

The Midweek

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I have been amazed, ever since I came to Avenue, at the wide variety of music that has been part of the worship service. The choir, AveNotes, Praise Team, hand bell choir, woodwind trio, the piano accompanists, and the Dixieland Band have been wonderful parts of the worship services over the past few weeks. (If there is any musical group or individual that I am missing, I apologize in advance.)

Other than an appreciation for it, I have no musical talent whatsoever. I look at a sheet of music and it's a foreign language to me. I am in awe of people who can look at the dots on the page and translate them into notes to be sung or played.

My son is vocalist so I know a little more about what is involved with singing than I do with playing a musical instrument. I am astonished by the coordination it takes for two hands to each be doing different things to play an instrument. In addition, there is often something happening with feet — whether it be tapping in time or hitting the pedals of the organ or piano. To watch Kevin "dance" over the pedals when he is playing the organ is incredible.

As we enter this season of Lent and we go through the ups and downs of what took place over the 40 days before the resurrection, it might be interesting to imagine what the soundtrack for the events taking place might be. At times

the music would be light and joyful. In other moments, there would be music that is sad and mournful. Can you put together the songs and hymns that might be part of your play list for this sacred time of year?

Charles Wesley said that singing is like praying twice. Scripture has many wonderful references to music. One of the best-known verses is from Ephesians 5:19 and it says "sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts."

As we think about the events that took place in the life of our Savior as He prepared to go to the cross, let us also sing in our hearts in gratitude for what He has done for us. And in all ways, let us give honor and glory to the Lord forever and ever.



Lenten Bible Study

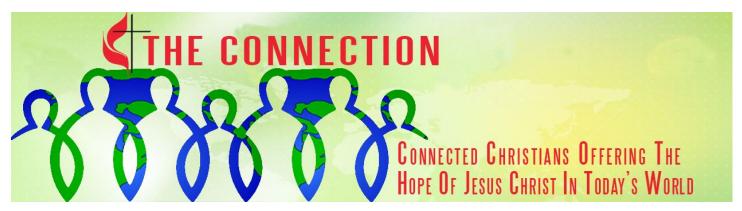
Restored Finding Redemption in our Mess

By: Tom Berlin

Monday, March 6th

7 p.m. in the Grier Room

Led by Pastor Wendy



From the desk of our Conference Director Vicki...

Served to Serve

One of my favorite times of the week happens on Wednesday mornings at the Conference Resource Center. There, we worship together as a staff, singing, listening to God's Word, praying, and sharing our hearts and stories with each other. The Spirit has blessed these times together, helping each of us feel more closely connected with God, with each other, with the people in our conference, and with the wider community. I thank God for each member of the staff and for their willingness to trust our community and be vulnerable with each other. We leave these times knowing that sweet, sweet Spirit and the presence of the Lord, and empowered to do our work of our mission: Cultivating Christ communities through our CALL—Connecting, Acting, Leading, and Loving.

Today as we gathered around the Transfiguration story in Matthew 17:1-9, we shared some of our mountaintop experiences, some of our spiritual mentors (represented in the story by Moses and Elijah), and some of the challenges of coming back down the mountain. We learned that some of us experience God's presence most powerfully at family gatherings, and others when driving in the car, turning off music and other distractions, and just praying. One described this time as feeling closer with God, noticing God's provision, and seeing others whom they pass by as connected to themselves. That certainly sounds like the oneness Jesus prayed for in his farewell address to the disciples in John 17.

When we shifted to conversation about coming down the mountain, several people lamented that so many churches act like Peter, not wanting to leave the mountaintop but instead keeping Jesus to himself. As human beings, we tend to be tempted to view church as the place where I get MY needs met, instead of the place where we all gather to meet one another's needs. We asked the question: What if church is not about me "getting my fill," but about serving the needs of others?

