



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

One of the things I enjoy doing is getting on the internet and checking out what other churches are doing that is unique and interesting during this season of Advent. There are more organizations and congregations who do events with live animals than I would have expected. I am not sure where the camels and llamas come from but I appreciate the effort that goes into working with God's many creatures.

I also search for prayers and devotionals that might be appropriate for what we are doing at Avenue. Sometimes I can find something that is just perfect and there are other times when I wonder if we are celebrating the same holidays. But overall it's a great and inspiring experience.

Occasionally however I find writings that just make me smile and such was the case this week. I found one website (and I didn't think to write it down) that had very specific prayers for all aspects of Christmas. There was a prayer for wrapping gifts. There was another for being in the kitchen with family and a separate prayer for baking. My favorite however was the prayer for when someone was totally exhausted. With just a few word changes it would be acceptable for any time of the year.

Finding those prayers however reminded me that in all things and in all ways we are to pray to God. Instead of trying to figure out how we can get to

bed ASAP and catch up on our sleep how often do we stop and thank God for being exhausted? We may pray for strength and energy and perhaps for our to-do list to whittle down a bit but whoever prays for exhaustion?

Ephesians 6:18 says to, “pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord’s people.”

There are so many wonderful moments that happen during Christmas with friends and family and even strangers who are filled with the Holy Spirit. Likewise, there will be times and people who seem to have swallowed more than their share of “the Grinch” pills. But if we keep praying for all of them, in all circumstances, we can watch the Spirit at work knowing it’s God will that is being done.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

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

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## **Worship Help Needed for Christmas Eve Services.**

Sign up sheets on Foyer Table.



*From the desk of our Bishop. . .*

## **World AIDS Day 2016**

It's been a few decades now since the AIDS epidemic got the full attention of the world. Though many advances have been made in medical science to improve treatment for people with HIV/AIDS it is still a huge health crisis globally and in the United States.

According to [www.aids2016.org](http://www.aids2016.org) about 5,600 people contract HIV every day. That is more than 230 people every hour. Over one million people die every year from complications that stem from this immune deficiency; and since 1981 it is estimated that 25 million people have died from it.

This is a social justice issue because many who continue to contract this virus lack the educational resources to help them with prevention and the means to get treatment.

When World AIDS Day, Dec. 1,- comes around each year it gives us a moment to think about this disease, including those who have died from it and those who are suffering from it. This reminder also calls us to try to do something more about a terrible local and global affliction that still threatens and takes too many precious lives.

One of the chief causes of HIV/AIDS is intravenous drug use. The National Institute of Drug Abuse states that the two are “inextricably linked,” as HIV is transmitted by contact with blood or body fluids. This can occur through the sharing of drug-use equipment like needles.

In this country, there is a huge heroin epidemic in our communities right now. According to the New York Times (Oct. 30, 2015) there has been a 39 percent rise in heroin-related deaths, and huge numbers of people are being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS as a result. This is happening in every neighborhood, in every city; and yet, little is being said or done about this epidemic in our churches.

It is likely that every church has people in its pews who have addiction issues personally or in their families. Yet, we typically keep silent about it. What can we do?

On and certainly after World AIDS Day 2016 we can discuss and pray for people who have the disease and those living without loved ones who succumbed to the effects of AIDS. We can become informed and prayerful for medical researchers, clinicians and funders who are working hard to develop treatments, and for all those involved in the work of prevention

and treatment.

We can have presentations and conversations about HIV/AIDS in our churches, and share with people that two of the important ways to stop the spread of HIV is to try to prevent and reduce addiction to drugs and the sharing of needles by those who use drugs. Abstinence needs to be taught to people, even though this can be a difficult conversation. Addiction is costly in lives as well as dollars. Families, communities and our prisons are extensively affected. Encourage your congregation to welcome Narcotic Anonymous meetings in your church buildings. And donate to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund ([Advance Project #982345](#)). This fund supports ministries that promote awareness and prevention and that create resources to help local churches with education and improving the lives of people living with AIDS.

World AIDS Day comes yearly around the beginning of the Christian season of Advent. This is a time of anticipating the coming of Christ. But that time of preparation should inspire us to examine our lives and our Christian responsibility to love and help our neighbors. Like Good Samaritans, we should help most especially those whom others might ignore or neglect.

