

ATONEMENT IN ACTION



From the Deacon and Pastor



Lenten Wednesdays
February 18 through April 1 in Lundin Hall
6:00 pm – fellowship dinner
7:00 pm - worship

The season of Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days, culminating in Holy Week and Easter Sunday. For centuries, Christians have spent these 40 days focused on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. But let's get real. How many of us 21st century American Christians practice fasting? And while most of us pray at least sometimes, in our busy lives, isn't prayer more like a quick "Thank you, Lord!" or "Help me, Lord!" instead of spending an hour a day on our knees? As far as almsgiving goes, the word is not really a part of our vocabulary, and while we may be good at writing checks to charities, when was the last time you took to the streets to personally offer money, food, or clothing to the poor among us?

Does all this mean we should give up Lent for Lent? Maybe we just need to rethink how we observe this season. The activities of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving were meant to quiet our minds and draw us closer to God. A time of quiet in God's presence sounds like a pretty good goal for those of us who live busy, stressful, modern lives. So how can we be still and know God? A good start is to join with Common Ground on Wednesday evenings throughout the season. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18, we'll meet at 6:00 pm for a fellowship dinner in Lundin Hall, followed by Lenten worship at 7:00 pm. For those unable to attend Ash Wednesday in the evening, we will once again offer "ashes to go" at 12:00 noon in the narthex or outside at the main entrance, weather permitting.

We are all frail humans who make mistakes big and small and who have a deep need for Jesus, the One who forgives our sins and restores us to wholeness. As we gather for midweek Wednesday worship this Lent, we can hopefully find an hour of serenity and an open, loving community where Jesus has promised his presence, his mercy, and his call to serve the world in his name. See you there!

Pastor Katie and Deacon Tom

Annual Meeting— February 8

Join us after worship **Sunday, February 8** for a brief annual meeting. We need 50 members present for a quorum—including youth who have been confirmed—so please join us if you are available!



Members having fun at our Winter Wonderland dance in January. Additional photos on page 5.



Send Some Love!

The Pastoral Care Team has identified members who especially need our love and support: many are on our homebound list, and others are included to get a spiritual lift. What better time to send some love than Valentine's Day? You'll find a poster in the Narthex filled with hearts. Each heart contains the name and mailing address of 1 of these members. Take a heart (or 2) and mail a valentine to your Atonement brother or sister. This small act will remind them that they are remembered and cherished by their Atonement family!

Hearts will be displayed through February 8. Email Ellen Bryan at ebryan@atonementwyo.org if you have any questions.



5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing,
 Pennsylvania 19610
 610-375-3512

Worship for Sundays in February

A Place at the Table ♦ February 1 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Today we celebrate the children who participated in A Place at the Table communion instruction. They will pour water to remember their baptisms, help read the Gospel Story and prayers, and share in the Holy Meal.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ♦ February 8 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Transfiguration of our Lord ♦ February 15 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Tom Scornavacchi

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

First Sunday in Lent ♦ February 22 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Lectionary Readings

February 1

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

February 8

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Psalms 112:1-9 [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Matthew 5:13-20

February 15

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

February 22

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



Sunday Attendance in December, 2025

	In Person	Online Views**
1st Sunday in December	247	105
2nd Sunday in December	132	111
3rd Sunday in December	304	101
4th Sunday in December	100	115
Total	783	432

Sunday Attendance in January, 2026

	In Person	Online Views**
1st Sunday in January	210	114
2nd Sunday in January	252	70
3rd Sunday in January	53	162
4th Sunday in January	N/A	N/A
Total	515	346

** Online attendance as of January 27, 2026. Online services are always available to watch the day after they are live streamed, and remain available for re-watching. You can find the link on the home page of atonementwyo.org.

Christmas Attendance

	In Person	Online Views**
Christmas Eve, 11:00 am	332	100
Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm	183	N/A
Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm	355	93
Christmas Day, 10:00 am	51	N/A
Total	921	193

February Usher Schedule

February 1	Team 3—Lubitz
February 8	Team 4—Mehos
February 15	Team 5—Eisenbrown
February 22	Team 8—Woerle

New ushers are always welcomed!

Email cshirk@atonementwyo.org if you would like to be added to an usher team or have any questions.

Prayer Warrior

The Atonement Prayer Team wishes to honor the memory of Shirley Becker, a faithful member of the prayer team since day one, more than 30 years ago, who passed away 12/21/2025 at age 96, and for whom we have made a donation to the Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund.

