

AUMC

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

March, 2021

Experiencing God's Love

The whole of the Christian life is to “experience God’s love.” It isn’t enough to believe or even know God loves you, but to experience it. Recently, I read Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, where he instructs them with these words:

Ephesians 3:16-19 “out of his glorious riches may [God] strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all God’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:16-19).

If it didn’t hit you the first time, just like the first time I read this verse, that’s okay. What Paul tells these believers is that the power for Christian living comes to us when we are grounded and growing in the love of God!

We know that John tells us that one true characteristic of God is this eternal aspect of love (“God is Love”) and Paul tells us that all things will pass away but three things will last for all eternity and love is the most enduring of all three (“faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”)

The reason why love is the chief attribute of God and love is the greatest for all eternity, is because to experience God’s love is the ultimate act of healing.

Here’s the thing about healing, whether it is physical, emotional, or spiritual. Before you can experience healing, you must be willing to: 1) name and identify your hurts, and 2) be willing to move one from your hurts.

First, the ability to name and identify your hurts is the process of diagnosis. Before we can mend, we must first name what’s broken. If we are hurt physically, we go to a doctor; emotionally, we go to a counselor. For many of us, we don’t know what is really bothering us, or even hurting us. The best way to discover this is: on one side of a piece paper, write down any of the hurts you feel because of this past year. It could be sadness about missing games, concerts, and time with friends. It could be frustration with having to do so many things virtually. It could be anger at situations that aren’t fair for yourself or others.

Second, are you ready to move on from your hurts? I am. But, if I try and erase all the hurts, the eraser marks are still there! If I rip up the paper, the hurts are still seen on every little piece. No matter what, the hurts are still there! So, what do we do? We take colored pencils or paint and draw a picture or write down words over the top of the hurts! Write an encouraging note to yourself or someone else who is experiencing the hurts you have experienced. Instead of the words, ‘lost my job’, write the out Romans 8:28 over the top of the hurt.

You will then realize what I have come to learn, the hurt still exists but the new images or words outshine the hurts, or pain.

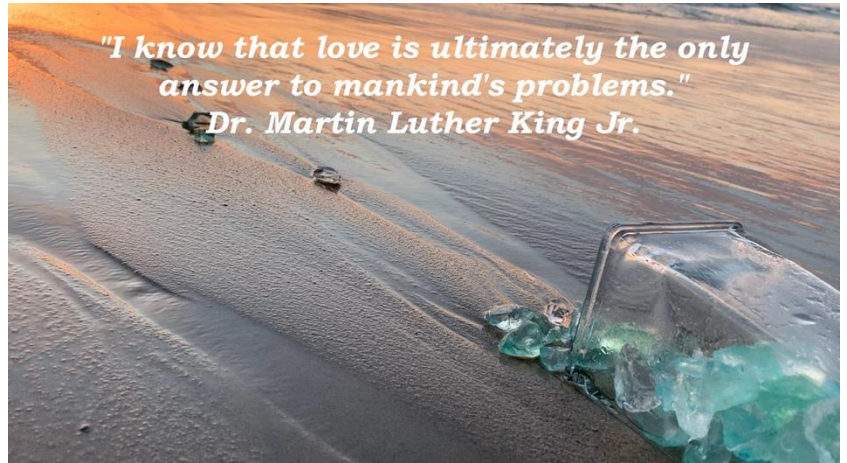
This is exactly what the Apostle Peter meant when we wrote these words to the whole church: “**1 Peter 4:8** Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for **love covers** a multitude of sins.” Yes, the word sins is used here, but what are ‘sins’ except, the hurt and pain we have caused others and God, and the hurts that have affected us!

The love of God transforms you!

Changes you! Re-prioritizing your goals and thus your life! This transformation is really what matters most to God! “**Galatians 6:15-16** What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation.” So, may you know this wonderful love of God that heals, transforms and empowers you to live with meaning and purpose and not be entrapped by the sins, hurts or pains of yesterday! You are God’s Holy Vessel!!