This year look for ways to be personally supportive and involved—locally, nationally or globally—in education, prevention and treatment efforts that address our stubborn HIV/AIDS crisis and the growing drug addiction crisis that fuels it. As Christ's beloved, called disciples, help our world prepare the way of the Lord by sharing the Savior's love in tangible, healthy, transformative ways.



*Peggy A. Johnson*



# 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



# *Confirmation Class*



For Youth - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and above  
Orientation Session for  
Parents and Students  
December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45a  
Grier Room

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>**

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

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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 18<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

**Orders MUST be in no later than  
Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**





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

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 mellows, 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:** 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.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Elsie Bailey who passed away on December 4<sup>th</sup>, Ed Richardson, Leslie Wuenstel, Olive Wuesntel Holly Maloney, Dave Dawson, Diana, Charles Clendaniel, Jr., Carrie, Jerry Jackson, Laura Vaughan, Ohio State attack victims, Brazilian soccer team members in the plane crash in Columbia, All our animal friends who need love, Bob, Gerald, Christopher, the family and friends of Perry Bratcher who passed away on Saturday morning, Paul Sherwood, Sr., Barbara Vederose, a Grandmother who is moving here, traveling mercies, Tom Price, Kathy Sullivan, Patsy Sullivan, Mispillion Children's Chorus and families, Code Purple ministry here at Avenue, Pat, Darryl Jopp, Al & Virginian Schmick, A son, Families in Tennessee who have lost homes, family members, or friends in the wildfires, Carol Hubler, Rick, Children of husbands and wives who are dealing with divorce, Ann, Sally, Carolyn, Family health issues, Kirby Schuler, Jonathan and Donna Baker, for the glasses that we are packing for the people of the Congo, Jim Greenly, Colleen Dunham and April McIntyre.

**Recently hospitalized:** Darryl Jopp, Holly Maloney, Leslie Wuenstel, Paul Sherwood, Sr., and Cindy Horsman's mother.

**Rejoice with:** The woman recovering from her injuries sustained at Pumpkin Chunkin, Peter, Rowan Howard, and Bill Gustin.

### **SMYPATHY TO:**

The family and friends of **Elsie Bailey** who joined the kingdom eternal on **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Elsie joined Avenue Church on April 29, 1990.

## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

**Lotte Dressler** who will celebrate her **95<sup>th</sup>** birthday on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Jean Hutchman** who will celebrate her **91<sup>st</sup>** birthday on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Jack and Janet McCall** who will celebrate their **54<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 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.

**UMM PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** The Avenue United Methodist Men will present a pancake breakfast on **December 11<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**FUSION CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship as we celebrate the Christmas season at FUSION on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6 p.m. All are welcome and families are encouraged to attend! Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater and be entered to win a set of Beats Headphones!! Bring a gift valuing \$5 for the White Elephant gift exchange!

## **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 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 we complete our study on **December 13<sup>h</sup>** 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. We will start a new study on **January 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP** will meet Wednesday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **December 12<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

## **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 31<sup>st</sup>. We are a Star Level 5, Delaware Stars rated program offering a high quality early education experience. For more information contact [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org) or (302) 422-8111. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org).

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

**CHRISMON TREE:** All tags/gifts must be returned by **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you have not brought your gift in by December 11th please call the Joanne Burbage at (302) 422-6152.

<u><b>LAST WEEK AT AVENUE</b></u>		
Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	65	62
9:30	160	173
Sunday School	83	79
11:00	57	81
Thursday Service	0	9
FUSION	0	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>455</b>

## CALENDAR

### 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
- 12:30 p.m. New Member Orientation,  
Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room

### MONDAY 12/12

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group,  
Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts-Tigers, Fellowship Hall
- 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 12/13

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Carpenter Room
- 2:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley 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

### WEDNESDAY 12/14

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1,  
Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall

### THURSDAY 12/15

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Dover District Board Meeting,  
HolzmueLLer Room
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-Wolves, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. New Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Grier Room

### FRIDAY 12/16

- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SATURDAY 12/17

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SUNDAY 12/18

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

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