



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I hope and pray you all had a blessed Thanksgiving. My holiday took me to Kansas with Chris to spend the time with my sister, Jennifer, and her family. We were all there for a wonderful week, except for my youngest nephew who is still in Spain.

On Wednesday night I joined Jennifer and my niece Katie at the Center of Grace which is the facility that their church, Grace United Methodist Church, has built to feed the hundreds of people who line up there every Wednesday and Thursday evening for dinner. Working with the other churches in town, there is a free dinner every night of the week for those who need it. Grace UMC covers those two nights. On the night I was there, the volunteers served 267 people and I was told it was a “light night.”

Jennifer introduced me as “her Pastor sister from Delaware” and I was honored to be asked to give the blessing after everyone was seated. That did however also identify me as someone who was available to provide pastoral counseling as needed.

The lesson I took away from that night is that it was a different location, different people than I know in Delaware, but the stories are remarkably similar. I spoke with several single mothers trying to provide for their children, a widower who comes just for someone to talk with each day, a

homeless man who wants to break out of the bonds of addiction, the bus driver who is a member of “the working poor” and the fast food restaurant worker who just wanted vegetables because she could have free deep-fried food, but she needed more in her diet.

But most importantly, I was reminded that our Jesus is always the same and what we are called to do never differs. I could have skipped going to this event as I was on vacation, but my heart didn’t feel right trying to ignore this occasion to serve. Galatians 6:10 says, “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

As we move into Advent there will be many chances to serve the Lord by what we do and provide to our brothers and sisters in need. I urge you to open your hearts to how the Spirit is calling you to share your blessings with others as we prepare to welcome Christ. We are all called to different ways of giving of our time, talents and resources but we are all called. As we go about our days, let’s look for those opportunities to love and serve our Savior.

And in all ways, at all times and in all places, 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.

**Worship Help Needed for
Christmas Eve Services.**
Sign up sheets on Foyer Table



From the desk of our Bishop.....

Thanksgiving in all Circumstances

The hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” was written by a Lutheran minister, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649). We sing it often during this season of Thanksgiving. The backdrop was far from a Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving painting. Rinkart penned the words of this hymn during the Thirty-Years’ War (between the Protestants and the Catholics. He was one of 4 parish pastors in Eilenburg, Saxony (East Germany) at the time but when the war continued to rage on one pastor left, two died and he alone served the people. Eilenburg was a walled city, so it became a place for refugees and there was a great shortage of food. Then the plague set in and scores of people died from this dreaded disease. He performed 40 to 50 funerals a day, including his wife and it was estimated that buried a total of 4,480 people.

After the plague there was an invading army of Swedes that demanded tribute. He served as the negotiator with the Swedish army, and paid them tribute with his own money. When the army refused to leave the town he gathered the people for prayer and miraculously Swedes departed in peace. Through it all Martin Rinkart gave thanks and this hymn was an expression of his trust in God despite the extreme hardship.

We too are called to faithfulness during life’s trials. It is doubtful that we have ever experienced the tragedies that happened during the time of the writing of this beloved hymn but all of us face difficulties and

suffering. The Apostle Paul tells us to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (I Thessalonians 5:16-18) May God help us find our blessings in the hardships life brings us and when we look back later, we can reflect on God’s providence and goodness through it all.

(source: <https://hymnary.org>)



Peggy A. Johnson



PEOPLE'S DAY

Celebrating Services to People in Milford

*Saturday
December 2, 2017*

*Downtown
Milford*

12th Annual Holiday Stroll * Downtown Milford * Friday, December 1st * 5-8 p.m.
Santa & Mrs. Claus * Milford Public Library Festival of Trees * Treats & Live Entertainment
Music School of Delaware "Musical Instrument Petting Zoo", Children's Activities
Umbrellas are suggested in case of inclement weather

Saturday, December 2nd Events

9:00 - 3:00
Milford
Public Library

Christmas Tree Extravaganza
Holiday Boutique & Book Sale

10:00 - 3:30
Milford
Museum

Tues-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
NEW: Milford Ornaments for Sale
Thank You for Your Service exhibit
Exhibit to recognize Milfordians who
served our country
History of Milford, shipbuilding,
business & hospital exhibits
Lady Bug Collection
19th & 20th Century Doll Collection
Holiday Exhibit - Snowman's Christmas

8:00 - 11:00
Milford
Senior
Center

People's Place 18th Annual Choral Breakfast
~All you can eat buffet
~Musical & Dance Performances
~Shopping with local vendors
~Bake Sale
~Santa & Mrs. Claus visit 8-10:00 a.m.

