



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Genesis 1:24-25 says, “And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

If you have pets, whether they be cats or dogs or any type of creature that you consider to be part of your family, you know that God made all those creatures good. I have been with many people who in some of the worst times of their lives take comfort in, find peace with and receive love from their beloved animal companions. Therapy animals help individuals with “mental, social, emotional and physical functions.” Guiding the blind, supporting people with depression, and helping those who have lost limbs are just a few examples of how these animals support their people.

But even without a specific purpose, there is just something magical about having a pet climb into your lap or cuddle up next to you on a chilly night or silently comfort you when your heart is breaking. Words can’t do it justice but if you have ever experienced it, you know what I am talking about.

Sometimes pets can drive you nutty. My cats like to knock things off my nightstands like my glasses and engagement ring. But I would never hurt, stop caring for, or ignore them. They are a gift from God in their own way and I am

thankful for their unconditional love. I know I share this feeling with other “pet people.”

If you are not an animal lover or you have allergies, a housing arrangement that does not allow pets, or you don’t have the time to care properly for a pet, you will have to take my word for it. However, let’s just give thanks to God for giving us creatures capable of incredible love who find us as “good” creations of the Lord as well.

And to God be the glory forever and ever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Pastor" is written in a standard cursive, while "Henry" is more stylized with a large, looping 'H' and a trailing flourish.

Security update

The horrific incident that occurred in Sutherland Springs, Texas at the First Baptist Church on November 5 is just another example of how bad things can happen even in a house of worship. It's unlikely the people of that church ever thought they would be the victims of such a terrible crime.

The Avenue Safety Committee has been focused on how to best improve safety at church during worship services, in the evening, and during office hours. The new magnetic locks and key cards are just one example of the changes that have been made in the past two years.

One of the next steps includes establishing plans and procedures for Sundays. This includes finding volunteers to serve on a greeting committee. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or providing your time and talents as part of the team, please contact the office and let us know. More information will be coming shortly.

Upcoming Meetings and Reminders

- ◇ SPRC Meeting on November 16th at 7:00 p.m in the Holzmueller Room
- ◇ Trustees Meeting on November 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Grier Room





From the desk of our Bishop.....

Another tragedy, another reminder

Our country is still reeling from the recent incident in New York City where a terrorist brutally ran over and killed innocent people with a truck. Now we learn of another heinous, hateful act of unbelievable violence against innocent people.

This time it is in the tiny town of Sutherland Springs, Texas. This time it strikes especially close to home. This time it is in a church, where unsuspecting members — children and adults — were gathered for worship.

Fifteen seconds of automatic weapon gunfire erupted in a horrific mass murder, the worst ever in an American place of worship and in Texas' history, killing 26 people and wounding many others. This terrible act of violence has caused profound devastation and inconsolable grief. There are no words that can come close to healing such emotional and spiritual wounds.

The Baptist church's pastor, the Rev. Frank Pomeroy, was out of town when these murders happened. But the words that he preached to his congregation the Sunday before may shed some light on the future. On a website known as www.heavy.com (November 5, 2017) the pastor's sermon was quoted: "God's understanding is far greater, and there may be things that are taking place that you don't understand. But you still need to do what God is calling you to do."

These prophetic words speak to us this day. As Christians, we are called to pray, to continue to speak out about how to live in this world in nonviolent ways, to examine our weapons laws for ways to be more protective, and to find ways to prepare our churches for the unthinkable.

A final reminder is that mental health is often in the mix when people perform

horrific acts of mass murder. Our country could and should be doing much more to provide for more mental health services. It is just as important as medical (physical) health care.

Please remember that the vast majority of people with mental illness are not murderous or violent, and we as the church need to continually be about the business of ministering to this community with compassion and grace.

NOTE: Church Mutual Insurance Company offers several risk control webinars and articles on its website that could be helpful to any church. Please check them out, use this valuable information and share it with other churches.

Armed Intruder

Church Mutual has partnered with industry experts to keep your people safe before, during and after a violent attack. Firestorm, a nationally recognized leader in crisis management, helping clients minimize disaster exposure and plan for a crisis, and ALICE Training Institute, the number-one active shooter civilian response training organization in the nation, have come together to bring you this informative webinar series.

Protecting against catastrophic violence

Although catastrophically violent events are not frequent, the consequences are tragic. With the recent rise in active shooter incidents, specifically, many organizations are asking questions about how to make sure they are prepared for such violent events.

“There are several precautionary measures that can be taken,” said Ron Aguiar, director of safety and security at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Ky., and author of *Keeping Your Church Safe*. “It starts with getting a group together to develop a plan.”

Pastors become chaplains after church massacre

www.umc.org/news-and-media/pastors-become-chaplains-after-church-massacre

Republished from The Bishop's Blog

If your church is looking for a resource to help prepare itself for a potential emergency situation, here is a [Faith-Based Emergency Response Plan Template](#).

