

ATLANTIC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FEBRUARY, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Atlantic UMC:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Lamont, a Presbyterian pastor writes; "When I was a schoolboy, we would occasionally see a turtle on a fence post, and when we did, we knew someone had put him there. He didn't get there by himself. That is how I see my own life. I'm a turtle on a fence post."

The Bible is filled with stories of one person after another who knew that his or her success, position of power, authority, or promotion was not purely the result of their efforts. It was the result of the help of others and most of all holy God.

Joseph was a man who did not get there all alone. How often, in his Egyptian chariot or his opulent surroundings, he must have sat back, closed his eyes, and reflected on his humble beginnings. His brothers who were so jealous they thought about ending his life. They sold him into slavery. He served as a slave and was then imprisoned because he falsely accused of rape. Now he is second in command of a nation. What an incredible turn around in his life! How faithful of God . . . how gracious!

Moses was a man who did not get there all alone. As leader of the Israelites, he surely awoke many a morning in the wilderness shaking his head in disbelief, remembering his murderous and monotonous past. How gracious of God to have elevated him to lead those ancient Israelites to freedom.

Gideon was a man who did not get there all alone. Remember his response to the angel when he was informed that he was to be commander of the Israelite troops? "Sir, how can I save Israel? My family is the poorest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least thought of in the entire family!" (Judges. 6:15).

The next time you are tempted to think that "I got there all alone," I recommend the prophet's counsel: "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug" (Isaiah 51:1). *Think about the quarry from which you were dug and all, especially holy God, who have given of themselves in gracious and generous ways to help you become who you are today.*

See you in Church!

Rev. George R. Patterson, MDiv.

Notes of Thoughts and Prayers:

Mrs. Laurie Brucki
804 Edgewater Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842

Mrs. Doris Gorden
36245 Shearwater Drive, Selbyville, DE 19975

Mr. Joel Gorgodian (illness)
Berlin Nursing & Rehab, Room 209
9715 Healthway Dr, Berlin, MD 21811

Mr. Paul Wall
12528 Fleetway Drive, Ocean City, MD 21842

Mr. Dean Langrall (illness)
1909 Marlin Drive, Ocean City, MD 21842

Mr. Gary German (illness)
2826 Gullway, Ocean City, MD 21842

Mrs. Donna Leiner (illness)
13044 North Shore Road, Ocean City, MD 21842

Mrs. Betty Turk
12425 Windsor Road, Ocean City, MD 21842

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, is the beginning of the season of Lent. The season of Lent is a time of preparation as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On Ash Wednesday you will have the opportunity to receive ashes, which symbolize not only our mortality, but also our propensity to sin. You will have the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday from:

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
4:00 to 5:00 pm

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

- February 11 – Souper Bowl Sunday (see Missions Article)
 - February 13 – 11:45am – Martha Circle
 - February 14 – Ash Wednesday – Imposition of ashes – Noon to 1:00pm, 4:00pm - 5:00pm
 - February 18 – 9:00am – New Member Orientation - Chapel
 - February 20 – 6:00pm- Christmas Bazaar Meeting
 - February 25 – Receiving of New Members during worship service
 - February 25 – Choir Rehearsal immediately after worship service, continuing through Palm Sunday, March 24
- .
- Thrift Shop – Monday thru Saturday – 10:00am – 2:00pm.
 - Soup Kitchen – Fridays – 11:00am – 1:00pm
 - **Children’s Church** – 10:00am
 - **Worship Service:** 10:00am – Traditional Service in our sanctuary

TRUSTEES – DENNIS DARE, CHAIR

The Board has pursued the improvement of handicap accessibility throughout the church. Shortly all door knob hardware will be changed to lever operated. A new keying system will also be implemented as well.

Also, accessibility to the second floor will be greatly improved. A chair lift will be installed on the stairway off the main hall. Individuals with mobility issues will be able to ride it to the upstairs. A second lift will be installed on the other stairway from the Thrift Store foyer to the second floor. Instead of a chair it will have a platform so boxes of Thrift Store merchandise can be moved mechanically instead of being carried thus reducing the risk.

The cost of both lifts and freight is being graciously donated by Pete Meeks and his company Delaware Elevator. The church will fund the labor and inspection.

FROM THE LAY LEADER / LAY REPRESENTATIVE (ROBERT JOHNSON)

High School Graduate Scholarship

This scholarship is intended to assist the child, stepchild, or grandchild of an “in good standing” current or deceased member of Atlantic United Methodist Church in their pursuit of a higher education, enrolled/enrolling (accepted) as a full-time student in an accredited institute of higher education above the high school level of studies.

