



AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 24, 2017*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

As a Christian, I understand Jesus' directive to love everyone. We hear it in scripture over and over but my favorite verse is from John 13:34 that says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one and other; just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another." I understand it and I can appreciate why Christ tells us to do this. I just wish I could live by that commandment all the time.

Because when a situation happens like it did Monday night in Manchester, England, when a terrorist detonated a bomb that killed 22 at a concert attended mostly by children and young teens, it's very difficult to be anything but angry at the perpetrator. As I write this, the youngest identified victim is 8 years old. Who could ever want to kill a child? It is beyond my imagination.

My heart is just aching for the all the people who were at the concert. More than 21,000 people were in attendance and they will forever be affected by what happened. Then there are those who were injured and killed that I am praying for. And of course, I am praying for the families of the victims. As a parent myself I can't begin to think of what a nightmare this situation would be. But as horrible as it all is, I have faith that God will carry all the victims through with His love and mercy.

Where I am struggling is to find any compassion or love for the suicide bomber. I am so angry at the insanity of his actions that I find it nearly impossible to pray for Salman Abedi, the man identified as the culprit. I can go through the motions but I don't find my heart truly behind what I am forcing myself to say. I admit that my thoughts are anything but kind and forgiving and I wonder how God could expect me to pray for the bomber. I want to lash out at everyone he is working with (ISIS has claimed responsibility) and do

whatever it takes to keep something like this from ever happening again. I confess that I was thinking more about revenge than justice.

This is why the first person I am going to pray for (after the victims) is me. I am going to pray for a heart that God wants me to have. I am not naïve enough to think my feelings of anger and fear (and a deep desire to lock my son in a closet so he will be safe) will change overnight but asking God to set my heart in the right direction is the best I can do. And sometimes the best we can do is enough for the moment because God will take it from here.

I'm not even going to pray that God gives me the love for this man that we are commanded to have. Instead, my prayer will be that God sets my heart in the proper direction and in God's perfect timing, whether it be a year or a decade or the rest of my life, I have faith that the Creator will make it right. That stops me from feeling like I am being pulled in two different directions – what I should feel and what I am actually feeling. I'm putting my very human heart and emotions in His hands.

I know, based on the comments of people who have come into my office since this tragedy unfolded, that I am not the only person to feel this way. So as we deal with this issue and/or the myriad of others that we face when we need to forgive and love, but find it difficult at best and seemingly impossible at worst, let's pray for ourselves. It's not selfish to do that when we are not living as God wants us to live. The words we pray every week when we pray to the Lord that "thy will be done" is not just in the lives of others but in our own as well. For it is in all ways, and through everyone, that we will bring glory and honor to God forever.

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



*From the desk of our Conference Director .....*

## **Down to the River**

When I served aboard USS JASON (AR-8), we had a Baptist Chaplain. He knew I grew up United Methodist, and he used to tease me about needing to have a “real baptism” by “dunking.” Baptism contains two movements: God’s initiative in reaching out to us, which we Methodists call “prevenient grace,” and our human response, which for us happens typically in confirmation. As Methodists, we practice infant baptism because we put the emphasis on the divine initiative. Baptists and others who practice “believer’s baptism” put the emphasis on the human response, which we Methodists call “justifying grace.” So, the Chaplain loved to tease me and promised that one day he would dunk me in baptism.

Several months later, our ship sailed to support a battle group in the Western Pacific. The battle group sailed to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers from attack. Transiting out there, we hit some very rough seas. On Sunday mornings, we would gather below decks in the Crew’s Lounge for worship. Because of the rough seas, the Chaplain felt a little nauseous. (Chaplains are not known for their sea-legs or their knowledge of ships.) Before any of us could warn the Chaplain, he had opened the port hole for fresh air. As the ship descended the next wave, sea water came pouring into the Crew’s Lounge. Several of us scrambled to close the port hole before we crested the next wave, and we got soaked in the process.

After the shock wore off of the very wet Chaplain, he seized the moment. “I told you I would dunk you in baptism!” We all laughed at the situation and mopped up the deck before finishing our (now very wet) worship. No one ever let the Chaplain forget that moment. Being a good sport, he always replied that he needed water in order to pray.

This coming Monday, we will be going down to the river (the Christina River) to pray, as we hold Annual Conference at the Chase Center at the Riverfront. We invite all of you, whether you will attend the conference or not, to join us in prayer over those three days. Like my ship, our church has hit some rough seas recently. And, like our Chaplain, we may need lots of water in order to pray for the Holy Spirit to navigate us through this storm. But, we know the One who created the earth, including the storms, and we know the One who calmed the storms long ago. So, let's get "all hands on deck" praying for God to guide us to our next destination on this journey.