Strength for Service to God and Country

As we prepare for the annual observation of Veteran's Day (November 11th) I would like to call to your attention a wonderful resource produced by our United Methodist Men: "Strength for Service to God and Country." They come in two versions: one for service men and women and the other is for local servants such as first responders, police, fire fighters and medical professionals. This resource can be purchased through our General Commission on United Methodist men at www.StrengthforService.org.

This resource was originally distributed during World War II and the Korean War and it was revisited by a scout, Evan Hunsberger, who advocated for the republishing of this book as his Eagle Scout project in 2002.

How wonderful it would be if our churches could purchase copies of these devotionals and distribute them to our community servants as well as our men and women in the military. It would be a wonderful way to show honor and appreciation this year during our Veteran's Day observance.



Peggy A. Johnson

The Love INC mission is to mobilize the local Church and transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

Our vision is to see Christian churches united in purpose and fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their communities.

What is your body part?

Just as the human body cannot function properly unless the eyes, ears, and hands each do their part, so the Body of Christ—the Church—cannot function as God intended without each person doing his or her part.

We are all the Body of Christ and by working together through Love In the Name of Christ, we can each do our part to help people in need see and experience God's love.

Will you be an eye to see neighbors in need and connect them to Love INC? Or how about an ear to listen with compassion? Maybe gentle hands to serve? Our neighbors need arms to deliver food, elbows to do household repairs, knees for praying, and even foreheads to wrinkle thoughtfully in planning. Whatever your skills, gifts, or interests, you can help meet the needs of those who are struggling. You are part of His Body and His work. **YOU** are Love In the Name of Christ.

Yes, I would like to do my part to help people in need see and experience God's love! (Check all that apply)

Talents and skills I would like to share:

- ☐ Help with transportation to job interviews, work, food closets, medical apt., CODE PURPLE SHELTER, etc.
- ☐ Visitation or phone outreach to shut-ins
- ☐ Pray for the Love INC ministry and clients
- ☐ Be a mentor to a person in our community
- ☐ Transport furniture or help with the furniture ministry
- ☐ Help struggling neighbors with their budget (learn a budget technique called Faith and Finance)
- ☐ Volunteer at a CODE PURPLE w/ intake, overnight, fellowship, set/up cleanup or meal preparation
- ☐ Become a B.R.I.D.G.E.S. Community Navigator and help with the Addiction Epidemic
- ☐ Help with Holiday time projects such as Thanksgiving food boxes and Christmas gift programs for the children
- ☐ Other talent or skill:_____

**Love INC Clearinghouse volunteer opportunities:
(Needed Monday – Friday between 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)**

“ Conduct *telephone* interviews with people in need

Contact Information

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone (day)_____

Email or mail these Talent tithes back to our office [302-629-7050](tel:302-629-7050). Mail to P.O. Box 542
Seaford, DE 19973.



Sunday
November 26, 2017
3:00 p.m.

Dover
Symphony
Orchestra



"Ringing in the Holiday Season"

The Dover Symphony Orchestra
Dover Downs Rollins Center, Route 13, Dover

Join the DSO, under the direction of Donald Buxton, as we perform a wide array of seasonal music & a special feature: "Twas the Night Before Christmas", narrated by Jackie McCabe. Visit the displays of our Central Delaware Artists and Artisans. Munch on festive baked goods & start your holiday shopping early! Sing along, clap your hands, tap your toes. Join us for this special treat for your entire family! Artisan displays open at 1:30 PM. Concert at 3:00 PM. Tickets available at the door or online. Valet parking available. Free parking lot shuttle service.



This program 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 www.DelawareScene.com.

Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military/

First Responders - \$15

Young people under 18 free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org

Or Call 302-270-1903

A decorative border at the top left of the poster features several large red Christmas ornaments and a sprig of red berries on a dark branch.

SOUNDS *of* CHRISTMAS *featuring*

The Mispillion Children's Chorus

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *accompanist*

with

The First State Harmonizers

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

December 8, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church Street
Milford, Delaware 19963
302-422-8111



The Milford Community Band

Southern Delaware's Premier Music Organization

2017 Christmas Concert Schedule

3:00 PM, Sunday, December 10

Milford Senior Center, 111 Park Ave., Milford, DE

7:00 PM, Saturday, December 16

Goshen U.M. Church, 103 Mulberry St., Milton, DE

3:00 PM, Sunday, December 17

First Baptist Church, 301 Walker Road, Dover, DE

FREE ADMITTANCE, DONATIONS WELCOME



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 www.DelawareScene.com.



