

The Midweek

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

There are a few dandelions near the front door of my house. They make me smile because they remind me of my grandmother. I know most people would consider them weeds but for my grandmother they were salad greens. I remember Grammy out in her yard digging the new plants out of the ground every spring so they could make their way onto her dinner table dripping in warm bacon dressing.

My grandmother was an amazing woman. My mom was the best mom in the world but her mom was wonderful in so many ways. Grammy lost her first husband, my grandfather Roy, from a sudden heart attack when I was just two years old. Her two daughters had both married and were starting families of their own so they were super busy. As a result, my grandmother became a widow at age 52 and found she had to go back to work and rebuild her life without much support.

She ended up doing it with an enthusiasm that remains an inspiration to me to this day. Grammy got a job as a seamstress in a pants factory. She bought a "sports car" and my siblings and I still remember her driving us around in her little Corvair. We went to her house for Sunday dinner every week because she loved to cook and it was a tradition to head to her house every Sunday after church. We always ended up staying there all afternoon playing in her backyard with the other kids in the neighborhood.

We had a tradition that every birthday and every Christmas we got to go out with our Grammy for time alone with her. She would take each of us out for lunch and then shopping for our gifts. I got a flannel nightgown every Christmas and my bathing suit for the summer every birthday. I think my Grammy looked forward to swimsuit shopping because it drove my dad nuts with what we would come home with, even though they were extremely conservative suits. My grandmother had a naughty streak.

But she also had a strong belief in each of her grandchildren to be independent and unique individuals. She bought me, as a surprise, my first ski mittens and poles which freaked out both my parents because they had tried to stop me from skiing as they were convinced I'd fall off a mountain somewhere. I still have those gloves. Grammy saw us differently than our parents did and we are better people for it.

She taught me how to cook and bake. She also taught me how to play poker, curse in German and I had my first beer in her kitchen right before I left for college because she wanted me to be "experienced" so I would not be tempted to try something new. She slept on the sofa in my parents living room every Christmas Eve so she could "help" Santa and she was the reason the entire neighborhood woke up in the middle of the night to watch meteoroid showers.

But even with her being gone I never forget or doubt how she believed in me. She stood behind each of her grandkids with a fierce determination to let us be the people we were born to be even when that was in opposition to what our parents thought. There was a lot of pressure on her to acquiesce to their positions but she never did if she believed it was the wrong way for us to go. She was our cheerleader, our confidante, and our strongest supporter.

As we come into this time of Easter and Spring, complete with new beginnings and rebirth, it will be difficult for many of us who find ourselves missing loved ones who have died and gone to be with God in his heavenly kingdom. Just looking at that yellow dandelion in my yard brings those memories right back to me. I miss her every day but I know she is with my Mom and Jesus.

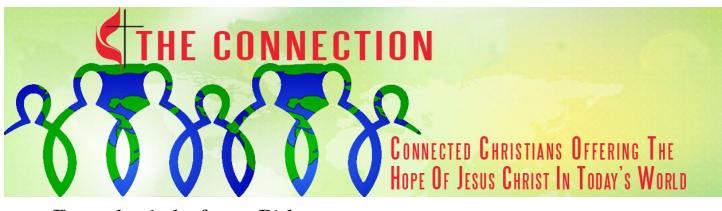
As much as I would love to talk with them about life, I would never want Grammy or Mom back when I know how happy and at peace they are in God's heavenly kingdom. I know they feel the comfort and love of Jesus and while it's hard for me, I know my time will come when I will be with them in that same peace.

John 16:22 says, "So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

In this time of new beginnings and growth, I pray your happy memories will warm your heart and that the grace of our Lord fill you with peace as we wait for His appointed time to be with the people we love who have proceeded us in death.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

Pastor hey



From the desk of our Bishop. .

Good News or Fake News?

There is a lot of talk recently about "fake news" with various reports of false information being projected as truth in our media outlets.

During the U.S. presidential campaign there was a fake news account of a child abuse ring happening in a pizza parlor in Washington, DC, that was allegedly the work of one of the candidates. This story prompted a 28-year old man to drive six hours to investigate and retaliate.

