



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

It's hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. I try every year to get more organized farther in advance and it does not matter. My to-do list for the holidays is seemingly never ending. I know I am not alone when it comes to that problem.

But even with all the stress, chaos, nuttiness and budget stretching, I'm still excited about Christmas. It seems as if the nation takes a collective sigh and focuses on something more important than just the usual issues of the day. I believe we all need to think about the birth of Christ and the hope and peace that His arrival made possible in the world. There is a reason that "peace on earth" and goodwill towards men and women is such an important part of Christmas.

That probably sounds so simplistic to say – focus our attention on the birth of Christ and embrace peace on earth and goodwill to our brothers and sisters across the earth. With the hustle and bustle of all we are dealing with however it's very easy to forget to make Christ and His peace a priority. We can slow down and focus "on the important things" when we get the Christmas cards done or once we finish the shopping and wrapping.

And yet we know that Christ is THE "important thing." Not to be cliché but Jesus is the reason for the season. Why then do we put Him so far down the priority list. Granted, he does not have a deadline like baking and shopping might have but Jesus is still what we need to put first. But just because we can turn to Him at any time of the day or night does not mean He should be an afterthought.

Scripture reminds us that God needs to be our first-priority in life and not just at Christmas. This is something I have written over and over in this newsletter and I'm sure I will "say" it again in the future. With Christmas and the new year quickly approaching

however this may be the perfect time to actually make it happen.

Matthew 6:33 reminds us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” In other words, make God the first priority and the rest of life will fall into place.

In this season of joy and chaos, peace and stress, let’s remember to make Jesus the true focus of our holiday activities and the priority of our lives.

To God be the glory forever and ever.



Worship Help Needed for Christmas Eve Services.

Sign up sheets on Foyer Table.



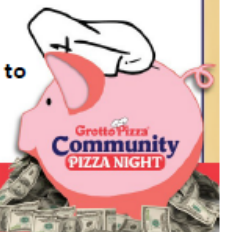
Grotto Pizza[®]
Community
PIZZA NIGHT



Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Avenue Preschool
Milford– Silicato Way
December 5, 2016 | 4 to 9pm

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 20% of your total bill will be donated to Avenue Preschool.



This offer valid for dine-in and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com |  



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

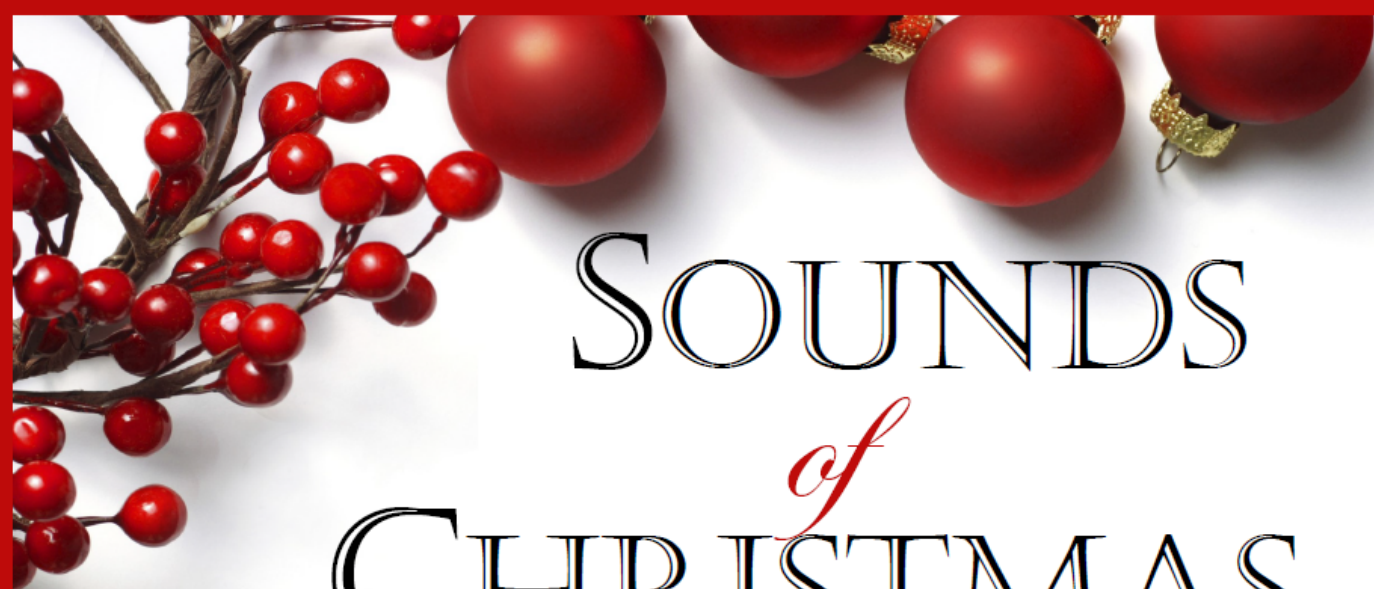
Milford, DE

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.



