



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

One of the directives we always get as pastors is to make sure we take our sabbath. Since my schedule is never the same on a week-to-week basis, I attempt to work from the house on Sunday afternoons. While I am writing or typing I can usually catch up on the news, do some laundry and simmer a pot of soup that I will have for the week to come. It's great during football season but while I wait for the teams to start up again, I am stuck watching whatever sports are broadcast.

A few Sundays ago, I watched the 2016 Ironman Triathlon. This consists of one person doing a 2.4 mile swim, a 140 mile bike ride and then a full marathon of a 26.4 mile run. There were two winners, one in the male and one in the female categories. But for the majority of the 2200 athletes that compete, the goal is to cross the finish line and hear the words, "you are an ironman." It means that the athletes have run the race of their life.

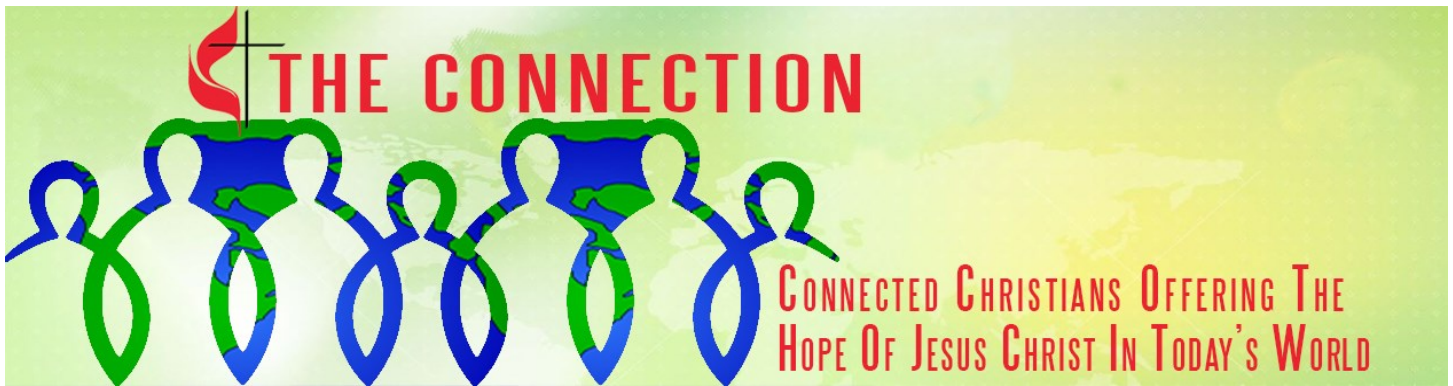
1 Corinthians 9: 24-25 says, "Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one."

I can't begin to imagine the time and effort it would take to train for an Ironman event. Just the thought of it makes me tired. As Christians however,

we run the race of the spiritual journey every day and because of God's grace, we all win. We don't get medals or a wreath for our heads. We get the knowledge that we will spend eternity in heaven with the greatest life coach we could even need or want. We run the race of our lives every day, thanks be to God.

For to God be the glory forever and ever.

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 Bishop

Eclipse 2017: A moment in time

If you haven't heard we are expecting a "Great American Eclipse" on August 21. The moon will pass across the sun in such a way that the sun will be blocked for a short time. All that many will see is the corona, or crown, of the sun peaking out behind the moon.

This will occur across the continental United States, where we will be able to see varying degrees of darkness, depending on where we live. Those residing in areas along a diagonal path that stretches from Oregon to South Carolina will be able to witness this phenomena in its fullness, with the moon blocking the sun completely. In the Northeast, our view of the eclipse will occur in the afternoon.

A solar eclipse to this degree has not occurred in the United States since June 8, 1918. But there have been many other eclipses through the years.

According to *The Scientific American* (August 11, 2017), an eclipse is a great opportunity for scientists to study the sun by examining the corona as the moon passes by. That radiant crown is described as "ethereal wisps of superheated plasma." It can best be seen during an eclipse, although scientists can study the sun at other times as well.

During this brief window of opportunity, "eclipse scientists" will examine the magnetic field of the sun, test next-generation technologies, create thermal maps and learn about the chemistry of the corona and what makes it heat up. All of this must happen in a short span of time. They must be prepared and use

their time well.

The Apostle Paul speaks about time in Ephesians 5:16. He encourages us to “be very careful how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil.”

