



## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

I am cat sitting for the next two weeks. A friend who is out of town asked me to watch her cat named Max and so on Sunday evening I added another feline to my household on a temporary basis.

This new cat is a sweetheart. Quiet, friendly, and he loves to snuggle. When it comes to house guests that will definitely not be a problem, Max heads the list.

However, my two cats are being anything but gracious. They hiss, they swat at Max and if he tries to interact with them, they put up their tails and walk away. There is simply no playing nice with others.

My heart breaks for Max who is an “only cat” and has never had the chance to play with other kitties. Max just wants to fit in with my two and is trying hard to be one of the crowd. My PCs (Pastor’s Cats) are being anything but PC (politically correct) in embracing the new addition.

But it made me stop and think about how we treat visitors to our church. How do we act when people who are temporarily in our church reach out to us? Over the summer there will be more visitors and it will be important that we go out of our way to make them feel welcome. We read in 1 Peter 4:9

where it says, “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Can we do that over the summer? If we come into church on Sunday and find someone who is new or visiting sitting in “our regular pew” can we greet them warmly and express our delight at having them join us for worship rather than asking them to move? Can we reach out a hand and perhaps offer to get them a cup of coffee instead of looking at them with distrust or disinterest?

The cats are going to have to work it out amongst themselves because no matter how much I lecture my two about hospitality and kindness, they are not getting it. But then I don’t speak cat. I do hope we can speak God’s language of love however in the way we act. For let’s also not forget what we read in Hebrews 13:2, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

And to God be the glory and honor forever.

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



*From the desk of our Bishop .....*

## **Opioid Epidemic**

When we hear the word “epidemic” we typically think of a disease like Ebola or some virus or infection that spreads rapidly and causes much illness and death. In the case of the current opioid epidemic, the disease is addiction and the results are as catastrophic as any killer disease. Our country is currently experiencing a staggering pandemic of drugs that is taking the lives of millions and causes misery and sorrow to millions more family members and friends of the victims.

The statistics are unbelievable. According to health department statistics in 2016 there were 4,642 drug overdose deaths in PA (up by 37%), in Maryland there were 830 cases (up by 66%) and in Delaware 308 people died (up by 30%). Nationally the number of overdose deaths in 2016 exceeded 59,000 (up by 19%). All are reporting an increase in deaths happening in the suburban areas of their states. This epidemic is crossing all lines of class and culture. The Philadelphia Inquirer (June 1, 2017) reported that librarians are being trained to administer the lifesaving overdose antidote Narcan as part of their job. “Overdose drills” are as common as fire drills.

Recently I visited the Lebanon Women’s Detention Center and Chaplain Marilyn Nolte. I met a number of inmates, many of them are incarcerated because of drug offenses and have a history of drug addiction. Most shocking to me was a large pink heart on the bulletin board that was cut in two to indicate a broken heart. On the heart were the names of at least 100 women who had been in the prison, done their time and gotten out and had either committed suicide or died from drug overdoses. These are our young people, each one a precious daughter, wife or mother, trapped in the chains of this disease. I thank God that we have a UM chaplain there working with these women.

It is easy to throw up our hands in despair when we read these statistics and hear these stories but as people of faith, every one of us can do something to light a candle of hope. The recent “Unite” event in Quakertown, sponsored by Quakertown UMC and included faith group partners and community groups helped to spread the word about this epidemic and some practical things that people can do. Here are some of the “take-aways” from this day-long community festival on June 10th

- View addiction as a disease and not a moral failure
- Decriminalize and offer more treatment options instead of prison time
- Set up more Narcotics Anonymous and Celebrate Recovery groups in churches and communities
- Teach elementary school children about the dangers of drugs
- Offer after-school and summer programs for at-risk young people
- Partner with hospitals to support drug-addicted mothers and their addicted new-borns
- Pray for addicted people and their families
- Promote laws and governmental policies that keep funding for health insurance and Medicaid that assists with drug addiction remedies

At our Lenten Day Apart for clergy coming up in February in both annual conferences we will be having more conversation about drug addiction. Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner-Ball will be presenting some of his work in this area of community outreach and treatment.

The root cause of drug use and drug abuse is pain. We experience physical pain, emotional pain and spiritual pain in life and drugs at first take away that pain. But with continual use and increased dosages it can become an addiction. People of faith can come alongside people in pain, all kinds of pain, and offer healing, community, and spiritual resources that no pain pill can offer. We bring the words of life to this drug world of death. Always offer people Christ and make your church a place of welcome and support.



*Peggy A. Johnson*

## Upcoming Meetings

- ♦ **Trustees Meeting** —June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., Grier Room
- ♦ **Leadership Team Meeting**—cancelled for July
- ♦ **Finance Committee Meeting**—July 11th at 7:00 p.m., Grier Room



**We need Summer Go Bags to hand out to the homeless in the community. You, your family, or your organization can put items into individual large (or extra large) zip lock bags for us to distribute to those in need.**

**Great Summer Items for Go Bags:**

**Dental care items, deodorant, bug spray, sunscreen, mini lint rollers for tick removal from clothing, water bottles, band aids, mini container of peanut butter, pop top can of soup or other protein like Vienna sausages, soft granola bars and/or fruit cup, a sleeve of saltine crackers, napkins, plastic spoons, and a note of encouragement with scripture.**

**If you, your family, or your organization would like to donate a meal to feed 20 men one night each month during our Code Purple season (Mid November through Mid March), please contact our coordinator, Joyce Bonnoni, at [Jbonnonicp@gmail.com](mailto:Jbonnonicp@gmail.com) We also need open-hearted volunteers to share the love of Christ as intake and overnight volunteers through the winter months. Please pray about being the hands and feet of Christ to the most needy in our community. You will be blessed by the experience!**

