

AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I admit that I am addicted to HGTV. For those of you who might not know what this is, it's the Home and Garden television station. The shows are about buying and selling homes, doing renovations, moving to exotic locations around the world, and finding that perfect beach house for a bargain.

One of the newer shows on this station is "Tiny House, Big Living." It is about people who are either downsizing or moving into first homes that are no larger than 500 square feet. The smallest one I ever saw was 82 square feet although to me that is not a home...it's a closet.

I do appreciate the desire to go simple and to decrease the amount of "stuff" that people have. One woman did something that I am going to emulate after the beginning of the year. For one month she got rid of the amount of things that equate to the day of the month. So for example, on the first of the month she got rid of one thing. On the second of the month, she tossed out two things. On the 15th of the month, she downsized by 15 items. I did the math and for a month with 31 days she would have gotten rid of 496 items.

That is going to be my New Year's resolution...to get rid of 496 things by the end of January. I have thousands of books so it would be easy to do just books but I am going to try and really get rid of the clutter and unnecessary things that take up space. Some things will be easy – like the bouncy seat that belonged to Chris when he was a baby or the jeans I have from college and will never wear again. I have a collection of plastic containers that are not only in my kitchen cabinets but are also overflowing into my basement.

At the moment it sounds like it should be fairly easy to do but I wonder how hard it will be towards the end of the 31 days. Something tells me I should not have


much trouble finding 496 things to donate and/or get rid of but I also wonder how difficult it will be to get rid of them. Downsizing and simplifying in theory is a wonderful New Year's resolution but in reality I may find it difficult to actually let it all go.

The only way I am going to let go is to approach God and ask Him to help me give up those things of this world that I don't need and/or don't bring glory to Him. Instead I must get rid of those things that keep me from focusing on God. By simplifying and downsizing I hope to be less of this world and more in line with what the Lord wants for me.

Scripture reminds us, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desires are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever." 1 John 2: 15-17.

It is the time of year to figure out what is important and decide what the critical focus of 2017 will be. Where will God be on your list of New Year priorities?

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.





From the desk of our Bishop. . .

A Word about Camp

It is the darkest, coldest time of the year but that should not stop us from thinking about the months to come when spring will bring new life and sunlight and: CAMP! May my parting words in this 2016 be that of looking forward to outdoor Christian ministries that we so richly are blessed with in this annual conference through the ministry of Camp Pecometh. Our camp is a valuable vehicle for introducing young people to Christ, discipling them, challenging them to pursue a call to ministry and vocations in the church and engage in mission. It is also a place where care for creation is taught and Christian community is modeled. In addition our camp has year-round programs for all ages in retreat ministries of various kinds.

Camp Pecometh cannot exist without the support of our churches. We need monetary support but also volunteers to work at the camp, provide maintenance help, recruit and bring young people to camp and to pray for the camp. In addition we are asking that each church identify someone in every congregation who could serve as the “camp ambassador.” They would be sent information about upcoming events and schedules and are asked to share this information at their local church. Many times information does not get down to the people in the pews and there are lost opportunities for service and camp utilization as a result. Camp ambassador names can be sent to jack@pecometh.org.

A final challenge is this: identify one young people who comes from a family of limited means and find a way to get them to camp. It can be a life-changing experience for them and you. Sometimes this requires helping parents fill out the application, providing all of the funding and actually driving the camper to and from the camp in order for them to participate. Many children and youth don't go to church any more but we can bring the church to them through our camping program. If every church would send one child like that we could reach more than 400 young people for Christ this summer and there is no telling what the fruit of these efforts will be.

In the midst of winter be thinking about camp. The possibilities are endless.



Peggy A. Johnson

FUSION YOUTH RALLY

On **January 6th**, FUSION Student Ministries will be taking over 50 students to the 30th annual Pen-Del Youth Rally for a weekend of worship, learning, and fun in Ocean City, MD.

There are still some students that will require scholarships to help offset the cost of their trip.