I remembered a song, by Take Six: Welcome to the Best Stuff in the World Today Café. The song tells a story of a man going out to lunch and stumbling upon a café, where a man comes out and welcomes him. He tastes the food, which is the best stuff in the world. And, because of the actions of his server, he goes out and invites all of his friends to come. (Find the lyrics here: https://genius.com/Take-6-the-best-stuff-in-the-world-today-cafe-lyrics.) The refrain says: "Welcome to 'The Best Stuff in the World Today Café.' We are all believers in a better way. We were served as customers not so long ago.

Now we are all waiters; thought you ought to know. And if you're inclined to take the time to show your gratitude, then serve somebody else today like I've done for you."

When we have experienced the best stuff in the world, through the transforming love of Jesus, we cannot help but want to serve others. So, maybe our churches do not taste the unconditional love of God in Jesus. Or maybe, we have become like Peter and just want to keep it to ourselves. But, God invites us to a continual process of salvation and transformation. And, to do that, we have to go back down the mountain and engage with our communities. We may not like what they do, but we can love them anyway.

I read a story a while ago about an old, dying church in the middle of a city. (Sound familiar?) In an act of desperation, they reached out to the school right next to them and found out that the middle school and high school kids had nowhere safe to go on Friday nights, and so got into trouble. The church, after much arguing, wrestling with God, and praying, decided to offer a dance on Friday nights at the church. They worked with the schools to advertise and, much to their surprise, had great success. Although they struggled with the noise and choice of music, the older members prepared food and desserts and helped supervise the dance. One older woman told her story in church after a few weeks. She had prepared brownies and was serving them to a young teenager. The girl said to her: "Don't you just LOVE this music?" The elder woman replied: "No, but I love you and I am glad that you are here." Eventually, this young teenager and some of her friends began worshipping with that church.

I love that response. No, I do not love the music, but I love you and I am glad you are here. What if more of us reacted in that way to changes in the church? What if you do not like the time of the worship service? Or the new prayers? Or the graphics and videos? Or, you fill in the blank. Yes, that music or that prayer style might have served us. But, God invites us to go back down the mountain and serve others; to sacrifice what we want for what others need. You might ask me why you have to sacrifice and the newcomers or the outsiders do not. You have tasted the love of Jesus and they have not.

So, in following Jesus, we sacrifice our own desires in order to serve those who have not yet come. Does that sound too hard? Through the power of the Holy Spirit, all things are possible. As we approach the season of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter (not including Sundays), can I invite you to reflect on adapting this sacrifice? Will you be willing to come down from the mountaintop and share Jesus with others? Will you give up your own desires and preferences in order to serve another? I believe when we live this way, we will realize our vision of "Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today's world."

Blessings on the journey,

Vicki

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith Director of Connectional Ministries "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3, NIV)



"Sweet Day of Prayer"

Saturday, March 11th 2017 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch provided

Union United Methodist

2 N. Laws St., Bridgeville, DE 19933

The theme of our **third Revival Prayer Day** is "Sweet Day of Prayer" This daylong prayer session will focus on praise, worship, and the teaching on "the power of corporate prayer." You will have opportunities to experience different types of individual and corporate prayer, and will hear powerful testimonies about the work of the Holy Spirit in our churches during their 40-Day Prayer Challenge. You will experience the power of prayer and spiritual breakthroughs during this event.

Come, and be blessed to see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst. **All clergy and laity are welcome to attend.** Please call the District Office with any questions at (302) 526-2629.

