



The Midweek

Thursday, July 14, 2016



Prayer Vigil

Bicentennial Park

Thursday July 14 from 6 - 7 p.m.

Come pray for our community, our churches and our nation! Stand with us as we seek peace in our world.

From the desk of our Pastors . . .



Last weekend, on July 10, I had the privilege of being asked to preach at Asbury United Methodist Church in New Castle while Rev. Tracy Mooney was off with members of her congregation doing a service project in Appalachia. It is always interesting to step into the pulpit of a church that you know little to nothing about because each congregation has their own way of doing things and more importantly, their own unique traits...just like families do.

Considering the events of the past week I felt the Spirit leading me to preach on the issues dividing the nation and the need to come together as one body in Christ. Asbury has a mixed race congregation so it's not surprising they all got behind the message. Bottom line – they “get it.” In many ways I was “preaching to the choir” in that this was not a new concept or something they needed to be swayed to accept. Asbury is eagerly devoted to the commandment of loving our neighbors as ourselves.

But then I had a second request and I had even less idea of what I was walking into. Tracey had asked me about a month ago to sub for her so I had been planning on it for some time. However, on the Thursday before my sermon she sent me a text asking if I would also fill in for her at the Ghana United Methodist Church which meets in Wilmington. Local pastors from the Wilmington District take turns preaching and serving communion there and it was her week. She had forgotten to ask me while making arrangements for her church back in June to cover that need as well.

After getting permission from our District Superintendent to be able to consecrate the elements and serve communion, I agreed to do it. All I was told about this group is that I would be fed in ways I never expected.

So after finishing up at Asbury I got in my car, set the GPS, and off I went to the Ghana United Methodist Church. It turns out they meet in a conference room of a warehouse in an industrial complex. As I also discovered, they are not the only church that meets in that same

area as I ended up at a different church for about 20 minutes before we (the pastor of the church I was at and myself) figured out I was in the wrong place.

When I got to the Ghana Church, where the service was well under way, I had about 10 seconds to take a quick breathe before I gave the message because I was so late. I had not prepared a different sermon for this group because to be honest I had not thought the message would be inappropriate for any audience. However, as I stood in front of this congregation completely made up of African Americans and immigrants from Ghana I could not help but ask myself how they would react to my take on what had happened in Minnesota, Louisiana and Dallas.

Considering our different circumstances I wondered if anything I had to say would be believed. I came from a background that had never experienced what they deal with and I had no idea if I would have any credibility in their community. I have never had to doubt the local authorities, fear for my son in the justice system or wonder who might be out to harm me because of the color of my skin. I come from a family where careers in law enforcement is a family tradition. Of my six male cousins, four are police officers so most people would understand my respect and admiration for what our police do in all communities. (Three of my cousins, and an uncle are/were NYPD and the other cousin is a detective in the Allentown, PA police.)

So while I was very different in many aspects, we were all equal in the most important way. We are all equal in the eyes of Christ because we are his beloved children, regardless of race, nationality, age or economics. Maybe because I was so out of my comfort zone this message was received by the Ghana church even more enthusiastically than the congregation at Asbury.

Here was a complete stranger preaching to them about being one in Christ. I have no idea what other Pastors have shared in the past but considering how divided we can be in this nation over race relations it would not have surprised me to learn the Ghana Church was wondering where my head would be on this matter.

My heart however, and the hearts of every person I came in contact with that day was with Jesus Christ who told us to love each other. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Tracey was right. I was fed by this experience in ways I had never expected. I was humbled that the Spirit led me to that place with the message I had prepared. I was grateful that the words coming from my mouth were well received at both churches and as such, I have hope that we can and will get past the problems we have in this country.

I also know without any doubt that Avenue would have agreed with my message as well. That makes three for three the number of churches I was in contact with who accept and live out the message of Christ to love everyone as God loves us. Those are pretty good odds and I have faith that churches across the world from all Christian denominations, if they are truly following the teachings of our Savior, will feel the same way.

The message and teaching of loving one and other as Christ tells us to love is our foundation. Now we have to turn our attention to making sure justice is done. That means justice for every victim and that includes all who were wrongfully killed. But it also means making sure that accusations, made in the emotional heat of the moment, do not cause people to do or say things that incite more violence. "With justice for all" is not only a Christian virtue but an American one as well.

Micah 6:8 reminds us that God "has told you O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Things are going to get even crazier over the next few weeks as we go into the political national conventions and then move into campaigning for the presidential election. It also makes for the perfect conditions to witness to the love of Christ. We **MUST** be the examples of Christ's grace and mercy to all people. Through our witnessing to God's love in this world, we will be able to not only help heal our country but make it stronger as a result.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

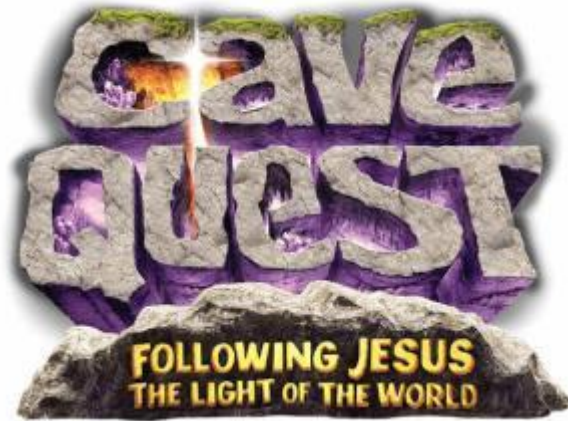
Pastor Wendy

SERMON SERIES FOR JULY 2016 ***STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE***



We will explore the call on our lives to be stewards of God's grace. We will look at what it means to be a steward and what it means for us to view our lives in terms of stewardship!!