Anyone wishing to give the gift of a memorable weekend for a student in need can do so by simply labeling their check or offering with the words "Youth Rally" and a scholarship will be set up.

Thank You for your continued support for the students of Milford!!



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 Bailey family, the Sherwood family, the Helmick family, Roger Perry, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Jim Greenly, Christopher, Bill Salvin and family, Dave Abt, Kathryn Barnes, Donald, Dave Dawson, Barbara Vederose, Ken, Emily and Kyle, Darryl Jopp, Brenda's grandmother, everyone traveling over the holidays, Layla Messick, for all relocating to warmer climates for the winter, Bev Vincent, Keith, Judy Hudson, Cindy Canevaie, Andrew, Charles Harding, the Casterline family, Kathy Sullivan, Vie Starling, Ruth and Roy German, Kathleen Stockley, family and friends of Sallie Messick, Lucille Schoop, and John Hatfield.

Recently hospitalized: Cynthia Jones and Carolyn Williams

Rejoice with: All celebrating advent with family, everyone attending small groups, Bob, everyone spending time with that "special someone" or family, Bobby Walls, Jean Hutchman, and Jerry Jackson.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Joanne Gorlich, LaQuisha Gardner, Nancy G., Coleman Logan, Michael Benton, Dorothy Young, all suffering from addictions and their families, Uncle Steve, the Marra family, the Todd family, Kam and Dawn, all families, Linda Donovan, the Ellers family, the Nakrasuis family, Don Meyer, Ashley, Keith, Bill Salvin and family, all members of the military stationed far from home, the United Methodist Church of Dickinson, North Dakota, all first responders and medical personnel working over the holidays, Carolyn Williams, for the new year, Roger Perry, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Jim Greenley, Christopher, Dave Abt, Kathryn Barnes, Dave Dawson and family, Barbara Vederose, Darryl Jopp, Brenda's grandmother, everyone traveling over the holidays, all heading to Florida and other warmer climates for the remainder of the winter, Layla Messick, Bev Vincent, Charles Harding, the Casterline family, John Hatfield, Nikki Kelley, for all who do not know the light and love of Christ, all who are lonely this Christmas, all who are missing loved ones who died this year.

Recently hospitalized: Alan Boltz

Rejoice with: All celebrating Christmas with family and friends.

Birthday greetings to:

Ed Bailey who will celebrate his **93rd** birthday in January.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Bud and Anna Mae Ross who will celebrate their **68th** anniversary on January 1st.

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.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

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: We will start a new study on **January 3rd**. 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, **January 4th** 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 **January 9th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

EXPLORING FAITH BOOK CLUB meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Our next study is **January 15, 2017** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. The book is "The Will of God" by Leslie Weatherhead. When bad things happen to good people, is this the will of God? If it is not, what is the will of God? If these questions have sparked an interest in you, then plan to come and "explore you faith" as these questions and others pertaining to God's will be discussed.

OUTREACH

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM): THANK to everyone that participated in the AUMM pancake breakfast, whether you were a worker or an eater of pancakes. You have helped the AUMM to be able to fund scholarships and other mission projects. The congregation of Avenue is awesome with the free will offering. God Bless every one of you! *Avenue United Methodist Men*

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.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	51	0
9:30	140	0
Sunday School	0	0
11:00	57	69
Thursday Service	0	4
Christmas Eve	840	794
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1088	867

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 1/1 ~ New Years Day

- 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 1/2 ~ Church Office Closed

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #140,
Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers,
Music Room
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 1/3

- 9:30 a.m. Archives Comm. Meeting,
Archives Room
- 10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting,
Heritage 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 Choir,
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 Rom

WEDNESDAY 1/4

- 10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. Widow/Widowers Meeting,
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
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1,
Fellowship Hall & Wesley Room

THURSDAY 1/5

- 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. New Worship Service, Sanctuary

FRIDAY 1/6

- 11:00 a.m. Wrap Around DE,
Holzmueller Room
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 1/7

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

SUNDAY 1/8

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #272,
Heritage Room

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