In Jesus’ Love,

Rev. Dr. Joseph Barth, Pastor



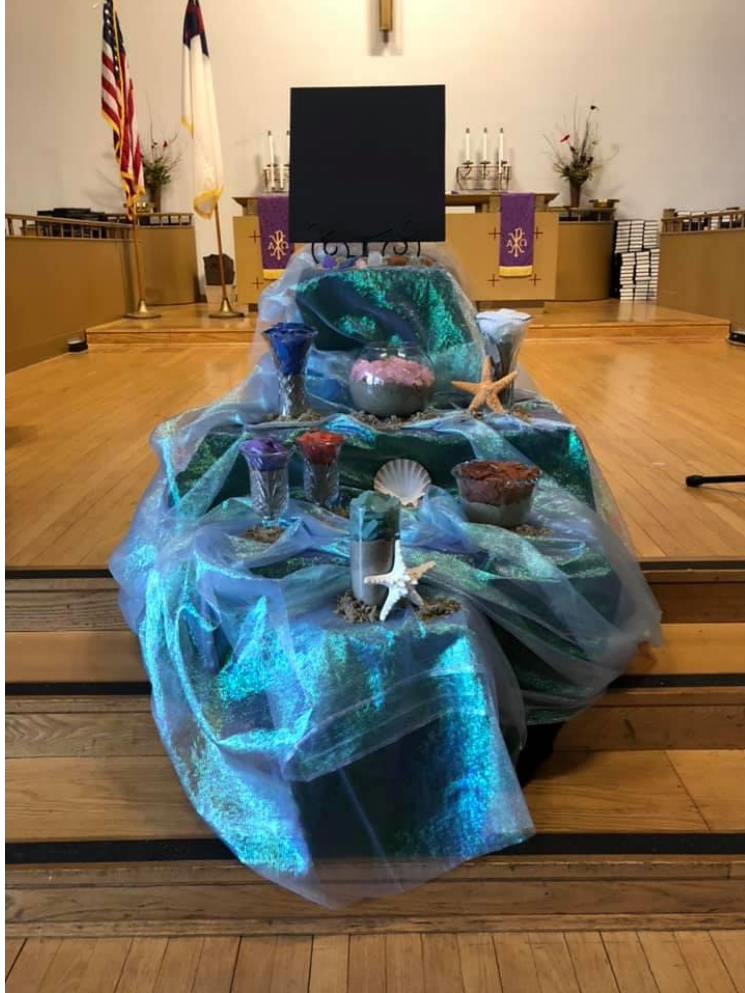
Unable to attend worship on Sunday:

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:

Anne Case, Paige Beal, Robert Biel, Laurie Brucki, Betsy Clark, Grover Collins, Nanc Davis, Jeff Facello, Gary German, Renee Greene, Sue Harting, Nancy Hendricks, Marilyn James, Betty Rose Kurka, Rick Manick, Roger Marino, Milly Marx, Bev Murphy, Rhonda, Family of Daniel Runde, Joyce Shaffer, Linda Short, Patti Stolba, Richie Tesar, Helen Trivits, Betty Turk, Paul Wall, Bonnie Wykosky, Larry Yates, First Responders

Jeff Facello: *I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers and cards. It really means a lot and I greatly appreciate them.*

LAY LEADER: BOB JOHNSON

The Annual Conference Lay Leader Training is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2021 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. One can still register by visiting the Peninsula-Delaware Conference web site. There are eight different topics available.

The conference will have only three districts rather than the current four effective July 1, 2021. Details regarding each of the new districts (Delaware, Upper Shore, and Lower Shore) can be found on the conference web site.

Finally, Bishop Peggy Johnson has announced her retirement effective at the end of the next session of the Jurisdictional Conference which is scheduled for November, 2021.

**Monthly Report of Trustees Activities and Work Projects Status
Month of March 2021**

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

Even though we were still challenged with the Covid restrictions and safety protocols, we continue to meet, worship, keep our ministries up and running, and serve God.

[We require everyone to still WEAR MASKS and PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING](#)

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. Protective face coverings and social distancing is still required. The following are the latest AUMC COVID 19 procedures and protocols developed and approved by AUMC SAFE Team on 1-21-21. Please read them carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Trustee Chair Larry Yates or Pastor Joe Barth

ATLANTIC UMC COVID-19 GUIDELINES

We continue to fight the Covid-19 virus and are diligent to keep all safe! We need everyone's help to make our facilities as safe as possible:

- You must immediately notify the church office or Pastor Barth (after church office hours) if you are exhibiting any symptoms. and/or, have been in contact with someone who may be infected or who tested positive.
- If you are sick, do not come on the Church campus.
- If you have any symptoms, you may get a Covid-19 test after 5 days of being exposed and continue to quarantine for 7 days. Or, quarantine for 14 days.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who tested positive, quarantine for 14 days whether or not you have symptoms.

- If you test positive and have no symptoms, you still must quarantine for 14 days from exposure.

The church facilities are still officially closed during normal business hours. The church administrator and pastor have returned to their full-time office hours. There is still limited/restricted admission to the building. There is still no use of our church facility by outside groups. The thrift shop is operating with increased safety protocols.

THINGS NEEDING TRUSTEE ATTENTION:

We need everyone's' help please. There have been occasions lately that there have been unreported problems in the Church building and on campus found that require attention for repair and replacement. Particularly issues involving leaks and electrical problems. These are considered emergencies and could, if left unattended cause costly, and catastrophic consequences to our building and campus.

PLEASE, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE DON'T ASSUME THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS OR WILL NOTIFY US. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

If you need to contact us or bring something to our attention. We prefer everything to be documented in writing so Please correspond by email or text to both Larry Yates and Bob Eastman. We will take care of the need from there. We ask that you not attempt to do repairs yourself, contact vendors, or non-vendors for repairs.