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

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



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.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

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 additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's Name _____

Memory of _____

Honor of _____

The cost for each poinsettia is: 6" pot \$6.00 _____

The Altar Guild has requested we order RED poinsettias.

Please Print Clearly

**Please use a separate order form for each name in
memory of or honor of**

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored will be in the
Worship Folder on December 18th and Christmas Eve.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

**Orders MUST be in no later than
Wednesday, December 14th**

**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**



**PLEASE JOIN
The Johnson's,
Avenue United Methodist Church
and FUSION
for a Special
Christmas Celebration of Giving!
Sunday, December 18th at 2:00 PM
Dress Warm**

Where: Poncho, Lisa & Colby Johnson's Home
Sunset Cove
3 Haven Lake Avenue, Milford, DE

For More Information: (302) 422-8111 Avenue Church
(302) 422-1086 Poncho & Lisa

NOTE: Please bring 1 or more wrapped gift(s) (valued at \$15.00 +) for a boy or girl ages infant - 18yrs. A tag should be attached to each gift indicating the child's gender and age.

We will be loading the wagons and busses to deliver our gifts to Milford Police Department's Toy Drive Christmas Tree. There will be caroling, Grotto Pizza, Hot Chocolate, Bon Fires, roasting marsh mellowes, Santa Claus and many more Christmas surprises. Everyone is invited to come and help us celebrate the true meaning and spirit of Christmas.

Anyone wanting transportation to the Johnson's needs to meet at Avenue Church by 1:30 PM.

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: 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.

Recently hospitalized: Mike Jones, Carolyn Wright and Ann.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Holly Maloney, Barbara Vederose, Darryl Jopp, Sally, Carolyn, Family health issues, Layla Messick, Jimmy W., All who have lost loved ones, Dawn Timmons, Mike Terry, The victims and families of the school bus crash in Tennessee, The school bus driver and family of the school bus crash in Tennessee, Margarete Conway, Kirby Schuler, a missions organizer that we support, Jim Greenly, Colleen Dunham and April McIntyre.

Recently hospitalized: Harry Swain, Gerald Swain, Darryl Jopp, Holly Maloney, Jimmy W and Margarete Conway.

Rejoice with: Everyone in Bible Studies, Small Groups, and Sunday School, Family and Friends sharing Thanksgiving with each other and Rowan Howard.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Eleanor Lurwick who will celebrate her **93rd** birthday on December 6th.

Lotte Dressler who will celebrate her **95th** birthday on December 10th.

Jean Hutchman who will celebrate her **91st** birthday on December 10th.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jack & Mary Lou Shaffer who will celebrate their **52nd** anniversary on December 5th.

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 December 4th, 11th, 18th and five families for Christmas Eve (3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 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

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, December 8th** 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 class will resume its study of God's Word on January 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. with Forgiveness, by Adam Hamilton. We welcome and encourage anyone interested to join our group. Please call Cheryl Pusey (302) 381-2474 or the church office to register. Materials will be ordered by mid-January.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: New Study: The Forgotten God will continue **December 6^h** 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.

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.

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.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL is having a fundraiser on **Monday, December 5th** 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.

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!

SOUTHERN DELAWARE CHORALE: Messiah and Carols Sing-Along with the Southern Delaware Chorale **Saturday, December 10th, 3:00 p.m.** at Indian River High School. **Cost: \$10 at the door.**

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 AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	56	65
9:30	166	160
Sunday School	68	83
11:00	76	57
Thursday Service	0	0
FUSION	0	0
Total	366	365

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 12/4 ~ CHILI COOKOFF

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room

MONDAY 12/5

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 140, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 2, Room 206
- 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 12/6

- 9:30 a.m. Archives Comm. Meeting, Archives Room
- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, 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. Cub Scouts—Bears, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting, Carpenter Room

WEDNESDAY 12/7

- 9:00 a.m. SLT Meeting, Holzmuehler Room
- 10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. Widow/Widowers Group, Heritage Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Instrumental Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 12/8

- 9:00 a.m. DCOM, Heritage and Conference Room
- 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, Sanctuary

FRIDAY 12/9

- 11:00 a.m. Wrap Around DE, Holzmuehler Room
- 5:00 p.m. Music Ministry Concert, Music Room, Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary & Foyer
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 12/10

- 4:00 p.m. Morrison/Blessing Wedding, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 12/11 ~ PANCAKE BREAKFAST

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room

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