He came into the pizza parlor firing an assault rifle because he believed the story was true and was trying to help the abused children. This is an extreme example of what can happen when fake news is out there posing as truth. Fake news is not a new thing. On that first Easter Sunday the tomb was empty and guards witnessed the resurrection. The Gospel of Matthew records that "for fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men."

Later that day these same guards met with the chief priests and explained what happened. Then the fake news was invented. The guards were bribed to tell people that Jesus' disciples came by night and stole his body while they were asleep.

Fake news are manipulative lies often founded on fear and hatred that seek to spread the negativity of misdeeds, death and despair.

Good news, on the other hand, is the power of God to transform death into life, turn despair into hope and cast out fear through perfect, divine love. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the best news ever witnessed in the history of humankind. Because Jesus lives, we too can live forever after our mortal death. We can live our lives for Christ fearlessly and hopefully now because of this promise of resurrection.

Each of us has a choice about Jesus: either we believe he arose from the dead, and we inherit his gift of eternal life through faith; or, we believe death is the last word, and life here on earth is all there is.

Good news or fake news. If you have chosen the "good news" path, then it is your responsibility to pass on this good news, to share this gift, that others may know of this ultimate blessing.

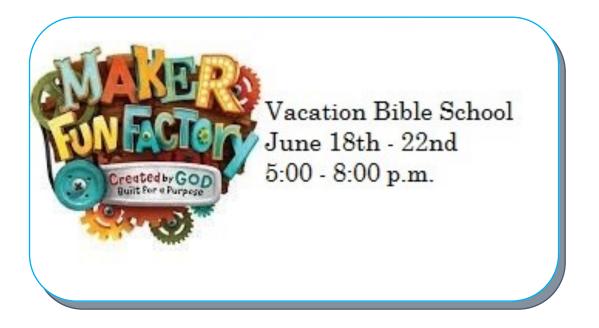
I see Facebook postings of good news every day: new grandchildren, graduations, birthdays, vacations, weddings and engagements. Clearly, good news is meant to be shared!

When was the last time you told someone that Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life and that you live for him because of the good news of his resurrection and yours? That is the testimony people need to hear so that they might seek to learn about Jesus and come to have faith in him. That's the stuff new and revitalized churches are made of: souls delivered from bondage, hopefulness found in the midst of loss and tragedy, loving acceptance that can heal loneliness.

Moreover, don't just tell the good news. Be the good news. How? By the way you act in this world, by the kindness you offer, the generosity in your giving, the forgiveness you offer no matter how difficult, the Christian value of inclusiveness that you honor among people who are different from you.

Be a "sermon in shoes" wherever you walk, by your active testimony of holy living. Fake news produces confusion, hatred and fear. Good news instills courage and hope, life and love that goes on and on and on into eternity. Celebrate Easter by proclaiming to all the good news—outstanding news—of Jesus Christ in word and deed.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Auxiliary of Milford Memorial Hospital presents "AN EVENING WITH THE RESCIGNOS" Join us for an a night of fun!



Saturday, May 20, 2017 5 - 9 p.m. Milford Senior Center \$50 per person ENJOY DINNER AND THIS ENTERTAINING CABARET SHOW!

To purchase tickets, or for information, please call 302-242-9490.

Proceeds to benefit Bayhealth

Upcoming Meetings and Information

There will be a Sunday School meeting on **Thursday, April 27**th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to discuss plans for next year's Sunday School. All interested members, parents, and grand-parents are encouraged to attend. We are in the process of revamping our current Sunday School practices and would love your input in the process. Please come out and support Christian Education here at Avenue Church.

Sunday, April 30th, during each of our worship services, we will celebrate the life of Ralph Spain. As part of the celebration we will be taking a special offering to support the Spain Grant program at Camp Pecometh. Let's send as many kids as we can to camp in Ralph's memory. Please help us by contributing to this special offering. Your love and care of Ralph and his family will be appreciated for years to come through your giving on April 30th.