To be eligible the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be the **child, stepchild, or grandchild** of a:
 - Current or deceased member or spouse of Atlantic United Methodist Church.

- The applicant must be a college bound high school senior or current college student attending an accredited two or four-year college full-time in the above application academic calendar year in pursuit of an Associates or Bachelor's degree.
- All applications must be received in complete form with attachments by March 31st, of the above application academic calendar year. Each applicant is personally responsible for meeting the application deadline. This application is not considered complete until all requested application materials have been received. Complete Applications packets must be sent by either email or mailed to AUMC Church Office (postmarked before close of business on March 31st) 105 4th street Ocean City, MD, 21842 atlanticumc@atlanticumc.org
- The successful applicant will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship to be awarded to the applicant during one academic calendar year. Notification to the successful applicant will be made by May 31st of the above application academic calendar year. At that time, the successful applicant must provide their social security number to receive the scholarship. NOTE: Should you not receive the scholarship this year, you may reapply from March 31st this year to close of business March 31st of the following year.
- The scholarship may be revoked if the student fails to maintain the status of a full-time student, or if the student does not maintain an overall 2.5 GPA, or if the student is suspended from the academic institution, at the option of the AUMC Scholarship Committee.
- The awardee is prohibited from being considered and receiving multiple (future) scholarships.

Camp Pecometh Grants

Grants from the Christian Education Endowment Fund are available to children of church members who need financial assistance to attend one of the summer sessions at Camp Pecometh. Contact the church office and you will be contacted.

MISSIONS – JOANN WAYSZ

On **February 11th** the football world will have a new champion but YOU are already one. Our celebration of Souper Bowl Sunday tops it all. You have faithfully contributed nonperishable foods for our local Food Pantries to assist those struggling to feed their families. Please bring whatever you are able and we will send your donations to Diakonia, The Shepherd's Crook at St Paul's Episcopal Church, The Shepherd's Nook at Community Church of Ocean Pines and our Friday Community Soup Kitchen. The underserved of our community are so grateful for this church's support; you are very important to them.

MARTHA CIRCLE – MAURA VLACHOS, CHAIR

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on **February 13, 2024 at 11:45**. We have planned an important Bazaar Meeting for the following **Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00** in the John Tilghman Fellowship Room. I would ask all of you who are able to attend that meeting to please be there. We will need your input.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - JUNE TODD

A belated thank you to AUMC for the generous gift and for all the lovely Christmas cards

A story from the past in the late 1960's, David was a baby, I put him to bed on Christmas Eve. I woke up in a panic, I was late for the Christmas Eve Service. When I got to church, Rev. Wimbrow and the choir were waiting for me in the hall. They had not started service!! I will never forget that Christmas Eve!!

I would like to have a choir in March. The congregation is growing, almost two hundred each week. I am sure there are singers in the pews. Please consider singing during this very important time in the church year. Choir rehearsals will start following church service on **February 25** and continue through Palm Sunday. The choir will sing the month of March. Please prayerfully consider joining the choir, call me if are willing to join us 443-880-3922.

THRIFT SHOP – JOYCE BAKER, MANAGER

Thrift Shop has really been busy, we can't seem to get caught up on the drop off room (which is a good thing) people have been so generous helping us. In January we ran half-price sales on everything in the shop, with the exception of jewelry and books.

The shop will be getting additional floor space, new flooring, new paint, and a lift to transfer inventory between first and second floor. Hopefully this will happen in mid-March. We are so excited to be getting more floor space.

Just a reminder, the Thrift Shop does more than sell, we sent a bag of beautiful hats, scarves and gloves to local schools for children who really needed them. It makes us so good to be able to help.

Until next month, take care and stay warm and dry.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE – BECKY YATES, CHAIR

After Advent, Christmas and Epiphany comes Lent and Easter. Lent, a new season in the life of the church is nearly upon us.

On February 14 this year, some people will be celebrating a day of love, while others will be commencing the start of a [season of prayer and fasting known as Lent](#).

What is Lent and When Does it Begin?

Lent is a period of time between [Ash Wednesday](#) and [Easter](#) where Christians focus on spiritual purification, meditation and penance. It lasts around 40 days, not including Sundays. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert before He began His public ministry (Matthew 4:2)." The Season of Lent for 2024 begins on February 14 (Ash Wednesday).

Do you have to give something up?

Not necessarily. The focus of the season is on spiritual growth and connection with God. Oftentimes Christians might opt to do something charitable (also [known as almsgiving](#)), or choose to take on something during Lent, like reading more of the Bible or completing daily devotions. Some might choose [things to give up for Lent](#), like a certain food or habit. One important thing that most of those who observe do, however, is fast. Fasting acts as a form of self-control.