302-398-9394

www.milfordcommunityband.org

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 Dave Dawson, the family and friends of Jared Salevan, the family and friends of the Texas church shooting victims, Beth Judy, Julia, Cooper, Mary Gabriel, Mary Kay McAuley, Neil Parker, Janice Abbott, Ed Niblett, Karen, Michael Contino, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Brandon and Katie, Gauge and Brittney, Jolene and Aunt Pat, Bethany, Donny, Sammy, Pastor Tom, Manny, Donna Munyon, Bill and Jill Gustin, Chris, Jacob and Dona, Kirsten Pearce, Kathy Sullivan, Ximara Starling, Arlethia, Licia Gliptis, Patsy Sullivan, Bob Ernst, Jayne Frank, Carol, Charlie Harding, Bobby Walls, Isaiah Magathan, Kelly Fusco, Barbara Gallagher, Ginny Clendaniel, Fay Farissiers, Betty Ziesel's son, Robert Mercer, William Gaskill, Bill McComb, Carmen, David Knowles, the Lingo family, Craig, Marie Michael, everyone who has lost a loved one this year and Leon Tschantre.

Rejoice with: All the saints now in heaven.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The people of Sutherland Springs, TX and the First Baptist church, The family and friends of Jared Salevan, Edie and Roger Perry who lost their sister-in-law, Melissa and Jordan in the loss of their Dad and Poppy, Beth Judy, Julia, Diane Dolan, Parker, Josh Doyon's grandfather, Neil Parker, Janice Abbott, Bryn O'Connor in the passing of her mother, Karen, Michael Contino, Collen Dunham, April McIntyre, Katie and Brandon, Gauge and Brittney, Jolene and Aunt Pat, Bethany, Donny and Sammy, Pastor Tom, Manny, Bill and Jill Gustin, Chris, Jacob, Kirsten Pearce, Kathy Sullivan, Ximara Sterling, Holly Maloney, Craig, Susan DelleDonne, Bill Owens, Michelle McCloskey Charlie Harding, Bobby Walls, Isaiah Magathan, Barbara Gallagher, Ginny Clendaniel, Betty Ziesel's son, Robert Mercer, William Gaskill, Carmen, The Lingo family, Kris Lawson, Sophia Grace, Prayers for peace, Sage Kemper and his parents and grandparents, Larry Price's brother-in-law, Stuart Renna, Leon Tschantre, For all the veterans who have served our country and in addition to our soldiers, the pacifists in our midst who model Jesus' call to turn the other cheek.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

George and Lorraine Reph who will celebrate their 54th anniversary on **November 23rd**.

Gerald and Shelby Swain who will celebrate their 62nd anniversary on **November 24th**.

Randy and Faith Ennis welcomed their first granddaughter Brighton Avery Ennis 11/16/2017; born in Atlanta, GA, she is the daughter of Colin and Jessica (Wyatt) Ennis.

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.

UPCOMING

VBS: Vacation Bible School is looking for a Kitchen Coordinator. Please be praying about this role. If you are interested please contact Sarah Pasmore.

We would also like to thank Carol Evans who has been our VBS Kitchen Coordinator for many years. We appreciate all that she has done to make VBS such a success for our children.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

UMW GENERAL MEETING: **Mark your calendars** for the next UMW Covered Dish luncheon on **Sunday, December 3rd** in Fellowship Hall, following the 11:00 worship service. Our speaker will be our very own **Pastor Wendy Owen** who will share with us all that she learned about her exciting Mission trip to South Korea. You will not want to miss all the news and exciting insights coming from that trip. Plan to come - all are invited.

UMW BOARD will meet on the **2nd Monday of each month**, The next meeting will be **December 11th**, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 207 upstairs. Please plan to attend this meeting to get all the latest information to take back to your Circle.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: **No Class on November 21st.** Starting on **November 28th** we will begin our Advent study: Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado 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 in the Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmüller Room. Over the next 32 weeks the class will be exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952. Our next class will be on **November 22nd**.

SUNSHINE ADULT BIBLE STUDY: The Sunshine Adult Bible Class, which meets at 9:30 Sunday mornings in the Grier Room, will be studying the following topics for the month of November: November 19th "High Priest of the New Covenant" from Hebrews 12:18-29; and November 26th "God's True Covenant People" from I Corinthians 11:23-34. Come and be part of these studies on God's Everlasting Covenant with each of us.

EXPLORING FAITH BOOK CLUB meets on the third Sunday of the Month at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Our next meeting is **December 17th**. We shall continue our study of the "Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis by looking at letters 10 through 18.

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

OUTREACH

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: We will not be collecting in November and December so we can focus on collecting for Thanksgiving baskets and Chrismon Tree.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR. Registration is ongoing for a limited number of spots for the 2017-18 school year, which is the preschool's **50th** year providing early education services in the community. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31st, unless entering our new "Young Beginners" program--see next section for those details. Registration must be done in person. Contact the Preschool Director, Paula Yeich, and 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 after August 31st but 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. For further information please see the contact details in the Avenue Preschool section above.