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5

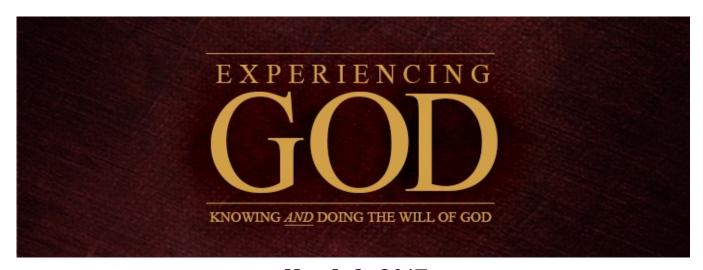
Please enclose check or money order, made payable to **Peninsula-Delaware Conference** and return no later than Wednesday, March 1, 2017 to:

Dover District Office, Attn: Cathy - Revival Prayer Day 30 Loockerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901

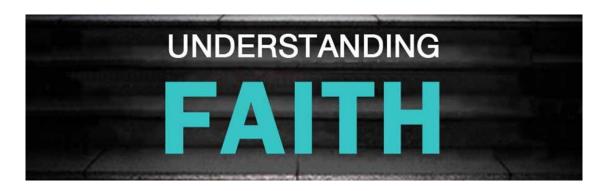
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Attendee's Name:	
Church/Charge:	
Phone:	
Email:	-
Please note any special dietary requirements:	
	For Office Use On Date Received:

Check/money order #:

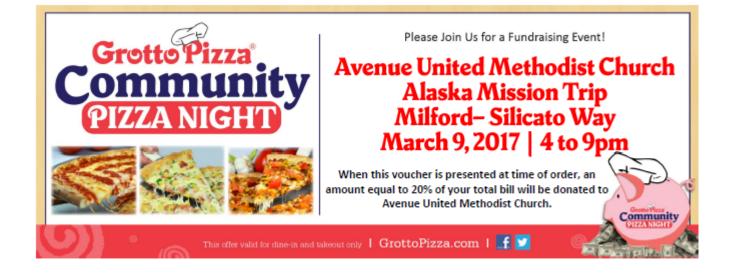


March 8, 2017
Dinner at 6:00pm and Study at 7:00pm
at the home of Poncho and Lisa Johnson
Led by Donny Hopkins



Explaining Christianity in the Secular World
Thinking our way through the Gospel of Mark
Sunday, March 5th
3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Led by Dan Nelson





UNDER THE DIRECTION OF **DONALD BUXTON**, we proudly present...

Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m.

Dover Downs Rollins Center

Route 13, Dover

Spring Classical Concert

Featuring
Dvorak's
New World Symphony
&

Romance for Violin & Orchestra
Performed by
Stefan Xhori

Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military - \$15

Young people under 18 free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org



Or Call 302-270-1903

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the <u>Delaware Division of the Arts</u>, a state agency,

in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts

The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.





Delaware Division of the

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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.

END OF THE YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS are available on the Foyer table.

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: All who battle addictions and their families, Linda Marvel and her family, all families dealing with loved ones who are ill, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Karen Moore, Mrs. K's housing situation, family and friends of Karen Lynch, Al Townsend, Ashley Bonnoni, Arthur Mosher, Christopher, Charles Sandifer, Lloyd and Nancy Webb, Dave Abt, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Kirsten Pierce, Jean Murphy, Kathy Sullivan, Karen Moore, Irene Hazzard, our nation and its leaders, all involved with Code Purple, the family and friends of Bob Reph, all involved with the Chrysalis weekend, for peace, hope and love in the world.

Recently hospitalized: Betty Ziesel, Gary Seal, Betty Lyons, Leslie Armour and Ralph Spain.

Rejoice with: The Pusey family.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Ralph Spain, April McIntyre, Al, Colleen Dunham, Karen Moore, Mrs. K, Ashley Bonnoni, Arthur Mosher, Christopher, Charles Sandifer, Lloyd and Nancy Webb, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Lillie Brittingham, the Reph family, the family and friends of Jeanine Hall, Kirsten Pearce, Luciele Schoup, Carolyn Wright, the Marney family, Jean Murphy, Kathy Sullivan, Charles Harding, Evelyn Townsend, Emma Burton, all who are incarcerated, Irene Hazzard, our nation and its leaders, Code Purple, Renee, Trisha, Susan Coles, the family and friends of Irv Ambrose, the boy's Chrysalis weekend, Ed Hudson, Howard Haverkamp, Lynne Pusey and family, all injured in New Orleans, family and friends of Rev. Jerry Dotson, Art Blanchet, Anne Murray and children, those dealing with job and insurance issues, and for peace, love and hope in the world.