HVAC & UTILITIES:

We still 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.

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 are 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.

REPAIRS:

Replacement of coach lights at 4th Street Entrance:

There was a need for replacing the old coach lights at the 4th street entrance. The fixtures were not working and rusted making replacing light bulbs impossible.

STATUS: COMPLETED February 15, 2021

Work done by Royal Plus Electric.

GRANT:

We have applied for a grant through the Town of OC, and the OCDC to add security lighting to the outside of the Church building. This will not be any cost to the Church, and it will make the Church safer. I will keep you posted on the progress of this program.

ALTAR GUILD – BECKY YATES

February was a busy time for The Altar Guild preparing for Ash Wednesday services and the upcoming Easter Season.

In the Christian year of our church, we recognize two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. Between each cycle follows an ordinary time of growth symbolized by green in the Seasons after the Epiphany and after Pentecost. Therefore, there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.

From February 17, 2021 (Ash Wednesday) through April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday), the Altar Guild will transform the Altar, Sanctuary and Narthex for this season in the life of the Church.

PURPLE is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the preparatory season and Lent. February 17 through April 1, 2021.

BLACK is a color of death used on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, April 2 and 3, 2021.

WHITE and/or GOLD are joyous and festive colors used during the Easter seasons, April 4 through May 16, 2021.

March 7, 2021 – Communion Sunday

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday

April 1, 2021 – Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2021 – Good Friday

April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday

Information will be placed in the bulletin regarding the purchase of spring flowers for display on the Altar during the Easter Season.

If you are interested in greeting, ushering, reading the scripture, or joining the Altar Guild, please give the office a call or contact me by phone or e-mail. Members of the Altar Guild will guide and assist you.

Our next meeting is March 9, 2021 at 2 PM in Tilghman Hall. COVID-19 protocols will be in place to keep our members and guests safe.

CHANCEL CHOIR - JUNE TODD

Welcome Spring!! I am looking forward to sunshine and warmer weather. Remember to change your clocks!!

Sincere thanks to all those who participated in the February Worship services. During March we welcome Tom and Doug Hemmick, Sharon Sorrentino, Joann Waysz, Mary Price, Frank Davis and Barbara Dau.

Memories form the past. The Rev Bob & Kaye Harris service here from 1981-1987. They are in good health and reside in Ocean Pines. Bob recently resigned as associate pastor at Community Church. He said it was time for a younger person to till the position. They have two children, Kim and Kay and three grandchildren. I remember Bob always enjoyed his morning walks and Kay loved the beach. I gave Kim piano lessons and Bob sang in the sang in choir.



When they left here, he served in Denton and Salisbury. They love to travel, especially going on cruises. They are looking ahead, hoping to enjoy another trip very soon. Thank you, Bob & Kay, for your dedicated ministry these many years. I hope many of will be able to attend our Palm Sunday and Easter Services Blessing to all

THRIFT SHOP – PAM ZORN

We are almost through winter and are preparing for the summer turnover in March! *The bag sale will be held Monday and Tuesday March 15 and 16 so come out and shop!! We will need all hands-on deck Wednesday and Thursday for cleaning and hanging, then come shop again our new items on Friday March 19 for the grand re-opening!* Thank you for everyone hanging in there during this difficult winter- blue skies are just beyond those clouds.

OCEAN CITY CHRISTIAN MINISTERS ASSOCIATION:

Everyone is invited to celebrate Good Friday by participating in a **Cross Walk** on the Ocean City boardwalk on Friday, April 2nd, at noon. The Christian community will meet outside The Son'Spot on Worcester Street at noon for a short time of ministry, and then proceed down the boardwalk, past the sand sculpture, and end at Atlantic United Methodist Church on Fourth Street. We will walk together in a socially distanced manner, carrying a cross, singing songs, and having a brief time of ministry at several stops along the way. This is a great opportunity to lift up the name of Jesus to the community and we encourage you to participate. This Good Friday ministry is coordinated by the Ocean City Christian Ministers Association. For additional information, call 410-289-7430.

Everyone is invited to our community's Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 4th, at 6am on the Boardwalk at North Division Street. Ministers, musicians, and singers from many of Ocean City's Christian churches will participate. This service will celebrate our risen Lord with singing, scripture, and preaching. This is always a wonderful service and we hope you can attend. A limited number of chairs will be provided and will be spaced apart for social distancing. You may want to bring a chair or blanket to sit on the beach. For additional information, call 410-289-7430

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 2 - Pam Harbaugh

Mar 6 - Bill Sterling

Mar 8 - Phyllis Moore

March 10 - Ed Kriege

March 11 - Jennifer Albright

March 13- Faye Cathell

March 15 - Norman Cathell, Sr.

March 17 - Donna Berg

March 18 - Dot Simpson

March 19 - Kim Richins

March 20 - Vicki Carter

March 30 - Roger Marino

March 31 - Marvin Steen

WELCOME SPRING



