

The Midweek

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

As I write this, the election has been over for a week. This nation has a new President -elect and whether we like the outcome or not, we need to deal with it and go forward with the work of unifying this country. I recognize this will be difficult and there is anguish, pain and concern on behalf of the Clinton supporters. Most likely it would have been the same with the Trump supporters if Hillary had won. Either way, we must work together.

This has to include respect for and listening to the positions and opinions of the "other side" no matter what we each individually believe. As Americans and Christians we can find strength and answers by truly hearing and considering the reasons and beliefs of those around us even when we don't agree. I remember when being part of the debate team and learning to listen and respond to opposing positions with facts and respect was a high and noble achievement. Now we tend to get angry, uncivil and nasty and that is never okay.

We can agree to disagree. But it does not mean that when an individual or a group disagrees with a position or suggested action being presented that anyone has the right to use violence, defamation or intimidation to change minds. It also does not mean that the only acceptable outcome is for someone to come around to the opposite way of thinking and if it does not happen that the other person or group is wrong, antiquated, stupid or ignorant. Opinions are just that. They are opinions and everyone is entitled to have their own. There are more than 322 million Americans which means there are more than 322 million possible opinions

Because there are so many varying opinions about what to think and how to get things done, it is easy to speculate that there will be many people who will be upset and disappointed when their opinions are not shared by others and the way they think things should work don't happen. Frustration, exasperation and disenfranchisement are not unexpected either.

We learn very early in life that we are not always going to get our own way. If that were the case many of us would have existed on a diet of bad-for-us foods and been up past

midnight from the age of eight. We are going to have to recognize that as we go into 2017 and beyond we are not always going to have things work out the way we want them to and disagreements are going to take place. Temper tantrums, going behind one's back, spreading rumors or telling lies to diminish the authority of an individual or group is also unacceptable and certainly none of this is the way Jesus would have expected His followers to act even when there is disagreement. The Bible has many examples of when the Disciples disagreed with each other and yet they found ways to work together for the sake of God's kingdom. And always we need to love one and other as Jesus has commanded

At this time in our nation's history there will be plenty to disagree about in the months and years ahead. Abortion, the death penalty, homosexuality, immigration, trade agreements, global warming, nuclear weapons, and civil rights are just a few of the issues we will need to deal with as the new President takes office. As a side note, if anyone is curious as to where the United Methodist Church currently stands on any of those subjects it is spelled out in the Book of Discipline. Not everyone will agree on the positions of the UMC either. That's okay.

On the Wednesday night after the election the lead anchor for CBS Evening News Scott Pelley closed his broadcast with a story about how he had been approached with a question he had never been asked before. Someone came up to him and asked if "we were going to be okay?" The person raising the question was concerned because nobody "had anticipated what was to come regarding the outcome of the election."

Pelley then went into an explanation about how the founding fathers had seen the potential. He outlined the system of checks and balances that had been established in our government and described how it would be enough to keep the country moving forward no matter who was elected to the Presidency. It will take time to decide if Trump was a "good or bad" President but it's safe to point to several other Presidents in history that were "not so great" and yet as a nation we are still strong.

But more importantly than the founding fathers, God has seen what is to come. The Almighty has already been through it and is ready to help all of his creation deal with the uncertainty as well. For those who believe we are a broken nation I would suggest we take it to God and let the Lord help us heal and grow. As I said in a Thursday night service, God takes things that are broken and uses that brokenness to make things better. God uses broken soil to bring forth a crop. Broken clouds bring forth rain to help the crops grow. Broken grain leads to bread and broken bread feeds the hungry. God is capable of making much grow from the brokenness of this country but we need to trust the Lord.

Daniel 2:21 tells us that the Lord "changes times and seasons; deposes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." God has a plan for the United States. We need to trust in the Lord that His plan unfolds according to His will and have faith that God will be beside each and every one of us as we journey down this path we find ourselves on.

None of us knows what is to come. The entire world is waiting to see what will happen after January 20, 2017. Only God knows so while we figure it out I would like to suggest we take it to God and lean into the Creator for comfort and peace. To paraphrase a quote I see fairly often, let us "keep calm and pray on." Let us always continue to pray not only for our nation but for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

For in the end, all glory and honor and power belongs to God.

Pastor hey



From the desk of our Conference Director Vicki...