11:00 - 3:00
Library Square

Santa will be seeing guests
at his house downtown

8:00 p.m.
Riverfront
Theatre

**The Farndale Avenue Production of
"A Christmas Carol"**
Nov. 24th/Dec. 1st, 8:00 p.m.
Nov. 25th/Dec. 2nd, 8:00 p.m.
Nov. 26th/Dec. 3rd, 3:00 p.m.
Tickets available online at:
www.secondstreetplayers.com

7:00 p.m.
Milford High School

"The Nutcracker Express"
Saturday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 3, 2:00 p.m.

Tickets available online at: www.firststatedance.com

18th Annual Choral Breakfast

Adults \$7.00 * Children 12 & under \$3.00 (Under 3 is free)

* Purchase your tickets at the door

Enjoy Musical Performances by

The Milford High School Chorus

The Milford Central Academy Chorus

The Mispillion Children's Chorus

The Women's Cantabile Chorus, The Music School of Delaware

The Milford String Ensemble, The Music School of Delaware



People's Day is brought to you by

People's Place
Downtown Milford, Inc
Chamber of Commerce
for Greater Milford

Downtown Merchants
Milford Museum
Milford Public Library
Milford Senior Center

Riverfront Theatre
The Music School of Delaware
Diamond Dance Company
City of Milford

Call 422-8033, extension 198 for more information



TENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR

Avenue
Church--Remodeled
former Denney and
Burris homes are on
tour!

**A Tour of five Milford area homes
followed by
Wine and Appetizers at
The Delaware Hospice Center--
all decked out for the holidays!
benefitting**

Delaware Hospice Center in Milford

Thursday, Dec. 7

Tour--6:00-9:00 PM

Hospice Center--7:00-10:00

Tickets--\$30

Available at Blooming Boutique
or call Dee (424-0395) or Harriet (422-7194)

**Presented by
The Rose Colored Ladies**





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



Benvenuto!

A tasting of Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 17th
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sunset Cove
3 Haven Lake Avenue | Milford, DE 19963
(302) 422-1086

Everyone is invited to this special Brunch Tasting that will benefit the Milford Police Department's Christmas Toy Drive. The Brunch is a "Free Blessing to You." Please help us be a blessing to the children & youth of the Milford Area by bringing a wrapped and tagged (gender & age) Christmas Gift for a girl/boy valued at \$20 plus; or a \$20 plus gift card to Wal-Mart or Toys-R-Us.

Join us in celebrating the true Spirit of Christmas with fabulous foods, fellowship, live music, and the special gift of loving our neighbors the way our Savior Loves us.

Please, call us with the number of guests that will be attending in your party.

Buon Natale!!!



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: Jack and Mary Lou Sheaffer and family, Joe and Grace Irish, Julia, Neil Parker, Patsy Sullivan, Cortney, the young person whose calf was hit by a car, Janice Abbott, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Kirsten Pearce, the victims of the shooting in California, the people of Puerto Rico, William Gaskill, Arthur, Beth Judy, Leon Tschantre, Sandra, Ferd Nelson, Jon and Kim, Christopher, Dave, Mike, Tom Herlihy, everyone traveling over the holiday, Bobby Walls, Craig, Pat, Jennifer Lilly, Lisa Wyatt, Parker, Dot Sophos, Marian Dickerson, and all those who lost loved ones over this past year.

Rejoice with: Joanne McKay, Ginny Clendaniel, Randy and Faith Ennis .

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family of Albert Wright who passed away on Friday, The family of Carl “Rudy” List, who passed away last week, Edie Perry, Joe and Grace Irish, Julia, Neil Parker, Patsy Sullivan, Cortney, Janice Abbott, Colleen Dunham, April McIntyre, Bill & Jill Gustin, Kirsten Pearce, The people of Puerto Rico still without electricity and dealing food shortages, Arthur, Beth Judy, Leon Tschantre, Sandra, Everyone who is traveling over the holiday, Bobby Walls, Dot Sophos, Marian Dickerson, Our world, that we are mindful of what Christmas is about, Rick’s sister, Craig, Leah Faber, Mary McGonigle, The family and friends of John Dougherty, Sr. The Hannah family, Michael Terry, Missi, Sage Kemper, his parents, and grandparents, Chuck & Sandy Culotta’s daughter-in-law Babbie, Chuck & Sandy Culotta’s daughter-in-law, Kalle, Holly, Sandy Sigrist, Bill Gaskill, Richard Ray, Darlene Armstrong and Brenda Biessel.

Rejoice with: Us, as we give thanks for the ultimate gift of Jesus and Joys of Thanksgiving, family, and friends.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Eleanor Lurwick who will celebrate her **94th** birthday on **December 6th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jack & Mary Lou Sheaffer who will celebrate their **53rd** anniversary on **December 5th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Marian Dickerson** who passed away on November 26, 2017. Marian joined Avenue on **January 1, 1934**.

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

A WORD ABOUT THE NEW BLUE PARAMENTS

Why blue?