Shirley ministered to all with whom she came in contact. She prayed daily for all the members of the Prayer Team and their families, all the people on the confidential prayer list, all the members of her family, her friends and anyone else who gave a hint of needing prayer. She had a list of people that she called regularly to provide prayer, support, and love. Even the cable guy that came to work at her house ended up on the prayer list! Shirley's rock solid faith and commitment to sharing it have inspired me for years and I am so grateful to have known her.

In the 30 years I have been at Atonement there has been a Weekly Prayers list in the bulletin and now online with a link <https://atonementwyo.org/weekly-prayers> on the church website under the Ministries menu and in the weekly email about the Sunday service. All members and friends of Atonement are invited to pray for the people on this list.

In the 1990s Faith Ann Jones organized a Prayer Chain phone tree to supplement the bulletin list. When someone called the church or Faith Ann directly and asked for prayer, the phone tree jumped into action. Prayers started immediately and continued for 30 days. Shirley was an original member of the phone tree.

On September 28, 2006 Bob Sharets started a monthly meeting with a mission "to pray with and for those who are hurting, and encourage others to follow Christ's teaching about God's promise for prayer by offering opportunities to study, share, and learn about prayer." The Prayer Chain phone tree prayer partners including Shirley were incorporated into this group which still meets. This team maintains a list, to supplement the Weekly Prayers list, of people who need confidential prayer. There are about a hundred people and families on this list for whom we pray daily. In September 2015 Shirley moved to New Jersey to be near her daughter but committed to pray daily at home.



Shirley Becker
8/25/1929-12/21/2025

For me, prayer removes hopelessness. It reminds me that I am not the center of the universe; it gives me perspective. Prayer raises my awareness of God acting in the world. Knowing that God is only a prayer away is comforting, not warm fuzzy blanket comfortable, but deep inside comforting. I pray for that comfort for all of the people on the prayer lists at Atonement and for all of you reading this.

You are welcome to join the Atonement Prayer Team when we meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 11:30 am in the church parlor, or volunteer to pray daily at home. Contact Dorothy DeLong by email pbjdelong@comcast.net, or text/phone 484-529-0878.

Dorothy DeLong

Atonement Day at Phoebe

The Atonement staff joined some of our Phoebe Berks residents in the Phoebe chapel in December for prayer, song, and fellowship. Thank you to all who were able to join us!



Atonement Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 1, 5-7pm

Please come, eat, and vote! \$5 gets you a bowl, a ballot, and a spoon (drinks and cornbread provided) Bring a little extra cash as Sweet Ride Ice Cream will once again be there for something cold and sweet after the hot and spicy!!

Proceeds to benefit the Preschool Playground Surfacing Project—see details on page 4.



Preschool News

From Jen Dauber, Preschool Director

Happy New Year from the staff and students of Atonement Christian Preschool!

2026 began with EXCITEMENT at the preschool!!! The PA Department of Human Services (DHS) returned for our follow-up inspection, and we were awarded our permanent license as a DHS certified early learning center. The staff and I worked hard to reach this milestone, and I am very proud of my staff's dedication to the preschool program and its students.

January Recap

Themes: Winter, winter animals, numbers & counting

Student assessments for Parent-Teacher Conferences January 29 & 30

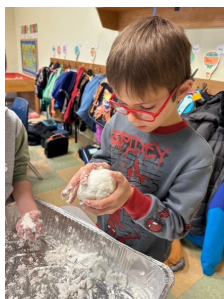
February Happenings

Themes: Valentine's Day, presidents, community helpers, transportation, space

Indian Run Environmental Education Center visits PreK classes on February 24

Fours & PreK classes will go to the Planetarium & Museum on February 25

2026-27 Registration opens February 2 for current preschool and church families



Preschool Playground Surfacing Project

Dear Atonement congregation,

Every day, our preschoolers learn, grow, and discover the world through play. A playground isn't just a place for fun—it's where children develop confidence, friendships, and a love for learning.

Atonement Christian Preschool was required to become a Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed center which we achieved in August 2025. DHS regulations ensure the health and safety of students in early childhood education centers. During our opening inspection, we were made aware that the mulch currently on the playground is a choking hazard for our students under three. Our three toddler classes are unable to play on the playground. Right now, we have an incredible opportunity to update our playground with a rubber surface to create a safe and welcoming playground for all our little ones. To make this dream a reality, we need your help. Proper surfacing is essential to protect children from injuries and ensure that every child, regardless of age and ability, can play freely and safely.

