

AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I am off to Los Angeles one more time before the end of the year. I am leaving today (October 26) and will be back tomorrow. It is a 12-hour round-trip flight, with two hours on each leg in the airport, and (hopefully) eight hours of sleep. That is a total of 24 hours. Then on top of that there will actually be work to get done. I'm already tired just thinking about it. The one good thing however is that I will not be there long enough to get on West Coast time and therefore when I get home I should adjust back to the Eastern Time zone very quickly.

So why am I putting myself through this? This is part of my commitment to help my friend, who is now in Afghanistan, keep his business going while he is deployed. His travels have included a 12-hour bus ride from Virginia to South Carolina for combat training and then back to BWI to catch a flight to Germany, then to Qatar and finally into Afghanistan. His travel schedule is longer, less comfortable, and he won't be coming home for a year. When I last heard from him he was looking for a place to sleep on the floor in the Qatar airport and he didn't know if he would be there for a few hours or a few days. I feel really bad whining about my trip when I think of his travel "adventures."

That is often how we feel when we have a difficult day or are going through a series of trials or issues. We may understand we are having a rough time but then we tell ourselves that so many other

people have it worse than we do that we shouldn't allow ourselves to feel bad. Sometimes we even get to the point where we don't believe we should "burden" God with our concerns. We lie to ourselves that our problems are inconsequential to everyone – including God – and we don't even have the right to bring them up. Or perhaps they are issues of our own making and we don't think we should seek God's support and help.

But God can work all things for His purpose, even when we think it's a small thing. Praying for all the details of our lives means God is building His kingdom in us. When you pray for those things that seem meaningless – the right Christmas card to send, the words to include in an email, or help finding the route to a new destination for example, you are acknowledging that you want God to help you in every part of your life. That is not a burden to God. It brings glory to the Lord. You are inviting Jesus to direct and rule every part of your day and that helps you learn to lean on Him.

Philippians 4:6 reminds us "Do not worry about anything, but in EVERYTHING by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." When we read in the Word that God wants us to pray for everything, He means everything. No exceptions. No matter how big or small we think the joy or issue may be, we are told to take it to God.

So I'll be praying for an on-time and smooth flight. If it does not happen I will still know that God is in control and I'll leave it to Him. But if things go well, and my prayers are answered, I'll also know who was directing my day.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

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

Pastor Wendy



From the desk of our Conference Director Vicki. . .

All Hands on Deck

One of my favorite memories of time I spent with my father surrounds a “Tiger Cruise” he took with me. Because of the size of my ship, we had room to invite a family member to ride the ship with us from Hawaii back to our homeport in San Diego. Dad flew out to meet me in Pearl Harbor and we had a day or two to explore the island. Then, on the journey back to San Diego, he got to stand watch with me as Officer of the Deck and see some of my duties as Communications Officer. Our Chaplain invited him to offer an evening prayer over the 1MC one night. I loved having Dad on board.

Dad always marveled over how the whole ship worked together to achieve a common goal. During General Quarters, called when something threatened the ship, everyone, even those riding the “Tiger Cruise,” had to report to a particular station. We called it an “all hands evolution” or “all hands on deck,” signifying that a threat to the ship meant a threat to all of us and required everyone’s participation to overcome.

Sometimes I wish the church saw our work as an all hands evolution. Worshipping God involves all of us. Making disciples for Jesus Christ takes teamwork and everyone’s participation. Evangelism, Sunday School, Youth Group, etc.: each task impacts every person in the church. As members of one body, a concern in the church affects all of us and needs the attention of each of us to address. (See 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, and especially verses 26 and 27.) But, too often, we see an issue arise in our congregation and we call on someone else to fix it. “Let the Lay Leader fix it.” Or, “Let the Pastor fix it.” Or, “Let the Sunday School Superintendent fix it.” Or, “Let the Trustees fix it.” Or, “Let the Conference fix it.”

What does it look like for everyone to take ownership of concerns in the church? Once when I was preaching, I saw a member stare at me the whole time with a funny look on her face. After worship, I asked if she was okay. She replied that my stole had been off centered the whole time. Thankfully, the Lord placed an angel over my lips, so before I could respond, she offered to sew snaps on my robe and my stoles to prevent the problem from happening. I loved that response! She saw something that bothered her, figured out a way to fix it, and offered to do it.

My mother and father had an even more meaningful experience with church members

in one of the churches they served. Many of you know, my brother, Howie, was developmentally disabled. He lived at home with my parents until he died. Because of his special needs, Howie could not be left alone, even in the church. Therefore, after my sister and I moved out, Mom could no longer sing in the choir. Even though Dad might be able to stay with Howie on Thursday nights for choir rehearsal, they could not handle Sunday mornings. One church recruited five couples who organized themselves in a rotation to come sit with Howie every Thursday night, so that Mom could go to choir rehearsal and Dad could lead Disciple Bible Study, and every Sunday morning, so that Mom could sing in the choir while Dad preached. I still receive great joy when I think of those dedicated people and their willingness to serve instead of thinking: "It is not my problem."

