



The Midweek

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Now that I have my Fitbit, I have spent hours strolling around Milford. Some of you have said you have seen me out walking in the mornings as I attempt to log my daily 10,000 steps. It is also a great way to look at the exteriors of the houses and being an HGTV fan, I find that kind of thing interesting.

But there is one house that really puzzles me. I won't tell you where it is located because it will be like a scavenger hunt if you too are a town walker. The mat that leads to the first step of the porch says "Due to the shortage of ammo there will not be a warning shot." Yet on the porch there is a hand painted sign that says "Jesus" and a cross hanging on the front door. Talk about mixed messages.

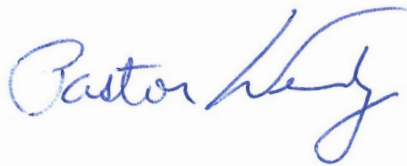
1 Peter 2:9 says "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." In other words, those who claim to believe in Christ need to act like it.

It makes me wonder what God's children who don't know Jesus as Savior would think about the front of this home. Would the people looking for Christ in this world fear being shot by the residents of this house who obviously know of Jesus on the cross? What does that say about being a Christian?

I am not judging the residents who live here. There could be a million reasons for the different statements that are being made via the mat, sign and cross and it would be irresponsible speculation on my part to try and figure it out. And let's be honest. We all fall short of God's will in our lives at times. The good news however is that we have the opportunity to start fresh whenever we find ourselves getting off the path that God has created for us. When we sin, we need to confess it to God and then make every attempt to not do it again. Sometimes it takes more than once for us to get it right but that does not mean we should ever stop trying to act and witness in ways that brings the love of Jesus to the world.

I saw a great quote the other day that says, "Your life as a Christian should make nonbelievers question their disbelief in God." What a wonderful way to think about it. If we used that ideal as a way to be accountable for what we do, say or think I wonder how much our lives would change.

If that was our house, would that door mat disappear and the Jesus sign and cross be more obvious? Would all people – believers and nonbelievers – recognize us as disciples of Christ by the way we live our lives? Let us dedicate our time on this earth to acting in such ways as to bring glory and honor to God for all the world to see.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



From the desk of our Bishop

God bless the Babushkas

Recently I had lunch with two United Methodist pastors from Russia who are visiting some of their supporting churches.

The place of the church in Russian in the 21st century is better than in the past when the Communist revolution swept into the country. But according to the Christian Science Monitor, Russia as emerged nowadays as the most God-believing nation in Europe.

The missionaries I spoke to credit much of this to the babushkas, who kept the faith alive during the state-sponsored repression. They were the grandmothers, with head-scarves and wrinkled faces, who were dismissed and ridiculed by the Communist leadership because of their religious belief. But they refused to give up their faith and kept it alive in secret and through their witness.

As we think about mothers during this Mother's Day weekend we need to reflect on the faith that women, mothers and grandmothers often bring to a godless world. Often it is the quiet voice that is the most tenacious and strong. I give thanks for those faithful women in Russia who never gave up on their faith in God.



Never underestimate the power of your faith, even when you are seen as insignificant, misguided or old-fashioned. It will strengthen, sustain and save you in the end, giving you victory when all else fails and has fallen away.



Peggy A. Johnson

Upcoming Meetings and Information

- ♦ SPRC meeting is on **May 18th** at 7pm in the Holzmueller Room.
- ♦ May 21st, 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.

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

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



Photo Dates: May 25th, 26th and 27th



THE MISPELLION CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *assistant director/accompanist*

presents 3rd Annual Spring Concert

"One Song... Many Voices"

Friday, May 19th

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



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: 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Jennifer Wiley, Jackie and Bill, Curtis, Angeleen and family, Patrick Stewart, Marti Seal, Bill Salvin, Dave and Sharon Dawson, John Siegrist, Katie, April McIntyre, Kim Webb, Colleen Dunham, Howard Haverkamp, The homeless, Peggy Hughes, Christopher, Jo Wood, A successful compassion Sunday on May 21st, Bill Gustin, Eric Porter, Bonnie Carmine, Ruth Ann Dutton, The family and friends of Edward Rottmann, III, Adrianna Nelson, Judy, Joyce Bonnoni's sister, The family and friends of John Caggiano who passed away, Louis's father, Alan Jester, Guidance and motivation to get through the week, Help in following God's plan, Preston Dyer, Evelyn Townsend, Jake, Katie and Brandon and Tim Jacoby.

Rejoice with: Gary Downes, God's amazing gifts and Joe Lear who won the Mountaire Better Delmarva Award, May 2017, for his work with the Milford Community Band.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪ Handbells

Resume on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪ MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪ **Mispillion Children's Chorus**

Resume on Tuesday, September 5th at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

♪ **Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪ **Sanctuary Choir**

Resume on Wednesday, September 6th at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

♪ **AveNotes**

Resume on Wednesday, September 6th 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 10th-17th**. 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 May. Thanks so much.

COMPASSION SUNDAY—May 21st 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 23rd**, 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 **2nd Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **June 12th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will resume on **September 6th** 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 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 had a slow start to the year with fewer families than last year . That trend seems to be changing and we are back to a more active stream of families so the backlog of food is now almost gone. We need cereal, we prefer the low to no sugar varieties since we are trying to train families in good food choices.

We also need someone with a pick up and daytime availability. We go to the Food Bank **ONE DAY A WEEK at the most**. We have some drivers with SUVs but there are times when we need a larger cargo area. Is the Lord nudging you to use your time and your pick up???? Call Tita Lewis 664-1321 or Diane Dolan 242-5125.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	76	73
9:30	188	190
Sunday School	19	58
11:00	70	82
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	353	408

CALENDAR

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
 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club,
 Grier Room
 1:00 p.m. Odyssey 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

MONDAY 5/22

11:00 a.m. APS Graduation, Sanctuary &
 Fellowship Hall
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 140, Heritage Room
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 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 5/23

10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study,
 Grier Room
 10:30 a.m. APS Graduation, Sanctuary &
 Fellowship Hall
 6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop, Nursery
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team
 Rehearsal, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Pack 186 Ceremony—Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
 Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 5/24

1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202

THURSDAY 5/25

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 1:30 p.m. Life Touch Pictures, Grier Room &
 Nursery
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202

FRIDAY 5/26

11:00 a.m. Wrap Around DE, Holzmuehler Room
 1:30 p.m. Life Touch Pictures, Grier Room &
 Nursery
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 5/27

9:30 a.m. Life Touch Pictures, Grier Room &
 Nursery
 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 5/28

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

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