2018 CHICK-FIL-A CALENDARS FOR SALE: Each calendar comes with a Chick-Fil-A card to use for free food every month for a year! Cost \$10 each and the proceeds go to Avenue Preschool. Available in the Preschool Office. Treat yourself and buy a few for stocking stuffers or hostess gifts!

CALY CHRISTMAS LETTER: Please sign the Christmas greeting for the College Age Level Youth. It is located in the Foyer **Sunday, November 19th and 29th**.

BLESS A FAMILY WITH A THANKSGIVING TURKEY: For a donation of **\$20.00**, you can sponsor a turkey for a pre-selected family from our community, whom Avenue knows will be most appreciative. Simply mark a check or an envelope with “Turkey”. Discounted turkeys have been set aside and The United Methodist Men will be the arms and legs to pass on these turkeys to grateful families. Remembering, with great gratitude, Poncho and Lisa Johnson for their many past years of chairing this Thanksgiving ministry.

CODE PURPLE

Remember the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus? Well on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, volunteers were permitted to walk the road to Emmaus with Jesus.

Jesus was named Joe, Ronnie, Charles and Keith. They were dropped off by good Samaritans who knew that the temperatures would be unbearable... Some walked.

But they came to seek refuge for a night. Two of them had never been in a place like Avenue before. Two of them already knew the ropes. They were frightened of being judged, frightened of being locked up and not allowed to return to the environment that they were comfortable in. The lady that brought Charles to the shelter, said he slept in their storage container behind their house.

Keith got dropped off by detox center he had been in, by a driver, because the Center needed his bed and the next step of his rehab wouldn't be ready for him until Wednesday. Both Joe and Keith came with the clothes on their back and that was it.

But that's not the end of the story. Turned out, Keith is a brittle diabetic. His brother had just passed away secondary to his diabetes. He had no way to test his blood sugar, nor insulin to treat it. He wasn't feeling well later in the evening on Friday, and someone found out about his diabetes. (He hadn't told anyone about it because he didn't want to be a bother.) One of our volunteers went home and got their glucometer and checked his blood sugar. It was high but not dangerous. Two very special volunteers, the next morning knew he needed a glucometer. One of the men was going to go to the drug store and purchase one for him. Then the other volunteer knew how to get one for Keith for free. The thoughtful volunteer literally took him and got the supplies he needed until Keith could get the necessary prescriptions he needed from his attending physician.

This is only one story about how volunteers went out of their way to walk with these men in whatever way they could. Truly, there were many wonderful acts of love extended by the many volunteers who came each night to show kindness and warmth to men who were afraid, tired, hungry and grateful. Thank You to each volunteer, for your love and caring for those ignored by society.

We are also in need of a donation coordinator at this time. If you are interested in sponsoring a meal or filling one of the coordinator positions, please contact Joyce Bonnoni at jbonnonicp@gmail.com or 302-242-8968.

CHRISMON TREE: It's Chrismon Tree time again! We have made a few changes this year. ALL gifts are to be **new and unwrapped, or in gift bags**. This will make the sorting and distribution process more efficient. Please remember when you take a tag that item is one of

2 to 3 gifts for the person, so if you get a tag with socks that is not all the child receives. On November 26th we will be making tags in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 service. Our “Christ-centered tree” will be decorated with need tag/ornaments in the Sanctuary, **Saturday, December 2nd**. We will be receiving items anytime **December 3rd—16th**. Items may be brought in early. On December 16th at 9:00 a.m. we will be setting up tables in Fellowship Hall and marked with a family number. Items that have been returned to the church will be sorted and placed in bags for the families. **All tags/gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 17th**. We will be sorting/bagging items received this day after the 11:00 service. On **December 18th** all items will be given to families. If you would like to help with any of these activities, please contact Teresa Jarrell (422-1074) or Karen Williams (424-1294). Thanks for all your help.

COMMUNITY

AVENUE PRESCHOOL is having a fundraiser on **Monday, December 4th** at Grotto Pizza in Milford between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The restaurant will donate 20% of each check (dine in or carryout) to Avenue Preschool. Vouchers must be presented and are available in the Fellowship Foyer or from the Preschool Office.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	71	49
9:30	205	204
Sunday School	84	75
11:00	78	73
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>61</u>
Total	438	462

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11/19

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Baptism
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room and Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 11/20

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Holzmueller Room
7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room
7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Grier Room

TUESDAY 11/21

6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus, Music 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

WEDNESDAY 11/22

1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202
6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Civil Air Patrol, Grier Room
7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holzmueller Room

THURSDAY 11/23 ~ Thanksgiving **Church Office Closed**

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room

FRIDAY 11/24 **Church Office Closed**

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 11/25

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 11/26

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship