

AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 10, 2017*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

I had the chance to watch the Kentucky Derby on Saturday evening. It's always interesting to see this aspect of American culture. While the hats are interesting and the history of Churchill Downs is fascinating, it's always the horses that get my attention. They are such magnificent creatures and the power and elegance they exude when they run is breathtaking.

Genesis 1:24-25 says "And God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind. And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good."

God has an amazing imagination. When we think of the wide range of creatures that the Lord created, from horses to frogs to elephants to snakes and everything in between, it's impossible to get our heads around the vastness of the kingdom. And of course, humanity was created in His image which is humbling.

As we move into summer, possibly to spend more time outside and in natural settings, let's take time to look at all of creation and give praise to God for the world and its inhabitants. The beauty, majesty and intricacies of life in all forms bring glory and honor to God forever and ever.

*Pastor Henry*

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*From the desk of our Conference Director .*

### “Dreamers”

This past week, Delaware endured a tragedy when a man shot and killed a Delaware State Police Officer in the parking lot of Wawa on Route 40. The officer, Corporal Stephen Ballard, died later at the hospital from the gunshot wounds. He had never even drawn his weapon. The killer fled to his parents’ home and they called the police to report him. After a long standoff, with several shots fired at police, the man came out shooting and was killed in the process. The Delaware community mourns, and God weeps at the tragedy. Officer Ballard leaves behind a widow and a five-year-old stepdaughter. But he also leaves a legacy and seeds of hope for our future. As a Delaware State University graduate in 2007, he returned there to mentor those who came behind him. He graduated from the Police Academy in 2009, and wanted to serve others. He longed for people to have a good relationship with the police, and the shootings of police officers and the shootings by police officers of unarmed men, broke his heart. So, he worked hard to establish relationships with those in his area, in order to keep the peace.



Because he valued relationships and cared for people, he would collect food for families in need at Thanksgiving. He kept coloring books and other toys for children in his patrol car to hand out, and kept extra gifts in his car around Christmas time. His widow described Officer Ballard as someone who cared for people and wanted to serve. She praised his skill in working with parties in disagreement to bring them to a common understanding. And, she shared about his dream of becoming Delaware’s governor one day, to influence even greater change in our state.

Like many dreamers before him, Officer Ballard died before his dream became a reality. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died before his dream of a nation, which lived out its self-evident truth that all people are created equally, could come to

fruition. Mahatma Gandhi dreamed of a unified nation of India, where Hindu's and Muslims could live in peace together with justice for all people. He also died before he saw his dream become at least an imperfect reality.

Of course, we know one other dreamer, whose vision of God's realm here on earth as in heaven has not yet been fulfilled. Jesus knew of the realm where the wolf lives with the lamb, and a little child leads them (Isaiah 11), a place where there is no more mourning or crying or pain (Revelation 21), a place where the Shepherd calls the sheep by name and they know his voice (John 10). The incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus ushered in the beginning of that realm, but it will not come to completion until Jesus comes again. Yet, we cannot forget his vision. Jesus invites us to be on the lookout for wherever we see signs of that new realm.

Even in the midst of the tragic death of Officer Ballard (and the destruction of the home of the killer's parents), we see signs of hope, signs that the dream still lives on. Wawa initiated a fundraiser for the memorial fund for Officer Ballard, pledging \$50,000 in addition to whatever money they collect at their stores. (Donations, made out to DSTA - Cpl. Stephen Ballard Memorial Fund, can be mailed to PO Box 168, Cheswold, DE 19936, or given at your local Wawa.)

Additionally, churches can work to keep Stephen Ballard's dream alive by mentoring youth, working to establish good relationships within the community, and above all, praying for his family and for all police officers and early responders. They offer their lives in service every day to keep our communities safe. Include members of your church who serve as police officers in your daily prayers and in prayers at worship. Prayer walk (with permission, of course) around police barracks and offices. [\*I've attached a document with some additional suggestions.\*](#) Any ways that we can strengthen relationships and allow our community to know we care benefit our communities, our churches, and ourselves. And, living this way gets us closer to our dream of being "Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today's world." Let's go be that hope.

