

AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

On Monday, September 19th, I flew to Detroit. It would not have been a very memorable day except that it rained. Actually it didn't just rain. It poured. This caused some pretty major issues at Philadelphia airport, especially at the F terminal which is where the commuter flights arrive and depart.

This is the place where flights to Akron, Norfolk, State College and other smaller markets originate and conclude. Detroit is probably one of the bigger cities served out of "F." I was actually excited to be flying in and out of the facility because it had only opened the previous week after a long and major renovation. I will say this – the new space is lovely although there are still not nearly enough places to plug in and charge electronic devices.

My plan was to take the 7:00 AM flight from Philly and get into Detroit in time for breakfast so I could work a full day in my hotel room. That meant I had to leave Milford no later than 4:00 AM. Just to be safe, I left at 3:30 AM which turned out to be a really good idea because it started to rain around Dover and didn't stop. The typical back-ups on route 1 where it connected to route 95 were in full swing and then the stop-and-go traffic near the Blue Route right before the airport was close to record setting. I can only assume the weather had a lot to do with it.

Needless to say, I was stressing about getting to the terminal and through security in time for my flight. I had checked in online the night before which means the airline had no idea if I was there, not there, going to make it or about to miss my flight. Thankfully the shuttle driver who took me from the parking lot to the terminal had a wife who had a "similar look on her face when she was late for a flight" so he set overland speed records to get me there. God bless her, whomever she is.

I got to my gate right about the time we were due to board. Much to my chagrin, the flight had been canceled. A quick check of my phone told me that it had been canceled about an hour prior and American Airlines had indeed called to tell me I was rebooked on the next flight. According to my message, I just needed to get in line for customer service and get my new boarding pass.

It must have been the same message that hundreds of other people got because the line was all the way down the major corridor of the terminal. Even though I was not happy about the change, I was truly grateful because I had only been delayed. There were plenty of people who had been canceled from the only flight going into certain cities that day. Car pools were forming in line and I think it was the group going to Richmond that departed first. The crew going to Scranton was not far behind. It took me about 45 minutes to get through but eventually I was all set with new boarding pass and a slightly better mood considering how tired I was.

My new flight was scheduled to go out at 11:00 so I settled in with a cappuccino, my computer and a chocolate croissant since I needed something to console myself. I even managed to get a place on the "power up bar" which is a set of high desks and stools with lots of plugs for charging computers and phones.

About 20 minutes into my work time I got the second notification that my "new" flight had also been canceled. My nerves were starting to fray but back into the rebook line I went. An hour later I was once again booked...on my third flight of the day. The woman at customer service was very gracious and I can say that I didn't get upset but I was frustrated. I don't think it would have been a problem if I had not been so tired but I was exhausted. Now I was scheduled to go out at 4:00 PM. This time it took a smash burger to console me.

I am very productive on planes but a complete slug in airports. Everything is uncomfortable, electrical outlets are limited, food is expensive, and if you have to use the bathroom you are forced to drag all your luggage and give up your electrical outlet. It's just not a good experience for me. After almost 10 hours of this, I was not a happy camper. All of this was weather related so I realized there was nothing anyone could control but I was stressed and REALLY tired.

But I also know we needed the rain. We needed more rain than we got. I wanted to be upset and feel a little sorry for myself but I also know that this rain was the answer to a lot of other people's prayers.

But I was frustrated enough to wonder why God had not sent the rain the day before until I remembered that was the date of the Fall Kickoff and that would have been a problem as well. Then I questioned why God had not sent the rain earlier in the summer but I am not sure when I would have wanted that to be either. I had some great beach days this summer and I would have hated to miss those.

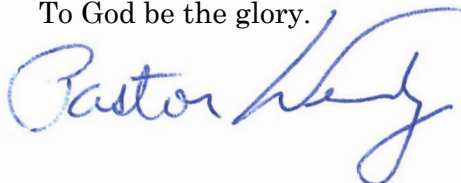
All I could do was give it over to God and have faith that His timing is perfect, even if it affects my travel plans. Some times in our prayer lives we don't understand why we don't get what we want, when we want it, in the ways we want it.

