



The Midweek

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

A week ago, as the East coast was cleaning up from Matthew, I had a hurricane of a different manner breeze into Milford, turn things upside down, and then head back out. My son Chris decided to grace me with his presence. However, it was not a nice leisurely visit. He needed me to sign the paperwork for the house he and a few of his fraternity brothers are renting for next year. Not surprisingly he had missed that there was a deadline for getting the lease back to the rental office and he was less than 24 hours out from when it was due. And shocker – he also needed a check for a security deposit.

Chris did lose valuable time trying to get his father to sign it but since I have responsibility for paying for his college education and associated costs, his dad said no. Thus I got a frantic phone call and the pseudo request (it was not really an ask) that I make myself available for a few minutes to sign the paperwork. Since he told me he would be down in just two hours I knew he was already on the road otherwise it would have taken much longer. But I simply said “sure, come on down.” I knew I was being manipulated but I didn’t care.

In hindsight, I should have made that a teaching moment about procrastination, money management, and planning ahead but I told myself that his contrite nature and fear of losing the house meant he already understood that he messed up and I didn’t want to pile on any more. On top of that, my schedule was a mess so I didn’t have much time to spend with him and I didn’t want to waste what little time we had hashing out a difficult subject.

In other words, I caved completely. But I figured if I skipped dinner I would have time to see him and still finish what I needed to do to be ready for teaching the “God and Family” program to the Cub Scouts that evening.

That was until he asked me if I had any homemade macaroni and cheese in my freezer that he could take back to college with him. I didn’t. So naturally I did the only thing I could do. I dropped everything, ran to Redners for all the ingredients, and raced home to make it. As I was stirring sauce and boiling pasta, I was also doing a lesson plan for that night. My goal of getting a week ahead with lesson plans was by now just a lovely

dream and memory.

Chris showed up right on time, ate half of the mac and cheese I had just made, stuffed the rest of it into plastic containers for him to transport back to his apartment, and asked if he could pick up a few supplies from the house as well. And again, I said yes. So while I was reading his lease, signing it in the right places and writing him a check, he was packing his car with two cases of pepsi, boxes of tissues, rolls of paper towels, laundry detergent, spaghetti sauce, and body soap. We ran over to the church to make a copy of everything, then he popped back in his car, gave me a kiss and a “thanks mom” and off he went back to school.

Literally, Chris blew in like a force of nature and was gone. Then I went off to work with the Cub Scouts and ended up having an evening full of “mom moments” as I looked at the scouts and remembered when my son was their age and I was the den leader. It was bittersweet and the emotional ups and downs really got to me. By the time I crawled into bed that night I didn’t know if I should laugh or cry. I think I did both. I was feeling bad as a mom because I had let my son off the hook without any type of instruction simply because I wanted our brief time together to be positive. I also however wanted him to know that I would always be there for him and I felt good he knew that. It was quite the conundrum.

Thankfully God is always able to do both. He never leaves us and is always there for us no matter what we need. He is available 24/7 AND, and the Lord teaches and guides us in all we do. The Bible has many verses about how God is with us always but the one that comes to mind in this situation is Zephaniah 3:17 because it has all the emotion in it that I was feeling when Chris came to visit. It says, “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you by his love, He will exult over you with loud singing.”

As for reminding us that God educates us, I recommend Psalm 32:8 which says, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way in which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”

I should have paid more attention to what God was telling me to do in this case. In my failure to let the Lord guide me in this situation Chris didn’t learn something that would have been a big help to him going forward.

In the future, I will turn to God and ask what His will is when this type of situation comes up again. Turning to God for direction and support should always be our first step in all that we do no matter how we want something to turn out. I believe God would have had me use this as a learning opportunity, no matter how much I wanted to keep the moments “nice.” The ways of the Almighty are always right.

Just to be on the safe side however, I will be making more mac and cheese on the next rainy weekend so I have it available...just in case. I learned a lesson about planning ahead as well.

To God be the glory forever and ever.