Join us for this awesome new series continuing on August 17!!



**Coming at 8:00 and 11:00 on Sunday, July 17,
Vacation Bible School
Kids' Singing**

Hear about the awesome week we had at Cave Quest VBS!!!

SHAREHOLDERS DINNER

JULY 17 - 5PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

ALASKA

M I S S I O N S T R I P 2 0 1 6

JUNE 11th-18th 2016

Presented By the Avenue Volunteers In Missions Team

2016 ANNUAL YARD SALE
AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thursday, August 4th 2:00 — 6:00 p.m. \$1.00 Admission this day only

Friday, August 5th 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 6th 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Workers Needed

All days, full and part time; as many hours as you can give.
Cashiers, Walkers and Lifters needed on Thursday through Saturday.

Thursday only Free Lunch offered for all workers.

DONATIONS NEEDED . . . NO RECALLED ITEMS . . .

Tax Receipts available.

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| ☺Clothing – Adult/Children | ☺Electronics – No TV's |
| ☺Housewares | ☺Outdoor Items |
| ☺Linens | ☺Holiday Decorations |
| ☺Home Decorations | ☺Children's Items |
| ☺Furniture – Good Condition | ☺Toys and Games |
| ☺Jewelry | ☺Sporting Goods |
| ☺Treasures/Antiques | |

Items not accepted:

Books, Baby Furniture, Large Appliances, Computers, Mattresses, Carpet Pieces,
Shoes, Newspapers, Magazines, TV's or Furniture in poor condition.

Drop Off Days

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – July 25 — August 1

Sunday Announcements ***July 10, 2016***

HOSPITAL VISITS: Please help the pastors by calling the church office at 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: The following dates are available in **2016:** September 18th, 25th; December 4th, 11th. If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call the florist of your choice to order your flowers. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: Families and all in West Virginia who are effected by flooding, Boo Pruitt, Brother Frank, Sisters Alice and Mary, Trevell Palmer, Troop 186, The family and friends of Howard Light, Jim Greenly, Bill Gustin, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Linda Archer, Jill Gustin, Leone Lenhart, Dave Dawson, Bill Medhurst, Gloria Clausen, Valerie Burd Louise Combs, Jerry Jackson, Barbara Vederose

Rejoice with: Tori Nelson, Adi Nelson

Recently hospitalized: Travell Palmer, Louise Combs

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Al & Ellie Lauckner, Madelyn Foxwell, Danielle and Jennifer's grandmother, Jake Pasmore, Grandmother who is in the hospital, Complete marriage restoration, Peabody-husband passed away, Healing for our country to return to one nation under God, Sue Coles, All men and women who serve as police officers, Employment opportunities, the Monday meeting, Families struggling with relationships, Prayers for peace, Camp Ignite, Charlie Harding's shoulder, Everyone who is moving, Geff and Elena's families, Bill and Shannon, Catherine Killen, Morgan Roberts, Trevell Palmer, Troop 186, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Linda Archer, Bill Gustin, Jill Gustin, Leone Lenhart, Blessings that come in disguise, Bill Medhurst, Gloria Clausen, Valerie Burd, Louise Combs, Jerry Jackson, Barbara Vederose, Jeanie Zaines, David Volstorf, Leslee.

Recently hospitalized: Travell Palmer, Sue Coles, a grandmother, Catherine Killen

Praise with: The Happiness Project which went so well!

SYMPATHIES TO:

Al & Ellie Lauckner whose daughter passed away on **July 8th**.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Mary Lee Burch who will celebrate her **92nd** birthday on **July 21st**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMM HELP NEEDED: The Annual Yard Sale is upon us. We need help on Sunday, July 24, at 1:00 p.m. to set up for the yard sale and move sale items out of the trailer, storage shed, Carpenter Room and Room 207. Any and all members of the Church Family that can help will be most welcome. THANK YOU! Rob Craig (AUMM)

SCOUT FUNDRAISER: August 2nd at Grotto Pizza, Cub Scout Pack 186 is having a fundraiser. Pick up a slip from the foyer at church and take it for Pizza on August 2nd. A percentage of the proceeds go to our pack.

MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULES:

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY We will continue to meet through August with a variety of topics. Please join us at any time. Contact 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 Wednesday, **August 3rd** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier 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 **August 8th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

BOOK CLUB: Our next meeting will not be until September in the Grier Room. We will continue to read "Finding My Way Home" by Henri Nouwen. All are welcome.

OUTREACH

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: Thanks all of you who have donated food and hygiene supplies to our shelves. The **3rd Sunday** of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. If you forget you can always leave donations at our door in the education wing. **Looking for volunteers in the Pantry** please call Tita Lewis (302) 664-1321.

Food Pantry Summer Hours: June 13th—September 2nd the Food Pantry will be open from 10:00 a.m. thru 2:00 p.m.

MATTHEW PROJECT FAMILY needs any type clothing size 5- 6 boys and girls size 10-12. THANKS!

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	68	67
9:30	117	198
Sunday School		31
11:00	52	66
Total	291	362

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 7/17

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Shareholder's Dinner
Alaska Mission Trip,
Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 7/18

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees, Grier Room
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 7/19

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,
Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. Pre-Diabetes Program,
Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,
Wendy's Office
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206

WEDNESDAY 7/20

- 10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Food Pantry Meeting,
Heritage Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
- 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 7/21

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

FRIDAY 7/22

- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 7/23

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

SUNDAY 7/24

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