

The Midweek

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Last week I wrote about the parable of House Hunters. This week I want to share my parable of House Hunters International. I admit that this is my very favorite of all the HGTV programs.

In this show a couple or family is looking for a home in an overseas location usually due to a job or military transfer. There are the same considerations of budget, bathrooms and bedrooms as when purchasing a house in the United States but very often one of the couple also wants a home with local charm or a spectacular view. I don't blame them. If I was in Paris I also would want to overlook the Eiffel Tower or Notre Dame. So often however the budget or location considerations keep a family from getting to experience their complete dream.

But every now and then a family has the opportunity to take the big leap and do it all exactly as they want...and it still does not work. Such was the case of a family who was leaving the United States for an opportunity to live in New Zealand.

The father was a surgeon who was taking a new job as head of a hospital in a lovely coastal region of the country. They were moving from a very rural area into a larger city that has restaurants, the arts and shopping. The mother was thrilled that her two children would be able to not only experience a

foreign culture but be part of an urban adventure.

They had the resources to buy any house they wanted and do the renovations that would be required to make the home their own. The real estate agent showed them what they considered to be the perfect residence. It was spacious, luxurious, charming but with modern touches, and had the most incredible view of the ocean from their huge lot full of thriving fruit trees that surrounded their private pool. It was even under their massive budget so the shade of yellow in the kitchen could be changed if needed. But the mother said no.

The reason was that she was afraid. She feared tsunamis, spiders and open flames. Being that close to the ocean, with the size of the yard, and a gas range in the kitchen, she was convinced it was only a matter of time before some major disaster relating to one of these fears would come to fruition. As a result of her fears her family ended up in a downtown apartment that was the size of a metal can.

Although she thought she was controlling her circumstances, fear had become this woman's constant companion and had taken control of her. Her family was also affected. The fear was like a flame and her efforts to protect everyone was similar to gasoline. Every decision she made to ease her fears just made it worse. Her fears consumed her.

God never wants us to live in fear. The Lord wants us to trust Him and to put ourselves in His hands. That does not mean we live "on the edge" like leaving our doors unlocked at night or visit bad sections of a city after dark on a whim. But we do need to remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear but a spirit of "power and of love and of a sound mind." (Timothy 1:7) With God's protection and guidance we should be able to live life to the fullest without fear. When we trust God more than we trust in our fears, then fear loses its power.

By trusting the Lord and letting Him walk with us through our fears instead of being paralyzed as a result we can travel our journey in the fullest of life.

To God be the glory forever and ever.





Lenten Bible Study

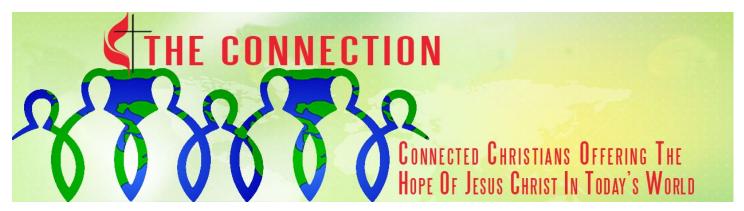
Restored Finding Redemption in our Mess

By: Tom Berlin

Monday, March 27th

7 p.m. in the Grier Room

Led by Pastor Wendy



From the desk of our Conference Director. .

Let's Be Friends

My father-in-law loves to tell me stories about "little Bo," and his antics. In one story, he describes a conversation between himself and Bo, when Bo was about seven years old. Apparently, some older boys were picking on Bo and he asked his father how to respond. His father told them, "If they hit you, you hit them back." (That statement represents a very Southern way.) Bo scrunched up his face and replied, "But then they'll hit me back." And his father said, "Maybe, but then you hit them back." Bo, being the smart lad that he is, summed it up: "So, if they hit me and I hit them back and they hit me back and I hit them back, how does it end?" Bo's father claims that he learned something both about and from Bo that day.