Indeed, time, like the eclipse, flies by us, and we must not delay in doing the things that God has called us to do while we have the chance to do them. We do not always get a second opportunity to do that act of kindness, make that contribution, encourage a friend, or share our faith with someone who is struggling. Every delay can lead to more delays, and every lost opportunity is a lost blessing.

What have you been putting off that needs to be done? Who is God nudging you to contact? Don't put it off. As Jesus said, “As long as it is day, I must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” (John 9:4).

Make the most of your gift of time and precious opportunities today!



Peggy A. Johnson

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ♦ Church Council Meeting—Tonight (Aug. 23rd) at 7:00 p.m., Grier Room



Baker Missionary Newsletter - Cataract Surgery Mission



Thank you for your interest in the amazing work that God is doing in Congo! Because of the many photos and even testimonies included, we invite you to click on the link below to view the video that will touch your heart! God bless you!

<https://youtu.be/qM5eXDODv6k>

Cataract Surgery Mission

Rejoice in the Lord, always; again, I will say, Rejoice! Philippians 4:4

Our hearts are filled with joy as we conclude our Cataract Surgery Mission. God truly blessed this mission in amazing ways and every day we literally saw miracles happen. Each day was filled with prayers as pastors and lay people gathered in the local church and “revival area”, an outside prayer chapel, to pray for those working on the team and for patients. God truly heard the prayers of the faithful.



So many miracles!

Sight was restored to the blind because of their cataracts and they rejoiced when the patch was removed from their eyes in the miracle God had given them. One mother saw her children for the first time and shed

tears of joy as she thanked God for all the people who helped make this possible! “Please continue to bring this mission to help others like me who are blind,” she proclaimed when asked to give a testimony as to what this healing meant for her.

Children and adults received medicines and care that will prevent serious eye problems in the future. Without this care, they would probably lose their sight. Rejoice!

The pediatric surgeon we brought on team was available to respond to several emergencies caused by trauma to children. Parents carried their children bleeding into the medical center wondering if their child would lose their eyesight and later carried their child out of the operating room with the promise of restored health. Rejoice!



A team of about 20 young men, were trained to assist the doctors with the newly designed electronic health record system that helped assure patient safety. Many had the opportunity to put into practice what they had learned on the computers that will prepare them for future educational opportunities. After the mission, these computers were given to create a new computer lab for the secondary schools and Trade School in Diengenga. In the past they “taught” computer classes without computers, students learning keyboard from a drawing on the caulk board where they could place their hands and pretend they were using a keyboard. Many hope to attend a university in the future and, without this practical experience, it would be impossible for them. Yet another miracle!



People walked to this mission from hundreds of kilometers, as far as 250 miles, to receive care. They came from various tribes that often conflict with one another. Yet, in this mission, people stood in line together, ate together, slept together and there were no problems. We learned once again that Christ “breaks down the dividing walls between us” and brought peace to this mission. **Rejoice!**

Every day pastors led worship with the hundreds that gathered for treatment. Patients, about 25-30 per day, sat outside the building with the operating room waiting expectantly and sometimes anxiously for their surgery. Pastors came regularly to offer encouragement and pray with them as their prepared mind, body, and spirit for God to bring healing. **Rejoice!**

There was a common theme for each of the over 2000 patients who gave testimony to God's healing power and presence: gratitude to God and to the many people whose prayers and contributions made this mission possible. Rejoice in the Lord always! **Rejoice!**



The First State Harmonizers Presents an "A Cappella Extravaganza V!"



The *First State Harmonizers*, again, welcomes the *PRIDE of DelMarVa*, a 30-man chorus made up of some of the best barbershop harmony singers in the Delmarva Peninsula. This a cappella presentation also includes the Ocean Bay Sweet Adaline chorus plus talented quartets who will entertain you with their own performances!

The *First State Harmonizers*, directed by Sharon Ehrisman will start the afternoon's show performing some of the chorus's most requested songs and debut a number of new songs they've added to their repertoire.

After Intermission, during which several door prizes will be awarded, the *Pride of DelMarVa*, directed by Glenn Phillips, will take the stage. We are very excited to present this exciting chorus to our followers! DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 - 2:00 p.m. - Milford Senior Center
111 Park Avenue, Milford, DE
(over-flow parking next door at Arena's Restaurant)
General Admission: \$ 13.00!

