



The Midweek

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday. While we traditionally think of the pilgrims getting together with the Native Americans for a giant feast to give thanks for an amazing harvest and bounty, the first Thanksgiving was actually a day of prayer and worship followed by a meal. No parades or football, just a time to give praise to God for all He had provided.

This year, as we gather around the table with friends and family, let us remember what we have been blessed with and lift praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. Psalm 69:30 says, "I will praise the name of God with song, and shall magnify Him with thanksgiving."

While we may be tempted to just say thanks for the people we love, our homes and jobs, good health and the myriad of gifts we normally associate with our lives, let us also thank the Creator for our greatest blessing. Too often it gets overlooked as we prepare to pass the turkey and break into the pies.

We should never forget to thank Him for giving the world His son. Jesus is the greatest gift we have ever been given and all glory, honor and power belong to Him.

I wish each of you and your families and friends a blessed, safe, happy and warm thanksgiving. I will look forward to seeing all of you when I get back from my family trip and we enter into the joyous season of Advent.

God bless you!

Pastor Kelly





From the desk of our Bishop. . .

I Voted, I Vote



On Election Day I stood in line for an hour and a half to vote. I don't think the good people of Upper Providence Township expected such a large crowd. There were only four voting machines and two people at the desk checking us all in.

The American system of democracy was in full force like I had never seen before. There was a sense of urgency and determination in the people in line with me. It felt like the day after a snowstorm when everyone is outside shoveling and talking to each other like they don't do any other time.

As I left the polling place I received a little sticker that read, "I voted." I wore it for several days because yes, I voted, but that is not the end of the story.

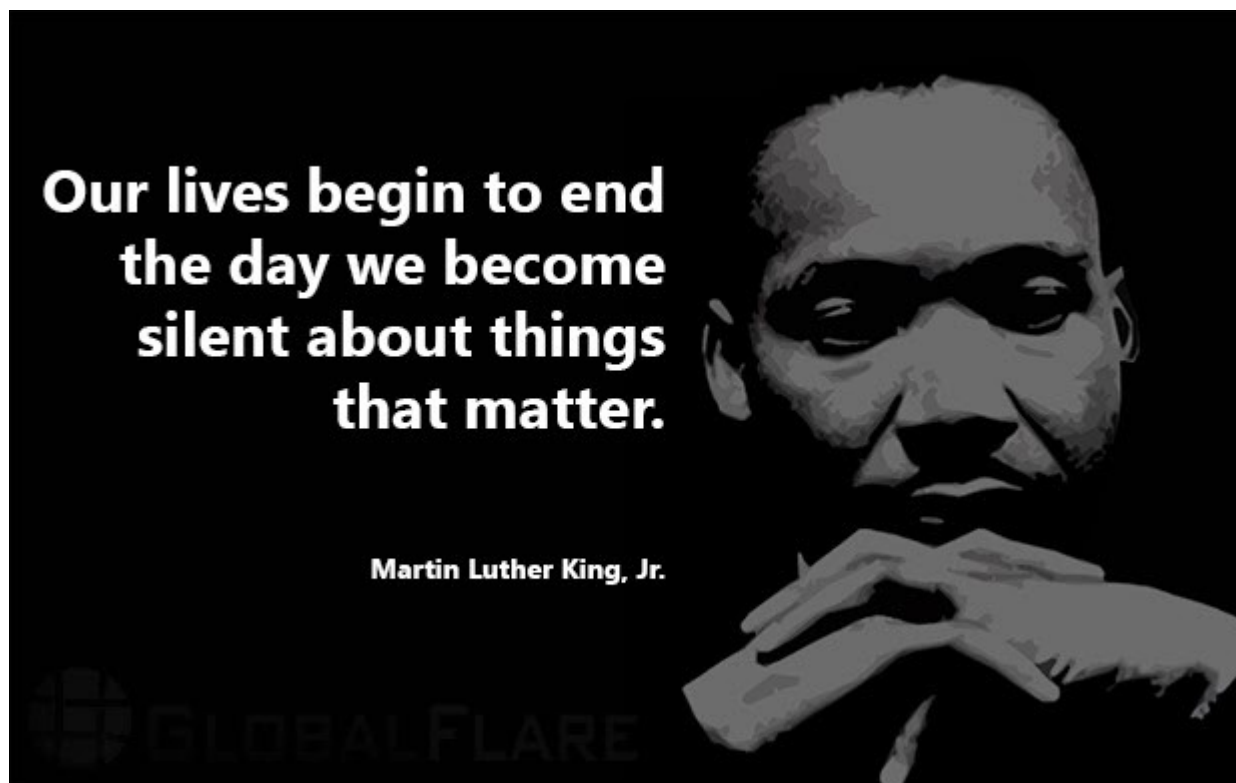
For many, the results of this election have been a source of celebration; for others, a cause for profound grief and fear. Many of the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church will be up for discussion in the near future, as issues around health care, immigration, gun control and climate justice come before us as a nation in the halls of Congress and in the U.S. Supreme Court.