Pastor Wendy



From the desk of our Bishop . . .

Praying for our Presidential Election

It seems that I can't remember a time when we as a nation were not talking about the 2016 presidential election. Almost the minute the 2012 election had ended the speculation about the next president began. One by one people came forward announcing their candidacy, then there were the endless debates, the primaries, the conventions, and now more debates and a relentless stream of news media about our two primary candidates and not a little bit of scandal, mud-slinging, polling and speculation. "Campaign fatigue" has set in for me a long time ago but I have not given up my concern and my hope for this nation's next commander and chief.

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to be the salt and light of the world, not just the church. The next president of our country can cast a vision and an agenda for the future of this nation like few people on earth. We are called to work for good in this world and to call our nation to righteousness and justice for all along with our governmental leaders. I ask you to pray every day for this election. I Timothy 2:1-2 says "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers and intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." Pray for the next president every Sunday at worship and also in your personal times of prayer.

Also I remind you that United Methodist pastors and leaders do not advocate for any particular candidate, publically or privately. Everyone should vote as they feel led to vote and our "separation of church and state" constitution forbids us from promoting one party over another. That said, responsible Christians are called to study carefully the platforms and policies of the candidates so that they are making a prayerful and careful decision on Election Day. Finally, be sure that you cast a vote. Voting is an incredible right that our form of government affords us. Many people on this globe have no such option. Find no excuse to stay home on November 8th and if you cannot physically be present, cast an absent-tee ballot now.



Peggy A. Johnson

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, **October 26, 2017**

7:00 pm - Fellowship Hall

Please mark your calendars!

FALL STUDY

So, Now What??

Based on the

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

Wednesdays at Poncho & Lisa Johnson’s Residence

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

October 19th



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

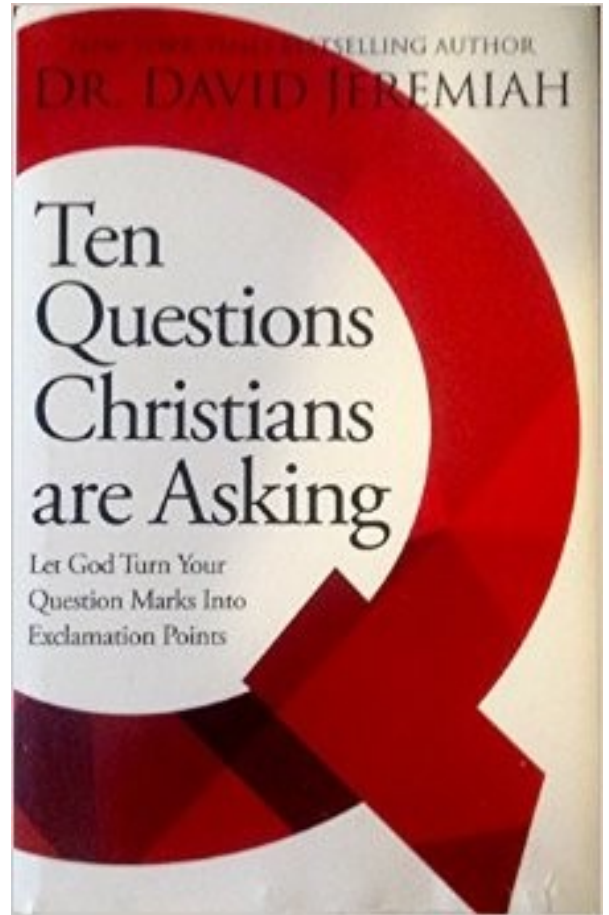
www.avenueumc.com



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 Holzmueeller Room.





“Made by Hand Showcase”

Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 18th

10:30 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 20th

9:00 a.m. thru 12:30 p.m.

Drop-off Date:

Thursday, November 17th

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Proceeds benefit:

Avenue United Methodist Women Missions

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!



A Day To Give Thanks

(Outdoor communion service)

Seating available - Lawn chairs welcomed)

Communion will be served by Pastor Tom Passmore, Avenue United Methodist Church.