Blessings on the journey,

*Vicki*

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Director of Connectional Ministries

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Click the link below to register for your spring photo session:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9r52t450/>



Photo Dates: May 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

## 2017 GRADUATING SENIORS

**Connor Lingo** graduated May, 2017 from University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science. He will begin a Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program at the University of Delaware beginning June 19, 2017. Connor is the son of Jay and Kathy Lingo.

**Mason J. Newark** will receive his PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Florida. He is the son of Jack and Susan Newark.

**Daniel Zang** will graduate from Milford High School on May 25, 2017. He will be attending the University of Delaware and majoring in mechanical engineering. He is the son of George and Karen Zang and the grandson of Ron Payne.

**Katie Zang** will graduate from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She will be looking for a job after graduation and will also be working on her Master's degree. She is the daughter of George and Karen Zang and the granddaughter of Ron Payne.

**Dylan Lloyd** will be graduating from Lake Forest on June 2, 2017 and will be attending Goldey Beacom for sports management. He is the son of Carrie Shockley,

**Carrie Shockley** will be graduating from the University of Phoenix with my bachelor's in health care management.

**Jacob Kimmey** will graduate from Sussex Tech High School on June 1, 2017. He will be attending Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL to major in Business Administration. He is the son of Ted and JoEllen Kimmey.

**Spring Vasey** will graduate from Water Girl Farm. She will be attending Virginia Tech to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Dairy Science. Spring is the daughter of Dean and Jody Vasey.

**Samantha Lee** will graduate from Sussex Tech High School on June 1, 2017. She will be attending University of Delaware. Samantha is the daughter of Jacob and Helen Lee.



# Cub Scout Pack 186 Fundraiser



This is the 1st fundraiser of this type the pack has ever done. Please come out and support us with an evening of fun and enjoyment :-)

**WHEN:** July 17, 2017  
**WHERE:** Avenue United Methodist Church—Fellowship Hall  
20 N. Church St  
Milford  
**TIME:** Painting will start at 6:30  
**PRICE:** \$40/pp

Please send names of attendees via an email to:  
[pack186@comcast.net](mailto:pack186@comcast.net)

\*\*\*Pre-pay by cash, check (written to Pack 186) or credit card.

Mail check to: Avenue United Methodist Church  
attn: Carrie Huot  
20 N. Church St  
Milford, DE 19963

Credit Cards via: [cubscoutpack186.ecwid.com](http://cubscoutpack186.ecwid.com)



# SUMMER SEND-OFF

## AVENUE CHURCH PICNIC

JOIN US AS WE SEND-OFF OUR GRADUATING SENIORS  
THE EVENT INCLUDES: GAMES, PRIZES,  
LIVE MUSIC  
INFLATABLES

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**JUNE 11TH 5:00PM**

**ON THE LAWN**

[WWW.AVENUEUMC.COM](http://WWW.AVENUEUMC.COM)



# SUMMER SEND-OFF

JOIN US FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL SUMMER  
SEND-OFF, AS WE CELEBRATE ANOTHER YEAR  
OF FUSION WEEKLY COMING TO A CLOSE.

THIS YEAR WE ARE FEATURING LIVE MUSIC  
FROM SEVERAL CHRISTIAN BANDS ON  
"THE EXTREME TOUR."

PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE  
HAMBURGERS AND HOT DOGS WILL BE  
PROVIDED BY FUSION STUDENT MINISTRIES.

ALL ARE WELCOME AND CHURCH MEMBERS  
ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING FRIENDS!!



**JUNE 11TH 5:00PM  
ON THE LAWN**

WWW.AVENUEUMC.COM



## 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 Milford Plant, Flower and Garden Shop at (302) 422-4961. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

**PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK:** Jennifer Wiley, Jackie and Bill, Curtis, Angeleen and family, Patrick Stewart, Marti Seal, Bill Salvin, Dave and Sharon Dawson, John Siegrist, Katie, April McIntyre, Kim Webb, Colleen Dunham, Howard Haverkamp, The homeless, Peggy Hughes, Christopher, Jo Wood, A successful compassion Sunday on May 21<sup>st</sup>, Bill Gustin, Eric Porter, Bonnie Carmine, Ruth Ann Dutton, The family and friends of Edward Rottmann, III, Adrianna Nelson, Judy, Joyce Bonnoni's sister, The family and friends of John Caggiano who passed away, Louis's father, Alan Jester, Guidance and motivation to get through the week, Help in following God's plan, Preston Dyer, Evelyn Townsend, Jake, Katie and Brandon and Tim Jacoby.

