



AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, January 4, 2017*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

Happy New Year! I have high hopes for 2017 as there are a lot of changes in the future. Some of those changes will be at church. Others will be in the community and of course there are things that will be different for the nation. Change can be difficult but it is inevitable.

Some change we actively seek – like getting rid of bad habits or starting good ones. Last week in this newsletter I mentioned getting rid of 496 items to simplify my life. This week I have also decided to start eating healthier and lose some weight. Specifically my goal is to lose 496 ounces. By doing the math, which is 496 divided by 16 (there are 16 ounces in a pound), it's the equivalent of 31 pounds. So my goal is to lose 31 pounds this year.

I can't imagine how much lighter I will feel with all that weight just gone. But it is nothing compared to how much lighter I feel when I give everything that burdens and weighs me down to God.

Isaiah 58:6 says, "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, that you break every yoke?" God does not want any of us to be weighed down with heavy burdens, guilt, shame or regret. He wants all of his children to be free of all our issues and concerns.

So I am inviting you to join me in another “496 exercise” this year. Can you hand at LEAST 496 burdens that you have over to God this year? Whether it’s “big stuff” like health or relationship issues or “smaller things” like a big test or car problems (and what is big or small is a personal choice), God wants us to come to Him with all of it and give it to Him to carry.

So let’s decide to lighten up this year and give our biggest weights – our burdens and issues – to God. To God be the glory forever and ever.

*Pastor Henry*

---

*You’re Invited to a*



*Cliff & Erin McCall*

*January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.*

*Fellowship Hall*

## What is Code Purple Sussex County?

At Avenue we are a cold weather shelter hosting men overnight during the coldest nights of the year. Our church has been hosting Code Purple guests for approximately 6 weeks. We started out opening our doors when the temperature dropped to 32 degrees and below. Now we are open every night regardless of the temperature. We have helped 26 men in total throughout these 6 weeks, many of whom have been regular guests along the way. At the moment we average 10-12 homeless men each night. While there have been some growing pains along the way, we have most definitely become a family. We are an eclectic and diverse group of individuals, guests and volunteers alike, ebbing and flowing together, giving each other grace and love, amid boundaries and mutual respect. Some nights flow easier than others, but every night is an opportunity to shine light into the darkness and I am quite certain these men know that they are loved.

We all have amazing opportunities each and every day to touch a life. Opportunities arise at work, at school, at the store, on the street...everywhere that another human being is in our presence. We can plant seeds and breathe life into each other with every interaction. **Those of us involved with Avenue's Code Purple would LOVE for you to stop in to our corner of Avenue any evening to get to know our guests. Come and spend time getting to know them as individuals.** See past what you "see". Resist the labeling and the judgements, and look into the eyes of those in your presence to truly see the humanity in front of you. Come and help us plant seeds of light and hope and love. Many of our guests are relatively young and not seasoned at homelessness. They come with a variety of backgrounds and reasons for their situations. They need Godly mentors to love them on their journey.

Code Purple is about so much more than providing them with a meal and a place to sleep... it is about building relationships with men who are hurting over their past, it is about letting them know they are valuable, and that hope is alive. It's about walking alongside them as they work toward improving their circumstances. As Matthew Barnett puts it, **we must meet their needs, but we must minister to their potential.** That cannot happen unless trusting relationships are formed.

**Our area of greatest need is for overnight volunteers. We cannot provide our service without growing our number of dedicated, open hearted overnight volunteers.** Before you decide this is not possible for you, at least come and participate in pouring love and hope into these men. **You may be surprised at how easily your heart will connect with theirs.** Join us any evening after 6:30. The doors unlock for guests to come in at 7 pm. **Come spend some time with us....I think you will be very blessed by your fellowship with these men. Each night's interactions vary, but we have shared many tears, hugs and laughter.** God has blessed many conversations, and we have witnessed the guests ministering to each other. It has been a beautiful growing experience for us all.

Areas for volunteering include intake, preparing meals, morning relief and overnight. **Of course, everyone can participate through prayer.** Pray specifically for the men that God has brought to our care, and pray specifically for the dedicated volunteers that have already given so much to this ministry.

**If you know you are interested in volunteering, you can complete a volunteer form online at [www.codepurplesussexcounty.com](http://www.codepurplesussexcounty.com) or a paper copy from in the church lobby. (Online is extremely helpful.)**

**To sign up for volunteering positions, go to the website above and find the online calendar link.** It is not the friendliest to navigate the first time, but after you do it once, you will get the hang of it. Choose the date and the position you are interested in under Avenue's listings and plug in your information. We operate on 2 intake, 2 overnight and a dinner provider each night. Morning relief each morning is also very helpful as an extra pair of hands and feet.

**If you are unsure, but feel a nudge toward this ministry, you can visit us any night without committing yourself as a volunteer.** We will show you how things are run and you can get to know our Code Purple family. You can decide how you best fit into this ministry after your visit.

**We sincerely hope and pray that we will see you joining us on this journey very soon. If you have questions you can contact me at [jbonnonicp@gmail.com](mailto:jbonnonicp@gmail.com) or 302-242-8968.**

Thank you and God bless,

The Avenue UMC Code Purple Team

---

# FUSION YOUTH RALLY

On **January 6<sup>th</sup>**, FUSION Student Ministries will be taking over 50 students to the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Pen-Del Youth Rally for a weekend of worship, learning, and fun in Ocean City, MD.

There are still some students that will require scholarships to help offset the cost of their trip.

