



The Midweek

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I have a large t-shirt collection that I like to wear when I walk around town in the mornings. When I wear my Penn State shirts I usually get at least one shout of “We are” which requires me to respond, “Penn State.” It’s an alumni thing. My “happy camper” shirt usually starts conversations about places of natural beauty. I have a t-shirt that my late mother-in-law gave me that has a picture of a baby chick wearing glasses that says, “chick with brains” that gets a lot of laughs. But no t-shirt gets more comments and respect than the one that simply says, “United States Air Force.”

I have been saluted which leads me to make it very clear that I never served. Never would I want people to think that I was military when I wasn’t. That would be disrespectful to the men and women who did serve this nation. I am convinced that I would get similar responses if my shirt said Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.

As we approach July 4 and we think back on what it took to make this nation free, let’s remember the generations of women and men who have served this country to make it the great land that it is. Romans 13:7 says, “Give to everyone what you owe them. If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”

We owe our military men and women respect and honor. As it has been said many times before, we are “the land of the free because of the brave.”

And to God be the glory and honor forever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive script, and "Henry" is written in a more stylized, flowing cursive.



From the desk of our Conference Director

Powerful Words

Last week, two events reminded me of the power of our words. Our youngest son, Elijah, graduated High School last Monday and a young woman, Michelle Carter, received a conviction of involuntary manslaughter for her words. Elijah came to live with us in 2009, when he was 11 years old. His mother struggles with addiction and depression and had neglected him. So, the state sent him to live with his father, who abused him. Really, the abuse bordered on torture—starvation, cigarette burns, frostbite from being submerged with arms and legs tied behind his back into a tub of ice water for hours, so that he could “chill.” We went through Intensive Trauma Therapy with him for six months. Eventually, his physical wounds healed. But the emotional scars lingered.

When he came home with us, he was in fifth grade, in Special Education classes and reading on a first grade level. We began working with him on reading at home, taking him to a tutor, and encouraging him to learn. In frustration one day, he yelled, “I don’t know why you are making me learn. My dad called me ‘Stupid’ every day! Mom did not graduate High School; Dad didn’t graduate High School; and I’m too stupid to graduate High School!” In our household, we could not use the word stupid to describe even inanimate objects, because Elijah would freak out.

To counter this impact, every day Bo and I would tell him we loved him. We would point out the many ways he learns and displays his intelligence. We tried to make learning fun for him and created different experiences for him to discover his gifts. All of that seemed to have gone nowhere, when after eleventh grade, he dropped out of school. He had already turned 18, so we could not force him to go.

We did encourage him to enroll in Groves High School for adults, which he did. But, he had to do it on his own terms. He took two years to finish, but strutted across the stage at graduation, proud of himself for what he had accomplished. We celebrated with his extended birth family—his paternal grandparents—and even heard him say that he may want to go to a trade school. He still does not like the word “stupid,” but

he no longer defines himself in that way. Words have such immense power.

In the news, we also heard about the intense power of words in the story of Michelle Carter. A Massachusetts judge found her guilty of involuntary manslaughter for the ways she used, and did not use, her words. She had been in a relationship with Conrad Roy, III, who suffered from depression. They had talked through how he would commit suicide, mostly via text message. But, when he got into his truck, with the exhaust fumes building up, he had second thoughts and exited the vehicle. She called him and told him to get back into the truck, and convinced him. She listened on the phone as he took his last breath, and did not call either emergency personnel or his family. Authorities found him dead in his truck the next day. The judge called her conduct reckless, for yelling at him to get back into the truck, and negligent, for not calling emergency personnel or doing anything to stop his death.

Although lawyers have been wrestling with the implication that words can contribute to suicide, this story clearly demonstrates the power of words over another human being. Since the number of successful suicide attempts continue to rise (up 27% from the year 2000), our words have the power to impact a serious issue in our society. Suicide has become the number two killer of children between the ages of ten and 14, and has become a significant issue with teenagers of Native American descent. So, not only do we need to be careful with our words, we need to teach our children about suicide, to be aware of the signs and not to be afraid to talk about it, especially with an adult who can help.

As Christians, our Scripture demonstrates the power of words in so many ways. In Genesis 1, in the creation story, God spoke our world into order (perhaps his words formed the Big Bang) and used words to deepen relationships with Adam and Eve, walking through the garden and talking with them. Throughout Scripture, we hear “the word of the Lord,” from prophets and the books of law. And, John’s prologue names Jesus “the Word made flesh.” Jesus spoke words to heal and to convict (with an ultimate goal of healing) and to forgive. His words taught and shaped people’s understanding of God. He built community with his words, as his followers and crowds gathered to be near him.

Recognizing Jesus as “The Word” invites us to reflect on our own words. Do our words heal? Do they point to a deeper understanding of the unconditional love of God? Do they build others up and create a community? What about the words that we do not speak? Do we, individually and in church, avoid topics like mental illness and suicide? Do we tell people who are depressed to “just get over it” or to claim “the joy of the Lord”? And how do we treat the words that we hear from others? Do we tend to judge them if they do not meet our standards? Or, like a school in Pennsylvania, do we turn off the mic when someone says something with which we disagree? How can we listen, with not just our ears and our heads, but also with our

hearts and with our spirits? Can we use our words to open conversation on taboo topics like suicide or even pornography?

How might God be calling you to respond to the stewardship of our words? What conversations might God be inviting your church community to begin, both with those in your congregation and with those in the surrounding community? I still love the old Toby Mac song, “Speak Life,” ([listen here](#)) as it reminds us of the choice we make every day with our words. How can we speak life into our congregations and into our communities? When we join together with words of life, we will realize God’s vision for us as “Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today’s world!”

Blessings on the journey,

Vicki

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith
Director of Connectional Ministries

Upcoming Meetings

- ♦ **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 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

***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

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 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 .

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Sean Hudson, the Milford Police Department, the family and friends of David LeGates, Jean's grandsons, Kirsten Pearce, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Tyler Trego, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Joanne McKay, Betty Ziesel, Bill Salvin and Julie Eppers, Christopher, the Pasmore family, Howard Haverkamp, Lacy, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Bill Gaskill and family, John Siegrist and family, Shirley Rosselle, Michaela, Cheryl, and Kathy's daughter.

Rejoice with: Alan Pearce, Eric Porter, the Gideons, and the Alaska Mission Team.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Bob and Ann Wilson who will celebrate their **62nd** anniversary on **July 2nd**.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

Resume on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Mispillion Children's Chorus

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

♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Sanctuary Choir

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

♪AveNotes

Resume on Wednesday, September 6th 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 3rd—5th**. Donations will be accepted Monday, July 24th—Monday, July 31st from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Any questions, please call Peggy Hughes at (302) 424-3970 or (410) 212-7391.

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 **July 11th** 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 **2nd Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **July 10th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will resume on **September 6th** 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 31st. You can contact the preschool office at (302) 422-

8775 for information or send an email to: office@avenuepreschool.org. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: 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 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

MONDAY 7/3

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

TUESDAY 7/4 ~ Church Office Closed

7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206

WEDNESDAY 7/5

1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202

THURSDAY 7/6

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

FRIDAY 7/7

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

SATURDAY 7/8

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 7/9

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	56
9:30	158	129
Sunday School	31	22
11:00	100	56
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	346	263

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