1 John 5:14 tells us that confidence in prayers come from asking "according to God's will." For whatever reason God had other plans for that day when I flew out and I do not know what He was working. I do have faith however that whatever God was doing was the right thing and way bigger than the delayed flight that I was dealing with that day. What is happening in this world does not center on my wishes.

Over the next few weeks the midweek is going to focus on prayer. It's a critical part of our spiritual discipline.

As you read this, I am hopefully in Long Beach. I am scheduled to fly out on Tuesday, September 27th and the forecast calls for more rain. But this time, I am due to go out of terminal B. I'm turning it over to God because there is nothing I can do about it but trust in Him. I do hope I can an aisle seat however.

To God be the glory.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Andy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



From the desk of our Bishop . . .

Mother Teresa is Canonized as a Saint

One my favorite hymns of the church declares:

“Rejoice in God’s saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord help us to share.”

Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
Who bar someone’s cross or shoulder their own
They shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares’
What patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!

Rejoice in God’s saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise
In loving, in living, they prove it is true
The way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.” (by Rev. Fred Pratt Green,
BOH #708)

This week Pope Francis formally canonized Mother Teresa at St. Peter’s Square. She was the tireless worker from the Sisters of Charity who worked with the dying poor of Kolkata. Her ministry, which began in 1950 with 12 sisters, now runs 758 homes and hospices in 139 countries around the world. (theguardian.com, Harriet Sherwood, Sept. 4, 2016)
The contemporary world has known this fearless voice for justice and Nobel Peace Prize recipient for many decades. At her passing in 1997 we look to her witness and ministry as a model of true Christianity. The office of “saint” that was conferred upon her this week is a particular

process that is a part of Roman Catholicism. However in a more generic sense all who are in Christ Jesus can be called “saints.” The Greek word for “saint” is “hagios” and it denotes one who is holy, sacred and set apart by God and for God. (Strong’s Concordance). In many of his epistles Paul refers to the church members as “saints.” Ephesians 1:1 states “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus.”

You don’t need to be formally canonized to be a living saint today. Saints are set apart to be humble servants of Christ. There is plenty of room in the servants’ quarters. Most of the time we would rather be seated at the table and have someone serve us. Sometimes we erringly think that we have to do some great work for God but as Mother Teresa was quoted as saying we simply need to do “small things with great love.” Small things are the humble acts of service that often means the unpleasant work, the unlovely and sacrificial things of life. We are set apart for that and if more of us who claim to be followers of Christ would embrace this “downward mobility” stance there is no telling what our churches and our lives would become. We might even be the embodiment of the “good news for the poor” that Jesus came to bring (Luke 4:18).

When we do these small things with great love God gets the glory and praise and we have amazing joy. So, be a saint! Teach the world how to praise, pray and serve.



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

has begun 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

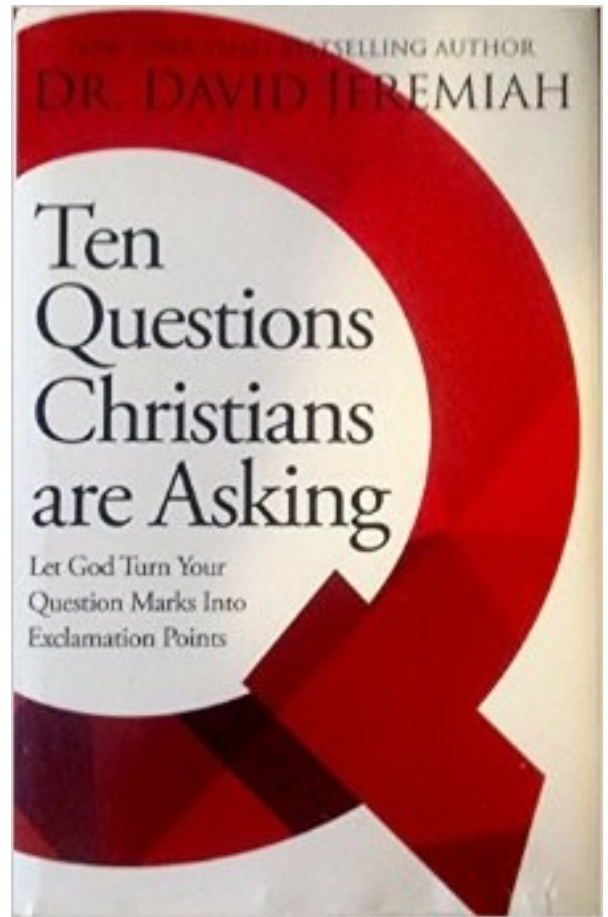
www.avenueumc.com



NEW BIBLE STUDY: On Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., 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 HolzmueLLer Room.