That is why I say, "I voted" but also "I vote." Election Day is over but we still get to vote every day of our lives by the stands we take, the letters we write, the money we donate, the evils we decry, the good we promote.

St. Therese of Lisieux, a 19th century French Carmelite nun, wrote in her journal, "When we yield to discouragement it is usually because we give too much thought to the past and to the future."



There is nothing that can be done about the results of the election. It is in the past. There is also no telling what will happen in the future, no matter what was promised on the campaign trail. We only have today to live. And we can “vote” with our hands, feet and voices through daily acts of justice, mercy and peacemaking where we live right now.



We can decry the violence of mobs attacking people in the streets, the rise of racially motivated hate crimes and incidences of cyber-threats. We can teach peace and tolerance to our children and grandchildren. We can speak out for our Muslim neighbors and immigrant neighbors.

We can vote in these important ways every day of our lives. And thus, we can change the future through one act of justice or word of kindness at a time. Never underestimate the power of the one voice you have.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a modern-day Charles Wesley, who writes prolific and prophetic hymns for the church, wrote the following hymn (which can be sung to the tune of “For the Beauty of the Earth”). Rev. Gillette has given permission for this to be widely distributed:

By the streams of Babylon we sit weeping bitter tears.

Here so many hopes are gone; now we're filled with countless fears.

Yet, O God, you tell us “Rise! See the world through faith-filled eyes!”

We will rise and seek your way, knowing love will one day win

We won't let fear rule the day; we will welcome strangers in

Every day, we'll seek and find countless ways to be more kind.

By your grace, we'll rise above even in this troubled hour.

Where there's hate we'll choose to love; we will speak your truth to power.

With the poor and refugee we will build community.

We will pray for those who lead, even as we take a stand.

*We will rise with those in need, seeking justice in the land.
We will learn and listen well from the truth that others tell.
We will rise and work for peace; we will treasure your good earth.
We will march that wars may cease; we'll see every person's worth.
God, now give us faith-filled eyes as we heed your call and rise.*

Psalm 146:7-8 reminds us that God “executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind and lifts up those who are bowed down.”

So, “Rise! See the world through faith-filled eyes!” And vote for peace and justice every day with your life, never forgetting that God is the ruler yet!



Peggy A. Johnson



2016 Winter Concert Tour

Jingle Bells

Jingle Bells

Jingle All The Way!

(A Winter Tale)

www.capitalringers.org

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



Contact Information:
(302) 632-3106

*Capital Ringers is supported, in part, by a grant from the [Delaware Division of the Arts](http://www.DelawareDivisionoftheArts.org), a state agency, in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](http://www.NationalEndowmentfortheArts.org). The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.



Sunday
November 27, 2016
3:00 p.m.

Dover
Symphony
Orchestra



"Ring in the Holiday Season"

The Dover Symphony Orchestra
Dover Downs Rollins Center, Route 13, Dover

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
Arts
KENT COUNTY FUND FOR THE
ARTS
Come Play!
DOVER DOWNS
HOTEL & CASINO



Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military - \$15

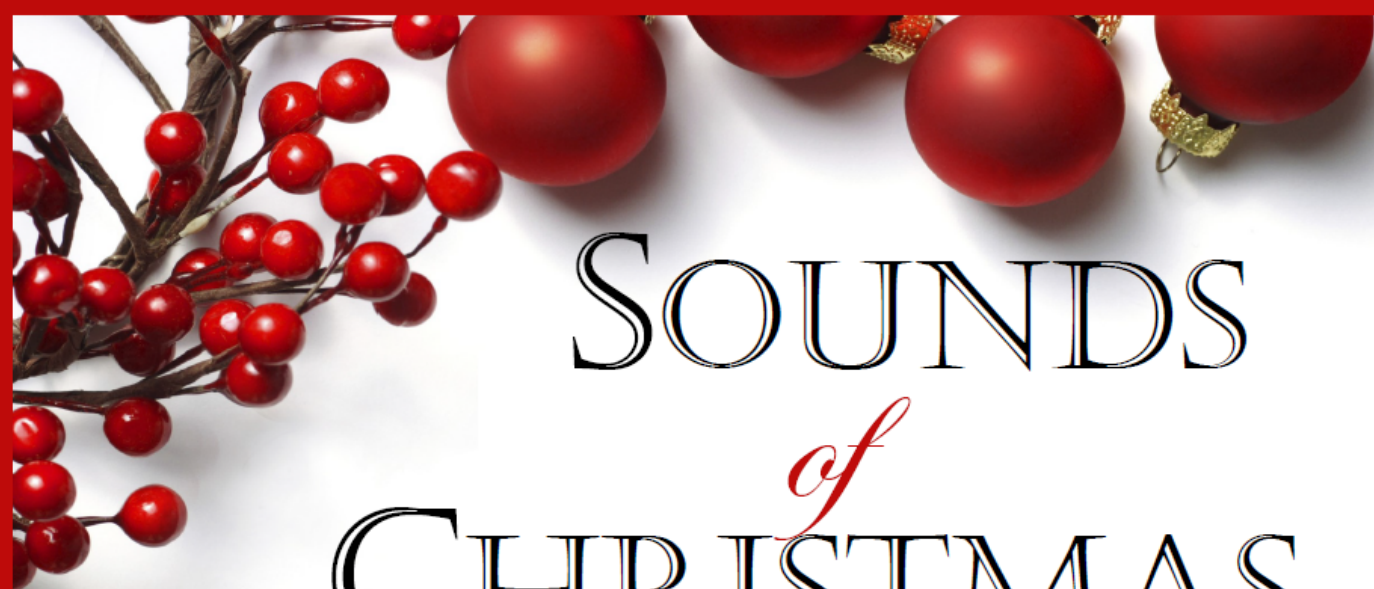
Children under 16 are free with a paying adult

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 Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.



SOUNDS *of* CHRISTMAS *featuring*

The Mispillion Children's Chorus

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *accompanist*

with

Avenue Church Handbell Choir

First State Harmonizers

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

December 9, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Avenue United Methodist Church

20 N. Church Street

Milford, Delaware 19963

302-422-8111

**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**

Poinsettia Orders for 2016

The Sanctuary is never more beautiful than when the poinsettias arrive in December. Placing poinsettias in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will be ordering 6" pots of poinsettias at \$6.00 each. The Altar Guild has requested that we order 75 pots of red poinsettias. All money over \$450.00 given will again to the Parish Purse.

Our Poinsettia Plant for 2016 is to:

Remember or honor each loved one in the Worship Folder on December 18th and Christmas Eve.

With the first \$450.00 received, we will purchase 75 poinsettias.

All orders that come in beyond the \$450.00 cap, those loved ones will be named in the Worship Folder in exactly the same way. Instead of purchasing more poinsettias, funds in excess of \$450.00 will go to the Parish Purse.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the church office at (302) 422-8111. Thank you.

FORMS ARE ON THE CHURCH FOYER TABLE.

Advent Taizé

The season of Advent is very special for us because it embraces us in the knowledge that we need to prepare ourselves. God is always inviting us to a deeper relationship. Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare our hearts for that relationship.

Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé Community is a meditative form of common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ we sing uncomplicated, repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity. A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect and that gradually penetrates the whole being.

Join us for our Advent Taizé Prayer Service

Every Thursday in Advent

at Avenue Church

beginning December 1st

6:30p.m.

*What are
you looking
for?*

Advent 2016



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: 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Pray for: Barbara Vederose, Jim Greenly, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Kirsten Pearce, Rowan Howard and her parents Amy and Johnny and her grandparents, all involved with Code Purple, Avenue Church, Christopher, Laura and Randy Vaughan, Pearl Bock, all those dealing with addictions, all victims of violent crime and their perpetrators, Peggy's Gettysburg family, Jessica, Sharon, Jerry Jackson, the family and friends of Alex Barr, Bob and Kristin Caiola, Barbara Horsman, Boy Scout troop 186, Cameron Joseph, a sad child missing his Pop Pop, Donald, Theresa and her dad, Dottie, the country, the president-elect and his future appointees, all dealing with job stresses, the environment and natural wildernesses, Dixie, all traveling over the holidays, Kathleen Friedline, Kathy Sullivan, Patsy Sullivan, Tom Price, Carol Badenoch, the Mispillion Children's Chorus, Len Leyanna, everyone involved with the turkey bowl, Debbie, Pat, Kathryn Barnes, James Moore, a son, and Sonya Roberts.

Rejoice with: The Harvest Festival, Ann, Sammy, all celebrating birthdays, Jeff Carmine, Gary Downes, new job successes, Mike and Karen Williams, Harriet Davies and Dylan Lloyd.

Recently hospitalized: Mike Jones, Carolyn Wright and Ann.

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

♪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

ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the Advent Wreath in worship is a cherished tradition at Avenue. We are recruiting 16 families to light the wreath this year. We use 'families' as a broad sense to include single parents, step families, multiple generations, and even traditional families. We are looking for volunteers for all three services on November 30th, December 7th, 14th, 21st and four families for Christmas Eve (3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.).

To volunteer to light the Advent Wreath, please contact Pastor Wendy Owen at wendyowen@avenueumc.com and indicate which service you attend (8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., or 11:00 a.m.) and which Sunday or Christmas Eve service you are available. You will receive back from Pastor Wendy, simple instructions for lighting, as well as the reading that accompanies the lighting. Thank you.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Everyone interested in becoming a member of Avenue Church is encouraged to attend the next New Members' Orientation on Sunday, December 11th from 12:30 p.m.-2:00pm in the Grier Room. This opportunity is a chance to get to know the Pastors better and receive a helpful orientation concerning the heritage, values, mission, and vision of both The United Methodist Church and especially Avenue UMC. New Members will be received at all services later in December.

AVENUE CHILI COOK-OFF!!

Sign up now to be a part of a great tradition here at Avenue, our annual Chili Cook-off!! The sign-up sheet is in the Foyer to participate. Everyone is then invited to join the cooks in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 4th, in between each of the worship services for the best

chili in Milford. You all will judge whose creation takes the top prize. Come and vote with your spoon in this year's edition of the Chili Cook-off. Can Wes Cromer reclaim the title? Will Pastor Tom repeat? Will a new champion be crowned? Find out on December 4th!

UMM PANCAKE BREAKFAST: The Avenue United Methodist Men will present a pancake breakfast on **December 11th** following all three worship services. All proceeds will go to the **Parish Purse** and the **2017 Alaska Mission Trip**. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, milk, coffee and hot tea. We will accept a free will offering. Please give what you can.

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 1st** 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 28th** 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.

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 28th** 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 7th** 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 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.

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

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11/27

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MONDAY 11/28

10:00 a.m. Baptism Study, Grier Room
11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Grier Room
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers,
Music Room
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 11/29

10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Carpenter Room
1:00 p.m. WBOC-Delmarva Life, Sanctuary
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
7:00 p.m. APS Board Meeting, Grier Room
7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 11/30

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, Music Room

THURSDAY 12/1

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 12/2

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 12/3

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 12/4

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
12:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting,
Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,
Heritage Room
6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room

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