Fast forward many years later to when Bo and I had young children. We would go on Continuing Education events and often my mother would come to watch Joy and Eli, who were seven and four at the time. Occasionally, Mom could not come and so we would have an older couple in the church watch Joy and Eli. They served as surrogate grand-parents, as church members often do. This one particular time, Eli did not like something the man was doing. So, he said in his four-year-old voice: "I am going to put you in time out." The man replied to Eli: "Then, I will put YOU in time out." Eli thought about it for a moment, then stuck out his hand for a handshake and said in his most diplomatic voice: "Let's be friends." We still laugh about that incident.

I believe both of these stories provide wisdom for our time. We have allowed the fear of many things, from terrorists to the economy to the uncertainty of the future, to give us tunnel-vison, only seeing the people who agree with our perspective. Then, because we only see those who disagree with us through our peripheral vision, we categorize them as a threat. This categorization causes us to give power to our amygdala, the reptilian part of our brain responsible for dealing with threats through three ways: fight, flight, or freeze.

What if, instead of fighting or ignoring, we paused for a moment? What if we allowed ourselves to see even people who disagree with us strongly as potential friends? Abraham Lincoln wrote: "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" Isaiah heard God say: "Come, let us reason together." (See Isaiah 1:18, KJV.) In the New Testament book of Acts, the disciples held a heated Council of Jerusalem to decide whether Gentiles needed to be circumcised in order to become a

Christian. After listening to each side, the apostles wrote: "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements..." (See Acts 15:28.) They argued strongly against each other but listened for the Holy Spirit in the process. Through that discernment, they found a path forward and continued to be unified.

We see so much division in our world today where we need to be unified. Politically, our congress is fighting over health care. Legally, our courts are fighting over the process of banning immigrants from particular countries. In our church, both as a whole in The United Methodist Church, and as individual churches, we are fighting over human sexuality and our divergent understanding of holiness. I am sure you even have friends who stand on different sides of the various debates.

So, what is our witness to a watching world? Do we, as followers of Jesus, "hit back" with verbal sparring, inviting the next round? Do we, as people of the Way, still follow the way of the world and ignore or shut out those who disagree with us? We certainly do not need the salvation of Jesus to behave that way!

What would it look like for us, as followers of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, to walk another way together? What if we worked to get rid of our enemies by making them our friends? What if we understood everyone to be made in the very image of God, an image distorted but not destroyed through sin? What if we invited people who do not think like we do to "come and reason together" with the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst?

Do you believe we can get to a place where we can say, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us," finding a path forward together, honoring one another and our differences, pausing when we want to shun others and letting that pause become a prayer for wisdom? It feels impossible in our current climate. And, yet, this situation reminds us of precisely why Jesus came. He came to reconcile us to God and to each other. He came to set us free from our own ego needs to focus on the needs of the whole world. He gives us hope that there is a better way. And, he gave us the Holy Spirit to empower us to choose and walk this different path. He reminds us that with God, all things are possible.

So, what steps can you take personally to begin to walk this different path? (This path, by the way, called repentance.) Where do you need to pause to see others as potential friends instead of enemies? What about your church? What relationships in your local congregation need reconciling? And, what steps can you take as a church to reach out into your communities to those who disagree with you? I believe if we follow this path, we will see the salvation of Jesus Christ, and we will reflect that sacrificial love into our world, which desperately needs to see the hope for a different way.

Blessings on the journey,

Vicki

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith Director of Connectional Ministries



THE AUXILIARY OF MILFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRESENTS

ARTISANS & ANTIQUES

PREVIEW WINE & CHEESE PARTY

Friday, March 24 from 5 - 8 p.m. Milford Century Club Building Tickets are \$30 each

Purchase in advance by calling Cynthia Jones at 302-270-1842.