FALL STUDY

So, Now What??

Based on the

“The Life You’ve Always Wanted” by John Ortberg

Wednesdays

6 p.m. Dinner; 7 p.m. Bible Study

Starting October 12th



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 as we continue 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.

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



2017 Calendars for Sale!

Comes with a Chick-Fil-A card to use for free food every month of the year! (Each month has a special offer).

Available in the preschool office - **\$8.00 each**

Proceeds go to Avenue Preschool

Treat yourself and buy a few for stocking stuffers or hostess gifts!



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: Bill Brereton and family, Pat Fisher and family, the Berry family, Kaye Darling, Hilda Holleger, Christopher, everyone injured in the NYC bombing, all injured in the stabbing incident at the Minnesota Mall, everyone associated with Code Purple, Chrissy Wilkins, Brad Winston, Sonny and Donna Meck, Calvin Baker, Lillie Brittingham, the family of George Carey, the youth and team taking part in the Chrysalis weekend, Jim Greenly, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Shannon and family, Samantha and Ramie Ziesel.

Recently hospitalized: Gary Seal, Charles Clendaniel, Sam Bostick and Paul Sherwood.

Rejoice with: : Kyle and Megan Rothermel and everyone who attended the 88.7 family reunion.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Merry Hutchman, Ellen Parker, Brenda Beissel, The families and friends of Lt. Christopher Leach and Sr. Firefighter Jerry Fikkes, The two firefighters who are still in critical condition in the hospital, A successful search for a new place to live, Keep all first responders safe, Linda, The family and friends of Donald Tatman, Fusion, The family and friends of Ron Arnett, The family and friends of James Owens, Troop 186, Wayne Ingram, The family and friends of Gary Ingram, Sam Bostick, Jaxson Turner, Those struggling with forgiveness, Cliff Crouch, Jack Fitzgerald, Charles Clendaniel, The family and friends of Melanie Booker-Wilkins, Burlington Mall shooting victims and families, Sussex Tech Football Player injured in Friday's game, Unrest, victims, families, communities and police in Charlotte and Tulsa, Christopher, Bill Salvin, Linda and All first responders.

Recently hospitalized: Wilmington Firefighters and Sam Bostick,

Rejoice with: Shelby Swain and Norm Lear Jr's Birthday on Sunday!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Hank and Birgit Haefeli who will celebrate their **61st** anniversary on October 1st.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪ **MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪ **Misphillion 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.

UPCOMING

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Everyone interested in becoming a member of Avenue Church is encouraged to attend the next New Member Orientation on **Sunday, October 9th** from **12:30-2:00 p.m.** We will start in Fellowship Hall where the United Methodist Men will fill us up with one of their delicious breakfasts. Then we will move to the Grier Room where we will get to know the Pastors better and receive an orientation on the heritage, values, mission, and vision of both The United Methodist Church and Avenue. New Members will be received at all services on October 16th.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

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 continues on **Thursday, September 29th** from 6:30–8:30 p.m., in the Grier Room. Please call the church office for additional information or to register.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will resume its study of God's Word on **October 3rd** 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.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: On **October 12th** we will begin a 5-week study "**A Call to Action.**" Pastor Tom will lead this study in the home of Poncho and Lisa Johnson. Dinner is at

6:00 p.m. with the bible study at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A class on Christianity and World Religions will begin on Tuesday, **October 4th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmuehler Room and will last for 6-weeks. We will be using the book **Christianity and World Religions** by Rev. Adam Hamilton. If you are interested in attending this class, please contact Rev. John Van Tine at 422-4282.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will meet Wednesday, **October 5th** at 2:00 p.m. in the **Heritage 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 **October 10th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

BOOK CLUB: We will be meeting on **October 16th** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Bring your lunch. We will continue to read "Finding My Way Home" by Henri Nouwen. All are welcome.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve the first Pancake Breakfast of the year on **October 9, 2016**. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be **served immediately after all three services. A free-will offering will be accepted.** Funds from this meal will help provide a Boy Scout college scholarship to a high school graduate from Troop #186. Other mission projects will also be funded. Join us for a most excellent breakfast and fellowship.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) are meeting in small group Circle meetings and at large quarterly Unit meetings for the fall of 2016. 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) on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month. 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. 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. If you have questions, contact the church office or Beth Parker (302) 382-5581.

