

The Midweek

Wednesday, January 11 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

My entire January has felt very discombobulated. It started with having Monday as a Federal holiday because Tuesday felt like Monday and as a result it seemed as if I had lost a day. Then I had Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) paperwork due and that was 75 pages of writing, edits and review that had taken weeks to write. When the packet was finally turned in on January 3rd I felt like I was missing something. But nothing messed up my "schedule equilibrium" like missing worship on Sunday when the snow storm rolled in and the decision was made to cancel church this past weekend.

It was the right decision because safety is always a major consideration in everything we do but it still left me out of sorts for the day. I had grand plans for all I was going to accomplish but I got nothing done. It turned into a lazy Sunday.

After working on BOOM, dealing with all that is involved with advent and Christmas at church and making sure that all the family aspects of the holidays were handled, I was feeling a little burned out and I took the day to reset and recharge.

There are probably times in all our lives when we find ourselves at the end of a project, semester or assignment and feel as if we need a little boost of motivation. This is also the time of the month when our New Year's resolutions start to wan and we need some "extra umph" to keep going. The best place to find that incentive and impetus is in scripture.

Colossians 3: 23-24 says that "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

I hope and pray that we don't miss more Sundays for any reason. It is not only hard to be behind in contributions (which I pray you consider making up for with your future

offerings), but we are now behind on the sermon series, the Bible studies that were affected, and our other plans for the year.

Whatever is to come however, I trust that God will guide us back to the events and schedule that will bring glory and honor to Him. We just need to remember and be inspired by the opportunities we are given every day to work for Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

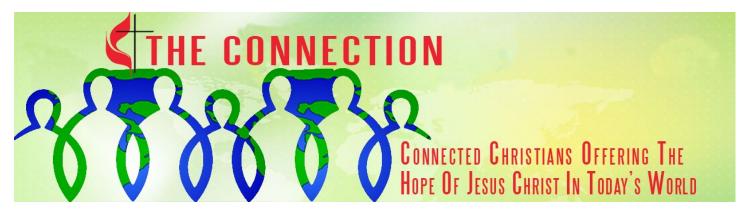


You're Invited to a



Cliff & Erin McCall

January 22nd from 10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall



From the desk of our Bishop. . .

New Beginnings

The beginning of a New Year conjures up for me the image of a new start, a rebooted computer, a right-sizing of clutter on our desks, the balancing of a checkbook, a new resolve to do things better. New beginnings are never successful unless there is a serious ending to that which is old, and some of that is harder to let go of than it would seem. The prophet Samuel in the Old Testament had labored long with King Saul's monarchy and it was heading for a dismal end. Samuel was grieving the fall of this leader and his part is choosing this tall, shy young person from the tribe of Benjamin years ago. In the midst of his grieving comes a word from the Lord. The Lord often talks to us through grief and times of uncertainty. It is often the place where we finally stop all of our noise and listen to God's voice. Never shun grief and pain because there are clear and compelling messages that need our attention in order to move on in healthy ways. God says to Samuel "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." (I Samuel 16:1)

The new beginning of a godly monarchy began with God commanding Samuel to put away the grief over the old one. May it be true for us as well. As you are pondering the new things you will do in this New Year be sure to intentionally deal with any residual grief of the old. Pray through this pain, seek to reconcile with those you have wronged, forgive those who have wronged you, you may even seek professional counseling. Until the old is healed it will continue to creep into your "new" thing.

This thought is heralded well in one of our beloved hymns (BOH, p. 383) penned by Brian Wren:

This is a day of new beginnings,
Time to remember and move on
Time to believe what love is bringing
Laying to rest the pain that's gone

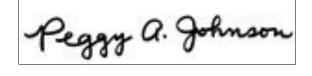
For by the life and death of Jesus Love's mighty Spirit now as then Can make for us a world of difference, As faith and hope are born again

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, Step from the past and leave behind Our disappointment, guilt and grieving, Seeking new paths and sure to find.

Christ is alive and goes before us
To show and share what love can do
This is a day of new beginnings
Our God is making all things new

May the "Spirit's daring" bring you a fresh start in 2017 and give you the courage to deal with past pain and move on!







Explore the countertenor's range and repertoire IN A FREE R.A.V.E. CONCERT JANUARY 13, 2017 AT 7 PM





Avenue United Methodist Church 20 North Church Street, Milford, DE

Don't miss this special program!

Seating is on a first-come basis.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.COASTALCONCERTS.ORG

Coastal Concerts' R.A.V.E. (Rising Artist and Venue Expansion) concert series is

Sponsored in part by the Longwood Foundation



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, 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 Greenly, 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:

Recently hospitalized:

Rejoice with:

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

IAveNotes

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

UPCOMING

BOY SCOUT TROOP 186 is having a fundraiser on Tuesday, January 17th at Grotto Pizza in Milford between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The restaurant will donate 20% of each check (dine in or carryout) to Pack 186. Vouchers must be presented and are available in the Fellowship Foyer or on Grotto's Pizza website.