Blessings on the journey,

***Vicki***

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

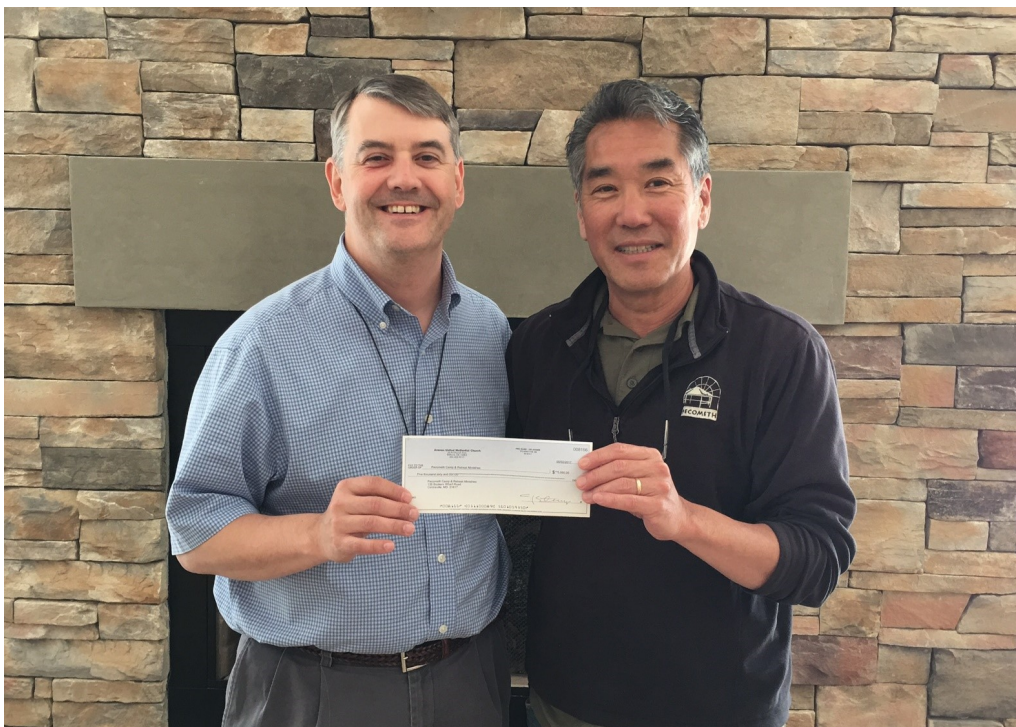


## Upcoming Meetings and Information

- ♦ Trustees meeting is on **May 15<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in the Grier Room.
- ♦ SPRC meeting is on **May 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in the Holzmueeller Room.
- ♦ May 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded and recognition for all the Class of 2017. **Please plan to join us.**
- ♦ If you know of anyone who is graduating, please get that information to the church office as soon as possible.

## **Avenue Remembers Ralph Spain**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Avenue Church took time during worship to remember the life of our very own, Ralph Spain. Pastor Tom shared some reflections and invited the congregation to share stories of times they spent with Ralph. In addition, the church took up a collection in memory of Ralph to support the Spain Campership at Camp Pecometh. The total amount collected for Pecometh was **\$5066** and Pastor Tom was able to deliver a check to Jack Shitama, Executive Director of Pecometh Camp and Retreat Ministries.



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

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



Photo Dates: May 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

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# THE MISPELLION CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *assistant director/accompanist*

presents 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Concert

## "One Song... Many Voices"

Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Avenue United Methodist Church  
20 N. Church Street ~ Milford, Delaware

**Come Hear... "Why We Sing!"**

NO ADMISSION, Free-will offering accepted,  
Plenty of parking, Handicap accessible

Information: (302) 422-2785







# THE MUSIC OF MANY NATIONS

TICKETS: \$10 ADULTS  
\$5 SENIORS & STUDENTS  
Available at Front Desk or online:

BROWN PAPER TICKETS



TUESDAY, MAY 16  
7:30 PM | AVENUE UMC  
20 North Church Street, Milford, Delaware

**TORELLI** Trumpet Concerto in D Major  
**ARBAN** Fantasie Brillante  
**SINIGAGLIA** 2 Stücke, Op. 28  
**VARIOUS** Songs for Soprano and Countertenor  
**TURINA** Piano Trio No. 2  
**PIAZZOLLA** Oblivion for piano trio

## FEATURING

Dr. Patrick Hoffman trumpet, Sara Hoffman horn,  
Jennifer Stomberg cello, Liliya Maslov piano,  
Augustine Mercante countertenor, Diego Villamil violin,  
Joanne Ward soprano, Hiroko Yamazaki piano

WORLD MAP BY VECTEEZY.COM



**MILFORD BRANCH • (302) 422-2043**

10 S Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963

[www.musicschoolofdelaware.org](http://www.musicschoolofdelaware.org)

Programs are 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](http://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 Milford Plant, Flower and Garden Shop at (302) 422-4961. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

**PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK:** The family and friends of Delaware State Police Cpl. Stephen J. Ballard, all law enforcement who responded to Middletown last for the standoff, All first responders, may God keep them safe, Gary Downes, ,Katie, Tim, Ray, Bill Gaskill and family, John Siegrist and family, Janet Dill, MacKenzie Betts, the family and friends of Don Meyers who passed away on April 27, Eric Porter, Pat Bell, Jr., Folks staying with the Winklers, Mark, Faye Green, Karen and Harold Sheets, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Kevin, Mary Ann Draper, Ashley Bonnoni, Joyce Bonnoni, more help for the homeless and Peggy Hughes.