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.

2017 CHICK-FIL-A CALENDARS FOR SALE: Each calendar comes with a Chick-Fil-A card to use for free food every month for a year! Cost \$8 each and the proceeds go to Avenue Preschool. Available in the Preschool Office. Treat yourself and buy a few for stocking stuffers or hostess gifts!

MATTHEW PROJECT is in need of a bed and television. If you can donate either one, please call Joanne at (302) 422-6152.

2016 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD-SHOEBOX PROJECT AT AVENUE: As the cooler weather descends on us, holiday preparations come to mind. The 2016 Shoebox Project is ready to start. Brenda Beissel on behalf of Ester Circle, led by Gerry Morris, will once again offer a wonderful opportunity for the Avenue congregation to not only help the Shoebox Project make the Christmas season brighter, but also help the American Cancer Society through the Milford Relay for Life 2017 event. By writing a check for \$25 or paying cash you can purchase a shoebox filled with toys, candy and toiletries for children in need. That amount covers the postage of \$7 and the remaining \$18 goes to ACS, so you will be helping two wonderful causes. Brenda will be in the church lobby on Sunday, October 23rd and 30th and will take your reservations and payments then or you can call her at (302) 270-1764 to place your order or if you have questions. All shoeboxes must be filled and returned to church by Sunday, November 13th if you are completing them yourselves.

COMMUNITY

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

STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS: *Avenue Church is partnering with Volunteer Delaware 50+* September 11th has been designated as a National Day of Service. Sussex Volunteer Delaware 50+ is partnering with Stocking for Soldiers as a project for 9/11. We are collecting requested items to fill the “stockings”, which are personalized for soldiers. We are partnering with other organizations who have agreed to collect. Then we will deliver the collected items to Stockings for Soldiers. Last year they sent 10,000 stockings filled with goodies. The Official collection dates will be from Monday, September 19th thru Monday, October 30th. (A list of items the table in the Fellowship Foyer)

Thank you for your participation in collecting donated items for The Stocking for Soldiers Program. What a wonderful way for us to give back to those that are sacrificing their lives for us! We sincerely appreciate your dedication to this, and look forward to seeing how many items we can collect. Interested in making stockings, please contact Linda Rogers at (302) 381-2571 or at work (302) 515-3020.

FLU VACCINES AT AUMC: On **October 23rd** from **9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.** All you need to do is bring your pharmacy benefit insurance card, Medicare, Medicaid or VA card. **No co-pay.** If you have any questions, please call Walgreens at (302) 424-6300, option 2 and the option 3.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	59	65
9:30	176	182
Sunday School	91	86
11:00	78	91
Total	404	424

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 10/2

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room
 5:00 p.m. Fusion, Wesley Room

MONDAY 10/3

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Men's Emmaus Meeting, Carpenter Room
 6:00 p.m. Scout Training, Fellowship Hall
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Grier Room
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers, Music Room
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study, Holzmüller Room
 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 10/4

10:00 a.m. Archives Comm. Meeting, Archives Room
 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
 1:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Conference Room
 1:30 p.m. UMW Board Meeting, Heritage 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. Bible Study, Holzmüller Room
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting, Conference Room

WEDNESDAY 10/5

10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
 2:00 p.m. Widow/Widowers Group, Heritage 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. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room
 7:00 p.m. New Service Rehearsal, Sanctuary

THURSDAY 10/6

9:00 a.m. SLT—Dover Meeting, Heritage Room
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 12:00 p.m. MAMA, Fellowship Hall
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202
 6:30 p.m. GriefShare, Grier Room
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts—Wolves, Wesley Room
 6:30 p.m. New Worship Service, Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY 10/7

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 10/8

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 10/9

7:30 a.m. AveNotes, Music Room
 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 5:00 p.m. Fusion, Wesley Room

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