



The Midweek

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Two weeks ago I took a whirlwind trip to Wyoming. I flew out on Wednesday and came back on Friday. I left again on Sunday, August 28 and returned on August 31 from a quick trip to Detroit. Over the next 12 months I will be using my vacation time and days off to do some consulting work.

So why am I doing this? Actually, it's not just me who is undertaking this effort.

Together, with five other former associates who are doing the same thing with their vacation time and days off, we will be doing the best we can to support the clients of a friend of ours. Over the past 10 years this friend has built a very robust small communications agency which specializes in media training, focus group moderation, and crisis management.

The reason for this backfilling is that he is being deployed to Afghanistan for a year where he will serve as the chief public affairs officer (PAO) assigned to the General in charge of the NATO forces. As you can imagine, without some TLC his clients would be forced to seek assistance with other public relations companies and by the time he got back his business could be decimated.

I'm not giving names since his deployment is considered dangerous and it is best not to put that information in the public domain, even on a church website. I can tell you that he is a Captain in the Navy Reserve who

is being considered for promotion to Admiral. He has served this nation for more than 30 years in the active and reserve Navy. Those of us who know and love him could not stand the thought of his business, which he built from the ground up, having to be rebuilt because he took time off to serve his country.

During the time he will be gone he will miss birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and all the milestones of his first grandson who was born just a few days ago. Giving up my “fun” vacation to travel around the country and keep his company viable seems like no sacrifice at all compared to what he will be doing.

As I write this, I am currently only on contract for 26 days of work over the next 12 months. Clearly my role will be small compared to the others who have a lot more vacation. While it may become more than 26 days, and I hope it does for the sake of my friend’s business, only God knows what is to come. It won’t be two days a month. It will likely be three days at a time considering travel schedules but then it won’t be every month either. And it will be with clients who work a normal business week so I don’t anticipate being gone on any Sundays.

I struggled with this as I thought about what it meant for my work load. The good news is that I am way more productive on planes. I managed to finish the stewardship letter, this midweek, a sermon and a couple more odds and ends while winging my way across the friendly skies to Wyoming and back. But then I remembered what is written in the Gospel of John 15:13. “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

My friend is willing to do that for every one of us as he spends a year in Kabul. Giving up a trip to Disney World seems trivial in comparison. If I can help him by writing a few press releases, moderating a couple of focus groups, and training executives on how to work with the media than I will do it.

Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares to head off to combat duty training and then over to Qatar before jumping to Afghanistan. Please also pray for his family as they deal with his departure and year-long absence.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

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



From the desk of Bishop Johnson . . .

The Dakota Access Pipeline Protest

According to “Dakota Access Facts” (dakotaaccessfacts.com) the “Dakota Access pipeline project is a 1,172 mile, 30 inch in diameter pipeline that will connect the Bakken and Three Forks oil production areas in North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois. This will enable domestically produced crude oil from North Dakota to reach major refining markets in the US. It will transport 470,000 barrels per day of oil.”

There has been an outcry from the Native American community about this pipeline. According to ABC News “The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is challenging the US Army Corps of Engineers’ decision to grant permits at more than 200 water crossings in four different states for the pipeline.” Since the pipeline would be placed less than a mile upstream from the Sioux reservation this could negatively affect drinking water for 8,000 members of the tribe and many more who depend on this water downstream. An environmental group known as “Earthjustice” said that the project violates several federal laws, including the “National Historic Preservation Act.” There will be a hearing in Federal court next Wednesday and until then the pipeline construction has been put on hold. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe has been joined by other American Indians and non-Native people from around the country.

“It’s a familiar story in Indian Country” according to Native American David Archambault II (New York Times Mobile 8/24/16) “This is the third time that the Sioux Nation’s lands and resources have been taken without regard for tribal interests. The Sioux peoples signed treaties in 1851 and 1868. The government broke them before the ink was dry. When the Army Corps of Engineers dammed the Missouri River in 1958, it took our riverfront forests, fruit orchards and most fertile farmland to create Lake Oahe. Now the Corps is taking our clean water and sacred places by approving this river crossing.”