**Recently hospitalized:** Jo Wood.

**Rejoice with:** Malachi Hostedler, Pride of Delmarva Babershop Chorus, 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at regional competition and Lynne and Larry Pusey have a new niece, Molly.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Marcy Eppers, Jackie and Bill, Marti Seal, Bill Salvin, Dave and Sharon Dawson, John Siegrist, the family and friends of Cpl. Stephen Ballard, Katie, April McIntyre, Kim Webb, Colleen Dunham, Karen Moore, Jack Eisenbrey, Howard Haverkamp, the homeless, all affected by flooding in the nation, Peggy Hughes, Dakota, Christopher, Nickolas, Alex, Hyung, the family and friends of the Navy Seal killed in Somalia and the two wounded, Jo Wood, for a successful compassion Sunday, for all the missions, Bill Gustin, the pastoral staff, Kristen Faulkin, Mrs. Thompson, Abby Divenczo, families in divorce situations, everyone dealing with cancer, Eric Porter, Evelyn Townsend, Becca and Ashley Bonnoni.

**Recently hospitalized:** Gary Downes.

**Rejoice with:** Marti and Gary Seal, Brittany and Marcus, Dixie, Shaun Chilton, Colby Johnson, Eliza Kimmey, Julianna Lloyd, Emma Moorman, Bret Nowakowski, Brock Nowakowski, Hadley O'Day, James Stangl, Matthew Stangl, Katherine Stevenson, Autumn Thompson, Gannon Webb and Jackson Wilkins.

## WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♫Handbells

Resume on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 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**

Resume on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

**ALASKA MISSION TRIP 2017** is scheduled for **June 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**. Please be on the look out for stock sales in the Foyer after worship on Sunday.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR VBS:** Please bring in paper towel and toilet paper tubes for craft project for VBS.

**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.

**COMPASSION SUNDAY—May 21<sup>st</sup>** your opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will continue our study *IF* "Trading your *IF* only regrets for God's What *IF*" possibilities by Mark Batterson will be led by Pastor Wendy. We will meet on **May 16<sup>th</sup>**, 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 Holzmuller Room. Our next study is **May 21, 2017**. We will be finishing up the book "The Will of God" by Leslie Weatherhead and hearing a taped sermon called "The Real Thing" by him. All are welcome.

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **June 12<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room

**WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP** will resume on **September 6<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. in the **Heritage Room**. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

## **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 31<sup>st</sup>. You can contact the preschool office at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org). Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org).

## **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	79	68
9:30	192	264
Sunday School	82	76
11:00	81	73
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>517</b>



## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 5/14 ~ Communion

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### MONDAY 5/15

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
 Room 202  
 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts—Tigers, Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. Parent's Meeting—Troop, Sanctuary  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Grier Room

### TUESDAY 5/16

9:45 a.m. Sarah Circle Meeting, Conference  
 Room  
 10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study,  
 Grier Room  
 1:00 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle Meeting at  
 Rudy's Restaurant  
 1:30 p.m. Life Touch Pictures, Grier Room &  
 Nursery  
 5:00 p.m. Music School of DE Concert,  
 Sanctuary  
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team  
 Rehearsal, Wesley Room  
 6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,  
 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 5/17

10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Fellowship Hall  
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room  
 1:30 p.m. Life Touch Pictures, Grier Room &  
 Nursery  
 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and  
 Music Room  
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
 Room 202  
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1,  
 Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. Safety Meeting, Heritage Room

### THURSDAY 5/18

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
 Room 202  
 3:30 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts—Wolves, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Holzmuehler Room

### FRIDAY 5/19

4:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,  
 Fellowship Hall,  
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SATURDAY 5/20

12:00 p.m. Baby Shower, Fellowship Hall  
 5:00 p.m. Odessey of the Mind, Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SUNDAY 5/21

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 1:00 p.m. Odessey of the Mind, Fellowship Hall  
 2:00 p.m. Boy Scout Comm. Meeting,  
 Heritage Room  
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and  
 Wesley Room

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