Wrap-Around Love

For our first anniversary, my husband, Bo, and I drove north up the California coast from San Diego, where we were stationed in the Navy, to San Francisco. Among the many places we explored, we loved exploring Muir Woods, where the giant sequoia trees grow. Like anything we did in California, we explored the forest with crowds of people. However, once away from the parking lot and into the woods, a hush fell over the crowds. We felt like we were in church. The trees provoked such a sense of awe and majesty that people fell silent. Like seeing a star, we looked back into the past represented in these trees which can live over 2500 years.

One of the most well-known trees, General Sherman, has spanned a life-time of around 2400 years, growing to 275 feet tall and 102.6 feet around at the base. With trees so tall, one would think that the roots would need to grow very deeply to support the weight. However, the tap roots only extend six to 12 feet underground. Instead, the roots expand outward from the tree sometimes up to 50 feet. As they grow, they become entangled with the roots of other trees, reinforcing the strength and holding the trees up. In other words, they wrap their roots around each other's roots in order to be stronger.

This strength also shows up in the ways the trees have adapted to the environment. The California coast often experiences earthquakes. If the shifting ground causes one of these trees to lean, the tree automatically begins to grow new roots on the side to which it leans, thus buttressing up the tree and becoming more wrapped up in other roots.

Often seeds fall on these newly exposed roots and begin to grow. Although naturally resistant to fire because of their level of tannins, they actually need fire in order to reproduce. The cones from these sequoia trees hold seeds the size of tomato seeds. But, the cones cannot burst open to release their seeds unless they become very dry. Often, fire provides the right amount of dryness for the cones to open up and let go of their seeds. Fire destroys the undergrowth which might hinder the new saplings, and as it burns the ground brush, the ash provides fertilizer for the new seedlings to grow. Ultimately, though, the new seedling needs to wrap its roots around the roots of the more mature trees in order to grow to its full potential.

Great nature lesson, you may be thinking, but what does it have to do with us in the church? Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches...Apart from me, you can do

nothing." (See John 15:5.) Branches stay strong when they intertwine and stay connected to the vine together. We need each other and the love of Jesus now more than ever before. Half of the country rejoices while the other half mourns in fear, with committed Christians on all sides of the divide. But, we as the church need to get entangled into each other's lives, particularly those who represent the opposite side from your perspective. Because we are so divided, we need to listen to each other more, wrap the love which Jesus has so freely spilled out upon us around each other's hearts. We need to hear the cries of **BOTH** those hurting today and those whose hurt and fear led them to vote for the winning side. We must realize that the people who voted differently from us are our sisters and brothers in Christ, as hard as that may be to understand. Connected, to the vine and to each other, we can withstand even this painful divide.

In fact, if we remain open to the Spirit in the midst of this great divide in our country, we may find that the hard shells crack open to reveal seeds of hope. Remember that "God works all things together for good for the ones who love God." (See Romans 8:28.) Perhaps we have beaten on each other (with the hatred we spewed throughout this campaign) long enough for the cone to break and give way to new life. Maybe the ashes left behind from the fiery rhetoric of this campaign can nourish us to choose a more excellent way. (See 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, otherwise known as "the LOVE chapter.") We need this kind of wrap-around love: "Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

We may express this eternal love in different ways in our own context, but ultimately, however we live this love, it needs to nourish the community around us so that new life can occur. One church in our conference (St. Paul's UMC, Odessa) offered communion last night on election night, as a reminder of this love which never fails. (See link) How will you wrap your love around the hearts of others in your life, particularly those who disagree with you? How can your church wrap its love around the hearts of those in your community?

I believe that when we wrap that love around the hearts of those in our churches and our communities, we will fulfill our mission: Cultivating Christ communities through our CALL—Connecting, Acting, Leading, and Loving. And we will realize our vision of being "Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today's world." Because, in the end, God's love in Jesus Christ never fails.

Blessings on the journey,

Víckí

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



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





"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



Capital Ringers in concert

Sunday, December 4, 2016 7:00 p.m.

(Silent Auction — 6:30 p.m.)

Reformation Lutheran Church 613 Lakeview Avenue Milford, DE

Requested Donation: \$15 per person children under 18 free with adult

Delaware Division of the

Contact Information: (302) 632-3106

"Capital Ringers is supported, in part, by a grant from the <u>Delaware Division of the Arts</u>, a state agency, in partnership with the <u>National Endowment for the Arts</u>. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on <u>www.DelawareScene.com</u>."