When you look around your congregation, what needs do you see? Where are the "all hands evolutions" occurring? Where do you feel tempted to think those needs belong to someone else to address? How might God be calling YOU to address them? Maybe you have a disruptive child who cannot sit still through worship. Or perhaps in your Sunday School, you have a special needs child who does not fit into any class. Maybe you have someone taking care of a spouse dying of cancer. While meals provide some comfort, personal attention would be even better. What about offering to form a team to sit with those disruptive children? Or organizing a group to take turns sitting by the bedside of the sick person so that their caretaker can get to worship and not feel so cut off from the community? I know the Holy Spirit will lead us each to serve in ways which will build up the whole body. So do not hold back. It is time for all hands on deck!

Blessings on the journey,

Vicki

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith
Director of Connectional Ministries

CONFIRMATION

Starts November 13th

For 8th Graders and Older

Learn about the faith and the church!!

Deepen your discipleship and

Join the church!!

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in the Grier Room



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

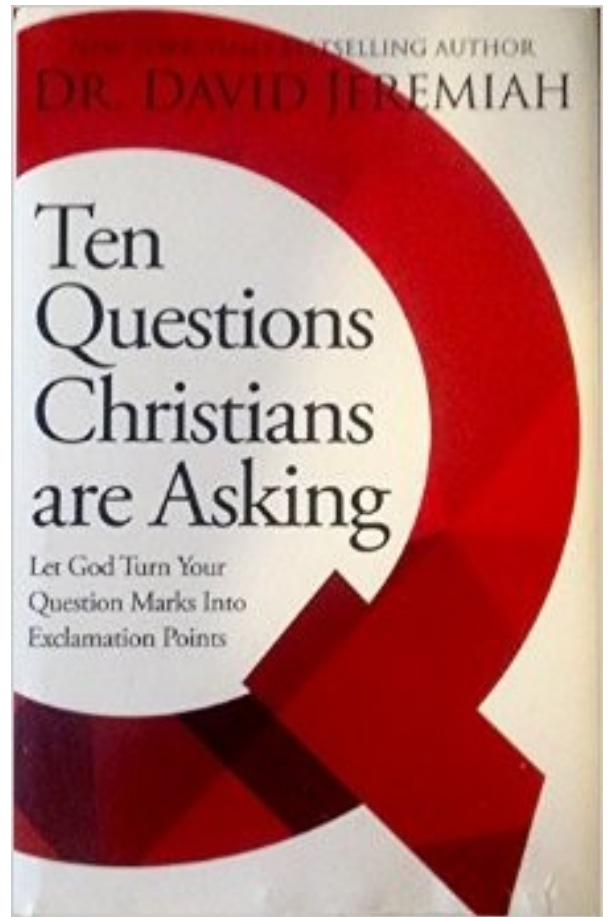
www.avenueumc.com



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.



CODE PURPLE

Come to Church Council to hear
more about the Cold Weather Shelter
7pm tonight in Fellowship Hall



“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

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



**10% Give Back Night
at HomeTown Diner**

First Tuesday of the month

611 N Dupont Blvd, Milford, DE

302-424-1100

(Next to Central Tractor Supply)

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Proceeds benefit  **Bayhealth**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITAL VISITS: Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (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, 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).

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Mike and Kim, Sue and Brett Winkler, Kathryn Barnes, Barbara Vederose, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts who were camping, the nation, a young daughter, Bill Salvin and family, Christopher Rimmer and family, Dick Caldwell, Donna Olsen, Leslie Wuenstsel, Julie Fontaine, Susan Coles, single parents, Bobby Walls, Charles, Cindy Horsman and family, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Kirsten Pearce, Uncle Calvin Baker, Jack Fitzgerald, Eddie Berwick and Bobbi Lauer.

Recently hospitalized: John Horsman, Barbara Horsman and Richard Green.

Rejoice with: The fans of the Cubs and the Indians, Adrianna Nelson, Donna Hill, all having birthdays this month, Bill Combs, Joanna and Matt French, Rowan and Leslee.

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**.

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 27th** 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 31st** 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: New Study: The Forgotten God begins

November 8th with Pastor Wendy. 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 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 Baldrige 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.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

| | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Attendance: | 2015 | 2016 |
| 8:00 | 69 | 66 |
| 9:30 | 195 | 174 |
| Sunday School | 63 | 103 |
| 11:00 | 57 | 81 |
| <u>FUSION</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>61</u> |
| Total | 384 | 485 |

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 10/39

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 10/31

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 11/1

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
 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, Holzmuehler Room
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
 Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 11/2

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. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1,
 Wesley Room
 7:00 p.m. New Service Rehearsal, Sanctuary

THURSDAY 11/3

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

FRIDAY 11/4

FUSION—Youth Lock In,
 Wesley Room
 8:00 p.m. AA, Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY 11/5

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 11/6

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. Girls Scout Troop 272,
 Heritage Room
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room

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