



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

By now you all know Pastor Wendy's son Chris as well as I do, since she has been sharing with us stories of their relationship and how it's the most important relationship in her life and the one that drives her the most crazy.

Well this week it's my turn . . . (drum roll please)

Many of you have taken children or grandchildren to an amusement park before. It's one of the most interesting and memorable experiences that you can have with children. Every trip to an amusement park that we have taken as a family is seared on to my brain, like the grill marks on a Ponderosa restaurant steak. They are indelibly etched into my memory. For example, I will never forget our first trip to Dutch Wonderland in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 2008. We had just moved to Richardson Park a few months before and had bought discount tickets from Sarah's sister. We were all set to go on Labor Day. Until coming down the stairs that morning, I sprained my ankle so badly that I couldn't walk for several days. But since we had

already purchased the tickets, we bravely rescheduled for three weeks later.

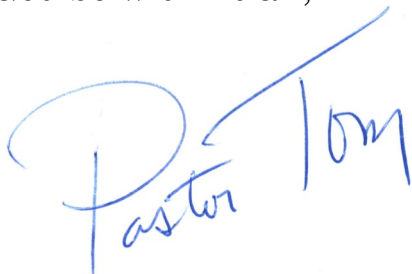
When we finally did have the opportunity to visit Dutch Wonderland, we decided to take the kids around the park before allowing them to select their first ride because they were so young. After a good look, they decided that they would try the teacup ride. (For those of you who have never been to Dutch Wonderland, the teacup ride is just like the Tilt-a-Whirl. (For those of you who don't know what a Tilt-a-Whirl is, just think of lots and lots of spinning. Around and around and around)) Sarah and I were both sick coming off of that ride, and while the kids were moving on to bigger and better things, I didn't get on any other rides the rest of the day. (Rest assured that I was able to preach the next day.)

The one thing that seems to be a constant whenever we visit an amusement park—as soon as we get off one ride, the kids are looking around and asking what's next. Once one thrill is over, they are already moving on before we even having a moment to savor the previous ride. It can wear a parent out!

As we close out the summer, we are all looking ahead to the next school year and asking, “What's next?” Over the next several weeks we will start gearing up for the fall kickoff and a whole new year of ministry to the community Milford. On August 28th, I will be sharing the vision that God has placed on my heart and I pray a vision that will help us move forward as a church. We are about to begin a great three year journey with Jesus. From meeting Jesus again for the first time, to living out our faith, we will be seeking to build a relationship with Christ that is deep and wide and totally transforming.

Won't you join us for the journey, and see what's next?

God be with us all,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Tom". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive script, and "Tom" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive. A long, sweeping line extends from the top of the "T" in "Tom" upwards and to the left, crossing over the word "Pastor".



From the desk of our Bishop . . .

To those who have been given much

The Olympics are an amazing event that is full of wonderful stories of overcoming people, sacrifice and love. One story I heard recently was about an athlete from Rancho Cucamonga, CA, named Brenda Martinez, who is competing in a number of track competitions. She comes from a working class family and in the interview with her and NPR she explained how hard her parents worked to find the money for her training. Her mother sold homemade tamales and her father took on additional home improvement side jobs to raise the necessary funds. Through their sacrifice and hard work and Brenda's hard work she was able to compete and make her way up to the US Olympic team. She told the interviewer that she believes in giving back. She is raising money to send low income young people to camps where they can prepare to compete in sports.

Every one of us on some level have been gifted by God with talent, means, strength, and insight and it has not been given to us to keep to ourselves. Jesus said "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48b) In God's economy the world is supposed to operate with the humans sharing with one another. The crisis of world hunger and any shortage we have on this globe is simply a shortage of heart. There is enough to feed the world six times over but the humans will not share. The delivery system starts with people realizing sharing God's plan. It starts with each of us daily determining what it is God has gifted us with that can be shared with another. In so doing we inspire others to do the same and the cycle of blessing goes on and on and on. The greatest joy on earth comes to our heart when we see the good we can do by giving ourselves away.



Peggy A. Johnson

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 21, 2016



All students are invited to bring their backpacks to worship at **9:30 a.m. this Sunday** for a time of blessing. We want to support all of our students by surrounding them with prayer prior to the first day of the new school year. May the Holy Spirit's guidance and protection be with all of our students as they begin a new adventure later this month.

Family Bonfire

Sunday Sept 4th

6-9pm

Bring Your
Family and a
Lawn Chair!

2600 Canterbury Road
Milford, DE



Day of Prayer at the Milford Schools

Monday, August 22nd, is our day of prayer at all the schools of the Milford School District. Come join us at **10:00 a.m.** here at Avenue as we invite God to work in the lives of our schools' children, teachers, and administration. We will start at church by praying as a group over our Preschool and then we will send teams to each of the schools in the Milford District to help them start school right. All are welcome to join us for the very special day of celebration and preparation for our schools.



