



# *The Midweek*

***Wednesday, July 20, 2016***

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

So the Olympics are coming up. I admit that I am an Olympics addict. On August 5 at 8:00 I can promise you that unless something super serious comes up, I will be on my sofa in front of my television watching the opening ceremonies from Rio de Janeiro as if it were the Super Bowl. There will be snacks and sodas and it will be an event for me, just like it was with London and Beijing and Atlanta and every other Olympic games – winter and summer – that I can remember.

For me, there are several very unique things about it being in Rio. The first is that because I have spent a large amount of time down there I have some perspective on where venues are and how the logistics may have to work. Brazil is an “interesting” country in which to get things done. It’s a nation with a lot of major issues so please pray for all of the citizens. This event, along with the Paralympics, is going to be very taxing on the infrastructure of the city and I hope that all goes well.

On a more upbeat note I am very excited that there is only one hour of time difference. The events will pretty much be in real time.

I am not much of a “sports snob” when it comes to the Olympics. I will be just as excited to view the archery competition as I will be to see if Michael Phelps can sweep gold medals in this unprecedented fifth Olympics. I’ll watch swimming, track and field, volleyball, golf and the other two new sports – sevens rugby and kitesurfing. I don’t even know what sevens rugby is but I’ll be trying to catch it

when it is broadcast to find out. I'll watch basketball, fencing and water polo. And yes, I'll watch gymnastics but with one exception. I cannot bring myself to watch the balance beam.

There is just something about that discipline that freaks me out. These little tiny women do things that appear to defy gravity and certainly defy logic, at least in my mind. It scares me to think of one of them falling and hitting their head. They do these tumbling passes of back flips and twists and jumps and things named after former Olympians that cause me to have cramps in my muscles just by looking at them.

I seriously have to look away during those routines and it is best if I don't even listen because the sports commentators get so excited about what is to come. They are always saying things like "get ready for this triple back flip with two twists on a blind landing...which she had trouble with in warm-up." It just gets to me. I pray there is not an accident because it would be on instant replay about 87 times.

But what really gets to me is that after the countless hours of practice and sweat and all the other sacrifices that go into becoming an Olympic caliber athlete, it will take just one fall off a piece of wood that is 16' long and 4" wide for their chances of a medal to be gone. One momentary mistake and a group of judges will have the audacity to consider them a failure in their quest for perfection. Eight human beings, capable of making mistakes themselves, will determine the fate of these women who have put their entire lives into this very moment. That just breaks my heart when it happens and I can't watch. I'll be in the kitchen making more snacks or cleaning my countertops or something.

And the judges do it with such precision. They don't even show compassion or understanding. They simply deduct points for mistakes, lower the value of a routine based on skills completed and basically have the destiny of these people in their hands. And all it takes is one little mistake to completely derail the entire competition for these athletes. One mistake, done in front of billions of people, and they are forever relegated to being "the agony of defeat."

This is one of the reasons I am so grateful it is God that is "scoring" us and not a panel of hard core judges. I am grateful that God sees the best in all of us and forgives the rest of what we do. In the eyes of God, we are always scoring a 10 because the creator loves us so very much.

That does not mean we are perfect. We are far from perfect. But God loves us perfectly.

Romans 8:37-39 tells us that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor

rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, no height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

No matter what we do or how badly we mess up we have a God who loves us unconditionally. Jesus will guide us and help to correct our actions when we go the wrong way but the Savior will never abandon us. God loves all of us all the time – NO MATTER WHAT.

We are going to mess up plenty of times in this life but God will love us through it. The Creator will never look at our mistakes and count us out or consider us a failure. Just knowing that God is with us, loving us, beside us, and giving us grace and mercy makes us the biggest winners of all.

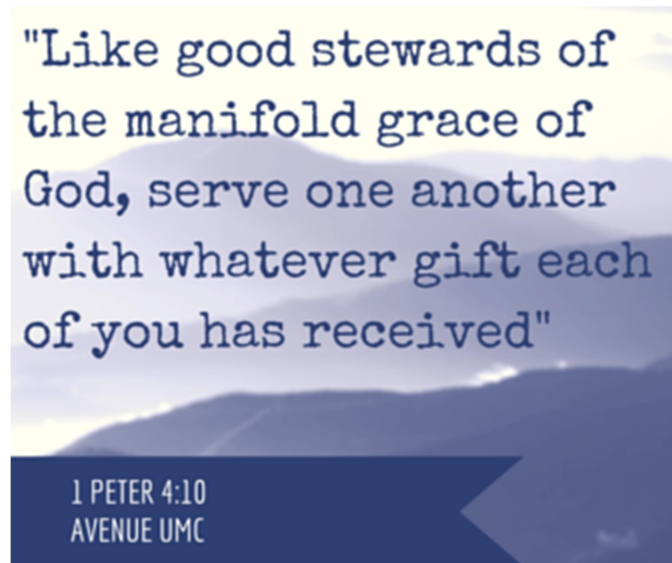
To God be the glory forever and ever.