Our goal is to raise **\$35,000 by June 1, 2026**, to install safe, durable surfacing for our preschool playground. Your generosity will help us:

- Provide a secure environment for active play
- Meet safety standards for our youngest learners
- Create a space where children can connect and thrive

Every gift, no matter the size, brings us closer to building a playground that will serve our preschool community for years to come. The completed playground will be dedicated in honor of teacher Debra Hoffman who retired in June 2025 after 27 years of service at the preschool. Please consider making a donation today by scanning the QR code below or by mailing your contribution to the preschool (write "playground" in the memo).

Thank you for believing in the power of play and for supporting the children who will benefit from your kindness. Together, we can give all our students a safe space filled with laughter, learning, and joy.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Jen Dauber, Director





From Lauryn Lacis, Director of Children's Ministry

A Place at the Table

Five children, 2nd grade and above, have completed A Place at the Table Communion instruction, learning all about Jesus and his special meal. On Sunday, February 1 the children will participate in prayer, readings, and receive communion with their families during 10:00am worship. Congratulations and well done!

Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation classes continue every Sunday during the school year. We meet at 8:45am for our large group gathering in the choir room, followed by classroom time from 9:00am to 9:45am. Our age groups are broken down as follows: 3's and 4's, Kindergarten-2nd grade, and 3rd-6th grade. All classes are instructed by our wonderful volunteers. All are welcome!

Nursery

During the 10am service preschool age children and younger are supervised in F126.

Chapel Time

During 10am service, children aged 3 to 2nd grade have an opportunity to experience worship geared just for them. After the children's message, the children are supervised in the privacy room for a story, craft, and activity based on the gospel story of the day.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will take place Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19 from 9 to 11:30am. More information/signups to follow.

Lenten Workshop

On March 1 we will hold our annual Lenten Workshop from 8:45-9:45am in Lundin Hall. There will be crafts and activities for children. All are welcome!

Winter Wonderland Dance

On a snowy Saturday in January, Lundin Hall was transformed into a Winter Wonderland! Over 100 church and pre-school participants joined us for snacks, fellowship, and dancing! Thank you to Tracey Ormsbee for organizing this fabulous event, and for all who helped that evening!



You Can Help Family Promise in 2026

Family Promise uses the Apartment Shelter model to house families, with three rental properties that shelter 3-6 families (12-20 people). The families move on to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

Staying in one place during their time with Family Promise allows families to have bedtime routines for the children and more flexible work schedules. Since the families are in houses, they have access to a kitchen. Atonement provides prepared meals on Mondays and donates grocery gift cards to cover the rest of the week. Providing gift cards for groceries for the families empowers the families to oversee something when much of their current situation leads them to feel powerless, while cooked meals on Mondays provide a welcome break during this stressful time.

Atonement is scheduled for Family Promise Monday Meal Ministry on April 13, April 20, July 13 and July 20. There is a SignUpGenius for the two Mondays in April at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E49A9A822A4F94-61814679-family> and for the two Mondays in July at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E49A9A822A4F94-61814653-family> which will be updated with current family details as the time draws near. This is an easy way to directly support families experiencing homelessness!

There are some celebration and fundraising events coming up. Atonement will host a 20th Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser breakfast on Saturday, April 25 from 8:30am to 10am. Atonement sheltered over 100 families when they were staying in churches, and provided meals for over 70 families when they were staying in shelter homes. Lots of other churches have added to the impact. That is a lot to celebrate! You can buy a ticket or make a donation at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/20th-anniversary-celebration-and-fundraiser> or you can be a sponsor for the anniversary event.

A "FAIRWAY TO HOME" golf tournament will be held July 20. Watch the Family Promise of Berks County website events page <https://familypromiseofberks.org/news-and-events/> for sponsorship and participation information for both events.

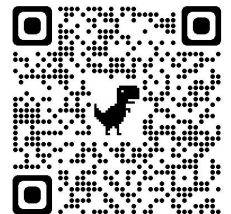
Please help serve our Family Promise guests with delicious food, groceries, funds for the future, and hope.



Gifts of Stocks or Securities

Gifts of stocks or securities are always welcome donations. If you plan to give stock or securities, please notify the office of the pending donation to Atonement's Schwab Account at Weik Investments (the office will provide account number, etc.), along with the purpose for which you are donating it, the name of the stock, its value, where it is coming from, and who the donor is.