**Contact Joyce Bonnoni for more information!**



# Sweet Summertime

## FUSION SUMMER TOUR 2017



### JUNE

SUMMER SEND-OFF	11TH	5PM
YOUTH WEEK BEGINS	18TH	6PM
BEACH BIBLE STUDY	20TH	10AM
YOUTH WEEK ENDS	22ND	6PM

### JULY

MIDDLE SCHOOL IGNITE		
CAMP DEPARTURE	10TH	3PM
BUBBA DOWLING STRONG MAN SHOW	13TH	8PM
MIDDLE SCHOOL IGNITE		
CAMP RETURN	15TH	1PM
HIGH SCHOOL IGNITE		
CAMP DEPARTURE	17TH	3PM
JARED HALL ILLUSIONIST SHOW	20TH	8PM
HIGH SCHOOL IGNITE		
CAMP RETURN	22ND	1PM
YOUTH SUNDAY	23RD	8AM
STATE FAIR TRIP	25TH	10AM

### AUGUST

BEACH BIBLE STUDY	1ST	10AM
BEACH BIBLE STUDY	8TH	10AM
BEACH BIBLE STUDY	15TH	10AM
PAINT BALL DAY	16TH	11AM
BEACH BIBLE STUDY	22ND	10AM
FALL KICK OFF	SEPTEMBER 10TH	5PM

20 NORTH CHURCH STREET, MILFORD, DE · AVENUEUMC.COM  
CALL CLIFF @ 302.258.5683

# 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)



## 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:** The family and friends of Al Lauckner, The family and friends of Cecelia Craig, Prayers for upcoming eye surgery and prolonged vision, Jason Smith and Rebecca Dutz, Melanie Robinson, Hailey, Judy, Betty, Bonnie, Theresa, John Siegrist and family, Dave and Sharon Dawson, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Howard Haverkamp, Peggy Hughes, Kirsten Pierce, Christopher, Katie and Brandon, Shirley in Arizona, Emily and Kyle, Madison, Jake, Joe, Johnny, Joanne McKay, Don Butler, Edward, Elfi Pann, Francis, Ramie Ziesel, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Steve Wiseman and his family, Lacey, Pat Lade and Barbara Dietrich.

**Rejoice with:** The Alaska Mission team, safely in Alaska, Savannah Marney on the birth of her daughter Vanessa and our awesome pastors and praise team.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of the seven sailors killed in the at-sea collision, Martha Landon, Bruce Weber, Barbara Dietrich, Joanne McKay, Betty Ziesel, family and friends of Rob Weddle, Pat Pollock, John Siegrist, Christopher, Bill Salvin, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Howard Haverkamp, Lacey, Bonnie Carmine, Kirsten Pierce, everyone at Firefly, the families and victims of the London high-rise apartment fire, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, all fathers who are loved by their children, everyone who does not know the love of an earthly father or is estranged from their father, family and friends of Brenda Peters, Debbie, Kayla Earrell and her father, Frank Bigler, Amber, the Vezmar family, Alex and family, Adriel and family, Chris Hayes and family, Jimmie, Bill Gaskill and family and Bobby Walls.

**Rejoice with:** Joe and Patty Shockley, Elfi Pann, Chantel, Brandon and Katie Corder, the Alaska Mission Team, Chuck and Sandy Culotta, and everyone attending and volunteering at VBS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**David and Judy Passwaters** who will celebrate their **57<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **June 28<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**

**2017 YARD SALE** will be **August 3<sup>rd</sup>—5<sup>th</sup>**. Donations will be accepted Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>—Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Any questions, please call Peggy Hughes at (302) 424-3970 or (410) 212-7391.

**UMW MISSION U:** If you love to learn and study, consider attending UMW Mission u. Mission u is being held on Friday and Saturday, **July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**. The studies are: Spiritual Growth: *Living as a Covenant Community* and Geographical Study is *Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the US*. The Covenant Community book is great - explaining covenants in the Bible and some connections to Climate Justice. I know that Missionary study will be good. Mission u is being held in Dover at the Holiday Inn. There are brochures and registration forms on Fellowship Foyer table. Please consider going. It is kind of pricey with meals but I heard the food was excellent. You do not have to buy meals. Please let Beth Parker know if you are interested or just register yourself. **Deadline is June 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**LIFETOUCH PICTURES HAVE ARRIVED:** If you ordered the “complimentary” 8x10 picture most of them have arrived. at the church office. Please contact Kelly for pick up.

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will continue our study -“10 Questions Christians Ask” by David Jeremiah. Please join us at any time. Contact 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 on **June 27<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room.

**NEW ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. During the month of June we will be studying the Judges. The Book of Judges continues the history of Israel after Joshua's death. God raised up a series of national leaders called judges. Empowered by God,

judges delivered the people from their enemies. The judges we will be studying in June are: Deborah and Barak; Gideon; Jephthah; and Samson. Please come any Sunday that you can.

**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 **July 10<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.

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 6/25

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Summer Adult Bible Study,  
 Grier Room  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### MONDAY 6/26

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Grier Room

### TUESDAY 6/27

10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room  
 6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop , Nursey Room  
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
 Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,  
 Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY 6/28

10:30 a.m. Diabetes Prevention Program,  
 Heritage Room  
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room

### THURSDAY 6/29

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

### FRIDAY 6/30

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SATURDAY 7/1

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SUNDAY 7/2

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Summer Adult Bible Study,  
 Grier Room  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	57	64
9:30	179	183
Sunday School	33	27
11:00	61	71
FUSION	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>345</b>

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