



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, January 25 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Last week's article on the Oxford comma generated a bunch of discussion. Both Tom and I had numerous conversations with people who had their own opinions on whether that grammar rule should stay or go. I knew it was a subject we both had strong feelings about but I had no idea that so many felt the same way we did!

We heard a lot of great stories about school days, English teachers, district requirements, term papers, and college and graduate school rules. Suffice it to say that there was not solid or definitive decision on what should be done with that comma.

Part of the reason I think that it was such a popular subject was because it is a topic that really had no major impact on what is going on in the world but everyone has some type of experience with that comma. In other words, it was a nice detour and walk down memory lane.

We need those distractions in our lives. They are nice breaks in our day-to-day activities.

But we should never look for those diversions to the detriment of searching for God. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

This verse puts God as the first priority but it also promises that other

parts of our lives like family, school, work, and outside interests will continue to be part of the balance we deal with every day. As long as we make God part of all we do, we can be blessed in all aspects of our lives, including those diversions that we find entertaining.

So, I'm wondering this week...how many people think Pluto should still be considered a planet? Inquiring minds want to know.

To God be the glory forever and ever.



Pastor Henry

REMINDER: UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Church Council Meeting
Tonight at 7:00 p.m.



From the desk of our Bishop. . .

A Long, Long Way to Go

In early December I participated in an ecumenical dialogue held periodically between The United Methodist Church and the Roman Catholic Church. During the three-day meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, we visited the historic 16th Street Baptist Church. The church is historic partly for tragic reasons.

On September 15, 1963, just before Sunday school, a secretly placed bomb, made of 15 sticks of dynamite, exploded. It ripped through this house of holy worship and took the precious lives of four young girls: Addie Mae Collins, Carol Denise McNair, Cynthia Diane Wesley and Carole Robertson.

As I sat in that serene church on a sunny December afternoon, it was hard to imagine the horror of it all and the evil infecting the hearts of people who would commit such a horrific crime.

Following our visit there, we walked over to the Civil Rights Museum where we could see the patient, painstaking progress that has occurred step-by-step since 1963.

The words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s [eulogy](#) at the joint funeral of three of the girls were ringing in my mind: "This tragic day may cause the white side to come to terms with its conscience," he said. "In spite of the darkness of this hour, we must not become bitter. We must not lose faith in our white brothers. Life is hard—at times, as hard as crucible steel—but today, you do not walk alone."

Down through these many hard years it is at times clear that the African American community has not walked alone. Much progress has happened, and many on "the white side" have found their conscience, some even enough to journey with those trying to overcome racial oppression.

Fast-forward to the trial of Dylann Roof, the white supremacist who, just 18 months ago, entered the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and viciously killed nine people gathered for a Bible Study.

It is clear to me that we have a long, long way to go. Despite years of progress, the evil root of

bigotry is alive, though not well, and it sprouts acts of disrespect, blatant hatred and racially motivated violence every day. We—all of us—must challenge it and try to dig up that diseased root with daily efforts.

May I echo the words of Dr. King: “White people need to come to terms with their conscience.” As we remember the life of this great civil rights leader, and as we celebrate the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18-25, may white members of our denomination take time to deeply examine our conscience...down to the root. May we acknowledge sins of commission and omission, of thought, word and deed.

May we search our attitudes and behaviors, our church practices of reaching out and welcoming in. Do we use our voices, our political power to speak out against the continuing civil rights abuses in this country and for the improvement needed in human relations? Where can we be in better alignment with, and a better reflection of, the great love God has given to us through Christ Jesus, a love that we are to share with all our brothers and sisters?

I pray that we all will strive daily to overcome hate and division and to embody what this “drum major for justice” called “a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.” Amen.



Peggy A. Johnson



Starting January 25 , 2017

Dinner at 6:00pm and Study at 7:00pm

at the home of Poncho and Lisa Johnson

Led by Donny Hopkins

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: The family and friends of James Eisenbrey, the family and friends of Alan Boltz, Sue Winkler, Brenda Powers and her mission team, Jim Greenley, Alan, Leslie Wuenstsel, Rachel, Ed, Bill Gaskill and family, the Hobbs family, God's beloved children, Brett Venable, Dave Dawson, Mike, the family of Joe Sykes, April McIntyre, Bill and Jill Gustin, Barbara Vederose, Colleen Dunham, Christopher, Kathryn Barnes, Olivia Davis and everyone traveling this week.

Recently hospitalized: Carolyn Williams and Skip Venable.

Rejoice with: Carolyn Wright, all blessed by God's grace and mercy, and Chip and Gabbie McKinney.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Dave and Sharon Dawson, Barbara Vederose, All who have lost loved ones in the severe weather in Georgia, Kirby Schuler, the missions organizer that we support, The family and friends of Jim Greenly, The family and friends of Alan Boltz, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Code Purple ministry and all of our guests, The safety of the president and his family, Brandon Dodd, Danny, Brenda Powers and Alison Parker.

Recently hospitalized: Carolyn.

Rejoice with: Gannon Webb turned 14 on Sunday, Evelyn Rose McCall who will be appearing soon, Choir and music ministries of the church and Brenda Powers who is on a mission trip to Guatemala.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gilbert and Joan Emory who will celebrate their 64th anniversary on January 31st.

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

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study "John" on **January 31st**. 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 **February 19, 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.

LIFE LINE SCREENING: Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is please to offer a preventive health event at Avenue United Methodist Church on **March 24, 2017**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers.**

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	0	57
9:30	0	181
Sunday School	0	55
11:00	0	74
Thursday Service	0	10
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52</u>
Total	0	429

**** Attendance for 2016 the church was cancelled due to ice/snow**

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 1/29

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
5:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 1/30

10:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting, Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 140, Heritage Room
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers, Music Room
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 1/31

10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier 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
7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 2/1

9:00 a.m. SLT Meeting, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
2:00 p.m. Widow/Widowers Group, Heritage 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 2/2

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

FRIDAY 2/3

11:00 a.m. Wrap Around DE, Holzmueller Room
8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 2/4

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 2/5

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
5:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall

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