Don't forget that your offering can be given by **credit card** on our website or by scanning the QR code to the right.



Heart to Heart Women in Fellowship



Casual gathering of women to share experiences and learn from one another.

Sundays, March 8, 15, 22 & 29

8:45-9:45am in the Parlor

Contact Jen Dauber for more info: jdauber@atonementtwo.org

gather, share & learn together

Pastoral Acts

New member welcome—November 23, 2025

Memorial service for Dorothy Hill—January 23, 2026

Adult Faith Formation

Revised Schedule

All classes in F122 unless otherwise noted

- 2/15 - Bible Wrap up with Deacon Tom
- 2/22 - Begin a more in depth study of the book of Galatians (In worship that morning we will have a time of celebration for reading the Bible in 2025)
- 3/1 - Intergenerational Lenten Event in Lundin Hall - no faith formation class
- 3/8 - Galatians Session 2
- 3/15 - Galatians Session 3
- 3/22 - Galatians Session 4
- 3/29 - Snow make up/wrap up of Galatians



Atonement Cookie Extravaganza

Atonement bakers showed their generosity and talent for the inaugural Cookie Extravaganza in December. Over 50 members volunteered to share their delicious holiday treats by baking over 2,500 cookies, which were assembled by Atonement volunteers in a variety of bags and boxes and distributed to the following:

- 240 individual bags which were delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients through Berks Encore
- 3 dozen individual bags which were delivered to the Atonement members whom the carolers serenaded
- 1 full box to the carolers
- 6 full boxes to Berks Encore for the benefit of the seniors who visit the center
- 6 boxes to Bridge of Hope Church in Womelsdorf for distribution to those less fortunate in their community.
- 1 dozen bags to Atonement members at Phoebe Berks

Ivette Malave-Soto, Berks Encore Center Manager in Reading, extended her thanks to Atonement on behalf of Berks Encore, writing, "They LOVED the cookies! Everyone thought they were delicious and loved that there was a variety. They were very thankful and the Meals on Wheels consumers were very pleased to receive fresh baked cookies. Thank you so much for putting a smile on their faces one cookie at a time!!" She also expressed that Berks Encore would be grateful to receive cookies again.

One of the consumers of Meals on Wheels, "nanny1426" sent an email to Atonement with the following message, "I receive Meals on Wheels and I was pleasantly surprised to receive a bag of cookies from your church. Since I can no longer bake cookies anymore, I want to give thanks to your church and all the volunteers that made the cookies. They were all delicious! Thank you for your kindness and caring. God Bless You."

And another consumer called the church office and left a voicemail message expressing her appreciation.

What a blessing to be a blessing to our community. Thank you all.




Aspire is looking for Hospice Volunteers



Become a Hospice Volunteer

ASPIRE for Well-Being
HOSPICE



Ready to Make a Difference?

Why Volunteer?
Hospice volunteers make a profound impact on quality of life. Whether through a kind word, a listening ear, or a helping hand, your presence brings comfort during one of life's most tender journeys.

What You'll Do:

- Offer companionship through conversation, reading, music, or your presence
- Provide emotional support and respite for caregivers and families
- Assist with light household tasks, errands, or meal preparation
- Support our hospice program with occasional administrative help
- Always uphold confidentiality and professional boundaries

If you feel called to serve, we invite you to join our volunteer team. Together, we can bring dignity, comfort, and compassion to those who need it most.

Apply online or scan the QR code!
www.thehighlands.org/careers | Ph: (484)220-8283
 2000 Cambridge Avenue, Wyomissing, PA 19610



From the Building and Grounds Committee

Every year we have to make improvements on our building and grounds. A summary of completed work from this past year follows:

May - A contractor refreshed the EFIS joints at the base of the stucco surface of our church. When the caulking joints were removed, it was found that the drivot surface was not properly sealed from the initial build in some places. Some Styrofoam insulation was exposed. A mortar coating had to be applied in these areas before the new caulking joint could be installed. We also had to make some external surface repairs near the parking lot that was damaged from the snow plow. Damage was also repaired along the alley.

July - Our next major expense was to repair water infiltration that was getting into the preschool office. A contractor excavated down to the foundation level of the building, repaired stone joints, and sealed that surface from water penetration. We discovered that the rain gutters in that area did not run to a drain but to an extinct French drain. We had to cut an access hole on the retaining wall along the preschool wing and run a new drain line through it. We actually made out better cost-wise than we expected for this unplanned work.