Anyone wishing to give the gift of a memorable weekend for a student in need can do so by simply labeling their check or offering with the words "Youth Rally" and a scholarship will be set up.

Thank You for your continued support for the students of Milford!!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (302) 422-8111 when someone from the church is hospitalized.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is being offered at Avenue Church. An *Information Sheet with Authorization Agreement* is available on the table in Fellowship Foyer. Simply fill out the authorization agreement and return it to the church office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Country Flowers. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

**PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK:** Joanne Gorlich, LaQuisha Gardner, Nancy G., Coleman Logan, Michael Benton, Dorothy Young, all suffering from addictions and their families, Uncle Steve, the Marra family, the Todd family, Kam and Dawn, all families, Linda Donovan, the Ellers family, the Nakrasuis family, Don Meyer, Ashley, Keith, Bill Salvin and family, all members of the military stationed far from home, the United Methodist Church of Dickinson, North Dakota, all first responders and medical personnel working over the holidays, Carolyn Williams, for the new year, Roger Perry, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Jim Greenley, Christopher, Dave Abt, Kathryn Barnes, Dave Dawson and family, Barbara Vederose, Darryl Jopp, Brenda's grandmother, everyone traveling over the holidays, all heading to Florida and other warmer climates for the remainder of the winter, Layla Messick, Bev Vincent, Charles Harding, the Casterline family, John Hatfield, Nikki Kelley, for all who do not know the light and love of Christ, all who are lonely this Christmas, all who are missing loved ones who died this year.

**Recently hospitalized:** Alan Boltz.

**Rejoice with:** All celebrating Christmas with family and friends.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Joanne Gorlich, the United Methodist Church of Dickinson, ND, all first responders and medical personnel working over the holidays, all families, Linda Donovan, Roger and Edie Perry, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Jim Greenley, Christopher, Kathryn Barnes, Dave Dawson, Barbara Vederose, Brenda, everyone traveling, all heading to Florida and warmer climates for the winter, Olivia Davis, Jayden and his adoptive family, the France Family, Cindy Canevari, Laura and Randy Vaughan, Julia and Ken Bock, Greg and Lori, Jean, all the victims of the Istanbul attack, the police officers shot and killed over the weekend and their families, the family of Roland Downes, for all young adults transitioning to adulthood, Bobby Walls, Jean Emory, Bill Gustin, Olga Stayton, Diana and Pastor Wendy.

**Recently hospitalized:** Jean Gustin.

**Rejoice with:** Mary Jo Lear and all of God's children blessed by a new beginning every day.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Bob & Bonnie Walls** who will celebrate their **55<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

### ♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪Mispillion Children's Chorus

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

### ♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

### ♪AveNotes

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? If you are interested in using your musical gifts here at Avenue Church please contact Kevin Chamberlain, kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com or (302) 236-1276.

## UPCOMING

On **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** we will be having a baby shower for Cliff and Erin McCall. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** class will resume its study of God's Word on **January 30, 2017** at 6:30 p.m. with Forgiveness, by Adam Hamilton. We welcome and encourage anyone interested to join our group. Please call Cheryl Pusey (302) 381-2474 or the church office to register. Materials will be ordered by mid-January.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will continue our study "John" on **January 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please call Ginny Van Tine (302) 422-4282, Brenda Powers (302) 422-8821 or leave a message in the church office if you would like to join us. We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room. .

**WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP** will meet today **January 4<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. in the **Heritage Room**. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **January 9<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**EXPLORING FAITH BOOK CLUB** meets on the third Sunday of the Month at 12:15 in the Grier Room. Our next study is January 15, 2017. The Book is "The Will of God" by Leslie Weatherhead. When bad things happen to good people, is this the will of God? If it is not, what is the will of God? If these questions have sparked an interest in you, then plan to come and

“explore your faith” as these questions and others pertaining to God’s Will are discussed.

## **OUTREACH**

**UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM):** THANK to everyone that participated in the AUMM pancake breakfast, whether you were a worker or an eater of pancakes. You have helped the AUMM to be able to fund scholarships and other mission projects. The congregation of Avenue is awesome with the free will offering. God Bless every one of you! ***Avenue United Methodist Men***

**THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** The Milford Community Pantry is so thankful for the folks at Avenue who support us with gifts of food, gifts of time and gifts of money. The need has grown over the years and currently we feed over 100 families every month. We are okay *right now with our volunteer help but I will put the call out if that changes.*

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL** has a limited number of openings for the 2016-17 school year. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>. We are a Star Level 5, Delaware Stars rated program offering a high quality early education experience. For more information contact [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org) or (302) 422-8111. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org).

### **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	63	55
9:30	200	88
Sunday School	95	0
11:00	74	58
Thursday Service	0	3
<b>FUSION</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>204</b>



## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 1/8

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #272,  
Heritage Room

### MONDAY 1/9

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group,  
Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts-Tigers,  
Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts-Webelos 2, Room 206
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers,  
Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Pack Comm. Meeting,  
Heritage Room
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

### TUESDAY 1/10

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team  
Rehearsal, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,  
Wendy's Office
- 6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Choir,  
Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Bears,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. APS Board Meeting, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY 1/11

- 10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary  
and Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Instrumental Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1,  
Fellowship Hall & Wesley Room

### THURSDAY 1/12

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. New Worship Service, Sanctuary

### FRIDAY 1/13

- 5:00 p.m. Coastal Concerts, Sanctuary
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SATURDAY 1/14

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SUNDAY 1/15

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club,  
Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &  
Fellowship Hall

**“A Dynamic Faith Community Growing in  
Hope, Love and Service”**