*Pastor Wendy*

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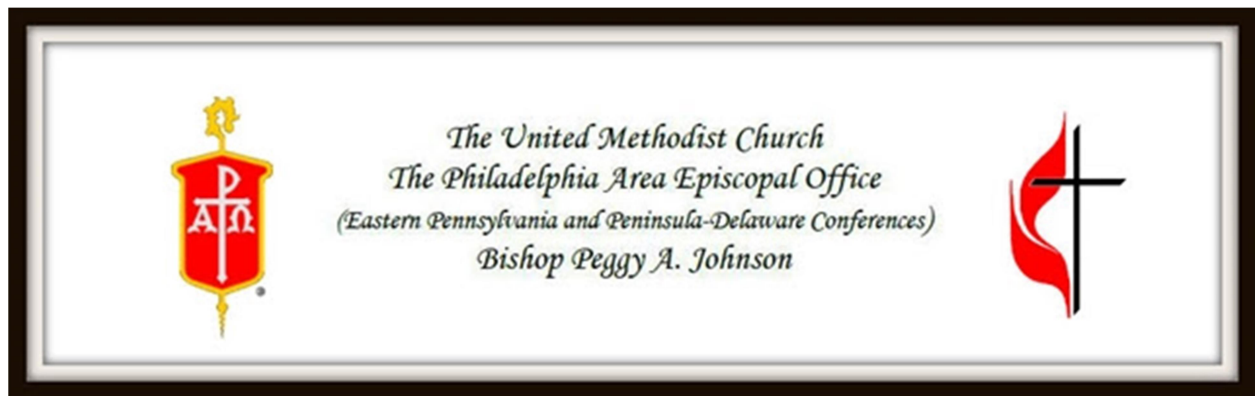
## **SERMON SERIES FOR JULY 2016**

### ***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!!



It is my joy to accept the invitation by the NEJ Episcopacy Committee to remain as the bishop of the Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences for another four years. My husband Michael and I are thrilled to have the opportunity to serve among you for this unprecedented additional third quadrennium. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul from I Thessalonians 5:11-18:

“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another just as you are also doing, but we request of you, brethren that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another and we urge you brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all people. See that no one repays another with evil for evil but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

It is my goal to continue to build up the body: both laity and clergy, to encourage our leaders, to “seek after that which is good” for all people, with a particular emphasis on our churches of color and engaging in intentional efforts at eliminating racism and violence. The strength for this work is found in the living resources of our spiritual disciplines. In all things let us give thanks and pray without ceasing. There is much good work yet to be done in the Philadelphia Area.

Thanks to excellent hospitality from both lay and clergy of the Philadelphia Area during the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.



**Bishop Peggy A. Johnson**

## **2016 ANNUAL YARD SALE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. [\$1.00 Admission this day only]

Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>: 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.

☺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**

July 25<sup>th</sup> — August 1<sup>st</sup>: 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

### **Large Item Pick-up Days**

Call for appointment for pick-up:

Larry Hughes (302) 745-4331 or Sonny Meck (302) 690-4953

### **Questions**

Call Peggy Hughes (410) 212-7391 or Clareann Phipps (302) 670-7527

Sponsored by Volunteers of Avenue United Methodist Church.

**EAT AT HOMETOWN DINER AND  
SUPPORT THE AUXILIARY OF  
MILFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL!**



**10% Give Back Night  
at HomeTown Diner  
First Tuesday of the month**

611 N Dupont Blvd, Milford, DE

302-424-1100

(Next to Central Tractor Supply)

Come join us the first Tuesday of the month between 10 a.m - 7 p.m and 10% of your food receipt will be donated to the Auxiliary of Milford Memorial Hospital.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

*Proceeds benefit*  **Bayhealth**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>; December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>. 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:** The Lauckner family, our country, Madelyn Foxwell, Jake Pasmore, grandmother in hospital, marriage restoration, Danielle and Jennifer's grandmother, all in West Virginia affected by the floods, Peabody, Sue Coles, all who serve in law enforcement, employment opportunities, those attending the Monday meeting, families struggling with relationships, Ignite Camp, Charlie Harding, all who are moving, Geff and Elena, Bill and Shannon, Catherine Killen, Morgan Roberts, Family of Bill Conaway, Frank, Mary and Alice, Trevell Palmer, Troop 186, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Linda Archer, Bill Gustin, Jill Gustin, Leone Lenhart, for blessings that come in a disguise, Bill Medhurst, Gloria Clausen, Valerie Burd, Louise Combs, Jerry Jackson, Barbara Vederose, Jeanie Zaimes, David Volstorf, Leslee and all affected by violence.