Public viewing
Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tickets at the door are \$2 each

Artisans, by invitation, include: Anne Carroll, printed notecards from paintings; Alice Cataldi, knitted accessories; Deandra's Creations: Diane and Bruce Fisher, Country Flowers; Nancy Kemble, The Squirrel's Nest Candy; Vicki Mulligan, paper artist; Judy Struck, painted slates from Avenue United Methodist Church; Gail Gingrich, Brenda Williams, assorted bead jewelry; Liz Irwin, wire wrapped dichroic glass jewelry; Beach Stone Jewelry; Jean Mazur, painting and mosaics, and others. Don Post and Linda Sockrider will offer antiques.

For more information, call 422-8620.

BAYHEALTH.ORG





www.umcgiving.org/UMCOR

This Sunday is UMCOR Sunday! To support the mission of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, we will be collecting a special offering this Sunday.

UMCOR is a ministry of <u>The United Methodist Church</u> through the <u>General Board of Global Ministries</u>, and its goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. UMCOR believes all people have God-given worth and dignity.

UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. We provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend our reach, our most important partners are the people we serve. We are confident that successful solutions to emergency or chronic conditions begin with the affected population. UMCOR provides these survivors not only temporary relief but long -term education, training, and support.

<u>UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects</u> <u>our donors specify.</u> When UMCOR donors give their time, money, and supplies, they join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ.

Thanks for considering a donation to help this great United Methodist organization.

Easter Flower Order Form

The Sanctuary is never prettier that 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.

Please us a **separate order form**

Lily

Tulip

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.



March 22, 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 26th
3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Led by Dan Nelson

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: Lizzie, Matthew and James Stangl, in the passing of their grandmother, April McIntyre, Al, Colleen Dunham, The Ennis and Jopp families in the passing of Darryl Jopp, Marion Jarrell, Bruce Workman and his family, Stephen Webb, Leslee, Karen Moore, Jayne Frank, Sierra, Joshua and daughter Jasey-Rae, George Huesten, Christopher, Traveling mercies for all who are traveling, Shirley, Mary, Hannah, The family and friends of Charles Sandifer in his passing, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Lillie Brittingham, Kirsten Pearce, Kathy Sullivan, Charles Harding, Emma Burton, Bob, John Siegrist, Sean Morris, father-in-law has passed away, Our nation and its leaders, Code Purple leaders, guests and volunteers, Ed Hudson, Howard Haverkamp, Art Blanchet, Betty Ziesel, Everett Tyrrell, For the 20 million people facing the famine in Somalia, Kenya, Yemen and the South Sudan, Emma Burton, Dawn Kifer, Patricia Marney, Pat, Carolyn Wright, Yvonne Nelson, Brenda Faulk, and healing for Jimmy and Jake and all those who need your healing touch.

Recently hospitalized: Carolyn Wright, Everett Tyrell, Vada Sample and Brenda Faulk.

Rejoice with: Marti and Gary Seal, 50th wedding anniversary on March 11th, Don and Pat Fisher, 50th wedding anniversary on March 18th, John and Cindy Horsman, 43rd wedding anniversary on March 12th, Mrs. K, and Jacob who is a part of the Avenue and Johnson family.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Owen, Joan and Bill Dudley, Debbie and Bob, April McIntyre, Al, Colleen Dunham, Marion Jarrell, the Bergez family, for all those in need, Carmella and Richard, the family and friends of Bruce Workman, the family and friends of Betty Collins, the family and friends of Dot Denney, Leslee, Karen Moore, Joshua, Sierra and Jasey-Rae, Christopher, Shirley, Mary, Hannah, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Lillie Brittingham, Kirsten Pearce, Kathy Sullivan, Charles Harding, John Siegrist, Sean Morris, the family and friends of Donna Jackson, the youth and Fusion ministries, Gary Seal, our nation and its leaders, Code Purple, the family and friends of Ed Hudson, Howard Haverkamp, Art Blanchet, Betty Ziesel, Ray, Jimmy, Katie, Jake, Tom, Tim Toe, Lauren Downes, baby Faryn Downes and Kim Crampsey.

Recently hospitalized: Carolyn Wright.

