to have their gifts back to the church no later than Sunday, December 20th. Please leave on a table in John Tilghman Fellowship Hall. If you cannot physically participate in the program but would like to contribute money, please send checks to the church made out to Worcester Gold and they will be forwarded to the GOLD office to help finance their program.

The Ocean City Cold Weather Shelter opens December 1st. They have forwarded this list of needed supplies to us. If you would like to donate anything please bring it to church clearly marked and put it on a table in Tilghman Hall. If you would like to volunteer your time to the shelter, please contact Bill Jones or Joann Waysz.

Cold Weather Shelter Needs

- Face masks, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, alcohol wipes, spray bathroom cleaner.
- Paper towels, disposable plates, cups, bowls, flatware -NO Styrofoam.
- Sweat pants, T shirts, Heavy pants & jeans, thermal underwear – sizes M thru 2XL.
- Heavy socks, gloves, scarves, hand warmers.
- Deodorant, razors, shaving cream, combs, hair brushes, tooth brushes

THRIFT SHOP - PAM ZORN

Due to increasing virus numbers, we are limiting the shoppers to 8. Donations are still heavier than usual, so if you don't want to be around shoppers, please consider coming when we are closed, to help sort and straighten. Thanks, and blessings

MARTHA CIRCLE – JACKIE STERLING

Greetings from the Martha Circle!

The Martha Circle November meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall with everyone observing social distance protocols (wearing masks and 6 feet apart). Everyone brought their own lunch with coffee provided. After a welcome from President, Jackie Sterling, Vice President Peggy Timmons presented a wonderful devotion about being strong women. An update was given on the success of the Outdoor Christmas Mart held October 17th and with the recent (November 14th) Saturday Mission Funday held at the Thrift Store, we are very pleased to say **\$7,000.00** was raised to be used for our various

Missions!!! Without everyone that helped, this would not have been possible. A huge thank you to all!

A very special Martha Circle meeting will be December 8th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone should wear their favorite Christmas sweater, vest, or blouse. There will be a cookie swap with many of our favorite homemade cookie recipes (if possible). Please bring 3 dozen cookies, 2 cookies per sealed bag. This should give everyone 18 cookie bags each for the Christmas Cookie Swap.

Again, we will be observing social distance protocols with masks and social distancing. Bring your bag lunch and join us. All are welcome. This should be a fun meeting with fellowship and singing.

CHANCEL CHOIR – JUNE TODD

Celebrating Jesus Birth, Christmas lights, Christmas music, children smiling, all things to be thankful for! This will be my 58th Christmas in Ocean city. It doesn't seem possible. So many fond memories of Christmas Programs from past years. I always had the children's pageant on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. The church would be full waiting to hear 20 plus kids, eager to celebrate Jesus birth. About 22 years ago the angels (3 to 5-year olds) fell off the table I had set up front of the altar. All the fathers rushed to the chancel! No one was hurt! Another time, a wiseman's feather caught fire. Sue Wills rushed with a blanket. No more live candles for the little ones!

The schedule for December:

- December 6 – Dave Phelps will play the Prelude; a quartet will sing – *Advent Alleluia*
- December 13 – Solo by our dear friend and professional soprano, Jennifer Wills
- December 20 – Duet by Mary Price and Frank Davis – *Mary Did You Know*
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service - 7:00pm – solos, duets, candle lighting, carols
- December 27 – Singing of favorite carols

Continuing with my memories of past pastors the next to serve AUMC was Clifford and Jeannette Armour (1975-1979). Cliff & Jeanette had one son Randy, they lived in the church parsonage. They enjoyed entertaining and always had an open house for the congregation. It was during this time that I volunteered to be the youth leader since Martha, Mary and Randy were about the same age. I remember one weekend; Cliff & I

took the MYF to Washington DC and Busch Gardens. Cliff drove Omar's big blue van. It was a crazy weekend – my first and last roller coaster ride!

Cliff was very active in the Peninsula Conference and served as secretary for several years. He retired in 2000 from Newark UM Church, Newark Del after serving 16 years. He died in 2007 at age 67, Jeannette at age 74 in 2017 in Mebane, NC

If anyone would like to hear Christmas music on the organ and hum along to their favorite carols, please call me. I would be happy to play for you in the stillness of our lovely church. Stay well. Have a blessed and safe Christmas!

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Church Directory with contact information for active AUMC members and constituents. Please contact the Church Office

Christmas Card Exchange – Due to Covid restrictions we are unable to have Christmas Card exchange boxes in John Tilghman Fellowship Hall.

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 31 - Pat Parks

December 31- Chuck Strang



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Honor a loved one with a poinsettia and beautify the altar on Sunday, December 20th and Christmas Eve. Please complete this order form and include cash or your check, payable to AUMC. You may place your order in the offering plate or mail it to AUMC, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, MD 21842. The cost of each plant is \$8.50. **Deadline to place order is December 4th.**

IN HONOR OF:

(Please print clearly.)

_____ by _____

- _____ by _____

- _____ by _____

- _____ by _____

IN MEMORY OF:

(Please print clearly.)

_____ by _____

- _____ by _____

- _____ by _____

Silent Night