Recently hospitalized: Betty Ziesel, Betty Lyons, Leslie Armour and Doris Warren.

Rejoice with: Everyone who attended district training, Jen Nelson, Bill and Louise Combs.

WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Ralph Spain** who passed away February 25, 2017. Ralph joined Avenue on April 14, 1991.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

IMispillion Children's Chorus

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

♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

ISanctuary Choir

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

JAveNotes

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

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at noon followed by a soup luncheon at various churches.

The schedule is:

March 1st, Houston UM Church

March 8th, Calvary UM Church

March 15th, First Presbyterian Church

March 22nd, Church of the Nazarene

March 29th, Mt. Enon Baptist Church

April 5th, Avenue UM Church

LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS ~ 12:05—12:35 P.M.

All recitals are held at Avenue Church each Thursday during Lent. A soup luncheon held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following all recitals. All are welcome.

The Schedule is:

March 2nd, Taylor Harvey

March 9th, T.J. Thomas

March 16th, TBA

March 23rd, Melanie Leinbach

March 30th, Jon Rania

April 6th, Kevin B. Chamberlain

LENT: Until Easter the Church is in a season of self-denial and self-examination called Lent. During Lent we recommend these special services. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **March 1**st.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held at Avenue at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Everyone interested in becoming a member of Avenue Church is encouraged to attend the next New Member Orientation on Sunday, March 26th from 12:00-1:00 p.m. We will meet in the Grier Room where we will get to know the Pastors better and receive an orientation on the heritage, values, mission, and vision of both The United Methodist Church and Avenue. If you would like to attend, please email the church office at churchoffice@avenueumc.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: The next AUMM pancake breakfast will be on March 12th after 8:00—9:30 a.m. worship services. We are hoping that the folks that worship the 11:00 a.m. service will come earlier.

ALASKA MISSION TRIP 2017 is scheduled for June 10th-17th. The team is now forming! Several people have expressed interest and we always have room for more. If you would like to be a part of this amazing experience, talk with Pastor Tom or Mike Williams. We will keep you posted on our next meeting and hope to see you there. Our next meeting is March 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

A NEW CLASS ON CHRISTIANITY: Thinking our way through the Gospel of Mark led by Dan Nelson. Class will continue on **March 5th**, 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: A new study will begin on March 7th, Women of Easter by Liz Curtis Higgs. 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 at 2:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

H.O.P.E.: H.O.P.E. stands for Hold On, Pain Ends. H.O.P.E. is a safe place to talk and express your feelings. H.O.P.E. is designed to incorporate inspiration and hope into your life when you are struggling with sadness, feeling discouraged, living with pain, or handling things that feel hopeless. Through H.O.P.E., we can all become better, happier, and healthier in our lives. H.O.P.E. begins **March 8, 2017** at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Holzmueller Room and will be every Wednesday night. If you are interested, please contact Brittany Gunderson at blg2011motherof2@yahoo.com for details and questions. Hold on because Pain does End.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be March 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 Holzmueller Room. Our next study is **March 26 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

AVENUE PRESCHOOL: Registration for the 2017-18 school year. Registration is now taking place for current and former Avenue Preschool families for the 2017-18 school year. Please contact the school as noted below if you are a former family interested in enrolling your child. On March 1st from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Avenue Preschool will hold on-site open registration for the upcoming school year. Registrations must be done in person on that day. Space is very limited. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31st. You can contact the preschool office at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: office@avenuepreschool.org. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: www.avenuepreschool.org.