COMING THIS SEPTEMBER TO AVENUE **The Mispillion Children's Chorus**

All students AGES 6-12 years old
are invited to begin attending
rehearsals here at Avenue Church

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6th
Tuesday evenings 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Also available at the original rehearsal location:
The Milford Boys & Girls Club
Tuesday afternoons 4:30-5:30 p.m.

NO AUDITIONS!

NO FEES!

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!



*Just a commitment from parents and
guardians that students attend regularly
and participate in performances.*

QUESTIONS

themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com

Kevin B. Chamberlain (302) 422-8111

Sharon Starling (302) 422-2785



GriefShare is a network of 12,000+ churches worldwide equipped to offer grief support groups.

The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from your grief.

Learn more about GriefShare at www.griefshare.org

GriefShare

begins September 8th and runs thru December 8th
(barring any cancellation due to inclement weather)

Classes run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Meets in the Grier Room

Avenue United Methodist Church

20 N. Church Street

Milford, DE 19963

(302) 422-8111

www.avenueumc.com



Bishop's Dover District Day
September 15, 2016
Long Neck UMC
32051 Long Neck Road
Millsboro, DE 19966



Please plan on joining us as we welcome Bishop Peggy A. Johnson to the Dover District

Clergy Session - will start at noon with lunch and conclude at 3:00 pm

Lunch - \$7 per attendee

Note: this meeting takes the place of the September Clergy Gathering

Laity Session - 5:00 to 8:30 pm

includes dinner prepared by District Board of Laity



To assist in planning for this event, please respond to CMyers@Pen-Del.org by no later than Thursday, September 8th.

If you have any special dietary restrictions please let Cathy know when you respond.

Please specify if your response is for the **Clergy Session** or the **Laity Session** as we need headcounts for both sessions.



Be Inspired ... Be Transformed ... Become

God is Spirit and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.
~ John 4:24

In the Spirit of the Lord, Avenue Church is getting ready to start a fourth worship experience. Beginning on September 22nd, this new service will be on Thursday evenings in Fellowship Hall. Start time is 6:30 p.m. and will last about 45 minutes.

So what's different about the Thursday program from Sunday worship and who is this for? It's for everyone! While we recognize that some people work Sundays or need public transportation that is not available on the weekend, this worship is not just for people who can't make it to church on Sundays. It's also for anyone who wants that midweek boost of spirituality and fellowship.

What makes it unique is that the service will be more introspective and reflective. The Word will continue to be at the heart of worship but the message will be contemplative. The music will be changing weekly and offer eclectic, new pieces. Some weeks may include acoustic piano and other services might have cultural aspects like instruments or melodies. It's also possible that the music will be a different type of genre altogether. There will also be plenty of time to pray.

Mark your calendars and come prepared to "be inspired . . . be transformed . . . become."

If you are interested in being part of the worship team contact Pastors Wendy or Kevin. Let any of us know if you have questions. God bless you all.

Pastor Wendy

Kevin B.C.

*Call to me and I will answer you
and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.*

~ Jeremiah 33:3

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

Saturday, September 24, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Conley's United Methodist

The theme of the 2nd Dover District Revival Prayer Day will be "Why Pray?"

Why do we pray?

Do you pray to be restored?

Do you pray to reach out to the nations?

Let's gather to listen to God's answers!

This day-long prayer session will focus on praise, worship, the teaching on "Why Pray", practice of corporate prayers as we lift up the Church, our country, the world, and one another, along with the Holy Communion and anointing. You will experience the power of prayer and spiritual breakthroughs during this event.

Come, and be blessed to see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

All clergy and laity are welcome to attend.

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5

Lunch will be provided by the Dover District Board of Lay Ministries.

Please enclose check, or money order and **return no later than September 17, 2016** to:

Dover District Office Attn: Cathy Myers, 30 Loockerman Plaza Dover, Delaware 19901

Please call the District Office with any questions at [\(302\) 526-2629](tel:3025262629)

Please print

Attendee's Name: _____

Church: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please note any special dietary requirements: _____



Methodist Men Call to Action on **Saturday, August 20th** the trees between the church and the rental property on Front Street will be removed. The trees will be taken down on Friday the 19th, so lots of people are needed to cut up the downed trees. Two log splitters and a chipper will be provided. Chain saws and axes are needed along with individuals to do the work. If you can't use a chain saw, you can haul brush. Lots of pick-ups and larger dump trucks will be available for the wood and other litter. Meet at 8:30 a.m.. in back of the church. It's a big project, we would like to finish in one day. For more information contact Rob Craig (302) 422-7804.