Rejoice with: Don and Pat Fisher, the family and friends of Solenne Mastio, the 13 year old singer at the Lions Club Show, for all involved with the Chrysalis gathering and for the beautiful duets at the 8:00 and 11:00 services.

WE EXTEND SYMPATHIES TO:

The family and friends of **Betty Collins** who passed away on March 16, 2017. Betty joined Avenue on January 17, 1960.

The family and friends of **Ed Hudson** who passed away on March 18, 2017. Ed joined Avenue on June 1, 1997.

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

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 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 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 26**th 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

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 22nd 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 26th**, **3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study on March 28th, 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.

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.

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. will continue every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Holzmueller Room. 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 April 10th at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

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: <u>office@avenuepreschool.org</u>. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: <u>www.avenuepreschool.org</u>.

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.

COMMUNITY

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 9**th. Thank you for your support!!

CUB SCOUTS PACK 186: Please join Cub Scout Pack 186 at Arena's in Milford on Sunday, March 26th from 5p.m. -10p.m. for a fundraising event! 10% of all dine-in sales will be donated to Cub Scout Pack 186.

COMMUNITY EVENT: "Artisans and Antiques" are coming to the Historical Century Club, next to Avenue Church, on Friday March 24th, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Preview Party – \$30 ticket) and Saturday, March 25th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (\$2 at the door). Benefits will go for the purchase of van for the Cancer Center at Milford Memorial Hospital. For tickets call Cynthia Jones at (302) 270-1842.

LAST WEEK A	T AVI	ENUE
Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	68	52
9:30	215	222
Sunday School	88	58
11:00	80	63
Thursday Service	0	4
FUSION	0	
Total	451	399

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 3/26		WEDNESDAY 3/29		
8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship, Baptism	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group, Grier Room	
9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School		and Music Room	
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	5:00 p.m.	Instrumental Rehearsal,	
12:15 p.m.	Exploring Faith Book Club,		Sanctuary	
F	Holzmueller Room	5:00 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
12:30 p.m.	New Member Orientation,		Room 202	
P	Grier Room	6:00 p.m.	AveNotes, Music Room	
2:00 p.m.	Pat Fisher Recital, Sanctuary	6:45 p.m.	Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall	
3:00 p.m.	Explaining Christianity in the			
515 5 P	Secular World, Fellowship Hall	THURSDAY 3/30		
6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
P	Fellowship Hall	12:05 p.m.	Lenten Organ Recital, Sanctuary	
		12:30 p.m.	Lenten Luncheon, Fellowship Hall	
MONDAY 3	/27	2:30 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room		Room 202	
5:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 140, Heritage Room	6:30 p.m.	Worship, Sanctuary	
6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary			
7:00 p.m.	First State Harmonizers,	<u>FRIDAY</u> 3/31		
1	Fellowship Hall	11:00 a.m.	Wrap Around DE, Holzmueller Room	
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Wesley Room	8:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
7:00 p.m.	AA, Room 206			
7:00 p.m.	Lenten Bible Study, Grier Room	SATURDAY 4/1		
•	• ,	8:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Drive, Music Room	
TUESDAY	3/28	7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
10:00 a.m.	Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room			
6:00 p.m.	Brownie Troop, Nursery		NDAY 4/2 ~ Communion	
6:00 p.m.	MomentUM Praise Team	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship, Baptism	
•	Rehearsal, Wesley Room	9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	
6:00 p.m.	Covenant Discipleship Group,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
•	Wendy's Office	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
6:15 p.m.	Mispillion Children's Choir,	3:00 p.m.	Explaining Christianity in the	
•	Music Room		Secular World, Fellowship Hall	
6:30 p.m.	Pack 186 Meeting, Fellowship Hall	3:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room	
7:00 p.m.	Central Delaware Chess Club,	6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	
•	Room 206		Fellowship Hall	
7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal,			
_	Sanctuary			
7:00 p.m.	Nominations Meeting, Grier Room			

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