As a group, the Worship Committee will work with the Pastor to ensure all aspects of this season of the church and your worship experience are welcoming to our congregants and visitors.

One of the ways is to have Greeters and Ushers each Sunday at both the Philadelphia Avenue entrance (parking lot entrance) and the Fourth Street entrance. We thank you for your interest. The February and March schedules are posted on the bulletin board across from the Sanctuary. Please check and confirm your availability for the dates listed. If you have a conflict, please contact me on 301-275-2526.

Also, perhaps you have noticed several children in our services. Our Greeters will also direct children to Michelle's Sunday School Class. Nursery volunteers for the younger children are always welcome. We also have several books, located in the Nursery, suitable for children for use during the service. Suggestions are welcome.

Lent ends three days before Easter Sunday, on **Thursday, March 28, 2024**. The week before Easter Sunday — called Holy Week — is a big deal in the Christian church. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 24, which commemorates Jesus's triumphant arrival in Jerusalem, where he received palm branches at his feet. Then comes Holy Wednesday, which acknowledges Judas's plan to betray Jesus. The day after Holy Wednesday is Maundy Thursday, which commemorates the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples. Maundy Thursday is the last day of Lent.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE - Church Office hours – 8:00am – 4:00pm

- Pastor's office hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday mornings from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon - afternoons - pastoral care
- If your birthday is not listed in the newsletter, please contact the Church Office so that we may update our records.

February Birthdays

February 1 - Tom Czop
February 5 - Chuck Lowe
February 5 - Judy Lowe
February 7 - Sarah Rubush
February 9 - Chris Wall
February 12 - Gary Richins
February 14 - Lauren Hoffman
February 14 - Rebecca Yates
*February 17 - Betty Kurka ****
February 25 - Michael James
February 25 - Mark Leiner
February 27 - Jessie Cropper



Special Birthday: AUMC member, Betty Kurka will be celebrating her 99th birthday on February 17th. Let's shower her with birthday greetings. Send cards to Betty Kurka, P. O. 73, Ocean City, MD 21842.

New Members 2024

Atlantic UMC will be receiving new members into our Church on Sunday, February 25th. There will be an orientation class on Sunday, February 18th at 9:00 am in the Chapel, for those who are interested. There are three options of membership in the United Methodist Church. They are as follows:

- 1) Full Member – entitles one to all the rights of Church membership, holding an office, and voting rights.
- 2) Affiliate Member – is a member of another United Methodist Church, and as an affiliate member entitles one to all the rights of Church membership, holding an office, and voting rights, while retaining their full membership at another United Methodist Church.
- 3) Associate Member – is a member of another Christian Denomination, and entitles one to all the rights of Church membership, holding an office, however no voting rights.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this fellowship of faith, please fill out the following:

Name _____

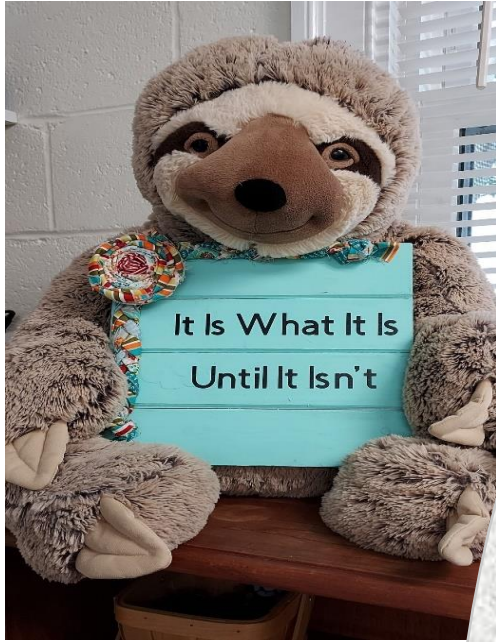
Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Transfer of Membership – simply complete the above personal information and indicate Church (and address) from which Church you are transferring your membership.

Transfer of Membership from: _____



*When life gets tough hang out
with your dog.*

*My doctor asked me if I had ever had a
stress test?*

YES, I replied it's called LIFE

*To succeed in life, you need three things a
wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone.*

*It takes real skill to choke on air, fall
upstairs and trip over completely nothing.
I have that skill....*

*If we shouldn't eat at night, why is there a
light in the fridge?*

*When life hands you lemons, make grape
juice. Then sit back and watch as the
world wonders how you did it.*

*My bed is a magical place where I
suddenly remember everything
I forgot to do.*

*Life is short, smile while you
still have teeth.*

*Sometimes memories sneak out of my eyes
and roll down my cheeks*

*I'm not lazy, I'm just on my energy
saving mode.*