This is not just a Native American problem, if a water supply becomes tainted with oil, everyone will suffer. I ask that all of us pray for this situation.



Peggy A. Johnson



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



The First State Harmonizers Presents an "A Cappella Extravaganza IV!"



The *First State Harmonizers*, again, welcomes the *PRIDE of DelMarVa*, a 35-man chorus made up of some of the best barbershop harmony singers in the Delmarva Peninsula. This a cappella presentation also includes talented quartets who will entertain you with their own performances!

The *First State Harmonizers*, directed by Sharon Ehrisman will start the afternoon's show performing some of the chorus's most requested songs and debut a number of new songs they've added to their repertoire.

After Intermission, during which several door prizes will be awarded, the *Pride of DelMarVa*, directed by Glenn Phillips, will take the stage. We are very excited to present this exciting chorus to our followers! The sound they produce is quite extraordinary to hear live! **DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 - 2:00 p.m. - Milford Senior Center

111 Park Avenue, Milford, DE

(over-flow parking next door at Arena's Restaurant)

General Admission: \$ 12.00!

For Show Tickets: Call - (302)422-8620 or (302) 382-1961

Or order online at: www.firststateharmonizers.com

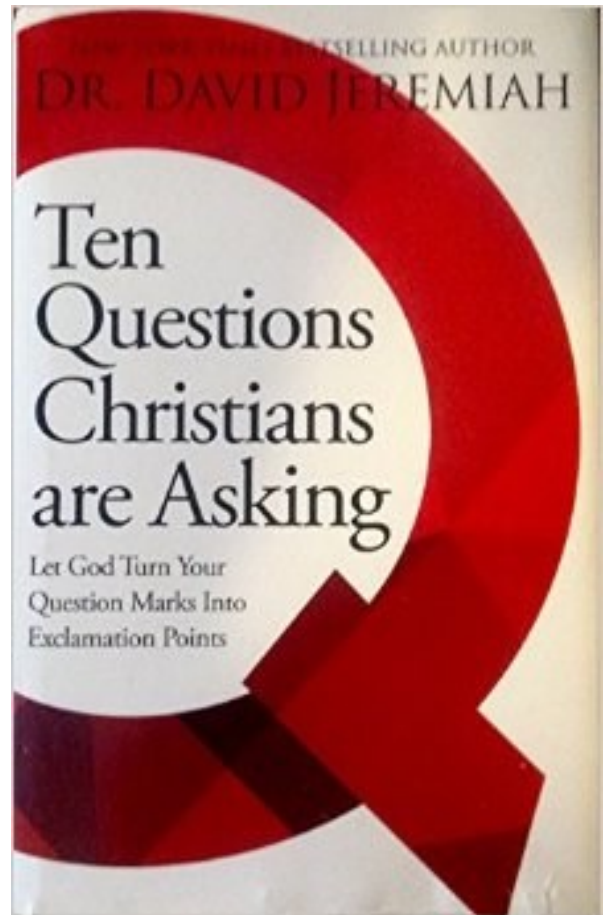
This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Delaware Division of the **Arts**

NEW BIBLE STUDY: On Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning **September 12th**, a new small group study led by Gary Powers will focus on the book by David Jeremiah entitled “Ten Questions Christians are Asking.” Along the way the group will discuss answers to:

- Is there a sin God cannot forgive?
- Is there only one way to God?
- How can I be sure of my salvation?
- How can I find forgiveness?
- Why don't my prayers get answered?
- What is faith?
- How can I overcome temptation?
- How can I get victory over worry?
- What is the greatest commandment?
- Why do Christians have so many problems?

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, call Gary at (302) 422-8821. The group will be meeting in the Holzmüller Room.



Be Inspired ... Be Transformed ... Become



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.