Click the link below to register for your spring photo session:

https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9r52t450/



Photo Dates: May 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 25th, 26th and 27th

AVENUE PRESCHOOL

ONLY \$35.00

It's beginning to look like SUMMER!!! Get in the spirit by coming out to paint (on a wooden palette) this beautiful picture and help support Avenue Preschool



Wednesday, April 26 ~ from 6:30 - 8:00 in Fellowship Hall - Avenue United Methodist Church Doors will open at 6:00 for more information please contact Belinda at 302-422-8775 Avenue Preschool or 302-422-0448 Home

This is a borrowed picture so our painting will not be exactly this ~ will use as an example. Everyone will leave with a beautiful creation that is completely their original. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DONALD BUXTON, we proudly present ...

"Spirit of America"

Sunday, May 7, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m. Dover Downs Rollins Center Route 13, Dover

Prices are: Adults - \$20 Seniors/Students/Military/ First Responders - \$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

VISA PROPERTY

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 <u>National Endowment for the Arts</u>. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on <u>www.DelawareScene.com</u>.



Southern Delaware

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presents

How Can 9 Keep From Singing?

May 7, 2017 4 p.m.

Indian River High School

29772 Armory Road Dagsboro, DE 19939

Adult: \$20; Student \$8

Advance ticket purchase available by phone at 302-260-7022; at Browseabout Books in Rehoboth Beach or Puzzles in Lewes; online at southerndelawarechorale.org, or, space permitting, at the door.

Delaware Division of the

This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

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: Joan and Bill Dudley, Debbie and Bob, Jake Slater, April McIntyre, Al, Amber Scott and her mom, Jay and Martina Williamson, Colleen Dunham, Marion Jarrell, Karen Moore, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Colleen and family, Joe Siegrist and family, Lillie Brittingham, Kirsten Pearce, our nation and its leaders, Howard Haverkamp, Art Blanchet, Betty Ziesel, Bill Gaskill and family, Janice Abbott, Jesse, Alice, George, Malachi Hostedler, Martha Simpson, the Sandifer/Shockley family, Jacob Robertson, Lauren and Faryn Downes, Ariana, Bill Salvin, the victims in Sweden, Chris Owen and his classmates, Luisa Combs, Erica and family, all dealing with the heroin epidemic, the victims in Syria, the victims in Egypt, Butch Warren and Pete Rossing.

Recently hospitalized: Pam Wilkerson.

Rejoice with: The men who were at Emmaus, Kathy Sullivan, Ed Aiken, Dylan Lloyd, Charles Clendaniel and family.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The Clough family, Charlie, McKenzie Betts, Katie, Joan and Bill Dudley, Martha Landon, Debbie and Bob, Tim, Jake Slater, April McIntyre, Kim Webb, Al, Alex and family, the LGBT community in Russia, Amber Scott and mother, Jay and Martina Williamson, Charlie Harding, Abrue family, Pastor Wendy, Scott's daughter and her unborn twins, Gabbie and her unborn baby, Colleen Dunham, Marion Jarrell, Bill Gustin, Rose Willcutts, Brian, Jack Eisenbrey, Sharon, Karen Moore, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Colleen and family, a son, the Fannin family, Lillie Brittingham, Kirsten Pearce, Bailey, our nation and its leaders, Howard Haverkamp, Art Blanchet, Betty Ziesel, Bill Gaskill, John Siegrist and family, Janice Abbott, Jesse, Christopher, Pam Wilkerson, Alice, George, Malachi Hostedler, Martha Simpson, Jacob Robertson, Ariana, Bill Salvin, Luisa Combs, Erica and family, Butch Warren and Pete Rossing.

Recently hospitalized: Peggy Hughes.

Rejoice with: Ruth Peters, Jesus who died for us all, a warm sunrise service and God who loves us so much.

BIRTHDAYS:

Please join Robert Mercer and his family in celebrating his **104**th birthday on **April 20**th by sending a card to 1167 McKee Road, Apartment 106, Dover, DE 19904.

Anita Van Horn who will celebrate her 94th birthday on April 20th.

Marian Dickerson who will celebrate her 96th birthday on April 22nd.

ANNIVERSARYS:

Bill and Joan Dudley who will celebrate their 66th anniversary on April 20th.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

JHandbells Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary
JMomentUM Praise Team Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
JMispillion Children's Chorus Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., Music Room
JPraise Team Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
JSanctuary 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

SCHOLARSHIPS: Avenue offers a number of scholarships each spring. Graduating Seniors can get applications from the church office by emailing Kelly Hudson at <u>churchoffice@avenueumc.com</u> or they can be downloaded from the webpage. Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. **Please keep these two dates in mind:**

• May 1st, 3:00 p.m. deadline to return all Avenue Scholarship applications to the office.

