

AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

There was a story on the national news last week about a potential shortage of maple syrup. Because the weather has been so warm there has not been as much sap produced as there has been in past years. According to one of the farmers who was interviewed, he would normally have enough sap to make 800 gallons of maple syrup in a colder winter. This year he has only been able to produce 200 gallons.

I am not a huge fan of foods that require syrup like pancakes, French toast and waffles. However, the minute I heard that maple syrup could be in short supply, I found myself craving pancakes in the worst way. I am already counting on making numerous trips to the kitchen on March 12 when we have a pancake breakfast at church.

It made me wonder how I could be so easily tempted. Just the thought of maple syrup was enough to make me rationalize my desire for large quantities of pancakes. That made me think about other parts of my life when I am tempted by things or situations that I really don't want or need. I just don't seem to have any willpower.

Willpower is difficult to harness. How many times do we wish for more self-control especially during Lent when we try and "give something up" as a type of spiritual practice. Whether it is sticking to a diet or workout program or trying to quit smoking or cut back on shopping, most people wish they had more self-control.

It is not something that we can wake up one morning and say "that's it, I will have complete self-control from this moment on." It is a spiritual practice and like all habits that we try and incorporate into our lives, it takes time and effort. We also need a good teacher and coach and we have the very best in the Lord God. Thankfully, He is with us every step of the journey as we grow into being stronger with our wish and desire to live in Godly ways.

Titus 2: 11-13 says “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

As we go through Lent, let’s take time every day to think about those areas of our lives where we need more self-control. By removing our focus on those things that do not bring glory to God, we can work to refocus on growing into the people God has created us to be.



Lenten Bible Study

Restored Finding Redemption in our Mess

By: Tom Berlin

Monday, March 13th

7 p.m. in the Grier Room

Led by Pastor Wendy



From the desk of our Bishop . .

Persevering Prayer

Jesus told a parable about a man who was in need of bread to serve some unexpected guests. The man went to the home of a neighbor and continually knocked on the door until the neighbor got up and gave him the bread he needed. Jesus concludes the parable by saying “ask and it shall be given to you, seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9). Does this mean if we ask enough times we will get the answer we want? Does this mean that God is a sleepy neighbor who will not respond to our needs until we nag him to the point of annoyance? Does this mean that everything we ask for will be granted like a celestial mail order house? The answer to all of these questions is “no.” God loves us too much to allow our prayers to be answered in any way but in the best way. Though it is difficult to watch a tragedy and question why God does not intervene, the meaning of prayer has much to do with the “sifting of the wheat” of our souls during the process of prayer than the “getting” the answer we seek. It takes time to pray. Prayer is slow work, as is the molding and shaping of our wills to God’s will. It takes time to pray and as we do, our prayers can come into alignment with God’s will so that we pray in the Spirit of God, rather than our own human desires. It means that prayer needs to be a lot more listening and a lot less talking.

I often find myself on conference calls using a toll-free number to connect various callers onto one conversation. One of the rules of conference calls is to use the “mute” button when you are not talking so that background noise does not interfere with the conversation. When the “mute” button is pressed your voice cannot be heard but you can listen. As we pray we need to put the “mute” button on and listen to what God is saying about the things we are praying about. God’s perfect will sometimes is for us to wait and sometimes it is a different plan altogether, and sometimes the answer is “no.” In the act of persevering prayer we hear back from God. As we do we can often find that disappointment is an appointment to a better plan given to us by the loving hand of God who cares enough to give us the best answer.



Peggy A. Johnson

Deadline extended to March 8th

"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 Lookerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901

(Please print)

Attendee's Name: _____

Church/Charge: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please note any special dietary requirements: _____

For Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Check/money order #: _____



UMM Pancake Breakfast on March 12th after 8:00—9:30 a.m. worship services.