These beautiful paraments are blue, a color increasingly used for Advent in Protestant churches. Blue is the color of royalty to welcome the coming of a King. Blue symbolizes the night sky where the star appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. Blue can also signify the waters of Genesis 1 and the beginning of a new creation.

What do the symbols represent?

The symbol embroidered in the center of the altar parament is the Chi Rho (X P). It is composed of the first two letters in the Greek word Christos. The Greek letters, Alpha (first) and Omega (last) which flank the Chi Rho, symbolize Jesus as the Christ who has come and will come again, as well as the continuity of God's presence in human history.



(Adapted from The meaning of Church Colors by Dennis Bratcher)

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve their second Pancake Breakfast of the year on **December 10, 2017**. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be **served immediately after all three services**. **A free-will offering will be accepted.** Funds from this meal will help provide a Boy Scout college scholarship to a high school graduate from Troop #186. Other mission projects will also be funded. Join us for a most excellent breakfast and fellowship.

ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the Advent Wreath in worship is a cherished tradition at Avenue. We are recruiting 16 families to light the wreath this year. We use 'families' as a broad sense to include single parents, step families, multiple generations, and even traditional families. We are looking for volunteers for all three services on December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and four families for Christmas Eve (3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.).

To volunteer to light the Advent Wreath, please contact Pastor Wendy Owen at wendyowen@avenueumc.com and indicate which service you attend (8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., or 11:00 a.m.) and which Sunday or Christmas Eve service you are available. You will receive back from Pastor Wendy, simple instructions for lighting, as well as the reading that accompanies the lighting. Thank you.

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.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **December 6th** we will continue 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 HolzmueLLer Room. On **November 29th** we will continue exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952.

SUNSHINE ADULT BIBLE STUDY: The Sunshine Bible Class will be studying "The Early Church Proclaims Faith in Christ" for the month of December. December 3rd will be "Faith in Jesus" based on Acts 3:11-21; December 10th, "Faith to Discern," based on Acts 13:1-12; December 17th, "Faith to Persevere," based on Acts 14:8-11, 19-23; December 24th, "Faithful Seekers of the King," based on Matthew 2:1-12; and December 31st, "Faith to Unite" based on Ephesians 4:1-16. The Sunshine Class meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room and all adults are welcome.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP our next meeting on **December 6th** at 2:00 p.m. in **Pastor Wendy's Office**. Come join us. Contact Pastor Wendy at (302) 422-8111.

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.

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.

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!

CODE PURPLE

We are blessed to have all the volunteers and generous people who contribute donations of food, clothes, to go bags, etc.

This week our needs are somewhat different. We need behind the scenes people who have a desire to help, but for various reasons, don't see themselves working one-on-one with our

guests. Not everyone has to work directly to contribute to Avenue's Code Purple. Do you like to organize and love to see things neat and tidy? We need 2-3 people with those skills. Are you one who can type spread sheets or do work processing with ease and accuracy? We need you. Are you a person who only has 1 or 2 hours in a week to give and doesn't mind doing basic cleaning? We need you. Or do you have talents that I haven't touched on that you think would add to the care and comfort of our guests? If so... give us a call. Dan Nelson 302-353-9758 or Nan Ruhl 302-604-2619.

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. Our "Christ-centered tree" will be decorated with need tag/ornaments in the Sanctuary, **Saturday, December 2nd**. We will 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.

THANK YOU: Joe and Grace Irish would like to express their gratitude to the United Methodist Men for designing and installing the ramp in their garage. We are truly grateful! Not only does it make mobility easier and safer for Joe, it is a work of art!

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	56	36
9:30	166	158
Sunday School	68	44
11:00	76	63
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	366	301



CALENDAR

SUNDAY 12/3 ~ Communion

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
 12:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting/Covered
 Dish, Fellowship Hall
 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,
 Heritage Room
 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
 6:30 p.m. DD– Pilgrimage Meeting,
 Grier Room

MONDAY 12/4

9:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting,
 Grier Room
 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

TUESDAY 12/5

9:30 a.m. Archives Meeting, Archives Room
 10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
 6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,
 Music Room
 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
 Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting,
 Carpenter Room

WEDNESDAY 12/6

9:00 a.m. Clergy Women Celebration,
 Fellowship Hall
 10:30 a.m. Diabetes Prevention Program,
 Heritage Room
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
 2:00 p.m. Widow/Widowers Meeting,
 Wendy's Office
 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
 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den, Wesley Room
 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,
 Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class,
 Holzmueller Room

THURSDAY 12/7

8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
 Conference Room
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting,
 Grier Room

FRIDAY 12/8

11:00 a.m. Wrap Around DE,
 Holzmueller Room
 7:00 p.m. Community Christmas Concert,
 Sanctuary
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 12/9

4:30 p.m. Clendaniel Christmas Dinner,
 Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 12/10

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 8:00 a.m. UMM Pancake Breakfast,
 Fellowship Hall
 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
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall &
 Wesley Room