**Rejoice with:** Gary Downes, God's amazing gifts and Joe Lear who won the Mountaire Better Delmarva Award, May 2017, for his work with the Milford Community Band.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Jennifer Wiley, the Alaska Mission Team, Jackie and Bill, Gary Law, all those with family issues, Pat Lane Jr., Curtis, Bill Salvin, Dave and Sharon Dawson, John Siegrist, parents with health issues, Paul Shay, Mary Ann Shay, Jennifer Cummings, Aidan, Ryan Lore, Molly Cummings, Kirsten, Eileen and Robert Gould, Katie and Brandon, Christopher, April McIntyre, Kim Webb, Colleen Dunham, Howard Haverkamp, the homeless, Peggy Hughes, Jo Wood, Michael Williams, a mother in stage four cancer, all children waiting for sponsors, Stacey Swain, Linda Swain, Granddaughter Lori, a family experiencing many deaths, Bill Gustin, Bonnie Carmine, Jeff, Johnny, Ping, all needing traveling mercies, Julia, Maddison Remick, Kirsten Pierce, all who complain and gossip but don't see their own shortcomings, the world situation, Mary Ann Zeveney, Aunt Anna, Alex and family, Adriel and family, the family friends of Rob Wild, Janet Dill and Betty Ziesel.

**Rejoice with:** McKenzie Betts, all our graduates and scholarship winners, everyone starting a new chapter of their lives after an academic milestone.

### **BELATED ANNIVERSARY**

**Ernest and Lorraine Donovan** who celebrated their **57<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 21<sup>st</sup>**.

### **ANNIVERSARY**

**Jeff and Bonnie Carmine** will celebrate their **52<sup>nd</sup>** anniversary on **May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

### ♪Handbells

Resume on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪Mispillion Children's Chorus

Resume on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

### ♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪Sanctuary Choir

Resume on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

### ♪AveNotes

Resume on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 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

**ALASKA MISSION TRIP 2017** is scheduled for **June 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**. Please be on the look out for stock sales in the Foyer after worship on Sunday.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR VBS:** Please bring in paper towel and toilet paper tubes for craft project for VBS.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 –8:00 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:** A new **mission project** for people in the Congo, Africa. There is a need for more soft, fabric eyeglass cases for those people who are having cataract surgery at one of Jonathan and Donna Bakers eye missions. You can make these cases from fabric or buy them from drug or dollar stores and bring them into Avenue. United Methodist Women are working on this and welcome donations from the Avenue and greater Milford community. Lets help these folks have a safe place to keep their glasses. Please, no hard cases, only fabric. Look for the donation box in Fellowship Foyer during May. Thanks so much.

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will finish our study *IF* "Trading your *IF* only regrets for God's What *IF*" possibilities by Mark Batterson will be led by Pastor Wendy. We will meet on **May 30<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00 a.m. in the **Grier Room**.

**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 **June 12<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room

**WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP** will resume on **September 6<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. in the **Heritage Room**. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

## **OUTREACH**

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL: Registration for the 2017-18 school year.** Registration is now taking place for current and former Avenue Preschool families for the 2017-18 school year. Please contact the school as noted below if you are a former family interested in enrolling your child. Registrations must be done in person. Space is very limited. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>. You can contact the preschool office at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org). Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org).

**The Milford Community Pantry** had a slow start to the year with fewer families than last year . That trend seems to be changing and we are back to a more active stream of families so the backlog of food is now almost gone. We need cereal, we prefer the low to no sugar varieties since we are trying to train families in good food choices.

We also need someone with a pick up and daytime availability. We go to the Food Bank **ONE DAY A WEEK at the most**. We have some drivers with SUVs but there are times when we need a larger cargo area. Is the Lord nudging you to use your time and your pick up???? Call Tita Lewis 664-1321 or Diane Dolan 242-5125.

### **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	70	60
9:30	210	142
Sunday School	63	56
11:00	69	54
FUSION	0	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>354</b>

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY 5/28**

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

### **MONDAY 5/29 ~ Church Office Closed**

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

### **TUESDAY 5/30**

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Meeting,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206

### **WEDNESDAY 5/31**

- 10:30 a.m. Diabetes Prevention Program,  
Heritage Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

### **THURSDAY 6/1**

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202

### **FRIDAY 6/2**

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

### **SATURDAY 6/3**

- 12:00 p.m. The Music School of DE: Strings,  
voice and piano recital, Sanctuary
- 1:30 p.m. The Music School of DE: Strings,  
voice and piano recital, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. The Music School of DE: Strings,  
voice and piano recital, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SUNDAY 6/4**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,  
Heritage Room
- 4:00 p.m. The Music School of DE: Suzuki  
Strings Recital, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Pat Fisher Piano Studio Recital,  
Sanctuary

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