Easter Flower Order Form

The Sanctuary is never prettier than it is when the spring flowers arrive for Easter. Placing Lilies and Tulips in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will again only be ordering 6" pots of Lilies and Tulips at \$7.50 each. The Altar Guild has requested that we only order 100 pots of flowers and the Tulips will be PINK. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's
Name _____

Memory
of _____

Honor
of _____

The cost of the Lily's and Tulips are \$7.50 each

Lily _____



Tulip _____



Please us a **separate order form**

For each name in memory of or honored

Please Print Clearly

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored
will be in the Easter Sunday Bulletin

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

**Orders must be in no later than
April 3rd**

***We are sorry but NO orders will be
accepted after April 3rd as the flower order
will be called in.***

EXPERIENCING
GOD
KNOWING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD

March 8, 2017

*Dinner at 6:00pm and Study at 7:00pm
at the home of Poncho and Lisa Johnson
Led by Donny Hopkins*

UNDERSTANDING
FAITH

Explaining Christianity in the Secular World
Thinking our way through the Gospel of Mark

Sunday, March 12th

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

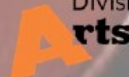


Or Call 302-270-1903

*Dover
Symphony
Orchestra*



Delaware
Division of the
arts



This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency,
in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

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 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Ralph Spain, April McIntyre, Al, Colleen Dunham, Darryl Jopp, Stephen Webb, Leslee, Karen Moore, Mrs. K, Ashley Bonnoni, Arthur Mosher, Steph, Jayne Frank, Sierra, Joshua, Jasey-Rae, George Huesten, Christopher, Gary Seal, family and friends of Ronnie and Bev Vincent, Mary Smith, traveling mercies, Shirley, Mary, Hannah, Charles Sandifer, Lloyd and Nancy Webb, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Lillie Brittingham, Kirsten Pearce, the Marney family, Kathy Sullivan, Dominic Lake, Charles Harding, Evelyn Townsend, Emma Burton, Bob, John Siegrist, Sean Morris, Irene Hazzard, Code Purple, Susan Coles, Ed Hudson, Howard Haverkamp, Art Blanchet, job and insurance issues, for peace, hope and love in the world.

Recently hospitalized: Betty Ziesel, Doris Warren and Carolyn Wright.

Rejoice with: The Reph family, Joe and Patty Shockley, Lindsay Hearn and Clay Rosenbrook, Marti and Gary Seal and Lillie Brittingham. .

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪ **Misphillion 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

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

The schedule is:

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 9th, *T.J. Thomas*

March 16th, TBA

March 23rd, *Melanie Leinbach*

March 30th, *Jon Rania*

April 6th, *Kevin B. Chamberlain*

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 12th, 3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study on **March 14th**, 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 on **April 5th** 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 Holzmuller 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 Holzmuller 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. Registrations must be done in person. 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.

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](tel: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

ALASKA MISSION TRIP is having a fundraiser on **Thursday, March 9th** 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.

AWARD WINNING CHILI AND KRISPY KREME DONUTS COME TO AVENUE!!!!

The Alaska Mission Trip Team will be in the foyer the next three weeks to take orders for pints (\$5) and quarts (\$10) of the Award Winning Chili Cook-off Chili by Seth Wilcox himself!! Additionally, order forms will be available to order fresh, piping hot Krispy Kreme Donuts for \$10 a dozen. Both chili and donuts will be delivered fresh and available for pick up after church services on Palm Sunday, **April 9th**. Thank you for your support!!

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	96	63
9:30	215	200
Sunday School	93	79
11:00	82	67
Thursday Service	0	9
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	486	468

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 3/12 ~ Pancake Breakfast

- 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
- 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

MONDAY 3/13

- 10:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting, Grier Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimers Support Group, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 140, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts—Tigers, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers, Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall & Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study, Grier Room

TUESDAY 3/14

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop, Nursery
- 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. Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 3/15

- 8:00 a.m. Bishop's Women's Conference, Fellowship Hall
- 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, Wesley Room
- 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Safety Comm. Meeting, Grier Room

THURSDAY 3/16

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 12:05 p.m. Lenten Organ Recital, Sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Dover District Board, Holzmueller Room
- 6:30 p.m. Worship, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-Wolves, Wesley Room

FRIDAY 3/17

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

SATURDAY 3/18

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

SUNDAY 3/19

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Baptism Party, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Explaining Christianity in the Secular World, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall

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