Where: 10287 Memory Rd.

When: October 23, 2016

(rain date October 30th)

Time: 3:00 pm

PRAISE – WORSHIP - MUSIC

RSVP Welcome

flagstoneproduce@gmail.com

Donny Hopkins

302-349-5252 -- 302-381-1083 (cell)



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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: 3RD Quarter Financial Statements are ready for pick up. They are on the table in the Fellowship Foyer.

ALTAR FLOWERS: 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: Ashley, Kirsten Pearce, For a pop-pop who died and is missed, John, The Brian Reph family, Barbara Verderose, Christopher Rimmer and family, Larry Phipps, Mike, Everyone dealing with Hurricane Matthew and its aftermath, Paige Lynch, The Minner/Ingram Family as they continue to grieve the loss of Gary, The Dover District Strategic Leadership Team, for all its members, including Pastor Cliff, and all the churches of the district, The police officers shot and the those killed in Palm Springs on Saturday, Rowan Howard, Gloria Clausen, The boys attending the Chrysalis Retreat this weekend and all who will go in the Spring, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Ed Burwick, Keywanna Hopper, The people of Haiti, James Moore, Sam Wylie's family, David Knowles, Margret Workman and Finn McPherson.

Recently hospitalized: Rowan Howard, Ed Berwick

Rejoice with: Shelby Swain, Zachery Lloyd's Birthday on Tuesday, Someone who sold a property and Successful visit to the surgeon after concerns about a recent test.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Ashley, Betty Swain, Bruce and Charlene Workman, Kirsten Pearce, Barbara Vederose, Christopher Rimmer and family, everyone dealing Hurricane Matthew aftermath, Ernest and Jackie, Bill Salvin, Christopher, Nick, Holly Oak Calvary and Hillcrest-Bellefonte ministries, Native American ministries, Dick Caldwell, everyone dealing with flood issues, for peace in this world, Merry Hutchman, all service men and women, first responders, our nation, everyone involved with Code Purple, Ed Berwick, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, the Pasmore family, Bobby Caiola, Barbara Horsman, Christina's parents, Julia Bock, Randy Vaughan, the Eckman family, Robert Wilson and family, Joyce Bonnoni's dad, a five month old baby, Niki, the family of Mary Rothermel and Carolyn Wright.

Recently hospitalized: Rowan Howard and Bill Combs.

Rejoice with: Kendal, everyone attending the Thursday night service, Ken and Julia Bock, everyone attending the Well, everyone involved with the Chrysalis weekend, Pastors Tom and Wendy and all people blessed by God (that means everyone).

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Bob and Joyce Voshell who will celebrate their 58th anniversary on October 25th.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪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.

UPCOMING

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY: Do you like working with Flowers? Looking for help arranging flowers during services on All Saints' Sunday, November 6th. Contact Sandy Culotta swculotta@gmail.com.

AUTUMN HARVEST SALE: The United Methodist Women Autumn Harvest Sale is coming soon. You can expect to see handmade and home-made items from craft items to wreaths to knitted and hand sew items and CHEESE. Baked goods are welcome too. It is not too late to start making crafts or handmade garments to donate. Small plants, paintings, boutique type things and jewelry all are welcome. Please contact the church office, Peggy Hughes or Linda Keller to donate. Mark your calendar to come pick up some wonderful Christmas gifts at this year's Autumn Harvest Sale in Fellowship Hall on **Friday, November 18th** and **Sunday, November 20th**.

HARVEST SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING: Join us in the vegetable patch on **Sunday, October 23rd, at 3:00 p.m.** for a service of thanksgiving as we celebrate God's goodness through worship and song. We will share in Holy Communion and rejoice with Christ in the middle of the beauty of God's creation. All are welcome.