Presents

O Come, Emmanuel

Music of Advent and Winter

Classical chorales, traditional madrigals, and carols, featuring

J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 61
Benjamin Britten's St. Nicholas Cantata

Sunday, November 20 4 p.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church 19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Adult: \$20; Student \$8

Advance ticket purchase available by phone at 302-260-7022; at Browseabout Books in Rehoboth Beach or Puzzles in Lewes; online at southerndelawarechorale.org, or, space permitting, at the door.

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

Delaware Division of the



Join the DSO, under the direction of Donald Buxton, as we perform a wide array of seasonal music & a special feature: "Peter & the Wolf", a symphonic tale for children narrated by Betty May Hamilton. Visit the displays of our Central Delaware Artists and Artisans. Munch on festive baked goods & start your holiday shopping early! Sing along, clap your hands, tap your toes. Join us for this special treat for your entire family! Artisan displays open at 1:30 PM. Concert at 3:00 PM. Tickets available at the door or online. Valet parking available—\$5.00. Free parking lot shuttle service.

Delaware
Division of the





Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military - \$15

Children under 16 are free with a paying adult Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org

Or Call 302-270-1903

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the <u>Delaware Division of the Arts</u>, a state agency, in partnership with the <u>National Endowment for the Arts</u>.

The Division promotes Delaware arts events on <u>www.DelawareScene.com</u>.

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: 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: Merry Hutchman, Barbara Vederose, Jim Greenly, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Kirsten Pearce, Nick, the family and friends of Bobbi Lauer, Rowan Howard, Lilly McBroom, Kathy Sullivan, Patsy Sullivan, Jayne Frank, all involved with Code Purple, Avenue Church, the Bullock family, Chick Donovan, all those going through divorce, Anita Fischer, family and friends of Gloria Coverdale, a brother-in-law, all those remembering the death of loved ones, the family and friends of James H. Cromer, the Peterson family, David Chipman, Bobby Walls, family and friends of Gerald Reynolds, Charles, Kathleen Shockley, Christopher, Diana Schuler, Gary Downes, John Horsman, Edie Smith, Dino and family, Amy and Johnny Howard, Jeff Carmine, Marian Dickerson, Richard Green and Katie Meadows.

Rejoice with: All who attended the Men's Emmaus meeting and served on the team, Bill and Jill Gustin and Leone Lenart.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Tommy Sharp, Barbara Vederose Beth Parker, The family of Janice Hendrick, Jim Greenly, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Kirsten Pearce, Rowan Howard, Lilly McBroom, All involved with Code Purple, Rowan Howard, Jeff Carmine, Laura Vaughan, Pearl Bock, Lacy, The family of Jack Craig who passed away November 4th, Tom's granddaughter's other Pop Pop in California, The Nation and the World in light of the election, Kathleen Friedline, Christina, Wende Davis, All who don't know Jesus, Code Purple Shelter may God bless it with supplies and volunteers, Becki Wagner and the passing of my sister, Alice.

Rejoice with: Alan Parker, Mike, Merry Hutchman, and our pastors, we are so blessed to have them.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Elsie Bailey who will celebrate her 92nd birthday on November 21st.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

George and Lorraine Reph who will celebrate their 53rd anniversary on November 23rd.

Gerald and Shelby Swain who will celebrate their 61st anniversary on November 24th.

Ralph and Dorothy Spain who will celebrate their 61st anniversary on November 26th.

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

JAveNotes 1

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

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 <u>CHEESE</u>. 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 18**th and **Sunday, November 20**th.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

GRIEFSHARE: Regardless of the circumstances, grief recovery is a difficult and painful process. If you are hurting from the loss of a loved one, please prayerfully consider attending GriefShare—a Christ-centered, biblically based support group for people grieving the loss of a loved one. This 13-week cycle continues on **Thursday, December 1**st 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 November 21st 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 will continue November 29th 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.

BOOK CLUB: We will be meeting on **November 20**th 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.