**Recently hospitalized:** Travell Palmer, Leslee, Sue Coles, a grandmother and Catherine Killen.

**Rejoice with:** The Happiness Project success.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Ellie and Al Lauckner and family, the friends and family of Tim McClanahan, Jack Heinback, Jeanie Zaimes, Lee Tyrrell, Cindy McBroom, the family of Bob Van Gorden, Jim McGee, Katie Meadows, Pastor Tom, for all needing healing, Bill Gustin, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Jim Greenly, Linda Archer, Valerie Burd, Caroline, Aunt Ada, the family of Kathryn Barnes, Ann, all victims of violence in this nation, the murdered police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, the victims of the hospital shooting in Florida, for the victims of the terrorist attack in Nice, the people of Turkey, for this nation and her citizens, for everybody involved with the first political convention in Cleveland including

residents, law enforcement, attendees, delegates, nominees, media, protesters and everyone else that will in some way be part of this event.

**Recently hospitalized:** Dorlene Fox.

**Rejoice with:** Adriana Nelson, Victoria Nelson, Louise Combs, Boy Scout Troop 186, everyone celebrating a July birthday, Jen Antonik, Bishop Johnson and all who took part in the D.C. Christian event.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

**Al & Ellie Lauckner** whose daughter passed away on **July 8<sup>th</sup>**.

The family and friends of **Jack VanGorder** who passed away on **July 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The family and friends of **Cindy McBroom** who joined the kingdom eternal on **July 19<sup>th</sup>**. Cindy joined Avenue Church on October 28, 2012.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**AVENUE UNITED METHODIST MEN:** The Annual Yard Sale is upon us. We need help today at 1:00 p.m. to set up for the yard sale and move sale items out of the trailer, storage shed and Carpenter Room. Any and all members of the Church Family that can help will be most welcomed. **THANK YOU**, Rob Craig.

**CUB SCOUTS 186 FUNDRAISER:** Cub Scout Pack 186 will be having a fundraiser night at Grotto Pizza in Milford on Tuesday, August 2. Vouchers will be in the church foyer. A percentage of the proceeds go to our pack.

## **MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULES:**

### **♪Handbells**

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Music Room  
[rehearsal resume September, 12<sup>th</sup>.]

### **♪MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♪Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♪Sanctuary Choir**

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., Music Room  
[rehearsal resume September, 7<sup>th</sup>.]

### **♪AveNotes**

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
[rehearsal resume September, 7<sup>th</sup>.]



## **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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **August 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>—September 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL** has a limited number of openings for the 2016-17 school year. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>. We are a Star Level 5, Delaware Stars rated program offering a high quality early education experience. 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).

**CONCERT:** On **July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** the New Life Baptist Church is hosting the Gospel Herald Group from the Appalachian Bible College, which is located in Mount Hope, West VA. The musical program is entitled **"Grace Overflowing"** consists of 4 ladies and 4 men. The students are on the last leg of a 10 week tour covering the North East. A member of the group is Hannah Jones, the granddaughter of Larry and Joan Wadman.

## **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

|               |            |            |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Attendance:   | 2015       | 2016       |
| 8:00          | 73         | 58         |
| 9:30          | 163        | 134        |
| Sunday School | *          | *          |
| 11:00         | 62         | 77         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>295</b> | <b>269</b> |

\*No attendance numbers available.

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY 7/24**

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

### **MONDAY 7/25**

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> State Harmonizers,  
Wesley Room  
8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

### **TUESDAY 7/26**

10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,  
Grier Room  
7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206

### **WEDNESDAY 7/27**

9:00 a.m. Dover District Racial Justice  
Group, Grier Room  
10:30 a.m. Writing Group  
1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room  
5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202  
6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,  
Wesley Room  
7:00 p.m. Safety Meeting,  
Heritage Room

### **THURSDAY 7/28**

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 7/29**

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SATURDAY 7/30**

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SUNDAY 7/31**

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