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, October 20th** 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 24th** 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: We will continue our 5-week study "**A Call to Action**" until November 9th. 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 continue on Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room until **November 8th**. 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, **November 2nd** 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 **November 8th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

BOOK CLUB: We will be meeting on **November 20th** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Bring your lunch. We will read the last chapter of "Finding My Way Home" by Henri Nouwen. All are welcome.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) CIRCLES have begun and will be meeting again in October. If you would like to be a part of a mission minded group of women who share, read, laugh, and grow in their faith, please come to one of the circle meetings on **Tuesday, November 15th** at 9:45 am, 1:30 pm, or 7:00 pm. If meetings don't work for you, then consider the Electronic (E) circle to stay informed about meetings, service projects and the activities of UMW. If you have questions, please contact Beth Parker at (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.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL is having a fundraiser on **Monday, October 24th** at Grotto Pizza in Milford between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The restaurant will donate 20% of each check (dine in or carryout) to Avenue Preschool. Vouchers must be presented and are available in the Fellowship Foyer or from the Preschool Office.

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 sofa and chair. Beds are always needed!. Please call Joanne at (302) 422-6152 or Norman Remick at (302) 424-7921.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE/ OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD/ SHOEBOX MINISTRY: Plan to fill a shoebox with specific items designated to bring joy to a child. The brochures telling you how to pack a shoebox are located on the Fellowship Foyer table. There are some official shoeboxes available for you if requested. Each shoebox must also include \$7.00 to cover shipping and the discipleship course book. Each shoebox needs to be labeled with the official label designating age range and whether for boy or girl. There are a couple packing changes this year - **no candy and no toothpaste please.**

If you would like to support this mission but would rather contribute, Brenda Beissel will be available to make a box for you for \$25.00 and a percentage of it will go to Relay for Life. Look for her on October 23rd and October 30th. All boxes must be at church no later than **November 13th** and earlier if possible.

COMMUNITY

CHRISTIAN MART: The Christian Mart (formerly the Mustard Seed) would like to invite you to stop in to browse 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.

CONGO COVENANT PARTNERSHIP with Donna and Jonathan Baker has an exciting new ministry. We are calling it a glasses ministry. You may remember that there was difficulty securing visas for eye doctors to help people get new glasses. So the Bakers are now going to bring sunglasses and reading glasses to people in Congo. We do NOT need glasses but what we are being asked to do is to collect hard backed suitcases to pack the glasses that they already have. **Please let the church office know if you have a hard backed suitcase to donate.** The UMW are going to store and pack the suitcases. We will also be taking up an offering at some time to pay for the expensive shipping of these suitcases full of miracles for many children and adults in the Congo.

UMW MISSION U is happening on Saturday, November 12, 2016. This is a chance to learn about a current justice issue: **Climate Justice**. You will also have a chance to worship with other women from around the Peninsula- Delaware Conference and share a meal together. The cost is \$65.00 for the day. The adult leader is Mary Baldridge and there are sessions for youth and children led by Denise Snyder. It is being held in Dover at Wesley United Methodist Church from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration forms and more information can be found on the Fellowship Foyer table. Any questions please contact Beth Parker at (302) 382-5581.

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	72	50
9:30	175	152
Sunday School	102	90
11:00	77	86
Total	426	378

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 10/23

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 6:00 p.m. Fusion, Wesley Room

MONDAY 10/24

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Men's 47 Background,
 Carpenter 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. Monday Night Bible Study,
 Holzmuehler Room
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 10/25

10:00 a.m. Archives Comm. Meeting,
 Archives Room
 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
 10:00 a.m. District Apport. Review Committee,
 Carpenter Room
 12:00 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
 6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,
 Music Room
 6:30 p.m. Pack 186 Meeting, Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Holzmuehler Room
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
 Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 10/26

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
 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting,
 Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. New Service Rehearsal, Sanctuary

THURSDAY 10/27

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:30 p.m. GriefShare, Grier Room
 6:30 p.m. New Worship Service,
 Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY 10/28

11:00 a.m. Wrap Around DE, Holzmuehler Room
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 10/29

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 10/30

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 6:00 p.m. Fusion, Wesley Room

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