NEW SMALL GROUP STUDY—BAPTISM: Have you ever wondered why Baptism is such a major part of Christianity? And if it's "such a big deal" than why do some denominations consider it a sacrament and others call it an ordinance? What does the Bible say about Baptism and where does the Methodist doctrine fit into the picture? All those questions and more will be addressed in a new small group study being led by Pastor Wendy on Monday mornings, continuing weekly through **November 28**th at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room. All who wish to understand more about this important sacrament are invited to attend.

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

United Methodist Women General Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m. This will be a church wide event as we participate in the Congo Glasses Ministry suitcase packing and Cookie exchange. Bring a glasses case (only cloth drawstring ones) with a dollar included and spend a few minutes or more helping pack suitcases. This can be a family friendly activity and all are welcome. Also, if you would like to participate in the cookie exchange and get a head start on your Christmas cookie baking, bring some cookies to share. Make your favorite cookie recipe, bring the recipe card and we will share the cookies with each other. Join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, December 4th.

PETAL PALS PROJECT: Carolyn Horvath Williams has led the Petal Pals project of visiting shut-ins for many years. Carolyn gathered many faithful volunteers to help her visit the many folks in Nursing / Assisted Living Homes and Home Bound. Carolyn never forgot a person with her Christmas, Valentines and Easter - often homemade gifts and cards. She was devoted to this wonderful project which was shown by the monthly Newsletter he produced encouraging everyone to call, visit and send cards to these folks. We are going to honor her by writing messages to Carolyn in a journal which will be delivered to her. Please find the Journal in Fellowship Foyer or in the Church Office and write a note to Carolyn expressing your appreciation for her many years of service.

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 <u>right</u> 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.

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST AT THANKSGIVING: Avenue Church will have baskets available on Sunday mornings during worship with pumpkins and leaves listing the items needed to fill Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in our community. Paper turkeys have a \$20.00 donation on them to cover the cost of the turkeys which have been ordered this year. You are encouraged to take one or more shapes and return the specific item(s) on or before November 20th. The food will then be combined into the family Thanksgiving Dinner baskets by our FUSION youth group and distributed by the Milford Police Dept. and the Matthew Project. Our 2016 goal is 80 families, last year we were able to serve 75 families. Join Avenue in being a blessing to our community like we have been blessed by our Father and Savior.

CALY CHRISTMAS LETTER: The CALY Christmas letter will be in the Foyer for church members to sign on Sunday, November 20th and 27th.

CHRISMON TREE: For many years the Avenue family has given Christmas items to families who needs/wishes are contained on a Tag/Ornament hanging on the Sanctuary Christmas Tree. Our "Christ-centered tree" will be decorated with need tag/ornaments in the Sanctuary Sunday, November 27th and Sunday, December 4th. If you take a tag/ornament, please affix the tag onto the wrapped or bagged gift. All tags/gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 11th.

LAST WEEK A	<u> T AV</u>	ENUE
Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	81	71
9:30	218	205
Sunday School	94	84
11:00	87	78
Thursday Service	0	22
FUSION	0	0
Total	480	438

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11	1/20	WEDNESDAY 11/23		
8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	10:30 a.m.	Writing Group, Grier Room	
9:00 a.m.	UMW Autumn Harvest,	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group, Grier Room	
	Fellowship Hall	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary	
9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship		and Music Room	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	5:00 p.m.	Instrumental Rehearsal,	
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship		Sanctuary	
12:15 p.m.	Book Club, Grier Room	5:00 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
1:00 p.m.	Troop 186 Comm. Meeting,		Room 202	
1	Heritage Room			
6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room	THURSDAY 11/24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED		
P		11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
MONDAY 1	1/21		,	
10:00 a.m.	Baptism Study, Grier Room	FRIDAY 11/25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED		
11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	8:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
5:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #140,			
•	Heritage Room	SATURDAY 11/26		
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts—Tigers,	7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
1	Fellowship Hall			
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts—Webelos 2, Room 206	SUNDAY 11/27		
6:30 p.m.	Bible Study, Grier Room	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary	9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	
6:30 p.m.	Pack Comm. Meeting,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
1	Heritage Room	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
7:00 p.m.	First State Harmonizers,		-	
	Music Room			
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall			
7:00 p.m.	Trustees, Heritage Room			
8:00 p.m.	AA, Room 206			
1	,			
TUESDAY 11/22				
1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting, Carpenter 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.	Central Delaware Chess Club,			
	Room 206			
7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal,			
	Sanctuary			

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