FALL KICK-OFF

CELEBRATION

Join us for the biggest Sunday of the Fall

Sunday, September 18

Worship 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00

Sunday School 9:30

Evening Picnic Celebration 5:00

Outside on the Lawn

Thursday, September 22

New Worship Service 6:30

Fellowship Hall

Join us for a **Fresh Start** this fall as we kick-off
a brand new year of ministry here at Avenue Church.
Sunday, September 18, is going to be a very special day.

Three choices for worship in the morning,
Sunday School for preschoolers through grade 5
and church picnic in the afternoon, featuring DJ B.E.S.T.,
inflatable games and mini-doughnuts for desert
made right on the lawn.

Then on **Thursday, September 22**, the new worship service
starts in Fellowship Hall.

May God bless this **Fresh Start**!



BENEFITS OF A

Fresh Start

AVAILABLE TO ALL AT
AVENUE CHURCH

**Have you ever thought about what it would take
to make a Fresh Start?**

How about a Fresh Start with God?

Well, if you haven't now is the time! Join us starting on **Sunday, September 18**, as we begin a brand new sermon series on the benefits of a Fresh Start. Let's embrace the grace that God has lavished upon us in this new year of ministry here at Avenue.

It's time for a Fresh Start.



Be Inspired ... Be Transformed ... Become

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

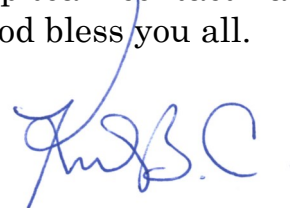
In the Spirit of the Lord, Avenue Church is getting ready to start a fourth worship experience. Beginning on September 22nd, this new service will be on Thursday evenings in Fellowship Hall. Start time is 6:30 p.m. and will last about 45 minutes.

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.



*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: _____

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

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

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: The following dates are available in **2016: 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: Cal and Ginny Clendaniel and family, Stephen Zeveny, Barbara Vederose, the fourth worship service, all who are getting ready for the fresh start to come, Ila, Paul, Sharon's two sisters and mother, a sister-in-law, Cynthia Fritz, Gary Seal, all the students heading back to school, all the teachers, professors, staff, administrators and support teams, Wayne Farissier, George Carey, Olga Slayton, Mrs. Killen, Troop 186 and Pack 186 and all scout leaders, Kathleen Shockley, our nation, Diana, Debra, Dina, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, all who suffered a loss of any type, Carol Evans' daughter, Jerry Jackson, David Johnson, Ronnie Wharton, Calvin Baker, Bill and Shannon and family, The Avenue UMC Praise Team and The family and friends of Madalyn Foxwell.

Recently hospitalized: Cal Clendaniel and Ron Hearn.

Rejoice with: Brie and Lance Wyatt and the baby about to be born.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The Clendaniel family, George Carey, Mandee Staub, Katie Ray, all affected by Tropical Storm Hermine, everyone dealing with the massive wildfires, Barbara Vederose, Bill and Shannon, Bud Tucker, Linda Scott, our country, all Christians who seek to be mindful of God, Bill and Jill Gustin, for all involved with the Chrysalis and Emmaus weekends, Yvonne Nelson, April McIntyre, Jim Greenly, Colleen Dunham, Joe Burgess, John Siegrist, Bundy Simms, Gale Livingston and family, Shelley Swain, Alice, Frank, Mary, Wayne and Fay Farissier.

Rejoice with: Ray Hendrick, Ron Hearn, Bill Combs and the Avenue Pastors.

MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULES:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Music Room

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Mispillion 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

Wednesdays 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.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY

On **September 13th** we will be doing cards and **September 20th** 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.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will meet Wednesday, **October 5th** 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.

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.

GRIEF SHARE: 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 will be **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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LUNCHEON: A celebration has been planned for this **Friday, September 9th** at 11:30 a.m. Since 1875, United Methodist Women (and predecessor groups) have had a long history at Avenue United Methodist Church. Let's celebrate our many years of mission work, of Yard Sales, Craft and Bake Sales. Let's celebrate reaching out to the community of Milford and beyond. Let us celebrate the wonderful women who have helped make United Methodist Women strong, some that are going to be leaving us this year such as Clareann Phipps and Anna Mae Ross.