For Show Tickets: Call - (302)422-8620 or (302) 382-1961
Or order online at: www.firststateharmonizers.com

This organization is supported, in part, by a grant from the [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a state agency, in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). The Division promotes Delaware arts events on [DelawareScene.com](#).

Delaware Division of the 

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: Those affected by the violence we witnessed in Charlottesville, Lorraine Donovan, Dave and Sharon Dawson, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Charlie Harding, Christopher, Brittany, Debra, Jason, Pastor Wendy, Bill Gaskill and family, Those affected by the flooding in Milford yesterday, Sage, Jolene, Kris's grandparents, Meg, Bill and Jill Gustin, Upcoming Chrysalis weekend in September and Students preparing for school.

Rejoice with: Bonnie Carmine, Arlene Seiz, and Blessings in disguise

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Colleen Allison, the family and friends of Heather Heyer, all those who do not know God, Tray, J.R. Griffin, Robert Bergez, Christine Benton, Bill and Jill Gustin, Ashley Bonnoni, all students heading back to college or starting their freshman year, our nation, our elected leaders, the citizens of this country, the victims and their families who were attacked in Spain and Finland, Howard Haverkamp, Manny, Joyce's father, Mrs. Bowe, Cheryl, Christopher, Lorraine Donovan, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Laura, Karen, Jane Dove, Ronda Ramsburg, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Charlie Harding, Bill Gaskill and family, all students and teachers going back to school soon, Bill Salvin and family, Colton, Pastor Wendy, the millions of travelers on the road after the eclipse, the pastors and laity traveling to South Korea at the end of September, the family and friends of those killed on the U.S.S. McCain.

Rejoice with: That we can worship freely and on the marriage of Faye and Bill Byer.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Harry and Carolyn Humes wo will celebrate their **57th** anniversary on **August 27th**.

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

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: Representatives from the **Food Bank of Delaware's WIC** division will be here **Tuesday night August 29th from 5:00-6:30 p.m.** If you know of a mother with young children or one who is pregnant this program's focus is on that population. The health of babies is their goal. There will be a mobile food distribution at that as well.

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 will meet on **August 29th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY: This 9 week LIFE CHANGING CLASS will continue on **Tuesday, August 29th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Grier Room.** Dave Ramsey will be giving us a total money makeover via DVD. He will teach and train us to manage our resources in a godly manner. Following the video, a volunteer will host a small group discussion. This is where true accountability and behavior changes occur. The group takes the "baby steps" needed to walk them to financial peace. If you have any questions, please contact Ken or Melissa Wilcox at (302) 424-4209 or kmbsw@netzero.net. (Flyers and more information is available on the foyer table)

SUMMER ADULT BIBLE STUDY: The Summer Bible Study continues to study "God's Urgent Call." We have studied the call of Judges and of Prophets. In August the study is "Calls in the New Testament" August 27th"Called To Be Inclusive." Please join us any Sunday you can at **9:30 a.m.** in the **Grier Room.**

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2nd Monday of each month.** The next meeting will be **September 11th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will resume on **September 6th** at 11:00 a.m. in the **Grier Room.** Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

OUTREACH

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Milford Community Pantry needs condensed vegetable soup. We thank you for your support and donations; if you are looking for suggestions the need right now is for vegetable soup; Diane says it becomes scarce in the summer.

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.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL-NEW OFFER: Children who will turn 3 before December 31, 2017 are now able to register for our beginners program. They will be in our 2 day program that is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Children must be potty-trained before the first day of school. Children in our preschool program are actively involved in a curriculum that stresses the social, emotional, physical and academic aspects of their development. If you have any questions or would like to enroll you child please contact Paula Yeich at (302) 422-8775.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	60	52
9:30	194	122
Sunday School	0	44
11:00	71	65
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	325	261

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 8/27

- 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 8/28

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Scouts & Parents Meeting,
Sanctuary

TUESDAY 8/29

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,
Grier Room
- 4:30 p.m. Mobile Food Bank Event,
Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Financial Peace University,
Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 8/30

- 8:00 a.m. Preschool Staff Meeting,
Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Diabetes Prevention Program,
Heritage Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 8/31

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
Conference Room
- 9:00 a.m. DCOM, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room

FRIDAY 9/1

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

SATURDAY 9/2

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

SUNDAY 9/3

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