• May 21st, 9:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded, along with gifts and recognition for all the Class of 2017. **Please plan to join us.**

ALASKA MISSION TRIP 2017 is scheduled for June 10th-17th.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: A new **mission project** for people in the Congo, Africa. There is a need for more soft, fabric eyeglass cases for those people who are having cataract surgery at one of Jonathan and Donna Bakers eye missions. You can make these cases from fabric or buy them from drug or dollar stores and bring them into Avenue. United Methodist Women are working on this and welcome donations from the Avenue and greater Milford community. Lets help these folks have a safe place to keep their glasses. Please, no hard cases, only fabric. Look for the donation box in Fellowship Foyer during April and May. Thanks so much.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study on **April 25th**, 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**.

A NEW STUDY FOR SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On May 2, 2017, we will start a new study *IF* "Trading your *IF* only regrets for God's What *IF*" possibilities by Mark Batterson will be led by Pastor Wendy. We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the **Grier Room**.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will meet on May 3rd 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 May 8th 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 **April 23, 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: <u>office@avenuepreschool.org</u>. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: <u>www.avenuepreschool.org</u>.

COMMUNITY

ARENA'S IN MILFORD is hosting a fundraiser for the AUMC Alaska Mission Trip on **Monday**, **April 24th from 5pm- close** and a portion of the evenings proceeds will be donated to the Mission Trip. No need for a coupon and if ordering on the phone to go, just specify the Mission Trip. Thank you for all your support!!

ARC OF DELAWARE is holding a 5K/1 Mile Run, Walk and Roll event at Wild Quail Golf and Country Club on **May 6**th at 9:00 a.m.. Sign up on sheet in foyer to donate or participate. Funds raised support Arc's programs.

Homeless school children are in need of personal care items and school supplies at this time of year. Please consider donating soap – any types, shampoo, deodorant, pencils, pens, lined paper, 1" and 2" binders, highlighters and book bags. A donation box is available in Fellowship Foyer. Let us all reach out and make a child's day better.

LAST WEEK A	<u>T AV</u>	ENUE
Attendance:	2016	2017
6:30		75
8:00	62	102
9:30	174	290
Sunday School	83	86
11:00	73	149
Holy Thurs. Serv,	0	120
Good Friday Serv.	0	120
FUSION	0	0
Total	392	942

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 4/23

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
12:15 p.m.	Exploring Faith Book Club,
6:00 p.m.	Grier Room FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room

<u>MONDAY</u> 4/24

10:30 a.m.	Hospital Aux. Meeting,
	Grier Room
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,
	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.	AA, Room 206
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

TUESDAY 4/25

10:00 a.m.	Sisters Bible Study,
	Heritage Room
6:00 p.m.	Brownie Troop, Nursery
6:00 p.m.	MomentUM Praise Team
	Rehearsal, Wesley Room
6:15 p.m.	Mispillion Children's Choir,
	Music Room
6:30 p.m.	Pack 186 Meeting,
	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.	Central Delaware Chess Club,
	Room 206
7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal,
	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Nominations Meeting, Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 4/26

1:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Meeting,
	Conference Room
1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group, Grier Room
3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and
	Music Room
5:00 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,
	Room 202
5:00 p.m.	Preschool Paint Night,
	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	AveNotes, Sanctuary
6:45 p.m.	Pride of Delmarva,
	Wesley Room
7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting,
	Grier Room

THURSDAY 4/27

11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room
2:30 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,
	Room 202
6:30 p.m.	Pack Comm. Meeting, Grier Room
7:00 p.m.	Sunday School Meeting,
	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.	Dover District Superintendent
	Comm. Meeting, Heritage Room

FRIDAY 4/2	8
11:00 a.m.	Wrap Around DE,
	Holzmueller Room
8:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 4/29

2:00 p.m.	Daniels Birthday Party,
	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 4/30

Traditional Worship
Contemporary Worship
Sunday School
Traditional Worship
FUSION, Fellowship Hall and
Wesley Room

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