We are planning to gather in Fellowship Hall on Friday, **September 9th at 11:30a.m.** to have fellowship, say goodbye and welcome new women. Please pass the word to all your circle of friends. **Invite someone new** because everyone is welcome to come. We want to celebrate those faithful women who have been a part of UMW for many years and all women of Avenue.

Bring a sandwich and enjoy fellowship, a slide show of pictures and some memorabilia. Chips, drinks and cake will be provided by Esther Circle for all. **Let's Celebrate.**

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) are ready to gather in small group Circle meetings and at large quarterly Unit meetings for the fall of 2016. If you are part of one of the Circles that meet on the third Tuesday each month in the morning, afternoon or evening, that is wonderful. If you would like to be part of a UMW Circle, please just come out to one of the meetings. We meet at 9:45 a.m. (Sarah), 1:30 p.m. (Mary/Martha) and 7:00 p.m. (Esther).

Check the weekly calendar to find the Circle that best fits your needs. UMW is about mission and working to enhance the lives of women and children, in particular. UMW serves, educates, loves God and grows in relationship to Christ. Too busy for a meeting, then consider the electronic circle (e-circle). E-

Circle members are informed about meetings, service projects and have an opportunity to be a part of activities when you are able. UMW will be working with the whole church to expand our commitment to our missionaries, Donna and Jonathan Baker in the Congo. We have a new exciting project to participate in. Come join us. If you have questions, contact the church office.

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 September CEREAL month. 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.

COMMUNITY

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: *Community Questionnaire*
The City of Milford is in the process of updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan that will guide growth and development in Milford for the next ten years. Please share your thoughts and opinions with us by completing the community survey before September 30, 2016. The link to the survey can be found at the City’s website: www.cityofmilford.com or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MilfordCompPlan>
In addition to the online survey, paper copies are available at City Hall, 201 S. Walnut Street, and the City’s Customer Service Center, 119 S. Walnut Street. Results from the questionnaire will be used to guide discussions during the Comprehensive Plan update process and will be shared with the Planning Commission and general public during upcoming meetings. Feel free to contact Rob Pierce in the Planning & Zoning Department if you have any questions at (302) 424-3712 ext. 311

CHRISTIAN MART: The Christian Mart (formerly the Mustard Seed) would like to invite you to stop in to browse the through the new store. More merchandise comes weekly, so come check us out. They are now accepting applications for a few part-time employees. If you are interested please stop in for more information. Located in Airport Plaza on DuPont Highway in Milford. (302) 422-8808

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	61	53
9:30	202	210
Sunday School	0	51
11:00	70	67
Total	333	381

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 9/11

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Grier Room
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MONDAY 9/12

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group,
 Grier Room
 6:00 p.m. Webelos 2, Room 206
 6:00 p.m. Tigers, Holzmueller Room
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Grier Room
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers,
 Music Room
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study,
 Holzmueller Room
 7:00 p.m. Pack Comm. Meeting,
 Heritage Room
 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 9/13

10:00 a.m. Archives Comm. Meeting,
 Archives Room
 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Grier Room
 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting,
 Conference Room
 2:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team
 Rehearsal, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,
 Wendy's Office
 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
 7:00 p.m. Financial Comm. Meeting,
 Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 9/14

10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary
 and Music Room
 5:00 p.m. Instrumental Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. Webelos 1, Wesley Room
 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,
 Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. New Service Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary

THURSDAY 9/15

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:00 p.m. Pre-Diabetes Program,
 Heritage Room
 6:30 p.m. Wolves, Wesley Room
 6:30 p.m. GriefShare, Grier Room
 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Holzmueller Room

FRIDAY 9/16

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 9/17

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 9/18

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Grier Room
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 12:15 p.m. Book Club, Grier Room
 5:00 p.m. Fusion, Wesley Room

"A Dynamic Faith Community Growing in Hope, Love and Service"