August & October - The sinking concrete stairway to Lundin Hall was repaired and the cracked concrete ramp at the preschool playground was removed and replaced. The slope was improved for proper rain drainage and joint-to-wall was sealed to stop further water penetration into the choir room area. Due to the water infiltration, the landscaped bed leading to the entrance of the Preschool was dug up, and we hired a landscaping firm to install river rock, hardscaping, and plants.

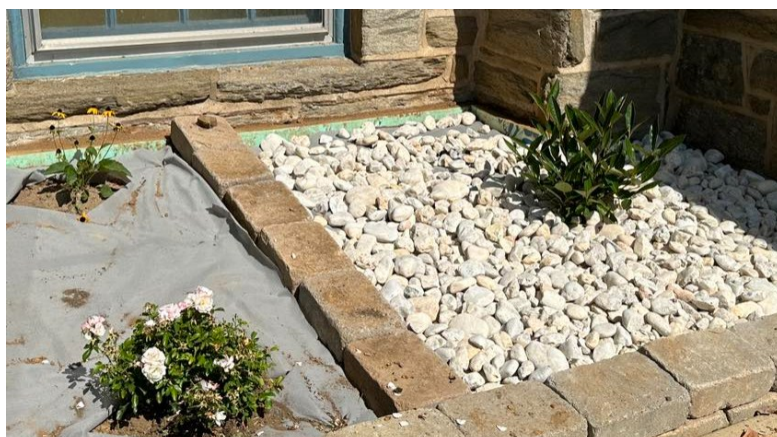
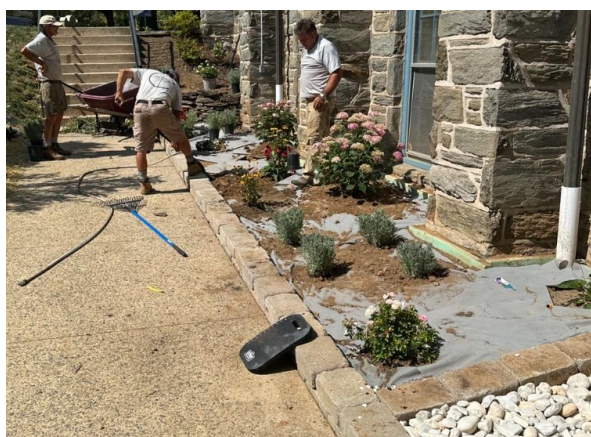
We repainted the parking lot lines and handicap spaces in both parking lots.

The iron railing leading into Lundin Hall from the lower parking lot was replaced.

The preschool flooring was upgraded to carpet flooring tiles in the preschool area.

Our 2025 capital expense budget was only \$37,000, yet we finished the year with \$70,921 in capital expenses. We had to pull funds from other areas of our budget to reach a balanced budget, and we still have more maintenance needs to address this year and in the coming years. We hope to add a link to our website that will list the capital expense project list. This will allow you to make a contribution to help us keep our building and grounds in working order so can continue to serve God and neighbor. Stay tuned for more info in next month's newsletter...

Scott Boyer



Atonement Business Directory

Health Services

Penn State Community Medical Group, All About Children
655 Walnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611
Phone: 610-372-9222
Fax: 610-372-0232

Stephen Fehnel, MD, Gynecology and Urogynecology
740 Penn Ave, West Reading PA 19611
610-376-3700
Stephenfehnelmd.com

Financial/Insurance

Fred Kofke, Principle
Kofke Associates
Business key man insurance, estate planning, disability insurance with a 43 year history of serving clients in Berks and beyond.
kofkeassoc@comcast.net
Cell: 610-207-7124

Ray Melcher, President
Marathon Capital Advisors
Offers business succession services to company owners who wish to sell their business and to business persons who wish to buy a business. Also assist business owners and executives with obtaining business financing. Also serves as interim, part time, transitional business leadership and management as CEO, COO, or other executive level role.
4 Park Plaza, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-898-8086 x22

Tutoring

Karen Sandloop, Retired Reading Specialist
kloop13@comcast.net
610-659-4630

Custom Home Design and Construction

Marc J. Geddio, President
Residential Designs by Geddio
Engineer stamped blueprints for custom homes and additions, since 1992.
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