This year's Annual Back to School Bash will be on **Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in Milford, DE.** The event will take place in the area of the First State Manufacturing Plant located at 301 S.E. 4th Street, Milford, DE and the tentative agenda will be as follows:

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. ~ Free Clothing Giveaway

10:00 a.m. ~ Opening prayer and introduction of guest

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ~ Vendors, Free Food and School Supply Giveaways, Fun and Entertainment

1:00 p.m. ~ Closing

Additionally, the event includes a large hosting of community resource and wellness vendors, fire truck rides, and tours of first responder equipment such as the Life Net helicopter. We are asking you and the rest of our congregation support this event again this year with an effort to make this a more successful event than ever before. We definitely would appreciate your involvement in the event to partner with us (Kingdom Life Family Ministries) and the other neighboring churches within the community. Last year with your assistance, we were able to provide free school supplies, backpacks, and uniforms to 238 children and this year our vision is to serve 300 children.

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 18th; December 4th, 11th. 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: Charlie Clendaniel, Sr., Barbara Vederose, Ginny Clendaniel, Lynne Pusey and her family, the family and friends of Dodson Elliott, Madalyn Foxwell, Tristen Collins, Michelle Craft, Jim Greenly, Collen Dunham, April McIntyre, David Thomas and Bill Gustin.

Recently hospitalized: Travell Palmer and Louise Combs.

Rejoice with: All the people who helped with the yard sale and Adi Nelson.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Charlie Clendaniel, Sr., Barbara Vederose, Beth Parker, For the family and friends of Dianne Barnard who passed away last week, For the family and friends of Dorlene Fox who passed away Sunday morning, Ashley Wyatt, George Carey, PJ, Catherine Killen, Bud Tucker, Carol Hobert, Traveling Mercies for Steve and Oksana, Madalyn Foxwell, Sara Craig, Tracy Lear's sister and family, Jim Noles, Dotti, Bunny Simms, May God allow all of us to feel special, Jim Greenly, Collen Dunham, April McIntyre, David Thomas and Bill Gustin.

Recently hospitalized: Charlie Clendaniel.

Rejoice with: Blessing of the backpacks on August 21st and Susanne Smith.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Harry and Carolyn Humes who will celebrate their **56th** anniversary on August 27th.

MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULES:

🎵Handbells

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

🎵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, 7th.]

🎵AveNotes

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

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.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **September 6th**, we will view "The War Room". On September 13th we will begin a 6-week study "Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed" with presenters Priscilla Shirer, Kay Arthur and Beth Moore. 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.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will resume its study of God's Word on **September 12th** at 6:30 p.m. with *The Patriarchs – Encountering the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob*, by Beth Moore. We welcome and encourage anyone interested to join our group. Please call Cheryl Pusey (302) 381-2474 or the church office by August 28th to register.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will meet Wednesday, **September 7th** 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 **September 12th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

GRIEFSHARE: Regardless of the circumstances, grief recovery is a difficult and painful process. If you are hurting from the loss of a loved one, please prayerfully consider attending GriefShare—a Christ-centered, biblically based support group for people grieving the loss of a loved one. This 13-week cycle begins on **Thursday, September 8th** from 6:30–8:30 p.m., in the Grier Room. Please call the church office for additional information or to register.

BOOK CLUB: We will be meeting on **September 18th** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Bring your lunch. We will continue to read "Finding My Way Home" by Henri Nouwen. New to the group read through page 85. If you were with us last year, then read pages 53-85. All are welcome.

OUTREACH

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Milford Community Pantry is so thankful for the folks at Avenue who support us with gifts of food, gifts of time and gifts of money. The need has grown over the years and currently we feed over 100 families every month. We are okay right now with our volunteer help but I will put the call out if that changes.

Let’s make August and September CEREAL months. If we serve 105 families that means we use at least 105 boxes of cereal! You were so helpful last time we asked so this is our wish for the next two months.

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 31st. We are a Star Level 5, Delaware Stars rated program offering a high quality early education experience. For more information contact office@avenuepreschool.org or (302) 422-8111. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: www.avenuepreschool.org.

FIRST STATE HARMONIZERS: “An A Cappella Extravaganza IV” featuring the First State Harmonizers and The Pride of Delmarva Choruses. **Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** the Milford Senior Center. For tickets call Harry Humes (302) 422-8620 or Chuck Culotta (302) 236-5211.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	81	54
9:30	206	113
Sunday School	37	30
11:00	65	741
Total	389	268

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 8/21

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

MONDAY 8/22

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

TUESDAY 8/23

10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,
Grier Room
3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting,
Conference Room
6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team
Rehearsal, Wesley Room
6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,
Wendy's Office
6:30 p.m. Dover District Conversation
for Pastors, Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 8/24

10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
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,
Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 8/25

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 8/26

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 8/27

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 8/28

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
1:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Comm. Meeting,
Heritage Meeting