HELPING HANDS: If you like to bake items such as cookies, brownies or other bars, and would be willing to make an occasional batch for a funeral reception, we would love to hear from you. You can contact Harriet Davies at 422-7194 or by email at <u>Harrietda@aol.com</u>. We could use 2-3 additional people who like to bake. We could also use a couple more people who would like to part of our kitchen crew for funeral receptions.

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.

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 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers.

MATTHEW PROJECT is in need of any size curtains and rods for families of the Matthew Project. Please call Joanne (302) 422-6152 or bring it the church/labeled and put in the coat closet. Thank you.

COMMUNITY

CUB SCOUT PACK 186 is having a fundraiser on **Thursday, March 2**nd 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 from any Cub Scout.

ALASKA MISSION TRIP is having a fundraiser on **Thursday, March 9**th 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 the Alaska Mission Trip. Vouchers must be presented and are available in the Fellowship Foyer.

LAST WEEK A	T AVI	ENUE
Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	102	59
9:30	190	175
Sunday School	96	72
11:00	64	61
Thursday Service	0	0

FUSION

Total



CALENDAR

SUNDAY 3/5				
8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	<u>WEDNESDA</u>		
9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	10:30 a.m.	Writing Group, Grier Room	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group, Grier Room	
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	2:00 p.m.	Widow/Widowers Group,	
3:00 p.m.	Explaining Christianity in the		Heritage Room	
5.00 p.m.	Secular World, Fellowship Hall	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary	
2.00 n m	Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room	and N	Music Room	
3:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	5:00 p.m.	Instrumental Rehearsal,	
6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall		Sanctuary	
	renowship fran	5:00 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
MONDAY 0/C			Room 202	
MONDAY 3/6	Hospital Aux. Meeting, Grier Room	6:00 p.m.	Alaska Mission Trip Meeting,	
10.00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room		Grier Room	
		6:00 p.m.	AveNotes, Music Room	
6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts-Webelos 1, Wesley Room	
7:00 p.m.	First State Harmonizers,	6:45 p.m.	Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall	
7.00	Music Room Pay Secure Followship Hell &			
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall &	THURSDAY	[3/9	
7:00 n m	Wesley Room AA, Room 206	9:00 a.m.	DCOM, Heritage and Conference	
7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Bible Study, Grier Room		Room	
7.00 p.m.	Lenten Bible Study, Grier Room	11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
THESDAY 9/	7	12:05 p.m.	Lenten Organ Recital, Sanctuary	
TUESDAY 3/ 9:30 a.m.	Archives Comm. Meeting,	12:30 p.m.	Lenten Luncheon, Fellowship Hall	
9.50 a.m.	Archives Comm. Meeting, Archives Room	2:30 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
10:00 a.m.	Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room		Room 202	
10.00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Card Ministry, Grier Room	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting,	
1:00 p.m.	UMW Board Meeting, UMW Room		Grier Room	
6:00 p.m.	MomentUM Praise Team	6:30 p.m.	Worship, Fellowship Hall	
6.00 p.m.	Rehearsal, Wesley Room			
6:00 p.m.	Covenant Discipleship Group,	<u>FRIDAY</u> 3/1	0	
	y's Office	8:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
-	Mispillion Children's Choir,			
6:15 p.m.	Music Room	<u>SATURDAY</u>	SATURDAY 3/11	
6.20 n m	Cub Scouts—Bears, Fellowship Hall	7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Central Delaware Chess Club,			
Room		SUNDAY 3/12 ~ Pancake Breakfast		
	Praise Team Rehearsal,	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
7:00 p.m.	•	9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	
7:00 n m	Sanctuary Leadership Team Meeting,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
7:00 p.m.	Carpenter Room	10:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class, Grier Room	
	Carpenter Room	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
		3:00 p.m.	Explaining Christianity in the	
			Secular World, Fellowship Hall	
		3:00 p.m.	Emmaus Sponsorship Training,	
			Wesley Room	
		6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	
			Fellowship Hall	

"A Dynamic Faith Community Growing in Hope, Love and Service"