On Sunday, January 22nd 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

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study "John" on January 17th. 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 on February 1st 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 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be February 13th 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.

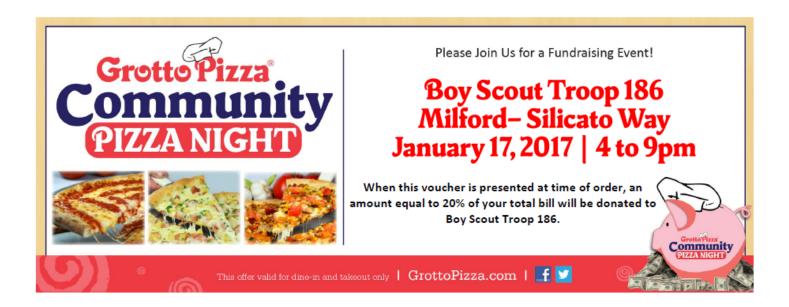
OUTREACH

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: As the new year begins we want to express our gratitude to all of you for the support you give **The Milford Community Pantry**. We had a busy year in 2016 and expect that need to continue this year. If you want to bring food to the Pantry we suggest peanut butter or jelly. If you would like to volunteer call Tita Lewis (302) 664-1321.

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 31st. We are a Star Level 5, Delaware Stars rated program offering a high quality early education experience. For more information contact office@avenuepreschool.org or (302) 422-8111. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: www.avenuepreschool.org.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	86	0
9:30	184	0
Sunday School	79	0
11:00	101	0
Thursday Service	0	8
FUSION	0	65 (Youth Rally)
Total	450	73



CALENDAR

Heritage Room

		WEDNESDAY 1/18 (cont.)		
SUNDAY 1/1		3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary	
8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	1	and Music Room	
9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	5:00 p.m.	Instrumental Rehearsal,	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	<u>.</u>	Sanctuary	
10:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class, Grier Room	5:00 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	<u>.</u>	Room 202	
12:15 p.m.	Exploring Faith Book Club,	6:00 p.m.	AveNotes, Music Room	
	Grier Room	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts—Webelos 1,	
5:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	о.оо р.ш.	Wesley Room	
	Fellowship Hall	7:00 p.m.	Pride of Delmarva,	
		7.00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	
MONDAY 1/1	16 ~ Office Closed		Tellowship Han	
11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	THURSDAY	1/19	
5:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 140,	11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
	Heritage Room	2:30 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary	2.00 p.m.	Room 202	
7:00 p.m.	First State Harmonizers,	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts—Wolves,	
	Music Room	0.50 p.m.	Wesley Room	
7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting, Grier Room	6:30 p.m.	New Worship Service,	
8:00 p.m.	AA, Room 206	0.50 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	
-		7:00 p.m.	SPRC, Holzmueller Room	
TUESDAY 1/	/17	7.00 p.m.	Sr NC, Holzmaener Mooni	
9:45 a.m.	Sarah Circle Meeting at Joyce Voshell's	FRIDAY 1/2	0	
	residence.	11:00 a.m.	Wrap Around DE,	
10:00 a.m.	Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room	11.00 a.iii.	Holzmueller Room	
1:30 p.m.	Mary/Martha Circle, Grier Room	0.00		
6:00 p.m.	MomentUM Praise Team	8:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
1	Rehearsal, Wesley Room	CAMIIDDAN	1 /01	
6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,		SATURDAY		
0.00 P	Wendy's Office	8:00 a.m.	Troop Merit Badge,	
6:00 p.m.	Pre Diabetes Program,	11.00	Fellowship Hall	
0.00 P	Heritage Room	11:00 a.m.	Music School of DE—Recital,	
6:15 p.m.	Mispillion Children's Choir,	1000	Sanctuary	
0,10 p	Music Room	12:00 p.m.	Pack (Pinewood Derby) practice,	
6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts—Bears,	- 00	Wesley Room	
0.00 р.ш.	Fellowship Hall	7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
7:00 p.m.	Central Delaware Chess Club,			
7.00 p.m.	Room 206	SUNDAY 1/2		
7:00 p.m.	Finance Comm. Meeting,	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
7.00 p.m.	Grier Room	8:30 a.m.	McCall Baby Shower, Fellowship Hall	
7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal,	9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	
7.00 p.m.	Sanctuary	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
	Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
WEDNESDA	V 1/10	3:00 p.m.	Code Purple Volunteer Meeting,	
			Fellowship Hall	
10:30 a.m.	Writing Group, Grier Room	3:00 p.m.	Music School of DE—Recital, Sanctuary	
12:30 p.m.	Lay Laureate Selection Comm.,	5:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	
1.90	Holz. Room		Fellowship Hall	
1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group, Grier Room			
1:30 p.m.	Milford Comm. Pantry,			

"A Dynamic Faith Community Growing in Hope, Love and Service" $_{9}$